

Grasping 226

Chapter 226 (1): Jade Life Realm!

Black ice!

Yan Zhongze's eyes narrowed. The ice made him feel uneasy. Almost instantly, Ning Fan released a torrent of punches towards the falling golden palm from above!

Rat-a-tat!

As the punches infused with ice power came into contact with the cloud, a strange, deep sound echoed in the skies!

He threw a total of twenty-seven punches with each of them making him retreat back a step, as if his body could not withstand the recoil of his punches.

Every step he made would leave a deep footprint on the silver stage.

When he threw the twenty-seventh punch, Ning Fan abruptly lifted his head and laughed sarcastically!

"What a good technique - Soft Cloud Quake... But to make me yield with only that palm is barely enough!"

His aura condensed and the cold ice shattered. The black snow around him scattered as if he just summoned a windstorm and that invisible force dashed directly into the sky! The force of the twenty-seven punches combined into one and clashed with the golden cloud, making it tremble! Cracks appeared and eventually the cloud dispersed into golden light!

The Jade Life Realm attack! He, Ning Fan, completely took it on himself!

At the disappearance of the golden cloud, a strong gust of wind blew across the entire area. Wherever it blows, the grass and trees would break or snap into half.

“He actually endured a full attack from Yan Zhongze!”

A purple light flashed within Zhuo Tong’s eyes. He, the old ancestor of the Purple Charm Gate, was inwardly astonished by Ning Fan.

Amongst all the thirteen Spirit Severing Realm experts of the External Endless Sea, only Yan Zhongze and Xu Rushan attained the Jade Life Body Refining Realm. That is to say, none of them would be able to directly take on Yan Zhongze’s full-powered attack, other than Xu Rushan!

To him, this kid had just done something of the impossible!

He is truly exceptional! Although he has yet to attain the Spirit Severing Realm, even Spirit Severing Realm experts would find it hard to defeat him, with all the techniques he currently possesses... Apparently, my decision was right in not hunting him down because of a Peak Nascent Soul Realm expert from my sect who died in his hands!

Yan Zhongze’s eye fixed on Ning Fan for a while but he burst into laughter after that.

“What a wild and arrogant kid! I like you!”

He could see that Ning Fan was just a Nascent Soul Realm expert, despite his Half-Step Jade Life Body Refining Realm. However, Ning Fan was already the strongest person below the Spirit Severing Realm and even dared to challenge him to take his attacks head-on.

He is already this strong before attaining the Spirit Severing Realm. I suppose that if he really achieves the Spirit Severing Realm, he would overpower everyone in the Internal Endless Sea other than the Seven Venerated!

Xu Rushan felt an excitement within his heart but he refused to expose it on his face.

Ning Fan’s punch was more than enough to instantly kill a Fake Wild Beast!

With such power and all the help I can give him, it won't be surprising at all for him to kill 150 Fake Wild Beasts in the Secret Realm of the Broken World!

Moreover, Xu Rushan also realized that the more Ning Fan showed his power, the more he could not see through him.

On the day I first met him, I could feel the danger of death when I was ten zhang* away from him. It was not his body refining technique... This kid must still be holding something back!

Sucks in a cold breath

"This Zhou Ming has still yet to reveal all his capabilities even though he faced a Spirit Severing Realm expert!"

"Without the use of the Primordial Magnetic Force, this old man is still able to withstand Yan Zhongze's 'Seven Palms in One'. If this kid is able to withstand Yan Zhongze's five palms, his combat power will be comparable to that of a Spirit Severing Realm expert!"

All the thoughts that everyone had, Ning Fan did not intend to guess. He shut his eyes, reflecting the twenty-seven punches he threw earlier.

No! It's not correct!

It shouldn't be in that manner!

I might be able to offset Yan Zhongze's one full strike, but I had to throw twenty-seven punches for it. In other words, unconsciously, I am admitting defeat; I am admitting that my punch can't match Yan Zhongze's palm!

This isn't the unyielding spirit that I should have. It's clear that I am surrendering even before I threw my punch!

To others, he might appear victorious but to him, he felt that he had lost...

“It’s not enough!”

He raised his head and glared at Yan Zhongze.

The dark starry vortex in his right eye became even more gloomy.

“Good! Good! Good! This young kid can really cope with my appetite. I seem to have belittled you. Therefore, let this old man give you some enlightenment. This is my self-created technique - ‘Combined Palms Techniques’!

Yan Zhongze let out a shout, putting his palms together. The aura emanated from his eyes changed.

All of a sudden, a loud bang could be heard from the Sparrow Ascending Stage and it collapsed. The two of them stood on the ground, directly facing each other.

Yan Zhongze’s aura rapidly rose. When it reached its peak, two rays of golden light shot out from his palms, piercing through the sky and transformed into another golden print of a palm.

Two palms combined together but the power of the palm that formed in the sky was four times stronger than his previous attack!

“This old man once killed three Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts with this technique. I heard that you killed the three former tower masters who were Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts by yourself too. In spite of that, I don’t think you are able to withstand this attack!”

“Oh really...”

Ning Fan’s mind was unwavering. His heart was like an enormous black mountain that would not be intimidated even when it faces Mount Tai, let alone the words from Yan Zhongze’s mouth.

Unyielding, unyielding, what is unyielding... What should I do to so that I don't have to submit...

When the sky overturns and the earth sinks, cultivators are like ants. What should I do to not submit...

Ning Fan was struggling within, as if there was a thin but impenetrable veil to the right answer.

His bones were already in silver form but he still could not advance into the Jade Life Realm.

The golden palm print was falling down from the sky at an incredible speed, leaving Ning Fan with no time to contemplate!

The only thing he could do was to follow his body's instincts.

Without any hesitation, he delivered 21 punches at the direction of the incoming attack!

For the 21 punches, he used the same amount of force he used to throw each of them as the 27 punches previously. Clearly, the strength he used was not as much as earlier, but after they combined into one large fist with an aura that was a few times stronger than the previous one!

The number of punches had reduced but its aura and power intensified!

When his punch met the descending palm, both of them disappeared and gave out another gust of wind. Ning Fan retreated tens of steps before he could regain his balance. This time, his eyes brightened!

"I understand now!"

Meanwhile, a speck of jade color gradually appeared in his soul...

As for his body refining realm, it was gradually advancing into the Jade Life Realm!

Gasps

Yan Zhongze and the other two Spirit Severing Realm experts sucked in cold breaths together.

The attack he combined from two palms was four times stronger than the first one. In their eyes, unless Ning Fan hurled 108 punches consecutively, there was no way for him to neutralize it!

Moreover, they thought that with Ning Fan's current body refining realm, it would be difficult for him to hurl 108 punches in a brief amount of time and combined them into one attack!

None of them would expect him to succeed!

Furthermore, Ning Fan only used 21 punches to receive the attack which was four times stronger than before!

How is this possible?

Yan Zhongze's eyes were solemn. During the first clash, he was able to perceive Ning Fan's means. But in the second confrontation, he could not comprehend why the latter only needed 21 punches.

"Interesting! If you can take this old man's following attack which is the combination of three palms, I will surely assist you in persuading Xu Rushan to give you the Profound Heart of Mother Earth!"

"Fine!" This time, Xu Rushan was not stubborn with his earlier request and promised Yan Zhongze.

The more he looked at Ning Fan, the more he could not understand him. However, now he was more certain of one thing - if Ning Fan promises to help him, his trouble would no longer exist.

"..."

Ning Fan did not reply. He awaited the third attack from Yan Zhongze with more resolution in his eyes, as if he had figured out the right way to counter it.

Yan Zhongze performed a hand seal, transforming himself into a 500 zhang* tall giant!

“For this attack, this old man has to use my avatar to use it. Otherwise, I would suffer a heavy backlash from it, making my body crumble. Little friend, get ready!”

The giant let out a thunderous roar.

Ning Fan stood still, intending to receive the attack without transforming into a giant.

Three rays of golden light radiated from Yan Zhongze’s palms and lightning flashed in the sky, congealing into a gigantic golden palm!

This time, its power was nine times stronger than the first attack. It once grievously injured the Spirit Severing Realm expert from the Ying State, the weakest Spirit Severing Realm expert among the thirteen of the External Endless Sea, forcing him to enter into seclusion in order to heal himself for ten years!

If Ning Fan could take this attack, it would simply prove that his combat power was at the same level as the weakest Spirit Severing Realm expert!

However, there was doubt in the giant’s eyes.

He wondered how Ning Fan’s punches would be able to withstand this attack...

In his mind, he guessed that it would be lesser than 21.

But why...

Facing the falling giant palm, the Nascent Soul within Ning Fan's dantian felt like breaking apart. But no matter how strong the pressure of the palm exerting on his body was, he did not yield!

The Earth Controlling Star in his right eye grew darker. This time, Ning Fan moved back seven steps, with only seven punches being thrown at the direction of the palm!

The strength he used to throw the punches were insignificant compared to the previous two attacks. However, when they combined into one, a shadow of a mountain emerged in the sky!

The power of his punch rose to an unimaginable level!

After throwing punches without rest, Ning Fan had almost depleted all his strength!

But the seven punches were like seven rays of starlight, penetrating through the golden palm!

Chapter 226 (2): Jade Life Realm!

He managed to block the attack combined from three palms!

Ning Fan coughed up a mouthful of blood as his dantian was wounded just now by the pressure from the gigantic palm above the sky. Even so, his eyes were filled with excitement.

My assumption is true!

During the first time, he had combined 27 punches into one large fist. Without a single doubt, throwing that many punches used a lot of his strength. However, it was influenced by the thought of submitting unbeknownst to him, making his first attack be lacking of unyielding spirit.

On the second time, he only displayed 21 punches. Despite the notable reduction in the strength used to throw the punches which fused into one, the aura and power were much stronger than the previous one!

During the third time, seven punches had merged into one, increasing the might of his attack to an incredible level!

The force he used to throw each of the punches remained unchanged throughout the three exchanges. But the aura of his attack rose and so did its power!

If he were to throw just seven punches at the beginning, the effect would not be as great as his third attack and would have not possessed such aura.

When his strength reached its limit, it turned into aura. When the aura reached its maximum point, his intent was born!

Nascent Soul Realm experts comprehended the primordial energy of heaven and earth and the grand momentum of nature. The deeper their comprehension in the grand momentum, the easier it would be for them to congeal their Divine Intent once they attain the Spirit Severing Realm.

Divine Intent was actually the way to control the grand momentum. In other words, it was a deep comprehension about the laws of nature.

Therefore, even though the last 7 punches were not as forceful as the previous attacks, a newly found Divine Intent which had yet to take its complete shape brought more power to his punch!

A sudden thought struck his heart. If he could receive one of Yan Zhongze's palms with just a punch, his aura would then rise to its peak, enabling him to finally congeal his second Divine Intent! Besides, he could also use this chance to advance into the Jade Life Realm!

"I want to achieve the Jade Life Realm!"

At this moment, Ning Fan's eyes were filled with absolute determination, just like what was on his face when he formed his Nascent Soul.

Yan Zhongze, who was standing on the ruins of the Sparrow Ascending Stage, as well as Xu Rushan and Zhuo Tong who were watching the battle in the night sky, were all deeply amazed.

Because they could feel a Divine Intent gradually materializing from Ning Fan's body.

To their surprise, the Divine Intent lacked divinity as it was too ferocious, domineering and violent. Rather than calling it as a "Divine Intent", it would be more appropriate to call it "Devil Intent"!

Devil Intent, the intent that devil cultivators had to congeal when they attain the Spirit Severing Realm!

It was only then did they realize the reason why the power of Ning Fan's punch grew stronger while the number of punches he threw diminished. It was because he had now developed a new Devil Intent!

"Devil Intent... It can't be wrong... Individuals who can form their Devil Intent must first possess Immemorial Devil Veins and secondly, they must be a devil cultivator who chose the Path of Defiance... All of us had misjudged him. He is actually a truly frightening devil cultivator... Devil Intent. Even in the Internal Endless Sea, there are only a handful of them who were able to congeal it..." Zhuo Tong heaved a deep sigh.

As the Devil Intent in Ning Fan's eyes continued to surge, Zhuo Tong could feel a trace of danger from Ning Fan.

"This Devil Intent seems to have a high grade. It seems to be at the Seventh Grade but it looks like it is now advancing to the Sixth... The Sixth Grade... In our small Rain World, a Sixth Grade Intent would be considered legendary, though it is very common in the Four Heavens..." Yan Zhongze muttered to himself.

"Fine. Luckily we have sealed this place down. There should be no one who could spy on Zhou Ming when he was congealing his Devil Intent just now... I will relinquish my request of having him endure five palms. Having the ability to withstand three of your palms is enough proof of his worthiness and I would definitely want to befriend this man at all cost. In my perspective, this person's cultivation level would never just be limited at the Spirit Severing Realm in his life... If he manages to achieve Void Fragmentation Realm, I'm afraid he's going to be the next ruler of the entire Rain World judging by his character and his will to dominate! Perhaps, he would be the second... Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou!"

Xu Rushan let out a deep sigh. He had already made up his mind. Now, he would wait for Ning Fan to completely congeal his Devil Intent and then, he would offer Ning Fan anything, including all the resources of the Pleasure Devil Sea if the latter needs it!

But just as he finished speaking, Ning Fan shook his head.

He lifted his gaze and looked into the sky. Three glittering stars could be seen from his face!

The Lightning Divine Star, the Earth Controlling Devil Star and the Palm Wood Demon Star!

“I want to take on the five palms!”

His tone was indifferent and cold. However, when the three stars twinkled together, it formed an inexplicable grandness, making the three respected Spirit Severing Realm experts to exchange glances of awe.

