

Grasping 1051

Chapter 1051: Three Lives, One Hundred and Eight Afflictions

"That dried-up well, is it really as terrifying as you say?" Emperor Butcher rejoiced.

"Yes. At the moment when the well erupted with Extreme Yang, I actually sensed it in advance and used all possible defensive measures while retreating. However, the result was that I only managed to hold for an instant before being burned into ashes by the Extreme Yang from the well... I wasn't careless at all; the power that erupted during the Extreme Yang is likely already at the Third Step..."

"Power at the Third Step! I never expected a simple, abandoned [One Hundred and Eight Sorrows Well] to still possess such terrifying power; this aligns extremely well with what I saw in my dreams. Good! So good! If the well's power had completely dissipated, I would be worried!"

"One Hundred and Eight Sorrows Well? Is this the name of the dried-up well? That's truly an odd name... It seems your objective isn't actually the Extreme Yang Power within the well, right?" Seeing Emperor Butcher not alarmed but pleased, Ning Fan couldn't help but speculate and asked.

"Of course not! This well has always been a place of great danger, a place where even Saints dare not act rashly. Even if this Sorrows Well has been abandoned for many years, its power not as strong as before, I absolutely cannot allow you to forcefully take the [Extreme Yang Water] from within! Finding the well is the easy part; next, just follow my instructions regarding the Sorrows Well like this..."

...

Ning Fan leapt into the Yellow Springs Great Sea for the fourth time, following the previous method, entering all the way into the palace of the Secluded Palace.

At the palace's center lay the lifeless dried-up well. Having experienced a direct fall last time, Ning Fan didn't get too close to the well this time. Instead, he stopped ten steps away from the well, recited an incantation, and used a Water Repelling Technique to disperse the seawater in the palace to the outside.

The Secluded Palace, originally immersed in seawater, for the first time in countless years, returned to a dry environment.

After dispersing the seawater, Ning Fan followed Emperor Butcher's instructions, squatted on the ground, rubbed the patterns on the palace floor with his hand, Emperor Butcher's instructions echoing in his ears.

"...The Yellow Springs here is not a complete Yellow Springs, it's just a part separated from the complete Yellow Springs in the Real Realms, for some unknown reason, abandoned deep within the Fire Soul Tower. The origins of the Fire Soul Tower are extremely mysterious, no one knows why it stands here at the crossroads of the two realms in Middle State. Few know that part of the Yellow Springs exists within the tower. Supreme Ox Demon once served our clan's Saint Ancestor, having lived from ancient times to this day, but even he couldn't discern the significance of this tower standing here, only speculating that the Saint Ancestor established it here, likely related to constructing a complete reincarnation world..."

"...The abandoned Secluded Palace, with the [Well-Control Formation] within the hall certainly having lost its spirit as well, your first task upon entering the Yellow Springs is not to approach the Sorrows Well, but to repair the hall's formation. This is an essential prerequisite for properly using the One Hundred and Eight Sorrows Well, which can prevent the chaotic attacks of Extreme Yang Water from the well on whoever approaches. Your cultivation in the Dao of formations is not weak, and your understanding of grand momentum is profound. If I add this [Ancient Jiuyou Well-Controlling Formation Diagram] to your hand, repairing the Secluded Palace's Well-Control Formation isn't an impossible task. Here, take the map, along with these materials that might be needed for the repair, use them. Whatever remains, you don't need to return it; keep it for yourself..."

Following the words, Ning Fan examined the patterns on the floor, finding them apparently mere decorations but actually unimaginably complex formation patterns. Due to the passage of time and lack of repair, these patterns had already faded and become incomplete. Without repair, they would never be usable again.

The formation here didn't possess any destructive or protective abilities, it was merely an operational formation, meant to operate the dried-up well within the hall normally.

In Ning Fan's understanding, any operational formations generally had simple principles, and the formation's eye was typically singular, often being merely the thing controlled by the formation. The movement of grand momentum basically operated along a straight line, merely repeating between the controller and the formation's eye. Such formations were never associated with complexity. However, the Well-Control Formation here shattered this understanding.

The Well-Control Array here was unimaginably complex! Within the hundred-zhang space of the hall, there were hundreds of millions of formation eyes! It must be known that the number of formation eyes directly reflects the level of the formation! The complexity of the formation here was almost the most Ning Fan had ever seen in his life, even far surpassing the complexity of the corner of the Saint Pattern Formation by the Eye Orb Monster back then!

To find a similarly leveled formation, perhaps only the strongest formation Ning Fan had ever seen—the Primordial Inversion Dust Formation once used for blood sacrifice in the Barbarian Wilderness Ancient Domain—could compete.

Yet the Primordial Inversion Dust Formation was bestowed by the Master of Calamity Thought to the ancient Barbarian Fan family; its immense destructive power justified its complexity.

This formation here was merely an operational formation... Did it have to be laid out so complexly?

Or perhaps, this indirectly implied that controlling the One Hundred and Eight Sorrows Well was far more challenging than sacrificing the entire Barbarian Wilderness Ancient Domain...

If Emperor Butcher had not provided any assistance, Ning Fan estimated it would take him millions of years of study here just to understand the formation's veins. Fortunately, Emperor Butcher had given the formation diagram, making it not so difficult for him to comprehend the formation here.

[Ancient Jiuyou Well-Controlling Formation Diagram]!

The name of the diagram caught Ning Fan's attention momentarily, Nine You Ancient Kingdom... But it was merely attention, as the meaning behind the name was completely unclear, and Ning Fan didn't intend to delve deeper. It was only because his God-Extinguishing Shield also had the 'Ancient Kingdom' prefix that he slightly paid it attention.

The Ancient Kingdom referred to by the God-Extinguishing Shield was a specific nation. As for the Nine You Ancient Kingdom... Could it be a country that once existed? Or is the 'Ancient' merely an adjective rather than a name...

It took Ning Fan about two hours to roughly go through the diagram; merely browsing it wore down much of his energy, leaving him slightly dizzy, and gave him a remarkably clear understanding of the formation's complexity.

Even with the formation diagram at hand, Ning Fan didn't believe he could comprehend this formation in a short time!

Completely unfathomable! Moreover, ungraspable! But this didn't hinder Ning Fan from progressing step-by-step in repairing the formation according to the diagram.

This was much like in the cultivation world, where major sects needed formation masters to establish their Sect Protection Arrays, but for maintaining and operating the formations, it sufficed for disciples to follow instructions on a map.

Understanding or not, it was not important! Having enough formation expertise to operate by the diagram was sufficient!

Firstly, the faded formation patterns needed to be redrawn...

The formation spans less than a hundred zhang, yet the materials required for engraving the formation patterns exceed three thousand types, all of which are rare materials. Fortunately, Ning Fan received more than enough repair materials from the Emperor Butcher, and occasionally, when certain materials were scarce, similar ones could be found to substitute, making the process of re-engraving the formation patterns quite smooth.

Two hours later, the formation patterns were successfully restored.

Subsequently, Ning Fan needed to open the formation's void eye in sequence and place various immortal materials within the eye as the source of power for the formation.

Such a profound formation, the formation's eye has long been made difficult to find, not located within the present space but elsewhere in a void, serving as the eye.

The hundred-zhang palace unexpectedly opened up over a billion void eyes; if Ning Fan were to search for them one by one, it would take countless years. However, Ning Fan had the array map. With the map in hand, Ning Fan's hands moved swiftly, slicing through voids in various locations and placing the corresponding materials within them. Thus, after a day, Ning Fan completed the powering of the formation's eye.

Finally, Ning Fan spent another half day, activating the Momentum Character Secret, slightly altering the area's momentum so that it corresponded with the flow of the formation.

With that, the Well-Controlling Formation could be considered truly repaired.

Following the repair of this formation, the formerly lifeless dry well suddenly showed signs of change!

As time passed, the dry well began to emit the respiration of a living being, and the bricks on the well wall started to pulsate like the flesh and blood of a living creature, creating an extremely eerie scene.

Moreover, the chaotic extreme yang accumulated in the well gradually calmed down and transformed from massive flames into golden well water. Although the well water still emanated a scorching and terrifying temperature, it no longer attacked randomly due to the proximity of others.

Soon after, the palace was filled with an ancient voice echoing incessantly, emanating from the normally functioning Hundred and Eight Sorrows Well, with a cold tone.

"You who handle the well, you have awakened me without authorization. Which sect's immortal decree do you bear? Quickly present your immortal decree to prove your identity. If there is no immortal decree, you will be regarded as intruding on Jiuyou without permission, and your cultivation must be abolished, your soul eternally imprisoned in the Netherworld, with no mercy!"

The voice was not loud, yet in Ning Fan's ears, it carried an unimaginable might, continuously reverberating!

