

Grasping 221

Chapter 221(1): The Affected Su Yao!

Zhou Ming?

I have heard of this name before but it's rather unfamiliar to me... Surname Zhou? A member of the Zhou Clan of the Internal Endless Sea?

No. The members of the Zhou Clan have an emblem of the Lightning Beasts on their robes... This person is not one of them and he should not be a cultivator from the Internal Endless Sea... I suppose he is just a Peak Nascent Soul Realm from the External Endless Sea...

Countless thoughts were running through Milian's mind. When he concluded that the formidable man before him was just an expert from the External Endless Sea, he felt relieved. Ninety percent of the fear he originally had faded away.

When he settled down, he started to observe Ning Fan with extra caution. With his current cultivation realm, he discovered that the young man only possesses nearly 460 units of magic power, which was much lower than his. He had 550 units of magic power!

So this man is just a Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivator?

Don't tell me that his terrifying aura and immense Violent Qi were just a pretense to intimidate us?

This old man was scared by a brat who has a lower magic power than myself?!

Hmmph! A Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivator from the External Endless Sea dares to intervene and ruin our work! He's definitely courting death!

The eyes on his chubby face turned gloomy.

“Young man! I am Milian, the Ninth Elder of the Black Buddha Sect, which is one of the famous seventy-two sects in the Internal Endless Sea! You better stay out of this. You should know, the worst and most foolish thing in the Endless Sea is to help others out of justice. If you offend me, I have the means to pinch you to death, even if you are a Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivator...”

“Really?”

Ning Fan let out a faint smile but deep inside, he felt a little strange.

This Milian was not enough to rouse fear within him.

However, Milian’s body emanated a trace of vicious qi which was nearly similar to the aura of a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert.

No matter what, he still isn’t someone worth mentioning. What I should say is that the techniques of the Black Buddha Sect is rather unique.

Upon seeing the smile that appeared on Ning Fan’s face, Milian was filled with rage.

A mere Late Nascent Soul Realm is trying to act tough in front of me?!

“Get into formation and kill him!”

“Yes!”

As Milian barked out the order, the other four black monks wiped off the blood on their mouths and held a black formation disk each, standing at the four directions with Ning Fan inside, surrounding him. They activated their magic power and immediately, a thousand zhang wide black formation pattern encircled him and stretched into the sky.

Ning Fan’s eyes narrowed but he did not move away from his position.

This formation pattern was ancient and complicated. Suddenly, wails of evil spirits echoed within the formation and gusts of black wind blew against him. Each of the gusts of wind then transformed into a black python which was as thick as the mouth of a bowl. Within seconds, thousands of black pythons which flicked their tongues with black drool leaking from their mouths charged towards Ning Fan.

This formation was established using four High Grade Nascent Soul Realm Formation Disks. Combining all the power of the four disks, the formation established was not any weaker than a Peak Nascent Soul Realm Formation.

As for the black pythons, they were not snakes and they were not venomous. Each of them were the evil intent of the deceased.

Although this formation was not of excellent grade, not even a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert would want to be caught in the formation. Once he is attacked by the evil intent, his body might not suffer any injuries but his Heart of Dao would be stained, creating a Heart's Devil within him. The evil intent might even cause him to instantly become insane or crush his Heart of Dao!

If the Heart of Dao is crushed, the cultivator might have a chance to survive but he would suffer grievous injuries!

Milian kept sneering when the formation was completed. If Ning Fan could not escape from the formation in time, he would no longer have any possibility of breaking loose from this formation, unless he was a Spirit Severing Realm expert!

Seeing Zhou Ming who came to "save" them fall into the formation, the two Mid Nascent Soul Realm elders of Bi Yao Sect turned pale.

"No...It's bad!" This is the 'Phantoms of Insanity Formation' of the Black Buddha Sect. It uses the evil intent of the dead people and evil ghosts to attack the cultivator within the formation. Not even a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert could resist it, let alone this young man. It did not matter whether he was the true notorious devil lord Zhou Ming or not. If he is trapped inside the formation, unless he possesses a Spiritual Treasure to protect himself, it would be impossible for him to withstand the evil intent!"

Even Bi Yao who got afflicted with the aphrodisiac poison knitted her brows. She was vexed at herself for not being able to aid Ning Fan. Her heroic attitude was quite similar to that of Yin Suqiu.

“Young man! You can die in peace within this Phantoms of Insanity Formation!”

Milian let out a cacophony of laughter as his belly fat jiggled. But what happened next made his laughter cease and his smile to cramp.

Ning Fan did not even try to evade when facing thousands of black pythons. Instead, he grinned.

The Earth Controlling Devil Star on his right eye emitted a black light. All of a sudden, the power of the star created a vortex with incredible suction force and absorbed all the black pythons into his right eye.

The star which was light yellow at first gradually became dark yellow, radiating the faint light of evil intent.

“En. They can become excellent nutrients in cultivating the Third Corpse Pupil Technique. However, there is not enough of them... Never mind. This Phantoms of Insanity Formation is a formation that could accumulate evil intent. It’s useful to me ... I want it!”

In the next split second, Ning Fan’s eyes shone with cold light. He made a stomp and a silver light flashed. Although he just stomped in the air, the power of his stomp made the whole heaven and earth tremble!

With just a stomp, the thousand zhang formation light with lots of black formation patterns crumbled.

The four Mid Nascent Soul Realm monks who set up the formation immediately coughed up blood and retreated. Their formation disks were all broken. None of them could maintain their composure!

As for Milian, he was utterly shocked!

The Phantoms of Insanity Formation is broken by a person from inside!

Those are evil intent ah! They can weaken the mind of a cultivator and even stimulate the creation of a Heart's Devil within the cultivator! One python is enough to turn an ordinary Early Nascent Soul Realm cultivator insane. No Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivators could withstand 10 of them. When hundreds of black pythons enter into the body of a Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, his Heart of Dao would definitely crack. Even a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert would lose his sanity when attacked by thousands of black pythons!

But... But those horrifying evil intent was devoured by the young man!

Besides, this formation which is equivalent to that of a Peak Nascent Soul Realm formation was pulverized by him in just a stomp!

Yes. It's not a mistake. The strength of his stomp is not any lower than the Fourth Level of the Silver Bone Realm... Maybe his body refining realm is even at the Peak Silver Bone Realm!

Is there such powerful body refining cultivator in the External Endless Sea?! Don't tell me that this outstanding expert is a descendant of the Giant Devil Sect that was assigned to guard the Pleasure Devil Sect?!

In a flash, an imminent feeling of danger surged within his heart, making the hairs on his arms stood!

Ning Fan faintly closed his eyes after crushing the formation into pieces. At the time he opened them again, they became indifferent and merciless. His aura drastically changed!

The current Ning Fan was like an ancient sword that existed eternally, hanging from the sky!

As he made another step forward, the force of heaven and earth gathered to him and transformed into a sword, thrusting towards the five of them!

All of them were caught unprepared. Even Milian also spurted a mouthful of blood, grievously injured!

Milian narrowed his eyes in fear!

What kind of sword technique was that?!

Forming a sword from the force of heaven and earth in just a stomp!

This kind of sword technique can only be possessed by the Spirit Severing Realm experts from the Sword Island in the Internal Endless Sea.

Don't tell me he's not the descendant of the Giant Devil Sect but a member of the Sword Island!

As he thought of "Sword Island", he felt a chill down his spine. But before he could continue to contemplate, Ning Fan had already made the second stomp.

He then continuously made the third, fourth and fifth step! His action was so fast as only his afterimage could be seen.

Milian's expression greatly changed. Without hesitation, he opened his mouth and spurted out a black relic. It was an item that was congealed using the secret arts of the Black Buddha Sect to protect himself.

However, in the face of the sword qi of the fifth step, the relic which was able to block a Late Nascent Soul Realm strike was turned into ashes. The residual power worsened Milian's injuries, causing him to spurt out even more blood.

The four Mid Nascent Soul Realm black monks who surrounded him were instantly turned into blood mist under the power of his sword qi, leaving only four pale Nascent Souls. Each of their expressions were filled with fear.

The young man before him did not use even a single bit of his magic power. What he did was borrowing the force of heaven and earth to form a sword. But it was already that powerful.

Is he...a Spirit Severing Realm expert?!

Other than those at the Spirit Severing Realm, who else could possess such techniques?!

“Flee!”

Milian was foolish. Despite that, he knew that Ning Fan was not a person to be trifled with. The reason he would be so daring earlier was because he was unaware of Zhou Ming’s reputation. If he had known it, he would have fled.

But Ning Fan acted even faster than they could flee!

The sixth step, Wind Move!

The seventh step, Snow Melt!

The eighth step, Sea Whirl!

The ninth step, Sword Crack!

Nine Steps, Sky Treader, forming a sword with nine steps! As the sword qi of the technique was unleashed, the black snow within the range of a thousand li disappeared! This was the sword of heaven and earth!!

The might of this technique killed four Nascent Souls and nearly crushed Milian’s rotund body together with his Nascent Soul.

Just as his body collapsed, a black shadow flew into the sky in panic. It was a black Nascent Soul.

The face of the Nascent Soul was exactly the same as Milian. However, Ning Fan clearly crushed his Nascent Soul earlier.

“A second Nascent Soul? Interesting. The members of the Black Buddha Sect must excel in this kind of secret arts. But in this world, having more Nascent Souls does not mean stronger magic techniques... Seal!”

One finger, Body Seal!

With a flick of his sleeve, a huge gust of wind blew the panic-stricken Nascent Soul into Ning Fan's hands.

The miniature face of the Nascent Soul was plastered with terror.

Milian was a Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivator but his second Nascent Soul was at the Peak Nascent Soul Realm. Even Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts would find it hard to catch up with him when he teleports. However, he did not expect that his movements would be sealed by Ning Fan with just a finger.

He had never even heard of this technique!

"You... You must not kill me... If you do, the Spirit Severing Realm expert of my sect will definitely..."

"Shut up! Soul Memory Searching Technique!"

Ning Fan did not have the thought of talking nonsense with him at all.

The reason why the battle dragged longer was because he was interested in the Phantoms of Insanity Formation and also the second Nascent Soul.

This person's memories were not like those of the Eagle Crane Elder because they were not sealed by a powerful expert.

Evidently, the background of the Black Buddha Sect is not as strong as the Demon Sealing Sect.

After reading all his memories, Ning Fan opened his mouth wide and swallowed the black Nascent Soul. With a twist of his wrist, the five storage pouches of the five monks flew to his hands.

Their pills, magical treasures, immortal jade, the guide of establishing the Phantoms of Insanity Formation and even the secret art to cultivate the second Nascent Soul were all in Ning Fan's hands now.

To Ning Fan, the battle just now could be considered a waste of his time. On the contrary, it was swift and shocking enough for Su Yao and the rest of the women.

Silence filled the atmosphere once more. The black snow incessantly fell from the sky.

The young man who stood in the snow crushed the formation and killed five Nascent Soul Realm experts in just a few breaths!

Four of them were Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivators while the other one was a Late Nascent Soul Realm expert who possessed a second Nascent Soul at the Peak Nascent Soul Realm. However, before he had the chance to display his techniques, he was eliminated by this young man.

"This...this is the notorious Zhou Ming that is talked about by the cultivators of the External Endless Sea..." The two female elders of the Bi Yao Sect, Han Mu and Xu Fei, were trembling in fear.

When Ning Fan's gaze swept across them, the fear in their hearts intensified.

It would not be too difficult for him to kill us two!

He truly deserves the reputation of being the strongest below the Spirit Severing Realm!

As they thought of his notoriety and all the misdeeds he had done, they could feel fear flowing through their veins.

Chapter 221(2): The Affected Su Yao!

When Ning Fan approached them step by step, they hid behind Su Yao with an unnatural expression.

Su Yao, whose face was as pale as paper, forcefully restrained the poison in her body and politely greeted Ning Fan with her usual demeanor.

“Thank you Fellow Daoist Zhou for saving us.”

“Su Yao Xianzi truly deserves to be the master of the sect. Regardless of your cultivation realm, your demeanor is really firm. In fact, you look stronger than the two women behind you. However, you don’t need to thank me. I have never saved a person for no reason... Do you understand...”

It simply meant that he wanted something in return as a reward. However, the only thing that could touch Ning Fan’s heart among the group of women were themselves...

Ning Fan’s eyes swept across each of the female cultivators, including Su Yao. Inwardly, he was emotionally affected by the three women standing in front of him. With their angelic appearances and excellent cultivation realms, they could be considered as perfect human cauldrons for him. If he pluck them all, he could obtain 60 units of magic power...

However, when he read Su Yao’s thoughts with his Mind Reading Technique, he found out that the reason they ventured into the Pleasure Devil Sea despite knowing well the danger they would face was because of Yin Suqiu. Su Yao planned on buying a Nascent Soul Realm Dao Fruit for her in order to prepare her for Nascent Formation. She actually held kind intentions toward Yin Suqiu. Besides, she also had a very intimate relationship with Yin Suqiu... As such, it would be against his Heart of Dao to pluck her...

Suqiu is going to form her Nascent Soul...

Unfortunately, I don’t have any Nascent Soul Realm Dao Fruit in my hands. Otherwise, I could have given it Su Yao to bring it back to her.

After receiving a direct stare from Ning Fan, Su Yao’s face faintly blushed, though she still kept her original demeanor. As for the other two women behind her, their hearts palpitated, feeling fearful and shy at the same time.

This guy really is rude by staring at every single one of us like that! Asking for a reward after saving us makes him even more shameless!

But when they recalled his bad reputation as a pervert, it made some sense for him to boldly stare at them and their bodies.

Even a fool would understand that the so-called reward Ning Fan wants was the bodies of the three Nascent Soul Realm women...

"I understand Fellow Daoist Zhou's request. Su Yao has also heard a little about Fellow Daoist Zhou's reputation for being promiscuous... Even if Fellow Daoist Zhou did not appear just now, all of us would eventually lose our purity as well after falling into the devilish claws of the evil monks. As such, it is justifiable that Fellow Daoist insists to be rewarded... However, I plead Fellow Daoist to give us a way out by letting the rest of my female disciples go. To repay Fellow Daoist's kind act, I am willing to become Fellow Daoist's human cauldron. All of my cultivation is yours to pluck."

"Sect Master! No!" The two elderly female cultivators were shocked.

"Shut up! Pass down my order and from today onwards, I no longer am the master of Bi Yao Sect. I am the cauldron of Fellow Daoist Zhou... As for the position of the sect master, if Elder Suqiu succeeds in forming her Nascent Soul, she will be the next sect master..."

Su Yao forcefully restrained the effect of her poison and spoke solemnly.

She knew that it would be as easy as lifting a hand for Ning Fan to subdue all of them. He might have behaved shamelessly by asking for compensation but this action was not wrong after all. Why can't he ask for a reward after saving people?

Moreover, after she was afflicted with the poison, she knew that it was difficult for her to escape death even if she chooses not to have sex with another man. In fact, she actually had already decided to sacrifice herself ever since she was poisoned.