He has three stars?! How is it possible?!

Moreover, the attributes of each of the stars are widely different...

Zhuo Tong and Yan Zhongze had no clue. Even Xu Rushan who had a half-formed Divine Star on his forehead could not understand it.

As a matter of fact, it would be rare to encounter anyone in the Nine Worlds that was able to see through the abstrusity of the three stars!

Furthermore, it would be even more rare to find anyone other than the True Immortals who could bear the solemnity of the three stars!

“Do it as promised. Five Palms!”

Although there was nothing unusual about the words he spoke, to Yan Zhongze, it was more like an order that he dared not to go against.

“This is... Spirit Speech? No. It’s not. But what exactly is this solemnity that restricted me from disobeying it...”

Yan Zhongze gulped and for the first time, he felt a heartfelt respect for Ning Fan.

He did not know that a cultivator who can possess three stars at a time is not a divine cultivator, devil cultivator or a demon cultivator but... a cultivator who practices the Path of the Immortal Sovereign!

Immortal Sovereign! That was a realm that was unreachable by many True Immortals in their entire lives!

Anyhow, Yan Zhongze did not have a clue about it. His body reacted naturally to Ning Fan’s order, gritted his teeth and swallowed a secret medicine, making the blue veins on his body stand out even more obvious.

“Little friend Zhou Ming, the combined attack of the five palms is this old man’s strongest technique that doesn’t need me to hurt myself. If you are able to withstand it, your power would be on par with a Spirit Severing Realm expert who ranks 10th out of the 13 in the External Endless Sea! Combined Five Palms, Soft Cloud Quake, Gold Cloud Smash!”

This time, five rays of golden light shot out into the sky and transformed into a golden sea of clouds which stretched for over a thousand li*. Each and every piece of the clouds did not take the shape of a palm as their force was absorbed into a large mass of clouds which was above all of them.

The Cloud Intent was adaptable.

No sign was shown when the palm took its shape.

Some of the nearby cities were affected by this massive golden cloud which almost caused the buildings to collapse!

The giant then slammed his hand into the ground. The thousand li of golden clouds fell with a screech as if the entire sky collapsed!

This kind of aura was capable of striking fear into the hearts of ordinary Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts. Ning Fan, however, did not have the slightest fear in his eyes. Instead, they were as peaceful as a cold pond.

“Clouds. No matter how strong they are, it does not change the fact that they are still clouds...”

He muttered to himself. In Ning Fan’s eyes, there was nothing to fear on the thousand zhang golden clouds.

No matter how strong or powerful the clouds might be, they were still clouds and there wasn’t any kind of cloud that could shake a mountain!

He felt a sharp pain from his back as the devil marks became boiling hot.

He could also feel a burning sensation from the Earth Controlling Star on his right eye.

His skin was torn apart; his muscles were broken; his bones were fractured.

He was badly mutilated, and looked tattered with blood all over his body, but the pair of eyes on his face remained as calm as usual.

All of a sudden, a vast and boundless devil prestige surged, surrounding Ning Fan’s body!

When it reached its peak, an immense Divine Intent rushed to the skies in the form of black mist, taking the shape of an enormous mountain!

Its summit was so sharp that it could pierce through the heavens while its bottom was so huge that it could suppress the abyss of devils!

The deep and immense devil qi from the black mist made the hearts of Yan Zhongze and the other two experts tremble in shock.

That Zhou Ming has successfully congealed his Divine Intent!

But what mountain is this?!

What kind of Divine Intent has he congealed?!

The Divine Intent of Mountain? No! That is only an Eighth Grade Divine Intent and it's known for giving the people around a heavy feeling. But this Divine Intent...wait... this Devil Intent is solely formed with a fierce unyielding spirit!

In Yan Zhongze's entire life, he had never seen such a cultivator who could form an image of a mountain from just his Divine Intent.

Though he did not know what Divine Intent it was, he could tell that it was a Sixth Grade Divine Intent!

Because of the grade of Ning Fan's Divine Intent, his Divine Intent of Cloud began to give way!

"I am a mountain!" Ning Fan shouted.

He threw a punch which carried a massive devil might to the sky. The next moment, the heavens broke apart and the clouds dispersed!

The dot of jade color on his soul floated around him, turning his entire soul into the color of jade!

At that same instance, he stomped onto the ground, breaking through the thin veil to the Jade Life Realm!

The combined attack of the Five Palms was twenty-five times stronger than the first attack.

However, this time, Ning Fan was as steady as a mountain when he received the attack without retreating a step backwards.

With just one punch, the golden clouds disappeared. Yan Zhongze felt a blow on his chest, causing him to spurt out a mouthful of blood as he fell down from the sky.

In his mind, as he reflected about the confrontation earlier, he felt that he could not withstand the punch without using all of his means!

As for Xu Rushan, he wore both surprised and bewildered expressions.

It was because he had a feeling that he had seen that image before.

If he did not see wrongly, that mountain, it was probably the totem that was enshrined and worshipped by Venerated Giant!

“Don’t tell me this kid is the one whom Venerated Giant is waiting for...”

Note:

1. Measurements:

a. li(里) = 500 m

b. zhang(丈) = 3.13 m

c. chi(尺) = 30.7 cm

Chapter 227 (1): Su Yao, The Fragrance of Mint!

Ning Fan sat in a meditative position while regulating his breathing in the Profound Jade Palace. The female corpse sat quietly beside him while sewing clothes.

Three days had passed by ever since the battle. Xu Rushan finally got a satisfying answer from Ning Fan.

Ning Fan who has now attained the Jade Life Body Refining Realm made a positive response to Xu Rushan's request. Of course, the Profound Heart of Mother Earth was included in his rewards as well as anything on the Pleasure Devil Island that Ning Fan wants.

Pills, magical treasures, spiritual equipment, spiritual iron, human cauldrons, immortal jade, pill recipes, cultivation methods...

Xu Rushan did not decline!

The first time Xu Rushan met Ning Fan, he requested help from the latter. During the battle at the Sparrow Ascending Stage, he tried to please Ning Fan. However, after he witnessed the image of the enormous mountain summoned by Ning Fan's Devil Intent, he now felt the utmost respect towards Ning Fan! Moreover, the incident of Zhao Zijin's murder had been restrained by Xu Rushan. No one had spread a single word about it...

"Xu Rushan's attitude is rather weird. But I guess he shouldn't be harboring evil intent towards me... Fine. Now I need to completely stabilize my Jade Life Realm..."

When Ning Fan muttered to himself, Yu Long's respectful tone of voice could be heard from outside the door.

"This old servant, Yu Long, requests to meet master!"

"Come in!"

After gaining Ning Fan's approval, Yu Long heaved a sigh of relief. He pushed the door with one hand while the other was holding a heavy storage pouch which was bursting at the seams. His eyes flashed with admiration.

“Reporting to Master. The ten thousand years old spiritual herbs that Master wanted have all been obtained. As what Master had expected, none of the stalls run by the Pleasure Devil Sect dared to reject Master's requests. They granted me whatever I asked. Aside from that, I was also ordered to bring you ten bottles of High Grade Fourth Revolution Pills - ‘Devil Bone Pills’ which are for molding and refining the body. There are a total of 104 pills. Master, please check and accept it.”

There was no way for him not to admire his Master, a being who did not need to pay a formal visit to Xu Rushan while staying in his territory and even got such expensive gifts in return from the Spirit Severing Realm expert himself!

104 Devil Bone Pills. I suppose they cost at least ten million immortal jade...

Yu Long was not a fool. No one in the Pleasure Devil Sect would simply gift others such lavish gifts, unless Xu Rushan personally gave the order to do so!

It was so obvious that Xu Rushan, the Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor of the sect, was desperately trying to please his own Master!

So a Spirit Severing Realm old ancestor in the External Endless Sea is nothing after all! Didn't he need to show respect and befriend my Master?!

Yu Long's eyes were blazing with enthusiasm, thinking that becoming Ning Fan's servant was the best thing that had ever happened to him in his entire life! This time, he was full of joy and even felt a sense of fulfillment when he entered the Pleasure Devil Sect. Furthermore, those who offended his Master took the initiative to seek forgiveness by sending some gifts to him.

How fun it is to have people sending gifts in that manner?!

“En. Come in and put the pills and herbs on the table. After that, you may leave. As for the Pleasure Devil Sect cultivators who came to pay me a visit, you will help me entertain them. For all the gifts they are going to give you, please accept and assess them in full detail!”

“Yes!”

Yu Long put down the storage pouch, closed the doors and politely left.

For the sudden change of Yu Long’s attitude, Ning Fan gently nodded his head.

This Yu Long’s cultivation level is not good. His Pill Refining Technique is also ordinary. However, as a servant, he has a clear view of things and a good sense of knowing whether what is or isn’t important. He is quite a trouble-free servant to order around to run some errands for him.

With a wave of his sleeve, the storage pouch on the table flew into his hands. After he confirmed the items within the pouch, a faint smile formed on his face.

“I only require ten thousand years old spiritual herbs to refine Facial Restoration Pills. But Xu Rushan gave me fifty thousand years old spiritual herbs. Besides, one pack of it consists of ten herbs. He also knew that I am planning on stabilizing my body refining realm, therefore he gave me 104 Fourth Revolution Pills in order to reduce the time needed to do so... Xu Rushan really showed his sincerity. Truly as expected, it was worthwhile to have gambled my life in receiving Yan Zhongze’s five palms... In this Endless Sea, those without power and refrain from killing would also be hunted down by others. Only those who have great power would not get any trouble even if they’ve killed tons!”

Ning Fan spoke to himself.

In the past when he just entered the Endless Sea, he was Now, even though he had killed countless people and his enemies were almost chased by the Demon Sealing Sect because he was weak!

everywhere in the External Endless Sea, none of them dared to take revenge on him!

The truth was plain and obvious.

A milu2 which always hides in the remote mountains and never hurt anyone would eventually be captured by hunters.

On the contrary, no one would dare to enter a mountain where a ferocious tiger resides not to mention hunting or taking revenge on them as they were ferocious creatures which see humans as their food, despite knowing full well the habitat of the beasts.

He, Ning Fan, was not a deer.

“The Profound Heart of Mother Earth. Xu Rushan said that he would only give it to me after I complete the mission... The auction will be held ten days later and as for the mission, there are still half a month to go before the Secret Realm of the Broken World opens. The Secret Realm would only open for half a year. In other words, I must cut down 150 Fake Wild Beasts in about five months... Before what happened in the Sparrow Ascending Stage, it was true that I still had doubts in myself. But after attaining the Jade Life Realm, I can even go against the weakest Spirit Severing Realm of the External Endless Sea. It will only be a piece of cake to kill the Fake Wild Beasts!”

“Now, after stabilizing my body refining realm, I will find Xu Rushan to get some pills and human cauldrons. It will be better if I can increase my cultivation level to Peak Nascent Soul Realm before I enter the Secret Realm, though I don’t have much time left... As for the Spirit Severing Realm Body Refining Techniques... Perhaps I can ask for a few techniques but I don’t think I will have enough time to cultivate them... Hmm. I heard that Xu Rushan has also prepared a complete set of Profound Earth Grade spiritual equipment for me...”

Ning Fan shook the storage pouch, kept the spiritual herbs for refining the Facial Restoration Pills away and took out the bottles which contained the Devil Bone Pills. Without any hesitation, he consumed each and every one of them.

They were High Grade Fourth Revolution Pills. Their medicinal properties were strong and the devil properties within the pills were tremendous. Ordinary cultivators who consumes these pills to refine their bodies would feel unbearable pain. But for Ning Fan, he felt that the medicinal power of the pills were moderate and they were cool and moisturizing. Aside from that, the Profound Earth Devil Marks seems to respond to the medicinal power.

“Devil pills, huh? The unique pills of the devil tribes. They are calling out to my devil marks. The person who backs Xu Rushan is Venerated Giant of the Giant Devil Sect. I suppose this Giant Devil Sect must not be ordinary...”

Ning Fan cleared his thoughts and put all his focus on digesting the pills.

Three days later, when he stepped out of the room and stood in the blowing snow, calmness was the only correct term to describe his face.

The minor injuries he suffered have all recovered. Not only that, some of the internal injuries were also healed under the effects of the pills. His Jade Life Body Refining Realm had finally stabilized at the First Level. To be more precise, it was actually already one-third of the way to the Second Level!

Ning Fan raised his hand and clawed at the invisible air!

Suddenly, a heavy gale blew across the sky as if it was going to be torn apart and the black snow began to fly in reverse, condensing into a shadow of a giant claw.

He did not use any of his magic power in that move but he felt that it exceeded the strength of his physical body.

To hurt an enemy with force, the force must first come into contact with the enemy.

To hurt an enemy with aura, the aura must first be incorporated into a technique.

For intent, however... With his current Jade Life Realm, the strength that he displayed earlier would be able to pulverize even Early Nascent Soul Realm cultivators!

Silence filled the atmosphere.

In the past, he cultivated a body refining technique which enabled him to transform into a giant. But after he obtained the Corpse Devil Record, the technique emphasized more on increasing the defense of

his physical body. The Corpse Devil Record also allowed him to congeal the Earth Star. Combining the Earth Star and the Profound Earth Devil Marks, the current Ning Fan had a different path of cultivation in terms of body refinement.

He was no longer cultivating to make himself bigger. Instead, the techniques he cultivated compressed his strength and power...

He no longer needed to fuse tens of punches into one. Instead, he would condense all the intent of his punches into one single punch...

He slapped on his storage pouch and took out the secret technique that he got from Milian. After taking a glance on it, he gently shook his head.