Ning Fan only felt intense pain in his eardrums, as if he was facing not a dry well, but a living Third Step Saint! Of course, due to the well's abandonment for many years, its might reached the Third Step yet

was extremely weak, otherwise, Ning Fan would not just suffer from eardrum pain but would have difficulty even standing.

"...Be aware that once the formation is successfully restored, the Hundred and Eight Sorrows Well will awaken. This well is not a lifeless object; it is akin to an Ancient Deity existence. Uh, don't look at me with skepticism; I'm unsure of what an Ancient Deity is. During my countless dream travels through the Real Realm, I rarely heard anything related to Ancient Deities. It seems their existence predates the Real Realm itself... Whatever, you wouldn't understand if I continued. Just remember that this Well of Worries is not a lifeless entity; treat it as an ancient senior with utmost respect!"

"...What you need to do next will be highly risky. You must impersonate an identity to use the Hundred and Eight Sorrows Well... This well has slumbered for a long time, awakened just now, so its intellect is unlikely to be clear. With my skill in Illusory Art combined with some special methods, let's attempt to deceive this well..."

"If successful, proceed with the next steps. If failure, if it recognizes your deception, then our entire planning ends here. Don't concern yourself further, just escape! You mustn't be killed by the Well of Worries! The well's ability likely surpasses the time-reversing capability of your treasure box; do you understand?"

If killed by the awakened Well of Worries, the lack of time reversal is what it means, right...

The Emperor Butcher's words lingered in Ning Fan's ears, making his complexion unchanged but his spirit extraordinarily focused and cautious.

Next, he must impersonate a disciple of a prominent Real Realm faction to utilize the Well of Worries. If the impersonation fails, he must immediately flee...

The Emperor Butcher, being an Immortal Emperor of Illusionary Control Position, could her Illusory Art deceive the freshly awakened Well of Worries...

"Young one, swiftly present the immortal decree you bear for me to see!" the Well of Worries prompted once more, with even greater pressure than before.

"Here is the immortal decree!"

Ning Fan took a slight step sideways, leaving a footprint of burning golden flames on the ground, using the Secret Art of Prestige to counteract the pressure of the Well of Worries' words.

He then flipped his hand, immediately causing a golden book to appear, which he gently tossed, using mana to propel it above the Well of Worries. Naturally, this golden book was fake, created through the Illusory Art of the Emperor Butcher. Had the Well of Worries been in peak condition, it wouldn't have been deceived by such simple illusion techniques, but now, the Well was no longer at its peak, granting a slight possibility of success...

Simultaneously, a hand emerged from the golden well water, neither wholly human nor entirely beast, grasped the golden book and pulled it into the well water.

Dozens of breaths later, the Well of Worries' voice resumed, yet the golden book wasn't returned to Ning Fan. This time, its voice bore a touch of courtesy,

"So the revered messenger is a disciple of the Worship Spirit Sect. The well servant previously behaved disrespectfully, and hopes the revered messenger won't take offense! I didn't anticipate that despite my abandonment for many years, even drifting to the Dreamland Realm, the upper sect still deemed me useful, coming across worlds to awaken me. This is indeed the well servant's honor, but there's one matter I must inform the revered messenger of first."

"Due to abandonment, the remaining quantity of extreme yang water in the well servant's possession is less than one ten-thousandth of its prime, coupled with the reincarnation limitation of this Dreamland Realm restricting the well servant greatly. In this way, if the revered messenger wishes to view the Third Circle of Heavenly Dao's reincarnation from the well servant, they may be disappointed. The well servant's current strength is barely enough to view the Second Circle of Heavenly Dao's reincarnation, and even so, only a small portion... I hope the revered messenger understands!"

"If the revered messenger wishes to view reincarnation, please do so at leisure. The well servant has just awakened and needs to rest briefly, thus cannot serve the revered messenger nearby. I trust the revered messenger will understand!"

As he finished speaking, the bricks of the Well of Worries wriggled and disappeared, and the aura of life was concealed. The entire palace returned to silence, leaving only the extremely subtle sounds of formations operating.

Seeing that the Well of Worries believed his identity, Ning Fan internally let out a sigh of relief. Good, this step was successful. Next, he could use the power of the Well of Worries to see what the Emperor Butcher wanted to see about the past, present, and future.

Hehe, it's shameful to say, even though the Emperor Butcher told him so many principles, he only understood the sentence 'this well can see the past, present, and future'...

"...The complete Six Paths of Reincarnation should include Twelve Yin Mountains, Fourteen Yin Rivers, Ten Directions' Ghost Gate Pass, Rivers of Reverse Oblivion, Jiuyou Yellow Spring Sea, Gates of Reincarnation, Transcendence Mountain and many other components. The Six Paths of Reincarnation is the largest [Reincarnation Connection Point] in the world, where you can learn everything you wish to know...the Well of One Hundred and Eight Sorrows is one of the reincarnation connection points, but compared to the Rivers of Reverse Oblivion, its level is actually much lower, and its deduction power is far inferior..."

"Speaking of the Well of Worries, we have to talk about its name origins. It is apparent you haven't studied much Buddhist scripture. Don't you know, in our Buddhist sect, there's a saying of one hundred and eight sorrows? Regarding one hundred and eight sorrows, we first have to discuss the six roots of man, which have good, evil, and neutral distinctions, as well as pure and tainted divisions, combining into thirty-six sorrows. Throughout a lifetime, one encounters thirty-six sorrows, and if considering the past, present, and future lives, one would encounter one hundred and eight, hence one hundred and eight sorrows. This is also why the temple bells often toll one hundred and eight times..."

He couldn't understand what the Emperor Butcher was referring to, with place names and things about reincarnation connection points; he couldn't understand at all...

"...You ask me what reincarnation connection points are? Of course, they refer to the places connected by many reincarnation points! What, still don't understand? It's really a headache, how can I explain it to you, I'm the worst at teaching with words..."

"...Reincarnation is a very mysterious thing, it's not just one layer, but layer upon layer; each layer of reincarnation, like parallel universes, allows each person to extend from that parallel universe, having countless pasts and countless futures... You can understand reincarnation connection points as the

boundaries of different parallel universes. Your past is not necessarily what you've experienced in this life; your future is not necessarily what you'll encounter in this life. Do you understand?"

"You still don't understand! Let me put it this way, the so-called reincarnation connection point is the place that allows you to see your own past, present, and future. By saying this, you surely understand, right? The Well of One Hundred and Eight Sorrows can show you your past and future; such a place is called a reincarnation connection point."

"...Oh, interesting, you say you encountered a lake located in one of the lower realms of the Four Heavens and Nine Worlds? It can reflect the past? Yes, that lake is a reincarnation connection point! However, a complete connection point can reflect both the past and the future simultaneously; the one you encountered should be incomplete, rather than complete... Also, reincarnation connection points have grades, the higher-grade connection points can see more, certain pasts and futures related to the Great Secret of Heaven and Earth can only be seen by the highest-grade reincarnation connection points..."

"If you don't understand what I'm saying, just remember it! These are the great lessons I learned from listening to the Saints talk Daos in dreams, remember them, slowly digest and understand, only beneficial, no harm."

Do you understand...

No, not at all...

It was the first time Ning Fan found out there was such a huge generation gap between him and the Emperor Butcher, the reincarnation knowledge the Emperor Butcher spoke of, he couldn't... understand any of it!

What countless reincarnation connections... What layer upon layer... What past is not the past, the future is not the future... What parallel universe...

He couldn't understand, not at all...

The Emperor Butcher often dreamed of the Real Realms, often hearing Saints preaching Daos in dreams, thus her comprehension consisted of knowledge only Third Step Saints could understand, certainly not what Ning Fan could comprehend in a few words.

Of course, not being able to understand is not a problem, Ning Fan only needs to know what to do at this moment.

He slowly approached the edge of the well, leaning over to peer into the well water, this time, naturally there would no longer be any attack from the Extreme Yang Power in the well. However, according to the Emperor Butcher, if he dared to attempt seizing the Extreme Yang of this well, he would still be attacked... This kind of greedy thought must be suppressed!

The ancient well was still, yet it reflected countless images. Those images were none other than the past and future events of many Masters.

Too many, too many. The images reflected in the well water were too many, making it impossible for Ning Fan to clearly see any one scene. Only by using the correct method could he see what he wanted to know from the well.

Once, Ning Fan had visited Sword Lake of Heart Inquiry in the Sword World and saw in the reflection of the lake water his many past lives as a butterfly.

According to the Emperor Butcher, Sword Lake of Heart Inquiry belonged to an incomplete reincarnation connection point, only able to see the past, not the future. Furthermore, Sword Lake of Heart Inquiry could only reveal one's own past...