At least my life will be of some value if I am able to save the rest of the disciples by just offering myself.

After he plucks me, I will kill myself... At least, I won't leave a bad reputation out of myself for my whole life.

Su Yao was rather different from Yin Suqiu who was occasionally impulsive. She was the kind of woman who would always remain quiet and silent.

The only similarity between the two of them was their daring and heroic attitudes.

Even though she was reluctant to lose her virginity, she still acted against her will. To her, it was a fortunate thing if she could really save all the other women from "Zhou Ming's devilish hands".

She did not hope at all that Zhou Ming would give Yin Suqiu face and let her go. After all, humans are unpredictable. Moreover, his bad reputation was widely spread, making anyone doubt that he would actually be kind...

Would he really let go of such excellent human cauldrons right under his nose because of one woman?

Su Yao did not have much confidence that Ning Fan would just keep her and let the others go.

But her face stayed calm and emotionless although her mind was full of thoughts and worries.

It was pale and quiet. She might look feeble and gentle but she emanated a solemn demeanor which made others feel that she was not a person that should be toyed with.

So this is the demeanor of a sect master...

Ning Fan nodded his head lightly.

This woman truly deserves to be Yin Suqiu's sister. There aren't many women with such heroic spirit like her in the entire Rain World.

Sacrificing oneself to cling to the Dao of Righteousness. It is easier said than done.

Although Ning Fan was on watch for the Nascent Soul Realm female cultivators from the Bi Yao Immortal Island, he was not so bad to the point where he would pluck all of Su Yao's cultivation for just a mere 20 units of magic power and make Suqiu sad.

Even if he keeps Su Yao, he would not treat her as a human cauldron...

Su Yao swallowed the humiliation and bore the heavy burden to recommend herself to be his human cauldron in order to save her disciples... Such sense of justice was rare to be seen in a cold and cruel world of cultivation like this.

Even though the poison is still in her body, she still pretends to be calm. Such stubbornness really resembles that of Yin Suqiu...

Ning Fan would ignore those hypocrites who cultivated the righteous path and behaved differently. However, he would still respect those who truly persist in maintaining their path of righteousness.

At least, he could not act like Su Yao, to sacrifice himself for others. He was just too selfish.

"Since Su Yao Xianzi is willing to become my human cauldron, I am not going to refuse. Whoever could marry a woman like you is having a stroke of luck." Ning Fan let out a faint smile but Su Yao labeled him as "frivolous" in her heart. On the surface, she did not look like she was angered at all.

"Really... So is Fellow Daoist willing to let them go?"

"Yes. As for the matter of plucking you, I'll push it to the next time we meet. Disperse!"

Ning Fan's smile faded. With a flick of his sleeve, he drew boundless primordial energy from heaven and earth that went into all the Gold Core Realm female cultivators' bodies, forcing the black sand out of them.

In a blink of an eye, a grey light flashed. With just a step, he was already in front of Su Yao and held her waist with his arm.

Upon seeing that Ning Fan helped to detoxify her Gold Core Realm disciples, she secretly felt relieved.

Fortunately, my sacrifice did not go in vain.

However, before she could thank him, he was already at her side.

As he stretched out his arm and pulled her waist towards him, Su Yao's body stiffened and let out a moan. The aphrodisiac poison that she was strenuously suppressing went out of control, making her bottom part wet.

Deep inside, the only thought she had was that she would most likely be molested by Ning Fan.

The fear she had was that Ning Fan would humiliate and do what she would imagine him to do in the open space above the sea and right before everyone's eyes. If that would be the case, she would have no dignity left.

But she did not resist. That was her attitude... Even though she was reluctant, she would not resist.

However, what made her feel strange was that after Ning Fan held her in his arms, he did not act like what she had thought in her mind. He only filled his finger with magic power and touched lightly on her flexible waist, sealing the flow of the poison in her body.

It was her first time in witnessing such profound physician skill. Perhaps not even the Fourth Revolution Pill Master of her sect could match his massage techniques.

"Fellow Daoist Zhou. Are you trying...to....."

“Have sex with me”. Those were the next part of the sentence she wanted to say. However, she could not get herself to utter those words. After Ning Fan momentarily sealed the flow of her veins, she no longer felt the effect of the poison. Instead, she felt much relaxed and unrestrained.

“I have temporarily sealed the poison in your body. It is a strong poison and it can only be cured by using some unique methods. If Xianzi wishes, you can settle down on the Joint Joyous Immortal Island. Later, I will come and cure your poison. Now, I hope Xianzi can make a move and bring all your disciples there first. I have some trivial matters to handle before I rendezvous with you.”

“Alright...” Su Yao puckered her lips. To her, it was a good thing that she hadn’t been plucked by Ning Fan in a public area like that.

She did not know that Ning Fan had already decided to let her go. If she knows she misunderstood Ning Fan’s behavior and offered herself to him, she would be too ashamed to show her face and maybe she would be so embarrassed that she might want to kill herself.

However, she would not know about it anyhow. Ning Fan had saved her and promised to cure her. From her sense of justice, the two favors were enough for her to willingly marry him, though she felt reluctant...

Ning Fan stood aside, opening a path for the women to move.

Only now did the two elders heaved sighs of relief. Originally, they thought it would be similar to a situation where a tiger was lured to kill the wolves with Ning Fan being the tiger while the monks being the wolves. Now, it seemed that the “tiger” took a fancy on Su Yao and let the two of them off.

They felt grateful but remorseful at the same time to Su Yao’s unselfish act.

The female corpse stood quietly at one side from beginning to end. Her eyes were completely on Ning Fan.

As for Yu Long, it was another eye-opener for him. After becoming Ning Fan’s slave, he was now filled with admiration for his master.

He killed five Nascent Soul Realm experts with just a wave of his hand! Moreover, they were devil cultivators from the Internal Endless Sea!

In addition, he just had another human cauldron and she was even the sect master of Bi Yao Sect! She is a person respected by many in the External Endless Sea. Also, she is a charming woman whom many men would want to catch a glimpse of but none of them could...

The admiration in his heart actually made him to think whether to lick Ning Fan's boots by flattering him.

But before he could utter any words, Ning Fan's voice interrupted his thoughts.

"Yu Long, since you are familiar with the sea route, bring all the female cultivators of Bi Yao Sect to Joint Joyous Immortal Island. If there is anyone who tries to stand in the way, tell them that they are Zhou Ming's women! This item contains a trace of my qi. If there are any stubborn cultivators from the Internal Endless Sea, just crush this item and I will immediately know..."

"Yes, yes! I will complete this task without fail!"

After receiving a jade plate from Ning Fan, Yu Long made a polite gesture to leave and led the women away. He did not ask why his master wanted to stay.

As for Su Yao, she felt grateful towards Ning Fan once more for assigning a person to escort them.

With a trace of his qi and his reputation, cultivators of the External Endless Sea were nothing much to worry about. Besides, even cultivators from the Internal Endless Sea would not dare to act recklessly after sensing the qi.

She started to discover that Ning Fan was not as bad as the rumors tell about him.

The women he has might be as much as the clouds. However, he is a person who will take good care of the woman he loves.

Unknowingly, Su Yao recalled the time when she met Ning Fan for the first time.

At that time, the blood of the human sharks was all over his body. He was critically injured but he still escorted Yin Suqiu to Bi Yao Immortal Island...

At that time, he might have been a person who was fickle in love affairs or maybe he was a person who was shockingly faithful to the woman he loved...

If Ning Fan was really a faithful person, then he would most likely save me without plucking anyone of us for Yin Suqiu.

I think I have been overthinking it... Recommending myself to be his cauldron... It seems to be an unnecessary act...

“That is to say, even if I don’t offer myself, the rest of the disciples would still be safe. But I thought what he wanted was...and I’ve just offered myself!”

She pressed her lips against each other and her face became fiery hot.

In other words, it would be voluntary on my part if he really plucks me... No one would think that he forced me to do so...

How come it will end up like this...Why would I make such a foolish decision...

I wonder if he holds any thoughts other than curing my poison... Would he want to do “that” with me...

Although it has just been a while since she left, she was swayed by the consideration of her gains and losses. She felt upset but she did not curse Ning Fan even once.

He just saved me twice...though he did not owe me anything...

“Sect master. Let’s return to our sect and hide. Since we have our old ancestor’s protection, Zhou Ming would not dare to cause trouble at our place...”

“But I have promised him... Besides, I haven’t got the Dao Fruit for Suqiu...After all, this Chastity Falling Powder is an incurable poison. Maybe my life belongs to him...”

What she said was incoherent. Her mind was confused. But she did not intend to escape.

If she was afraid in the first place, she would not have come to Pleasure Devil Sect.

...

Ning Fan held the hand of the female corpse and stood in the black snow.

When the shadows of Su Yao and the rest disappeared in the distance, only then did he lift his gaze to one of the black clouds in the sky. His stare turned cold and indifferent.

“Are you waiting for me to make you appear...”

“Hehe. Fellow Daoist Zhou Ming really has a keen sight. Uncommon, truly uncommon. This old fellow is Xu Rushan. Greetings to Fellow Daoist Zhou Ming!”

The black cloud dissipated!

An elderly man in black robes gradually emerged!

The sea waves rumbled and the black snow reversed in motion when he appeared!

He was Xu Rushan, the old ancestor of Pleasure Devil Sect!

This person was lying low in here all these while!

“Fellow Daoist Xu wants to be my enemy?!” Ning Fan spoke in a cold tone.

“Hehe. Fellow Daoist Zhou truly deserves the reputation of the strongest expert below the Spirit Severing Realm. Meeting you face to face is better than hearing about you from the rumors. You are a person who is absolutely worth it to befriend. I have a request. If you can do it, I will give you 50 drops of Profound Liquid of Mother Earth!”

Fifty drops were equivalent to five hundred units of magic power!

No one wouldn't be tempted by such reward, even Ning Fan!

Chapter 222(1): Xu Rushan!

The black cloud dispersed and an elderly man in black robes appeared.

This person had silver white hair with a body that was thin and bony. Despite that, his body emanated a heavy aura. It was not fierce. Instead, it was as thick and heavy as a mountain. It made Ning Fan feel that he could break the heavens and pulverize the earth with just his finger or fist.

The old pair of eyes on his wrinkled face were sharp like those of an eagle.

On the center of his forehead, there was an illusory half-formed black star, glittering faintly.

When he stood in the sky, anyone would feel that he was like nature itself.

A trace of Primordial Magnetic Force disrupted the magnetic force of the mineral veins at the bottom of the ocean. It even pierced through Ning Fan's Sea of Consciousness, inflicting a mild pain on his spirit sense.

Early Spirit Severing Realm... Xu Rushan!

Ning Fan's face turned somber. The expert before him gave him an extremely strong sense of pressure, making him feel that the person in front of him was not a person but an enormous mountain.

He knew the power that inflicted pain to his spirit sense was the Primordial Magnetic Force.

It's really extraordinary.

The half black star in the center of his forehead resembled an Immemorial Devil Star.

Even though he did not possess Immemorial Devil or Divine Veins, he still managed to congeal half of an Immemorial Devil Star. He might just have half of the star, but it was enough to prove that he was an expert with great talent.

Ning Fan pondered about the intention of his sudden appearance without any fear.

To him, Xu Rushan was much more powerful than the rest of the cultivators he met in the External Endless Sea. He alone could have wiped out all the Nascent Soul Realm experts in the External Endless Sea. In terms of the aura he emanated, it was much stronger than the spiritual puppet, Stone Warrior.

Of course, Stone Warrior's combat power should be comparable to him as aura was just an external factor. In fact, his combat power might even be slightly weaker than the female corpse. Even if Ning Fan faces him alone, he had 30% assurance of finishing him off with his Yuan Yao Jade. However, there was a higher chance that he would die in his hands as well... A Nascent Soul Realm cultivator battling against a Spirit Severing Realm expert... If he could not win, then he would definitely be dead. There was a 30% chance of winning, but 70% chance of dying as well.

From Late Nascent Soul Realm onwards, there would be an immeasurably vast difference between each of the small cultivation realms.

As for Xu Rushan, he was an expert who had a higher cultivation level than Ning Fan by a large and small cultivation realm.

(Late Nascent Soul Realm [Ning Fan's current cultivation realm],

Peak Nascent Soul Realm [a small cultivation realm gap from Ning Fan's],

Early Spirit Severing Realm [a large cultivation realm gap from Nascent Soul Realm])

This person's attitude is rather weird...

He wants to ask for my help and promised to give me 50 drops of Profound Liquid of Mother Earth as a reward for helping him...

500 units of magic power. If Ning Fan acquires this much magic power, he would even try to break through the bottleneck of the Peak Nascent Soul Realm and become a true expert of that realm.

This person is a respectable Spirit Severing Realm expert. The only possible reason that made him request for my help is either he knows that I am a Fifth Revolution Pill Master or something regarding the Secret Realm of the Broken World.

Other than those reasons, there was nothing worth it for a Spirit Severing Realm expert like him to specifically seek for Ning Fan's help. As for the Secret Realm of the Broken World, any expert at the Spirit Severing Realm would be forbidden to enter. Since Ning Fan was the strongest cultivator below the Spirit Severing Realm, he would be the most reliable person to seek help from.

But this Xu Rushan had been hiding in this place for quite some time. Maybe he was already here when he knew that Su Yao and the group of female cultivators faced danger. After all, he also belonged to one of the top ten sects of the External Endless Sea. He would not want the sect master of Bi Yao Sect to be humiliated in his territory.

However, Ning Fan's emergence made him give up on his thoughts of saving them.

He did not act immediately and helped Ning Fan eliminate his enemies because of two reasons.

Firstly, he wanted to observe Ning Fan's power to see whether this cultivator was qualified to rope in.

Secondly, he wanted to borrow Ning Fan's hands to kill the black monks and make the latter the great enemy of the Black Buddha Sect.

After searching Milian's memories, Ning Fan found out that one of the Spirit Severing Realm old monsters from the Black Buddha Sect would be present at the Pleasure Devil Sea... His presence was due to the auction of a Spirit Severing Realm human cauldron.

It was a secret that only a few top-ranking officers and elders of the Black Buddha Sect would know. Besides, before Ning Fan came, he did not even have a single clue about the auction of a Spirit Severing Realm that was going to be held soon. The important point was that the Spirit Severing Realm of the Black Buddha Sect who would arrive a few days later should have already known that the experts from his sect had been killed. In other words, he was going to find trouble with Ning Fan when he arrives.

Xu Rushan is probably planning on using the Black Buddha Sect to threaten me...

The so-called request he has is actually just a combination of threat with inducement...

"Oh? I wonder what request Senior Xu has for me. Junior is all ears to listen." Ning Fan smiled and cupped his fist towards Xu Rushan while maintaining his calm.

Xu Rushan did not change his expression but secretly, he sucked in a cold breath.

Despite my Spirit Severing Realm aura and the intimidating pressure of the Primordial Magnetic Force, he could still maintain his composure.

