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That night, Mo clan prepared a banquet, the four clan heads took turns toasting and entertained young lord Ning Fan.

If before there were people unconvinced by Ning Fan, right now, there was nothing they rejected about him.

At the dining table, Ning Fan smiled amiably and chatted casually with those around him, making the eyes of Wu Lan and Mo Rushui shine brightly, but Ye Huan and Fang Nuo, these two old men, were extremely dissatisfied with Ning Fan.

Ning Fan couldn't hold his liquor at all! He was already tipsy after two glasses. An evil cultivator that can't hold alcohol was far too shameful!

Of course, nobody is perfect...

As the moonlight dissipated from the sky and the banquet dispersed, the three clan heads left one after another. Inside the grand hall, there was only Mo Rushui who was slowly sipping on a glass of wine, and an unconscious Ning Fan sprawled out on the table.

Mo Rushui slightly pursed her red lips and suddenly smiled, "All the people have left, has the dignified young lord of Seven Apricot decided to stay the night in the house of this subordinate while pretending to be drunk? "

As Mo Rushui's words spilled out, the originally drunk Ning Fan's eyes flashed brightly. With a wave of magical energy, he expelled the alcohol from his body, laughing, "I have a strong tolerance to alcohol. If I didn't pretend to be drunk, I'm afraid it would have taken forever to discuss business. Goddess Mo, can you now tell me about the matter of the Soul Burning spirit iron?"

"Young Lord surely wants that Soul Burning spirit iron?"

"It's not like I must have it, I only want to augment the spirit of my treasure. If it's too troublesome for you, it's fine to use a different divine power."

Ning Fan opened his mouth and starlight flew out, transforming into a long sword that was translucent and sparkled like water in his hands. This was of course Separation Slayer, which was then handed to Mo Rushui.

“Goddess Mo, would you please assess this sword and tell me what kind of divine power is most appropriate to augment its spirit? I don’t know anything about Spirit Augmentation”

Mo Rushui took Separation Slayer. At first she didn’t mind, after all she was a Spirit Augmentation Master of the Dan Treasure rank, even refining Gold rank spirit equipment wouldn’t be difficult. But with just a glance, she noticed this sword was just that of a low inferior rank.

Internally, she felt slightly displeased. If the grand ‘Soul Burning’ spirit iron were attached to an inferior treasure, wouldn’t it be like dragging the name of ‘Soul Burning’ through the mud?

But after she took the sword, Mo Rushui became startled. The sword was very light! It was not that the sword was weightless, but rather when held, it felt as though she had become one with the sword, like it was an extension of her arm and she naturally couldn’t feel its weight.

“‘One with the sword’...the one who refined this sword is an expert far above me...”

She sincerely praised the sword and dared not look down on Separation Slayer again, then started to examine it in every detail.

As bright as the stars, as cold as autumn rain, as thin as a cicada’s wings, as imposing as a flying dragon...this sword was clearly a low inferior rank weapon, but the feeling it gave to Mo Rushui cannot even be described by the word ‘shock’.

She sometimes frowned, other times opened her mouth, at times appeared joyous, and at other times puzzled or perplexed, or even surprised... as if she were using all of the expressions she’d ever learned throughout her life, and it was all shown on that charming face.

Her beautiful eyes were fixated on the sword, that eye catching starlight made her feel increasingly shocked.

“This is, this is...can I ask Young Lord, if you know the origin of this sword?”

“This sword was refined by me, how could I not know of its origin...” Ning Fan grabbed his chopsticks and casually ate the leftovers on the table without the slightest disgust.

He was poor all his life. In the most difficult of times he even fought with pigs and dogs for food, why would he care about it being leftovers.

“What... this sword was refined by the Young Lord?!” Mo Rushui’s expression changed abruptly into one of astonishment, she would have never guessed that the refining master she admired was the Young Lord in front of her.

“Young Lord, did you know that inside this sword, there’s a fragment of Immemorial Star...”

“I naturally know, being master’s disciple, I have the Immemorial Evil Veins so I can handle this ‘immemorial divine weapon!’”

“So Young Lord knows. It seems that yesterday’s manifestation of ‘stars appearing in daytime’ was triggered by Young Lord... An immemorial divine weapon, I never thought that I would have the fortune to see one in this life... Young Lord, do you really want to augment the spirit of this sword?! ”

Mo Rushui looked a little eager. For a Spirit Augmentation Master, being able to augment the spirit of an immemorial divine weapon was a tremendous honor!

“That’s correct. As for what kind of divine power to attach, I will leave the decision to Goddess Mo.” Ning Fan had a small smile on his face. Letting Mo Rushui decide was considered a form of respect toward Spirit Augmentation Masters.

“An... immemorial divine weapon, a peerless sword that can advance in ranks... I am extremely willing and sincerely wish to attach the ‘Soul Burning’ divine power for Young Lord. The Soul Burning divine power is a ‘void’ rank divine power that only Void Fragmentation old monsters are qualified to use for spirit augmentation. If it is used in this sword, it definitely won’t be wasted... With my level being at the ‘Dan Treasure’ rank of Spirit Augmentation, I can only attach one divine power, and if I were to attach another divine power and not ‘Soul Burning’ then it would be a waste...”

Mo Rushui mumbled to herself, unable to decide. Ning Fan listened attentively, unsure of the situation. His knowledge of Spirit Augmentation was severely lacking.

Listening to Mo Rushui’s words, it seemed as though it was possible for one treasure to utilize several divine powers, but with her level she could only attach one.

According to Mo Rushui, to augment the spirit of a treasure, ‘spirit iron’ was needed. As for what spirit iron was, Ning Fan didn’t know, but that did not hinder him from understanding. It must be some kind of special immortal mineral that was essential in Spirit Augmentation.

That ‘Soul Burning’ spirit iron was actually called a ‘void’ rank spirit iron, one could imagine how precious it was.

Ning Fan had the memories of an immortal emperor so he had great perception. He could tell that Mo Rushui was a little troubled. It seemed that she had some difficulties and could not attach the 'Soul Burning' divine power to Separation Slayer.

"Goddess Mo, if there are difficulties, it's fine if you don't attach the 'Soul Burning' divine power." Ning Fan shook his head and laughed in spite of himself, he didn't actually value the spirit augmentation technique very much, but attaching only one divine power was still better than nothing.

"Difficulties, there are definitely a few... First, that Soul Burning spirit iron belongs to City Lord Han. I must ask you one thing. Young Lord, have you asked yourself if you possess the qualifications to use it?"

"Well, I believe I should have it. My relationship with master can be said to be a friendship that has been through life and death... if I use a piece of his spirit iron, he may make a fuss but he won't get really mad..."

Ning Fan shook his head while smiling wryly. He could easily imagine that if the Old Monster got wind of Ning Fan using his Soul Burning spirit iron, he would definitely fly into a rage and cry out 'father has suffered!'.

But the Old Monster would only babble about it and wouldn't really get mad, he was pretty generous when it came to matters regarding Ning Fan.

"Is that so, it seems that Young Lord and City Lord are on pretty good terms..." Mo Rushui took a meaningful glance at Ning Fan.

According to what she knew, the Old Monster took in countless disciples. Although he treated them all relatively well, none of them were treated as well as Ning Fan. It seems that the temperament of these two were very similar.

If Mo Rushui were to come to learn the truth that Ning Fan and the Old Monster had exterminated the Heaven Separation School together and were the culprits that countless old monsters of the Rain Immortal World were trying to track down, she wouldn't have thought of that question.

In the Heaven Separation battle, Ning Fan and the Old Monster shared life and death and trusted each other, their friendship could be described as a master and disciple's relationship but also as friends despite the difference in age. Old Monster was very carefree and Ning Fan was also easygoing.

Mo Rushui faintly sighed. What caused this is the Old Monster's tragic story. Old Monster took countless disciples, but each of them died a brutal death... and the only one that was still alive had become the Old Monster's life's grievance...

And this Old Monster actually took Ning Fan as his disciple, treating him like his child. It would seem that regarding the relations between Ning Fan and the Old Monster; there was a destiny between them that was hard to come across.

“Since Young Lord has confidence in using this iron, then I won’t say more. I recommend Young Lord attach the ‘Soul Burning’ divine power to this sword. But, there’s still one more problem...”

“Oh? If there are more problems you can just say it. Even though my knowledge about Spirit Augmentation is limited, what I know about other aspects is still pretty good, perhaps I can help Goddess Mo to solve some problems...”

“The other problem is... the Soul Burning spirit iron has been polluted by a strange demonic ore... so the effect of applying Spirit Augmentation might be greatly reduced. About this matter, I believe there is a need to tell Young Lord in advance.” Mo Rushui looked apologetic. As a Spirit Augmentation Master, if she were to attach a flawed divine power for her clients she would lose her credibility.

“Oh? The Soul Burning spirit iron was actually polluted by a demonic ore? Interesting... Goddess Mo, can you bring me over to take a look at this Soul Burning spirit iron? Perhaps I can purify it, who knows.”

“If you can accomplish that then I can attach the most perfect divine power for Young Lord!” Mo Rushui stood up joyously, her pair of beautiful eyes carrying a trace of fervor. Without the patience to wait and also not caring that it was late at night, she immediately took Ning Fan to take a look at the spirit iron.

This made Ning Fan rather speechless. Were all the renowned Spirit Augmentation Masters and Refinement Masters mad-men when it came to refining treasures?

...

Inside Mo clan’s treasure room, Mo Rushui ran her hand over something and activated a mechanism, causing a deep tunnel to suddenly appear from the ground that lead to an unknown location.

Ning Fan followed Mo Rushui and walked down the tunnel, seemingly making their way down thousands of zhang deep underground.

In the deepest area, there was a secret chamber made of ‘Broken Divine Silver’ that was approximately three zhang in size and in the shape of a square. This immortal ore not only possessed a hard and durable quality, it could also block divine sense, thus it was extremely precious. Who could have imagined that it would be used by Mo Rushui to build a secret chamber.

The insides of the secret chamber was practically empty, with only a jade table placed in the center of the room and a piece of half-black half-red ore atop it.

The red half carried a faint trace of blazing heat and Ning Fan used his divine sense to sense it. In a moment of carelessness, a trace of his divine sense was burned by that heat. If he was a little slower in retracting it, he definitely would have gotten injured.

“Is this the Soul Burning spirit iron? I had not expected that it could actually burn divine sense. If this divine power was attached to the sword, a slash would not only cut flesh, it could even cut the enemy’s divine sense!”

A void rank divine power truly cannot be looked down upon...

Ning Fan’s eyes then fell onto the black half, this time showing a puzzled expression.

It looked familiar and strange, but after racking his brain for a short period of time, nothing came to mind.

Mo Rushui respectfully stood to the side and waited, not daring to disturb Ning Fan’s train of thoughts.

Moments later, Ning Fan approached the jade table and touched the black ore, his emotions unstable.

His exterior expression appeared calm and collected, but his heart was shaken to it’s core.

“Joyous Union iron...a kind of divine iron recorded in the >... this iron only has one use and it is to be made into a joyous union secret treasure... Cauldron Ring! One of the uses of that ring is to assist dual cultivation, a self-made space to hold cauldrons... with this item, an evil cultivator could kidnap hundreds of thousands of women and bring them along with him easily...”

Chapter 32: Jade Lake Saint

“Joyous Union iron...Cauldron Ring...”

Ning Fan touched the warm immortal ore and gradually calmed himself. Since he accidentally obtained this Joyous Union iron by chance, he’d naturally need to refine the Cauldron Ring in the near future.

Unfortunately, till this day he did not possess a single cauldron...

Shaking his head, Ning Fan put his thoughts on hold and placed them in the back of his mind. The Yin Yang Flame ignited from his finger but it didn't stay on the immortal ore.

With two kinds of immortal ores fusing into one, separating them wasn't an easy task.

All living beings originated from yin and yang. Even though the Yin Yang Flame's power was still weak, under Ning Fan's veteran immortal emperor rank fire control, he calcined the Joyous Union iron with the Ying Yang Flame's Black Evil Flame, and cooled off the spirit iron with Yin Yang Flame's cold ice. The Joyous Union iron slowly turned into molten iron and the spirit iron was as cold as before.

When the Joyous Union iron was completely melted, with a flick of his sleeve, he rolled the spirit iron in his hand. At the same time, he waved his palm and touched upon the ice spirit energy of his immortal veins, releasing a freezing cold power that condensed the Joyous Union iron.

With a pat of his storage bag, he collected the Joyous Union iron, and leisurely handed the spirit iron to Mo Rushui's hands.

The whole process didn't take more than half an hour. Ning Fan's fire control skills that were akin to handling heavy weights as if they weighed nothing nearly caused Mo Rushui to look on with a blank expression.

The sleeve of her robe covered half of her face, and under the sleeve hid her red lips that were slightly parted, unable to believe what she had just witnessed.

Mo Rushui felt that just by observing the process of Ning Fan controlling the flames, her Dao of refinement improved by leaps and bounds.

"Young Lord is extremely talented, It's admirable" She took the spirit iron which did not contain even the slightest demonic ore and gasped in amazement.

"With that, I'll be troubling Goddess Mo to augment the spirit for me." [1]

The two of them returned to the surface and headed straight to the refinement room. The whole Spirit Augmentation process lasted for a day. Ning Fan observed from the beginning to its end.

It was the first time he took an interest towards Spirit Augmentation.

Spirit Augmentation, in layman terms, was the melting of the spirit iron and extracting its 'divine power's essence'. Finally, by using a special formation pattern, one would engrave it on the treasure.

Even if one were to use the same spirit iron, as long the treasure was slightly different, the formation pattern would also differ drastically.

At first, Ning Fan wanted to use his immortal emperor's memories to steal the Spirit Augmentation technique. However, in the end he could only give up reluctantly.

The Dao of refinement wasn't easier than the Dao of formations at all. If he wanted to rise his Spirit Augmentation technique to the standard of Mo Rushui, he would need at least a few decades.

Ning Fan didn't have that much free time to study Spirit Augmentation. If he needed to augment the spirit of something, it was better to just search for a Spirit Augmentation Master instead.

When Mo Rushui returned Separation Slayer to Ning Fan, one could see in her eyes that she was reluctant to part with it, causing Ning Fan to feel as if taking away Separation Slayer from her was a crime.

"Young Lord, you must treat this sword well..." Mo Rushui looked at Ning Fan pitifully and requested meekly.

"I will, I will..."

Ning Fan's gaze fell onto Separation Slayer. It's appearance didn't change a lot, and there was still the glimmer of starlight encircling its body. But now, the edge of the sword was blazing hot. This blazing heat had a slight soul burning effect that would also increase in power as Separation Slayer advanced in rank.

Ning Fan sliced through the air multiple times and smiled in satisfaction. He opened his mouth and swallowed the starlight sword shadow into his dantian, then bid goodbye and left without further ado.

With the completion of the spirit augmentation of Separation Slayer, Ning Fan's first Life Treasure since he initially walked the path of evil cultivation had finally taken shape.

It seems that there were only two things left to do before heading to the Sinister Sparrow Sect.

Refine the Jade Royal Dan and turn Si Wuxie into a puppet!

The Refinement room was monopolized by Old Monster, who was exploding cauldrons again and again, which made Ning Fan not have a place to refine the Jade Royal Dan. Without any other choice, he decided to first solve the matter regarding Si Wuxie.

The Si Wuxie today had his Gold Core destroyed by Ning Fan, thus his cultivation was crippled. He was imprisoned in Seven Apricot's ice prison, under strict supervision.

The ones that were guarding the ice prison were evil cultivator ice guards. When they saw Ning Fan approaching them, they immediately showed deep respect by bowing. Such mannerisms were naturally orders from Nangong.

