

Grasping 411

Chapter 411: Tai Su's Three Questions

Above the vast sky, ferocious beasts gathered like clouds. Their presence seemed to overturn heaven and earth. As soon as they appeared, they charged at Ning Fan and Hong Yi regardless of everything!

The pack of beasts consisted of ten thousand Nascent Soul Realm beasts, one hundred Wild Beasts and 4 Early Void Refinement Realm beasts!

Hong Yi's blood-red eyes revealed a bone-chilling killing intent. She conjured lightning using only her bare hands. Each of the ferocious beasts which approached her was blasted to pieces by lightning one after another. Be it the Nascent Soul Realm beasts or Wild Beasts, none of them was able to withstand a single strike from her.

She took a gentle step and moved. By just making a step, she then bizarrely emerged in front of a Void Refinement Realm beast.

She pointed at the beast with her tender finger. Circles of blood-red lightning scattered in the vast sky and blasted on its gigantic body. The speed of the lightning was too fast. It did not give the beast a chance to evade at all.

In just an instant, the skin and flesh of the beast was charred. The degree of pain it experienced was difficult to describe. Then, it let out a shriek and fell from the clouds.

Hong Yi had actually put a dignified Early Void Refinement Realm beast in such a grievous condition in a matter of seconds!

Roar

The remaining three Void Refinement Realm beasts immediately realized that Hong Yi was their greatest enemy and surrounded her. Each of them let out a roar of rage which dispersed the clouds and disrupted the air current.

All of the three beasts had ten thousand zhang* (3.33 m per zhang) tall bodies. They shot out black lightning rays with their mouths which transformed into one hundred thousand magic weapons and sharp blades. All the weapons were filled with distinct killing qi as they rained down upon Hong Yi in torrents.

Each of the magic weapons was comparable to a Peak Nascent Soul Realm magic treasure! In the face of one hundred thousand attacks from Nascent Soul Realm weapons, it would be difficult to parry even for an Early Void Refinement Realm cultivator. All of a sudden, the light given out by innumerable weapons filled the sky!

However, one corner of Hong Yi's mouth curved into a contemptuous smirk. She turned her silky white palms and muttered in a cold tone.

“Sacrificial Thunder Technique, Five Imperial Thunders Palm!”

Her soft palm was so slender as if it was boneless. However, the force she exerted when she turned her palm seemed to be strong enough to topple over the entire heavens.

At this moment, Hong Yi was like the master of lightning. By just turning over her palm, the one hundred thousand magic weapons all trembled in fear. In the next second, a surge of lightning power burst from her body, breaking each and every one of the incoming magic weapons!

With just a turn of her palm, she overturned the heavens and nullified the full-powered attack of the three Void Refinement Realm beasts combined!

It was the strength of her Five Imperial Thunders Palm which was the secret technique of controlling lightning and thunder that abnormally seized the Spirit Crushing Whip from Ning Fan's hands earlier!

After just a short while, Hong Yi had already injured one Void Refinement Realm beast and overpowered the other three of them. In spite of that, she did not feel proud at all. There was only contempt in her eyes. To her, Early Void Refinement Realm beasts were just insignificant ants which could not even withstand a single blow from her. Hence, there was not the slightest hint of joy in winning against them.

She turned to look at Ning Fan and ordered in an indifferent tone.

“You will be keeping that injured Void Refinement Realm beast occupied. As for the ten thousand Nascent Soul Realm ants, you will wipe them out.”

“You’re underestimating me, huh...?”

Ning Fan’s eyes flashed with mild cold light. What Hong Yi had let him handle was just a severely injured Void Refinement Realm beast. Despite that, she still did not think that he would be capable of killing that beast...

In Hong Yi’s eyes, the three half-completed spiritual puppets were just considered to be satisfactory in terms of their strength.

As for Ning Fan’s strength, since he had yet to attain the Void Refinement Realm, perhaps he could not even gain the slightest recognition from Hong Yi at all.

“The daughter of the thunder sovereign sure is strong and arrogant... Your insight in the aspect of spiritual puppets and magic treasures is indeed sharp. However, your understanding towards me does not seem to be as keen... Underestimating me is a wrong choice...”

Ning Fan muttered internally but he did not speak any word with his mouth. To prove one’s strength and capabilities, it did not depend on their mouths. To earn respect from others, it did not depend on debates and arguments.

Ning Fan manipulated his puppets using his spirit sense. His three Void Refinement Realm puppets instantly dashed towards the injured beast in three traces of smoke and surrounded it. They then hurled a torrent of fists at that beast harshly and ruthlessly. Their earth-shattering strikes had blasted a vast piece of earth to pieces.

The mountains and rivers on the earth crumbled just like that!

Unfortunately, his three spiritual puppets lacked an ultimate killing strike. Even though they had beaten the beast to the point where blood flowed out from its wounds in streams, it could still move. Even though they battled so vigorously that even earth shook and mountains crumbled, they were still unable to finish that beast off.

That beast which was first injured terribly by Hong Yi and then was beaten like a horrible dog by the three puppets had finally turned mad. It was filled with the wrath and hatred to fight back even if it would cost its own life.

It let out a ferocious roar and ignited its own blood veins. All of a sudden, its qi rose sharply. It shook off the three puppets from him with a move and confronted them forcefully. Even though it bled so horribly to the extent where its blood had washed over mountains and rivers, it did not intend to yield at all.

As a matter of fact, it was within Hong Yi's estimation. Spiritual puppets were dead creatures after all. When three Void Refinement Realm spiritual puppets faced a Void Refinement Realm beast which was in a desperate state, they might not necessarily be able to finish it off.

However, she had underestimated Ning Fan!

Ning Fan had let his three puppets to deal with the injured beast.

On the other hand, he made a step forward and stood facing the ten thousand lightning spirits.

Despite his thin and feeble body, he looked like an insurmountable mountain. There was not a single ferocious beast which could get half a step past his body.

His sword sense swept across the group of beasts again and again. The ten thousand Nascent Soul Realm beasts were annihilated by Ning Fan in just a matter of seconds. The roars of beasts reverberated across the sky like thunderclap and massive violent qi filled the atmosphere!

Ning Fan's eyes were merciless and cold. That look on his face was the result of experiencing countless massacres and bloody scenes which had made his heart as cold as steel.

After one breath, there were only one hundred Wild Beasts which were one thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall left in front of him.

Ning Fan's speed in wiping out the Nascent Soul Realm beasts had surprised Hong Yi.

"Oh? This young man's sword sense is quite strong. He could even kill Nascent Soul Realm beasts instantly... However, there are many Divine Transformation Realm experts as well who can perform such a large-scale massacre... But he is still just an ordinary Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator in my eyes, unless he is able to withstand the one hundred Wild Beasts."

Just as her voice fell, her eyes flashed with a hint of amazement for the first time.

Ning Fan did not have the slightest trace of fear despite confronting one hundred Wild Beasts. He extended his five fingers and clawed at the vast earth. Then, a vigorous aura force suddenly spread throughout the area. The soul of the great earth was extracted. Grass and trees withered and mountains and rivers weathered away!

As for Ning Fan who had devoured the soul of the vast land, his qi shot up incredibly. With the boost of strength, his magic power had arrived at one million units. In terms of magic power alone, he was not any weaker than common cultivators at the Void Glimpse Stage at all. Unfortunately, his cultivation realm did not advance as he was still at the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm.

Even if one uses the Soul Extraction technique, the technique would not be able to let cultivators stride over the bottleneck of Void Refinement Realm.

Despite that, Hong Yi was already astonished by Ning Fan for the first time.

"The Soul Extraction technique? This young man has actually comprehended this technique. It seems like I have underestimated him..."

With the help of the secret technique, Ning Fan's magic power skyrocketed. Looking at the one hundred Wild Beasts, his eyes became even colder.

He touched his glabella and the White Lightning Whip appeared in his hand.

As he struck using the whip, he seemed to be flogging all living creatures. His body radiated a terrifying devil prestige which no one could look straight at it!

One strike. Ten strikes. One hundred strikes!

Ning Fan had made one hundred strikes with the whip almost instantly. As soon as he finished wielding his whip, lightning flashed and an ear-splitting thunderclap reverberated across the sky.

Even though he clearly lashed the air with his whip, countless and endless blood-red lightning rays emerged in the sky and blasted on the insides of the one hundred Wild Beasts!

Moreover, since all of the one hundred Wild Beasts were lightning spirits, they were completely restrained by his White Lightning Whip.

In a flash, the demon cores of the one hundred Wild Beasts were struck by the lightning rays. To the destructive power of the White Lightning Whip, all kinds of defenses were like nothing.

Each of the demon cores which was as solid as black iron was crushed by Ning Fan's whip. Twenty-one Wild Beasts died on the spot as their demon cores were completely destroyed!

As for the remaining beasts, they suffered a different degree of severe injuries. All of their qi was greatly weakened. Besides, there were many Wild Beasts which showed signs of regressing to the Nascent Soul Realm due to the damage of their demon cores.

A deeply frightened expression filled on the Wild Beasts' pupils.

Originally, they were never afraid of any kind of experts who were at the same level as them. However, when they met Ning Fan's cold eyes, all of them felt their bone shiver, as if they were in a land of snow and ice!

It was as if they were not the ferocious beasts while Ning Fan was the true devil beast which emanated a monstrous and vicious aura!

The White Lightning Whip was truly horrifying! With just a strike, it had eliminated twenty-one Wild Beasts!

Ning Fan stared at the lightning whip in his hand and revealed a satisfied smile. No matter what, the White Lightning Whip which was refined and tempered by Hong Yi had eliminated the limitation of the Spirit Crushing Whip which required him to strike one's magic treasures in order to bring its ability into effect. Now, it was a lot more convenient to crush his opponent's primordial spirit and eliminate his enemy.

Rumble

The remaining 80 Wild Beasts still surrounded Ning Fan swiftly despite their fear and delivered their full-powered lightning power attacks at him.

Strong wind appeared. Heavy rain fell. Lightning flashed and thunder crackled. They were summoned by the magic techniques which each of the Wild Beasts displayed. All the attacks of the eighty Wild Beasts combined into one. Its destructive power was frightening!

However, to Ning Fan, it was just nothing more than a Void Refinement Realm strike!

He looked at the lightning flashes and thunder clouds which covered the entire sky with an imposing and fearless expression. He raised his whip and thrashed the air of the eastern direction, killing all the twenty Wild Beasts in the east.

When their combined lightning attack blasted on Ning Fan's body, he should also be severely wounded even though his physical body was at the Fourth Level of Jade Life Realm.

At this moment, however, ninety-nine black stars rose in the vault of heavens.

