

Grasping 171

Chapter 171(1): Wind Lightning Wings, Cold Pine Essence!

After returning to the inn, Ning Fan regulated his breathing for three days. During that time, he didn't speak a single word.

He was trying to keep his injuries under control. Three days later, he coughed out a mouthful of black blood.

That black blood was caused by the King's Domination Technique. Until then, he let out a long sigh of relief.

When his name was spread widely in Quwo City, countless Gold Core Realm cultivators came to pay him a visit out of courtesy. However, he rejected them all by giving the excuse of entering into secluded cultivation.

Only those who weren't willing to leave were entertained by Jing Zhuo.

At the yard of the residence, Ning Fan lied on a rattan chair, bathing himself under the sun while listening to the melody of the flute.

A tight frown formed between Yin Suqiu's eyebrows. It's impossible for her to not know about Ning Fan's injuries after seeing how Ning Fan forced the black blood out from his body. He didn't suffer that injury back then. It should have been inflicted on him when he was alone with Jie Xiu.

"That Great Jin cultivator went too far! How could they hurt you when you're trying to help them with good intentions?! His action cannot be condoned! I want to have a talk with them" Yin Suqiu said, failing to calm her thoughts down. She put down her flute, planning to search for Jie Xiu.

But Ning Fan held her hand.

“It was just a trivial matter and did not harm me much. The journey to the Endless Sea takes priority. I can bear it. Furthermore, the reason why I’m helping Great Jin isn’t similar to yours. To be honest, my intentions weren’t good at all.”

“But...” She gently freed her hand from Ning Fan’s grasp and stroked her wrist. The crease on her head still remained tightened.

It’s because of me that Ning Fan offended Yun Kuang, creating a conflict between him and Rain Palace. Now, he’s on bad terms with Great Jin’s cultivators. Furthermore, he’s going to disguise as a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator in order to participate in the War Division. He’ll be involving himself in the battle at the frontlines. If someone tries to plot against him, he might find himself in a dangerous situation...”

There’s no way she could not be worried for him...

If she knew that Ning Fan wasn’t actually quarreling with Jie Xiu but the Great Jin’s King instead, she would never be able to calm herself down.

“Keep playing the flute. It’s truly a pleasure to have a beauty as my company, accompanied by the melody of the flute. Let’s not upset the mood by those trifling matters...”

His eyes shut with a gentle smile on the corner of his face.

That smile pacified her feelings.

It was a genuine smile as he was really enjoying the sunlight.

“Fine. What do you want to hear?”

“How about the ‘Song of Yue Boatman’?”

Listening to the beautiful sound of the flute, the past memories in Yue Country surfaced in Ning Fan’s mind.

I wonder how Zhi He and Lan Mei are doing right now. That evil little girl, Bai Lu, must be diligently cultivating...

Have master and little Dugu reached the Sword World?

Is Ning Gu still always arguing with An Ran?

Does Hai Ning still look the same? I guess the culprit who framed me up previously should be living a joyful life right now.

Ning Fan didn't care who exactly the culprit was. He did not even take the old ancestor of Hai Ning seriously. The culprit was only an ant to him now. If I pass by Wu Country one day, I would then eliminate him.

His goal was to achieve Peak Spirit Severing Realm within a hundred years. However, he now decided to let go of his original goal.

After the fight with Great Jin's King, he lost his inner peace. He then suddenly realized that he had gradually grown accustomed to the life of a cultivator with time.

Even if he didn't have Emperor Moksha as his enemy, he would still be willing to cultivate the Dao.

It was because if he didn't begin the journey of Dao cultivation, he would be bullied by others just like the earlier scenario where he had almost been killed by the king's golden light.

"It would seem that the reason I put in tremendous amount of effort for Dao cultivation isn't to fight against Emperor Moksha. In reality, I am just unwilling to be bullied, suppressed and threatened by others. That is my true Dao, hatred wasn't. Master should've known about it and that's why he purposely left Yue Country for the Sword World. He wanted to erase the stubbornness in my heart so that I am able to understand my Dao more. My Dao isn't to defy order, I am just not willing to give in to others. Looking from another perspective, I am quite fortunate. If the king didn't push me too far, I wouldn't be able to discover my true nature..."

All his concerns which were as heavy as stones were let go.

Love and hatred dissipated in his thoughts. Now, his focus was all on what happened earlier when he resisted the King's Ten Decrees of Black Waves. He kept recalling about the feeling he had when he was resisting the technique.

At that moment, his heart was pure without any unnecessary thoughts. His heart was only filled with an unyielding will.

He carried a Dao that stunned the king which destroyed the King's Dominating Intent!

"The 'me' earlier can only be considered as a true cultivator!" Ning Fan's eyes sparkled. Unknowingly, the realm of his mental state was improving to a level comparable to a Late Gold Core Realm cultivator's mental state.

Along the journey through the four countries, Ning Fan not only widened his view and gained more knowledge, but also adapted his mental state to a cultivator's identity.

In the past, I wasn't happy at all even though I was displaying a smile.

Today, I felt more relaxed and happier.

Ning Fan shifted his gaze to Suqiu's quiet face while immersing in her melody.

Suddenly, he found that Yin Suqiu from his point of view was extremely captivating.

"Gorgeous!" Without any self-restraint, he complimented her.

Yin Suqiu's blushed at his unexpected compliment. Inwardly, she blamed Ning Fan for his frivolousness. But in her heart, she felt sweet.

A woman would doll herself up for the man who loves her. For six hundred years, she hadn't put on makeup. However, after she boarded the ship, she began to wear light makeup for Ning Fan.

All this time, Ning Fan didn't notice at all it as his mind was occupied by other problems.

Now, he finally noticed it!

"I know how to sing 'Song of Yue Boatman'. Let me sing for you while you play the flute."

"What a blessed night is tonight? Drifting down the river wide."

"?What auspicious day is today? My prince in a dream - right beside!"

"Too bashful to stare, a secret I cannot share."

"My heart fills with longings, to know you, my dear."

"The tree lives on the mountain, the branch lives on the tree."

Since young, Ning Fan learnt to sing the fisherman's song of Wu Country. As such, he could sing Yue Country's songs quite good as well.

It was Yin Suqiu's first time listening attentively to a man singing a song. For her, it was very pleasant to hear.

...

Three days passed. Yin Suqiu, Jing Zhuo and the others were led by the disciples of Han Yi Sect to use the short-range transportation portals, heading towards their assigned cities.

In the lands of Great Jin, there would be a cultivation city built in every ten thousand li. As such, short-range transportation portals were set up in the cities to allow the cultivators teleport for ten thousand li in order to assist the other cities any time if help was needed.

To get to the frontline, one needed to travel at least a hundred thousand li from south to north. For that distance, one would only need hundreds of transportation portals. In other words, one can reach the frontlines within half a month. It was extremely fast that only Spirit Severing Realm cultivator could travel at such speed.

However, each of them was at Nascent Soul Realm. Each activation of portals could teleport a hundred people but the cost would be at least ten thousand immortal jade.

Using the transportation portals for hundreds of times would need at least millions of immortal jade. If it wasn't for the demon tide, the portals wouldn't be open for use.

Moreover, a low-rank cultivation country didn't have the financial support to maintain the facilities and use them frequently.

Jing Zhuo and Yin Suqiu headed to Ju Shan Guan. The threat level of the city was middle-rank. It was said that a high quality spiritual vein existed in that city. Therefore, the demons attacked the city incessantly in order to seize the vein.

It wouldn't be dangerous for Jing Zhuo and Yin Suqiu if they didn't try to be brave and went out of the city alone as their strength rivaled old ancestors.

"Hopefully, that troublesome woman wouldn't act rashly..." Ning Fan smiled bitterly. After witnessing my injuries that were inflicted by the cultivators of Great Jin, her passion to help the country should have diminished a lot.

When all the Gold Core Realm cultivators left, there were still other cultivators of the same realm passing through the boundary of Great Jin one after another. They too, were led to Quwo City.

Ning Fan was rather unfamiliar to them. They wouldn't know that the person on the opposite side was the merciless cultivator who shocked the entire Wei Country.

For the next ten days, Ning Fan remained secluded. He was stabilizing the realm that he broke through earlier after consuming the Burning Blood Pill.

In the third level of the Second Realm of "Colossal Bone Secret Art", Ning Fan could turn into a twelve zhang giant. With that amount of strength, he was rest assured that he could have defeated the Old Scholar using only Body Refining Technique.

Chapter 171(2): Wind Lightning Wings, Cold Pine Essence!

On the tenth day, Jie Xiu personally arrived at the inn. His arrival surprised the Gold Core Realm cultivators currently staying there.

Jie Xiu didn't meet anybody else besides Ning Fan. After having a deep conversation with each other, Jie Xiu handed him a storage pouch.

Those unrelated cultivators inquired about Ning Fan all around. After they knew that Ning Fan was Old Ancestor Zhou Ming, each of them came to pay him a visit.

However, Ning Fan rejected all of them. The atmosphere in his room turned silent.

Jie Xiu told him that the storage pouch was an apology from the king. He hoped that Ning Fan wouldn't mind the king's previous aim of testing him to gauge his power.

"Was he really just testing me? If I wasn't capable enough, I would have died already... In a way, it was indeed a trial, a trial of life-and-death." Ning Fan said in a disapproving manner.

There were ten bottles of Three Revolution Pills in the pouch. These pills were meant to treat wounds and restore spiritual energy. A Low Grade Four Revolution Pill could be found as well, namely the "Extreme Bone Pill". After consuming it, one could unlock the potential and break through to the Second Realm of Silver Bone for a short period of time. The pill would lose its effect after a certain period of

time and the cultivator's Body Refining Realm would return to normal. The downside of the pill was that it would leave behind a serious side effect on the cultivator.

But this pill was still very precious. If this pill is used during an intense fight, it would definitely be very effective.

Aside from those mentioned, there were also two Early High Grade Realm magical treasures.

It was as if the King knew that Ning Fan's current magic power could only unleash the full strength of an Early High Grade Realm magical treasure. If he sent one with a higher grade, Ning Fan might not be able to use it to its full potential.

Although they weren't Supreme Grade magical treasures, the ability added to the magical treasures after the process of Spirit Augmentation weren't weak. One of them was the Verdant Stone Sword which held a Nascent Soul Realm ability, specifically the Shadow Phantom. The other one was Jade of Orchid Hill. It had the power of purification which could nullify any Low Grade Nascent Soul Realm evil illusory technique.

Furthermore, Ning Fan also found one spiritual equipment and a Dao Fruit...