“Subordinate Wang Ling greets the Young Lord!”

The name of the head of the prison guards was Wang Ling. He was an evil cultivator at the tenth level of Vein Opening. In the Dao Fruit Auction, he was also responsible for maintaining the security of the auction site, so he had witnessed with his own eyes how Ning Fan intimidated a whole group of demons with his murderous aura, and thus developed a deep sense of respect towards him.

“En, I want to go to the ‘ice prison’s ninth level’ to see that person...”

The ice prison’s ninth level was at the very bottom of the prison, and those that were imprisoned there were the worst criminals-- The sect master of Heaven Separation, Si Wuxie, resided there. Ning Fan had not spread the name of this person, so other than Old Monster and the black godly armies three commanders, no one knew that the one who was imprisoned in the ice prison’s ninth level was actually the strongest monster whose name was known by all in Yue country.

“Hehe, commander Nangong ordered that Young Lord can see this person anytime you want. But Young Lord, it would be best to be more carefree. The ice prison’s ninth level is bitterly cold, and the love between a woman and man is passionate, so be wary of freezing over...”

Wang Ling winked at Ning Fan and revealed a smile that only men could decipher. Ning Fan frowned and secretly felt that Wang Ling’s words were a little wrong. What passionate love could ever exist between him and that transvestite Si Wuxie?

He shook his head and didn’t let it get to him.

Ning Fan took the prison door’s key and entered the ice prison alone and went straight down to the ninth level without letting Wang Ling follow him.

The first layer of the ice prison locked up cultivators at the first level of Vein Opening. He went down directly to the eighth level that was a thousand zhang underground. Those who were below Harmonious Spirit were unable to bear with the cold qi at that place. There were only several zombies [2] tied down by chains in the few barren rooms of the eighth level. If it were a prisoner, they would have been frozen to death and left here for countless years.

The ninth level only had one room. Ning Fan opened the ice door and saw a dishevelled prisoner tied by ice chains, with his head down as if he was unconscious.

“Si Wuxie...if you were to know that there would come to be a day like this, why would you act like that before.” Ning Fan said indifferently.

“Heh, Ning Fan, did you come here to kill me? Do you dare...” Si Wuxie didn't raise his head and his feminine voice carried ridicule.

“Who exactly is your original self in the Four Heaven's immortal worlds?”

“Even if I say it, would you even recognize who he is. You are merely an insignificant ant of the lower realms...”

Without knowing the reason, the feeling that Si Wuxie gave to Ning Fan today was unusual.

In the memories of the immortal emperor, there was a mystical art that could erase a person's memories and leave the body with it's spirit and wisdom, making them into one's puppet. This mystical art was called spiritual puppet art.

Ning Fan slowly walked closer to Si Wuxie, preparing to use the spiritual puppet art against Si Wuxie.

But the closer he got, the more uneasy he felt. He kept feeling that there was something amiss.

The uneasiness continued...Ning Fan quietly summoned Separation Slayer and hid it in his sleeves. Only with that did the uneasiness lessen a little.

Ning Fan stopped three feet away from Si Wuxie. At this distance he could feel a great pressure given off by him. Almost without hesitation, he quickly retreated.

Si Wuxie let out a light expression of surprise as he didn't expect Ning Fan to be that cautious. He suddenly raised his head and revealed a pure and saintly face of a beautiful woman, rouge lips and features like a painting, like a young lotus blooming, the face was dignified and not to be messed around with. Only, those soft and beautiful eyes carried a fierce murderous intention from within.

A momentum comparable to a late stage Gold Core dispersed from Si Wuxie's body, and although Si Wuxie's body was locked due to his crippled cultivation, his divine sense transformed into a formless flying sword and attacked Ning Fan with a flurry of innumerable stabs.

Ning Fan's expression changed slightly, if he got stabbed by the flying sword made from divine sense, it would destroy all of his knowledge and memories, making him become an idiot in the blink of an eye. This Si Wuxie, with such deep schemes and ruthless methods, he actually still had this trick hidden.

Ning Fan had clearly destroyed his Gold Core and crippled his cultivation, but who would have guessed that he had left a bit of his cultivation hidden from him and even appeared as a woman. What was going on...

A woman's face, breath and body were not things that could be faked.

Ning Fan's thoughts were spinning, but in a moment he figured out the crucial point. He seemed to have come to realize something, and with a cold expression, as well as Separation Slayer in his hands, the starlight sword shadow danced in an attempt to destroy the divine sense flying sword.

This move only made Si Wuxie mock gently, "An immemorial divine weapon, unfortunately it's only a low inferior rank. Just an inferior rank divine weapon cannot possibly cut my divine sense- Ah! No, impossible..."

Editor Note: Since Si Wuxie now appears to be acknowledged as a woman, we will now refer to the character as such.

She didn't finish her speech and suddenly screamed, as the power of her divine sense was caught off guard and cut by Separation Slayer and was burned cleanly from its Soul Burning power.

Her gentle and beautiful expression suddenly turned pale, breathless and shocked. Her expression burned with a desire to die as she glared at Ning Fan.

"'Soul Burning' divine power, a 'void' rank divine power, no way, with just your Harmonious Spirit status, how could you get this kind of divine material!"

She clenched her teeth and tried to use another power against Ning Fan, But it was too late... Ning Fan wouldn't give her another chance to launch a sneak attack at him, he absolutely wouldn't!

Ning Fan stepped into an icy rainbow and flew forward. He pointed at Si Wuxie several times utilizing his Yin Plucking Finger, letting a trace of yin power enter her body which made Si Wuxie's breath chaotic and unable to use even a trace of her power, not to mention even trying to secretly attack Ning Fan!

"Who would have thought that the dignified sect master Wuxie, Si Wuxie, was actually a woman...disguised as a man with the ancient magic, and almost deceived me...The Opposite Yang Art can create a fake Gold Core inside the body, transforming the wielder into a man and confused me. No wonder you still have power left even after I destroyed your Gold Core...Si Wuxie, I really underestimated you..."

With a 'hiss', Ning Fan tore off Si Wuxie's sleeve and revealed a beautiful lotus like arm of a girl, which partly looked like it belonged to a man, as if she were some kind of transvestite.

Si Wuxie was deathly ashamed and her face was like that of a peach dripping blood. Kneeling on the ground, a trace of murderous intent coldly swept across her beautiful eyes, "You dared to disgrace me, do you know the origin of my true self in the Four Heavens...ah...en...this...what is the power of that finger..."

She didn't even finish her fierce words, the effect of the Yin Plucking Finger's power became more and more present. Her whole body was numb and soft, and she was gradually losing her mind...

"I am...the Jade Lake Saint...if you hurt me...I'll dispatch...a hundred thousand celestial soldiers...and exterminate your whole clan..."

The regal Si Wuxie, at this moment did not show even the slightest arrogance. Under the power of the Yin Plucking Finger, all her murderous intention had turned into fear towards Ning Fan, and there was only dread left in her heart.

"What do you...want to do to me...what is...this enchantment art...I am the dignified Jade Lake Saint..."

"And what if you are the Jade Lake Saint...since we bear mutual hatred, we are enemies. This has nothing to do with you being a man or a woman, nor with your identity!" Ning Fan grasped Si Wuxie's chin. The corners of his mouth were cold, but a trace of sorrow flashed through his heart.

The Jade Lake Saint...perhaps in the Four Heavens she was a woman respected by tens of thousands of people, but this body double in the lower realms was actually a devil that harmed him and even harmed his little brother Ning Gu. How many people did she deceive with that innocent face, making them think that she was a good girl...but her heart was actually like a snake's...

The Four Heaven's immortal worlds were not originally pure lands...perhaps, in the whole universe, there are no pure lands.

"Even if you are the Jade Lake Saint, I, Mr Ning, must take my revenge..."

Si Wuxie was frightened. She realized the man in front of her was extremely daring, and he did not fear the ruthless people of the Four Heavens and dared to bully her.

In her heart, there was resentment as well as fear.

"Let me go...I didn't harm you...and didn't harm your little brother...I still have things to do in the lower realms..." Si Wuxie said with a miserable look in her eyes, Ning Fan couldn't tell how much of it was true and how much was a lie.

“Rest assured, I'm not interested in your body and will never touch you...compared to your body I prefer having one more Gold Core fighting hand...I just want to turn you into a Gold Core spirit puppet!”

One finger pointed at Si Wuxies head, began Soul Scouring and started refining a puppet...

...

Half a day later, Ning Fan let out a breath of turbid qi. The girl that was standing quietly before him had a pair of clear and sincere eyes, but carried the power of a late stage Gold Core cultivator and looked at Ning Fan, confused. Above the space between her eyebrows was an imprinted mark of an apricot flower.

That mark was the mark of the spiritual puppet art.

“Who are you, who am I?” The girl smiled lightly, like a young lotus blossoming and looked at Ning Fan docilely.

“Your name is Sisi, starting from today you are the first cauldron of me, Ning Fan.”

“A cauldron, huh...Sisi wants to be your wife...” The eyes of the girl pleaded, she forgot everything but faintly remembered Ning Fan, and she was instinctively depending on Ning Fan, obeying him. That obedience came from the mark on her body.

“No, you erred in the past and can only be a cauldron. Put on your clothes and come out with me. When the day I refine the Cauldron Ring arrives, it will become your new home.”

The dignified Jade Lake Saint's double in the lower realms actually became the first cauldron that Ning Fan subdued?

Jade Lake Saint, Si Wuxie, Sisi, how will her destiny fare?

[1] More like thanks for the trouble, but before it's done, like an accepted petition.

[2]“Jiang shi”, it's a kind of chinese vampire/zombie.

Note: In chinese you don't have to say "he" or "she" when you talk about someone. You can say it but it can be implicit too, so...

Chapter 33: Old Monster's Dan Condensate, Moksha Emperor Appears!

Ning Fan walked out from the ice prison with a clean and pure girl dressed in white tagging behind him.

Seeing that the Young Lord brought out a beautiful lassie from the prison, the guards were amazed. However, since it was Ning Fan, they would not and dared not ask questions. Each one of the guards were confused, was there such a holy woman imprisoned inside the ice prison?

On the way back, every evil cultivator along the streets would turn and stare at Si Wuxie while swallowing their saliva loudly but none of them dared to covet this desirable young woman.

This woman was walking behind the City's Young Lord, obviously shows that she is the Young Lord's woman. Provoke Ning Fan? Doesn't that mean they don't want to live anymore?

Ning Fan headed towards the Southern market area to purchase the rest of the ingredients that he needed for the Jade Royal Dan.

And every time they passed by women accessories shop, Si Wuxie's eyes would moistened pitifully as she looked at Ning Fan, tugging the corner of his clothes in a pleading manner.

"Sisi wants this hairpin..."

"Sisi wants this bracelet..."

"Sisi wants..."

"No." No matter how much Si Wuxie acted pity and pleaded, Ning Fan only had one cold word as reply.

This woman has a blood feud with him, as a cauldron, she will not get a shred of Ning Fan's favor.

Ning Fan did, however, bought some pretty accessories. Unfortunately for Sisi, all of it was bought for Zhihe.

Zhihe, the girl who saved him when he was on the verge of dying.....

"Owner doesn't love Sisi, Sisi is not happy..." Si Wuxie pouted her mouth, and when the passersby saw this, they looked at Ning Fan with weird expressions.

Such a pretty wife but he doesn't know how to spoil and pamper; Ning Fan truly is someone heartless.

If these passersby knew that this spoiled acting girl was Yue Country's number one evil old monster that had her memory erased - the evil Sect Master of Heaven Separation, what would their reaction be?

Unfortunately, none of them would ever find out Si Wuxie's true identity. Because no one knew Si Wuxie was originally a woman.

"Heavy Bending Grass, Vainlife Flower, Red Fern...En, i bought all the ingredients for the Jade Royal Dan ..."

Ning Fan came out from the last shop and was preparing to return to Si Fan Palace when he abruptly looked in the direction of Si Fan Palace with an incredible expression.

Above the Si Fan Palace, seven ice clouds suddenly emerged, followed by even fire clouds.

The ice clouds fused with the fire clouds, turning into seven ember-red clouds, spinning, forming a grand spiritual energy vortex.

Not only Ning Fan, many of the evil cultivators in the city was tilting their heads in the direction of Si Fan Palace to watch this phenomenon, greatly astonished.

"Red cloud manifest in the horizon, a grand vortex of spiritual energy..... These are signs of a Four Revolution Dan about to condense!"

In the Si Fan Palace, only that Old Monster was refining dans recently. Without a doubt, it must be the Old Monster that was on the verge of successfully refining a Four Revolution Dan.

At this moment, all the evil cultivators exposed a delighted expression. Old Monster was their master, and Old Monster refining a Four Revolution Dan meant that their master's Dan refinement skill had entered the Fourth Revolution Dan Refinement Master!

A Fourth Revolution Dan Refinement Master! There were only so many of them in the Yue Country! Even a Nascent Soul expert would have to treat them as honored guests, an existence that no one dares to provoke!

Once the Old Monster became a Fourth Revolution Dan Refinement Master, Seven Apricot City's status be elevated. Other countries great sects won't easily dared to make trouble here!

"Congratulations City Lord on breaking into the level of Fourth Revolution Dan Refinement Master!"

Thunderous cheers came in unison from the evil cultivators all over the Seven Apricot City directed at Si Fan Palace. Old Monster's popularity was actually so high!

The three guard commanders hovered in the air -Nangong, Situ, Yuchi, as well as the four clans' Patriarch - Wu Lan, Ye Huan, Fang Nuo, and Mo Rushui stepped into the void, rushing towards Si Fan Palace with animated expressions on their faces.

A Third Revolution Dan Refinement Master identity was enough for the Old Monster to rampage in the Yue Country whereas a Fourth Revolution Dan Refinement Master...the renaissance of Seven Apricot City's glory days has arrived!

Seeing the manifestation in the sky, Ning Fan flew up bringing Su Wuxie, and the two hurried in the direction of Si Fan Palace.

"The Seven Ying Yang Mystery Dan, Master actually succeeded in refining it! Only with the Grand Emperor's memory could I refine a Fourth Revolution Dan whereas Master relied on his own talent, and advanced from a Third Revolution Dan Refinement Master to the Fourth Revolution Dan Refinement Master... Master is truly a genius amongst the talented, I'm incomparable....."

A faint smile flashed across Ning Fan's face, Old Monster could rely on himself to find his own way to refine a four revolution dan was more ideal than anything else.

With this Seven Yin Yang Mystery Dan, Old Monster could cure the Absolute Yin poison in his body and restore his cultivation!

"Don't know till what level of strength can Master recover!"

Ning Fan speculated that the Old Monster was a big shot in the Nine Worlds. Today, many secrets will be unveiled after the Old Monster has restored his strength.

A trail of an icy rainbow and a flash of azure light, Ning Fan and Si Wuxie appeared in the sky, cupping their hands towards the seven Harmonious Spirit masters.

The four Patriarchs had no clue of Si Wuxie's identity, following behind Ning Fan, so they treated her as a normal Harmonious Spirit realm master. Even so, they were secretly shocked.

When did the Young Lord took a Harmonious Spirit master as his mistress? What good fortune~.

Situ and Yuchi had already guessed that Si Wuxie was extraordinary but could not guess the woman's identity.

Apart from Nangong who received reports from the ice prison guards and knew that Ning Fan brought a woman out from the ice prison. He could roughly estimate the woman's identity, still, he was flabbergasted.

“Young Lord, this is...” Nangong pointed at Si Wuxie with shock in his eyes. The young woman in front had a few points of similarity to Si Wuxie. Not to mention that this young woman’s cultivation was unfathomable, at least a Gold Core. Nangong as an intermediate Harmonious Spirit could not see through this woman, could she be the Heaven Separation Sect’s Sect Master that Ning Fan had caught?

