

Grasping 346

Chapter 346.1 - The Appearance of Medicine Soul Shocked Yang Gu

The Appearance of Medicine Soul Shocked Yang Gu

After searching his soul without mercy, Ning Fan immediately knew Lu Jiefen's whereabouts.

Inside the Star Palace, Lu Jiefen suffered heavy injuries. After that, he returned to the Demon Sealing Sect. As soon as he was back in the sect, he immediately hid behind closed doors for meditation and refused to meet anyone in order to recover from his injuries.

If Lu Jiefen found out that his men were trying to oppose Ning Fan, he would definitely be the first person to stop them... Who was Ning Fan? A madman with strong enough battle power to go neck and neck with a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm expert. Moreover, he also had two Half-Step Void Refinement Realm fighters by his side!

After witnessing Ning Fan's strength, Lu Jiefen would not dare to antagonize Ning Fan even if he was given ten thousand guts. Unfortunately, Lu Jiefen immediately went into seclusion after he returned to Demon Sealing Sect this time and he totally had no idea that Purple Gu was trying to assassinate Ning Fan.

As such, only the taoist, Purple Gu, dared to join the Alliance of Ming Assassins to hunt Ning Fan down!

A cold sneer appeared on Ning Fan's face. He wanted to see what explanation Lu Jiefen would give him after he annihilates the entire Alliance of Ming Assassins!

While Ning Fan was searching someone's soul and killing him, the group of pill masters at the other side had all fallen into chaos.

He is Zhou Ming!

He has returned!

Fear overwhelmed each and every one of their minds, urging them to retreat even faster. Immediately, they left one after another in a hurry, as if staying here for an additional second would likely get themselves killed by Zhou Ming.

Yang Gu's white brows were knitted together. He was an amiable person and he did not like devil cultivators who practiced the Dao of Killing.

After seeing Ning Fan kill Huang Yazi without blinking an eye, he also excused himself and left. However, he was stopped by Ning Fan.

"Fellow Daoist Yang, please stay."

"Why!?! What advice does Fellow Daoist Zhou have for me? Could it be that you're getting excited in killing people and now you want to kill me as well here in Pleasure Devil Island!?"

“Fellow Daoist Yang, I think there is some misunderstanding between you and me. I heard that you are a member of the Pill Island. I am thinking of requesting one pill recipe from you.”

“A pill recipe? What do you mean by requesting a pill recipe from us? The pill recipes of my Pill Island will never be open for sale to any outsiders... Hmph! Does it mean that you, the reputable Old Ancestor Revered Ming, is planning to kill me here and seize my treasures?”

Yang Gu was displeased. As a grandmaster in the Dao of Alchemy, he usually had a gentle and soft demeanor. However, he would of course have his own pride which would not bend for the strong.

There were no longer any outsiders in the hall at the current moment. There were only Yang Gu, Xu Rushan and the others left.

If Ning Fan wanted to kill Yang Gu by using the advantage of the number of people he had on his side, Yang Gu basically had no chance of winning at all. Despite that, he didn't have the slightest feeling of fear at all.

“Fellow Daoist Yang, you've misunderstood me...”

Ning Fan shook his head with an expressionless face. He was not a man who favored indiscriminate killing. Huang Yazhi was a man who deserved his death for his excessive actions, but this Yang Gu came from afar just to cure Xu Qiuling. He clearly harbored good intentions. Ning Fan would never kill people of his likes for no reason.

Ning Fan gave Yang Gu a friendly smile with his fists cupped, withdrawing all his aura force. That smile on his face greatly confused Yang Gu.

It's strange... The devil lord, Zhou Ming, who is notorious for his ruthless and fierce reputation would actually smile at me, a stubborn old man and treat me with politeness.

"I have an idea to cure Qiuling and I can guarantee that her gold qi will be fully replenished. Besides, her cultivation base will greatly improve as well. However, this treatment process will be a bit too powerful and it will be very harmful to her state of mind. I'm afraid that Qiuling would not be able to withstand it with her current body... So I need some pills that can relieve her pain. I've heard that there's a pill recipe in your reputable island called 'Mind Nourishing Pill'. It is a Fifth Revolution pill and it is able to nourish a cultivator's mind. I would like to request the recipe for this pill!"

"What?! You want the recipe for the Mind Nourishing Pill?!"

Yang Gu was stunned. But it was not because of Ning Fan's domineering manner in asking for the pill recipe but because of the profoundness of his words.

Ning Fan's tone sounded like it was just an easy task to cure Xu Qiuling and it would not be any difficult to refine the Mind Nourishing Pill after obtaining the pill's recipe.

Yang Gu was really startled.

Could it be that this great devil lord Zhou, Zhou Ming, is not only a devil who commits countless killings, but also a grandmaster of the Dao of Alchemy? Is he a Fifth Revolution pill master?

However, even if he is a Fifth Revolution pill master, there is no way he would be able to cure Xu Qiuling.

Yang Gu then carefully studied Ning Fan's features. When he realized that Ning Fan was just a young man less than four hundred years old, he immediately shook his head.

Young! Ning Fan was too young!

He had practiced his cultivation base to the Divine Transformation Realm in less than four hundred years. His natural talent was no doubt heaven-defying!

However, it was impossible for a four hundred years old cultivator to achieve Fifth Revolution in pill refinement techniques unless he or she was a prodigy in the Dao of Alchemy from the Pill World of the Upper World and was nurtured from a young age.

Furthermore, all the rumours about Ning Fan was saying that he did not come from a powerful background and he was just a rogue cultivator. For a rogue cultivator, it was already unbelievable for him to achieve the Divine Transformation Realm by luck at four hundred years old. Thus, it was definitely beyond the realms of possibility for him to have Fifth Revolution pill refinement techniques.

"Fellow Daoist Zhou, the art of medicine is not child's play!"

Yang Gu was unhappy. From his perspective, Ning Fan was just the same as Wang Wei, young and impetuous. They thought their medical skills were extremely superb by just having a tiny fraction of knowledge about the Dao of Alchemy.

This kind of mindset was intolerable!

“I truly agree with Fellow Daoist Yang’s words. The art of medicine is indeed not child’s play. Even the most insignificant misdiagnosis can cause a patient to die. As the saying goes, ‘as a teacher, one must not lead his students astray; as a doctor, one must not lose his conscience’ ...”

Ning Fan did not argue with Yang Gu anymore. He only nodded his head towards Dong Xu, Xu Rushan, Yan Zhongze and Xu Long and then slowly walked towards the lady whom he had not seen for years.

“I’m back.”

He just uttered a few simple words. But when his voice fell in Xu Qiuling’s ears, it made her heart feel even more sour.

“It’s good to see you again...Ah!”

She suddenly let out a moan. She covered her mouth with one of the hands while the other fair, delicate wrist was held by Ning Fan.

“W-What are you doing?! There are so many people here...” Xu Qiuling’s pale complexion blushed with shyness and a hint of anger.

When did I allow him to touch my wrist?

“I am not doing anything except for checking your pulse... Medicine Soul, appear!”

Ning Fan withdrew all his Baleful Qi and his face wore a stern expression. His eyes shone with traces of green light and his body was also shrouded with green qi.

In just an instant, his temperament changed greatly. A moment ago, he was still a devil lord filled with murderous intent. Now, however, he was already a pill refinement grandmaster giving off masses of medicine qi.

“Medicine Soul!”

Xu Qiuling’s pretty eyes were brimming with astonishment while Xu Rushan, Yan Zhongze and the others were all stunned.

What does the Medical Soul mean? It was self-evident!

A pill master who owns a Medical Soul must be a Fifth Revolution pill master!

Currently, Ning Fan was using his Medical Soul to diagnose Xu Qiuling’s pulse!

Hiss

Yang Gu gasped in surprise.

He had never thought that a person who was less than four hundred years old could possess Fifth Revolution pill refinement techniques. However, Ning Fan who was standing in front of him did it!

Previously, he looked down on Ning Fan and despised him for boasting casually and despised the pill technique. At this moment, he recalled that Ning Fan did not disparage the Dao of Alchemy. Currently, however, when he recalled what Ning Fan had said, he realized that the latter was not disparaging the Dao of Alchemy at all. Instead, the latter was clearly profound in it and just had one hundred percent confidence in curing Xu Qiuling!

“D-Daoist Zhou, I had no idea that you’re actually a Fifth Revolution pill master! Please excuse me for my dull eyes. I didn’t manage to recognise your pill refinement level and spoke those offensive words. I hope Daoist Zhou can forgive my carelessness!”

Yang Gu cupped his fists as courtesy. He never bent his back for might but he was willing to bow his head when meeting a master whose pill refinement techniques were greater than his!

Yang Gu was a hair’s breadth away from attaining the Fifth Revolution in his pill refinement techniques. However, Ning Fan was already a Fifth Revolution pill master and his pill refinement techniques were without a doubt at a level much higher than Yang Gu’s!

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Now, Yang Gu's expression was filled with admiration and respect. The way he looked at Ning Fan was similar to the way he looked at his senior in the Dao of Alchemy!

A pill master who achieved the Fifth Revolution before even reaching four hundred years old.... Even Venerated Pill was only at the Fourth Revolution when he was four hundred years old. In other words, this man's latent potential in the Dao of Alchemy is much greater than Venerated Pill's. He has a high possibility of attaining the Sixth Revolution and even the Seventh Revolution in his lifetime!

"Hehe. Fellow Daoist Yang was just judging the matter as how it is. How would it be offensive? Besides, Fellow Daoist Yang came all the way from the internal sea just to cure Qiuling's illness. I really appreciate your kind intentions. If Fellow Daoist Yang is willing to pass the recipe for refining the Mind Nourishing Pill to me, I can give you the mental spell for condensing the Medicine Soul in exchange."

Ning Fan's tone was calm and composed, but Yang Gu's eyes were burning with eagerness.

Yang Gu rarely had the look on his face judging from his temperament. However, Ning Fan's words made him unable to remain calm.

"The mental spell for condensing the Medicine Soul?! Daoist Zhou really wants to use that to exchange for the recipe of the Mind Nourishing Pill?!"

Yang Gu found it a little hard to believe.

To an ordinary Fifth Revolution pill refinement master, congealing the Medicine Soul was like crossing the river by feeling the stones. There was no such a thing as a mental spell. If there was a mental spell for it, wouldn't everyone have equal chances of attaining the Fifth Revolution Realm?

To some aristocratic families that had inherited the Dao of Alchemy for millions of years, perhaps they did have a mental spell for congealing the Medicine Soul. However, a mental spell was definitely a secret of those respective families and none of those secrets would be passed to any outsiders.

Even the nine Fifth Revolution pill masters of the Pill Island and Venerated Pill did not have a mental spell in congealing their Medicine Souls.

But Ning Fan had it!

Could this man be a genius disciple from some kind of aristocratic family which practiced the Dao of Alchemy for countless years?

The recipe for the Mind Nourishing Pill might be precious, but the price for the mental spell for congealing the Medicine Soul was definitely immeasurable ...

The rules of the Pill Island stated that the pill recipes must not be passed to any outsiders. But who said that rules could not be broken? Besides, any other pill masters of the Pill Island would also be very willing to exchange a pill recipe of their island for the secret spell of condensing the Medicine Soul when making a deal with Ning Fan! Yang Gu immediately took out a green scroll of a pill recipe nearly without any hesitation and flicked it to Ning Fan as if he was afraid that Ning Fan would change his mind.

Ning Fan shook his head with a smile and scanned through the pill recipe with his spirit sense. After making sure the pill recipe was exactly what he had requested, he instantly took out a jade slip and then briefly imprinted the mental spell of condensing the Medicine Soul on it.

This mental spell came from the pill refinement techniques that Xi Ran passed down. It was one of the secret techniques of the Profound Medicine Race.

Of course, it was impossible for Ning Fan to give Yang Gu the complete mental spell. What he gave the latter was merely one-tenth of the complete mental spell. It was just the general method of congealing the Medicine Soul. Therefore, even if this technique was passed to others, it would not expose the secret technique of the Profound Medicine Race.

In Ning Fan's eyes, one-tenth of the complete mental spell was not worth mentioning at all.

But to Yang Gu, this incomplete fraction of the mental spell was almost as precious as his life!

"T-This is indeed the mental spell of congealing the Medicine Soul! Even though it's just an incomplete mental spell, it's undoubtedly a thousand times better than finding out the way of congealing the Medicine Soul ourselves. With this, my Pill Island will certainly be able to give birth to a few more Fifth Revolution pill masters within a thousand years! Furthermore, it won't be too long for me to attain the Fifth Revolution Realm!"

Taking a gulp, Yang Gu shifted his gaze to Ning Fan. Now, he only felt that the latter was more and more unfathomable.

Originally, Yang Gu asserted that there was no cure for Xu Qiuling and she would surely die within ten years. Originally, he did not believe that Ning Fan could save Xu Qiuling.

At this moment, he had great confidence in Ning Fan, faintly feeling that he was capable of saving that lady!

“I’m thinking of spending more time on Pleasure Devil Island to see how Daoist Zhou refines the Mind Nourishing Pill and how you cure Mistress Xu’s illness. I wonder if my request is possible?”

“Of course it is. However, if you do so, aren’t you afraid of getting involved with me and being pursued by the Alliance of Ming Assassins?” Ning Fan asked with a smile. He was of course glad to rope in some fighters by using some casual benefits.