In actual reality, experts at the Peak Nascent Soul Realm would find it impossible to stay calm and tranquil even when they are a thousand zhang* away from Xu Rushan.

But this Zhou Ming did not appear to be affected by him even though he was just within a vicinity of five hundred zhang* from Xu Rushan.

Reputation comes from real distinction. The title of “The Strongest Below Spirit Severing Realm” really fits him.

The more he studied Ning Fan, the more he felt amazed.

From Ning Fan’s body, he sensed countless qi such as the qi of demon blood, corpse qi, devil qi, sword qi... He could tell that this Ning Fan cultivated different kinds of cultivation methods.

Among those different types of qi, there were some that could make him feel threatened.

That is to say, if Ning Fan who seemed harmless on the surface goes all-out to fight him, there would be a high chance that he would be injured.

Now, it was more justifiable that Ning Fan did not fear Xu Rushan.

Xu Rushan tried to probe Ning Fan by approaching the latter step-by-step, shortening the distance between them.

400 zhang*, 300 zhang*, 200*... When there was only a hundred zhang* left, Xu Rushan stopped and his eyes flashed in surprise.

Ning Fan was nearly exposed to all of his pressure without any protection when they were so close to each other. However, Ning Fan did not even flinch. Instead, he was still maintaining the smile on his face.

On the contrary, the imminent danger that Xu Rushan felt intensified when he got closer to Ning Fan.

Moreover, he had an absurd feeling that if he goes to ten zhang* near to Ning Fan, his life might be at risk.

“This man does not just have techniques to hurt me but also methods to kill me.”

Xu Rushan gradually withdrew his aura and his gaze became solemn.

He no longer carried any pride when facing Ning Fan. The way he treated him was similar to treating experts at the same level as him.

He cupped his fists towards Ning Fan in return and said, "Fellow Daoist Zhou really has good calmness and techniques..."

Those who could make him cup his fists out of politeness were only Spirit Severing Realm experts. Among all the cultivators below that cultivation realm, Ning Fan was the first who could make him do so.

"Hehe. Thank you for your compliments, Senior Xu. However, Senior Xu has yet to solve my confusion. What is Senior Xu's request for me? Could it be something related to the Secret Realm of the Broken World?"

"This information is confidential. I hope Fellow Daoist Zhou will dismiss any unnecessary people first..." Xu Rushan glanced at the female corpse beside him and shook his head.

This woman did not seem to have any magic power but she could float in the air like them.

She appeared quite strange to him but he thought that she was likely to be Ning Fan's wife. Anyhow, women weren't supposed to hear the discussions of men. At least, that was the tradition.

"She is no stranger... In fact, I have dismissed all the outsiders." Ning Fan replied with a smile.

Su Yao whom he had just met for not more than a few times was considered an outsider. Yu Long, was undoubtedly an outsider. However, the female corpse was not.

"If that is the case, this old man will quit beating around the bush. Let's talk in my Immortal's Abode Magical Treasure..."

Xu Rushan took out a golden house which was the size of his palm. With just a slap on it, the golden house grew.

He gestured Ning Fan to go in but the latter shook his head in disagreement.

“Let’s talk here. If anyone dares to eavesdrop, I’ll just kill him.”

Xu Rushan chuckled. He kept his treasure but deep inside, he was shocked for the third time by Ning Fan.

The first time was when Ning Fan, a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, was not even amazed when he saw an Immortal’s Abode Magical Treasure. In fact, it wasn’t something that could be owned by any ordinary Spirit Severing Realm expert. Furthermore, it was a gift bestowed upon him by the Venerated Giant.

For the second time, he was astonished by Ning Fan’s alertness. The latter refused to enter into his treasure as if he had a clear understanding of the functions of a treasure of that kind. Formations could be established within the treasure as a trap to attack the enemies.

On his third time, he was amazed by Ning Fan’s words. They were cruel and merciless. It proved that Ning Fan was clearly an expert who had been through countless bloodbath and would kill with no hesitation.

With such qualifications and attitude, he will likely succeed in accomplishing the task that I am going to assign to him.

Hai. Besides, he’s the only one I can rely on now. Otherwise, it would be impossible to gather 200 Demon Pills of Fake Wild Beast... Venerated Giant is pressing me for those pills...

Although Xu Rushan did not converse much with Ning Fan, he could understand the latter’s personality and strength well after a series of probing, observation and analysis.

After keeping the treasure, he hesitated for a moment and took out a dark golden jade slip from his storage pouch.

There were three golden marks engraved on the jade slip and one of them was broken. They were the 'Message Fragmenting Marks'. They were used to prevent others from spying upon the jade slip as not even experts at Spirit Severing Realm could erase the marks.

Three golden marks meant that this particular jade slip could only be read three times. After three times, the golden marks would disappear and the jade slip would self-destruct.

One of the marks was broken because Xu Rushan had read it once.

Other than Xu Rushan, no other people got access to the jade slip. It was enough to prove how precious this jade slip was.

Chapter 222(2): Xu Rushan!

Moreover, Ning Fan caught a whiff of devil qi from the jade slip. Even though the qi was faint, it nearly caused his Nascent Soul to collapse.

Such tremendous devil qi... The expert who imprinted this jade slip must be unimaginably powerful.

Among all the cultivators he had seen in the External Endless Sea, he had yet to meet anyone with such heaven-shockingly powerful devil qi.

He did not immediately took the jade slip. Instead, he gently shook his head as he knew that it must be related to something rather significant.

If he reads it, he would have to promise to do Xu Rushan's request no matter what.

"I think it's better that Senior gives me a brief idea of the matter. If it is something important, I don't dare to act rashly."

“Oh? Fellow Daoist sure is a very cautious person. You’re clearly a person that can be entrusted with an important matter...Hai. Let me be frank with you. It is actually similar to your expectation as it truly is related to the Secret Realm of the Broken World. In fact, it is just hunting Fake Wild Beasts and gathering their Demon Pills. However, ...hai... the number of Demon Pills needed is a little... a little too many. Moreover, the deadline for the task is approaching fast...”

“Number? Deadline?” Ning Fan muttered to himself.

If he just wants to request my help in gathering Demon Pills of Fake Wild Beasts, it would be unnecessary for him to behave in that manner. I wonder how large the number he needs that it was able to make him lose his composure.

“The Secret Realm of the Broken World only opens once in every fifty years. Every time it opens, only forty cultivators are allowed to enter and it will stay open for one year for cultivators to enter the world and accumulate the Demon Pills of Fake Wild Beasts. But this time, because of the urgency in the completion of the task, the place was forcefully activated half a year in advance. Therefore, the Secret Realm is not as stable as usual and it can only last for half a year... Within such a short duration, I must gather... 200 Demon Pills of Fake Wild Beasts. Let me be bold and ask you a question, does Fellow Daoist have enough confidence to kill 200 Fake Wild Beasts within half a year?”

“200 Demon Pills in half a year? Senior Xu thinks too highly of junior.”

Ning Fan’s eyes flashed in a color of surprise.

It’s out of my expectations that this Xu Rushan would be begging for my help. Killing 200 Fake Wild Beasts in just half a year... That is to say, once I enter into the Secret Realm, I need to at least kill a lot of Fake Wild Beasts which have power comparable to a Spirit Severing Realm expert... I’m afraid killing one per day would not suffice...

Killing two hundred Spirit Severing Realm experts... If Ning Fan had such power, he would have already conquered the entire Internal Endless Sea. If he is that strong, he would not have needed to explore the Secret Realm of the Broken World.

Ning Fan stood in silence without saying yes or no. As for Xu Rushan, he began to feel a little impatient.

He had witnessed Ning Fan's power. The latter could even make him feel a feeling of danger. There was no one below the Spirit Severing Realm that was at his level.

Every Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivator who were capable of killing a single Fake Wild Beast in the Secret Realm were considered as strong experts. In the past, the most Xu Rushan could get from tens of Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivators were just a dozen Demon Pills.

But this time, he must gather 200 Demon Pills without any excuses. Otherwise, his head would fall.

Other than Ning Fan, he really did not have any hope on anyone else. He felt that even the other Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivators, including those descendants of the Venerated Seven of the Internal Endless Sea could not rival Ning Fan.

As a Spirit Severing Realm expert as well as the trusted follower of Venerated Giant who was one of the Venerated Seven, Xu Rushan rarely lowered his head down to others. However, today was the first time in his life where he put up a smiling face in order to please someone.

"Hehe. Fellow Daoist Zhou, if you help me this time, I will owe you a big favor. If you meet difficulties in the future, I will definitely aid you even though I have to go through a mountain of swords and a sea of flames. To validate my promise, I will swear the Great Oath of Heart's Devil after you accomplish the task. Moreover, the Venerated Giant will show favoritism towards you. The next time you enter the Internal Endless Sea, you will have a powerful force backing you. Of course, if killing 200 Fake Wild Beasts is difficult for you, I will search for others to reduce your burden. But Fellow Daoist has to at least gather 10 of the pills. Other than exchanging one drop the Profound Liquid of Mother Earth for each of the pills, this old man will give you another 50 drops of the liquid in extra. Try to imagine if Fellow Daoist collects 200 Demon Pills... You will gain a total of 2500 units of magic power. With that amount of magic power, it will be easy for you to attain the Peak Nascent Soul Realm."

"..."

Ning Fan did not utter a single word. But his eyes seemed to blaze with fire.

He wanted to think over this matter in a more thorough manner. Xu Rushan might be humble when he was begging him, but he could not imagine what would happen if he failed to fulfill his promise. He was afraid that Xu Rushan might go mad and vent out his anger on him.

200 Fake Wild Beasts... Even though it is reduced to only 10 of them, it's still not a trivial task.

Although those Fake Wild Beasts were not exactly comparable to genuine ones were not difficult to kill if Ning Fan approaches them one by one, but who knows whether the beasts moved alone or stayed in groups...

Perhaps he might find beasts which were left out by their groups, but there was still a possibility that he would have to face groups of beasts if he really wants to kill 200 of them. Just by thinking of the scene where he had to fight against a group of beasts with each of them having power comparable to a Spirit Severing Realm expert was enough to make his scalp go numb.

It would be much easier if I can bring in Stone Warrior and the female corpse... Unfortunately, no Spirit Severing Realm experts are allowed to enter... It seems I can only rely on myself.

So, should I promise him or reject it?

If I reject his offer, I am going to miss the opportunity to obtain more than 200 drops of the Profound Liquid of Mother Earth.

200 drops of that liquid is equivalent to 2000 units of magic power. If I complete this task, I would have finished one fifth of the journey in attaining Spirit Severing Realm.

As for the favor that Xu Rushan's owe him... Truth to be told, Ning Fan did not really feel anything precious about having an Early Spirit Severing expert owe him a favor.

While Ning Fan was deep in contemplation, the female corpse was quietly holding the corner of his sleeve. But Xu Rushan was extremely nervous.

It would be a dream come true if I can enter the Secret Realm. Killing the Fake Wild Beasts is a piece of cake. Unfortunately, Spirit Severing Realm experts like me are forbidden to enter...

It was so rare to have a “monster” like Ning Fan that had heaven-defying combat power in the Endless Sea after thousands of years. Other than him, Xu Rushan had no confidence in anyone else...

Xu Rushan was one of the top thirteen Spirit Severing Realm experts in the External Endless Sea. However, Venerated Giant could eradicate an outstanding being like him by just moving a single finger.

“Junior needs to understand the habits, power and techniques of the Fake Wild Beasts. Only then could I assure you whether I have the capability of killing 200 Fake Wild Beasts. But before that, I intend to read Senior Xu’s jade slip. Of course, after I have read it, I can’t guarantee that I will promise to help you. Therefore, it’s Senior Xu’s decision whether to let me see the jade slip.”

Xu Rushan’s face abnormally twitched.

This Zhou Ming is truly not simple.

However, if he placed himself in Ning Fan’s shoes, he would be even more cautious and contemplative than the latter.

“Take it. Remember, never leak any of the content within the jade slip. Otherwise, this old man will hunt you down to the most remote corners of the globe, even if you are already a Spirit Severing Realm expert.”

“Don’t worry Senior. My mouth is very reliable...Hmm... The spirit sense within is tremendous...”

When Ning Fan pressed the jade slip against his forehead, his eyes turned clear.

The moment he spread his spirit sense to study the jade slip, a vigorous spirit sense with unparalleled power gushed towards him.

There was a domineering black Divine Intent within this spirit sense. It was ferocious and strong. When it appeared, Ning Fan’s Nascent Soul almost shattered. He felt that his spirit became weak as if his heart was suppressed by Mount Tai.

He retreated a few steps and the blood and qi on his chest were in chaos. However, not even retreating could relieve him from the effects of the vigorous Divine Intent. Without hesitation, the Divine Intent of Rain flashed in his eyes. In just a blink of an eye, the black snow stopped and light rain fell from the sky within a vicinity of a thousand li*. Ning Fan regained his balance.

The Divine Intent of Rain?

Xu Rushan narrowed his eyes.

At the eighth step, Ning Fan used the Divine Intent of Rain to ward off the domineering Divine Intent within the spirit sense.

Xu Rushan could not imagine that Ning Fan who had yet to attain Spirit Severing Realm had congealed his own Divine Intent.

Besides, he only retreated for eight steps when he faced the mighty Divine Intent of Venerated Giant. During the first time Xu Rushan touched the jade slip, he was frightened by the fierce Divine Intent of Venerated Giant and retreated seven steps. That time, he had actually applied his spirit sense to defend himself before touching the jade slip.

This person really is unfathomable... If he spread his spirit sense before he touched the jade slip, I suppose he would not have to retreat for more than three steps.

In the past, Xu Rushan would have wanted to dissect Ning Fan and find out the secrets of the latter's power.

Currently, however, he earnestly hoped that it was better the stronger Ning Fan was. If the latter was strong, the task would most likely be completed without fail.

He stood aside silently while waiting for Ning Fan to read the jade slip.

As for Ning Fan, he knitted his brows as his mind got into the jade slip.

The expert who imprinted the jade slip was the person with the domineering Divine Intent. He was Giant Qing, the Venerated Giant of the Giant Devil Sect.

The first sentence Ning Fan heard from the jade slip was a harsh remark.

“Little Shan, this old man gives you only half a year! Within this period, if you are unable to gather 200 Demon Pills to save my daughter, Little Xueyan, I will personally crush your head to pieces!”

Feng Xueyan. She was the daughter of Venerated Giant. She had an acute disease and Demon Pills were urgently needed to save her life.

Before her condition worsened this time, she would need at least 200 of those pills.

Venerated Giant had given an order to Xu Rushan. If Xu Rushan failed to execute the order, he would have to prepare to be decapitated...

Chapter 223 (1): The Daughter of Xu Family

“So, if Fellow Daoist Zhou has finally decided, just search for me in the ‘Blissful Summit’. As for this item, it’s a keepsake from this old man. If you ever meet troublesome cultivators in this island, just show it to them...I’ll wait for your answer after three days!”