It was difficult for Nangong to envisage what method Ning Fan had used to subdue this great devil? What’s more, this Si Wuxie seemed to be a woman?

“We’ll talk about this later, it’s more crucial that we protect Master. When a Fourth Revolution Dan is condensing, there will be sky manifestation, and lightning tribulation.

All of you stay and help Master resist the tribulation lightning, I’ll come back soon. Sisi, you stay here and help them...”

“Yes, Owner,” Si Wuxie nodded obediently.

The strength of a Fourth Revolution Dan lightning tribulation was no joke and it was difficult for cultivators below the Nascent Soul realm to defend against it. If they failed, the entire Si Fan Palace would be blasted into ashes.

In an icy stripe of rainbow, Ning Fan went to his room and found Little Zhihe was changing clothes at this time. Ning Fan’s sudden appearance made Little Zhihe jumped and screamed out in fright, a pink blush of shyness crept up on her cheeks.

Without uttering a word, Ning Fan gently helped her with her clothes and after finishing, they walked out the room together, flying up to the sky.

He took out the hairpin that he just bought and inserted it into her hair.

“Brother Fan, what are you doing...” Zhihe has yet to finish her question when numerous streaks of lightning cracked in the sky, and struck down. Deafening sounds of rumbling thunder frightened Zhihe that she covered her ears with her hands.

The lightning tribulation is here! In an instant, the entire Seven Apricot City trembled, the evil cultivators below exclaimed in fear!

Four colors of lightning flashed in the clouds, a single streak of the four-colored lightning was powerful enough to zap a Gold Core cultivator into ashes. Before this coercive aura, Nangong and the rest of the Harmonious Spirit realm have no chance to resist even an iota.

And at this point, the Old Monster was concentrating in condensing the dan and could not be distract in the slightest.

“Sisi, you go and crush the lightning thunder.” Ning Fan ordered.

“Yes, Owner.” Si Wuxie’s figure flashed; with lotus steps she went after a lightning.

This scene baffled the four main clan’s Patriarchs. In their opinions, Ning Fan wasn’t a ruthless person, so then why did he instruct a woman to go die in vain? This was a heaven lightning tribulation, even if it was the Old Monster himself, he might not necessarily remain unharmed ah.....

But, in the next moment, the four Patriarchs were shocked. They saw Su Wuxie’s dainty hands formed different seals and a colorful mist turned into a sheet of rainbow that danced with the wind like an ethereal fairy.

Long sleeves fluttered as the beauty glides, and the tribulation lightning were dispelled ? just like that.

All the while, Si Wuxie maintained a calm and elegant demeanor akin to the bright holy dawn.

Like an alluring dancer moving to a song from the Heavenly Temple.

Not only were the four Patriarchs shocked, even the three guard commanders that were aware of Si Wuxie’s identity were stunned agape. This magical dance of the sleeves could probably even fight against a Nascent Soul master!

Just like that, the tribulation lightning that made all the evil cultivators shivered in fright were stopped by Si Wuxie’s sleeve dance!

When the lightning dissipated, a ray of spiritual energy fluctuated out from the Old Monster’s refinement chamber.

Subsequently, a burst of dan fragrance permeated the air as the spiritual energy turned into a hurricane that drilled into the refinement chamber. Then, a frenzied laughter came from inside the refinement chamber, resounding more than a hundred li from the Seven Apricot City.

“Success! Haha! This father refined a Four Revolution Dan, I, Han Yuanji, is back!”

A blackish-red rainbow shot out from the chamber towards the sky. It was exactly the Old Monster.

In the middle of his palm was a seven-colored dan, still exuding an herb fragrance - the Seven Yin Yang Mystery Dan.

“Little Brat Ning, thanks...Without you, there’s no today for me. After my strength recovered, amongst the Nine Worlds, no one will dare to harm you!”

The Old Monster looked solemnly at Ning Fan, and then it swallowed the seven-colored dan to his belly.

A combination of Yin Yang energy broke out from the Old Monster -In an instant, the Absolute Yin poison disintegrated.

His magical powers rose at incredible speed. His aura, shook the heavens!

Peak of Harmonious Spirit, Gold Core realm!

Early Gold Core, intermediate Gold Core, late, peak, and Nascent Soul realm!

Early Nascent Soul, intermediate, late, peak, Spirit Severing!

Even till Spirit Severing realm, Old Monster had no indication of slowing down, his breath continued to rise as he roared with laughter towards the sky.

Early, intermediate, late, peak of Spirit Severing, and Void Refinement!

Early Void Refinement, intermediate, late, peak and he returned to Void Fragmentation realm!

A horrifying momentum gushed out from the Old Monster's body. When his cultivation rose to intermediate Void Fragmentation, a black and white virtual round ring stretched more than a hundred li appeared in the sky.

The First Ring of Heavens Dao! In the seven boundaries of cultivation, only those who practiced to the extreme of one's Dao that a heaven's ring would appear. Once the cultivator successfully shatters this Ring of Heavens Dao, in one swoop he would enter the Fourth Boundary of cultivation!

Old Monster's smile vanished even though his momentum continued to shoot up. There were nine layers in Void Fragmentation realm and in each layer, the difference in strength was worlds apart.

Void Fragmentation first layer, second layer..... ninth layer, peak!

As long as the Old Monster struck out and shatter the Ring of Heavens Dao above him, stride across the seven boundaries of cultivation, he will returned to being an Immortal.

No interference was allowed in this critical juncture, the slightest mistake and all is in vain.

Ning Fan's face tightened whereas Nangong and the rest have no knowledge about Void Fragmentation, thus none of them had any inclination of the Old Monster's strength.

The admiration in their eyes were no different than those of the mortals as they looked at the Old Monster whereas Ning Fan looked at the clearly distinguishable black and white ring with awe.

“So, this is Heaven’s Dao... after shattering Heaven’s Dao, one becomes Immortal!”

Ning Fan was suddenly stunned coming to the realization that his Master was originally an Immortal! No wonder even Rain Palace Emperor had to salute respectfully seeing the Old Monster...

Old Monster could restore his cultivation, to Ning Fan, it was a good thing, a happy event. Ning Fan did not expect to get any benefits from the Old Monster, he simply wished that Old Monster could heal from his injury.

He breathed out deeply, relieved. Looking skyward, the smile vanished from his face.

Now, it has come to the final step, shatter the Heavens Dao ring, become an Immortal!

But it was at this moment, that an unexpected variable happened!

The sky within a hundred li was covered with demonic qi.

From afar, a thousand feet ice mountain suddenly exploded into dust-sized particles. Out of nowhere, a thousand feet tall door of built of white bones surfaced from the earth!

There were no signs of any variables prior to the gigantic door’s appearance. The gates of bones opened and as white as ghost, ten thousand feet lofty bone claw stretched out from the other side of the huge door. The bone-white claw pierced through the First Ring of Heavens Dao, shattering it into dust.

And the Old Monster who had been preparing to break the black and white ring himself suddenly had a reversed flow of cultivation, and he spurted out a mouthful of fresh blood. Like a broken kite, he fell sharply from the sky, and his cultivation declined with the same trajectory!

Void Refinement, Spirit Severing, Nascent Soul, Gold Core, Harmonious Spirit... it actually fell to Vein Opening.

One bony white finger pointed at the Old Monster’ through the void and his meridians were crushed inch by inch.

Void Fragmentation! That bony hand’s master was actually a Void Fragmentation expert!

And that person had suddenly launched an attack at the most crucial moment when the Old Monster needed to recover his strength, smashing the Old Monster's hope into smithereens. Who is this person that bore this deep blood-hatred with Old Monster!

Old Monster smashed into the ground, the ground sunk, creating a hundred zhang crater. Looking at the gigantic white bones door, Old Monster was coughing blood nonstop as he revealed an expression of absolute grief and indignant.

"Why... Why did, you betray this Master..."

"Why? Hmph, you don't need to know. Han Yuanji, if you had live quietly, I don't mind sparing your dog life, but if you want to restore your strength, today, this Emperor, will not be merciful. Die!"

The huge bone claw pointed at the Old Monster, carrying an aura that oppresses all living being. If it points at the Old Monster, he's absolutely dead!

Experiencing joy and misery, the tens of thousands of evil cultivator in Seven Apricot City had become stupefied like a wooden puppet.

No one knew how ruthless Old Monster. No one knew, that the Old Monster had an enemy that was even more ruthless than him, plotting his moves!

In that instant, Ning Fan's eyes turned scarlet, gripping Separation Slayer tightly in his palm he rushed out to block.

Half a year of getting along with the Old Monster, the memories of this period flashed in his heart. He cannot stand still and watch the Old Monster die, never!

So what if you're a Void Fragmentation old devil, does that mean you can hurt my Master!

"You deserve to die!" Ning Fan's killing intent pierced the sky, and actually grabbed the long forgotten sword scabbard from his storage bag.

.....

The moment the gigantic white bone door appeared, and the bone claw shattered Old Monster's cultivation, a certain secluded space in the Rain World where a Holy Temple stood, the Godly Rain Emperor suddenly jumped up with a disbelief face.

"Demon World's Godly Emperor, Moksha Emperor. Why did this person violate the Nine Worlds Covenant and appear in Rain World! Does he want to start a war with us, the Rain World!"

Thinking of Moksha Emperor's heinous name, even as the Rain World's Godly King he felt trepidation.

"A major event is going to happen in the Rain World. Why must it be at this moment when Yun Tianjue is not around..." Rain World's Godly Emperor's white brows locked together.

Note:

Moksha - In Hinduism (origin of Buddhism) release from the cycle of rebirth impelled by the law of karma.

Chapter 34: Whitebone Flame, Seized!

Ruler of the Demon World, Moksha Emperor... This person wanted to kill Old Monster, who in the Yue Country could block him?

Old Monster restoring his cultivation was originally a happy event, and the emergence of this person reversed such a happy occasion to one of extreme grief.

From the giant white bone door, demonic energy seeped out and oppressed the area, flooding out thickly, causing the tens of thousands of Seven Apricot City's evil cultivators to quiver in prostration on the ground. Some even fell unconscious.

The three commanders and four Clan Patriarchs trembled all the way down to the core of their very soul under the heavy demonic coercion and fell from the sky, laying unconscious on the ground.

Zhihe fainted, Si Wuxie fainted; in the entire Seven Apricot City, only two people could withstand the pressure coming from the Demon World.

One was the heavily injured Old Monster, and the other was Ning Fan.

Ning Fan's eyes were brewing with the killing intent of an ancient emperor, such that even a peak Void Fragmentation master's oppressive intimidation could not subdue him.

He stared at the enormous white bone finger. Before his brain could process any thoughts his body had already shot out.

The goal was to block the Old Monster, then sprint towards the white bone finger in the air. If he didn't save Old Monster, Old Monster would undoubtedly meet his end. He acted not out of kindness or repaying a favor, but simply because did not want Old Monster to die, that was all there was to it.

“So, this is a Void Fragmentation master...”

Ning Fan’s heart and soul shook, he couldn’t take the attack - he had no way to block it. This single finger shrouded over a hundred li. As long as Moksha Emperor desired it, he could destroy the entire Yue Country with one finger!

This was an invincible Void Fragmentation master... Showing such powerful magical power, Ning Fan was as insignificant as an ant. Every struggle was akin to a praying mantis trying to block a car.

Not to mention Ning Fan, in fact, but the millions of cultivators in the entire Rain Immortal World only had a scarce number of people that could block this attack.

Many thoughts flashed through his mind in that split second, and the one thing that stood out was the old scabbard. Whatever means he had now, none of them were useful against a Void Fragmentation master; only the old scabbard held a slim possibility.

Gripping the scabbard in his hands, a sharp edge gleamed in Ning Fan’s eyes.

He got this scabbard from the Dao Fruit Auction, containing a unique sword qi intent that belonged to a woman.

What level of sword intent? Ning Fan wasn’t sure. He decisively crushed the scabbard, using his body as the catalyst to guide the sword intent with the hope that it could block the white bone finger’s attack!

He could not say for sure it would work, but it was worth a try.

However, there was no fear in his heart. Dying while fighting was better than bowing down and accepting fate without attempting any resistance.

“Oh? A measly Harmonious Spirit cultivator dares to block my Void Shattering Finger. Ignorant...” From within the giant door came a disdainful sneer and the voice rumbled like thunder.

However, Ning Fan did not hear these sarcastic words, his entire being was already immersed within the scabbard.

Mind and body blended with the scabbard. Channeling his magical power, Ning Fan crushed the scabbard and a soft melancholy sword intent, just like a young woman’s sigh, attached itself onto Ning Fan’s body.

In that instant, as if injured, Ning Fan’s rib bones snapped, and the breaking traveled to his arm bones. Spitting blood, Ning Fan nearly lost consciousness and fell from the sky.

The sword intent spread throughout his body, and Ning Fan's flesh became a crimson mess as he stood in midair like a man drenched in blood.

His veins were on the verge of breaking and the excruciating pain pierced deep into his soul. But in his eyes, there was a Void Fragmentation level sword intent!

At this point, the Godly King of the Demon World on the other side of the giant door was startled. Never did he imagine Ning Fan could initiate Void Fragmentation level sword intent with his Harmonious Spirit cultivation.

Despite that, Moksha Emperor immediately returned to his cold and aloof expression. With his eyesight, he could see the sword intent did not belong to Ning Fan himself, and instead came from the shattered scabbard, using his own body as the catalyst to forcefully activate it - it only contained a one-time attack.

“Relying on your Harmonious Spirit physical body to bear the power of Void Fragmentation sword intent really surprises this Emperor.....Unfortunately, even if borrowing external power, in this Emperor's eyes you are still no different than an ant..... You can't save Han Yuanji! After all, this Emperor's white bone finger evolved from the 'Whitebone Flame'.....”

Whitebone Flame, one of the twelve terrifying Earth Vein Demonic Flame. It burns a milky white color, in the shape of a white skull.

Moksha Emperor has always been proud of this fact; he believed even a true Void Fragmentation old monster couldn't take one move from this white bone finger unscathed.

Ning Fan was unaware of all of this, his heart and soul were currently absorbed in the sword intent from the scabbard.

From the moment Ning Fan crushed the scabbard, a woman's voice sounded between heaven and earth, faint and intermittent as if it came from eons past, left behind during an intense battle.

“Gods and Demons in this Heaven and Earth, all are ants; there is none like my sword in this Heaven and Earth.....”

Within that short sentence, the scene of a woman slaughtering Gods and Demons burst into Ning Fan's mind! The scabbard shattered into dust the moment this voice sounded; the entire world seemed to turn into one mighty sword intent. The thick demonic qi collapsed when the sword intent slashed down, shattered into smithereens!

At this time, the Godly King of the Demon World could not keep his cool any longer.

“What sword intent is this...most of its power had disappeared after infinite years being buried, yet it still contains such horrible might... If the owner of this sword intent were still alive, this Emperor wouldn't be able to block this attack..... a measly Harmonious Spirit ant actually possessed such a terrifying sword intent, this truly shocks this Emperor. However, this is the end of the road for you.”

One sword slashed across the world, colliding with the white bone finger. Upon impact, the white bone finger turned to dust. The white bone finger was originally condensed out from flames. As Ning Fan's sword intent destroyed it, the white bone finger reverted back to a sea of surreal white flames. After one attack, the mysterious woman's sword intent vanished without a trace, whereas Ning Fan stumbled more than a hundred steps back in the air before he steadied himself, half kneeling on a cloud.

That scabbard was given to Ning Fan by the Godly Void Pavilion, and it has a great origin.