“Having more Nascent Souls does not mean you are powerful. Also, having a colossal body is not a sign of supreme strength. If the techniques one possesses is as many as the clouds and did not master any of them, he would likely destroy his own path due to lack of focus... There isn't the strongest magical technique or ability in the world. There is only the most suitable ability or technique customized for myself. Even if Emperor Moksha was a ten thousand zhang* giant, I, who was only eight chi* tall, severed ten of his fingers with just one of my fingers! The body is small but the aura and intent is strong...”

“However, it is still difficult to attain Spirit the Severing Realm... In the entire External Endless Sea which consists of three thousand floating islands, there are thousands of Nascent Soul Realm cultivators but there are only 13 Spirit Severing Realm experts. Those who are able to form their Nascent Souls are people with outstanding talents. However, there may not be even one out of a hundred of them that can attain the Spirit Severing Realm. In other words, talent is just an external factor after all. In order to walk further in the path of cultivation in this world, the only thing one needs is the heart to strive hard and fight!”

Ning Fan stood there in silence for a good while. When his heart became as calm as a pond, only then did he walk down the stairs made of jade and stepped on the snowy ground.

In the room, the female corpse hurriedly put down her pin and followed Ning Fan.

She was just like his shadow.

“Light...Go...where?”

“To cure Miss Su Yao’s poison. If you follow me, it may be a little inconvenient...”

“I...am...okay...with...it...” The female corpse firmly nodded her head.

...

Chapter 227 (2): Su Yao, The Fragrance of Mint!

In the ladies’ room of Profound Jade Palace...

Su Yao rested her elbows on the window pane, enjoying the beautiful dark snow which fell down from the sky like cotton. It was all like a dream to her.

Although she was the sect master of Bi Yao Sect, she had never stayed in any place like the Profound Jade Palace.

This palace was owned by the Pleasure Devil Sect used to provide accommodation only for Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts.

She wore a jadeite green long skirt that reached below her knees. Her fair arms which looked like lotus held her delicate cheeks upward and her light eyebrows rose in surprise.

Usually, her expression was cool like a pool of stagnant water even in the face of disasters. However, a calm person like her would also lose her composure when she was given a luxurious room in this palace.

All the rooms were built entirely using immortal bricks. Each of the rooms would require at least a hundred thousand immortal bricks with each brick formed from casting ten pieces of immortal jade.

In other words, a room like this was worth more than a million immortal jade. Moreover, practicing cultivation within this room was more effective than in the external world.

There was a joss stick lit up in the room. It was known as “Han Su” which costs one hundred thousand immortal jade each. It was rumored that lighting up this joss stick would help cleanse the heart and mind of a cultivator from their Heart’s Devil and increase their state of mind.

Even the water that she drank and bathed was the pure spiritual liquid that was obtained by condensing spiritual qi. A cup of that kind of water was worth ten thousand immortal jade...

She clearly knew the reason why she could enjoy such extravagant treatment, and it was all because of...

Zhou Ming!

A person who could make the Pleasure Devil Sect try to befriend him at all cost...

“Zhou Ming. I really can’t see through his mind... What is his relationship with Sister Suqiu? He is said to be a pervert who made love to countless women and the number of human cauldrons he has is innumerable like the clouds and rain. But why did Sister Suqiu still maintain her purity...”

“Speaking of which, I have sworn an oath in front of him that day. Now, I guess I am his human cauldron already. Is he going to pluck me? If he does, what should I do...Should I commit suicide?”

Su Yao let out a gentle sigh. She had been through a lot in order to achieve the Nascent Soul Realm. She was reluctant to be plucked by anyone, not to mention losing her virginity. It would be extremely heart-wrenching.

However, if what she imagined really does happen, she would still obey her vow and serve Ning Fan as promised. After that, she would still choose to kill herself...

But as she thought of Ning Fan plucking her, the aphrodisiac poison that was temporarily suppressed became unrestrained.

Chastity Falling Powder... Is there any other ways to cure it other than losing my chastity...

Her original undisturbed face immediately flushed red and an unbearable heat spread throughout her body, making her weak and powerless.

A mouthful of warm breath lightly blew out from her lips, carrying the fragrance of mint.

Under her skirt, her slender legs gently rubbed against each other and a few wet patches could be seen on the cloth.

It was as if a powerful devil force was seducing and controlling her. Against her own will, she moved her slim silky hand down to her skirt, lifting its edge with her fingers. She then placed her hand on the part between her thighs, groping it gently.

“This is...inappropriate...”

Su Yao bit her lips. She rotated the Profound Gate Mind Technique with the intention of clearing off the built-up lust in her mind.

However, the profound technique that was always effective against the Heart’s Devil became completely useless in her situation. It did not diminish even the slightest bit of the lust aroused by the Chastity Falling Powder.

“No... How could I, the dignified sect master of Bi Yao Sect, do such a thing to myself...”

She bent over and lied on the table beside her, feeling extremely shy to the point of nearly killing herself. From her perspective, masturbating was an immoral act that would only be committed by promiscuous women.

What upset her even more was that she was unable to resist the urge... Her hand just kept rubbing the soft and sensitive part between her thighs, making it wet and greasy.

Moan

She let out a deep moan. Her slender, long fingers penetrated deeper into it as if breaking through a thin layer protecting the opening. Although she did not completely destroy it, a trace of blood flowed out from the sides.

Her brows tightly knitted as she felt the pain which made her regain a little bit of her consciousness.

What she saw was her almost destroying her own virginity under the effect of the poison.

Guilt was plastered all over her face.

“Have I just...degraded myself...”

She mocked herself in a contrite tone and quickly stopped doing it. She held a bronze mirror in her hand and looked at her own pink-red cheeks and started blaming herself inwardly. All of a sudden, Ning Fan and the female corpse arrived at her door. As they witnessed the scene within her room, the female corpse remained as calm and blank as usual. Ning Fan, however, shot her an eccentric look.

“I guess I shouldn’t have come at this time. I’m sorry for disturbing you...”

Crack

The bronze mirror slipped from her hand and fell onto the floor. Su Yao cried out in surprise and stood up from the chair in panic. Her half-worn underwear which had a large wet patch and some traces of blood slid down.

“Zhou...Zhou Ming! This is the ladies’ room. How could you, a man, enter at will?! Be...Be...Besides, don’t you know how to knock on the door before entering...”

Su Yao squatted on her heels, trying to cover her bottom part with her long skirt. Her eyes were filled with both embarrassment and anger.

“Knock on the door... But Su Yao Xianzi seems to have left the door open while you were enjoying yourself. Even though this is the ladies’ area, it would still not be good to be seen by other female cultivators. It’s better that Su Yao Xianzi makes sure the door is closed first before you do that next time...”

“It won’t happen anymore!”

Su Yao bit her lip lightly. She was not willing to masturbate at all. It was all because of the poison. Despite that, leaving the door ajar was still a serious mistake...

Furthermore, it was completely out of her expectations that Ning Fan who disappeared for a few days would appear at this time...

I wonder if he saw my...

If he did, then I really need a place to hide myself... It’s too embarrassing!

As she thought that she had been caught in the act by Ning Fan, her heart began to race. The aphrodisiac poison which finally ceased just now because of the pain she felt flared up again.

Moan

This time, she completely lied down on the ground while her hand tried to lift the skirt and made its way to the sensitive part below her skirt.

She shut her eyes in misery. To her, she would rather die than commit such disgraceful act before a man!

It is Zhou Ming who stands right before me. He is a man who is notoriously known as a pervert. After seeing me in such a state, I think he would likely take advantage of me...

Just as she was in a state of anxiety, Ning Fan frowned and waved his hands to shut the door and windows.

“Weiliang, guard the door. I will cure her now...” He ordered the female corpse.

Su Yao’s eyelids quivered.

Cure my poison? It seems that my guess is correct. This Zhou Ming really wants to have sex with me...

Suddenly, she felt that the hand that was stroking her private part was grasped by Ning Fan. The next moment, she unconsciously felt that she was being carried to her bed.

“No... I haven’t... I haven’t decided yet...” This moment, she turned into a weeping beauty as tears streamed down from her eyes when she imagined that she would be plucked by Ning Fan and lose her virginity forever.

In that split second, she no longer viewed herself as a sect master or a devoted cultivator of the righteous path, but a helpless woman who was going to lose her purity to someone.

“Eh... Did I say that I want to pluck you?”

Ning Fan laughed and flicked her forehead, causing her to shudder in shock.

“Chastity Falling Powder. This poison is deemed to be incurable. But as long as you haven’t destroyed the hymen¹, there is still a way to cure it. On the other hand, having sex with you will only momentarily cure it and the poison will imprint in your heart and soul for the rest of your life, making it impossible to be cured. In fact, it will turn a woman who is ready to die to preserve her chastity like you into a licentious whore... If I came a little late, I suppose your hymen would have already been destroyed by your own hands and will have been placed in grave danger...”

Fortunately, when Su Yao lost control of herself earlier, her fingers did not damage much of her hymen.

After searching Milian's memories, Ning Fan found out that this poison was not like any other ordinary aphrodisiac poisons. Women affected by those poisons could be cured by having sex with them but that method would only worsen the women who were afflicted by this poison. It was why this poison was considered incurable by many.

If the woman did not fulfill her sexual urge, she would die because of lust.

If she had sex, the poison would then enter into her bones and veins, deeply rooting itself within her, turning her into a sex slave.

Milian planted such poison because he did not plan to give Su Yao any chances to break free from this poison.

Otherwise, Ning Fan would simply detoxify her by having sex with her.

To common people, there was no solution for this poison.

But Ning Fan's Yin Yang Locket which could restrain any form of bewitching techniques and aphrodisiac poisons was able to cure this poison without the need of taking her virginity.

Besides, Su Yao was a good woman. If her virginity was forcefully taken away from her, allowing the poison to overwhelm her, it would be a waste to lose someone like her...

In a way, Su Yao could be considered half of a human cauldron to Ning Fan. He would not stand and watch a woman of honor like her to fall low.

A female had two mouths. One on the top and the other on the bottom. Since he could not detoxify her from the bottom, he could only cure her from the top.

Su Yao became slightly unconscious under the effect of the poison. She thought that Ning Fan was going to pluck her, so she kept pushing him away with her powerless arms. All of a sudden, Ning Fan pinned her arms down against her body and kissed her on her lips.

Her body shuddered and she immediately regained consciousness. As she saw Ning Fan kissing her, she hurriedly closed her mouth and teeth out of nervousness.

What should I do...

Because of the close distance between the both of them, her nostrils were filled with Ning Fan's manly smell, which made her face burning hot.

"Are you a little more conscious now? Then, please cooperate with me. It will only be a kiss. There's no need to take your virginity..."

"Really?"

"Yes. Even if you are my human cauldron, I will never hurt you when you are in difficult times... Let's leave it to next time. The next time I pass by Bi Yao Immortal Island, I will come and find you..."

"Alright..."

Su Yao heaved a sigh of relief. It was truly a joy to her as she did not need to lose her chastity today.

However, when she thought of what Ning Fan said just now, her heart... was a little worried...

If, if...it's only a kiss...

Su Yao closed her eyes once more. This time, she did not show any signs of resistance.

In her opinion, all aphrodisiac poisons could only be cured by making love, let alone a powerful poison like the Chastity Falling Power.

This Zhou Ming can actually take advantage of me right now and take away my purity. However, he chose to cure my poison with a kiss. Such an attitude is 10,000 times better than those upright gentlemen in smart clothes.

This time, it should be the third time he saved my life.

Su Yao's expression became unnatural and her voice were soft like mosquitoes buzzing in the air, "Thank you... The next time when I...when I am ready, I will fulfill my promise..."

"Oh really? Stick your tongue out..."

"Alright..."

Su Yao stuck out her pink, satiny tongue from her lips, revealing just the tip.

She had no clue of how sticking her tongue would help in curing her poison but she still did it anyway.

But at the next second, her eyebrows raised and her eyes widened in terror.

Her tongue was sucked into Ning Fan's mouth...

"Wu...Wu...!"

The fright she felt in her heart was unprecedented.

Despite that, there was a kind of comfort that she had never felt before.

This kind of feeling was called a first kiss and she, Su Yao, had never experienced it before throughout her life.

Her tongue carried a whiff of fragrance similar to that of peppermint.

Chapter 228 (1): Xu Qiuling

As their lips and tongues came into contact, Ning Fan sucked the poison into his own body, turning it into nutrients for his Yin Yang Locket.

A long while later, their lips moved away as Ning Fan let go of Su Yao. He wiped off the saliva on his mouth while his eyes continued to stare at Su Yao, thinking of the pleasant scent from her body.

“I heard that Sect Master Su Yao cultivates the wood element cultivation method - Green Lotus Record. The cultivators of that method are said to possess the natural scent of mint even without the need of putting on perfume. Sure enough, the rumors are true.”

“Oh...”

After receiving such compliments from Ning Fan, Su Yao did not know whether to be angry or grateful to him.

Her body which was previously weak and feeble gradually regained its strength because of the disappearance of the poison.

But she could still feel Ning Fan’s body temperature on her lips.

As she thought of how Ning Fan detoxified her by sucking the poison out of her body and into his, she could not stop herself from being touched.

The Chastity Falling Powder might only be an aphrodisiac poison to women, but it was a lethal venom to men. Not to mention how Ning Fan sucked the poison out of her, just his kind intentions of risking his life to save hers was enough for her to pledge to marry him.

However, pigs would be flying in the sky if she were to fall for him that easily after just meeting him several times.

Even so, she would never be able to erase Ning Fan's shadow from her heart after what she had experienced.

"Thank you..." She slowly got up from the bed and tidied up her messy hair. After making herself neat, she gave Ning Fan a cool smile, just like a green lotus.