Starlight shone upon Ning Fan. His eyes were like a cluster of stars and his body was like that of a devilish god. No matter how the lightning bombarded his body, his long hair gently danced in the air while his body did not suffer any injuries at all.

No. He was not unscathed! It was just that the speed of the combined attack from just a group of Wild Beasts damaging his body was a lot slower than the healing speed of his starlight!

“Star Healing Technique!!”

Hong Yi’s blood-red eyes were filled with surprise. She had never expected that Ning Fan would actually possess such a heaven-defying divine ability.

In regards to the Soul Extraction Technique which Ning Fan displayed earlier, Hong Yi found it just a little astonishing because she also knew that technique.

As for the Star Healing Technique, however... It was the truly supreme secret technique. Even if one reaches the Void Fragmentation Realm, they certainly still could not learn this technique. On top of that, even a Life Immortal Realm being might not necessarily be able to comprehend it!

But Ning Fan actually knew this kind of secret technique. It really shocked Hong Yi.

“This time, I have really underestimated him... Ninety-nine natal stars. He might not be able to kill a Void Refinement Realm being, but there is probably also no cultivator at the Void Glimpse Stage can kill him with so many stars protecting him!”

Finally, Hong Yi began to regard Ning Fan with respect!

Ning Fan still did not know about all this. Meanwhile, he turned his head facing the eastern direction. The killing intent in his look was enough to drown the twenty Wild Beast in the east!

Roar

The roars of the Wild Beasts were filled with fear!

They could not understand! They could not understand at all why Ning Fan could withstand the combined attack from the eighty of them while his physical body remained unscathed and indestructible!

Unfortunately, how could they understand since they were just beasts?!

Ning Fan had condensed ninety-nine natal stars in total. Even if he takes a barrage of attacks from a group of Divine Transformation Realm experts, he would definitely also remain undefeatable and invincible!

“Only forty Wild Beasts are left...”

Ning Fan glanced sideways at the injured Void Refinement Realm beast. Even though it was on the brink of death, it managed to damage one of his Void Refinement Realm puppets after it ignited its blood to make its final struggle.

Half-completed spiritual puppets are indeed very weak compared to the others which are of the same level...

Ning Fan knew that if the fight continued to drag on a little longer, there was a possibility that the Void Refinement Realm would take one of the puppets with it to perish together. If that happens, Ning Fan's loss would outweigh his gains.

He kept his lightning whip and looked at the last forty Wild Beasts in the surroundings. His eyes flashed coldly.

“Five Graves of Dragon Burial Technique!”

“When the five dragons die, the black dragon shall rise! When the five elements vanish, the five graves shall emerge!”

The tombstones which did not belong to any of the five elements specially restrained the five elements of heaven and earth. As for these Wild Beasts, all of them were lightning spirits at first and their beast bodies were purely transformed from the gold element, which was one of the elements that was restrained by the five tombstones!

“Suppress!”

Ning Fan’s fingers moved rapidly as he formed a series of hand seals. He rotated his magic power vigorously and five tombstones of black dragon which were one thousand zhang* (3.33 m per zhang) tall appeared in the sky. When Ning Fan willed it, they split into countless tombstones and crashed into the Wild Beasts.

One of those falling tombstones was just like a Mount Tai falling from the sky!

As soon as the countless tombstones crashed into the ground, a ghastly scene of death appeared and blood flowed out in streams!

With just a few breaths, the remaining forty Wild Beasts had been turned into a chunk of splattered meat under the five tombstones!

The one hundred demon cores from the Wild Beasts which were filled with strong lightning power were, of course, taken away by Ning Fan as the trophy of the battle.

The depletion of his magic power was rather serious. He consumed a few Spirit Recovering Pills and rapidly digested them. Then, he made a step forward with the tip of his foot and charged at the injured Void Refinement Realm beast.

In an arrogant manner, he appeared directly in front of the beast. Under the protection of the starlight, he hurled his fists. Each of his punches landed on the body of the beast without miss!

Even though the beast had already ignited its blood, it was yet to arrive at the Mid Void Refinement Realm after all. Its attacks might be strong and the injuries it caused on Ning Fan was severe, but he healed himself almost instantly using his Black Star Healing Technique.

As for Ning Fan's attacks, they landed firmly and directly on the body of the beast, causing the innumerable wounds on its body to crack and worsen drastically.

Aside from that, while the beast was busy handling Ning Fan's forceful attacks, the three puppets aimed at its vital points regardless of everything. After the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, the beast had already exhausted its strength and it was no longer to fend for himself. Eventually, it died!

Ning Fan was the one delivered the final strike by pointing his finger at the beast!

A current of purple mist spread into the air. That ethereal golden purple mist covered the vast sky.

The mist contained a terrifying power which could make everything fall to bits!

It literally caused the beast to be disintegrated!

Ning Fan did not use the Myriad Sword Style. After all, the Zhou Clan seemed to be on a bad term with the Rain Palace. Thus, it was unwise to recklessly use the sword technique from Yun Tianjue.

He also did not use the Star Punishing Bow technique as the power of drawing a single arrow would completely use up his magic power, causing him to fall into a weak state temporarily.

He deliberately used the Wind Mist Finger because Hong Yi had said that she had set her eyes upon that technique and she would require his help using that technique.

As such, Ning Fan did not mind displaying the Wind Mist Technique again to let her witness clearly how strong this technique was. It could fortify the value for her to befriend Ning Fan and also avoid her behaving erratically.

After killing that Void Refinement Realm beast, Ning Fan obtained a Void Refinement Realm demon core and kept it into his storage pouch. Then, a cold and arrogant voice of a lady was heard from his back.

“Pretty excellent strength... You are the first Divine Transformation Realm junior who could gain my respect and attention.”

The person who spoke was none other than Hong Yi.

Ning Fan had wiped out ten thousand Nascent Soul Realm beasts, one hundred Wild Beasts and one Void Refinement Realm beast. Hong Yi had also eliminated the three Void Refinement Realm beasts.

“You have overpraised me, Miss. I could only kill a Void Refinement Realm beast with much effort and the help of my three puppets. On the other hand, you have killed three Void Refinement Realm beasts on your own. You are truly the person whom I admired.” Ning Fan had to admit that Hong Yi was indeed very strong. She was even fiercer than Yue Lingkong.

“Humph! Are you telling me that I don’t even have the strength of killing three Early Void Refinement Realm beasts in your eyes? Are you making a sarcastic remark on me?!”

After hearing Ning Fan’s compliment, Hong Yi actually expressed displeasure. Her temperament sure was strange and hard to accommodate.

Even though her eyes were filled with discontentment, she did not express her anger at Ning Fan. She just waved one of her bloody hands and tossed three Void Refinement Realm demon cores which were still dripping with blood to Ning Fan.

“For me?” Ning Fan felt stunned. Even though Hong Yi was using him, she was really generous as she gave him the three Void Refinement Realm demon cores without hesitation.

“Since you are serving for me, I certainly will not treat you less. Besides, these demon cores are just trash. They aren’t a precious thing. You don’t have to refuse!”

Chapter 412: Illusions Stir Chaos of the Mind but Fade at the Tranquility of the Heart.

Half a day had passed but there was still no sign of Ning Fan getting past the first stage.

In the lower level of the Black Lightning Realm, Hong Yi's eyes remained gloomy. She took out a piece blood-red bronze mirror and touched its surface with one of her fingers. Within the mirror, it vaguely showed the scene happening in the cloud realm in the upper level.

In the lightning palace, Ning Fan had already stood for half a day with his eyes closed, pausing before the first stage.

Outside the formation, there was an elderly man in grey robes who was making mocking remarks and laughing at Ning Fan. He was the one who controlled the illusions in the formation to deceive Ning Fan.

The cold light in Hong Yi's eyes slowly became more intense. If she was not wrong, that grey-robed elderly man who was hiding outside the formation was the realm spirit of the White Lightning Realm.

"How dare a mere realm spirit touch my people? He's blatantly seeking his own death!"

Anyhow, Ning Fan was considered to be her subordinate. The fact that he was being trapped by a mere realm spirit really enraged her.

Unfortunately, she was just in the form of her primordial spirit and she did not dare to go up the cloud realm recklessly to help Ning Fan.

Just as her anger rose within her, Ning Fan's eyebrows moved. After standing there without moving for half a day, he finally opened his eyes.

"Truth and illusion."

Two demon stars slowly surfaced in his left eye while two devil stars appeared in his right eye.

On his glabella, two divine stars gave off traces of lightning.

He seemed to have gain a new insight but he looked even more bewildered.

He looked at the two figures of Zhihe in front of him. Both of them had the exactly same appearances and smiling faces. It was difficult to identify which of them was the true Zhihe.

He could not find any exit for the first stage after spending half a day standing there. The elderly man did not lie to him. In order to pass the first stage, he must kill either one of the two figures in front of him.

One of the two figures was the genuine shadow of Zhihe while the other one was an illusion.

If he kills Zhihe's true shadow, it would harm the luck of Zhihe's true body.

If he kills the illusion, he could get through this stage. However, Ning Fan felt somewhat reluctant.

He could massacre millions of living creatures without mercy but there were also some people whom he was reluctant to kill.

In the past when he faced Zhihe's illusion that was manifested by his Heart's Devil, he was reluctant to kill it. Today, he felt the same.

One of the two woman figures donned simple and plain cloths while the other wore a coat made of the fur of a white fox. After Ning Fan opened his eyes, both of them gracefully walked towards Ning Fan. Their delicate and pretty faces were still filled with a hint of puerility like usual.

That immature and innocent expression on her face that showed unsophisticated she was had softened Ning Fan's stony heart.

The two of them gave him a radiant smile, as if it was their greatest bliss in the world to be able to see him safe and sound.

One of them mustered her courage and held Ning Fan's hands even though her face was filled with embarrassment. Her delicate hands were still soft and cold like before.

The other Zhihe looked at Ning Fan shyly but her eyes were filled with delight. At the same time, her face showed a hint of petulance, as if she was angry at him for not returning after so many years.

“Big Brother Fan, just kill me. Then, you can pass the first stage.” The two figures spoke calmly, as if they were not affected by each other’s presence.

Their words had made Ning Fan even more hesitant.

He had tainted himself by carrying innumerable crimes and sins. He could massacre countless beneath the heavens. He could carry the infamy which would make him an evil person in public for thousands of years. However, he could not harden his heart and kill Zhihe, even though the so-called Zhihe was just an illusion.

His heart was filled with even more struggles. The lightning palace before his eyes gradually became blurry. Vaguely, layers upon layers of illusions appeared in front of him.

The first layer of illusion was the All Pleasure Sect.

