

Grasping Evil #Chapter 11: Power of the Fire Sword - Read Grasping Evil Chapter 11: Power of the Fire Sword

Chapter 11: Power of the Fire Sword

Ning Fan brought Yuchi along with one hundred Apricot Guards to the Situ mansion.

The main door was tightly shut with around five hundred Sword Guards on watch. They all wore crimson robes embroidered with seven sword emblems on their shoulders.

Since they knew Ning Fan would come, the well-trained Sword Guards immediately lined up in an orderly fish-shaped sword formation against him the moment they saw him.

The turbulent sword aura suddenly surfacing caused Ning Fan to instinctively take two steps back to stabilize his stance. Yuchi was even more embarrassed, even though he was an old Harmonious Spirit realm monster, his expression immediately sank into a dark shade as he almost fell down under the pressing momentum of five hundred people.

What is this! They haven't even met yet they first showed their strength versus the young lord!

"This subordinate greets Commander Yuchi! Command Situ is not feeling well today so he cannot meet foreign visitors!"

A swordsman with a murderous-air responded with the cultivation of a level ten Vein Opening cultivator. He didn't bother to look at Ning Fan, but the biting emphasis on the two words "foreign visitor" clearly referred to Ning Fan.

'Foreign visitor. Good usage of foreign visitor. Was this them not wanting to recognize my status as the Seven Apricot City's young lord?'

"I am the Seven Apricot City's young lord. I have something to ask Command Situ and will have to inconvenience you to report to him."

Ning Fan did not mind facing the cold swordsman. He came forward step by step, releasing his powerful Black Flame aura and then immediately rushed forward. He encompassed the sword aura of the five hundred Sword Guards until they were swept flying.

Between the heaven and earth, a chaotic power of the origin flame rushed out!

"So powerful! This is a fifth level Vein Opening cultivation!?"

The swordsman's expression greatly changed. The Ning Fan before them and the Ning Fan in the rumors were completely different! He was not at the first level Vein Opening, nor a fragile rookie. He used one person's power to tear apart the aura of five hundred!

This swordsman was clearly at the tenth level of Vein Opening and only one step away from reaching Harmonious Spirit, but he faintly felt a dangerous sensation facing Ning Fan.

Could the rumor saying Ning Fan wounded Commander Yuchi... be true!?

"This Young Lord wants to see Commander Situ, are you sure about blocking this Young Lord?" Ning Fan was sarcastically smiling with an invisible aura, causing the swordsman's forehead to drip with cold sweat.

Danger. Very dangerous! During his panic, the swordsman had the thought that if he tried to stop Ning Fan, then his life would be in danger!

One minor quarrel yet killing intent was present. This young lord was not a pushover!

"Yuchi, we go in."

Ning Fan no longer looked at the swordsman and directly went inside the Situ mansion as the swordsman's expression showed signs of struggle and couldn't continue to obstruct him.

Only when the swordsman could no longer see Ning Fan's shadow did the weight finally lift, and he bitterly smiled.

"Worthy of being the city lord's disciple... This presence is nothing like a cultivating baby."

The Situ mansion's decoration was luxurious, it was covered with golden wallpapers and corals hanging on the fences. The outer court was a vast garden area. It was mysterious how Situ managed to make this place always spring — for four seasons — without being exposed to the wind and snow.

However, the thing that was the most odd was that within the garden, there were grave monuments everywhere. The reason why spring was eternal in this place seemed to be out of respect for these graves.

"The graves here, are not ordinary..."

Yuchi's expression slightly changed from hearing this, but he secretly praised Ning Fan for his exceptional intuition.

These graves were indeed extraordinary. He was about to explain the origin of these graves to Ning Fan, but before he could open his mouth, an icy voice came from the other end of the garden.

“Not ordinary? A baby like you can tell that the graves in this place are not ordinary?”

Ning Fan slightly raised his head and looked at the person slowly walking closer from the distance.

This was a skinny, middle-aged man. His long hair was messy, but he wore a black monastic robe. His pair of eyes were both muddy yet bright — extremely abnormal. The two eyebrows were like swords inclining towards his temples while his eagle eyes carried a natural and cool calculating glint of murderous intent.

“I know your purpose for coming. Tell me a little bit, what is so extraordinary about these graves?”

The middle-aged man’s words were domineering, not leaving any room for Ning Fan.

This man was the Sword Guard’s commander — Situ!

Ning Fan gauged Situ. This person’s physique was like a sword and his personality was one that would rather break before bending to others. Wanting to prove himself to such a man with just power alone would not be easy.

He must try to answer the question of this man.

Ning Fan could vaguely see that Situ’s cultivation was at the Intermediate Harmonious Spirit realm with only a thin line away from the Late Harmonious Spirit realm, but it seemed like he was stuck in this stage for a long time. Ning Fan then looked at the graves and suddenly understood.

“There are 105 graves in this place, and there are 105 swords buried underneath. These were buried with the Fierce Sword Formation in mind. Commander Situ must be wanting to use the sword aura of this place to break through to the Late Harmonious Spirit realm?” Ning Fan slowly answered.

Situ’s eyes became bright, but he did not give an opinion on Ning Fan’s words.

“Unfortunately...”

Ning Fan intentionally only spoke halfway before he suddenly withdrew his words and then turned around towards the Situ mansion’s exit.

Yuchi scratched his head. He was unable to understand Ning Fan’s actions nor why he suddenly left. However, Situ’s expression was moved and asked:

“Wait Young Lord, you didn’t finish. Unfortunately what?”

Situ had followed the old monster for forty years. These forty years, his sword dao increased as swiftly as the wind, from Early-stage Harmonious Spirit all the way to Intermediate-stage Harmonious Spirit. However, he could not reach the Late stage no matter what; it was as if there was a strange blockade.

He set up the sword graves here for enlightenment, but he always felt that this place was lacking a certain something. Unfortunately, he could never come up with that something. Ning Fan’s words missed an intent, but they were said as if he knew what was missing.

However, Ning Fan only spoke the first half and then directly left as if he was giving Situ a choice. If he surrendered to Ning Fan and admitted his status as the young lord, Ning Fan would tell him the method to break through to the Late stage. But if he didn’t, then Ning Fan would leave and he would lose the chance!

Situ was unlike Yuchi. He was not stupid and had great vision. His requirement for the young lord of Seven Apricot City was not cultivation and power, but intelligence and scheming.

Ning Fan’s unfinished phrase and sudden turn showed his intelligence. He didn’t resemble an ignorant young cultivator in anyway. This satisfied Situ’s demand towards Ning Fan, and he also became curious about what kind of experience would make a sixteen years old have such astute shrewdness and scheming skills.

Truly an interesting Young Lord! He was worth following!

Understanding this, Situ no longer questioned it and opened his mouth to call for Ning Fan.

His call for Ning Fan to stop was, in reality, a sign of submission towards Ning Fan. Ning Fan smiled and turned around; he was very satisfied with Situ’s action.

Only the honest Yuchi touched his head, not knowing the hidden intentions between Ning Fan and Situ.

“Could Young Lord clear up this subordinate’s doubts?” Seeing Ning Fan coming back, Situ looked at him and clasped his fists respectfully, and he also referred to himself as a subordinate. This was clearly a sign of his submissiveness towards Ning Fan.

Seeing that he successfully convinced Situ, Ning Fan did not overtly take advantage of the situation. He also did not explain the ineptness of the graves, but rather, he slowly raised his hand and revealed a black flame on his fingertip.

With his Immortal Emperor's memories, even though his cultivation was not high, seeing the flaws in Situ's cultivation was not a difficult matter.

Many things couldn't be done with just words, and it was better for Situ to personally perceive the bottleneck of the Late Harmonious Spirit realm.

"Flame as a sword!"

Ning Fan suddenly shook his fingertip, and the black flame turned into a black sword and broke through the air, flying towards Situ!

Ning Fan had used the Black Flame with only his own power to immediately wound Yuchi. After obtaining the Black Fire Ring, the power of his flames increased by thirty percent. Then, Ning Fan was fortunate and obtained the Fire Transformation Sword technique, causing the black flame sword to become even more terrifying!

The power of an Early-stage Harmonious Spirit realm cultivator wouldn't be able to see how Ning Fan unleashed this sword. Even an Intermediate Harmonious Spirit, like Situ, was barely able to see the faint shadow of the sword approaching the destination!

Strong! Very strong! If he didn't block this sword, death was certain!

Situ pointed his big hands at the sword graves and clapped loudly. The swords in the graves powerfully shook and 105 flying swords suddenly flew out. Shadow after shadow of swords thrust out and fought against Ning Fan's fire sword as one!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The powerful battle caused waves and the flying swords shattered one by one. This, in turn, jarred Situ and caused him to continuously retreat in startling fear.

In only a brief moment, his 105 flying swords were all shattered by this one sword! This fire sword's power did not even diminish and continued to aim towards him as it rushed forward!

Unstoppable!

Death was certain!

Although Situ thought that he would die, Ning Fan simply waved his sleeve and dissipated the fire sword.

Ning Fan's forehead was dripping with tiny sweatdrops. With his fifth level Vein Opening cultivation, using the fire sword was a bit too forced, but the power was good!

Situ's cultivation approaching the Late-stage Harmonious Spirit realm couldn't block this one sword. This technique was enough to be Ning Fan's secret card!

"Phew! Such a powerful technique! I didn't think the young lord had such an ace card! If he used this technique that day, how could I block it?" To the side, Yuchi was stunned at Ning Fan's actions and he became even more respectful.

Situ looked at the broken swords with a complex expression while his respect for Ning Fan also rose.

"With just this sword technique, Young Master has the qualification to lead Seven Apricot City!"

With this one sword technique, Situ also faintly felt a critical point. If he could understand this, it would not be long before he could break through to the Late-stage Harmonious Spirit realm!

"Young Lord's sword technique is godly, this subordinate is convinced!" This time, Situ was utterly convinced by Ning Fan with both his words and heart.

Chapter 12: Wu Dongnan

Situ had just acknowledged his allegiance to Ning Fan, so he promptly declared his position and accepted the task Ning Fan gave him for the auction.

The little patch of Coiling Evil Grass in the Situ Mansion was also taken by Ning Fan. As a result, the Jade Royal Grass and Coiling Evil Grass were completely gathered, and now Ning Fan could refine the Jade Royal Dan.

Not knowing the medicinal effects of the so-called "hard-to-find" — even for Immortal Emperors — Jade Royal Dan, Ning Fan was truly looking forward to it.

Unfortunately, there were too many matters for the auction so he had been busy for a while before finding the time to refine the dan.

Leaving the Situ Mansion, Ning Fan took a sigh of relief. After winning over two Harmonious Spirit realm commanders in succession, his position in Seven Apricot City was completely secured.

Yuchi, following behind Ning Fan, had a hesitant look. Even though he was simple and honest, he wasn't stupid. Ning Fan's sword from earlier seemed to have been steering Situ towards something.

After receiving Ning Fan's guidance, it was clear that Situ had some new understanding. Maybe not too long later, he would be able to break through to the Late-stage Harmonious Spirit realm.

'Late-stage Harmonious Spirit realm! This was truly an envious matter! Aii, it would be nice if only Young Lord would also teach me a little bit.'

After holding it back for half a day, Yuchi finally couldn't restrain it anymore and begged Ning Fan to speak as they were going back to the palace.

"Uh, Young Lord ah, you cannot discriminate like this, yah. This subordinate is also completely loyal to you. You helped Second Brother Situ, so you can't not teach me as well. This is not fair, yes, not fair." Yuchi anxiously said.

"Help you?" Ning Fan looked at Yuchi and shook his head.

Yuchi guarded the Apricot Mansion for years to watch over the medicinal courtyard. He inadvertently lost the honed fierceness in his heart. Ruthlessness was not evil, but a type of evil cultivation with determination and courage. Yuchi and the four hundred Apricot Guards were not cruel enough, and their achievements might be limited; unlike Situ, who had extraordinary talents for the sword dao, everything became clear after a single gesture of guidance...

This Yuchi seemed to have no merits outside of feeding the pigs.

Wait a minute... Feeding the pigs!

"You and your Galaxy Pig, your relationship seems to be very good?" Ning Fan asked with a strange gaze.

"Yes, yes! Young Lord also wants to have one? Given the chance, I will help you catch one." Yuchi said with a happy expression.

"No need, I don't like pigs. However, I do have a merit law that can help you increase your power, as long as you are able to accept this merit law."

The Yin Yang Transformation was the only legitimate merit law in Ning Fan's mind, but there were still many other miscellaneous methods.

There was a "Beast Driving Technique" that belonged to the Side-Gate Laws and required the cultivators to dual cultivate with the demonic pets. **** to combine as one — extremely hardcore.

Ning Fan did not intend to cultivate such a hardcore method, but if Yuchi was willing to accept such a method, Ning Fan did not mind passing it to him.

Yuchi, this brute... Doesn't he like demon pigs? Might as well dual cultivate with his demon pig then.

Hearing these words, Yuchi was overjoyed at the unexpected good news. Regardless of how hardcore the merit law was, he didn't care. He only cared about being able to break through to the Intermediate-stage Harmonious Spirit realm.

Thus, after coming back to the palace, Ning Fan wrote down two merit laws from his memory.

One "Beast Driving Technique", **** dual cultivation hardcore merit law — naturally for Yuchi. After getting the method and taking a quick glance, Yuchi was stunned. It was as if he saw an immortal in the heavens, and he became overjoyed as he left.

After arriving home, he couldn't wait any longer and took out the Galaxy Pig. Then, he looked around with mixed feelings. He never married anyone in this life, but this little pig could be his only wife in the future.

"Still good, a sow, it can dual cultivate with me... It is indeed a bit ugly, but it will do for now..."

Wave after wave of a sow's screaming appeared as Yuchi experimented with the Beast Driving Technique. During these courses of events, all kinds of ecstasy was felt, and it didn't need to be described with many words.

Ning Fan wrote down the second merit law, but this was a cauldron merit law named, "Beauty Returning Yin Method". It was prepared for Zhihe.

Zhihe was a natural born Bewitching Physique. Her cultivation speed with a cauldron merit law would be much faster than any other merit laws. More importantly, after cultivating this merit law, Zhihe would be able to suppress the Yin energy in her body. Then, even if she no longer had sex, her Physique still wouldn't act up again.

Unfortunately, this merit law had one requirement: within the first three months of cultivation, she could not lay in bed with men.

This temporarily suspended the dual cultivation plan of Ning Fan and Zhihe.

As a result, Little Zhihe would be in isolated cultivation in the room next door of Ning Fan's bedroom for three long months.

Ning Fan — on the other hand — was completely tied down and occupied with all of the affairs of the auction. Until the end of the night, he sat cross-legged to meditate and solidify his fifth level Vein Opening cultivation, and his magical power was also condensing as well.

In a flash, ten days had passed.

In these ten days, the old monster failed in refining the Four Revolution Dan. Each time the cauldron exploded, he would run out of the palace with a darkened expression to bring back more medicinal materials to try again as he opened a new cauldron. He didn't believe that he couldn't break through to a Four Revolution Dan Master!

Meanwhile, the Godly Void Pavilion in the southern Seven Apricot City built a magnificent Ice Palace to host the Dao Fruit Auction.

At the same time, many experts from the Yue Country came to Seven Apricot City. Both Righteous and Evil Sects attended just for the Dao Fruit Auction, and most were Harmonious Spirit realm old cultivators.