"When I save someone, I don't save them for nothing. If you really want to thank me, then show me your sincerity the next time I visit Bi Yao Sect. Moreover, there is still residual poison within your body. But with your Nascent Soul Realm cultivation level, it won't be difficult for you to expel it from your body. Take a good rest. I still have things to handle. So please excuse me..."

"You want to leave already?" Su Yao instinctively asked without being fully aware of what she had just said. The next moment, she realized how unsuitable and ambiguous her question have been.

At such a time in such a place, her words might be misinterpreted as her implying that she wanted him to stay in her room and rest for the night...

As she tried to explain, she saw that Ning Fan did not even take it to heart. He smiled without uttering any words from his mouth. He then walked to the table in front of the window and wrote something. After that, he held the female corpse and walked out of the room, vanishing in the snow.

The heavy stone in Su Yao's heart was finally lifted...

However, when she saw how Ning Fan held the female corpse's hand, she felt slightly disappointed...

When Ning Fan arrived earlier, she was fearful of him. But when Ning Fan left, she felt lost.

She placed her hands on her lips, recalling how she had been forcefully kissed by Ning Fan just now. Just as those scenes resurfaced in her memories, her face turned reddish.

“Being kissed... Can this be considered as me losing my virginity?”

Her thoughts were in confusion.

She stood up and lightly walked towards the window.

A smooth stone pressed against a piece of white paper. There were a few words written on it. The words were made up of strokes that were both sharp and swift and displayed a sense of grace and vigor, revealing the strength and style of the writer’s character.

Those characters were excellently written.

Throughout her seven hundred years of cultivation, Su Yao had seen and studied different kinds of people. Therefore, she knew how to judge a person through his words.

Those short, one-lined characters written using ink contained the verve that was capable of ruling the lands under the heavens, making Su Yao’s eyes flash in awe.

“Good handwriting...”

The handwritings were indeed nice. However, the message contained in the words made Su Yao’s face flush in awkwardness and angrily spat a curse on him.

“A lonely woman who masturbates is not wrong. Similarly, being selfish is not wrong as everyone has their own devils in their hearts.”

Pah I thought this Zhou Ming was a decent man. But the message he implied is so improper...

What does he mean by “a woman who masturbates is not wrong”...?

How is such a shameful act not considered a wrongful deed...?

Wait. He really saw it, didn't he?!

“He said he wants me to thank him the next time he comes to Bi Yao Sect... Don't tell me...he wants me to...have sex with him...”

Su Yao's hands quivered as she carefully kept the paper.

She bit her lip with worry filling her eyes.

...

After a short while, Ning Fan had cast aside the matter about Su Yao.

Other than pleasing women, he still had much more important matters to do.

Fortunately, with Yu Long as his servant, he did not need to entertain the cultivators who came to pay him a visit. To him, those unnecessary and superfluous formalities should be handled by his servant as he should focus on cultivating and killing others!

The auction would begin in another 7 days. Before that, he wanted to meet Xu Rushan.

He was able to wait a little longer to get the Profound Heart of Mother Earth. However, he wanted to keep all the human cauldrons that would be auctioned for himself first.

If there is a chance, he would also want to get his hands on the Spirit Severing Realm human cauldron he heard from the rumors too!

Plucking a Nascent Soul Realm human cauldron would grant him approximately 20 to 30 units of magic power.

But plucking a Spirit Severing Realm human cauldron would grant him at least 500 units of magic power!

With his current cultivation level, he would be able to retain much more magic power if he consumes the Green Phoenix Flame, giving him nearly a hundred units of magic power.

This sizeable Pleasure Devil Island should have a lot of pills that can increase the cultivation level of Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivators.

If everything goes smoothly, Ning Fan would be able to accumulate enough magic power to break through to the Peak Nascent Soul Realm... But regarding the specifics of the plan, he would only know after meeting with Xu Rushan.

Besides, the spiritual veins and spiritual minerals of this island had plentiful of the gold element. No other place would be better than this for Ning Fan to cultivate the second finger of his Sword Finger.

However, if he were to cultivate that technique, he might cause the island to lose most of its spiritual power. If that happens, Xu Rushan might see Ning Fan as his enemy and the outcome would be unfavorable to Ning Fan.

Since this Xu Rushan treated me quite well, it would be more appropriate if I consult him for his suggestion, just like the saying goes, courtesy demands reciprocity.

In the snow, his movement might not be fast but his body appeared to be floating like a ghost.

Occasionally, his body would almost turn into a gust of green smoke that floated in the air.

Every step he made was like a man strolling idly in a courtyard. However, each of his steps would make him disappear into green smoke and instantly reappear thousands of li* away.

This kind of movement technique was much more profound than teleportation. It resembled the Instant Shift technique of a Spirit Severing Realm expert, though it was still way slower than that of the Spirit Severing Realm movement technique.

After passing by another market, he reached the border checkpoint of the external part of the island. Beyond the gate, it would be the forbidden area - the internal part of Pleasure Devil Island...

Ning Fan passed through each and every line of defense of the checkpoint but none of the Nascent Soul Realm experts were able to discover his intrusion.

When his shadow emerged in the mountain which was suspended in midair - the Blissful Summit, the Gold Core Realm guards of the mountain were deeply shocked.

“Who, Who are you?!”

When they recognized that the man who came was the person whom Xu Rushan ordered to treat with utmost respect, the guards only felt relieved. Even so, they still could not restrain themselves from becoming awestruck by the terrifying movement technique of the young man before them who trespassed the border checkpoint unnoticed.

“Greetings to Young Master Zhou! The old ancestor has orders that Young Master can directly enter the internal hall once you arrive.”

They knew that Ning Fan’s surname was Zhou but they have not been told that his full pseudonym was actually Zhou Ming.

“Mm-hmm.”

Ning Fan nodded his head and brought the female corpse with him into the mountain.

The Blissful Summit was a mountain of spiritual minerals. It was one hundred thousand zhang* tall. From afar, the mountain appeared to be glistening due to its black glossy surface. The inside of the mountain had been hollowed out to build a palace-like room.

On both sides of the passage to the mountain, a slew of weapons and magical treasures were attached on the walls. The force that magnetized gold and iron was the Primordial Magnetic Force.

Along the path, Ning Fan counted the number of weapons on the wall. In total, there were more than a hundred Supreme Grade Magical Treasures. That is to say, at least a hundred Nascent Soul Realm experts had once been defeated and killed by Xu Rushan.

Xu Rushan might be temperate in his attitude towards Ning Fan, but his attitude actually depended on the people he was faced with.

When he committed a brutal slaughter in the External Endless Sea, maybe Ning Fan had yet to be born into this world.

When they walked into a remote area of the mountain, the path was split into multiple entrances.

In his current location, if he spread his spirit sense to probe the paths, he would definitely be injured by the Primordial Magnetic Force. He gazed at each and every path in front of him, trying to figure out the way. All of a sudden, a female servant emerged and approached him.

“Miss, may...”

Before he could raise his question, the maidservant took the lead to speak to him.

“Is Young Master lost?”

“Er. Yes.”

“If that is the case, please follow me...”

Her eyes landed on the female corpse beside Ning Fan, feeling astonished by the latter’s absolute beauty. However, her astonished look was immediately replaced by strangeness.

Why did this Young Master bring a woman when he’s coming to attend the Mistress’ appointment to admire the beauty of flowers...

Ning Fan did not think much about it.

He did not ask where they were heading and he just quietly followed the maidservant, thinking that this maidservant was someone who was sent by Xu Rushan to guide him.

Their path was not straight at all. They had to turn left and right as if they were climbing a mountain. When they finally reached the peak of the mountain, their faces immediately brightened up.

Whiffs of flower scents blew against their faces, entering their nostrils. The dark, gloomy path finally turned into a beautiful and enchanting backyard garden.

The pots which held those plants were carved and adorned in a natural manner. There were the rare grasses of the mortal world; the immortal flowers of the cultivation world; and also colorful butterflies dancing around them.

Tens of elegant and good-looking young masters were discussing about the plants in the garden while enjoying the beautiful scenery. They acted like they loved plants but if one took a closer look, impatience filled their eyes.

A sweet-sounding melody filled the air from a path deep within the garden. There was a pergola there and a person playing a qin².

Two maidservants stood cautiously beside the yellow-robed girl who was closing her eyes while passionately plucking the unfretted strings on her qin.

“Hmm? Here comes another ‘profit-seeking person’?”

Her sense of hearing was extremely acute that she was able to hear footsteps from distance, though it did not interrupt her.

But when she continued to listen, she found out that there were actually two persons.

One of them had soft footsteps, showing her light bodyweight while the other one's footsteps were rather heavy and firm.

I suppose they must be a man and a woman.

"Which Young Master is interesting enough to bring another woman here while trying to please my father in order to marry me..." Xu Qiuling laughed but her eyes remained shut while her fingers continued to dance on the qin.

This place was Xu Qiuling's personal garden.

The other men should have been invited by Xu Rushan himself to discuss about the marriage of her daughter, Xu Qiuling. If Xu Qiuling took a fancy on any of the young masters and nodded her head in approval, Xu Rushan would immediately proceed to plan her marriage.

Unfortunately, there was no one she liked.

The only person whom she looked highly of was the man that appeared out of nowhere in the market that day - the elegant and unconventional young man who did not reveal his name.

"Mistress. Please have a look. This newly arrived Young Master is quite handsome. However, he seems to be a married man as he had brought another woman here... The woman is also extremely beautiful..."

"Superficial appearance is like the floating clouds. People will get old in the end no matter what..." Xu Qiuling let out a faint sigh. Even though her maidservant complimented the young man, she did not bother to open her eyes.

"After Mistress attains the Spirit Severing Realm, there will be lots of pills for the Mistress. How will Mistress ever get old? I believe Mistress will look young and beautiful forever..."

"Humans may not age but the heart will. On a similar note, even if the appearance remains the same, the heart won't... These people are merely seeking benefits from our sect through marrying me... Look

at all the men who came to admire the flowers. Which of them harbor no ulterior motives and only love flowers like me? All they want is my father's power... Speaking of which, why haven't the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea who hunger for my father's power showed up..."

"Mistress. This servant heard that one of the Seven Sons, Young Master Zhao, from the Profound Virtue Sect had been murdered. After that incident, the remaining six left this island immediately..."

Beng

The string on the qin broke.

After a moment of silence, she kept the qin and took out another new one and continued plucking the strings.

Then, she said in a cold tone, " Oh... He's dead? Zhao Ziji may look refined and elegant on the surface but deep inside, he was wicked. An elegant person will never survive in the External Endless Sea. A wicked person, who does not possess true strength, will only be a buffoon who performs antics. It isn't strange at all that he would die. However, I wonder who murdered him. Besides, is that Young Master involved?"

As compared to Zhao Zijin, it was obvious that Xu Qiuling was concerned about the young master whom she met for the first time by chance in the market.

However, her maidservant did not reply to her. As a servant, there was no way that she could know the details of an incident like that.

On the other hand, Ning Fan was completely unaware. Without doing anything, he was already defined as a secular young master who fawned upon the rich and powerful persons by Xu Qiuling.

Moreover, he completely had no idea that his presence was deeply etched into her heart.

Chapter 228 (2): Xu Qiuling

Some women would spend the rest of their lives silently waiting for you to be their soul mates, and it's because of your demeanor that had unconsciously attracted them even though they don't even know your name.

Xu Qiuling let out another faint sigh. Her hands remained on the qin plucking the strings but this time, she opened her mouth and sang. Her voice was soft and gentle, harmonizing the melody of the qin.

"I opened my eyes all night long, thinking it would repay your faded smile. Blowing off the candle and walking to the shadow of the flower in the moonlight. Ten years had passed, I could still feel you; ten years had passed, my heart still beats for you..."

There was the feeling of regret hidden within her voice; a regret that she did not have the chance to know the man.

As her voice echoed in the air, each of the young masters cocked their ears as excitement filled their expressions.

This Mistress Xu suddenly sang. Could it be that her heart was touched by someone among us?

Otherwise, based on her cool and indifferent attitude, she would disdain singing for others.

When her voice reached into Ning Fan's ears, it could not stir him up with much emotion, though it was pleasant to hear.

He was not uncultured but there was a lot of time he did not know how to enjoy such arts and culture. In fact, he did not find anything worth examining in this garden full of exotic flowers and rare grasses. Also, he did not know why this voice which could only be barely considered sweet could make the young masters feel that excited.

Ning Fan then realized that he had come to the wrong place.

Maybe the maidservant mistook me as a young master who has come to attend the gathering of Xu Qiuling.

Actually, he held a good impression of that lady but that was it.

However, Ning Fan did not intend to immediately leave. Instead, his gaze swept across all the young masters in the garden. When there was no sign of the six sons, his lips curved into a smirk.

Zhao Zijin is dead but the other six aren't here...

The reason why the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea came to the Pleasure Devil Sea from far away was because they were also invited to this gathering and also, they all carried the intention of pleasing Xu Qiuling. But in the end, after one of them died, the other six chose to escape.

Of course they fled for their lives since they did not appear in the garden.

If it was not Yan Zhongze, it must be Zhuo Tong who hastily escorted the six of them away, fearing that I will wipe out the remaining six of them out of rage.

Maybe it's the cause for the absence of the six sons in this garden.

It seems that my devil prestige has even struck fear into the hearts of the Spirit Severing Realm experts of the External Endless Sea.

Escorting the disciples to flee by night... Hmm. Interesting.

I have seen both the flowers and the people here. There's no meaning for me to stay any further.