The Dao Fruit is obtained after an Intermediate Gold Core Realm cultivator dies. It was considered rare. However, the spiritual equipment was something priceless compared to the Dao Fruit!

Profound Silver Spiritual Equipment was for Harmonious Spirit Realm cultivators. Profound Golden Spiritual Equipment was for Gold Core Realm cultivators. Profound Jade Spiritual Equipment was for Nascent Soul Realm cultivators. The equipment that Ning Fan received was Profound Earth Spiritual Equipment. It was meant for Spirit Severing Realm cultivators!

Profound Earth Spiritual Equipment, "Wind Lightning Wings"!

After making the equipment recognize him as its master, it would fuse with his body. When using it, the master's back would grow a pair of wings having the power of wind and lightning. It allowed the master to possess movement speed comparable to an Early Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. (To clarify again, it's about movement speed, not teleportation!)

Ning Fan could use teleportation although he was just at the Harmonious Spirit Realm. Moreover, his black teleportation didn't cost any magic power and used the power of his spirit sense instead. However, it would be impossible for him to rely heavily on teleportation and less on flying when he travelled.

Teleportation was an ability that would only be performed in urgent circumstances. Usually, he still needed to travel by flying.

Flying consumed magic power... Unfortunately, magic power was Ning Fan's biggest weakness and his flying speed was extremely slow as its speed was only at Early Gold Core Realm.

If he gets involved in a battle against a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, teleportation would be very effective. However, when the battle turns into a pursuit, he wouldn't be teleporting the entire time as he might be pursuing the enemy for hundreds of thousands of li. As such, slow flying speed and low magic power might become his fatal weak point.

This equipment was indeed a helpful gift.

The biggest advantage of this equipment wasn't its Early Nascent Soul Realm speed. In fact, the owner didn't need to spend any magic power when flying!

Magical treasures were weapons which were infused with the magic power of cultivators to inflict damage on the opponents.

Spiritual equipments were treasure that were augmented with spiritual marks and secret arts which infused them with the energy of heaven and earth. Therefore, using them would help the cultivators save their magic power as they needn't spend any of it.

In other words, if Ning Fan is successfully recognized as master by the wings, his flying speed would be unrivaled without exhausting his magic power. Even if he needed to travel for a long distance, he no longer needed a ship nor an immortal cloud to aid him in his journey!

Profound Earth Spiritual Equipment... It was also considered as a precious item to the King!

The last item in the pouch made Ning Fan stupefied for a while.

He didn't expect to find this item in this country and it was even beyond his expectations that the King would present this item to him as a gift...

The eleventh rank qi in the Twelve Heavenly Cold Qi, Cold Pine Essence!

It might not be as strong as the Profound Yin Qi which was ranked at the ninth, but it's much stronger than Bone Prison Qi which was ranked at the twelfth place...

Only cold qi of the fifth grade and above were named as Heavenly Cold Qi... This item was priceless!

If the others knew that he possessed it, there would be a lot of people interested and try to seize it from him.

Is the King really being nice to me? If it was given by the King out of good intentions, Ning Fan would try to forget the misunderstanding between them.

However, Ning Fan felt that the gift wasn't something good at all.

It was as if he was drawing more troubles to Ning Fan. It would trigger some people's greed to snatch it from him.

As his cultivation realm increased, he gradually realized that he couldn't be like his master, displaying the Black Demon Flame everywhere.

His master was able to do that because even the 'Big Shot' of Rain World showed him respect. No one dared to snatch it from it.

My situation is much different from my master. Not many people know that I am the disciple of the Old Devil. If I keep displaying the Heavenly Cold Qi or Earth Flame without caution, I would certainly receive the attention from the enemies lurking in the dark.

It won't be a serious matter to display the Black Demon Flame once in a while in a low-grade cultivation country. However, there were a lot of strong experts in a middle-grade cultivation country. Moreover, the Spirit Severing Realm Demon General seemed to be keen on getting it... That was the reason why Ning Fan didn't reveal his Fire Element Cultivation Method when he was tested earlier. He showed the opposite, which was Ice Element Cultivation Method. He was afraid of exposing the fact that he possessed the Black Demon Flame.

Currently, it appeared that the King had the intention of getting Ning Fan into troubles.

If the King wants to cause trouble for me, he wouldn't keep it as a secret after this item lands into my hands.

If I am not mistaken, there would be a Spirit Severing Realm cultivator coming to ask for the Heavenly Cold Qi after a while.

I would of course be fine if I obediently hand the item over to the cultivator. Furthermore, I might be able to get a favourable impression from him.

However, I might appear to have no harm on the surface but my Heart of Dao would suffer great damage.

My Heart of Dao was not giving in to others. If I am forced to hand over this item, it shows that I submit myself.

Is that the ultimate intention of the King?

Ning Fan wasn't certain on his assumption. It's easy to find out the truth!

He left the inn and spread his spirit sense all over the area, covering the entire Quwo City.

At the next moment, he could eavesdrop on the conversations and gossips from the restaurants and residences.

“Have you heard? Old Ancestor Zhou Ming received the approval of our King and will become one of the Seven Commanders. He’s going to take over Xun Ri’s position who was also known as the ‘Water Commander’ that died in the line of duty.

“Who doesn’t know about this?! Did you also know that Old Ancestor Zhou Ming not only got Xun Ri’s post, but also obtained Xun Ri’s treasure!”

“What?! Is there really something like this?! What’s the treasure?!”

“Heavenly Cold Qi! Cold Pine Essence!”

“Aiya! It’s weird. This item is always wanted by Revered Snow, one of the Revered Elders of Rain Palace, isn’t it? Could it be that Revered Snow didn’t want it anymore?”

...

Ning Fan withdrew his spirit sense and his eyes turned cold.

If the King held good intentions, it would be impossible for him to spread the news all around which would cause troubles for me.

From the conversation earlier, Ning Fan found out that Cold Pine Essence was owned by the late Xun Ri. Besides, Revered Snow of Rain Palace took fancy to it.

Ning Fan didn’t know who Revered Snow was. He presumed that it must be a Spirit Severing Realm Revered Elder. It was because only Spirit Severing Realm cultivators could be addressed using the word ‘Revered’ in Rain Palace!

“Sure enough, the King wants to take revenge on me for crushing his Dominating Intent. He now wants to destroy my Unyielding Intent... Revered Snow, Spirit Severing Realm... It was indeed a ‘huge’ gift from the King. Does he really think that I, Ning Fan, dare not to receive?!”

Chapter 172 (1): Gaining the Wind Lightning’s Recognition!

Ning Fan went into seclusion for seven days in the Han Yi Sect before Jie Xiu received an order from the nation.

This order was immediately spread across each and every cultivation cities of Great Jin via ten thousand li sound transmission stones.

There were two news, one good and one bad, both of them shook the people to the core!

The good news was... The Revered Snow of the Rain Palace had personally come to Great Jin to take command of the country’s forces!

The bad news was... Revered Snow went into the center of the demon tide -- The Dragon Vision Pond, and came out with an injury a few days ago!

The culprit was... A Spirit Severing Realm Demon General!

Many old monsters had guessed that the rise of the demon tide may have been linked to the Demon General’s ‘awakening’ and many of them panicked when they found out that there really was a Spirit Severing Realm Demon General.

There really was a Spirit Severing Demon General in the center of the demon tide and it will not end until this demon perishes... And this demon was even able to injure Revered Snow. Could it be that his abilities were much stronger than Revered Snow?!

Both hope and dejection spread across Great Jin. With Revered Snow wounded, the demon tide launched a counterattack causing three big cultivation cities to fall, giving rise to a casualty of almost a million Jin cultivators...

“Revered Snow and the Ruler of Jin orders all the commanders to immediately depart for the Dragon Vision Pond to assist the frontlines!”

Jie Xiu was extremely shocked after he had received the order. With the impending crisis that was looming on Great Jin, he wished he could rush towards the Northwest part of Jin to protect his country.

But he did not leave immediately and patiently waited for Ning Fan to go out from his seclusion.

“Notifying Sect Leader, Old Ancestor Zhou Ming informed us before he went into seclusion that if you came for him, we should notify you that he's refining a piece of spirit equipment that'll be useful for the subjugation of demons. I hope Sect Leader will wait...” A Han Yi Sect disciple that was working in the inn said respectfully.

“Refining spirit equipment? Could it be that item...”

Jie Xiu's blind eyes were without any reaction but his facial muscles moved a little.

A piece of spirit equipment that even Zhou Ming needed a few days to refine, could it be... the Wind Lightning Wings that was given by the Ruler of Jin?!

Profound Earth Spirit Equipment, Wind Lightning Wings... Even the king tried three times to take control of that spirit equipment and all ended in failure.

The king once said that this Profound Earth Spirit Equipment could not be refined into one's body unless they've reached the Spirit Severing Realm... A pair of wings that were made by both Wind and Lightning energies... It is not a feat that could be accomplished by a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator.

The king bestowed this item to Ning Fan as if it was a precious gift. But he never expected in the beginning that Ning Fan can make the spirit equipment recognize him as its master.

Yet Jie Xiu stood at the doorstep and felt a hint of power that was controlling the Wind and Lightning energies through the heavy formation light and the control was getting better and better!

“This person is really refining the Wind Lightning Wings and is on the verge of succeeding in the process of master recognition?! How is this possible?!”

Truthfully, with Ning Fan's Half-Step Gold Core Realm cultivation base, it was impossible for Ning Fan to gain a Profound Earth Spirit Equipment's recognition.

But was there ever a time he lacked the impossible things on his path of Demonic Ways?

“Gaining a Profound Earth Spirit Equipment's recognition must be hard, but there's no such thing as impossible in my dictionary!”

Ning Fan said such words a week ago, right before he started his seclusion with the goal of refining the Wind Lightning Wings!

“...”

Ning Fan had the Wind Lightning Wings placed on his palm, closing his eyes and meditated for three days.

He tried using ice, fire and thunder magical force to imprint his intent on the spirit equipment for three days now, but all had ended in failure... When he tried to imprint a mark, that mark would easily be erased by the spirit equipment.

There must be a spirit existing within the spirit equipment that disdained being controlled by Ning Fan's weak cultivation!

And to have this Profound Earth Spirit Equipment to recognize him as its owner was much harder than he initially thought.

A Profound Earth Spirit Equipment was similar to a Spirit Severing Realm cultivator. There was a domain existing within the spirit equipment and its name was -- Wind Lightning!

Additionally, this spirit equipment gave birth to a hint of spirituality after it entered the Profound Earth grade, making it impossible to wield if the owner was lesser than a Spirit Severing Realm cultivator.