The Well of One Hundred and Eight Sorrows was different, according to the Emperor Butcher, this well could not only view one's own past and future but also examine the past and future of others.

The Emperor Butcher tasked Ning Fan with checking a certain segment of her past.

She harbored a huge doubt in her heart, suspecting that her memory had been altered by a powerful being!

She needed information from the Well of One Hundred and Eight Sorrows to confirm whether the past it reflected matched the segment of memory she had!

"Ning Fan, do you know, there was once a woman who told me something, she said I'm not really me, and only when I am not myself, then I am truly me..."

"You don't understand again, huh, it's really hard talking to you."

"That woman said she altered my memory, but I don't believe it. If you can fool the Well of Worries, then take my left eye and help me see my past."

"The past illuminated by the Well of Worries is real, so real that even a Fourth Step Immortal Emperor cannot alter it in the slightest. No matter how strong that woman is, she cannot reach to the Yellow Springs Sea Bottom, nor can she alter such reality."

"She is the Ten Bees Supreme, one of the five Supremes of my clan, other than Supreme Ox Demon, she ranks fifth in strength among the five Supremes, while Supreme Ox Demon is fourth... She has lived countless years in Zhongzhou Liuli City, yet everyone was deceived by her Illusory Art, everyone thought she was just a newly arrived courtesan singer at Xiu Fang... Everyone called her Afeng."

"She can transform into thousands of different appearances at will, but the one she uses most often is the face of Afeng. According to her, when she tampered with my memory back then, she used this face."

"Go and see if this face appears in my past..."

The words of the Emperor Butcher echoed in his ears, containing an indescribable sense of helplessness and nervousness, completely different from her previous overbearing persona.

Ning Fan fell silent for a moment, took out a scroll, and slowly unfurled it.

On the canvas was a woman incredibly familiar to Ning Fan, at a glance appearing to be Dugu, but upon closer inspection having slight differences.

The woman in the portrait possessed a visage remarkably similar to Dugu but wore the attire of a courtesan... Not Dugu, totally different in aura!

The woman in the painting was the peculiar woman he encountered on the way to rescue Wu Laoba that day! The eerie woman resembling Dugu!

[Vast Expanse Butterfly, do you need help?]

[Seems, my lord does not recognize me...]

[I am Afeng, Afeng of Xiu Fang, the little turtle you are looking for is at Nan Yao Temple outside the east gate.]

It was that woman who claimed to be named Afeng!

That day, Ning Fan felt the eerie woman's cultivation was unfathomable, but never expected this inexplicable woman to also be one of the five Supremes of the Dabei Clan!

Her true identity was Ten Bees Supreme!

Why did this woman resemble Dugu so much...

Why did this woman know he was a butterfly...

Why did this woman speak the words 'my lord does not recognize me'...

Was this not the phrase he had heard at the stone door on the last level of the Scriptures Tower gifted by the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor...

Is it a coincidence...

But when so many coincidences are put together, something seems amiss...

"My task is to use the power of the Well of One Hundred and Eight Sorrows to explore the Emperor Butcher's past... to see if this person appeared! Afterward, inscribe what I saw on the Emperor Butcher's left eye..."

"Upon helping the Emperor Butcher, if I too have doubts in my heart, I can naturally also use this well to examine my past and future. I've seen my past, the life experiences of those lives as a butterfly, as for the future... Is the future something that can really be seen so easily, hehe, interesting."

What will my future be like...

Or perhaps, the future of a Holder Cultivator cannot be seen in the well water at all, considering the path of a Holder Cultivator is cut off by the heavens, it would not be surprising to see nothing of the future.

Ning Fan rolled up the painting, then took out the Emperor Butcher's left eye with a turn of his hand. To glimpse others' past and future requires some medium, so he drew a wisp of aura from the Emperor Butcher's left eye and cast it into the golden well water, instantly, the countless images reflected in the well water began to decrease.

Before long, the remaining images in the well water showed only the Emperor Butcher alone.

Among those images were the Emperor Butcher's past as a young shepherd girl, her present frown waiting on the voyage ship, and a future of bloody crimson...

A future filled with bloodshed—what kind of calamity is this...

Ning Fan frowned; although the Emperor Butcher didn't instruct him to scrutinize the future, he inadvertently saw it. It seemed the future of the Emperor Butcher would face a great catastrophe...

Chapter 1052: Rain!

Should I take another look at the Emperor Butcher's future?

If the Emperor Butcher's future truly holds a bloody calamity, reminding her might help her avoid it, right?

"Let's first take a look at her past, and as for her future... after viewing the past, I should put in more effort to take a look. She's done me quite a favor on this journey, and I ought to repay it somewhat..."

Ning Fan raised a finger to his brow, then pulled, drawing out a fine line of spirit sense from his brow, throwing it toward the various past fragments of the Emperor Butcher within the well water.

The spirit sense line continued to fall downward, and as soon as it touched the water surface, it was immediately burned to ashes by the scorching well water.

Instantly, a burning pain transmitted through the faint connection, making Ning Fan's divine sense almost ignite, an unbearable agony ensued, and his complexion turned pale, with blood oozing from the corners of his mouth. At this critical moment, Ning Fan couldn't bother to wipe away the bloodstains but instead closed his eyes, receiving the vast information at the instant the spirit sense line was incinerated, transmitted through the well water!

This information consisted of numerous segments related to the Emperor Butcher's past, bearing the experiences of a lifetime, retrieved from the water at the cost of burning Ning Fan's divine sense!

The volume of information was incredibly vast!

Thus, receiving this information placed a tremendous burden on Ning Fan's divine sense, as if it were about to explode from the stream of information.

The injury to the divine sense and the burden were the unavoidable costs of peering into the Well of Worries. Of course, if Ning Fan were strong enough to reach the Third Step, his spirit sense would enter the well as a fish to water, with no harm whatsoever.

"Strange, if he indeed hails from the Worship Spirit Sect, how could he be injured by mere Extreme Yang Water? Although the Worship Spirit Sect is not the strongest among the many Ancient Holy Sects, it ranks in the top ten, and rarely sends envoys with lesser than the Primordial Saint Cultivation! Even if the occasional Second Step disciple arrives, they are undoubtedly those who have practiced [Divine Spirit Thought], whose strength would not be injured by the Extreme Yang Water! Could his identity with the Worship Spirit Sect be false!"

It was Ning Fan's blood-spitting scene that aroused the Well of Worries' suspicion, prompting it to reexamine the Immortal Decree handed to it by Ning Fan.

This examination revealed something startling! The more it looked, the angrier the Well of Worries became! This Immortal Decree was... a forgery!

Previously, it had just awakened, with unstable divine sense, thus failing to see through the illusory art on the Immortal Decree, but upon a second look, its clarity grew ever sharper!

A mere Second Step illusory art managed to deceive it! This youngster before him dare attempt to manipulate its grasp over reincarnation - how brazen!

"What gall! To dare impersonate as a disciple of the Holy Sect! Courting death!"

As Ning Fan received the information stream, a massive killing intent, roaring like a flood of the primordial era, surged from the Well of Worries' water, solidifying the space around it!

At the moment this killing intent was unleashed, Ning Fan's pupils shrank instantly, realizing the illusory art on the Immortal Decree had been found out, igniting the Well of Worries' wrath!

Damn it, no time to probe the Emperor Butcher's future now!

Even less time to probe his own past and future!

The impersonation had been exposed, he must flee immediately!

"Prajna Paramita!"

Almost as soon as the Well of Worries' killing intent surged, Ning Fan swiftly reached into his bosom, bringing out the Pig Face Treasure Box, chanting an incantation to activate it. Instantly, immense power of moonlight spread from the box, enveloping him like a light feathered robe, with the surrounding time beginning to rewind.

His plan was simple, escaping from this terrifying Well of Worries was utterly difficult, so why not take a detour, directly causing time to reverse, retreating to a past where he was safe.

The thought was sound, but, useless!

"Well, well, well! What audacity! To dare pose as a Holy Sect disciple and awaken me! Do you think with a subpar space-time magical treasure, you can escape from my grasp? Utterly delusional! Ancient and modern years wheel, stop that for me!"

Yet from the well water, a giant hand, part human, part beast, emerged suddenly, pressing its five fingers gently and stilling the reversed flow of time instantly - unable to advance nor reverse, but frozen in space-time!

Rewinding time... ineffective!

Having stilled the flow of time in this place with a mere gesture, that giant hand extended further, stirring a vast wind pressure, grasping down upon Ning Fan, with enough power in its grasp to shatter an entire starry sky, causing furious waves in the Yellow Springs Great Sea!