The second layer of illusion was the Seven Apricot.

The third layer of illusion was the Ning City.

Each scene of the illusions enfolded Ning Fan. The illusions which he fell into became deeper and deeper, making it more difficult for him to extricate himself.

Outside the formation, the elderly man in grey robes laughed even more maliciously. His cold and evil laughter reverberated within the illusions.

“Weak. You are too weak! You can’t even make up your mind to kill either the true shadow or the fake illusion and you still think that you can pass the first stage?! Your state of mind is so frail and fragile. I really wonder how you managed to come this far!”

“Frail?”

Ning Fan’s eyes turned cold. His heart gradually became still and quiet.

The last scene of illusion paused at the night when he left. Standing under the grapevines, Zhihe murmured her little wish.

“Big Brother Fan, when you return from the Endless Sea, could you bring back a bell orchid?” The Zhihe who was in plain clothes spoke.

“I heard that the orchids in the Endless Sea will emit a sound like wind chimes when wind blows. It is very pleasant to hear... When I hear that sound, I will know that you return...” The other Zhihe who wore fox fur coat said.

Ning Fan closed his eyes. He thought he was able to distinguish which one of them was the true shadow while which one of them was the fake illusion. However, he eventually realized that it was just a wishful thinking.

From the very beginning, his heart had never viewed these two woman figures as illusions, much less harden his heart to kill either one of them.

Which one is real and which one is fake?

So what if I can’t distinguish? So what... if I can’t distinguish?!

Even if he manages to identify the fake Zhihe, would he be willing to kill her?

His mouth formed into a warm smile. He reached out both of his hands and stroked the cheeks of the figures. His touch was still as gentle and affectionate as always.

He would never hurt Zhihe. Never. No matter it was her real self... or her illusion!

He activated the power of his heart formation and gradually understood why this grand formation of True Illusion was able to find his weakest point and manifested the figures of Zhihe to disturb his state of mind.

It turned out that the power of this formation had already intruded his heart and accessed all his weaknesses without exception!

“Discovering one’s weaknesses by peeking into their hearts and create the illusions which could enchant them, huh...”

The cold light in his eyes became even fiercer. He raised one of his fingers and amassed a trace of sword qi on it. Mercilessly, he thrust it into his chest. His white robes were stained with blood immediately as blood flowed out from his wound in a gush!

His heart was crushed by the trace of sword qi. The pain was so intense that it penetrated into his bones!

However, that excruciating pain could not cause Ning Fan to knit his eyebrows. He just shouted with a cold tone.

“Get out from my heart!”

Just as the sword qi pierced through his heart, a trace of formation power was expelled from it.

A muffled groan was heard at the same time. The person who was injured was the elderly man who was plotting against Ning Fan outside the formation!

The elderly man revealed a look of shock. Ever since he was titled by Immortal Emperor Tai Su as the White Lightning Realm Spirit, he had met countless cultivators who had entered the remaining White Lightning Realm.

No one had ever broken through the three stages created by Tai Su’s three questions when he controlled the power of the formation.

It was because Tai Su's three questions directly aimed at the weak points of a cultivator's heart!

No one in the world could give up their weak points. For those who retained affection, affection itself would be their weak point. For those who did not harbor a single trace of love, being cold and cruel was their weak point!

With the help of the formation power, the elderly man had managed to discover Ning Fan's weakest point in his heart and produced the Zhihe's illusions using the formation power.

This formation of True Illusion was extremely profound and mysterious. It used the power of the Heavenly Dao to condense a real being and its illusion. One could only break through the formation by eliminating the illusion.

One must be able to distinguish between the true shadow and the illusion. If they could not find it out clearly and kill the true shadow by mistake, it would then harm the individual of that true shadow.

The people who came across this formation in the past dealt with it by killing either one of the two figures cold-heartedly, turning away from this formation due to the fear of difficulty or eliminating the right illusion through the accurate identification after pondering for a long time.

No one had chosen to crush their hearts like Ning Fan in order to break through this formation.

Each layer of the illusions shattered like broken mirror after Ning Fan had destroyed his heart.

A trace of fresh blood flowed out from one corner of Ning Fan's mouth. When the two figures or Zhihe witnessed that gruesome scene, a pained expression came over their faces.

Be it the true Zhihe or the fake Zhihe, both of them felt heartache for Ning Fan. That anguish in their eyes came straight from the bottom of their hearts.

Ning Fan's eyes looked stunned. Now, he found it even more difficult to discern the authenticity of the two figures of Zhihe.

However, why did he have to distinguish them?

“I can’t distinguish between the true shadow and illusion but there is also no need for me to distinguish them. Be it the real shadow or the fake one, I will never hurt either one of them. I will never hurt her.”

“True Illusion. The word ‘illusion’ means the fabricated and baseless stubbornness and insistence. The word ‘true’ means the state which countless celestial beings diligently and tirelessly seek after. I can’t see through it because my cultivation realm is still low. But do you think you can see through it? You are just an Early Void Refinement Realm creature. Do you think you deserve to see through the truth and illusion?!”

“Even though I can’t distinguish them, I have already figured out a method to make the illusion vanish. In terms of the foundation of illusion techniques, they are only for enchanting one’s heart. The key of crushing the illusion is in crushing one’s own heart.”

“What is truth? What is illusion? Illusion stirs when the mind is chaotic; illusion fades when the mind is tranquil.”

“Be it the true shadow or the illusion, as long as it is your shadow, it is true in my heart. You are the truth of my Dao.”

The power of black star enveloped his body. His heart reformed. This time, his heart became as firm as steel. No matter how vigorous the power of the True Illusion formation was, it could not intrude his heart again!

He shut his eyes. His heart became as quiet as a millpond which did not even have a ripple.

When he reopened his eyes, the illusion formation fragmented like pieces of glass. However, not a single one of the two Zhihe’s figures disappeared.

Are the both of these figures real?

Just as this thought rose in Ning Fan's mind, the two of them began to fade away simultaneously.

No one could tell whether the both of them were true shadows or illusions.

However, it was this state where one could not tell or explain clearly that reflected the ultimate comprehension about truth and illusions!

All of a sudden, Ning Fan recalled the scenes when he acknowledged Immortal Sovereign Zi Dou as his master.

During his mortal severance, he entered into an illusion and acknowledges Zi Dou as his teacher. It was where he learnt his Wind Mist Finger from.

In that realm of illusion, he met his own mother and also Zhihe. He thought that it was nothing more than just an illusionary dream.

However, Zi Dou told him that an illusion realm might not necessarily be fake.

"From the Endless Sea, you entered the Broken World. Your consciousness entered the Sea of Clouds from the Broken World and your Dao Heart entered the illusions of heart from the Sea of Clouds. Among them, have you really seen through which one is true and which one is fake?"

"The current diligent and industrious you may not necessarily be an illusion. The merciless and ruthless you in the Rain World may not necessarily the true you... Reality and fantasy is just the difference of a single thought!"

Rumble

When he recalled the words the Immortal Sovereign Zi Dou had spoken to him, only then did he gain a bit of insight. That final sentence had perhaps explained about all the illusions and realities in the world.

Perhaps Zhihe was just an illusion originally.

However, when Ning Fan was stubborn about her, that illusion then became reality!

When Ning Fan's heart became tranquil, that illusion might then return to nothingness!

'Reality and fantasy is just the difference of a single thought. Perhaps there is no distinction between reality and fantasy originally in this world...'

When Ning Fan had just begun to have a Dao comprehension, he literally cut it off himself.

His cultivation realm was too low and he had only started to comprehend the word 'void'. He did not have the qualifications to inquire the 'truth'. That word 'truth' implied the truth of the Dao. It was the great Dao that only Life Immortal Realm beings had the qualifications to start pursuing!

If the first step of cultivation was said to be pursuing longevity, then the second step of cultivation was about pursuing the truth of Dao!

"Impossible! How could you cause the illusions vanish themselves without you cutting them down?! This is definitely impossible! Since ancient times, even the Life Immortal Realm experts who had come to this place, none of them was able to see through the distinction between the true shadows and illusions. How did you manage to do it?!"

Chapter 413: The Third Divine Star, Condense!

The second stage was Immortal and Mortal.

Standing in the second lightning palace, Ning Fan's heart was so tranquil that it was like it was dead. He would no longer be deceived by any kinds of illusions in this place.

Unexpectedly, this second lightning palace was a beautiful realm like a spring day where sweet-sounding bird songs could be heard and the sweet fragrance of flowers filled the air. Amidst the sea of flowers, there were two different paths which led to two different exits.

One of them was filled with abundant spiritual qi. A pleasant melody from the celestial world could be heard while hooded cranes could be seen dancing gracefully in the air. A stele which was carved with two words "Immortal Path" stood at the entrance.

As for the other one, it looked rather quiet and peaceful. Only a few butterflies flew solitarily in the air. There was also a stele carved with "Mortal Path" in front of the path.

The two paths led to two different exits which were shrouded with thick mist. No one would be able to see clearly what was at the end of these paths.

However, Ning Fan's sharp senses told him that these two paths had different Dao Rhythms.

This is... the difference between an immortal world and a mortal world!

"Does it want me to make a choice between these two paths...?" Ning Fan pondered. The difference between an immortal and mortal which was an extremely common concept in the cultivation world was set as a test here by Lightning Emperor Tai Su.

If I pass this test, I can then get another one-third of the lightning star. But is that really it?

If Ning Fan fails, he would probably face danger. After all, he had learned that lesson during the first stage earlier. Ning Fan could imagine the realm spirit who was also the elderly man scheming against him in the dark.

As expected, when Ning Fan was absorbed in his thoughts, that teasing voice echoed across the lightning palace once again.

"Young Junior! Between the Immortal and Mortal Paths, one of them will lead you to a safe zone while the other one will lead you to death. You have to choose one of them to proceed. If you walk the right path, you can then enter the third stage. If you fail, you'll die!"

"..."

Ning Fan did not place any attention to the elderly man. Upon hearing his words, his eyes flashed with a hint of skepticism.

He did not believe that the elderly man would be so kind as to deliberately tell him the method to pass through this stage.

The elderly man said that this was only a choice between life and death. In Ning Fan's eyes, however, these two paths were not as simple as they seemed.

If one chooses the Immortal Path, they would have to abandon their mortal dust. To ordinary cultivators, perhaps it was the right path. However, to Ning Fan who had gone through the mortal severance in the Sea of Clouds, he understood that the so-called mortal severance was not really about cutting off his ties with his past and all things in the mortal world. In fact, it was about eliminating the weaknesses that resided in a mortal being.

The Immortal Path must not be taken!

Ning Fan had great confidence that once he chose the Immortal Path, he would probably die! It was a path that led to death!