“The Alliance of Ming Assassins? Humph! Why should I be afraid of them? Anyhow, I’m also a Half-Step Fifth Revolution pill master. I just need to raise my arm and make a call and there will be at least six to seven Divine Transformation Realm experts from the Internal Endless Sea coming to protect me. As for Daoist Zhou, you’re a real Fifth Revolution pill master. Besides, judging from your Medicine Soul, you’re not far away from attaining the middle stage of Fifth Revolution. With your pill refinement techniques, it wouldn’t be difficult for you to summon dozens of Divine Transformation Realm fighters with just a single call! The Alliance of Ming Assassins is just nothing!”

Yang Gu did not even put the Alliance of Ming Assassins in his eyes.

A killer organization that is being overseen by Divine Transformation Realm old ancestors? This kind of description was just to strike fear into some Nascent Soul Realm juniors. To a high-ranked pill master with good social relations, the Alliance Ming Assassins was nothing more than a fart.

“If the Alliance of Ming Assassins dares to act upon Daoist Zhou, this old man is willing to help you and fight by your side!”

Yang Gu said with clarity.

Since Ning Fan had given him such a great benefit, he definitely knew how to pay back this debt of gratitude.

Both Xu Rushan and Yang Zhongze were totally flabbergasted by the scene before their eyes...

Who is Yang Gu? A pill refinement master who must be treated with great honour even by ordinary Divine Transformation Realm experts!

However, a pill master of this rank was sincerely convinced by Ning Fan with just a few words. Moreover, Yang Gu even volunteered himself to assist Ning Fan in fighting against the Alliance of Ming Assassins.

Twenty years ago, Ning Fan was only at a level where Xu Rushan and Yan Zhongze could treat him like their peers.

However, twenty years later, Ning Fan became a person whom both Xu Rushan and Yan Zhongze were afraid to offend; a person to whom they would bow their heads in submission!

Xu Qiuling's eyes were flashing with extraordinary splendour. The man whom she had taken a fancy was indeed extraordinary.

"I've always believed that you would be able to cure me if you return... I've been waiting for you all this while." Xu Qiuling unconsciously revealed her feelings.

"Don't worry. I'm here for you!"

Ning Fan had a confident look in his eyes. He knew that he would definitely be able to cure Xu Qiuling!

In the Sword Island of the Internal Endless Sea.

A middle-aged man who only had a single arm swiftly descended on the Sword Island like a flash of sword light, carrying a heavy black metal sword.

As soon as he descended, the protective grand formation of the Sword Island which was a Mortal Void Realm Formation suddenly collapsed!

The fourteen million ancient swords that were buried beneath the island were trembling as if they were showing signs of fear.

Innumerable experts on this island rose into the air, looking at the white-robed middle-aged man who was hovering in midair in disbelief.

Even Venerated Sword who possessed a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivation base felt that his sword intent was on the verge of crumbling under the white-robed man's gaze.

This man's understanding in the Dao of Sword is incredibly profound!

"I want the Immortal Entrapping Sword." The man's look was indifferent. His face was covered with scruffs and his eyes were empty, his long hair hanging loosely on his back. Most of it was sprinkled with gray.

He seemed to dislike talking much as he only uttered a sentence with a flat tone to explain his purpose of coming to the island. However, the request he made had immediately roused the wrath of numerous experts from the Sword Island.

"Impudent! Who are you?! How dare you break the grand formation of my Sword Island and attempt to seize my Island Suppressing Treasure, the Immortal Entrapping Sword?! Don't tell me you don't know about the agreement between Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou and the Rain Palace?! Are you trying to infuriate Lord Thunder Emperor?!"

However, before this group of experts from the Sword Island could finish their words, Venerated Sword abruptly raised his hand and shouted with his deep voice, silencing everyone there.

"Be quiet!"

When his voice reverberated through the air, no one in the Sword Island dared to make any noises. It was enough to show how prestigious Venerated Sword was.

“Someone fetch the Immortal Entrapping Sword and give it to this senior!” Venerated Sword let out a helpless sigh.

“What?! It is the most valuable treasure of our Sword Island! If we lose this item, the concentration of the spiritual sword qi of our Sword Island will be reduced by at least 60%. Then, our disciples’ speed of cultivation will considerably decrease!”

Many elders raised their objections against Venerated Sword. However, these dissenting voices all quieted down after hearing what Venerated Sword uttered next!

“This man is the ‘White-Robed Sword God’, Yun Tianjue!”

Venerated Sword sighed once again. He just announced the white-robed swordsman’s name without giving much explanation.

However, after the middle-aged man’s name was heard, everyone on the Sword Island was utterly terrified.

The White-Robed Sword God... Yun Tianjue!

“We understand... Lord Venerated Sword. We will go and bring the Immortal Entrapping Sword now...”
None of the elders uttered any more words.

In the cultivation world, there are some people who don't need to give any explanations when they want something. They just need to come directly to your doorstep and declare themselves and none would dare to disobey...

Old Devil was once an expert of that kind. As for this white-robed swordsman, he was one of them too!

After a brief moment, several elders of the Sword Island held a broken sword which was wrapped in blue cloth and handed it over to the white-robed swordsman.

That white-robed swordsman received the sword, casually glanced at it without unwrapping the cloth and a frown appeared between his brows.

“A piece of the blade is missing.”

He did not like talking much. The reason why he uttered this sentence was obviously because he was asking for the missing piece of the blade.

“Reporting to senior...the missing piece of the blade was taken away by one of my friends to temporarily suppress the condition of his disciple's natal gold qi...”

Shush

Before Venerated Sword finished speaking, the white-robed man vanished in a ray of sword light, completely disappearing in front of everyone's eyes.

Even Venerated Sword was also unable to capture the speed of the white-robed man with his cultivation base.

"That man is Yun Tianjue... the sword devil who has 'shed his emotions and forgotten his heart'..." The Venerated Sword gulped in fear.

If the white-robed swordsman were to be provoked, he can annihilate the entire Sword Island with a single slash of his sword. Wiping out an island to him was just like child's play!

Chapter 347.1 - Yang Gu Knelt Down

Yang Gu Knelt Down

After just one single night, the news of Ning Fan's return had spread all over the External Endless Sea with formidable speed.

As for the Alliance of Ming Assassins from the Ying State Immortal Island, when they heard that Ning Fan had reached the Divine Transformation Realm, at least 30% of the forces broke away from the alliance and ended their relationship with the alliance.

They were already afraid of Ning Fan's fearsome reputation and they could not even imagine how brutal he would be after attaining the Divine Transformation Realm.

However, these were something to be talked about later.

The Sparrow Raising Platform had already been renovated. Twenty years ago, a killing tribulation happened here with Ning Fan being the main reason. Twenty years later, the snow here continued to fall like before but the people who used to be here were already gone.

Above the copper platform, Ning Fan sat around a fire stove with Dong Xu, Xu Rushan, Yan Zhongze and the other experts, chatting while drinking warm wine. Their conversations were mostly about the occurrences and changes that had happened in the External Endless Sea. Xu Rushan and Yan Zhongze tried to ask Ning Fan about what he had gone through within these twenty years, but he did not speak a single word about it. Everyone was sensible and no longer asked about it anymore.

Xu Qiuling was behaving like a lovely newly-married wife as she sat beside Ning Fan and heated the wine for him with a sweet and obedient look.

Yu Long who was behind Ning Fan was looking at him with eyes filled with admiration and zeal.

At the time he was being kept by Ning Fan as a slave, he complained endlessly about his fate. Currently, however, it seemed like being able to become Ning Fan's follower was indeed the greatest thing that had ever happened to him in his entire lifetime.

Now, his master was already not an ordinary man but a Divine Transformation Realm old ancestor, a man who could drink wine at the same table with the Venerated Seven of the Internal Endless Sea!

The wine they drank was a spiritual wine named 'Drunken Past' which was fermented by Dong Xu with one hundred types of flowers. It was famous for its immensely strong alcohol. Anyone with poor magic power would definitely be unable to drink much. For Early Nascent Soul Realm cultivators, drinking one single drop of the wine would cause them to be drunk for one month. As for the old ancestors of the Early Divine Transformation Realm, they could at most drink ten bottles.

After gulping down the eleventh bottle, Xu Rushan and Yan Zhongze successively left with wry smiles. They must instantly return to have a secluded meditation to refine the alcohol of the wine. Otherwise, they would be drunk for an entire month.

After they left, Yu Long also obtained permission from Ning Fan to return to the Profound Jade Palace to rest. On the Sparrow Raising Platform, only Ning Fan and Dong Xu were left. They continued to drink with each other's company.

From night until dawn, both of them did not get drunk at all.

This made Xu Qiuling inwardly surprised. She already has infinitely overvalued Ning Fan's capabilities, but she never expected that Ning Fan would be able to drink together with her Half-Step Void Refinement Realm master all night long with their drinking capacity coming out even.

Ning Fan lazily flicked his sleeve to cover his face as he yawned in drowsiness. Xu Qiuling stared at him and gradually became obsessed with him.

Twenty years... Twenty years of waiting all for tonight. It's worth it...

All ten jugs of the Drunken Past Wine were emptied. Dong Xu lost his desire for drinking and returned to rest after letting out a hearty laughter.

Meanwhile, Ning Fan kept the storage pouch that Dong Xu gave. With a sway of his magic power, the feeling of intoxication and his drunkenness disappeared.

“What treasures did my master give you?” Xu Qiuling’s eyes blinked.

“Some spiritual puppets, pills, immortal jade, treasures of Immortal’s Abode... Mm... Of course there are some insights on the refinement of Immortal’s Abode treasures... Your master said that these are the dowry for you...”

Ning Fan rose up from his seat and comfortably stretched his waist. His bones gave out crisp sounds like crushing beans, shaking off the snow from his shoulders.

Even though his tone was relaxed, what Dong Xu gave him was absolutely exorbitant. They were all the benefits he promised to give Ning Fan in the past.

For the Treasures of Immortal’s Abode, there were one thousand of them and each of these treasures could be sold for more than one million immortal jade.

Then, there were 17 Divine Transformation Realm spiritual puppets with 10 of them being at the Early Divine Transformation Realm, 4 at the Mid Divine Transformation Realm, 2 at the Late Divine Transformation Realm and 1 at the Peak Divine Transformation Realm.

In terms of pills, Ning Fan received 50 bottles of Profound Primordial Pills which were Peak Fourth Revolution pills. Each bottle contained 20 pellets and each pellet could increase a Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivator's magic power by 1 unit.

Besides that, there was also the Profound Heart of Mother Earth. It was handed to Ning Fan by Dong Xu on behalf of Xu Rushan.

These things were definitely of great value. Regarding Dong Xu's kindness, Ning Fan would definitely keep it in his heart.

"I will certainly cure Qiuling, you can all be rest assured."

Ning Fan seemed to be talking to the snow, but he knew that Xu Rushan and Dong Xu were both waiting for his assurance.

While Ning Fan was performing telepathic communication towards the snow, a pink 'message transmitting paper butterfly' flew across the drifting snow and landed on Xu Qiuling's palm.

She placed her finger on the butterfly and could not help but burst into laughter right afterwards, as if some kind of message had been transmitted into her spirit sense.

“What are you laughing at? Hmm? This telepathy paper butterfly looks rather delicate. You specially made it yourself?”

Ning Fan’s eyes moved. Among the low-ranked cultivators in the Endless Sea, there was one popular kind of message transmitting paper. It could be folded into a paper man, paper crane, paper butterfly, paper tiger or other forms to send out messages.

“Yes, it’s a message from Xiao Lian. She has just told me something funny and I couldn’t help but laugh.”

Xu Qiuling then tied up her long glossy hair together. Her ethereal temperament was like an elegant orchid amidst an empty valley.

She was a talented girl. Despite her slightly ill-looking complexion, it made her temperament stand out even more.

Xu Qiuling put away the paper butterfly and said with a faint smile, “Young Master Zhou, will the old man that you have become planning to have a rest first or will you refine the Mind Nourishing Pill right away?”

“Are you going to rest with me?” Ning Fan teased.

“It’s fine for me. I won’t cower if you dare to.” Xu Qiuling might look like it did not matter to her but her neck had already turned pinky due to shyness.

“You’re indeed the most unique one among the ladies I met...”

Ning Fan shook his head. If he were to say those words to Zhihe, he probably would be punched by Zhihe’s little fist and be scolded as a big pervert.

Xu Qiuling, however, was calmer and composed than most ladies. It was as if nothing could make her lose her composure.

This is a lady who has already downplayed the matter of her life and death and sorrow and joy...

“Well, I think it’s better to go refine the pill... I want to produce the Mind Nourishing Pills as soon as possible to cure your illness.”

“Thank you for Young Master’s affectionate love! But Young Master has to be alert, there is an old man ‘standing in the snow at the gate of Cheng’s house’ outside the pill refinement room...”

“Standing in snow at the gate of Cheng’s house?”

Ning Fan was rather dumbfounded. It was an allusion of the cultivation world referring to the two Confucian cultivators, You Cu and Yang Shi. In order to seek for their Dao, they stood overnight outside the house of a great Confucian with the surname ‘Cheng’ and became snowmen.

When Ning Fan spread his spirit sense over a vicinity of fifty thousand li* (500 m per li), Ning Fan instantly understood what Xu Qiuling was laughing at.