Xu Rushan cupped his fist towards Ning Fan and heaved a light sigh before he left.

In the end, Ning Fan still did not promise to help him. To Xu Rushan, such prudent attitude in handling important matters was praiseworthy. However, after exchanging a few words with him, he felt helpless at how Ning Fan tried to evade responsibility.

Now, the only option he was left with was to wait. He had to wait for Ning Fan to give his word.

Before he comes, I shall inform the elders of the All Pleasure Sect and tell them to make some preparations to cordially treat him.

The black primordial energy shook and Xu Rushan vanished into a cloud of smoke and travelled for more than ten thousands of li away in just an instance.

That was an ability of a Spirit Severing Realm expert - Instant Shift. With that technique, a Spirit Severing Realm expert could travel tens of thousands of li in just a second! It was multiple times faster than teleportation!

Ning Fan held a black jade that Xu Rushan handed to him in his hand in silence.

This is truly a big deal. It will be unwise to make a promise out of recklessness...

Even if he was willing to promise to undertake the task, he would want to wait for another three days. The reason he did not make a decision on the spot was because he wanted to maximize the benefits he could get from helping him. To him, 50 drops of Profound Liquid of Mother Earth was too insignificant to be the extra compensation for such a dangerous task. Ning Fan wanted to find out what Xu Rushan's bottom line was to stay on friendly terms with him.

After a while, he kept the token and held the arm of the female corpse, disappearing into a flash of black light. He was heading towards the Joint Joyous Immortal Island.

In the Pleasure Devil Seas, there were tens of uninhabited islands. Whenever he passed by any of them, he would keep them into the Yuan Yao World without any hesitation. Thus, it took him quite a while to reach his destination.

At the time he arrived at the Joint Joyous Immortal Island, Yu Long, who had already found a good dwelling place for the female cultivators of Bi Yao Sect to rest, was standing outside of the island, respectfully awaiting Ning Fan's arrival.

"Greetings to my respected Master!" Yu Long's attitude was rather courteous.

He was once a Feudal Ranking Elder of the Pleasure Devil Sect but he was given the cold shoulder by the members of the sect. It was why he decided to leave for Peng Lai Immortal Island and joined the Lost World Palace.

To his surprise, when he came to the Joint Joyous Island this time, he was immediately welcomed by a bunch of old monsters including the vice sect master of the sect as soon as he set foot on the island!

Actually it was Xu Rushan's instructions. Even though Yu Long did not know why the other party was so polite to him, it was not hard for him to guess that they were trying to please his master - Zhou Ming. However, he was not concerned about what the reason behind it was. Instead, the admiration and respect he had towards his master gradually grew deeper in his heart.

Moreover, all the female cultivators who followed him were arranged to stay in the most luxurious palace on the island - Profound Jade Palace!

If he was not Zhou Ming's servant, he, Yu Long, would never be able to receive such preferential treatment... This palace was known to only accommodate Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts!

"En... Have you found a place for the female cultivators to rest? Besides, how are they doing now?" Ning Fan asked in a solemn tone.

"Reporting to Master, the female cultivators have settled down well. They are currently resting at the Profound Jade Palace. Does Master want to rest or take a stroll within this island?"

"Profound Jade Palace... This palace was said to only be inhabited by Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts... Xu Rushan is really attentive. But a mere courtesy like that is not enough to make me feel touched..." Ning Fan muttered in his heart. He then took out an empty jade slip and imprinted his spirit sense on it before giving it to Yu Long.

"This jade slip contains the seventeen types of ten-thousand-year-old spiritual herbs that I need. Go to the pharmacy in the island to buy them for me. I am going to need two sets for each of them. As for me, I will take a tour of this island. Afterwards, I will return to the Profound Jade Palace."

"Ten-thousand-year-old? Yes!" Yu Long sealed his mouth from asking the reason for needing so much spiritual herbs. But he did not leave after receiving the jade slip from Ning Fan.

Ten-thousand-year-old spiritual herbs were uncommon. Each of them would at least need tens of thousands of immortal jade. The price would even go up to hundreds of thousands of immortal jade for the rare kinds of spiritual herbs.

He, Yu Long, was just a mere Third Revolution Pill Master whose cultivation realm was at the Early Nascent Soul Realm. He did not have a lot of wealth like Ning Fan to purchase spiritual herbs which might cost a fortune.

He was waiting for Ning Fan to pay him...

“Why are you still here? Are you trying to disobey me?!”

“No, Master! This old servant does not have the courage! However... Master... buying things... need money ah. This old servant...does not have so much money...”

“Well, you can go directly to the pharmacy which is run by the subordinates of the Pleasure Devil Sect. I guess they would probably not dare to ignore your request.”

“Wha...What? Master wants this old servant to buy spiritual herbs empty-handed? But...But... this is the territory of Pleasure Devil Sect ah. It is a sect that has a Spirit Severing Realm guardian. Master’s reputation might be strong, but isn’t it a little inappropriate to rob them of spiritual herbs...” Yu Long’s body trembled in fear. He did not dare to disobey Ning Fan’s order but he was also afraid to grab the spiritual herbs without paying in the territory of one of the top ten sects.

“Take this jade with you. I assure you that you will be alright!” Ning Fan impatiently frowned and took out the black jade from the storage pouch.

When Yu Long heard Ning Fan’s words, he was stunned and inwardly curious about what kind of jade that would enable him to ask for free spiritual herbs without getting himself into trouble...

However, as his eyes caught sight of the black jade, his body jolted and his eyes widened in disbelief.

“This...This is...There’s no mistake... It really is the ‘Ancestor Token’ of the Pleasure Devil Sect! It’s the token of Senior Xu Rushan! Why did Master have it?”

“Don’t ask anything that you shouldn’t!”

“Yes!”

Yu Long quickly cupped his fists and left as he was afraid to anger Ning Fan.

However, the degree of admiration towards Ning Fan in his heart rose to its peak.

With that token, it would not be difficult for him to obtain tens of ten-thousand-year-old spiritual herbs from the pharmacy! But what he could not understand was why this item would be in his Master’s hands.

Xu Rushan was rumored to be unsociable and eccentric. He never associated himself with any cultivators from the External Endless Sea let alone pass his token to others. In spite of that, his Master managed to get it from Xu Rushan. In other words, no matter what his Master does in the island, as long as he does not behave excessively, he would be protected by Xu Rushan!

Making a Spirit Severing Realm old monster to take the initiative in pleasing him...My Master is truly exceptional ah! Being able to follow such a master is really not a bad thing after all. Instead, it is an excellent and fortunate thing!

Yu Long’s heart was filled with immense excitement when he left for the city on the island with the black jade.

Ning Fan gently pinched the skin of the female corpse and his eyes fixed her hands and pondered.

The seventeen types of ten-thousand-year-old spiritual herbs were actually required for cultivating a Fifth Revolution Pill - Facial Restoration Pill to restore the appearance of the two demonesses...

Instructing Yu Long to ask for spiritual herbs was actually his method to test the bottom line of Xu Rushan. He wanted to see to what extent this person would fulfill his demands.

He could help Xu Rushan but the latter must give him enough benefits!

A life of at least 150 Fake Wild Beasts was not something that could be compensated with just 50 drops of the Profound Liquid of Mother Earth!

Besides, since Xu Rushan was in a state of anxiety, if Ning Fan did not ask for a higher and greater rewards from him, he would be regarded as a fool.

Show me all your pills, magical treasures, immortal jade and even... the Profound Heart of Mother Earth!

For the Profound Core of Mother Earth, for the hope of attaining the Spirit Severing Realm...it's worth it for me to take the risk. It's not impossible to kill 150 Fake Wild Beasts after all!

For the moment, let's see whether Yu Long is able to bring me the herbs smoothly. It will tell me Xu Rushan's attitude. There are 3 more days to go... 3 days later, only then will I give my answer!

Now, let me roam around this island first.

Joint Joyous Immortal Island belonged to the Pleasure Devil Sect. This island could be considered as a small floating island as its ground was not even seventy thousand li* large. From the surface, it did not look like the territory of one of the top ten sects at all.

But this island had one uniqueness. The entire island was formed by uncommon spiritual minerals!

It was densely covered by mountains of minerals. There was an abundance of gold-element spiritual energy. Cultivating gold-element cultivation method here would be twice as fast as cultivating at Peng Lai.

The Pleasure Devil Seas were famous for its spiritual minerals. Furthermore, the treasures and weapons made here had higher quality compared to other places in the External Endless Sea. In addition, there were quite a lot of rare spiritual irons that could be found here. It has been rumored to occasionally produce spiritual iron at the level of Mortal Void Realm. As for the auction of Peak Nascent Soul Realm cauldrons, it would also sometimes auction spiritual armors at Profound Earth Grade.

The external part of the island occupied one-third of the entire island. It was a place for the foreign cultivators to stop for a rest. As for the internal part of the island, it was the place for the disciples of the Pleasure Devil Sect to stay and cultivate.

On the external part of the island, there were thousands of shops in total, forming a dozen large markets.

Cultivators who came for the auction and the Secret Realm of the Broken World entered the island in a continuous stream of people.

Bathing himself in the sea breeze, he held the female corpse who was more obedient now as compared in the past to linger around the markets.

Among the crowd, most of them were Gold Core Realm cultivators. It was extremely rare to see a Harmonious Spirit Realm cultivator on the streets. However, there were some cultivators at the Vein Opening Realm who came to this island with their seniors to explore.

Both sides of the streets were full of stalls set up by rogue cultivators.

Setting up a temporary stall on the street would only need 10 immortal jade to obtain the approval from the authorities.

“Mid-Grade Pill Cauldron. It is for refining pills below Third Revolution and it’s only sold for 600 immortal jade!”

“Bitter Spiritual Pill. 20 pills in a bottle. 800 immortal jade! Harmonious Spirit Realm Fellow Daoist, come and have a look!”

“Mid-Grade Flying Sword. 200 immortal jade...Er, although it was damaged a little, it is still good enough to use...”

The noisy hawking in the market made Ning Fan forget the bloodbath and also his cultivation realms. It brought back the memories of his childhood when he was still a mortal.

Ten years in the real world were Ning Fan’s three hundred years... Three hundred years... It was enough to make a lot of things fade from his memories.

As the sea breeze gently blew, he spread his spirit sense. Every person, every action and every movement were in his mind.

A sixteen-year-old mortal boy... 2 years of warmth in Yue Country... 300 years of a lonely journey in the cultivation world... He reminisced them all in his heart.

Throughout the journey, he felt that his destiny was being manipulated in the dark.

However, he chose to defy his fate every single time. He was reluctant to see his own master die. He was reluctant to have Ning City destroyed. He was reluctant to allow Suqiu to die in an accident. He was reluctant to cut off Zhihe...

He was not a person who favored killing. If he has the capability, he would rather choose to rewind time and stay forever at Seven Apricot City.

However, if he did not go through what he had in the past, he would not have gotten to where he has today. He would not have felt the warmth in his life.

His hand clutched the female corpse’s and he stood in the middle of the crowd with his eyes closed.

Unknowingly, his state of mind was gradually rising!

The Mid Nascent Soul Realm state of mind was quickly approaching the Late Nascent Soul Realm!

It's just a hair's breadth away... It just needs another enlightenment!

Ning Fan was inwardly astonished as he did not expect that his state of mind would increase at this moment and it was going to break through to the Late Nascent Soul Realm!

But it stopped as if he lacked something. No matter what, he could not feel the bottleneck of the next small cultivation realm for his state of mind...

"What am I lacking? What is it?!"

Sweat dampened the hand he used to hold the female corpse. His eyes reflected his anxiety and worries.

The black snow from the sky, the magnetic force of the surroundings and the faint sea mist that filled the air... everything seemed to make him feel even more upset.

His mind recollected every bloody scene he experienced, nearly driving him insane!

All of a sudden, a voice which resembled the Heavenly Dao echoed in his heart and questioned him!

"The path of devils is boundless. Just repent and salvation is at your hands..."

Repent? How to repent?

What is going to happen if I don't?

Ning Fan opened his eyes but this time, they were filled with emptiness as if his soul was consumed by his Heart's Devil.

But at this moment, the worried female corpse stretched her hand and stroked Ning Fan's face. A stuttering but gentle voice rang in his ears.

Chapter 223 (2): The Daughter of Xu Family

"Light...Don't...feel...troubled..."

"Look...flowers..."

As his mind was drowning within the abyss of darkness, he felt as if he heard a voice that was trying to save him.

Is it Weiliang?

The next moment, he regained his consciousness and his eyes turned clear. Inwardly, he was shocked.

I almost got taken over by my Heart's Devil...

Having my state of mind lagging behind my cultivation level is really a dangerous thing.

He cast a grateful smile at the female corpse and rubbed her head. He was really thankful that the female corpse woke him up when he was in danger.

When his eyes shifted from her face to her fingers, he caught sight of a pot of an orchid plant.

It was white like snow. Each of the flower petals was like the shape of a woman's lips, curling outwards. As a gust of sea breeze blew against it, the plant gently swayed and emitted a sweet-sounding chime of a bell.

This is... the Bell Orchid!

A single flower of the Bell Orchid contained five white pistils that would give out five notes of the pentatonic scale whenever the wind blew. In fact, it was a rare flower.

Currently, five of them bloomed together and the five notes permeated the air like fairy music. It was truly an uncommon phenomenon.

“Bell Orchid... Zhihe once told me that she wanted a Bell Orchid from the Endless Sea... Zhihe...”

When he thought of Zhihe, his heart gradually calmed down and the corner of his lips curved into a warm smile.

Now, the Heart’s Devil was nothing to be afraid of!

“Since I have chosen my path, why should I look back... My left hand is stained by the blood of my enemies under the heavens while my right hand caused destruction. However, if you are here, I will have no regrets.”

Ning Fan inhaled a deep breath and his eyes became indifferent again. At this moment, his state of mind continued to increase and achieved a breakthrough, attaining the Late Nascent Soul Realm!

When he was at the Early Nascent Soul Realm, he was just like a sharp sword!

When he attained the Mid Nascent Soul Realm, he was like a sharp sword that was hidden within a sheath!

When he achieved the Late Nascent Soul Realm, he was like a sword with no cutting edge!

He looked at one of the Bell Orchids and wore a faint smile.

“How much do you sell for one...”

The owner of the store was just a Harmonious Spirit Realm young girl. Her appearance was common but she looked pure and honest. When her eyes met Ning Fan's, her little face flushed red.

"One hundred... One hundred immortal jade..."

"Just one hundred?"

"Yes...Yes. This Bell Orchid might just be an ordinary and young spiritual grass, but it is a kind of flower with five flowers blooming together and they emitted music at the same time. A flower like this only appears once in a thousand years... In addition, it has another name called 'Flying Fairy'... If young master thinks it is expensive, I can just sell you for 95 immortal jade... What about 90?"