The sword intent residue inside could jar the world, powerful enough to defend against a Void Fragmentation level attack one time. Unfortunately, there was no second scabbard, and Ning Fan could not borrow the sword intent a second time.

Borrowing that power while utilizing a Harmonious Spirit stage cultivation base already injured him severely. Although Ning Fan successfully blocked that attack with the sword intent from the scabbard, he wasn't happy at all.

How would he deal with the next attack?

And at that moment, he saw a ten thousand zhang giant of a black-cloaked man stepped out through the door. With one point of that person's finger, the sea of Whitebone Flame whirled into a fierce gale of fire, spinning towards Ning Fan.

This gigantic man was none other than the Demon World's Godly King - Moksha Emperor!

He had a lofty and domineering physique; skin a metallic gold color like that of the ancient three-legged Golden Crow, the moon and the sun reflected in his eyes and clouds rumbled with his nasty sneer. The moment he appeared through the door, space cracked and manifested in the air like thousands of spiderweb lines, causing the earth to tremble; the entire Seven Apricot City shook unsteadily.

The swirl of white flame engulfed Ning Fan.

In the last moment, before he was swallowed by the sea of white flame, Ning Fan caught a glimpse of the gigantic man and shock ran down his spine.

Giant! Just this one giant was as big as an entire city! This person is Old Monster's enemy!

Void Fragmentation old monster a day would come when he had the power to destroy a Void Fragmentation realm cultivator, but not today. The current him wasn't qualified to stand up in front of Moksha Emperor!

Wrapped in the Whitebone Flames, Ning Fan communicated with the Yin Yang Locket, he wanted to try and see if it was capable of swallowing the fire. Unfortunately, the Whitebone Flame was controlled by Moksha Emperor's magic power, how could it be swallowed so easily?

Moreover, the flame was imprinted with hundreds upon thousands of soul marks, without erasing these soul imprints he was unable to snatch the fire!

Whitebone Flame and Black Demon Flame both belonged to the twelve kinds of Earth Vein Demonic Flame. Ning Fan had once swallowed the Black Demon Flame using the Yin Yang Locket was due to Old Monster's cultivation diminishing. Manipulated by a Void Fragmentation old monster, it was exceedingly difficult to swallow the Whitebone Flame. At most, Ning Fan could use the Yin Yang Locket for self-protection, guaranteeing his life in the sea of fire.

Ning Fan gripped the Separation Slayer sword in hand and activated the Soul Burning spirit power as the look in his eyes turned colder by the second. Trapped inside the sea of flames yet still alive, Ning Fan didn't know that this feat had already shocked Moksha Emperor once again.

"There's something strange with this kid. With the Whitebone Flame manipulated by this Emperor, those below the Void Fragmentation level have absolutely no power to resist, not more than a fleeting moment anyway..."

His attacks being deflected by a Harmonious Spirit junior like Ning Fan twice was a huge insult and humiliation for the great Moksha Emperor.

Today, he cast 'Crossing Worlds Portal' to descend into the Rain World, the main purpose being to kill that Old Monster. He'd never expected he would be delayed again and again by a Harmonious Spirit punk...

The black-armored giant looked towards the horizon, sensing several powerful fluctuations rushing in their direction, shattering through the void. It seemed as though the Rain World's Void Fragmentation masters came to deal with him.

After all, he is the Godly King of the Demon World, regarded as the Rain World's greatest enemy. There were likely many people that dreamed of lopping off his head...

"Humph! Forget it, Han Yuanji's meridians are already wasted, to kill him or not is irrelevant now... Me having done things to this extreme, 'that person' should be satisfied..... the Four Heavens White Demon Sect, if it wasn't for that vow, how could I kill my own teacher....."

Speaking of 'that person', even one such as Moksha Emperor gave the impression of fear. All this while, the Rain World's masters grew closer and closer, he knew that he could not delay any longer.

"Kid, in a hundred years the 'Ancient Heaven' land will open. I will visit Rain World again, and that will be your death."

Returning to the other side with one step, the black-armored giant snickered and called back the Whitebone Flame. However, it was as if the Whitebone Flame was out of his control, he couldn't take it back!

"You hurt Master, don't dream of leaving just like that!"

From the middle of the sea of fire came Ning Fan's cold voice. Old Monster was gravely injured, it was unknown whether he was alive or dead. Ning Fan might not be the opponent of the Demon World's Godly King, but at the very least, he could snatch his demonic flame. Simply said, he was not allowed to leave so easily!

Separation Slayer slashed out. Under the Burning Soul effect, Moksha Emperor's tens of thousands of soul imprints in the Whitebone Flame were incinerated, ruthlessly erased!

The giant figure was shocked into a stupor because he felt the Whitebone Flame that he had refined for a thousand years and marked with thousands of soul imprints over the years turned to ashes!

"Punk, you dared to snatch this Emperor's 'Natal Demon Flame'!" The giant let out a thunderous roar of wrath.

"I seized your demonic flame, so what!"

Chapter 35: Injured Moksha Emperor, Void Fragmentation Battle!

The Natal Demonic Flame that was refined for a thousand years, once taken away, it was not as simple as a drop in cultivation. In all likelihood, he would suffer heavy injuries from the backlash!

According to Moksha Emperor's character, he would typically retrieve the Whitebone Flame after the whitebone finger was destroyed as a precaution. But he underestimated Ning Fan too much. In Moksha Emperor's memory, even a Nascent Soul or Spirit Severing expert could not possibly snatch his flame.

If it wasn't for Moksha Emperor's contempt, if it wasn't for the Yin Yang Locket's heaven-defying ability to swallow demonic flames, if it wasn't for Separation Slayer

sword's Void level effect of soul burning, Ning Fan had no chance in hell to snatch the Whitebone Flame!

Moksha Emperor's projection manifestation - the black-armored giant's wrath sounded like angry thunders. One fist barreled down, the mountains and earth cracked and crumbled. Half of the Seven Apricot City's ice palace collapsed due to the piercing wind that accompanied the fist strike. This punch carried Moksha Emperor's full force, the heaviest blow of his entire life!

If this punch landed, not to mention the Seven Apricot City, the entire Yue County, and the several neighboring countries, stretching hundreds of millions of li would be annihilated, every spec of life turned to ashes!

Wrath of Gods and Demons, pierces through Heavens, seized the lives on earth, Yin and Yang disintegrates!

Indomitable! In Ning Fan's eyes, because death seemed assured, there was no anxiety present; his mind was a blank sheet of nothingness, close to losing consciousness, there was only that single thought that stuck to his mind.

Snatch Moksha Emperor's Natal Demonic Flame!

Inside his dantian, the Yin Yang Locket was absorbing the Whitebone Flames like a sperm whale sucking in water. An endless sea of fire disappeared like a rare cactus that bloomed at night. The flame potency in Ning Fan's body was grander than his magical powers.

Thus, there was no way Ning Fan could use this flame...however, in the end, this flame no longer belonged to Moksha Emperor!

"Pooof!"

With the Whitebone Flame snatched away, the black-armored giant's dynamic punch was interrupted forcefully, spurting out black blood that was more like a raging river. Black blood splattered over the frozen land on the north side of Yue Country, turning a snow-white world into a pitch-black area thick with the smell of blood.

A touch of regret flitted across Moksha Emperor's eyes. He was careless. He was too careless this time. If he knew an ant like Ning Fan had some strange method to seize his demonic flame, he should have left coolly after crushing Old Monster's meridians.

Why did he do something so superfluous? Using the Whitebone Flame in its original form!

Hate, he was consumed with a heaven piercing hate!

The black-armored giant's eyes turned entirely black, the color of midnight ink just like the black on the Ring of Heavens Dao!

“Bastard, I want to kill you! Kill you! Ancient Demon Saber, ‘turning broken bones into soldiers!’” [1]

The black-armored giant decisively bit off one of his fingers, strangely, not a drop of blood flowed out.

One little finger of his was like a small hill, and the black-armored giant chewed the finger into pieces. Crushed bones turned into black rays, sprinkled in the horizon, and changed into an army of one hundred thousand demon soldiers!

One hundred thousand demon soldiers, wielding blades and spears, lifeless like puppets, like mud golems, vicious and fierce, every single one of them had the strength of a Gold Core expert!

One crushed finger turned into a one hundred thousand Gold Core level demon army, Moksha wanted to execute a massacre! The massacre area was a one hundred li radius distance with Yue Country as the axis!

Ning Fan had no way to stop this, at the moment, he was akin to a broken kite, falling from the clouds to the Seven Apricot City.

And Ning Fan need not care, for two Void Fragmentation, seven Void Refinement, and twelve Spirit Severing old monsters were rushing thereby sundering the void ? reinforcements.

Every one of these old monsters had a condescending air about them and took no notice of the tragedy that is Seven Apricot City. They serve the Godly King of Rain Immortal World's royal family, they only cared about the righteous factions. An evil cultivator's city is of no interest to them, and no loss.

However, they could not sit idly and watch Moksha Emperor release one hundred thousand demon soldiers or countless cultivators burned to the ground. Many righteous sects would suffer invasion from these demon soldiers.

“Shhh! What stimulation did this Moksha Emperor receive, why did he come to destroy a small city like this out of nowhere? His hatred is sky piercing high, even willing to lose a finger to launch the Ancient Demon Saber's magic attack -turning broken bones into soldiers Losing the bone of a finger, without a hundred years of effort, he will lose that pinky forever...”

Between two Void Fragmentation old monsters, one of them was a red-haired old man, wearing a purplish-red python robe that spoke with a stern expression. Though he was talking, his hands weren't idle, raising a Void Treasure - Phoenix Song Ruler. The blood

jade little ruler easily slashed the demon soldiers, reducing them into blood mists in the air.

However, even though the demon soldiers formed from Moksha Emperor's bone burst into blood mists, it would coagulate and be reborn as another demon soldier. They simply could not be killed.

Seeing this, the red-haired old fellow frowned; he was only a first layer Void Fragmentation expert, compared to Moksha Emperor's strength, he was truly sub-par.

The other Void Fragmentation old monster next to him was actually a beggar-like young man. Chaotic messy hair similar to fleabane weeds and ragged clothes; although his appearance was a little dirty, he had a handsome face. His face contained an ungroomed and rough looking beard but it added an aura of manliness to him.

The Rain World Godly King's third son, Yun Bushu, a second layer Void Fragmentation expert!

"Oh, the magical ability of the Ancient Demon Veins, turning broken bones into soldiers? I wonder when compared to my Ancient God Veins - Ice Veins of the Gods, which is stronger and which is weaker....."

The beggar young man's indifferent eyes suddenly lit up and a monstrous battle intent exuded from his body. He grinned and unsheathed a rusty blade that hung from his waist. Gripped it with his left hand and cut down.

"Using three of my fingers against Moksha Emperor's one pinky...Hehe, I really don't know what could have happened that caused him to be injured. Otherwise, even if I cut all ten of my fingers, I still wouldn't be his rival... Ancient God Art, 'Demon Emperor Rain'!"

Cutting off three of his own fingers, the beggar young man blasted a palm out, bursting the three fingers into clouds of blood mists. An icicle hurricane came spinning from the horizon, ice qi from a thousand li radius were all gathered into the beggar young man's palm. Ice and blood blended together, turning into a rain of blood swords, also amounting to one hundred thousand in number, fell to the ground.

One hundred thousand demon soldiers, one hundred thousand drops of blood rain; the demon soldiers melted and were no longer able to resurrect.

Outside the gigantic white bone door, Moksha Emperor suffered another backlash from his demon soldiers' spell being broken. With his abilities, if Ning Fan did not snatch the Whitebone Flame and caused him to be injured and magical powers turned chaotic, how could the 'turning broken bones into soldiers' be destroyed by two mere Void Fragmentation experts!

He was actually humiliated by a trivial two garbage Void Fragmentation weaklings; all these things were Ning Fan's fault!

But Moksha Emperor understood, he was heavily injured again and again, no matter how much he hated Ning Fan, this wasn't the time to insist on killing him. Furthermore, the longer he delayed here, and if the Rain World Godly King came, with one of his 'Ice as Sword' or 'Cloud Sky Tactic'... He probably would really die here in the Rain World.

As the dignified Demon World Godly King, dying from a plot created by a Harmonious Spirit ant and having died in the Rain World, won't his death be in vain and full of regret?

Originally, Moksha Emperor decided to kill Ning Fan a hundred years later. When the Ancient Heaven Land opens, he would enter the Rain World to kill Ning Fan. But now, there was no patience for waiting one hundred years. In fact, if he received any more injuries, he wouldn't even fully heal in a hundred years and would miss the massive inheritance opportunity left by ancestors in the Ancient Heaven Land!

Humph, Ning Fan is a measly Harmonious Spirit ant, Harmonious Spirit!!!!!!

“Roar!”

Moksha Emperor gritted his teeth and used his powers once again, letting out a sky splitting roar. A threatening demonic force flooded out, sending the Rain World experts retreating back in panic.

Using this opportunity, he stepped through the white bone door, traveling through the void to return to the Demon World.

He came to kill Old Monster but his plan was destroyed by a junior.

In his heart, the list of people he must kill increased by one? Ning Fan!

“Little junior, one hundred years later, when I return from the Ancient Heaven Land, I will dismember you into a million pieces!”

The giant door closed, Moksha Emperor fled!

Although he was said to flee, none of the Rain World experts dared to chase. Forty years ago, Moksha Emperor also came to Rain World secretly, no one knew what he did here, but he was pursued by three Void Fragmentation experts, seven Void Refinement, and nine Spirit Severing experts. Angered, Moksha Emperor lashed out at the nineteen people trailing him, killing sixteen of them, and three Void Fragmentation experts were gravely injured.

Only the three Void Fragmentation experts escaped and survived... Although Moksha Emperor was heavily injured at that moment, there wasn't an expert there that could block him if he decided to fight back in desperation.....

"Humph, he escaped..." the red-haired old man snorted coldly, sounding like an experienced old-timer. Despite that, relief was evident in his eyes. Obviously, he didn't really want to fight with Moksha Emperor.

The beggar young man - Yun Bushu, thought of Moksha Emperor's parting words and revealed an interested look.

Moksha Emperor's warning was intended for whom? ... Could Moksha Emperor's injury be related to this person? What sort of individual could wound the majestic Godly King of the Demon World!

Yun Bushu gazed over Seven Apricot City, then shook his head.

Within Seven Apricot City, the highest cultivation level was a mere Harmonious Spirit. It appears as though the expert who injured Moksha Emperor has left.

When Yun Bushu's divine sense swept across Ning Fan, he was slightly surprised and stopped two seconds longer on Ning Fan's body. There was a feeling of closeness with Ning Fan...

"Illusion...?" Shaking his head to clear his thoughts, Yun Bushu formed hand seals and initiated a healing technique with a large area of effect - Void level skill 'Rain Sky Art', covering a hundred li radius of Seven Apricot City, healing the injuries of the unconscious evil cultivators below.

"Third Prince, why should you waste your magical power for a bunch of evil cultivators!" The red-haired old man was dissatisfied. The Rain World Godly King was the leader of the righteous faction, however, this Third Prince never adhered to his position and status, swimming between the righteous and evil factions, causing untold headaches for the Godly King.

"Evil factions are also my Rain World's subjects...haha, let's go..."

The group of experts split the void and left.

In Seven Apricot City, the evil cultivators started to awaken after being healed by Yun Bushu's Rain Sky Art and were shocked by the ruins around the city, sudden feelings luck kicked in for being able to survive the ordeal.

To survive after Seven Apricot City was attacked by such a horrible expert was indeed lucky.

Ning Fan laid next to Old Monster, no energy even to move his pinky. Next to him, there was heartache as well as comfort in the Old Monster's eyes.

