

Grasping 371

Chapter 371.1 - The Third Elder's Sword

The Third Elder's Sword

“Art of Void Flame, Samadhi Fire Palm!”

Revered Flame's eyes became blood-red. Now, he only knew that he had to eliminate Ning Fan before the two Void Refinement Realm experts can befriend him!

He stretched his five fingers as wide as he could and clawed at Ning Fan. Three types of Earth Vein Demonic Flames that were burning in different colors emerged. When he scraped the air once more, he produced one hundred groups of Fourth Grade spiritual flames. All of them were eye-catching as they floated in midair.

Revered Flame then put his palms together and all the flames he conjured began to combine into one, forming a palm print that glowed in an exquisite jade green color. Without any hesitation, he slammed that palm print towards Ning Fan with a massive force.

This fire palm attack was a Void Refinement Grade magic technique which Revered Flame had practiced hard for a thousand years.

The destructive power of this palm attack was just a hair's breadth away from an Early Void Refinement Realm attack. Moreover, it was a supreme technique that was given to him by the Rain Palace!

The size of this incoming palm imprint enlarged into four thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall. With a loud rumbling sound, cracks appeared in the sky and the whole Xuan Wu City trembled violently.

It was definitely not an attack that an ordinary Half-Step Void Refinement Realm expert would be able to withstand!

The power of this palm attack was beyond everyone's expectations!

All the onlookers could already clearly distinguish the winner and the loser of this fight. The result was very obvious. Ning Fan had won while Revered Flame had lost. Ning Fan gave his opponent a way out and did not end his life. However, instead of expressing his appreciation, Revered Flame took advantage of the time when Ning Fan had put down his guard to shoot out a fatal fire palm at him, trying to eliminate him. In everyone's mind, Revered Flame's actions were indeed mean and shameless!

The two Void Refinement Realm experts were furious. The both of them were just about to stop the fight but Revered Flame who had been defeated acted out of their expectations and made a sneak attack on Ning Fan. This act of his brought shame to the Rain Palace!

No. The reputation of the Rain Palace was just a small matter. If Ning Fan dies, their chance of rendering a meritorious deed would be gone! It would certainly be a great contribution to the Rain Palace if they bring Ning Fan back and convince him to help the Divine Sovereign to acquire that thing!

"Yun Yan! Stop whatever you are doing! If you dare to hurt this man, you will surely be sentenced with a serious punishment by the Divine Sovereign!"

The two experts tried to threaten him but Revered Flame completely ignored their words.

Ning Fan's eyes turned cold. Even though he did not kill Revered Flame, he had been secretly observing his actions. Thus, it was certainly impossible for the latter to successfully sneak attack him.

Wrong. He felt like he had just made a wrong decision again!

Was it because he worried too much that he gave Revered Flame the impression of being a pushover?

This man does not know how to appreciate what is good. If I let him go, there will definitely be countless troubles afterwards.

"It's my fault. I was being too merciful!"

Ning Fan made a step forward as immense murderous intent immediately rose within him.

Revered Flame was indeed strong. If it was not for Ning Fan's Stele of Sun and Moon that could restrain nearly any type of flame, it would be extremely difficult for him to defeat Revered Flame.

Since this person hated Ning Fan deeply, how could Ning Fan still let him off?!

If he let him go today, wouldn't there be another bloody incident like what had happened in Gusu in the future?!

If Revered Flame wants to kill, even Dong Xu would not be able to put up a resistance against him. The Pleasure Devil Island would definitely be in danger. The Bi Yao Sect would be in danger too. Moreover, with this man's capabilities, if he finds out about Yue Country, Zhihe and the other women, they would also be put at risk!

Ning Fan did not regret saving Ya Lan. The only matter he regretted was being too kind and lenient towards Revered Flame.

So what if I offend two Void Refinement Realm experts?!

So what if I displease the Rain Palace?!

Would I be free from troubles if I let this man go?!

Since there's no way to avoid offending anyone, I might as well kill Revered Flame and all the others to keep their mouths shut!

"Sword crystal, appear!"

Ning Fan patted his storage pouch and produced the last piece of sword crystal which contained the full-powered strike of a Mid Void Refinement Realm expert!

He already gave the Early Void Refinement Realm sword crystals he had to Xi Ran and Wu Yan. This piece was his last!

Ning Fan's defense against flames could be said to be heaven-defying. However, if he wishes to instantly kill Revered Flame, he might not be able to do it even with his Black Tempest Rupture Art.

Although the sword crystal was precious, it was the best among all the items he had in eliminating a serious hidden danger!

"Break!"

A gleaming resplendent sword beam shot out from Ning Fan's palm. Right afterwards, it turned into millions of rays of sword light which emanated terrifyingly vigorous auras.

This sword crystal itself was already extremely powerful. After Ning Fan infused his own sword intent in it, it was boosted to its maximum power.

The fire palm imprint which was strong enough to severely hurt a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm expert was shredded into pieces by the millions of rays of sword light in a blink of an eye.

Numerous sword rays continued to rush towards Revered Flame, engulfing him completely. Fear ran across his expression. He could not understand why Ning Fan possessed such a rare and precious sword crystal!

“A Mid Void Refinement Realm sword crystal! Impossible! Even I can’t obtain such a formidable life-saving treasure. Why do you have it?! Why?! Ahh!”

As he wailed and screamed in pain, Revered Flame’s physical body burst into a cloud of bloody mist and his primordial spirit was torn to pieces. His presence vanished, leaving only balls of flames in the air. Those were spiritual flames that Revered Flame had devoured in his lifetime. Ning Fan flicked his sleeve and took away all the spiritual flames along with Revered Flame’s storage pouch.

All the cultivators in Xuan Wu City were filled with absolute shock. Ning Fan had actually killed a revered being of the Rain Palace in public!

This man is so bold!

Ning Fan stared coldly at the two Void Refinement Realm experts of the Rain Palace. His eyes shone with a vicious glow.

He had killed Revered Flame and it did not seem to be a big deal to him!

Why should he be worried about this incident being exposed and offending the Rain Palace? If he eliminates the two Void Refinement Realm experts, and kills or captures all the cultivators who witnessed this incident on Penglai Immortal Island, leaving only those who were close to him and would never betray him...

As long as he does not let anyone of them escape, who would know that he had killed Revered Flame?!

Nothing would happen to the others if he did not kill him. But since he had done it now, he might as well uproot all potential troubles.

If he were to be faint-hearted, then there would be no need for him to continue his devil cultivation!

Hiss

Both the Void Refinement Realm experts sucked in cold breaths. If they were not wrong, that Mid Void Refinement Realm sword qi was soft and treacherous.

They both thought of a person at the same time.

If I recall properly, the third elder of the Zhou Family is a Mid Void Refinement Realm sword cultivator.

Does that mean that this piece of sword crystal actually belonged to the third elder's sword?

They could not help but think that Ning Fan still had the help of the third elder of the Zhou Clan who was a Mid Void Refinement Realm expert!

When their eyes met Ning Fan's, the two experts suddenly felt their blood turn cold for no reason.

Ning Fan's current gaze looked like he was going to kill them both too. It was absolutely frightening. Moreover, his killing qi gave them an extremely dangerous feeling!

Their hearts skipped a beat.

Did the third elder who is hiding in his Treasure of Immortal's Abode

give him the order to eliminate us too as there's no point in stopping here since he has started it?!

Yes! That must be it! The third elder of the Zhou Family possesses a formidable cultivation base. He is a brutal and relentless person. Nothing happens if he doesn't kill. However, once he begins, he would go for the entire family. This person is about to act on us!

According to hearsay, that third elder is on the verge of attaining the Late Void Refinement Realm. His sword techniques are incredibly strong. Killing an Early Void Refinement Realm expert is the same as crushing an ant to him!

The two experts immediately realized that they must clear the misunderstandings with Ning Fan at once to avoid worsening the relationship between them.

They must befriend Ning Fan and rope him in no matter what. It was not only because of their fear towards the third elder of the Zhou Family, but also for the purpose of obtaining that item.

Even though the both of them were quite unhappy to see Ning Fan killing Revered Flame, they were unable to do anything about it. Revered Flame had died and it was a dereliction of their duties. If they return without bringing anything worthy enough to compensate for their negligence, they would probably be severely punished.

However, if they could rope Ning Fan in and convince him to help the Rain Palace, both of them would be credited with this great contribution instead of being sentenced to heavy punishments due to their negligence in performing their duties. They would even receive rewards from the Divine Sovereign. Ning Fan had a natural restraining power towards flames. Therefore, even without attaining the Void Fragmentation Realm, he would have high chances of acquiring that item from the abyss of flames!

This matter was the top priority of the Rain Palace! Compared to this matter, Revered Flame's life was not worth mentioning at all.

The two experts exchanged glances with each other. They both forced faint smiles and wore friendly expressions.

In their hearts, they had decided that they must resolve the misunderstandings between them and Ning Fan and establish a friendly relationship with him today!

“Little Friend, are you injured? That was a really close call just now. If you're injured, we will certainly feel extremely guilty. This Yun Yan is really ungrateful. It's obvious that he had lost the gamble, but he still did a sneak attack on you. Even the death penalty is not enough to absolve his treacherous crime! Even if you didn't act just now, both of us would have also killed him!”

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Their words stunned countless cultivators.

Originally, everyone thought that these two Void Refinement Realm experts were about to seek revenge for Revered Flame. However, what happened next greatly exceeded their expectations.

What on earth was happening?

A revered being of the Rain Palace had been killed and was turned to nothing, not even a speck of his bones left. How come these two Void Refinement Realm experts still have the mood to laugh? Are they actually cracking a joke with his murderer, Ning Fan?

Even though Ning Fan was not at fault for Revered Flame's demise and he had done it in order to protect himself, publicly killing a revered member of the Rain Palace was a slap in the face to them. It would really be not in line with the dominating style of the Rain Palace if they do not hold him accountable for such a serious matter!

"Oh? These two seniors don't think I'm guilty of murder?" Ning Fan was slightly surprised. Evidently, he also did not expect that the two Void Refinement Realm experts would smile at him in a friendly manner. His intention of getting rid of the two Void Refinement Realm experts was temporarily put off.

Could it be that these two experts had a grudge against Revered Flame and killing the latter just happened to align with their wishes?

“This young friend must be joking. The Endless Sea is a lawless region in the first place. There is nothing wrong with killing anyone here. Furthermore, Yun Yan attempted to kill you first, so you were just protecting yourself. There doesn’t seem to be anything wrong with it? Don’t worry, young friend. No one will blame you for Yun Yan’s death. Both of us can assure you that! Moreover, you’re much more useful than that Yun Yan to our Rain Palace. Therefore, you don’t have to worry.”

The two Void Refinement Realm experts laughed leisurely, as if Revered Flame’s death was just a trivial matter.

Ning Fan stared deeply at the two experts.

From what they have said, the reason why they changed their attitudes is because I’m more useful than Revered Flame.

Does the word ‘useful’ they mentioned mean that they need help with something from me? Otherwise, with their identities as Void Refinement Realm experts of the Rain Palace, they would never speak so softly to me.

I see... I have some usefulness to the Rain Palace.

Speaking from another perspective, would this usefulness let Ning Fan obtain benefits from the Rain Palace?

“How are you, Third Elder?” One of the Void Refinement Realm experts asked with a smile.

“...”