These experts were greeted by Yuchi and Situ and arranged to stay at Seven Apricot City.

But today, Ning Fan's gaze sank as he received an intelligence report from Yuchi.

A person came to be a guest at Seven Apricot City — someone from the Heaven Separation Sect!

The Heaven Separation Sect! Ning Fan had always thought about this sect! His younger brother was at the Heaven Separation Sect at this very moment!

“The Heaven Separation Sect's outer elder, Wu Dongnan, Late-stage Harmonious Spirit cultivation, Second Revolution Dan Master... Another identity of his was the husband of the All Pleasure Sect's Sha Jiuyou...”

Within the Si Fan Palace, Ning Fan held onto the letter with chilling eyes.

The intelligence showed that the All Pleasure Sect was selling male cauldrons to the Heaven Separation Sect through Wu Dongnan's hands.

His little brother, Ning Gu, was also handled by Wu Dongnan and sold to the Heaven Separation Sect.

Reading this, Ning Fan's mind was not at ease. Soon after, Situ sent him another piece of news.

After reading it, Ning Fan had a trace of anger in his eyes.

This Wu Dongnan, after coming to Seven Apricot City, dared to tread arrogantly and made an excessive demand.

He wanted to take away a girl named Zhihe!

He dared to have ideas about Seven Apricot City's young mistress!

Inside the Ice Guard mansion, Commander Situ received a black-robed man.

This man was cold with an aged voice. Although he was young on the outside, in reality, he was a two hundred years old grandpa.

This person was the one who released the Tracking Mice to find Zhihe. He was the Heaven Separation Sect's elder, Wu Dongnan!

"The All Pleasure Sect, good or bad, is still a branch of my Heaven Separation Sect. Han Yuanji didn't say anything and immediately destroyed the All Pleasure Sect, and he even stole a cauldron that I had groomed for many years. Does he not have my Heaven Separation Sect in his eyes!?" Elder Wu's words carried a hint of threat and directly accused Seven Apricot City.

"Haha, the Heaven Separation Sect is the number one evil sect of the Yue Country. How could our City Lord Han dare to offend and knowingly take away Elder Wu's cauldron? Elder Wu should speak with evidence, but if there are no evidence, you shouldn't be speaking such nonsense!" Nangong spoke with a stiff face; he was visibly angry and annoyed.

"Less nonsensical words, surrender Zhihe right now! I have used Tracking Mice to identify her. This little girl is — right now — in your Seven Apricot City!" After speaking these words, Wu Dongnan had a hint of dread in his eyes, but it quickly dissipated.

He heard that the old monster, for unknown reasons, was in isolation to refine dan and didn't care for other matters.

Even though he was an elder of the Heaven Separation Sect, he was still very afraid of Han Yuanji, one of the ten great masters of the Yue Country.

He dared to look down on Nangong, dared to look down on Seven Apricot City, but he didn't dare to look down on the old monster. Unless there was no other way, Wu Dongnan didn't want to screw around with Seven Apricot City.

However, Zhihe was a natural born Bewitching Physique and was groomed for many years as a finest ranked cauldron at the All Pleasure Sect by him. She was his hope at breaking through the Gold Core realm.

In order to take back Zhihe, he would not regret offending Han Yuanji!

"You ask for a cauldron named Zhihe? Hum! Zhihe is my Seven Apricot City's Young Lord's wife. You open your mouth and immediately ask for my Young Lord's wife, do you not place my Seven Apricot City in your eyes!" Nangong's eyes became cold.

“I won’t waste words with you. Before the Dao Fruit Auction ends, hand over Zhihe. Otherwise, your Seven Apricot City will be enemies with my Heaven Separation Sect!” Wu Dongnan coldly snorted and said.

“You are only an outer elder of the Heaven Separation Sect, yet you still dare to represent the Heaven Separation Sect to threaten my Seven Apricot City!?” Nangong angrily retorted.

“Hmph, provoking me is the same as provoking the Heaven Separation Sect. If you don’t believe me, then try it! I am leaving my words here: Zhihe — this girl, I want it!”

Wu Dongnan used his powerful background to intimidate Nangong, then he coldly snorted and left. Nangong was left behind, alone, as his face became blue and red.

Nangong was one of the three Harmonious Spirit realm commanders, and he was the only one who had not vowed loyalty to Ning fan. He had not even met Ning Fan yet.

Even so, he would not allow for an outsider to insult Ning Fan and covet Ning Fan’s woman. This was because Ning Fan was the Young Lord of Seven Apricot City, he represented its face!

“This person opened his mouth and immediately asked for the Young Lord’s wife — simply disrespectful! If it was forty years ago when the City Lord led us to kill in all four directions, I, Nangong, would absolutely not let him leave Seven Apricot City alive. But right now...” Nangong grudgingly sighed.

For forty years, the old monster rarely destroyed sects and killed people. The prestige of Seven Apricot City was gradually being forgotten by others.

Only a single Wu Dongnan, an ant of the Late-stage Harmonious Spirit realm, yet he still dared to cause trouble at Seven Apricot City, hmph!

“I wonder how Young Lord Ning Fan will deal with Wu Dongnan. Would he surrender to Wu Dongnan and hand over his wife, or... Kill Wu Dongnan! What will he choose!” Nangong had a hint of expectation in his eyes.

“Perhaps I could see the Young Lord’s character through his decision. If he is afraid of the Heaven Separation Sect’s prestige, then he is not fit to be my Young Lord!”

On the eleventh day, the Dao Fruit Auction officially began. This day, there were even three Gold Core old devils visiting Seven Apricot City!

In the auction house, there was an unprecedented and magnificent event! This was because, today, there will be a Dao Fruit of a Gold Core old devil being auctioned right at this place!

Dao Fruit had an extremely low chance of forming after the death of a cultivator.

In the cultivation world, there were nonstop battles. When a cultivator was killed, there was a very low chance to give birth to a Dao Fruit. A Gold Core Dao Fruit was even more rare. Normally, only one Gold Core Dao Fruit would appear after the death of one hundred Gold Core old devils.

The medicinal effects of a Gold Core Dao Fruit was enough for a Vein Opening cultivator to reach the Harmonious Spirit realm in one step! And it was also enough for a Peak-level Harmonious Spirit realm cultivator to step into the Gold Core realm! It could even save one hundred years of harsh cultivation for the Gold Core old devils!

Its price will be extremely terrifying!

Chapter 13: Lan Mei

The Auction Palace was built with the unique blue ice of Seven Apricot City — cold and stable. There were five hundred Ice Guards outside of the palace, and they were greeting the guests.

The Dao Fruit Auction was taking place at this location, and participants were required to at least be in the fifth level of the Vein Opening Realm.

Inside the palace, there was a Violet Flame copper lamp every ten steps. These flames will never die, and all of these copper lamps — without exception — were not low level magical treasures.

Along the way, Ning Fan highly praised the use of magical treasures as lamps. This Godly Void Pavilion's handling of business was not small; worthy of being an ancient power in the memories of the Immortal Emperor.

Next to Ning Fan was a man leading the way sent by Nangong.

This man was dressed in a blue robe and was the son of Nangong. Named Nanwei, he was a half-step Harmonious Spirit realm cultivator. He was an inner disciple of the "Sinister Sparrow Sect", and he came back today to Seven Apricot City just to watch the Dao Fruit Auction.

Nanwei was very bold and unconstrained. Even though he only met Ning Fan for a moment, he quickly made friendly talks the whole way. His incessant conversation was a bit similar to the old monster. Ning Fan was a bit unaccustomed to Nanwei's enthusiasm.

"Young Lord should also know that this blue ice has a great origin. I heard that..."

“Young Lord should also know why this Violet Flame is always bright. I heard that...”

“Young Lord, there is a beauty over there, that waist, that figure...”

“Young Lord... Why are you not talking...”

“I heard that Brother Nan is an inner disciple of the Sinister Sparrow Sect?” Ning Fan finally spoke to pick up the conversation.

“That's right, this little brother ran back here from the sect just for the Dao Fruit Auction. Oh right, this time, coming from the Sinister Sparrow Sect, besides this little brother, there was someone else coming to Seven Apricot City. Does Young Lord know who it is?”

“Who?” Ning Fan casually asked without an interested appearance. He was not like a boy, but more like an old man.

“A beauty.” Nanwei said with a special longing.

“Oh.” Ning Fan lightly replied. He had little interest regarding beauties.

“Uhh, is Young Lord really the City Lord's disciple? Why is your character so cold. Young Lord should know, this beauty and Young Lord have a great connection. She is the person chosen by the City Lord to be your fiancée.”

“Uhh...”

Ning Fan perched one eyebrow in silence. When did the old monster choose a fiancée for him? He already had Zhihe?

“City Lord joined the Sinister Sparrow Sect forty years ago, and he had a pact with the Sect Master that, in the future, when he has a disciple, the disciple will marry the Sect Master's daughter...” Nanwei spoke without stopping.

“Forty years ago? This is the old monster choosing an arranged betrothal before birth?” Ning Fan felt his head inflating...

Forty years ago, he was not born yet and didn't have any relationship with the old monster. Clearly, this was an arranged marriage before birth.

“The Sinister Sparrow Sect's daughter, Lan Mei, is a supreme beauty. Because of her status, there are many suitors. However, this woman is proud and arrogant, and she rarely shows any friendliness to men. She is also dissatisfied with this arranged marriage before birth. If she sees Young Lord, I'm afraid she will make things difficult for you. At that time, Young Lord should be a bit accommodating towards her...”

“You want me to yield to her?” Ning Fan frowned. He did not like arrogant women. Regarding this arranged marriage, he didn’t put it in his heart.

Inside the inner palace, the lights were slightly darkened. The Auction Palace was divided into three levels. There was a circular seating area with a crystal tower in the center that was used to display the items. The auctioneer was Ning Fan himself.

This auction will be led by him, and he had to deal with this spectacular scene. This was all planned by the old monster.

Compared to the sect’s disciples who cultivated step by step, the old monster clearly wanted to cultivate a disciple who was capable of upholding one direction.

Even though Ning Fan had not cultivated for a long time, he had a hard life when he was younger, so his view of the world was very clear. Plus, he also had the Immortal Emperor’s memories so he did not have any stage fright.

The auction had not yet started, and Ning Fan slightly looked through the inner palace.

The first level seatings was for all of the Vein Opening cultivators. Only Harmonious Spirit cultivators had the qualification for the second level.

The third level were for the Gold Core old devils, and only three were seated there! The three devils’ seats were covered by a dragon jade curtain; it was able to shield the eyes and spiritual senses. No one was able to see their appearances.

At the entrance to the second floor, there was a noisy commotion at this moment. It was as if something had happened.

The maids greeting the guests were all beautiful cultivators that were enchantingly dressed.

They were from the Godly Void Pavilion, and they carried naturally proud temperaments. They were cold to the Vein Opening cultivators and only slightly smiled towards the Harmonious Spirit ones, but not much more. Only when facing Gold Core old devils would they make some slightly polite remarks.

At this moment, the two maids with cold expressions stopped a girl dressed in blue in front of them. The girl dressed in blue wanted to go to the second floor, but the lord of the Godly Void Pavilion had an order that people without Harmonious Spirit realm cultivation couldn’t go up to the second floor. However, no matter what, the girl in blue refused to let go of the matter.

“Sorry, Master’s order. Cultivators that haven’t reached Harmonious Spirit cannot go up to the second floor.” The two maids arrogantly spoke.

The girl dressed in blue frowned and said, "I am a half-step Harmonious Spirit. Plus, this order medal, is this enough? My sect's elder is up there and I need to find him, could the two of you overlook this..."

The girl dressed in blue moved her empty hand, and a dark jade order medal appeared. It had an underworld sparrow diagram on top.

The nearby cultivators who saw this all took a cold breath. Even a few Harmonious Spirit realm old devils walking by had an uncertain look when they saw this.

This was the Sinister Sparrow Sect's Sect Master's order medal! This girl dressed in blue holding the order, could she be the daughter of the Sect Master?

If this was her identity, then she was eligible to go up to the second floor, right?

Unfortunately, the two maids came from the Godly Void Pavilion and didn't care for the Sinister Sparrow Sect's face; they didn't bother looking at the medal. Their expressions were still like what they were in the beginning. With a cold tone, "Master's order, cultivators that haven't reached Harmonious Spirit cannot go up to the second floor!"

The girl dressed in blue wrinkled her brows even more tightly. She didn't expect that this Godly Void Pavilion didn't care for social relationship, and she couldn't help but to faintly sigh.

Behind her was a white-robed young master. Seeing the girl dressed in blue sighing, he immediately stepped forward while shaking his paper fan. Exuding his Early-stage Harmonious Spirit realm aura, it encompassed the two maids directly.

"You're just maids yet you still dare to look down on the Sinister Sparrow Sect, simply courting death!"

A little bit of pressure was released, yet it shook the two maids until their sweet lips were bleeding while their beautiful eyes were filled with restrained anger. The white-robed young master still wanted to make a move, but he was stopped by the girl dressed in blue.

"Forget it, we won't go up. Wait until the auction ends, then we can report this to the elder... Hopefully, the Great Void Sect won't move so fast... Older Brother Bai, we'll go down to the first floor to find a place to sit."

"Hmph! Considering my little sister's face, I will spare you once ah!"

The white-robed young master's words were arrogant, but after being advised by the girl in blue, he turned around for the first level seating area.

They turned around and saw Ning Fan standing to the side while watching the lively scene.

The white-robed young master glanced and noticed that Nanwei was also from the Sinister Sparrow Sect. They clearly knew each other, but it seemed that their relationship was not good. Thus, he only coldly snorted and turned his head.

As for the girl dressed in blue, she noticed Nanwei following behind Ning Fan, so she couldn't help but to look at Ning Fan's cultivation and found that he was only at the fifth level of Vein Opening. She felt that it was a little strange because Nanwei was a half-step Harmonious Spirit. Why was he so deferential towards Ning Fan?

"Little Brother Nan, this person is..." The girl dressed in blue lightly asked.

"Oh, I would like to do some introductions. This is Seven Apricot City's Young Lord, Ning Fan. This is the Sinister Sparrow Sect's Young Lord, Lan Mei..." Finished speaking, Nanwei winked several times at Ning Fan with an expression that seemed to say: This beauty is your fiancée, hurry up and go greet her for a good impression.

However, Ning Fan automatically ignored Nanwei's expression and simply nodded his head towards Lan Mei. It was as if this was enough of a good gesture.

As for Lan Mei, after hearing Ning Fan's identity, her beautiful eyebrows slightly perched as she asked, "You are the disciple of Honorable Alchemist Han, Ning Fan?"

"Oh? You know me?" Ning Fan was a bit surprised. He only cultivated the Evil Dao for several days, yet his reputation already reached the Sinister Sparrow Sect?

"I didn't know before, I only knew after coming to Seven Apricot City. Ning Fan, I want you to understand one thing. You and I are not possible. I only like the powerful... I hope that when you come to the Sinister Sparrow Sect in the future, don't dwell on me." Lan Mei spoke with a cool tone. It was not demeaning, but apathetic and distanced.

"Why would I dwell on you?" Ning Fan slightly smiled and asked in return. He then brushed past them while Nanwei quickly chased behind.

There were more than thousands of women in this world, not only her, this Lan Mei. This girl thought too highly of herself.

Ning Fan's calmness left Lan Mei slightly surprised, but she didn't say anything.

