

Grasping 1041

Chapter 1041: The Might of Water Flooding a Realm!

Sha Bailou is far from being the strongest enemy Ning Fan has encountered in this life, yet he is definitely the most tenacious one.

This time, Ning Fan did not intend to use Sha Bailou to test his power any further. After setting down Emperor Butcher, he directly took out the Illusory Night Pearl and released his full cultivations!

The sky roared continuously, and amidst the rumblings, spatial cracks collapsed massively, forming a giant cavity akin to a fierce beast opening its great maw. A stench began pouring out from the cavity, followed by a blood-red figure, carrying a rancid wind, stepping out from within, and the sound of sinister laughter echoed throughout the entire third layer of the Fire Soul Tower.

Occasionally, some tribes entering the third layer were caught off guard by the laughter, and one by one, they were dizzy and flustered.

With a sharp sound, Sha Bailou, wrapped in a fierce wind, landed on the ground, smashing a gigantic crater with a diameter of a hundred zhang.

He walked out of the crater step by step, approaching Ning Fan step by step!

His body trembled uncontrollably; this time facing Ning Fan, he no longer felt the fear he had last time, only excitement! Only madness!

No more words were necessary!

Then Sha Bailou pointed a finger towards the sky, and instantly, vast expanses of blood light rolled out from the cavity in the sky, blooming into extremely dazzling giant blood flowers.

One flower, two flowers, three flowers...

In the end, a total of seventeen blood flowers appeared!

The blood flowers initially were just buds, which then grew, the petals separated, revealing the core, and at the center of each giant flower, a phantom soul existed!

The soul on the first flower was a little girl of six or seven years.

The soul on the second flower was a graceful-looking lady.

The soul on the third flower was a young man.

The fourth flower, the soul was an old woman.

The fifth, sixth, seventh flowers...

With Ning Fan's sharp perception of aura, he could easily sense that these souls on the blood flowers each had a blood-related kinship with Sha Bailou!

All were his closest souls!

As Sha Bailou pressed five fingers towards the sky, the soul of the little girl on the first blood flower showed pain, showed... tears.

"Daddy, don't kill me, don't..."

However, these words could never stop Sha Bailou's insane actions, and with a boom, the soul of the little girl exploded into blood mist at the center of the blood flower.

Then came the second, third, fourth flowers... the souls at the center of each giant flower cried out continuously as they exploded!

Soon, there wasn't a single sound of crying on the seventeen blood flowers.

Subsequently, all the blood flowers began to frantically absorb Primordial Qi from heaven and earth, and in this process, Sha Bailou's aura skyrocketed from the level of a newly ascended Immortal Venerable!

Eternal First Calamity!

Eternal Second Calamity!

Eternal Third Calamity!

In an instant, Sha Bailou's aura fiercely surged to the peak of a Triple Calamity Immortal King!

The seventeen blood flowers descended from the sky, shrinking to fist-sized blood flowers, floating around Sha Bailou!

"He temporarily increased his cultivations using a Secret Technique, huh... But this Secret Technique seems to reduce a lot of my troubles." Ning Fan's expression was calm, without stopping Sha Bailou's act of destroying souls to enhance his power, nor did he feel any turbulence due to Sha Bailou's surge in cultivations.

With his vision in the Second Realm of Tianren, he could faintly see that each of these souls was sufficient to allow Sha Bailou to be reborn once!

Seventeen souls, if used separately for the Blood God Reincarnation Technique, Sha Bailou could die seventeen times and resurrect seventeen times, making it nearly impossible to kill, an endless annoyance!

Compared to this infinite resurrection, Ning Fan didn't mind Sha Bailou's act of self-destructing souls to rapidly increase his cultivations.

Less soul mediums for the Blood God Reincarnation Technique is better! This way, he wouldn't have to kill Sha Bailou seventeen times!

"The Blood God Reincarnation Technique can not only be used for rebirth; its medium souls can be directly consumed to forcibly elevate the caster's cultivations to an incredible level for a short period. Don't be reckless! Don't push yourself! This Secret Technique's amplification lasts only a limited time. If you can't withstand him, it wouldn't hurt to temporarily retreat. Avoid into the fourth layer. The fourth layer is almost entirely Illusory Art; we can use those illusions to buy time, wait for his Secret Technique to end, then eliminate him!"

Emperor Butcher secretly transmitted a message to Ning Fan.

Being unfamiliar with Ning Fan, Emperor Butcher thought that even if Ning Fan regained his full strength, he might not be a match for Sha Bailou at that moment. For the Eternal Old Freaks, the Eternal Third Calamity is indeed a major turning point; crossing it means becoming an Immortal King, while below the three calamities, one remains an Immortal Venerable.

It's extremely rare for an Immortal Venerable to defeat an Immortal King, especially when this Sha Bailou is practicing the Death Emperor Secret Teachings, his combat power is likely even higher than his realm.

Sha Bailou, at the peak of the Calamity of Eternal Aeons, could possibly erupt with battle power reaching the Four Calamity Immortal King range!

Letting Ning Fan fight against such a formidable Sha Bailou is too risky, for safety's sake, it might be better... to temporarily avoid confrontation.

"Avoid for now... alright, Miss, you should go ahead, enter the fourth layer from this entrance to evade for a while. When I unleash my full power later, defeating Sha Bailou won't be difficult, but I'm afraid of injuring you unintentionally, for thoroughness, Miss, it's better to dodge first."

"Defeating him won't be difficult? Haha, that's quite an arrogant tone, but I like it. In that case... I'll be waiting for you in the fourth layer."

Emperor Butcher gave Ning Fan a deep look, seeing him genuinely calm and composed, thinking that Ning Fan indeed has a way to deal with the power-boosted Sha Bailou, so she didn't worry much. She wasn't one to hesitate, knowing that staying here would not be much help to Ning Fan, she directly stepped onto the stairs leading to the fourth layer, heading for the fourth layer, within a few steps, she was out of sight.

This scene deeply provoked the already enraged Sha Bailou!

He disregarded perfect ascension to Immortal Venerable, forcibly elevating his realm within the Fire Soul Tower to the Immortal Venerable level.

He willingly used up seventeen entire souls of close kin, forfeiting seventeen opportunities for resurrection and rebirth.

All of this, was merely to battle Ning Fan!

However, his powerful aura that roared through heaven and earth did not stir the slightest change in Ning Fan's expression.

What angered Sha Bailou further was that Ning Fan actually engaged in casual conversation with Emperor Butcher, boldly letting her leave ahead.

He even arrogantly claimed that defeating him was not difficult!

What a joke! He was Sha Bailou, he temporarily possessed the peak cultivation of Triple Calamity, at this moment, he could even dare to challenge the Four Calamity Immortal King! What was Ning Fan, just a Foreign Cultivator, why would it be easy to defeat him?

Roar!!!

Sha Bailou let out the most furious roar of his life, terrifying sound waves immediately began to crazily destroy all directions.

Such sound waves were enough to cause immense pain for all Eternal Immortal Venerables below the Immortal King, but when they reached near Ning Fan, it only gently hit like a flower on water, gradually calming down.

A faint golden light curtain lightly and effortlessly blocked all sound waves attempting to attack Ning Fan!

Sha Bailou stopped roaring, his gaze sank, with a wave of his hand, the seventeen blood flowers surrounding him suddenly withered, the petals started to flutter in the wind. These petals were covered with strange blood patterns and had a faint, hidden power of Dao traces. Each petal was thin as paper, yet gave an incredibly sharp feeling.

Ten pieces, a hundred pieces, a thousand pieces... countless petals seemed to all turn into extremely sharp blades!

As the wind suddenly changed direction, millions of petal-like blades filled the sky like a tidal wave of flowers, slashing down, engulfing Ning Fan!

This time, Sha Bailou held no trace of underestimating Ning Fan. All his cards, divine skills were released at the first moment!

With his current Triple Calamity peak Immortal King cultivation, he had the confidence that he could slash any Eternal Immortal Venerable at a glance!

Seeing the wave of blade petals engulf Ning Fan in an instant, Sha Bailou felt a sense of relief, believing that Ning Fan would be killed by his single strike.

However, the result of this strike far exceeded Sha Bailou's expectations!

Yet Ning Fan opened a several feet golden light defense around him, walking leisurely amidst the wave of millions of flower blades. The sound of blade slashes constantly echoed, yet they all struck Ning Fan's body-protecting golden light.

The body-protecting golden light was too powerful, within a short ten breaths, it withstood over a billion strikes from the flower tide. Yet these billion strikes could not leave the slightest damage on the body-protecting golden light, let alone break the golden light and harm Ning Fan underneath.

Ning Fan remained completely unharmed!

"What... what level of defense is this! How could such terrifying defense exist in this world!"

Sha Bailou gritted his teeth hard.

Wasn't Ning Fan using more than five types of Dao traces in the previous battle his strongest divine skill yet!

Was this unbreakable body-protecting golden light... his strongest trump card!

Then let him smash Ning Fan's barrier!

"Primeval Impact!"

Sha Bailou stomped the earth, his whole body exploded, transforming into a blood shadow, instantly traversing countless distances, violently crashing into Ning Fan's body-protecting golden light.

Time seemed to freeze, but in the next moment, the terrifying impact spread, causing the entire third layer's land to crazily collapse, sinking the ground by ten feet!

Such a terrifying impact was considered one of Sha Bailou's great skills, but hitting Ning Fan's body-protecting golden light still couldn't cause even a crack on the golden light.

It was incredibly hard!

"Break for me... shatter!"

Ten strikes!

A hundred strikes!

A thousand strikes!

Sha Bailou seemed truly insane, attacking Ning Fan's body-protecting golden light relentlessly. His silhouette flickered around, crashing into Ning Fan more than a thousand times in just over ten breaths!

Yet all of this was futile!

Sweat and blood dripping down his face, Sha Bailou, with a trace of horror, looked at Ning Fan, who was calm within the golden light.

Ning Fan was unscathed, and his body-protecting golden light showed no damage. On the contrary, Sha Bailou, who launched the attacks, was harmed by the accumulating recoil force!

There exists an Eternal Immortal Venerable, capable of elevating defense to this realm!

This is not the defense an Eternal Immortal Venerable should possess, not even an Immortal King could have it!

Let alone him, even a true Four Calamity Immortal King attacking this defense would be in vain!

Even a Five Tribulations Peak Immortal King might not succeed!

"I sacrificed everything, put in all my might, yet couldn't even touch his hem..."

For the first time in his life, Sha Bailou's heart wavered!

In his life, he never lost to anyone of the same rank, rarely when fighting beyond his rank!

Previous defeat at Ning Fan's hands didn't waver him, because back then he was only using his Shattered Thought Peak cultivation and lost to Ning Fan, who was infinitely close to a Second Calamity Immortal Lord, not unjust.

But this time, he had raised his cultivation to nearly the level of a Four Calamity Immortal King, he had suppressed Ning Fan in cultivation.

Yet, he couldn't even touch Ning Fan's hem or move a single facial expression of his!

How... can this be!

"You've attacked for long enough, now, it's my turn..."

The hand Ning Fan concealed in his sleeve, with the faintly flickering Grand Momentum Golden Light, was gradually extinguishing.

In the midst of Sha Bailou's stormy attacks, he wasn't idle. In fact, he had been secretly controlling the grand momentum, laying layer upon layer of restrictions secretly in the surroundings.

After completing all this, Ning Fan spoke, and with a flip of his hand, took out a bottle emitting the aura of ocean waves.

In the instant the bottle appeared, an unprecedented sense of crisis engulfed Sha Bailou's heart.

If before, Ning Fan demonstrated unparalleled defense, then at this moment, Ning Fan was about to display his nearly terrifying lethality!

This bottle was unexpectedly an innate mid-grade magical treasure!

Not good!

At the moment Ning Fan raised the bottle, the crisis in Sha Bailou's heart reached its peak!

Gritting his teeth, Sha Bailou, without any hesitation, turned and tried to escape.

Because due to cultivating the Blood God Reincarnation Technique, Sha Bailou could be reborn after death, hence he wasn't afraid of death, rather relished the life-and-death struggle.

But this didn't mean he truly wasn't afraid of death!

Adding in the seventeen close souls sacrificed this time, he had used up eighteen souls in total, with only three remaining close souls on him.

This means, before replenishing those close souls, he could only be reborn three more times. If he could be reborn more, he wouldn't mind dying once more and counter-attacking Ning Fan before dying. But with only three lives left, he needed to conserve his deaths.

Therefore, faced with the unbeatable Ning Fan, Sha Bailou had to suppress his urge for slaughter and chose to flee.

But soon, his face darkened, realizing that the surrounding world was densely planted with a thousand layers of seals. With his cultivation, breaking these seals wasn't hard, but certainly not something that could be done in an instant.

Ning Fan's attack was already imminent!

Escape... was impossible!

"By Ning Fan's command, water to flood a realm!"

As Ning Fan's Mana activated, the three water droplet designs on the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle began lighting up one by one.

The first droplet design gradually lit up from one-third to two-thirds and finally fully lit up!

For Ning Fan, whose cultivation had made significant progress, and having activated his body-protecting golden light, lighting one water droplet design was no longer enough to destroy his arm due to the counter-collapse force of the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle. Although his arm did experience severe pain and sustained some injury, the injury wasn't serious.

Lighting one droplet was Ning Fan's current limit.

Lighting the second droplet would require releasing the full form of the God-Extinguishing Shield!

Under Sha Bailou's incredulous gaze, Ning Fan's body-protecting golden light suddenly surged, rising to form a gigantic golden skeletal giant that enclosed Ning Fan within!

The golden skeleton burned with blazing flames, and within those flames, flesh and bones emerged, forming a complete God-Slaying Giant holding a massive shield, presented before Sha Bailou.

This God-Slaying Giant, though only a hundred zhang tall, exerted an unprecedented pressure on Sha Bailou!

It was an indestructible feeling! As if not even an Immortal Emperor could break through this giant's defense!

Sha Bailou felt like he was witnessing a divine miracle, stunned by the defense born in a mere Immortal Venerable's body!

After a momentary daze, Sha Bailou realized in horror that the sky above had somehow... turned into the sea!

He remembered in his youth, reading in some absurd ancient text a description: The sea is the inverted sky.

Such a scene made him involuntarily recall that sentence.

The sky... became the inverted sea, with ocean waves roaring toward the earth, and the one controlling all this... was Ning Fan!

In the next moment, Ning Fan, who had activated the God-Slaying Giant mode, lit the second droplet design on the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle!

Then, the Sea of the Sky began pouring and falling toward the ground!

First, a single drop of seawater hit Sha Bailou's face!

A single drop of seawater, only one drop... yet Sha Bailou felt he was struck by an entire mountain, the droplet tearing across, leaving a scar on his face!

One drop of water... so powerful, followed by waves formed by millions, tens of millions of water droplets engulfing him!

It felt as though the weight of an entire starry sky pressed upon Sha Bailou, his physical defense collapsing in an instant within the waves, eliciting a heartrending scream...

Not only Sha Bailou, but at this moment, the entire third layer of the Fire Soul Tower had changed completely, no land could be seen anymore, only a vast and surging sea remained as far as the eye could see...

Everything was submerged beneath the sea waves, leaving only Ning Fan, gradually releasing his God-Slaying stance, standing atop a gigantic bottle, floating amidst the sea, silently watching everything around him.

The giant bottle rose and fell on the waves, with Ning Fan calculating something silently in his mind.

Suddenly, coming to a conclusion, Ning Fan splayed his five fingers forward, the heavy sea waves split apart, revealing a faintly dying blood-red Spirit amidst the wave, which belonged to Sha Bailou.

However, this time, Sha Bailou's Spirit didn't perish, due to Ning Fan's calculated restraint.

The reason Ning Fan spared Sha Bailou's life wasn't due to a kind heart, but because he figured Sha Bailou must have other souls within him.

Killing him... would only lead to his rebirth! It's better to spare him momentarily, eradicate the close souls within him, then deal with his Spirit, achieving permanent cessation!

Poor Sha Bailou, of all people, he picked the monstrous Ning Fan to provoke.

One must know, even while testing the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle on Water Curtain Star against the Water Curtain Immortal King, Ning Fan only unleashed the power of a single water droplet design.

That single droplet almost drowned the Water Curtain Immortal King, and that battle probably left an indelible shadow on the Water Curtain Immortal King...

Yet this time, Ning Fan was nearly brutal... activating the power of two water droplets, not only Sha Bailou but even changing to a Four Calamity or Five Calamity Immortal King, few could survive such a flood!

Plus, this attack spanned an entire realm, unavoidable, exceedingly effective against groups of enemies.

Of course, the main disadvantage of the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle was its indiscriminate range, causing collateral damage with no distinction between friend and foe!

Because of this, Ning Fan had Emperor Butcher leave in advance; otherwise... even Ning Fan, the owner of the Water-Flooding Bottle, wasn't confident of saving Emperor Butcher from a realm-wide flood...

...

At the instant Ning Fan captured Sha Bailou's Spirit, on the external high platform, Emperor Lou Tuo, who was originally smiling faintly with eyes closed in meditation, suddenly sensed the event and opened his eyes, which were filled with fierce blood threads!

His treacherous disciple, even using full force, failed once more!

Chapter 1042: A Drop of Ancient Wine, Drunk Together

The destructive power of the Flooded Bottle was immense, but it consumed more than ninety percent of Ning Fan's mana, which could be described as terrifying.

Ning Fan swallowed a few expensive pills, meditated briefly, and regained some mana before he activated the Flooded Bottle once more, withdrawing the ocean waves that submerged the entire third layer of the Fire Soul Tower back into the bottle.

The third layer, ravaged by the Flooded Bottle, was unrecognizable. All locations marked on the map were destroyed by the waves, leaving only ruins.

A small number of contestants who entered the third layer were killed by the indiscriminate attack of the Flooded Bottle. To this, Ning Fan could only offer an apology.

The combat of cultivators with great divine abilities often affects the wider world due to the vast power of their skills. Fortunately, Ning Fan harbored no goodwill toward these contestants who found joy in humiliating the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor, so he felt no remorse for the collateral damage.

After putting away the Flooded Bottle, Ning Fan began dealing with Sha Bailou's Spirit. This Spirit was unconscious and near death, yet clung to a single thread of life, unable to reincarnate posthumously—a result of Ning Fan's careful calculations.

Ning Fan first closely examined Sha Bailou's Spirit, then extracted three illusory souls from it.

These three souls were Sha Bailou's closest kin. Once extracted, they howled in agony, tormented by Sha Bailou's Blood God Reincarnation Technique.

These were souls that had perished countless years ago, beyond resurrection. If not for Ning Fan's intervention, they would have been used by Sha Bailou, leading to their obliteration and loss of any chance for reincarnation.

It seemed that the so-called Blood God Reincarnation was merely a method to deprive relatives of their chance for reincarnation to gain another life for oneself.

Ning Fan reflected that no matter the circumstances, he could never bring himself to harm his closest kin. In this regard, his ruthlessness could not compare to Sha Bailou's.

He had no desire to become like Sha Bailou.

After a moment of silence, Ning Fan extended his finger, and the three souls gradually disappeared into the heavens and the earth, returning to the cycle of reincarnation.

Having dealt with these three souls, Ning Fan was prepared to take action, ensuring that Sha Bailou couldn't be resurrected.

Not being hasty in killing Sha Bailou, Ning Fan was interested in certain things associated with him. After setting numerous prohibitions on his Spirit, he directly destroyed this soul remnant, using the most domineering and damaging method to extract Sha Bailou's memories, without bothering to employ the Reverse Spirit Technique.

In doing so, Sha Bailou's divine sense shattered, reducing him to an idiot with low spirit awareness. Even if he could resurrect and reincarnate, he would only be reborn as an idiot. Of course, he had no chance for rebirth.

After searching Sha Bailou's memories, Ning Fan frowned for a long time. The reason he was interested in Sha Bailou's memories wasn't for the past of killing kin for the sake of cultivation but for something else.

Sha Bailou's escape technique was extremely mysterious, able to fly while ignoring forbidden force, which caught Ning Fan's attention. This technique was undoubtedly a grand skill renowned throughout the realms!

Buddha's Vast Escape!

In Sha Bailou's memories, Ning Fan found this name, but he couldn't find any method of practicing Buddha's Vast Escape.

Instead, he saw a memory scene.

In the scene, Sha Bailou knelt before a giant statue on a burning continent.

Then, a flash of light appeared on the statue, revealing a phantom figure, seemingly an Immortal Emperor who had descended through the statue using a manifestation technique.

This Immortal Emperor looked ordinary and could easily blend into a crowd, unnoticeable.

The Immortal Emperor's brows and eyes always carried a kind smile, yet ultimately imparted Buddha's Vast Escape, Blood God Reincarnation Technique, and a series of other supreme skills to Sha Bailou, and planted a technique in Sha Bailou's divine sense so that if anyone searched his soul, all the cultivation methods in Sha Bailou's memories would collapse and disappear!

Ning Fan thought to himself, no wonder, because of the self-destruct technique, he couldn't find the cultivation method of Buddha's Vast Escape in Sha Bailou's memory...

As for the Immortal Emperor who taught Sha Bailou the divine skills, though Ning Fan hadn't met him, he could vaguely guess; it was most likely the creator of the Blood God Reincarnation Technique... the Empty Flame Death Emperor!

According to these memories, Sha Bailou not only became a disciple of Emperor Lou Tuo but also had a relationship with the Empty Flame Dead Emperor... Knowing this, it made sense that someone who learned the secret arts of the Empty Flame Dead Emperor couldn't possibly have no connection with him; he should have considered this earlier.

Thinking of this, Ning Fan's brow immediately furrowed.

Having dealt with Sha Bailou, he couldn't tell if this would provoke the wrath of the Empty Flame Death Emperor...

Then, Ning Fan remembered the Creation Golden Lotus Root...

Creating puppets required numerous materials, one of which was the Spirit of a Master...

Although Sha Bailou's Spirit had its intelligence abolished, it could still serve as a material, a blood sacrifice for a puppet. As a human, Sha Bailou's strong desire for slaughter was unappealing to Ning Fan.

But as a puppet, that would be a different case... Ning Fan would very much like to have a quasi-emperor puppet that, fearless of death, would charge forward into battle, crushing all obstacles in its path...

From this perspective, Sha Bailou's ferocious Spirit was an excellent material for crafting a puppet. Even Immortal King Spirits might not possess Sha Bailou's intense murderous instincts, making the effect of puppet creation considerably less...

"In that case... I shall keep this Spirit for now, to use in making a puppet later!"

As for whether using Sha Bailou to craft a puppet would anger the Empty Flame Death Emperor, Ning Fan thought little of it.

Sealing Sha Bailou's Spirit in a specially designed jade box, Ning Fan then proceeded to the passage to the fourth layer.

At the end of the passage was the sky of the fourth layer, where Emperor Butcher was half-leaning against an ancient locust tree, arms crossed, frowning as they waited.

Though she claimed not to worry about Ning Fan's life or death, a hint of concern lingered on her face. Whether this concern stemmed from care for a companion or the planning of a grand undertaking, only she knew.

In any case, seeing Ning Fan return safely, Emperor Butcher was quite satisfied. Her gaze swept lightly over Ning Fan's body, noting that there was no Evil Qi from killing the Eternal Immortal Venerable entangling him, then she asked,

"Did you let that boy escape again?" Clearly, she thought Ning Fan hadn't truly killed Sha Bailou.

"No, I didn't let him escape."

"So, you want to refine his Spirit into a puppet?" Emperor Butcher, with her sharp mind, immediately guessed what Ning Fan intended once she heard that Ning Fan captured Sha Bailou but didn't kill him.

"Yes, Sha Bailou's Spirit harbors a heavy killing intent, making it an excellent material for refining a killing puppet. Directly killing him would be too wasteful."

Ning Fan had no intention of hiding his plans from Emperor Butcher.

At this point, although he still retained some caution against Emperor Butcher, it was now just the normal level of caution one might have in social interactions, not as severe as when they first met.

To put it this way, although this woman's cultivation level is high and her killing intent is strong, she seems different from those deeply scheming Immortal Emperor Old Monsters.

It's not that this woman is without guile, it's just... what she pursues seems to differ from what other Immortal Emperors chase.

Other Immortal Emperor Old Monsters merely pursue survival through countless calamities, growth in cultivation levels, power, prominence of their Sect, and disciples widespread across galaxies...

But this woman seeks something beyond material existence...

She simply wants to pursue an answer in her heart.

Ning Fan felt that he was very much like Emperor Butcher. While other cultivators know what they pursue, he actually had no pursuit regarding cultivation itself.

He desires power, only hoping to have enough strength to guard the nest behind him, nothing more. If one day, he no longer has enemies, maybe he will have no motivation to cultivate but choose another path instead. Content with simplicity, content with tranquility, willing to spend his days in the fields, working at sunrise, resting at sunset, enjoying every moment of peace in life.

He was an oddity in this cultivation world, and Emperor Butcher... seemed to be one as well.

Even when insulted by youngsters as a bratty girl, she still adhered to her promise with the Supreme Ox Demon and did not make a move. When Shen Ershisan was humiliated by many, only she quietly helped clean his filth without a word.

Such a person... makes it hard for Ning Fan to be wary of her, truly hard.

"What are you staring at? Do I have dirt on my face?" Emperor Butcher felt irritable being stared at by Ning Fan and said impatiently.

"Nothing, let's hurry on with our journey."