The young girl was nervous. 100 immortal jade was sufficient to buy a common Mid-Grade Magical Treasure. Usually, cultivators would never buy flowers, except for those cultivators who love flowers as much as their own lives...

She had set up her stall here for three days. If she still could not sell off this pot of flowers, she would suffer a big loss.

Her nervous gaze made Ning Fan feel funny.

"'Flying Fairy'? A flying fairy is truly a suitable resemblance to this plant with five tuneful notes. I want this plant. There is 200 immortal jade here. The extra 100 will be considered as my gratitude..."

Gratitude. He was grateful to see this Bell Orchid which made him recall Zhihe, enabling his state of mind to advance into the Late Nascent Soul Realm. However, it would be impossible for the young girl to interpret his meaning of "gratitude".

Her eyes were filled with delight. Being able to sell a plant of the mortal world at 200 immortal jade was something that rarely happened to her.

But before Ning Fan could take the pot of flowers away, a woman abruptly shouted in surprise from the crowd.

“Well, this orchid has five flowers blooming simultaneously and their sounds could form a melodious music! Besides, it is completely white. Isn’t it the ‘Flying Fairy’? It’s really beyond my expectations to find such uncommon goods in a small market like this!”

When the female’s voice fell, a man immediately replied in a genial and cultured manner.

“Hehe. If Mistress Qiuling likes it, it would be a real honor to the flower...”

The next moment, a man and a lady emerged from the crowd with eight bodyguards. They walked towards the stall of the young girl.

When they appeared, some cultivators immediately recognized them. They shouted in shock and hurriedly scattered in all directions.

“This lady... this lady... This lady is the daughter of the old ancestor of the Pleasure Devil Sect - Xu Qiuling! The person who is walking with her is the son of the vice sect master of the Profound Virtue Sect, which is one of the top ten sects as well... *sucks in cold breath* We shall leave now to avoid getting ourselves into trouble!”

The young man beside her wore a high hat and broad girdles. He had a pair of shoulder-grazing ears. He looked refined and handsome with a face that was as clear as a jade. The light golden robe he wore intensified the nobility within him. As he walked, he was not concerned about the discussions from the other cultivators at all.

When he reached the stall, his gaze landed on Ning Fan’s body and smiled courteously.

“My friend, I am Zhao Zijin from the Profound Virtue Sect. My female partner took a fancy on the orchid plant. I wonder if you are willing to give it up and allow us to have it.”

This person's aura was concealed. Despite that, Ning Fan could still identify his cultivation realm at first sight. He was a Mid Nascent Soul Realm expert while the lady was just a cultivator at the Peak Gold Core Realm. Among the bodyguards, one of them was at the Early Nascent Soul Realm while the rest of them were all at the same level with the lady.

This person might be speaking in a polite manner, but his intentional use of the name of the Profound Virtue Sect clearly showed his intention of intimidating Ning Fan.

Moreover, his gaze was hard to catch. He actually took a few glances on the female corpse's body and they were filled with amazement after that...

But his action did not escape from Ning Fan's keen observation.

Even though his appearance is courteous and impressive, he probably is not a kind person.

"I'm sorry... This flower is a gift that I plan to give to my wife. I can't let you have it."

"But you don't know the value of a 'Flying Fairy'. It would be unreasonable for you to own a flower since you have no idea about flowers at all. In fact, you are wasting it... If you are willing to let me have it, I will give you 10000 immortal jade. What do you think?!" The yellow-robed lady who was called Xu Qiuling knitted her brows when she tried to persuade Ning Fan.

"It doesn't matter. No matter what, this flower belongs to me... And I am not short of 10000 immortal jade."

Ning Fan held the hand of the female corpse and left.

However, the young man in golden robe made a big step forward and stopped them by crossing his arms before them. This time, his face turned gloomy even though he maintained his handsome smile.

"Ten thousand immortal jade is already more than enough! It would be wise for Fellow Daoist to sell it to us!"

“Oh...Interesting. What if I don't? Do you, a mere Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, dare to attack me?” Ning Fan sneered.

“You call me ‘a mere Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator’? This Fellow Daoist clearly has a big mouth. Aren't you afraid of having your tongue cut?!”

Zhao Zijin's gaze became cold.

He was a cultivator at the age of nine hundred. In spite of that, he managed to attain Mid Nascent Soul Realm. A being like him would very likely achieve the Peak Nascent Soul Realm. Furthermore, he was one of the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea!

Among the seven of them, he was ranked the last. Even so, to ordinary cultivators, his potential and achievements could be considered terrifying.

But the person before him dared to call him “a mere Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator”!

What is his cultivation realm that made him be that wild and arrogant?!

Besides, he still dares to talk back sarcastically to a respectable Nascent Soul Realm expert like me even though I have already lowered myself down when I was speaking to him!

If it was not to maintain his elegant demeanor in front of the beautiful lady, he, Zhao Zijin, would have beaten the proud man before him in order to punish him.

The smile on his face did not subside. However, he spread his spirit sense and secretly planted a seal on Ning Fan's body as he planned to take his revenge at a later date.

What he did was obvious to Ning Fan. But Ning Fan did not take any actions as he was not worried about it at all.

To him, this Zhao Zijin was courting death!

However, the change of Xu Qiuling's attitude astonished Ning Fan.

She quickly took a few steps to Ning Fan's side to quell the built-up tension between the two of them.

"It's fine, Brother Zhao. The 'Flying Fairy' might be a rare flower, but what this young master said is justified. Since he bought it first, it naturally belongs to him. Moreover, father is burdened by an important matter lately. It's better that we don't create any troubles."

As she was speaking, she quietly erased the seal that was planted by Zhao Zijin on Ning Fan's body.

Although her spirit sense was at the Peak Gold Core Realm, she was capable of erasing a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator's seal. That spirit sense was rather special.

Ning Fan was inwardly surprised by the kindness of the lady.

This lady is quite kind. Since she has helped me, I might as well give her face and forget about the conflict.

"Young master. Go quickly. Please be more careful next time when you talk. The Endless Sea is not a peaceful place after all." Xu Qiuling did not look much highly on Ning Fan. From her perspective, she thought that Ning Fan was just a Harmonious Spirit Realm cultivator.

It's very dangerous for a cultivator like him to offend a Nascent Soul Realm expert... But how many people are there under the heavens who would be willing to offend a Nascent Soul Realm expert for just a flower? Don't tell me that this person is also a flower-lover?

"Thank you for this lady's advice."

Ning Fan clutched on the female corpse's hands and walked away. After that, he never took another look back at Xu Qiuling.

What a cool person. He is very different from Zhao Zijin who pretends to be good.

Deep inside, she felt that this man she had just met was rather extraordinary, though he looked otherwise. She was curious to know about his background.

Her eyes flashed in amazement and a faint smile adorned her face. It was just her recognition towards Ning Fan's tolerance.

Oh yes. Only a noble man who takes care of flowers would be so unrestrained and elegant.

When Zhao Zijin noticed the reaction of Qiuling, his heart turned cold.

"Hmmp! I have been trying to please this lady every single day but she does not even cast a smile to me. On the contrary, that person who just took away her flower was able to make her smile?! Hmmp! She's such a b*tch! Anyhow, her father is a Spirit Severing Realm expert. I shall never fail my father. I must get her attention. In that manner, my father would be promoted to become the official sect master of the Profound Virtue Sect based on the good relationship between our families..."

His elegant demeanor did not leave him, although he spoke in a more indifferent tone.

Just now, he actually noticed that Xu Qiuling erased the seal he planted on Ning Fan. Obviously, she had taken a liking to Ning Fan even though she just met him for the first time.

Because of that, he became even more determined to take his revenge on Ning Fan.

It's too unacceptable for a mere junior to behave like that in front of a Nascent Soul Realm expert!

"My friend, you don't dare to tell us your name?!" Zhao Zijin shouted.

"You don't want to know my name..." Ning Fan did not even turn back when he spoke. However, within his words, there was an inerasable Violent Qi!

After his state of mind improved, he could control his Violent Qi freely and easily. In fact, he only revealed it to Zhao Zijin!

The immense Violent Qi made him widen his eyes in shock. The Nascent Soul within his dantian trembled in fear as if it was going to collapse at any moment!

His expression changed!

Who is this guy?! Such powerful Violent Qi... It's impossible for him to just be an unrecognized expert in the External Endless Sea!

Perhaps only the strongest among the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea could rival him!

“Check! Check his background! I want to know who he really is and what makes him be so conceited as to not let us know his name!”

Zhao Zijin ordered his men using telepathy. But after that, he was laughing in his heart.

So what if this person is strong? As long as he does not come from any of the top ten sects, I have many ways to pinch him to death!

Xu Qiuling casted a hateful glance on him and said, “I'm tired. I will return to the 'Blissful Summit' to rest... Brother Zhao please help yourself.”

His gaze was as elegant as usual but his heart was blazing with rage.

What a b*tch who likes the new and hates the old... One day, I, Zhao Zijin, will have you in my grasp!

Fine, let me investigate the arrogant brat first before I come to you. I suppose his cultivation realm is weak but he must be backed by some powerful force. Maybe he is a young master from some of the second-grade forces of the External Endless Sea.

“So what if you are from a second-grade force?! We shall see when the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea gather together. Even if this man is backed by a Late Nascent Soul Realm expert, I, Zhao Zijin, would still kill him not to mention he’s just an ant!

Chapter 224 (1): He is Zhou Ming!

The sun had set and dusk was quickly approaching. They had already walked some distance from the market.

Ning Fan calmed his thoughts down. After the advancement of his state of mind, he became even more steady and self-restrained. There were eight individuals stealthily trailing him from behind but he did not care about them at all.

They were actually courting death!

The magnetic force of Joint Joyous Island was so strong that even Nascent Soul Realm cultivators did not dare to simply spread their spirit sense. However, Ning Fan was the exact opposite of those cultivators.

The underlings of Zhao Zijin thought that they were stealthy enough to go unnoticed but they did not expect that they had already been considered dead in Ning Fan’s eyes.

“Light...Got...bad...guys...” The female corpse shot Ning Fan an innocent look that was filled with worry.

“Bad guys? What about me?” Ning Fan chuckled.

“Light...Good...guy...” The female corpse earnestly nodded her head.

“Silly girl...” Ning Fan could not help but laugh and gently shook his head. He placed his hand on her black hair and caressed her head.

Humans couldn’t be differentiated by telling which of them are good or bad.

Besides, the eight followers were not bad guys but... cultivators who were about to die!

On the following two days, Ning Fan strolled idly around the island. In a flash, he had visited all the thirteen markets of the external part of the city.

He bought a lot of spiritual minerals, spiritual medicine, pill recipes and also a flower to place behind the female corpse's ear.

Countless cultivators who brushed past Ning Fan could no longer tell that he was strong from his appearance.

The eight individuals were still on his trail. But the more they followed, the more they strayed away from the main path, reaching a remote area of the island where no one would stay there.

Lu Wuping was confused. He could not comprehend the intention behind Ning Fan's action at all.

For two consecutive days, they obeyed Zhao Zijin's order to tail Ning Fan in order to find out this person's background. However, the person they were following did not get in touch with anyone else nor did he return to his lodge.

As such, Lu Wuping could not get a hold of any information about the person.

However, the longer he followed Ning Fan, the more surprise he got.

Within two days, Ning Fan and the female corpse had visited all the 13 markets and he purchased a slew of items including spiritual minerals, medicines and pill recipes... All of the items should've cost him at least ten million immortal jade!

Ten million immortal jade! What kind of young master is able to carry such a tremendous amount of wealth with him wherever he goes?!

He, Lu Wuping, was also a Nascent Soul Realm Feudal Ranking Member of the Profound Virtue Sect. However, throughout the 1400 years he spent in cultivation, he had never once possessed more than 2 million immortal jade even during his wealthiest time in the past.

He then realized how ridiculous Xu Qiuling and Zhao Zijin were when they tried to buy the flower with just ten thousand immortal jade. Their action was like teaching a fish to swim...

This person may be even more wealthier than the father of Zhao Zijin!

After two days of continuous observation, Lu Wuping did not managed to find out Ning Fan's actual cultivation level.

Ning Fan's qi was fluctuating all the time. Sometimes, it was at the Harmonious Spirit Realm. Sometimes it was at the Vein Opening Realm. Other times, it was at the Nascent Soul Realm. There were even times where his qi was just like that of a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert!

The uncertainty of his qi struck fear deep in Lu Wuping's heart. There were only two possibilities for the irregularity of his qi. Firstly, Ning Fan had some kind of magical treasure that could intensify his qi to a level which he has yet to attain. Secondly, his cultivation level was too powerful and it was far beyond Lu Wuping's!

"Cap. Should we continue tailing after him..." Without a doubt, the seven Gold Core Realm cultivators behind him were afraid.

"Follow him! If we don't get any results from this investigation, our young master will never let us off the hook..."

"However, did you notice that the more he walks, the more he deviates from the city?"

"Yes! This place is truly far-off. It's a great place for killing and robbing... *Sucks in cold breath together*!"

The moment one of them mentioned “killing and robbing”, all of them felt a chill down their spine. An extremely bad feeling surged within their hearts.

It was at the same moment when Ning Fan who was a thousand zhang* in front stopped and stood in the dense sea mist and black snow.

All these while, there was not a single of his footprint left on the black snow on the ground. In fact, he was slightly levitating in the air like a ghost.

He turned back and his eyes flashed in a cold light. The politeness and elegance he had in the past two days subsided from his appearance.

“You ants! Are you all really that eager to know my name? It must have been difficult for you to trail after me in the past two days.”

There was not a hint of joy or anger in his tone. They could only feel a bone-chilling devil prestige.

Under the effect of his devil prestige, Lu Wuping could no longer tolerate it and revealed himself. As for the other Gold Core Realm cultivators, they also did the same as their captain with fear in their hearts.

The man before them made a step forward. But that one step was like stomping on heaven and earth, creating a huge ripple in the air.

As the ripple travelled past them, Lu Wuping was sent backwards while spurting out mouthfuls of blood, grievously injured. The rest of them exploded into mists of blood one by one. His eyes widened in disbelief. Everyone on his side perished in just an instance.

“You... Who exactly are you?! How dare you kill people in the territory of one of the top ten sects?! Don’t you know our top ten sects are of the same breath and branches?!”

“Who am I?! You tell me, this man with the surname Zhou is who?!”

The second step!

Ning Fan's long black hair danced in the wind and snow. He unleashed all his Violent Qi which then condensed into a faint blood light. Under such Violent Qi, Lu Wuping's heart sank. The next second, one of his arms was severed from his body by a shadow of a sword of heaven and earth that appeared out of nowhere!

"Ah!"

He let out a horrible shriek and fell down on his own pool of blood. His pupils dilated as he stared at the merciless man who was approaching him step-by-step.

"Tell me! Who am I?!"

The third step!

When he took the third one, Lu Wuping's body was crushed into pieces. Within his mist of blood was a tiny Nascent Soul that was trembling incessantly. He was so frightened that he did not even dare to perform hand seals and teleport away!