"Who is that person...?" Ning Fan finally asked the question.

"Han Nietian, this father's adopted son...now, it looks like he's the Demon World's Moksha Emperor. Little brat Ning, you snatched back this old man's life. This father really did well taking you as a disciple..."

"In the end, I did not block that person's attack. He's too strong and crushed your entire body's meridians and veins, I was unable to stop it..."

"You are only at the Harmonious Spirit realm, what do you expect? Fight with Moksha Emperor? Who do you think you are? It is already enough that you could save my life from his hands...This father is tired, sleep for a while. A few days later, go to the Sinister Sparrow Sect, bring the three Black Demon Spiritual Guards with you. I'll leave the Seven Apricot City in your hands... This father's cultivation is destroyed; I'll stay here and accompany Xiaomei..."

Old Monster's veins and meridians were crushed, how could Ning Fan not tell? Absolute Yin poison although a poison, in fact, is quite mild. It was easy to remove it, just the dan recipe was a little rare and the Yin Yang dan refining method had long been lost.....

Thus, a four revolution dan to treat the Absolute Yin poison was more than enough.

But now, Old Monster's veins and meridians were shattered by Moksha Emperor... rebuilding them was not hard, the difficult thing is removing the demonic qi inside Old Monster's body. With Ning Fan's Harmonious Spirit strength, it was impossible. This was a fact, unless he reached the Void Fragmentation level or possessed the techniques and abilities of a Void Fragmentation expert. If not, he simply could not do anything.

Or refining a six revolution dan could get rid of the demonic qibut this method was far beyond Ning Fan's ability.

"Master, if my cultivation advances, I will help you restore your meridians."

"....." Old Monster did not answer, lacking the breath to do so.

"A hundred years later, when Moksha Emperor comes again, I will make him repentant! At that time, I won't be in the Harmonious Spirit realm anymore. He and I, who is the ant is still undecided!"

"....." Old Monster still did not answer, and did not breathe; keeping his eyes closed as if he was.....dead.

Ning Fan's heart tightened as sorrow crept up. Could the arrogant Old Monster that swaggered everywhere in this world have died just like this?!

As Ning Fan grew increasingly anxious, Old Monster suddenly opened his eyes with a 'shuaaa' and looked at Ning Fan like he wanted to swallow Ning Fan whole.

"Right, when you seized the Whitebone Flame, you used the Soul Burning effect! You took this father's Soul Burning iron! This father suffered a loss! Little Ning Brat, you cannot be such a shameless human!"

Old Monster recovered some of his spirit, pressed his lips together and no longer spoke. So, he was actually struggling about this matter. (editor: haha gotta love the greedy old man)

This light-hearted Old Monster... Experienced true love and death, was betrayed by his adopted son, had his meridians and veins shattered... But he could still laugh, maintaining some innocence.

This is a realm ah! The realm of positivity that was enough to make Ning Fan speechless!

Note:

[1] Adapted from the famous line for immortal cultivators 'sprinkling beans turning into soldiers.'

Author's Note:

One must live like Old Monster. Life is not always eight or nine points out of ten, dare to love and dare to hate, only then will one live freely. Even if there is deep blood feud, one must not be blinded by hatred. Otherwise, there is only more to lose.

Chapter 36: Seven Apricot Voyage Ship, Embarking on A Journey!

"A hundred years later, Moksha Emperor will descend again to Rain Immortal World, and at that time.....at that time, will I be his opponent?!"

One hundred li outside of Seven Apricot City, a grand and luxurious voyage ship was moving at rapid speed through the airspace. Ning Fan stood on the deck of the ship, strong wind was blowing yet his hair remained still.

Three days ago, Old Monster took away the ?Seven Apricot Records? and gave Ning Fan a storage bag.

Then, three days later, Old Monster kicked Ning Fan out of Seven Apricot City, giving him his marching orders to travel to Sinister Sparrow Sect and pass the so-called sect assessment test.

He hadn't had the time to refine a Royal Jade Dan and he was already booted; this time, leaving Seven Apricot City, Ning Fan was not sure how many years later it would be before he'd return.

"When you reach the Sinister Sparrow Sect, send this father's regards to Sinister Sparrow. Pay attention to his daughter... Whether you marry or not, depends on you..."

"After you enter the sect, plant your feet firmly on the ground! Talk less, kill more, only do practical things; that is the virtues of a great evil cultivator!"

"Go out outside more and bask in the sun, this way there will be less chance for you to succumb to heart devils!"

"Inside the storage bag, this father put in some good stuff for you, open it after you board the Seven Apricot Voyage Ship."

.....

Old Monster continued to nag about several things, and most of it was words of concern. After spending half a year with the Old Monster, Ning Fan never thought they would bid farewell in this manner.

The Seven Apricot Voyage Ship, a top grade Magical Treasure that could accommodate thousands of people on it, speeding across the sky! In the past, when Old Monster went out to trample on other sects, he loved to use this ship, descending down on them from the sky above with the inspiring Black Demon Army, crashing right into those righteous sects' door.

Apparently, once upon a time in the Rain World, the founder of blitzkrieg warfare was none other than the Old Monster.

This voyage ship had amazing momentum, not only was the speed amazing, it was also equipped with a total of twenty 'Spirit Fire Cannon' that used immortal jade to power them. With one burst from these cannons, even a Gold Core old monster would need to flee due to injury.

The only setback - it was too costly. One shot from the cannon needs two thousand immortal jades; unless it was a crucial moment, Ning Fan couldn't bear to use them. His own storage bag had dwindled down to nothing because of the Mountain and River Reverse Motion grand formation array he laid out to destroy the Heaven Separation Sect. All that remained in his storage bag right now was no more than fifty thousand immortal jades.

Fifty thousand immortal jade was enough to build several of Seven Apricots City. Ning Fan definitely didn't fall into the category of being a poor cultivator, but compared to his previous wealth, it was a single hair on a cow's back.

Three guard platoons of the Black Demon Army - Ice Guards, Sword Guards, and the Apricot Guards - were all taken away by Ning Fan. The weapons inside the treasury, half gone, distributed to the three guards' army to upgrade their equipment. Ning Fan also cleared out half the elixirs kept in the Apricot Mansion.

Ning Fan was determined not to bring the Four Clan's because he wanted them to remain and protect Old Monster, along with the city.

Old Monster had lost all his cultivation, although not many people knew about this, Ning Fan was not assured without someone by Old Monster's side.

With four hundred Apricot Guards, five hundred Sword Guards, and five hundred Ice guards on the voyage ship, it was a grand sight. As they flew through the sky above, some small sects and families were alarmed and acted warily, as if they were facing their greatest enemy.

If Ning Fan wanted, he could easily leave a trail of destruction, but he was injured at the moment and not in the mood to provoke trouble.

He took out a black-colored storage bag, another top grade magical treasure, and the space inside it was a hundred times bigger than all the storage bags Ning Fan owned.

It was exactly the storage bag Old Monster gave him before he left, it looked a little old as if Old Monster used it in his days. Just counting the storage bag alone, it could already be considered a treasure, with it, Ning Fan wouldn't need to worry about running out of space for his things.

There were quite a number of storage bags hanging on Ning Fan's waist, all were trophies he acquired from different places; a body decorated with numerous small bags, if no one knew better, they absolutely would take him as someone from the beggar sect - Eight Bags Elder from the Beggar Sect.

Not a lot of things were placed inside the little black storage bag, but when Ning Fan opened it, what he saw made his heart sour.

In the huge spatial dimension within the storage bag, there were only three items.

A red copper token carved with a diagram of ten suns. A handwritten letter with bold brash writing, one look and Ning Fan knew it was written by the Old Monster. Lastly, a small cauldron.

The small cauldron had six corners, eight edges, and three legs...a hexagonal-shaped cauldron that was exceedingly familiar... Another top grade magical treasure, the Dan Shattering Cauldron. The Old Monster's renowned magical treasure...

Ning Fan didn't believe Old monster would give him the magical treasure cauldron he used. Ning Fan's divine sense swept over the cauldron and found sealed within were eight swirling black flame dragons...

Black Demon Flame, the Old Monster even gave the Black Demon Flame to Ning Fan after losing his cultivation...

Ning Fan sighed heavily in his heart; initially, Old Monster could recover his cultivation to the peak. He should be regaining his glory once again and wreaking havoc throughout the four corners of the world, but life is full of ups and downs; joy and sadness, they come and go so quickly that no one can be fully prepared. Old Monster was still able to laugh and calmly gave all his precious belongings to him... This proved Old Monster was very sanguine, he could forego glory and let disgrace go, allowing bygones be bygones, but Ning Fan could not. Every time he recalled the scene of Old Monster's cultivation being crushed by Moksha Emperor, his heart turned icy cold.

"Moksha Emperor... One hundred years later, I will make you sorely regret it!"

Ning Fan put everything away, waiting for his injuries to heal before he swallows the Black Demon Flame and begins cultivating the Black Flame Art.

He took the red copper token out from the storage bag, observing both sides. The item looked ordinary, a dime a dozen, however, with Ning Fan's Ancient Emperor's judgment, he detected a void shattering power hidden within the small token.

A token that has a void shattering power was usually some secret land's 'key', what place does this key open?

Ning Fan believed Old Monster gave him this token for a reason.

Finally, Ning Fan took out the handwritten letter - Old Monster's letter.

"Little Brat Ning, you and I are considered as Master and disciple. You're going away and this father has nothing good to give you. So, I'll give you the Shattering Dan Cauldron, when you go trampling on sects, you must smash down hard for this father. The Black Demon Flame also belongs to you... When your Black Demon Art reaches the Third Stage, fuse all nine flame dragons into one and extract the 'fire marrow' from it. Refine it into your body, only then is it considered as having one Earth Vein Demonic Flame inside your body. One hundred years later, perhaps you may have a chance against Han Nietian. However, one hundred years is too short. No matter how heaven-defying your talent is you won't be able to advance to Void Fragmentation, but if you can collect 'Heaven Frigid Frost Qi' and other Earth Vein Demonic Flame's. Even if it is

Han Nietian, he wouldn't dare to provoke you. That includes the Nine Worlds, even the Nine Godly Kings would also not be your opponent. As for Earth Vein Demonic Flame, you already have the Whitebone Flame and Black Demon Flame, all you need to do is swallow them. Regarding the Heaven Frigid Frost Qi, coincidentally, there is one type in the Sinister Sparrow's secret underground, called Black Yin Qi. Think of a way yourself how to steal it, this father is too lazy to bother with your miscellaneous things.....And that token is called Void Sky Token. It is the key to enter the Ancient Heaven Land, if you get a chance when the Ancient Heaven Land opens, then sneak inside and gain some benefits amongst the chaos.....”

Folding the letter, Ning Fan's expression showed he was pondering something seriously.

Behind him, Little Zhihe looked on quietly like a well-behaved child with a lovely face; no one knew what she was thinking - Brother Fan's thinking expression is really nice, just like a champion scholar.

.....

At the same time, in Seven Apricot City, Old Monster was wearing ink black robes, all of his long hair turned white as his power dissipated. He rapidly aged and the lines on his face displayed his many hardships.

He walked slowly down towards a secret underground palace.

The Seven Apricot City was not originally an icy cold city. One person, Old Monster, turned the northern part of Yu Country into a frozen ice field. The reason...

Underneath ten thousand feet of deathly silence, below the dense Seven Apricot City, there was a huge room that was dug out stretching over a hundred li wide. In the middle of the secret underground was a raging sea of flames, and in the center of the flames was placed a coffin made out of flames itself. In fact, the infinite sea of raging fire came from the coffin.

That coffin was an item higher than a Void Treasure, extremely rare and extraordinary.

Definitely not something that came from the Nine Immortal World. The scorching stream of heat coming from the coffin was powerful enough to burn a Gold Core old monster into ashes; vaguely, a mysterious power exuded from the coffin that could shatter Heavens Dao.

Sleeping serenely in the flame coffin was a pure and holy woman, as delicate as plum blossoms; this woman had a few points of likeness to Dugu. However, compared to Dugu's solitary coldness, the sleeping woman gave the impression of gentleness and warmth. This woman was none other than Dugu's elder sister.

Her heart had stopped beating, and there was no breath coming from her. In fact, her flesh could easily collapse at any moment from severe injuries.

If it weren't for the flame coffin that disperses an atmosphere that could deceive the Heavens, this woman's flesh would instantly turn to ashes, never to reincarnate.

If any Immortals from the Four Heavens were here and saw the flame coffin, each of them would be shocked, because this coffin was a great pure Yang treasure - Heaven Evading Coffin!

That year, in order to get this coffin, Old Monster rushed into the Pure Yang Sect of the Four Heavens alone...

Old Monster slowly got closer to the sea of fire. He looked dazedly at the sleeping woman's face a thousand meters away. Waves of flames blew in Old Monster's direction, roasting his white hair, but Old Monster did not feel it.

"Xiaomei... my cultivation has finally been destroyed by someone else... it was that sinful disciple again. That time, I did not listen to your advice, and I made the same mistakes again and again."

"I drove Little Brat Ning away; he is a talent, maybe...he could avenge me...but he nearly died this time. This diminished my vengeful heart. Thinking of it now, as long as you can live again, revenge or whatever, forget it..."

"Wait till Little Brat Ning's cultivation is enough, I will ask him to save you... that day won't be long, it won't..."

Seven Apricot City's land of freezing ice was nothing more than Old Monster's intention to allow the sleeping woman to feel a little cooler.

Standing at the edge of the sea of flames, Old Monster's sharp killing aura seemed to have washed away.

Without Ning Fan, and without Old Monster, the Si Fan Palace seemed lonely and quiet, or perhaps it was because the Black Demon Army had left that made it look deserted. Under the plum blossom tree, a wisp of soul floated out from the grave. The snow wind blew fiercer as that girl silently looked at Seven Apricot Voyage Ship fly away, receding into the size of an ant, vanishing in the horizon.

"He left..." Dugu sighed; then she suddenly turned back, her sight falling on the blue stone next to the grave. A crimson color flushed from her neck to her cheeks, portraying a little shyness and a hint of anger.

Only one sword mark was left on the blue stone... The first and second sword mark had disappeared.

There was a message left behind by Ning Fan on the blue stone.

“Beauty has Gold Core sword intent but no one can appreciate it if left idle on this blue stone, isn’t that a great pity? Ning Fan came with the snow and left with the moon, taking the sword intent. The year I step into Nascent Soul, I will surely return to remove the third sword intent. By Young Noble Ning that left with the moon...”

“Little Demon Ning, you shameless rogue, big liar, you promised not to steal my sword intent! Go die, go die, return my sword intent to me!” In the Si Fan Palace, little Dugu stomped her feet in anger, clenching her fists tightly.

“Humph, the next time Little Demon Ning comes back, I’ll show him... but, when will he come back, will it be very long.....”

.....

At around half a day of travel on the voyage ship, Ning Fan opened a map on the jade slip, at his side were Nangong, Yuchi, and Situ. Of course, there was also the well-behaved Zhihe and the restless Si Wuxie.

Suddenly sneezing, Ning Fan rubbed his nose and returned a scabbard into his storage bag. Contained in that scabbard was the sword intent he took from Dugu’s blue stone. He couldn’t comprehend it at the moment, so he was saving it for the future.

“Don’t tell me, it was Little Dugu cursing me?” Ning Fan grinned and then shook his head. There shouldn’t be such a coincidence.

“Owner, in another ten thousand li we will reach Sinister Sparrow Sect... Sisi wants to go and play...” Sisi made a request with a soft spoiled voice, interrupting Ning Fan’s grinning.

“No...” the cold look returned to Ning Fan’s eyes, and his attention went back to the map.

This disregard made Si Wuxie puff up her cheeks in anger, causing odd expressions to form on the faces of the three commanders.