There was a saying which goes, ‘when words are many, sin is not absent.’ Ning Fan remained silent as he had not figured out the actual intentions of these two experts.

“Hehe. It doesn’t matter even if you don’t say anything. We both know that that old man, Zhou Chen, is hiding in the space of your Treasure of Immortal’s Abode...”

“Zhou Chen?” Ning Fan was inwardly surprised but his face remained calm. This name was unfamiliar to him. At least, it was not known in the Internal Endless Sea.

Seeing Ning Fan not expressing any opinion, the two experts did not ask about that matter anymore. Instead, they changed the topic and raised another question.

“This young friend, are you willing to join the Rain Palace and become a revered being? If you have this intention, we might be able to help you by recommending you to the Rain Palace.”

Hua

Their words were too shocking. They caused an uproar among the cultivators who heard that offer.

Since when did the threshold for becoming a revered being of the Rain Palace become so low?

Didn't the Rain Palace reject devil or demon cultivators from joining them?

Don't they refuse to accept any person who kills people like scything flax?

Why are the experts of the Rain Palace still treating Venerated Ming with respect and are even trying to rope him in although he killed Revered Flame, a revered being of their clan?

Unbelievable. It's too unbelievable.

Ning Fan was analyzing the words of the two Void Refinement Realm experts and made some guesses.

These two experts might really need my help on something. Otherwise, they won't offer such a generous benefit to me.

Not everyone was able to become a revered being of the Rain Palace. Once you become a revered member of the Rain Palace, nearly none of all the eight hundred cultivation countries in Rain World would dare to provoke you.

“What are these two seniors’ requests? You might as well be frank with me about your intentions. If there are great enough benefits, I might consider giving you help.”

“Really?!”

The faces of the two Void Refinement Realm experts lit up with delight and they gave Ning Fan a firm and solemn promise.

“This young friend, are you okay with having a detailed discussion with us about this matter? Don’t worry, we can swear with our Heart Devils not to hurt you at all! This matter wouldn’t be too difficult or dangerous to you. As for the benefits, I believe they will definitely satisfy you!”

As a matter of fact, Ning Fan did not really think that they would be able to hurt him either.

Ning Fan stared at the two experts once again. Ning Fan gradually withdrew his killing qi and descended outside the southern tower with an expressionless face. He then smiled at Bei Xiaoman.

“Young Mistress Bei, do you mind lending me a place to have further discussion with these two seniors?”

“Of course I do!”

Bei Xiaoman glared furiously at Ning Fan. Somehow, she would feel angry every time she saw Ning Fan's smile. She just could not bear seeing his pleased and complacent face. However, a part of her felt relieved after knowing that he was safe and sound.

Fortunately, he did not cause any bigger trouble.

Just now, when she saw Ning Fan kill Revered Flame, she was scared half to death. Offending the Rain Palace was no joke.

"Really? Well, it actually doesn't matter to me even if you mind. These two seniors, please come into the tower. Let's have a conversation inside!" Ning Fan walked into the southern tower on his own. The two Void Refinement Realm experts exchanged glances with each other and followed. They were unable to hide the excitement in their eyes.

Bei Xiaoman was about to burst with anger!

I have already said 'I mind'. How could he act so stubbornly without listening to whatever I say and enter the southern tower without my permission?!

Since whatever I say doesn't matter to you, why did you still ask me in the first place?! Are you purposely trying to irritate me?!

Besides, the southern tower is my domain. Have I allowed him to enter?!

Who on earth does he think he is?! Ahhhh!

“Young Mistress, please calm down. Big Brother Zhou and the two Void Refinement Realm seniors are discussing something that is related to his life and death. If their negotiation breaks down, I wonder if those two seniors will hurt Big Brother Zhou or not... They have something that needs Big Brother Zhou’s help. That’s why they are being lenient towards him and didn’t hold him responsible for Revered Flame’s death. If... If...” Ya Lan was rather worried. Her cultivation base might not be strong, but she was a smart woman.

“Of course I know what you are saying! Otherwise, I would have directly kicked this stinky Zhou Ming out of my tower!”

Bei Xiaoman darted a glare at Ya Lan. All of a sudden, she felt rather blue.

Just now, she heard Lu Qing say that the reason why Ning Fan killed Revered Flame and his disciple was solely because of Ya Lan.

In the past, Bei Xiaoman had never paid any attention to this subordinate and did not even look her right in the eye. Now, the way she looked at Ya Lan seemed as if she was going to devour her. She felt inexplicably annoyed. Moreover, she was slightly envious of her.

She just could not stop thinking of how Ning Fan got angry because of Ya Lan and killed someone for her. Why wouldn’t he treat her the same way he treated Ya Lan?

Why would Ning Fan be so friendly and good to others but bad and cruel to her?!

“You’re not allowed to call him Big Brother Zhou! Bear that in mind! You’re not allowed! Not allowed! NOT ALLOWED!”

Bei Xiaoman stomped her feet on the ground sulkily and went off. No one knew where she had gone to prick a figurine made of straw with needles. The figurine she was pricking was no doubt Ning Fan.

Lu Qing looked deeply at Bei Xiaoman who was venting her anger while going around aimlessly and stroked his beard, understanding something.

“Hehe. The Fourth Mistress seems to have found a person she likes...”

“Although Venerated Ming is a cultivator of the mortal world, his talent and potential are incredibly impressive. In a way, he is a good fit to Fourth Mistress. But...”

Lu Qing suddenly let out a sigh.

“The Fourth Mistress already has an engagement with the noble Ximen Family. Should I care about this matter and prevent her from getting too close with Venerated Ming?”

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Ning Fan walked all the way to the southern tower with the two Void Refinement Realm experts following behind him. Elder Mo did not dare to block them at all.

He was just an insignificant High Grade Third Revolution Pill Master. How could he afford to offend the three supreme experts in front of him, much less stop them from entering the tower.

The two Void Refinement Realm experts of the Rain Palace were certainly significant beings with esteemed identities. From today onwards, Ning Fan's notoriety would be even more fierce.

Revered Flame's strength could be ranked at the top three among the supreme beings of the Internal Endless Sea.

After Ning Fan defeated Revered Flame, he could now be considered as the strongest expert out of all the experts below the Void Refinement Realm in the Endless Sea!

Especially for the calm and composed look Ning Fan had when he walked across the sea of flames which covered ten thousand of li* (500m per li), he looked just like the king of all flames at that time. Elder Mo would probably never forget that scene for his entire life.

After reaching the hall on the second floor, Elder Mo excused himself with more politeness than normal. Ning Fan and the two Void Refinement Realm experts took their respective seats and began studying each other.

“Interesting...”

Ning Fan’s lips crooked into a smirk.

After killing Revered Flame, he originally planned to cover up what he had done by murdering everyone related to the incident and get rid of all eyewitnesses. He never expected that it would end like this.

The two experts of the Rain Palace both had Early Void Refinement Realm cultivation bases. One of them was wearing a bright yellow robe embroidered with dragon patterns. His hair was white and his complexion looked pale. However, he had an imposing demeanor and his presence emanated an air of majesty. His name was Luo Jun.

On the other hand, the other expert wore silver armor with black stripes. His body was skinny. Despite having no stubble on his face, he looked old and hoary. He seemed to be a body cultivator and his name was Chu Hao.

In the Rain Palace, a Divine Transformation Realm expert would be regarded as a revered being while a Void Refinement Realm expert would be appointed as a lord of a division. Both of these two Void Refinement Realm experts were the lords of their respective branches of the Rain Palace.

After briefly introducing each other’s identities, a sudden silence fell upon the atmosphere. Ning Fan knew that it was time to talk about the main topic.

“Seniors, you might as well get straight to the point. What challenge did you face that would require my help? I’m just a Divine Transformation Realm cultivator and I’m puzzled as to what you need my help with.”

“Hehe. Since you’ve asked, I will surely tell you the truth. But before that, please allow me to express my gratitude to you.” Luo Jun spoke with a mirthless grin on his face.

“Oh? You want to thank me? Why is that so?” Ning Fan was slightly surprised.

“I, Luo Jun, have a descendant who was acting as an elder in the Luo Yang Sect of the External Endless Sea. However, his sect was destroyed by a group of rogue cultivators some time ago. According to my investigation, those rogue cultivators who occupied the Black Orchid Island were chased away by you. You have really helped my descendant vent his spleen. For that, I’m grateful to you!”

Luo Jun’s face seemed sincere, as if Ning Fan had really done him a favor.

“You flatter me.”

Ning Fan refused to comment much. Inwardly, he began to ponder on Luo Jun’s words.

Was it even a favor to chase away a group of rogue cultivators? No, it wasn’t. The reason why Luo Jun thanked Ning Fan for this matter was just to ease up their relationship and create a better atmosphere for the following topic of their conversation.

Ning Fan really wanted to know what important thing Luo Jun and Chu Hao would discuss with him.

“As to what had happened today, the pair of master and disciple, Yun Yan and Gu Zhen, indeed deserved their deaths. The blame will not fall on you, my young friend. Both of us know it very well. Thus, we certainly won’t cause any troubles to you. You can be rest assured of this!”

Luo Jun showed a friendly sign to Ning Fan. It seems that he was trying his best to get closer to Ning Fan.

“Senior, you can speak frankly. As long as there are enough benefits, I rarely refuse other’s requests.”

“Great! This young friend is indeed a straightforward person! If I still beat around the bush again, it will be my fault. The whole matter is like this. Something that belongs to our Rain Palace is sealed somewhere in an abyss of flames. You don’t have to ask about the details regarding the item as I only know a little about it. The flames within that area are... Immortal Flames! Even the Sovereign of the Rain Palace is unable to enter the sea of flames... It’s shameful to say that our Rain Palace had done our best to nurture Yun Yan in order to let him enter the sea of flames. Unfortunately, I’m afraid the chances of him succeeding is not huge even if he attains the Void Fragmentation Realm. As for you... Honestly, after witnessing you being unscathed from the attack of Yun Yan’s fire sense, it made me think that you must be the only one in the entire Rain World who can go through the Immortal Flames!”

“Immortal Flames?”

Luo Jun’s explanation surprised Ning Fan greatly.

He did not expect that the Rain Palace had set their eyes on his ability to ignore fire attacks.

The reason why he was invulnerable to flames was certainly because of the Stele of Sun and Moon in his Yin Yang Locket. It was hard to say whether he would still be immune to flames of higher grades, but at the very least, Earth Vein Demonic Flames which were Fifth Grade spiritual flames were unable to hurt him. As for Sixth and Seventh Grade spiritual flames, he also had some confidence in defending himself against them.

As for Immortal Flames...

Fifth Grade spiritual flames were called Earth Vein Demonic Flames while the Sixth and Seventh Grade spiritual flames were called Void Flames. The Immortal Flames which were of even higher grades could only be refined and used by immortals.

Ning Fan knitted his brows. He could not be sure that he would survive heading right into the Immortal Flames.

“Hehe. Fellow Daoist need not to be afraid. Even though that abyss is covered with Immortal Flames, the Divine Sovereign has been weakening the flames with his ‘sovereign rain’ since countless years ago. The power of the Immortal Flames has been reduced by a great deal. Moreover, as the saying goes, the moon shines dimly and brightly while the tide rises and falls. There are times when the flames are strong and weak. As long as you enter that area when the flames are at its weakest, the power of the flames will probably just be at the level of a Void Flame. With your ‘indestructible fire body’ and the protection of the secret treasure of our Rain Palace, there is nothing to be afraid of.”