He held the female corpse, intending to walk away but to his surprise, she shook off Ning Fan's hand and reached out for a Bell Orchid and plucked it.

When the greyish Bell Orchid was broken away from its stem, it rang sorrowfully.

Suddenly, all the young masters turned towards them with a shocked expression.

There are maniacs who dared to pluck Mistress Xu's favorite flower?! Are they courting death?!

"Hey! Which clan are you from? How dare you pluck Mistress Xu's orchid?!"

Multiple fierce and unkind stares focused on them. However, the female corpse had no idea of what was happening. After she plucked the dark orchid, she wore it on her ears.

She then turned towards Ning Fan and shot him a pure, innocent look adorned with a broad smile.

"Light...Is...it...nice?" She eagerly asked as if she wanted to get a compliment from him.

"Yes. It's nice. But you're really a troublemaker..."

Ning Fan rubbed her hair and laughed.

She plucked the flower and it was the most treasured flower of Xu Qiuling...

I wonder if that Xu Qiuling would turn into a lioness and find trouble with me.

Xu Qiuling stopped singing. The melody of the qin ceased to echo in the air as if it heard the wail of the broken orchid. Her eyebrows knitted in annoyance and she opened her cold-piercing eyes.

"Which young master would be so cruel to my orchid..."

As she was going to severely criticize the person, she suddenly became tongue-tied. The grief and built-up wrath in her eyes instantly turned into surprise.

"It's you!"

It's you?

All of the young masters from well-known families who expected to witness Ning Fan's misfortune were bewildered. Their expectations did not come into reality.

Moreover, after Mistress Xu saw Ning Fan, she did not reprimand him for plucking her favorite flower at all. On the contrary, the grief she had in her eyes earlier turned into happiness.

Everyone began to harbor hostility towards Ning Fan.

Who is this guy?! He seems to have successfully seized Mistress Xu's heart!

"I'm sorry. Weiliang was not being sensible earlier as she had just plucked your flower..."

"Weiliang is your wife? She has such a nice name... Since the damage had already been done, I can't do anything about it. But I wonder what made you come to Qiuling's flower house. Don't tell me..."

Don't tell me that he has come to talk about marriage with me?

It was too embarrassing for her to open her mouth and directly ask him that question. Her mind turned blank but deep inside, she felt a hint of sweetness.

The sweetness she felt was because the unknown young master, whom she had been longing for, had appeared.

The blankness of her mind was because the young master already had a wife...

"Weiliang? Yea. I guess she could be considered as my wife..."

A wistful look appeared on Ning Fan's appearance.

If there was no female corpse, he would have been already dead in Ning City. It was him who tarnished her purity. Therefore, he felt responsible for her.

"Light...Me...Your wife?"

The female corpse pointed at herself. Her large, round eyes looked confused. Obviously, she had no idea about what the word "wife" meant.

"Yes. Wife."

That lost look on her face made Ning Fan feel sympathy for her. He then patted her head, feeling more determined to help her recover her complete soul.

He turned towards Xu Qiuling and said, "I apologize for my impoliteness. Actually, this Young Master Zhou is not here to attend the matter regarding Mistress Xu. I was just...lost..."

Giggle

Xu Qiuling covered her mouth with the sleeve of her robe as she could not hold back a smile at Ning Fan.

When she found out that Ning Fan did not come for her, she felt a little down. However, that sounded more appropriate as bringing a wife to come and seek a marriage alliance could be considered an impertinent act towards Xu Qiuling. If that really is the case, she would be even more disappointed.

After hearing Ning Fan addressed himself with the surname Zhou, she secretly remembered it.

Oh. This Young Master actually has the surname Zhou.

But it was completely out of her expectation that Ning Fan would tell her that he was lost.

This young master seems to not be concerned much about his own embarrassing situation.

He really is a strange man.

“Where do you want to go? Let me, Qiuling, personally guide you there...So that you won’t get lost again and enter the rooms of the other ladies in this mountain by mistake. If not, my father is going to be angry with you...”

“It’s a bit ridiculous. Mistress is the daughter of an important man. Having Mistress as Young Master Zhou’s guide seems to be a condescending act.” Ning Fan cast her a smile.

This lady is quite interesting.

“It will be fine... Xiao Ling, see the visitors out!”

She indifferently ordered one of her maidservants. From the beginning till now, she did not even cast a glance upon the other young men.

In the entire garden, it seemed like only Ning Fan was the only man who got her attention.

Each of the descendants of the noble families also came to seek a marriage alliance. However, all of them were “chased away” by Xu Qiuling in an ignorant manner. Naturally, they felt dissatisfied.

They were envious of Ning Fan, especially when they saw the dignified mistress of the Xu Family stoop to offer to guide him.

For what?!

For what reason is this man being treated like that after what he had done?! Why would he even be appreciated by her?!

“This friend. Can you please at least tell us your name?!” A few of the young masters from the powerful forces asked in an assertive tone.

“You won’t wish to know my name. Because the previous person who asked my name had already died. I suppose you all should know who the late Zhao Zijin was... If any of you want to follow in his footsteps, by all means, please.”

Suck in cold breaths

The expressions of each of the young masters changed after listening to Ning Fan’s words.

One of the Sevens Sons of the External Endless Sea, Zhao Zijin, from the Profound Virtue Sect had met a sudden death. All of them had at least heard about it. Besides, any news about his death was sealed off by the top ten sects, let alone the information of the person who committed the murder. That fact alone was sufficient enough to show that the murderer was a person who either possessed heaven-defying power or had an extremely influential background that could force the top ten sects to keep it confidential!

The murderer is this young master before our very eyes?!

If it really is him, he is someone whom we must never offend!

Those who were acting tough and bold earlier immediately kept their mouths tightly shut because of Ning Fan’s words.

In a way, it was a good thing as it saved Ning Fan the effort of killing a group of insignificant beings that were comparable to a group of kittens and puppies.

Xu Qiuling’s tiny mouth was slightly agape. She had never imagined that the gentle and elegant Ning Fan was capable of killing Zhao Zijin.

However, neither did she think Ning Fan was lying nor his action was sinful in the External Endless Sea.

In a place like this, if you aren't capable of protecting yourself by killing others, you will then end up dead, getting killed by others... This is the undeniable sad truth about the cultivation world.

However, if he can kill Zhao Zijin, then his cultivation level should at least be at the Mid Nascent Soul Realm.

Past memories flashed and surfaced in her mind.

In the past, she secretly erased Zhao Zijin's spirit sense tracking seal on Ning Fan.

In the past, she reminded Ning Fan to be more cautious in the External Endless Sea.

In the past, she also tried to entice Ning Fan with just ten thousand immortal jade for the Bell Orchid.

Now, everything she did seemed to be unnecessary.

If he truly is a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, what I did should be laughable in his eyes.

Her face blushed in shyness. She wished to have a place to hide herself right now.

"Young Master seems to hide a lot about yourself..."

"However, I still can't match the Mistress... This place is named as the Grave of Flowers. But it is not for burying flowers. Instead..."

"Don't speak!" Xu Qiuling's eyes turned red as if she was holding back something melancholic to herself. In the next second, the sudden sadness on her face faded, replaced by a calm smile.

"Young Master truly understands Qiuling. Let me be frank with Young Master. What you said is true..."

Yes. I, Xu Qiuling, don't have much time left.

Yes. This place was prepared to bury me...

But he saw through it.

He truly is the person I am waiting for after so long. But he appeared a little too late...

“Isn't Mistress going to lead the way...”

“Ah. I almost forgot about it. I'm sorry... Where does Young Master want to go? I am willing to lead you to every place including where my father stores his magical treasures and pills, but of course except for the women's living area”

“Oh?”

Ning Fan could not help but laugh.

This Qiuling resembles Lan Mei a lot.

After meeting each other for just several times, she is willing to bring me, a stranger, to Xu Rushan's treasure room and pill room.

People say that women's hearts tend to be extroversive. But not to mention my true name, I have even yet to tell her my complete pseudonym.

The good feelings she has for me seems to have developed too fast.

She sure is an interesting lady, isn't she?

“Actually, I have something to discuss with Senior Xu. I hope you can lead us there.”

“This...” Xu Qiuling frowned as if Ning Fan made things difficult for her.

“Am I troubling you?”

“No. It’s not... But today my father is going to entertain an important guest. He is a devil lord in the External Endless Sea who committed innumerable murders and violated countless wives and daughters. He is cruel, ruthless and he had done every heinous crime. Young Master must be extra careful to not provoke him when meeting him later... Otherwise, even if Young Master is a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, you might...”

“Mm-hmm. Thank you for your concern, Mistress Qiuling. I will take note of that...”

Ning Fan did not know whether to cry or laugh.

Is my reputation that bad?

As for Qiuling, when she heard Ning Fan calling out her name, her face flushed red uncontrollably.

He just called...my name...

In the envious eyes of many young masters, Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling entered into the internal hall of Blissful Summit.

That was the place where Xu Rushan entered into secluded meditation. It was a forbidden area where no ordinary people or personnel could enter, including them!

Ning Fan left a favorable impression in the eyes of Xu Qiuling and was able to enter.

Meanwhile, the rest of the young masters were guided to the door and were sent home.

Now, they no longer dare to hate Xu Qiuling or Ning Fan out of jealousy.

The first one was the daughter of a Spirit Severing Realm expert while the latter was a ferocious devil lord who claimed to have killed one of the seven sons.

They could not afford to provoke either one of them!

Chapter 229 (1): Evil Luo Mountain

On the long-winded path on the mountainside, Ning Fan, the female corpse and Xu Qiuling walked together.

All the guards and maidservants who saw Xu Qiuling on their way would immediately courteously greet or salute them.

Naturally, no one would question Ning Fan's presence.

At first, Xu Qiuling did not talk much and would only occasionally mention things like nature, flowers, birds, insects and fish. With the memories of Emperor Ancient Chaos, Ning Fan could be considered a person of boundless wisdom and knowledge. Sometimes, his words would make Xu Qiuling's eyes flash in surprise.

“Young Master really is a refined scholar...”

“Refined scholar, huh...”

Ning Fan laughed.

If she finds out that the so-called refined scholar is actually the devil lord of the External Endless Sea whom she detests the most, I guess she would probably be very depressed...

At the same time, Ning Fan meditated in silence, pondering the eccentricity of Xu Qiuling's body.

This Xu Qiuling is going to die very soon...Hmm...

If Ning Fan was not wrong, there was a domineering gold element spiritual power within her body which was draining her life force away. She might look bright and energetic on the surface, but she would possibly die at any moment given her current condition.

As for the gold element spiritual power, it should be...

He lightly knitted his brows.

I think I will have to save her too.

Of course, it was mainly because of the great benefits he could obtain. He also did not want this lady to die.

At the end of the winding corridor was a gigantic light-red door made of bronze.

Xu Qiuling stopped outside of the door and took a deep breath. She took out a red bronze pass and uttered a few incantations on it.

Immediately, the enormous door trembled and turned into a red virtual shadow and disappeared.

"Young Master Zhou. My father is in the hall. When you meet my father, you must speak cautiously..."

"Thank you for your reminder, Mistress. And don't worry, I will."

Xu Qiuling was worried in her mind. After all, in her eyes, her father was a person with a capricious mood and treated killing people as simply cutting down hemp. Even if Ning Fan was a cultivator with outstanding talent, his life would still be in danger if her father turned mad.

Judging by the time, Father should still be entertaining the devil lord, Zhou Ming... Would that fearless and reckless man kill Young Master Zhou?

She hesitated on continuing to guide them into the hall. But to her surprise, when the door opened, there was no one like the devil lord in her imagination. Instead, there were only two old men who seemed to be waiting for someone. As they caught sight of Ning Fan, they did not feel weird at all, as if he was the person they were waiting for this whole time. Immediately, they stood up and cupped their fists to greet him.

“Fellow Daoist Zhou, you’ve finally arrived. We have been waiting for you!”

“Haha! Brother Zhou has finally arrived!”

One of the voices belonged to Xu Rushan while the other one was Yan Zhongze’s.

As their voices fell, the two Spirit Severing Realm old ancestors vanished into green smoke and dashed out of the hall to welcome Ning Fan!

“Father, you...”

Xu Qiuling was literally shocked by them. In a way, this lady who was always calm and indifferent looked rather cute especially when her face was filled with surprise.

It was beyond her expectation that her father and Uncle Yan from the Wind Treading Sect who were both dignified Spirit Severing Realm experts personally welcomed Young Master Zhou’s arrival!

Originally, she was worried that this Young Master Zhou would provoke her father or Uncle Yan. But based on what she saw, her father and Uncle Yan seemed to be more than happy to see him. There was not even a hint of unhappiness...

Deep inside, an extremely absurd thought surfaced in her mind.

Don't tell me the Young Master Zhou who is standing beside me now is the person whom my father and Uncle Yan have been waiting for...Is he Zhou Ming?

"Impossible... How could Young Master Zhou be the notorious Zhou Ming... Moreover, even if Young Master Zhou is the devil lord Zhou Ming, my father and Uncle Yan's attitude towards him is overly courteous..."

When Xu Rushan greeted Ning Fan, he slightly bowed his body. It might look insignificant but it actually showed his heartfelt respect towards Ning Fan! In the past, the only person whom Xu Rushan respected in that manner was Venerated Giant. But today, it was towards Ning Fan...

It's just too abnormal!

As for Yan Zhongze, when he cupped his fist, he secretly moved half a step backward. Though it was just a movement of the leg, it meant that deep inside him, he actually held fear towards Ning Fan. His body reacted in that manner out of caution!

A dignified Spirit Severing Realm fears a junior cultivator and has to be so cautious when facing him?! That's just too unusual!