"Master, beware!" From the treasure box, Yang Zhu's fearful warning echoed, clearly terrified by the Well's power.

But truly, such a reminder was unnecessary!

Anyone could tell that being struck by this giant hand meant certain death! At this moment, Ning Fan's heart plummeted, his face dark and grim!

Facing this well, Ning Fan felt his greatest sense of crisis in life, too strong, overwhelmingly so! This hand's grasp could not be withstood by any Second Step cultivator!

Neither could he!

So, is he destined to die helplessly here?

How could he succumb!

"Stop for me!"

Ning Fan withdrew rapidly, pointing a finger skyward towards the incoming giant hand, attempting to halt it slightly with the Heaven Sealing Art.

But the gap in their cultivation was too vast! This Heaven Sealing Art managed to pause the hand but for a fleeting moment, allowing Ning Fan to retreat only a single step backward!

He'd only moved a step away from the well, towards the palace gate...

The immense backlash from the Heaven Sealing Art caused Ning Fan to spew blood violently, his presence weakened, sustaining severe injuries!

Though heavily injured, Ning Fan's eyes bore no trace of panic, only a deathly calm!

Before entering the Netherworld, he'd considered all perils of this journey, even such transformations as dire as this were within his calculations.

He was psychologically prepared for the exposure of his identity!

He was equally prepared for the failure of time's reversal!

Having received many favors from the Emperor Butcher, despite the dangers, he would not run away.

Of course, he also had no intention to die here!

"Stop for me... again!!"

He cast the Heaven Sealing Art towards the giant hand a second time!

The gap in cultivation between Ning Fan and the Well of Worries was immense, resorting to using the Heaven Sealing Art was a last resort, and the backlash caused Ning Fan's body to begin collapsing, yet he managed to stop the hand momentarily again, gaining two more steps backward...

At this moment, he had fled three steps from the Well of Worries!

He was a hundred steps from the palace exit!

If stopping the Well of Worries once would only allow for one or two steps, Ning Fan would need to halt it dozens of times to escape the palace, an impossibility! Such extensive backlash would doom him directly, neither his body nor Spirit could withstand the repeated attempts, leading to a fatal backlash!

Each time he performed the Heaven Sealing Art wasn't merely to halt the Well's attack, but also to stop the flow of forces here!

Why could the Well of Worries be awakened by him? Why function normally?

Because there's a formation interjecting around, allowing the Well of Worries to operate, providing it with enough power to awaken!

Facing the might of the Third Step from the Well of Worries, Ning Fan had no such grandiose ambitions. He couldn't overpower the Well but had a way to stall the forces here and interrupt the formation's operation!

The reason formations can exert their power is entirely due to the influence of the great trend. If the great trend ceases to flow, the operation of the formation will also stop.

If the Well Manipulation Formation stops operating, then the Worry Well will lose its source of power and will once again fall into slumber. This is the result Ning Fan wants to achieve!

Indeed, the two successive casts of the Stabilizing Heaven Art by Ning Fan were not in vain, actually causing the Well Manipulation Formation here to stop operating forcibly!

Given the high level of this Well Manipulation Formation, if it were in optimal condition, it would be impossible for Ning Fan's current cultivation level to stabilize it. But Ning Fan was no fool; knowing the potential for exposure, he had contingencies in place. Although he had redrawn the formation patterns of the Well Manipulation Formation, many crucial points were not drawn too firmly, instead leaving behind numerous cracks... As for the Immortal Material filling the formation's eye, wherever it was critical, he had skimmed on it. If ten portions of Immortal Material were required, he would only fill three portions... In this way, although the Well Manipulation Formation here was barely operating, it was not impossible to cause it to halt!

Only by planning before taking action could one retreat completely unscathed from this perilous place, a fact Ning Fan had calculated from the start. Precisely because of his contingency plans, Ning Fan could remain calm in the face of the Worry Well's fury.

Crack! That was the sound of some formation patterns splitting open!

Hiss! That was the sound of the Extreme Yang water in the well losing the support of the formation's power, reverting from liquid back into flames!

The Worry Well was instantly both amazed and enraged. Its large hand, which tried to attack Ning Fan, similarly lost its power sustenance due to the halt of the Well Manipulation Formation and dramatically shrank in an instant!

The large hand's attack had significantly reduced power, weakened directly to the level of an Immortal Emperor's strike, and continued to weaken toward the threshold of an Immortal King's strike!

Seeing the success of his two casts of the Stabilizing Heaven Art, Ning Fan's expression was even calmer, a slight curve on his lips as he continued to flee toward the palace gate.

However, this time, the large hand of the Worry Well did not pursue once more, but instead, watched in astonishment as Ning Fan frantically fled another twenty steps.

Only ninety steps left to the palace gate!

At this moment, the Worry Well felt immense dread in its heart, causing hesitation. The large hand halted in mid-air, refraining from any further attacks on Ning Fan!

What prompted hesitation was Ning Fan's use of the Stabilizing Heaven Art!

"This is... the Cycle-Fixing Technique! Is it possible that this child is a disciple of the Hun Kun Holy Sect? He is not a Worship Spirit Sect disciple... but hails from the more prestigious Hun Kun Holy Sect!!! Could it be, could it be... No, incorrect, it's not that! This is not the Cycle-Fixing Technique; it merely resembles it, lacking the power to seal cycles! I was almost frightened by this technique! Boy, you can't deceive me! Stay here for me!"

After a brief hesitation, the Worry Well suddenly realized, roared in anger, and extended the large hand rapidly, instantly closing a twenty-step distance and again reaching for Ning Fan from above.

The attack came again! But this time, the attack had fallen to the power of a Four Calamity Immortal King's strike! The sense of crisis it brought to Ning Fan was no longer undoubtedly fatal!

Such an attack's power only required Ning Fan to desperately unleash the protective golden light of the God-Extinguishing Shield, which was enough to block seventy to eighty percent of its power. During his retreat, he unhesitatingly opened the protective golden light defense of the God-Extinguishing Shield.

Golden light shield!

The golden light of the God-Extinguishing Shield sprang wildly, enveloping the retreating Ning Fan within. At this moment, Ning Fan did not shatter the Punishing Ring but spat several mouthfuls of essence blood onto the protective golden light, causing his aura to weaken again, yet making the golden light soar astonishingly!

With a loud boom, the large hand blasted onto the protective golden light. Although the power weakened dramatically, it shattered Ning Fan's protective golden light into countless light spots in an instant, directly collapsing.

The aftershock of the attack struck Ning Fan's chest, causing him to spit blood and be knocked back, yet using the momentum to escape an additional ten-plus steps!

Only seventy or so steps left to the palace gate!

Ning Fan's white robe was long stained with fresh blood, his physical body nearing the brink of collapse due to backlash and injuries!

Limbs and bones aching everywhere, but the cold calculation in his eyes remained unchanged!

At the moment he released the protective golden light, Ning Fan had deliberately revealed a trace of the God-Extinguishing Shield's aura to let the Worry Well detect it...

However! The Worry Well's large hand merely crushed Ning Fan's protective golden light with one strike and effortlessly sent Ning Fan flying but did not continue to chase, hesitating a second time with its large hand frozen in mid-air, afraid to act recklessly!

The Worry Well was deterred by the aura of the Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield, deliberately leaked by Ning Fan!

Had the Worry Well not awoken, it wouldn't have hesitated, the extreme yang power in the well would have been haphazardly vented, unable to have any pause in striking. Unfortunately, the Worry Well was now awake! At this moment, it had consciousness, and the ability to think, thus simply could not remain indifferent to the aura of the God-Extinguishing Shield.

Its reputation in the Three Great Realms is too grand, too resonant, so resonant that even this Ancient Deity cannot ignore it!

The Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield!

A Heaven-Opening Artifact! Moreover, it ranks nineteenth on the Heaven-Opening List, a treasure of great import!

This was the very artifact used by the Chaos Kun Ancestor in ancient times to suppress ancient deities!

This is the ultimate treasure countless powerhouses of the Three Great Realms yearn for in their dreams!

To think it is... the aura of this item!

No, it's not complete, what this boy possesses should only be a part of the Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield, but even just a part should not possibly appear in the hands of such a youngster!

What is this boy's identity!

Is the identity of the Worship Spirit Sect true or false!

No! Even the Worship Spirit Sect shouldn't possess fragments of the Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield! The Worship Spirit Sect is not qualified! The identity of Worship Spirit Sect must be fake!

Why is this child pretending to be from the Worship Spirit Sect!

Could it be that the true identity of this child, though not from the Worship Spirit Sect, is higher and more formidable, hence the need for disguise?

Or perhaps... since the Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield belonged to the Chaos Kun Ancestor, could the true identity of this child be significantly related to Hun Kun Holy Sect!