It's not easy to equip the Wind Lightning Wings... It's impossible for the average Nascent Soul cultivator to gain its recognition. Not even the powerful Ruler of Jin could control it. In the past, Suqiu forcefully gained the Profound Jade Spirit Equipment's recognition when she was yet to reach the Nascent Soul Realm, which gave her a hard time using it. She would cause injury on herself every time she used teleportation, this was the price of using forceful means...

But it was difficult to even forcefully refine the Wind Lightning Wings...

Three days worth of attempts all ended in failure yet his expression did not contain any anger or happiness.

He opened both his eyes that showed no sign of dejection in them.

“A Profound Earth Spirit Equipment... is definitely hard to refine. I might have a 10% chance to successfully refine it forcefully if I use all of my cultivation strength with a 90% chance of failure and causing injury to myself... I guess doing it the normal way is impossible. Then... If I can't obtain it directly, I will just seize it by force!”

It was extremely dangerous given Ning Fan's low cultivation realm to forcefully refine it.

But he had an idea on how to successfully gain the Wind Lightning Wings' recognition!

He took out a jade slip that contained the Wei's Founding Ancestor's Spirit Augmentation Technique -- 'Consecration Technique'.

Buddhism's consecration was deep and Ning Fan couldn't even understand it. He did not plan to waste any energy to learn it too.

The Spirit Augmentation Technique was too difficult to learn, but there were several secret techniques from the Consecration Technique that allowed cultivators to gain the spirit equipment's recognition that have a higher realm than them.

Self-Sacrificial Technique required one to sacrifice their own blood essence which will increase the chance of success of forcefully gaining the spirit equipment's recognition by 30%! But this technique had the strongest effect on the first time and would be reduced by half on the second time and total failure on the third.

Harming one's own body to attain the Dao, sacrificing one's own self to attain enlightenment... The Buddhist principle was not something Ning Fan wanted to think about, so he only focused on the potential of the technique.

Adding on the Self-Sacrificial Technique, it'll reach around 40%... But this percentage is still too small. If it fails the first time, the second time would be much harder and the third would be impossible...

Gaining the Wind Lightning Wings' recognition was the same as forming the Gold Core that Ning Fan wanted to succeed in the first try!

After giving it thought for some time, he finally activated his demonic force and illusory black wings appeared behind his back.

"My body possesses a shred of Winged Demon blood. Even though the blood is thin, but in the end I am still considered to be a Winged Demon. How could a Winged Demon not possess wings... By using the demonic force on the Wind Lightning Wings, I can probably increase my chance of success by another 10% with my body's affinity with wings... If the Star of the Imperial Lightning is added on top of that..."

He activated the Thunder Star while he was still contemplating, making the lightning energy that resided within the wings appear scared.

"There's an increase of 20% if I add in the Thunder Star... I'm now 70% confident that I will succeed in gaining the Wind Lightning's recognition, and if I add the Yin Yang Locket's 'Power of Absorption', I'll have 90% chance of success ... It's enough!"

Thunder Star, Black Wings, Self-Sacrificial Technique and Yin Yang Locket!

Yes, the Ruler of Jin was stronger than Ning Fan in terms of cultivation base. But in terms of methods and techniques, how many are there in the Rain World that could compete with Ning Fan?!

Ning Fan retrieved the jade slip and bit his fingertips, writing Buddhist Sanskrit on the wings using his own blood.

Those Sanskrit formed a secret talisman for the Self-Sacrificial Technique. It was drawn on the spirit equipment as if it was carved upon it, being deeply absorbed into the wings.

The moment the secret talisman was finished, Ning Fan immediately transferred all the magical force that was in his immortal veins into it. Those Sanskrit words immediately changed into living characters that moved in the spirit equipment and finally condensed into a seal!

But that seal immediately shown signs of rejection after Ning Fan poured all his magical force into it as if it was trying to erase the seal.

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Chapter 172 (2): Gaining the Wind Lightning's Recognition!

"Hmmp! A mere lifeless object wasting its effort on resisting!"

Ning Fan's gaze sharpened and his finger covered in electricity touched the spirit equipment. It immediately trembled as if it was wailing, changing into a silver light and entering Ning Fan's back with his magical force conducting it, fusing with the illusory black wings!

The spirit equipment entered his body as extreme pain covered his senses, accompanied by a series of injuries.

That extreme pain lasted for three days which he endured with teeth clenched. He used both the energy of the Yin Yang Locket and his demonic force to try to control it... The pair of wings behind his back gradually became bigger, as silver and black light intertwined for three days.

Finally, it formed into three zhang wings that had a mysterious blend of black and silver colour. When the wings are stationary, lightning would race through it... When it flaps, a strong gust of wind would follow!

Ning Fan wiped away his sweat, his eyes shining brightly and said with a smile.

“Master recognition, success!”

He retracted the pair of wings, sitting down in a lotus position and meditated while he mustered his magical force to increase the integration rate between his body and the Wind Lightning Wings.

His state of mind gradually became self-composed.

What the Ruler of Jin couldn't achieve, I, Ning Fan, did not necessarily mean I cannot do it!

Cultivation of Dao, the Dao is in the hands of the people!

In the seven days of seclusion, Ning Fan appeared as if there weren't any changes to him at all, with only two extra talismans appearing on his back and which will change into the Wind Lightning Wings with just a single thought.

The hair tie had already become obsolete, and its effect was far weaker than the Falsifying Art. The Ancient Beast Bracer's effect had become mediocre for someone who possesses a Silver Bone physique. The strength increasing effect had become minuscule but he didn't take them off.

Jet-black hair, glabella with a silver star, white robe under a black coat, and wearing a weird black bangle on his left wrist... This was Ning Fan's current appearance.

Seven days later, he exited the door and came out from his seclusion. He then smiled towards Jie Xiu. He had sensed Jiu Xiu waiting for him behind the doors and had an assumption for why Jie Xiu had personally come for him. Something serious must have befallen Jin and he must've come here to escort him towards the northwest frontline cultivation city.

"Fellow Daoist Jie, you don't look so good...?"

"Not just unwell... How could this old Daoist be at peace when there's a big disaster plaguing Jin..."

"Please, do tell me more!"

"This... Old Daoist will certainly elaborate for Fellow Daoist Zhou since you're one of the Seven Commanders of our Great Jin, and this is not a secret matter anyway... However... before that, this Old Daoist has a question, hoping fellow Daoist can answer..."

"Oh? If it's not a secret, this Zhou could probably tell you so feel free to ask, Fellow Daoist."

"May I ask fellow Daoist Zhou... is it true that you've managed to refine the Wind Lightning Wings?!" Jie Xiu's heart was not calm, with his whole body trembling when he uttered the word Wind Lightning Wings.

He couldn't imagine Ning Fan being able to do what the Ruler of Jin couldn't with just a Half-Step Gold Core Realm cultivation.

But all the sign and clues were enough to show that Ning Fan had truly refined the Wind Lightning Wings...

His expression was nervous, but Ning Fan only laughed.

"You're right. This Zhou luckily and coincidentally managed to refine this item..."

"Wha... What?!"

Jie Xiu's thoughts fell into disarray!

Even though he had already expected this result, he still couldn't maintain his composure after hearing it from the man directly!

Luckily... coincidentally... Jie Xiu had cultivated the Dao for two thousand years and he definitely does not believe this kind of bullshit.

No wonder King Jin possesses such wariness against him, even using the Heavenly Frost Chilly Qi Cold Pine Essence to damage this person's Dao heart... The king's judgement was truly accurate!

Disregarding his cultivation base... him being able to take on the King's Way of the Overlord Ten Decrees with just a Silver Bone Realm, was already shocking enough.

And now... to successfully refine the Wind Lightning Wings with just a Harmonious Spirit cultivation base, overcoming the gap of three big cultivation realms!

This person truly concealed himself thoroughly...

But the more he thinks about it, the more Jie Xiu believed that what the King's action was wrong...

Wrong, wrong, it was very wrong... The Cold Pine Essence shouldn't have been given to this person. There won't be a problem if this person doesn't know about the King's treacherous scheme, but if he does... this person would definitely hold a grudge!

What good does it have for the country of Jin to offend such a powerful person?!

"Hai..." Jie Xiu sighed deeply with a complicated expression.

His heart became much colder...

This is the virtue and shortcomings of the previous ruler.

His vision was far, his methods resolute, lacking tolerance, and ruthlessly harsh...

The Ancestor of Jin was able to utilize Jie Zitui, but it was due to his shortcomings that he killed Jie Zitui...

But Jie Xiu couldn't change the King... because he was the vassal.

Jin was a genuine Cultivation Country, with a king and his subjects. Yet the Rain Palace was a foreign influence.

Jie Xiu knew that the reason the King would take the risk of offending Ning Fan was not just to break his Dao Heart but also create friction between Ning Fan and Revered Snow, hoping to make Ning Fan harbour hatred for the Rain Palace.

Probably in the future, Ning Fan would use this hate and eliminate the Rain Palace... The division of Rain Palace in Jin was a threat to the King... Even the profits from the Ancient Teleportation Formation has to be given to the division of the Rain Palace with a ratio of 90:10 against his favor...

I'm not as smart as the King...

But the King should not have offended Ning Fan... He shouldn't have!

"Fellow Daoist Zhou, this old man has a request that if you have a grudge with the King in the future, could you... spare our Great Jin's cultivators..." Jie Xiu solemnly said.

"Hehe, Fellow Daoist Jie must be joking. This Zhou and the King only had a bit of misunderstanding, what enmity is there to take revenge on? Let's talk about the situation of Great Jin with this Zhou instead..."

Ning Fan was smiling but Jie Xiu could only smile bitterly.

This Ning Fan has already harboured hatred for the King...

And Jie Xiu could only pray, pray that the future Ning Fan who has gotten powerful would not come back to Jin destroy the country in rage...

Chapter 173: Get Lost!

Quwo City, Pingyuan City, Meng City, Linzi City...

Under Jie Xiu's lead, Ning Fan passed by the cities through the short-ranged transportation portals.

As both of them were Nascent Soul Realm cultivators, the treatment they received was undoubtedly different from that of Gold Core Realm cultivators.

For Gold Core Realm cultivators, the portal would only be activated when a certain number of people gathered together. The reason behind it was to avoid wasting immortal jade. As such, a lot of time was wasted while waiting for the others.

Since Ning Fan and Jie Xiu had renowned identities, they were able to demand to activate the portals whenever they reached a city. The controller of the formations didn't dare to disobey their orders even though there were only a few Gold Core Realm cultivators with them.