Can this cute little girl that is lacking in love really be the earth-shaking Sect Master of Heaven Separation - Si Wuxie?

Facing such a lovely little girl, the Young Lord can be so cold and indifferent...

“Ten thousand li more to Sinister Sparrow Sect? Nangong, once we reach Sinister Sparrow Sect, you arrange for the three guards to camp here in this mountain. If necessary, you can build a city...” After a long time, Ning Fan finally spoke.

“This subordinate shall follow your order!”

“This mountain is not too far from the sect, only a few hundred li. When I have the time, I will come back and train all of you. The return to glory for the The Black Demon Army is not far!”

A sharp light glinted in Ning Fan’s eyes. Train the Three Deity Army, steal the Black Yin Qi, expand his forces and enhance his cultivation; he had set the first goal on his path of evil cultivation!

Everything was for the promise one hundred years later, he would pull the high and mighty Moksha Emperor down, crush him under his foot, and let this wolf pay the price!

They were very near Sinister Sparrow Sect, and due to the sect assessment the grounds were filled with cultivators bringing the juniors of their families, hoping to be selected by the sect.

When those cultivators raised their heads, they saw the luxurious voyage ship in the sky, gaping in amazement.

“Mama, who is this person... descending down on the Sinister Sparrow Sect... could it be a Gold Core expert?”

Chapter 37: The Nan Lou Battle Guards, Kidnapping Case

The Sinister Sparrow Sect was located in the western region of Yue Country, built upon the ancient sect of the Underworld Sparrow Valley. According to legends, in ancient times a Primordial Xuan Yin Sparrow died on this spot and its bones became the mark of its grave, hence the name.

Three hundred li outside the Sinister Sparrow Sect was an area of dense maple trees stretching out over a hundred li, called Maple Forest. The place looked like it was abandoned by a cultivation family, and now, it was filled overgrown weeds, a place that no one bothered with.

There were three more days until the Sinister Sparrow Sect big event began. Above the abandoned maple forest hovered a magnificent voyage ship!

Three Harmonious Spirit experts stepped out from the ship and stood in the sky. One displayed ice magical power, one controlled a purple demon pet, and another one dressed somberly, swinging his double-edged sword. Each displayed their prowess in cleaning out the forest.

A maple forest that stretched over a hundred li, in the short span of half an hour's time the three of them had it flattened!

The occasional passerby cultivators seeing the eerie glow enshrouding the grand voyage ship thought it was some Gold Core old monsters making a trip out, each of them sped away at the quickest, not daring to spy for information.

From afar, it appeared as though this Gold Core old monster wanted to build a city in the abandoned forest; the only point they couldn't determine was why a powerful Gold Core old monster would fancy a city in this maple forest.

This piece of forest land had no mountain, no water, and no spiritual energy, to build a city here was simply a waste of resources.

The voyage ship landed on the forest floor, and from the magnificent voyage ship 1400 evil cultivators descended. As if given a command, they moved quickly and started to build houses; lastly, from the ship one young man and two young women exited.

With a point of his finger, the magnificent huge voyage ship shrunk to palm-sized before the young man placed it into his storage bag.

The young man looked somewhat pale as if dealing with severe injuries, yet he forced himself to oversee the construction and layout of the new houses, occasionally using immortal jades, immortal metals, and divine sense to link with heaven and earth's 'momentum' to arrange a large array formation.

Cultivators' physical strength was stronger than the average person, in less than half a day's work, under the instruction of the young man, the 1400 evil cultivators had already completed more than two thousand houses that were arranged in the shape of a ring, intertwined into the hidden array formation. A three zhang tall city wall was built on the perimeter surrounding the entire new city within, leaving only a single entrance as city gates.

The young man invested countless immortal jades and rare immortal metals within the city walls to lay out a Core level defense formation. With this defense formation, even if it was a Gold Core old monster, they would not dare to swagger into his city. Still, there was a dissatisfied frown on the young man's brows.

"A city built on wooden houses could at most resist some beasts, if cultivators attack, everything would crumble and be destroyed easily. The barren hills here with the thin spiritual energy is unfavorable to the armies' cultivation... Forget it, let the three armies settle down first, we'll look for some immortal mines and spirit veins to revamp the environment here and strengthen the city!"

The young man was none other than Ning Fan that had traveled a far distance, coming to the western part of Yue Country, away from Seven Apricot City. The most crucial task was to have a base.

A three li city within a seven li city wall, barely a livable condition.

High up on the city walls, Situ's sword intent flew out, inscribing two words on the city entrance 'Ning City'; Ning City, meaning Ning Fan's City!

Towards the prospects of joining the Sinister Sparrow Sect, Ning Fan had lukewarm interest; if it wasn't for repaying the kindness on behalf of the Old Monster, if it wasn't for stealing the Xuan Yin Qi, he might not have been willing to come to Sinister Sparrow Sect even if here had his so-called fiancée.

Two thousand houses within a seven li city space, the size was pitifully small, and the construction materials were - nondescript.

Compared to the Seven Apricot City's Xuan Ice structures that had an amazing defense, the Heaven Separation Sect which was built with 'Jasper Jade' that gathered an overwhelming spiritual energy, this newly built city was pitiful to say the least. If any building masters were to witness the quality of these two thousand 'houses' within Ning City, they would probably laugh themselves to death.

Other than the defense array formation which could be considered passable, Ning City possessed no other points that could be complemented.

"Sisi, connect the earth's fire vein here, I want to open a dan refinement room in the city."

While everyone was busy, Ning Fan actually told Si Wuxie to open up an earth fire pit, guiding the fire up so he could refine medicine pellets. And the medicine pellet he was refining was of course, the Jade Royal Dan!

No one imagined the moment this earth fire tunnel pit was connected, it raised a small bubble of trouble, trouble that could not be overlooked.

.....

Within one day, on the west land of Yue Country emerged Ning City.

However, the occasion coincided with an evil sects disciples recruitment session, thus no one paid any attention to Ning City.

The only party that bore hostility towards Ning City was the west Yue Country's righteous family - the Lu Family.

The Master of the Lu Family ? Lu Nanzi - a peak Harmonious Spirit expert. He was a half-step into the Gold Core realm, cultivating in a physique refining technique, and his name was quite famous in the Yue Country. The place Ning Fan chose to build Ning City? Maple Forest was the land abandoned by the Lu Family.

More than a decade ago, the Maple Forest produced 'Fire Maple Fruit' which could quench the physical body. It was a very valuable fruit that brought infinite benefits to Lu Family at that time. Later, because the underground earth fire vein was impeded due to the changes of the land, the trees were affected and no longer bore fruits, hence abandoned by the Lu Family.

A group of evil cultivators taking over the Maple Forest and built a city, of course Lu Nanzi got wind about it, but they did not care in the beginning.

Just a useless forest, losing it was nothing of concern.

But then a message arrived that caused Lu Nanzi to lose his calm, inciting a burning emotion.

The earth fire vein beneath the Maple Forest was actually opened up by someone using great magical powers!

"The earth fire veins is opened, doesn't that mean Fire Maple Fruit can grow again?!" Lu Nanzi was thrilled and depressed at the same time. That year, when the earth fire vein was impeded, even with his peak Harmonious Spirit strength he failed to reopen the connection, now a bunch of evil cultivators that built some lousy city was able to reopen the earth fire vein, this bunch of evil cultivators really ran into some f*cking good fortune.

Since the earth fire vein was reopened, he couldn't allow these evil cultivators to occupy Maple Forest land as a city for free.

Stroking his beard, a sharp light gleamed in his eyes as he turned to the old servant at his side, "Lu Ming, describe the people that are now occupying Maple Forest, what is their cultivation level, origin, and background..."

"Replying to House Master, this old servant sent some people to check. This so-called Ning City, in reality, was simply some crudely built houses, unpresentable... this Ning City very likely does not have any strong background or origin, or perhaps, it is just a new force."

"A newly developed force? This is a possibility... En, let me think... 'Ning City'... this city's lord must have Ning as a surname, surname Ning... There seem to be no powerful forces with the surname Ning in the Yue Country...let's do it this way, you lead the Nan Lou Battle Guards and oust these group of evil cultivators. If possible, try not to kill, of course, if these people are too stubborn for their own good, then you don't have to be merciful..."

“Master wants this old servant to bring the Nan Lou Battle Guards?!”

The old servant named Lu Ming was extremely shocked.

In the cultivation world, a medium sized force would cultivate the experts under them into battle guards and/or war guards. They would place them into their own separate battle formations, like Old Monster who had three battle armies under him - the Ice Guards, Apricot Guards, and Sword Guards. The Yue Country Lu Family had a group of 500 people referred to as Nan Lou Battle Guards, ranked seventeenth in Yue Country's 'War Guards List'. Even some of the bigger sect's battle guards were incomparable to the Lu Family's Battle Guards.

Every battle guard within the 500 Nan Lou Battle Guards were at Fourth level Vein Opening and above, and all of them were well-trained; sending them to battle could destroy an entire clans smaller forces.

Lu Ming could not figure out why the House Master would use the Nan Lou Battle Guards just to deal with a newly developed power; isn't this killing kittens with a butcher's knife?

The House Master was too cautious.

The old servant swallowed nervously, and tried to persuade Lu Nanzi cautiously, “House Master, there is no need to involve the Nan Lou Battle Guards, this old slave alone as an early Harmonious Spirit cultivator is more than enough to destroy a small city.”

“Lu Ming, you're good in every aspect but there is one fatal weakness, and that is you are too proud... You must remember, even when facing the weakest enemy, you must exert all your effort; ‘a hawk swoops down on the rabbit with all its might’, remember this sentence well...go...”

Lu Nanzi closed his eyes and didn't say more.

As for Lu Ming, he dared not violate House Master Lu Nanzi's order; after taking his leave, he went to gather the 500 Nan Lou Battle Guards, then rode through the night in Ning City's direction.

500 Nan Lou Battle Guards of Fourth level Vein Opening, riding on beast mounts, exuding a sharp aura as they moved like a flash flood towards Ning City. Traveling cultivators quickly stepped aside in panic seeing it was the Nan Lou Battle Guards going out at full force.

“Lu Family released the Nan Lou Battle Guards again, which evil city are they going to destroy this time...”

“Look, that is the early Harmonious Spirit Commander Lu Ming, he actually led the troops in person...tsk tsk, if I can witness a Harmonious Spirit expert’s triumphant battle, my life will not have been in vain...”

Discussion breaking out by onlooking cultivators accompanied the rumbling of hooves as it entered Lu Ming’s ears, which only increased his irritation.

The House Master was really making a big fuss out of nothing..... gathering all of the troops just to destroy a measly little Ning City.

Two hours later, the Nan Lou Battle Guards had crossed several hundred li in the dark horizon before they saw the outline of an unremarkable city in the distance.

Lu Ming was a Harmonious Spirit expert after all, and with his eyesight, just one look and he could tell the building materials of this so-called Ning City was normal timber. Nothing to be lauded over or worth attention in his eyes.

He lifted his hand and the Nan Lou Battle Guards reined in their horses ten li outside the Ning City walls.

Then, his divine sense spread out under the waning moon, with an arrogant tone resounding throughout the entire Ning City.

“This old one is called Lu Ming, Commander of Lu Family’s Nan Lou Battle Guards, we’ve come to take command of Ning City; Ning City Lord, this old man gives you ten breaths of time, come out to see me. If you surrender, this old man can let bygones be bygones and not take any lives.”

Lu Ming squinted his wrinkly eyes as he sat atop his unicorn mount, fully displaying the stance of a revered Ancestor.

A cold sneer curved at his mouth, he used the divine sense of a Harmonious Spirit expert to transmit the message, these evil cultivators must be frightened, shivering in their beds.

Such a lousy city, the evil cultivators that live inside must be some country bumpkins that have never seen a Harmonious Spirit expert before.

While he was sneering complacently, the cold sneer on his face stiffened as his eyes widened in surprise, disbelief written all over his face.

Due to extreme fright, his wrinkly old face muscles cramped as if he suddenly had a stroke, looking extremely funny, words fumbling about in his mouth.

“Three... three Harmonious Spirit experts...two mid...one late...also...so many ...people...”

In the dim moonlight, Nangong, Situ, and Yuchi were standing in the air, fully releasing their Harmonious Spirit aura and each of them displaying murderous expressions. The 1400 evil cultivators, within a few breaths' time, swarmed out of Ning City like a tidal wave, and with impressive skill separated into three large formations.

Riot Apricot Heaven and Earth Formation, Three Talent Sword Killing Formation, and Four Directions Ice Emperor Formation.

1400 people with the lowest cultivation at the Fifth level of Vein Opening. These 1400 people froze their killing intent for more than forty years, but on this night, it exploded!

“What dog fart is this, bursting over here late at night disturbing our ‘Young Noble’ Ning’s sweet dream, do you still want to live?!”

Yuchi had a radiant glow on his face, carrying the little purple pig in his arms and laughing heartily. With a simple flip of his palm using his mid-Harmonious Spirit realm magical power, he smacked Commander Lu Ming around until he spat blood and showed an inconceivable look all over his face.

Young Noble Ning? Who is Young Noble Ning? Someone who could convince three tyrannical battle guard commanders, someone who could subdue three Harmonious Spirit experts as his subordinates, this Young Noble Ning cannot be a nameless person in Yue Country.

Finished, this time our Lu Family kicked an extra thick iron plate...

“Attack! This father’s big sword was left thirsty for a very long time!” Yuchi was the first to leap out, the Divine Black Demon Army instantly had the Nan Lou Battle Guards surrounded, a one-sided slaughter in the night began.

.....

In just half an hour, Nan Lou Battle Guards lost 300 people, and 200 were captured alive, including Commander Lu Ming. Beaten half to death by Yuchi and captured alive.

It was raucous outside of Ning City whereas inside, specifically the new fan refinement room, Ning Fan revealed a smile as he used divine sense to watch the battle outside, everything that happened did not escape his eyes.

“Not bad, looks like I don’t need to show up, the Divine Three Black Demon Army is indeed extraordinary...”

Recovering his divine sense, Ning Fan focused on his alchemy. The ground in front of him was a three zhang fire pit, kindles of flames were led up from deep underground.

The Dan Shattering Cauldron was placed above the large fire pit, the eight black flame dragon were sealed inside the Yin Yang Locket; at the moment, Ning Fan was refining the Jade Royal Dan inside the cauldron.

Jade Royal Dan wasn't complex to refine, and it could only be considered as a four revolution dan but the ingredients were very rare.

Not to mention the supplementary ingredients, the most crucial two ingredients - Jade Royal Grass, and Coiled Devil Grass were said to be 'even items that an Immortal Emperor would beseech' for these two kinds of grass. Jade Royal Dan refined from these two kinds of grass could cleanse the marrow and strengthen the body with a heaven-defying effect.

It could restructure the cultivator's constitution, increase and enhance the density of the bones, and it was also rumored that people who took Jade Royal Dan could cultivate a 'Transcended Immortal Body'; the physique's defense was so tough that even an Immemorial Divine Weapon could not cut through it, hailed to be immortal and indestructible!"

However, the ingredients for this Jade Royal Dan were too hard to get and has one harsh condition for the people who take it - that person must be severely injured. As they say, repair after destruction, without damage there can be no reconstruction. If your bones weren't shattered, veins and meridians crushed, how could you truly reconstruct a new body, cleansing the marrows, strengthening the body?

Merely expelling the impurities in the body are not enough; no matter how much cotton expels its impurities, can it turn into steel?

Ning Fan's body was malnourished since he was small, physically weak, adding his injuries on top of everything else, every part of his body was currently fractured and damaged.