“...”

Ning Fan kept quiet while inwardly mulling over Luo Jun’s words.

The indestructible fire body that Luo Jun mentioned was a physique that was born with the innate ability of manipulating flames. Once this physique successfully develops, it could withstand all types of flames other than Immortal Flames.

It seemed that Luo Jun and Chu Hao had thought that the reason why Ning Fan could restrain the flames was because he had an indestructible fire body.

Anyone could open up their immortal veins and begin cultivating as long as they had enough money. It might seem fair to everybody but there was actually unfairness in it.

Cultivators with a unique physique would certainly be one step ahead than the rest in the path of cultivation.

Cultivators with a set of fiendgod cultivation methods would definitely be more superior compared to ordinary cultivators.

Ning Fan's greatest luck in his life was meeting Zhihe who gave him the Yin Yang Locket. However, only Ning Fan knew that he actually had no special physique.

He would not make any explanation about it. There wasn't anything bad in being considered as having an indestructible fire body. After all, no one could seize another's physique.

If others find out that the ability he had to restrain flames was all because of his Yin Yang Locket, there would be people trying to rob his treasure at all cost.

“If the power of the flames in that abyss is only at the Immortal Void Realm, I might give it a try. But what benefits will I get for taking such a big risk? Within a short period of time, I won’t leave the Endless Sea. If these two Seniors ask me to depart now, you will just be making things difficult for me. There’s one more thing. It’s the problem that concerns me the most... How can these two Seniors ensure that I won’t be killed for the purpose of eliminating a witness after I accomplish the request of the Rain Palace?”

A frown appeared between Ning Fan’s brows. In this world, there were too many betrayals. Incidents like getting rid of one’s benefactor upon achieving their goals were just too common.

The two Void Refinement Realm experts in front of him might be soft-spoken and submissive when asking for his help, but who could ensure that they would not turn against him after their request is fulfilled?

Even if I don’t know what exactly that thing is, I’m afraid it may involve a lot of secrets since it could make the Divine Sovereign of the Rain World spend so much effort just to acquire it.

If the secrets are too important, I will most probably be killed afterwards.

Faced with Ning Fan’s question, Chu Hao made a cold snort, expressing his dissatisfaction.

Anyhow, he was a Void Refinement Realm expert, a lord of a division. It was already rare for him to speak so humbly like what he’s doing to Ning Fan. Therefore, he was quite discontented with his various questions.

If it was not for the fact that the mission of entering the abyss of flames was of great significance, Chu Hao would have directly taken Ning Fan down and planted a mental seal on him and drag him back to the Rain Palace.

“Fellow Daoist Chu! We must not offend Zhou Chen!”

Upon seeing Chu Hao on the verge of losing his patience, Luo Jun quickly reminded him through telepathy.

The reason why the both of them did not directly start a fight with Ning Fan was because it was a matter of great importance and they did not want to create new problems to complicate the issue. Secondly, they misunderstood that Ning Fan had the protection of the third elder of the Zhou Family, Zhou Chen.

After listening to Luo Jun’s reminder, Chu Hao’s expression instantly changed and he made a hollow laugh in an unnatural manner.

Even though Zhou Chen and the two of them were also Void Refinement Realm experts, Zhou Chen had already passed the Void Inquiry stage. Moreover, he could be said to be invincible among the experts at the same stage as him. As for Luo Jun and Chu Hao, they were just at the Void Glimpse stage.

As Chu Hao thought of how formidable Zhou Chen was, how would he dare to go against Ning Fan.

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While Chu Hao played the role of the bad guy, Luo Jun took the role of the kind and generous one.

He put on a friendly smile and said in a relaxed manner. "This matter is of great importance. It's normal for you to have some concerns. However, I can help you dispel your doubts."

"I'm all ears."

"With regards to your identity, I think you must have a very close relationship with Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou and... besides, you even have the protection of the third elder of the Zhou Family. Hehe. With such an identity, even us, the members of the Rain Palace, won't dare to betray you."

The meaning of his words meant that if it were not for Ning Fan's identity, the Rain Palace would very likely betray him afterwards.

"..."

Ning Fan showed neither approval nor disapproval. He did not have the slightest idea who the third elder or Zhou Chen was as he was not a member of the Zhou Family at all.

However, if this misunderstood identity can keep him safe, he would not mind letting these two old men continue to misinterpret it.

“As for the conflict of time that you are worried about, you can absolutely be rest assured. According to the Sovereign’s divination, there are still a few decades more until the next time the flames will be at their weakest. At the very least, it will be after the Pill Assembly in the Middle State. Before that, you will have sufficient time to do your own things.”

“If that is the case, time is not much of an issue. As long as there are sufficient benefits, I’m willing to undertake this mission!” Ning Fan answered after contemplating for a bit.

“Benefits? Hehe. With the resources our Rain Palace possesses, do you think we won’t be able to satisfy you? After you killed Yun Yan, you have already gathered seven types of Earth Vein Demonic Flames. There are still three more types of Demonic Flames in the Rain Palace. If you come to the Middle State in the future, they will be all yours.”

Luo Jun started to tempt Ning Fan using promises of gains. He gradually realized that Ning Fan was an extreme realist. It was better to straightforwardly offer him benefits instead of building a friendship with him.

“Other than the three types of Earth Vein Demonic Flames, there are also immortal jade, pills, cultivation methods, secret techniques and even... human cauldrons! As long as you come to the Middle State, we will give you anything that you ask for!”

“Besides, you will also have a chance to join the Rain Palace and become a revered being! To be frank, with your identity as a devil lord and your notoriety, it’s impossible for you to join the Rain Palace in the first place. This is your only opportunity to join the Rain Palace. Once you join, the members of your family will have the right to use the name of our Rain Palace. Fellow Daoist, you should know what this means!”

Luo Jun no longer spoke any more words as he gave Ning Fan some time to think about it.

He had offered him some benefits. Immortal jade and pills were just short term benefits, but joining the Rain Palace was a benefit that would last for generations.

This means that Ning Fan's descendants would be granted cultivation resources superior to what others have and... privileges...

Mortals attached great importance to power and influence whereas low-ranked cultivators did not need these. But when one's cultivation base gets to a level comparable to Luo Jun and Ning Fan's, power and influence will become important once again.

Those who were able to attain that level were only capable of doing so through having a large number of resources for cultivation.

If you do not have a significant status, by what means could you obtain those resources? Large-scale massacres were not allowed in the eight hundred cultivation kingdoms. It would be difficult to plunder and loot everywhere like what he had done in the Star Sea and the Endless Sea.

Ning Fan was also tempted by the benefits.

He might only be able to obtain tangible benefits like money and material objects when he goes to the Rain Palace in the future.

But with regards to the title of being a revered being of the Rain Palace... Ning Fan was sure that once he opened his mouth and requested it, he could instantly change his identity and become a revered being of the Rain Palace!

It was simply like turning a bandit into an officer!

With this title, my loved ones will be very safe...

This was the most tempting part to Ning Fan. His female companions were all over the Rain World. It would be impossible for him to protect them all at once.

But if he becomes the revered being of the Rain Palace... no one would dare to make trouble with his women and his forces would be able to continue to steadily develop.

In addition, there was another part which enticed him: the Immortal Flames in that abyss.

It was rare for Immortal Flames to exist and remain in the mortal world. If he takes the opportunity to devour the Immortal Flames after entering the abyss...

When the time comes, Emperor Moksha will no longer be as dreadful to him!

"I promise to help. However, I hope to immediately be granted the title of a revered being of the Rain Palace rather than waiting for the Rain Sovereign to approve." Ning Fan said with a smile.

“It’s impossible! With your identity...” Chu Hao expressed his displeasure once again, but he choked on his words after Luo Jun gave him a meaningful glance.

“As long as you make the great oath of heart devil to keep the matters we’ve discussed secret and swear to never violate this agreement, I can make the decision and grant you the title of the revered being of the ‘Jun Tian Palace’!”

“Jun Tian Palace... I can assure you that I will never disclose this matter. However, I don’t have the habit of making an oath.”

“Zhou Ming! You’re being excessive!” Chu Hao bellowed in fury but Luo Jun held him back again. However, even Luo Jun was somewhat displeased this time.

“I’m in the Rain World. If I go against the agreement, the Rain Palace will definitely kill me. Do you think I will be able to run away? Moreover, Senior Luo also didn’t make an oath to guarantee my safety after accomplishing the mission. Doesn’t it seem like a fair deal since neither of us made an oath?” Ning Fan replied and his face remained as collected as usual.

No matter how promising and tempting Luo Jun’s words were, they were just his words. Other than the title of a revered being of the Rain Palace, could he be one hundred percent certain that Ning Fan would get the other benefits that were promised? If the Rain Sovereign insists on killing Ning Fan, would he be able to keep him alive? If Ning Fan sets his eyes upon a top grade cultivation method of the Rain Palace, does Luo Jun have the right to give it to him?

Ning Fan was just telling the truth.

“Young friend, you’re right. Daoist Chu and I will immediately return to the Rain Palace and report this matter to Lord Rain Sovereign and try to negotiate some benefits for you. I am also willing to believe that you won’t dare to betray the Rain Palace.”

Luo Jun nodded. He did not think that Ning Fan would have the courage to challenge the Rain Palace.

In the past, even Thunder Emperor Bu Zhou had to compromise with the Rain Palace, much less Ning Fan who was just a Divine Transformation Realm cultivator. How would he dare to betray the Rain Palace, right?

“Oh? So Seniors are leaving now?”

“Yes, but don’t worry, young friend. Before we leave, I will convey the message of you being a new revered being of the Rain Palace to all the forces within my reach using message-transmitting flying swords. From now on, you are Revered Ming of the Rain Palace. Hehe. I wonder how many people will envy you for your identity.”

After he finished speaking, Luo Jun and Chu Hao really sent out countless message-transmitting flying swords as promised. Their actions must have informed quite a large number of forces.

After exchanging some brief conventional remarks, the two experts left.

As for Revered Flame’s death, it was indeed written off.

Luo Jun declared to the outside world that the reason why Ning Fan gained the title of a revered being was because he condemned evil and promoted goodness by helping the Rain Palace get rid of Revered Flame which was claimed to be the poisonous tumor of the clan.

Elder Mo was stunned.

When he heard that Ning Fan became a revered being of the Rain Palace instead of being hunted down by them after killing Revered Flame, he felt like he was dreaming.

Who on earth could still be innocent after killing a revered being of the Rain Palace?!

Who could negotiate with the division lords of the Rain Palace on an equal footing while being just a Divine Transformation Realm cultivator?!

The Venerated Seven of the Internal Endless Sea could not do it!

But Ning Fan did it!

“Hmph! Stinky Zhou Ming, you’re such a lucky bastard!”

An angry and dissonant voice came from outside the main hall.

There was also another lady wearing a worried face who came along with her.

They were Bei Xiaoman and Ya Lan.

“Give me back my Grandpa Stone Warrior! O-Otherwise...”

Bei Xiaoman stared angrily at Ning Fan. However, when she was faced with Ning Fan’s broad grin, her mind suddenly turned blank and her heart seemed to have stopped beating for a second.

“Otherwise, what will you do?” Ning Fan stared Bei Xiaoman in the eye attentively as if his interest had been piqued.

This unruly little lady is actually quite cute.

Chapter 373.1 - Being Kept as a Consort?