"Oh? You finally know the value of time, very good. I took a look at your map, and this fourth layer has quite a few good things, enough to elevate your Medicine Soul level stably into the Eighth Revolution, with no chance of failure when advancing!"

"Oh? What kind of things could let me stably advance into the Eighth Revolution?"

"Carry me, and I'll guide you on the map..."

...

On the thirteenth day, under Emperor Butcher's guidance, Ning Fan arrived at the fourth site of the Twelve Fierce Lands on the Fourth Layer. After breaking the illusion there, they acquired an ancient medicinal wine.

According to Emperor Butcher, this is a special medicinal wine unique to the Dabei Clan. Drinking it can enhance a cultivator's Medicine Soul level. Depending on the wine's age, its effectiveness varies greatly.

This jar of ancient wine seems to have aged for millions of years. Not only is the medicinal effect astonishing, but its potency is incredibly strong.

"Ning Fan, be careful not to get drunk! If you pass out here, it'll waste a lot of time! You know, my time is very precious!"

"Don't worry, I have quite some insights into the way of alcohol, and with my current cultivation, even if my cultivation is suppressed, I can control drunkenness at will, all within a single thought..."

"Stop making it sound so mystical! Drink quickly if you're going to drink!"

So, under Emperor Butcher's incredulous gaze, Ning Fan downed the entire jar of ancient wine in one go!

Other than his face being slightly flushed, there was no sign of drunkenness, his behavior remained completely normal, and he naturally sat cross-legged, frantically refining the medicinal power of the wine with the help of Emperor Butcher's Saint's Will Secret Treasure!

His Medicine Soul level finally advanced to the Eighth Revolution and slowly approached the mid-level of the Eighth Revolution...

To see Ning Fan drink an entire jar of million-year-old ancient wine in one gulp, Emperor Butcher was truly shocked. Such aged ancient wine, even some Immortal Emperors dare not gulp it down in one go, only dare to taste it lightly...

But Ning Fan, drinking it all in one go, still appeared calm and unruffled. If this was the truth, then this alcohol tolerance already surpasses many Celestial Emperor-level powerhouses.

Does Ning Fan really have such alcohol tolerance?

Emperor Butcher didn't believe it, secretly wondering if the mud seal on the ancient wine jar was damaged, causing all the medicinal effects and potency to dissipate? Otherwise, how could Ning Fan drink a whole jar of million-year-old ancient wine as easily as drinking water...

Emperor Butcher squatted down, extended her slender forefinger, wiped a bit of wine from the jar's edge, and licked it.

Then... she promptly collapsed, drunk!

Because out of excessive curiosity, she had forgotten that currently, without being able to exert her cultivation, drinking such strong liquor was tantamount to courting death...

She remained drunk for three whole days before awakening groggily, and at first sight, realized she was still on Ning Fan's back. In that time she was in slumber, Ning Fan was diligently continuing their journey.

Upon asking, she realized she had been asleep for three whole days, even with her thick-skinned nature, a faint blush appeared on her old face.

"Your alcohol tolerance is really quite poor," Ning Fan said helplessly as he watched Emperor Butcher awaken.

"Nonsense, if my skills were intact, how could this vintage wine possibly knock me down! With this kind of ancient wine, I could drink ten or eight jars in one go without any problem!" Emperor Butcher retorted, her face flushed.

"I don't believe it."

"You don't believe it, huh? Fine, once everything here is settled, I'll find some top-grade ancient wine and invite you to the Blood Martial Arena for a drinking spree! I'll let you witness my drinking capacity!"

"..."

Ning Fan was exasperated. He absolutely did not believe that Emperor Butcher, who would fall after one drop, had any drinking capacity. It was probably just bravado at best.

The usually high-and-mighty, almost omnipotent Emperor Butcher, actually had such a helpless side... Haha, it was truly amusing.

Emperor Butcher didn't care what Ning Fan thought. She took this matter seriously, considering it a big deal. She planned on where to find some good wine after this was over to prove her drinking capacity... While pondering these issues, she inquired about what had happened to Ning Fan over the past few days.

Only then did she realize she had been drunk for three days. During her drunken slumber, Ning Fan had been traveling while carrying her, breaking through the deadly Illusions Art he encountered along the way, and seeking treasures within, with quite a good harvest.

After Emperor Butcher got drunk, naturally, she hadn't put away the secret treasure containing the saint's will. Once she regained consciousness, Ning Fan returned the treasure to her.

Nowadays, under Emperor Butcher's careful explanations of the knowledge of Illusions Art, Ning Fan's innate talent in Illusions Art was finally fully unleashed. The Taixuan Illusion Technique in the Fourth Layer was no longer able to stop his steps!

Without Emperor Butcher's guidance, Ning Fan had broken through several dangerous areas, acquiring many good things. His Medicine Soul level had also naturally broken through again, reaching the Eighth Revolution Intermediate!

Eighth Revolution Pill Refinement Masters were numerous within the Four Heavens and were not regarded as particularly impressive. Nonetheless, the advancement of the Medicine Soul was undoubtedly a good thing, and Ning Fan was naturally very pleased.

Of course, he secretly kept some things aside, planning to bring them back for Ouyang Nuan... Unfortunately, with Emperor Butcher's wisdom, she could easily see through Ning Fan's little plan and promptly ordered him to take out anything hidden and consume them under her supervision, naturally advancing his Medicine Soul level significantly toward the Eighth Revolution Upper Stage.

On the eighteenth day, Ning Fan and Emperor Butcher made their way through all the dangerous places in the Fourth Layer, and the Fifth Layer's entrance was not far away. With Emperor Butcher's help, Ning Fan's Medicine Soul level had truly reached the Eighth Revolution Upper Stage!

However, there was one matter that made Ning Fan subject to many complaints from Emperor Butcher.

Thanks to the convenience of the team map, Ning Fan easily discovered that at this moment, Wuxx Yan had already reached the entrance of the Fifth Layer, faster than he, who had been breaking through illusions with Emperor Butcher's guidance!

"Tsk tsk tsk, did you see that? A mere junior of Eternity's First Tribulation actually raced ahead of us and reached the Fifth Layer's entrance first. Tell me, wasn't your pace during this period too slow!" Emperor Butcher complained.

"We did not proceed in a straight line and instead detoured back many times; naturally, our speed couldn't have been fast," Ning Fan said helplessly.

"You could have pushed a little harder, run a bit faster..."

"..."

"Oh? Interesting, there seems to be something going on up ahead..."

As soon as Emperor Butcher finished speaking, Ning Fan spread out his spirit sense towards the direction of the Fifth Layer's entrance, and his brows furrowed.

It was over two hundred li to the Fifth Layer's entrance, but if he sprinted wildly, it wasn't too far.

...

At this moment, a thousand cultivators were gathered once again at the Fifth Layer's entrance.

Wuxx Yan, along with members from the Sea Witch Sect and the Huanhai Clan, was surrounded at the center by a thousand cultivators.

The ones surrounding Wuxx Yan there were Stone of Seabed and Master Hongzang!

Stone of Seabed led his team while Master Hongzang also had a large group of people. Counting carefully, the powerful ones behind Stone of Seabed and Master Hongzang were far from limited to those in their original teams but consisted of people from dozens of different tribes!

Generally, contestants in the second round of Tomb Raiding rarely delve into the Fourth Layer's area, very rarely.

However, it doesn't mean none at all.

When an Eternal Immortal Venerable from eons past participated, occasionally an Eternal Immortal Venerable would try exploring the Fourth Layer, even attempting the Fifth Layer...

The higher the layer, the higher the score; therefore, those with strength kept pushing further inward.

Wuxx Yan had this very mindset and wanted to enter the Fifth Layer. The Fifth Layer was extremely dangerous, and even with her Immortal Venerable cultivation, she might not be able to protect herself. But to score higher on the Illusion Test Map, she had to make this decision.

Taking advantage of the team map sharing function, Wuxx Yan was well aware of Ning Fan's movements during this period. Ning Fan seemed very interested in the dangerous places in the earlier layers and had visited almost all of them.

The map was frequently illuminated, but the scores in the earlier layers weren't high. What's more, in those earlier layers, Ning Fan seemed to be moving with a specific intention, rushing directly to the dangerous spots on each layer...

This left Wuxx Yan quite speechless. She had deduced that Ning Fan appeared more interested in exploring each dangerous place rather than lighting up the map, seemingly wasting time...

With her teammates not being much help, she could only rely on herself. Wuxx Yan decided to take a risk and enter the Fifth Layer to gain more points. Unexpectedly, the passage to the Fifth Layer was blocked by a hexagonal stone door, hindering their path!

The hexagonal stone door could not be opened; it could only be destroyed to enter the Fifth Layer. Yet, after several attempts, Wuxx Yan realized this stone door was far harder than she had imagined, likely requiring a Second Calamity Immortal Lord from Eternity's eons to smash it open.

What cheered her up was that soon other two Eternal Immortal Venerables arrived. If they also wished to enter the Fifth Layer, they could join forces to break through this hexagonal stone door and enter together.

However, what infuriated her was that the arrival of these two Eternal Immortal Venerables was not to enter the Fifth Layer, and there was no possibility of any cooperation!

These two people were actually coming for the map in her hand!

"Daoist Wuxx Yan, though you're an old-timer Immortal Venerable, this old monk doesn't fear you. If you know what's good for you, hand over the map in your hand to this old monk! Otherwise, don't blame me for taking it by force!"

Hongcang was clearly just a newly ascended Immortal Venerable, yet when facing Wuxx Yan, he acted with an air of arrogance, which Wuxx Yan found very unpleasant.

Stone of Seabed was even more domineering, directly ordering Wuxx Yan with a commanding tone, "Hand over the map! Otherwise, don't blame the two of us for being ruthless, we'll kill you here first, then slaughter all your followers behind you!"

Under the overwhelming aura of Stone of Seabed as a Second Calamity Immortal Lord, many strong cultivators on Wuxx Yan's side couldn't withstand it, their faces turning pale with fear!

Wuxx Yan was equally tense. She never expected Hongcang to join forces with Stone of Seabed to seize the map in her hand!

One of them had already teamed up with Sha Bailou, seemingly on the same side with Sha Bailou; the other was rumored to have a life-and-death feud with Sha Bailou, like fire and water...

Such two people, it was strange enough that they weren't fighting each other, how could they possibly join forces!

However, the other party didn't seem to have any intention of wasting time with her, nor did they intend to explain further, it was clear they were about to take action at any moment.

In the tense atmosphere, Wuxx Yan felt as though a giant stone was suspended over her heart.

Hongcang might not be much, merely a newly ascended Immortal Venerable, but Stone of Seabed was a genuine Second Calamity Immortal Lord, and with these two joining forces, Wuxx Yan didn't believe her single-calamity cultivation level could prevail!

The possibility of successfully protecting the map from these two was too small, far too small...

What's more, the other party had gathered dozens of tribes' men and horses, trapping her here. While a single Thought-Shattering Cultivator wasn't much, if there were enough of them, they couldn't be underestimated, especially when surrounded, making escape quite difficult...

One wrong move, and she might be killed right here!

Wuxx Yan's inner struggle began anew; she was working for the Baihua Great Emperor, if she surrendered the Illusion Test Map, the test results would reset to zero. With just the previous brute test scores, it would be impossible to break into the top three and obtain the South Sea Spring Water!

If she couldn't get the South Sea Spring Water... she would surely incur the wrath of the Baihua Great Emperor!

But if she didn't hand over the map, she would face the siege of two Eternal Immortal Venerables and over a thousand Thought-Shattering Shedding Void Stage cultivators...

Surrender, or not surrender!

It was at this very moment that the positions of Ning Fan and Wuxx Yan, on their respective maps, overlapped! However, in her busy internal calculations of gains and losses, Wuxx Yan naturally didn't notice this.

Her lack of notice didn't mean others didn't. She wasn't the only one sharing the map with Ning Fan.

In the crowd behind her, the captain of the Huanhai Clan, that scar-faced burly man, noticed the change on his map.

In the instant these map positions overlapped, a flicker of light swiftly galloped across the ground, kicking up a whirlwind, sending smoke and dust everywhere!

That shadow kept approaching, only stopping as it got closer, revealing a dust-laden figure.

It was Ning Fan, rushing to this place!

The scar-faced man stared wide-eyed! On Ning Fan's back, nestling like a small bird, was a woman who was none other than his little wife, tightly pressed against Ning Fan's back without shame, truly a flirtatious woman!

The scar-faced man felt like the prairie on his head was vast enough for running horses. But this time, there wasn't even a trace of anger, instead, he was overjoyed at seeing Ning Fan again!

Because Ning Fan's arrival meant... salvation! Compared to that, what did a little humiliation matter!

Not only the scar-faced man, Ning Fan's presence caused over a thousand strong cultivators to hold their breath. Moreover, the expressions of the three Eternal Immortal Venerables present changed.

However, Stone of Seabed and Master Hongcang frowned.

While Wuxx Yan showed a look of delight.

At this moment, thousands of strong cultivators' gazes were fixed on Ning Fan!

At this moment, Wuxx Yan couldn't wait any longer and spoke for the first time in a pleading tone,

"Brother Ning, please lend me a hand!"

Her voice was undeniably melodious, yet it didn't move Ning Fan in the slightest, he looked indifferently at the scene before him, with an expression of complete indifference, as if it had nothing to do with him.

"Why have you all gathered here?" he asked expressionlessly.

He certainly hadn't forgotten Wuxx Yan's previous request.

Between them, private grievances were to be mutually ignored. Haha, that was Wuxx Yan's intent. Of course, considering that if Wuxx Yan's map was indeed taken, he would lose a lot of shared scores as well, which was indeed concerning to him, he couldn't just sit back and ignore Wuxx Yan.

Of course, a mere coquettish plea wouldn't spur him into action.

His fee for taking action... was very expensive, very expensive! It wasn't that it couldn't be cheaper, but it varied from person to person.

At least for Wuxx Yan, it wouldn't be cheap!

Chapter 1043: Heaven Locking Finger Severs the Enemy's Soul!

"Why do you all gather here?"

A thousand masters had been gathered at this place, the noise of battle deafening, but with the arrival of Ning Fan, the scene suddenly fell silent enough to hear a pin drop.

Ning Fan carried the Emperor Butcher, advancing as if no one were around. The masters had previously surrounded Wuxx Yan's party tightly, but with Ning Fan's approach, his overwhelming presence swept across, prompting those ahead of him to instinctively fear him, and they gradually retreated. In no time, the large crowd parted to form a path for him to pass.

Ning Fan walked right into the center of the encirclement, put down the Emperor Butcher, and looked calmly at Wuxx Yan, awaiting his answer.

Wuxx Yan was quite eloquent, as within just a brief few breaths, he had informed Ning Fan of the occurrences here one by one.

"Brother Ning, I am in trouble this time, you must help me!"

Wuxx Yan pleaded softly.

After the initial surprise, Wuxx Yan somewhat realized that Ning Fan seemed to have plans to stand by idly, causing him to panic secretly. The adversaries were two Eternal Immortal Venerables, and without Ning Fan as formidable support, Wuxx Yan would lack the confidence to preserve the map.

To move Ning Fan's hardened heart, Wuxx Yan even infused his speech with a hint of a bewitching technique. Unfortunately, such a level of bewitching technique did not affect Ning Fan's heart in the slightest, as he replied expressionlessly.

"Why should I help you!"

Why should I help you!

On what grounds should I help you!

Wuxx Yan sensed the rejection in Ning Fan's words, and his face suddenly turned cold, but more behind this was regret.

Indeed, upon entering the Fire Soul Tower, he chose not to involve himself in Ning Fan and Sha Bailou's dispute to avoid getting entangled with Ning Fan, thus leading to their agreement of 'personal vendettas do not affect helping each other.'

Now facing a predicament and thinking of Ning Fan, it was natural Ning Fan would not show him a pleasant countenance. This he could understand.

Were the roles reversed, with Ning Fan facing danger, Wuxx Yan knew there would be no way he would assist Ning Fan.

Of course, understanding is understanding. The situation was now as fragile as an egg, with Ning Fan being the only lifeline amidst drowning; no matter how indifferent Ning Fan's attitude was, he could not abandon this sole hope of preserving the map!

"What will it take for you to help me? As long as you agree to join hands with me to handle this matter, any price, I am willing to pay!"

Wuxx Yan no longer smiled warmly or acted, but similarly put on a cold expression, asking in a cool voice.

"Any price...is that so..."

Ning Fan's gaze swept over Wuxx Yan's delicate body seemingly unintentionally, which caused Wuxx Yan to tremble internally, thinking the price Ning Fan wanted would be her body...

Unfortunately, she seemed to have overestimated her own beauty.

While Wuxx Yan was indeed ravishing, the number of beauties surrounding Ning Fan was numerous, and he had no interest in Wuxx Yan's beauty whatsoever.

"What exactly do you want..." Wuxx Yan deliberately put on a stern face but lacked some confidence.

"What I want, I haven't decided yet, but if I ever make up my mind one day, I will come to the Sea Witch Sect to collect it from you!"

Having glanced at Wuxx Yan's empty storage pouch, Ning Fan suppressed the idea of instantly asking for his reward.

A reward must be received, but earlier Ning Fan had collected numerous storage pouches, including Sha Bailou's, none of which contained anything valuable. After all, participants in the second round of the tomb-seizing competition would surely consider possible risks en route, such as being ambushed or having pouches stolen, thus they rarely carried valuable items.

Considering this moment to ask for a reward, it was expected Wuxx Yan would fail to produce anything worthy, hence it was better to wait till there was time in the future to ask.

"Alright! Should Brother Ning assist me out of danger today, then consider it a favor I owe to Brother Ning. When you visit my Sea Witch Sect someday, whether it's seeking a heavy treasure from me or asking for assistance, I shall not refuse your request—this promise, I will swear under the Restrictive Spell, never to betray!"

Wuxx Yan fell silent for a moment before making his vow firmly word by word.

He was known to be selfish and profit-oriented, yet when making a promise, he would surely adhere to it.

Ning Fan was unexpectedly surprised to see Wuxx Yan solemnly take his oath, though his expression didn't reveal it.

On one hand, Ning Fan, following the old monster's teachings, was negotiating for recompense without suffering losses with Wuxx Yan.

On the other hand, Stone of Seabed and Hongcang were engaged in some conversation too. But unlike Ning Fan's forthrightness, the two were communicating secretly.

"Stone Daoist, with the power of the two of us, we could have easily secured Wuxx Yan... but now there's this newcomer meddling, what should be done?"

"Let's observe the changes and do not act hastily; this foreign cultivator is tough to handle. If he doesn't interfere, then all the better! But if he does, then matters would become problematic..."

"Hehe, could it be that Stone Daoist really fears this foreign cultivator! Indeed, his trial scores are quite impressive, but in my view, his top rank score was merely because he understood some secret technique that restored physical strength. This strength trial tests lasting power, allowing him to win by taking advantage. If strength trial based on the sheer power, then winning it would be impossible for him! During the test against the Corpse, each hit's strength was actually far inferior to ours. After all, he's merely an Eternal Immortal Venerable suppressed by the Punishing Ring, wielding limited power—I never thought Stone Daoist would fear an Eternal Immortal Venerable with restricted strength, hehe...it's really amusing."

"Hmph! Not because I'm afraid of him, but rather unwilling to get involved in unnecessary trouble. Your coaxing is unnecessary; per our agreement, I'm only helping you snatch the map from Wuxx Yan, nothing more—engaging this newcomer is beyond our arrangement!"

"Oh really...you know, the task given by that person isn't just about stealing Wuxx Yan's map, but includes this newcomer's map too!"

"That's your task from that person, not mine! Our agreement only involves Wuxx Yan's map, as for Ning Fan, if you wish to handle him, go ahead yourself, I won't assist." Mentioning 'that person,' Stone of Seabed, who usually was rebellious, was filled with reverence, suggesting 'that person' wasn't ordinary—likely an Immortal King or even... an Immortal Emperor!

"What if I offer you twice the number of Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits?"

"Hmm..." Stone of Seabed's eyes lit up, yet he pretended to hesitate.

"And I'll add one million-year-old Xuanhai Yellow Ginseng, nothing more!" Hongcang spoke begrudgingly.

"Deal!"

Stone of Seabed laughed heartily, taking money to resolve troubles for others! Were it not for these rewards, he wouldn't bother entangling with someone like Hongcang!

He was here to partake in the tomb-seizing battle to settle grudges with Sha Bailou from years past, of course, if he could gain rewards alongside, he wouldn't refuse.

Not planning to waste time any longer, he immediately shouted in the direction of Ning Fan and Wuxx Yan.

"Wuxx Yan! Could it be that you think just because you have some help, you can escape from our hands? Hand over the map quickly, or you'll only bring harm upon yourself! As for Ning Fan! Since you've come

to get involved in this muddle, don't blame Stone of Seabed for taking both you and the map! You have ten breaths to surrender the map, or don't blame me for showing no mercy!"

With that said, Stone of Seabed stepped out from the crowd, standing with his hands behind his back in front of over a thousand strong fighters. The devastating momentum of the Second Calamity of the Eons transformed into a fierce wind, wildly sweeping this place.

Those who witnessed it were shocked!

Stone of Seabed gave Ning Fan ten breaths to surrender the map, but Ning Fan, of course, would never hand it over.

Not only did he not intend to surrender the map, but he made a decision within. If he could snatch the maps of Stone of Seabed and Hongcang right here and now, no one would challenge his results in this illusory trial! With powerful figures like Sha Bailou, Stone of Seabed, and Hongcang all gone, getting first place in the second round of the Tomb Seizing was no difficulty at all!

Ning Fan equally unleashed his momentum, once again utilizing the power of the Illusory Night Pearl, completely unleashing his cultivation!

In terms of momentum alone, he was actually on par with Stone of Seabed, showing no weakness!

"Impossible! You actually unsealed the Punishing Ring! This aura is not much weaker than mine, just a silk thread away from entering the Second Calamity..."

Stone of Seabed's expression changed immediately, as did Hongcang and the thousands of strong fighters behind him.

If before, with Ning Fan's cultivation sealed, he only elicited dread; now, this Ning Fan felt like a wild beast unleashed from a cage, with devilish thoughts overwhelming and evil qi reaching the sky, distinctly the image of a peerless evil sect leader!

And this method of unsealing the Punishing Ring did not seem like destruction, but a way to temporarily restore cultivation...

"If after ten breaths I still don't hand over the map, how do you plan to show no mercy?" Ning Fan said expressionlessly.

"Hmph! If you refuse to hand over the map, what awaits you will be my iron fist! Stone of Seabed will first destroy your physical defense, then consume your spirit; ha ha, you must know, this illusory trial does not restrict masters from fighting each other!" Stone of Seabed coldly snorted, his killing intent surging forth like an overwhelming tide.

Yet this killing intent only earned a cold smile from Ning Fan.

"Just what I wanted!"

In a flicker, Ning Fan transformed into a red light and vanished.

Almost simultaneously, he appeared before Stone of Seabed, transformed the Nightmare Dragon Claw into a talon, directly grasping five fingers towards Stone of Seabed's head!

Stone of Seabed was startled, not expecting Ning Fan to strike first. In his haste, he barely blocked Ning Fan's claw attack, but his face was still scratched with five bloody marks by Ning Fan!

Instant anger followed!

So what if he's the first in strength trials!

So what if he restores his cultivation!

Even if he is valued by Sha Bailou...so what!

In the end, he's just a foreign cultivator, a mere foreign cultivator, daring to injure him, daring to injure him, the elder of the Shiren Sect...

"Courting death!"

Stone of Seabed took a step forward, suddenly wielding a dark cyan giant axe in his hand, shouting as he charged toward Ning Fan.

Ning Fan, eyes cold, flipped his hand to take out the Reverse Sea Sword, meeting Stone of Seabed's axe light with a single sword strike!

With just one sword, Stone of Seabed's giant axe collapsed directly, and he himself groaned, retreating a hundred steps on the ground before stabilizing, his expression finally showing horror!

The shockwave from the axe-sword clash swept out in all directions, threatening to destroy everything. The gathered masters quickly disregarded keeping their encirclement, retreating hastily in fear of being caught in the shockwave and perishing!

Just a single sword strike from Ning Fan made everyone present show a look of astonishment, with Stone of Seabed being the most shocked!

Heavy, unimaginably heavy!

Ning Fan's sword material was unknown, yet this sword, without using divine skills or spells, suppressed him merely with its unmatched weight!

Stone of Seabed was most proud of his physical strength and, owning a Twelve Nirvana level giant axe, had exceptionally high power at the same level. Yet such physical power, such a Twelve Nirvana giant axe, could not withstand a single strike from Ning Fan's sword...

What kind of sword is this! Could it be a Dao Weapon, but could a Dao Weapon achieve such levels of power!

No time to ponder, Stone of Seabed only saw a flash of red light, with the heavy wind pressure of a second sword already descending three feet upon his Heaven Spirits!

Roar!

In the nick of time, Stone of Seabed roared, an axe-shaped mark appearing on his forehead, where a dark red axe light shot out, booming to halt Ning Fan's Reverse Sea Dao Sword midair.

"Using blood qi to form an axe, is it? This strike, is higher in power than your Twelve Nirvana magical treasure, but, it's futile!"

Ning Fan's Dao Sword pressed downward, splitting open the dark red axe light immediately.

Seeing the situation go wrong, Stone of Seabed withdrew, retreating whilst feeling shocked. His Twelve Nirvana magical treasure was destroyed in one encounter, and his blood qi axe trump card divine skill was effortlessly dismantled by Ning Fan. How could a mere foreign cultivator, Ning Fan, be so strong!