In any case, she did not recognize the marriage arrangement made by her parent. She had her own reasons, but she would never tell it to strangers and it had nothing to do with Ning Fan.

The white-robed young master behind Lan Mei never interrupted them from start to finish, but after the conversation between the two of them was over, he looked at Ning Fan's back while narrowing his sinister eyes as he said with disdain: "Little Sister, this person is your fiancée? Haha, with a fifth level Vein Opening cultivation... This is nothing, how about you consider me, instead? I am already a Harmonious Spirit realm expert and a good match for you. He, is not good enough!"

"Sorry, Older Brother, I am not interested in him, but also not interested in you." I have no interest in all men. Lan Mei rubbed her forehead and really wanted to tell the truth to this white-robed young master.

"But if Sect Master forces you to marry him, you will really have to do it!" The white-robed young master unwillingly said.

"If I don't have a method to deny it, then I can only marry him." Lan Mei said in a slightly wistful manner.

"Based on what! He is only of the fifth level Vein Opening, how can he be worthy of you! This marriage is really ridiculous!" The white-robed young master glared at Ning Fan's back and wished to hack Ning Fan into pieces.

He strenuously pursued after Lan Mei but failed, and this Ning Fan actually had an arranged marriage — this was unacceptable!

Suddenly, the young master saw an unbelievable scene.

Ning Fan and Nanwei — the two people were met with the two maids' respectful eyes as they went up to the second floor. Only Harmonious Spirit realm cultivators could go up to the second floor ah!

"What is your intention! Didn't you say that one cannot go up without Harmonious Spirit cultivation ah? On what basis can he go up there!" The white-robed young master angrily exclaimed.

"Young Master Ning is the auctioneer of this auction. This auction is inside the palace, where is he not allowed to go?" The two maids looked at the white-robed young master as if they were looking at an idiot.

"He is the auctioneer? It can't be! Such an important auction... He's only a fifth level Vein Opening, how could he be in charge! He has the knowledge and experience? He is able to suppress the crowd here?!" The white-robed young master coldly scowled.

The girl dressed in blue was suffused with a strange expression.

Only a fifth level Vein Opening yet could preside over such an important auction. It seemed like this fiancée's capability was not ordinary, ah.

On the second floor of the Auction Palace, Ning Fan brought Nanwei around once, then calmly went back to the first floor as if nothing had happened.

When he walked across the Heaven Separation Sect's seating, Ning Fan casually glanced at Wu Dongnan a little bit and carved this person's appearance into his mind.

This was the person plotting against his Zhihe!? Hum! Looking to die!

Ning Fan flicked his finger and, inside the fingernail, several grains of red powder fell down and turned into a sweet scent upon Wu Dongnan's body.

This powder was specifically created by Ning Fan prior to the auction from an Immemorial secret recipe, it was specialized in tracking the enemy. One strand of this scent could be traced a thousand miles away. As long as Wu Dongnan didn't leave Ning Fan for a one thousand miles radius, Ning Fan could use a special mean to always keep track of Wu Dongnan's location.

Forever until the scent dissipated!

He went to the second floor just to make a secret move against Wu Dongnan. After the auction's end, Ning Fan would make a move.

Nanwei was confused and didn't know why Ning Fan went to the second floor, but he tacitly didn't ask.

His father, Nangong, had repeatedly told him that the Young Lord was not as simple as he seemed on the surface, and he couldn't be calculated with common sense.

"Okay, I want to go preside over the auction. Brother Nan, go back first and tell Yuchi and Situ to prepare everything. Wait until the auction ends, then we'll make a move!" Ning Fan spoke with a light tone, but there was a faint murderous intent.

Nanwei didn't know what move Ning Fan was referring to, but he still nodded his head and went to pass on Ning Fan's messages.

After a while, the Auction Palace was filled with cultivators. However, after a loud boom, the Auction Palace's gate was closed. Within the auction chamber, there were 1,500 copper lamps all brightened with Violet Flames, brightly illuminating the chamber.

On the crystal stage, an old man coughed twice and released his Early Gold Core aura, and then the place suddenly became quiet.

Countless cultivators gasped and never thought that the one presiding over today's auction was a Gold Core old devil!

Gold Core old devils — In the entire Yue Country, they could be counted on one's fingers!

Godly Void Pavilion, truly big style! To use a Gold Core old devil to be the auctioneer!

“This old man is Yun Xiu, under the command of the Godly Void Pavilion's lord, am here to be the vice auctioneer...” The old devil's words caused all of the people sitting to be amazed.

Auctioneers were separated into main and vice? The vice auctioneer was a Gold Core old devil, then the main auctioneer... Could it be a Nascent Soul cultivator!?

Nascent Soul!?

Having thought about these two words, everyone couldn't help but to take a cold breath. Only powerful countries could have experts of this level. The Yue Country's ten great experts had righteous and evil people, but not one of them broke through to the Nascent Soul realm!

In the Yue Country, Gold Core experts were at the peak. If they could witness the presence of a Nascent Soul senior, then it would be an absolute privilege and luck of three generations!

But unfortunately, they were doomed to be disappointed, because the person who just now climbed up to the crystal stage was not a Nascent Soul master. It was Ning Fan.

“Why is it a fifth level Vein Opening junior! He is the auctioneer?”

“What a joke! Such an important auction yet leaving a junior to preside over it, can he do it!?”

“Hush! I heard Old Monster Han took in a disciple, and this seems to be that person? His name, I think...”

“Hum, who cares who he is! Even if he is the disciple of Old Monster Han, he is still not qualified to be there, bah!”

“Get down! This is not a place for you to play!”

Suddenly, the Auction Palace was filled with uproars. And on the third level, even the three Gold Core experts furrowed their brows.

What is the Godly Void Pavilion doing... Why are they letting a Vein Opening junior preside over such an important auction?

One had to know that the entire Yue Country was looking at this Dao Fruit Auction... Is the Godly Void Pavilion not afraid that this junior will make a mess out of this big auction?

On the second floor, Nangong — from the far distance — judged Ning Fan's performance. He saw that Ning Fan was calm and did not become weak while facing Gold Core experts, so he smiled and nodded approvingly. And after hearing Nanwei's report that stated that Ning Fan wanted the Apricot Guard and the Sword Guard to prepare for action, his eyes flashed a glimmer of light and ultimately let out a smile.

It seemed that this Young Lord did not disappoint him and was prepared to kill Wu Dongnan after the auction.

This City Lord's disciple... Not a bad recruit!

The vice auctioneer named Yun Xiu normally had eyes even above his head and was never friendly towards the Harmonious Spirit realm juniors.

However, after Ning Fan arrived, Yun Xiu looked at Ning Fan with a strange and respectful gaze!

As Ning Fan was climbing up the crystal stage, Yun Xiu even consciously took a few steps back behind Ning Fan, implicating that he was beneath Ning Fan... The crowd found it strange; what magic did Ning Fan have to make a Gold Core old devil act so respectfully like this!

Ning Fan was also surprised. He didn't know why Yun Xiu, a Gold Core expert, was so respectful towards him.

Unusualness was the demon, and Ning Fan did not know whether there was a plot behind this respectful act...

"Haha, Young Master Ning, please preside over the auction." Yun Xiu smilingly said.

"Yes. I am Ning Fan, disciple of Honorable Alchemist Han, the Seven Apricot City's Young Lord. Today, I represent my master to preside over the Dao Fruit Auction. I want to announce the auction's rules. The first..."

Ning Fan did not finish before the white-robed young master sitting near Len Mei suddenly sneered, "So much talking, start the auction already. We didn't come here to listen to the nonsense of you, a Vein Opening junior!"

The white-robed young master had a Harmonious Spirit cultivation. His words carried some weight. He was jealous of Ning Fan and wanted to humiliate him here and now.

However, after his words came out, his expression greatly c

hanged.

On the crystal stage, Ning Fan's cold gaze — like a sword — swept forward and suddenly exerted a flame breath as black as ink, encompassing the entire Auction Palace!

The Vein Opening cultivators felt a dangerous sensation towards the black flame, and even a few Harmonious Spirit realm old devils exposed a dreaded look towards Ning Fan.

Sure enough, this Vein Opening junior was not as simple as he seemed...

Others only felt the aura of the black flame, but the white-robed young master was at the center. His Early-stage Harmonious Spirit realm cultivation was shaken by this flame and suddenly felt a sharp pain in his chest as he coughed out blood.

"This can't be! He is only at the Vein Opening realm, how could he harm me with one move!" The white-robed young master was at a complete loss with his mouth wide open. At this moment, all eyes in the auction palace converged upon Ning Fan with a dreading sensation.

"First, those who dare to cause trouble at this auction will be killed without mercy!" Ning Fan's tone was flat, but this time, the auction floor was completely silent.

Obviously, Ning Fan's power had gained the recognition and respect of the participants.

On the third floor, outside of the three Gold Core experts, there was actually another girl dressed in black whose face was covered by a silk veil. The corner of her eyes revealed a sly smile.

"Really interesting. Fifth level Vein Opening yet can issue such a powerful blow... Could the Yin Yang Locket really be in your body? You are the inheritor of Ancient Chaotic Grand Emperor that I had been struggling to find?"

Chapter 14: Demoness

"The auction rules... First, anyone who dares to cause trouble at the grand event — kill!"

"Second, auction items are identified and priced by me. You don't have to believe, but you cannot question it either; otherwise — kill!"

"Third, the highest bidder wins, using cultivation to disrupt order — kill!"

Ning Fan's bearing was steady and he simply did not resemble a young man, causing many old devils to look at him with different eyes. They didn't dare to underestimate him.

Ning Fan's aura was unbelievable in the eyes of Lan Mei. She had seen many young men, but no one possessed a similar aura.

The white-robed young master standing to the side of Lan Mei grudgingly wiped the blood on his lips as he had a chilling flash in his eyes.

Ning Fan was able to use a fifth level Vein Opening cultivation to harm him — this was indeed formidable. However, daring to harm him like this, this grudge has been forged, today!

On the auction house's second floor, Wu Dongnan slightly frowned. He didn't think that Ning Fan, a fifth level Vein Opening young man, was able to harm a Harmonious Spirit.

"This person is the Seven Apricot Young Lord? He's not weak like the intelligence said. Zhihe is in his hands, ah?"

"Hmph, I don't know if he had touched the little girl or not. If he dared to touch my valued cauldron, even if he is Han Yuanji's disciple, I will still go to make him pay a big price!"

After Ning Fan announced the rules of the auction, it had officially began. He clapped his hands and two beautiful maids — as beautiful as flowers — came on the crystal stage and put the auction items on top of the table to show the audience.

The first auction was a rusted bronze sword, and the scabbard was made out of wood that had decayed quite a bit. It appeared to be quite ancient.

The sword was only a low grade spirit treasure, and the scabbard was only carved from common wood with clumsy workmanship.

The Vein Opening cultivators present did not see the rusted sword's value. As for the Harmonious Spirit realm experts on the second floor, very few of them could see through the mysteries of the sword. Only the Gold Core masters of the third floor noticed some clues, and they couldn't help but to take a cold breath of air.

"The emblem pattern on the rusted sword... This is not wrong! An ancient Heavenly Court's weapon! This is an ancient sword before the collapse of the heaven and earth!"

The three Gold Core devils recognized the old rusted sword's history, but then they immediately shook their heads.

The ancient Heavenly Court existed too long ago. If this sword was a weapon from that era, then perhaps its power had been expended a long time ago and won't have any big effects. At most, it could only sell for one hundred immortal jades.

The group looked at Ning Fan and waited to see how he would appraise this sword.

Ning Fan was the Seven Apricot Young Lord and was invited by the Godly Void Pavilion to be the auctioneer, but he didn't know the items beforehand and must determine a starting price for the items before the auction could begin.

"This sword is from an ancient era and has lost all of its power. The price will not exceed 100 immortal jades, but with the bronze rust on top of the sword, at the very least, it is worth 10,000 immortal jades."

When his words came out, the entire audience was in silence. The next moment, there was an uproar with disordered debates.

"10,000 immortal jades! This is enough to buy ten completely new flying swords! This copper rust is unexpectedly worth 10,000 immortal jades!? Is this Ning Fan here shouting arbitrary prices?"

"An ancient Heavenly Court's weapon eh? Haha, we aren't collecting antiques, what is the use of buying a flying sword with no power?"

"But say, if the Godly Void Pavilion dares to auction this rusted sword in the first place, maybe there is really something extraordinary about it. Could it be just like the little boy said? The bronze rust on the sword has something strange about it?"

On the third floor, the two Gold Core old devils kept on frowning while shaking their heads repeatedly.

10,000 immortal jades — this is a high grade spirit treasure's price. This sword was clearly trash, how could it be worth so much money? As for the bronze rust, they couldn't see what was so special about it. Is the little brat just spouting nonsense?

Only the third Gold Core old devil was unable to sit still. Hearing the two words "bronze rust", his heart was pounding as he stared at the sword on top of the stage.

Could it be, could it be... Could this sword here be the...

But, what if it wasn't? This Gold Core old devil began to hesitate.

Yun Xiu knew the origin of this rusted sword; it was explained by the lord of the Godly Void Pavilion. He also priced it around 10,000 immortal jades. The lord was sure that unless the person was a Nascent Soul old devil, they would not be able to see the mysteries of the bronze rust.

However, Ning Fan was able to determine the same price as the lord and saw through the extraordinary property of the bronze rust. This person had a sinisterly insightful vision. Not a Nascent Soul old devil yet was still able to see through the bronze rust!

Yun Xiu was polite to Ning Fan, before, because the pavilion lord commanded to not snub the people from Seven Apricot City.

Now, he was genuinely respecting Ning Fan. Just Ning Fan's insight alone was enough for him to not be underestimated!

"Ah, 10,000 immortal jades! To buy a rusted sword! No need to ask, this is Ning Fan randomly naming a price!" The white-robed young master standing next to Lan Mei suddenly shouted.

His voice carried a Harmonious Spirit realm momentum and immediately overshadowed the noises in the stage as it went to everyone's ears.

There were many people already questioning the price of the rusted sword so after the white-robed young master spoke, suddenly, there were a number of old devils taking one side, blaming Ning Fan for randomly pricing, and they blamed the Godly Void Pavilion for picking the wrong auctioneer.

There were several more grumpy old monsters who directly threatened for Ning Fan to roll down from the stage and let Yun Xiu preside over the auction, instead.

Suddenly, the situation was a bit out of control. The voices pressing for Ning Fan to leave the stage was increasing. Seeing this, the white-robed young master had a hint of pleasure in his eyes.

Ning Fan injured him so he immediately shamed Ning Fan and borrowed the crowd's momentum to chase Ning Fan out of here!

"Older Brother, you shouldn't forget, this place is Seven Apricot City. You standing here and provoking the Seven Apricot Young Lord, is this okay?" Lan Mei frowned to the side and cautioned with a vaguely displeased expression.

She also did not think that the rusted sword could sell for 10,000 immortal jades, but she didn't like the white-robed young master's action even more.

If Ning Fan was the auctioneer, everyone should give him a certain level of respect. He priced it at 10,000 immortal jades, then it must be this price because if it was too high, no one would bid. Then, this item would just be flowing to the back.

If they actually chased Ning Fan, the Seven Apricot Young Lord, out of the auction stage, then this would only end badly. Chasing the young lord away on his own territory... Were these people's brains kicked by a donkey or something? Causing this

type of trouble, are they not afraid of the revenge of Ning Fan's master, Old Monster Han?