Xu Qiuling could not figure it out no matter how hard she tried.

She turned to look at Ning Fan as if she was seeking an explanation.

"May I be so bold to ask what Young Master Zhou's name is?"

“I’m sorry I did not reveal my name although we have met a few times already... My name is Zhou Ming.”

Zhou Ming!

He is... Zhou Ming?!

This is what that devil lord whom I hate so much looks like?!

“How...How come...”

Xu Qiuling silently stared at Ning Fan with her eyes which were full of confusion. She just could not accept this sudden contradicting truth.

This gentle and refined young man before me is the devil lord who struck fear into the hearts of every cultivator of the External Endless Sea?

He is clearly a man with good behavior. How come he’s said to be an adulterer who commits every evil crime?

Qiuling knew that her father was going to meet the devil lord Zhou Ming today.

Aside from that, her father had asked her to meet that Zhou Ming earlier but she resolutely rejected him.

She was reluctant to even see him.

But if the person my father wanted me to meet is Young Master Zhou, I would reconsider my choice...

“You really hide a lot of things about yourself...” Xu Qiuling let out a faint sigh.

She had spoken something similar when they were in the Grave of Flowers. But the feelings she had when she spoke it now was completely different from the previous time.

So this Young Master Zhou is actually Zhou Ming, the person who can make my father and Uncle Yan lower themselves to befriend him. I've underestimated him...

No matter how bad his reputation might be, Xu Qiuling was more inclined to believe her own eyes. The Zhou Ming she saw was a lively, elegant man who gave no heed to what others thought of him at all...

But when she thought of the unpleasant words she told him about Zhou Ming and the reminder she gave him, she did not know whether he would take it as an offense or not.

A hint of anger filled her heart. Inwardly, she blamed Ning Fan for not telling her his full name, causing her to make a fool out of herself in front of him.

However, she could understand why Ning Fan chose to hide his name from Xu Qiuling.

He did not want me to fear him because of his identity.

Xu Qiuling was perplexed and her expression hardened. For a moment, she seemed to not know how to face Ning Fan after knowing that sudden shocking fact.

As for Ning Fan, he cupped his fist out of courtesy in return to the two Spirit Severing Realm experts but his eyes turned solemn.

Xu Rushan seems to be showing excessive respect to me... There must be a reason for it. All in all, he should not harbor any malice towards me.

In regards to Yan Zhongze, it's normal for him to put up his guard when facing me. The single punch I used to neutralize his five palms combo attack is nearly strong enough to offset his seven palms combo attack. The impact of that punch alone had even caused him to suffer injuries. As such, it isn't considered something abnormal.

The absence of Old Ancestor Zhuo Tong from the Purple Charm Gate gave Ning Fan a confirmation about his earlier guess.

Yan Zhongze is here but Zhuo Tong isn't. The latter is probably escorting the six sons to return to their respective sects to avoid any misfortune.

“Hehe. I can tell Fellow Daoist Zhou's intentions in meeting us. Let's have a long discussion about it in the internal hall. What do you think?”

“Fine.”

The extensive bronze hall was full of strange marks engraved on the wall. In the middle of the hall, there were a seat for the host and some seats for the guests beside it.

They did not exchange much greetings. Instead, just as they had occupied their seats, Xu Rushan took out an ancient-looking map and spread it on a table made of bronze.

“Please have a look, Fellow Daoist Zhou. This map shows the periphery of the Secret Realm. It is approximately 70 million li*. I have witnessed Fellow Daoist's strength and I know the reason why Fellow Daoist came today. This old man has prepared some lavish gifts for you. Apart from that, if Fellow Daoist has some other things that you need, this old man will grant it to you, as long as it will be helpful to you in your mission. However, I want to have a word of assurance from Fellow Daoist. After looking at the map, how confident are you in hunting down 150 Fake Wild Beasts within 5 months?!”

What?! Did I hear correctly?! Father is pleading Young Master Zhou to enter the Secret Realm of the Broken World and hunt 150 Fake Wild Beasts?!

Xu Qiuling slightly gaped in astonishment and her eyes were filled with disbelief.

Does he know what that Secret Realm of the Broken World is? It's an extremely dangerous place where even the lives of Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts would be at risk. Besides, being able to kill one of the beasts would make you an exceptional being among the Peak Nascent Soul Realm. Now, Father wants

him to kill 150 of them? What a terrifying number... Furthermore, he needs to complete that mission within only 5 months? How could it be possible?!

She had heard before of Zhou Ming's conspicuous notoriety. Also, she had heard how uncommonly strong he was, making him the strongest cultivator below the Spirit Severing Realm. Even so, she still thought that her father was too reckless by asking Zhou Ming to risk his life by entering into the Secret Realm.

As her gaze landed on the ancient map, her scalp had gone numb just by seeing the mountains and rivers which were thickly dotted in red.

Each of the red dots represented one Fake Wild Beast. All the information on the map was gathered by one of the Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts from the Pleasure Devil Sect who had entered the Secret Realm several times. Even though it might not be completely accurate, it would be unlikely for it to be wrong.

This map only revealed the outer part of the Secret Realm. In spite of that, there were at least three massive groups of them, constituting of hundreds of them residing in that area.

Chapter 229 (2): Evil Luo Mountain

Hunting 150 Fake Wild Beasts within five months. Even my father would at best only have 70% assurance in accomplishing that mission if he's the one who enters the Secret Realm... I wonder how sure he is in completing this mission... No matter how strong he may be, he is not a Spirit Severing Realm expert after all.

"Originally, I only have 70% assurance. But now that I have the map, I can somewhat perform sneak attacks and avoid risky confrontations. That's why I'm 80% confident in succeeding."

What?! He is that confident of himself?

Xu Qiuling was inwardly astonished. Though she knew Young Master Zhou for only a brief period, she could tell that he was not a person who would try to gain the people's favor by saying something impressive...

If he says 80%, then there is no reason to doubt him. Having such confidence in hunting down 150 Fake Wild Beasts in just five months...I guess even my father will only be 70% certain of doing it himself. Could it be that this Zhou Ming is stronger than my father?

“Only 80%...” Xu Rushan and Yan Zhongze exchanged glances. A hint of anxiety could be faintly seen from their eyes.

Eighty percent assurance... Is Father still not satisfied even though he already has such a level of confidence?

How high exactly is Father’s expectations on Zhou Ming?!

“Precisely. The reason I claim to only have 80% assurance is because Senior Xu only showed me the map of the outer part of the Secret Realm. If any of the ferocious beasts within the inner part of the Secret Realm comes out and hinder me from killing the Fake Wild Beasts, I can’t guarantee that I will be able to complete the task given to me.”

The affairs of the world are always changing and unpredictable. If Ning Fan could not see what’s within the inner part of the Secret Realm, he could not guarantee the completion of the mission.

“Oh I see... If that is Fellow Daoist’s concern, I think you can be at ease. There wouldn’t be a single beast from the inner part to come out and disturb Fellow Daoist. This is because there is a formation light that separates the inner and outer areas of the Secret Realm. With that formation on, nothing would be able to come out of there...That place might hold the truth as to why the Fake Wild Beasts can grow in such a rapid manner. But none of us really knows since there’s no way for us to get inside it...”

“Formation Light?”

Ning Fan’s brows knitted together.

The Secret Realm of the Broken World has a formation within it? It obviously holds some secrets inside waiting to be unraveled. But as long as it does not obstruct me from carrying out my mission, it will be fine.

“If there is no other potential disturbance, I can assure Fellow Daoist Xu that I can accomplish your mission.”

“Very well. Very well...”

Xu Rushan heaved a sigh of relief. If Ning Fan who has Jade Life Body Refining Realm do not even have 100% assurance of accomplishing it, maybe there would not be any other expert below the Spirit Severing Realm that could fulfill the impractical mission assigned by Venerated Giant.

“Now, Fellow Daoist, please see what this old man has prepared for you. If you find anything lacking, just tell me!”

Xu Rushan stood up with an awkward expression. He shook his head bitterly and clapped his hands twice. Immediately, 12 beautiful female cultivators with curvy bodies similar to an hourglass politely walked out from a room.

All of them were human cauldrons with unrivalled beauty, not to mention their exemplary bewitching techniques. As they arrived in front of Ning Fan, they lined up in an orderly manner and greeted him together.

“Greetings to Master...”

Each and every one of the women’s cultivation levels were at the Nascent Soul Realm!

To Xu Rushan, gifting women as human cauldrons to another man in front of his own daughter was surely not a matter worth being proud of. It was no wonder Xu Rushan wore an embarrassed expression.

However, Xu Qiuling appeared to be quite used to it. Among the devil cultivators, gifting human cauldrons to others could be considered a common practice after all, though she did not like it...

But Xu Qiuling found out that these 12 women were all the remaining Nascent Soul Realm human cauldrons of Pleasure Devil Sect.

Father gifted all of them to Young Master Zhou. Is he planning on not auctioning them anymore?

“The 12 of them grew up in my Pleasure Devil Sect since they were young. Each of them has uncommon bodies and are extremely suitable to be plucked... I heard Fellow Daoist Zhou used to cultivate with the help of human cauldrons. Therefore, are my gifts enough to satisfy Fellow Daoist?”

Ning Fan’s face was emotionless. Within his heart, he let out a faint sigh.

To him, the twelve Nascent Soul Realm human cauldrons together was a really expensive gift but what made him feel disappointed was that there was no sign of the Spirit Severing Realm female cauldron anywhere.

“Fellow Daoist wants the Spirit Severing Realm human cauldron?” Xu Rushan asked, as if he saw through Ning Fan’s thoughts.

“I’m sorry but it might be quite laughable...” Ning Fan bitterly laughed.

“Hehe... This old man isn’t actually trying to be stingy. However, this Spirit Severing Realm human cauldron was captured by the Giant Devil Sect within the Internal Endless Sea. She had quite a powerful influence. If Fellow Daoist obtains that human cauldron, it may not be a fortunate thing, it might be a disaster instead...”

Xu Rushan did not explain further what he meant by disaster. Obviously, there was some secret surrounding the woman.

“Really?” Ning Fan did not prolong the conversation and turned towards the 12 women.

“From now onwards, all of you will be my human cauldrons. If you don’t betray me, I will never mistreat you! At least, I can assure you that you can live the rest of your lives in peace!”

“Thank you Master for sparing our lives!”

The meaning that Ning Fan was trying to convey was clear: If you don't betray me; I won't kill you. The most I will do is to pluck you.

To the female cauldrons, it was indeed good news. So it was only natural for them to express their gratitude to him.

However, Xu Qiuling's feelings felt complicated. She disliked Ning Fan for keeping the human cauldrons. But from the perspective of a devil cultivator, she felt that Ning Fan was kinder than the others. At least, he would not kill, gift or resell them after using them...

Yes, Ning Fan did accept the 12 human cauldrons but it did not mean that he would give up on the Spirit Severing Realm human cauldron.

How exactly does she look like? I guess I would only know about it during the auction. If I really want it, I can just bid it with tons of immortal jade.

After seeing Ning Fan accepting all the human cauldrons without a hint of joy on his face, Xu Rushan put on an awkward smile.

It seems like they're not enough to buy this Zhou Ming's heart.

But he also has a point. To Nascent Soul Realm cultivators, 12 Nascent Soul Realm human cauldrons was considered a hefty gift. To Spirit Severing Realm experts, however, they aren't worth anything.

Xu Rushan stood in silence for a moment. Then he slapped his storage pouch and took out a set of silver armor which sparkled with silver light.

When he showed it to Ning Fan, a slight reluctance filled his face, as if he felt it painful to just give it away. Meanwhile, Yan Zhongze's eyes blazed with flames when he saw that armor.

“This is...the complete set of spiritual armor that Fellow Daoist Xu mentioned before?!” Ning Fan’s eyes widened a little. In his eyes, this complete set of spiritual armor was rather exceptional.

“Precisely! This set of spiritual armor is known as the Armor of the Silver General. It was the last piece of fine work done by a Spirit Augmentation Master who is already deceased. The entire set consists of seven parts: boots, bottom wear, upper mail, carpal armor, spiritual ring, spiritual pendant and a spiritual helmet. They are all at the Low Profound Earth Grade. The boots can increase your speed. The upper mail can increase the defense of the body. The carpal armor can enhance your physical strength. The spiritual ring improves the primordial power of the five elements. The spiritual pendant enhances resistance against bewitching technique and lastly, the spiritual helmet can block attacks aimed at your Sea of Consciousness. With this complete set of armor and Fellow Daoist’s Jade Life Body Refining Realm, Fellow Daoist can even block a few attacks from a Mid Spirit Severing Realm expert. Moreover, if the seven of them recognize you as their master at the same time, Fellow Daoist can activate the divine ability - Spiritual Formation...”

“Spiritual Formation?” Ning Fan raised one of his eyebrows. This set effect of the spiritual equipment set was equivalent to that of the First Level of Jade Life Realm. Besides, by wearing this set of spiritual equipment, it was enough for him to directly withstand Yan Zhongze’s five palms combined attack.

“Correct. Each part of the spiritual equipment contains a portion of the ability which is sealed off when they are not together. When all of them recognize you as their master, the ability will then be activated. That ability - Spiritual Formation, would speed up the recovery of your magic power by one level. Furthermore, when the seven stars fuse into one, it can condense the Heavenly Spiritual Power and congeal into a Heavenly Spiritual Sword to kill your enemies. Fellow Daoist would find out more about it in the future when you manage to gain their recognition... Regarding the greatness of this set of armor, I only have one comment. Assuming Fellow Daoist has yet to attain the Jade Life Body Refining Realm, if Fellow Daoist obtains the recognition from this set of armor, it would not be difficult for you to put up a fight against a Spirit Severing Realm expert! Even this old man would not be willing to fight against you...”