Being Kept as a Consort?

Bei Xiaoman was completely at a loss for words.

She really wanted to find a reason that would allow her to threaten Ning Fan. She really wanted to take back her protector, Grandpa Stone Warrior. She wished that she could retrieve her Yuan Yao Jade too. She could not stop thinking of the time when she would finally defeat him and would no longer need to see his villainous smile again.

After she had attained the Divine Transformation Realm, she once thought that she could beat Ning Fan and teach him a lesson.

However, it was a fact that Ning Fan's combat power had improved so much and he was now way stronger than Bei Xiaoman after twenty years.

At the first time they met, Bei Xiaoman was a cultivator who was half a step away from attaining the Divine Transformation Realm while Ning Fan was just a Harmonious Spirit Realm cultivator whom she would never even dart a glance at.

After Ning Fan attained the Nascent Soul Realm, he managed to subdue Bei Xiaoman by using his Yin Yang Transformation while she was on her period. That defeat made Bei Xiaoman feel really dissatisfied.

After Ning Fan seized her Yuan Yao Jade which was supposed to be a token of love, abducted Stone Warrior and played with her private part, Bei Xiaoman thought that she would hate Ning Fan to the core.

However, when she was in the midst of attaining the Divine Transformation Realm in the Sea of Clouds, she could not help but praise Ning Fan after hearing her sister and mother praising a genius respectively.

She thought that she deeply hated Ning Fan and eagerly wished that he would be killed by Revered Flame.

However, when Ning Fan was really in danger, she did not know why she was especially anxious and felt the urge to help him.

Why would I be like this?

Bei Xiaoman had never thought about that. Currently, when she saw the pleased smile on Ning Fan's face, her mind went blank and she even felt her heart skip a beat...

This smile is really charming.

But why does the owner of this smile always bully me...

Why would the owner of this smile rather help an unfamiliar woman and avenge her by killing the bad guys than treating me a little better?

Her expression turned grim. She felt kind of sour and bitter. After that, she blurted out words which seemed to be the doings of ghosts and gods.

“Please give me back my Grandpa Stone Warrior... If not... I will definitely not forgive you... DEFINITELY!”

As soon as she finished speaking, Bei Xiaoman was stunned. What right did she have to not forgive Ning Fan? Who was she to Ning Fan?

Ning Fan was also slightly surprised. He originally thought that Bei Xiaoman would shout, yell and threaten him in a harsh way like saying how she would get revenge on him. It was really beyond his expectations that the way she would threaten him was by telling him that she would not forgive him.

Ning Fan heaved a sigh inwardly. The current version of Bei Xiaoman left him with no desire to bully her.

He produced a puppet made of stone from his storage pouch and blew a mouthful of breath at it. As soon as the wind touched it, it started to grow and eventually turned into Stone Warrior which she had not met for a long time.

“I gave Stone Warrior my word in the past that I will let him return to the Lost World Palace someday in the future. Today is that day and I shall now return him to you!”

Thud

Bei Xiaoman’s heart experienced waves of ripples like those on the surface of a lake when a cobblestone was dropped into it.

The words she said earlier about not forgiving Ning Fan were just something she blurted out subconsciously. She did not expect that her words would change Ning Fan’s mind.

She also didn't believe that Ning Fan who mingled with both the righteous and evil paths and gained the titles of Venerated Eighth in the Internal Endless Sea as well as a revered being in the Rain Palace would care about whether she would forgive him or not.

However, after she had said those words, Ning Fan returned Stone Warrior to her without any hesitation. It... it just didn't make any sense!

"Is this a dream?" Bei Xiaoman's cheeks flushed red and she was at a loss for words.

"Just pinch your face and you'll know..." Ning Fan casually lifted his hand and pinched her cheek. Then, a corner of his lips curved upwards and formed into a mischievous smile. "Does it hurt? If you feel the pain, then it means that you aren't dreaming."

"It's so painful! Zhou Ming, you have gone too far in bullying me! Y-Y-You!"

Bei Xiaoman blew her top once again. The favorable impression that she just had of Ning Fan immediately vanished like drifting smoke. She fiercely stomped on the ground and ran out from the southern tower while covering the part of her cheek which turned reddish after being pinched.

At this moment, there were only Lu Qing, Stone Warrior and Ya Lan left inside the southern tower.

Everyone including Stone Warrior were at a loss for words... Well, they were dumbstruck by the fact that Ning Fan really dared to pinch Bei Xiaoman's face who was actually the Fourth Mistress of the Northern Heaven...

Looking at Bei Xiaoman's figure who was running away from embarrassment, Ning Fan's eyes shone. He suddenly realized that it was fun to bully that silly little girl.

"Big Brother Zhou, thank you so much for your help. If it wasn't for you, Ya Lan would probably have already..." Ya Lan's words broke the silence in the hall.

"You're welcome, it's just a trivial matter. It has been two decades since the last time we met and Miss Ya Lan has already attained the Gold Core Realm. Your natural talent is actually quite extraordinary."

After listening to Ning Fan's praise, Ya Lan's face immediately turned red. She had naturally made use of the power of the Lost World Tower to achieve the Gold Core Realm within twenty years. Even so, it was enough to prove that she had extraordinary potential.

As a matter of fact, there were many cultivators who had complimented her before. Moreover, there were also a lot of admirers pursuing her. However, none of their praises could ever put a smile on her face.

When Ning Fan just gave her a small compliment, she became so happy and she felt that her hard work in the past two decades was not in vain.

"Miss Ya Lan, your complexion doesn't seem to be very good..."

Ning Fan took a glance at Ya Lan's delicate face and noticed her complexion was slightly pale. It seemed like she was affected by Gu Zhen's attack and was slightly injured. There was also a streak of blood on her cheek. It was a cut that was left by the broken pieces of the teacup that was flung towards her.

A trace of black starlight revolved around Ning Fan's fingertip which he directed at Ya Lan's cheek. Within a second, the wound on her charming face healed without leaving any scars.

"Here are some pills and Dao Fruits which are enough to aid you in stabilizing your Gold Core Realm cultivation base and can even help you break through the middle and late stages. With Miss Ya Lan's natural talent, it won't be too difficult for you to attain the Nascent Soul Realm in your lifetime. It may not necessarily be hopeless for you to break through to the Divine Transformation Realm. The elders of your family were really short-sighted. I suppose they will certainly regret giving you to Gu Zhen after you attain the Divine Transformation Realm thousands of years later."

Ning Fan praised her in a generous manner and gave Ya Lan a small pouch.

After Ning Fan praised her again, her heart was filled with joy and shyness. When she checked the pouch using her spirit sense, her facial expression was immediately filled with shock.

"There are so many pills here and there are even Gold Core Realm Dao Fruits in it! They are too precious. I can't take this!"

"Just keep it."

Ning Fan casually waved his hands in response. A few bottles of Third Revolution pills and a few Gold Core Realm Dao fruits were actually nothing to him who had almost one hundred thousand Gold Core Realm Dao Fruits.

“Big Brother Zhou, I can’t repay you for these precious gifts...”

“It’s fine. For now, you should take the pills and get some rest to prevent leaving any internal injuries. I still have something to talk to Fellow Daoist Lu Qing and Stone Warrior.”

“Mm.” Ya Lan obediently nodded her head. She knew who Old Ancestor Lu Qing was as he was the Divine Transformation Realm expert who was guarding the Lost World Palace. As for Old Ancestor Stone Warrior, even though she did not know him, she occasionally heard some rumors about him.

These Divine Transformation Realm old ancestors were beings that she wouldn’t be able to usually get in touch with because of her identity. However, because of Ning Fan, she could actually stand in the same place with them.

This is really like a dream.

Ya Lan returned to her room to rest as she was told but Ning Fan’s words kept echoing in her mind. She never believed that she would have any hope of attaining the Nascent Soul Realm, much less the Divine Transformation Realm. However, after Ning Fan praised her for her extraordinary natural talent and reassured her, confidence suddenly rose within her.

Yes, I must practice hard. When I attain the Divine Transformation Realm someday in the future, I wonder whether or not he will refuse me again if I offer to be his partner once again.

“What nonsense am I thinking of!” Ya Lan awkwardly patted her reddish face.

Inside the southern tower, the atmosphere became silent again after Bei Xiaoman and Ya Lan left.

Ning Fan looked at Lu Qing and Stone Warrior with interest. Currently, Lu Qing’s face looked like he was completely bewildered while Stone Warrior looked rather surprised.

While Ning Fan was dealing with Bei Xiaoman and Ya Lan, the two of them were also having a little conversation.

Lu Qing looked extremely puzzled because he only found out now that Stone Warrior hadn’t been guarding by the mistress’s side at all in the past twenty years. It was just too horrible! He, Lu Qing, did not have the slightest idea when Stone Warrior was abducted by Ning Fan!

Stone Warrior felt surprised because he had just heard that Ning Fan killed Revered Flame and was granted the title of a revered being of the Rain Palace. Every single time he showed up, Ning Fan would definitely give him a bigger surprise than before. He suddenly realized that the current Ning Fan was already standing at the pinnacle of power in the Endless Sea!

“Fellow Daoist Stone, I have already returned you to the Lost World Palace as promised. Do you have anything that you want to tell me?” Ning Fan hinted.

“*Cough* Please excuse me.”

It was only then that Stone Warrior recovered from his surprise. After all those incidents that he had gone through together with Ning Fan, he was finally released back to his original place twenty years later.

He knew that what Ning Fan wanted to hear from him wasn't words of appreciation, but a promise.

Stone Warrior had been by Ning Fan's side for a very long time and the secrets he knew were, of course, a lot. If any of those secrets were to be leaked out, especially the Heaven Sealing Technique and Grievance Technique, there would be countless True Immortals from the Four Heavens of the Immortal World coming to hunt Ning Fan down.

“I'm willing to vow before Revered Ming that I will never disclose anything that has happened in the past twenty years to anyone. If I go against my vow...”

Before Stone Warrior could finish his oath, Ning Fan interrupted him.

“Enough. You don't have to make an oath of death. After all, death doesn't matter to you, does it? You have my trust!”

After spending twenty years with each other, Ning Fan had a deep understanding of Stone Warrior. He was a courageous being who didn't fear death and wouldn't utter any nonsense. If he promised not to divulge a secret, he would certainly carry the secret to the grave.

“In the future, please protect Bei Xiaoman with utmost care. Don’t ever let her create any more troubles. Now, my relationship with the Lost World Palace is not as distant as before. I should really help her take care of Bei Xiaoman.” Ning Fan’s eyes seemed to be recollecting old memories. In his mind, he recalled a woman whom he had a few trysts with.

“Her?” Stone Warrior certainly had no idea which woman Ning Fan was referring to.

Chapter 373.2 - Being Kept as a Consort?

Being Kept as a Consort?

Ignoring Stone Warrior’s question, Ning Fan turned around and spoke to Lu Qing.

“Fellow Daoist Lu, I need a huge number of spiritual medicines that can nourish one’s primordial spirit. I wonder if I can get some from the Lost World Palace?”

“What!? Fellow Daoist Zhou’s primordial spirit is injured!?” Lu Qing and Stone Warrior were shocked. The both of them immediately thought that Ning Fan only managed to eliminate Revered Flame by suffering grievous injuries.

“Mm, there are some injuries. Can I get those medicines?” Ning Fan didn’t reveal anything about Luo You’s existence.