In just six days, the two of them had already travelled for millions of li through hundreds of transportation portals and reached the northwestern border -Ju Shan Guan!

Along the journey, the scenes coming into sight were getting more and more horrendous as they got closer to the northwestern region.

Thousands of li outside Ju Shan Guan lied corpses of both cultivators and demons as well as shattered magical treasures. The air was also filled with a thick bloody stench. As for the villages of ordinary people within thousands li of Ju Shan Guan, they were already annihilated when the demon tide just started. Not even a single corpse of a mortal was left behind.

Just within that area, the casualties caused by the demon tide amounted to hundreds of thousands of mortals and thousands of cultivators.

If that amount was added up with the casualties in the lands that had fallen into the demons' hands, there would be tens of thousands of cultivators slain while tens of millions of mortals lost their lives in just the northwestern region of Great Jin.

Even though Ning Fan had been through a lot of bloodshed, he couldn't keep his composure when he saw the scenes of gore in front of him.

He could treat the death of the cultivators indifferently because fighting and killing were the fate of a cultivator.

Why do mortals also have to die? All they ever wanted was a full meal, a warm bed, a harmony family and a peaceful life. But all of those became wishful thoughts when the demon tide rose.

Jie Xiu had a different attitude from Ning Fan.

When Jie Xiu heard of the deaths of ordinary people, he was emotionless. His expression only became uneasy when he knew about the severe casualties of cultivators.

Their Dao were different...

It was absolutely unexpected for Ning Fan to see that multiple high-rank cultivation cities were occupied by the demons. They trampled upon the cities and turned them into wastelands.

Six days ago, Jie Xiu informed him that three cities had been destroyed.

Today, the total number of cities that had fallen now increased to seven.

Therefore, Ju Shan Guan, which originally wasn't the outermost city in the border, became a high-rank city and faced a high level of threat after the destruction of the cities at the frontlines. Revered Snow who returned from battle with injuries was enraged and summoned all the Nascent Soul Realm experts to this city. He intended to set this city as the stronghold and launch a counter-attack on the demon tide!

Coincidentally, Jing Zhuo and Yin Suqiu were guarding the same city.

Are they safe? I should have advised Yin Suqiu not to select this city.

When Ning Fan and Jie Xiu were right outside the city, the demon tide was still in full force. A weak spirit sense at Early Spirit Severing Realm swept through both of them. After identifying them as part of the human race, the owner of the spirit sense no longer cared about them.

That person was Revered Snow!

Since the person is in such a level alertness, it means that the situation is in truly urgent!

Jie Xiu hoped that they could hurry into the city but Ning Fan shook his head.

"Fellow Daoist Jie, you go and join with the other Nascent Soul Realm cultivators. I want to go to the top of the city wall and meet my friends."

"Fellow Daoist Zhou, there's no time to waste in such urgent circumstances..."

Jie Xiu's words fell on deaf ears. Ning Fan made a step forward and turned into an ice rainbow, heading towards the city wall of Ju Shan Guan.

Upon seeing that, Jie Xiu shook his head gently as he also knew that Zhou Ming's companions were guarding this city as well.

In that case, he went to report his arrival to Revered Snow himself.

...

Each and every one of the demons rushed to the city like ocean waves, unafraid of death. Among them, there were Vein Opening Realm and Harmonious Spirit Realm demons too. The amount of demons was so many that there was no end to them.

Some bird-like demons and Harmonious Spirit Realm demons flew above the city wall and attacked the cultivators who were guarding the wall.

When the demons reached the bottom of the city wall, they would try to gnaw at the Grand Defensive Formation, corroding its power. Some demons that were killed by cultivators would explode themselves before dying to perish together with the cultivators while weakening the formation. The cultivators could only prevent the demons from self-exploding by killing them in one blow.

The Grand Defensive Formation of Ju Shan Guan had already started to fall apart under the fierce attacks of the demon tide. Although immortal jade could be used to replenish the power of the formation, but nearly one third of the formation's vital areas were crushed under the impact of the attacks with no way of repairing them.

Some Gold Core Realm demons shapeshifted into humans while some kept their beast bodies. When they rushed towards the top of the city wall and slaughtered the cultivators, not a single normal guard could resist them. Only Gold Core Realm cultivators were able to withstand them for a little while.

Yin Suqiu was also involved in a desperate fight on the city wall.

Her moves were calm and unhurried. When she was floating in the air, she looked like a celestial being from heavens. The crystal ring in her hands was already stained with fresh blood.

With just a strike using that crystal ring, a Gold Core Realm demon would surely die. There were even a few Peak Gold Core Realm demons killed by her attacks.

However, the number of demons were way too much.

Anxiety began to fill Suqiu's eyes.

The demon tide was getting more difficult to endure. Is Great Jin going to be annihilated?

As a matter fact, the worries she had now was much lesser compared to who she used to be.

When she recalled that Ning Fan got hurt by the cultivators of Great Jin, she was no longer concerned about this country.

"Since the cultivators of Great Jin don't have a Dao, it would be reasonable for the country to be eliminated."

In the past, she won't bear these thoughts in her mind. But after what she had been through, it was inevitable for her to think of them.

With the Heaven and Earth Ring in her hand, she seemed to be like a secluded orchid in a deserted valley, walking in the sea of blood. Thus, she became even more noticeable to the demons.

Four human-shaped demons at Peak Gold Core Realm surrounded her in the center. There were male and female demons among them.

Wielding her powerful ring, she severely injured one of the demons in just a blink of an eye. However, she had already exhausted her magic power earlier while attacking the groups of demons.

Suddenly, she let down her guard for just a while and a brawny male demon approached her from the back. He unsheathed his bloody claws and slashed wildly at Suqiu.

"This is bad!"

Her eyes widened with surprise. At that very moment, she couldn't activate her Butterfly Wings to teleport away because her magic power was fully depleted. There's no way that she would be able to escape from that attack!

At that moment, the area of a thousand zhang of heaven and earth around her became frozen. Immediately, all the weak demons turned into fragments of shattered ice and vanished after a powerful quake!

"Ice Smash!"

All four of the Peak Gold Core Realm demons spat out mouthfuls of blood. Each of them expressed astonishment and flew away to retreat!

Without having the time to recover from her fright, she found herself in someone's embrace.

She was familiar with this aura. She knew that smile. She recognized that pair of eyes which were like thousand-year-old ice.

"Sorry that I came late!"

He gave a simple apology and instantly vanished in a blink of darkness.

The four of them were bewildered by the cultivator before them as they knew he was a Nascent Soul Realm expert!

They tried to retreat and flee. However, no matter how they retreated, they were no match to the speed of Ning Fan's lightning technique!

With just a slap, the core of one of the demons was crushed and it died!

With a ray of lightning casted by his finger, another demon was electrified to ashes!

Throwing another punch of Ice Smash, the third demon was smashed into pieces.

With a stomp of his foot, the last demon was trodden into muddy flesh.

Strong. Extremely strong! There were none of the guards near the wall who wasn't amazed by his power after witnessing how he killed the four demons!

"It's a Nascent Soul Realm old ancestor! An old ancestor came to our rescue!"

"It's strange. Aren't all Nascent Soul Realm old ancestors in the city, assisting Revered Snow to treat his wound? How come he still cares about us?"

They weren't aware of Ning Fan's identity. However, they were filled with gratitude for his help.

"You've come! Did they hurt you again?" Yin Suqiu was in Ning Fan's hug. Although she knew it was inappropriate, she didn't try to push him away. She was deeply concerned about him when she saw his pale face.

"It's nothing. It wasn't caused by the cultivators of Great Jin." Ning Fan replied while shaking his head. The paleness of his face was actually the side effect of casting Self-Sacrifice Technique using his blood essence.

He said nothing more and stepped into the sky while hugging Suqiu.

There was no gentleness in his mind. Only brutal killing intent filled his heart.

He then took out a bottle of Burning Blood Pill and swallowed all of them!

A massive killing intent surged within him, causing him to have the intention of destroying everything before him!

“Die!”

Black Sword Sense swept over thousands of li!

Nearly ten thousand of Vein Opening Realm demons, hundreds of Harmonious Spirit Realm demons and tens of Early Gold Core Realm demons perished under the might of the Sword Sense!

The thousands of li around Ju Shan Guan was enveloped by darkness and blood flooded the surroundings!

All the living beings of the entire city were dumbfounded! Some Intermediate Gold Core realm demons which were still alive hastily fled for their lives! Even the Nascent Soul Realm experts in the city were surprised and spread their spirit sense to check what had happened.

“Nascent Soul Realm Sword Sense! This fellow Daoist is really strong! He isn’t from Great Jin. Is he one of the foreign cultivators that came to assist Great Jin?”

“Could he be the seventh commander that was newly appointed by the King? Zhou Ming?”

This wave of demon tide was wiped out by Ning Fan alone!

It was fast. Too fast! It would at least need two hours for the other Early Nascent Soul Realm cultivators to put an end to this wave. To suppress the demon tide at such speed, that cultivator must at least possess the power of Middle Nascent Soul Realm.

Ning Fan’s swiftness in dealing with the demons earned respect from some of the Nascent Soul Realm experts even though he had not met them personally before.

In his Jade of Achievement, the battle points kept pouring in like rain.

The total amount of battle points was one hundred and nineteen thousand, seven hundred and sixty-two points! (119762 points)

Although his Colossal Bone Secret Arts had yet to break through the third level of the third realm, he now could grow into a fifteen zhang tall giant. Moreover, he was just a hair's breadth away from breaking through the next realm.

As for the killing intent of the Burning Blood Pills, it was released through the killings in the battle just now!

“Very good. The speed of earning battle points is even faster than I initially expected...” Ning Fan’s eyes flashed with excitement. In this manner, earning three hundred thousand battle points would be much easier than expected.

With his current strength, it wasn’t difficult to gather enough battle points in just three months. Being able to get hundred thousands of immortal jade from the King was not something bad after all.

“So you are Zhou Ming?” Above the sky of the city, an old and cold voice resounded... It belonged to a Spirit Severing Realm cultivator, Revered Snow!

“Junior Zhou Ming. It’s my great honor to meet Revered Snow.” Ning Fan’s expression remained unchanged but his heart slightly wavered.

Revered Snow... This man seemed to desire the Cold Pine Essence...

“Enough with the formalities. Quickly come inside the city to meet me.”

Ning Fan couldn’t sense whether Revered Snow was angry or excited. His voice carried a strand of amazement.

As a matter of fact, he knew Ning Fan was still at Half-Step Gold Core Realm. He also knew Ning Fan had the Divine Vein of Lightning Star...