If one chooses the Mortal Path, they would have to give up the Immortal Dao. To cultivators, abandoning the Immortal Dao was equivalent to giving up their entire life's worth of cultivation. Obviously, the consequence of choosing the Mortal Path would also lead to death!

Ning Fan would never let any detail slip past his mind. He had already seen through the evil motive of the elderly man by saying those words.

He wanted to deceive Ning Fan into choosing one of the paths. However, no matter which path he chooses, he would still end up dead. It was impossible for the elderly man to remind Ning Fan in the first place. He was just trying to lure him into his death!

"I will never choose any of these two paths!"

Ning Fan sneered. He flicked his sleeve and summoned a gust of wind. Then, he extended his five fingers and a mass of golden purple mist swirled into the air. The two paths before his eyes collapsed after being weathered away by the mist and eventually disintegrated!

"What?!"

The elderly man was immensely shocked. He never expected that Ning Fan would be able to see through the test of the Immortal and Mortal Paths with just a glance.

As the two paths vanished, the elderly man coughed out a few mouthfuls of blood. His injuries worsened even more as the backlash he suffered was extremely severe!

This was the cost of plotting against Ning Fan.

Indeed. One must not choose any of the two paths to proceed. The idea of choosing the Immortal Dao and abandoning their mortal dust or the other way around were both wrong!

It was beyond the elderly man's expectations that Ning Fan who was just a Divine Transformation Realm ant could discern the difference between immortal and mortal!

What astonished him even more was that not only could Ning Fan see through the implied meaning of the two paths, he could also directly erode the two paths with a strange and frightening technique!

No one had ever been able to completely destroy the two paths!

That golden purple mist... What power does it contain, exactly?! It's incredibly terrifying!

Even the wild and arrogant lady in the past who passed through this stage managed to only do it by luck. Despite that, she could not destroy these two paths just like this at all.

"You have destroyed the Immortal and Mortal Paths. You have destroyed the lightning portal. You won't be able to proceed to the third stage!" The elderly man said as he tried his best to maintain his composure.

"Is that so...?"

Ning Fan did not talk much. He moved forward and travelled across the sea of flowers. Each step he made carried the massive force of the Fourth Level of Jade Life Realm, causing heaven and earth to tremble.

Each of his steps literally trampled on the blossoming flowers, creating a path amidst the flower bed!

"I have already comprehended the difference between immortal and mortal. An immortal is a being who stands at the peak of the mountain whereas a mortal is a being who is trapped in samsara. If the Dao is a mountain, I will be an immortal by ascending the mountain or a mortal if I descend the mountain. If samsara is a prison, entering samsara will make me a mortal while breaking out of samsara will make me an immortal. Hence, the difference between an immortal and mortal also lies in one's will!"

"My Dao is not about being an immortal or staying as a mortal. Instead, my Dao is the path that I myself choose to walk!"

Step by step, Ning Fan walked across the sea of flowers. Step by step, he created his own path.

At the end of the path, a lightning portal gradually appeared. It was the only true exit of the second stage!

Ning Fan nodded his head. He already had a guess about the stages of Tai Su's Three Questions.

These three stages had been left by the Lightning Emperor Tai Su. The first stage was to test cultivators in their perception towards the reality and illusions of the Dao.

The second stage was to test cultivators whether or not they had their own Dao.

As for the third stage which was called the Dao or Life, perhaps cultivators would have to make a choice between their Dao and their lives.

When Ning Fan entered the first stage, he was still a little confused at first. As such, he was trapped by the illusions for half a day.

When he proceeded to the second stage, his mind was crystal-clear. The test of Immortal and Mortal was no longer able to hinder him for even half a step.

Next, he wanted to enter the third stage!

Once again, a ray of blood-red lightning flashed in the lightning portal and it went into Ning Fan's glabella as soon as he approached it.

Under the nourishment of this trace of lightning power, the incomplete and illusory Tai Su Lightning Star on his glabella slowly expanded by another one-third, making it two-thirds of its original size.

With the power from the two-thirds of the Tai Su Lightning Star, Ning Fan felt the lightning power within his body surge wildly like boiling water.

Even though the amount of lightning power in him remained unchanged, its might once again got a few times stronger than before!

Arcs of blood-red lightning sizzled on his palm like the sharp shrills of thousands of birds.

Ning Fan's eyes turned solemn. The blood-red lightning revolving in his hand was too impressive. Bluntly using this lightning power to kill any Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivators would just be a matter of seconds even without displaying any lightning techniques!

Besides, cultivators of the Void Glimpse Stage would also certainly suffer severe injuries if they are attacked by Ning Fan using these lightning arcs!

"This is the power of just two-thirds of the lightning star... If I condense the complete lightning star, I think I can probably grievously injure those weaker cultivators of the Void Glimpse with a single strike or even... kill them!"

After condensing two-thirds of the lightning star, it not only enhanced the might of the lightning power in Ning Fan's body, but also gave him an even more mysterious feeling.

At this moment, he felt like he had become the master of lightning!

This feeling was not especially obvious when he condensed one-third of the Tai Su Lightning Star.

However, after he passed through the second stage and gained two-thirds of the lightning star, his control of lightning power became even more domineering.

He recalled the time when his Spirit Crushing Whip was effortlessly seized away by Hong Yi.

At that time, what Hong Yi depended on was none other than her control and command over lightning.

Although Hong Yi was able to easily seize away Ning Fan's lightning magic treasure that time, she would no longer be able to perform that again now!

"I suppose Hong Yi also has the Tai Su Lightning Star. However, if I am not wrong, she probably only managed to condense two-thirds of the lightning star. If I pass through the third stage, my control over lightning power will be even greater than hers!"

Ning Fan took a step and crossed the lightning portal.

Under continuous rumbling thunderclap, Ning Fan passed through layers of lightning and arrived at the third lightning palace.

This stage was the final test before he could go out of this place.

Once he goes through this stage, not only could he condense the complete lightning star, but he could also take revenge on the realm spirit.

The third stage, the stage of Dao or Life!

The elderly man's eyes were filled with fear. He had witnessed Ning Fan breaking through two stages in one go. He had also witnessed the terrifying might of Ning Fan's blood-red lightning with his own eyes.

Currently, his condition was pretty bad. Even though he had an Early Void Refinement Realm cultivation base, he definitely could not withstand the vigorous power of Ning Fan's blood-red lightning.

As the White Lightning Realm Spirit, he was clearly aware how frightening the might of just two-thirds of the Tai Su Lightning Star.

In actual fact, a complete Tai Su Lightning Star contained all of Lightning Emperor Tai Su's comprehensions and understandings about the Dao of Lightning!

Other than Tai Su, no one had ever obtained the complete lightning star.

If Ning Fan successfully obtains it, no one would be his opponent when he faces cultivators of the Dao of Lightning who were at the same level as him!

"I must never let you pass the third stage!"

The elderly man's eyes flashed with ferocity as if he had lost his sanity. He controlled the formation of the third stage frantically and summoned a few lightning spirits which manifested into Wild Beasts to assault Ning Fan.

However, before these Wild Beasts could even get close to Ning Fan, all of them were eliminated one after another as soon as he raised his finger and pointed at them. To Ning Fan, it was as easy as taking out something from his pocket.

The elderly man could not stop Ning Fan from breaking through this stage!

Ning Fan paid no attention to the elderly man. His gaze swept across the surroundings. The sky of this area was filled with countless rays of lightning which was the power that condensed the two heavenly paths. These paths led to two exits that were located in the vault of the heavens.

At the entrance of one of the paths, a stele which was carved with a single word 'Dao' stood beside the exit...!

As for the other path, there was also a stele which was carved with the word 'Life'.

On the surface, this stage looked very similar to the previous one.

However, the concept that was being tested in this stage was far more difficult than the earlier stage.

To cultivators, in between their Dao and lives, which was much more precious? Between the Path of Dao and the Path of Life, which was the correct path?

Ning Fan knitted his brows tightly together. He stood facing the two paths and pondered. In the blink of an eye, half a day passed with him remaining at his original spot.

He had already understood the difference between immortal and mortal in the past. Thus, he could pass the test without much difficulty.

However, he had never thought about his Dao and Life.

During his journey in the past, he sometimes upheld the Devil Dao while sometimes he also pretended to support the Righteous Dao. There were also times when he walked the path of the Demon Dao. His Dao varied from time to time and it was muddled.

Throughout his journey, he had viewed people's lives like mustard grass. In his mind, the only way to deal with his enemies was to eliminate them. The difference in treatment for his enemies was either against him.

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Ning Fan shut his eyes and his thoughts gradually quieted down.

to kill them once in their current lifetime or keep killing them in their coming ten thousand lifetimes.

For those whom he decided to kill just once, he would give them a chance to enter into the cycle of reincarnation. This kind of enemy just had a different Dao from him. However, he did not have a deep enmity against them. Thus, he could still spare them.

For those whom he decided to kill ten thousand times, he would eliminate all possibilities for them to take revenge on him. This kind of enemy must have had relentless and irreconcilable grudges against him.

Ning Fan shut his eyes and his thoughts gradually quieted down.

Be it Dao or Life, they might be precious to other cultivators but it was not worth mentioning to him.

Seeing Ning Fan fall into a dilemma, the elderly man naturally heaved a deep sigh of relief. Inwardly, he continued sneering at Ning Fan.

In history, there was no one who could pass through this stage.

Some cultivators chose the Path of Dao but they ended up losing their lives right here.

Some cultivators chose the Path of Life and managed to avoid death. However, because of their choice, they lost their Dao.

The elderly man smirked coldly. If he was the one to choose, he would certainly choose Life.

It was because someone had told him this: If I throw a punch at you, you will lose your life. If you lose your life, what's the point of cultivating and attaining the Great Dao? Life should, of course, be the supreme Great Dao!

"In this stage, if you choose Dao, you will die but you will live if you choose Life. However, even if you choose Life, you certainly can't look for me outside of the formation to get your revenge after passing through the third stage. You want to kill me, don't you? Unfortunately, it is absolutely impossible!"

The elderly man sneered but Ning Fan was not affected by his words.

Life was undeniably very important. If one loses their life, they certainly could no longer cultivate their Dao.

To cultivators who wholeheartedly pursued the higher cultivation realms, protecting their lives was certainly their top priority.

However, to an ordinary individual, there were too many things in their lives which were much more important than their own lives. Moreover, those things could even be more significant than their Dao!

Ning Fan did not agree with the elderly man's opinion.