“By all means! Fellow Daoist is the tower master of the eastern, western and northern towers of the Lost World Palace in the first place. It’s certainly within your right to take those medicines.” Lu Qing said

without qualms. Compared to roping Ning Fan in for the Lost World Palace, mere spiritual medicines were nothing.

“Oh? Fellow Daoist sure is straightforward. Aside from that, I also wish to enter the Lost World Tower for training... I wonder how much it will cost me to enter the seventh floor of the tower?”

“The seventh floor?” Lu Qing was startled for a second and explained right afterwards. “With Fellow Daoist’s Divine Transformation Realm cultivation base, you can at most enter the fifth floor. Even though we, the Lost World Palace, give preferential treatment to pill masters, the most we can do is help those Fifth Revolution Pill Masters who have yet to attain the Divine Transformation Realm to enter the fifth floor. As for the higher floors, there are stricter limitations on the cultivation base of the cultivators...”

“I got it.” Ning Fan didn’t insist on entering the seventh floor. This time, he wanted to enter the tower just to improve his magic power to the Divine Transformation Realm. With the experience he gained from attaining the Divine Transformation Realm twice in the past, the third time would now be a piece of cake for him. It would not take up too much time. The time within the fifth floor flowed at a rate of one-thirty-second of the time in the outside world while the time on the seventh floor was even four times slower than that.

However, be it the fifth floor or the seventh floor, he was going to spend around one and a half years within. The difference was not huge.

“By the way, before the mistress angrily ran away, she once gave me an order that if Fellow Daoist Zhou wants to use the Lost World Tower, Fellow Daoist does not need to pay at all as the total sum of the fee will all be shouldered by the mistress.”

“Oh? Bei Xiaoman is being that good to me and refuses to charge me any fees?” Ning Fan was surprised.

“Mm, the mistress also requested me to tell Fellow Daoist something... *Cough* The following words are the original words that were said by the mistress and they are not what I meant...”

Lu Qing smiled awkwardly and imitated Bei Xiaoman’s tone to speak to Ning Fan.

“Stinky Zhou Ming! Don’t worry! You don’t need to pay anything for cultivating inside the Lost World Tower. You can take it as being my kept man!”

“Haha!”

Ning Fan shook his head and laughed heartily. This Bei Xiaoman actually tried to keep him as her consort...

“Fellow Daoist, please don’t get angry over this matter. Those were the words the mistress uttered out of her anger...” Lu Qing was afraid that Ning Fan would feel that his pride was humiliated.

“Angry? Why would I be angry? I am Bei Xiaoman’s kept man? Great. Now, I can take anything I like from the Lost World Palace, right?”

Ning Fan curved his lips which formed into a mischievous grin. A fictitious name like that didn’t matter to him at all.

After all, it was great to be kept as Bei Xiaoman's consort, wasn't it? Now, he had all the excuses to empty everything in the storage of the Lost World Palace.

Improving my pill refining techniques will require a large amount of medicinal ingredients which will cost a huge sum of money. Mm, I shall burn the resources of the Lost World Palace first.

One day later, Ning Fan had almost emptied the spiritual herbs in the reserves of the four pill towers of the Lost World Palace.

On the second day, Ning Fan officially started his secluded meditation in the Lost World Tower.

In the boudoir located at the top of the southern tower, Bei Xiaoman was lazily chewing melon seeds while listening to the reports of her maidservants. She could not help but feel pleased with herself.

According to their information, Ning Fan actually didn't deny his identity as her kept man.

"Hmph! Devil Lord Zhou, aren't you very proud and arrogant? Didn't you still end up being my kept man?" Bei Xiaoman let out a gentle snort yet her eyes were filled with glee. She only thought that Ning Fan had become her follower and she can now simply boss him around.

However, she did not seem to realize at all the true disaster of making Ning Fan her kept man.

“Reporting to Mistress... Young Master Zhou h-he... he has taken away almost all of the spiritual herbs with one thousand years of age and above from the four pill towers. Many feudal ranking pill masters who want to concoct pills are left with no medicinal ingredients at all...”

“W-What... What did you say...”

Bei Xiaoman froze and her jaws stopped chewing the melon seeds. She realized that she had just suffered a tremendous loss.

The spiritual ingredients stockpiled inside the four pill towers were bought at exorbitant prices. All of them are worth at least one billion immortal jade! He just took everything away like this?

Those ingredients were supposed to be supplied to hundreds of Third Revolution and dozens of Fourth Revolution Pill Masters for concocting pills!

“Zhou Ming! You’re a big bully! You’re a shameless person!”

Bei Xiaoman dashed out from her boudoir in the southern tower and ran to the silver tower located at the center of Penglai. She then pointed at the tower shining in silver under the bright sun and cursed.

If she had known that Ning Fan would take away all of her spiritual medicines, she certainly wouldn’t have said anything like keeping him as her kept man to satisfy her urge to humiliate him.

Currently, only a seven-letter word occupied her mind – revenge. She must get revenge for her loss!

Right! Didn't he admit to be my kept man. Since that's the case, I will wait until the day he walks out of the Lost World Tower and then give him a lesson. I will let him know who is the follower and who is the master!

"Speaking of which, what should I make him do for me? Should I ask him to give me a leg massage or a shoulder massage?"

She still had yet to realize that keeping a 'kept man' would require her to sacrifice her chastity.

...

At the fifth floor of Lost World Tower, Ning Fan stood in the midst of mountains and rivers. He was in no rush to build his own abode.

He raised his head and silently looked at the sky. He seemed to be absorbed in his own thoughts.

The Lost World Palace in the mortal world was at the silver grade. It only had seven floors which correspond to the seven cultivation realms.

The fifth floor was still not difficult to enter, but the sixth and seventh floors had strict restrictions on a cultivator's cultivation base. Those who had yet to attain the Divine Transformation Realm were definitely forbidden to enter.

There were countless separated spaces on every floor for cultivators to practice. Currently, Ning Fan was inside the fifth floor.

Under the spatial barrier beneath his legs was the fourth floor.

If he goes beyond the spatial barrier above, he would then be able to enter the sixth floor.

For ordinary cultivators, no one would be able to enter the sixth floor without a Void Refinement Realm cultivation base. However, was Ning Fan an ordinary cultivator?

In a flash, Ning Fan disappeared from his original position and reappeared at the peak of the sky in the next second.

A trace of golden purple mist coiled around his palm. As he waved his palm at the spatial barrier, sizzling noises were heard as if something was being corroded by acid. The spatial barrier which was affected by the golden purple mist was slowly disintegrating.

After the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, a hole was created on the barrier. Ning Fan leapt and went into the sixth floor!

There were no green mountains and clear rivers on the sixth floor. Instead, it was a piece of a vast starry space!

The place where Ning Fan landed was a star with a radius of one hundred thousand li* (500m per li)!

A rush of void power pressed against his body, nearly squeezing the life out of him.

At the same time, a trace of void power emanated from his body which neutralized the external void power. In any case, Ning Fan was a cultivator who had gone through the Void Inquiry Stage. He, of course, would not be afraid of such intensity of void power.

As he was feeling the time on this floor which flowed sixty-four times slower than the time in the outside world, he seemed to have acquired some new insights.

“No wonder Lu Qing said that one must not enter the sixth floor and the seventh floor without an adequate cultivation base. These two floors are completely different from the fifth floor. I wonder whether or not I can withstand the void space of the seventh floor with my current void power!”

Ning Fan’s eyes shone with determination. He bent his knees and propelled himself upward. When he reached the peak of the void space of the sixth floor, he mustered his golden purple mist once again and broke a hole on the barrier, entering the seventh floor.

The time on the seventh floor flowed 128 times slower than in the outside world!

The void power of the space in this floor gave Ning Fan an immense sense of dread. Even experts at the Void Refinement Realm would be unable to withstand the intensity of void power in this void space!

Aside from that, Ning Fan could not even move a single inch using his teleportation technique while in this void space!

Without any hesitation, Ning Fan patted his storage pouch and took out two magical treasures.

The first one was the Eastern Ocean Bell. When he hung this item over his neck, the void power within this void space parted for him. With this item, he was protected from the void power that could threaten his life.

The second item was the Star Compass which Tablet Master Immortal Emperor of the Black Tortoise Star gave him. It was a supreme treasure which aided cultivators in travelling in the void space.

With Ning Fan's current understanding, the void spaces would probably also have different grades. For void spaces with weaker void power, Void Refinement Realm experts would be able to leisurely travel within them whereas Divine Transformation Realm cultivators might not instantly perish if they enter these void spaces.

As for void spaces with more intense void power, any cultivators below the Void Fragmentation Realm would certainly die immediately after entering them.

Teleportation techniques were not applicable in these spaces and one would only be able to travel with the help of the Star Compass.

Ning Fan held the compass in his hand and the palm-sized compass instantly grew into a huge land that was ten thousand zhang* (3.33 m per zhang) wide.

He jumped onto it and performed a series of hand seals. Then, the land began to move across the void space at an incredible speed.

Moreover, its speed was even faster than ordinary Void Refinement Realm experts. It was at least equivalent to that of a Mid Void Refinement Realm expert!

“This Star Compass is indeed an excellent treasure...”

As Ning Fan travelled across the void space of the seventh floor, he discovered an enormous star with a radius of one million li* (500m per li) and decided to land on it.

Its surface was uneven and there were no signs of life. However, Ning Fan did not mind the environment at all. He exuded a sharp sword qi through his fingertip and created an abode beneath the ground he descended upon.

“I shall begin my practice here...”

Ning Fan then walked towards his abode. Just as he entered his newly-built practice ground, he had a strange feeling. He then lifted his head and looked above, his eyes filled with doubts. Then, the purple star in his left eye twinkled.

“Why do I feel that there’s an eighth floor in this Lost World Tower?”

“Is it an illusion...?”

Chapter 374.1 - Seven Crystals

Seven Crystals

Ning Fan led a solitary life once again in the abode he created beneath the surface of the star he descended upon.

A single year in the outside world was equivalent to 128 years in this void space. Ning Fan had told Lu Qing that he was going to enter the Lost World Tower for one year. That is to say, he would stay up to 128 years after his intrusion to the seventh floor.

No one was able to bring other people to the Lost World Tower. Thus, he would be able to have a peace of mind as there wouldn’t be any external noises to disturb him.

I have 5884 units of magic power, 71440 units of demon power and 83470 traces of devil qi. My magic power is the weakest of them all. I must improve it to catch up with my other powers.

Ning Fan patted his storage pouch and took out a great number of Profound Primordial Pills.

The Profound Primordial Pill was a Peak Grade Fourth Revolution pill which was refined to aid in raising one's magic power. These pills were excellent for Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivators. Each of these pills was able to increase their magic power by 1 unit when consumed.

Ning Fan had gathered a total of 1290 pellets of Profound Primordial Pills.

Since the value of a single Profound Primordial Pill was around one hundred thousand immortal jade, 1290 pellets would cost over one hundred million immortal jade. However, these pills which had such a sizable value in total all disappeared into his gut within ten days.

After assimilating all the pills, his magic power grew to 6940 units.

Mm... It's 234 units less than what I had expected.

Well, it certainly was because the greater the number of pills one consumed, the weaker the effect of these pills.

Even so, it did not matter much to Ning Fan. During his trip in the Star Sea, he had plundered countless spiritual medicines and ingredients. Besides, he had also taken away some resources from Bei Xiaoman's possessions. With the amount of ingredients he had on hand which were mostly one thousand years old and above, it was more than enough for him to concoct a few more thousands of pellets of Profound Primordial Pill.