He also discovered Ning Fan possessed demon veins within his body. In addition to that, he saw through Ning Fan's Body Refining Technique which was at Silver Bone Realm. He discovered all the above at first sight.

What amazed him the most was the fire qi in Ning Fan's body. He was extra sensitive towards the power of fire as he cultivated Snow Element Cultivation Method.

"This kid doesn't just possess Cold Pine Essence... He also got the Black Demon Flame! In the Rain World, there are only eleven people who owns this kind of flame. However, this kid's flame is different from the others. There is a wisp of qi in that flame warning me that it belongs to 'that person'!"

When he tried to sense the qi of the flame, his expression experienced a huge change after being certain of something.

There's basically nothing to make the Early Spirit Severing Realm Revered Snow change his expression in Rain World! Even when he was fighting against the demon general, he wasn't this astonished!

"It can't be wrong. This is Deacon Han's qi! Sure enough, this flame belongs to Deacon Han. That year, I was blessed with luck to be able to meet him once. I can't be wrong!"

Ning Fan who was still figuring out ways to face Revered Snow surely didn't know that Revered Snow had already began to fear him.

All these were caused by the qi that was purposely left by the Old Devil in the Black Demon Flame... That qi carried a warning to all those who knew him!

"Get lost!"

The qi within the Black Demon Flame turned into a warning and roared in Revered Snow's heart!

The warning didn't have much magic power. However, the pressure sent out by the warning was so intimidating that Revered Snow felt insignificant and vulnerable to the pressure!

Although there were only two words, they showed the difference between immortal and mortal! Within these words, there was a rare pressure - True Immortal's Pressure!

Originally, he was prepared to take the Cold Pine Essence from Ning Fan by force. Now, he changed his mind.

Ning Fan wasn't aware that the reason his master gave him the Black Demon Flame was to protect him.

He also didn't know that the reason his master would age so quickly after he left Seven Apricot City was because his master left his True Immortal's Pressure in the Black Demon Flame!

After all, his master was still worried that Ning Fan would get plotted against by some experts... Otherwise, he wouldn't have passed the Black Demon Flame to Ning Fan when he was still at the Harmonious Spirit Realm. Even though it was something that was desired by many cultivators including those of the Spirit Severing Realm.

It doesn't matter if Nascent Soul Realm cultivators didn't recognize the Old Devil. For cultivators at Spirit Severing Realm and above, most of them would have at least heard of Han Yuan Ji before.

As for cultivators who were at Void Refinement Realm and Void Fragmentation Realm, everyone knew about him!

The Old Devil kept his mouth tight to Ning Fan about the protection he gave him. Ning Fan might not know about it but the protection was always there for him.

No one would dare hurt the disciple of Han Yuan Ji, even if it's the Sovereign of Rain World!

Chapter 174 (1): You're not worthy!

After the crisis in Ju Shan Guan was alleviated, countless Gold Core Realm cultivators flew towards the walls coming from inside the city, hoping to meet the Nascent Soul Realm Old Ancestor that annihilated the demons.

Ning Fan passed all the 'troubles' to Jing Zhuo to handle while he and Suqiu entered the pass.

"You're trying too hard... One against four, do you really think you're as great as a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator..." Ning Fan shook his head and Suqiu immediately retorted.

"What about you, why did you get yourself into such trouble... the Heaven Frost Chilly Qi --- Cold Pine Essence is not something you should take. It's been said that the elders of Rain Palace think highly of it, surely a hot potato..."

Suqiu knew that Ning Fan was a dual spirit cultivator who possessed both fire and ice spirits and also witnessed the firepower of the dragon vortex that was created into existence by the Black Demon Flame. But that was in Yue where Ning Fan was invincible, which wouldn't pose any problem even if the Black Demon Flame has been exposed and he could compete for other Heavenly Cold Qi and Earth Flames. But there were countless Nascent Soul Realm and Spirit Severing Realm cultivators based in Jin, yet he dared to enter into the trouble named Cold Pine Essence...

Don't be deceived on how easily Ning Fan destroyed those demons. Suqiu knew that he was, in fact, still a Half-step Gold Core Realm cultivator, and the reason for why he wanted to go to the Endless Sea was to form his Gold Core.

Disguising as a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator was already trying too hard, while offending Divine Messenger Yun Kuang only gave rise to more troubles. And now, there was another chance of creating hostility with the Rain Palace's Spirit Severing Realm elder... It was dangerous and Suqiu was worried...

"There's no need to worry. I might worry a bit about matters regarding Revered Snow if it was in the past. But the previous message transmission and spirit sense had exposed his injury, leading me to a great opportunity... While this person's injury may be difficult for others, but not for me... I know how to deal with it and I'm confident that I can bargain with him to not take the Cold Pine Essence and protect us during our stay in Jin by treating his wounds."

"What? You've just arrived here in Ju Shan Guan and haven't even met the elder yet but you've already seen through his injury?" Suqiu covered her pink lips while feeling greatly shocked. He shouldn't be able to identify a person's injury from just a message transmission or spirit sense, even if he's a Fourth Revolution Pill Master...

“Yes, I may not be able to identify anything at all if it was any other injury. But this... I’m very familiar with it. Alright, let's stop. Revered Snow had summoned all the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators to meet him, therefore, I must go too. Take a rest and only be stubborn again once your injury is healed...”

Ning Fan understood that it was impossible to have Suqiu rest and avoid battles. Once this girl recovered her magical strength, she'll immediately go and defend the city... quite a stubborn woman.

Ning Fan nodded and teleported away, rushing towards Tian Chi Waterfall from a thousand li of distance and flew towards the misty palace that was situated above the ten thousand zhang waterfall.

There were cultivators of Rain Palace guarding outside of the palace, with strength at least Gold Core Realm. These cultivators have been used to being arrogant and they immediately stopped Ning Fan after seeing him closing in.

“Who goes there!” The leading white-robed Gold Core Realm cultivator sternly said.

“Jin's Commander, Zhou Ming!” Ning Fan said monotonously.

“What?! It's the newly appointed Seventh Commander, Old Ancestor Zhou Ming!”

The news from Ju Shan Guan had not reached them yet and these Gold Core Realm cultivators’ spirit sense couldn't detect what had happened over there.

These Gold Core Realm cultivators had no idea how powerful Ning Fan was but they all froze after hearing the word ‘Zhou Ming’ and their arrogance immediately dissipated and became extremely respectful.

“Us, juniors, welcome Old Ancestor Zhou Ming! The elder is convening with the various Nascent Soul Realm cultivators inside. Old Ancestor may proceed. If anyone asks, show them the merit jade and no one would dare to obstruct...”

“En.”

Ning Fan replied monotonously and walked into the Wind Palace.

The average Gold Core Realm Jade of Achievement was green in colour while Ning Fan's was black. The colour black signifies respect as it represents the identity of Jin's Commander.

By having the black jade in his hand, there really wasn't anyone stopping him. There were even cultivators of Rain Palace that came to show him the way, their expression extremely respectful.

After passing through various hallways, the inner palace could be seen. The inner palace was heavily guarded where a white-haired young man standing imposingly at the jade steps but his expression looked unwell.

There were nineteen Rain Palace Nascent Soul Realm cultivators and thirteen Jin Nascent Soul Realm cultivators under the steps.

The King could not be seen among Jin's Nascent Souls Realm cultivators group. Jin cultivators have been forcefully taken over by the Rain Palace. However, no matter how strong the Rain Palace was, they could not order a king around. The law of the Rain World specifically said that Kings are exempted from service...

The Ruler of Jin was not present and Ning Fan only recognized Jie Xiu in the Jin cultivators' side. But in the Rain Palace's camp, he could see a few familiar faces.

The green-robed old scholar, Song Yi. The Orchid Skirt Lady, Liu Yunxu. Ning Fan recognised these two Nascent Soul Realm cultivators since they clashed with him in Wei.

Furthermore, he also saw an ugly man among the people from Rain Palace... That ugly man was Yun Lie. It was the same guy that had once chatted with him when he first entered Ming Que Gu (Dark Sparrow Valley). This guy easily crushed that Gold Core Realm cultivator's ship when his words offended that Gold Core Realm cultivator, which was majestic. Ning Fan couldn't see through his cultivation base, but his aura was much mysterious than the Ruler of Jin... Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivator!

But the most unbelievable thing was that he spotted a barefooted girl and his expression became weird.

That girl stood there alone, not mingling with the group, as if she was out of place. Her thick black hair was pinned together by a pine shaped hairpin that has a pine leaf as an ornament. She had a pair of bright eyes as bright as the stars on the midnight sky that emitted a hint of mysteriously demonic beauty. Her thin and finely sculpted body donned a pale green robe, a bracelet that had a silver bell on her wrist, and the most unique thing about her was that she was barefooted, her lotus feet were as smooth as jade and her ankle wrapped by a silver chain. However, no dust or dirt could contaminate her delicate toes as they touched the ground under the protection of her magical force.

The Mid Nascent Soul Realm Old Demon of Lanruo Temple (Orchid Temple)... Yun Ruowei! The Old Devil brought him to loot in various countries and passed by Lanruo Temple. He used shameless tactics and even forced her...

When the girl saw Ning Fan was looking at her, a shred of almost unnoticeable anger flashed through her beautiful eyes immediately.

Ning Fan noticed it and understood that she still hates him and their relationship would probably not be able to recover.

But what Ning Fan was really bothered was that the girl was a Divine Messenger of the Rain Palace. Rain Palace's Divine Messengers must only cultivate techniques of the Righteous Path and no Devil Path practitioners could be accepted, especially those of the Demonic Path. Whether she's really a demon or she was lucky enough to open up a demonic vein and cultivate the demonic art, it would be considered to have entered the Demonic Path and would not be qualified to become a Divine Messenger of the Rain Palace... But she managed to join Rain Palace and was even able to join the battle in eliminating demons with her sensitive identity. Looks like she has someone influential backing her.

All of them immediately became silent right at the moment Ning Fan stepped into the building.

Jie Xiu immediately let out a sigh of relief after he saw Ning Fan coming in. He then introduced him to the others with a smile.

"Everyone, please look, this is the newly appointed 'Seventh Commander', Zhou Ming that was appointed by my King! Each divine sense should have witnessed this person's strength from the previous battle and should know that he is more than qualified of holding the position of the Seventh Commander. According to this Old Daoist, there's no need for Divine Messenger Yun Kuang to take over the position of the Seventh Commander..."