“Interesting... But can Fellow Daoist Xu explain to me what the emblem of a devil mountain on the spiritual armor means?”

Ning Fan believed that Xu Rushan was not lying. This set of armor truly was powerful.

But what made him doubtful was that such remarkable spiritual armor should not be in the hands of Xu Rushan, an Early Spirit Severing Realm expert.

Maybe this complete set of spiritual armor is not as simple as just a gift.

There was a devil mountain emblem imprinted on the silver armor, as if it was a representation of a powerful force.

If Ning Fan's guess was not wrong, there must be a special meaning by wearing this set of armor. It would then be difficult for him to take it off.

That mountain is rather familiar... It does resemble the Profound Earth Devil Mark on my back!

In the past, Ning Fan could not understand why Xu Rushan was so respectful towards him. Now, he could indistinctly know the reason.

Perhaps it's related to the devil mountain!

Furthermore, he only started to behave in that manner after I have condensed my new Divine Intent and summoned the image of the devil mountain.

What exactly is that mountain?

“Let me be frank with Fellow Daoist. That is an emblem of the Giant Devil Sect of the Internal Endless Sea. This spiritual equipment was given by Venerated Giant. And about that mountain, it's called Evil Luo Mountain! Does Fellow Daoist have any idea about it?”

“Evil Luo Mountain...”

When Ning Fan uttered those three words, he could faintly feel the devil marks on his back burning.

My devil marks must be closely related to this Evil Luo Mountain...

Chapter 230(1): Defeating Stone Warrior!

In the Profound Jade Palace, Ning Fan stared at the complete set of silver armor and his eyes began to fill with seriousness.

Evil Luo Mountain...

Ning Fan did not know anything about that mountain. However, Xu Rushan seemed to have found a satisfying answer from him.

“Is this the reason why he suddenly became so respectful towards me?”

After having Ning Fan promise to undertake the mission, Xu Rushan fulfilled whatever items Ning Fan requested for with no hesitation.

Other than the 12 Nascent Soul Realm human cauldrons and the complete set of Profound Earth Grade spiritual armor, Xu Rushan also gave him 50 million immortal jade, 20 Fourth Revolution Pill recipes, 5 Fifth Revolution Pill recipes, 3 Nascent Soul Realm Dao Fruit and 50 Heavenly Primordial Pills.

Aside from that, Ning Fan had also been given innumerable pills for restoring his magic power.

He also obtained a Mortal Void Realm spiritual iron which possesses the ability “Fire Spirit”. This spiritual iron could greatly enhance the power of magical treasures with the fire element. However, it was clearly unsuitable to use it to augment his Lightning Whip as it could only be enhanced by spiritual iron with “Gold Spirit” or “Lightning Spirit”. Although “Fire Spirit” was indeed not of the right element for the Lightning Whip and has currently no need for it, he would never think about returning it to Xu Rushan since it was already in his hands.

Aside from that, he also received two Profound Heaven Defective Treasures.

What Ning Fan never expected was for Xu Rushan to give him the Profound Liquid of Mother Earth in advance. Other than the Profound Heart of Mother Earth, Xu Rushan had completely granted him all the rewards according to their agreement.

200 drops of Profound Liquid of Mother Earth... 2000 units of magic power!

If he manages to consume all of them, he could advance straight into the Peak Nascent Soul Realm!

However, there was one fundamental problem that he faced: time. No matter what he chooses to refine, be it the Profound Liquid or the other items such as the Heavenly Profound Pills, Dao Fruits or Green Phoenix Flame, it would be very time-consuming.

Among all the alternatives he had to increase his cultivation level, the fastest and most time-saving approach would be plucking the human cauldrons.

The next second, he shook his Cauldron Ring and summoned a Nascent Soul Realm female.

“I need to pluck you, but I will allow you to keep your cultivation level at the Gold Core Realm.” He spoke indifferently.

“Thank you Master for deciding on not killing me. Please be gentle, Master...”

Five days later, Ning Fan plucked the Profound Yin of all the 12 Nascent Soul Realm women he received from Xu Rushan. His magic power increased by 215 units, amounting to a total of 675 units.

The reason why the magic power he gained from plucking the women was lesser than what he expected was because he wasted too much of his Yang Essence, which diminished the effect of plucking.

Plucking Nascent Soul Realm women isn't easy after all.

After plucking all the Nascent Soul Realm human cauldrons of the Pleasure Devil Sea, I suppose it will be rare to find any Nascent Soul Realm female cultivators in the External Endless Sea other than in Bi Yao Immortal Island.

He pushed the door open and exited his room. The female corpse behaved as obedient as usual, quietly following him from behind.

Ning Fan lifted his head, gazing into the vast sky. The wind and snow gradually compressed the aura surrounding Ning Fan into his body.

The increase of his magic power sharpened his comprehension towards the primordial power of heaven and earth.

For ordinary Nascent Soul Realm cultivators, firstly, they had to comprehend the grand momentum and then identify the bottleneck of advancing to the Spirit Severing Realm. Only after they attain the Spirit Severing Realm would they then comprehend their Divine Intents. However, what Ning Fan did was exactly the opposite of what was common practice.

Before the auction, there are two more things to do!

Firstly, cultivate the Second Finger of Sword Finger!

Secondly, refine the Armor of the Silver General!

He pressed his hands down on the ground and used Soul Extraction.

This time, however, he was not after the soul of the island, but half of the entire gold element spiritual power of the island!

The Joint Joyous Immortal Island was not a large island. With his current cultivation level, he was capable of extracting half of the power of the whole island!

Suddenly, a tremendous amount of gold element spiritual power entered into his body through his right hand, threatening to blow up his entire body.

At that very moment, the Joint Joyous Immortal Island was in chaos. Countless old monsters found out that the spiritual qi of the island had become abnormally thin for a moment!

Only experts at the Spirit Severing Realm could sense that someone performed the Soul Extraction ability and drew out the spiritual qi of the island!

Who's that?! That person has mastered the Soul Extraction ability?!

Xu Rushan and Yan Zhongze turned into green smoke and flew into the sky. Ning Fan once obtained Xu Rushan's approval to draw out half of the spiritual power from the island. Therefore, they naturally knew it was likely to be Ning Fan's doing. But they were inwardly astonished by his capability of performing that technique.

Meanwhile, there were four other Spirit Severing Realm experts who appeared in the vast darkness, bathing in the black snow. All of them wore imposing expressions.

Under the influence of the Primordial Magnetic Force, they carefully spread their spirit sense, trying to find out the expert who extracted the soul of the island. But no matter how hard they tried, their efforts were fruitless.

It was because Ning Fan had already entered into the Yuan Yao World after he obtained the gold element spiritual power of the island.

How could a Spirit Severing Realm expert of the external world discover his presence when he was in a chiliocosm?

In the Yuan Yao World, Ning Fan's body radiated gold light just like a man made of gold when he was encased by a massive amount of gold element spiritual power.

He strenuously pushed the gold element spiritual power into the second finger of his right hand in order to initiate his cultivation of the Second Finger.

First Finger, Mountain Crush.

Second Finger, Heaven Breaker!

The golden man sat down on the ground in a meditative position. As the gold element spiritual power was gradually forced into the tip of his finger, it brightly glowed, making it look like a mini version of the Sun.

The gold element power is already sufficient.

However, no matter what Ning Fan did, he could not unleash the power from his finger to perform the technique.

He felt as if there was an invisible layer hindering him from performing the technique.

He pondered in silence as thousands of thoughts ran through his brain. But in the end, an idea struck him.

There's something that can't be understood by just using my head.

I'm afraid that I will need to understand the essence of the technique through battle.

He ordered the female corpse to retreat to a safe distance. After that, he temporarily suppressed the spiritual power amassed on his finger and took out a stone statue from his storage pouch.

With a wave of his hand, the stone statue grew into the shape of a human and slowly regained its consciousness.

“Listen, Stone Warrior!”

When Stone Warrior was still barely conscious, Ning Fan gave out his orders with his tone carrying an immense aura, making the empty eyes of Stone Warrior immediately be filled with shock and astonishment.

“This aura is really strong! It’s almost comparable to that of a Spirit Severing Realm expert! You are just a Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivator but why would you have such powerful aura...”

In the next second, Stone Warrior only realized at this time that the place he was in now was a chiliocosm. Besides, he was familiar with this place even though it had undergone a complete change and had been restructured by Ning Fan.

“This is... This is the Mistress’ Yuan Yao World! Impossible! How did you get your hands on the Yuan Yao Jade?! What have you done to my Mistress?!”

“Bei Xiaoman is safe now. I have fulfilled my promise and became a Feudal Ranking Pill Master of the Lost World Palace. Besides, when Bei Xiaoman was injured, I treated her injuries. As for this jade, I took it from her hands and she did not resist.”

What a joke. Her masturbation clip was in Ning Fan’s hands. Of course, Bei Xiaoman would not dare to resist.

Stone Warrior hurriedly placed his hands on the trace of blood on his glabella. It was Bei Xiaoman’s blood, which was given to him when he, a spiritual puppet, recognized her as his master.

Only after discovering that the blood was safe and tranquil did Stone Warrior feel relieved. However, he was not convinced at all about what Ning Fan said that he had saved Bei Xiaoman. Even so, he reluctantly believed that Ning Fan did not harm her.

Ning Fan frowned lightly.

Now, it seems that Stone Warrior really is not that loyal to me after all. It would be quite troublesome to use him.

If my power becomes far greater than Stone Warrior, I might as well just return him to Bei Xiaoman, since his loyalty is not directed towards me.

As for Bei Xiaoman, she is already my human cauldron! It makes no difference to give such benefits to a human cauldron of mine!

“Fight me!”

In Ning Fan’s right eye, the Earth Controlling Devil Star flashed and a monstrous devil intent billowed from his body and dashed into the sky, congealing into a black evil mountain that shrouded the heavens. In a flash, Ning Fan’s shadow emerged at the summit of the mountain.

“FIGHT ME!”

His eyes looked down at Stone Warrior. At this very moment, Stone Warrior who was made of stones and soil sensed an overpowering pressure from Ning Fan. Currently, in Stone Warrior’s eyes, Ning Fan was no longer human. Instead, he saw the latter as a mountain; an evil mountain!

“This is... Devil Intent! But what grade is it?! No, it’s not of the Eighth Grade. The Seventh Grade... Wait... No...It’s actually of the Sixth Grade! This kid comprehended a Sixth Grade Devil Intent within a short period of time when I was unconscious?!”

The last time when Stone Warrior turned into a statue, Ning Fan was still at the Mid Nascent Soul Realm. This time, Ning Fan’s magic power had increased quite a lot. Not only that, what Stone Warrior was unable to believe was that Ning Fan who originally possessed the Eighth Grade Divine Intent of Rain now obtained a Sixth Grade Devil Intent.

Under that devil intent, Stone Warrior’s body trembled violently. His Divine Intent of Mountain was nothing before Ning Fan’s evil mountain!

He felt as if his ruler was in front of him!

“Come. Let’s have a fight!”

Ning Fan’s eyes turned icy cold. He planned to make Stone Warrior his opponent and comprehend the Second Finger through this battle.

As his cold-piercing eyes met Stone Warrior’s, the latter who was never easily shaken despite facing great changes in the past felt his heart sped up in anxiety.

“Yes!”

He was left with no other choice but to obey Ning Fan’s order.

Despite what he felt, deep inside, he still did not think that Ning Fan would be able to win against him.

He could tell what Ning Fan was up to. However, he was unsure whether the ability Ning Fan was trying to grasp was strong.

All in all, Stone Warrior was confident that he would not lose to Ning Fan!

“Bring it on! I was born to fight!”

At the foot of the evil mountain, Stone Warrior enlarged and transformed into a 700 zhang* tall giant. He thought he would be able to touch Ning Fan who was at the peak of the evil mountain but something strange happened.

In his original form, he was like an ant before the evil mountain.

In the form of a 700 zhang* tall giant, he was obviously taller and larger than the evil mountain in front of him. Despite that, his aura was far weaker than that of the evil mountain.

“Break!”

When Ning Fan opened his mouth and uttered a single word, Stone Warrior’s avatar nearly crumbled into pieces!

“What is this Devil Intent?! What mountain is this?! How did he make my body which is made of mountain rocks almost collapse with just a single thought?!”

Stone Warrior was appalled by the evil mountain. This evil mountain must have a powerful background. It was like the king of mountains. Such tyrannical ability could only be displayed by some of the Third Grade Divine Intent...The reason why this Devil Intent of Evil Mountain was just a Sixth Grade Intent was probably because Ning Fan had yet to completely comprehend it. If he does, perhaps this Devil Intent might be as powerful as a Third Grade Intent or even greater!

If Stone Warrior did not recognize it wrongly, the shadow of the evil mountain closely resembled the devil marks he inscribed on Ning Fan’s back.

Don’t tell me that I accidentally created some kind of powerful Devil Intent after the 99 inscriptions!

At this moment, Stone Warrior no longer dared to underestimate Ning Fan.

In the past, Ning Fan had to rely on the Grievance Technique to capture Stone Warrior. But now, he was capable of having the upper hand over Stone Warrior with just his Devil Intent, let alone suppressing him.

Stone Warrior understood that the reason why he could still maintain his avatar was because Ning Fan was being lenient on him.

A Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivator was showing mercy to his Early Spirit Severing Realm spiritual puppet...

“The fight starts...now!”

When Ning Fan's words fell, he made a step forward and leaped into the sky from the summit of the evil mountain. He lifted his finger and pointed towards Stone Warrior!