Cutting down an Early Nascent Soul Realm cultivator with just three steps!

His surname was also Zhou!

The madness and savageness of killing people without restraint!

Yes...Yes! There is only one devil lord in the External Endless Sea like him!

Lu Wuping immediately remembered Ning Fan's sneer and reply when his young master asked for Ning Fan's name in a harsh manner two days ago.

“You wouldn’t want to know my name!”

Yes... It’s him!

If Lu Wuping had an opportunity to choose again, he would definitely not want to know that the so-called “feeble young man” he had been following for the past two days was the madman that shook the entire External Endless Sea.

Zhou Ming! Zhou Ming! He is... Zhou Ming! Young master has put himself in serious trouble!

I must inform the young master! I must flee! I must flee from the Pleasure Devil Sect and return to the Profound Virtue Sect in order to request our Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor for protection. Otherwise, no one under the Spirit Severing Realm would be able to resist Zhou Ming’s devil prestige!

“Nascent Crushing Blood Evasion!”

Ferocity shone in his eyes when he performed the incantations. Afterwards, his Nascent Soul shook and became illusory. Ninety percent of his cultivation level dispersed. The imaginary Nascent Soul turned into a gleam of blood light and teleported away! In just a second, he teleported thousands of li* away and headed directly to the Sparrow Ascending Stage!

“I must tell the young master about this information... I must...”

“Oh? You’re really a loyal servant. Unfortunately, you’re my enemy... When cutting weeds, their roots must also be destroyed. Similarly, when facing enemies, they must be eliminated completely.

The corners of his mouth curved into a cold smile. Ning Fan held the female corpse and vanished into the snow.

Above the Sparrow Ascending Stage, there were more than twenty Nascent Soul Realm experts. Each and every one of them were drinking while enjoying the beautiful snow. The black spiritual wine that they drank was called ‘Black Jade’ which fit perfectly to the black snow falling from the sky. They sat around a warm furnace, drinking and chattering cheerfully.

Among them, the most eye-catching individuals were seven handsome young men!

They were called the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea! They were the ones with the strongest potential in the entire External Endless Sea!

Zhao Zijin could only be considered weak compared to the rest of the six. His achievement - attaining the Mid Nascent Soul Realm at the age of 900, was nothing in their eyes!

The expert who was considered the third strongest cultivator among them was Liu Zong from the Ice Spirit Sect! He formed his Nascent Soul at the age of 600 and achieved the Mid Nascent Soul Realm at the age of 700. He carried a soul flag which had absorbed millions of souls. With his power, he was able to put up a fight against a Late Nascent Soul Realm expert!

The second strongest expert was Lu An from the Green Cloud Sword Sect! This person formed his Nascent Soul while he was still 500 years old and at the age of 600, he attained the Mid Nascent Soul Realm. 300 years later, he was already a Late Nascent Soul Realm expert. His weapon was a sword. In the past, he had fought with the Peak Nascent Soul expert from the Purple Charm Gate - Luofei and it ended in a tie!

The strongest among them was Wang Yun from the Dao Law Sect! He formed his Nascent Soul at the age of 400 and attained the Mid Nascent Soul Realm at the age of 500. By the age of 600, he was already a Late Nascent Soul Realm expert. When he turned 900 years old, he achieved the Peak Nascent Soul Realm! He once battled against the eastern tower master of the Lost World Palace - Dong Qing and no one had come out triumphant out of that battle!

When the seven of them gathered and drank, they appeared united outwardly but divided at heart. However, Zhao Zijin's eyes which were filled with impatience drew the attention of all the other members.

"Oh? Brother Zhao seems to be holding a grudge? Is there something bothering you? Do you need Brother Liu to avenge you?!" Liu Zong wielded his blood-red flag pole and smiled maliciously.

“Thank you for your concern, Brother Liu. It’s just a Harmonious Spirit Realm ant who dared to speak insolently to me... I have asked my men to track him down. But I suppose Lu Wuping is loafing on the job. Otherwise, he would have discovered the details about him and reported back by now.”

“Hmm? There’s a Harmonious Spirit Realm junior who dares to offend Brother Zhao in the territory of the top ten sects?” Lu An’s eyes flashed with surprise. The massive sheath of his sword which he carried at his back was glittering in silver light under the snow.

“Precisely. I’ve imprinted his appearance. Please have a look, brothers. If there is a chance, please help younger brother to eradicate him. It will help alleviate the humiliation I suffered.”

As his words fell, he slapped on his storage pouch and took out a jade slip. After muttering a few incantations, the jade slip immediately projected an illusory image into the air. It actually replayed what happened two days ago.

In the virtual scene, Ning Fan’s expression, indifferent attitude, and the words he said, including “a mere Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator”, immediately sparked hatred within the hearts of the proud seven sons.

They were the top talents among the External Endless Sea. Even though some of them might only be at the Mid Nascent Soul Realm, they did not consider themselves as “mere Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivators” mentioned by Ning Fan!

“Hmmp! This person is truly arrogant and wild! But he is rather familiar... I think I have seen him before!” The Purple Charm Gate cultivator sneered but he looked a little perplexed.

“Familiar? Hmm. Now that you said it, I think I have also met him before. Wait. Did I...?” A young master from Xuan Xiao Sect spoke as he tried to recollect his memories.

When a lot of them claimed that the person on the projection looked familiar to them, a strange feeling roused within his heart.

Don’t tell me this person is truly a disciple from one of the most powerful forces in the External Endless Sea?

However, if he really is one, why haven't I met or heard of him before?!

As he was muttering to himself, an elder from the Xuan Xiao Sect slapped his thigh and pointed at the virtual image with surprise all over his appearance.

"It's him! It's him! I've met him before! Young Master Zhao was wrong. He isn't just a Harmonious Spirit Realm cultivator. He is clearly a Mid Nascent Soul Realm expert! Moreover, his aura will be much stronger than a Late Nascent Soul Realm when he is mad!"

The person who voiced out was surnamed Jiang. He was a Mid Nascent Soul Realm elder of the Xuan Xiao Sect from the Xuan Guang Immortal Island.

When his voice filled the air, everyone attentively listened to him and no one dared to ignore him.

Note:

1. Measurements:

a. li(里) = 500 m

b. zhang(丈) = 3.13 m

c. chi(尺) = 30.7 cm

Chapter 224 (2): He is Zhou Ming!

After hearing Elder Jiang's words, Zhao Zijin got the shock of his life.

If what Elder Jiang says is true, then it would mean that I have just offended a fierce Mid Nascent Soul Realm expert whose combat power is comparable to that of a Late Nascent Soul Realm expert! But why haven't I heard of him before?!

"I suppose Elder Jiang is just joking. If this person really is a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, why couldn't I sense his cultivation level when I met him face to face?"

"No! I can joke about other things but not this one! Nearly ten years ago, I once brought the disciples of my sect into the sea to temper their skills by cutting down human sharks. Unfortunately, we encountered the Upheaval of Thousand Human Sharks."

"The Upheaval of Thousand Human Sharks? Oh. I heard it was caused by the members of the Demon Sealing Sect from the Internal Endless Sea..." Zhao Zijin nodded his head as he recalled his memories of the incident. However, what Elder Jiang said next made his face turned pale. Not only him, but also everyone including the rest of the six top talents were shocked.

"That time, I felt the presence of a fierce devil approaching us. Each of his teleportations allowed him to travel thousands of li. When he brushed past me, I saw his face. It was exactly the same as this person in the projection! During the incident, he crushed his Sea of Consciousness as the price for the ability to enhance his speed of teleportation. The insane and indifferent look that he wore was etched deeply into my memories. There is no way I can ever forget about it... After he asked me for the exact location of the incident, he then dashed into the groups of human sharks alone..."

"What?! He faced thousands of human sharks all by himself?! Also, he could even teleport thousands of li for every teleportation he did?! Don't tell me he really is a Mid Nascent Soul Realm expert!"

After his words fell, there was dead silence in the air. Those who said that they would avenge Zhao Zijin did not dare to utter another word.

It would be fine if they were just going to face a Mid Nascent Soul Realm expert whose combat power could rival that of a Late Nascent Soul Realm expert. However, if they were to face a madman like Zhou Ming, no one would be willing to recommend themselves to do so. It was because not even the heavens would know what an insane expert like him would do when he was pushed to his limits.

Zhao Zijin let out a few dry coughs and his eyes met those of another elder of the Profound Virtue Sect. Both of them could tell the fear each other had for the person.

After two days the 8 men he sent to pursue Zhou Ming have yet to return. It seems the eight experts he sent are probably dead already in the latter's hands.

But even if Zhou Ming is a madman, he would not be that reckless to kill the experts from the top ten sects in their territories.

Zhao Zijin calmed himself down and filled his cup with wine. He forcibly maintained an unperturbed smile and said,

“Crushing his own Sea of Consciousness. Teleporting thousands of li every second. He truly is a terrifying madman. However, he is just a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator after all. Based on what Elder Jiang said, this person might possess uncommon power but he is just a rogue cultivator. From the way he travelled in the past, he is probably a foreign rogue cultivator who entered the Endless Sea using the sea route. As such, he does not have any backing here. What should we be afraid of?”

But just before he could finish his cup of wine, another person's voice was heard!

“Wait! I remember now! This old man has seen him before! A few days ago, when I was entering the Pleasure Devil Sea, I saw him engaging five devil cultivators from afar. He was trying to save the female cultivators of Bi Yao Sect. I recognized the five devil lords. They were the renowned “Five Ugly Monks” from the Black Buddha Sect. Therefore...Therefore I did not dare to give a helping hand to the members of Bi Yao Sect and left... As for the result of the battle, I do not know what happened... However, it has been rumored that the sect master of Bi Yao Sect has arrived on the island safe and sound. That is to say, this person managed to save them from the five devil monks...”

“Five Ugly Monks?! The Five Ugly Monks from the Black Buddha Sect?! Elder Xue, are you certain?!”

“It can't be wrong! I am just unsure of how the battle turned out...”

“What kind of result do you expect?! Yesterday, when I passed by the external part of the island, I met the vice sect master of the Black Buddha Sect - Xie Guang, who was at the Early Spirit Severing Realm by

chance. Just as he set foot on the island, he flew into a rage. I heard that it was because the Five Ugly Monks of his sect have all been killed. If Elder Xue did not see wrongly, I guess it was this person who killed them all!”

Sucks in cold breath together

Every Nascent Soul Realm expert at the scene sucked in a cold breath at the same time.

Crack

The jade goblet in Zhao Zijin’s hand slipped and fell to the ground and shattered.

His thoughts were in disorder as if a tempestuous storm and violent waves had just hit him!

The Five Ugly Monks! The group was led by Milian who was a Late Nascent Soul Realm expert. The other four were Mid Nascent Soul Realm experts whose role was to assist him. Moreover, the leader, Milian, was rumored to possess a second Nascent Soul. His true combat power could even rival that of a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert. When the five of them worked together, they could be considered middle-grade experts among the Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts in the Internal Endless Sea.

But they died?! Before they died, Zhou Ming was the one they fought... That is to say, the person who killed them all was Zhou Ming!

In other words, this person couldn’t be just a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator...He is clearly an expert at the Peak Nascent Soul Realm and he is at the top of the list among the experts of that cultivation level.

At this moment, the sword that Lu An of the Green Cloud Sword carried at his back cried!

At the same time, the eyes of Wang Yun from the Dao Law Sect flashed with astonishment!

In the External Endless Sea, there's another young man who has combat power equivalent to that of a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert?!

Zhao Zijin lost his composure. If Ning Fan was just Mid Nascent Soul Realm madman, he would only fear him but not to the point where he would be too frightened to hurt him.

However, if Ning Fan was a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert at the top among them, he could not afford to offend him at all!

His father who was the vice sect master of Profound Virtue Sect was only a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. As for himself, he was also at the same cultivation level with his father. For cultivators like them, they would need to be courteous in facing Late Nascent Soul Realm experts, let alone experts at the Peak Nascent Soul Realm. Besides, even Spirit Severing Realm experts would have to show their courtesy towards Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts. As such, could Zhao Zijin afford to offend Ning Fan who was one of them?!

“Detestable! Why hasn't Lu Wuping returned yet...Could he have met with a mishap?! No, even if the opponent is a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert, he would not dare to kill the experts from the top ten sects in their territory... Besides, even if I offended him, I did not offend him too much. Perhaps, there is still room for reconciliation...”

Zhao Zijin was no longer in the mood to drink wine. He stood up abruptly and gave an order to the Mid Nascent Soul Realm elder behind him.

“Elder Yuan, quickly prepare lavish gifts. I want to find him and apologize for my offense...”

If he knew this person was a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert, he, Zhao Zijin, would not have sent his men to tail the latter!

If he knew this person was a powerful madman, he, Zhao Zijin, would not have been so daring to plant a tracking seal on him!

It's ridiculous, too ridiculous!

All these while, I was painstakingly trying to recruit the experts of the External Endless Sea in order to expand my father's influence. However, at the end of the day, I actually offended a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert, an expert that is worth recruiting!

Unfortunately, when he came up with the decision, it was already too late.

All of a sudden, the stench of blood filled the air when a gust of wind with snow blew towards them. Immediately, everyone was on high alert.

In the dark sky, a glimmer of blood light flashed through and transformed into an illusory, grievously injured Nascent Soul. He was completely terrified and panic was plastered all over his face.

Zhao Zijin was shocked but the feeling of shock was instantly replaced by anger.

The Nascent Soul who was about to die in front of him was Lu Wuping!

“He hurt you?! He really has guts to do that! Now, even if he is a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert, he would never be forgiven as he has just injured a Nascent Soul Realm elder of the top ten set!”

“No... No...”

Upon seeing his own young master was still unaware of the severity of the situation, Lu Wuping's illusory Nascent Soul was burning with anxiety.

After a tremendous amount of effort, he could only muster his remaining strength to utter a few more words.

“Run...Run...It's...him...HIM!”

“Run?! Why do I have to run?! I was going to send him some gifts out of courtesy since he's a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert. However, since he has hurt the Nascent Soul Realm expert of my sect, he has to give an explanation to the Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor of my sect!”

As he thought of the mysterious Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert who had just assaulted Lu Wuping, Zhao Zijin was secretly delighted, though he behaved like he stood firm for justice.

Great! It's too great!

If this person did not hurt my people, I would be the person who offended him. In the end, the trouble would be on me.

Now, since he has done it, it is no longer a conflict between me and him. Instead, he has just offended the entire Profound Virtue Sect!

The Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor would not sit idly and ignore it!

Now, there is no need for me to fear him anymore!

"Flee... Flee..." The loyal and devoted Lu Wuping pronounced a few more words like his life depended on it. But he seemed to be unable to comprehend why his own young master was feeling pleased after seeing that he was severely wounded.

"What are you talking about?! You're such a coward! Lu Wuping, I now order you to lead the way to the expert who hurt you. Today, I must make him give an explanation to my Profound Virtue Sect!"