Jin's Nascent Soul Realm cultivators nodded in agreement on Jie Xiu's words. While the Rain Palace's cultivators became silent. But Yun Kuang's eyes became serious and madness could be seen, he then looked at Ning Fan coldly.

"Seventh Commander? He is not worthy!"

"Oh? Looks like Fellow Daoists was debating in the matter regarding this Zhou. But this Zhou has just arrived, could Fellow Daoist Jie inform me what was everyone discussing..." Ning Fan avoided Yun Kuang's gaze, trying to not offend this person at the current time. It wasn't a pleasant feeling but he had to endure.

However, when Jie Xiu wanted to help Ning Fan out, Revered Snow who hadn't spoken a word yet suddenly said.

"I summoned all the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators here to discuss on the matter regarding your Seventh Commander position. As for the process of the discussion, this senior had already imprinted a copy of jade slip for your reference..."

Revered Snow nodded and a Rain Palace Divine Messenger immediately delivered a jade slip to Ning Fan.

Notwithstanding Revered Snow doing something out of everyone's expectation... The white-haired teenage-looking old man slightly smiled at Ning Fan.

"Read it slowly, there's no rush..."

That smile did not appear to be fake, it was a genuine smile that held the intent of befriending others.

At this moment, both cultivators from Jin and Rain Palace's hearts trembled. Even Ning Fan himself showed an expression of shock.

What?! The Revered Snow that was dubbed as the 'Unmelting Cold Ice' that rarely gave out a smile to those elders that were in his level has given a smile to Zhou Ming!

Chapter 174 (2): You're not worthy!

Strange, extremely strange! It has been rumoured that Zhou Ming possesses the Cold Pine Essence that Revered Snow wanted!? It wouldn't be unusual for the elder to look at him with anger, but to even smile at him, what is there to smile about? Why?!

Due to the main topic of the discussion, Rain Palace's Nascent Soul Realm cultivators were unfriendly towards Ning Fan. As for people like Yun Kuang, he already had a bone to pick with Ning Fan.

Everyone's image of Revered Snow was that of an ice-cold person. If he knew that Ning Fan possessed the Cold Pine Essence, it would've been normal for him to rob it in anger, so there was no reason for him to smile at Ning Fan at all...

Could it be that Revered Snow's personality had a complete a 180°? That should be impossible.

Or... Is there a hidden agenda behind the elder's smile? The smile shouldn't be directed to Ning Fan but for the Cold Pine Essence instead since it arrive right at his lap. Yes, that much is possible...

This was the thought process of Yun Kuang.

After hypothetically guessing that the elder did not hold any good intentions toward Ning Fan, he fully unleashed all his hostility towards the latter. The hostility was much intense than when he was jealous of Suqiu at the border!

Ning Fan was not concerned with how others looked at him, even Yun Kuang was automatically ignored by him. Only the smile of Revered Snow was something he couldn't fathom, whether it be with good intentions or malice...

After his spirit sense scanned through the contents within the jade slip, the discussion that had gone on for several days immediately replayed within his mind.

“Ohh... So this is what happened...” Ning Fan said to himself.

No wonder those Nascent Soul Realm cultivators of the Rain Palace were unfriendly towards him and for Yun Kuang to be much more hostile than before. All of it stemmed from the title of ‘Seventh Commander’.

The Seventh Commander, Xun Ri, died in battle to the demon tide... The authority he possessed suddenly became ownerless so the Rain Palace wanted to have Yun Kuang take over Xun Ri’s authority. But the King of Jin was not willing to have Jin’s power fall into the hands of the Rain Palace. Therefore, he tried so hard to look for a foreign cultivator to replace Xun Ri...

Rain Palace’s command over the cultivators of Jin was temporary. But if Yun Kuang becomes the Seventh Commander, it’ll mean that the Rain Palace Division’s authority will be much deeply rooted in Great Jin.

This is the politics between the Rain Palace and Jin, and I have been dragged into it...

For Yun Kuang, his beloved Suqiu was snatched away by Ning Fan and Great Jin’s Seventh Commander title that he longed for was also similarly snatched away by the same person. This hostility would be hard to erase.

“You’re not fit to be the Seventh Commander! This Yun is clearly much more suitable!”

Yun Kuang’s cold statement disrupted Ning Fan’s thought process and his gaze became serious.

This Yun Kuang is too cocky. If one would be tolerant of people like this, they would become much more unbearable. Ning Fan wasn’t interested in the position of the Seventh Commander, but he couldn’t tolerate against Yun Kuang anymore. His Dao was the Dao of unyielding, to exercise forbearance for a few times was more than enough.

“Whether this Zhou is worthy of this position is for the King to decide and the appointment of the Rain Palace. It’s not something you, Yun Kuang, can decide!”

“Hmph! If you dare to receive one sword strike from me, no matter if its a failure or a success, this Yun will recognize you as the Seventh Commander! But... Do you dare?!”

Yun Kuang coldly laughed and shook his sleeve as a jet black thin sword appeared in his hand.

The hidden sword was a weapon meant for assassination and possessed a strange divine attribute. Unlike the typical flying sword, only going straight back and forth.

It was said that a single sword strike of the ‘Night Sword’ Yun Kuang was enough to make the average Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator to not take it to head on, fearing that they might fall into his trap.

Do you dare?!

Do you dare?!!

Do you dare?!!!

Those three words echoed continuously within the inner palace. This reverberation technique had created a small ripple among the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators, causing them to be slightly surprised. To make one’s voice to resound in Heaven and Earth without dissipating was a feat only accomplished by those cultivators above Late Nascent Soul Realm!

This Yun Kuang could do such a feat while still at Mid Nascent Soul Realm. Extraordinary, simply extraordinary!

But for Ning Fan, that reverberation made his eyes flashed a cold light.

The Thunder Star on his glabella flashed and a single voice that was like heavenly thunder dispersed all of Yun Kuang’s voice.

“What is there to fear!”

None of the Rain Palace's cultivators tried to stop their battle and was happy to see Ning Fan fail and lose.

And on the side of Jin, aside from Jie Xiu being slightly nervous, no one wanted to stop their battle since they wanted to see how strong Ning Fan was.

The annihilation of the demons at the walls of Ju Shan Guan was enough to prove that Ning Fan possesses the strength of a Mid Nascent Soul Realm. But Yun Kuang was also a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, so both of them had to clash to see who was the better Nascent Soul and decide on who was more worthy of being the Seventh Commander.

Ning Fan could not back down as he only had one chance to prove his strength. He must also gain recognition from both sides and make Revered Snow be fearful of him.

The Star of Imperial Lightning! Thunder Voice!

Under this technique, a mere reverberation technique meant nothing!

Yun Kuang's expression drastically changed after his reverberation technique was neutralized. Both the cultivators from the Rain Palace and Jin also had their expressions turned serious except for Song Yi, Jie Xiu and the others who had seen the Thunder Star!

"Immemorial Divine Veins! Thunder Veins! Could... could this child be..."

But the one who felt the strongest shock on Ning Fan techniques was none other than...Yun Ruowei!

Because of Ning Fan's actions in the past, the girl was constantly plagued by her heart devil for the past several years. The lingering warmth of that finger would always reverberate in her heart, causing her to feel ashamed and making her unable to cultivate.

She held two distinct feelings towards Ning Fan and they were hatred and shock.

She knew that Ning Fan was the Old Devil's disciple...

She also knew that this child was just a Harmonious Spirit Realm ant a few years ago. Even if she were to go easy on him, he wouldn't have been able to harm a single strand of hair on her head... Yes, if Ning Fan did not use underhanded tactics, she would definitely not face such humiliation...

Today, the Ning Fan in her eyes became astonishingly powerful at the moment he evoked the Thunder Star and even gave her an extremely strong sense of danger.

The Demon Clan feared lightning so that lightning possessed a strong restraining effect against her...

“For him to grow to such an extent in just a few years! But several years is not enough to form a Nascent Soul. It's not even enough to form one's Gold Core, what is happening to his Qi... How is it possible for him to have the strength of a Nascent Soul Realm...”

For unknown reasons, her heart devil suddenly awakened and Yun Ruowei helplessly found out that she could not wipe away the shadow that Ning Fan had cast in her heart.

She couldn't achieve being indifferent and turn a blind eye on the battle between Ning Fan and Yun Kuang.

“Damned smelly man... But can he take on Yun Kuang's sword strike? That sword strike is not something even I could easily face head-on...” Yun Ruowei angrily bit her lips but could only helplessly worry about the safety of Ning Fan.

She was worried. Since it was Ning Fan that had planted that heart devil within her... This feeling couldn't easily be gotten rid of!

Lit: A hidden blade in a smile. The English equivalent of “Be a wolf in sheep's clothing”.

Chapter 175(1): Seizing the Sword with a Broken Body!

A thunderous voice dispersed the echoes. The battle between Ning Fan and Yun Kuang was unavoidable!

Immemorial Divine Vein, Vein of Lightning... The Lightning Star of Fiendgod!

In the past, Song Yi misinterpreted Ning Fan's identity because of this star. Today, there were around seven Nascent Soul Realm cultivators from Rain Palace who made the same mistake as Song Yi.

The other Nascent Soul Realm cultivators were slightly astonished when they recognized that Ning Fan possessed Immemorial Divine Veins. However, those who bore the same thoughts as Song Yi weren't just surprised but they were also dumbstruck!

Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou!

It was rare but not unusual to have Immemorial Divine Veins or Immemorial Devil Veins in the eight hundred cultivation countries of Rain World. In Rain World, a cultivator's potential is judged by the attribute of their Immortal Veins. Only Heavenly Spirit or Dual Spirit cultivators were considered genius. As for those who possess Immemorial Divine or Devil Veins, they have even higher potential than those Heavenly Spirit or Dual Spirit cultivators.

Rain Palace itself had the inheritance of Divine Veins of Rain... However, the number of cultivators who could activate the Divine Veins within them were only around ten people, ranging from Vein Opening Realm to Void Fragmentation Realm. Yun Kuang, Song Yi and even Revered Snow were those who experience failure in activating their own Divine Veins.

Furthermore, the only cultivator who possessed the Divine Vein of Lightning in the entire history of Rain World for the past one hundred thousand years was Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou. Coincidentally, the surname of Ning Fan's pseudonym was Zhou...

(The significance of his name is shown in the following illustration.

Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou & Zhou Ming)

Could it be that this Zhou Ming is the descendant of Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou?

Some of the cultivators gasped in astonishment and even Revered Snow looked stunned when they thought of that possibility.

It would be quite troublesome if the descendant of Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou truly existed.