Without saying a word, he directly placed his hand around Xu Qiuling's slim waist and stepped forward, turning into a column of purple mist to travel away. Xu Qiuling's body slightly shivered but she did not resist.

This girl was really bold in love.

Even if Ning Fan intends to make out with her in the snow, violating the law of their families' etiquette, perhaps this woman would not care about it.

"I won't regret losing myself to you..." Xu Qiuling murmured.

"What?"

"Nothing."

This was Xu Qiuling's first time experiencing the flying speed of the Divine Transformation Realm.

The wind whizzed past her ears, making her feel like she was half-conscious. Before she could even exclaim at how fast Ning Fan's flying speed was, they had already arrived at the high grade pill refinement room of the Profound Jade Palace. All it took was only a few breaths.

Outside the room, a snowstorm was raging. An old man in scholarly robes was covered with snow, making him look just like a snowman. He had indeed stood for a night outside the pill refinement room.

As the man saw Ning Fan come along with a beauty by his side, he immediately shook off the snow on his body and cupped his fists with a smile.

"Hehe. Daoist Zhou, are you coming here to refine pills today?" This old man's tone was filled with eagerness.

"Precisely. Daoist Yang, do you want to spectate how I refine pills at the side?"

"Of course I do!" Yang Gu's eyes burned with enthusiasm. After he obtained the mental spell of congealing the Medicine Soul, he was very close to breaking through to the Fifth Revolution in his pill refinement techniques. At his current stage, it would absolutely be great to be able to watch how a genuine Fifth Revolution pill refinement grandmaster concoct pills in order to accumulate some experience.

"Have you brought something for me?" Ning Fan indifferently uttered.

"Hehe. Of course, of course..." Yang Gu took out a storage pouch which was fully packed with immortal jade and passed to Ning Fan.

In the Endless Sea, one has to pay a fee in order to spectate a Fifth Revolution pill master concocting pills.

Each time would cost one million for one person. Although it was not a large amount, it was the custom here.

However, try to imagine this: one Fifth Revolution pill master invites one thousand or even ten thousand people to watch and learn from spectating his pill refinement process. How much would that pill master earn?

Well, enhancing one's pill refinement techniques was originally a money-consuming process as one would need to use lots of spiritual herbs. As such, a pill master would of course need some allowances.

Customs were unable to be abolished, especially those which allows one to receive payment.

After leaving Yang Gu at the entrance of the pill refinement room to spectate from afar, Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling walked towards the pill cauldron shoulder to shoulder and ignited the flames within.

Xu Qiuling was able to observe and learn from a close distance. Even though she was clueless in pill refinement techniques, it was quite beneficial for her to watch Ning Fan concoct pills. At least, she might have the chance to comprehend something new by observing the process.

There was a half-damaged black puppet standing beside Xu Qiuling. Even though it was half-damaged, its strong aura force made Yang Gu's heart palpitate with fear.

"T-This is... a H-Half Step Void Refinement Realm spiritual puppet!"

Hiss

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Yang Gu could not help but feel shocked. A Half-Step Void Refinement Realm expert was a being the likes of the Venerated Seven of the Internal Endless Sea. However, an expert of that level was subdued and refined into a spiritual puppet by Ning Fan...

Yang Gu could not refrain from wondering what level Ning Fan's cultivation base was currently at!

Since the news of Ning Fan's return had been spread widely, the rumors about Ning Fan in the outside world said that he was a Divine Transformation Realm cultivator, but it only claimed that he was at the early stage.

Despite that, Yang Gu did not believe it at all!

How could an Early Divine Transformation Realm cultivator own a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm spiritual puppet?!

“Daoist Yang, please don’t mind it. Having this spiritual puppet by my side is a principle of my behavior.”

He did not explain more after saying those words and threw tufts upon tufts of spiritual herbs into the pill cauldron.

Spiritual puppets were summoned as a protector of the pill master to prevent any spectators from sneak-attacking him which might then cause damage to the pills and even other people.

Asking for remuneration and taking precautions against Yang Gu... Ning Fan always laid out the situations very bluntly at the beginning, neither taking advantage of other people nor letting others take advantage of him.

A great surprise rose in Yang Gu’s mind. He realized that he had underestimated Ning Fan’s capabilities and mentality from the beginning.

However, this feeling of surprise disappeared a while later. After the time it takes for an incense stick to burn passed, Yang Gu was completely mesmerized by Ning Fan’s fantastic pill refinement techniques.

“T-This is... This is the pill refinement technique of the Nine Revolutions of the Rivers – ‘Blessings of Purple Strip!’”

“This... This is the pill refinement technique from the San Qing Pill Condensation – ‘Heart Executing Fire Division!’”

“This is...”

It was Yang Gu’s first time seeing 90% of the pill refinement techniques that Ning Fan used. Prior to this, he had only read about them in ancient books.

He was on cloud nine.

It’s worth it! It’s indeed worth it! With only one million immortal jade, I am able to see such profound techniques. It’s indeed a worthwhile trip!

Day after day, Ning Fan stayed in front of the pill cauldron without moving. It took him one entire month to concoct the Mind Nourishing Pill.

Ning Fan was careful and meticulous throughout the process. Since this is the nourishing pill for Xu Qiuling to heal her state of mind, he definitely could not be sloppy.

He was like a multicolored butterfly which was affectionate yet forthright.

Within this month, the techniques he performed were constantly alternating between two completely different factions of the Dao of Alchemy.

The Nine Revolutions of the Rivers required the combination of his demon power. After a series of alternating between his different types of power to improve the quality of the pill, a complete, high-grade pill was formed.

As for the San Qing Pill Condensation, it required him to split his spirit sense into three portions and roast the mixture of spiritual herbs from three different parts. The portion with the strongest demon power was known as the core of the pill whereas the other two portions were known as pill embryos...

Despite being two totally different pill refinement techniques, both of them were combined into one when Ning Fan used them.

His thoughts and his Dao were to combine things from two opposing extremes just like fusing Yin and Yang!

Green qi rose from all over his body and the medicinal mist grew denser, filling up the atmosphere. Ning Fan's temperament was sublimating and transforming!

Yang Gu was stunned once again... He could literally see that during the process of refining pills this time, Ning Fan had reached the bottleneck of the middle stage of Fifth Revolution because of using two types of pill refinement techniques at the same time.

"Daoist Zhou is on the verge of breaking through to the Mid Fifth Revolution Pill Refinement Realm! I, Yang Gu, can't believe that I actually have the fortune to witness the breakthrough of a Mid Fifth Revolution pill master!"

To Yang Gu, this meant a lot. As long as he remembers the details of Ning Fan's breakthrough in his heart, Yang Gu certainly had the chance to attain the middle stage of Fifth Revolution after he becomes a Fifth Revolution pill master in the future!

This is certainly worth more than one million immortal jade!

It's still worth it even if I have to pay ten million or even one hundred million immortal jade!

"No, I must give you this amount of money! I want to acknowledge Daoist Zhou as my master!"

A hint of persistence flashed in Yang Gu's eyes. Ning Fan's pill refinement techniques were too broad and profound. Even though his cultivation base was not the highest in the Rain World, every act and every move he made had virtually reflected Emperor Ancient Chaos' behavior and temperament in pill refinement techniques, dashing and extraordinary.

Accepting an apprentice was a good thing, especially an apprentice like Yang Gu who was willing to lose money instead of being paid.

Ning Fan just needed to casually imprint some insights for him and the latter would be satisfied and pledge his loyalty to Ning Fan. There was no need for Ning Fan to give him any benefits at all. Besides, when Ning Fan is not around, Yang Gu could help him provide a large amount of pills for his forces.

Just like Ning Fan's first apprentice, Xue Qing. He should have probably broken through to the Fourth Revolution of the pill refinement realm by now and is providing a large quantity of pills for Ning City.

Ning Fan of course did not know Yang Gu's intention of acknowledging him as his master. However, even if he knows, he would probably decide whether to accept this relation of apprenticeship based on his mood.

At this moment, he was placing his focus on the sublimation happening within his state of mind. Then, a sound like a cocoon breaking was heard and the green qi all over his body suddenly flickered with light rays. The intensity of the color of green grew deeper and began to change gradually into color of xuan*(玄).

Xuan (玄) means black.

His pill refinement techniques successfully advanced into the middle stage of Fifth Revolution Realm!

“*Puff*... Finally, my pill refinement realm has improved!” Ning Fan's eyes were filled with joy.

The advancement in his pill refinement realm this time was of great significance.

This time, it was his first time achieving a breakthrough in his pill refinement realm based on his own effort after his pill refinement techniques that were inherited from Emperor Ancient Chaos reached their limit.

This meant that as long as Ning Yan continued to work hard, he could definitely be a grandmaster with his talent!

“Young Master Zhou, you’ve had a long day. Do you need me to prepare some bath water for you?” Xu Qiuling was unable to restrain herself from giving a chuckle.

The current Ning Fan’s face had been stained with grime and ashes after spending one month non-stop in concocting pills, making him look just like a young master fleeing from his subjugated country.

Why was he not being described as a beggar but a young master running away from his perished country?

Well, this was because within Xu Qiuling’s heart, Ning Fan still had an unyielding determination no matter how down-and-out he was. As long as that determination remains within him, even if he flees from country to country and travels for nineteen years, he would still be a young master, but not a beggar!

“Are you willing to bathe with me?” Ning Fan teased again.

“If you dare, then I won’t cower!” Xu Qiuling still remained as decisive as she was.

Thud

The sound of a heavy object falling to the ground interrupted the conversation between Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling. It turned out to be the sound of Yang Gu's knees landing to the ground. He was kneeling before Ning Fan and kowtowed to him.

“Daoist Zhou... No, Revered Ming, please accept me as your apprentice!”

Yang Gu's eyes flashed with determination. He had a hunch that Ning Fan would become a pill master who would surpass Venerated Pill in the future. Moreover, he even believed that Ning Fan could become the next 'Pill Emperor' who is the strongest pill master in the Rain World!

“Uhh...”

Ning Fan looked stunned for a moment, feeling rather speechless about the man in front of him.

Why do maniacs who are obsessed with pill refinement like to acknowledge me as their master?

Keeping Xue Qing can still help me look after the base and refine pills, providing a continuous supply of pills for the Three Divine Armies of Black Devil. But what is the use of keeping Yang Gu as my apprentice?

“Daoist Yang, acknowledging a master is a serious matter. You must consider it carefully before making up your mind...”

“Revered Ming, please give me an opportunity. Even if I have to start from just becoming a titular apprentice, I will also not refuse! I know Revered Ming likes to travel around and dislike your apprentice following you. You can be rest assured that I will take care of myself and won’t cause any trouble for you! There is one hundred million immortal jade here. This is a small token of appreciation from me to thank Revered Ming for keeping me as an apprentice!”

Yang Gu was very nervous. In his whole life, it was his second time kneeling down to someone and his first time acknowledging someone as his master.

The first time he knelt down was a few thousand years ago. At that time, he was kneeling before his parents’ graves. After that incident, he then left his war-torn homeland, leaving the kingdom of mortals and beginning the path of cultivation...

“What are the benefits that I can get from accepting you as my apprentice?” Ning Fan’s words sounded very materialistic but they were the truth.

In the world of cultivation, if it was not for a deep relationship, what’s the point of doing something that brings no benefits at all?

“If Master keeps me as your apprentice, I can recommend Master to join the Pill Island and become a feudal ranking elder of the island. Besides, I can also help Master obtain the chance to enter the Soul Washing Pond. If Master can enter the pond, Master’s medicine soul will certainly be improved to a great extent, greatly enhancing Master’s pill refinement techniques. Furthermore, it is very likely that Master’s pill refinement realm can break through to the high stage of the Fifth Revolution!”

Yang Gu made another bow and his expression looked extremely sincere.

As a disciple, it is a must to show filial piety to the master. In order to acknowledge Ning Fan as his master, giving him gifts was definitely a must.

He was extremely nervous inwardly as this matter concerned his Dao of Alchemy in his entire lifetime.

He had asked himself for a thousand times. If he misses this opportunity with Ning Fan, who else could teach him such magnificent pill refinement techniques...

No one!

Ning Fan remained silent. In the bottom of his heart, however, he felt tempted.

Soul Washing Pond. It was not his first time hearing that name. If he could enter the pond, his medicine soul would improve and his pill refinement techniques would surely have a great leap.

Now, it not only seems like I wouldn't need to put much time on this man after keeping him as my disciple, but I will also receive great benefits.

Ning Fan narrowed his eyes, as if he had come to a decision.

Chapter 348.1 Becoming A Mortal Once Again

A nominal apprentice was Ning Fan's answer to Yang Gu.

He would tentatively accept him as a nominal apprentice. If Yang Gu does not fit Ning Fan's standard, then he would be kicked out. However, if he is useful, then he could be trained for a bit and cultivated.

Even though Yang Gu only received an ambiguous reply, he was very excited about it and immediately excused himself to rush back to the Pill Island in the Internal Endless Sea.

His departure this time had two purposes. Firstly, he wanted to recommend Ning Fan to join the Pill Island and become a feudal ranking elder.

Secondly, he wanted to find a big group of people to help Ning Fan eliminate the Alliance of Ming Assassins!

As for roughly how many people he could find, it was still uncertain. Yang Gu was very popular. With his amiable character, nearly everyone beneath the heavens are his friends. Adding up some of his good friends from the Pill Island, perhaps this group battle would be a spectacular one.