Or perhaps...

Overall, before clarifying this child's identity, blind slaughter cannot ensue! Given its mere well-slave status, it absolutely cannot provoke those true hegemonies of the Real Realms! This child... most likely has a colossal background!

In the moment of the Worry Well's hesitation, Ning Fan was only thirty steps away from the palace gate, ready to escape!

Seeing the Worry Well hesitant due to the aura of the God-Extinguishing Shield, Ning Fan's lips curved more prominently.

He deliberately released a hint of the Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield's aura, intending to leverage its reputation to plant suspicion in the Worry Well's mind. This well, self-identified as a well-slave, and deferential after initially arrogant to a Worship Spirit Sect disciple, led Ning Fan to have early speculations about the well's character and status.

When the Worry Well hesitated due to the Stabilizing Heaven Art, Ning Fan's speculation was confirmed internally.

This well, in the Three Great Realms, could hardly be any ultimate existence, rather more like a small figure struggling to survive in the cracks. Otherwise, how could this well, upon hearing that he was from the Worship Spirit Sect, immediately become self-deprecating and deferential, calling itself a slave? If not, why would this well hesitate because it mistook the Stabilizing Heaven Art for the Hun Kun Holy Sect's Cycle-Fixing Technique and dares not act recklessly.

This well harbors humility, fears the greater influences of the True Realms!

In this way, inadvertently seeing a youngster holding a Heaven-Opening Artifact like the Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield would naturally make the well hesitate again, feel uncertain again, which wouldn't be too hard to understand!

This was Ning Fan's goal! Given the vast cultivation gap between him and the Worry Well, forcefully fleeing from here was not feasible. Only with multiple strategic calculations could such an unprecedented feat be achieved!

By using Second Step cultivation, using the sealed Second Step cultivation, escaping from a Third Step strong figure!

If successful, it would certainly cause countless second step old monsters to have their jaws dropped in shock!

Of course, the aura of the Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield could only temporarily deter the Worry Well; hoping solely on a fragment to make the Worry Well follow orders was absolutely impossible!

Ning Fan wouldn't stake his life on these minor odds; he seized the moment of the Worry Well's reluctance to flee. Sure enough, when he finally reached the palace gate, the Worry Well suddenly woke up, the hesitation disappearing, attacking Ning Fan once more!

"No, it's wrong! The fragment of the Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield that this child possesses has already lost its Real Realm aura entirely! This item cannot possibly originate from the Real Realm but must have been obtained by this child from this Phantom Dream Realm! That's right, this child is a cultivator from the Dreamland Realm! Killing a Dreamland Realm cultivator and obtaining a fragment of the Ancient Kingdom's God-Extinguishing Shield is not a great sin but a great achievement! If the Hun Kun Holy Sect comes here in the future searching for this item, they will certainly forgive my past failure for this shard, summoning me back to the Real Realm!"

"We must not let this child escape!"

"We can't let our opportunity slip away!"

"You little brat, stay here with me, old man!"

The once hesitant huge hand suddenly surged with killing intent again, frantically approaching the hall door. Unfortunately, due to continuously weakening strength, at this moment, the attack had fallen to the power of a Second Calamity Immortal Lord strike and could no longer cause Ning Fan the same level of crisis as before.

Seeing that the power of the huge hand had indeed fallen to the level of an Immortal Lord's attack, Ning Fan, who had been fleeing all this time, suddenly had an intense look in his eyes and a touch of madness!

If it was only the power of an Immortal Lord's strike, then opening his God-Extinguishing Shield's protective golden light again should be enough to defend against this strike; it couldn't hurt him! At this moment, he already had absolute confidence in his ability to escape from there, but who was he? He was Ning Fan! Having been gravely injured along the way, suffering greatly, could he really leave so easily? Being chased and hunted, if he didn't fight back, would he still be considered a disciple of the Black Demon Sect and Old Monster Han?

Just one last step, and he could escape from this Secluded Palace, but Ning Fan didn't take that step. Instead, he turned around fiercely, laughing coldly with a touch of madness, facing the huge hand's attack without fear, and opened the protective golden light!

The strike, comparable to the Second Calamity Immortal Lord's, thundered heavily against Ning Fan's protective golden light but proved futile!

Under the protection of the golden light, Ning Fan was pushed back only half a step, yet he stood firm, blocking the strike of the huge hand!

The attack from the Well of Worries was thwarted by Ning Fan head-on for the first time, and the offensive dissipated completely!

Then... came the counterattack!

As his heart moved, his mind followed, and his hand moved; the Reverse Sea Sword was already in Ning Fan's hand!

With the strength sealed by Ning Fan's cultivation, wielding the Reverse Sea Sword was too arduous. If he merely swung the sword once, he could still leverage the gravitational descent of the Reverse Sea Sword to complete a sword attack, but continuing to hold the sword and fight back against the enemy would be quite difficult.

However, at this moment, Ning Fan only intended to retaliate once. This sword strike followed the direction of gravitational descent, slashing downward relentlessly, wild and unrestrained!

The wind pressure from the sword swept across all directions instantly, stirring waves in the Yellow Springs Great Sea and shaking the palace!

This was the power of a strike with the weight of seven Cultivation Stars!

This was the rebellion of a lower Second Step against the Third Step Ancient Deity!

Just a single stroke cut through the small finger on the huge hand like slicing tofu with a steel knife, utterly unstoppable!

A muffled groan was heard from the Well of Worries, with anger alongside... fear! Terrified of further retaliation, it withdrew the huge hand back into the well, hidden under layers of Extreme Yang power, no longer daring to pursue Ning Fan!

Clearly, it was frightened by Ning Fan's counterattack, startled and alarmed!

The small finger that was severed further melted into water in the moment it left the huge hand!

Golden well water!

Water infused with vast Extreme Yang power!

Extreme Yang Water!

Transformed from the purest Ancient Extreme Yang of the Ancient Firmament!

"This is..."

Ning Fan was slightly stunned, then laughed arrogantly, exhibiting his divine skills to collect the harvested Extreme Yang Water, followed by retrieving the Reverse Sea Sword and speeding away, fleeing the palace and rapidly heading for the sea surface.

The counterattack unexpectedly resulted in harvest, something Ning Fan clearly didn't anticipate! He thought there would be no chance to collect Extreme Yang from the well during this venture, yet due to the counterattack, he harvested plenty of Extreme Yang!

If the Well of Worries hadn't retracted the huge hand in a panic, he would surely have harvested even more Extreme Yang. Haha, he managed to frighten the Well of Worries!

Despite being gravely injured, obtaining such a quantity of Extreme Yang makes the severe injuries somehow worthwhile!

"Despicable! Despicable! You dare to sever one of my fingers; I want you dead! I want you... dead! Roar!!!"

Upon Ning Fan's escape, a frenzied roar echoed from within the palace, naturally emerging from the Well of Worries. That roar was eerie; while seemingly loud, any sound was wiped away by the sea before it reached the surface. In simple terms, the Well of Worries' voice was heavily suppressed and couldn't transmit a sound beyond Yellow Springs!

However, this roar still invoked a summons at the soul level for the beings surrounding Yellow Springs...

This roar was the Well Spirit's vent of rage, a revenge for the loss of a finger. In fact, after finishing the roar, the Well of Worries forcibly calmed down, and the more it calmed, the more it regretted.

The more it pondered, the more familiar Ning Fan's Dao Weapon seemed!

Amidst the rage, it couldn't think clearly, but now, recalling carefully, it was startled!

That sword... that was the Ancient Map Dao Weapon... that was... the Reverse Sea Sword!

It was indeed the Reverse Sea Sword!

How could it be the Reverse Sea Sword!

The equipped sword of the top disciples of the Hunkun Holy Sect! Holding the sword means being enlisted as one of the Saint Heirs in the Holy Sect!

It's not falsehood! This kid's identity indeed is not simple; he happens to be one of the Saint Heirs of the Hunkun Holy Sect!

Saint Heir! Saint Heir! That's a candidate for the Fourth Step inheritance in the Hunkun Holy Sect!

This is bad!

This is a huge mistake!

He shouldn't have released that angry roar; he shouldn't have summoned Yellow Springs beings here to hunt down the kid!

The roar just now... might stir trouble! If this Saint Heir of the Hunkun Holy Sect dies because of this, then as per the sect's rules on protecting its members, no matter where this mere Well Slave hides, across the endless reincarnation of Nine Heavens Ten Earths, Ning Fan's ancestor would exterminate it!

Total obliteration!

"Stop! Don't harm his life, absolutely not! I don't want that finger, you all cease immediately!"

Well of Worries wanted to stop something, but its voice couldn't transmit beyond the sea surface, and the more it shouted, the more it irritated the beings from Yellow Springs.