Within his abode, he extended his fingers and clawed at the air. His body then glowed in green. A massive rain cauldron then materialized in front of him. It was a cauldron formed using his divine intent of rain.

His pill refinement techniques were already at the Mid Grade Fifth Revolution. The flames that he conjured were the combination of nine types of Heavenly Cold Qi and Earth Flames.

Every time he opened the lid of his cauldron, it would only take him three days to finish concocting a batch of Profound Primordial Pills and each batch contained ten pellets!

One has to know that these pellets were Peak Grade Fourth Revolution pills. Even a Low Grade Fifth Revolution Pill Master wouldn't dare to guarantee one hundred percent success every time they concoct these pills. Moreover, they could at most concoct one pellet at a time.

Ning Fan was equipped with excellent knowledge in the Dao of Alchemy, impressive spirit sense and outstanding ability in controlling flames. Even his luck was purple, the strongest color one could ever have.

Combining his capabilities and his luck, he would really need to knock himself to death using tofu if he still fails in concocting Profound Primordial Pills.

In the first month, he managed to produce one hundred pellets. After a year, he had concocted one thousand and two hundred pellets. As time flew by, he was able to produce thirteen to fourteen pills at a time.

Six years later, he finished concocting 8000 pellets of Profound Primordial Pill and decided not to concoct this type of pill anymore.

With such a large number of pills, it would be enough to nurture a Divine Transformation Realm cultivator in the short term.

Even a Peak Grade Fourth Revolution Pill Master would never have enough wealth and resources to refine 8000 pills of such grade.

Besides, even if one has enough wealth and resources, an ordinary Fourth Revolution Pill Master would only be able to concoct one pellet in half a month and it was not even guaranteed whether the pellets would be complete or defective. As such, it would take them at least 300 years to produce 8000 pellets of Profound Primordial Pill without rest.

Six years of his hard work was equivalent to three hundred years of cultivation for ordinary pill masters. Even so, Ning Fan realized that his pill refinement techniques had improved but the improvement was not that obvious.

His Mid Grade Fifth Revolution medicine soul was already dark green in the first place. Currently, however, the dark color grew even more concentrated at nearly one percent of his medicine soul.

If the rest of his medicine soul glows black, his pill refinement techniques could then break through to the High Grade Fifth Revolution.

Let's set aside the matter about his pill refinement techniques for the moment. After producing the 8000 pellets of Profound Primordial Pill, Ning Fan had no choice but continue his life of chewing 'beans'. That kind of life lasted for four months.

Doubtlessly, Ning Fan's resistance towards Profound Primordial Pills grew stronger and stronger.

At first, he was still able to raise 650 units of magic power after consuming one thousand pellets of the pills.

Then, he was only able to increase 520 units of magic power after consuming the next one thousand pellets.

The following one thousand pellets only managed to increase his magic power by 450 units of magic power.

420 units, 330 units, 290 units, 240 units.

The final one thousand pellets of Profound Primordial Pill could only improve his magic power by 50 units because his resistance to the Profound Primordial Pills became so strong that they hardly have any effect on him anymore!

Ning Fan smiled helplessly. Apparently, he was the first individual in the Rain World to consume Profound Primordial Pills to the point where they no longer had any effect.

The eight thousand pellets of Profound Primordial Pills gave him an extra 2950 units of magic power.

Currently, the total amount of magic power he had was 9890.

After spending four months munching on pills, his magic power had also become illusory. He did not consume any more pills but took out countless types of spiritual flames to devour and assimilate.

A minority of these spiritual flames were presents from cultivators of the External Endless Sea while most of them were looted from Revered Flame.

There were nearly one thousand types of Third Grade spiritual flames, two hundred types of Fourth Grade spiritual flames and three types of Earth Vein Demonic Flames.

The three types of Earth Vein Demonic Flames were the Poison Decaying Flame which ranked last among the twelve, the Profound Thunder Flame which ranked ninth and the Seven Rainbows Flame which ranked fourth.

Ning Fan's eyes burned with zeal as he stared at the groups of flames which were floating in front of him.

If he devours the flames, not only would the power of his fire techniques and the speed of his pill refinement improve, but the soul power of the Stele of Sun and Moon would also be replenished during the process of assimilating the flames!

“Devour!”

Black flames coiled around his body as he opened his mouth wide and inhaled deeply. Then, each group of the flames floating in midair were absorbed into his abdomen.

These spiritual flames were nearly all the reserves of the cultivators in the External Endless Sea.

It took Ning Fan nine months to completely assimilate all of the flames. Nine months later, his magic power managed to achieve a breakthrough in the bottleneck of the Divine Transformation Realm with the aid of the flames he devoured and reached 14200 units!

Within his dantian, his demon soul gradually took the form of a primordial spirit. His primordial spirit which was the size of his palm shared the same look as him. His miniature face was filled with delight and satisfaction.

Finally, his magic power had attained the Divine Transformation Realm!

At the moment he achieved his breakthrough, silver flames fell from the void space. They were obviously the Heavenly Tribulation that one would have to face after attaining the Divine Transformation Realm – the Fire Tribulation.

Ning Fan heaved a disappointed sigh.

It seems like there won't be any of the blood lightning from the Heavenly Tribulation to temper my lightning whip anymore. But it's not bad as this Fire Tribulation can be used to replenish the power of the Stele of Sun and Moon.

Without uttering any words, he opened his mouth and took a deep breath, drawing in all of the silver flames from above. They were immediately devoured by the Stele of Sun and Moon in his locket whereas Ning Fan remained unscathed.

After exhaling a mouthful of foul breath, he suddenly rose to his feet. His aura grew even more vigorous than before. As it spread towards all directions, his abode collapsed.

Black flames burned and circled around his body. They gave out an immense sense of danger. Now, they were a combination of five types of Heavenly Cold Qi and seven types of Earth Vein Demonic Flames.

Even though Ning Fan had yet to gather all twelve types of Heavenly Cold Qi and twelve types of Earth Vein Demonic Flames, the number of cold qi and earth flames he had obtained reached twelve.

Currently, curls of black flames danced across his palm. Even Ning Fan felt danger while dealing with the flames. The black flames were now at least comparable to Seventh Immortal Void Flames. Only Void Fragmentation Realm experts were capable of controlling that kind of flames!

Due to the limitation of Ning Fan's current cultivation base, he was unable to unleash the full power of the flames. However, with the current power of the flames, he could make an old monster of the Void Glimpse Stage back off from fighting him if he activates them.

Evidently, the flames would become his fourth greatest trump card other than his Black Tempest Rupture Art, Wind Mist Finger and Wind Snow Technique!

It would be able to instantly eliminate a Peak Divine Transformation Realm cultivator, grievously injure a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm and leave a minor wound on a genuine Void Refinement Realm expert!

Besides, nearly one third of the soul of the Stele of Sun and Moon in the Profound Yin World was replenished after Ning Fan devoured all the spiritual flames that he had.

Huff

Ning Fan gently exhaled a mouthful of foul breath and withdrew the flames surrounding his body. Now, the three different types of power: the magic power, the demon power and the devil qi he possessed had all attained the Divine Transformation Realm. His strength improved greatly. However, his qi had become hollow and illusory.

It happened due to his excessive consumption of pills. In order to condense his qi and make it more solid, he had to use up his power.

Then, an idea struck him. He wanted to refine pills. This time, however, he would concoct Fifth Revolution pills.

Fifth Revolution pills were extremely different from the Fourth Revolution pills. The difficulty in refining these pills would be greater but their effect would, of course, be more significant.

With Ning Fan's current pill refinement techniques and his black flames, he would need at least half a month to concoct a Low Grade Fifth Revolution pill.

As for Mid Grade Fifth Revolution pills, it would take him at least three months and it was still hard to say whether or not the pills he concocts would be defective.

For ten years, Ning Fan had been refining a type of Low Grade Fifth Revolution pill called Spirit Solidifying Pill.

Just as its name implied, the pill's effect was to strengthen one's primordial spirit. The main spiritual ingredients were the Heart Nourishing Grass, the Spirit Soothing Leaf and the Perfectly Warm Zoysia which was specialized in nourishing one's primordial spirit.

Ning Fan had obtained a great deal of these spiritual medicines from the Lost World Palace. Compared to having Yu Long gather the ingredients for him, acquiring them from the Lost World Palace directly was much faster.

Within ten years, he managed to produce 225 pellets of Spirit Solidifying Pills. His success rate was ninety percent every time he concocted the pills.

Aside from concocting pills, he also fused the golden blood of the demon marshal into eighteen pills.

The eighteen drops of golden blood contained 3600 units of demon power. After fusing them into the pills, its effect changed. Instead of improving one's demon power, it could now raise one's magic power.

Ten years of pill refinement made Ning Fan's magic power more solid than before.

Out of the 225 pellets, he only consumed those with the demon marshal's blood and left the remaining 207 pellets for Luo You to stabilize her primordial spirit.

Originally, the eighteen drops of golden blood were only enough to raise 3600 units of magic power.

However, after they were fused into the pills, the power within the blood was assimilated even more thoroughly. When Ning Fan consumed the eighteen pellets, he gained 5000 units of magic power in total.

Now, his magic power was at 19060 units!

Chapter 374.2 - Seven Crystals

Seven Crystals

As his magic power increased and his primordial spirit stabilized, his qi became deep and heavy. He then immediately began to refine the Thunder Profound Pill, a Mid Grade Fifth Revolution pill!

To Divine Transformation Realm experts, this type of pill was expensive. A pellet would cost five million immortal jade!

An Early Divine Transformation Realm cultivator would gain one hundred units of magic power by consuming a single pellet.

To ordinary cultivators, this pill was certainly too costly for consumption. Pill refinement masters, however, could save a huge amount of money since they could gather the spiritual ingredients and concoct the pills themselves. To them, the cost of a single Thunder Profound Pill would be around a million immortal jade.

As for Ning Fan, the cost of concocting this type of pill was much lower since he plundered and took all of his spiritual ingredients from others. Well, who had seen him shopping around markets for medicines and spiritual ingredients in earnest before?

To him, Immortal jade was just a tool for cultivation used in establishing formations and increasing the power of his Inlaid Star Compass.

He rarely spent his money on buying things. At least, he did not need to be cautious of anything in lawless places like the Endless Sea and the Luo Yun Tribe. Since he had formidable strength which almost everyone was dreadful of, he could just reach out his hand and grab whatever he wanted.

Every time Ning Fan opened his cauldron to refine the Thunder Profound Pill, the process would last for three months and he could only produce a single pellet each time.

For the first five years, he only managed to produce 5 pellets of Thunder Profound Pills. His success rate wasn't even thirty percent.

In the following five years, he managed to refine 8 pellets and his rate of success increased to nearly forty percent.

In the next ten years, he concocted 21 pellets and already had a success rate of more than fifty percent.

When another twenty years passed, he produced a total of 62 pellets of Thunder Profound Pills and his rate of success was almost eighty percent every time!

Forty years flew by so fast that he felt like it was just a single day. The continuous pill refinement process used up all of his ingredients for refining Thunder Profound Pills.

Now, the color of black had nearly spread to half of his medicine soul.

In forty years, he produced 96 pellets of Thunder Profound Pills and the improvement in his pill refinement techniques brought by this was massive. The air of being a grandmaster in the Dao of Alchemy grew stronger in him.