Revered Snow took a few glances on Ning Fan again and was certain that Ning Fan was the disciple of the Old Devil. He concluded that Ning Fan should have no relation with Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou. Besides, although Ning Fan condensed the Lightning Star, the power of lightning in his body was very weak. He could only borrow the power of the Lightning Star to perform the lightning strike ability. There was still a huge difference between him and the true master of the Divine Veins of Lightning.

Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou was said to be able to transform into lightning and thunder using the Divine Veins' power while he was still at Nascent Soul Realm. The cultivators of the same realm didn't have magic techniques or magical treasures that could inflict damage on his real body. Even Early Spirit Severing Realm had no way to confront him. Only cultivators who had far higher cultivation realm than him, owned magical treasures that restrained the power of lightning or fiendgods who had Immemorial Divine Weapons would be able to hurt him.

"Turning one's body into lightning and thunder making thousands of enemies fail to strike him down", "Divine Thunder that struck down devils and overpowered three emperors". Those were the secret news that spread across the high-ranked officers of Rain Palace.

After ensuring that Ning Fan didn't have the genuine Veins of Lightning, Revered Snow let out a sigh of relief. He sat up straight on the seat made of clouds. With a single touch on the Cloud Palace, it quivered heavily and dissipated into floating clouds. But the mists condensed again in a flash, transforming into a fighting ring that stretched for a thousand zhang.

Ning Fan and Yun Kuang stood at the middle of the ring. A higher platform appeared outside the fighting ring. It was where Revered Snow and the other cultivators watched the fight.

"A single move to decide the winner. The title of Seventh Commander will belong to the one who triumphs in this fight. No matter who wins or loses, they shouldn't hold any grudges!"

The moment Revered Snow spoke the last word, Yun Kuang wielded his sword without any hesitation!

He was confident that he wouldn't lose the fight with just one move.

Deep inside him, he was slightly afraid of Ning Fan's Lightning Star and Divine Veins. However, he hadn't heard of Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou before. Besides, he didn't have the right to know about that classified information with his current identity. Therefore, he wasn't truly terrified of Ning Fan. Even if he knew about it, perhaps he wouldn't be frightened by the name of the emperor with his arrogant attitude.

With a flick of his finger, a dark sword came flying out from his sleeve and disappeared into thin air. It didn't disappear due to the sword teleporting, it actually vanished!

"Zhou Ming! Since you don't know what's good for you, then you only have yourself to blame! The name of this sword is 'Shadow Carrier'. It's more than enough to cut you down!"

The next moment after the sword vanished, innumerable dark leaves suddenly surrounded Ning Fan.

All the leaves then burst into dark mists, covering the entire fighting ring. The fighting ring became pitch-black as if it was midnight. The darkness could not only block the sight of the opponent, but also block the opponent's spirit sense.

The sword had the ability of 'Block Vision' through the process of Spirit Augmentation. A single black fallen leaf could hide the view of Mount Tai. Thousands of those leaves could entirely block one's sight. Once this ability is used on others, they wouldn't be able to anticipate when they would be attacked. Moreover, it was difficult to identify the directions where the attacks come from in this darkness.

When the darkness enveloped Ning Fan, extreme vigilance aroused within his heart. Suddenly, the hidden sword which blend in the darkness shot towards his back!

He couldn't see clearly, but he was able to hear the sound of the sword. It was the sound of the sword's pulse!

There was no escaping from a Supreme Grade sword that was used to cast a Nascent Soul Realm sword technique!

If it wasn't for his sword sense, it would definitely be impossible for him to detect the hidden sword's aura.

Ordinary Early Nascent Soul Realm cultivators could only identify the position of the sword after they have been stabbed by it. In other words, the only way for them to withstand the attack is to first receive an attack by the sword.

Yun Kuang didn't think Ning Fan would be able to spot the sword's shadow.

So what if you have the Lightning Star and Divine Veins?

Ning Fan's spirit sense was just at Early Nascent Soul Realm. The moment he successfully spots the sword's shadow, he would already be wounded. Furthermore, the true power of the technique wasn't just limited to concealing the sword to attack in darkness...

A grim smile appeared on Yun Kuang's face. But something happened next which froze his smile!

Countless strands of dark sword sense emerged within the dark mists in the fighting ring. Then, the dark mists were immediately cut into pieces.

The figure of Yun Kuang and Ning Fan reappeared on the ring with the dark sword held between the tips of Ning Fan's silver fingers. It couldn't break free from him!

The Silver Bone Realm! He successfully sensed the direction of the sword attack using his sword sense and captured it with his Silver Bone Realm Body Refining Technique!

Ning Fan shot Yun Kuang an sarcastic look and let out a cold smile.

“So this is the strength of the so-called Night Blade, Yun Kuang?”

Outside the ring, many of the cultivators were all flabbergasted as Yun Kuang’s most powerful assassinating technique was easily broken by Ning Fan!

As for those who understood Yun Kuang’s technique, they clearly knew that the fight wasn’t over yet.

Yun Kuang’s expression turned somber and his hands rapidly moved in an incantation pattern. “You are careless! Sword Technique, Shadow of the Devil!”

Upon hearing that call, the sword in Ning Fan’s grip instantly burst into shadows and entered into his body through his arms!

The true power of that assassinating technique wasn’t the attack earlier, but transforming into shadows and entering into the opponent’s body after being held by him. It would then cut its way out from within the opponent’s body.

As such, even a cultivator whose Body Refining Technique was at Silver Bone Realm would be destroyed from within, leaving a strong but empty corpse!

When the shadows of the sword went into Ning Fan’s body, he was as calm as usual as if everything was within his calculations.

That flying sword was actually made and refined by a sword shadow!

A shadow is intangible. It was arduous to forge the body of the weapon using an intangible item. However, the weaponry refinement master of Rain Palace successfully created this weapon at the request of Yun Kuang.

The virtual shadow of a sword was so fragile that it couldn’t hold any sword qi to display sword skills. However, if it was used for sneak attacks like earlier, the technique of bursting the sword into shadows was absolutely impossible to avoid!

Shadow Carrier Sword. With this sword, Yun Kuang killed thirteen Early and Intermediate Nascent Soul Realm cultivators. There was even one Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivator who was severely injured under his technique!

His wild attitude was actually a facade for his enemies to lower their guards. However, all of them never thought that the seemingly arrogant Yun Kuang had crafty thoughts to sneak attack and assassinate them!

When he saw that the secret of his Shadow Carrier Sword was exposed under the watchful eyes of the other cultivators, his face became even grimmer. However, when he thought that Ning Fan would certainly die after the sword shadow entered into his body, he wasn't as concerned about revealing his secret anymore.

But an unexpected scenario came into his gaze the next second!

In his eyes, Ning Fan's long hair danced in the air and his eyes turned serious. Black demonic marks gradually surfaced on the left part of his face. His aura experienced a great change and became icy cold, as if he was a different person now!

All of a sudden, his body disintegrated into pieces, just like how the sword broke into pieces and turned into shadows!

Every part of him formed into strands of dark sword sense. After moving half a zhang horizontally, the dark sword sense condensed into a new body!

That sword shadow was expelled from his body!

"Shadow Carrier Sword. It was indeed a good sword... This sword belongs to me now!"

His hand directly grasped on the sword without avoiding the cutting edge!

At this very moment, Ning Fan seemed as though he was a master of swords. The Shadow Carrier Sword seemed to be trembling in fear.

Ning Fan seized the sword once more and this time, Ning Fan merged his sword sense into the sword. Yun Kuang's spirit sense imprint was erased and Ning Fan planted a new one on it!

Ning Fan was the new owner of the sword!

Aside from that, he was obviously the winner of this fight!

Cough

After Yun Kuang's spirit sense imprint was cleared, a sharp pain could be felt in his mind, causing him to cough out a mouthful of fresh blood. Although he was only wounded lightly, astonishment radiated from his gaze for the first time in his life.

Sword Carrier Sword was considered as rare as one in a thousand as it possessed the ability to break into shadows. However, it was completely beyond his anticipation that Ning Fan's body could also disintegrate and condensed into a new body! (That was the power of Ning Fan's Black Tempest Rupture Art. He didn't know about it)

What's even more unimaginable was that Ning Fan dared to rob his sword sword in front of everyone!

It's fine that he defeated Yun Kuang! But how dare he seize the sword before everyone's eyes?! His actions was the same as giving a slap on Rain Palace's face! How dare he do that?!

Before Yun Kuang was truly enraged by his action, a number of Nascent Soul Realm cultivators from the Rain Palace stepped out and said solemnly,

"Zhou Ming! You are the one qualified to be the Seventh Commander of Great Jin as you won against Yun Kuang. But you crossed the line when you seized the sword from him! It showed that you simply don't respect the Rain Palace!"

Those who reprimanded Ning Fan were the small group of cultivators who did not have any idea of Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou. Yun Lie didn't move, Yun Ruowei didn't move and even Revered Snow didn't move. Those who heard of Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou like Song Yi remained at their position as well!

To seize a treasure in public was in fact crossing the line. Shadow Carrier Sword was a Supreme Grade magical treasure after all. It could break into shadows and it had powerful assassinating techniques. Such magical treasure should belong to the Rain Palace. How could it be owned by Ning Fan?

Despite knowing that fact, none of them spoke a word. Some of them were struck by fear while some were having complex thoughts such as Yun Ruowei...

Upon hearing the scoldings, Ning Fan let out a petty smile and deliberately acted as if he was shocked.

"Did I just seize a sword?"

"Hmmp! You openly erased Divine Messenger Yun Kuang's imprint on the flying sword. Isn't this called an act of seizing?" An old expert unfairly said.

"No, you're wrong. This is a gift from Yun Kuang. He said 'accept my single sword' earlier. I just did as what he said. That's it..."

"You just distort the facts and talk deceptively! He was asking you to accept his attack! Don't you have any sense of logic?!"

"Oh, I see. So I can't 'accept' his sword? I didn't know about that... Let's do it this way. Divine Messenger Yun Kuang, if you dare to 'accept my sword', I would return this sword to you! The thing is, are you brave enough?!"

Are you brave enough?!

Chapter 175(2): Seizing the Sword with a Broken Body!

Ning Fan's expression turned icy cold. He slapped his storage pouch and took out an exquisite sword sheath.

Dugu's Nascent Soul Realm sword qi swas concealed within the sheath... Heart Drawing Sword!

Ning Fan had yet to learn essence of the sword qi. Even if he fully comprehended it, he wouldn't be able to use it.

The sheath in his hand and the cold stare he shot at Yun Kuang made the latter quiver in terror!