The matter regarding Yang Gu was set aside for the time being. The next concern that Ning Fan had was to remove the hidden threat in Xu Qiuling's body.

Firstly, that remnant piece of the Immortal Entrapping Sword must be taken out.

Next, he must thoroughly solve the problem of having insufficient gold elements in Xu Qiuling's life force.

For several consecutive days, Ning Fan meditated hard in seclusion, deducing the outcome of dozens of therapeutic methods and eventually picked three of them.

Once he got out from the Profound Jade Palace, Ning Fan headed to the Blissful Summit to look for Xu Qiuling. However, it was empty when he arrived at her room.

As he spread his spirit sense encompassing half of the Pleasure Devil Island, he also could not find Xu Qiuling's whereabouts.

Ning Fan was then inwardly surprised when a thirteen-year-old girl who was dressed like a maidservant servilely approached him and gave him a paper butterfly in the flower mound.

"Y-Young Master Zhou, this is f-from the young mistress... She asked you to seek her..."

The little girl's voice was trembling as she spoke, as if she was very afraid of Ning Fan.

"You are Xiao Lian?"

"Y-Yes..."

“You folded this paper butterfly?”

“I-I... This is my fault. I won't do it again...” The girl fell to her knees and cried for mercy, as if maidservants were not allowed to fold a message-transmitting paper butterfly in order to prevent information leaks.

“Mm... Don't worry. I won't tell others about this. This paper butterfly is quite nice. Not bad.”

Ning Fan patted Xiao Lian's head. He unfolded the paper butterfly and glanced through the words within. Right after he finished reading them, he did not know whether to laugh or cry. He then made a step forward and vanished without leaving a trace.

Only the maidservant, Xiao Lian, was left at the flower mound who remained kneeling. After making sure Ning Fan had left, only then did she dare to raise her head. Even so, her expression was still plastered with fear.

After Ning Fan was gone, almost eight young, little maidservants immediately came out from behind the flower bushes to help Xiao Lian get up. Each of them were in dread.

“Xiao Lian, you're so bold. That Young Master Zhou is the devil whose reputation is being spread like wildfire in the External Endless Sea. The number of lives he has taken is innumerable. Yet you actually dared to have three lines of conversations with him!”

“That's still fine. I've heard that he is the big devil who lusts after other's wives and daughters. Did he do anything to you?”

“I saw that he has just touched your head. Could it be that he has planted some kind of mental seal on you?”

These girls were feeling worried about Xiao Lian, but the latter shook her head and blushed. She then said with a soft tone.

“I-I think that Young Master Zhou does not seem to be a bad person... He actually complimented me and said that the paper butterfly I folded was attractive...”

“Oh, my! Xiao Lian is lovesick...”

“I think she’s not just lovesick, but her soul has also been taken by Young Master Zhou.”

“Hehe...”

Giggle

A group of young girls began to frolic amidst the path adorned with flowers, totally forgetting how intimidating Ning Fan was.

In the sky above the Pleasure Devil Island, Ning Fan swept over the palace with his spirit sense. After sensing that the maidservants were frolicking with each other, he let out a sigh.

Even though these maidservants do not have a high status and strong innate talent to attain the Gold Core Realm or even the Nascent Soul Realm in their entire lifetime, they can stay innocent and naive and live a normal life like that of a mortal's.

Indeed, Ning Fan was envious of someone who could live such an ordinary and peaceful life where one could have the room to have fun and have no worries. However, his life did not give him any choice.

There were only a few words from the message transmitting paper butterfly. It was Xu Qiuling's soft and gentle voice.

"Beauties are like water that never flows in reverse, it's a pity that a young master never thinks of worldly pleasures..."

This line was a short poem that Xu Qiuling made casually. She was without a doubt a talented girl.

Although she was on the brink of dying, she still had the mood to play hide-and-seek with Ning Fan by purposely hiding herself to let him search for her.

It's a pity that a young master never thinks of worldly pleasures... Was she showing compassion to Ning Fan for being too laborious in cultivation in his lifetime?

Ning Fan shook his head. It was the most helpless thing for him to handle an independent lady like Xu Qiuling.

He closed his eyes and placed his fingertips on the paper butterfly, using the slight wisp of qi left on the paper butterfly to trace the qi left in the air. Then, Ning Fan pursued Xu Qiuling relying on the direction to where the wisp of qi led him.

Xu Qiuling's qi was rather unique as she always immersed herself in flowers every day. She reared flowers and she loved flowers. Therefore, there was a floral fragrance in her soul.

Perhaps she was a flower in her previous life...

Amidst the black snowstorm in the Pleasure Devil Sea, a brightly-painted boat drifted out in the sea and only Xu Qiuling was on it alone.

She was indeed very bold to travel around the Pleasure Devil Sea alone with just her Peak Golden Core Realm cultivation base.

However, she was not being bold without wits. In fact, that little brightly-painted boat was an Immortal's Abode Treasure gifted by Dong Xu. If anyone were to target her, she could then hide herself in the space of the boat. Whoever below the Void Refinement Realm would never be able to find her hiding spot.

However, these were just some basic precautions for her security based on her rationale. In reality, more of her was being emotional.

She believed that Ning Fan would surely come for her. The belief she had in him was as strong as how she was captivated by his temperament during their first meeting.

She had always thought that it was love at first sight. Until three years ago, her illness began to worsen and she fell into a coma. During that period of time, she had some strange dreams.

In her dreams, she was a pitch-black orchid plant standing alone at a hollow valley, staying isolated from the rest of the world.

No one could enter her world and there was no need for her to understand anyone else's world. She could indulge in her own self-admiration and sing alone all day long.

Until one day, a snow-white butterfly flew into the valley.

It was spotlessly clean and white but extremely delicate. It was so weak that it could not endure the gentle wind which blew against it. It looked like it had been struck by wind and rain somewhere as half of its wings had been ripped apart.

Even so, that butterfly was still stubbornly flying upwards, refusing to yield or surrender.

When the butterfly flew over the orchid by coincidence, it lost its strength to fly any further and fell right into the orchid's pistil.

The butterfly's breathing gradually grew weaker and weaker. Slowly, it lost its memory. However, it was still persistently flapping its wings, trying to fly towards the sky.

At this moment, the orchid understood. She understood why the butterfly was injured. It was because this butterfly was too foolish, trying to fly above the sky with its fragile wings.

Its wings were torn by the howling wind.

"Silly butterfly, that place is the immortals' world. You're just a little butterfly. Why are you being so stubborn...?"

The orchid was speaking the flower language which the butterfly could not hear. Naturally, there was no way the orchid could change the butterfly's mind.

The butterfly flapped its feeble wings again and again, but no matter how hard it tried, it still fell back to the pistil of the flower. Eventually, the orchid felt pained for it.

She did not understand why she would feel that way, but when she saw the butterfly's expression while it was making its final struggle, she could not bear it anymore. She wanted to save this butterfly.

"Silly butterfly, pluck my pistil and you can recover your strength."

“Silly butterfly, tear off my petals so that you can replace your wings.”

“Silly butterfly, you’re too weak and your body is not strong enough to withstand the howling wind. I’m willing to give you the gold qi of my life force to make your wings be as firm as iron and stones. You will then be able to withstand the howling wind...”

“Silly butterfly, why don’t you take a look at me...?”

That orchid secretly sprinkled the floral dew on the butterfly, patched her petals on its torn wings and passed the gold qi of her life force to the butterfly.

After that, that butterfly was no longer pure white. Half of it turned black because of the petal given by the orchid.

Her gold qi was not absorbed by her father’s Primordial Magnetic Force...

Instead, her gold qi was given to a butterfly in her previous life.

In the end, that butterfly recovered its power and became strong enough to fly into the sky. However, it never knew that there was an orchid that saved its life...

That orchid eventually withered day after day after losing the gold qi in her life force.

Until one day, a trace of remnant ashes from the butterfly drifted into the mortal world along with the blowing wind and fell on the orchid.

At that moment, the orchid's heart was shattered, as if it was sobbing in sadness and eventually lost her final trace of life force.

"What a sad dream... Am I being too sentimental...?" Xu Qiuling sighed with emotions.

"That butterfly, where did it go...?" Xu Qiuling mumbled to herself while folding a message transmitting paper butterfly with her fingers.

She loves flowers, but she also had a bias for butterflies...

Perhaps she once had an unrequited love for a butterfly a very long time ago...

Xu Qiuling activated the boat, making it sail with an unimaginable speed. The cultivators coming to the island flew past her boat from above in rays of light but all of them were unable to sense the hidden aura of the boat.

She stood alone on the boat, drifting aimlessly on the sea like a vagrant.

However, she firmly believed that Ning Fan would come for her.

Thud

Amidst the gentle breeze, a young man dressed in white robes and draped with black cloak caught up with the boat following the tiny wisp of qi left by Xu Qiuling and landed on the stern.

He originally used to wear a set of white clothes. However, after following the path of devils, he symbolically draped a large black feathered cloak on his white robes.

The color of his outfit symbolized the interchanging kindness and evil...

“It’s not a trifling matter roaming the sea all by yourself!” Ning Fan frowned and scolded. Throughout the endless killing on his path, he knew how dangerous the Endless Sea was, especially at a lawless territory like this Pleasure Devil Sea.

In the past, Yuan Yao was ambushed at this place. Even though there was no action today and the cultivators from the Internal Endless Sea rarely came, it was still dangerous for Xu Qiuling to travel alone, even if she had a Treasure of Immortal Abode to protect herself.

At the very least, Xu Qiuling was ill and her body was weak. It was inappropriate for her to be exposed to the chilly wind.

After being scolded by Ning Fan, Xu Qiuling did not feel sad or angry but she laughed instead. It was because only people who were lonely could understand that having someone to scold you was actually bliss. Scolding, in other words, meant concern.

“I’m sorry... I was being reckless. But I believed that you will come for me!”

Chapter 348.2 - Becoming A Mortal Once Again

Becoming A Mortal Once Again

Xu Qiuling stroked the hair on her temple gently and lifted the corners of her mouth. A smile as beautiful as an orchid bloomed on her face.

“Of course I will come for you!” Ning Fan felt angry but also amused at the same time.

This Xu Qiuling really is a troublesome woman, being second only to Yin Suqiu... No, perhaps from a certain aspect, she could be as troublesome as Yin Suqiu.

“Do you know the origin of that line in the poem...” Xu Qiuling suddenly changed the topic. At the same time, she hurriedly navigated the boat, sailing towards a specific direction at a faster speed.

“Which line? Since the day we met, you have uttered quite a lot of poems.”

“It’s a pity that a young master never thinks of worldly pleasures! Do you know that this is what I felt when I first met you ... Pity, yes, it purely means having pity for you, not admiring you like what you were thinking... You’re too stubborn. It was obvious that your cultivation base was not strong enough, but you still chose to fight with that Zhao Zijing just for an orchid. Was it really worth it...”

Xu Qiuling seemed to have recalled the dream she had. She felt like helping that orchid ask the butterfly.

Butterfly, was it really worth it for you to stubbornly fly towards the sky even if you have to risk your life...

Even though the orchid had not gotten the chance to ask the butterfly before, it believed that there must have been a reason for the butterfly to persistently fly towards the sky, a reason which was more important than death...

“I won’t ask anything about your past because I wasn’t part of it in the first place...” Xu Qiuling said composedly. Then, she pointed in the direction in front of them and suddenly smiled.

“I’ll take you to a place. That was the first place that I visited after sneaking out from the Pleasure Devil Island for the first time. It was my master who brought me there. It’s a kingdom of mortals. In the past, my master also used this boat to bring me there to watch the life led by these mortals... At that moment, I realized that I was not the only person who had the most bitter life in this world...”

“My physique is too weak. Thus, I am unable to attain the Nascent Soul Realm. Besides, my lifespan is too short. There is not much hope for me to live for more than ten more years. But even so, I have already been living for hundreds of years, haven’t I? These mortal people, on the other hand, have to suffer the torments of wars, plagues and natural disasters. However, they are still tenaciously surviving.

Even if they can't have three square meals a day, and they have to suffer many mishaps in their life, they are still struggling to live..."

"At that moment, I finally understood that no one can choose their own fate in their life. However, what we can decide is our attitude in facing our fate. No matter how hard life is, we can choose to live on with a smile... If one can meet his or her beloved at the right time in their life before passing away, so what if one has to go against what was common?"

Xu Qiuling's eyes were filled with affection as she looked deeply at Ning Fan. "As long as you dare to defy it, then I will never back away!"

"Is that so?"

Ning Fan looked at Xu Qiuling, feeling great pity for her. He was at a loss for words all of a sudden.

Even his thought of scolding her for secretly leaving the island had also subsided.

If Xu Qiuling has not met me, perhaps she would have died alone inside her own hollow valley in this life.

"I will take you to wherever you want to go. But you need to promise me that after that, you will follow me obediently back home and receive your medical treatment with a peace of mind."

“No, can I receive my treatment at the mortal kingdom? I like the ambience over there.”

“There are a lot of people there. The more people, the more interference there is. If anyone harbors bad intentions and wants to conspire against us...”

“With that powerful strength of yours, can’t you even protect me, a weak, feeble lady from a bunch of mortal people?” Xu Qiuling asked and her eyes flashed with a hint of mischief.