Out of all Mid Grade Fifth Revolution Pill Masters in the Rain World, there were not more than three individuals who could have nearly eighty percent success rate in concocting that pill and Ning Fan was one of them!

It took him five months to completely assimilate all 96 pellets of Thunder Profound Pills.

Five months later, his magic power had been raised to 28320 units which was 340 units lesser than what he expected. Without a doubt, it was due to his resistance to the effect of the pills.

His magic power turned illusory once more. He then spent another ten years concocting quite a number of healing pills. Only then could he stabilize his magic power.

To summarize, it had been 67 years and 6 months since the day he entered the Lost World Tower.

More than half of the 128 years had passed. Next, Ning Fan placed his focus on his Sea of Consciousness, spirit sense and sword intent.

He took out all seventeen pellets of Intent Separation Pills and ingested them one after another. Each of these pills was enough to drive a Divine Transformation Realm sword cultivator crazy back in Ying State Immortal Island. However, all of them ended up in Ning Fan's belly in the end.

As his body was assimilating the pills, he was also digesting the four thousand and seven hundred traces of Nascent Soul Realm sword qi which were stored in his Sea of Consciousness.

His sword intent gradually stabilized.

Then, it achieved the level of Small Accomplishment.

Eventually, it achieved the level of Large Accomplishment!

Three years later, the sword intent that Ning Fan could muster was at least a few times stronger than before!

After he took in the power of the remnant piece of the Immortal Entrapping Sword, his sword sense became even more solid. The strength of his current sword sense was nearly comparable to Revered Flame's fire sense.

With that, he could instantly eliminate anyone below the Divine Transformation Realm and inflict lethal damage on cultivators of the Early Divine Transformation Realm!

If he uses his sword sense, his enemies would certainly shed blood like water!

However, sword sense was just a means to get rid of insignificant enemies. If he only depends on his sword techniques to fight a Half Step Void Refinement Realm expert, he would not have a high chance of coming on top.

The secret sword art of the Sword Emperor was getting less and less useful because the grades of these sword techniques were too low.

After thinking about it for a while, he found out that the different sets of Divine Transformation Realm sword techniques in his storage pouch were not worth looking at.

As he continued to think about sword techniques, his eyes suddenly lit up.

He recalled the Eastern Profound Sword Formation of Ying State Immortal Island!

Since he possessed the Art of Heart Formation, why can't he fight his enemies with sword formations?

The Eastern Profound Sword Formation was a Peak Divine Transformation Realm sword formation. However, after Ning Fan made some alterations to it, it now had more than 5000 formation eyes. With that many formation eyes, it was already a Mortal Void Realm sword formation.

The reason why he made such changes on the sword formation was because he wanted to establish a formation using his Art of Heart Formation to fight his enemies if necessary.

With the He Luo Heart Formation, he could set up a grand formation by just willing it to kill his enemies!

If he could learn the Eastern Profound Sword Formation and integrate it into that technique, he would undoubtedly have another means to resist against a Half Step Void Refinement Realm expert.

The Art of Heart Formation was affected by lots of factors such as one's cultivation base, spirit sense and their level in the Dao of Formations. However, depending on the profoundness of his sword intent, he would still be able to condense a sword formation. As for the other formations he could condense, they were much weaker than his sword formations.

“Condense!”

Ning Fan then began his dull and monotonous cultivation by condensing every single sword qi with his Heart Formation.

Since the modified Eastern Profound Sword Formation now had 5000 formation eyes, he would need to condense a total of 5000 traces of natal sword qi.

As he was condensing sword qi throughout the years, he was also comprehending formations at the same time, greatly improving his cultivation level in the Dao of Formations. Additionally, his understanding of the Dao of Formations of the He Luo Style became much deeper.

Ten years later, he was filled with sword qi. When he walked out of his abode and pointed at a star which had a radius of ten thousand li* (500m per li) in the distance, sharp sword mountains erupted from its surface in every direction. There were a total of 5000 sword mountains.

Moreover, each of the sword mountains contained a sword qi which was comparable to a Peak Nascent Soul Realm attack.

When the sword qi formed into a formation, a massive sword diagram spread open like a scroll painting in the void space, drawing the entire star within it. At the next moment, a dazzling silver sword light glowed within the sword diagram. It grew brighter and brighter as if the sun had exploded, engulfing the star in its entirety.

Rumble

After the sword formation was activated, rays of sword light pierced through it and destroyed the huge star within a few seconds. The impact of the explosion formed into a wind that blew into the void space.

If this sword formation were to be activated, even a Half Step Void Refinement Realm would be in grave danger if he is trapped within it.

Ning Fan nodded his head in satisfaction. As such, he had another method to fight off his enemies.

There were still 50 years left before he had to leave this place. Ning Fan decided to temper his Immemorial Divine Weapon.

The Separation Slayer Sword was carved with the 'Sharpness' Spirit Seal. The word 'sharpness' consisted of 312 strokes. With Ning Fan's current magic power, he could carve 600 words on the sword. Within just a year, he finished carving one hundred and eighty thousand 'Sharpness' Spirit Seals on his sword!

His Separation Slayer Sword was now a Peak Grade Spirit Treasure! Let's not forget that it was also reinforced with a Mortal Void Realm divine ability – Soul Ignition.

As for his Spirit Crushing Whip, he carved the 'Thunder' Spirit Seal on it. Another year passed and the whip also had the quality of a Peak Grade Spirit Treasure. It was added with two types of Mortal Void Realm divine abilities which were Power Drain and Thunder Spirit respectively.

Since the Inlaid Star Compass was not like the Separation Slayer Sword and the Spirit Crushing Whip, Ning Fan did not carve any Spirit Seals on it.

Suddenly, he had another idea. He took out a handful of blood-red sand. It was none other than the Immemorial Divine Weapon he stole from Revered Flame – Blood Star Sand.

This star sand was already a Peak Grade Spirit Treasure. After Ning Fan carved one hundred and eighty thousand ‘Suppression’ Spirit Seals on it, it was already on par with a Half Step Void Treasure.

It was such a pity that this pile of star sand which Revered Flame had painstakingly cultivated for countless years had become Ning Fan’s fourth Immemorial Divine Weapon.

After spending three years tempering three different divine weapons, Ning Fan did not spend any more time on magical treasures.

Instead, he held two jade slips in his hands. They held records of two different types of magic techniques.

The first one was the Five Graves of Dragon Burial. It was a technique that he obtained after he killed the city lord of the Dragon Burial City during his trip in the Star Sea. The strongest part of this technique was its ability to seal off one’s primordial spirit or demon soul and inflict damage on one’s incarnation.

The second one was the Samadhi Fire Palm. It was a Mortal Void Realm technique that the Rain Palace gave to Revered Flame. Needless to say, it was certainly powerful. If it wasn’t for his Yin Yang Locket which naturally restrained flames, Ning Fan wouldn’t have been able to withstand that technique with ease.

Other than those, he recalled thousands of sets of cultivation methods and magical techniques in his mind. All of them belonged to the women whom he had plucked before.

He sat on the Star Compass, travelling across the void space with the Eastern Ocean Bell hung over his neck while studying and learning different kinds of magic techniques and cultivation methods. Thirty years passed with him doing that every single day.

There were now seventeen years left before he had to leave the Lost World Tower.

In the first seven years, Ning Fan ground a few types of spiritual medicines into powder and turned them into medicinal liquid to wash his left eye. He tried to enhance the ability of his Fu Li Eye in seeing through illusions.

Thus, there were now only ten more years left before he departs from the tower.

In this year, Ning Fan suddenly raised his head. The Fu Li Eye within his left eye radiated with a bright purple light. It seemed like it had broken through a small bottleneck.

His vision improved. Then, when he opened his eyes and looked upwards, his expression changed.

After seven years of washing his Fu Li Eye, it had indeed improved a lot. This time, he could really see that the eight floor did exist in the Lost World Tower!

“The Lost World Tower on Peng Lai Immortal Island only has seven floors in the first place. How could it have an eighth floor? What exactly is inside the eighth floor...?”

Ning Fan stepped on the Star Compass and the entire piece of silver land moved upwards to the peak of the void space at an incredible speed. It only stopped when he crashed into a spatial barrier.

Ning Fan placed his palm on the spatial barrier. He did not immediately tore a hole in it but activated his Fu Li Eye to its maximum power to see through the barrier and find out what thing was inside the eighth floor.

With the power of his keen vision, he faintly saw a dim attic above the spatial barrier.

It was not especially vast as it was only tens of thousands zhang* (3.33m per zhang) wide. Inside the attic stood hundreds of ancient statues. All of them were lined up around seven stone platforms like a myriad of stars surrounding the moon. They seemed to be protecting the platforms. There was a piece of golden crystal placed above each of the platforms.

The crystals gave out strange, mysterious power, as if they possessed the power to manipulate time.

Ning Fan took a deep breath. He finally realized what things were being kept on the eighth floor...

The eighth floor was not designed for cultivators to practice but a place to keep the crystals.

The seven crystals were the ones which altered the flow of time within the seven floors of the Lost World Tower!

“What exactly are those crystals?!”

Ning Fan’s eyes burned with interest. He had no idea what those crystals were but he could tell that those crystals were very likely to be extremely precious.

“Should I steal a single piece and check it out?”

This idea immediately rose within his mind.

Chapter 375 - The Thief of Time Shall Die!

The Thief of Time Shall Die!

Once this idea hit him, he immediately could not resist the urge to try it out.

Although Ning Fan didn’t know what those seven pieces of crystals truly were, he could tell that they contained the power to manipulate the flow of time in the Lost World Tower. Their value might even be able to move everyone in the Rain World!

No, it could be even higher... Those crystals gave Ning Fan the feeling that the power inside them was supreme and unparalleled, just like the power of samsara, a power that was beyond his capabilities to touch...

However, the fact that they were untouchable emphasized that these crystals were an opportunity, a massive opportunity!

He pressed his hand against the spatial barrier in front of him and gently glided across it, estimating the possibilities of breaking the spatial barrier.

The spatial barrier between the seventh floor and the eighth floor was built to prevent Void Fragmentation Realm experts from passing through it. Thus, it was tough enough to defend against any attacks from Void Fragmentation Realm old monsters. Although Ning Fan had the Wind Mist Finger which could use a trace of the power of samsara, he wouldn't be able to corrode this spatial barrier without a few years of continuous effort.

Even though his Wind Mist Finger was capable of corroding an Immortal Void Formation.

Now, since even he felt that the spatial barrier was tricky to break, it was clearly impossible for ordinary Void Fragmentation Realm old monsters to enter the eighth floor. In other words, no one in the Rain World was capable of stealing these crystals.

Ning Fan's mind was flooded with various thoughts. He still had ten years before he had to leave this place, so it wouldn't be difficult for him to spend a few years breaking a hole through this spatial barrier.

Will there be any other danger on the eighth floor? The seven pieces of crystals are just being displayed right there. It was unreasonable if they aren't being guarded by anything.

Ning Fan's left eye flashed with purple light. After observing the eighth floor for a long time, he was sure that there wasn't a protective formation set up on the eighth floor. However, it just intensified his suspicion.

He gazed thoughtfully at the hundreds of ancient sculptures.

All those sculptures seem to be only decorations. But are they really just decorations...?

N-No!