"Oh? You all feel that my valuation is too high?" Ning Fan slightly knitted his brows and exuded his aura a little bit, causing the stage to suddenly quiet down by a lot.

Even though he was a cultivation rookie, he inherited the Immortal Emperor's memories. He could faintly see that this sword was extraordinary. 10,000 immortal jades valuation was definitely not a high price.

"I, on the other hand, still feel that 10,000 is a low price. Everyone can rest assured. If no one bids on this sword during this auction, I will use my Seven Apricot Young Lord's status to buy this sword! Now, can you all trust that this Ning Fan did not price it randomly just now?" Ning Fang spoke again.

When Ning Fan's words came out, the stage went silent for the second time. If this sword didn't sell, then Ning Fan would personally use his own pocket money to buy it... Could it be that this sword really had some amazing property?

The disturbance caused by the white-robed young man was immediately subsided by Ning Fan's two sentences.

To be able to handle such a large scene, this was ability.

To be able to agree to take out 10,000 immortal jades to buy the sword, this was resolution.

Lan Mei's expression flashed with a strange light. Even a Gold Core old devil would not have 10,000 immortal jades to waste. However, Ning Fan opened his mouth and immediately promised 10,000 immortal jades. This was the first time Lan Mei had seen a young man with such boldness.

"Wait a minute! This sword, this old man is a bit interested..." A voice carrying a Gold Core momentum suddenly appeared from the third floor. In a flash, the stage began to discuss once again.

Someone actually wanted this sword that was selling for 10,000 immortal jades, and it was even a Gold Core old devil! It seemed that this Seven Apricot Young Lord did not name a wrong price ah...

On the third floor, the Gold Core old devil hesitated for a long time, but he still lifted the curtain then leaped down from the third floor to land on the auction stage, where he clasped his hands to greet Ning Fan.

People then recognized the identity of this Gold Cold old devil. This was naturally another of Yue Country's ten grand master, Qin Ziyu — Old Devil Qin!

“Young Friend Ning, you said that the bronze rust on this sword is extraordinary and is worth 10,000 immortal jades — on what basis? Haha, I have doubts in my mind and beseech Young Friend to answer. If Young Friend can give this old man a satisfactory answer, I will surely give thanks!”

Was this a joke? The always stingy Old Devil Qin would actually give someone a honorarium!?

Was this rusted sword so important to him!? In order to ask a question, he even let go of his bad stingy habit and even his status as a Gold Core ancestor to give a present to a Vein Opening junior!?

Ordinary Vein Opening cultivators, when facing a Gold Core old devil, would definitely be frightened by the Gold Core aura. Ning Fan, with his Immortal Emperor’s memories, was not afraid of Old Devil Qin’s aura and immediately answered his question.

“This sword is from an ancient age and had lost all of its power — not worth mentioning. However, the bronze rust on this sword is quite mysterious. It is not true bronze, but the blood of ancient cultivators that died to the sword. It was also basked in the pure Yang energy for countless years before finally turning into Yang blood rust! Containing a hint of pure Yang sword energy, this bronze rust is naturally extraordinary.”

“Siii” (sound of air sucked between the teeth, indicating hesitation or thinking over)

Ning Fan had just finished speaking, and countless sounds of deep breaths occurred amidst the stage.

“Yang blood rust! This is actually pure Yang sword energy accumulated in the Yang blood rust! Is this true!?”

“This old man had seen it in ancient texts, but this is still the first time seeing it! This is the ultimate treasure for sword cultivators ah!”

“If it really is that item, then 10,000 is absolutely not expensive!”

The two Gold Core old devils, who were indifferent towards the rusted sword earlier, had burning eyes at this moment. Of course, the most excited was still Old Devil Qin.

“It truly is Yang blood rust!? Little Friend’s appraisal is not wrong?” Old Devil Qin was overjoyed. He had found the item after searching for so long. Combined with his merit law, he had a glimmer of hope to break through to the Nascent Soul realm in this lifetime!

“This junior is confident that I didn’t judge it incorrectly; to believe it or not is Predecessor’s decision.”

“Good! This sword, 10,000 immortal jades, this old man wants it! Haha!”

Having said that, Old Devil Qin wanted even more to pay for the sword, but was stopped by another voice.

“Wait a minute! Little Friend Ning said 10,000 — this was only the starting price. The auction has not started yet you already thought about buying it? You’re kidding! 12,000 — this old man wants this sword! I am also a sword cultivator, and there will be benefits from having this sword!” On the third floor, one of the two Gold Core old devils excitedly exclaimed.

“14,000! This old man is not a sword cultivator, but the people behind me have someone who has a deep understanding of the Sword Dao. This old man also wants this sword!” Another Gold Core competed.

“15,000!”

“17,000!”

“20,000!”

Old Devil Qin became angry. He didn’t even have the chance to speak yet the price of the rusted sword has been raised by the two other old devils to 20,000 immortal jades, and the trend still seemed to be continuing.

This was the Yang blood rust that he had been searching for many years. Even if he lost all of his wealth, today, he would still want to get this item, and no one could compete with him!

“21,000!” The first Gold Core said.

“23,000!” The second Gold Core replied.

“30,000!” Then Old Devil Qin angrily exclaimed.

“31,000!” So the first Gold Core continued.

“33,000!” And answered by the second Gold Core.

“40,000!” Old Devil Qin was too angry as his heart was bleeding. A cheapskate like him... This was the first time using such a high price to buy item.

After the rusted sword’s price went up to 40,000, the other two Gold Core old devils finally became silent and were unwilling to continue bidding for this sword.

Eventually, Old Devil Qin used the high price of 40,000 immortal jades to buy this rusty sword, but he no longer had enough money to compete for the Dao Fruit.

Gold Core Dao Fruit! This was the finale of the auction. The vast majority of the old devils were here for this item!

Unfortunately, he had no money for the Gold Core Dao Fruit. Staying behind was useless, so he could leave.

As a result, after buying the rusted sword, Old Devil Qin clasped his hand towards Ning Fan and turned around to leave.

“Wait, I explained it for Predecessor, and Predecessor promised this junior a gift? Are you not ready to give it to this junior yet?” Ning Fan’s expression stayed the same as Old Devil Qin’s eyes were evading as if he wanted to leave and didn’t want to thank him with a gift.

This was Old Devil Qin, himself, promising a gift, now is this him wanting to renege on a debt yah?

“Haha, my memories, I was too excited and forgot to give Young Friend a gift.” Old Devil Qin was laughing externally but, on the inside, he was cursing Ning Fan for being too smart.

He spent 40,000 to buy this rusted sword — this was already bleeding blood. With his stingy character, he didn’t actually want to give Ning Fan a gift.

Troublesome, so troublesome! He was too excited before and promised to give Ning Fan a gift in the spur of the moment. If he didn’t give it now, then he would lose too much face.

Old Devil Qin’s gaze suddenly fell onto the rusted sword and its wooden scabbard. He let out a strange laugh before took down the scabbard and threw it to Ning Fan.

“Hehe, this old man spent 40,000 to buy this sword, so this scabbard — at least — would be worth one or two thousand. I will give it to Little Brother, farewell!”

Old Devil Qin let out a wretched smile, then he left the Auction Palace. After he was gone, boing sounds started to spring up everywhere.

Truly Old Devil Qin — renowned for being stingy; he actually used a rotten wooden scabbard as a gift. Such a shameful matter could only be done by Old Devil Qin.

After the shock came a feeling of expectation.

No one thought that the first item of this auction would be sold for a high price of 40,000. Everyone wondered if there were other good items later on.

All the cultivators present were looking forward to the ongoing auction, and they no longer doubted Ning Fan's insight as an auctioneer.

"He didn't have the wrong price..." The white-robed young master's expression seemed as if it was burnt by fire. Earlier, he took the lead in booing, but at this moment, he lost all face.

The truth proved that Ning Fan's 10,000 starting price was really not high, there was even someone wanting it at a high 40,000...

"That Old Devil Qin was truly stingy, to actually use this one rotten wooden scabbard to fool me..." Ning Fan held the scabbard in his hand and laughed with a deep expression.

There was something Ning Fan hid from everyone.

For the first auction of the Godly Void Pavilion, the rusty sword itself was not worth anything; the thing of value was the Yang sword rust.

However, compared to the Yang sword rust, the rotten wooden scabbard excited Ning Fan even more.

Others couldn't see the awesomeness of the scabbard, but Ning Fan — with his Immortal Emperor's insight — could faintly see that the scabbard was extraordinary.

If Ning Fan's perception was correct, then this scabbard hid a strand of sword intent across the eons, and it unexpectedly had not disappeared.

The sword was rusted, but the sword intent was not lost in the years, how powerful was this sword intent!

This scabbard was absolutely not a common item! That Old Devil Qin didn't know his stuff and naturally thought that the scabbard was trash so he gave it to me. This was like buying a wooden box but returning the pearls inside.

"Next, the second item for auction..." Ning Fan stored the scabbard into his sleeve and continued to preside over the auction.

On the third floor, the veiled girl in a black dress suddenly smiled slyly as she watched Ning Fan with her beautiful eyes. Her gaze slightly brightened and confirmed something.

"Hee hee, a young boy on the cultivation road yet able to recognize the Yang blood rust and seemed to notice the scabbard's power. Shouldn't the Yin Yang Locket be on you?"

Others don't know the Yin Yang Locket, but my Godly Void Pavilion understands it the best. Ancient Chaos's heritage, how would it compare to my Godly Void Heritage? If you are really Ancient Chaos's inheritor, there will be a chance for you and me to compete..."

She was Seven Apricot City's Godly Void Pavilion Lord. Her subordinates also called her "Demoness." Ning Fan didn't know that he was being watched by the demoness from the darkness.

Chapter 15: Making a Move

"The second item — middle-ranked dan cauldron, used to refine Three Revolution Dans and below. The starting price is 500 immortal jades."

"The third item — White Camel Dan, a Three Revolution Dan. One bottle containing twenty pills, it is able to increase a Harmonious Spirit's cultivation. The starting price is 800 immortal jades..."

"The fourth..."

"The fifth..."

In contrast to the shocking first auction, the rest of the auction items seemed ordinary and could only make the Harmonious Spirit cultivators compete. The Gold Core old devils on the third floor no longer made a move.

After Old Devil Qin left, the two other Gold Core devils were estimating their fortune, waiting for the real finale of the auction — the Gold Core Dao Fruit.

Ning Fan — on one hand — was presiding over the auction and secretly watching Wu Dongnan on the other.

The twelfth auction was a piece of purple coral. After being appraised by Ning Fan, it could increase a Harmonious Spirit cultivators' spiritual awareness, and it was snatched by Wu Dongnan for 1000 immortal jades.

The nineteenth auction was a middle-ranked Spirit Sword. Ning Fan identified that this sword contained the "Chasing Shadow" technique, and it was also bought by Wu Dongnan for 1500 immortal jades.

The twenty-second auction was a middle-ranked immortal cloud spirit equipment with matchless speed, and it was taken by Wu Dongnan, as well, for 2000 immortal jades.

'It seems that Wu Dongnan brought a lot of immortal jades this time ah. Unfortunately, you won't be alive to enjoy them.'

They only had to wait until the auction ended, then they would immediately make a move against Wu Dongnan!

As time went by, the auction was eventually coming to an end. Finally, an emerald brocade box was presented and sealed by magic, but there were still ripples of the Grand Dao flowing out of the box.

The brocade box emitted a strange and intoxicating fragrance. One whiff would cause others' magical power to increase slightly.

This item did not need to be identified by Ning Fan, nor was any introduction necessary. Everyone's eyes were already on fire.

"Gold Core Dao Fruit — starting price, 20,000 immortal jades..." When Ning Fan finished speaking, he was immediately overwhelmed by the continuous bids.

"25,000!"

"30,000!"

"35,000!"

"50,000!"

In just a short moment, the Dao Fruit's price shot up to 50,000. And the one who bid 50,000 immortal jades was one of the Gold Core cultivator on the third floor. This price was the sum of his life savings.

"60,000 immortal jades!" The other Gold Core old devil was not to be outdone. His circumstances also necessitated him obtaining the Dao Fruit.

60,000 immortal jades was an amount enough to build a small sect. The other Gold Core old devil's expression became ugly; he couldn't afford so much money for this auction.

"70,000 immortal jades!" On the second floor, someone had unexpectedly bid!

All eyes swept towards the second floor. At this time, they discovered that the person competing with the Gold Core old devils for the Dao Fruit was the Heaven Separation Sect's outer elder, Wu Dongnan!

With Wu Dongnan's Harmonious Spirit realm cultivation, he absolutely could not afford 70,000 immortal jades. Without a doubt, behind him was the financial power of the Heaven Separation Sect!

Being audaciously upstaged by a Harmonious Spirit realm junior, the two Gold Core old devils' expressions were not easy to look at.

After shouting out the price of 70,000, Wu Dongnan immediately stood up and clasped his hands towards the two Gold Cores on the third floor with a respectful demeanor in order to quell their anger, "Predecessor Chu, Predecessor Lu, this Dao Fruit is something that my Sect Master Wuxie wants. I respectfully ask for Predecessors to give my sect master some face and not compete with this junior for this item."

Hearing the four words "Sect Master Wuxie," many devils took a deep breath and the two Gold Cores' expressions also slightly changed with some dread.

One of the Gold Cores hesitatingly asked, "Rumor has it that Sect Master Wuxie, several decades ago, underwent isolation to break through to the Nascent Soul realm. Could it be that he had broken through..."

"Sect Master had not reached Nascent Soul, but he is at the False Soul realm. This is why he needs items to help him break through. This Dao Fruit must be obtained by him!"

Hearing Wu Dongnan, the two Gold Core devils were anxious and doubtful.

The Heaven Separation Sect's Wuxie was a tenth level False Soul cultivator, almost reaching the Nascent Soul realm!

There was no Nascent Soul old devil in the Yue Country. If Wuxie reached the Nascent Soul realm, then no one would dare to provoke the Heaven Separation Sect in the Yue Country from then on!

Normally, these two people relied on their Gold Core cultivations up high above, but in the eyes of the Nascent Soul old devils, Gold Core cultivators were only insects that could be annihilated with one wave of the hand!

"Haha, if it is something Sect Master Wuxie wants, if we forcefully buy it, then it would bring about a disaster... This item I don't want anymore, goodbye!"

The two Gold Cores spoke and then directly left the third floor. They wryly smiled as they left the Icy Godly Palace. There was no longer any meaning in staying here since they couldn't compete for the Dao Fruit against the Heaven Separation Sect...

Seeing the departure of the two Gold Cores, Wu Dongnan heaved a sigh of relief and went on the auction stage to pay the money. He carefully accepted the brocade box

with the Dao Fruit. This trip was a complete success regarding the task given by the sect.

The rest was a personal matter. He absolutely must take Zhihe away from Seven Apricot City!

"Clang clank, clang clank, clang clank..."

Suddenly, a noise appeared from Wu Dongnan's storage pouch. He patted the pouch and took out a jade tablet with flowing spirit light and performed a seal towards it.

All of a sudden, there was an old voice coming from the jade tablet. It turned out that this jade tablet was a communication device and could be used to talk with others.

"Got the Dao Fruit?" The person speaking had a faint intermediate Gold Core aura.

"Dear Second Elder, I got it." Wu Dongnan was extremely respectful.