Yet as he retreated, suddenly, it felt as if he was nailed in place, and he could no longer move back!

Stone of Seabed suddenly felt a sense of souls lost, finding in this life-and-death moment, his body inexplicably fixed, unable to move.

It was Ning Fan who used the Heaven Sealing Art on Stone of Seabed!

The Heaven Sealing Art is the most powerful technique of the Ancestral Emperor from Eastern Heaven, its essence lies in the Secret Art of Prestige and the Momentum Character Secret.

The Secret Art of Prestige, to deter with might, to immobilize with might.

The Momentum Character Secret, in controlling overall momentum, to fix with momentum.

Now, Ning Fan's comprehension of these secrets had reached a certain level, his use of the Heaven Sealing Art wielding far greater power than before.

At this moment, with his cultivation fully unleashed, his level comparable to Stone of Seabed's, just a single finger fixed Stone of Seabed in place, unable to move!

After all, my cultivation is not as good as the Stone of Seabed, this time, I can only seal for about a tenth of a breath...

But in the battle of the Immortal Venerables, this little time is already enough to do many things, such as the current Ning Fan, the moment his left hand immobilized Stone of Seabed, his right hand swung the Reverse Sea Sword to slash at the waist.

The third sword!

This sword forcibly chopped Stone of Seabed's body, hard as a magical treasure, in half! Only his spirit narrowly escaped with its life, yet there was no relief from surviving on its tiny face, only fear!

Three swords! Ning Fan used only three swords to destroy his body! One must know that even the infamous Sha Bailou back then couldn't defeat him in three moves, yet Ning Fan easily accomplished this, this power, seriously inconsistent with his current cultivation level, exceeding by far!

"You actually dare destroy my body, you as a foreign cultivator, you as a..."

Stone of Seabed's spirit stammered, unable to speak clearly; no matter how many great storms he has seen, facing such terrifying and angry scenes, how could he remain calm.

"Destroying your body, so what, killing you, so what, is there a rule against killing in this illusory trial!"

Ning Fan's lips curled into a cold arc, replying with Stone of Seabed's previous words.

If his skills are inferior, he would be robbed of maps, or forced to resist to death, have his body destroyed, and his spirit consumed by Stone of Seabed... Ha, Stone of Seabed would never show him mercy, and he certainly won't do so either!

"This person is a lunatic, he is a foreign cultivator, just a foreign cultivator, he actually dares to kill me! Even if this does not violate the illusory trial rules, isn't he afraid of offending my Shiren Sect! Lunatic, lunatic! My Shiren Sect has a Five Tribulations Immortal King, what benefit is there for you to kill me!"

By this time, all Stone of Seabed had left facing Ning Fan was fear; indeed, he even felt that being defeated by Sha Bailou back then, being spared and merely humiliated, was actually very merciful.

It's naturally impossible to wait for Ning Fan to kill him, Stone of Seabed called out 'Hongcang, save me' while frantically performing spirit escape techniques to flee this place.

Unfortunately, Hongcang was already scared out of his wits by Stone of Seabed's swift defeat, along with the thousand people he brought, already fled far away.

No more robbing maps!

Whatever mission the master laid down doesn't matter!

Preserving life is paramount!

With this, all Stone of Seabed could rely on was his severely limited spirit escape speed.

Theoretically, a master when their spirit leaves their body, in the absence of a physical form, can be faster than when possessing a body.

But this is the Fire Soul Tower, where the forbidden force defies the heavens within the Fire Soul Tower! Here, the spirits of Immortal Venerables can barely manage to fly, but under the suppression of forbidden force, the speed cannot be too fast!

Otherwise, with the speed of an Immortal Venerable's spirit leaving the body, flying around the entire Middle State wouldn't take much time; in a blink, one could fly across all six floors of the Fire Soul Tower, rendering the illusory trial unnecessary.

Stone of Seabed couldn't fly fast, couldn't escape quickly, and what brought him further despair was that Ning Fan merely raised a finger to immobilize him in mid-air, then with a gesture, captured his spirit alive.

With a grasp, he directly crushed his spirit and inhaled the blood mist after the crush, swallowing it!

Consuming spirit alive!

Many masters fleeing to the distance heard Stone of Seabed's death throes and felt a chill down their spines.

Who is Stone of Seabed! An honorable Second Calamity Immortal Sovereign, before Ning Fan, was utterly powerless; if masters of their level fell into Ning Fan's hands, there was no chance of surviving!

What chilled the crowd further was Ning Fan's act of consuming the spirit alive!

Consuming spirit alive, this is an evil sect's act! Stone of Seabed spoke such harsh words more as intimidation, truly capturing Ning Fan's spirit wouldn't necessarily result in consumption, mostly just killing outright.

But Ning Fan, indeed ate!

Hongcang felt his scalp go numb, desperately fleeing, fearing not enough speed, not hesitating to spit several mouthfuls of essential blood, enveloping himself in blood light, using secret techniques to boost escape speed!

Amusingly, he previously mocked Stone of Seabed for cowardice, mocked him for holding back, fearing mere foreign cultivators...

Now, he only regrets not heeding Stone of Seabed's advice, patiently observing the situation!

If he had known Ning Fan was so formidable, he would never have lured Stone of Seabed to oppose Ning Fan. But there are no regrets for sale in the world; the malevolent star is already offended; the only thing he can do is flee, immediately and swiftly! Flee from here, flee from the Fire Soul Tower, forget about illusory trial results, but this life must be preserved!

Once his life is preserved... there will be opportunities to seek revenge!

A trace of ruthlessness flickered in Hongcang's eyes, but in the next moment, it became terror.

His body suddenly couldn't move, forcibly immobilized!

Not just superficially immobilized; his cultivation is inferior to Stone of Seabed's, and his situation is entirely different from Stone of Seabed! Stone of Seabed was immobilized physically, could still let the spirit escape, but he, even his spirit inside was immobilized, unable to leave the body, even his mana seemed solidified, unable to circulate at all.

In the next instant, excruciating pain came from the Tian Ling, Hongcang screamed, split into two by a vertical slash from Ning Fan catching up behind, dying!

Another Immortal Sovereign slain!

More than a thousand fleeing masters suddenly ceased fleeing.

Because Ning Fan killed Hongcang who was ahead, Ning Fan had long since reached them, blocking their path.

Some chose to turn back and flee again, some chose to fight to death, yet all with the same result.

Seal!

Seal!

Seal!

This seemingly dull word, once sounded, would immobilize a master in place, like a statue, waiting for Ning Fan's lethal sword!

After a stick of burning incense, only a hillside of corpses remained, walking upon a blood-stained path was the cold and merciless Ning Fan!

After arriving at the Dabei Clan, Ning Fan was tolerant everywhere, but in this illusion trial, he need not hold back. If someone tries to take his life, he will return the favor in blood, that's all!

With Ning Fan's strength, it's understandable to easily kill Hongcang, after all, Hongcang was just a newly ascended Immortal Venerable, relying on the terrifying power of the Reverse Sea Sword, he was not difficult to kill.

But Stone of Seabed was somewhat tricky.

If Ning Fan didn't possess such a Heaven-defying divine skill as the Heaven Sealing Art, the task of killing Stone of Seabed would never have been so easy.

This art became the strongest divine skill of the Ancestral Emperor from the Eastern Heaven, so it naturally couldn't be a mere name. It could fix one person, kill one person! Fix two people, kill two people! Unlike the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle, which targets entire realms, it kills one person at a time. Yet, its effect is similarly terrifying.

It fixes the physical defense, Spirit, mana operation, and spirit sense diffusion...

As long as the opponent's cultivation is not far ahead of Ning Fan, this technique can easily become a Heaven-defying means to kill opponents instantly, once fixed, death is almost guaranteed!

Of course, this might also be the only weakness of the Heaven Sealing Art... If Stone of Seabed's cultivation were slightly higher, reaching the Eternal Third Calamity, Ning Fan would find it difficult to fix him, let alone kill him instantly.

Ning Fan calmly collected the storage pouches from the corpses in the bloody mist, and occasionally picked up Dao Fruits dropped from dead bodies.

Emperor Butcher watched Ning Fan from afar, her beautiful eyes filled with emotion.

She had really underestimated Ning Fan. With Ning Fan's current power, unless encountering someone at the peak of the Second Calamity, this Heaven Sealing Art alone can instantly kill most Immortal Venerables of the Second Calamity!

Those of the First Calamity or newly ascended Immortal Venerables have even slimmer chances of survival...

And this is now, where Ning Fan's strength is slightly lacking to reach the Second Calamity of the Eternals.

What if Ning Fan's strength truly reaches the Second Calamity of the Eternals?

What if he ascends to become an Immortal King, or an Immortal Emperor?

Will he then be able to instantly kill Immortal Kings and Immortal Emperors of the same level?

"This technique should be from the Ancestral Emperor of the Eastern Heaven in the Land of Dreams, right? If it really is this technique, then this kid is strong, yet he might not escape the greater danger of this technique... Should I give him some advice?"

Emperor Butcher quietly contemplated.

Beside her, whether it was Wuxx Yan or the scar-faced man, they all wore expressions of fear.

Even an old hand like Wuxx Yan, an Immortal Venerable of the First Calamity, couldn't remain calm! Ning Fan's display of power made even her, a teammate, feel terrified!

Suddenly, she felt grateful for choosing Ning Fan as a teammate; otherwise, Ning Fan would become her great enemy in this illusion trial, or perhaps she would unknowingly provoke Ning Fan and end up as a skeleton beneath his foot...

Or, had she not been lucky enough to team up with Ning Fan, she might have been robbed of the map by Stone of Seabed and others...

Compared to these small bits of luck, owing Ning Fan a life-saving debt was not necessarily a bad thing.

But when Ning Fan returned with a bounty of spoils, she found herself unable to act coyly as before.

She feared Ning Fan!

So much so that Ning Fan merely asked her a question casually, and she became flustered and tongue-tied, despite usually being articulate.

"How much do you know about the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits?" Ning Fan asked Wuxx Yan in a peculiar tone.

"I-I-I... haven't eaten them..."

"I'm not asking whether you've eaten them. I'm asking... forget it, I'm not asking you anymore."

Feeling a bit disdainful, Ning Fan glanced at Wuxx Yan and turned to Emperor Butcher to ask the same question.

Emperor Butcher didn't answer directly; instead, her eyes sparkled, and she licked her lips, "Is there more good stuff to eat?"

"You want to eat too?" Ning Fan said helplessly. This was his trophy. But considering how Emperor Butcher helped him improve his Medicine Soul level, perhaps he could share some.

"Which unlucky fellow did you get it from?" Emperor Butcher asked with a smile.

Given the mutual understanding between them over these days, even without directly answering, many questions had clear answers.

On the other hand, Wuxx Yan and others appeared as mere backgrounds, not daring to speak, silently listening to Ning Fan and Emperor Butcher's verbal sparring.

Ning Fan was quite troubled.

Had he known he'd get such good stuff, he would've definitely spared Stone of Seabed and Hongcang's Spirit instead of outright obliterating them.

Unlike the treatment given to Sha Bailou's Spirit, the Spirit of these two held no interest for Ning Fan, and so he annihilated them directly.

This caused a problem: Ning Fan recovered something called the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits from Hongcang's storage pouch but didn't understand how to consume it.

These were delicacies only available at the Ancient Buddha Assembly of Middle State!

Because of the Blood Martial Arena, Ning Fan missed the Ancient Buddha Assembly, but unexpectedly got some Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits here. Somehow, destiny seemed to have its course, as if he was destined to encounter them finally.

However, Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits differ from ordinary Dao Fruits. If consumed improperly, much of their potency is lost. But then again, Ning Fan thought he might be worrying needlessly.

With the omnipotent Emperor Butcher around, it seems there's no need to worry about these things...

"How about a forty-sixty split?" Emperor Butcher squinted her beautiful eyes and smiled.

"You get sixty?"

"You get sixty. I wouldn't dare take more from your spoils."

Chapter 1044: Nine-Turns Lead Grade Medicine Soul!

Ning Fan seized a total of six Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits from Hongcang's storage pouch. According to distribution, he would consume three, and Emperor Butcher would consume two. One extra remains, which, following the distribution ratio, allows him to eat a larger portion while Emperor Butcher gets a smaller portion.

Given Ning Fan's character, it was impossible for him to let the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits, such a prized item, be simply shared with others.

But considering that Emperor Butcher had been rather considerate towards Ning Fan throughout their journey, most of the heavenly treasures found along the way ended up in Ning Fan's stomach.

Emperor Butcher was generous to him, and naturally, he couldn't be stingy with Emperor Butcher. After some thought, he shook his head and said,

"Let's split them equally. I obtained a total of six Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits, let us each take half."

"Haha, I didn't expect you to be so generous... But I like it! Let us split them equally then!" Emperor Butcher squinted her beautiful eyes and smiled.

"But we shouldn't consume them here, right?"

"Naturally, the consumption of Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits requires careful consideration; this place is definitely not the best choice. Let's wait until we enter the fifth layer before consuming them!"

Ning Fan and Emperor Butcher appeared to be indulging in joyful conversation, treating Wu Yan and the others as if they were air.

Regarding this, Wu Yan and the others naturally did not dare to express any dissatisfaction; even the scar-faced man had no choice but to respectfully remain on the side, allowing Ning Fan and his little wife to 'flirt' before him.

The hexagonal stone door blocking the entrance to the fifth layer was extremely solid. According to Wu Yan, the stone door required the strength of a Second Calamity Immortal Lord to blast open.

Ning Fan's overall strength hadn't reached the level of a Second Calamity Immortal Lord, but relying on the Reverse Sea Sword's seven stars weight and the Illusory Night Pearl's suppression on the Punishing Ring, he blasted the stone door open with one strike, then, carrying Emperor Butcher on his back, stepped into the fifth level.

He did not have the intention of traveling with Wu Yan and the others!

No one also dared to travel with Ning Fan, having witnessed Ning Fan's terrifying slaughter, even Wu Yan who was strong felt somewhat fearful facing Ning Fan.

It wasn't until a long time after Ning Fan had left that Wu Yan's rapidly beating heart gradually calmed down, and he exhaled profoundly.

"Master Wu Yan, are we still going to the fifth layer to accumulate illusory trial scores?" The scar-faced man and others also let out a sigh of relief and cautiously asked Wu Yan.

"No, we no longer need to venture to the fifth layer. Stone of Seabed and Hongcang, the two significant opponents, are already dead. In this illusory trial, the only ones who hold results possibly higher than mine are two — Sha Bailou and fellow Daoist Ning Fan... At worst, I can still make it to the top three; your Huanhai Clan following my clan's actions, coupled with sharing half the scores with fellow Daoist Ning Fan, based on the illusory trial results alone, should at least achieve the fourth place in the trial. As long as we can preserve our lives and maps until the end, the final scores could be at least fourth..."

"Fourth place!" The scar-faced man couldn't hide his excited expression.

With the strength of his Huanhai Clan, it was originally impossible to achieve fourth in the tomb-claiming battle. Having such luck is entirely thanks to Ning Fan and Wu Yan!

"My goal is merely the top three, while your Huanhai Clan's goal is lower. The target is already steadily achievable; there's no need to risk entering the fifth layer. The fifth layer has always been the burial ground of Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors, as excessive obsession leads to transformation into Corpse upon death, which is not few among them, with some reaching the culturing power of Eternal Immortal Venerable level..."

"Gasp! The fifth layer is such a peril, then we'd better not enter it."

"Indeed. The illusory trial time has already passed halfway, we should explore the regions of the first four layers a bit more..."

"Understood! Everything will be under Master Wu Yan's command!"

...

Ning Fan had no interest in Wu Yan and others' movements. Upon entering the fifth layer, Ning Fan was immediately drawn to the sinister and colossal Demonic Qi in this place.

"Such heavy Demonic Qi here! Wait, this roar... It's the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor!"

From within the mist-covered area ahead, the roar of the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor faintly echoed, causing Ning Fan to suddenly tense, closing his eyes and slightly releasing his spirit sense.

Numerous... In this fifth layer of the Fire Soul Tower, the quantity of Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor presence has reached an exceedingly large scale!

But none of these Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors have life, and upon dying, they transformed into Corpse...

Logically, the probability of corpse transformation after a master's death, converting into a Corpse, is quite small, but this probability does not apply to the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor clan.

Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors excel in refining their bodies, and often their bodies remain non-decayed over long eras after death.

A body that remains non-decayed over long periods is prone to corpse transformation as time passes.

If the corpse is placed in a region with extremely dense Yin energy and possesses special mountain and river configurations, this probability of corpse transformation can increase even further!

Evidently, this fifth layer of the Fire Soul Tower seems to be an ideal place for corpse transformation of Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors, where the number of transformed Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors here exceeds tens of thousands!

"These Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors are the guards of the sixth layer of the Fire Soul Tower, stationed in the fifth layer to prevent others from entering the sixth layer. Every tomb-claiming battle begins with massive changes to the mountain and river configurations in the fifth layer; the only constant is these loyal Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors, who have always guarded this place, akin to garrison soldiers."

"Garrison soldiers, are they? So the sixth layer must contain something these Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors intend to protect..." Ning Fan's eyes subtly moved as he asked.

"Correct, what these Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors intend to protect is indeed the object of your and my journey's purpose."

"What is this object?"

"You'll know once you're there. For you, it's definitely not a bad thing; rather it'll be of immense benefit."

The danger level of the fifth layer was entirely different from the previous ones; here, Ning Fan dared not move too quickly, for any significant commotion would attract hordes of Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor guards' attacks.

The number of Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor guards is extremely colossal, and their distribution is incredibly scattered. Ning Fan's Illusory Night Pearl power had been used thrice already, its remaining power is scarce and must be reserved for dealing with the unpredictable arrival of the Sanyan's pursuit, which naturally cannot be squandered on these Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors.

Thus, when encountering the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors blocking the way, Ning Fan merely engaged them with his own Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor cultivation.

Three days passed like this, and it was the twenty-first day since the start of the trial.

"If I had known your power after unsealing your cultivations was so high, I would have gathered a few more Breaking Illusion Beads for you in advance, to greatly enhance the speed of our journey through the fifth layer. Unfortunately, conjuring such a bead consumes a significant amount of my illusory power, potentially shaking the foundation itself. If not absolutely necessary, I won't expend my Spirit to refine such a bead..."

Seeing Ning Fan struggling to kill a Later Stage Shattered Thought Ancient Demon, Emperor Butcher couldn't help but frown.

Throughout the three days, she and Ning Fan had traveled less than a tenth of the distance to the sixth layer entrance, the speed was somewhat slow.

On one hand, it was because Ning Fan deliberately suppressed his speed, on the other hand, it was because Emperor Butcher would spend time directing Ning Fan to break through the illusion and gather many good things every time they passed through some treacherous lands.

However, due to the abundance of Ancient Demons around, it wasn't a safe environment; neither could Ning Fan refine the Fifth Layer's bounty nor the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits from before.

Even so, at this pace, time seems to be running a bit tight...

"If it really doesn't work, shall I restore my cultivations and forcefully rush?" Ning Fan finished the funeral rites for the Ancient Demon, closed his eyes slightly, silently mourning for three breaths as the funeral rites, and spoke to Emperor Butcher.

He was not merely killing the Ancient Demons blocking the way; he was performing funeral rites. With the Unity of Technique and Path in his Slaughter Technique, he consigned these Ancient Demons to their final rest.

It was somewhat amusing.

Back then, Ning Fan performed funeral rites for Shen Ershisan, absorbing most of Shen Ershisan's remaining blood and flesh essence, significantly advancing his Ancient Demon cultivations.

At the time, he thought that performing funeral rites for every Ancient Demon would yield such great benefits, but now it seems it's not quite so.

Entering the fifth layer had been three days, during which he consigned to rest at least one to two hundred Ancient Demons, yet after performing so many funeral rites, Ning Fan's Ancient Demon cultivations only slightly improved, far from the benefits gained from consigned to rest Shen Ershisan.

Ning Fan couldn't help but speculate.

Performing funeral rites with the Slaughter Technique might enhance cultivations, directly related to the counterpart's cultivation level before death.

In the fifth layer, though the number of Ancient Demons he consigned to rest was plenty, most were only first-step cultivations; only a few reached the realm of Heavenly Demon Twelve Nirvana.

Compared to Shen Ershisan, who was possibly an Immortal King before death, the benefits from consigned to rest these Ancient Demons were quite negligible.

"How much power remains in your Breaking Illusion Bead?" Emperor Butcher paused and asked.

"Less than a third; if used entirely, we might reach the sixth layer in a very short time. But thereafter, without this bead, encountering danger would leave me hard-pressed to handle it..." Ning Fan answered.

"The time left for us is not much. You may use the remaining power of the bead; if danger arises again, I will handle it! Yet, unless absolutely necessary, I will not act before my cultivations recover. Although this is merely an emergency maneuver, the damage is substantial... however, concerning the significance of this journey, such damage is insignificant. I must uncover this truth, no matter the cost..." Emperor Butcher insisted.

This means, should they face an attack from a Sanyan messenger, even without restoration of cultivations, Emperor Butcher has contingency measures to cope... With such assurance, that's enough. Ning Fan nodded, retrieved the Illusory Night Pearl, and this time, exhausted the entirety of its power.

With a crack, the Illusory Night Pearl depleted its vitality and shattered. And Ning Fan's cultivation aura soared, traversing without hesitation, transformed into a brilliant red streak, sprinting madly!

The commotion was immense, almost instantaneously alarming the entire fifth layer's Ancient Demon guards!

Unfortunately, if Ning Fan's cultivations were suppressed, he would find these Ancient Demon guards troublesome; at this moment, with just a glimpse, he could consign to rest dozens of Ancient Demons!

Even the Immortal Venerable level Ancient Demons attracted by the great commotion could not stop Ning Fan at this moment!

A newly ascended Immortal Venerable level Ancient Demon was slain!

A first-level Eternal Calamity Ancient Demon, two were slain!

Another newly ascended Immortal Venerable level Ancient Demon, two more slain!

A second-level Eternal Calamity Ancient Demon, three were slain!

Ning Fan's record on the fifth layer kept climbing, and within half an hour, he traversed the remaining nine-tenth of the layer and consigned to rest all eight Immortal Venerable level Ancient Demons entrenched within it!

The soaring record brought immense benefits to Ning Fan. While the funeral rites for ordinary Ancient Demons might yield negligible cultivation enhancement, the rites for Immortal Venerable level Ancient Demons are indisputably rewarding.

Consigning twelve Immortal Venerable level Ancient Demons to rest consecutively, Ning Fan absorbed a large amount of blood and flesh essence; he sensed a great advancement in his Ancient Demon cultivations, but due to insufficient combat experience, his Ancient Demon cultivations remained at the threshold of Heavenly Demon Ten Nirvana.

However, according to Ning Fan's estimation, upon accumulating ample battle experience, the ensuing breakthrough would not merely be at the Heavenly Demon Ten Nirvana level but progressed quite noticeably towards Heavenly Demon Eleven Nirvana!

The further along, the harder it becomes to advance Ancient Demon cultivations; consigning eight Immortal Venerable level Ancient Demons to rest expedited what would typically take at least a million years in rudimentary cultivation.

On the way, performing funeral rites endlessly, Ning Fan's cultivations continually progressed, but he couldn't reveal any joy, maintaining solemnity all along.

There shouldn't be laughter during a funeral, let alone the rites for so many Ancient Demon powerhouses...

The eight Immortal Venerable level Ancient Demons in the fifth layer, all have been laid to rest...

The forty-three Heavenly Demon Eleven Nirvana and Twelve Nirvana Ancient Demons have all found peace.

Here, there might be other Ancient Demons, yet most of them are entities Ning Fan could handle solely with his Ancient Demon cultivations.

During the mad dash, the Breaking Illusion Bead consumed tremendous power; just upon reaching the entrance to the sixth layer, its energy was entirely spent, and the Punishing Ring once again sealed Ning Fan's cultivations.

The following journey cannot restore cultivations, unless the Punishing Ring is destroyed...

Roar!

In the distance, all the Ancient Demons of the fifth layer were still chasing where Ning Fan was located.

These were the Ancient Demons with inadequate cultivation, who ran slower; those with strong cultivation, who ran fast, were all buried by Ning Fan, leaving the rest not to be feared.

"Not entering the sixth layer immediately?" Behind him, the Emperor Butcher saw Ning Fan standing still at the entrance of the sixth layer and slightly frowned, asking.

"Wait half a day. I want to send off all the Ancient Demons here," Ning Fan sighed, hearing the roars of Ancient Demons from all directions.

"Is it because after you kill the Ancient Demons, you gain the benefit of cultivation enhancement, so you want to stay half a day longer? Half a day isn't long; when you reach the sixth layer, the journey will be much smoother. If it helps to increase your strength, it's not impossible to let you stay half a day longer..."

"Yes..." He said it, but Ning Fan knew in his heart that the remaining Ancient Demons mostly weren't as powerful as himself, and the benefits they could bring were too small.

Considering only the enhancement in cultivation, staying half a day more or less didn't make much sense.

But Ning Fan just wanted to stay a little longer to send off all the Ancient Demons here without missing a single one...

All the Ancient Demons in the fifth layer were rushing to this place, which was excellent; it saved Ning Fan the time to find them separately.