Ning Fan bit the tip of his tongue and sacrificed a sip of his blood essence to enhance the vision of his Fu Li Eye.

This time, he had a clearer look at the internal structure of the nearest sculpture on the eighth floor through the spatial barrier.

They aren't decorative sculptures!

Every single one of these sculptures were spiritual puppets that were put under hibernation using seals!

If Ning Fan did not see wrongly, each of the puppets on the eighth floor were all... Void Refinement Realm puppets!

HISS

Ning Fan couldn't help but feel shocked by the grand arrangement of the Lost World Palace.

There were hundreds of Void Refinement Realm puppets hidden at just the Lost World Tower. Not to mention that it was already impossible for Void Refinement Realm experts of the Rain World to enter the eighth floor, even if any one of them did manage to enter, they would be surrounded and attacked by hundreds of Void Refinement Realm puppets. Not even a Void Fragmentation Realm old monster would be able to withstand the joint attacks of a large group of puppets, much less come out of it alive.

After that discovery, Ning Fan suddenly turned silent. The fervor in his face gradually drained away.

He could imagine that once he enters the eighth floor and takes away the crystals, he would alarm all the puppets. Their seals would be lifted and they would then come alive. After that, hundreds of puppets with Void Refinement Realm power would attack him simultaneously. It would be difficult for him to even keep himself alive!

Is it really worth it for me to take such a huge risk just to obtain those crystals which I hardly know anything about...

Besides, even if Ning Fan does manage to obtain the crystals, he wouldn't be able to use the crystals to slow down the flow of time if he doesn't have the formation of the Lost World Tower.

However, Ning Fan could faintly feel the massive energy being given out by the crystals. If he could devour a single one of them... even just a single piece...

He was confident that this would help boost his magic power to the Mid Divine Transformation Realm. When that time comes, the three types of power he had would all reach the Mid Divine Transformation Realm. Then, by combining his three types of power, it would not be difficult for him to break through to the Late Divine Transformation Realm. Moreover, there would also be a small probability for him to break through to the Peak Divine Transformation Realm!

The crystals right before his eyes were obviously a great opportunity. However, with great risk comes great reward.

An internal conflict rose within Ning Fan's mind. He stared at the seven stone platforms and was absorbed in his thoughts.

"What is the possibility of me successfully stealing a crystal?"

His eyes carefully scanned across the hundreds of spiritual puppets while calculating inwardly. When his eyes paused at the final puppet, he found out that there were 343 puppets in total.

It seemed like each of the stone platforms was being guarded by 49 puppets.

Does this mean that if Ning Fan just steals a single crystal, he would only be attacked by 49 puppets?

With this thought in mind, he felt like the risk of stealing a crystal had been reduced to one-seventh of his initial estimation.

“If there are only 49 puppets, perhaps... I can give it a try! I also have a lot of puppets with me. Moreover, three of them are at the Void Refinement Realm. These puppets might be able to hold the 49 puppets back for a while, but the losses I will experience will certainly be very huge if they are attacked by the 49 Void Refinement Realm puppets at once...”

“The seven stone platforms are being guarded by the same number of puppets. However, each of the seven crystals corresponds with the seven floors of the Lost World Tower. The flow of time on the seven floors are completely different. Therefore, I’m afraid the power contained inside every crystal is also different. The crystal that is responsible for reducing the flow of time on the seventh floor must be the most powerful crystal of them all! If I can only steal one crystal, I will of course take away the strongest one! However, if I steal this crystal, it will certainly cause the time on the seventh floor to flow at the same speed as the outside world. It will lose its time distortion, which is also the main benefit of stealing the crystal manipulating the time flow on the seventh floor!”

“However, taking away the crystal controlling the time on the seventh floor is the least likely to be found out by others. After all, the seventh floor is a floor that only Void Refinement Realm experts can enter. In the Rain World, it was rare to have Void Refinement Realm experts coming to the Lost World Palace to cultivate. Naturally, no one will realize that the effect of time distortion on this floor has disappeared.”

“Even if a Void Refinement Realm expert really finds out that the seventh floor of the Lost World Tower no longer has the effect of time distortion, it is not something that will happen right away but sometime in the far future. When the time comes, who can even figure out that I was the one who stole the crystal!”

“Even if they manage to guess correctly, I would have already attained the Void Refinement Realm, Void Fragmentation Realm or even a greater level. Moreover, my relationship with the Lost World Palace is not superficial. How would the Lost World Palace hold me accountable for a crystal of a silver tower in the mortal world! In my eyes, this crystal is certainly precious. However, I’m afraid it won’t be something of value to those immortals... Besides, the puppets which are responsible in guarding the crystals are all just at the Void Refinement Realm. They are the biggest proof! If these crystals are valuable enough to attract immortals, the Lost World Palace would’ve definitely foreseen that some immortals would come to the mortal world to steal them. The puppets they set up to guard the crystals won’t just be at the Void Refinement Realm...”

Countless thoughts ran across Ning Fan’s mind as he weighed the advantages and disadvantages of stealing the crystal. His intention which seemed daring and risky at first gradually became feasible after he analyzed it from different angles.

I have puppets and the Inlaid Star Compass. Once I take out the crystal of the seventh floor and run away, there will be at least a 50 percent chance for me to get out alive by using my puppets to hold the 49 guardians back.

If my movement speed can be as fast as that of the Void Refinement Realm, the success rate of stealing the crystal will be at least 10 percent more, with the aid of a self-harming secret technique that will boost my movement faster!

Ning Fan extended his purple Fu Li Wings and calculated inwardly.

If both of his wings are carved with one hundred and eighty thousand Spirit Seals, it will not be difficult for him to improve his flying speed from the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm to the Void Refinement Realm!

“Sixty percent success rate. It is still a bit low... But I still have the Grievance Technique which specializes in restraining different kinds of puppets. Even though my current level in performing that technique is still unable to subdue Void Refinement Realm puppets, I should be able to turn the group of puppets absent-minded and stop them for a short period of time... In this way, my success rate will probably be at 70 percent!”

“With seventy percent chance of success, exchanging it for a chance to attain the Peak Divine Transformation Realm... is worth it!”

Ning Fan’s eyes shone with determination. He had decided to steal the crystal that controlled the time on the seventh floor!

What he needed to be wary of was the secret technique of the Lost World Palace which would fuse those puppets together. If the 49 puppets fuse into a Void Fragmentation Realm puppet, it would be extremely difficult for him to get out at that time. Once he notices the puppets show any signs of fusing, he must immediately interrupt them with his magic technique!

A thoughtful, bold, and slightly crazy plan was gradually taking form in Ning Fan’s mind.

A person’s life was full of choices. If one made a wrong choice, they would die and their family might be annihilated.

However, if one was always fearful of making any decisions and escaped from everything, then they would never have the chance to be superior to others.

If a choice has a high chance of success, it would be an opportunity. If a choice has a low success rate, it would be a risk!

Ning Fan started to carefully prepare everything.

In the first year, he engraved one hundred and eighty thousand 'Speed' Spirit Seals on both of his Fu Li Wings, causing his top speed to attain the Early Void Refinement Realm. Now, he could travel across one hundred and ten thousand li* (500 m per li) in a single dive.

In the second year, Ning Fan spent five hundred million immortal jade to light up all thirty thousand star lamps of the Inlaid Star Compass and activate its strongest defense.

In the third year, Ning Fan summoned all of his twenty-five Divine Transformation Realm puppets, the black dragon refined corpse and three Void Refinement Realm puppets. He carefully repaired the wounded puppets to ensure all of them were at their best condition.

In the fourth to seventh year, Ning Fan used his Wind Mist Finger to continuously corrode the spatial barrier leading to the eighth floor.

Continuously corroding the barrier, a small gap was slowly being created on the spatial barrier which was enough to withstand a Void Fragmentation Realm attack, just like how constant dripping water would slowly bore holes on the rocks over the years.

The spatial barrier leading the eighth floor was getting thinner and thinner by the day. After a long period of time, it became like a piece of paper which was so thin that it could be penetrated with a poke of his finger.

Ning Fan withdrew the power of his Wind Mist Finger. He only needed to make a single gentle step and he could then pass through the spatial barrier and enter the eighth floor!

Once he enters the eighth floor, he would have to gamble where he had seventy percent chances of surviving and thirty percent chances of dying.

Even Ning Fan, someone who had an indifferent personality, felt slightly nervous. However, it wasn't a bad thing. A moderate level of stress could make one become more focused.

With the Inlaid Star Compass in his hand and twenty-nine refined corpses and puppets following behind him, he took a deep breath and entered the eighth floor.

Fine beads of sweat appeared on his forehead. He made his step forward with caution and vigilance.

If the first step he took stirs up any other changes, he would immediately retreat and go back to the seventh floor for safety.

Dong

Ning Fan's footstep echoed across the vast and empty palace which was ten thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) wide, but it did not activate any attack or trap. Judging from the situation, he was safe as long as he did not touch any of the crystals.

When he passed through the barrier completely, he carried 200% alertness. He kept an eye on the surroundings as he walked towards one of the seven stone platforms step by step.

One of the stone platforms held the crystal which emanated the most powerful energy.

That crystal was none other than the treasure which slowed down the time on the seventh floor!

Standing in front of the stone platform, Ning Fan gently stretched out his Fu Li Wings, getting ready to retreat and get out of the eighth floor anytime!

He stretched out his palm towards the top of the crystal which was now only half an inch away from his hand.

If there aren't any disturbances within this ten thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) wide palace, he could get out of this place in an instant.

After I grab it, It's either I survive or die...

At this moment, Ning Fan could still regret his choice and back off. However, if he escapes now, the opportunity to break through to the Peak Divine Transformation Realm would then be gone...

After attaining the Divine Transformation Realm, every single advancement would be extremely difficult. Besides, precious treasures like these crystals would not appear in front of him every time, much less use them to improve his cultivation base...

If he goes for it this time, he would only have a thirty percent chance of dying.

But if he doesn't withdraw from this opportunity, what cultivation realm would he use to resist Emperor Moksha a few decades later?!

Ning Fan's eyes shone with resolve as he muttered to himself in an imposing manner.

"Not to mention that I have seventy percent chance of success, even if I only have sixty percent, fifty percent or even forty percent chance to succeed, I will give it a try anyway. I can't let my master be injured by his treacherous disciple once more!"

Ting Tong

Ning Fan's fingertip touched the crystal which toppled from the stone platform and emitted a gentle ting.

At the moment this noise reverberated across the silent palace, he grabbed the crystal with his hand and flapped his wings without any hesitation, diving straight to the hole as fast as he could on the spatial barrier which was ten thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) away!

At the same time, the 49 statues which guarded this particular stone platform came alive! After sleeping for countless years, their seals were broken and they regained their mobility!

At this moment, all 49 of them gave out Void Refinement Realm auras and their killing intents locked onto Ning Fan.

“Seal!”

The 49 spiritual puppets uttered the same word in perfect unison.

49 traces of void power transformed into 49 layers of gigantic black walls, sealing off all of Ning Fan’s escape routes!

They were not playing around with him. They really harbored the intention to kill the person who had stolen the crystal!

“The thief of time shall die!”

Indeed. The power contained within the seven crystals was time!

An unprecedented feeling of danger rose within Ning Fan.

If he could not get out from the forty-nine layers of walls, he would be smashed to ashes by the forty-nine Void Refinement Realm puppets in the next moment!

There was only a millionth inch between life and death!