“... I’m not as powerful as you think. But if this is your will, I will try my best to protect you.”

Ning Fan shook his head. Somehow, he just instinctively felt that he did not want to reject any requests that Xu Qiuling makes today.

It was as if he had once harmed her and owed her something in his previous life.

Xu Qiuling’s eyes were brimming with happiness. This was the only time she could be so willful in her whole life. She just wanted to see whether the person she loved would be willing to tolerate her willfulness.

However, just as the blissful feeling rose within her, her face became filled with surprise and shyness right afterwards.

Ning Fan suddenly placed his hand around Xu Qiuling's waist and swept her off her feet, bringing her into his arms. Then, he made a light step on the boat. When the tip of his toe touched the boat, it immediately turned into a ray of light which then flew back into Xu Qiuling's storage pouch.

"W-why did you..."

It was her first time being hugged by a man in such an intimate way. No matter how calm Xu Qiuling was, it was difficult for her not to feel surprised and shy.

"Your boat is too slow!" Ning Fan's eyes flashed with a sense of pride. A pair of massive purple black demon wings spread from his back. As he flapped his wings, they stirred up waves as high as the skies on the surface of the sea. If he was hovering among the clouds above the sky, a single flap would be able to propel him ninety thousand li (500 m per li) forward!

"There is actually such an incredible speed in this world!?"

Xu Qiuling was totally stunned.

The boat that Dong Xu gave her was built focusing on two kinds of special abilities: staying stealthy and allowing the user to hide in the space of an Immortal's Abode. Its speed, however, was not very fast as it was just equivalent to the movement speed of the usual Nascent Soul Realm cultivator.

No one had taken Xu Qiuling on a trip in the skies before. Other than the few times she left the island, she could be said to have spent most of her life cooped up inside the Pleasure Devil Island. Therefore, it was her first time being carried by a man while flying in the air.

This man's speed allowed them to travel ninety thousand li* (500 m per li) in an instant. In terms of speed, he could be regarded as the fastest being among the cultivators under the Void Refinement Realm in the entire Endless Sea.

Xu Qiuling laid in Ning Fan's arms, putting her arms around his neck. Her eyes were glued to his face and was gradually enthralled by his features.

For a moment, she saw him as a butterfly, a butterfly that didn't even bother to have a second glance at her in her previous life. That butterfly, however, was hugging her tightly in this life.

"Speaking of which, where exactly do you want to go? Is there really a mortal kingdom here?"

"Yes, there is. To be precise, it is a half-mortal kingdom. It is a small country located on an island in the northern part of the sea. This kingdom was originally established by a few Nascent Soul Realm old monsters who wanted to comprehend the life of mortals, as a preparation for 'Being Mortal'[1] and 'Mortal Severance'... That is to say that most of the mortals here were actually caught and brought to this island generations before our ancestors. They have never been told that there are actually other kingdoms in this world, and neither have they been told about the existence of cultivators. Any cultivator who enters this island will be affected by the mortal ambience of this place, making them voluntarily restrain their magic power and live incognito here. Of course..."

Xu Qiuling suddenly paused and her expression changed.

"Of course, there is a minority of cultivators who see that mortals are weak and nice to be bullied. Thus, they came here to kill or to avoid their enemies. This kind of people will usually be secretly eliminated by

several Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivators who are hiding on this island of mortals... They are the guardians who maintain the safety and peace of this kingdom. According to rumors, they were once mortals on this island a few generations ago. However, they wanted to protect this kingdom and therefore...”

Ning Fan’s eyes lit up with interest. He did not expect that someone would deliberately build up a haven of peace in this so-called ‘The Grave of Cultivators’ which was stained with blood.

Perhaps many cultivators who resided in this land with their identities concealed had grown tired of the bloodshed in the cultivation world and chose to spend their remaining life here. Or maybe some of them were just passersby who would leave after they gain enough insights.

Suddenly, Ning Fan seemed to have understood something. He turned his gaze at Xu Qiuling who was in his arms and gave her a grateful look.

“Thank you.”

“What are you thanking me for?” Xu Qiuling blinked her eyes curiously.

“Thank you for this line in your poem – “It’s a pity that a young master never thinks of worldly pleasures...”

Ning Fan sighed with emotions.

This Xu Qiuling isn't a willful lady but a person with keen eyes. She must have felt that I became too tired of the endless killings in the past twenty years, and she was afraid that I might lose control of my fiendish self and go crazy. As such, she plans on bringing me to see the life of mortals and remind me of some of my past to calm down my devil heart.

Xu Qiuling is clearly caring for me, but she didn't say anything about it and neither did she ask for any credit. What she did was just contributing silently.

If you don't pay attention, perhaps you will miss it and you will never know that she has contributed everything for you.

While looking at Xu Qiuling, a sense of familiarity suddenly rose within him. He just felt like he had seen her before somewhere.

Where was it...

With Ning Fan's speed and the direction navigated by Xu Qiuling, they reached a calm sea domain very soon.

When they had just entered this sea domain, Ning Fan immediately felt an unusual qi. The atmosphere within this area did not have the slightest trace of spiritual qi. There was no way a cultivator could train at this place at all!

This heaven and earth which had no spiritual power was of course created by some cultivators using formations in order to simulate the same situation as other mortal kingdoms.

Ning Fan came to a halt and lowered his hand to look downwards. There were many sea boats docked below.

There were more than ten sea boats and each and every one of them had a boatman. These boatmen were unremarkable at first glance, but each of them was faintly emanating Nascent Soul Realm aura force.

Upon seeing Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling's arrival, all of them stood up together at once and gave an unfriendly look at Ning Fan.

"Please stop! This is a place for the cultivators of the Endless Sea to cultivate their hearts and minds and experience a mortal's life. Any cultivator that enters this place is not allowed to use their teleportation or flying technique and expose a single trace of their cultivation base. Otherwise, you will be pursued by five Peak Nascent Soul Realm experts once you let the mortals in this land realize the existence of cultivators in this world and disrupt their peaceful lives.!"

These boatmen's reminders made Ning Fan feel stunned. He looked at Xu Qiuling in his arms and shook his head.

"What should we do now? With my personality, there are no places I can't go. If anyone stops me, I will then kill my way in."

"Pah! We can just enter the island by riding a boat!"

Xu Qiuling was totally speechless.

This Ning Fan is really a maniac in cultivation and also a madman who favors battle! I brought him here to comprehend the life of mortal people out of my kind intentions but he still wants to kill and cause a bloody conflict in this place. Is he an idiot!?

As if she had noticed an acquaintance, Xu Qiuling pointed in a certain direction. Ning Fan held her and landed on one of the boats at once.

The boatman on the boat was a middle-aged man with a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivation base. He was vigorously smoking a dry tobacco bag.

When he saw Xu Qiuling and Ning Fan, he first revealed a vigilant look and his body instinctively warned him that the young man in front of him was extremely dangerous!

However, when he noticed Xu Qiuling, the middle-aged man was greatly confused as if he recognized her.

“You are...”

“Uncle Wang! It’s me, I’m Qiuling!”

Xu Qiuling jumped out of Ning Fan's arms and smiled faintly. Her elegant smile immediately made the simple middle-aged man feel embarrassed of himself, not knowing where to put his hands and feet.

"Qiuling, it's you. You've grown so big! *Cough* *Cough* You're a big lady now and you even have a husband! Now, even this fourth uncle of yours almost can't recognize you."

"Of course I will grow up. Do you know how long it has been since my last visit to 'Gu Su'? It was already hundreds of years ago!"

"Aiya, it's been so long... Hehe, I have grown used to living like a mortal person, not remembering the years."

Her fourth uncle put down his tobacco bag and looked carefully at Ning Fan. At this moment, he seemed to be looking at his niece's husband. The longer he looked, the more satisfied he felt.

"Not Bad, Qiuling! You have a good insight. This young man has an excellent foundation. He definitely is a talented person... So this time you came here to marry your lover in conjunction with the 'Qi Xi Festival'[2]?"

"Marriage?" Xu Qiuling's eyes turned bright. She turned her head and looked at Ning Fan as if she was asking for permission. She then asked lightly, "Shall we try?"

"Whatever..."

Ning Fan's tone sounded indifferent, yet his eyes remained alert. He was still in a vigilant mode, secretly paying attention to the Nascent Soul Realm experts around them.

If someone wants to hurt Xu Qiuling, he could kill all of them here within just half a breath.

It was the instinct that was built within him through his experience after countless killings and massacres.

Xu Qiuling gently sighed seeing Ning Fan behave in such a careful manner.

It seems like it isn't easy to let him be completely relaxed... Fine. I will just treat this as an outing with him. It won't be a bad thing after all.

Chapter 349.1 - Wedding Festivities

Wedding Festivities

Wang Si¹ who was a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivator was usually known as Uncle Wang or The Fourth Uncle. He was quite well known in Gusu City.

After giving an order to the other boatmen, he steered his boat by himself, carrying Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling and sailed through layers upon layers of dense sea fog towards an island which was located far away. As for the other boatmen, they followed his order and stayed behind.

The boat was sailing at an extremely slow speed and it made Ning Fan recall his past where he was taking a boat in Wu Country.

Xu Qiuling stood beside him, gently raising herself by tiptoeing and took a deep breath of the salty sea breeze. Even though the hair on her temple was blown apart by the wind, her face was filled with happiness.

After hoisting the sail, Uncle Wang took the helm and started singing a fisherman's song. His simple singing evoked bits of Ning Fan's memories.

Originally, his state of mind had already reached the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm in front of the 'Bell of Samsara'. At this moment, however, the limiter of his state of mind became loose and the level of his state of mind was showing signs of improvement.

"Young Master Zhou, remember that you can't use any magic power when you reach 'Gusu'. All of us are just ordinary people..." Xu Qiuling reminded him again.

"You've said it many times."

"Promise me not to fight with others in Gusu!"

Xu Qiuling's eyes seemed to have some kind of charm which made Ning Fan unable to resist her request.

Ning Fan nodded his head. As long as Xu Qiuling's life was not threatened, he wouldn't bother to be calculative with others over some trivial matters.

The sky darkened, then dawn broke and the sun rose up, hanging in the middle of the sky signaling the arrival of noon. When dusk fell, a quiet and serene island which was basked in red sunset glow became visible in the distance.

It was not only Wang Si's boat that had returned from the sea, but also many other boats sailing towards the island from other directions. Some of them returned from fishing while some carried several cultivators on them like Wang Si's boat. Apparently, they came to Gusu to temper their hearts and become no different than a mortal.

To Nascent Soul Realm old monsters, tempering one's heart and becoming just like a mortal was to let one restrain themselves and comprehend a mortal's life before going through Mortal Severance. Whether they could succeed in 'Being Mortal' and 'Mortal Severance' significantly determined whether they would be able to attain the Divine Transformation Realm in their lifetime. Thus, most of the cultivators who came here were Nascent Soul Realm old monsters.

There were also some Gold Core Realm cultivators like Xu Qiuling.

However, it was very rare to find a Divine Transformation Realm expert here.

On the shore of the island, a group of armored men dressed like officers were running a check on the cultivators landing on the island one by one. With their relation with Wang Si, Ning Fan was permitted to enter the island with barely any inspections. He was only asked to hide his magical treasures and storage pouch.

Other than Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling, the other cultivators who landed on the island were all requested to go through a body search without any exception.

After Wang Si handed a heavy money pouch to Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling, he steered the boat in reverse and left the island.

Xu Qiuling then pulled Ning Fan to rent a horse-drawn carriage and went into Gusu City.

Ridges and furrows surrounded with bamboo fences, flowing river connected with a small bridge and swallow returning in the evening after sunset.

As night fell, a spectacular fireworks display was set off at the top of Ruiyun Tower, lighting up the sky.

“It’s so beautiful... it’s the rainbow-colored fireworks of the Treasure Jade Pavilion...” Xu Qiuling lifted the curtain of the window and looked at the fireworks from within the carriage. She was totally mesmerized by that beautiful scene.

Ning Fan immersed himself even deeply into the recollection of his past. He began to have a misconception that the endless killings and bloodshed in his path of devil cultivation was just a dream. When the dream ends and he wakes up, he will still be living a plain life amidst the green mountains and clear water of Wu Country.

However, he had no other choice most of the time.

Ever since that day he embarked on his journey on the path of cultivation, there was no way he could return.

Within his eyes, the evidence of an internal struggle gradually emerged. He was internally conflicted about becoming an immortal or remaining as a mortal.

Scenes after scenes of memories flooded into his mind as if they were questioning his heart. They turned into a deep voice that kept resounding inside his heart.

“The path of cultivation has no limit. Turning back is the only salvation...”

Upon hearing Xu Qiuling reveal the origin of the fireworks display, the coachman was rather surprised.

“Miss, you have a sharp eyesight. Apparently, this is not your first time visiting Gusu. Today is the ‘Qi Xi Festival’. Miss is really blessed with luck that you were able to catch up to this festival with your lover...”

The coachman began to explain about the events happening around the city in detail. He was quite a talkative mortal, but Xu Qiuling didn’t have the intention to talk to him at all.

When Xu Qiuling noticed the confused look on Ning Fan’s face, she felt a little bit concerned and gently held his hand.

When she met Ning Fan for the first time, he also had this kind of expression. Then, he cleared off his confusion in front of the bell orchid and improved his state of mind.