"Hmph, then hurry and come back. Do not delay on the way, the sect master urgently needs the Dao Fruit for cultivation!" The old devil spoke with a tone that left no room for questions then directly closed the communication.

Wu Dongnan's face became a bit hard to see. He originally wanted to steal Zhihe back, but it seemed like he now must go back to the Heaven Separation Sect without any delay.

'Nevermind, there will be more chances to capture Zhihe. If I return late, then who knows what punishment the second elder will issue.'

Having thought this, Wu Dongnan quickly marched out of the auction and left Seven Apricot City, heading towards the Heaven Separation Sect.

"Finally left..." After seeing Wu Dongnan's departure, Ning Fan's eyes flashed a hidden killing intent.

The Gold Core Dao Fruit was the last auction item. The auction had officially ended at this point.

Evil cultivators, one after another, started to leave. Ning Fan also said his salutation to Yun Xiu and headed outside, but as he was walking by Lan Mei, he was stopped by her.

"Ning Fan, I think we need to talk about our engagement."

"Don't have time." Ning Fan spoke with an apathetic tone and directly went past Lan Mei. He had important business to attend to and didn't have time to speak nonsense with this girl.

Regarding the engagement since youth that was started by the old monster, Ning Fan essentially didn't put it in mind. Regarding this woman, he also thought nothing of her.

"You!" Lan Mei was somewhat thwarted. She was the Sinister Sparrow's Sect Master's daughter. She only had numerous suitors before, and this was the first time a young man was so rude to her.

She was frustrated but also had a sensation of freshness. She felt that Ning Fan was different from all of the young men she had seen before.

'Ning Fan ah, forget it. Next time, I will come find you again. No matter what, this engagement since youth is problematic and must be dealt with..."

Ning Fan quickly left the Auction Palace while Yuchi and Situ, the two Harmonious Spirit commanders, were already waiting outside for a long time.

"Young Lord, the Apricot Guard and Sword Guard's 900 people are awaiting orders. Wu Dongnan has left Seven Apricot City, do we chase or not!"

"What do you think!?" A cold glare flashed in Ning Fan's gaze.

Daring to come to Seven Apricot City to cause trouble and having thoughts about his woman... Wu Dongnan must pay a heavy price!

Chapter 16: Exterminating Wu

After leaving Seven Apricot City, Wu Dongnan headed straight towards the west while covertly flying at a fast speed.

As an outer elder of the Heaven Separation Sect, a transcending cultivation sect in the land of Yue, countless cultivators would be frightened with just one mention of the name "Sect Master Wuxie."

If this was any ordinary day, Wu Dongnan could tread across Yue without any fear. Only the foolish would make a move against him and offend the Heaven Separation Sect.

But this time was different. With the Gold Core Dao Fruit in his possession, he couldn't be sure that some desperate old devils would not kill him and seize the treasure in the dark.

As a result, Wu Dongnan couldn't afford to not be cautious. He activated the stealth defense talisman that he had been saving for many years.

Although there were actually old devils who wanted to make a move against him, but because of the stealth talisman, they were unable to find his whereabouts.

Wu Dongnan had spread many Tracking Mice outside of Seven Apricot City, hiding in the snow-capped mountains. These Tracking Mice would inform Wu Dongnan through a special sense whenever there were cultivators on his tail.

At first, no one could track his location.

But later, there were a lot of Tracking Mice that suddenly issued many alarms.

This caused Wu Dongnan's heart to become heavy. He knew there were people watching him intensely, but he didn't know which old devils were after him.

To be able to cause so many Tracking Mice to warn him at the same time, the pursuers must be numerous in number, and they clearly came prepared.

"Hmph, I didn't think that despite all of my cautions, I would still be targeted."

Before, Wu Dongnan didn't dare to send out his spirit sense for fear of being noticed. However, once he confirmed that there were pursuers, he immediately spread out his spirit sense, wanting to see those who were following him.

Once he looked, cold sweat started to pour from him.

Not far behind him were almost one thousand evil cultivators riding strange beasts while carrying weapons, chasing him with murderous intent.

"How do they know my location!"

Wu Dongnan was frightened. He realized that his strength alone could not withstand the entrapment of one thousand cultivators.

'If I'm not wrong, behind me is absolutely a trained army, and it seems to have Harmonious Spirit realm commanders. It would be very dangerous if they caught up.'

'This is Seven Apricot City's people, I'm certain of this! I am not mistaken, that is the Seven Apricot crest. This Seven Apricot City... I am quickly bringing the Dao Fruit back to the sect and didn't cause trouble for you, yet you are to cause trouble for me first! If I do not die, I will come back to the sect and beseech our Gold Cores to destroy your Seven Apricot City!'

Wu Dongnan cursed in his mind and hurried his feet. He even constantly changed directions and tried his best to shake off the pursuit of this army.

However, it was a pity that this army seemed to have the ability to lock onto him and were getting closer. After the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, he could clearly hear the rumble and cries of the incoming army.

“Not good, they caught up!”

Wu Dongnan lamented and felt his undershirt becoming cold as his frightened soul extricated from his body.

An extremely powerful sword energy — without any warning — slashed down from the sky. It emitted countless sword blades, that were like the flying locusts or the rain, or even the tilting galaxy, that all cut at Wu Dongnan!

Wu Dongnan alarmingly dodged but was still hurt by the sword energy. He fell down to the snow-covered forest, but the sword energy swept below and razed the forest into the ground. Wu Dongnan was forced out from his hiding spot and coughed out fresh blood as he lifted his head that was filled with ominous clouds!

In the sky, there were two Harmonious Spirit realm experts void stepping up above! Wu Dongnan recognized them. They were Seven Apricot City’s Apricot Guard Commander and Sword Guard Commander.

He had seen the honest and unsophisticated Commander Yuchi several times and never put him in his eyes. But this time, he had seen Yuchi carrying a purple pig, hovering in the air, with a grin on his red face. His cultivation even broke through to the Intermediate-stage Harmonious Spirit.

“Impossible! I know that this Yuchi, with his cowardly personality, would not be suitable for evil cultivation. How could he advance to the Intermediate-stage Harmonious Spirit realm!”

Then, he glanced at the other person and became shocked!

Sword Guard Commander — Situ! This person, when did he break through to the Late-stage Harmonious Spirit realm! Was he the one who slashed the sharp, dangerous sword earlier!

Impossible, when did this person make it to the Late Harmonious Spirit realm!

Wu Dongnan’s expression changed. Before, he had hopes of good fortune, but at this moment when saw Yuchi along with Situ, he finally realized that, today, he might be facing his death right here.

With his strength alone, he definitely was not a match for one thousand cultivators along with two Harmonious Spirits, and one in the Late realm at that!

“Hmph! Such great prestige from Seven Apricot City. Using one thousand troops to deal with this one old man — truly amazing!”

The implication, of course, was to make fun of Situ who was using many people to bully the few.

Situ didn't care for Wu Dongnan while Yuchi was picking his ears. Then he impatiently said: “Don't worry! To deal with a trash like you, there is no need to use so many. Our Young Lord alone will be enough!”

“Young Lord?!”

Wu Dongnan felt something and suddenly looked back. In front of him was a young man riding a strange beast, blocking his path ahead.

It was a young man in a white robe with a black cloak. He had a clear and elegant demeanor, but his expression was cold, giving others the feeling of the lack of emotions.

“It's you! The situation today, you had prepared for it during the auction!?”

Wu Dongnan was not foolish. He recalled that before the auction began, Ning Fan walked next to him on the second floor as if nothing had happened.

Having thought about it a little bit, this person most likely did something to him at that time. Otherwise, he wouldn't be followed by so many people even after using the stealth talisman!

“Yes, what about it!” Ning Fan's expression was cold. This person schemed against Zhihe and even ran to the Seven Apricot boundary to threaten them. No matter the reason, he must make this person pay a large price.

“Hmph, only a little Vein Opening, yet you still dare to speak arrogantly against this old man!” Wu Dongnan angrily smiled. He was afraid of Yuchi and Situ, the two Harmonious Spirit commanders, and the blood thirsty evil cultivators army, but not this young and foolish brat, Ning Fan.

Ning Fan didn't care about Wu Dongnan as he got off his strange beast. This time was different from the auction; he — at this moment — had a storage pouch. Clearly, before arriving, he had prepared a lot of equipment from Yuchi and Situ.

This was the first time he used a storage pouch. He pat its bottom and removed a flaming longsword from the storage pouch. It was only a low-ranked spirit treasure, but with the sword in his hand, there was a strand of energy comparable to a Harmonious Spirit sword cultivator flying around his body.

Wu Dongnan immediately became serious and no longer underestimated Ning Fan.

His eyes swept around the area and noticed that the one thousand cultivators had surrounded him, but they didn't look like they were going to take action against him.

This posture felt as if only Ning Fan would fight him, and the rest were only here to hold the formation.

What a joke! Do these people actually think that he, Wu Dongnan, would lose to the hands of a Vein Opening junior!?

"You want to personally challenge me!?" Wu Dongnan coldly asked.

"Correct, it is the perfect time to capture you and test my current strength." Ning Fan answered emotionlessly.

"You are courting death!" On the surface, Wu Dongnan acted as if he suffered great humiliation. He loudly shouted then turned his hand to take out five talismans, and he threw them towards Ning Fan.

The five talismans immediately turned into five firebirds, the size of one zhang, and swooped straight towards Ning Fan with blazing heat, causing the snow in the surroundings to immediately melt.

Secretly, he was hiding in the sleeve of his other hand a brown talisman, and he secretly activated it.

Once the talisman was activated, Wu Dongnan's body turned into a brown light that wanted to drill into the earth to escape.

Of course Ning Fan would not give Wu Dongnan a chance to flee. He personally did not have any experience in magical duels, but Ancient Chaotic Grand Emperor's memories carried plenty.

The five firebirds flew by in a second, but Ning Fan's body suddenly exerted a mysterious power that was able to devour all of the flames of this world.

Before, the old monster's Black Flame Dragon was unmeasurably overbearing and massacred everyone at the All Pleasure Sect, but it was still devoured by Ning Fan's locket.

Right now, the five firebirds were not as formidable as a Black Flame Dragon. The moment they got close to Ning Fan, the Yin Yang Locket inside his dantian immediately felt them.

Before they could touch his body, an unimaginable force forcefully sucked them inside Ning Fan's dantian — into the Yin Yang Locket.

Meanwhile, Ning Fan — without a word — slashed one blade towards Wu Dongnan's drilling spot and simply did not give him a chance to escape. This one sword forced him to unearth.

Wu Dongnan's face was black from not being able to escape, but he was even more frightened.

Frightened because Ning Fan so easily broke through his firebird talismans. One had to know that even Late Harmonious Spirit old devils would not be able to do what Ning Fan did so easily.

“This child is absolutely not at Vein Opening, he must be hiding his cultivation!”

Wu Dongnan loathingly gritted his teeth. No matter what this person's cultivation was, as long as he could escape this one time, he would absolutely bring people here to massacre Seven Apricot City and slay this person to quell his hatred.

It was too difficult to escape under the eyes of one thousand people, but didn't this little brat, Ning Fan, want to deal with me by himself? If I could capture him, then I could definitely cause the others to be wary and have a chance to escape!

With a plan in his mind, Wu Dongnan explosively rushed forward towards Ning Fan with both hands unleashing several palms, creating a few fire palm prints that directly flew towards Ning Fan.

“A truly powerful fire palm spirit technique!” Yuchi's eyes were surprised. He personally admitted that he couldn't easily block this spirit technique. Even Situ frowned; clearly, he also felt that these fire palms were very tricky.

But Ning Fan didn't think anything of these fire palms. In fact, along the way, he had heard of news regarding Wu Dongnan, and he knew that this person's spirit techniques had a lot to do with fire.

This was why he wanted to try the Yin Yang Locket's ability to stop fire and attempted it once. It was really effective so, at this time, looking at the fire palm seals, he naturally was not afraid at all and left the palms to hit his body. But when they were all at a distance of one foot from his body, a mysterious power forcefully sucked them in and they disappeared without a trace.

“How is this possible! This person didn't block or dodge yet he was able to destroy my spirit technique!”

Wu Dongnan was immensely shocked. However, he had no other way to go and could only capture Ning Fan to have a chance of escaping.

He was only ten zhang away from Ning Fan! Wu Dongnan murmured in his mouth and numerous flames burned on his body. Like a burning man, he directly rammed towards Ning Fan.

The forceful impact along with the burning flames were enough to make any Late Harmonious Spirit cultivator lose their colors, but Ning Fan was still emotionless and simply was not afraid of Wu Dongnan's fire spirit techniques.

As the hot winds brushed him in the face, Ning Fan met Wu Dongnan's charge and, at the same time, swung his sword. All of his power was focused into the sword in his hand.

Wu Dongnan's fire spirit technique couldn't hurt him!

And this one sword of his must be with all of his power to strike a killing blow against Wu Dongnan!

With the Flame Transformation Sword technique appearing in Ning Fan's head, as if the mind became brighter as the fortune arrived, black flames suddenly burned on Ning Fan's sword, emitting a terrifying heat.

The army that followed Ning Fan in all directions had their eyes wide open. They were shocked from this sword move of Ning Fan.

The black flame flew one thousand zhang into the air, jumping like a normal Black Dragon that bellowed continuous dragon roars, causing the whole earth to shake!

What a frightening sword technique, it was able to create such a terrifying phenomenon!

"Not good!"

Wu Dongnan was surprised by the aura of this sword move and wanted to avoid it, but because his offensive momentum was too strong, he had no way of changing directions.

"Transformation Flame!"

Ning Fan coldly shouted. This one sword technique — without a shadow — had a fierce fire that rose from the sword like a rising black run. Within several li of the area, everything was burned into nothingness by this stream of fire.

This was Ning Fan casting his most powerful spirit technique as well as his strongest hidden ace. One sword nearly exhausted all of his magical power, but with this sword's power, such an expenditure was worth it!

This sword — Situ knew that he couldn't block it, so Wu Dongnan also couldn't block it!

“Wait! I know my mistake, I shouldn’t have offended Seven Apricot City, and I especially shouldn’t ask for Zhihe... Ah!”

Unable to avoid it, Wu Dongnan wanted to admit his mistakes. Unfortunately, the strength of this sword was too powerful. Once released, even Ning Fan was unable to stop this sword from completing its path.

The flame sword that reached the heavens slashed through Wu Dongnan’s body and directly burned the flames covering Wu Dongnan’s body away completely.

Afterward, Wu Dongnan bellowed pathetically as he was devoured by the flame sword. Fear and astonishment shone on his face as his vision completely vanished.

There was no blood nor screaming as Ning Fan swung his sword across Wu Dongnan’s body. The two people crossed by each other, leaving behind a Wu Dongnan with a sluggish expression like a statue on top of the snow.

In the blink of an eye, Wu Dongnan’s body dissipated into ash due to this sword technique of Ning Fan.

Above the white snow was the remnants of ashes. Wu Dongnan — this person no longer existed in this world!

Amongst the ashes, an immaterial soul flew out that resembled Wu Dongnan. Ning Fan coldly waved his hand and captured this soul in his grasp. He then investigated the soul along with its memories before destroying this soul remnant with one palm.

The Soul Memory Searching Spirit Technique was also learned by him from the Immortal Emperor’s memories. This was his first time using it, and the result was not bad. From Wu Dongnan’s memories, Ning Fan knew Wu Dongnan’s reason for making a move with Zhihe, along with his plans.