As per the terms of the Ancient Divine Spirit Pact, if the Well of Worries howls, it is definitely a summons for all guardian beings to hunt down the invading enemy! The nearby beings around Yellow Springs couldn't hear what the Well of Worries said; they could only perceive the summons! They could only carry out the orders of the Well of Worries!

Hunt down the intruder!

As Ning Fan erupted from Yellow Springs Great Sea, returning swiftly to his voyage ship, countless beastly roars echoed from the direction of the six ancient mountains on the sea surface!

There were dog barks, whale moans, bird cries... diverse sounds, yet any beast roar alone reveals at least True Immortal level cultivations, and even those of eons!

More so, in an instant, over thirty thousand killing intents from the direction of the six ancient mountains locked onto Ning Fan!

No one could intervene anymore!

This was destined to be a determined pursuit at all costs, solely because Ning Fan violated the prohibition of the Ancient Divine Spirit Pact!

"You're back! Did you succeed this time! Why are you covered in blood, so horribly injured! Wait, what happened here, why did the beings of Yellow Springs erupt with such terrifying killing intent, this is unprecedented! What did you do under Yellow Springs!"

As soon as Ning Fan returned to the ship, what he heard was the endless questioning of the Emperor Butcher.

But where was the time to answer!

In the distant sky, in six directions, there were black masses of ferocious beasts, forming a dense layer as they charged towards the voyage ship!

There were Heavenly Dogs, Yellow Springs Whales seen with the old man surnamed Niu, and many more eerie, nameless creatures!

Each had different appearances, but one thing in common: the killing intent directed towards Ning Fan!

Ning Fan's heart sank immediately, then he sneered coldly.

Was it that the Well of Worries, unwilling to give up, summoned these Yellow Springs creatures to hunt him down!

Ha, how many years had it been since he was hunted on such a large scale!

Taking my life, is it such an easy task!

Ning Fan tried the Pig Face Treasure Box, and it still had the restrictive power of the Well of Worries inside, unable to use time reversal. In this way, thinking of using time reversal to cleverly avoid the pursuit of the beasts from six directions and return to the past seemed impossible.

"You are..."

"No time to explain! Stay close to me, I'll take you out of here!" Ning Fan's voice had just fallen when he grabbed the Emperor Butcher's hand, pulling him behind to protect him.

At the same time, a blood-colored beam of light exuding destructive waves fell from the sky, striking precisely where the Emperor Butcher had just been standing. If Ning Fan had been even a moment slower, the Emperor Butcher would definitely have been hit by that blood light.

The beam missed, but it still hit the voyage ship's deck, and with just one strike, the ship's keel shattered, and the hull exploded with a bang into countless pieces, the wreckage sinking into the depths of the Yellow Springs, crushed into powder by the force of the Yellow Springs Great Sea.

Ning Fan suddenly looked eastward; this attack came precisely from that direction!

The attacker was a Heavenly Dog resembling a small leader, about the early Shattered Thought stage, seemingly not far from here. At this moment, it had already arrived ahead of others, bringing one or two dozen Crossing and Shedding Void stage Heavenly Dogs, skimming over the sea, approaching with strange howling.

Seeing its first strike miss, the Heavenly Dog leader led its numerous subordinates, once again spewing blood light from their mouths, instantly launching more than twenty beams of blood light attacking Ning Fan and the Emperor Butcher.

At this moment, Ning Fan couldn't fly, but he could still leap. As the last plank of the voyage ship sank, he directly embraced the Emperor Butcher, jumping from the plank towards the Heavenly Dog leader's direction, leaping a hundred zhang!

More than twenty beams of blood light attacked, their power considerable. In mid-air, Ning Fan punched out with his right hand, nearly brutishly smashing the countless blood light attacks, then landing steadily on the back of the Heavenly Dog leader.

Being approached from behind by Ning Fan, the Heavenly Dog leader was instantly a little fearful, shaking all over, trying to shake Ning Fan off its back, but how could it succeed.

Ning Fan didn't bother with nonsense with this Heavenly Dog leader, punching it directly on the dog's head, making the Heavenly Dog spit blood and cry miserably, but it wasn't killed, clearly because Ning Fan deliberately held back.

He still needed this Heavenly Dog to carry him out of the Yellow Springs Great Sea, how could he kill it!

The purpose of this punch was to stun the Heavenly Dog's divine sense, causing it to be dizzy.

While the Heavenly Dog was dizzy, Ning Fan's left eye flickered with Demon Light, and Illusory Art was already activated, easily controlling this Heavenly Dog just like he had once controlled the Hundred-li Stone Dragon!

"From this moment on, you no longer belong to this Yellow Springs, but are my footman! Quickly carry me out of this place, make no mistake!"

Ning Fan gave an order to the dazed Heavenly Dog, which instinctively wanted to resist Ning Fan's command, but the power of the Illusory Art caused its body to become obedient to Ning Fan. At this moment, it forgot its initial intention to hunt Ning Fan. Howling like a wolf, it then flew into the sky, carrying Ning Fan and the Emperor Butcher, heading towards the remote sky, into that sallow yellow cloud and fog.

"Your injuries are serious; you must heal immediately!" Emperor Butcher frowned deeply. Not because of the countless fierce beasts chasing them, but because of Ning Fan's injuries.

She couldn't imagine what Ning Fan had experienced under the Yellow Springs to be so severely injured.

She couldn't understand either why Ning Fan's physical defense was on the verge of collapse, yet his face still carried a smile.

This kid, could it be that he got some great benefits under the Yellow Springs? Otherwise, why would he be so joyful?

But with his disposition, even if he obtained the best treasures, he could mostly remain unemotional. Such a rampant smile was somewhat perplexing to her...

Emperor Butcher naturally did not know that the reason Ning Fan felt such pleasure was not because he had obtained a lot of Extreme Yang Water from beneath the Yellow Springs, but because... he had struck back against the Well of Worries, and successfully!

By nature, he had a reckless side, but ever since ascending to Eastern Heaven, due to various reasons, he began to restrain this recklessness.

Swallowing insults, enduring humiliation... Once upon a time, he was so unbridled, dominating the Rain Immortal World, drawing the sword in anger, daring to defy the Moksha Emperor with an ant's body, daring to slay the Rain World's Heavenly King out of rage...

That was his true nature!

Yet, the South Heaven Fate-controlling Immortal Emperor calculated against him, he had to endure!

The Eastern Heaven Great Emperor Chonghe calculated against him, he had to endure!

The Dark Clan targeted him, he had to endure!

Da Bi Celestial Emperor calculated against him, he still had to endure!

But this time, facing the Fiendgods from the Third Step, he chose not to endure, but instead laughed in extreme anger, and with an unyielding stance, cut off a finger of that Fiendgod!

Such a release without the need for endurance allowed the long-suppressed Ning Fan to finally feel pleasure and wear this defiant smile!

What of the Fiendgods!

What of the countless Yellow Springs beings chasing after him!

Come, all of you, come!

If you want my life, fine, then exchange it with yours!

If you have the guts, come!

In an instant, the world at this place rippled with unrestrained storm due to Ning Fan's surge of killing intent!

Above the waves, on the great mountain peaks, under the Yellow Springs sky, countless beasts pursued, stormy winds howled!

Roar!

Ahead suddenly appeared over a hundred eerie shadowy birds, intercepting, all possessing True Immortal realm cultivation!

Each of those shadowy birds shook, and countless ink-green feather needles flew out, thousands upon thousands, raining down toward Ning Fan like arrows.

Ning Fan pressed a hand gently on the Emperor Butcher's head in front of him, pressing her head down to avoid the wind pressure of countless feather needles.

His other hand, formed into a fist, Ancient Devil Dao energy surged violently. With a punch, the sky within a thousand zhang instantly shattered, not only destroying the shadowy birds' attacks but also caused hundreds of shadowy birds to explode simultaneously and perished!

Ning Fan did not waste words with these birds, but from his nearly brutal actions, the Emperor Butcher saw Ning Fan's intention!

If I want to leave, none of you can stop me!

Those who block me... die!

Chapter 1053: Xiao Yu!

Obviously, his physical body was on the verge of collapse, yet the ancient demon bloodline inside Ning Fan surged more fervently than ever.

The barrier between his current ancient demon cultivation and the tenth nirvana of the heavenly demon was initially intact. However, due to this series of life-and-death crises, the barrier began to show signs of melting like ice and snow.

Despite the severe injuries within his body, Ning Fan's powerful physical recovery ability tirelessly healed his body, turning his pale complexion gradually back to its natural hue.

Around him, the silent sky suddenly echoed with the sound of wind, accompanied by the anger-filled roars from all directions of over thirty thousand fierce beasts!