Today, Ning Fan was once again feeling lost. Without a doubt, he was using the ambience of this mortal city to improve his state of mind.

Xu Qiuling could not help but feel pity for him. She just wanted Ning Fan to rest as she knew that he was too tired and he pushed himself too hard.

However, it was only at this moment that Xu Qiuling realized that Ning Fan could not stop at all. He had no time to play.

“I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have behaved so willfully and brought you here. This will only make you feel more troubled...” Xu Qiuling said regrettably and blamed herself.

“It’s fine.”

Ning Fan’s eyes gradually became clearer, denying what Xu Qiuling had said. The internal struggle that was happening inside his mind just now had improved his state of mind quite a lot.

One’s state of mind would need to depend on opportunities and self-comprehension in order to improve. Without bitter and continuous training, it could not be improved.

Ning Fan would of course not let go of such a good opportunity to raise his mental state. Thus, he no longer thought that sightseeing here was a waste of time.

He held Xu Qiuling's hand even tightly and he also shifted his gaze to the fireworks display in the night sky. Then, he said with a calm tone.

"I should be the one apologizing for disappointing you for your kindness. At the end of the day, I can't become a mortal anymore... However, I don't regret choosing to walk the path of cultivation!"

"I am a cultivator!"

Ning Fan's eyes were flashing with unwavering determination. Besides, there was even the pride of being a cultivator. Now, he was no longer at an age where he would be confused about his direction. His state of mind was now not far away from achieving the Void Refining Realm!

At this moment, his body was seething with a temperament that was incompatible with the ambience of this place. The improvement of his state of mind released a trace of aura force that any cultivator below the Peak Nascent Soul Realm would not be able to notice. As soon as this aura force was spread out, the whole Gusu City shook once, but barely anyone noticed it!

At this moment, the grand formation which locked away the heaven and earth spiritual qi of Gusu City had nearly been shattered by this aura force.

Hiss

Inside Gusu City, five old men who were living in seclusion within the city pushed open their doors and went out from their residences. Each of them emanated Peak Nascent Soul Realm aura. They looked at the sky with astonishment and sucked in cold breaths.

The sea domain of Gusu had been set up with a 'Spirit Separation Formation' which could isolate the city from all the heaven and earth spiritual qi, letting the city have an atmosphere like any other mortal cities.

This 'Spirit Separation Formation' was a Peak Divine Transformation Realm formation. Its design was extremely mysterious, and it could not be broken by the use of magic power.

Even a Divine Transformation Realm old ancestor would definitely be unable to break this formation without using his or her trump card.

However, this 'Spirit Separation Formation' of Gusu City seemed to have been nearly destroyed by a trace of aura force emanated by someone!

That trace of aura force revealed a tremendous power from one's massive comprehension in his Dao Heart. It was obviously triggered by the improvement of one's state of mind. That level of comprehension had totally surpassed the Divine Transformation Realm and it was almost at the level of Void Refinement Realm!

The five old men were flabbergasted. All of them realized that an extremely incredible individual might have entered Gusu City!

“Who was it! He has almost attained the Void Refinement Realm state of mind!”

However, the doubts within the five people’s minds were bound to have no answer. Besides, they had been living a secluded life, isolating themselves from the rest of the world. Thus, they were not aware of the rise of a ruthless devil lord in the External Endless Sea twenty years ago, let alone the fact that the devil lord would visit Gusu City twenty years later!

There were multitudes of tourists along a long street paved with bluestones and the melody of a pan flute could be heard everywhere.

At the place where the lantern lights were dim, a scholar in green shirt closed his eyes while feeling the atmosphere of this place. There was another young man in white robes staying by his side respectfully.

If there were cultivators from the External Endless Sea here, they will certainly be able to recognize that the white-robed young man is an outstanding figure from the Dao Law Sect which was one of the top ten sects of that area. He was the one with the finest talent among the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea – Wang Yun!

He attained the Nascent Soul Realm at four hundred years old and broke through to the peak stage of that cultivation base at nine hundred years old. After twenty years, he had even reached the Half-Step Divine Transformation Realm. The current him was just a hair’s breadth away from the Divine Transformation Realm.

However, with his identity, how would he be accompanying the green-shirt scholar in such a respectful manner? Well, that was enough to prove that this scholar’s identity was even more extraordinary.

“Brother Yun, how is this Gusu City? Is it able to help you comprehend mortal life and break through your pill refinement realm to the middle stage of Fifth Revolution?”

Wang Yun’s tone sounded abnormally polite. From his words, one would know that the scholar in green shirt was surprisingly an Early Fifth Revolution pill master!

“Difficult... Although my pill refinement realm is difficult to improve, my state of mind has nearly attained the Mid Divine Transformation Realm. With my current progress, it won’t be long before my cultivation base can attain the Mid Divine Transformation Realm as well!”

The scholar in green shirt spoke with a calm tone, but his voice carried a sense of pride.

Not many knew that his name was Yun Niansu. He was the genius ranked second among the young generation of the Rain Palace. His bone age was just one thousand years old and his cultivation base was already at the Early Divine Transformation Realm with a Low Grade Fifth Revolution pill refinement realm!

The Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea like Wang Yun was not worth mentioning at all in front of Yun Niansu!

“Speaking of which, the Endless Sea is anyhow not Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou’s territory. Among the cultivators of the young generation, other than Zhou Qing from the Zhou Family, there isn’t anyone who is a worthy opponent. What a disappointment!”

Yun Niansu’s words made Wang Yun’s eyes become filled with shame. In terms of talent, he knew that he could not beat Yun Niansu at all. The latter cultivated both the pill refinement techniques and magic

power simultaneously and he could still reach such an amazing level. He was undeniably a person that must not be underestimated.

However, after hearing Yun Niansu's words which disparaged all the cultivators of the Endless Sea, he did not dare to agree with him.

"To be frank, I know one person whose talent is above Zhou Qing from the Zhou Family. According to rumors, he had returned to the external sea. I think even if Brother Yun has just entered the Endless Sea for a short period of time, you should have heard of his name before."

The shadow of a young man wearing white robes draped with a black cloak emerged in front of Wang Yun's eyes. That person trampled upon the pride and confidence of all the Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea in a windy and wintry night.

Chapter 349.2 - Wedding Festivities

Wedding Festivities

"You mean.... 'Revered Ming'- Zhou Ming!" Yun Niansu's eyes widened but he then shook his head and chuckled.

"According to rumors, Zhou Ming was able to eliminate a Divine Transformation Realm expert when he was still a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. Now, he came back with a Divine Transformation Realm cultivation base, making his notoriety even more intense... However, in my eyes, his innate talent is just barely passable. He may be stronger than that Zhou Qing, but he does not deserve my attention..."

Yun Niansu did not take it seriously. However, just as his voice fell, his eyes were suddenly filled with surprise and he looked up into the sky.

He saw the Spirit Separation Grand Formation that blocked away the spiritual qi within this city's heaven and earth nearly shatter by a trace of aura force unleashed from an expert who had just attained a breakthrough in his state of mind!

Before he recovered from the feeling of shock, a horse-drawn carriage slowly passed by the street. Yun Niansu's eyes froze and his gaze fell on a young man dressed in white robes and draped with a black-feathered cloak in the carriage.

This aura force that nearly destroyed the Spirit Separation Grand Formation was doubtlessly released by that young man in that carriage!

"Who is that person?! I can't see through his cultivation base! His state of mind is on the verge of achieving the Void Refinement Realm!"

"He is Zhou Ming!"

Wang Yun's eyes widened with great surprise. The feeling of shock within him was not any weaker than Yun Niansu's. In fact, he felt even more astonished than the latter!

Wang Yun had never thought that he would meet Ning Fan in Gusu City where cultivators usually come to restrain their hearts and comprehend a mortal's life. Moreover, he had never even thought that Ning Fan's aura could almost break his Heart of Dao even though his carriage just brushed past him!

“He’s countless times stronger than he was back then!” Wang Yun’s face wore a complicated expression. In the past, Ning Fan gave him a feeling that he was undefeatable. The current Ning Fan, however, made him feel that he did not even have the qualifications to stand beside him.

A moment ago, Yun Niansu was still showing an arrogant expression.

At this moment, however, even his breathing became chaotic.

He could not see through this Zhou Ming at all... As an expert whose innate talent was ranked second among the young generations of the Rain Palace, how could he be weaker than Ning Fan?!

Yun Niansu gradually calmed himself down and his eyes began to flash with a hint of battle intent.

“So he is Zhou Ming... I’ve never expected that there is such a person in the Endless Sea!”

...

In the carriage, Ning Fan’s state of mind slowly settled down but his eyes seemed like he had something in mind.

There seemed to be a familiar face on the street that this carriage passed by... It’s probably an illusion.

He did not use his spirit sense. In this mortal kingdom, he also did not want to achieve a breakthrough for his state of mind.

Despite the fact that this was a golden opportunity to improve his state of mind and further stabilize his cultivation base which improved drastically in the past.

“Where are we going?” He asked but his arm was suddenly pulled by Xu Qiuling. After paying the coachman, they got down from the carriage and ran towards the place where the lights were the brightest and the night view was the most magnificent.

Along the way, they had lots of fun and they spent all the silver taels Wang Si gave. Even so, Xu Qiuling still remained in high spirit.

“Look! That is the Ruiyun Tower. All the fireworks are set off in front of that tower...”

Xu Qiuling pointed at a golden tower. There were many stalls under the tower and lots of traders were hawking a variety of fireworks.

After visiting several stalls, Xu Qiuling’s expression started to reveal a hint of disappointment.

“What’s wrong?” Ning Fan asked with concern.

“There were no seven-colored fireworks among those we saw just now...” Xu Qiuling seemed to be extremely fond of the seven-colored fireworks.

Just as her voice fell, a grey-haired old man at the most crowded stall purposely yelled as if he had heard her complaint.

“Come and have a look! Under this Ruiyun Tower, anyone that plays a chess game with me will get a seven-colored firework as a prize for each game he or she wins... That little brother over there, do you want to play a game with me?”

The old man’s gaze landed on Ning Fan. At first glance, his instinct told him that Ning Fan was a terrifying person.

However, the old man was not afraid at all because he was a Late Nascent Soul Realm expert and he was proficient in the Dao of Chess and Formations.

“I will get a seven-colored firework by winning a single game?” Ning Fan smirked and walked towards the crowd with Xu Qiuling’s hand in his. He did not use any magic power, but he had an aura force that made the onlookers unconsciously make way for him.

“Don’t play chess with him! He’s Uncle Qi who is obsessed with chess. His chess skills are extremely profound and people can rarely beat him...”

Xu Qiuling sounded a little worried. After speaking those words, she raised herself by tiptoeing and whispered to Ning Fan, “Uncle Qi is an expert with Middle Grade Divine Transformation Realm

formation techniques... Dao of Formations and chess skills are interlinked. Thus, he is indeed very skillful in chess.”

“Really?” Ning Fan sounded as if it did not matter to him. He flicked his sleeve and sat on the verdant stone bench, looking squarely at the old man across the stone board.

“This old man is Qi Shu. My nickname is Chess Madman. This junior is rather unfamiliar. I haven’t seen you before. Playing chess for the sake of a beauty... You sure are a romantic man. However, let me make the rules clear beforehand. If you lose one match, you need to pay me 5 silver taels. If we end with a tie, you don’t have to pay anything. If you win one game, I will give you a bunch of fireworks... I wonder if this junior has enough money?”

Old Man Qi rubbed his hands with a smirk, believing that he could surely beat Ning Fan and treated him only as a fat sheep that was waiting to be butchered.

He was clearly a greedy old man without any proper demeanor of a Nascent Soul Realm expert.

“Do you have enough fireworks?” Ning Fan gave him a smile in return.

Hua

The onlookers were all in an uproar. They were mortals and they definitely could not see through how powerful Ning Fan was. They only knew that Old Man Qi had great chess skills and he could be considered as the best chess player in Gusu City. Now, an arrogant young man who appeared from nowhere was actually not afraid of Old Man Qi. To them, he was really a fearless young man, just like the sayings which goes: a newborn calf does not fear tigers.

No one there thought that Ning Fan would be able to win the game.

But an hour later, everyone widened their eyes so big that their eyeballs nearly fell to the ground.

Within just an hour, Ning Fan had twelve consecutive games with Old Man Qi and he won all twelve of them!

After taking away twelve bamboo tubes of fireworks, Ning Fan held Xu Qiuling's hand and indifferently walked out of the crowd.

Beating a cultivator with mere Mid-Grade Divine Transformation Realm formation techniques was just a trivial matter to Ning Fan.

"Young Master Zhou, I never knew you were so good at chess. You really are good at concealing your potential..."

Xu Qiuling opened her mouth slightly. The Ning Fan she knew was only profound in pill refinement techniques and had a high cultivation base. However, she had never expected that he also had an extraordinary talent in formation techniques. Otherwise, there was no way for him to beat Old Man Qi with ease.

"Where do you want to go next?"

“No, it’s already enough... Let’s go set off these fireworks then...”

Xu Qiuling’s face suddenly flushed.

She bought some red candles and wine.

She set the sail of her brightly-painted boat and lit up some red candles. They placed twelve bundles of fireworks on the riverbank while she sat on the boat with Ning Fan, slowly drifting through the river of the city.

She took a light sip on the wine and played her qin in intoxication. She was trying to relieve Ning Fan from his tiredness that was accumulated from countless killings using the melody of her qin.