However, the speed of these Ancient Demons' journeys wasn't uniform, so Ning Fan could only wait, letting them come one by one before sending them off.

Ning Fan didn't explain these intentions to the Emperor Butcher.

The mystery of the Slaughter Technique was partially seen by the Emperor Butcher, but Ning Fan didn't offer further explanation.

He merely quietly set down the Emperor Butcher, quietly stayed there, and quietly performed the Slaughter Technique for each raging and roaring Ancient Demons...to send them off.

What exactly was the intention of the Immortal Emperor Mo Zhong, who passed the Slaughter Technique onto him, was unknown to Ning Fan. He wasn't arrogant enough to think that by mastering the Slaughter Technique, he'd truly become the legendary lord of the Demon Sealing Summit.

Burial is the warrior's luxury.

Most of the Ancient Demons were born on the battlefield and died on the battlefield. If there were surviving comrades among the Ancient Demons, perhaps they would return to bury these demon corpses.

But unfortunately, the Ancient Demons residing here had no surviving companions long ago.

Perhaps the Ancient Demons here, like Shen Ershisan before, were martyrs who died defending the Zi Dou Immortal Domain.

Or perhaps not...

But that was not an important matter. Having realized the true meaning and responsibility of the Slaughter Technique, Ning Fan couldn't simply ignore these unburied Ancient Demon remains.

On his shoulders, at the moment of understanding the true meaning of the Slaughter Technique, a sense of responsibility arose, along with a feeling of...lament over the eternal desolate mournings.

Half a day passed quickly.

The entire fifth layer was dead silent, no longer could any frenzied roars of Ancient Demons be heard.

All had been...sent off completely.

"We can leave now," Ning Fan calmly said to the Emperor Butcher beside him.

"No need to rush. You actually killed all the Ancient Demons here, really surprising. Fortunately, with these Ancient Demons gone, this place becomes extremely safe, an excellent place for refining. Come, I'll use a secret treasure to release the Saint's Will to help you speed up the refinement!"

"Here?"

"Yes, here. With the proficiency in Illusory Arts that you and I have, as long as we're cautious in the sixth layer, there aren't many risks, but we must be fully focused, not a single moment of relaxation. In the sixth layer, you can't afford to be distracted while refining anything. Expensive pills, Spiritual Fruits, everything, you can't be distracted when refining them, or you might fall into an illusion unknowingly while refining and lose your life in vain."

"Is the sixth layer really that dangerous? Even a slight distraction can lead to death?" Ning Fan said, astonished.

"Not being distracted for a moment is all it takes, no need to be so alarmed. Why do you think I've gone to such lengths to gather Spiritual Medicine to improve your Medicine Soul level? If your Medicine Soul level doesn't rise, you could easily die from distraction during meditation when refining the Medicine Soul Stone...Stop wasting words, sit down here and refine our gains from these past days."

Hearing the Emperor Butcher's words, Ning Fan no longer refused and immediately sat cross-legged.

He first stabilized the additional cultivation from the Ancient Demons within himself slightly, then took out various spiritual items, naturally prioritizing the enhancement of the Medicine Soul level first.

These days, Ning Fan no longer placed much emphasis on Alchemy. However, the improvement of the Medicine Soul level brings about not only a boost in Alchemy but also enhances combat power.

The Medicine Soul's keen perception had helped Ning Fan evade enemy attacks countless times during surprise assaults.

Of course, within the Dabei Clan, the Medicine Soul could also be used to perform the Soul Fusion Technique. The Soul Fusion Technique comes in many forms, each enhancing different attributes like attack, defense, speed, resistance, etc., significantly increasing a master's strength while also weakening various attributes of the enemy...

With that in mind, Ning Fan naturally had expectations for the enhancement of the Medicine Soul.

The Medicine Soul, which was close to the upper level of the Eighth Revolution, swiftly broke through completely with the accumulation of various heavenly treasures.

Then, it began to approach the peak of the Eighth Revolution, and after that...breakthrough!

The level of the Nine Revolution Medicine Soul was getting closer, Ning Fan once thought, considering the time he invested in Alchemy, his Medicine Soul could never possibly break through to the Nine Revolution level.

Yet at this moment, the Medicine Soul realm that could previously only be imagined was now within reach!

Unfortunately, despite Ning Fan's abundant gains along the way, it was still insufficient for him to completely break through the Nine Revolution Medicine Soul level, still lacking just a bit.

From the Eighth Revolution to the Ninth, it was as if there was a chasm. That chasm was shallow, very shallow, at least it seemed so on the surface, but when truly trying to fill it, it seemed never to be filled!

At this moment, Ning Fan had a certain feeling; he experienced the difficulty of breaking through the Nine Revolutions! This difficulty was even more serious than others, because ordinary people usually enhanced their Medicine Soul step by step, laying a firm foundation, whereas Ning Fan's recent Medicine Soul improvement surged too fast, causing his Medicine Soul to become unstable!

This instability had also become a major obstacle to completely breaking through the Nine Revolutions, but fortunately, Emperor Butcher was by Ning Fan's side.

Emperor Butcher was also from the Dabei Clan and was naturally equipped with a Medicine Soul; the universal practice of alchemy among the Dabei people was not just an expression of humor.

She wasn't very concerned about matters of Medicine Soul; instead, she was deeply immersed in the Illusory Art Path. At this moment, to assist Ning Fan in breaking through the Nine Revolutions level at once, she suddenly made what seemed like a reckless decision.

She rolled up her delicate sleeves, revealing her jade-like arm, stretching it out before Ning Fan. With her slender fingers, she made a cut on her arm, and immediately, a wound appeared, blood flowed out.

"Absorb my blood!" Emperor Butcher said without allowing any refusal.

"..." Ning Fan was somewhat speechless, wondering what Emperor Butcher meant by this sudden action. If it weren't for having a bit of trust in Emperor Butcher already, he would instinctively reject such a request from anyone. Blood should not be randomly absorbed, especially from a stranger, one cannot ensure it isn't part of a calculation...

Regarding Emperor Butcher, Ning Fan didn't believe she would scheme against him, but he was very curious about what significance this behavior held.

"Don't waste time, the blood is about to drip to the ground! Hurry up and absorb it!" Emperor Butcher urged urgently; if her blood dripped to the ground in vain, that would be exceedingly wasteful.

Seeing Emperor Butcher showing urgency, Ning Fan slightly frowned but chose to trust, sealing Emperor Butcher's arm wound with his mouth, causing the sweet and metallic blood to flow into his mouth.

What Ning Fan did not expect was that once the blood entered his stomach, it instantly transformed into powerful medicinal energy, making his Medicine Soul level close to Nine Revolutions finally start to move towards the final step!

It was bizarre how human blood could contain such vast medicinal power...

Human blood does have a sweet metallic taste, but Emperor Butcher's blood was unbelievably sweet, having a honey-like flavor...

Seeing Ning Fan obediently absorbing her blood, Emperor Butcher nodded in satisfaction, hiding a pale expression on her face, and explained,

"During my youth, I had some encounters and ingested a drop of Primordial Immortal Honey; this item greatly nourishes Medicine Soul power, but only aids Medicine Souls below the Nine Revolutions. I only refined half a drop of Immortal Honey, which allowed my Medicine Soul to break through the Nine Revolutions level. Unfortunately, I have little interest in Medicine Soul matters, and after years of wandering, my Medicine Soul remains at the initial Nine Turn Lead Grade... As for the power of the Holy Domain's Immortal Honey, it's been stored in my blood, and today I can give it to you!"

"Primordial Immortal Honey, I haven't heard of this thing before; is this something unique to the Dabei Clan?" Feeling the powerful medicinal energy with a honey flavor, Ning Fan couldn't help but be moved given his experience, unable to speak with his mouth blocked by Emperor Butcher's arm wound, so he communicated via spirit sense.

"It's not a product of my clan; it seems to be something unique to a major clan in the Real Realms. Specifically, I know little. I've only seen some in strange dream-like visions, but didn't expect this encounter to find a drop." Emperor Butcher replied.

Upon hearing it was a Real Realms item, Ning Fan was no longer surprised at the immense medicinal power.

Feeling the remaining Immortal Honey medicinal power in the blood had been completely transferred into Ning Fan's body, Emperor Butcher retracted her arm and took out a handkerchief to tie up the wound. At this moment, she couldn't exert her cultivation level, tried once, and found this insignificant wound couldn't heal on its own, so this was the only way to stop the bleeding...

Ning Fan shook his head, raised a hand to emit starlight and healed Emperor Butcher's arm wound, before continuing to refine the Immortal Honey medicinal energy within his body.

After thinking for a moment, he still uttered a 'thank you'.

Emperor Butcher immediately laughed heartily, displaying none of the reservedness of a young lady, "Don't thank me; it's just a transaction. I've given you many benefits, so when we reach the sixth level, you must exert more effort to help me!"

"Of course, Miss can rest assured."

Even if it was just a transaction, Emperor Butcher had helped Ning Fan a lot, and Ning Fan certainly couldn't overlook these gifts.

Within his body, the Medicine Soul power rampaged and charged, then transformed into phantom black butterflies that danced around, looking quite beautiful.

"Is this your Medicine Soul form... actually butterflies, interesting! My Medicine Soul is a bee; in my clan, there's a saying 'Soul reflects one's essence'. The form of the Medicine Soul can, in a certain sense, reflect the cultivator's character. Both butterflies and bees feed on nectar, sharing some similarity. Perhaps you and I possess some similar traits." Emperor Butcher found amusement in admiring Ning Fan's Medicine Soul.

Ning Fan was slightly speechless, silently pushing against the bottleneck of the Nine Revolutions of the Medicine Soul.

Just a Medicine Soul form, could it really draw out so many meanings? Haha, he deeply doubted this notion.

One day passed!

Two days passed!

Three days passed!

At a certain moment, the sky above the fifth level was suddenly shrouded in Immortal Clouds, with the shadow of a gigantic butterfly appearing in the air.

At this moment, an extremely powerful Medicine Soul aura emanated from Ning Fan, and his Medicine Soul level finally reached Nine Revolutions!

Of course, it was just the lowest Lead Grade among Lead, Silver, Gold, and Emperor of the Nine Revolutions Medicine Soul. Even so, Ning Fan was somewhat astonished. In the vast Eastern Heaven, there weren't many Ninth Revolution Pill Refinement Masters, and in the Dabei Clan, this level of Pill Refinement Master might not be remarkable, but in the outside world, it was definitely a rare existence.

Emperor Butcher really helped him ascend from the Seventh Revolution Medicine Soul to the Ninth in less than a month!

This woman's abilities... truly impressive.

"Can we enter the sixth floor now?" Ning Fan asked.

At this moment, based solely on the strength of his Medicine Soul, Ning Fan was enough to resist the massive medicinal energy in the air of the Dabei Clan. The power of a Ninth Revolution Pill Refinement Master's Medicine Soul was not to be underestimated.

"No rush, eat the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit first; this Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit is immensely beneficial for Spirit Sense cultivation. Though Ancient Demon blood wine is adept at Body Refinement, it's not proficient in Spirit Sense cultivation; this item can perfectly compensate for your Ancient Demon Spirit Sense deficiency! One must know the strength of spirit sense affects the deployment and resistance to Illusory Art. If you wish to further refine the Illusory Art Path in the future, enhancing Spirit Sense cultivation will be a good choice."

Due to excessive blood loss, Emperor Butcher's pretty face was slightly pale, yet her gaze remained bright and spirited.

Speaking of Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit, she licked her lips with little regard for her image, evidently eager to taste a few bites...

Chapter 1045: Six Paths Reincarnation Without You...

In general, there are two sources of Dao Fruit. One is obtained through killing, and the other is through cultivation. The former's probability is too low; the higher the Dao Fruit level, the lower the chance of its condensation after death.

The latter's probability of obtaining Dao Fruit is much higher. As long as it's cultivated properly, it's almost certain to yield harvests.

There are various ways to cultivate Dao Fruit: some plant the Dao like farmers sowing seeds; some nurture the Dao like fishermen raising fish; some set up Spirit Gathering Arrays, gathering the mighty force of nature to condense into Dao Fruits... The methods are countless.

But in reality, there is a third type of Dao Fruit in this world.

There is a type of Dao Fruit that is naturally nurtured by heaven and earth, rooted in trees, requiring no human cultivation. It experiences the changes of seasons and can naturally bear fruit.

The Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit is one such instance.

The Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit is neither cultivated by humans nor obtained by killing, but is a fruit borne by an innate ancient tree.

This tree is called the Ancient Buddha Tree, growing atop the Holy Mountain, said to be left by a Saint. This tree bears fruit once every thousand years, and each time, the number of fruits is limited to just a hundred or so. Most of these fruits are distributed to the various sects on the Holy Mountain for consumption, leaving only about twenty to hold the Ancient Buddha Assembly.

The entry threshold for the Ancient Buddha Assembly is extremely high. Generally speaking, those who are not Immortal Venerable Cultivators are unable to participate, and there are many other restrictions. Even so, each session of the Ancient Buddha Assembly attracts powerful figures from all directions, many of whom are drawn to taste a bite of the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit, ensuring that the number of participants at each Assembly has never been fewer than a hundred.

With over a hundred people sharing twenty or so Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits, it's naturally insufficient. With more monks than porridge, a Dao Fruit often needs to be cut into several pieces for multiple people to taste together.

The amount of Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit each person can consume is not much.

Emperor Butcher initially thought that even if Ning Fan seized any Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit, it would likely just be one. If shared equally, each would have half.

However, when Ning Fan continually took out six Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits, even with Emperor Butcher's experience, he couldn't help but be somewhat surprised. After the surprise, he frowned and asked.

"You said this Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit was obtained from Hongcang's storage pouch?"

"Yes, it's from Hongcang's storage pouch."

"The Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit is of great value, and with Hongcang's status, he doesn't have the qualification to possess six Dao Fruits. Do you understand what I mean?"

Emperor Butcher thought Ning Fan might not know the rarity of the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit, so he explained its origins to Ning Fan.

After hearing this, Ning Fan immediately frowned.

"You mean to say that this Dao Fruit does not belong to Hongcang himself, but was given to him by some immensely powerful entity?"

"Yes, it would have to be someone of at least the level of the Five Emperors of the Central Continent to simultaneously take out six Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits, and even a Zhongzhou Immortal Emperor would likely have to accumulate for many years to have such inventory. After all, the share each Zhongzhou Immortal Emperor receives from the Holy Mountain is only one every thousand years..."

"Could Hongcang be someone of the Great Emperor of Zhongzhou?"

"His backer might be a Great Emperor of Zhongzhou, or someone from the Holy Mountain, but these are just guesses. If these guesses are true and you killed Hongcang and took the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit, you might have offended some Immortal Emperor-level figure."

"...If this is true, who would be the person behind Hongcang?"

"...You're asking me? How would I know? To me, the affiliations of a newly ascended Immortal Venerable are just trifles; I wouldn't normally pay attention to such things." Emperor Butcher yawned, using the gesture to silently indicate that she was no longer interested in the topic of Hongcang.

Ning Fan felt once again that it was a mistake to not perform a Soul Search on Hongcang but instead cleave him with a single sword. As a result, he had no idea who was behind Hongcang and was unaware of which Immortal Emperor he might have offended... Though not scared, he found it rather troublesome.

Fortunately, Masters have the ability to remember things surpassingly accurately. Ning Fan recalled scenes from when Hongcang was exhibiting his Divine Skills. Almost all Immortal Emperors showed surprise, appearing unfamiliar with Hongcang. Only Emperor Foqi seemed to know him well, appearing well-prepared...

Could Hongcang be aligned with Emperor Foqi?

Reflecting on previous events, Hongcang seemed to want to ally with the Stone of Seabed to snatch Wuxx Yan's map and seize his own map. Both Ning Fan and Wuxx Yan were under the Baihua Great Emperor, and Hongcang seemed to want to destroy their Illusory Art results, possibly targeting the Baihua Great Emperor...

For an Immortal Venerable to target an Immortal Emperor, if not instructed by some Immortal Emperor, Hongcang wouldn't dare to do such a thing even with a thousand lives.

If it truly is Emperor Foqi... does this mean that Emperor Foqi does not wish for the Baihua Great Emperor's injuries to heal perfectly and therefore wishes to prevent him from obtaining South Sea Spring Water...

"The grievances among the Five Emperors of the Central Continent are indeed complex..." Ning Fan sighed.

"That's natural; the Central Continent is different from Sanyan and the Holy Mountain. The cultivation resources here are limited, and with five Immortal Emperors co-existing, disputes frequently arise amongst them, with constant secret planning against each other. None of these five are truly friends with one another... Enough of the nonsense, let's quickly consume the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit! I'll teach you the method of consumption."

Consuming the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit requires a very solemn ritual, including fasting, bathing, and offering incense.

Fasting and bathing are just formalities, but the burning of incense is a crucial step. It requires the fragrance of special Buddha incense to seal the medicinal power of the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit to prevent it from leaking away and it's not just a formality. This step is very important; otherwise, a lot of the medicinal power of the consumed Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit will be wasted due to leakage.

Emperor Butcher explained to Ning Fan briefly, then took out numerous items from his storage pouch, setting up an incense table and offerings on the spacious ground and began to burn incense and light candles, praying devoutly.

It was the first time Ning Fan had seen Emperor Butcher in such a devout posture, with hands clasped, eyes slightly closed, and beneath bangs and eyelashes was a face of immense tranquility and peace.

At this moment, Emperor Butcher's demeanor was like the most devout believers in the world.

"You should also light an incense stick." Emperor Butcher finished his prayer, opened his eyes, and spoke to Ning Fan.

"Haven't you already lit incense? Isn't it enough to seal the medicinal power of the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits from dissipating?"

"It's sufficient, but since you consumed the fruit left by the Saint Ancestor, shouldn't you offer incense to him as a return?"

"Are you worshipping the Saint Ancestor of your Dabei Clan?"

"Of course. The Saint Ancestor left the Ancient Buddha Tree, which is the cause; you and I consumed the Ancient Buddha Fruits, which is the effect. This burning incense is not just to seal the loss of medicinal power but also to repay the cause and effect. Heh, you are still young and don't understand; a Saint's cause and effect should not be casually touched... Of course, even if only out of admiration for ancestors, lighting this incense stick is appropriate."

Ning Fan naturally did not possess reverence for Saint Nan Yao. However, since Emperor Butcher mentioned the cause and effect of a Saint, Ning Fan did not mind burning a stick of incense.

To repay fruit with incense is quite reasonable. Cultivators should act as such.

After the ceremony, the two finally began sharing the fruit; six Dao Fruits, three each.

Emperor Butcher's spirit sense was already very strong. Consuming the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits was naturally effortless and he quickly absorbed the medicinal power. Ning Fan was different; he refined the medicinal power slowly, leisurely, as if savoring, or perhaps contemplating something.

His spirit sense was not weak, but not particularly strong either, approximately mid-level among Immortal Venerables.

Among the four bloodlines, the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor was the least skilled in cultivating spirit sense, and the qualification for spirit sense of the Taicang Calamity Spirit was average; what this clan cultivated was more Calamity Thought than spirit sense.

Ironically, Ning Fan's two strongest bloodlines were precisely Blood Lightning and Ancient Chaos, so even with the overlap of four types of bloodlines, Ning Fan's spirit sense was only considered ordinary and not outstanding.

Of course, this was the result without leveraging the Ice Rain Technique's power.

If the Ice Rain Technique was deployed, Ning Fan's spirit sense could instantly be elevated to an extremely terrifying realm. But this only showcases the Ice Rain Technique's prowess and does not necessarily imply Ning Fan's spirit sense strength.

Beyond Immortal Venerables, enhancing spirit sense requires not just an increase in total volume, but a certain qualitative change. Ning Fan did not know this before, but at this moment, after consuming the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits, he was astonished to discover that while his spirit sense increased drastically, a qualitative change was also emerging!

After all, consuming three Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits at once unexpectedly brought immense benefits to his spirit sense cultivation!

"Oh? This kid hasn't become an Immortal King yet, but he's already touched the bottleneck of the 'Eternal Four Thoughts Realm'..." Emperor Butcher beside him showed a slightly surprised expression.

The Eternal Four Thoughts Realm is a spirit sense realm only strong individuals above Immortal King have the opportunity to reach. Of course, only an opportunity, as many cannot reach even the first stage of the four thoughts realm. This boy touching the bottleneck of the first stage before becoming an Immortal King is quite impressive.

The Eternal Four Thoughts Realm refers to the four profound stages of spirit sense: from low to high, they are [Mind Like a Waterfall], [Mind Like a Stream], [Mind Like Dripping Water from the Eaves], [Mind Like a Clear Sky for Thousands of Miles].

If one cultivates to Mind Like a Waterfall, the spirit sense of an Immortal King cultivator will surge like a waterfall, increasing several times over!

Cultivating to Mind Like a Stream elevates a cultivator's control over spirit sense to an inconceivable realm.

As for the specific mystical effects of the latter two realms, Emperor Butcher does not know, for she has not yet cultivated to Mind Like Dripping Water from the Eaves.

For Immortal Kings, those who cultivate to Mind Like a Waterfall are rare.

For Immortal Emperors, those who cultivate to the second stage are often nearly invincible among peers and are extremely powerful Immortal Emperors.

Due to the difficulty in cultivating the Four Thoughts Realm, Emperor Butcher was astonished that Ning Fan touched the bottleneck of the four thoughts realm without having yet become an Immortal King. This is not a realm that can be attained merely by consuming three Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits! Absolutely not!

"This boy's spirit sense might have been at a critical point for transformation... These three Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits should merely be a catalyst..." Emperor Butcher pondered internally, reaching a conclusion.

Her assumption was correct. Ning Fan's four series cultivation means his spirit sense is not just a fusion of four series in quantity, but through accumulating quantity, facilitates a qualitative change.

Previously, the total spirit sense of the four series was insufficient, so the qualitative change could not occur.

Yet at this moment, the three Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits completed the lacking quantity for Ning Fan, and this qualitative change finally showed signs!

Mind Like a Waterfall!

Ning Fan's face showed slight pain, within his divine sense, a continuous shattering pain occurred as his spirit sense surged like a waterfall torrent, violently flowing within!

Before consuming the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits, Ning Fan's spirit sense was at mid-level among Immortal Venerables.

The medicinal power of three Ancient Buddha Dao Fruits directly caused Ning Fan's spirit sense to rise from the middle of the Immortal Venerable level all the way to the limit of an Immortal Venerable!

Beyond the limit, Ning Fan's divine sense showed signs of splitting and restructuring, as if an invisible large hand was tearing apart his divine sense piece by piece, then reassembling it.

The process of tearing naturally could not be without pain. Because the divine sense is the most sensitive area for a cultivator's perception, even a tiny bit of pain here would be magnified hundreds, thousands of times by sensitive perception. Even with Ning Fan's strong will, he couldn't help but take a sharp breath.

Yet the benefits brought by this tearing were extremely great! Ning Fan's spirit sense had already reached the limit of the Immortal Venerable level, but now, with each tear and restructure, this limit increased slightly!

With the accumulation of tearing times, the enhancement of the divine sense limit gradually reached a terrifying degree.

Double!

Triple!!

Five times!

Ten times!!

Ning Fan was shocked in his heart, according to his estimation, if the divine sense restructure succeeded, his spirit sense would once again surge tenfold on the basis of the Immortal Venerable limit!

The spirit sense at the Immortal Venerable limit could rival that of some weaker Immortal Kings.

If it surged ten times on this basis, then the strength of Ning Fan's spirit sense could definitely surpass most Immortal Kings!

But unfortunately... the divine sense restructure failed halfway through. The originally increasing divine sense limit gradually... shrank back with the failure of the restructure.

Ning Fan opened his eyes slightly disappointed, releasing a long breath of turbid air. This was the chance for a tenfold surge in spirit sense, yet it failed like this... even with his firm will, seeing the duck right in hand fly away, some negative emotions still sprouted. Fortunately, with his cultivation of mindset, these negative emotions were easily dispelled.

"What a pity, Mind Like a Waterfall is indeed too early for you... Don't be discouraged, there will be opportunities in the future, you can slowly break through. With my qualifications, I failed more than a hundred times when breaking through Mind Like a Waterfall back then, if you succeeded in one go, I would have no face to live." Emperor Butcher comforted in a tone of early anticipation.

"Mind Like a Waterfall?" Ning Fan was slightly surprised, it was the first time he heard this term, did it refer to the divine sense restructure he almost completed just now?

"Haven't you heard of the Eternal Four Thoughts Realm? Interesting, truly interesting, without even having heard of the Four Thoughts Realm, yet you can touch the bottleneck of Mind Like a Waterfall, you're truly a freak." Emperor Butcher clicked his tongue in admiration.

Those Immortal Kings who cultivated to Mind Like a Waterfall, which one hasn't painstakingly prepared for years before achieving this?

Emperor Butcher originally thought Ning Fan had also prepared for years, to take advantage of the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit catalyst, naturally leading to a qualitative change in spirit sense cultivation. But now it seems, this boy seems to be completely unprepared for this Four Thoughts Realm cultivation...

Ha ha, if he could break through like this, he'd truly be seeing ghosts! Do you really think breaking through the Four Thoughts Realm is child's play!

Emperor Butcher briefly explained the matters concerning the Eternal Four Thoughts Realm, while Ning Fan listened with sighs.

Mind Like a Waterfall...

A realm that most Immortal Kings couldn't touch in their lifetime...