His mouth curled into a cold and sinister smile, driven by the dominion of the ancient demon bloodline over his body!

The Heavenly Dog soared, carrying Ning Fan as it roared forward towards the exit of the Six Paths Yellow Springs, where the obstructing beasts became increasingly numerous and nearer, initially only numbering in the hundreds, soon turning into thousands, charging layer upon layer.

Yet, they couldn't halt Ning Fan's advancement!

On the Heavenly Dog's back, Ning Fan occasionally punched and pressed down with demonic fingers, causing blood mist explosions in the sky, killing hundreds if not thousands more Yellow Springs beings.

The slaughter intensified!

At this moment, the slaughter technique's augmentative effect on killing was forcibly activated!

Whenever a fierce beast died here, bloodlines extracted from their bodies continually flowed into Ning Fan from all directions!

The depleted ancient demon essence was instantly replenished through slaughtering, and alongside the killings, Ning Fan's ancient demon cultivation also received a short-term boost, continuously rising!

With each beast killed, one gains a tenth of the killed beast's cultivation increase!

Back when he annihilated the Fourth Revolution Dan Refinement Master, Ning Fan was merely at the eighth nirvana of the heavenly demon level. Yet, relying on the slaughter technique's augmentative effect, he managed to elevate all the way to the eleventh nirvana realm. Now that his ancient demon cultivation was stronger than before, he could naturally withstand greater augmentations.

Tenth nirvana of the heavenly demon!

Eleventh nirvana of the heavenly demon!

Twelfth nirvana of the heavenly demon!

Ning Fan's aura continuously soared with the slaughter, eventually climbing all the way to the extreme of the twelfth nirvana of the heavenly demon!

The only regret was the Yellow Springs beings before him were not from the ancient demon tribe, so killing these creatures couldn't absorb their cultivation traits into his own.

What does the extreme of the twelfth nirvana of the heavenly demon mean? At this moment, Ning Fan could effortlessly kill Yellow Springs beings under the Shattered Thought phase with a single punch or finger. For beings at the Early Shattered Thought stage, at most three strikes would be enough to kill them! Those in the Mid-Phase Shattered Thought realm could have their life taken within ten blows! Late Shattered Thought stage would be vanquished in twenty strikes!

This is without Ning Fan using his trump card divine skills.

If he employs the Nightmare Dragon Claw in attack, with the spirit equipment's attack augmentation, those at the Shattered Thought Peak could be killed with one strike! Even those at the apex of Shattered Thought could be slain within two claw attacks!

What if he launches a full-powered Ancient Demon Mountain-Shattering Strike...

As Ning Fan continued his slaughter of thousands of fierce beasts, an unexpected change occurred ahead, first with the herd of beasts frantically retreating to either side of the sky, followed by a massive Yellow Springs Whale that stormed out from the middle!

Yellow Springs Whale surrounded with dark yellow momentum charged forward, fiercely crushing the long sky with Ning Fan roaring towards it. The force of its charge reached the full might of a newly ascended Immortal Venerable!

Finally, an eternal level Yellow Springs being had arrived!

"Beware! This is a Yellow Springs Whale unique to the Six Paths Yellow Springs. Its collision force is enough to..."

It was Emperor Butcher who warned Ning Fan.

But at this moment, Ning Fan paid no heed to Emperor Butcher's warning! This formidable Yellow Springs Whale may be powerful, but Ning Fan, fears nothing!

There's no need to release the Punishment Ring Seal.

Just using my Divine Demon Cultivation Level should suffice!

What of the newly ascended Immortal Venerable cultivation!

Activating the Ancient Demon Mountain-Shattering Strike, Ning Fan's essence was instantly siphoned, all concentrated onto his left hand's Nightmare Dragon Claw. The world was immediately filled with fierce

winds blowing Ning Fan's hair wildly, and on the Nightmare Dragon Claw, black energy soared into the sky, where within the black air, the shadow of the Black Dragon's fangs faintly manifested!

The next moment, the Yellow Springs Whale charged, greeted by Ning Fan's audacious five slashing waves from the Nightmare Dragon! These slashes bent like dragon teeth, each several thousand zhang in size, releasing overwhelming demonic thoughts. Those demonic thoughts condensed from Ning Fan's lifetime of slaughter, scattered demon might, directly intimidating nearby weaker creatures into immobilization!

The Yellow Springs Whale bore the brunt, subject to the strikes' attack. Confident in its potent physical defense, it neither dodged nor evaded; instead, it arrogantly collided with five black dragon tooth slashes, relying on its immense momentum and physical power to smash through the first and second dragon teeth attacks, only halting before the third dragon tooth strike—its charge exhausted, unable to smash the third dragon tooth, suddenly feeling fear.

Clearly, it did not expect Ning Fan's five slashes to be so formidable. With its Immortal Venerable strength, it still couldn't disentangle this attack with a single blow! Now contemplating avoiding the dragon teeth attack was too late!

The third, fourth, and fifth dragon tooth strikes magnified continually in the Yellow Springs Whale's fearful eyes! Subsequently, its physical body was pierced through by the remaining three dragon tooth strikes! Torn apart!

Blood rain scattered over the long sky, and then, the Yellow Springs Whale's colossal corpse shattered into countless pieces, plummeting down to the Yellow Springs Great Sea, sinking, leaving no remains.

A thick wave of astonishment and dread instantly engulfed the heart of every Yellow Springs being present!

An Immortal Venerable level Yellow Springs Whale... was actually slain by Ning Fan in mere contact!

Even Emperor Butcher was slightly shocked at this moment. If Ning Fan had slain an Immortal Venerable Yellow Springs Whale when fully unleashing his cultivation, she wouldn't be surprised at all. Yet, at this moment, Ning Fan's cultivation is constrained by the Punishment Ring, unable to deploy Immortal Venerable's power...

Yet he still instantaneously killed an Immortal Venerable Yellow Springs Whale!

Throughout the journey, she thought she understood all of Ning Fan's strength, but now she realized her knowledge of Ning Fan was just the tip of the iceberg...

"It seems there's no need for me to deplete my cultivation; you can handle the current predicament..." Emperor Butcher sighed in admiration.

"Mm, rest assured."

Having succeeded in a single strike, Ning Fan remained calm, evidently having foreseen such an outcome. The extreme of the twelfth nirvana of the heavenly demon realm was just a step away from the actual ancestral regression realm of the ancient demon. Given the ancient demon's physical strength, far surpassing others of the same level, Ning Fan's physical power at present was slightly superior to that of the Yellow Springs Whale.

Already at advantage, coupled with Ancient Demon Mountain-Shattering Strike's critical damage, instantaneous annihilation of the Yellow Springs Whale was hardly surprising.

The only issue was the gigantic consumption of essence by the Ancient Demon Mountain-Shattering Strike; currently, Ning Fan's essence reserves had hit bottom. Thankfully, here was a battlefield teeming with enemies. As long as there was slaughter, essence could be replenished. After slaughtering hundreds more Yellow Springs beings, Ning Fan's essence had returned to full abundance.

Should more eternal level beings attack, he could still deploy Ancient Demon Mountain-Shattering Strike!

Of course, it's better not to get entangled with these Yellow Springs beings. Ning Fan secretly calculated; with his current cultivation elevated by the slaughter technique, even using Ancient Demon Mountain-Shattering Strike could at most inflict damage on Immortal Venerable level Yellow Springs beings. To deal fatal damage to Immortal King level Yellow Springs beings would be quite challenging.

The problem is, among the fierce beasts pursuing from the direction of the six ancient mountains, there lurked Immortal King aura...

"If I escape from the Six Paths Yellow Springs, I wonder if these Yellow Springs beings will continue pursuing from Yellow Springs or the hunt will end within its borders..."

"Now it's already the twenty-eighth day of the Illusionary Test, and according to the test rules, the passage leaving Fire Soul Tower opens three days before the test ends. If the participants don't wish to remain longer, they can leave early..."

"If I leave the Six Paths Yellow Springs and these Yellow Springs beings still pursue me, at worst, I'll escape from Fire Soul Tower directly; no need to linger here! Although not matched for the Immortal King beings, no Yellow Springs being can stop me from leaving!"

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Beasts blocking the path were continually smashed and died in screams, finally Ning Fan arrived at the entrance of Six Paths Yellow Springs.

The Heavenly Dog carrying Ning Fan and the other person, under Ning Fan's command, charged towards the oily yellow cloud mist in the sky. There lay the spatial entrance to Six Paths Yellow Springs; there exists the formidable obstruction of high-grade Tai Xuan Illusion Technique!

Ning Fan concentrated his spirit intensely and focused greatly.