This was the first time Ning Fan killed someone. He was clean and swift when using the Soul Memory Searching Spirit Technique as if he was a natural born evil cultivator.

“So powerful! Young Lord only needed one sword to immediately kill this person!”

In the sky above, Yuchi and Situ were both amazed. They put themselves in Wu Dongnan’s position and they both knew that there was a high chance that they would also be killed by Young Lord’s sword below.

The two couldn’t help but have a rising sense of respect and fear towards Ning Fan. Only such a person would be eligible to become the Seven Apricot Young Lord.

The only unexpected thing was that the normally bright and smiling young man, once angered, would have such a heartless way of killing.

This boy was given birth by the heavens to cultivate the Evil Dao... The most terrifying demons... when dormant, people would even think that they were only mortals. However, once they made a move, a country would be annihilated, and the thousand armies would be destroyed as the world mourned in a white silk dress with its shaking mountains and rivers as the heaven and earth collapsed!

After killing Wu Dongnan, Ning Fan closed his eyes and revealed a wry smile on his lips.

Not long before, he was a mild-mannered young man, but now, he was a cold-blooded evil murderer.

Is this the evil cultivation path? Fine, once one steps onto this road, one could only close their eyes and keep treading forward.

Wu Dongnan's storage pouch was of fine quality and was not burned away. Ning Fan picked it up and took away all of Wu Dongnan's treasures.

True Spirit Violet Coral, Shadow Chasing Sword, Middle-Ranked Immortal Cloud, tens of thousands of immortal jades along with the Gold Core Dao Fruit!

Ning Fan's gaze became slightly strange. He didn't think that the Dao Fruit sold at the auction would eventually fall into his hands.

"Gold Core Dao Fruit... Mortals eating it would directly break through to the Harmonious Spirit realm. A Late Harmonious Spirit eating it would directly break through to the Gold Core realm. Gold Core old devils eating it could even raise a small level... If I eat it, what will happen!?"

"Young Lord, what to do next?"

"Erase all traces of the battle here!"

After three days, a shocking piece of news traveled across the land of Yue. Yue Country's number one evil sect, the Heaven Separation Sect's outer elder Wu Dongnan was killed after participating in the Seven Apricot Dao Fruit Auction!

The killer was unknown! However, many experts from the Heaven Separation Sect suspected that this was caused by Seven Apricot City. There were rumors that, after Wu Dongnan left the city, Seven Apricot City's two godly armies also left the city with strange actions.

This matter caused great anger in the Heaven Separation Sect. There were even many Heaven Separation Sect cultivators who threatened to wage war against Seven Apricot City for revenge.

This caused panic throughout the Yue Country's cultivation world. They were afraid that after many years of peace, there would be a second war in the Yue's cultivation world. However, Seven Apricot City's cultivators acted like they had nothing to do with it and still went on with their business as they remained unaffected by the Heaven Separation Sect's threats.

Great Commander Nangong hosted a banquet in his palace to entertain Situ and Yuchi, along with the generals of the three guards. He was very excited; this new Young Lord truly had the qualifications to lead Seven Apricot City!

What he was most satisfied about was Ning Fan's style. Directly killing the enemies without any hesitation — this was exactly like the old monster forty years ago.

With such a Young Lord, they would not be lacking war campaigns in the future. This was great news to a war loving military group.

The only regret was that Ning Fan did not show up to this drinking banquet.

At this moment, Ning Fan was in isolated cultivation in his palace, trying to refine the Gold Core Dao Fruit.

After three months of isolated cultivation, his energy kept on rising from fifth level Vein Opening all the way to tenth level Vein Opening. Just one more step and he would reach Harmonious Spirit!

Once he reached Harmonious Spirit, he would be an expert that could only be counted on one's fingers in Seven Apricot City!

Regrettably, there were one hundred Yin Yang Evil Veins opened in his body, but he couldn't find the feeling for Harmonious Spirit.

"What on earth is missing..." He was a bit lost. Even though he inherited the Immortal Emperor's memories, but once he actually cultivated, he would still meet many problems that were not in the memories.

It seemed that there was a layer of binding that always stopped him from breaking through to Harmonious Spirit.

It was as if his breakthrough method was not correct...

At his time of anguish, Zhihe's bashful voice suddenly came from outside of the door.

“Big Brother Fan, why not try that thing... Maybe, you could immediately break through...”

“That thing? You are talking... dual cultivation!” Ning Fan became enlightened. So it was like this. He cultivated a dual cultivation merit law. In order to break through, he still had to resort to the origin of this merit law and dual cultivate.

Dual cultivation with Zhihe, perhaps, could really break through to the Harmonious Spirit realm!

Something that was worth mentioning was that after three months had passed, the old monster destroyed a total of fifty-two cauldrons but still was not able to refine a Fourth Revolution Dan Medicine...

His old face became as red as a pig's liver, and he finally decided to ask Ning Fan for advice only to find that Ning Fan took Zhihe outside to play with the kites.

And after he learned that, when he was refining dan, Ning Fan killed a Heaven Separation Sect's elder, provoking a great calamity for Seven Apricot City, he suddenly became livid with anger without a way to let it out.

Angry, not because Ning Fan caused trouble, but because of something else.

“Smelly brat! This old man is here working hard to refine dan, yet you were simply killing people alone without bringing this old man! Am I still a master in your eyes ah! Your grandmother! This brat alone stole the good fun, and I have to deal with this troublesome outcome!”

So it turned out he was angry because of this.

Chapter 17: Early Harmonious Spirit

Ning Fan went outside Seven Apricot City today while Zhihe walked silently two steps behind him with a fox fur coat on.

Ning Fan decided to take Zhihe out of the city for relaxation to ease the lingering sentimentality after three months of isolated cultivation. He was a cold and resolute person, so through evil cultivation and killing people, he could quickly integrate into the cultivation world and become a cultivator.

However, Zhihe was not like this. This little girl seemed to be incompatible with the entire cultivation world. Her heart was too benevolent and not fit for cultivation.

Seven Apricot City in the northern Yue Country was really a city made out of ice and tormented by the cold northern winds with fluttering snowflakes. There was not the least bit of green vegetation.

Even though this was said to be “treading the green”, there was no grass, only an endless snowfield. Zhihe wanted to fly a kite at this place, but in this freezing cold weather, how could she be in the mood...

“Big Brother Fan, why don’t we just go back...” Zhihe’s hands were frozen red from the cold. Back in the Seven Apricot Pavilion, she actually thought about coming out to get some air, but she was afraid that Ning Fan would catch a cold.

She stared at Ning Fan with her worried big eyes. “Big Brother Fan’s body was so thin and weak, please don’t catch a cold...” Aizz, she was already Big Brother Fan’s wife so she needs to take good care of her husband.

“Are your hands cold? I will warm you up.” Ning Fan felt tenderness towards her and gently grabbed Zhihe’s small hands.

“Big Brother Fan... In broad daylight, we shouldn’t be doing anything...” Zhihe quickly dodged but couldn’t pull back her hand.

“Who is doing anything to you, you are thinking too much silly girl... And if you are my wife, even if I do anything, you still want to stop it?”

Ning Fan laughed a little bit. Only when he was with Zhihe would he find the carefreeness of being a mortal like in the past. He enjoyed staying with Zhihe because of this simple and ordinary feeling. The old monster taught him that people must live under the sun. Only this could wash the Evil Hearts to avoid suffering qi deviation and falling to evil.

Zhihe’s white and cold hands allowed for Ning Fan to diverge his murderous intent away from his heart and slowly become peaceful. Evil cultivators could not do without two things — women and wine. This was another phrase the old monster taught him.

“But I haven’t promised to marry you... So I am still not considered your wife ah?” Silly Little Zhihe muttered her words as weak protests, but she actually had long accepted this status in her heart.

Ning Fan only laughed at her words.

‘Your body already belongs to me, yet you are still not clear?’

Ten miles north of Seven Apricot City, there was a canyon covered by snow and ice that was rarely visited by people. Ning Fan propped up a fan to block the wind and snow for

Zhihe. The two of them strolled in the snow and directly went over to the ice walls beneath.

The young man caught the girl's hand and began to fly the kite in the luminous icy walls beneath.

"Look, Big Brother Fan, it is flying, the kite is flying..." Zhihe was happy just like a mortal maiden.

Ever since she met Ning Fan, this was the first time she smiled with relief.

This pure smile pained Ning Fan's heart. After searching Wu Dongnan's memories, Ning Fan saw Zhihe's entire life.

There was no childhood nor smiles. After being captured and imprisoned in the All Pleasure Sect, it was only a life of gloominess...

"Big Brother Fan, you are really good to Zhihe. Zhihe is willing in this entire life... for you... for you to use me as a dual cauldron..." Zhihe flying her kite high said with genuine happiness.

"Silly girl, you are not a dual cauldron, you are my wife..."

"But I still haven't decided to marry you..."

"Truly a silly girl..."

"You know..." Zhihe's voice suddenly sank with a maiden's sorrow, "Before meeting Big Brother Fan, I never hoped to live till the next day... At the All Pleasure Sect, I never cried even when people bullied me. The evil aunt said that if I cry even half a tear, she would kill me... I might appear to be foolish, but I still had dreams... I longed for a life taken care of by someone properly, someone who carefully protects me from fear and hardship. Someone who shields me from having to suffer from miserable homelessness, someone who I can depend on when I lose my bearings, but I didn't know when this person would appear... To be able to be Big Brother's dual cauldron, I already am satisfied..."

"You are my wife!" Ning Fan frowned and powerfully embraced Zhihe into his arms.

Dual cauldron — such a terrible title.

He did not want his relationship with Zhihe to simply be the master and the dual cauldron.

It was getting dark and the dusky moonlight appeared with more vigorous winds and snow. There were no extravagant warmth-gathering lotus tents nor flickering red candles, only a simple woven mat tent on the ground as romance was in the air.

Ning Fan's arms were really warm. Zhihe's limpid, autumn, watery big eyes were full of tension. She suddenly realized what Big Brother Fan wanted to do.

"Big Brother Fan, this place, this place isn't suitable for that..."

Before she could finish, Ning Fan stopped her sweet lips and started his invasion.

"You are my wife!" Ning Fan's gaze was resolute. He took off his black cloak and spread it on the ground. Then he picked up Zhihe and placed her on the black cloak as his hands were gently caressing her body.

Ning Fan's feeling towards Zhihe was a deep devotion. It was not only physical, not just love, but a never abandoning eternal pact of life and death.

Zhihe contained a natural born Bewitching Physique. After three months of cultivating the "Beauty Returning Yin Method," she could suppress her sexual desires, but after being incited by Ning Fan, her eyes gradually became blurry. Inside this blurriness, there was a sense of tension as well as a hint of expectation.

She had already been intimate with Ning Fan twice, but Ning Fan was unconscious the first time and used brutish actions, leaving her with a painful memory. The second time, she was unconscious without any sensation so she didn't remember any comfortable feelings.

This time was her first time embracing Ning Fan with a clear mind.

Ning Fan's kisses were sweet and his touches were pleasurable... Why was it so...

Zhihe didn't understand, she was confused about a lot of things...

The grand road of Yin and Yang — dual cultivation, this was the cycle of humans. Many cultivators believed that cultivation requires one to protect their Origin Yang from leaking — this was truly absurd. However, there were also numerous evil cultivators who believed that dual cultivation should steal from others to benefit the self — this was also a huge mistake.

That was not cultivation, but a kind of escapism to hide away from the true feelings of the heart...

Ning Fan began to forget that this was dual cultivation. He was actually moved and became lost in Zhihe's charmingly soft body...

The two continued on with the moonlight on top and snow on the bottom. The wind and snow was cold, and only their bodies intertwining could keep them warm...

Even though it was not deliberate, under the effect of the Yin Yang Locket, Ning Fan still completed a round of dual cultivation.

The bottleneck of tenth level Vein Opening realm was broken at this moment.

Early-stage Harmonious Spirit! Ning Fan only required less than four months before successfully breaking through! Such cultivation speed was enough to compare to the elite disciples from a few great sects!

The Black Evil Flame inside the body moved through the veins; this was the process of Harmonious Spirit. In general, each and every cultivator's veins during the process of entering Harmonious Spirit could only integrate one type of spirit nature, and they could only use a spirit technique that belonged to this nature. Fire, Water, Metal, Wood, Earth, Thunder, and many more...

Only special immortal veins could contain many different spirit natures.

The Black Evil Flame traveled through the veins. Without a doubt, Ning Fan's veins were imprinted with the Fire Spirit, and in the future when he used fire spirit techniques, their power would be much more powerful.

But to his surprise, inside the Yin Yang Evil Vein, there was a trace of freezing intent.

Because of the sex on the ground under the sky's dome, Ning Fan was able to absorb a trace of the heaven and earth's ice power.

A two element Harmonious Spirit realm cultivator!? Ning Fan moved his palm and a wisp of Black Evil Flame jumped out. The fire was on top with an iota of barely discernable white ice flame...

"This is, Yin and Yang's harmonious power. Ice and fire cannot mix together but, because of this power, they forcibly fused together!" Ning Fan recalled the Immortal Emperor's memories with a slightly astonished look.

The black and white Evil Flame in his palm alone was enough to kill a Harmonious Spirit realm cultivator, but Ning Fan faintly felt that this fire's power was one level higher than the pure black fire from before.

After a long time, Ning Fan smirked lightly and pointed his finger to light a fire to warm Zhihe next to his side after a long session of pleasure.

Early-stage Harmonious Spirit realm with Yin Yang Fire. Today, he had a little power to protect himself, so he must also protect this one trace of warmth in his heart as well.

The only trouble was that his cultivation rose too fast, and it was difficult to avoid imperfection. He required further sharpening.

[1] "Treading the green" is a phrase meaning outing, going out, stroll

[2] Another common belief in historical China. People shouldn't have physical contacts or sex during the daylight, only at night

Older Version:

She felt her fox fur coat being taken off by Ning Fan and panically begged for mercy. She felt her shirt being undressed and her bra being pushed to the side. She quickly covered her breasts with her hands, but Ning Fan calmly and softly embraced them... His hand — once again — reached under, making her paralyzed body lose its strength as she embarrassingly closed her eyes... A hint of warmth caused her two legs to lose control...

"Don't look... Don't touch... No... Ummm..." A soft moan at the wrong time incited Ning Fan's gaze. Zhihe was really alarmed, and anxious. She felt her body becoming weird as if there was something dripping out...

She watched Ning Fan taking off his clothes, revealing his thin white physique. Her eyes became faint and only felt that, at this moment, her Big Brother Fan was extremely handsome...

"Big Brother Fan, I'm very uncomfortable..." Her voice was like the apricot as it softly whimpered...

"Where is it uncomfortable at... This place...?"

"Ouch! No... No..."

Strange, so strange; it is clearly hurting, but why does it also feel so good...

Zhihe didn't understand. Her breathing became more frantic as she tightly embraced Ning Fan's neck. It was as if she wanted them to be closer and closer...

In her confusion, she didn't care for her fragile body that was like the sad apricots in the snow, causing Ning Fan to become even more bewitched.

Ning Fan began to forget that this was a dual cultivation session, he truly felt the emotions and became lost amidst Zhihe's beautiful body...

"Uuu... Uhh..." The panting caused the night curtain to be even more alluring.

A long time after, Zhihe's body started to tremble uncontrollably as it turned into a red shade.