He hasn't yet entered the Immortal King level, and yet he already touched it! Could this be the benefit brought by Yin Yang Transformation? After all, according to his newest understanding, the essence of Yin Yang Transformation, summarized in one sentence, is millions of streams forming an ocean, a peerless study of... transforming quantity into quality. This qualitative change came suddenly, but it seems... related closely to the elevation in the comprehension of Yin Yang Transformation.

Thinking of this, Ning Fan couldn't help showing a contemplative expression.

On further thought, even those Immortal Kings who prepared for years often failed many times before breaking through this spirit sense realm. Failing once or twice really shouldn't make him sigh and complain.

There will be opportunities in the future, when he is fully prepared, he will break through! Mind Like a Waterfall, tenfold spirit sense! Regardless of the reason, since the opportunity for qualitative change in spirit sense had appeared, once this matter is done, he will seize the opportunity, to truly break through in spirit sense!

Calculating the time, Ning Fan refined the Ancient Buddha Dao Fruit, spending another half day. Now it was already the twenty-fifth day since the start of the illusion trial, there's not much time left.

The two rested in this place for a while, then set off into the sixth layer, still Ning Fan carrying Emperor Butcher as they went.

Although Ning Fan failed to break through Mind Like a Waterfall, his spirit sense cultivation nevertheless improved significantly, from the middle of the Immortal Venerable level reaching the limit of Immortal Venerable, it was considered a terrifying advancement.

The sixth layer was different from the fifth layer, there were no guards present, but there were vast numbers of illusion traps spread all around, every flower and grass could be an illusion, with one careless move, it would trigger a trap, change the scenery ahead, and fall into illusion attacks.

It was also these illusion traps that made Ning Fan clearly feel the benefits of his spirit sense advancement. Many of these illusion traps were of the lower-grade Tai Xuan level, without spirit sense enhancement, Ning Fan could at most discern three or four tenths of the illusion traps here.

Now with enhanced spirit sense, he could break nine-tenths of the illusion traps here!

The remaining tenth were usually those of the middle-grade Tai Xuan level! Middle-grade Tai Xuan Illusion Techniques could almost be compared with the arts of the Ancient Great Cultivators, and because this place was the Fire Soul Tower, even in switching with the Central Continent Five Emperors here, it was the same situation, impossible to completely discern!

"There are three hundred and sixty dangerous places on the sixth layer, where should we go?" Ning Fan asked cautiously as he advanced with care.

"Not going anywhere else. The treasures of the sixth level were taken by the strong ones of the Holy Mountain countless years ago, so it's not our turn to take them. What remains for the competitors are only the treasures from the first five levels. Our destination is just one place, we are going to the Six Paths Yellow Springs!"

"Six Paths Yellow Springs? Is there such a mark on the map?" Ning Fan asked in surprise.

"This place is not marked on the map, nor is it known to most of the Holy Mountain's strong ones. Without a certain level of cultivation, it's impossible to understand the existence of this place, just as one cannot comprehend the existence of the Five Supremes."

"What kind of place is that?"

"That is a place... between reality and illusion."

"You're speaking too mystically. Oh well... what can I do for you? If it's something too dangerous..."

"If it's too dangerous, you won't help me? There are tremendous benefits here, have you heard of the Quasi-Saint's Eye Opening?"

"Eye Opening! Are you saying that the Six Paths Yellow Springs can actually help a Quasi-Saint open their eyes, advancing their cultivation greatly!" Ning Fan was instantly moved.

The legend about Eye Opening was something he heard from Daoist Wood Pine, during his visit to Mu Island. Although he initiated the Origin Bridge, he ultimately did not open his eyes.

Drip, drip, drip...

In Ning Fan's ears, it seemed like the dripping sounds he heard back then were still echoing, along with the gentle voice of that mysterious woman.

'Little butterfly, don't sleep, wake up.'

'Little butterfly, don't sleep, don't sleep.'

'If you sleep any longer, you'll miss the once-a-decade Chao Yue of Primeval Mountain...'

If he had opened his eyes back then, perhaps he could have figured out what these things represented.

Unfortunately, he couldn't accomplish it... after all, eye opening is too difficult, and many Quasi-Saints can't achieve it. Being a Holder Cultivator of the Dreamland Realm's Netherworld, Ning Fan's difficulty in eye opening was much higher, making it reasonable that he couldn't achieve it.

This matter ultimately remained a major confusion in his heart...

Wait a minute, could it be... Emperor Butcher's inner confusion is something similar!

Is it also a mystery that can only be solved by opening one's eyes?

Ning Fan opened his mouth, wanting to ask about it, but then felt it might be inappropriate. Emperor Butcher was unwilling to talk more about his inner confusion, surely it involves some secrets, otherwise he would have explained it a bit to him. If Emperor Butcher didn't want to talk, there's no need for him to ask.

"Oh? You actually know about the Eye Opening, alright, this saves me the trouble of further introduction. This place is named Six Paths Yellow Springs, according to Supreme Ox Demon, it seems to have separated from the true Six Paths Yellow Springs, and is the boundary of all life and death, illusion. When I first traded with Supreme Ox Demon, he brought me there, he seems to be a regular there. Over there, there are six ancient mountains, floating above the Yellow Springs, said to be left by ancient beings who transformed their Dao. Let me remind you, one of the ancient mountains is extremely dangerous because there are terrifying words inscribed on it... 'Six Paths Yellow Springs Without You,' hehe, just six words, yet the pressure has endured eternally, passed down to this day, indicating that the one who left the words is no ordinary person, perhaps a Third Step Cultivator... don't go near that mountain within a thousand zhang, otherwise, you'll die!"

Ning Fan, upon hearing 'Six Paths Yellow Springs Without You,' his expression froze slightly.

Six Paths Yellow Springs Without You...

Six Paths Yellow Springs... without you...

This seemingly ordinary phrase, for some reason, Ning Fan heard it with a sense of heartache, bitterness, despair.

Instead, the reminder from Emperor Butcher was almost ignored by the distracted Ning Fan, so Emperor Butcher reminded him again, seeing that Ning Fan really remembered this warning, he felt slightly relieved.

She certainly didn't want her companion to be killed by ancient words upon entering the Six Paths Yellow Springs...

"... Six Paths Yellow Springs aids Quasi-Saint Cultivators in opening their eyes because that place possesses pure Yang. The Yin energy there is extremely terrifying, almost reaching the limit that the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain can bear, thus Yin's extreme transformation has instead birthed a small amount of pure Yang. However, don't be deluded into thinking you can harvest too much pure Yang from there, the bulk has been taken by the Five Supremes, as pure Yang is crucial for a Quasi-Saint's eye opening. You, at most, can only find some scraps there, and whether you succeed in acquiring it depends on your ability..."

"As for me... I'm here not for pure Yang. I want you to assist me, to enter the end of illusion..."

Ning Fan remarked with exasperation, "The end of illusion... isn't this expression overly poetic."

"No, this isn't a metaphor, but a narration. That place is truly the end of all illusion, you'll know once you go there... of course, if you also have inner confusion, perhaps you can see the real behind the illusion there, and find the answer. The power of the Six Paths Yellow Springs can deduce all ancient and modern futures..."

Saying this, Emperor Butcher took a deep breath, her hand clenched into a fist, nails piercing into her flesh, causing sharp pain.

Her delicate body quivered slightly, as if she was afraid... afraid of the answer that was within reach.

"You can withstand the power of the Five Finger Illusion, your cultivation has not surpassed the limits of the Six Paths Yellow Springs, if it's you... you can certainly enter the depths of the Yellow Springs, definitely help me find the answer! Ning Fan, please lend me your help!"

Chapter 1046: The Illusion of the Six Paths Netherworld

"Throughout this journey, the lady has given me many benefits, so I will naturally do my best in this matter," Ning Fan replied.

"No, those benefits are actually nothing much, and at most, can only count as part of the transaction reward between us. You helping me enter the Six Paths Yellow Springs carries no small risk, therefore irrespective of the outcome, I will give you an additional gift as a thank you. When this matter is settled, I will send this item to you."

The Emperor Butcher slightly opened his mouth, revealing the heavily sealed Saint's Will Secret Treasure.

Upon hearing this, Ning Fan was immediately moved.

This secret treasure is secretly sealed, and although Ning Fan hasn't figured out its real appearance yet, he knows well that its origin is no small matter.

A secret treasure that can emit the power of a Saint's Will is definitely not an ordinary item!

The Emperor Butcher regards this item so highly and has tightly sealed it, there must be other divine skills that this item can showcase. Of course, even if this secret treasure only has the ability to emit the Saint's Will, it is enough to tempt Ning Fan. Throughout this journey, he relied on the overwhelming Saint Will pressure to refine the medicinal power, saving an unknown amount of time. If he could truly obtain this treasure, it would undoubtedly be a major aid in his cultivation.

"The value of this treasure is likely enough to tempt someone at the Quasi-Saint level..." Ning Fan paused for a moment and asked.

"Indeed. I exchanged this treasure at a great cost from the Supreme Ox Demon. I'm not hiding anything from you, this treasure is actually a half-damaged Innate Treasure, almost without a possibility for repair. Although it contains a vast amount of Saint's Will, it cannot be used indefinitely, the more you use it, the less it becomes... Once the Saint's Will is completely used up, this treasure will be considered as waste."

"The real purpose of this treasure is not to release the Saint's Will and accelerate the refinement of medicinal power, but to enable... time to reverse!"

"Time reversal, what do you mean?" Ning Fan's gaze slightly changed, asking, perhaps wouldn't it be as he guessed.

"The literal meaning... If this treasure was intact, if you possessed the cultivation of the Third Step, this treasure could allow an entire Great Thousand World to reverse time back to the past!"

"Able to return to the past! That's impossible!"

"Hehe, why is that impossible. Do you know what the Third Step of power is?"

"... The Power of Reincarnation?" Ning Fan thought for a moment and asked.

"How much do you understand about reincarnation?"

"Very little."

"I once witnessed true realms in dreams, and not just once, personally attending the Saint's dojo in dreams, listening to a genuine Saint's lecture. The most profound impression left upon me was by the Ancient Moon Saint from Jing Sect. This Saint once told disciples that reincarnation is like a book, if the book is turned forward, the characters in it move to the future, if turned backward, they return to the past. The characters believe they are moving from the past to the future, thinking that the passage of

time is the alternation of spring, summer, autumn, and winter, but this is not the case. Time is static, but this static state is invisible to the characters in the book, only those who turn the book are aware..."

Reincarnation is like a book! Time is static! But this static state is invisible to the characters in the book, only those who turn the book are aware!

Ning Fan was instantly enlightened, as if he had understood countless profound mysteries from this sentence, yet completely understood nothing at all.

Even more astonishing was hearing such profound insights of reincarnation from the mouth of the Emperor Butcher. Such insights might not be understood even by Quasi-Saints, yet the Emperor Butcher knows...

Dreaming of listening to a Saint's lecture, such chance encounters are things others cannot even imagine...

"...Theoretically, if this treasure were completely repaired and used by a Saint, it could cause the entire Great Thousand World to reverse time. What concept is an entire Great Thousand World? The four heavens and nine worlds, Immortal Demon World, Ancient Demon Abyss, where you foreign cultivators reside, along with our Great Humble Ones' Supreme Pill Sacred Domain, they're all just parts of the Great Thousand World. If the treasure's power is fully unleashed, it could cause all the above-mentioned planes to reverse time! But that is only theoretically possible, even the Supreme Ox Demon cannot repair this treasure. Whether there still exists someone in this world who can repair this item is uncertain. Moreover, even if it were repaired, you won't possess Saint Cultivation, naturally, it's impossible to reverse the time of an entire Great Thousand World..."

"In its half-destroyed state, this treasure can still cause a very small range of time to slightly reverse. Once you reach the Six Paths Yellow Springs, I'll unseal this item and give it to you, then you'll have a greater chance of survival. If you're unfortunately killed, this treasure will help you reverse back to the time before you died..."

Ning Fan was somewhat shocked by the heaven-defying nature of this treasure. In its perfect state, reversing the time of an entire Great Thousand World... In its half-destroyed state, this treasure is still enough to resurrect the dead back to the point before they died...

A treasure so heaven-defying is actually just of Innate Rank, not a Heaven-Opening Artifact...

Or perhaps, in the eyes of those Saints, reversing time might not be an inconceivable thing, and such divine skill isn't enough to be classified as Heaven-Opening Grade...

On the twenty-seventh day, Ning Fan and the Emperor Butcher arrived at a vast plains.

This plains is covered with dandelions, when Ning Fan stepped in, the grassland suddenly felt the wind movement, then tens of thousands of dandelions soared with the wind, the white mist-like form instantly obscuring the sky, redirecting the vision, concealing everything.

Under normal circumstances, Ning Fan would just need to blow a breath to turn into a gust and easily scatter this sky full of dandelions.

Yet at this moment, he was shocked to discover that because of the overwhelming dandelions, his body for some reason was unable to move.

Another illusion technique...

Nowadays, ordinary inferior Taixuan Illusion Technique can no longer constrain him in the slightest, even middle-grade Taixuan Illusion he cannot break, but can still discern a trace.

However, the current dandelion illusion technique is one he cannot detect even a trace of, seemingly this technique is likely to be the best among middle-grade Taixuan Illusions, possibly... reaching the high-grade Taixuan level!

"Wake up!"

A sweet shout in his ear directly woke Ning Fan from the illusory art, and then the vast expanse of white dandelions dissipated like wind-swept clouds.

It was the Emperor Butcher who broke the illusion from the side and awakened Ning Fan.

"Thank you. I didn't expect there to be such a high level of illusion here; I was slightly careless..." Ning Fan said gratefully.

"I made things too difficult for you. The illusion here is almost at the high-grade Tai Xuan level; it's still too strong for you. Even an ordinary Immortal Emperor would struggle against such an illusion here," the Emperor Butcher replied nonchalantly, then requested Ning Fan to put her down.

"We're not moving forward anymore?" Ning Fan asked.

"We've arrived. The Six Paths Yellow Springs is just above this plain!"

"In the sky?" Ning Fan was slightly stunned, lifting his head to gaze at the sky.

He saw amidst the clouds a patch of pure white, with one spot where the clouds condensed into an oily yellow ice crystal, and the airflow there seemed colder than elsewhere.

In that patch of cloud, it seemed there was an entrance to some kind of secret place... After the Emperor Butcher's reminder, Ning Fan could vaguely see something.

He secretly thought that particular cloud might actually be the entrance to the Six Paths Yellow Springs? This was quite different from Ning Fan's imagination of the Six Paths Yellow Springs.

Many books mentioned the Six Paths Yellow Springs, especially Buddhist texts, which are most descriptive of such things. Buddhism emphasizes cause and effect, the past life and this life. In Buddhist scriptures, the Six Paths Yellow Springs is part of the Six Paths of Reincarnation. It's said that after death, souls enter the Yellow Springs and are reborn there, reincarnated into a new life. The life they are sent to is greatly related to the merits of their past life.

However, throughout his cultivation journey, Ning Fan had never personally witnessed reincarnation and had always been skeptical about the existence of the Yama Hell and Six Paths of Reincarnation described in Buddhist scriptures.

Of course, none of the texts described the Six Paths Yellow Springs as being above the earth, seeming as if no book ever placed the Six Paths Yellow Springs in the sky.

"That cloud is too high. The power of the Breaking Illusion Bead is exhausted. I can't restore my cultivation and thus can't contend with the forbidden force here to fly to such heights. How do we get up there?"

Ning Fan frowned. Flying was out of the question, and jumping, under the suppression of the forbidden force, would only allow him to jump a hundred feet high no matter how strong he was, which was far from reaching the cloud.

"Wait until this place turns to night, and we'll have a way to fly up," the Emperor Butcher replied.

Then she stretched lazily and lay directly on the green grassy ground, assuming an extremely comfortable position... and fell asleep!

Just wait until nightfall then...

Ning Fan was unfamiliar with the environment of this sixth level. Although the Emperor Butcher could rely on her cultivation to sleep on the grass, Ning Fan did not dare. He hadn't forgotten the Emperor Butcher's advice, that even a slight distraction here might lead to being killed by some illusion...

Even while waiting, he remained extremely vigilant, not daring to relax even a little.

The sky gradually darkened. There was no moon and stars here, and the night was darker than any other, as if this darkness itself was a rather high-grade illusion technique.

Fortunately, Ning Fan himself had cultivated a similar Dark Night Illusion Technique and was naturally not afraid of this illusion; yet, in this pitch-black environment, he couldn't help but worry about the woman sleeping soundly beside him.

There wasn't a trace of light, and even if any light was lit, it would be swallowed by the night's darkness.

The naked eye and spirit sense could not perceive in this darkness; Ning Fan could only rely on his ears to confirm the Emperor Butcher's state.

In the first half of the night, the Emperor Butcher's breathing was very steady.

At a certain moment in the latter half of the night, the Emperor Butcher's breathing suddenly vanished...

Then, in the darkness, the sound of a beast tearing and devouring fresh meat was emitted!

Ning Fan's first reaction was to wonder if something had happened to the Emperor Butcher. He immediately frowned. In the darkness, relying on memory, he walked to where the Emperor Butcher was sleeping, reaching out to touch the grass, and fortunately, the Emperor Butcher was still there, not eaten by some unknown beast...

The blame lay in Ning Fan's total unfamiliarity with this sixth layer, so upon hearing the sound of a beast eating meat, he worried that the utterly cultivation-less Emperor Butcher had been eaten by some beast...

"Get your hand off!"

In the darkness, the Emperor Butcher's somewhat mortified voice rang out.

Hearing this, Ning Fan realized that his hand seemed to be grasping a certain extremely ample and soft part of the Emperor Butcher's body. As his fingers moved slightly, it was still incredibly elastic...

Previously worried about the Emperor Butcher's safety, Ning Fan hadn't noticed what part of the Emperor Butcher he had touched. Now with worry gone, he noticed the part he held was exceptionally plump and soft, with enticing elasticity...

Oh, it seems he accidentally groped her chest. But unexpectedly, despite the Emperor Butcher's seemingly slender build, she was surprisingly well-endowed...

"Three breaths! If you don't remove your hand, I'll chop it off and feed it to the dogs!"

The Emperor Butcher's voice carried an extremely terrifying murderous intent, without any hint of joking.

Ning Fan finally withdrew his hand, shook his head, and smiled wryly, but was too lazy to explain further, so he just asked,

"What is that sound?" He was naturally asking about the sound of a beast tearing into raw flesh.

"It's the sound of a Heavenly Dog eating meat!" Emperor Butcher answered coldly, as her good mood was entirely ruined by Ning Fan's earlier actions.

"Heavenly Dog?" Ning Fan was taken aback. The Heavenly Dog seemed to be a mythical beast that only existed in ancient legends, but could it be that such a creature still existed in today's cultivation world?

In ancient times, there was Yin Mountain, from which turbid waters flowed southward to Fanze. It was abundant with Wenbei clams and boasted a beast resembling a raccoon, yet with a white head, called the Heavenly Dog...

As these ancient texts echoed in Ning Fan's mind, two fierce, lightning-like gazes suddenly swept over from the darkness ahead.

The surrounding darkness was instantly dispelled by the beast's gaze!

It was a strange beast the size of a water buffalo, resembling a giant lynx with gray fur, except for its snow-white head. A crack ran down its forehead.

Even though the beast did not have a large form, its Divine Skills were quite formidable. Ning Fan admitted he couldn't disperse the local Dark Illusion Technique, yet this beast dispersed the darkness with a mere glare, brightening the surroundings!

This must be the Heavenly Dog, the mythical beast Emperor Butcher mentioned!

Under this faint glow, Ning Fan saw that Emperor Butcher was not lying on the ground sleeping as he had assumed, but crouched low, feeding meat to the Heavenly Dog. And the meat wasn't from beasts or birds—it was... human flesh!

"Where did the human flesh come from..." Ning Fan asked with a frown.

"The Heavenly Dog is a creature from the vicinity of the Six Paths Yellow Springs. At night, it leaves the Yellow Springs to hunt outside. It won't eat anything but human flesh, and if it does eat human flesh, it must be the flesh of an Immortal Emperor..." Emperor Butcher explained while feeding the Heavenly Dog meat.

Only then did Ning Fan notice that Emperor Butcher seemed a bit weak, her complexion pale, and there were bloodstains on her skirt.

"Did you use your own flesh to feed it?" Ning Fan's frown deepened.

"What else? Should I use your flesh? Heh, it might not like yours. Once it's full, the Heavenly Dog will fly back to the Six Paths Yellow Springs. It ate my flesh, so it agreed to take us there." Emperor Butcher replied irritably, still upset over Ning Fan's earlier behavior.

"Is the wound serious..."

Ning Fan frowned as he looked toward Emperor Butcher's chest, causing her to blush and coldly retort,

"What are you looking at? It's not from there! The wound's on my thigh!"

"...Should I help you heal it?" Ning Fan asked curiously, looking down between her legs.

"No need! I've taken a blood-boosting pill, and the flesh will regenerate quickly! It's almost done eating, let's quickly ride on its back and follow it to the Six Paths Yellow Springs!"

With that, Emperor Butcher gritted her teeth, trying to climb onto the Heavenly Dog's back, but she couldn't manage it.

Each time she lifted her leg, excruciating pain tore through her left leg; after all, cutting off such a large piece of flesh was bound to hurt.

Ning Fan silently picked Emperor Butcher up and placed her on the Heavenly Dog's back, then climbed on himself, with her in front and him behind.

The Heavenly Dog, having finished eating, let out a thunderous belch. Then it shook its head, ridding itself of fleas, and with a sudden leap, it took to the air, treating the forbidden force here as child's play.

"Hold on tight! No matter what happens, don't look back!"

Emperor Butcher reminded Ning Fan coldly. The embrace was clearly not for intimacy but for Ning Fan's safety.

Entering the Six Paths Yellow Springs would expose them to superior-grade Tai Xuan Illusion Technique, and only by holding on tight to her would Ning Fan have a chance of survival!

Ning Fan nodded, grabbing the Heavenly Dog's mane with his left hand and the waist of Emperor Butcher with his right.

Emperor Butcher shivered slightly, her expression remaining calm without saying another word.

But her calm did not last long, turning into shameful anger when Ning Fan's right hand, unintentionally, slid down from her waist between her legs!

Just as she was about to teach Ning Fan a lesson, his hand stopped before reaching a critical spot and began channeling the Demon Starfall at the wound on her left leg, healing her.

Emperor Butcher's anger dissipated instantly. The missing flesh soon regrew, just as good as new...

After finishing, Ning Fan moved his hand back to her waist obediently, his expression clear and devoid of any mischief.

Though familiar with romances, Ning Fan had long since become indifferent, free from unnecessary desires.

He knew well that the Six Paths Yellow Springs was no haven, likely more dangerous than outside, allowing for no distractions.

He certainly wouldn't take advantage of Emperor Butcher at such a critical moment.

The Heavenly Dog leaped into the clouds, heading toward a strange cloud.

A gust of wind blew against them. Then Ning Fan felt a dazzling, bright light that forced him to close his eyes, as he transitioned from one realm to another...

After the blinding light, Ning Fan finally saw the landscape before him, starkly different from the outside world.

The sky was full of fractures and wounds!

The ground was a sea formed by the surging Yellow Springs!

The severely fractured skies also housed oily yellow ice clouds, serving as a passage connecting to the outside.

The sea was eerily still, without wind or waves, and the air was extremely cold, with exhaled breath freezing instantly into crystals.

There were no islands, only six ancient floating mountains that lacked the ethereal mist of typical Immortal Mountains, exuding a sense of desolation.

One of the ancient mountains emitted a crimson glow, giving an ominous vibe, causing Ning Fan's heart to race at just a glance!

Emperor Butcher mentioned that one mountain in the Six Paths Yellow Springs was particularly dangerous; could it be that one...

While he pondered, a voice of a young girl was suddenly heard from the sky behind.

"Eh, Aliang, look, why is there such a strange big dog flying in the sky? Look, there are two people on its back."

"Where? Let me see? Oh my, once again Paper Crane wasn't lying! It's true, such a big dog entering our Six Paths Reincarnation, but... why did you say there are two people on its back? I can see only one..."

"Huh, weird, I thought it was two just now, but now... it's only one..."

Ning Fan was instantly alarmed!

The voices were unmistakably familiar to him, one belonging to Mu Weiliang, and the other to Paper Crane...

Involuntarily, he wanted to turn around, to see why they were here. But Ning Fan quickly composed himself!

He remembered Emperor Butcher's warning and ultimately did not turn to look for the source of the voices. He could faintly sense an immense Illusory Art power behind him, far surpassing his own strength, and should he look back, death may await him!

Ning Fan did not turn back.

The voices behind soon fell silent.

But not long after, an aged, authoritative shout burst from behind. The shout was so powerful that Ning Fan involuntarily coughed up blood, suffering intense chest pain and... severe injury!

These injuries weren't solely from the shout, but largely seemed to stem from pre-existing wounds.

In profound pain, Ning Fan struggled to maintain his seat atop the Heavenly Dog, his body pitching forward as he was about to crash into Emperor Butcher's back.

But, he collided with empty air!

Ning Fan looked up, shocked to find that the Emperor Butcher, clearly seated in front of him, was somehow... gone!

And the Heavenly Dog beneath him, though still a Heavenly Dog, was larger and exuded a much stronger presence than the previous Heavenly Dog!

If the prior Heavenly Dog had spirit sense level cultivation, then this one's power was ten thousand, a million times greater... a Heavenly Dog of the Firstly, pierce the body with the pin and draw the marks cultivation!