“On the 7th of July in the Eternal Life Palace, during the midnight where no one whispers... Young Master Zhou, a good night is bitterly short. With me by your side, you can put down your guard and take a good rest...”

The words which Xu Qiuling said were also uttered by Lu Wan’er in the past.

“Are you going to sleep with me?” Ning Fan said jokingly while drinking a jug of wine

“If you dare... then I won’t cower! Umph!”

This time, Xu Qiuling directly fell into Ning Fan’s arms and pressed her lips against Ning Fan’s.

“I really dare...”

Her eyes seemed to be telling Ning Fan her intentions.

Their ears were filled with the murmuring of the river and the ringing of the bells from the Chilly Mountain Temple from time to time.

Below them was the swaying boat. They sailed across the Su River, out of the island and towards the vast sea. Under the camouflage effect of the Treasure of Immortal’s Abode, no one was able to discover the presence of the boat.

“Umph... umph...”

The kiss was deliberately offered by Xu Qiuling. But when she wanted to withdraw her fragrant lips, it was already too late because she had successfully aroused Ning Fan’s flames of lust.

Even Xu Qiuling admired her own courage as this was her first kiss. Her face was filled with shock and shyness when their lips met. She felt like her entire body had softened, as if it was going to melt in Ning Fan's embrace.

Her soft bosom could not stop moving up and down as she breathed heavily. A tingling sensation rose within her and spread throughout her body.

She was gradually out of breath and wanted to leave Ning Fan's lips to gasp for air. However, Ning Fan hugged her even tighter in his arms, greedily savoring the fragrance of her lips.

All mortals have seven emotions and six sensory pleasures. Since he had a chance to live like a mortal now, Ning Fan would definitely not suppress his desire with his Yin Yang Transformation anymore.

"How could you-... Mmm..."

Xu Qiuling's vision was gradually becoming blurry. Even though she was bold, she had never imagined that her tongue would be gracelessly fondled by a man like this.

She gently placed her bare hands on Ning Fan's chest, gently pushing him away. However, she was still unable to stop him and she then slowly gave in, allowing Ning Fan to take pleasure in her tongue while giving her a wonderful experience with her first kiss.

From time to time, Xu Qiuling's little cute nose would let out a soft moan which would make one blush in embarrassment. When she felt that the buttons on her thin robes were crudely unbuttoned, her gasps started to be filled with a hint of nervousness.

“No, Young Master Zhou, you can’t... Ahh...”

Xu Qiuling immediately felt a large palm undoing the buttons and slid beneath her thin shirt, rubbing her across the tube top.

Her ample bosoms were soft and flexible. The wonderful feeling that one would feel by touching them cannot be described with words.

Xu Qiuling closed her moist bright eyes in shyness, surrendering herself completely to Ning Fan.

This Gusu City was the place where she and Ning Fan got married.

This brightly-painted boat was their bridal chamber which was normally decorated with colorful candles and red veils.

Ning Fan looked at Xu Qiuling with his half-drunken eyes. They were filled with love and affection.

All of a sudden, he saw Xu Qiuling transform into an orchid flower, a jet-black orchid flower which he had seen before.

It was too fragrant. Every part of her skin emanated a scent that ordinary virgins could not compare.

Suppress her! Possess her!

His palms glided through every part of her body. His tongue licked through every inch of her body.

When that hot rod penetrated her insides, a holy and pure red fluid drenched her robe, refreshing the night of Gusu.

Tears of pain welled up in her eyes as she placed her arms around Ning Fan, tightly hugging him.

She was willing to give her everything as long as she could keep this butterfly in her current life...

As Ning Fan thrust quicker and quicker inside her, her tender moans became even more mesmerizing.

Chapter 350.1 - Little Stone

Little Stone

It had been a long time ever since the last time he slept so soundly not to mention the last time he had such a mysterious dream.

In his dream, he was a snow-white butterfly. He flew into a hollow valley filled with a strong floral aroma and rested on a pitch-black orchid.

After waking up from the dream, Ning Fan found himself lying on the brightly-painted boat which was floating in the center of the sea. As he tried to get up, he felt something pressing against his arm.

When he turned his head to the side, he saw Xu Qiuling who was already awake stare foolishly at him with her bright and clear eyes, as if she would never get enough of staring at him.

Her white and delicate body was bare and she only covered her body with a red quilt embroidered with the pattern of a phoenix. As soon as she noticed Ning Fan wake up, she shifted her gaze immediately to dodge eye contact with him, unwilling to let him know that she had been obsessively staring at him for a whole morning.

“Ling Er, you got up so early. Last night was your first time so you must be exhausted. Don’t you want to rest a little bit more?”

Ning Fan looked at Xu Qiuling’s peerlessly beautiful face. For no reason, he recalled the orchid in the dream he had just now.

He kept having the feeling that he had seen Xu Qiuling before and it was a very long time ago. What made Ning Fan feel familiarity with her was not her appearance but the unique fragrance of her body.

Unfortunately, Ning Fan could not remember where he had met her. His memories had already been erased by Samsara during reincarnation.

“If I don’t wake up earlier to protect Young Master Zhou, would Young Master Zhou be able to sleep with ease?”

It was not that she was not sleepy or tired, but she just wanted to guard him and let him have a good rest instead.

“Is it fine if you don’t call me your hubby?”

“I-It doesn’t matter...” A bold lady like Xu Qiuling would also be shy to call Ning Fan that.

“But if you still address me as ‘Young Master’, wouldn’t others be unaware of our relationship?”

“Then... I would like to call you... Big Brother. Mm. Yes, it’s Big Brother... In Gusu City, many women would also address their husbands as ‘Brother’...”

Xu Qiuling sounded rather awkward. No matter how bold she was in love, she would still need a period of time to adapt herself as a newly married woman at the end of the day.

Ning Fan did not force her and the way he looked at her was always tender and affectionate. Whenever he stays with Xu Qiuling, he has a feeling that he never had before, a feeling that he would never feel when staying with other women.

Indebtedness...

This feeling was not obvious at the start. However, it became particularly overwhelming after he returned to the External Endless Sea this time.

It was because of this feeling of indebtedness that made Ning Fan who had an indifferent personality be tolerant of Xu Qiuling's willfulness.

"Alright. Just call me whatever you like. Is your lower part still hurting?"

"No, it's not..." Xu Qiuling's face flushed and quickly looked away, telling him a little lie.

"Really?"

As soon as Ning Fan lifted the thin quilt off her body, Xu Qiuling's white delicate body that was stained with the marks and bruises that were left during the activity last night was exposed to the air.

Her eyes flashed with unspoken criticism and she quickly covered her chest with her bare hands. She only thought that Ning Fan was going to act impulsively again. However, the lower part of her body was still in pain and she was unable to bear what they did anymore.

When her legs were pulled apart by Ning Fan, her soft but slightly inflamed private part was laid bare before Ning Fan's eyes. She could no longer endure the shame and closed her eyes with her teeth gently clenched. She did not resist him because she did not want to let him down.

"Big brother... Y-You... Please go easy on me... Don't g-go in too deeply..."

"..."

Ning Fan did not know how to respond to her. Was he such a lustful man in the eyes of other women? Would he act so excessively especially when Xu Qiuling had just lost her virginity?

"Silly girl, I'm helping you get rid of the blood..."

Ning Fan cleared the erotic thoughts in his mind and used his fingers to carefully went inside Xu Qiuling's erogenous zones while rotating his magic power.

Immediately, a cool feeling rose within her body from her torn and swollen lower part. The feeling of pain gradually subsided and was replaced by an incomparably wonderful and joyful sensation.

"Big brother is... is helping me masturbate... Mmm..."

Xu Qiuling was in extreme shame, but she would not reject any requests from Ning Fan. She would not...

After all, she had been waiting for Ning Fan to take a good look at her for a very, very long time...

“Mmm... Mmm...” In the middle of the quiet sea, a trace of faint moans spread very far away.

...

It would take at least several months to cure Xu Qiuling. According to Ning Fan’s estimation, the shortest time he would need is five months. It was not difficult to take out the remnant piece of the sword within her. The most troublesome part was to completely replenish the gold qi of her life force.

To other Fifth Revolution pill masters, it was nearly an impossible task. To Ning Fan, however, he could accomplish it in only five months.

With his personality, he rarely stayed at a place for a woman for five months. But when he saw Xu Qiuling’s pale and haggard face, his heart would feel an inexplicable heartache and it was worth staying there for five months.

As for the place to perform the treatment, Ning Fan would definitely look for a safe place for security, judging by the way he did things as he acted with rationality most of the time.

However, Xu Qiuling only wished to stay in this peaceful land of Gusu City amidst the streams and small bridge where they could stand aloof from disputes and competition during the five-month treatment process. Xu Qiuling was a sensible woman.

Ning Fan contemplated for a while and he did not reject her request in the end.

He only secretly sent a message transmitting flying sword to inform Xu Rushan and Dong Xu of their whereabouts so that they would not need to worry much.

Ning Fan's act of sending out the message transmitting flying sword had undoubtedly used his magic power, violating the rules of Gusu City.

Shortly after the message transmitting flying sword vanished, five vaguely visible rays of light flew past the sky and dashed towards them. This group of five people seemed to be coming to punish the cultivator who had violated the rules.

They had no idea that the reason why Ning Fan used his magic power was to send out a message transmitting flying sword. Otherwise, they would surely realize that Ning Fan was a Divine Transformation Realm expert and they would definitely not dare to act rashly.

They had been residing in Gusu City for hundreds of years without revealing their identities. They had not gone out of the city before during their stay in the city, let alone know who Zhou Ming was. Otherwise, how would they be so bold to question Ning Fan.

Five old men appeared and surrounded the brightly-painted boat. All of them were inwardly astonished at the boat's surprisingly good camouflage. If it had not been for not being deliberately concealed at this moment, the five of them would definitely have been unable to trace the presence of the boat at this place with their Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivation base.

“Which fellow has just used magic power? Aren’t you aware of the rules of Gusu City?! If you don’t give us a reasonable explanation, then don’t blame us for being merciless!”

As soon as one of the old men asked with a stern voice, a couple walked out from within the boat at once.

The lady wore a black silk garment. Black was an unlucky color but she did not care about the view of the secular world on that particular color. She just thought that black was more suitable for her as it made her fair complexion look even more outstanding.

On the other hand, the man wore a set of white robes. Currently, he no longer had the black-feathered cloak. He originally wore this attire. However, for Zhihe, he put on the black-feathered cloak and began his journey in devil cultivation. Currently, however, he took off the cloak to be a mortal for Xu Qiuling.

Hiss

At the moment Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling showed up, even though he did not reveal the slightest trace of his magic power and aura, the five old men sucked a breath of cold air.

Ning Fan’s eyes were cold as lightning bolts. When his gaze swept across the five old men respectively, all five of them felt that they had been completely seen through instantly.

“What is his cultivation base?! This person is certainly not a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator... He should be a Divine Transformation Realm expert!”

The five old men's expressions were filled with great fear. They could not understand. Why would a Divine Transformation Realm cultivator who had gone through Mortal Severance would come to Gusu City to experience the life of a mortal?

Normally, a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator would come here to prepare for Mortal Severance which was an essential step to attain the Divine Transformation Realm. However, what is a Divine Transformation Realm cultivator doing here?

Besides, when they thought of the strange event which happened to the Spirit Separation Grand Formation last night, they immediately concluded that the person who had his state of mind nearly broke through to the Void Refinement Realm in the city surely was the young man ahead!

What especially frightened the five old men was not Ning Fan's aura but his piercingly cold eyes instead.

That gaze which was sharp like lightning bolts gave the five old men a feeling that as soon as Ning Fan took action, their blood would instantly splatter everywhere on the spot!

"It's bad! We were actually scolding a Divine Transformation Realm old ancestor! We actually brought up the rules of Gusu City to a Divine Transformation Realm old ancestor! Are these rules applicable to a Divine Transformation Realm expert? If we mess with this man, it will only take him an instant to wipe out the entire Gusu City!"

Almost at the same time, the five old men lowered their bodies and made a deep bow towards Ning Fan without any hesitation.

“We didn’t know that Senior is a Divine Transformation Realm expert. The words we said just now are offensive. We hope Senior will forgive us!”

“Humph! Why should I forgive you?!”

Ning Fan said with a cold tone and made a step forward. Didn’t these five old men show up in an aggressive manner just now? Weren’t they claiming that they would kill Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling if he did not give them a reasonable explanation?!

With his personality, he would never show any mercy on people who came to seek trouble with him.

However, before Ning Fan could act, Xu Qiuling pulled his sleeve and her eyes were filled with petulance.

“Did you forget the promise you gave me?! No killings, no fighting! You’re currently a mortal human!”

Xu Qiuling’s eyes glinted as if she was pleading with him. The temperature of her palm slowly warmed Ning Fan’s cold heart.

“Alright, no killing...”

The look on Ning Fan's face calmed down and the five old men immediately breathed sighs of relief. Their backs were already drenched in cold sweat during the incident just now.

Scary, it's too scary...

They had never seen such a powerful expert before in their lifetime.

"One hundred thousand silver taels for each person. Pay me the silver taels and then get lost..."