This body is irrevocably damaged. This was the perfect time and condition to take the Jade Royal Dan.

From the Dan Shattering Cauldron, a medicinal smell wafted out, exuding a fluctuating spiritual energy as it lingered in the air.

In another half of a day, the Jade Royal Dan will be complete!

The sky gradually grew brighter, and the Lu Family's situation five hundred li away was in a big tumult.

Lu Nanzi had a relaxing night of sleep, but when he woke up, he noticed Lu Ming and the Nan Lou Battle Guards had yet to return.

Strange... With a troop of ranked battle guards in the Yue Country, does it need such a long time to destroy a small city built by a new force? A full night was not enough?

“There shouldn’t be any mishaps? Hehe, no way, although Lu Ming is a little arrogant he is still a Harmonious Spirit expert. Combined with the Nan Lou Battle Guards formation, even if there is a Gold Core old monster, they would need to retreat. En, I must be over thinking, perhaps Lu Ming met with something on the way, slightly delaying them. They will be back very soon...”

After waiting several hours, noon came. Lu Ming still hadn’t returned. Lu Nanzi’s eyelids were constantly twitching and an uneasy feeling arose in his heart.

He took out a jade token. This jade slip was called a ‘Sound Transmitting Token’ which was separated into master and subsidiary tokens; as long as both tokens were within the range of one thousand li, the holders of the tokens could communicate with each other.

Executing a hand seal formed from magical power, Lu Nanzi cleared his throat and began to transmit a scolding message into the jade token, “Lu Ming, return immediately! How long does it take for you to destroy one small Ning City, you...”

“.....” the magical energy inside the jade token dissipated but there was no reply from the other side.

“Lu Ming? Reply!”

“.....” No sound.

“Not good, did an accident occur?!” Lu Nanzi was shocked; Lu Ming was a Harmonious Spirit expert that brought 500 Nan Lou Battle Guards with him. What is it, what could’ve happened?

If there was no mishap, how dare Lu Ming ignore his summons!

Just as Lu Nanzi was immersed in shock, from the other end of the jade token came a delicate man’s voice which made Lu Nanzi shiver even though they were separated by the jade tokens.

Such a strong ice element power!

“I’m Nangong, your people are in my hands...Hehe, if you want to ransom them, how about you come to Ning City for negotiation...”

On this day, in Yue Country’s cultivation world, an earth-shattering kidnapping case happened. And Ning City entered the sights of the cultivation world for the first time!

Chapter 38: Butterfly Breaking Out of the Cocoon, Jade Royal Dan

The Lu Family's House Master of the West Yue Country, was being blackmailed for the first time in his life, extorted.

A dignified peak Harmonious Spirit expert such as him; he slumped limply into a chair with a blank expression on his face.

All were caught...the Harmonious Spirit expert Lu Ming, as well as the 500 Nan Lou Battle Guards, all failed...

"These battle guards that I trained with my own hands for decades ah!" In anger, his palm slammed on the table next to him yet, it did nothing to extinguish the burning rage inside his heart.

According to what that person, Nangong, from the other side said, his Master is Ning City's lord - Young Noble Ning.

Young Noble Ning... Was there someone like this in the Yue Country? What is this person's cultivation? Background? How did he effortlessly capture 200 Nan Lou Battle Guards alive without raising any commotion?

What baffled Lu Nanzi the most was not the 300 dead battle guards; instead, it was the 200 that were captured alive. Lu Nanzi adopted these battle guards when they were small and till now, their cultivation level might not be the highest but being trained so many years together, their teamwork and synergy in battle formations were a definite force of terror. Moreover, each of these battle guards was indoctrinated by Lu Nanzi with one belief.

Allowed to die in battle but never surrender! Each one of the Nan Lou Battle Guards was a suicidal warrior!

That so-called Young Noble Ning could capture 200 battle guards alive, not only that, he denied the chance for them to commit suicide... This was definitely much harder than straightforwardly killing the 200 battle guards.

These 200 battle guards and Lu Ming must absolutely be redeemed; losing them meant losing half of the Lu Family's power. However, Lu Nanzi wasn't willing to succumb to Nangong's threat, to redeem them with a ransom. No matter what, he is a peak Harmonious Spirit expert, someone who has one foot in the Gold Core territory, and they want him to use ransom to take his people back!

“Humph! I’m going to ask a few friends...if there’s a chance, I’ll turn Ning City into a flatland!” A grim light flickered across his eyes, after releasing a three-lined immortal cloud rainbow he stepped onto it and flew off.

Flying on the three-lined immortal cloud, Lu Nanzi’s flying speed was comparable to an early Gold Core cultivator.

One day later, he traversed more than half of Yue Country and invited three friends back with him.

Two of them were peak of Harmonious Spirit stage experts and one early Gold Core master. He, Lu Nanzi, was no fool. Since that ‘Young Noble Ning’ could easily capture 200 battle guards, he must have a trump card, but then again, as powerful as he may be, Lu Nanzi didn’t believe that Young Noble Ning was a Gold Core master’s opponent. He believed that land with poor spiritual aura was not something a Gold Core old monster would build a city on.

He was not a Gold Core old monster, but he invited a real Gold Core master to ‘visit’ his city; to destroy a Ning City is as easy as flipping over a palm.

Two peak Harmonious Spirit experts, one surnamed Zhu, and the other surnamed Chen, and with them was the Gold Core old monster named Nanyang Zi. All three were well-known people in Yue Country.

Nanyang Zi’s eyebrows locked together tightly into an eight (八) character as he listened to Lu Nanzi’s explanation.

“The Nan Lou Battle Guards was annihilated, even that little guy Lu Ming was captured...”

The Gold Core old monster Nanyang Zi had a slight friendship with Lu Nanzi’s father, and it was also the main reason he agreed to help Lu Nanzi this time.

Four great experts rode on immortal clouds and arrived above Ning City in a few hours’ time.

Lu Nanzi observed Ning City below as a cold sneer curved up at the corner of his mouth.

With just one glance, he summarized Ning City as broken and dilapidated. His initial trace of caution turned into strong contempt.

A city built from wooden housing...living in such a shabby environment, this City Lord Young Noble Ning could not be an expert, right?

In stark contrast, on his side, not only were there three peak Harmonious Spirit experts, there was also an early Gold Core old monster

Lu Nanzi couldn't resist letting out a complacent snicker; in the cultivation world, a big circle of friends and a smart mind is the truth of strength. Most of the powerful old monsters like to live a carefree lifestyle, wandering like vagabonds with friends everywhere.

While Lu Nanzi was scrutinizing Ning City, the other three were doing the same thing.

The two surnamed Chen and Zhu Harmonious Spirit old fellows had the same expression as Lu Nanzi, exposing disdainful cold sneers seeing the lowly city below them.

Except for Nanyang Zi. His divine sense swept over Ning City and his face revealed a trace of surprise. Pondering for a moment, there was disbelief, and finally a serious expression.

"This is... a Core level formation!"

A Core level defense array formation was sufficient to kill a Gold Core old monster; in the entire Yue Country, only sects the same level as the Great Void School or Heaven Separation Sect had the resources to lay out such a formation. Even the Sinister Sparrow Sect only had a Spirit level defense formation that could defend against Harmonious Spirit realm experts.

This lowly Ning City, built in a single day, actually has a Core level defense formation. What is the origin of this Ning City's Lord, 'Young Noble Ning'!!

Four old monsters, three despised Ning City whereas the strongest of them, Nanyang Zi, listed the 'Young Noble Ning' that he has yet to meet as a person not to provoke.

Before Nanyang Zi could explain to Lu Nanzi and the other two the terror of Ning City, suddenly, from within Ning City, 1400 evil cultivators rushed out like a tsunami, each of them was at least at Fifth level Vein Opening!

Three different guards of evil cultivators lined onto three different big formations outside Ning City, the chilly killing momentum that soared towards the sky once again jarred Nanyang Zi.

These three formations were actually the three troops of battle guards in Ning City, and each one was no weaker than the Nan Lou Battle Guards, how was this possible.

One battle guard troop was enough to fight against one Gold Core master, even if the four of them attack together, the chances of them coming out victorious were slim!

A faint feeling gnawed at Nanyang Zi, telling him coming with Lu Nanzi to take revenge on Ning City this time was a mistake; and just as this thought flashed across his mind, three figures slowly walked out from Ning City, walking on air.

One looked soft and gentle, one dark and burly, and one cold akin to a sharp sword. Three people, two of them were mid-Harmonious Spirit and one late-Harmonious Spirit.

Lu Nanzi, the men surnamed Chen and Zhu, were three peak Harmonious Spirits old fellows, so they did not put the three people in their eyes, but with Nanyang Zi's Gold Core eyesight, he noticed these three people weren't ordinary.

Nangong had changed into a purple robe, with his long hair down like a waterfall, his eyes soft yet sharp at the same time. His icy gaze did not mean anything in Lu Nanzi's eyes, in Nanyang Zi's eyes, however, it made his soul shiver, the frigid cold in that look felt like it could pierce through the soul!

Yuchi's build was close to six feet tall akin to an iron wall, and his face glowed with radiance. His cultivation wasn't high, just at mid-Harmonious Spirit...it was just that, the little piglet in his arms gave Nanyang Zi a feeling of blending with nature. If his estimation was accurate, within ten years, this person would have a breakthrough into the Gold Core realm!

Lastly, the impression Situ gave Nanyang Zi was the most profound of all! Wearing a plain monastic style robes, yet neither a monk nor a Taoist, carrying a sword, issuing terrible sword intent that pierced through the sky. Clearly, he was just a late Harmonious Spirit expert yet the sword intent that exuded bone deep gave Nanyang Zi the illusion that if this person was truly angered, even he would be unable to block that man's sword beam.

"I did not expect the waters of Ning City would be so deep..."

If Nanyang Zi didn't care about his own face and reputation, he would very quickly and enthusiastically turn around and leave this instant. He had lived several hundred years, and gained some insight through the years, understanding there are some people that you cannot afford to provoke.

Unfortunately, the three with him didn't possess the same keen judgment, Lu Nanzi and the other two's arrogance took over.

"Tell your City Lord to roll out here within three breaths' time!" The old fellow surnamed Chen snorted, taking the lead.

So what if there are three Harmonious Spirit experts? Without a peak Harmonious Spirit, Ning City can't block them.

So what if there are three battle guard troops? These Vein Opening kids couldn't even fly into the sky, could they reach them to attack?

This so-called Young Noble Ning, seemingly powerful and prestigious, where in truth was all just unwarranted fame.

The same thought echoed in the other two experts minds as well; the expression on their faces showed a collective decision was made - today, they must destroy Ning City.

"Extortion failed already ah~~... Since it is like this, just kill all of them and forget the matter..."

Nangong's soft voice lamented coldly; he wasn't afraid even though there was a Gold Core old monster on the other side. His real strength was in fact, above Situ; after all, he was Situ's Big Bro! A war seemed as though it was about to breakout any moment, but it was exactly at this time that the spiritual energy above Ning City suddenly became turbulent.

Two different colors of clouds appeared in the sky, followed by a whirlpool of spiritual energy.

A vision of colored clouds, and the emergence of a spiritual energy whirlpool, without a doubt, this was a four revolution dan condensing!

At this point, Nanyang Zi wasn't the only one astounded; Lu Nanzi as well as the two old fellows surnamed Chen and Zhu showed great shock.

Within Ning City there is actually a Four Revolution Dan Refinement Master! Even a Nascent Soul old monster needed to treat a Four Revolution Dan Refinement Master with utter respect as a guest of honor.

In fact, not only were the four guests shocked, Nangong, Situ, and Yuchi were as well. They were only told Ning Fan was in seclusive practice, they didn't know Ning Fan was actually refining a four revolution dan!

A flame burned in the three commander's eyes; if Young Lord became a Four Revolution Dan Refinement Master, regardless of his mid-Harmonious Spirit strength, his assemblage influence would be terrifying. Up to the level of Great Void School's Sovereign wouldn't dare to offend Ning Fan!

In the next moment, the turbulent whirlpool of spiritual energy dissipated as the fragrant smell of medicine pellet permeated the air. Despite that, things had not ended, black rumbling clouds rolled, gathering above Ning City.

Under this level of heaven tribulation lightning, a Gold Core expert such as Nanyang Zi felt apprehensive.

A four revolution dan's heaven tribulation lightning could hack to death an average Gold Core cultivator!

"Can Young Master triumph against the tribulation lightning..." Nangong was worried.

.....

In the Dan Refinement Room, Ning Fan slapped on the Dan Shattering Cauldron's top and with a twirl of his sleeve several half gold half black little round pills flew to his palm, entering into a bottle.

His divine sense swept out and felt the trespassers' presence, the light in his eyes turned cold.

"Sisi, go and deal with heaven tribulation lightning, and the troublemakers, don't let even one escape!"

After barking out orders towards the other side of the door, Ning Fan sat cross-legged, deeply breathing a mouthful of turbid qi; adjusting his breathing for a long time, he took out a Jade Royal Dan and swallowed it down. The rest was put away.

The instant the pellet entered his stomach, slowly refining it, Ning Fan's injuries recovered at an alarming rate. The injuries to his veins and meridians - healed in an instant; the shattered bones - mended instantly. The many years of hidden internal injuries gradually recovered one by one. Furthermore, Ning Fan's physique was growing significantly stronger, transforming from his previous poor and weak physique.

Before he could be happy for himself, a piercing pain shot through his body, nearly causing him to faint.

His entire body's meridians and veins, crushed! Every bone in his head, shattered!

As Ning Fan persevered in refining the energy from the pellet, his veins, meridians, bones, tendons started to heal, becoming tougher. This was truly a strange phenomenon!

But, in the next moment, ...meridians, veins...everything was broken again...

The process repeated itself over and over, each time he was healed fully, in the next moment everything would be shattered!

This was Jade Royal Dan, tyrannical. Yet it transformed his body's constitution, allowing a mortal to possess a physique even Immortals and Devils were envious of. Of course, there was a price he must pay.

The moment a butterfly broke out from its cocoon, the pain was like a layer of skin being peeled off, excruciating pain piercing through the heart, which was why many butterflies died in that instant of breaking out, the pain was unbearable.

Nine out of ten people who swallowed a Jade Royal Dan died in pain in that moment of breaking out of the cocoon, that even included a Fiendgod!

A Fiendgod's Immortal Body could defend against all attacks, excluding pain. To withstand the pain, what was necessary wasn't magic powers but a strong will and heart!

"Endure, if not, die!" Ning Fan's lips were white from anguished pain as he gritted his teeth.

At one point, Ning Fan's bones were glowing a soft silver, like that of a star...

Amongst physique refining cultivators, this was called the Silver Bone Stage. A stage many physique refining cultivators could only dream of...

Ning Fan endured the long suffering, all for that moment of breaking out from the cocoon, morphing into a butterfly!

Chapter 39: Ancient Coffin Descending from the Sky

Pain, pain, pain.....

In between the excruciating pain, the first Jade Royal Dan was finally refined by Ning Fan. A low painful groan escaped Ning Fan's throat. On the surface of his skin, a soft silver glow shimmered, whereas deep inside, his bones looked as though they were painted with a layer of silver.

The silver glow was faint but it was undeniably close to the Silver Bone Stage. At this point, Ning Fan's flesh had reached a tyrannical level of toughness.

His robe was soaked with sweat. With a thought, Ning Fan's magical powers dried his robe as he let out a mouthful of turbid air.

The shade of his skin was several times fairer than what it used to be, sans any impurities. Broken and mended, this was the real essence of cleansing the pulp and attacking the marrow!

Lightly slapping the storage bag, Ning Fan removed a mid-rank low grade long sword and slashed into his arm without hesitation. The spot being slashed glowed a soft silver

as the sounds of screeching metal reverberated from the collision. Feeling slightly numb, only a thin red line could be seen on his arm.