What is happening!

The Emperor Butcher has vanished!

The Heavenly Dog is different!

Could it be... that he fell into an Illusionary Trap!

"Nifan, how dare you! The Three Great Realms are hunting you down, yet you dare to run to my Six Paths Reincarnation seeking death. Do you really think my Ancient Holy Sect is weak and easy to bully! Humph! Today will be your end!"

The figure of an elderly man chasing after the Heavenly Dog shouted fiercely, causing the whole world to shrink as if it was a living creature...

Chapter 1047: Ancient and Future, a Maze Within the Game

"Indeed, I've fallen into an illusion!"

Ning Fan suddenly looked up at the sky, which was now intact unlike the shattered appearance he saw before.

The sky isn't the same as before!

The color of the sky is not azure, but red! Like the color of flesh and blood! As the sky contracts and writhes, it resembles an animal's esophagus, writhing in an extremely bizarre manner!

The writhing of the sky caused large waves of acid fog to wildly sweep towards Ning Fan from all directions.

Ning Fan didn't know what supernatural ability this acid fog possessed, yet he could sense a deadly danger. This acid fog is too strong! Even a Quasi-Saint would instantly dissolve into blood water upon contact! This technique is not something he can withstand!

Death awaits!

"Xuelingzi, with your mere three cycles of reincarnation at the Initial Saint cultivation, you are not qualified to make my master act! Get lost!"

Before Ning Fan could apply defensive measures, the Heavenly Dog at the third step under him spoke and then opened its mouth, swallowing the acid fog that filled the sky.

The beast's mouth of the third step Heavenly Dog is dark and deep, with stars sparkling inside, as if a starry sky is hidden within. With one swallow, it easily consumed all the acid fog in the world.

The elder who was chasing from behind instantly became furious, shaking his body a few times as he pursued and finally blocked the Heavenly Dog's advance.

The elder's body was surrounded by a blood light, which condensed into a massive blood ring behind him, emitting a terrifying pressure!

Ning Fan's gaze suddenly stiffened.

With his cultivation, he couldn't see the elder's appearance through the blood light, but he could recognize the blood ring behind the elder's back as the Ring of the Initial Saint!

Unlike the one Senluo cunningly used in the past, the elder's Ring of the Initial Saint gave Ning Fan a feeling of invincibility, as if the power of the ring could wipe out all life below the third step in an instant!

"Hmph! I was wondering who it was. Turns out it's the Ya Tiangou from the Immemorial Yin Mountain. No wonder you could silently pass through the Yin River and ambush this place. I never expected someone as proud as you to serve a master, to bear a rider. And the master you serve is actually a criminal wanted by the Three Great Realms! Are you going to betray your former master and our Hunkun Holy Sect's agreement, and become an enemy of our sect?"

"Cut the crap! Whatever that old guy agreed with the Hunkun Holy Sect has nothing to do with me! All I know is, if not for my master Nifan's rescue, your Hunkun Holy Sect would have caught me and sacrificed me to the Cause and Effect Disk. If you guys are unjust, don't blame me, Ya Tiangou, for being unkind! Today, no matter what you say, I'm going to cause upheaval in your sect's land! Eat all your disciples!"

"Beast seeking death!"

"You're the one seeking death, dammit!"

Just as the third step Heavenly Dog beneath him was about to battle with the saint-level opponent, Ning Fan suddenly felt his vision blacken, accompanied by the shattering and disappearance of all the images...

...

A cool breeze blew through, Ning Fan shivered and awoke, breaking free from the illusion.

At this moment, he was no longer within the illusion nor on the back of the Heavenly Dog, but rather sitting on a gigantic voyage ship, floating on the Netherworld Great Sea.

He sat on the deck, beside him, Emperor Butcher displayed a solemn face as he exerted Divine Skills, frantically pulling him out from the illusion...

"Hehe, kid, you've got quite a life, actually managing to get you back..."

As soon as the words dropped, Emperor Butcher coughed up blood, his aura withered to the extreme, it was clear that due to forcefully utilizing his cultivation, he suffered immense injury!

"After I fell into the illusion... you forcefully used your cultivation to save me?"

Ning Fan slowly stood up, looking at Emperor Butcher with a complex expression.

The recent illusion arrived quietly, without Emperor Butcher's rescue, he would have had no chance of escaping such an illusion. With his meager cultivation, encountering a saint within the illusion would most likely have led to his death...

He owed Emperor Butcher his life.

Emperor Butcher's aura weakened, so faint that he didn't even bother to speak, just nodded, which was a response.

"Your injuries seem severe... I'm sorry, it's all because of me..." Ning Fan sighed.

"I only saved your life because I needed you; it's part of our deal, so you don't need to feel any guilt. Come, help me suppress the injuries!"

"Alright."

This time at the Fire Soul Tower, because of certain reasons, the Emperor Butcher was not supposed to recklessly use her cultivations. Yet, she had exerted all her strength to rescue Ning Fan from the Illusory Art, causing an extremely severe backlash, even damaging her foundation. More troublesome still, was the injury caused by the Illusory Art that Ning Fan was ensnared in, which was the most terrifying damage, nearly costing the Emperor Butcher her life!

At this moment, she had no extra energy for self-healing, and the instant Ning Fan awoke, she sealed all her cultivations once again.

For healing, she required Ning Fan's assistance. This time, she disregarded the boundaries between men and women with Ning Fan, directly removing her clothes, presenting herself naked before him. Unfortunately, this presentation held no beauty, as her whole body was covered in hideous and terrifying wounds!

Ning Fan gasped slightly.

The severity of the Emperor Butcher's injuries far exceeded his imagination and the scope of his current healing techniques! Such horrifying injuries were not just the result of a reckless use of cultivations backlash; vast areas of flesh were directly obliterated by some dreadful Divine Skills, exposing the bones beneath, revealing even the internal organs through her back...

"This can't be injuries caused by backlash!" Ning Fan said gravely.

"Of course not... I'm truly curious what you saw in the Illusory Art. I only reached out to pull you back yet got injured by Saint Level Great Divine Power in the illusion, almost eroding all my flesh... What exactly did you see?"

The Emperor Butcher asked with great interest, her calm demeanor as if the riddled body wasn't hers.

"The Illusory Art content of the Six Paths Yellow Springs varies from person to person, as it possesses the Divine Skill to deduce past and future. Hence, the Illusory Art here often manifests the past and future of the Master. Depending on the content, the illusory effects may slightly differ. But mostly, the differences are not too vast..."

"When I came to the Six Paths Yellow Springs once, the illusion I saw was being swarmed by a multitude of Immortal King-level Bee Demons... With my half-step Immortal Emperor cultivations back then, I nearly died within the illusion and could only escape."

"And you... an Illusory Art depicting the impact of Saint Divine Skills appeared! Could it be that such a dreadful event will happen in your past or future..."

The Emperor Butcher could hardly imagine what Ning Fan saw that caused her to suffer such severe injuries.

"I saw Ya Tiangou, Xuelingzi... They were fighting at the third step cultivations... I heard Xuelingzi's roar, also Ya Tiangou and Xuelingzi's conversation... and I heard my two wives' voices..."

Ning Fan recollected the particulars of the Illusory Art bit by bit, narrating it to the Emperor Butcher.

As for himself, he pondered over the strangeness of the Illusory Art...

This Illusory Art truly has some connection to the caster's past or future, doesn't it...

The paper crane and Weiliang are indeed closely related to him; their voices appearing in the Illusory Art is understandable.

But Ya Tiangou, and Xuelingzi... how could a battle between Saints relate to his past or future?

It was baffling. In his past, he should have repeatedly been a butterfly, only entering the human realm in this life. It is hard to imagine himself as a butterfly with no cultivations being involved with a Saint Level existence.

Or, perhaps the scene witnessed in the Illusory Art wasn't related to his past life as a butterfly, but rather... to his future?

And then, there's Nifan...

This name is definitely not unfamiliar to Ning Fan. He once obtained a Through-Sky Giant Stone in the Barbarian Wilderness Ancient Domain, which had two ancient demon characters on it, spelling Nifan!

Even during the initial battle when he acquired the Through-Sky Stone, a black mist demon shadow once floated out of the stone, claiming to be Nifan.

Later, he seized the Through-Sky Giant Stone and comprehended the ancient demon tribe Divine Skill Gui Xu Zhi from it...

However, what left the deepest impression on Ning Fan was far from these.

Rather, it was... the peculiar sensation that arose when he reached out to touch the two words 'Nifan' on the stone.

It was a feeling indescribable and mysterious... it was like a glimpse of the past and future... like a sense of time-space disorientation!

Previously, Ning Fan thought of this odd feeling as an illusion, but reflecting on the mysteries of the Six Paths Yellow Springs Illusory Art now, Ning Fan realized his connection with Nifan is far from simple!

"The Six Paths Yellow Springs can deduce past and future, which means the figures you see are either intersecting with your past or overlapping with your future... Speaking of, regarding the two Saints you described, I recall hearing about one in dreams. I have heard of Ya Tiangou, who seems to be a guardian beast stationed by a major True Realm force at Yin Mountain..."

"Oh? Do you dream of these? Have you dreamed of the name Xuelingzi?"

"Xuelingzi? Haven't dreamed of. But in the True Realms, Saints are innumerable, and my dreams don't cover too wide a range, so it's not strange that I don't know this Saint."

"Have you heard of the name Nifan? According to the dialogue in the Illusory Art, this person seems to be a criminal jointly hunted by the Three Great Realms..."

"Nifan? Which two characters?"

"The 'ni' from disobedience, and 'fan' from cage."

"This name hasn't appeared in my dreams..."

Ning Fan fell silent, thinking about something. As time slowly passed, Ning Fan finally managed to temporarily suppress Emperor Butcher's injuries.

At least on the surface, the missing flesh of Emperor Butcher was restored, returning to its previous smooth whiteness. Of course, the breath was still very weak, clearly indicating severe internal injuries, with much of the foundation damaged.

Ning Fan saw a battle between Saints in the Illusory Art, causing Emperor Butcher, who intervened to help, to be affected by the fluctuations of the Saints' fight. However, the Illusory Art was ultimately just an art, unable to truly mimic the fluctuations of a Saint-level duel. Otherwise, even with full cultivation, Emperor Butcher would not have survived the fluctuations of a Saint battle.

If the injuries were indeed caused by a Saint, they would be impossible for the current Ning Fan to heal.

After healing was completed, Emperor Butcher took out a clean dress and put it on properly, not even bothering to avoid Ning Fan during the dressing process.

Moreover, after dressing up, she teasingly asked Ning Fan if her body looked good.

Ning Fan decisively did not answer this boring question and instead observed the surrounding environment.

As soon as he awakened from the Illusory Art, he was busy healing Emperor Butcher, and only now did he have the time to observe his surroundings.

The Heavenly Dog that carried them here had long vanished without a trace over the vast sea, with no sign of the dog in sight.

This voyage ship seemed to be taken out by Emperor Butcher. Without the ship, he and Emperor Butcher would have had no standing place in this boundless sea.

There were six ancient mountains floating on the sea, which could offer footing, but Ning Fan's rationality told him it was wise to stay away from those places.

Especially... not to approach the one on the easternmost side!

Ning Fan's eyesight was exceptionally strong; even at a distance of several dozen miles, he could clearly see the large characters on the eastern ancient mountain.

[Six Paths Reincarnation Without You]

These characters were actually ancient demon characters! And the penmanship... the aura between the lines... Ning Fan felt somewhat familiar with them.

It seemed... to have a certain resemblance to the two characters [Nifan] on that Through-Sky Stone!

Involuntarily, the words he heard in the Illusory Art resonated in his ears.

'Nifan, how dare you! All the Three Real Realms are hunting you down, and you still dare to run to my Six Paths Reincarnation seeking death? Do you really think my Ancient Holy Sect is weak enough to bully? Hmph! Today, let's make sure you have no return!'

'Enough nonsense! What agreement that old guy made with the Hunkun Holy Sect is none of my business! I only know that if my master Nifan hadn't saved me, your Hunkun Holy Sect would have caught me to sacrifice to the Cause and Effect Disk long ago...'

Nifan!

It's Nifan!

There are traces of Nifan in this Six Paths Yellow Springs! He has been here, and left words behind!

Could it be that Nifan forcibly broke into the Six Paths Reincarnation once?

Could it be that after forcibly breaking in, Nifan left this line of carved words beside the ancient mountain on the Yellow Springs?

Six Paths Reincarnation Without You...

Six Paths Reincarnation Without You...

Did Nifan come to Six Paths Yellow Springs looking for someone...

Who was he looking for...

Ning Fan only felt at this moment, facing these ancient mountain words, suddenly experiencing once again that feeling of temporal confusion from years ago.

At this moment, for the first time regarding Nifan, he felt bewildered.

At this moment, he suddenly couldn't see clearly what was past and what was future...

In his heart, there were thousands of speculations about Nifan, yet ultimately facing these ancient words, he just remained silent, saying nothing more.

Nor was it possible for him to rush over to closely investigate these ancient writings!

Very dangerous, extremely dangerous, on the surface, this line of words carried an aura very similar to the two-character Nifan from back then, seemingly carved by the same person.

But the emotions contained within were absolutely different!

The two-character Nifan from back then gave Ning Fan a feeling of calm...

While these six characters conveyed to Ning Fan an overwhelming killing intent, and madness!

Draining the heavens above and the Yellow Springs below, unleashing slaughter across the Nine Heavens and Ten Earths!

Ning Fan felt this kind of wild killing intent! If he went near this ancient mountain, there could only be one outcome, which was... to be annihilated by the overwhelming murderous intent of the ancient character!

The pressure of these six characters was even a hundredfold, a thousandfold stronger than the Stele left by the Herb-gathering Sage in the Dabei Clan! The killing intent was equally incomparable in danger!

If the person who carved this was indeed Nifan, then how powerful must this Nifan be, a master a hundred, a thousand times stronger than the Herb-gathering Sage...

"Time is running out. We should attend to business. For the forthcoming period, I will wait for you on the ship, while you need to dive into this Yellow Springs Sea, to the bottom of this sea, and find an answer for me."

"How do I find it?"

"I will lend you one of my eyes. With it, dive to the bottom; it will guide you in the right direction. Of course, without this treasure, plunging recklessly into the depths of Yellow Springs would mean certain death. Hence, I will unseal this treasure next, and set its time-reverse point to just before you jump into Yellow Springs. If you die in the depths, this treasure will make time reverse, bringing you back to life before your death..."

Emperor Butcher opened her graceful mouth and spat out a stream of light, then began to meticulously unseal it.

The true form of the object finally appeared before Ning Fan, surprisingly it was a golden treasure box exuding a moonlit aura, covered with ancient mystical patterns. Furthermore, a pig face was engraved on it, holding a gold ingot in its mouth, its greedy expression vividly portrayed.

This treasure was an Innate Treasure, but being too damaged, its power was severely depleted, making it impossible to discern what first grade it once belonged to.

And the moment the treasure was unsealed, the pig face on the treasure box unexpectedly spoke indistinctly with a gold ingot in its mouth.

"What a beauty, finally willing to release your second grandpa, haha, have you finally realized, willing to become the mountain fort wife of this box spirit? Lucky you got a keen eye, don't look down on second grandpa simply because I now look like a lecherous pig-headed box spirit. Back when I was intact, I was a dignified admiral of an area's navy! My beautiful lady, my lady, let's make a deal. How about I tell you a story of my travels to the west back then, and you let me smell your undergarment, haha, I want undergarments, second grandpa wants lots and lots of undergarments..."

Boom!

The response to this pig-faced box spirit was Emperor Butcher's cold and merciless punch, which directly smacked the pig face into the box, but thereafter, the pig face sneakily came out again, grinning foolishly and indecently at Emperor Butcher.

At that moment, Ning Fan somewhat understood why Emperor Butcher wanted to seal this treasure tightly.

Probably not out of worry about leaking the treasure's aura.

Probably... just to seal away this lustful, annoying box spirit!

Ning Fan even secretly speculated that Emperor Butcher generously gifted this treasure to him, perhaps also having the intention to utterly rid herself of the lecherous box spirit...

"Take it! Now this item is yours! This treasure box spiteful as it is, is quite practical. If it speaks insensitively, just punch it, it will behave after multiple beatings!"

Emperor Butcher handed the treasure box to Ning Fan, and the pig-headed box spirit immediately complained noisily, extremely unwilling to be transferred to Ning Fan.

Unfortunately, the pig-headed box spirit's complaints were completely ignored by Emperor Butcher, who was instead contemplating another matter at the moment, having no time to pay attention to the annoying box spirit.

Recalling the time when Ning Fan performed the Heaven Sealing Art, after some considerations, Emperor Butcher decided to give Ning Fan a reminder.

"Before you enter the Six Paths Yellow Springs, I want to ask you something. Did you learn the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique from the Hunkun Holy Sect of the Three Great Realms? Or, like the Ancestral Emperor from the Eastern Heaven, did you steal it..."

If it was stolen, that could be extremely dangerous, as the Ancestral Emperor from the Eastern Heaven once set a precedent! The so-called self-created art by the Ancestral Emperor from the Eastern Heaven wasn't entirely accurate, only partially true...

Chapter 1048: The Secret of Yue Kun Holy Sect

Ning Fan was slightly taken aback and replied, "What kind of force is the Hun Kun Holy Sect... As for the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique, are you referring to my Heaven Sealing Art?"

To this day, it was not the first time Ning Fan had heard the name Hun Kun Holy Sect.

Early in his cultivation journey, he had heard of the words "Yue Kun." At that time, his cultivation was shallow, and his opponent was quite strong, a Master who knew the 'power of the True Sun.' Then, Luo You taught him a verse, and upon reciting it, he absorbed all the opponent's 'power of the True Sun.'

At that time, Ning Fan's experience was still shallow, and he didn't realize that the so-called 'power of the True Sun' was just a Master's imitation of the extreme Yang power between heaven and earth.

And the extreme Yang power was something indispensable to Quasi-Saint cultivation. The verse taught by Luo You seemed to have a dedicated restraint on this type of power...

Ning Fan always remembered this verse deeply, and even in his later cultivation, he occasionally studied it, always feeling that the verse was unfathomably profound, but due to its incompleteness, it was difficult to comprehend...

[In the Northern Sea, there is a fish named Kun; in the Northern Sea, there is a Saint named Yue Kun. In the Northern Sea, there is a sun called Yin Rong. In the Northern Sea, there is thunder named Lei Tong]

Perhaps this was Ning Fan's first encounter with the name Yue Kun, but at that time, he could not have possibly known what those simple two words represented.

Later, he ascended to the Eastern Heaven, arduously cultivating for many years, and entered the Barbarian Wilderness Ancient Domain for training, eventually getting caught up in a great turmoil.

In that turmoil, he gained great fortunes, becoming the Tenth Generation Barbarian God of the Dao Man Clan and obtaining one of the fragments of the Heaven-Opening Artifact, the God-Extinguishing Shield!

[I am from the Hun Kun Holy Sect... Heaven-Opening Artifact... Sixth Fragment...]

[You have the aura of... the Fourth Fragment... nostalgia...]

This was what the God-Extinguishing Shield said to him when he first saw the Ancient Kingdom's God-Destroying Shield.

The God-Extinguishing Shield that Ning Fan possessed was actually only the sixth fragment left after the original was shattered.

The fourth fragment seemed to be the previous life of the Immortal Emperor...

And the God-Extinguishing Shield, this Heaven-Opening Artifact, seemed to originally belong to the Hun Kun Holy Sect, but later, for some reason, ended up in the hands of the First Barbarian God Tao Man Mountain...

In that turmoil, Ning Fan had his second encounter with the Hun Kun Holy Sect. Subsequently, Ning Fan's Memory Severing Dao Sword upgraded to the Reverse Sea Sword, once again getting entangled with the Hun Kun Holy Sect.

Ning Fan remembered that on the blueprint of the Dao Weapon of the Reverse Sea Sword, there was a passage left by the illustrator.

[The Reverse Sea Sword is the Sword of the Superior Disciple of the Hun Kun Holy Sect. If a non-Sect disciple holds the sword, they can also enter the Zong Ze's Dao Field and listen to the Dao... Due to this convenience, many Masters strive for even a drop of Eternal Rain just to forge this sword and gain entry to the Sect to listen to the Dao...]

As he walked along the path, how could Ning Fan not know that the so-called Hun Kun Holy Sect is an immensely powerful force within the three Great Realms? But he had little concept of its exact magnitude, knowing little, which is why he had this question.

"You haven't heard of the Hun Kun Holy Sect? Nor do you know what the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique is?" Emperor Butcher was quite surprised.

"I don't know..."

"Aren't you a descendant of the Ancestral Demon of the East? Didn't your elders tell you about these things?"

"Are there descendants of the Ancestral Demon of the East? I am not a descendant of this lineage and have never heard any news about the descendants of the Ancestral Demon of the East..."

"Then where did you learn the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique from?"

"Due to certain circumstances and by chance, I managed to learn the Body Sealing Technique, Secret Art of Prestige, and Momentum Character Secret of the Ancestral Demon of the East. By integrating them, I was able to develop the true form of the current Heaven Sealing Art. Moreover, I didn't know that this Heaven Sealing Art had another name called the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique..."

"Not knowing anything, you managed to explore this technique to its current form by yourself, you truly are a freak!"

The Emperor Butcher was filled with emotion, but then recalled that Ning Fan was one of the few who achieved Unity of Heaven and Man, and felt relieved. Such cultivators like Ning Fan were among the most insightful people among heaven and earth, and it wasn't impossible for someone like him to explore the Heaven Sealing Art on their own through serendipity and chance.

"I was concerned about what the girl previously said. Why does the girl refer to my Heaven Sealing Art as the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique? And why mention the name Hun Kun Holy Sect? The girl also said that the Ancestral Emperor from the Eastern Heaven allegedly learned the Heaven Sealing Art by stealing... What does that mean?" Ning Fan asked with a frown.

"You have too many questions; let me answer them one by one. Starting with the Hun Kun Holy Sect, you should know that there are three Great Realms in total, right? The size of the true realms is far beyond what our current Dreamland Realm can compare to. If you were to say that the four heavens and nine worlds you foreign cultivators inhabit, along with the Immortal Demon World, the Ancient Demon Abyss, and our Dabei Clan's Supreme Pill Sacred Domain, and many other broken interfaces, combine to form the once complete Dreamland Realm. In the past, when the Dreamland Realm was intact, the demon race, demon race, and gods weren't separated by barriers but coexisted in the same world. Of course, in this shared world, there weren't just the three races of gods, demons, and demons, but numerous small groups like our Dabei Clan and various real realm remnants now living in the crevices of the Four Heavens Boundary River..."

"But even the previously complete Dreamland Realm is nothing but a grain of sand in the Ganges compared to the true realm, extremely insignificant."

"The vastness of the true realm is beyond your imagination. In my dreams, I've seen that even an immortal emperor-level expert flying tirelessly without rest, exerting their life-long strength, cannot traverse even a corner of the Three Great Realms..."

"The boundless true realm makes it impossible for even a second-step cultivator to fully comprehend how many living beings and forces exist within a true realm..."

"For us Dreamland Realm cultivators, a Third Step Saint is a legend, and a Fourth Step Immortal Emperor is someone so far beyond comprehension. But do you know that even Saints and most Immortal Emperors in the true realm dare not easily offend the Hun Kun Holy Sect? Its overall force even surpasses the most prosperous time of the Zi Dou Immortal Domain! And there is a legend that even Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign, a peak force among the immortal emperors, was subdued by the great powers of the Hun Kun Holy Sect before attaining Dao, suppressed beneath the Buddha Mountain for five hundred eras before being released upon serving his sentence..."

The Hun Kun Holy Sect... A force that not even Saints and most Immortal Emperors dare to offend... A legend that Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign was once suppressed for five hundred cycles before achieving Dao...

Ning Fan listened as if hearing a story, engrossed in the tale. On one hand, he was amazed by the strength of the Hun Kun Holy Sect, but on the other hand, he felt that the story told by Emperor Butcher

was too far removed from him, lacking a sense of reality, and held little reverence for this Hun Kun Holy Sect.

"You seem relaxed; I said so much, and you're not even a bit nervous or scared?" Emperor Butcher was somewhat speechless seeing Ning Fan engrossed.

"Why should I be nervous? What is there to be afraid of?" Ning Fan asked, puzzled.

"If I told you that your Heaven Sealing Art has many issues, and you might even be erased by the Hun Kun Holy Sect at some point in the future due to it, wouldn't you be afraid?"

"What do you mean! What is wrong with the Heaven Sealing Art? Could it be..." Ning Fan recalled the words 'learned by stealing' from Emperor Butcher earlier, and couldn't help but have some suspicion.

"As I mentioned earlier, the Heaven Sealing Art of the Ancestral Demon of the East wasn't entirely his own creation. I once overheard some disciples of the Hun Kun Holy Sect talking in a dream, mentioning that the signature Divine Skill of the Hun Kun Holy Sect is the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique. And the Ancestral Demon of the East was once a titular apprentice of the Hun Kun Holy Sect, expelled for secretly learning this technique. At that time, the Ancestral Demon of the East hadn't completely learned the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique, only a little bit, but his insight was astonishing. By relying solely on his insight, he fused the stolen parts of the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique and created his own Heaven Sealing Art... Do you know how the Ancestral Demon of the East died?"