Ning Fan's tone was calm but there was no room for them to reject. The five old men exchanged glances with each other. Upon hearing that Ning Fan only demanded for silver taels, they took out a storage pouch respectively and threw them to Ning Fan. They made a final apology and left right afterwards. They acted much faster when they left than when they arrived.

Silver taels were nothing more than the currency used by mortals. To them, they felt very lucky that they could save their lives with just that amount of silver which was not worth mentioning at all.

As soon as the five old men returned to Gusu City, they secretly sent a jade slip to every cultivator on this island. Each of them was imprinted with Ning Fan's appearance and mentioned that his surname was Zhou. Besides, they also emphasized that no one shall offend him. As for Ning Fan's cultivation base, however, they mentioned nothing.

Looking at the five old men who left in a sorry state, Xu Qiuling burst into laughter.

“Big brother is so impressive... Anyhow, you have promised me not to kill anyone in Gusu City. Mm... Oh yes, why did you ask them for so much silver taels?”

“Of course it’s for buying a big mansion for you to reside while treating your illness. Don’t tell me that you want to drift with me on this river every day and night? The atmosphere above the river is too damp and it is not good for you during your recovery.”

Ning Fan turned around and gazed at the island. While looking at Gusu City, his eyes became tender.

Fine. This time I will just be willful like Xu Qiuling for once and become a mortal being for five months.

After taking out the remnant piece of the Immortal Entrapping Sword, she will definitely need five months to recover. As for me, I can use this period of time to devour the remnant piece of the blade to improve my sword sense.

Besides, I may even comprehend a new sword intent.

Chapter 350.2 - Little Stone

Little Stone

Despite staying in Gusu City, Ning Fan was still thinking about his cultivation.

With just a single glance, Xu Qiuling seemed to have seen through what was on his mind. She then let out a sigh of pity.

“It seems there’s no way to make you really let go of your cultivation... Fine, perhaps it’s already enough to let you enjoy five months of peace.”

Half a day later, their boat sailed back to the island coast and returned to Gusu City. What was different from the first time they arrived here was the eyes of the black armored guards on the coast being filled with a hint of fear as they looked at Ning Fan.

Ning Fan did not talk with them much. Instead, he bought a horse-drawn carriage right away and went into Gusu City with Xu Qiuling.

Qiuling was sitting inside the carriage, admiring the scenery along the road while he was sitting outside, wielding the whip to steer the horse.

The mortals they encountered along the way were not afraid of Ning Fan. However, every cultivator who lived in seclusion here was immediately shocked and avoided them as soon as they saw Ning Fan’s carriage.

The largest mansion in Gusu City was purchased by a young couple.

However, this mansion was rumored to be a bad place to stay in Gusu City because many rumors claimed that it was haunted. A long time ago, an old man who lived in this mansion was struck by a thunderbolt and disappeared in a stormy night!

Therefore, basically none of the mortals in Gusu City dared to purchase this mansion and it was left vacant for a long time.

Moreover, to those cultivators who came to comprehend a mortal's life in Gusu City, it was of course better to be more ordinary and remain a low profile. As such, they would certainly not buy such an eye-catching mansion.

As a result, this abandoned and haunted mansion was bought by Ning Fan with only one thousand silver.

The reason why he bought this mansion was actually because it was the place which contained the most concentrated gold qi in the entire city as it was decorated with gold and silver ornaments. Thus, it was the most suitable place to conduct Xu Qiuling's treatment.

Regarding the rumor of the mansion being haunted, Ning Fan just laughed it off and did not pay any attention to it at all.

Mortals were afraid of ghosts, but to cultivators, manipulating ghosts was just a divine ability of the Devil Dao. Presumably, the old man who used to live here was a cultivator of the Dao of Ghosts and while he was practicing his Dao within the mansion, the shadow of ghosts he summoned was seen by someone else. Thus, the rumors about the haunted mansion began to spread.

As for his disappearance during a lightning storm that night, it was probably because the old man had accomplished the cultivation of his Dao of Ghosts and left.

After purchasing the mansion, Ning Fan then engaged in an extremely erotic dual cultivation with Xu Qiuling and healed her injuries in her room almost at the same night. During the process, he also took the opportunity to take out the remnant piece of the Immortal Entrapping Sword from her body.

With the feeling of ecstasy from the dual cultivation that overwhelmed her senses, Xu Qiuling barely felt any pain when Ning Fan took out the sword piece.

That night, Ning Fan also made a medicinal bath with dozens of types of ten thousand years old spiritual herbs for Xu Qiuling.

All of these spiritual herbs were chosen because of the abundant amount of gold qi they contained. With the aid of the medicinal bath and Ning Fan's massage to improve her blood circulation, her life force's gold qi was slowly recovering.

This was the best method among all the other treatment methods that Ning Fan had thought of.

After all, the medicinal power of the ten thousand years old spiritual herbs was too strong. Be it refining them into a pill or boiling them in a soup, Xu Qiuling's ill body would not be able to tolerate them.

The medicinal bath and massage would need to continue for nearly one entire night. Thus, Ning Fan could not leave Gusu City even for a short while. Otherwise, it would delay Xu Qiuling's recovery.

Looking at the countless spiritual herbs in the wooden tub, Xu Qiuling could not help but feel touched.

Each of these spiritual herbs was a good material for concocting Fifth Revolution pills. They were precious ingredients that even her father would be reluctant to use. Now, however, Ning Fan used them to make a bath for her...

“Big Brother, am I even more important than these ten thousand years of spiritual herbs in your heart?” Xu Qiuling’s face blushed as she shrank in the bathtub and asked a silly question.

“Oh? Are you having a fever? If not, why would you ask such a question?”

One of Ning Fan’s hands was encircled with a trace of black starlight to massage Xu Qiuling’s erogenous zones while he deliberately used the other to caress her forehead as he asked with a teasing tone.

This treatment method lasted for a few days. After that, Xu Qiuling’s body finally began to get better. Besides, along with the recovery of her gold qi, her cultivation base also started to improve at a terrifying speed, making her nearly break through to the Nascent Soul Realm.

As soon as night fell, Ning Fan would perform an erotic treatment on Xu Qiuling.

As the day arrived, Xu Qiuling would take medicines and rest while Ning Fan would be sitting in the yard to study a crimson red metal piece. It was the remnant piece of the ancient sword – Immortal Entrapping Sword.

The broken piece of the sword was extremely extraordinary. Even if it was just a part of the sword, Ning Fan felt like his body was going to be crushed after holding it in his hand despite having a strong body which was the combination of the Third Level of Jade Life Body Refining Realm and the Corpse Devil Body.

Ning Fan could not help but feel shocked. Despite being just a remnant piece of the sword, it had already given him such a feeling. If it was the real and complete Immortal Entrapping Sword, even if Ning Fan's magic power was doubled, he would not dare to touch it.

"This is... one of the 'Four Heaven Suppressing Swords' of the Ancient Heavenly Court, Immortal Entrapping Sword!"

"If I swallow this remnant piece of the sword, my Sea of Consciousness will surely be more stable and my sword sense will also be strengthened. Then, killing a Nascent Soul expert in an instant will be as simple as winking..."

"While Ling Er is recuperating, I will improve my Dao of Sword. Not only will I improve my sword sense, but also... my sword intent!"

Sword intent!

Ning Fan's eyes suddenly burned with determination. His innate talent in the Dao of Sword was not weak and he already comprehended the profound skill of the Threads Transformation Sword. However, he still did not get the opportunity to thoroughly condense his own sword intent.

The current Ning Fan was still a novice in his sword intent. If he manages to condense the actual sword intent, the power of his sword finger would be enhanced by one fold!

“This is an opportunity. Having five months to stay in Gusu City is a golden opportunity for me to comprehend my sword intent. Moreover, a sword is like life. The Dao of Sword also exists within this mortal world within Gusu City!”

“But where should I start to comprehend sword intent...?”

Ning Fan closed his eyes and each of the scenes of killings emerged in his mind. As he recalled each and every one of his enemies who wielded swords, he gradually gained some insights.

Stashing the remnant piece of the Immortal Entrapping Sword, he waved his hand and a sharp sword gleaming with green light suddenly appeared in his palm.

This sword was only a low grade magical treasure which was looted from an unlucky stranger.

However, compared to the swords that were in Gusu City, it could already be considered a peerless divine weapon.

“In actual reality, sword intent is to turn the sword into an intent. The stronger the sword, the weaker the intent. Using a weak sword to comprehend a strong intent is the true Dao of Sword.”

Ning Fan looked at this sword silently and a trace of sharp and vigorous aura gradually rose around his body.

He was comprehending a sword in Gusu City! However, there was something lacking that prevented him from fully comprehending it.

The cultivators who passed by his mansion were shocked and they left immediately upon seeing Ning Fan's aura.

On the contrary, the children from the neighboring residence of the mansion felt it very funny to see Ning Fan staring blankly at the sword in his hand like an idiot.

"Eh? Isn't this person Uncle Zhou who bought the haunted mansion? Is he being possessed by ghosts? Why is he staring at the sword without uttering a word?"

"Hehe... My mother said that Uncle Zhou bought the mansion with a beautiful lady. I think they might be a couple who eloped from some rich family."

"A couple running away from their family? What a shame!"

Several children grimaced mischievously at Ning Fan. Some of them even made up a nursery rhyme to make fun of him.

As he got disturbed from his thoughts, each of the scenes of killings surfaced in his mind and he shot a cold glance at these children. For a moment, he felt like dashing towards them to kill them right then and there.

“No! I can’t. They are mortals and should not be involved in the killings between cultivators... Besides, I promised Ling Er that I will not kill anyone in Gusu City... Killing intent, get out of my mind!”

Ning Fan clenched his teeth and forced himself to put away his killing intent. He bit the tip of his tongue and spat out a mouthful of blood, staining the plants in the courtyard red.

His mind gradually calmed down after he spurted out blood.

“They are mortals. They should not be involved in the bloodshed of the cultivation world.”

Ning Fan continued to study the sword without giving one more glance at the children.

Seeing Ning Fan who was in perfectly good condition a moment ago suddenly cough up some blood, the children were frightened and dispersed in an uproar.

But after they disappeared for a bit, they started to make up nursery rhymes again to tease Ning Fan for being weak as he vomited blood after being angered by some children.

They would never know that if Ning Fan had not spit out the blood just now, they would have died.

“My murderous intent is too heavy...”

Ning Fan murmured to himself. He finally understood Xu Qiuling's painstaking effort.

Killing has nothing to do with right or wrong. On the path of cultivation, if you do not kill, you will then be killed.

However, if one's mind only knows about killing, they will eventually lose sight of their original intention and be led astray from the path of cultivation.

"Wow! What a beautiful sword! My father is the most famous blacksmith in Gusu City, but none of the swords he forged in his life is as beautiful as this!"

After the other children left, only one child stayed there and looked at Ning Fan with envy.

He was a young boy, approximately at the age of nine. He looked rather tall and robust and his hair was tied into a knot.

Other children made fun of Ning Fan but he was the only one who did not.

It was because this child was captivated by this sharp sword at first sight.

His obsession with swords made him forget that the mansion Ning Fan bought was haunted which was also the most taboo place for Gusu residents to visit.

“Is uncle a swordsman? I saw you bleed just now. Was it because you were hurt by the sword qi? I heard from my father that when a powerful swordsman comprehends sword qi, they might suffer a backlash because of the sword qi out of carelessness... Is uncle a very powerful swordsman? Can you beat ten people alone?!”

“I’m not a swordsman...” Ning Fan shook his head. A swordsman was the perception of mortals of fighters who wield swords.

He was not a swordsman but a cultivator! However, he definitely would not tell the kid about it.

But when he saw the obsessive eyes of this child with his sword, a trace of recollection welled up Ning Fan’s eyes.

This child was a fan of martial arts. He was also good material for practicing mortal martial arts.

The obsessive look on his face when looking at swords was the same look that Ning Gu had when it came to learning martial arts in the past.

“You’re not a swordsman...?” The child sounded a little dispirited. If Ning Fan was a swordsman, he was ready to acknowledge Ning Fan as his master.

The child's dream was to learn to wield swords and hidden weapons as well as Qinggong¹ and Neigong² so that he would be an outstanding swordsman in Gusu City in the future!

Unfortunately, he could not find a good master...

"My name is Little Stone. Uncle, could you lend me this sword for me to bring home to have a look?" Little Stone pleaded with him.

"Just take it."

A low grade magical treasure to Ning Fan was something of very little value. To this kid, however, it could be the dream of his entire lifetime.

The kid, Little Stone, had Ning Gu's shadow... In the past, when Ning Gu was searching for masters to learn martial arts, Ning Fan was still a mortal.

Memories surfaced in Ning Fan's eyes and it was this recollection that made his state of mind show tiny signs of advancement.

Little Stone would never be able to understand why Ning Fan would have such a look on his face. He just immediately took the sword and went home joyfully after obtaining Ning Fan's permission.

He decided that he must hug the sword to sleep tonight!

Holding the sword in his hand, Little Stone felt that he had become a great swordsman, although this little 'great swordsman' could not even wield the heavy sword for a single inch. As he carried the sword in his hands, he was already panting heavily.

Ning Fan looked at Little Stone who was walking further and further away and he seemed to have understood something which he previously could not be sure of.

Little Stone might just be a mortal, but he had something that Ning Fan was lacking.

It was because of this element that Ning Fan was unable to condense his sword intent...

"What am I lacking..." Ning Fan fell into deep contemplation.