In Ning Fan's eyes, the elderly man could not even compare with the ferocious beasts in the lower level of the Black Lightning

Chapter 414: Lei Shiyi

The Heavenly Lightning Bamboo Tower had one hundred floors. The tower was teeming with undead spirits. Their souls were condensed under the help of the lightning power within. Most of them had low spiritual intelligence.

In the first four floors, there were no Void Refinement Realm undead spirits. Undead spirits of that level would only appear starting from the fifth floor but a majority of them were lightning spirits of the Void Glimpse Stage.

The higher the floor one ascends, the stronger the undead spirits they would face. When one reaches the tenth floor, they would then face lightning spirits of the Void Inquiry Stage!

In other words, Ning Fan would not feel difficulty in the first ten floors. As for the floors beyond, however, it would be difficult and risky for him to move up!

Even though he had already gone through the Void Inquiry Stage, he was still a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator after all, a cultivator who was still within the Divine Transformation Realm. If he faces a true expert of the Void Inquiry Stage, he would have no chance of winning at all!

He placed one of his palms on the door of the Black Lightning Tower. Then, lightning rays flickered and his body turned ethereal. He had already gone inside the tower.

The place where he was transported to was the first floor of the Black Lightning Tower. It was a black desert.

This desert was vast and boundless. Thick, hazy lightning mist permeated the air. The lightning spiritual qi in this place was also extremely dense. It was the perfect place for one to cultivate lightning techniques.

Unfortunately, the reason why Ning Fan came here was not for secluded cultivation. Since he was running out of time, it was impossible for him to stay here for too long.

On his left, he could vaguely sense fluctuations of aura forces within the foggy lightning mist. There seemed to be a fight going on.

Ning Fan spread his spirit sense. Sixty thousand li* (500m per li) west, there were more than ten undead spirits fighting against each other.

That group of undead spirits generally had human shapes. However, they had one eye and sharp fangs. Their bodies were completely naked and their skin was covered with scales. They did not seem to have any sexual characteristics. Thus, their genders could not be distinguished.

According to the information he got from Hong Yi, the undead spirits in this place could only possess spiritual intelligence and manifest both eyes and the basic facial features of a human after they break through to the Divine Transformation Realm.

Each of the undead spirits in the group had at least a Nascent Soul Realm cultivation base. The strongest one among them was actually at the Peak Nascent Soul Realm.

However, so long as they had yet to attain the Divine Transformation Realm, they would have no spiritual intelligence no matter what. Their behavior would be no different than wild animals.

This group of undead spirits were fighting among themselves in order to compete for the remains of a Divine Transformation Realm undead spirit.

The undead spirits achieved their advancements through devouring the remains of their fellow undead spirits.

Whoever could devour the remains of that Divine Transformation Realm undead spirit would have a sharp boost in its cultivation base!

“A bunch of undead spirits competing for a corpse, huh...?”

Ning Fan’s eyes flashed with a cold light. He took a step forward and travelled across sixty thousand li* (500m per li).

When the travelling smoke dispersed, he appeared in the middle of the undead spirits out of thin air. He stomped on the corpse with one of his feet while his eyes remained cold and indifferent.

Seeing Ning Fan who emerged out of nowhere, the group of undead spirits only thought that he had come to compete for the corpse as well. The single eye on all of their faces were filled with rage.

They all turned aggressive all of a sudden. They opened their bloody mouths and spit out powerful lightning rays. Their roars were deafening and frightening.

Roar

Each of the lightning rays was strong enough to instantly kill a common Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. However, when all the lightning rays struck Ning Fan's body, they bizarrely disappeared without a trace.

The current Ning Fan had the Tai Su Lightning Star and he had also condensed the lightning diagram. Even if he faces the lightning attacks from a cultivator of the Void Glimpse Stage, he could also devour them with his new technique. How would he be afraid of lowly Nascent Soul Realm lightning attacks?

He lifted one of his fingers and pointed at them. An arc of blood-red lightning shot out from his finger. In the next moment, that single arc multiplied and turned into ten thousand arcs. Ten thousand arcs of blood-red lightning bombarded the group of undead spirits.

How could it be possible for the group of undead spirits to anticipate such a large-scale and overwhelming attack? Upon seeing the innumerable lightning strikes, each of them hurriedly fled in fear.

However, would mere Nascent Soul Realm creatures be able to escape from Ning Fan's hands? The answer was obviously no.

When the lightning rays struck, the group of undead spirits were instantly eradicated, leaving only the Peak Nascent Soul Realm undead spirit that was already grievously wounded. Ning Fan deliberately chose not to kill it.

That Peak Nascent Soul Realm undead spirit trembled in fear. There was only horror and shock in its single eye. Since it was not far away from attaining the Divine Transformation Realm, it had already developed spiritual intelligence.

It had survived on the first floor for countless years. Even so, it had never met an undead spirit which had such a terrifying strength like Ning Fan.

Even the lightning lord of the first floor who had Half-Step Void Refinement Realm strength did not have such a frightening aura like Ning Fan's!

Without giving it a chance to beg for its life, Ning Fan went straight for its head and performed Soul Memory Searching Technique cold-heartedly.

What he got from Hong Yi was just one-sided information after all.

To obtain accurate information about this place, searching the soul and memories of the creatures here was undeniably the fastest method.

After the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, Ning Fan put down the Peak Nascent Soul Realm undead spirit which had already been turned into a mindless creature. He then pointed a finger at it to eliminate its existence.

From the remaining and broken memories of that undead spirit, other than the complete map of the first floor, he had also obtained quite a lot of information about this tower.

The dark golden bamboo leaves in each of the one hundred floors of this tower was being guarded by a lightning lord. A lightning lord was the strongest undead spirit in each of the floors!

Not only could the undead spirits devour magical items, but they could also cultivate and get stronger with the spiritual qi given off by the bamboo leaves.

It was because of this that the bamboo leaves in each of the floors was being occupied by the lightning lord of that respective floor.

If one wishes to get the bamboo leaves, they would have to kill the lightning lord guarding them.

Ning Fan's gaze fell on the remains of the Divine Transformation Realm undead spirit. He pointed a finger at it to destroy it and obtained a trace of primordial lightning which was then absorbed by his lightning armor.

Only Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits had primordial spirits which could produce the primordial lightning.

A trace of primordial lightning was just enough to improve his lightning armor by a strand which was currently at the second level of the silver grade.

If he wanted his lightning armor to advance to the third level of the silver grade, he would probably need to slaughter quite a huge number of Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits.

Of course, if he kills an Void Refinement Realm undead spirit and absorbs their primordial lightning, his lightning armor would improve much faster. Presumably, his lightning armor might attain the third level of the silver grade by just devouring a trace of Void Refinement Realm primordial lightning.

Other than primordial lightning, there was actually still another unexpected gain which was beyond Ning Fan's expectations.

Killing undead spirits would not produce Dao Fruits or demon cores. However, after what happened earlier, a silver-colored lightning jade with the size of a fingernail condensed in front of him.

By just taking a look at it, he was certain that this silver jade contained a significant amount of lightning power. However, it was useless to him as only the undead spirits in this place can devour it.

Even though it was not of any use to him, he chose to keep it for the moment.

"In the first floor of this Black Lightning Tower, the lightning lord is a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm creature. I can eliminate it with just a lift of a palm. In other words, I can proceed unhindered on the first four floors!"

After locking on to a direction, Ning Fan took a step and dashed straight towards it.

There was no value in killing the Nascent Soul Realm undead spirits. Thus, he did not stop to kill them to avoid wasting time.

However, as long as he meets Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits on his way, he would kill every last one of them and devour their primordial lightning without mercy.

When he arrived at the end of the eastern domain on the first floor, he had already killed twenty-four Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits which only took him two hours.

Twenty-four traces of primordial lightning just barely managed to make his current lightning armor advance to the third level of the silver grade by one-fifth.

Perhaps he would still have to kill at least one hundred Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits before he could make his lightning armor advance to the next level completely.

Other than the primordial lightning, Ning Fan had already accumulated twenty-five silver jades in total.

At the end of the eastern domain was a black bamboo forest.

Above the bamboo forest, rain fell heavily and thunder crackled. The bad weather showed no signs of stopping or changing at all. In the middle of the thunderstorm was a massive ferocious beast which gave off a Peak Divine Transformation Realm aura force.

A burly man in black robes sat cross-legged on top of the head of that beast. It was holding a piece of dark golden bamboo leaf to cultivate.

After sensing Ning Fan's arrival, that burly man suddenly opened his eyes. His eyes revealed a fearsome and violent lightning flash. With a cold tone, he spoke.

"Humph! An undead spirit in the form of a human? I have never seen you before. I suppose you are an undead spirit who has just attained the Divine Transformation Realm. How dare a lowly Early Divine Transformation Realm creature like you intrude this forbidden area of mine without my permission! You're courting death! I wonder if your lightning corpse will be delicious to eat after killing you!"

That burly man licked his lips and rose to his feet. He did not give Ning Fan any chance to speak. He extended his five fingers to grab some lightning. Traces of silver-colored electricity gathered in his palm and instantly transformed into a huge silver-winged lightning bird. It immediately charged towards Ning Fan with a sharp shrill.

The Half-Step Void Refinement Realm aura force caused the earth to shake and the color of the sky to change!

The lightning might of that incoming lightning bird was enough to make any Peak Divine Transformation Realm cultivator shiver in fear!

He was the lightning lord. On the first floor, he had absolute authority to decide whether or not the others lived. He could kill whoever offended him without hesitation!

If he wants to devour Ning Fan, why does he have to give a reason?

“...”

Ning Fan did not have the mood to talk nonsense with this man.

In his eyes, the so-called lightning lord of the first floor was nothing more than an ant that he could crush with a flip of his palm.

Even though the momentum of that silver-winged lightning bird was great, when it came close to Ning Fan, it dispersed for no reason. Before it could even touch Ning Fan, it had already been absorbed and devoured by his lightning diagram.

The burly man in black robes was filled with surprise. He was fully aware of how mighty his Lightning Bird Technique was.

On the first floor of this tower, there was certainly no one who could withstand that attack from him!

“You don’t belong on this floor. You are... at the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm! You must be the strongest being from the second floor!”

“...”

Ning Fan did not reply. He only made a step forward and his figure disappeared without leaving a trace amidst ten thousand rays of lightning, as if he was completely gone from this world.

At the next moment, he suddenly emerged in front of the burly man out of nowhere, standing right above the ferocious beast and threw a punch.

With his physical body being at the Fourth Level of the Jade Life Realm and his terrifying strength that was enhanced by his corpse devil body, the strength of that punch was very close to that of a strike from an expert with a Golden Body. The might of his punch caused heaven and earth to tremble. The might of his punch scared the burly man in black robes half to death.

Facing that single punch from Ning Fan, the burly man only felt that he would certainly die!