"I once dreamt... of such a scene! A Saint from the Hun Kun Holy Sect, from a pool called the Cause and Effect Pond, reached across the infinite distance between the true realm and the Dreamland Realm, directly pulling out the Demon Soul of the Ancestral Demon of the East from the water, and annihilated it within the Sect!"

"The crime that led to the death of the Ancestral Demon of the East was due to the Heaven Sealing Art! Back then, the Ancestral Demon of the East's attempt to learn the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique failed, and he narrowly escaped death. But this time, he created the Heaven Sealing Art, giving the technique some semblance of the Reincarnation-Fixing Technique. This violated the prohibition of the Hun Kun Holy Sect, and he couldn't escape death! Subsequently, that Saint even fished out many of the Ancestral Demon of the East's descendants from the Cause and Effect Pond! All the descendants he fished out, without exception, had already mastered the complete Heaven Sealing Art and were all eliminated! As for the descendants of the Ancestral Demon of the East who hadn't mastered it completely, they were spared out of pity... Now, aren't you afraid? Nervous yet?"

The Emperor Butcher sighed slightly, casting a glance at Ning Fan.

If what she saw in her dream was not an illusion, then once Ning Fan mastered the complete Heaven Sealing Art, there was a high possibility that one day in the future, he would be erased from existence by the Hunkun Holy Sect, far away in the True World, using the same Great Divine Power...

Even if this was the Dreamland Realm created by the Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign, incredibly distant from the True World, there was no possibility of survival!

At this moment, Ning Fan's expression finally changed.

Traversing countless distances between the True World and the Dreamland Realm, to annihilate the Ancestral Demon of the East and his numerous descendants... Is this truly possible!

Isn't this the Dreamland Realm created by the Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign!

Didn't the Eye Orb Monster say that the coordinate of this Dreamland Realm was so secret that even the Taicang Calamity Spirit Clan couldn't uncover its details!

Yet, the outcome was that the Ancestral Demon of the East was killed, slain by a saint from the Hunkun Holy Sect far away in the True World...

The crime was... mastering the complete Heaven Sealing Art!

Ning Fan deeply understood that his current Heaven Sealing Art could only be considered partially mastered. At present, all he could do was combine the Body Sealing Technique, the Momentum Character Secret, and the Secret Art of Prestige, but compared to the Ancestral Demon of the East's complete Heaven Sealing Art, it was still missing something important...

Previously, Ning Fan didn't know what his Heaven Sealing Art was missing, but now he could make a guess. It was certainly something related to the principles of reincarnation. After all, the Ancestral Demon of the East's complete Heaven Sealing Art had incorporated some principles from the

Reincarnation-Fixing Technique, and these principles related to reincarnation were not currently possessed in Ning Fan's Heaven Sealing Art.

One could say that the Heaven Sealing Art he had learned was not yet complete.

If one day, he learned the art to its fullest and grasped the essence of reincarnation, wouldn't that mean the eradication from the Hunkun Holy Sect would follow?

If it weren't for the Emperor Butcher's warning today, with his aptitude, he would most likely, one day in the future, thoroughly perfect the reincarnation part of the Heaven Sealing Art. The consequence... would likely be inevitable death.

That was the formidable Hunkun Holy Sect that even most Immortal Emperors in the True World feared!

Reflecting further, ever since he ascended to the Eastern Heaven, though he acted in secrecy, the matter of him knowing the Ancestral Emperor from the Eastern Heaven's secret technique couldn't possibly go unnoticed by any Eastern Heaven Great Emperor.

Despite it being such a powerful secret technique, not a single Great Emperor had ever plotted against him to seize this technique...

Perhaps, those Eastern Heaven Great Emperors were wiser, refraining from coveting this technique precisely because they didn't want to follow in the footsteps of the Ancestral Demon of the East...

"Let this technique end here; do not attempt to perfect it further. Once you master it fully, your death will arrive. Never harbor any hope of getting lucky, you should know how grave a crime it is to secretly learn and alter a supreme art of a sect. Not to mention Hunkun Holy Sect, even across all sects worldwide, none would tolerate the dissemination of their secret techniques." The Emperor Butcher warned.

"I understand. Before I possess the strength to rival the Hunkun Holy Sect, I will not attempt to master this technique to completion." Ning Fan remained silent for a moment before responding.

"Try to use it sparingly, and if possible, never use it again! This art, after all, is entangled with the cause and effect of the Hunkun Holy Sect. Using this technique often will do you no good!"

"I... understand."

"As long as you understand, my warnings are prompted by a concern for my cooperative partner. Now, it's getting late, so I'll gouge out an eye and give it to you."

Slash!

The sound of a fingernail piercing through flesh! The sound of a fingernail forcibly digging out an eyeball!

The Emperor Butcher nonchalantly gouged out her left eye, and surprisingly, not a single drop of blood was shed, evidently indicating that the act of eye-gouging lay within her abilities.

After gouging out her left eye, she closed her left eye, keeping her right eye open, and handed the warm left eye to Ning Fan.

Ning Fan spoke with slight speechlessness, "You seem to really not care for your body."

First she cut her flesh to feed the Heavenly Dog, and now she casually gouges out her left eye, as if it were a game... This woman does not know how to cherish herself, concluded Ning Fan, reflecting on her various deeds.

"The physical body is merely a shell; the Spirit is fundamental. Protecting the Spirit is enough; there's no need to cherish a mere shell. In any case, I would never harm my Spirit; as for my body, it's of no consequence." The Emperor Butcher replied indifferently.

"As long as you're happy..."

Ning Fan refrained from debating about the importance of the physical body versus the Spirit with the Emperor Butcher and carefully put away her left eye, seriously inquiring about the use of the Pig Face Treasure Box.

Afterwards, he executed a spirit sense on the Pig Face Treasure Box in his hand, chanting softly, "Prajna Paramita!"

This was clearly the mantra to activate this treasure box.

As the mantra was recited, the pig face on the treasure box suddenly emitted millions of strands of moonlight, sweeping around majestically.

About half a stick of incense's time passed before the pig face took a sharp breath, absorbing back all the moonlight into its mouth and then letting out a burp.

"This way, the timeline here is locked by this treasure box. If something truly unforeseen happened to you, you could reverse time and return to this place. But I must remind you that the use of this treasure box is not unlimited. Within one day, you are allowed to resurrect only ten times, which means you can die at most ten times in the depths of the Yellow Springs. Do you remember?"

"I remember."

Having noted down the timeline, Ning Fan then put the Pig Face Treasure Box into his bosom, before jumping from the ship into the Yellow Springs Great Sea.

After a stick of incense's time, a muffled groan echoed from the depths of the seabed.

Subsequently, the entire world was swept clean by moonlight, and everything began to rewind...

Ning Fan died for the first time...

Chapter 1049: Call Me Grandpa... Let Me Hear It

Ning Fan never expected that the dangers beneath the Netherworld Great Sea were even more intense than he imagined, even though he activated the God-Extinguishing Shield's body-protecting golden light the moment he entered the sea, he still met his demise...

What surprised him even more was that this ragged Pig Face Treasure Box actually reversed time, returning him to the moment he leapt into the Netherworld before his death.

So, time reversal was real...

It turns out that once Divine Skills are powerful to a certain extent, they can indeed defy the heavens...

Before jumping into the Netherworld Great Sea, Ning Fan was somewhat skeptical of the power of this Pig Face Treasure Box, but now he had no doubt about it.

Simultaneously, Ning Fan could also feel that after using the time reversal, the power of the Will of the Saint within the Pig Face Treasure Box had diminished somewhat, evidently having been consumed...

"With this, the time point here has been set by the treasure box. If you truly encounter an accident, you can reverse time and return to this place. But I must remind you, the use of this treasure box is not without limitations. You can only resurrect ten times within one day, which means you can only die up to ten times in these Netherworld depths. Do you remember?"

Oh, this was the reminder Emperor Butcher gave him before he jumped into the Netherworld. Because of the time reversal, Emperor Butcher told him once again...

"I've remembered, but... it seems that I only have nine time reversal usages left within my remaining day..." Ning Fan replied helplessly.

"What! Could it be that you've already reversed time once?" Emperor Butcher slightly startled, then frowned and asked, "The Buddhist Scriptures record that beneath the Netherworld Great Sea, there are a total of nine Nether Palaces. This Netherworld is not complete, only a part of it, and below seems to be only one Jiuyou Palace. Have you found that Nether Palace, and could you locate the item I need there?"

Ning Fan pondered, recalling that upon his first death, he seemed to have reached an ancient palace at the sea bottom. The plaque of the palace seemed to be inscribed with ancient god script, spelling 'Secluded Palace.' After contemplating, he replied.

"I did find the palace, but I hadn't entered yet before being killed by a group of formidable ghosts. With all my defensive skills, I couldn't fend off their attacks... As for the item you seek, I have not found it yet. According to the indications your left eye gave me, the item should be inside the palace..."

"So it is inside the palace, just as seen in the dream... What should we do now? Are you going to take a rest or shall you immediately re-enter the Netherworld to search?" Emperor Butcher queried.

"No need to rest, this treasure box is quite mysterious. After reversing time, I have fully recovered to my state before entering the Netherworld, with abundant mana, no need for rest."

"Very well, this time, be cautious. Although this treasure box can aid in reversing time, it is not something to be used without limit. Furthermore, if you encounter suppression by the power of the Third Step, you cannot reverse time. I don't know if there is a force in this Netherworld capable of

suppressing this treasure box, yet it cannot be ruled out. Consider this treasure box as the last resort on your deathbed, but do not rely on it. Do you understand?" Emperor Butcher solemnly reminded.

"Understood, I definitely won't overuse this treasure box as long as I can avoid dying! In case the treasure box malfunctions, haha, then there would be no chance to live again..."

Seeing that Ning Fan took her advice to heart, Emperor Butcher nodded with satisfaction.

Ning Fan then transformed his breathing into embryonic breathing and jumped into the Netherworld Great Sea once again.

Even though this was already the second time jumping into this sea, the coldness of the seawater still made Ning Fan involuntarily shiver. Furthermore, at the moment he leapt into the sea, a powerful restrictive force on the sea surface immediately activated, and in an instant, the seemingly dead-silent seawater erupted with a tsunami-like impact, the excruciating feeling penetrating his soul, spreading throughout his entire body.

This restrictive force would hinder all entering masters, with the strength of the restriction varying greatly depending on the level of the cultivations, generally one tier higher than the sea entrant.

If a master above the level of Immortal Emperor jumped into the sea, the restrictive force of the seawater could become strong enough to obstruct a Quasi-Saint! If a Quasi-Saint entered, the restrictive force could strengthen to the Third Step level, causing Quasi-Saints to panic and not dare to venture in!

With Ning Fan's cultivation, entering this sea generated a restrictive force capable of blasting away an Immortal King. Fortunately, he immediately activated the God-Extinguishing Shield's protective golden

light to barely resist the surrounding seawater's restrictive force with this defense far surpassing his own level.

In this world, there are not few masters who can challenge higher levels, but those who can reach Ning Fan's level of surpassing are rare. Even characters like Emperor Butcher and Supreme Ox Demon cannot contend with seawater restrictions one tier higher than their own cultivations. If not for this, Emperor Butcher wouldn't have had to specifically enlist Ning Fan's help, as no one else could accomplish this task, and only Ning Fan gave her a glimmer of hope.

Now, Ning Fan perfectly responded to her expectations, successfully reaching the Netherworld sea bottom, further solidifying her belief that the effort along the way was not in vain, but was worthwhile.

Under the protection of the golden light, Ning Fan continuously dove toward the depths of the Netherworld. As he delved deeper, the surrounding seawater gradually shifted from light yellow to dark yellow, and eventually even acquired an oily and sticky sensation.

After an incense stick's worth of time, Ning Fan dived to the bottom of the Yellow Springs Sea. Guided by the faint sensing from the Emperor Butcher's left eye in his arms, he proceeded in a certain direction at the sea bottom. All around him was the oily yellow seawater, making visibility exceedingly low. Even his spirit sense was greatly suppressed here and couldn't spread very far, at most twenty zhangs. This was the result of Ning Fan's greatly advanced spirit sense. If it had been at his prior level of an average Immortal Venerable, he would have been blindly stumbling around, unable to see anything after entering the seabed.

Not far away, the coral reefs stood towering as peaks. Under the embrace of numerous coral peaks, a submarine valley was formed. In the valley, an ancient palace stood, with a plaque inscribed with the three ancient god characters 'Secluded Palace'. The jade-railing carvings outside the hall still stood but were mostly severely damaged, seemingly destroyed by the flames of war. Hundreds of ancient corpses lay on the ground, some intact, some incomplete, all decayed to mere white bones. Even the bones had fossilized, making it impossible to ascertain the cultivations of these ancient cultivators from their skeletons.

Fragments of magical treasures and weapons were scattered all over, all corroded into scrap iron. There were also numerous battle flags, lying scattered around, long decayed to the point of disintegrating at a touch. Yet, the ancient god script embroidered on the flags could still be vaguely discerned.

Hunkun Nethersea Sect... Without exception, the battle flags here all bore these five words.

Upon seeing the words Hunkun again, Ning Fan couldn't remain indifferent. He secretly speculated that these ancient cultivators, during their lifetimes, should have been Real Realms residents, possibly closely linked to the Hunkun Holy Sect...

However, speculations remained mere supposition, as no evidence could be gleaned from the ruins scattered everywhere.

Ning Fan's gaze turned towards the palace itself, unusually heavy. The first time he entered the Netherworld, he died inside this palace. Though the palace appeared devoid of life, if one set foot inside even half a step, a large number of ghosts would rush out from within.

Those ghosts were particularly skilled at illusion attacks, and this was precisely the God-Extinguishing Shield's blind spot, unable to counter it. Despite the God-Extinguishing Shield's strong defenses, its protection was limited to physical and spell attacks, with no recourse against illusions, which fall under the category of mental attacks.

Because of this, even though Ning Fan previously activated the God-Extinguishing Shield, he was still killed by the ghosts in the palace. If it weren't for the time reversal of the Pig Face Treasure Box, his existence would have already been erased from the world!

"If I had not overlooked previously, in one glimpse, a total of seven hundred and six ghosts rushed out from the palace. This number precisely matches the number of skeletons outside the palace. This should not be a coincidence. Those ghosts are likely formed from the dead ancient cultivators outside the palace. It also seems that the power of the seawater's constraint in the Yellow Springs only affects me, while the ghosts remain unaffected, moving freely..."

This time, Ning Fan did not rush into the palace but instead assessed his surroundings.

The Emperor Butcher's left eye in his arms emitted a faint sensing towards the Secluded Palace, as if something inside was attracting it closer...

It should be what the Emperor Butcher was seeking.

"The God-Extinguishing Shield can block the baneful force of the seawater on me but cannot stop the illusion attacks of those ghosts. As such, I can only counter their illusions with my own illusory powers..."

"Seven hundred and six ghosts, none at the Immortal Venerable level, the highest cultivation being the Fate Immortal Enlightenment level, with not much spirit awareness. Yet, each ghost possesses spirit sense as powerful as an Eternal Immortal Venerable! Seven hundred and six Immortal Venerable spirit senses jointly deploying illusions, forget me, even an Immortal Emperor would be unable to withstand their combined illusion attack head-on! A frontal breakthrough is impossible. The only solution is to defeat them piecemeal... The question is, how to divide them..."

As Ning Fan was pondering, the treasure box in his arms suddenly oinked and then laughed mischievously, "Hey, my new master seems to be in trouble, do you need your second grandpa to teach you a way to deal with these Tianhe River Ghosts?"

"Tianhe River Ghosts? Are you referring to the ghosts within the palace?" Ning Fan turned his hand and took the lewd Pig Face Jade Box out from his arms, frowning and asking.

"Tianhe River Ghosts? Oh dear, did second grandpa say that? No, no, no, I meant dealing with these Yellow Springs Water Ghosts, not Tianhe River Ghosts, you misheard..." The Pig Face Jade Box suddenly changed its tune, looking all mysterious.

Ning Fan gave the pig face a long look but couldn't be bothered to pursue it, just lightly said, "You have a way to deal with these water ghosts?"

"Of course, who is your second grandpa? Before returning to the Lost World Palace, second grandpa was a marshal of the water army of the Yellow Springs... commanding nine great rivers... commanding the Jiuyou water army, as glorious as one can be, as dashing as one can be, as..."

"Speak to the point, how to deal with these water ghosts?" Ning Fan interrupted the Pig-Faced Box Spirit impatiently, while secretly speculating about the origins of this box spirit.

"How about we make a deal? I can teach you how to deal with these water ghosts, but first, you must kneel and call me 'second grandpa' three times, then give me five hundred taels of Heavenly Dao Silver camellia, and give me ten or eight beauties to enjoy, and..."

Before the Pig Face could finish all its conditions, Ning Fan directly furrowed his brows and, as per the directions from the Emperor Butcher, punched the pig face, turning it black and blue, sending it denting into the box surface.

Kneeling... This pig face's joke seemed a bit too much.

Then, the pig face popped out again, brazenly laughing, "Rude, really rude! It's a pity it doesn't hurt, not one bit! You can't hurt me, I'm formed from Dao Source Power, impervious to harm! Even if you destroy the jade box, I won't perish with it, at most just lose my abode! Haha, Master Qing Ling's way to deal with me isn't effective!"

Sure enough, he was not mistaken... this Pig-Faced Box Spirit is quite special. It wasn't formed by the magical treasure itself but was artificially condensed by the Dao Source Power...

Ning Fan recalled the Phantom of Yin Phoenix in the Liangyi Square Seal, which was condensed from the Dao Source Power and is hard for anything to harm; he also remembered the time when the Origin Bridge appeared, and Bridge God Gu Jiang, relying on the power of the Dao Source projection, was extremely arrogant towards him...

Dao Source, the origin of the Great Dao, is power above the Great Dao Laws!

An entity condensed by the Dao Source Power is difficult for anything to harm. However, this doesn't mean it will absolutely not get hurt, it's just that in the realms of the Second Step, very few can achieve this.

And the Pig-Faced Box Spirit, the Dao Source Power used during its condensation is unimaginably pure, making its Dao Source Spirit Body even harder to damage than regular Dao Source entities! Even a Quasi-Saint can't harm it!

Before encountering Ning Fan, the Pig-Faced Box Spirit's previous masters were always unable to subdue it, which fostered its flamboyant and arrogant personality step by step. Despite calling all the masters as master-servants, it never held any of them in respect in its heart.

Speaking insolently was just a common occurrence. If the master was a woman, this lustful Pig-Faced Box Spirit would have teased even more.

What does it matter if I speak unkindly! Can you hurt your second grandfather!

The most you could do is pretend to destroy this treasure box to scare me! To me, it is nothing more than losing a place to reside; such a trivial place to reside can be found again! To you, however, it's losing a great treasure—would you be willing to destroy it? Even if willing, what difference does destroying the treasure box make! Your second grandfather will not perish along with the box! Hahaha!

Your second grandfather is invincible!

Second grandfather will do as he pleases!

"Young one, it's not right to resort to violence indiscriminately; only coarse people do that. Are you coarse? Oh, you actually are! But second grandfather is not! Second grandfather is a famously talented man, a cultured person! Second grandfather won't be rough with you; he will reason with you.

Nevermind, you really want to hit me, right? Then go ahead, come and hit! If you can hurt me even a bit, second grandfather will take your surname!"

"You can't, can you! Haha, I knew you couldn't! How could you be so ungrateful, being such a big person? Second grandfather kindly wanted to help you, yet you directly punched second grandfather's face. Coarse, really coarse!"

"If being kind and helpful requires me to kneel and call you three times as second grandfather! I don't know how your previous masters tolerated you, but I'm different, you better restrain yourself before me. I don't need unwavering loyalty or reverence as if I am a deity, but if you can't even show basic respect, then I don't mind destroying you here." Ning Fan said calmly.

"Haha, young one's words are not small. You think you can hurt me? Destroy me, haha, what an ignorant lad... I've changed my mind! Just now it was calling three times, now I'm raising the price, you have to call twenty times, no... call fifty times! Haha, this is the consequence of offending your second grandfather! If you want me to help you, show some sincerity! If you don't call, I won't help you; without my help, you'll struggle against those Yellow Springs Water Ghosts..."

"I've given you a chance." Ning Fan smiled faintly, seemingly harmless, making the Pig-Faced Spirit underestimate Ning Fan even more.

However, if Wu Laoba were here, he certainly wouldn't think like the Pig-Faced one. Because Wu Laoba knows deeply that whenever Ning Fan smiles like that, he is definitely about to take ruthless action!

"Haha, give me a chance? Don't say it like you can hurt me, you..."

As the Pig Face was boasting, suddenly its expression stiffened, feeling intense pain in an instant, with a scream its expression significantly changed. Look! Ning Fan was holding the treasure box with his left hand, his right hand's forefinger condensed a faint sword ray, and he leisurely and gracefully slashed a finger sword towards the treasure box as if dipping a camellia petal in water.

This finger sword did not possess world-destroying power; after slashing through the treasure box, it even left not a scratch on it, just passed right through.

Yet this finger sword directly and accurately slashed its Dao Source Spirit Body, almost splitting its Dao Source Spirit Body into two!

The pain of this sword is indescribable!

The terror of this sword is indescribable!

The Pig-Faced Box stared aghast as it realized its Dao Source Spirit Body, supposedly hard for anything to harm, was collapsing frantically under this seemingly light-hearted sword ray, unstoppable!

Even the previous master of the Supreme Ox Demon couldn't do this; after all, its Dao Source Spirit Body isn't just any regular Dao Source condensation! Yet this lad injured its Dao Source Spirit Body with mere Immortal Venerable cultivation level! This... how is it possible!

It will die!

Really will die!

Nemesis!

Today, second grandfather met his nemesis!

"S-s-s-stop! A-a-are you stopping! I-if you dare destroy m-my spirit body, m-my senior brother absolutely won't let you off!"

Pig Face stammered in fright, regaining a bit of confidence at just the thought of his senior brother, gritting his teeth and saying,

"Tell you, my senior brother is super powerful! His staff is super hard, just one staff can poke you up to the heavens... he..."

Hiss hiss hiss!

The response to Pig Face was the continuous ripping sound of the spirit body, the ongoing sound of the sword ray tearing through!

Ning Fan couldn't care less about how powerful Pig Face's senior brother might be, tonight he would subdue this box spirit entirely!

Hence, before the spirit body completely collapsed, Pig Face finally chickened out. Man is the knife, I am the fish, alas, alas!

"Kid, you win! Stop! I promise to help you! I won't set conditions with you!"

"Hey! Why aren't you stopping! Second grandfather has already conceded to you, what more do you want!"

"Do not bully the Pig too much!"

"You keep pushing me, and I'll have to explode!"

"Y-y-y-you... no, no! The spirit is really about to split in two! Master I got it wrong! You quickly stop, quickly stop! I call you grandpa, even call grandpa a hundred times, a thousand times! Grandpa have mercy!"

The treasure box spirit, acting like a king until just now, finally cowered, feeling the threat of death close for the first time in countless years.

In the depths of despair, an old saying involuntarily surfaced.

Retribution for good and evil, the Heavenly Dao likes reincarnation. Look up in disbelief, who does the heavens spare...

Ning Fan finally withdrew his hand, smiling, "Do you know what to do in the future."

"I know, Grandpa! Thank you, Grandpa, for sparing me! You are my real grandpa, you are..."

"Just call me master!" Ning Fan frowned and said.

"Yes yes yes! Master, call me master!"

Pig Face humbly and respectfully yielded.

Chapter 1050: A Military Order as Weighty as a Mountain

As the saying goes, villains are best dealt with by villains themselves. The Pig-Faced Box Spirit is not a good character, but for Ning Fan, this isn't much of a problem.

Ning Fan has subdued many footmen, most of whom are ruffians. Dispelling Demon Datou, Heiyun Wulao Ba, Candle Bow Spirit... Now, there's yet another Pig-Faced Box Spirit.

To deal with ruffians, he has extensive experience; it's nothing more than a blend of grace and power.

The power, Ning Fan has already displayed to the Pig-Faced Box Spirit, at least on the surface, this Pig-Faced Box Spirit is subdued.

As for grace, there's no need to rush. The immediate priority is to use the power of this Pig-Faced Box Spirit to eliminate the water ghosts here.

Now that Pig Face has shown such tameness, Ning Fan took the chance to ease his hand and asked.

"Speak, what means do you have to deal with the water ghosts here?" The voice still carried a subtle coldness, making the Pig Face shiver.

He was severely injured by Ning Fan's sword finger and almost perished, now lucky to preserve his life. His fear of Ning Fan had risen to unprecedented heights. Facing Ning Fan, how dare he show any disrespect? Afraid of saying anything wrong and angering this star of misfortune once again, he anxiously answered,

"Master may not know, though the Water of the Yellow Springs nourishes ghost souls, ghost creatures born of it have tremendous weaknesses. Others may not know of these weaknesses, but having once been part of the Yellow Springs Navy, I know them well! I know at least ten ways to lure and kill these water ghosts, though they all require quite a bit of time. Of course, if the Master simply wishes to enter the palace rather than kill all the ghosts, I have an easier way. In fact... just let me perform a little spell, and with a command, these water ghosts will directly retreat, daring not to block the Master's path..."

Ning Fan's eyes narrowed immediately.

A command, and numerous water ghosts directly retreat? Once part of the Yellow Springs Navy? What was Pig Face's origin...