Are you brave enough?! It was what he asked Ning Fan earlier before the fight. Now, Ning Fan asked him the same question without using the ability of reverberation in his voice. He just asked once but Yun Kuang was already hesitating!

He knew clearly that if he took on the Shadow Carrier Sword he would undoubtedly be wounded by it! It was because he had used the sword to cut down countless enemies so he's the one who understood best how hard it is to defend against the sword... He wouldn't be able to avoid the sword shadow that would enter his body as he didn't possess the strange ability that Ning Fan used earlier which allowed him to transform into shadows.

Moreover, when Ning Fan took out the delicate sheath, Yun Kuang's heart thumped violently!

It was as if his Dao Heart was being slashed by sword qi...

The pain was excruciating!

An irresistible sword qi is concealed inside the sheath! I can't block it!

He stared at Ning Fan with hatred emanating from his eyes. Although he despised Ning Fan, he didn't dare to face the sword like how Ning Fan had earlier.

He hid all his gloominess and turned emotionless. There wasn't a hint of happiness or anger on his face. He then cupped his fists towards Ning Fan and let out a cold snort before leaving.

He didn't dare to accept Ning Fan's sword!

Yun Kuang who was famous for his haughtiness submitted for the first time.

In his heart, his enmity towards Ning Fan had gone to a point where it can no longer go higher.

"You wait and watch!" That was his words to Ning Fan as he left.

What Yun Kuang didn't know was that even if Ning Fan obtained the Shadow Carrier Sword, he was still unable to access the full power of the sword like the power to turn the sword into shadows. It was because his real magic power was only at Half-Step Gold Core Realm. There's no way he would be able to completely control a Supreme Grade magical treasure in that state. Otherwise, why didn't he use the Five Elemental Swords or the Eastern Ocean Bell?

Although the sword qi of the Heart Drawing Sword was indeed powerful, he didn't know that it was impossible for Ning Fan to control it, unless Ning Fan achieves Nascent Formation!

In fact, Ning Fan had no other alternatives but to scare Yun Kuang off using the sword qi. He was not capable enough to kill Yun Kuang. Even if he had the capability to do so, he wouldn't take the latter's life in front of everyone. Being able to seize his magical treasure was already considered lucky.

As for Yun Kuang's action of forfeiting before even trying to fight, it was a favourable scenario from Ning Fan's helpless action earlier. It had struck awe into the cultivators who watched the fight.

The old expert from the Rain Palace who spoke for Yun Kuang had no excuses to put Ning Fan in difficult position anymore after seeing Yun Kuang withdraw from the fight.

"It's truly unexpected that Yun Kuang would avoid fighting..." Each of the experts from Rain Palace began to whisper among each other. Those who couldn't guess Ning Fan's identity were still trapped in a state of uncertainty.

A human body bursting into shadows... What exactly is that ability?

None of them had seen it before including Revered Snow even with his three thousand years of experience.

Meanwhile, the figure of Ning Fan deeply rooted into a woman's heart.

“He won! How could it be like this?!”

A slight anger and bitterness could be felt in her heart.

At first, she was worried that Ning Fan would die under Yun Kuang’s sword. When Ning Fan became victorious over Yun Kuang, the image of his heroic figure became embedded in her mind.

If she was fond of him, then it wouldn’t be a serious matter at all as it was only her affection towards him.

Unfortunately, Yun Ruowei didn’t even take a liking to him. As such, the figure of Ning Fan in her heart turned into a huge Heart’s Devil.

Unless she could forget everything about Ning Fan and treat him as a stranger, her the Heart’s Devil would be difficult to resolve.

The way Ning Fan scared his opponent off and seized his weapon was too captivating. He could be considered as a cultivator of brilliance and talent. She couldn’t disregard him at all.

Heart’s Devil, Heart’s Devil!

“Jerk! How am I going to settle my Heart’s Devil?!” She bit her lips and wanted to cry but no tears were coming out of her eyes.

A Heart’s Devil is really troublesome!

Truthfully, it was Ning Fan’s fault as he had molested her by touching her breasts shamelessly.

...

There wasn’t any need to continue discussing about the position of the Seventh Commander. After the battle, countless old monsters intended to inquire about Ning Fan’s background and his ability but they had to wait until the meeting was over.

Afterwards, the next issue that all the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators needed to discuss was to cure Revered Snow!

The fighting ring dissipated and the clouds condensed into the Cloud Palace again. The fight that occurred just now didn’t alarm any other cultivators in Ju Shan Guan as the auras emitted from the fight were all suppressed from leaking out by Revered Snow.

“If there’s someone who can cure me, I would surely thank him by offering him luxurious gifts!” After saying that, he shut his eyes and sat down. That issue was widely discussed by all the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators at the scene.

When the discussion ended, no one came up. There were some cultivators who knew about Pill Refinement Technique among them. However, the best Pill Master was only at the level of Three Revolution and he failed to identify the source of the Revered Master's injuries.

This time, Ning Fan took the initiative to help Revered Snow. As a matter of fact, taking the initiative wasn't his style of doing things. But to avoid becoming an enemy of Revered Snow, he was willing to offer his help to him after agreeing to his conditions. That method was undeniably the best approach to solve the issue in regards to the Cold Pine Essence.

"I can help Revered Snow to 'detoxify'!" Ning Fan wore a stern and serious expression. He mentioned the word 'detoxify' in an especially clear manner.

When the speaker speaks with intention, the listeners listen with seriousness. Each and every one of the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators from the Rain Palace was surprised at his words.

"What? Revered Snow wasn't injured but poisoned?! Zhou Ming, you must not talk nonsense!" All of them didn't believe that Revered Snow was poisoned.

Only Revered Snow's eyes flashed when he heard of the word 'poisoned'. He knew what Ning Fan said was correct. However, with his three thousand years of experience, he had no idea of how he was poisoned. Could this Zhou Ming really cure him?!

"I am a Four Revolution Pill Master..."

A single sentence from Ning Fan made the entire atmosphere go silent.

This scene was even more difficult to believe than him winning against Yun Kuang.

As for Yun Ruowei, she was almost pushed over the edge to reveal Ning Fan's identity.

"It's impossible. With just only a few years of Dao cultivation, how could he possibly become a Four Revolution Pill Master?! Stop stealing the limelight, if not my Heart's Devil can never be erased! Detestable... There's not a good man in Black Demon Sect. None!"

The uproar in the hall turned silent again when Yun Lie burst into hearty laughter.

"This man is certainly a Four Revolution Pill Master. I can guarantee it..."

"What?! Divine Messenger Yun Lie witnessed this person refining a pill before?"

"No, it's just my instinct. It tells me that he is truly a Four Revolution Pill Master!"

The ugly man, Yun Lie, was a straightforward man. The words he spoke left all the experts speechless.

Some of them began to jeer and taunt Ning Fan saying that he was trying to court people's favour by saying something impressive. Some other cultivators wanted Ning Fan to refine pills in front of everyone to prove his identity.

Ning Fan ignored all of them. His eyes only fixed on Revered Snow's. To him, everybody other than Revered Snow was unimportant.

"You really can cure my poison?" Revered Snow spoke solemnly.

"Actually, I've cured this poison once before... If Senior's condition persists, Senior's cultivation realm will start to fall..."

"What are the conditions?!"

"The Cold Pine Essence will be mine! Furthermore, Senior has to swear the Great Oath of Heart's Devil that you owe me a favour!"

Ning Fan's eyes glittered. To him, the Cold Pine Essence and owing him a favour were things that Revered Snow would need to hesitate to decide.

But the second when he finished stating his conditions, Revered Snow never hesitated and promised him immediately.

“Sure!”

It must be a joke. When Revered Snow discovered that Ning Fan was the disciple of the Old Devil, how could he still forcefully take the Cold Pine Essence away from Ning Fan? For someone like him who knew about the Old Devil’s personality and the tradition of Black Devil Sect, it was considered lucky that Ning Fan didn’t seize his items in return.

Yes... The Old Devil was already hurt and lost his power and influence after his cultivation realm declined. The high-ranking officers in Rain Palace knew that the Deacon of Four Oceans was staying in Rain World to heal himself. They also knew that his enemy came from a powerful background. Therefore, none of them dared to be friends with the Old Devil. However, none of them dared to offend him as well.

Rain Palace had no right to ask about the enmity between True Immortals. Although the Old Devil had a lot of enemies, it didn’t mean that he didn’t have any True Immortals as friends.

As such, Revered Snow had already decided in his mind that he wasn’t going to snatch the Cold Pine Essence from Ning Fan anymore. Besides, he was undoubtedly going to owe Ning Fan a favour! In fact, he would owe any Pill Master a favour if the Pill Master could cure him. Aside from that, he would also send some gifts too. Since Ning Fan did not asked for any other rewards, the conditions he requested were worthwhile.

So, did Revered Snow lose anything? No. As a matter of fact, he would profit from this.

It was as if he did not need to pay any price to have Ning Fan cure his poison.

The only matter that made him feel concern was whether Ning Fan was a true Four Revolution Pill Master or not.

Yun Lie's instinct is a pile of bullshit. His words aren't worthy enough to be trusted. He just spoke in support of Ning Fan as he had a good impression towards him.

With Revered Snow's Spirit Severing Realm capability, he saw through Ning Fan cultivation base and knew that Ning Fan was only at Half-Step Gold Core Realm. He was just fortunate enough to defeat Yun Kuang. He relied solely on his empty show of strength and successfully scared Yun Kuang off. If Yun Kuang was a little braver to accept his sword, perhaps the sword wouldn't be in his hands anymore. The way he won the fight could be said to be half dependent on his strength while the other half relied on his courage and intelligence.

At just Half-Step Gold Core Realm, he possessed a strong combat power and held many trump cards. Besides, he came from a deep background and he was also exceptionally intelligent.

But could he really refine pills? Pill refinement isn't child's play. According to Revered Snow's knowledge, the Deacon of Four Oceans, Han Yuan Ji, indeed had superb techniques when he was still a True Immortal. However, he had an impetuous personality and he couldn't calm himself down to refine pills and equipment. As such, his Pill Refinement Technique was only at Three Revolution only.

Could Ning Fan whose bone age hadn't even reached twenty-years-old really be a Four Revolution Pill Master?

The people from Black Devil Sect are always full of lies. It's hard to differentiate whether they are speaking the truth or a lie.

“Hopefully this young kid can cure me...” Revered Snow might seem to be expressionless, but he was letting out a few sighs in his hearts. He resigned himself to his fate.

At least Ning Fan was still better than the other Nascent Soul Realm cultivators as he could identify that Revered Snow was poisoned.

Let’s see how it goes.