Merely one Jade Royal Dan enhanced Ning Fan's physique enough to resist a flying sword!

His eyes lit up as he took out the second Jade Royal Dan, acting as if the grueling pain he suffered earlier was nothing at all.

If one Jade Royal Dan could make his flesh strong enough to deflect a low grade flying sword's attack, then with a second Jade Royal Dan... to what extent could his flesh reach!

A look of anticipation appeared on his face as he opened his mouth and swallowed the second Jade Royal Dan. In his opinion, he was already a Silver Bone Stage physique refining cultivator, and a Yin Yang Evil Vein one at that. Taking two jade Royal Dan at the same time shouldn't be a problem.

However, the moment the pellet entered his mouth, Ning Fan's face turned ugly. He discovered that he underestimated the overbearing effect of the Jade Royal Dan. He was filled with regret over his actions.

The pains intensity while refining the second Jade Royal Dan increased more than a hundredfold compared to the first one!

In a split second, all the veins and meridians in his body exploded. The level of pain immediately caused Ning Fan to spit out large amounts of blood, leaving him horrified.

In that moment, he understood one point!

In the cultivation world exists a heaven-defying medicine pellet, and this type of pellet had one common side effect - after the first pellet, there must be a gap of at least a decade or more before taking the second one.

Taking the second one forcefully will produce a devastating side effect.

This hundredfold pain may very well be the side effect of the Jade Royal Dan.

Ning Fan was filled with bitter regret; there was no mention of the Jade Royal Dan's side effects in the Ancient Chaos Emperor's memories. Why? Because even the Ancient Chaos Emperor lacked the opportunity to take a Jade Royal Dan that even the Immortal Emperor coveted. He had no idea whether or not the Jade Royal Dan could be taken consecutively.

However, it was now proven that the Jade Royal Dan could not be taken in a consecutive manner.

Careless, too careless. Things had been going too smoothly for him and it made Ning Fan lose that cautious nature he had when he was still weak.

As if receiving a knock on the head, he suddenly woke up, the main thing now was to suppress the pain meandering wantonly all over his body.

Refining the second Jade Royal Dan could greatly enhance his physique to a terrifying degree. This, of course, was based on the premise that he could survive this pain.

He needed to think of a way to suppress the pain! Otherwise, once the medicinal effect started to spread, with pain multiplied a hundredfold surging through his body, even a Fiendgod would be unable to resist the pain, not to mention little ol' him.....

The dignified successor of the Ancient Chaos Emperor actually dying from the pain of a pellet... that is simply too shameful!

More than a hundred thoughts flashed through Ning Fan's mind. Just then, a faint cooling energy came from the Ying Yang Locket as the blood red lines around it shone brightly. At the direst moment, the Yin Yang Locket seemed to sense the danger and instinctively wanted to protect this master whom had his life linked to it.

The cooling sensation suppressed Ning Fan's pain slightly but the effect was negligible. The instinctive act of the Yin Yang Locket didn't seem powerful enough to relieve the pain in Ning Fan's body.

But Ning Fan did notice something ? the body's comfort level could be enhanced to reduce the sense of pain.

This small stream of cooling comfort was not enough to suppress the tyrannical pain, but what if it was something more 'comfortable' than this?

The two most 'comfortable' things in life were none other than one, a breakthrough, and two, dual cultivation. A breakthrough was impossible in this short timeframe, but dual cultivation.....can it suppress this extreme pain.....

Decisively acting on his decision, his foot stepped onto an ice rainbow and flew out of the dan refinement room - straight to Zhihe's boudoir.

The only one he could think of was Zhihe, his only 'wife'. Perhaps he could choose Si Wuxie for dual cultivation but there was apprehension in his heart against her.

There was one great benefit to dual cultivation with the Yin Yang Locket. When he dual cultivated with the girl he liked, both of them could increase their cultivation. Yet at the same time, it was also a barrier.

If Ning Fan dual cultivated with Si Wuxie, the result would be that Ning Fan's cultivation would improve. The same applied for Si Wuxie, her cultivation would also improve.

Before Si Wuxie was caught, she was already a fake Nascent Soul. Once they dual cultivated through the Yin Yang Locket, there was a high chance she would breakthrough into a true Nascent Soul realm cultivator. Whether his puppet art could still control Si Wuxie at that time was an unknown factor...

If he had refined a Cauldron Ring, and there were hundreds or thousands of cauldrons within, maybe Ning Fan needn't worry...

Little Zhihe had just woken up, roused from sleep by the lightning and thunder rumbling in the sky. She rubbed her eyes with her hand as she sat up on the bed, still drowsy from sleep when she saw Ning Fan rushing into the room on the ice rainbow.

"Brother Fan, what is it? Someone came to make trouble again?"

"En, don't worry, disregard them, your Brother Fan is in more danger at the moment..." Ning Fan smiled wryly. This wasn't the time for an explanation.

Pouncing onto Little Zhihe, the pain in his entire body gradually subsided as he rubbed against her softness.

However, the crisis was far from over. While he was in pain, Ning Fan noticed the Yin Yang Locket was flickering with a strange red light.

The blood red lines along the deep green jade shone brightly. Initially, the Yin Yang Locket's utility was to enhance both the male and female's cultivation, but at this moment, it turned into snatching instead. His pain was being reduced and his cultivation was improving but Little Zhihe's cultivation was declining.

Ning Fan could tell that as he moved, one opened Vein inside Little Zhihe's body crumbled. This was a sign of cultivation declining, and her face showed expressions of pain.

He wasn't using dual cultivation to relieve himself but was instead snatching Yin to boost his Yang, transferring the pain from his body to hers. He was basically plundering her cultivation away!

It was an instinctive act of the Yin Yang Locket to protect its master, triggering the first layer of supernatural ability in the magical treasure, 'YinYang Mutation' - plucking Yin to nurture Yang!

The Yin Yang Locket was supposed to compliment the dual cultivation between the male and female while enhancing both sides' cultivation at the same time. But if the

loket's master opened the first layer of the 'plucking to nurture' supernatural ability, then he could rob all of the female's cultivation, turning it into his own.

At this very moment, he was plucking from Zhihe!

Pulling his body away from Zhihe, Ning Fan felt as if his heart was sliced by a knife. Zhihe was his wife, not a cauldron, he would dual cultivate with Zhihe but never, ever 'pluck' her to enhance himself.

He would only do that with a 'cauldron'. And in his lifetime, he would never fall in love with a fleshly cauldron.

"Should I... pluck Si Wuxie instead....." Ning Fan suddenly stood up, an evil aura permeated from his body. But in the next moment, he gritted his teeth. There was a faint unbearable feeling.

The amnesia-ridden Si Wuxie was like a sheet of pure white paper, extremely dependent on Ning Fan, a completely different person altogether when compared to her previous self.

If it was the same ruthless Si Wuxie, Ning Fan would show no mercy, but the current Si Wuxie... Could she still be considered the same person?... Ning Fan could not do it.

"What should I do? Who else can I pluck....."

His heart continued to struggle in hesitation. He couldn't touch Zhihe and was unwilling to pluck Si Wuxie, so who else was there.

A wave of pain that engulfed everything hit Ning Fan, destroying his every thought. There was no time left...

It was in that moment that a bang suddenly sounded on the roof, and a heavy object fell down into the room - a green jade coffin.

The lid fell off of the green jade coffin. Nestled inside was a young woman that was still breathing, albeit weakly, yet it also felt as if she hadn't taken a breath in many years.

Her face was pale and exquisite, like an ethereal beauty from a painting, even the style of the clothes she wore was like those depicted from ancient immortal fairies.

From where did this woman originate.....

Who is this woman.....

Ning Fan's mind blanked, but in the next second there was only one thought in his heart: "Could it be the Heavens bestowed upon me a woman's corpse for me to pluck...?"

Plucking a woman corpse was still better than plucking Zhihe...

.....

Between the sky and the horizon, beneath the rain of lightning and rumble of thunder, Si Wuxie's sleeves were fluttering. With just a wave of her sleeve she easily deflected the heaven tribulation lightning that struck down, every time.

Taking no more than a few flicks of the sleeve, the dark, overcast clouds and sky of lightning dissipated.

This scene imprinted into the eyes of the four 'guests', the expression on their faces could not be described with the word shock.

If the three Black Demon Guards were enough to deter Nanyang Zi on a low level, then this young woman that was exuding a late Gold Core cultivation and was hovering in front of his eyes, completely terrified him!.

Lu Nanzi, on the other hand, seemed to lose half of his soul in the blink of an eye because he noticed that after Si Wuxie dealt with the heaven tribulation lightning, she was casually moving towards the four of them.

In that split second, the four people ? Lu Nanzi, Nanyang Zi, Chen, and Zhu - understood one thing.

The four of them coming to Ning City looking for revenge was the dumbest mistake of their entire lives.

"Escape separately!"

The four of them tried to escape in four different directions but every point was blocked by someone.

Lu Nanzi and the other two peak Harmonious Spirit experts were blocked by the three commanders, and after a round of melee, all three of them were greatly shocked.

Although these three people's cultivation was lower than them, their fighting prowess was not!

And Nanyang Zi was blocked by Si Wuxie. Appalled and terrified, he raised a medium grade flying sword but it was instantly shattered by Si Wuxie with just a wave of her sleeve.

Panicked, Nanyang Zi threw out several magical treasures, all of them were shattered to pieces with a wave of Si Wuxie's sleeves, there was no exception.

His bulky storage bag gradually deflated, and it finally dawned on Nanyang Zi that the gap between him and Si Wuxie was like the gap between heaven and earth.

In desperation, Nanyang Zi took out an ancient green jade coffin. This coffin was something he acquired three hundred years ago by coincidence.

For many years, after exerting all of his effort and strength, he was still unable to open the green jade coffin. Thus, he surmised the coffin must be some kind of extremely powerful magical treasure of unknown grade.

Even more out of his reach was the probable 'treasures' within the coffin.

No one knew the famous Nanyang Zi was just a small-time grave robber three hundred years ago.

Nanyang Zi had never shown anyone the coffin, and would not show anyone, spending his time and effort alone to study it and figure out a way to open it.

Today, facing death without any magical treasure to protect himself, in this dire and hopeless situation, he could only produce the green jade coffin, trying to use it to crush Si Wuxie to death.

This unknown grade magical treasure could perhaps suppress Si Wuxie...

But before he could utilize the giant green jade coffin, Si Wuxie flicked her sleeves again, hitting Nanyang Zi's wrist.

A burst of sharp pain eked out of his wrist, and the giant coffin fell down to Ning City below, crashing into the room Ning Fan was in.

Then...

Ning Fan carefully lifted the slumbering woman out of the ancient coffin.

If he couldn't do it with Zhihe, the only choice left was the female corpse...

At this point, Ning Fan fell into a trance when he saw the woman's face clearly...

Chapter 40: Female Corpse

Ning Fan asked himself whether he had seen something as unusual as this.

The skin of the female corpse was snowy white, no, it shouldn't be described as snowy white. To be precise, it should be dreadfully pale. She had been contained in this ancient coffin after her death, and thus, no one could tell how many years it had been since it was exposed to light. One couldn't judge the age of a person by one's cultivation, but Ning Fan could conclude that this girl was at least a noblewoman who was a billion years old.

Her skin was lustrous and bones were sleek; her graceful posture made her a real sleeping beauty by just looking at her.

She had a pair of lovely eyelashes and gentle hair, but her body seemed thin and her lip was light and pale. He was afraid that this woman probably had a few sickness in her body or she was a sick beauty previously.

In Ning Fan's mind, he imagined an image of a weak woman who was self-pitying and viewed her life as the life of a flower. In the lonely wind, she was like a crimson bead immortal gass that relied upon nothing.

He shook his head away from the strange thought. Ning Fan then smiled bitterly, doubting himself why he had been touched by the female corpse.

Perhaps, he could feel the loneliness that the girl experienced in her past life.

He looked at the corpse's face and felt guilty.

He couldn't do anything but feel guilty when he thought of Zhihe; he had no other alternatives.

"I'm sorry...I don't have a choice..."

Suppressing the sufferings of the Jade Royal dan was the crucial matter. Ning Fan heaved a sigh and pressed his body against her .

The dead body was chilling and hard but it had some kind of warmth in it, which made Ning Fan looked dazed.

With the power of Yin Yang Evil Vein, his thick-skinned palm casted Yin. Traces of cold Yin power were then released out of his fingers and connected to the female corpse.

The power penetrated into the skin and muscles, and the stiff body became soft.

Despite the woman being dead, her body could still detect excitement and drooled... this gave him a cold and unpleasant feeling.

Was this lady dead or still alive?

Could a dead person drool?

Nin Fang used his finger tips to probe the tiny cherry-like mouth of the woman and vaguely touched something sharp and got stung by it.

Sharp teeth! There were sharp teeth in her mouth!

Ning Fang had consumed a Jade Royal dan. Thus, his body could receive the attack of a middle grade magical treasure and wouldn't be hurt. However, that sharp teeth had pierced through his skin that had a trace of poison which spread quickly to his entire body.

Corpse poison!

Ning Fan used both of his hands to pry open the cherry-like mouth apart. What he found was two tusk-like teeth. In a flashback, Ning Fan remembered something from the memory of the immortal emperor; a scary name.

Evil Corpse!

In the ancient times, there were races of demons, gods, and devils. In the devil race, there's one race that was called the Evil Corpse.

After the immortals died, their bodies would change into another spiritual form. Though new from couldn't retain the original powers of the body, it could retain its powerful physique, and sometimes even some of the immortal's memory. In reality, the evil corpse greatly differed from its original body; they were totally different beings.

The rate of transformation of the evil corpse was extremely low in ancient times. In the death of a thousand Immortals, it was difficult to even have one dead body to become an evil corpse. He had never thought that he would coincidentally met this female corpse, which had turned into an evil corpse.

'Would she awaken? Or jump like the Jiang Shi (Chinese zombies)? Or would she place her tusk-like tooth on my neck the moment I penetrated inside her?'

These thoughts were drifting in his mind. However, he wiped all of them out afterwards, and then thought that this was the right way to use the female corpse as he had to hurry before the pain of the Jade Royal dan would struck him tidal like waves!

"Sorry..."

Ning Fan slightly sighed. Half a year ago, he was an educated and civilized youth. After encountering a few calamities, he had gotten himself an evil dao which made him an evil monster which, in turn, didn't even give the pitiful corpse a chance.

In this cultivation world, only the powerful could rule. Any manners and courtesy were pointless if you don't have sufficient strength, because that could not protect your priceless life.

For Ning Fan, however, he had to persevere for Zhihe, his master, Seven Apricot, Ning Gu and many more. The warmth that they gave to him and also the sunlight had prevented him from losing his conscience to the evil dao.

This was an evil corpse...but Ning Fan had no other choice but to stay alive...

...

Ning Fan had now lost the track of time. At this moment, however, the eyebrows of female corpse suddenly twitched, as if she could feel pain from her body...but she didn't make any sound. Meanwhile, a feeling of heat prompted her into some kind of change.

Above her arm, there was a string of cinnabar beads that was hundreds of million years old that gradually dissipated...

'Guard Palace Cinnabar, I had kept her body as pure as jade for whom? I don't remember, don't remember it at all...'

Who is plucking me? Who has opened the green coffin?'

Was it...that butterfly...?'

However, at this instant, there was a quiver in her dry eyes and all of a sudden, her pupil turned cruel and blood red!

The corpse began to change! There wasn't any sanity in her anymore!

Note:

All name of skills will not be capitalized as they are considered common nouns. Some terms are subject to change when better suggestions are selected.