Upon entering the Six Paths Yellow Springs facing the entrance illusion, he was defenselessly ensnared into the illusion. Had Emperor Butcher not sacrificed to rescue him, he would have perished within the illusion's saintly duel.

He acknowledged the entrance illusion of Yellow Springs was powerful!

But for the same pitfall, he absolutely won't allow himself to falter twice! At least when exiting Yellow Springs, he wouldn't permit himself to fall into an illusion crisis again!

Must Emperor Butcher sacrifice once more to save him!

Absolutely not!

In his eyes, the Tianren Second Realm's azure light fully ignited, and Ning Fan's entire eyes turned azure!

At the center of his brows, the dark yin-yang power was fully unleashed, plunging the world into darkness for a moment, and in that instance, the amplification of the dark yin-yang illusion also took effect!

In his left eye, the Fuli Illusion-Breaking Talent was activated, causing the demon blood within Ning Fan to burn!

See through, see through, see through!

He wanted to see through the illusion here!

He wanted to rely on his own power, to leave this illusion attack unscathed!

Just as the Heavenly Dog crashed into the yellow clouds, a massive force of illusion swept towards Ning Fan's divine sense, attempting to drag him back into the illusion once more.

Emperor Butcher furrowed his brows and planned to intervene once more to save Ning Fan. But this time, after the first wave of illusion attack, Ning Fan did not fall into the illusion but remained conscious, lightly reaching out to hold down Emperor Butcher's hand, who was preparing to cast spells.

"Don't worry."

Such simple two words yet brought an unprecedented shock to Emperor Butcher.

Unexpectedly, Ning Fan maintained his mental clarity under the attack of the High-Grade Tai Xuan Illusion Technique!

One must know that this kind of illusion could not be resisted even by an Immortal Emperor...

Emperor Butcher turned back in surprise and saw Ning Fan's eyes covered with azure, clear as the Tao!

Clearly, her cultivation realm was higher than Ning Fan, but facing Ning Fan's gaze, she felt an uncontrollable sense of inferiority.

As if, at this moment, she was merely an ant on the ground, while Ning Fan was the supreme boundless Dao!

"Tianren... Second Realm! He was not just a typical Tianren cultivator, but one of the few in the Era of Decline... a Second Realm cultivator!"

While Emperor Butcher's inner mind was in turmoil, Ning Fan warded off the illusion impact from the entrance of the Netherworld time and again.

Tianren Second Realm cultivator can discern all illusions of the Second Step of cultivation!

Of course, High-Grade Tai Xuan Illusion Technique actually already belongs to the Divine Skill of the Third Step, merely relying on this point is not enough to contend against High-Grade Tai Xuan Illusion Technique. However, what Ning Fan possessed was not only the eyes of Tianren Second Realm but also had the illusion amplification of dark yin-yang and the Illusion-Breaking Talent from the Fuli race.

His illusion art talents were extraordinary!

He had received many pointers from Emperor Butcher along the way!

Moreover, he had the past experience of falling into the illusion here!

Never fall into the same pit twice! Never!

Ning Fan steadfastly held onto a thread of consciousness, gritting his teeth and persevering, despite the waves of illusion attacks coming forth, he was adamant not to succumb!

Finally, the illusion attacks were quelled.

Finally, the light of the sixth layer shone into Ning Fan's eyes.

He succeeded! He deflected the frontal impact of the High-Grade Tai Xuan Illusion Technique by his own strength!

Ning Fan felt unprecedented mental fatigue, evidently due to the immense consumption of his mind in contending against the High-Grade Tai Xuan Illusion Technique, yet more grand than the fatigue was the elation within.

Just by competing against the High-Grade Tai Xuan Illusion Technique, his illusion proficiency had notably improved! Many illusion knowledge that he couldn't comprehend before actually came to a realization during this collision!

Yet moments later, Ning Fan's gaze turned cold. After he exited the Six Paths of Yellow Springs, the creatures inside actually... pursued him out!

"It seems their pursuit is not constrained to inside the Yellow Springs but wishes to hunt me to the ends of the earth! Alas, it appears not all pursuers can pursue out."

Ning Fan sneered, commanding the Heavenly Dog he rode to swiftly fly towards the position of the sixth layer's entrance.

The entrance to the Yellow Springs was too small, too narrow, so many large creatures could not leave the Yellow Springs. Such creatures as the Yellow Springs Whale, of which there are over ten types, such giant beings could not pursue out of the Yellow Springs and could only resentfully halt internally, bellowing at Ning Fan through the Yellow Springs entrance.

Those able to pursue out were mostly smaller creatures, such as the Heavenly Dog, Yellow Springs Lion... but due to the width of the passage, over thirty thousand Yellow Springs creatures had to fly out in batches, in sequential order.

By the time all size-suitable Yellow Springs creatures had pursued out, Ning Fan had already fled to the fourth layer of the Fire Soul Tower.

With a flick of Ning Fan's spirit sense, a light rain suddenly swept through the entire fourth layer of the Fire Soul Tower.

Behind him, only a sparse few Yellow Springs creatures were continuing their chase, their main contingent still seemed to be lingering in the sixth and fifth layers, not catching up.

And after Ning Fan once again slaughtered a Newly Ascended Immortal Venerable level avian creature, the pursuing Yellow Springs creatures temporarily did not see other Eternal beings appear.

Ning Fan swung a fist with one hand, exterminating the Yellow Springs creatures that came chasing, while the other hand took out the Illusion Test Map, slightly furrowing his brow as he flipped through it.

Peculiar, very peculiar...

Upon escaping to the fourth layer, for unknown reasons, his heart suddenly had an influx of intuition. As if some great life-and-death crisis was ceaselessly approaching.

Great Masters often have a sense of impending unknown crises, Ning Fan had no doubt about the authenticity of this foreboding.

The question was... where does this sense of crisis stem from?

Is it from the Well of Worries he offended? No, it doesn't resemble that; the source of this crisis feeling appears to be in the lower direction, not the Well of Worries, nor those Yellow Springs creatures...

Could it be the Meng Clan...

Ning Fan's gaze suddenly sharpened, then he smirked cold.

Indeed, the source of this crisis feeling is most likely the Stone Flame Meng Clan. Information from Emperor Butcher stated that due to the death of Demon Seed Meng Zhen, the Meng Clan had developed a heart of certain killing intent toward him, intending to strike during the illusion test.

Now only two days remain until the illusion test ends, has the Meng Clan finally decided to strike!

Are the elders of the Meng family waiting at even lower layers for him to walk into their trap!

To bring such a significant sense of crisis, even to the point of inducing intuition, it indicates that the Meng family envoy is terrifyingly strong...

At least an Immortal Emperor!

"Ning Fan, be careful! From the direction of the third layer, I sense a powerful aura concealed; the opponent should undoubtedly be an Immortal Emperor! And judging from the aura, this person cultivates the techniques of the Stone Flame Clan!"

"Could it be a strong figure from the Meng family?"

"Almost certainly!"

"Haha, I didn't expect the Stone Flame Meng family to actually dispatch an Immortal Emperor to kill me; what a grand gesture. It seems this time, without the resolve to destroy the Punishing Ring, there's no way to leave safely!"

Ning Fan was clearly laughing, yet that smile carried an ancient ice-cold intent, evidently due to the Meng family's pursuit, he harbored anger.

Facing the third step Well of Worries, he dared to sever its finger, and facing the Meng family Immortal Emperor, he likewise would not retreat!

"In three more hours I can restore my cultivation. The opponent should just be a Sixth Calamity Immortal Emperor. With my full cultivation, defeating him isn't difficult! We should not hurry into the third layer, but first spend some time in the fourth layer. When my cultivation is restored, your enemy, I will help you kill! After all, you helped me once, I will certainly help with this task!" Emperor Butcher said boldly.

However, just as Emperor Butcher finished speaking, the surrounding world suddenly had a confinement, the originally advancing Heavenly Dog suddenly seemed to collide with an invisible wall, crying out miserably, its head broke and bled as it fell from the sky.

Ning Fan's gaze immediately darkened, hugging Emperor Butcher tightly, as they leaped from mid-air and landed steadily.

In mid-air, suddenly a flash of blood light, from which emerged an elderly figure bathed in blood shadow, standing amid the forbidden force among the sky, looking impassively at Ning Fan and Emperor Butcher below.

A matchless Immortal Emperor's aura swept over the entire fourth layer in just an instant, exuding a world-destroying killing intent!

"You will not have three hours to restore your cultivation! Everything happening now is within my Meng Baixiong's calculations! That blind woman over there, you may leave, I won't kill you, nor do I wish to become antagonistic with you! But this foreign cultivator, I must kill! No one can save him! Not even you, it's impossible!"