Even so, both of his fists sizzled with lightning power as he had no other choices but to force himself to try to counter Ning Fan’s fist.

However, in just one clash, the bones of both arms of the burly man were completely pulverized. He was sent flying backwards while coughing out blood. His immortal veins were also completely broken. By taking a punch from Ning Fan, he was already grievously injured and he was already on the brink of death!

“I-Impossible! Even an expert of the Void Glimpse Stage does not necessarily have such a powerful punch... You aren’t at the Divine Transformation Realm. You must be at the Void Refinement Realm!”

The burly man was filled with fear. The arrogance and bossy demeanor of a lightning lord in him were completely gone.

He turned into a ray of lightning and fled as fast as possible. He actually abandoned his natal beast!

Not only that, he even directly performed a set of abstruse and mysterious hand seals to trigger the detonation of the demon core of his own pet. A dignified Peak Divine Transformation Realm gigantic beast exploded into a thick mass of blood mist!

The might of its explosion could even hurt a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm being!

That man was indeed cruel. Unfortunately, even though he had already sacrificed his pet, he could not even leave a scratch on Ning Fan. Besides, no matter what he did, he would never be able to successfully run away!

Surrounded by the thick blood mist, Ning Fan stood unscathed as he had the protection of his star power.

He pointed a finger at the direction where the man fled and used his Heaven Sealing Technique to freeze the moving lightning of that burly man. His eyes flashed with a cold light.

When he clawed at the burly man, the lightning surrounding the latter suddenly dispersed, making him fall down to the ground. His primordial spirit was on the verge of collapsing.

“Please spare me! Venerable expert, please let me live!

The burly man in black robes pleaded bitterly. However, how was it possible for Ning Fan to spare someone like him?

When he wanted to kill Ning Fan, did he give Ning Fan a chance to plead?

Bang

Ning Fan stomped heavily on him, literally crushing his physical body. With a wave of his hand, he brought the primordial spirit to his hand and searched his soul and memories without mercy.

After letting out a few painful shrieks, the burly man gradually lost his spiritual intelligence and became an idiot. On the other hand, Ning Fan once again discovered a huge amount of information. Besides, a lot of it was related to the second floor.

“Crush!”

He touched the primordial spirit with his finger and destroyed it. A trace of pure silver primordial lightning that had a tinge of gold was then devoured by Ning Fan.

This trace of Half-Step Void Refinement Realm primordial lightning was at least equivalent to ten traces of ordinary Divine Transformation Realm primordial lightning.

In the ruins, a dark golden bamboo leaf broke off from its branch and gently fell into Ning Fan’s palm. The first leaf was now in his hands!

Other than the first bamboo leaf, he had also obtained a piece of lightning jade. Even though it was also silver-colored, it was coiled with a faint golden color. Its lightning power was at least ten times stronger than ordinary silver jades.

Now, he had twenty-six silver jades in total.

Ning Fan scanned through the ruins of the battleground. Other than the remains of the beast and bloodstains, there were no other items.

He also did not linger on the first floor any longer. At the end of the bamboo forest, he found the teleportation formation connected to the second floor. Without hesitation, he went inside it.

Two hours later, Ning Fan trampled on the lightning lord of the second floor and killed 35 Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits.

Another two hours passed. The third floor was cleared and he killed 41 Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits in total.

Another three hours went by. The fourth floor was flattened and he took the lives of 55 Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits in total.

Up until now, he had obtained 4 pieces of dark golden bamboo leaves.

As for the silver jade which contained lightning power, he had already amassed 157 pieces.

After devouring 157 traces of Divine Transformation Realm primordial lightning, his Primordial Lightning Armor broke through to the third level of the silver grade. It could now withstand Late Divine Transformation Realm attacks.

It was about time for him to ascend to the fifth floor. Ning Fan's face was filled with a hint of solemnity. Since it was a place where Void Refinement Realm beings existed, he naturally would not dare to be careless.

He stepped into the teleportation formation. After a flash of lightning, he appeared on the fifth floor of the lightning tower.

He emerged in a desolate desert. Just as he arrived on this floor, he immediately sensed a trace of powerful qi hidden in this place. That qi was approximately one hundred zhang* (3.33m per zhang) away from him.

“Who is hiding there?!”

The divine star on his glabella flashed. As the might of his Tai Su Lightning Star spread, it literally forced a confused old man out of the hollow space.

After sensing the cultivation base of that elderly man, Ning Fan's eyes turned grim.

This elderly man is a Mid Void Refinement Realm expert, an old monster of the Void Inquiry Stage!

After that elderly man was forced out of his concealment, he slowly opened his sleepy eyes and yawned. Grumpily, he complained.

“Damn it. Who is so foolish as to wake this old man from his sleep?! I, Lei Shiyi, was taking a rest here without causing any troubles. Who was it that made so much noise?!”

Chapter 415: A Profiteering Merchant

Ning Fan was stunned. This elderly man who was currently grumbling and complaining gave off an extremely strong aura force. To Ning Fan’s surprise, he was actually an old monster at the Void Inquiry Stage!

However, judging from this man’s words, he did not harbor an evil motive towards Ning Fan at all by concealing himself in this place as he was just sleeping here.

After pondering carefully, Ning Fan found it logical too.

When he ascended to the fifth floor from the fourth floor through the teleportation formation, his landing point was random. How could it be possible for someone to hide somewhere around his landing point beforehand to ambush him?

Thus, he concluded that this old man was really just sleeping here while keeping his presence concealed and that was it. The latter did not have the intention of sneak-attacking Ning Fan at all.

The only person who was to blame for this situation was the elderly man for not choosing a more appropriate place to sleep but rather the place where Ning Fan landed.

To every cultivator, if they suddenly sense a strong expert hiding near them when they have just descended somewhere, they would certainly be nervous and vigilant as well.

Ning Fan had already given enough face to the elderly man as he did not directly deliver a fatal blow to him but only forced the latter out of his concealment.

“Why would an old monster of the Void Inquiry Stage appear on the fifth floor of the lightning tower... According to Hong Yi’s information and the memories of the lightning lords on the previous four floors, there should be no creature of the Void Inquiry Stage in the first ten floors of the tower. Could it be that this elderly man is an expert who had come down here from the upper floors beyond the tenth floor? His name is Lei Shiyi, huh...?”

While Ning Fan was contemplating, he activated his lightning star and lightning diagram to guard against the elderly man from attacking him at any time.

An old monster of the Void Inquiry Stage could equally fight against several Void Glimpse Stage experts at the same time.

Even though Ning Fan was able to kill three experts of the Void Glimpse Stage throughout his journey, he does not have a chance against an expert of the Void Inquiry Stage. What he could do at most was to conceal himself and flee with the help of the Heaven Deceiving Cloak.

However, what Ning Fan had never expected was that although he had disturbed the elderly man’s sweet dream and made him wake up with resentment, the latter’s killing intent instantly dissipated after taking a deep look at him.

Ning Fan was observing the elderly man while the latter was also doing the same.

He sensed a hint of danger from Ning Fan’s lightning star. He did not know that it was the Tai Su Lightning Star but he was aware that it had a heaven-defying restraining effect on him.

The elderly man’s gaze turned away. He had a rough estimation of how strong Ning Fan was and no longer had the intention of making him an enemy.

He opened his mouth and revealed his yellowish teeth. His smile made him look rather wretched. He then took the initiative to strike a conversation with his fists cupped.

“Little Friend, you are strong, aren’t you? Hehe. Are you an undead spirit which moved up here from one of the four floors below? This old man is Lei Shiyi and I came from the eleventh floor. Let’s be friends, what do you say?”

“Eleventh floor!” Ning Fan’s eyes flashed with sternness and a hint of surprise.

This elderly man is indeed an expert from the floors beyond the tenth floor.

He was filled with rage at first. However, after he inspected me, he wore a friendly smile and greeted me politely. I suppose he is intimidated by my presence.

That elderly man was no doubt very strong. Since he did not plan to rush at Ning Fan, the latter would also not ask for trouble by taking the initiative to attack a Mid Void Refinement Realm being like him.

As for the elderly man’s suggestion of befriending him...

Ning Fan did not say yes or no. Instead, he cupped his fists and said.

“Please excuse me!”

He actually wanted to walk away without giving him an answer.

He did not have the intention of becoming friends with the elderly man. The only reason why he came here was for the lightning bamboo leaves. He did not want to cause any other unnecessary troubles.

“You are gathering the dark golden bamboo leaves?” The elderly man’s eyes suddenly flashed with surprise. The creepy and mischievous bearing in him disappeared at once.

“...”

Ning Fan did not answer. The seriousness in his expression became more intense. Internally, he felt astonished.

How does this old man know that I am gathering dark golden bamboo leaves?!

“You don’t have to be nervous. I am just guessing as I sensed the smell of bamboo leaves from your body. Hehe. I always have a sharp nose... Besides, I have not only smelled bamboo leaves... Hmm? I also smell some lightning jades from you. 156 pieces. No. There are 157 pieces of silver jades! Four of them have almost reached the standard of a golden jade... Little Friend, you are very rich. Hehe.”

As soon as the elderly man mentioned the word “rich”, his eyes immediately burned with enthusiasm.

“I don’t understand what you mean!” Ning Fan’s tone was cold but internally, he was somewhat surprised.

This elderly man really has good means. He can even tell how many silver jades I have just by the smell.

“Lightning jades are supreme treasures for undead spirits that can help raise their cultivation bases. They are also the currency in use on the floors beyond the tenth floor. On the eleventh floor itself, those who possess 100 silver jades are all Void Refinement Realm experts. Judging from your expression, you didn’t seem to have heard of the lightning jades being the currency in the upper floors, did you?” The elderly man sounded a little astonished.

“It’s my first time coming to the fifth floor.”

“No wonder. No wonder... So that’s how it is. Hehe. *Dry coughs*...” The elderly man rubbed his hands, absorbed in his thoughts.

He saw through Ning Fan’s cultivation base which was at the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm but he only thought of the latter as an undead spirit.

Naturally, he could not understand why a Divine Transformation Realm undead spirit like him would not choose to devour the 157 silver jades in his hands.

After all, 157 silver jades contained an extremely large amount of magic power to undead spirits.

Or did it mean that Ning Fan had never planned on devouring the silver jades in the first place and he just treated them as currency?

However, Ning Fan had also never been to any floors beyond the tenth floor and he was not aware of the rules and regulations of the upper floors. It made the whole situation seem weird.

The elderly man found it even more confusing as he continued to think about it and thus, he chose to stop pondering on these tiny details.

The current him only had a single motive in mind.