A stream of pure spring suddenly flushed out and wettened the black cloak on the ground, accompanied by a faint sweet and bewitching fragrance of the flesh.

And Ning Fan also quietly shouted as he reached the end.

His relaxed body fell on top of Zhihe's body without letting go. However, the quiet snoring of Zhihe came from underneath as her blushed face was tired and fell asleep.

"Silly girl... you are already asleep, but the night is so long, how can I make it through by myself..." Ning Fan sentimentally placed the clothing that was all over the ground on top of Zhihe while he was sitting naked and cross-legged in the snow.

Chapter 18: Snow Treading Art

After breaking through to the Harmonious Spirit realm, Ning Fan went into isolated cultivation for more than ten days to completely solidify his foundation.

He also dual cultivated with Zhihe during these ten days. Perhaps it was because Ning Fan broke through to the Harmonious Spirit realm and the gap between the two's cultivations was too great, so during their session, outside of the Yin Yang Locket empowering its blood paths, there was no increase to cultivation. On the contrary, Zhihe received many benefits as her cultivation quickly grew all the way to the sixth level of Vein Opening after a few short days using dual cultivation. By cultivating wisely, she was already an expert within the Vein Opening realm...

Ning Fan felt quite helpless as dual cultivation was only reciprocally effective for both parties when their cultivation was the same. This situation occurred because his cultivation was much higher than Zhihe, and it couldn't be helped.

The Yin Yang Locket's jade body was covered with more than twenty blood lines at this moment. Ning Fan estimated that once the locket completed ninety-nine blood lines, this was when he would finish the Yin Yang Transformation's first level. Then, he could open a few magical techniques through the Yin Yang Locket.

An Immortal Emperor's heritage treasure's magical techniques will not be weak.

But conversely, was dual cultivation with Zhihe really not beneficial for Ning Fan? A beauty in his embrace with a natural jade fragrance. Even if his cultivation didn't increase, it was still a matter blessed by endless fortune...

Normally, cultivators going from early-stage Harmonious Spirit to intermediate-stage Harmonious Spirit would need several dozen years if fast, or their whole life if slow.

If Zhihe was a Harmonious Spirit realm cultivator, then Ning Fan could absolutely reach intermediate-stage Harmonious Spirit within just a year through dual cultivation.

This was already an extremely frightening speed. Vein Opening was easy, but Harmonious Spirit was very arduous. And the Gold Core realm after Harmonious Spirit was severely backbreaking.

The Sinister Sparrow School had 100,000 Vein Opening disciples, but only 35 Harmonious Spirit elders, and only one Gold Core School Master. The higher the realm, the harder it was to move up.

Since his cultivation couldn't increase, Ning Fan decided to practice his techniques.

Regarding his offensive attacks, his one sword, Fire Transformation, was more than enough to kill an intermediate-stage Harmonious Spirit realm cultivator.

Regarding sword techniques, with his Immortal Emperor's memories, his sword techniques had an air of a master even if it was not outside the boundary of common sense.

Ning Fan took out the mysterious scabbard from the auction and tried to comprehend its sword intent, but it was too difficult to grasp.

This was not because his understanding of the Sword Dao was lacking, but because the sword excluded the fact that he was a man.

This sword intent seemed that it could only be activated by women.

However, this scabbard was not completely useless. Ning Fan could use his Fire Transformation Sword's intent to combat the scabbard sword intent and improve his own sword intent, increasing his Sword Dao cultivation.

And Ning Fan faintly sensed that inside this scabbard was an extremely powerful technique. Once he destroyed this scabbard, he would be able to force this technique out.

Ning Fan couldn't be sure of the exact powerful technique inside this scabbard. This could only be known after taking it out.

Ning Fan could now be considered a powerful cultivator after reaching the Harmonious Spirit realm. He needed to learn many techniques in order to protect himself.

He decided to cultivate a new magical technique named the “Snow Treading Art” — a technique of the ice element. Once cultivated, not only will it increase one’s ice magical power, but they could also borrow the power of the ice spirit to perform the ultimate Markless Snow Treading Escape Art!

This was not considered a high ranked technique in the Immortal Emperor’s memories, but it was a highest existence in the land of Yue.

The one requirement to cultivate this technique was that the body must grasp an ice element magic power. Ning Fan just happened to have this prerequisite after dual cultivating on the cold ground.

At night, after putting Zhihe to sleep, he opened the door to leave and bravely cultivated in the cold snow and wind.

This was a painful process. In order to harmonize with the power of the ice spirit, one must use his own body to withstand the cold without activating any magical power to defend.

The night flew by as he cultivated in the cold and wind. After every hour, he would become frozen to the point where his lips became purple and had to stop practicing. But after a little rest, he quickly resumed. Ning Fan was able to endure hardship because of his childhood experience. He had always been a responsible person with rock-solid willpower.

He had a brother to save, and he needed more power. Such hardship was trivial.

Like a shadow in the night, Ning Fan treaded over and over through the snow, leaving behind many footsteps. These footsteps became fainter and shallower as his speed became faster. In the end, he almost turned into a blur and, with one jump, he could leap dozens of zhang away like a ghost.

However, he couldn’t cultivate this Snow Treading Art to the highest level; not because his ice power was not enough, but because he was missing a little something.

Snow Treading did not mean treading the coldness of the snow but rather the endless coldness of a murderous pursuer. This art would be much faster during a moment of life and death.

However, who could give him a life and death crisis? Without an experience of life and death, it was too difficult to cultivate this art to its peak.

This arduous cultivation began and lasted for half a month, but Ning Fan could not fully complete this art; he always had a distance left.

Inside the Si Fan Palace, the old monster finally exploded his 53rd cauldron. He angrily pushed the door outside and noticed, with a glimmer of praises in his eyes, Ning Fan practicing in the snow during the night.

He was proud his whole life and seldom praised people, but a hard worker like Ning Fan was the thing he valued the most.

“When your father was cultivating the Black Evil Escape Art, it was also like this. Once Little Mei went to bed, I also snuck out to the lava to cultivate... Ah, Han Yuanji, Han Monster, did the world think that my evil title renowned everywhere was that easy to come by... Little Mei, I accepted a good disciple. He has Immemorial Yin Yang Evil Veins, just like your evil veins...”

The old monster became fuzzy as his heart was pounding with pain.

Little Mei, after your slumber, I haven't touched half of a woman...

After your slumber, I withdrew my killing way and lived in Seven Apricot City in seclusion...

This boy and you have the same evil veins; maybe, one day, he can help me wake you up...

‘I treat him really well with sincerity because, one day, he can save you! I really want to see you again. Just for this desire, I was willing to put down my great responsibility for the Black Evil Sect and hide in this lower world. I can let go of all my hatred towards the White Evil Sect in my heart, but your shadow is the only thing I can't erase...’

Under the moonlight that illuminated the snow, the old man's figure became more and more desolate and lonely. Suddenly, he made a decision and void stepped into a black shadow towards Ning Fan. With his fingers like the draconic claws, he aimed straight for Ning Fan's robe.

This sudden attack surprised Ning Fan, but he felt that this old monster had no killing intent and was reassured.

Perhaps the old monster wanted to test him.

He took out a low-ranked sword as he channeled the Fire Transformation Sword and slashed towards the old man's claw.

This one sword, whether it was the timing, angle, or reaction speed, were all impeccable. Ning Fan had practiced this sword for a long time and was very skilled. This caused the old man's eyes to glimmer with surprise, but he suddenly shook his head and laughed: “Against Little Girl Dugu's strongest ‘Heart Image Sword,’ your father isn't afraid. Your Fire Transformation Sword cannot stop me!”

The sword slashed the old man's claw, issuing a metallic collision sound, but it couldn't break through the old man's physical defense.

Then, the old man strengthened his grip and the sword suddenly shattered into countless pieces!

Ning Fan was speechless at the hardness of the old man's claw; it dared to block a flying sword.

While keeping his thoughts under control, Ning Fan took out the Shadow Chasing Sword. This was the sword he got from Wu Dongnan. His sword started to dance like the chaotic falling apricot petals and, with a blazing sword tip, he channeled the Shadow Chasing Technique to directly lock the old monster inside the sword energy.

Ning Fan then condensed the sword energy into the sword tip with a hint of refined light, a glimmer of fire, and a touch of breaking intention. As his offensive capabilities concentrated into one point, even the old monster no longer dared to meet the sword with his bare hands.

"Smelly brat, you are really a genius of the Sword Dao. To be able to concentrate sword energy into one line, this is something only a few Gold Cores are able to do. Hehe, worthy of being my disciple; if this is the case, your father won't be holding back. Dan Fragmentation Cauldron, smash this smelly brat for me!"

With six corners, eight surfaces, and three legs, a tiny cauldron was taken out by the old monster. It grew to one hundred zhang high — under the icy winds — and suppressed Ning Fan underneath.

Even an ordinary old monster would have to bitterly die under the suppression of this cauldron. Ning Fan changed his expression, he could not block this cauldron! It was impossible to stop!

This cauldron was appended by the "Body Locking" power with black light illuminating from below. Under this black light, Ning Fan could only watch the cauldron fall down above his head in astonishment.

He must either use his sword energy to block this cauldron or dodge it! He must make a decision immediately!

His sword energy would absolutely not be able to block the old monster's cauldron, but if he wanted to dodge, what should he use... the Snow Treading Art?

He lifted his gaze and met the old monster's eyes. He noticed a worried expression in the eyes that were looking at him.

“What are you looking at, you fool! Quickly comprehend in this moment of life and death! If your escaping art breaks through, then you can escape the body locking!” The old monster angrily scolded.

Chapter 19: Black Evil Sect's Tradition

The old man's eyes reminded him of a scene back in Hai Ning's Ning Clan.

‘A mother eagle will take their young ones up high in the sky and cruelly release it there in order to teach it how to fly. In order to survive, the young eagles had no choice but to learn how to fly!’

‘So that old monster wanted to give me a life or death crisis... Only by this can I break through!’

Ning Fan felt warm in his heart and closed his eyes as time seemed to flow by slowly.

Only one thought was enough for him to escape, but Ning Fan still had not escaped.

Not enough, he needed an even stronger fear of danger! Ning Fan could clearly feel that this life and death crisis was an even better improvement compared to training for half a month!

Met by this rare crisis, Ning Fan could not squander it. As the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron approached to only three meters away from Ning Fan's head, the strong wind rendered him breathless, but he still hadn't moved a single step.

The old monster's face sank down as he held out his hand and prepared to call back the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron. Giving Ning Fan a life and death crisis was fine, but what if he actually crushed Ning Fan? That would be too much.

Just before he was about to recover the cauldron, Ning Fan suddenly opened his eyes and, step by step, came even closer to the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron!

His move had clearly broken that body locking power, but why did he inch closer instead of escaping from the cauldron?

Was it to break through even more in order to propel this technique to an even higher plane?

It all happened in the blink of an eye. When the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron was only three inches from Ning Fan's head, his two feet created a chilling sensation and void stepped twelve times in the air, turning into a dazzling icy light. In a flash, he teleported

a thousand zhang away! Such terrifying escape speed was no less than a few Gold Core realm old devils!

The old monster had already guessed that Ning Fan would break through. However, he didn't expect for Ning Fan to suddenly move even closer to the cauldron — such a daring act.

Before life and death, Ning Fan's will remained as stout as a boulder and voluntarily approached the danger. This courage was a natural gift — a physical instinct bestowed by the heavens.

The old monster took the cauldron back and looked at Ning Fan with an astonished and gratified gaze while recollecting the past with all sorts of feelings welling up in his heart.

Heh, this smelly brat was just like me that year, when I was so unafraid of life and death and unruffled in any situation.

After breaking through, the old monster and Ning Fan landed on the snow at the same time. The old monster had a "I am the hero who did everything" expression as he looked at Ning Fan. This left Ning Fan speechless. He felt that this Old Monster Han was still like a child, waiting for his disciple to praise him.

Ugh, Ning Fan couldn't speak the nice praises, so he kept on staring at the old monster's wide eyes in silence.

The old monster waited for a long time, but the praises did not come so his elderly face darkened. After some thinking, he said with a tone full of gunpowder: "I can't believe you broke through to the Harmonious Spirit realm this quickly. Hah, your father is truly surprised!"

His sarcastic tone was betrayed by his eyes filled with happiness. It was as if he was very satisfied with Ning Fan's breakthrough to the Harmonious Spirit realm.

"This is to the Dao Fruit's credit. Without the Dao Fruit, I wouldn't be able to harmonize my spirit in eight to ten years." Ning Fan freely gave credit to the Dao Fruit.

"Dao Fruit? Daring to steal fruit from the Heaven Separation Sect, this is still your ability! I love that about you — ruthless when necessary. Really! Your father announces that starting from tonight, you, Ning Fan, will be the Black Evil Sect's 972nd Sect Master..."

"..." What was going on? Ning Fan felt a little lost.

"Just let me do my thing! That year, even when the Rain World's Heavenly King encountered the Black Evil Sect Master, he would still have to bow his head as a greeting! The Black Evil Sect Master's merit law... Countless people desired it..." The old monster grumpily took out a black book and threw it at Ning Fan's face.

“Black Evil Art!”

Ning Fan didn't say anything. He thought to himself, this old monster just did whatever he wanted to. He somehow accepted me as a disciple and inexplicably helped me with my breakthrough, then he unknowingly made me the Black Evil Sect Master and even gave me the merit law.

He opened the Black Evil Art. This merit law seemed to be a bit incomplete, like an inheritance that someone unwillingly slashed in half. This merit law could cultivate all the way to the realms above Void Fragmentation so it naturally was not an item of the Rain World. One had to know that the highest cultivation in the Rain World only belonged to the Void Fragmentation realm.

A declining Black Evil Sect was able to make the most distinguished cultivator in the Rain World's Heavenly King bow his head so its origin must not be small ah.

The old monster seemed to be the inheritor of the Black Evil Sect, so he was very prestigious before? To be able to make a Void Fragmentation Heavenly King of the Rain World bow before him, he must have been great.

“Your grandmother, your father gave you a gift and you don't even say thank you!” The old man coldly scowled.

“Thank you... Master...” Ning Fan looked a bit uncomfortable. This was the first time he called the old monster master. He could tell that the old monster treated him very well. There were very few people who treated him well like this during his life so he recognized the old monster as his master in his heart.

“Haha, this smelly brat, you finally willingly called me Master.” The old monster was very pleased; it was as if he was enjoying this word from Ning Fan a lot with incessant smugness.

After his “showing off feeling as if he was walking on air with a hot head”, he directly grabbed Ning Fan's shoulder and leapt into the air and laughed, haha: “Smelly brat, you worshiped me as a master, so in accordance to our Black Evil's tradition, your father — as your master — has to give you a greeting gift... Come, come pick a gift!”

The old monster took out a medicinal container from his pouch. Inside was one last pill that was as black as ink.

He hesitated for a moment, then he sighed and ate it. Suddenly, a powerful aura gradually rose in his body.

“This is the last pill... Come, your father will bring you around...”

The old monster activated his evil technique and turned into a strange black rainbow, piercing through the night more than one thousand miles away.

He went westward with lightning speed!

The first teleport was more than one thousand miles. Finally, one spatial shift traveled several dozen thousands of miles!

Ning Fan was thoroughly shocked! This speed was absolutely not something a Harmonious Spirit realm cultivator could perform! The old monster's cultivation was destroyed, so he could only use a secret art. Teleportation was something only a Nascent Soul old devil could do. Spatial shift was only for the Spirit Severing realm... And clearly, this was not the fastest speed of the old monster.