Under the power of his finger, countless mountains which he had brought into the Yuan Yao World from the outside world collapsed. The power of his finger would grow stronger and stronger for every mountain it collapses and absorbs power from.

When the image of the evil mountain behind his back collapsed and turned into a surge of devil qi and gathered in his finger, his finger glowed like the edge of a sword, striking directly at Stone Warrior's punch.

Stone Warrior did not expect that Ning Fan would retain the power amassed in his finger and only unleashed it when his finger came into contact with his body, blasting out on his punch.

In his thoughts, Ning Fan might have strong physical body, but he only possesses a Half-Step Jade Life Body Refining Realm. Compared to a true Jade Life Realm expert like himself, Ning Fan was still far weaker. Besides, he had transformed into his avatar while Ning Fan was just an ant whose body was eight chi* tall.

As soon as his punch met Ning Fan's finger, he felt a trace of power that could cause mountains to crack and the earth to split. However, it was not from his punch but Ning Fan's insignificant finger. A thunderous bang echoed in the sky. After receiving such forceful impact, his gigantic punch broke into pieces along with his arm!

The giant retreated tens of steps, flattening innumerable mountains and rivers before he could regain his balance. Suddenly, his eyes flashed with surprise!

“You have achieved the Jade Life Realm?!”

Chapter 230 (2): Defeating Stone Warrior!

It can't be wrong. This person has certainly attained the Jade Life Realm. Otherwise, his Sword Finger would at most make me fearful but not to the point of threatening my life.

As a result of taking his technique head on, my avatar's punch attack was crushed...

This could be considered the first time Stone Warrior suffered a loss in exchanging blows with Ning Fan!

Ning Fan did not answer Stone Warrior's question since the answer was obvious.

If he did not have Jade Life Body Refining Realm, he would not be so conceited as to engage Stone Warrior in direct confrontation.

The First Finger of Sword Finger, Mountain Crush used the power of the earth element which could naturally restrain Stone Warrior. Combined with his oppressive Devil Intent, injuring Stone Warrior with that ability was not strange at all!

"Evil Luo Mountain... This mountain must be something of great significance among the devil race... Now, I understand what Xu Rushan was trying to imply. He gifted me the Armor of the Silver General and informed me that it was from Venerated Giant of the Giant Devil Sect. Although he did not directly recruit me, if I want to increase the power of my Devil Intent, I must gain a clear idea of the ins and outs of Evil Luo Mountain... Stone Warrior might not have any knowledge about it but the members of the Giant Devil Sect should know... It seems that I really need to pay a visit to the Giant Devil Sect the next time I enter the Internal Endless Sea..."

Standing in midair, he inhaled a deep breath and cleared his thoughts. His eyes then focused on the tip of his finger.

The ray of golden light did not congeal into the Second Finger.

Not enough. It's still not enough...

"Let's fight again!"

Ning Fan leaped into the air and performed the First Finger multiple times and pointed directly at Stone Warrior's body.

After discovering Ning Fan's true body refining realm, Stone Warrior no longer dared to look down on him anymore. Facing the incoming destructive finger attacks, Stone Warrior displayed a Spirit Severing Realm Body Defense Technique. Suddenly, a fiery-red armor plate made of stone surrounded his body, blocking all of Ning Fan's attacks.

The First Finger of the Sword Finger had limited destructive power after all. It was not strong enough to break through the fiery rock armor.

Without using any of their trump cards, the battle lasted for one day and one night with no clear winner.

The longer they battled, the brighter the golden light was on Ning Fan's finger. However, he still felt that he lacked an opening for him to unleash the power of the Second Finger.

The source of power of the First Finger, Mountain Crush, came from the collapsed mountains it absorbed power from which eventually turned his finger into a sword to injure his enemies.

The Second Finger, Heaven Breaker. As what the name implied, the source of its power would come from breaking the heavens. But the important question was: since the heavens do not have a definite shape like mountains, how is it possible to break it?

How? How to break the skies?

Again, his finger met his opponent's punch. The giant body of Stone Warrior was sent tens of li* away. Meanwhile, Ning Fan also suffered the same impact but when comparing the both of them, his miniature body made him look like a cannonball when he was sent flying.

His body retreated continuously for quite some distance in the sky and he could only regain his balance when he reached the sea.

After battling without rest for one whole day, both of them expended quite a lot of their strength and energy. Ning Fan nearly reached his limit while Stone Warrior was not any better. Without the use of his trump card, he, a dignified Spirit Severing Realm expert, was evenly-matched with Ning Fan throughout the battle.

In the past when they fought each other for the first time, Ning Fan could only endure not more than three breaths despite him displaying all of his best techniques.

But today, as long as Stone Warrior did not use the Gui Technique granted to him by Bei Xiaoman, it was difficult for him to defeat Ning Fan relying solely on his physical body!

This kid's improvement is incredibly fast. If he continues to progress at such speed, I think it won't be long before I would be defeated by him!

"Zhou Ming. You are good! It's beyond my expectations that our fight would last this long. Now, you are even able to put up a fight with any Spirit Severing Realm expert of the External Endless Sea with your current body refining realm. But you will never defeat me. Besides, you don't have a Spirit Severing Realm Body Refining Technique that you are proficient with... If I display the Gui Technique that was passed on to me by the Mistress - Seven Kill, you will certainly lose!"

"..."

Ning Fan knew Stone Warrior was telling the truth. The reason why he tried so hard to master the Second Finger of Sword Finger was because he did not have any Spirit Severing Realm techniques.

Despite hearing Stone Warrior's words, he only stared at the glowing tip of his finger in silence.

He stood above the sea, letting the sea breeze to blow against his face while sinking deeply into his thoughts.

In his mind, he was pondering what exactly heaven was!

After the battle that lasted one day, he understood that only when he finds out the true definition of heaven would he then be able to break the heavens and complete his Second Finger, Heaven Breaker!

The devil star on his right eye glowed. Immediately, his Devil Intent congealed into an evil mountain billowing with black qi on the surface of the sea.

He stood at the peak of the mountain and dispersed all his magic power and aura, calming himself down.

He then lifted his head and gazed into the vast sky, retracing his thoughts about the heavens. He faintly felt that he was close to grasping the true meaning of it but then that feeling slipped away as he seemed to be missing something.

The heavens has no clear definite shape. How can I break it?

He could see the broad sky above but it was like a mystery to him.

A hint of agitation began to surface within his heart, but he did not let it consume him and he took a deep breath to maintain his calmness instead. After that, he rearranged the sequence of his thoughts.

When he shifted his gaze towards the boundless surface of the sea, a sudden feeling struck him.

“What’s missing in this sea...What’s missing in the sky...”

It was pitch-black in the Yuan Yao World. Although there were arrays of stars that sparkled brightly in the dark sky, it was still a world of darkness.

The sea water which was as black as ink became a trace of enlightenment and rapidly grew within his heart.

All of a sudden, he lifted his head again and stared at the sky!

“Heaven is shapeless in nature; so how does it hold the objects in it?! Where the stars are, there is heaven! However, the stars are not enough... Where the moon is, there is heaven... But the moon is not enough too... Among the sun, the moon and the stars, the most imposing one is the sun. And the sun is likely to represent heaven...”

The sun as the saint; the moon as the emperor; and the star as the fiendgod...

Unknowingly, the incantation that Luo You once passed to Ning Fan echoed within his heart: There's a fish in the Northern Sea named Yue Kun. There's a Saint in the Northern Sea named Hun Kun. There's a sun in the Northern Sea named Yin Rong and there's a thunder in the Northern Sea named Lei Tong...

This incantation had neutralized the power of Bai Feiteng's Ice Sun in the past. But this time, the heavens quaked and an immense power surged and condensed.

At the edge of the ocean surface, a large red sun gradually rose.

This was the sun formed from the Primordial Power of heaven and earth!

“Heaven can never be broken itself. But if I break the sun, can I cause it to break?”

When the question surfaced in his mind, it was hard to get rid of it.

Standing at the top of the evil mountain, Ning Fan saw that the sun was on the brink of crumbling down when it was halfway to the sky.

The Primordial Power of heaven and earth was insufficient to hold the sun together...

The sun contains the might of Heaven, which is difficult to simulate...

He reached out into the empty air and grasped while his mouth continued to utter the incantation.

With the power of his Devil Intent, a trace of power of the True Sun was extracted out of thin air.

“Go!”

He flicked his finger, sending the power of the True Sun into the red simulated sun, immediately turning it red.

Every inch the black sun rose into the sky would cause the Primordial Power of heaven and earth within it to compress into traces of Heavenly Spiritual Energy.

Primordial Power was the power used by Nascent Soul Realm cultivators.

Heavenly Spiritual Energy was the power used by Spirit Severing Realm experts!

The black sun finally rose to the middle of the sky. The black sunlight emanated from its body would make anyone feel like it was the end of the world.

“Since heaven has no shape, I will use the sun as a means to break heaven!”

When his words fell, Ning Fan leaped higher into the sky, approaching Stone Warrior step by step.

He raised his hands, touching the black sunlight in the air. Suddenly, he felt as if the sunlight was under his command.

He lifted his finger and allowed its tip to glide through the sunlight. It was his first time coming into contact with his own Heavenly Spiritual Power...

“Success or failure, all depends on this finger... Fight me!”

“As you wish!”

A fearsome battle intent surged within Stone Warrior’s eyes!

The black sun which hung in the sky gave him an eerie and threatening feeling. He had no clue about the technique but he knew that it was unusual!

No matter what, he wanted to fight!

Stone Warrior pointed his finger into the sky and the next second, seven blood-red stars emerged.

As the seven of them connected to each other, the power of the seven stars transformed into seven rays of blood light which fell from the sky and gathered at Stone Warrior’s finger.

The destructive power of his finger was much greater than Yan Zhongze’s seven palms combo attack.

With this finger, he once killed a Spirit Severing Realm expert!

It was a Spirit Severing Realm Technique, which summoned seven stars and used the stars as vessels to condense Heavenly Spiritual Energy. Therefore, the might of the technique could be said to be peerless.

However, the stars were more inferior than the moon; the moon was more inferior than the sun.

In the face of the black sun, even the seven blood-red stars were faintly trembling.

Their techniques were both at the Spirit Severing Realm. But the only difference was the stars not being equal to the sun!

“You can’t win against me! Unless you attain the Spirit Severing Realm!” Stone Warrior’s voice was as loud as thunder, echoing endlessly within the Yuan Yao World.

“Really?”

Ning Fan’s tone was cold. Eventually, he raised his hand with his finger pointing upwards, the golden light on the tip of his finger completely turned into dark golden.

The black sun in the sky lit up!

Suddenly, black flames began to roil on the surface of the sun. On the surface of the sea, the waves lost its calmness!

Stone Warrior's heart was filled with surprise. That's when he found out that he had misinterpreted Ning Fan's technique from the very beginning.

Stone Warrior condensed the stars to perform his technique. On the contrary, Ning Fan intended to break the sun to perform his technique!

When the black sun was fully ignited, an explosive power erupted from within!

The next second, the black sun was blown into pieces and a windstorm filled with black flames permeated the entire sky, burning it down.

After the invisible veins of the sky was burned up, the sky could not stop crumbling down!

Bang

The clouds collapsed!

Bang

The sky broke!

The power from the broken clouds and sky was absorbed into Ning Fan's finger, making the dark golden light on the tip stronger and brighter.

Then, he pushed out his finger at the direction of Stone Warrior.

"Heaven Breaker!"

Although it was just a finger, the black light split into countless rays of light like reeling off raw silk from the cocoon.

An unprecedented feeling of imminent danger surged within Stone Warrior's heart, making him unleash his power that was amassed on his finger without any further hesitation.

"Gui Technique, Seven Kills!"

His empty eyes both became filled with shock and ferociousness.

He was shocked because of how Ning Fan broke heaven.

He became ferocious because if he could not block this attack, there were only two outcomes for him: being severely injured or death!

The blood light that was enough to eradicate almost everything was immediately turned into ash as it met the threadlike black light.

Stone Warrior was flabbergasted. His greatest technique could only offset less than thirty percent of the power of the black light!

The fiery red stone armor emerged, protecting every part of his body. But when the black light arrived, the armor was torn to pieces in just an instant.

The black light with half of its original power got closer to Stone Warrior's body. As his stony body touched the black rays, it was turned into broken stones.

Within seconds, his seven hundred zhang* tall avatar was entirely broken.

Countless black threads encased Stone Warrior's true body like forming a cocoon. However, it did not continue to tear him down.

Stone Warrior was stunned with his mouth agape.

Obviously, it was Ning Fan who stopped the technique in time to avoid killing Stone Warrior.

If Ning Fan wanted to, he could have pressed his finger an inch further and Stone Warrior would certainly be dead!

“I’ve lost...”

Stone Warrior who was born to fight squeezed a bitter smile from his lips.

He was once an ant who could only endure not more than three breaths in my hands. Now, he has become a fierce person who is capable of taking my life.

Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivator defeating a Spirit Severing Realm expert... If this event was leaked, perhaps the Early Spirit Severing Realm experts of the External Endless Sea would have to avoid any confrontations against Ning Fan.

“Finally, I’ve comprehended the Second Finger... But its side-effects really are great...”

A trace of black blood flowed down from the corner of Ning Fan’s lips. Despite that, his eyes flashed with excitement.

Stone Warrior was the first Spirit Severing Realm expert that he won against on his own without any external help!

If Stone Warrior is considered to be the top five Spirit Severing Realm expert of the External Endless Sea, there would at least be 8 of the Spirit Severing Realm experts who would not be able to withstand Ning Fan's Second Finger.

In other words, they would certainly be killed by it!