Ning Fan's riches were not little as he had accumulated 157 silver jades in total. Moreover, he was quite strong.

Hence, Lei Shiyi figured that Ning Fan could become one of his customers!

Lei Shiyi was a merchant who travelled around the eleventh floor.

What he was obsessed with was using the useless trash from the upper floors to exchange for lightning jades from the experts on the lower floors.

Of course, whether he would be willing to trade or not still depended on his customer.

If Ning Fan was slightly weaker, he could directly kill him and seize his jades. Why would he even bother to trade with him?

However, the fact that Ning Fan could force him out of his concealment and the sense of danger he could give him made him feel a little afraid. He did not have the idea of underestimating Ning Fan at all.

As such, it was still safer for him to carry out a proper trade with Ning Fan. It could not be any better to refrain from making an enemy out of him.

“Hehe. My name is Lei Shiyi. What’s yours?”

“Zhou Ming.”

“Oh, it’s Little Friend Zhou. Please excuse me for being ill-mannered earlier. Little Friend has quite a lot of money. Are you interested in buying something from me? I am a merchant and I have some good things with me. All of them were obtained from the eleventh floor. Perhaps there is something that Little Friend might need!”

“Buying your things?! What do you have?”

Ning Fan was a little dumbfounded. He had obtained quite a lot of lightning jades from killing the undead spirits. However, these lightning spirits were of no use to him.

Could those lightning jades which were useless to him actually be used to buy something? It couldn’t be better.

Seeing Ning Fan was interested in his offer, Lei Shiyi immediately revealed a greedy smile because he knew business had come to him.

He untied his storage pouch and took out the items one after another. There was no shortage of magic treasures, pills and cultivation methods among them.

Undead spirits did not know about treasure refinement and pill refinement in the first place. All of these pills and magic treasures were once the belongings of those who had died.

Most of the magic treasures were broken and their destructive power was greatly reduced. A majority of the pills had expired and their medicinal power had dissipated.

To the undead spirits in this tower, however, these items were extremely scarce and precious.

Cultivation methods were especially even more valuable.

To the low-grade undead spirits, a set of good cultivation methods would definitely help them break through to a higher grade.

Unfortunately, all of these items could not catch Ning Fan's attention.

He was not an undead spirit after all, but a genuine living cultivator. He did not need these poor cultivation methods, broken magic treasures and expired pills.

Seeing Ning Fan show no interest or desire when his eyes scanned past the pills and magic treasures, Lei Shiyi frowned with a hint of surprise. Other than the feeling of surprise, there was also a hint of admiration.

He did not even set his eyes upon these good items? He really has deep insight. Perhaps he is also an expert in this line!

Lei Shiyi thought to himself.

If he is really an expert in this line, then I really have to take out the good things to sell to him.

But just as this thought rose in his head, he was nearly choked to death after hearing a single sentence from Ning Fan.

"Oh? You also have primordial lightning?"

Ning Fan's eyes glinted with interest. He saw tens of traces of primordial lightning which were in a sealed state from a jade box.

These traces of primordial lightning were excellent items to cultivate his Primordial Lightning Armor!

"Hehe. Of course, I have primordial lightning... You want to buy them?"

Lei Shiyi's face was filled with confusion. Vaguely, there was also a hint of contempt.

What bulls*** is this? How is it possible for him to be an expert in my line of work? He doesn't know about items at all. He didn't want the magic treasures and pills but rather trash like primordial lightning. What kind of insight does he have?

In Lei Shiyi's eyes, primordial lightning was trash, utter trash.

It was because undead spirits were unique entities that made them incapable of devouring primordial lightning. Usually, only a minority of undead spirits which cultivated uncommon cultivation methods would need primordial lightning.

Other than that, primordial lightning was just something of very insignificant value.

Undead spirits could obtain a trace of undead spirit lightning power from the primordial lightning and consume it by paying a great price. However, this trace of lightning power was just equivalent to one-hundredth of the lightning power in a lightning jade.

Spending too much cost and effort to obtain just one-hundredth of the lightning power in a lightning jade was indeed somewhat wasteful. No one would do such a silly thing.

Hence, primordial lightning was useless rubbish to undead spirits.

Since Ning Fan had set his eyes upon trash and he even wanted to buy it, Lei Shiyi naturally would regard him less importantly.

“How do you sell these primordial lightning?”

“One silver jade for three traces of primordial lightning!” Even though Lei Shiyi’s heart was filled with disdain, his face still wore a generous and friendly smile.

One lightning jade for three pieces of garbage was considered to be an exorbitant price. He clearly wanted to swindle Ning Fan.

Besides, Lei Shiyi was certain that Ning Fan was just a novice that had yet to experience much in this world. He was also sure that it would be very easy to deceive him.

“One jade for three primordial lightning?” Ning Fan sounded a little surprised.

He could get a trace of primordial lightning and a lightning jade by killing a Divine Transformation Realm undead spirit. Logically speaking, the primordial spirit and the lightning jade should have equivalent prices.

However, the price that Lei Shiyi offered was one piece of silver jade for three traces of primordial lightning. It was a little too cheap to be honest.

This shockingly low price caused Ning Fan’s mind to be filled with thoughts. Without needing much time, he began to understand that primordial lightning was not as precious as silver jades in Lei Shiyi’s eyes.

When he took another glance at Lei Shiyi’s face, he found that there was a bit of contempt on his face even though it was hidden very deeply. It was as if he was teasing Ning Fan for buying a trash item.

Inwardly, Ning Fan guessed.

Could it be that primordial lightning doesn’t have much use to undead spirits and that’s why they are being sold at such a cheap price?

“One silver jade for ten traces of primordial lightning.” Ning Fan tried to bargain.

“What?! Ten for one jade? Little Friend, it’s already very cheap to sell you three traces of primordial lightning for only one silver jade. I’m actually offering you a price that will give me a loss! How could you still want to bargain with me?”

Lei Shiyi was dumbstruck for a while. He did not expect that Ning Fan would bargain with him.

“Twenty traces of primordial lightning for one silver jade.” Ning Fan once again lowered the price.

“Wait! I’m really at a loss in selling twenty of them for one jade! This is literally killing me. So it’s a no! I can’t accept selling at this price!”

“Thirty traces for one jade.” Ning Fan became even more certain that primordial lightning was extremely worthless to undead spirits!

“Wait! Little Friend, let’s discuss properly. What about trading the primordial spirit at the previous price? Ten traces for one silver jade... What do you think?!” Lei Shiyi’s expression became nervous. Ning Fan was bargaining very fiercely with him and the price he offered became lower and lower.

“Forty...”

“Wait! Alright! Thirty traces for one jade. Deal!” Lei Shiyi finally agreed with Ning Fan to end this sale. He was considerably afraid of Ning Fan now.

If he continues to bargain with Ning Fan, perhaps he could not even sell one hundred traces for a single silver jade.

Lei Shiyi stared deeply at Ning Fan. Now, he could tell that the latter was not a naive individual and he was not easy to hoodwink.

However, what Lei Shiyi found even more hard to understand was why an undead spirit who had a normal level of intelligence would be willing to use the extremely precious lightning jades to buy a pile of rubbish.

“What’s the point of thinking about that...?” Lei Shiyi shook his head.

All in all, these primordial lightning were just garbage to him. As long as he could sell them to Ning Fan and earn some money, that’s enough for him. He was lazy to even care about what Ning Fan was going to do with them.

“I have one thousand and two hundred traces of primordial lightning in stock. It’ll be forty silver jades. Please make your payment, thank you!” Lei Shiyi passed a storage pouch to Ning Fan with a smile and rubbed his hands together.

“If you have some primordial lightning next time, sell them all to me.” Ning Fan gave him forty silver jades and showed a satisfied smile.

“Don’t worry! This old man will take a trip back to the eleventh floor now to purchase more primordial lightning and then sell them all to you! This is my ‘Thunder Sound Jade’. If I amass enough primordial lightning, I will certainly contact you again.” Lei Shiyi gently thumped his chest and reassured Ning Fan.

With that elderly man’s status and connections, it was definitely not difficult for him to purchase some primordial lightning on the eleventh floor.

Moreover, the price of acquiring primordial lightning there would surely be really low. It could be one hundred traces of primordial lightning for one jade or possibly cheaper. Since they were considered trash in the eyes of the undead spirits, they could probably be obtained in many places.

Lei Shiyi felt rather satisfied after he managed to sell trash like primordial lightning to Ning Fan at such a high price.

I think I should get some more trash goods. Perhaps this little friend just loves buying them...

Ning Fan also shared the same mood as Lei Shiyi.

To the latter, primordial lightning might be trash. To Ning Fan, however, lightning jades were the true useless and worthless garbage.

Be it the silver grade lightning jade or the golden grade lightning jade, Ning Fan was unable to devour them like the undead spirits.

Hence, Ning Fan had without a doubt made a huge gain by exchanging one thousand and two hundred traces of primordial lightning with just forty pieces of garbage.

If he refines the one thousand and two hundred traces of primordial lightning, it would be a piece of cake for his lightning armor to break through to the fourth level. Moreover, it would even have a chance of advancing into the golden grade!

If Ning Fan gathered the one thousand and two hundred traces of primordial lightning himself, he would have to slaughter one thousand and two hundred Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits on his own.

Not to mention the danger and difficulty in performing such a large-scale slaughter, if he has to kill 1200 Divine Transformation Realm creatures, try to imagine how much time he would need to find them all and did he even have that much time to do so?

“Lei Shiyi... This profiteering merchant is quite useful to me. With him around, I don’t have to trouble myself in searching for primordial lightning.” Ning Fan muttered to himself.

He briefly scanned past the miscellaneous items that Lei Shiyi had taken out and his eyes suddenly flashed with interest again.

Among the pile of miscellaneous items, he discovered a cloud of dark sea green cold qi.

Lei Shiyi had placed that cloud of cold qi at an insignificant corner like trash. It was as if he did not regard that item as important at all.

To Ning Fan, however, that item was definitely not trash!

“Heavenly Cold Qi!”

Ning Fan’s heart was filled with amazement. He did not expect that he could actually find a type of Heavenly Cold Qi at this place. Well, since he had found it, he, of course, would want to acquire it.

His face did not reflect his internal feelings. He raised his hand casually and pointed at the Heavenly Cold Qi disdainfully. Then, he asked with an unconcerned tone.

“What is this? How much will you sell it for?”

“Oh? Is Little Friend asking about this? It is a type of Fifth Grade cold qi. But I don’t really know much about it. Little Friend, you should know that cold qi belongs to the water element whereas us undead spirits who were born in this lightning tower manifested from the lightning element. To us, the treasures and items of the water element are completely useless... Do you want to buy it?”