"Is this true? Can you really accomplish this?"

"...How dare I deceive the Master! Before Reincarnation, I managed the Yellow Springs Nine Nether, thus knowing these water ghosts thoroughly. Dealing with them is naturally not difficult! Just place this precious box outside the palace door, then step back a bit, and watch how I scare away these water ghosts, clearing the path for the Master!"

Pig Face assured confidently, eager to prove his worth.

He understood well that he had offended Ning Fan; though Ning Fan had temporarily spared him, this was not secure assurance, and Ning Fan might settle the score later. Only by achieving accomplishments to compensate could Pig Face feel some safety. To protect himself now, he genuinely wished to exert his utmost efforts to help Ning Fan.

"If you really have this ability, I would like to see it."

After a moment of silence, Ning Fan finally followed the instructions, approaching the palace step by step. Once ten paces from the gate, Ning Fan stopped advancing, placing the jade box on the ground, then stepped back slightly.

Seeing Ning Fan had withdrawn a sufficient distance, Pig Face took a deep breath and transformed into a beam of green light, flying out from the jade box, landing on the ground as a stout wild boar spirit.

This wild boar spirit had a black face and short hair, ears as big as fans, yet wore a flamboyantly bright red wedding outfit, a black hat with gold leaves on both sides, remarkably like a bridegroom.

If this groom's costume was worn by Ning Fan, it might still have some refined elegance, but on a pig spirit, it appeared utterly ridiculous.

This pig spirit's attire was exceedingly tacky. A gold belt wrapped around his waist, a circle of glaring golden Buddha beads hung around his neck, twenty beads in total, all egg-sized. Every finger bore gem-studded rings. When he grinned, even his teeth were golden...

Somewhat tacky...

Ning Fan was slightly speechless. Just by the attire, it's clear he's a premium kind, seemingly similar to Datou, Wulao Ba, Candle Bow Spirit...

"Little one Zhu Er, pays respect to Master!" The wild boar spirit bowed to Ning Fan, not daring to lift his head too high, scarcely daring to breathe too loudly, clearly fearing Ning Fan.

"Is Zhu Er your real name?"

"Yes, yes, I am called Zhu Er, and I won't change my name sitting or standing!" Zhu Er's eyes seemed a bit guilty but stubbornly insisted.

Ning Fan could easily tell that this pig spirit was lying; Zhu Er was certainly an alias, but he was too lazy to explore further. He wasn't interested in the true name of the pig spirit, only gave a calm command.

"Then, you may begin to disperse the water ghosts here."

"Uh, that, that... Master, could you first disperse the Sword Qi within my body? Frightening! Master's Divine Skills are truly terrifying! Even the slight remaining Sword Qi within me is beyond my full strength to resist. With this Sword Qi interfering, my spirit body can't be mended. That, that... I am confident to command these water ghosts to retreat, but there's a precondition requiring a particular secret technique, which may lack success if the spirit body is damaged... Master, would you consider..."

Zhu Er stammered and pleaded, pitifully rubbing his pig waist.

Earlier, Ning Fan's sword finger had caused such severe injury that Zhu Er's spirit body's connection between upper and lower parts was practically severed in two, leaving only a thin thread still connected.

Speaking of it, Zhu Er is quite capable; the wound can actually repair itself, something other Artifact Spirits cannot do. But because the Sword Qi left by Ning Fan wreaks havoc within him, the repair makes no progress, as it's continually disrupted and endlessly cyclical...

Unless Ning Fan removes the lingering Sword Qi in his body, Zhu Er would be able to restore the completeness of his spirit form; that's exactly what he's seeking now.

Ning Fan didn't say much; he casually drew out strands of hazy white Sword Qi from a distance within the pig spirit's body.

The pig spirit rejoiced greatly. Once his body was emptied of Sword Qi, he immediately activated his Divine Skills, and the break in his spirit form quickly restored to its original state with a sizzle.

"Hahaha, Grandpa Er is restored!"

The pig spirit, in high spirits, wanted to roar with pride; but realizing the inappropriateness when dealing with the new master, he opted for restraint. Thus, midway through his roar, he altered his words to, "Oh ho ho, Zhu Xia Er is restored! Finally, I can show off a full-bodied performance for the master!"

Ning Fan couldn't help but twitch his lips.

Fake, so fake... Such hypocrisy, such seriousness mixed with nonsense, rivals that of Wu Laoba. It seems Zhu Er isn't really foolish, just accustomed to arrogance; should he face an irresistible adversary, he's surely capable of adapting...

"Can we now commence the spell to dispel the water ghosts here? If I'm not mistaken, your spirit form seems unable to leave this box for long..."

"Wow, master with keen insight can tell this in one glance! Among all the Masters I've encountered in my life, master's vision ranks first!" Zhu Er feigned shock, showering with flattery.

"...How high does one's vision need to be to see through this? Cut the nonsense and get to the task!"
Ning Fan said speechlessly.

"Understood!"

Zhu Er replied respectfully but wondered internally.

Perhaps not flattering for many years had made him rusty? Otherwise, why did his flattery fail to move Ning Fan even slightly...

It seems he's been accustomed to being a boss and finds it hard to revert to being a subordinate... Oh, it looks like he needs to find a chance to hone this skill again.

Fully aware Ning Fan was in a hurry, Zhu Er dared not waste any more time, formed a spirit sense with his hands, chanting incantations with effort, and suddenly the once dead sea water began to surge, manifesting... water waves!

The waves initially moved extremely slowly, gradually accelerating over time, until they were strong enough that Ning Fan found it difficult to stand firm.

Yet Zhu Er, amidst the swaying waves, remained steadfast like Mountain Tai, calmly repeated incantations continuously casting spells. As an Artifact Spirit Body, he carried not a trace of cultivatory aura, yet his display of power left Ning Fan unguarded.

In the sea waves, gradually appeared a blue luminescence, extraordinarily radiant amidst the dim and murky sea bottom, akin to stars in a nighttime sky.

The luminescence initially barely perceptible, suddenly burgeoned at a certain moment, sweeping through the area, manifested a fragrant altar adorned with fruits within the glow.

Zhu Er bowed three times toward the altar, chanting phrases like 'Protection of the Three Pure Ones' and 'Disciple sincerely requests the saints descend'.

Hearing this, Ning Fan's first reaction thought Zhu Er was employing some spell akin to a Summoning Technique to invite the avatar of a powerful being. Listening to the words, astonishingly they were associated with 'saint', could it be that he's summoning a Saint!

Is this possible?

Will a legendary Saint appear in such an illusory realm as Dreamland Realm?

If a Saint indeed descends, what then...

Or is it simply a slogan, a mere incantation, nothing more...

Ning Fan has no clear grasp of Zhu Er's specific background, but judging from current information, Zhu Er is at least a powerful entity of the real realms, once guarding the true Yellow Springs Nine Nether.

Such Zhu Er, fully focused on executing this spell—what kind of impact will it render!

Will something dramatic unfold here!

Boom!

As Ning Fan's nerves were tense, surprisingly, the blue glow surrounding Zhu Er exploded.

After the explosion, the original incense table disappeared without a trace, replaced by the rather embarrassed Yang Zhu who was blown away by the green light...

"Impossible, impossible! Could it be that my skills have become rusty, and I actually failed to cast the spell!" Yang Zhu rubbed the smoldering mane on his head, looking utterly incredulous.

Ning Fan was speechless once again. To think he truly believed a Saint would arrive, preparing for a great enemy, only to have Yang Zhu cause such an explosion...

"Can you do it or not? If you can't dispel the water ghosts here, just say so!" Ning Fan said impatiently.

"Uh, it's just a small mistake, master. Rest assured, next time I will succeed, definitely!"

One stick of incense later...

Boom! Explosion!

Two hours later...

Boom! Boom! Explosions one after another!

Three hours later...

Yang Zhu had already failed in casting the spell dozens of times, and his entire spirit body emitted a faint scorched smell.

Ning Fan sighed, feeling somewhat foolish for giving Yang Zhu so many chances to try.

If it weren't for Ning Fan seeing Yang Zhu's extremely serious attitude towards casting spells, he would almost think Yang Zhu was deliberately finding fault and intentionally failing the spells.

"Can you do it or not..." After a long silence, Ning Fan spoke.

"Master, give me one last chance, I can definitely do it!" Yang Zhu said with his heart in his mouth.

"If it's really not possible, using other methods to kill all the water ghosts here is fine too! Your method hasn't saved me much time."

"Really, the last time, give me one last chance, good master, my good master..."

"...One last time."

"Yes, the last time! I've started to understand why the spell failed, it's not because of me, but due to changes in the world... So that's it, so that's it..."

Yang Zhu summoned the incense table again, causing the green light here to burst forth once more.

The intensity of that green light kept rising, gradually approaching the critical point the seawater here could withstand. Once exceeded, it would explode again!

But this time, when the intensity of the green light rose to its limit, Yang Zhu suddenly changed, and with a change in his gestures, the green light suddenly began to contract and condense, little by little forming an incomparably large green ring!

That ring continuously emitted a heart-palpating pressure, and soon, stepped out from the ring was the figure of an elder shrouded in green light, standing with his hands behind his back, facing the direction of the Secluded Palace.

The giant green ring was clearly a Saint's Ring that only a Saint could possess!

That elder held a terrifying pressure of the Saint level, as if with just a thought, he could destroy the entire Dreamland Realm, and the words he spoke caused Ning Fan's expression to change!

"I have come here by the will of heaven, to carry out the destruction of the world! Those who stand in the way, kill without mercy! Haha,ahaha, hahahaha!"

These words, this extremely arrogant laugh, seemed to be directed not just at the ghosts in the palace, but also... at Ning Fan! The overwhelming pressure carried by the laughter echoed incessantly in Ning Fan's ears, as if the very voice of heaven resonated! And each echo brought almost shattering pain to Ning Fan's divine sense!

Yet at this moment, Ning Fan couldn't care less about the pain, his entire being was utterly shocked by the brief words of this mysterious Saint.

World extermination!

Yang Zhu actually summoned a Saint! And the summoned Saint planned to destroy the Dreamland Realm!

What a joke! Wasn't it about dispelling ghosts, why has it become... world extermination!

Ning Fan's eyes suddenly turned blood red, his mind filled with countless thoughts, followed by a tinge of regret! He shouldn't have given Yang Zhu the opportunity to summon a Saint, he shouldn't have! Could this Yang Zhu be a deeply disguised enemy!

This Saint's aura showed not a hint of falsehood, even when scanned with the eye power of the Second Realm of Tianren, it only showed reality!

This is a real Saint!

If this Saint is a great enemy of the Zi Dou Immortal Domain, if summoning this Saint is Yang Zhu's scheme, then today's events could very likely become the root of destruction for the Dreamland Realm!

And this root, was only successful due to Ning Fan's repeated indulgence!

Is there anyone in the Dreamland Realm who can rival a Third Step Saint!

In the calamity of the primitive and wild days, a single elevated ancient master level Yin Mo nearly wiped out many ending Immortal Emperors of the Dreamland Realm. If a Saint-level enemy arrives, even with the combined power of the four heavens and nine worlds, the Immortal Demon World, the Ancient Demon Abyss, and many others, it might still be irresistible!

It would be a helpless obliteration!

If the Dreamland Realm is really destroyed because of this, then Ning Fan would become the headache-causing sinner of the Dreamland Realm! Because this formidable Saint adversary was invited here due to his indulgence!

"Yang Zhu! Give me an explanation!"

The killing intent surged wildly in Ning Fan.

This world is a Dreamland Realm created by the Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign; here is the last home protected by countless Zi Dou Martyrs with their lives; here is also his home, where his closest friends and relatives live!

He could forgive Yang Zhu for previous verbal offenses, but if Yang Zhu harbors an intention of world destruction, that's another matter! Because it means putting his closest friends and relatives in peril!

If so, then even if Ning Fan has to sacrifice everything, he will make Yang Zhu pay the price here!

Ning Fan hadn't unleashed such a level of killing intent for many years. Under the tidal wave of killing intent, Yang Zhu, who had been somewhat smug, was filled with horror, filled with inexplicable confusion.

He finally succeeded in casting the spell, why was the master angry?

Could it be, the master misunderstood something? Misunderstood that he had summoned a real Saint? Misunderstood the Saint he summoned truly intended to destroy the Dreamland Realm?

"Master, please calm down! You've misunderstood, misunderstood... this is not a real Saint, it's just an illusion. If you don't believe it, I'll make this 'Saint' turn around, and you'll see that what I'm saying is not false..."

As Yang Zhu explained, he chanted an incantation to control the Saint. In an instant, the Saint elder, who had been standing with his hands behind his back, surveying the sky, turned around.

What an aged face that was.

Yet that face looked exactly like Ning Fan, a mirror image of what Ning Fan would look like in old age...

Ning Fan's gaze turned subtly peculiar.

He didn't think there would be any real Saint in the real realms who looked so much like himself.

Nor did he think that any visiting Saint would be bored enough to take on his visage.

"Master, you must believe me, this isn't a real Saint, it's just a shell, meant to scare people. The pressure and everything are real, but it also won't hurt anyone. At most, it will only cause intense pain to the divine sense, thereby increasing people's belief in this..."

"If the master still doesn't believe, you can come closer and touch, this Saint is like a bubble, it will burst at a touch..."

Following the words, Ning Fan approached and cautiously touched the Saint whose appearance was identical to his own.

And afterwards, all things related to Saints, the Ring of the Initial Saint, the omnipresent pressure, all burst like a bubble with a 'poof'.

Fake...

It was actually fake...

Even though the aura and pressure were crafted to be exactly like a real Sage, it was merely a facade, fragile enough to shatter at the slightest touch...

Ning Fan had never been so speechless in his cultivation journey until this moment.

He was prepared for a formidable enemy, even contemplating his death here, yet Zhu revealed that this Sage enemy was a fake...

"Is this an Illusory Art? What level of Illusory Art is this..."

"Taixuan Supreme Grade, an Illusory Art that only a true Sage could wield."

No wonder even my Tianren Eye couldn't detect the slightest falsehood; it turned out to be a Taixuan Supreme Grade Illusory Art only Sages can use... I reckon few in the Dreamland Realm could discern the Sage's false aura from this art...

"...An Illusory Art only Sages can wield, how did you manage to use it?"

"Haha, I didn't use the complete version, just a part of it. The one who taught me this art was a true Sage. They once said that in its complete state, this art could manifest a real Sage to aid in battle, but if incomplete, it could only manifest the form, not its essence. In short, it can manifest a Sage to scare people but isn't very useful..."

No, being able to scare people is already a terrifyingly useful trait, provided... this illusion is not exposed.

If it weren't for this Sage having a face identical to Ning Fan's, if it weren't for Zhu's prior warning, Ning Fan would never have thought this Sage was a fake.

"Tell me, why does your illusory Sage resemble my appearance..."

"If it doesn't resemble you, this art won't succeed." Zhu chuckled apologetically.

"What do you mean?"

"Simply put, because the master is currently one of the few Holder Cultivators left, that's why this art can mimic the master's form and succeed."

"What does it have to do with me being a Holder Cultivator?" Ning Fan furrowed his brow, casting Zhu a glance. He seemingly hadn't revealed his status as a Holder in front of Zhu, yet Zhu recognized it...

"Because..."

Zhu opened his mouth to explain to Ning Fan but suddenly his expression changed, a deep fear washed over him, his pig mouth agape, yet not a single word could come out.

Sweat dripped profusely from his forehead!

As if under the current Great Dao Laws, uttering certain taboos would invite disaster!

For a long, long while... Zhu finally spoke dejectedly, "I'm sorry, master, I can't explain. Because... it's unspeakable!"

Unspeakable!

Again, unspeakable!

The Emperor Butcher had revealed many secrets of the Real Realms, yet those weren't unspeakable.

However, what Zhu tried to disclose seemed to encounter this inexplicable phenomenon...

It seems, not all Real Realm matters are untouchable. Some can be discussed, while others... must not be touched at all!

"Forget it, if you can't speak, never mind. Let me ask another question, can the Sage you create with your Illusory Art take on another person's appearance? For example, any random stranger..."

"Before, yes; now, no... Only the image of a Holder Cultivator can be used for this art." Zhu sighed.

Ning Fan frowned, countless conjectures forming in his mind from Zhu's words, yet he couldn't verify any of them.

Too many great and untouchable secrets of the universe remain, too many things... are unspeakable...

"Must it be my form?"

"Yes..."

"I see... then forget it."

"Master, allow me a brief rest, as using this art every time results in great exhaustion, and without complete rest, I cannot use it again."

"How long do you need to rest before you can use the art again?"

"Three... three hours?" Zhu replied unconfidently, chuckling nervously.

Ning Fan raised an eyebrow, "Tell the truth!"

"Three... three days."

"Tell the truth!"

"Three... three years."

"This is your last chance... tell the truth!"

"Three million years... using this technique once requires three million years for recovery..." this time, he was telling the truth.

Ning Fan instantly felt a headache, "And you wanted me to wait here for you to rest? Do you expect me to wait here three million years?"

"I deserve death! I was afraid the truth would anger the master..."

"If time could reverse, would your exhaustion disappear? Would you return to your previous peak state?" Ning Fan pondered for a moment, then asked.

"Yes, there's that solution! Master, quickly use the Box Spirit's Divine Box Skill to reverse time to the past! That way, I can use the technique once more!"

"In that case... Prajna Paramita!"

...

Time reverted to its original point for the second time.

Other than Ning Fan and the Box Spirit being able to retain memories from before the time warp, all living beings lost the memories of that period as time flowed backward.

Therefore, when Ning Fan appeared on the voyage ship again, the words he heard were still Emperor Butcher's previous warnings.

In Emperor Butcher's eyes, at this moment Ning Fan had yet to enter the Netherworld, instead preparing to do so.

"...With the time point locked by this jade box now, should anything go awry, you can rewind time to this moment. But I must warn you, using this jade box has limitations. You can only resurrect ten times within a day. In other words, you can only die in the depths of this Netherworld ten times at most. Have you remembered?"

"Yes, but I'm already down to eight chances to rewind time." Ning Fan replied, speechless.

"What! You've already died twice?"

"Yes, I suppose..."

The first time was when Ning Fan died, which triggered a passive time rewind; the second time was an active use of the jade box. The situations were slightly different, but Ning Fan wasn't planning to explain these trivial details.

Just as before, Emperor Butcher asked him the same question, giving the same warning.

After their conversation, Ning Fan jumped into the Yellow Springs Great Sea once again, familiar with the path leading outside the Secluded Palace.

Though wasting a chance to rewind time was regrettable, waiting together with Zhu for his skill cooldown of three million years, Ning Fan would indeed prefer to rewind to the past.

Zhu reappeared from the jade box, and this time, the Illusory Art execution was smooth. With prior successful experience, he didn't fail in creating a Sage in Ning Fan's likeness.

No hint of Illusory Art aura could be seen!

Seeing the Sage conjured by Illusory Art once more, Ning Fan still couldn't spot any flaws in the aura, marveling at the magic of this art.

Even someone as powerful as a Heaven Separation Sect Master at the Second Realm can't see through this; how many in the realm can perceive it?

This Illusory Art seems useless, but if used appropriately, it is indeed a means of intimidating the enemy... The more seasoned the masters, the more they fear the existence of Saints...

The Illusory Art that Ning Fan cannot see through is even less likely to be deciphered by the low-spiritual-awareness ghosts within the palace.

Yang Zhu controlled the Illusory Art Saint, stepping step by step into the palace gate. At the moment of entrance, over seven hundred ghosts charged out, but all under the pressure of the third step of the Illusory Art Saint, they became terrified, as if facing a formidable enemy, and dared not resist.

At the instant Yang Zhu manipulated the Saint to speak, the water ghosts were dazed, their expressions blank.

"By the order of Commander Tianpeng, Leader of the Nine Rivers, under the Nine Saints of Heavenly River, you river guardians shall immediately relocate to the second river, awaiting the command of Heaven Separation Sect Saint. Do not err!"

"Tianpeng... Saint... follow... the order..."

The water ghosts looked confused, unable to comprehend Yang Zhu's words due to their extremely low spirit awareness.

But the words 'command' seemed ingrained in their souls, urging them to leave this abandoned Secluded Palace they had guarded for countless years.

Even when enemies came in the past, they would choose death over fleeing.

Even in death, the destruction of their clan, they would become water ghosts and continue guarding this abandoned palace!

Because military orders are as unyielding as mountains!

The orders they previously adhered to were to defend the first river of the Galaxy at all costs. And now, the order has changed, as the leader of the Nine Saints of Heavenly River issued a new requirement; thus, they must transfer to the second river!

Is the one who issued the order truly the Saint Tianpeng?

Uncertain, uncertain... The voice of Saint Tianpeng is real, the pressure is real, probably... the order is real too...

Where is the second river?

Uncertain, uncertain...

Then find it, go search... Because military orders are unyielding as mountains.

One by one, the water ghosts swam out of the palace gate, towards the distance, and as they swam, one by one, they seemed to have fulfilled a wish, transforming into points of light, disappearing in the seawater...

Ning Fan was slightly silent, watching these water ghosts disappear, for some reason, he did not feel the joy of clearing obstacles, but an indescribable melancholy.

These water ghosts... were originally the guards who died here in battle...

Dead yet transformed into ghosts, still mindful of their duties, indeed a group of respectable guards...

As the water ghosts dispersed, Yang Zhu lifted the Illusory Art, and suddenly seemed drained of energy, returning to the divine box to rest.

Ning Fan picked up the divine box from the ground, and asked the pig-faced box spirit with deep meaning,

"Speaking of... What does Saint Tianpeng mean, what does the command mean? The command you issued using Saint's pressure to those water ghosts shouldn't be fabricated, right... Could it really be true?"

"Ahaha, what is Master talking about? I can't understand."

"Forget it, since you are unwilling to speak further, I will not ask more. The thing your previous master wanted should be inside this palace. Please take your rest; you won't be needed for now."

Ning Fan put away the divine box, then took out Emperor Butcher's left eye, holding it in hand, and entered the grand hall of Secluded Palace.

This is an abandoned palace for years, with no furnishings except for an extinguished everlasting lamp inside the hall. At the center of the hall, there is a well...

As Ning Fan stepped into the palace, Emperor Butcher's left eye began to radiate a gentle glow, which floated like smoke towards the well at the center of the hall.

The demons are skilled at designing connection points between different spaces into forms of wells, yet the well before his eyes evidently has another purpose.

"Is the thing Emperor Butcher wants inside this well..."

Ning Fan walked closer step by step, bowed his head, looking into the well. And at the moment he looked down, an unimaginably intense heat burst forth from the well!

As the wave of heat surged, Ning Fan seemingly anticipated it, immediately retreated, activating the God-Extinguishing Shield in retreat.

Yet, even with the God-Extinguishing Shield's defense, under such scorching power, Ning Fan was directly burnt to ashes!

Entirely beyond opposition!

It's not fire!

It's something even more searing than fire!

It's Extreme Yang! An amount so vast it could scorch out an entire Eastern Heaven!

Historically, the five supreme figures of Dabei Clan would enter this place at specific times, collecting Extreme Yang upon the sea.

But what they collect is merely a very slight trace, dispersed from this well, and even so, they were extremely content.

However, compared to the Extreme Yang within the well, what they collected was far, far less...

At this moment, the Extreme Yang that annihilated Ning Fan in one encounter vastly exceeds that rare trace!

Not to mention Ning Fan, even someone like Daoist Wood Pine would definitely be obliterated by the Extreme Yang in a single encounter here!

This abandoned well... Why does it contain such vast amounts of Extreme Yang power!

This abandoned well... Is this what Emperor Butcher seeks?

...

The third time reversal, back to the voyage ship.

Still heard is Emperor Butcher's earnest admonition.

"...In this way, the time point of this place is positioned by this divine box. If you truly encounter any accidents, you can reverse time, returning to this location. But I must remind you, the usage of this divine box is not limitless; within a day, you may only resurrect ten times, meaning you can die a maximum of ten times in this deep Yellow Springs. Remember this?"

"Remember. But today's opportunity for time reversal is already limited to seven times..."

"What! You have already died three times!" Emperor Butcher, originally earnest, suddenly showed shock.

"This time, I found what you wanted, it's the abandoned well inside Secluded Palace, correct? Your aim is to collect the Extreme Yang within that well! I do not know the origin of that abandoned well, but I can clearly tell you, this, absolutely cannot be done!"

Ning Fan said sternly.

Extreme Yang is good, crucial for the Quasi-Saint's eye opening, but it requires life to collect it!

Judging by the Extreme Yang's power the abandoned well unleashed earlier, not to mention his current self, even if his Mana increased tenfold, a hundredfold! As long as attacked by that well once, death is inevitable!

Even if able to reverse time seven times, seventy times, seven hundred times, Ning Fan does not believe he possesses the ability to collect the terrifying Extreme Yang within the well.

This is not something that the cultivators from Dreamland Realm can achieve!

Just like the reincarnation giant bell which no one in Northern Heaven Immortal World could move; can't move means can't move! It's not about inadequate cultivations, but lack of level!

The attack power of the abandoned well has absolutely reached the third step!

If Emperor Butcher's goal is truly to collect the Extreme Yang within the well, then even if Ning Fan is willing to help, he can only apologize to Emperor Butcher.

It's not unwillingness to help, but truly impossible... non-Saints touching this well shall die; this is the conclusion Ning Fan reached at the cost of one death!