"Explanation... Do you think you deserve it?!"

Suddenly, a trace of blood-red Violent Qi swept across the Sparrow Ascending Stage!

All the experts at the scene were having a hard time breathing immediately under the pressure of the Violent Qi!

A white-robed young man who draped a black cloak around his body appeared in the snow. His presence radiated an air of indifference. Behind him was a woman who had the same look.

When he made a step forward, all the Nascent Soul Realm experts felt a violent quake in their chests. Experts at the Early Nascent Soul Realm spurted out blood and were injured, while those experts at the Mid Nascent Soul Realm and above might not have suffered any injuries but their blood and qi were in a chaotic state!

Even the Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert, Wang Yun, who was the strongest among the group had a wrong impression in his mind.

He must not fight against this person. If he does, he would not survive!

It's him! It's him!

Among all the cultivators in the External Endless Sea, there was only one individual that Wang Yun was fearful of!

He was...Zhou Ming!

"It's him... Zhou...Ming..." Lu Wuping finally could convey the message completely. But it was already too late!

The two simple words were even more shocking to the hearts of the people present compared to the first step he had just made!

Just as the two words came out from his mouth, the members of the other six sects hurriedly cupped their fists and left. The first thing they thought to do was to wash their hands off of this case and extricated themselves from having any relationship with the Profound Virtue Sect!

Everyone already knew what would happen that night. Even if Zhao Zijin was going to die, it would not be anything surprising because his opponent was Zhou Ming!

No matter what was going to happen, no one would involve themselves in it because the other party was Zhou Ming!

This was the Endless Sea.

An individual who kills a single person is considered a “criminal” but one who is able to kill thousands would be considered an influential being!

The fiercer you are, the more feuds you start, the lesser amount of people who would offend you!

In contrast, if you show the white feather and try to befriend others, you would be considered weak and feeble.

Zhao Zijin’s body quivered uncontrollably. He had no idea that it was... Zhou Ming!

This person could even battle against three Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts by himself and kill all three of them!

Even the old ancestor of his sect once requested that every disciple must not offend the devil lord, Zhou Ming. Otherwise, those who died in his hands would have nothing to do with the sect!

“You... can die now...”

A tremendous amount of killing intent surged within his eyes!

Zhao Zijin’s entire body went limp on the ground...

“I...am...doomed!”

Chapter 225 (1): Spirit Severing Realm Expert, Five Palms!

“No... Please don't kill me...”

Zhao Zijin knelt on the ground as his eyes stared at the indifferent young man before him. All of his six vital organs were failing to function.

As the young man approached him step by step, the other six sons of the External Endless Sea cast away their righteousness and left him alone at the scene. Without them, death was certainly inevitable.

Who was the devil lord that must never be provoked in the External Endless Sea?

In the past, it was none other than Xu Rushan! He was backed by one of the Seven Venerated of the Internal Endless Sea. His Primordial Magnetic Force was superb. The cultivators who died in his hands were innumerable. He even dared to snatch the wives of others and sold them as human cauldrons... This person was truly formidable!

However, today, that person was doubtlessly Zhou Ming!

No matter how savage Xu Rushan was, he was still an old ancestor of a sect. He needed to execute the instructions from Venerated Giant without fail. He must also take care of the benefits all the top ten sects are receiving so that all of them are treated fairly and equally. Therefore, he could not do whatever he wanted. As for the other 12 Spirit Severing Realm experts, they were also in a situation that was not much different from Xu Rushan's. None of them could behave rashly...

However, Zhou Ming did not have anything tying him down!

No one could figure out his background! This person did not join any sect. He had neither kin nor relatives. He was a lone expert who could kill anyone without having to fear any trouble in the rear.

His overall power was also unrivalled among the cultivators below the Spirit Severing Realm. Not even ordinary Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts could be his match!

Moreover, this person was ferocious in an unrestricted manner, making his notoriety even more fearsome than those of the 13 Spirit Severing Realm experts of the External Endless Sea.

If the person whom Zhao Zijin provoked today was one of the Spirit Severing Realm experts, they might need to give face to the Profound Virtue Sect...

But Zhou Ming did not need to!

“Ming...Revered Ming... Please spare me...”

No matter what Zhao Zijin said or did, Ning Fan still walked towards him with no sympathy.

The closer he got, the stronger the feeling of death Zhao Zijin felt!

Lu Wuping’s remaining Nascent Soul and the Mid Nascent Soul Realm elders behind Zhao Zijin saw the imminent danger that their young master was going to face so they gnash their teeth and threw themselves towards Ning Fan despite their fear!

“Don’t hurt our young master!”

Lu Wuping’s Nascent Soul chose to detonate himself without hesitation!

The Mid Nascent Soul Realm elder did the same. Their minds were only filled with the thought of sacrificing themselves and perish together with Ning Fan!

Their attitude of seeing death as returning from wherever they once came was a heroic conduct to which Zhao Zijin would never understand in his life!

The two Nascent Soul Realm experts faded out and shrunk into a drop of blood which was filled with chaotic magic power and tremendous blood red primordial energy that tore the heavens and earth, emitting sounds of ripping cloth. In an instant, the two drops of blood gave out a bright flash of light, blinding every being present and the entire heaven and earth was blasted away! The destructive power

of the explosion was enough to put Late Nascent Soul Realm experts in critical condition if they were directly hit by the impact.

The Nascent Soul Realm experts of the other six sects watched the battle from afar. The blood red self-detonation made Wang Yun, Lu An and also Liu Zong frown solemnly.

If they were the ones who were caught in such a massive explosion, there was no way they would come out unharmed.

Zhou Ming...Could he survive it?! Although he's called the strongest below the Spirit Severing Realm, he is not a Spirit Severing Realm expert after all...

Zhao Zijin's eyes were full of contentment and he let out a cacophony of evil laughter. "Great! Great! The two of you died well! This Zhou Ming should be blown into pieces by now! You two were truly worth my kind and preferential treatment!"

His natural disposition was cruel and cold-hearted. The way he changed his mind was even faster than flipping the pages of a book. He did not have a single trace of sympathy for his two subordinates who horribly sacrificed themselves for him.

After a while, the smoke and dust faded. The remaining primordial energy of the explosion dispersed. When the surroundings turned clear, his laughter ceased!

When the blood-red primordial energy exploded and affected every space in the air, Ning Fan stretched out his hands and opened his palms. A silver light flashed from them and he grasped the air as if he held the entire heaven and earth in his hands. All the primordial energy which filled the air was absorbed into his hands and condensed into a ball that was emitting crimson-red light.

That ball contained all the explosive power of their self-detonating techniques. If it was unleashed, a thousand li* within the Sparrow Ascending Stage would definitely be turned into ruins! But when Ning Fan held it in his hands, it could not break free from his grasp!

Wang Yun's eyes turned solemn!

It can't be wrong. This Zhou Ming's body refining realm is at the Half-Step Jade Life Realm! The strength of his physical body alone is enough to resist the primordial power of heaven and earth!

Unless the primordial energy is transformed into Heaven Spiritual Energy, nothing would be able to hurt him!

However, not even Wang Yun expected what happened next. The next moment, Ning Fan opened his mouth and swallowed the blood-red light ball!

The horrifying tearing force of the light ball had no effect on his body at all!

"After all, this is the self-detonating blood power of two Nascent Souls. It can't be wasted like that..."

Ning Fan stood in the black snow clearly unscathed. With a wave of his sleeve, two ghosts floated to his front! They were Lu Wuping and the other elder!

"Your loyalty is commendable. Unfortunately, the both of you followed the wrong master. I killed you but I will not destroy your souls. Hurry up and enter into samsara!"

With another wave of his hand, the two souls instantly vanished into motes of light with an inexplicable expression...

Zhou Ming... I wonder what kind of person he truly is?!

He showed no mercy when he killed. However, he saved the two persons' souls after they detonated themselves to hurt him and allowed them to enter into the cycle of death and rebirth...

Was it merely because they upheld the virtues of loyalty and righteousness? I have never thought that those virtues would be regarded important in the world of cultivation... Our own master would be pleased at our sacrifices. On the contrary, it was the enemy who forced us to death who took pity on us by giving us the chance to be reincarnated...

“Than...Thank you...” The two souls finally opened their mouths.

But Ning Fan’s expression remained emotionless. The only reply he gave was, “Choose a good master in your next lives!”

To Ning Fan, there were two types of enemies!

One of them were those whom he was left with no option but to kill. This type of enemy would earn his respect. He would only kill them once and never destroy their chance to be reborn.

The other type was those whom he must absolutely kill! He had no sympathy for this kind of enemies. Even if they are dead, he would not let go of their souls. He would never allow them to enter into samsara!

After the death of his two loyal subordinates, Zhao Zijin no longer had anyone to protect him!

His originally elegant and handsome face grimaced hideously as he was overwhelmed by his fear!

“No...It’s impossible! Those were the self-detonating techniques of Nascent Soul Realm experts! How could you block them so easily?! Impossible! You must not kill me! No! I will give you whatever you want! I would even be your slave if you spare my life...”

“I don’t need a slave like you...”

Ning Fan lifted his feet and stomped on Zhao Zijin’s head.

In a split second, two oppressive voices echoed from an obscure corner. They had been secretly hiding in the place for quite some time and they finally decided to intervene.

“Fellow Daoist Zhou, please have mercy...”

“Little friend, please stop!”

Ning Fan’s gaze turned cold. According to the boundless aura from the voices of the two experts, they were doubtlessly...Spirit Severing Realm experts!

The moment when Ning Fan arrived at the Sparrow Ascending Stage, he knew that there were experts at that realm hiding in that place!

Besides, the entire area was sealed by a few of them so that their battle would not affect anywhere else on the island!

At the end of the day, the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea were the future successors of the top ten sects. No matter how awful their Spirit Severing Realm old ancestors felt for them, they would have to stand at their sides and protect them. One of the two experts who stopped Ning Fan from landing the fatal blow on Zhao Zijin was the Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor of Purple Charm Gate - Zhuo Tong and the other was the Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor of Cloud Treading Sect - Yan Zhongze!

They came to Pleasure Devil Sea for two reasons.

Firstly, they were invited by Xu Rushan to help guard the Pleasure Devil Sea... After all, there would be a Spirit Severing Realm human cauldron that will be auctioned. Moreover, the Spirit Severing Realm human cauldron was from the Internal Endless Sea. Therefore, there might be some experts from the Internal Endless Sea who will go against their agreement with the Rain Palace and infiltrate the External Endless Sea by camouflaging their cultivation levels!

Secondly, they were tasked to give protection to the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea when necessary since the seven of them were the most outstanding individuals that would most likely attain the Spirit Severing Realm in the next millennium. They would also be the successors of their respective sects...

As for Zhao Zijin, the two Spirit Severing Realm experts did not have high expectations of him. Among the seven top talents, he was the weakest in terms of intelligence, attitude, cultivation level and potential.

If Zhou Ming really kills him, the Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor of the Profound Virtue Sect might be unhappy but he would not go so far as to exterminate Zhou Ming to avenge Zhao Zijin.

It was because according to Zhou Ming's current cultivation level and power, he would definitely attain the Spirit Severing Realm in another few hundred years. Once he achieves that cultivation level, he would certainly be unrivalled among the Early Spirit Severing Realm experts. Therefore, none of the 13 Spirit Severing Realm experts would be willing to become his archnemesis.

But if the two of them let Zhou Ming kill one of the Seven Sons right under their nose, it would be something unacceptable in the eyes of other cultivators.

What would they say about them? The two respectable Spirit Severing Realm experts did not dare to save one of the Seven Sons because they feared Zhou Ming?

At least, if they did something, they would not be considered as cowards.

From their perspectives, they thought that if the both of them voiced out together to defend Zhao Zijin, Zhou Ming who had yet to attain Spirit Severing Realm would surely give them face, despite his savageness.

However, he was not surprised by their interference.

In fact, he had already anticipated that the two of them would dissuade him if he really wanted to kill Zhao Zijin.

However, what he wanted to see was how the third Spirit Severing Realm expert would react to him.

Xu Rushan was also here! But he did not reveal himself. He was still waiting and seeing how things would unfold from a distance!

From the standpoint of Xu Rushan, he should defend Zhao Zijin too. But he was hesitating.

One side of him wanted to please Ning Fan while the other side of him wanted to maintain his relationship with the top ten sects...

“This person might rely on me for the task he was assigned by Venerated Giant but he still does not value me...He knows that I am the strongest cultivator among others below the Spirit Severing Realm but he’s unsure of the difference between me and a Spirit Severing Realm expert in terms of power... Therefore, he could not make up his mind in deciding what benefits he should give me. The Profound Jade Palace was just a test. The 50 drops of the Profound Liquid was also a test. I am testing his sincerity but he is testing my power! As such, I will show him all my capabilities with no restraints. I want to see what this Xu Rushan would give me in order to befriend me!”

Determination shone in Ning Fan’s eyes and he stamped on Zhao Zijin’s head with no hesitation!

The latter’s head was crushed into pieces and his brains burst open, causing the juices of his brain to splatter everywhere!

Ning Fan grabbed Zhao Zijin’s Nascent Soul with his devil claw and shoved him into his mouth and swallowed!

All the Nascent Soul Realm experts who were witnessing the battle fell a jolt in their heads as if it was their heads that was crushed by Ning Fan and their Nascent Souls! Their Nascent Souls shuddered in terror like they were the one that were placed in Ning Fan’s mouth!

But what was more unbelievable was that this Zhou Ming did not actually put the two Spirit Severing Realm experts in his eyes since he just simply disregarded their requests!

The face of the old ancestor of the Purple Charm Gate turned gloomy and bluish-green veins could be seen bulging out from his neck. However, he chose to suppress his emotions and did not assault Ning Fan directly.

As for Yan Zhongze who had a stubborn attitude, he felt like he was slapped in the face as Ning Fan gave no heed to him after he had personally pleaded Ning Fan to stop.

“Zhou Ming! How dare you!”

Yan Zhongze donned a hemp robe. Although his hair was white, he had a ruddy complexion. His presence emanated a fearsome aura. Suddenly, his body transformed into a cloud of mist and dispersed. The next second, he reappeared at just one zhang* away from Ning Fan. He lifted his palm and smacked the latter's head!

The way he moved was due to the Low Grade Spirit Severing Realm Movement Technique, Wind Cloud Art!

His palm was soft and weak like floating clouds. However, the tenderness of his palm was able to soften the hardness of heaven and earth. It was a Low Grade Spirit Severing Realm Body Refining Technique, Soft Cloud Quake!

The might of the palm solidified the mist of heaven and earth which eventually burst at the direction of Ning Fan.

That attack alone was enough to instantly kill any ordinary Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert! But Ning Fan was not afraid of it!

He had Stone Warrior, the female corpse and the Yuan Yao World. Even if Xu Rushan, Yan Zhongze and Zhuo Tong attacked him at the same time, he was confident that he could escape from the situation and kill at least one of them!