Maintaining this flying speed was extremely arduous for him, but he wanted to do it even more.

The tradition of the Black Evil Sect... The master had to show the disciple the strongest side of them! That was the Black Evil way!

What was the cultivation of the old monster before? Spirit Severing, Void Refinement, Void Fragmentation... or True Immortal?

'Why is he hiding in the land of Yue? Why does he only have a Harmonious Spirit cultivation? Why was he infected with such an odd poison... What other stories are hidden within?'

Ning Fan noticed that he underestimated the old monster from beginning to end...

No wonder why the old monster didn't care when the Heaven Separation Sect threatened to destroy Seven Apricot City. It turned out that this person was not afraid at all!

"Where are we going?" Ning Fan asked.

"Didn't I already say we were going to pick a present ah! The Black Evil's tradition: when a disciple worships a master, the master must bring the disciple to a righteous sect to steal their treasures as presents — this is a rule! You have to remember, later on, you will need to bring your disciple as well to rob sects! Unfortunately, at this moment, I can only exert a Nascent Soul power at best and could only steal from a low ranked cultivation kingdom. If it was that year, your father would have brought you all over the stars and stolen whatever you want!"

Under his maximum flying speed, only two hours later, the old monster flew all the way over the western Yue border and arrived at the Qi Country. After a few more teleports, he stopped on top of the Qi Country's number one sect, the Scholar Sect. This place

was millions of miles from Seven Apricot City. Traveling millions of miles in two hours, this was a terrifying speed.

The Scholar Sect was protected by a Gold Core level's formation in the silent night with only a few patrolling disciples guarding the mountain.

The Scholar Sect in the Qi Country was not considered a small sect. Normally, no evil cultivators would dare to cause trouble at their door.

However, that was only under normal circumstances. This old monster solo playing with sects used to be as common as his meals. The Scholar Sect was not worthy to be in his eyes.

“Hehe.” The old man sneered and took out the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron. Without saying another word, he shoved it, smashing down towards the Scholar Sect.

First smash, the formation was broken. Second smash, the sect's entrance collapsed. Third smash, half of the Scholar Sect's mountain trembled as fragmented boulders rolled down.

“Ru Cangsheng, roll out here for your father!” The old monster shouted as the Scholar Sect was in disarray and covered in flames.

Countless confucian disciples put on their robes and carried their swords outside. They noticed the old monster and Ning Fan. It was only two Harmonious Spirit realm cultivators, yet they still dared to come to destroy the sect, so they immediately sneered.

They definitely did not know the how terrifying the old monster was.

The sect master, with an old knife scar, was in his inner palace, flirting with a concubine. However, after hearing the old monster's voice, his expression greatly changed.

He was a half-step Nascent Soul cultivator, the same as the Heaven Separation Sect's Master. At this moment, his appearance was filled with fear.

“It is the Black Evil Sect's Old Monster Han, he came again! What will he take away this time...”

Every ten thousand years, new sect masters of the Scholar Sect understood the Black Evil Sect very well.

When the previous sect master was alive, the old monster had come to the Scholar Sect. This was a story from one thousand years ago. At that time, the old monster — with one kick — knocked the Nascent Soul Scholar Sect's Master down to the ground...

The generation before that, around fifteen hundred years ago, the old monster — with only his finger — cut the Scholar Sect in half.

Then, the generation even before that... Aizz, how many years ago was that? Don't remember for sure, but every generation of Scholar Sect Masters were all bullied by Old Monster Han.

And during the lifetime of Ru Cangsheng, it seemed to be around forty years ago, the old monster also robbed him once.

That was forty years ago... At that time, the old monster was covered in blood and carried a coffin. He suddenly appeared above the Scholar Sect with a ferocious gaze that looked as if it wanted to devour people. He was clearly gravely wounded, but with one stomp, he almost quaked the entire Scholar Sect's mountain till near cataclysm.

Right at that moment, there was a godly messenger from the Rain Palace coming by and questioned the old monster for attacking the Scholar Sect. The old monster naturally answered that he wanted to destroy the sect.

"Your father's mood is not good, can't I just blow off a little steam! No one has died yet so for what have you opened your godd*mn mouth for!"

Afterwards, a Spirit Severing godly messenger from the Rain Palace was almost killed by the old monster. His storage pouch was taken by the old monster, and the entire Scholar Sect was also robbed by the angered old monster.

Beating a Rain Palace's godly messenger — this was a grave crime. If it was someone else who was convicted, then they will surely die. However, since it was the old monster, the Rain Palace didn't even dare to let out a fart.

There was a secret testament in the Scholar Sect from the ancestors...

Once the Black Evil Sect comes to the door, you absolutely have to agree with everything! This was the blood and tears enlightenment left behind by the Scholar Sect's Progenitor after being bullied by the old monster.

'I didn't imagine that the old monster would appear again after just forty years. How is he going to torture the Scholar Sect this time? What item does he want?'

'Why is he here already after just forty years! A disaster ah, a disaster ah...'

Ru Cangsheng set his concubine down who was panting hard and put on a robe to go outside with a bitter expression.

“Steal, fine; rob, go for it. I’ll give you whatever you want as long as you don’t take away my Little Taohong...” Ru Cangsheng glanced at the white and soft woman on the bed and cried, yet no tears came out.

Chapter 20: Young Noble Ning came to kick the sect!

One smash to destroy the formation, the second to destroy the gate, and the third to shake the mountain. An actual top righteous sect of the Qi Country was suppressed by the old monster in just three smashes!

After he was finished with his strikes, the old monster recovered the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron and sneered continuously. The Scholar Sect below them was filled with torches and roars.

“From where do these Juniors come from, daring to come to my Scholar Sect and cause trouble!” An old Gold Core cultivator rode the clouds to the sky and noticed that the opponents were only two Harmonious Spirit cultivators. He suddenly frowned and took out a black inkstone to strike towards the old man’s location.

They’re just at Harmonious Spirit yet they still dared to come to the Scholar Sect to seek death!

This old scholar at the Yue Country would be at the level of the top ten grand masters. He naturally had the arrogance of a predecessor and didn’t know that the old monster looked at him like he was looking at an insect.

“Your father wants Ru Cangsheng to come out, not you! Scram for your father!”

The old man waved his hand and the cauldron sprung from his palm and became bigger, suppressing the inkstone treasure. There was only one collision yet the black lights covered the sky, moving the clouds. The inkstone started to crack into many lines, and its spirit awareness was greatly lessened as it lost its light. A thunderous explosion rang as the treasure was broken. Then, the old monster pointed at the top of the cauldron and eight Black Dragons flew out and rushed towards the old scholar.

After his magical treasure was destroyed, along with facing the Black Dragons’ attack, the old scholar was in panic and disbelief at such a sudden development!

“Black Evil Flames! One of the twelve Earth Vein Demonic Flames! Who are you! How could you have such a flame like this?”

In the Nine Worlds, there were the twelve “Heavenly Frost Cold Energy” and twelve “Earth Vein Demonic Flames.” There was a rumor that, by collecting the Heavenly Frost

Cold Energies or Earth Vein Demonic Flames, one could even fight against an invincible Void Fragmentation old devil!

The old scholar could not believe that this ordinary old monster up ahead was holding one branch of the demonic flames. Bad news, this person couldn't be messed with!

He immediately flew back and found that the eight fire dragons were already blocking his escape route. He could not escape and could only take the attack straight on.

"It seems like I can only use my Fate Treasure..." The old man's heart became fierce and, in a flash, he summoned an iron scroll.

The scholar disciples were all greatly shocked. They didn't think that the old Gold Core scholar fighting against a Harmonious Spirit old monster would result in his inkstone being destroyed, let alone being forced to summon his Life Treasure.

But right when the old scholar was about to make a move, a worried voice came from inside the Scholar Sect, "Please show mercy, Black Evil! Mo Fuzi, quickly put away your Life Treasure! Do you also want your Life Treasure to be destroyed ah! You don't know what kind of evil star you are facing!"

The old scholar with a scar on his face, Ru Cangsheng, was standing on the clouds in the sky, staring at the old monster as fear still lingered in his heart.

The old scholar didn't know why his sect master was stopping him from fighting the enemy. Even though their opponent was powerful, but if I take out my Life Treasure, the outcome still remains to be seen, right?

However, once he looked down and saw that his Life Treasure, the Dan Literature Iron Scroll, was tainted by a layer of evil energy and its spirit awareness had greatly dissipated, his face suddenly turned deathly pale.

He was horrified! He didn't know when the old monster took action and tainted his treasure!

If he kept on recklessly fighting against the old monster while his treasure's power was gone, then it was likely that he was going to die under the Black Evil Flame!

"If Sect Master didn't say anything, then I, a Gold Core old devil, was nearly killed by a Harmonious Spirit old monster?!"

"Humph! Ru Cangsheng, if you came out a bit later, then your father would not have shown mercy." The old monster opened his mouth and sucked in the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron, along with the Black Evil Flame, back into his stomach while grinning at Ru Cangsheng with dissatisfaction, making Ru Cangsheng feel uneasy.

“Same old rule... Hand over a treasure to your father’s disciple and your father will leave without another word...”

“Treasure? Venerable Black Evil, what do you want...”

“The Mysterious Scholar Dan!” The old monster picked out some ear wax and blew them away.

“What! The Mysterious Scholar Dan is our sect’s defining treasure. One pill can create a Harmonious Spirit immortal vein instantly...”

“Ten pills! For each missing pill, I will kill one Gold Core of your Scholar Sect...” The old monster then picked his nose.

“This is straight robbery! Ten pills! This old man takes one year to refine just one pill...” Ru Cangsheng wanted to cry.

“From the beginning, your father is indeed robbing you! Ten Mysterious Scholar Dan plus one hundred thousand immortal jades. Your father will ask one last time, yes or no! If not, your father will also take the girl in that room!” The old monster’s eyes turned cold.

“Don’t steal my Little Taohong... Fine, this old man will give everything to you...” Ru Cangsheng bit his teeth and took out a storage pouch. He put in the treasures before handing it over to the old monster.

He sighed continuously and looked at Ning Fan, who was silent from start to finish, and said with a complicated expression, “Boy, you truly have a good teacher... If I had a teacher who helped me rob dan medicines that year, then I would have been a Nascent Soul long ago, or even a Spirit Severing expert...”

The old monster checked the items and found that not one was missing, then he casually threw it at Ning Fan without even turning his head.

“Come, we’re going to another place to keep on kicking these sects!”

The old monster laughed “haha” while he grabbed Ning Fan’s shoulder and turned into a black rainbow that pierced the night sky, flying towards the next sect.

And Ru Cangsheng, seeing the old monster leave, finally let out a big sigh of relief.

“Sect Master, this person was only a Harmonious Spirit, why were you so afraid of him? You are already a half-step Nascent Soul top expert...” The old scholar named Mo Fuzi puzzlingly asked.

“Only Harmonious Spirit? If your father didn’t let go of the treasures to save our lives, even if you had ten lives, you still would have died already, you know! Even though this person is only a Harmonious Spirit, even if the Rain World’s Heavenly King sees him, he would still have to... Nevermind, you don’t need to know this. Disperse, scam for your father, go back to sleep. Your father needs to go find Little Taohong...”

Inside the flying black rainbow, Ning Fan touched the second storage pouch on his waist with a complicated feeling.

Ten Mysterious Scholar Dan, one hundred thousand immortal jades... The Mysterious Scholar Dan was a Third Revolution Dan, and one hundred thousand immortal jades was enough to recreate a Sinister Sparrow Sect. This greeting present from worshipping a master was truly not trivial.

Even a half-step Nascent Soul Ru Cangsheng — seeing the old monster — was frightened as if he had seen the devil. Ning Fan was quite curious about who crippled such a powerful person like the old monster... Why did he disband the Black Evil Sect and come to the Sinister Sparrow Sect to just be an elder...

“With your strength, why are you staying at the Sinister Sparrow Sect...” Ning Fan finally asked the doubts that were in his mind.

“Because, Gui Quezi showed kindness to your father... He knew that your father had a powerful foe, but he still cured my wounds for me... Without him, your father would have died already... Without him, Little Mei would have ‘died’ without even a chance... Do you know why I want you to join the Sinister Sparrow Sect? I hope that you will help me repay the debt... Marry his daughter and become his son-in-law...”

The old man looked sad and serious without the slightest hint of arrogance and ferociousness he had earlier.

Ning Fan gradually built a little positive sentiment towards the old monster. This person seemed to have some true emotions, even though he had a very overbearing and muddled way to show his affection...

However, there was a little something that Ning Fan couldn’t accept. The old monster owed Gui Quezi a debt, why did he have to repay it...

“You are the one that needs to repay the kindness, why are you selling me to the Sinister Sparrow Sect’s Sect Master’s daughter?” Ning Fan slightly furrowed his brows.

“Motherf*cker, you got a wife for free, what is there to not like! Don’t you like dual cultivation? You need a lot of wives to have enough!”

“I don’t want her, that woman is too arrogant...”

“You dare say that you don’t want to one more time!” The old monster unleashed an outburst.

“I don’t want...”

“Repeat it one more time!”

“I don’t want...”

“You!”

“I don’t want...”

“Accepting you as a disciple is truly my motherf*cking misfortune of eighteen generations! Fine, we are almost at the Orchid Temple; get ready, this woman isn’t as easy to scare as Ru Cangsheng...”

The old monster withdrew his black rainbow light and stood on top of the green hills while looking down at a magnificent temple below with a slightly serious expression.

“The Orchid Temple’s old hag is a true Nascent Soul expert. My cultivation is crippled so I need to leave some face for them while kicking this sect. I can only smash two cauldrons down...”

“... Two cauldron smashes, this is leaving some face?” Ning Fan strangely stared at the old monster.

The Dan Fragmentation Cauldron came out and immediately fell down!

One smash, the formation was completely destroyed. Two smashes, the sect’s entrance collapsed.

“Old hag, roll out here for your father!”

In the night, there were green demonic flames lit up around the Orchid Temple, and a surprised outburst came out from inside the temple.

“Han Yuanji, you still dare to come here! This time, your mother will definitely eat you alive!”

Suddenly, a demonic energy pierced the sky like an awakened giant dragon and came out from the temple. Thousands of old dried vines — like blades — pierced the night sky. Such power would even kill Gold Core old devils!

The old monster saw this and laughed “hihi.” He suddenly recovered his cauldron and took one step back, then he pushed Ning Fan down from the sky towards the Orchid Temple.

“Little Boy Ning, this time, it is your turn to kick this sect!”

“Letting me fight against a Nascent Soul master!?” Ning Fan looked at the immoral smile of the old monster, then he stared at the heaven piercing demonic energy from the Orchid Temple and swallowed his saliva nervously. He only reached the Harmonious Spirit realm recently yet was about to fight a hag living for several thousand years right away?

But suddenly, Ning Fan thought about the Heaven Separation Sect and became serious.

Nascent Soul master right? Let me try and see just how powerful they are. Only by being able to defeat Nascent Soul masters will I be able to destroy the Heaven Separation Sect and save Little Brother Gu!

“Black Evil’s 972nd generation’s Master, Ning Fan; I am here to kick your sect!” Ning Fan coldly spoke with the Shadow Chasing Sword in his hand as blazing sword intents burned in his eyes.