It was the reason why he dared to kill Zhao Zijin in front of them. Without that assurance, he would not have behaved that impudently.

Besides, Ning Fan saw that this Yan Zhongze who was stubbornly righteous on the surface and would resort to violence whenever he encountered any disagreement with anyone only used thirty percent of his strength on his attack.

Actually, he did not have the intention to fight a life-and-death battle with Ning Fan. In fact, he was trying to drop a hint that he did not harbor any evil intentions on the latter.

He attacked because of his identity as a Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor. It would be inappropriate to stand and do nothing when one of the seven sons died. At least, by attacking Ning Fan, he could give the old ancestor of the Profound Virtue Sect an explanation.

But the reason he kept away seventy percent of the power in his attack was because he did not want to turn Ning Fan into his enemy. Besides, he thought that it would not be difficult at all for Ning Fan to block the thirty percent of his total power since the latter possessed Half-Step Jade Life Body Refining Realm.

Chapter 225 (2): Spirit Severing Realm Expert, Five Palms!

“The old ancestor of the Profound Virtue Sect has already given a statement that anyone who provokes Zhou Ming would be on their own. Since he’s not going to oppose Zhou Ming, why should I?”

Those who could attain the Spirit Severing Realm and regarded as venerated beings in the External Endless Sea were no fools.

In actual reality, there was still one more reason that made him attack Ning Fan.

Xu Rushan requested him to test Ning Fan’s capability!

As the female corpse noticed that Yan Zhongze was going to strike Ning Fan, a faint light flashed within her eyes and thought of dashing towards the expert. But her actions were stopped by Ning Fan.

This palm, Ning Fan wanted to take it on himself!

He wanted to see how big the gap was in power between him and a Spirit Severing Realm expert!

“Ice Smash!”

When he threw his punch at the expert, heaven and earth shook but it did not freeze!

As the punch struck Yan Zhongze’s palm, the force of his punch diminished like a clay ox entering the sea. Although he managed to offset the force of the incoming palm which only constituted thirty percent of Yan Zhongze’s total force, Ning Fan still could not completely crush the latter’s attack even if he gave his all in that punch.

Ning Fan was inwardly astonished.

Spirit Severing Realm Body Refining Techniques are truly exceptional. My Nascent Soul Realm Body Refining Technique - Ice Smash has no effect on experts at the Spirit Severing Realm.

A feeling of contempt surged within Yan Zhongze’s heart.

Xu Rushan seems to have overpraised this child...

He said that my life would be in danger if I stay within a vicinity of ten zhang* from him. What is he talking about? I don’t feel anything at all even though we exchanged blows at a close distance...

Besides, this kid's all-out strike was just enough to offset thirty percent of the total might of my attack...Although it would be sufficient for him to be recognized as the strongest person below the Spirit Severing Realm, he is still far too weak compared to Spirit Severing Realm experts.

However, the next second, all his bad-mouthing turned into an urge to curse someone's mother.

"How...How is this possible? Wait. This...This is..."

The Earth Controlling Devil Star on Ning Fan's right eye glittered. A jet of evil intent entered into Yan Zhongze's body when they exchanged blows earlier.

Ning Fan did not plan to use his Yuan Yao World to capture Yan Zhongze. Otherwise, he would really have thirty percent chance to kill the latter as they were so close to each other!

Since this person did not hold a trace of hostility to Ning Fan, he did not have the need to do so...

However, it did not mean that he could give him the impression of weakness! Because Xu Rushan was watching him!

"Evil intent?!"

It caught Yan Zhongze off guard. Then, the Earth Controlling Star seemed to have formed a starry vortex on Ning Fan's right eye. Immediately, the evil intent which entered into Yan Zhongze's body was activated, transforming into endless Heart's Devil, troubling him. The color of his face alternated from green and red. In a panic, he hurriedly distanced himself from Ning Fan and travelled away in the form of clouds. In a flash, he returned to the sky. However, just as he stood beside Zhuo Tong, the blood and qi within his body was in chaos. With aggression in his eyes, he banged his chest with a punch. His action instantly weakened much of his aura but only then was he able to expel a mouthful of black-colored blood which was stained with evil intent...

"The evil intent of Heart's Devil!"

Yan Zhongze stared at Ning Fan with uneasiness while Zhuo Tong felt a tingling sensation on his scalp... The strength of Ning Fan's punch was ordinary, but he managed to infuse the evil intent of Heart's Devil within it...This...As such, who else dared to have body contact with him?!

Luckily, the evil intent he had was not much as he just began to collect and condense them. Or else, the evil intent would have crushed Yan Zhongze's Heart of Dao, critically injuring him!

This kid's technique is truly heaven-defying! The evil intent of Heart's Devil... Is that even something that can be controlled and used by cultivators as an offensive technique?!

It's no wonder Xu Rushan is profusely praising him... He must not be belittled...

The onlookers were all flabbergasted when they noticed that it was the Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor who spurted out blood after their confrontation.

So this is the power of the strongest man below the Spirit Severing Realm...

Wang Yun gulped. He clearly knew that if he were to be the person who faced the palm, his body would've been pulverized or severely injured. However, he did not know that the palm constituted only a portion of Yan Zhongze's full strength!

Somewhere in the dark, Xu Rushan nodded his head in contentment.

Though it is just thirty percent of its total might, not only could he offset Yan Zhongze's attack but also counterattack his enemy with evil intent. It seems that his power is above my expectations. It's worth it to befriend him!

"Little friend, you are already an extraordinary cultivator since you can take Yan Zhongze's attack head on. As such, if I do my best to assist you with pills, magical treasures and spiritual equipment, it would not be hard for you to kill 150 Fake Wild Beasts when you enter the Secret Realm of the Broken World!"

"Pills, magical treasures, spiritual equipment..."

Ning Fan had to retreat seven steps consecutively before he could regain his balance from the gentle force of Yan Zhongze's palm attack earlier. Even though he did not suffer any injuries, his face did not look good.

The difference between genuine Jade Life Body Refining Realm and Half-Step Jade Life Body Refining Realm is vast like the distance between heaven and earth!

Besides, my body refining technique is still at the Nascent Soul Realm. It's still too much weaker than Spirit Severing Realm Body Refining Techniques.

My current body refining technique only allows me to withstand thirty percent of Yan Zhongze's full power. That evil intent is just an act of trickery.

The evil intent was condensed after I studied Milian's magical techniques. Now, I only have 11 traces of them... The power of 11 traces of evil intent is equivalent to 11 units of magic power. Although it was enough to breed a Heart's Devil in Yan Zhongze's heart and even forced him to hurt himself to expel the evil intent, it was still not enough for him to use it to kill his enemies!

If Ning Fan had ten thousand traces of evil intent, he would be able to cause distress to Yan Zhongze's mind with just a look! Also, with such an amount of evil intent, he would be able to rival a Spirit Severing Realm expert in terms of devil qi!

If he condensed fifty thousand traces of evil intent, he could even take down a Mid Spirit Severing Realm expert!

If he possessed one hundred and fifty thousand of them, he wouldn't have to fear facing against Late Spirit Severing Realm experts!

If he had one million traces of evil intent, he would acquire power equivalent to that of a Void Refinement Realm expert!

But for now, it was too insignificant. With just 11 traces of evil intent, it was only capable of being a means to trick his enemies and Ning Fan never liked such underhanded tactics!

He could not accept the fact that he could only take thirty percent of Yan Zhongze's total power!

"Pills, magical treasures, spiritual equipment...They are not enough! I want the Profound Heart of Mother Earth!" His eyes turned clear and were filled with determination as he told Xu Rushan through telepathy.

"The Profound Heart of Mother Earth? This item is incomparably precious. With your current strength, you aren't qualified enough for this old man to give you this item." Xu Rushan frowned.

"How much is enough?!"

"Five palms! Yan Zhongze's strongest technique is the Compounded Palm Forces. If you are able to withstand the combined force of his five palms, I promise you that I will give you the Profound Heart of Mother Earth! However, I believe it is beyond your capability since you can't even withstand one of his full palm attacks!

"Fine! Five palms! Bring it on!"

Other than Zhuo Tong and Yan Zhongze whom Ning Fan purposely made the telepathy easily accessible, none of the Nascent Souls at the scene knew what they were up to!

Yan Zhongze knitted his brows like Xu Rushan and indifferently stared at Ning Fan.

“Little friend Zhou, it is true that one has to press forward with indomitable will and courage, however, the stiffest tree is the most easily cracked. At the end of the day, you aren’t a Spirit Severing Realm expert. It would be impossible for you to withstand five of my palms!”

“How would you know without letting me try it?!” Ning Fan lifted his face and gazed upon the sky. His long hair danced in the air and a fearsome fighting spirit surged within him.

I understand now... It is an undeniable fact that my punch is weaker than Yan Zhongze’s palm. But my Nascent Soul Realm Body Refining Technique - Ice Smash and Half-Step Jade Life Body Refining Realm are not the reasons at all!

The true reason is because my punch lacks Divine Intent!

The reason why my body refining realm is stagnant at the Half-Step Jade Life Realm is because the Jade Life Realm is similar to the Spirit Severing Realm. Once a cultivator reaches this level, he must congeal his own Divine Intent!

Ning Fan himself had already comprehended the Divine Intent of Rain. However, that was too soft in nature and unsuitable to his firm and strong punch.

Besides, Yan Zhongze’s Divine Intent was the cloud and rain was inferior to it as clouds came before the rain. Naturally, Ning Fan’s divine intent could not compare with Yan Zhongze’s.

In his right eye, the devil star rotated!

On his back, the devil marks flickered!

A monstrous devil prestige converged within his body!

“In my whole life, I never yielded to anyone, be it Emperor Moksha, the Bone Sovereign, the White Demon Sect, the mysterious True Immortal... if I imbue this unyielding spirit into my punch and form my second Divine Intent, I would then be able to fight against Yan Zhongze! Moreover, I will be able to attain the Jade Life Realm itself today!”

The cold light in his eyes dispersed and was replaced by an immense battle intent!

Yan Zhongze felt shocked for the first time as he saw the look on Ning Fan’s face!

“This kid wants to comprehend the bottleneck of the Jade Life Realm through resisting my attack! There is a surge of Divine Intent slowly congealing in his body... Furthermore, this Divine Intent is rather unusual...”

His eyes turned serious. With a wave of his sleeve, he summoned gusts of strong wind that blew all the Nascent Soul Real experts of the other six sects thousands of li* away!

He touched on a piece of cloud and completely sealed the vicinity of a thousand zhang* within with his magic power!

Afterwards, he turned towards Ning Fan with a solemn expression!

Usually, experts would congeal their Divine Intent by taking inspiration from other living things like flowers, birds, insects, fish and others or discover their concepts from the five elements of heaven and earth. Despite the diversity in the types of Divine Intent, one had to fuse it into his Heart of Dao.

Clouds were ethereal. Therefore, he was elusive.

Clouds were unpredictable. Therefore, he had a strange character.

Clouds were soft and tender. Therefore, he could bend but he would not crack.

He, Yan Zhongze, was just like a piece of cloud that would adapt himself to circumstances.

However, currently, the Ning Fan he saw was like a gigantic mountain with a heaven-piercing summit which emanated devil qi that soared high up into the sky! It completely portrayed his spirit of being unwilling to concede defeat!

Ning Fan's battle intent was unyielding! Not even heaven and earth could make this person submit!

The current Ning Fan was able to make Yan Zhongze feel oppressed with just his unyielding battle intent. If he manages to congeal a new battle intent, regardless of its type, he would be able to put up a fight against Yan Zhongze!

Xu Rushan revealed himself and exchanged glances with Zhuo Tong. Both of them rotated their magic power and sealed the activities of the qi of heaven and earth.

None of the magic power resulted from the battle would be leaked outside. Meanwhile, Xu Rushan wanted to see whether this kid could really withstand Yan Zhongze's five palms!

"If he can do it, I will personally present the Profound Heart of Mother Earth to him. But the question is, can he really do it?!"

Yan Zhongze descended to the other Sparrow Ascending Stage. Ning Fan gently stroked the female corpse's hair as if he was telling her to not worry and leaped over the pool of blood which belonged to Zhao Zijin and into the stage.

The atmosphere was somber. A massive battle intent rose when the two of them stood at the thousand zhang* large stage which was made of silver!

Yan Zhongze moved his palm and Ning Fan clenched his fist!

“You want to borrow my Cloud Intent to comprehend your Unyielding Intent. Fine! I’ll lend you a hand! Just think of it as this old man trying to form good ties with Fellow Daoist Zhou. However, I have a reminder for you. You can’t withstand all my five palms... If you are able to withstand three of them, I will then help you persuade Xu Rushan in giving you the Profound Heart of Mother Earth... The first palm!”

Yan Zhongze gently pushed his palm at the direction of Ning Fan. It looked soft and weak. But the next moment, a blast could be heard in heaven and earth. Countless clouds of the island dispersed and transformed into traces of cloud power! The power of the clouds formed a palm!

All of a sudden, a thousand zhang* tall palm radiating golden light rushed down from the sky. Wherever it passed by, the sky would be fragmented, exposing the indistinctly black realm of the void!

That palm constituted a hundred percent of his power!

Any cultivator below the Spirit Severing Realm would instantly die the moment they came into contact with it!

When facing the pressure generated by the palm, Ning Fan’s legs turned feeble, showing signs of kneeling down to surrender!

It was no wonder why Yan Zhongze had not given his all earlier. If he did, Ning Fan would likely be forced to kneel before the pressure of his palm. In a way, that action would breed enmity with Ning Fan as he caused the latter to suffer humiliation.

Ning Fan was in agony. His knees were in excruciating pain as if they were on the verge of being crushed to pieces. But he deliberately chose to stand on his feet!

“I must not yield! If I yield, who is going to protect the people who stand by my side!
I...will...not...kneel!”

Even if the bones of his knees broke, he was determined to not fall to his knees!

“Jade Life... Jade Life! That word ‘jade’ is not about the formation of jade. Instead, it is about the willingness to be pulverized like jade and not yield! Being overcautious and indecisive would only cause the intent of my punch to crumble! Flinching and retreating would only render my Heart of Dao to shatter! I’m willing to sacrifice my body but my intent will never be extinguished. My punch can be pulverized like jade but my heart will never yield! In that manner, only then could I congeal my Divine Intent! In that state, only then could I attain the Jade Life Realm!”

The next moment, he forgot all the pain he was feeling. He forgot everything. In his ears, there was only silence. In his eyes, there was only one gigantic palm from above the sky.

“Ice Smash!”

He hurled his punch but this time, the ice that froze heaven and earth was black in colour!

That color was the representation of his tremendous devil intent!

Zhuo Tong, Yan Zhongze, Xu Rushan... Each and every one of them had Divine Intent!

However, what Ning Fan was condensing was Devil Intent!

Although it had yet to take its form, its aura surpassed that of his Divine Intent of Rain. It was quickly reaching the Seventh Grade and possibly even higher!