Lei Shiyi’s eyes glinted. Indeed, his judgement was correct.

Ning Fan was a strange person. Even though he was not easy to deceive, he particularly loved buying different kinds of trash.

What bloody use would a Fifth Grade cold qi have for undead spirits? Only a fool would exchange it with lightning jades.

However, if Ning Fan wanted to be that kind of fool, Lei Shiyi would completely have no opinion about it.

Since Ning Fan expressed his desire for this cold qi, Lei Shiyi would surely make an exaggerated boast about it as if it was falling flowers no matter how worthless this item was in the first place.

“Hehe. Little Friend really has good taste. Even though this cold qi is useless to our kind, it could also be refined into a magic treasure to enhance its destructive power. However, this item is something that was left to me by my beloved wife. It always reminds me of her whenever I see it. Thus, I am really reluctant to part with it. However, if Little Friend really wants it, the only option I have is to reluctantly give it up... Mates’ rate, twenty pieces of lightning jades!”

“Five pieces of lightning jade.” Ning Fan indifferently replied, ignoring Lei Shiyi’s long-winded speech.

“Little Friend, selling this cold qi for five pieces of lightning jade is really a bit low...”

“Three pieces of lightning jade!” Ning Fan began to reduce the price.

“Fine! Three pieces of lightning jade. It’s a deal!” The elderly man became smarter this time. He knew that if he continued to bargain with Ning Fan, he would not have hope of selling this cold qi for even one lightning jade.

Since it was just a piece of garbage, it was already profitable selling it for three pieces of lightning jade.

Hence, why not agree to that price? Besides, how could it be possible for Lei Shiyi to refuse selling it?

Now, he was even more certain that he must gather countless trash in the future and sell them all to Ning Fan, a king in collecting garbage!

Ning Fan paid for the item and kept the Heavenly Cold Qi. Being despised by Lei Shiyi all this while was not comfortable at all.

However, since the latter could sell him some good things, he did not intend to make a fuss about how he felt.

Forty silver jades for one thousand two hundred traces of primordial lightning. It was a good trade.

Three silver jades for a type of Heavenly Cold Qi. If cultivators in the outside world find out about such a good deal in this place, they would certainly rush to this place to exchange for it without any regard for other things.

Other than these undead spirits like Lei Shiyi who lived in this Black Lightning Tower, who else would treat the Heavenly Cold Qi as trash?

The Heavenly Cold Qi is really undervalued here...

“Hehe! This old man is going to make a move now! When I gather some good things, I will come and trade with Little Friend again.” Lei Shiyi gave Ning Fan a wretched smile and disappeared.

Ning Fan did not care. He only stared at the cloud of dark green cold qi in his palm, carefully identifying it.

“Is it... the Long Sentiment Tears, a Heavenly Cold Qi which is ranked second of the twelve? A drop of tear creates affection, another drop of tear severs the affection. According to rumors, if one refines this cold qi, the Dao Heart of a cultivator will be as firm as a rock, just like a loyal and faithful young lady whose heart will never be swayed by any external things.”

“Just depending on this divine effect of fortifying one’s Dao Heart, this item can at least sell for five hundred million immortal jade in the Endless Sea!”

“Unfortunately, Lei Shiyi really does not know about how good this thing is... Buying a casket of pearl but returning the pearl and keeping the casket instead. That saying really fits the description of this person.”

Chapter 416: Ying Longzi

Ning Fan had to admit that his luck was indeed very good. Being able to exchange those useless lightning jades for excellent items upon meeting Lei Shiyi was undoubtedly a great fortune.

He then went into the Profound Yin World and refined the primordial lightning and Heavenly Cold Qi with the help of the accelerated cultivation speed within the realm.

Just half a day later, Ning Fan came out from the Profound Yin World with his qi slightly stronger.

After assimilating the Long Sentiment Tears, Ning Fan's magic power increased by one thousand units. Now, there were already nine types of Heavenly Cold Qi within him!

To Ning Fan who had more than six hundred thousand units of magic power, one thousand units of magic power was merely a drop in the bucket.

However, Ning Fan was quite satisfied with the added effect that the Long Sentiment Tears had given him.

A drop of tear creates affection and another drop severs it. This cold qi which ranked second of the twelve Heavenly Cold Qi had the unique effect of aiding a cultivator in calming and strengthening their state of mind.

As soon as Ning Fan devoured it, he felt his entire body become cool. During his cultivation, there was not the slightest trace of a Heart's Devil disturbing him and his Dao Heart was also as strong as thick ice!

It's no surprise why this item could be sold for five hundred million immortal jade. Its effect was indeed worth the price.

Ning Fan had also refined every last one of the one thousand and two hundred traces of primordial lightning.

After refining the first five hundred traces of primordial lightning into the Primordial Lightning Armor, it made the silver light of his lightning armor become more dazzling. Without a doubt, it had made it break through to the fourth level of the silver grade.

The remaining seven hundred traces of primordial lightning caused the lightning armor to continue advancing towards the peak of the fourth level. Then, traces of golden lightning rays began to appear on the lightning armor.

When all of the one thousand and two hundred traces of primordial lightning had been refined, his Primordial Lightning Armor was almost completely glowing faint gold. Only one to two traces of silver lightning rays remained.

If all the silver rays on the armor vanish and it completely glows with golden lightning rays, this lightning armor could then break through to the gold grade. It would then be able to withstand a strike from an expert of the Void Glimpse Stage!

“Suit up!”

When Ning Fan willed it, the lightning armor covered his physical body.

When the Primordial Lightning Armor is not in use, it would naturally protect the owner’s primordial spirit.

When it is summoned by its owner, it could protect the owner’s whole body.

Faint gold lightning armor enveloped his entire body. When Ning Fan donned this set of golden armor, he resembled Konjin1.

His body flashed with golden lightning. As the golden light from his body shone, it attracted the attention of countless undead spirits. They spied on his actions and attempted to initiate attacks on Ning Fan.

These golden lightning rays were similar to a delicious dish which lured undead spirits to come at him.

A trace of chilly and frightening killing qi rose in Ning Fan’s eyes. He took a step forward and turned into a ray of golden lightning, beginning a massacre!

He dashed into the group of undead spirits directly. The group consisted of nearly a thousand undead spirits which were at least of the Nascent Soul Realm. The strongest among them were at the Peak Divine Transformation Realm. All of them displayed their lightning magic techniques at the same time.

Countless attacks went towards Ning Fan but none of them could penetrate the defense of his lightning armor.

He spread his sword sense and swept across the surroundings. Nascent Soul Realm undead spirits were shredded to pieces one after another.

He then formed a set of hand seals and summoned multiple black dragon tombstones which fell from the sky, crushing countless undead spirits.

His eyes were indifferent, as if he was back to the times in the past where he was plunged into bloody killings and massacres.

He opened his mouth and devoured seventeen traces of primordial lightning and kept the seventeen pieces of lightning jades away with a flick of his sleeve. After that, he released his vigorous aura force and dashed straight towards the location of the lightning lord of the fifth floor.

Along his path, more and more undead spirits came after him, attracted by the golden lightning ray.

They attempted to kill Ning Fan and seize his golden lightning. However, the price they had to pay for acting on their greed was none other than death!

Shua *Shua* *Shua*

Traces of black-colored sword light spread on the fifth floor.

Shadows of the blood lightning whip snatched the lives of countless Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits.

The number of creatures on the fifth floor was even more than that of the four previous floors combined.

The blood of these creatures trickled down his robes. After killing one hundred thousand Nascent Soul Realm and 105 Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits, he appeared outside a massive palace.

Inside the palace stood an elderly man in dragon robes. That man wore a somber expression. He was none other than the lightning lord of the fifth floor of this lightning tower!

Prior to this, he had obtained some information which claimed that there was an undead spirit from the lower floors who had intruded the fifth floor and the number of those he had slain were as countless as clouds.

He had also heard that this wild and mad person who killed people like scything flax possessed a secret technique that blessed him with golden lightning armor. The strength of that lightning armor was enough to defend against all kinds of Divine Transformation Realm attacks!

All the life plates of the subordinates he had dispatched to pursue Ning Fan broke one after another. That undoubtedly meant that all of them have been killed.

The eyes of the elderly man in dragon robes were filled with absolute rage. When he sensed Ning Fan's arrival outside the palace, he became so angry that he laughed. He smacked the table beside him and rose to his feet.

"This young man is really bold! I didn't look for you but you sent yourself here at my place! Hand over the secret technique of your lightning armor and I'll leave your corpse intact after killing you!"

"Hand over the dark golden bamboo leaf. Then, I might consider leaving yours intact."

"You're courting death!"

Rumble

The elderly man in dragon robes was filled with great rage. He made a stomp and his terrifying magic power which was at the level of the Void Glimpse Stage directly shattered the massive palace, turning it into ruins and rubbles.

His forceful aura force transformed into a golden lightning dragon which rushed towards Ning Fan.

Facing the incoming golden lightning dragon, Ning Fan actually did not plan to evade or hide. Instead, he let the countless arcs of electricity from the lightning dragon drown him.

“Humph! This is the consequence of going against me!”

The elderly man in dragon robes sneered coldly. At first glance, he saw through Ning Fan’s cultivation base that was just at the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm.

From his perspective, Ning Fan, who was merely at the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm would without a doubt be killed after taking his Dragon Transforming Golden Lightning Technique head-on.

The only thing he felt unfortunate was that he had yet to find out about Ning Fan’s secret technique before eliminating him.

However, after feeling pleased with himself for a short while, his satisfied expression was replaced with a look of shock.

The golden lightning rays which shone across the entire sky after hitting Ning Fan were fading at a frightening speed.

“What exactly happened? Why are my golden lightning disappearing by themselves?!” The elderly man in dragon robes was flabbergasted.

That technique he used just now had always been effective even when he faced experts of the same level. Why would such a strange situation happen today?

He, of course, was not aware that Ning Fan had condensed the Tai Su Lightning Star and possessed the Tai Su Lightning Diagram. With them, Ning Fan could absorb all the lightning attacks at the same level as him without suffering any injuries.

He stood in the middle of the sea of golden lightning but he did not have the slightest hint of fear. After his lightning armor had taken in the 105 traces of primordial lightning, the silver lightning rays on his armor completely disappeared. It now turned into a pure faint golden armor.

His lightning armor was already at the peak of the silver grade. It was just a hair's breadth away from breaking through to the gold grade.

It just needed one final step to complete that advancement and the key of this breakthrough was to kill the elderly man in dragon robes and devour his primordial lightning!

Even though it had yet to attain the gold grade, the strength of his current lightning armor could already withstand nearly all of the damage of the elderly man's lightning attacks.

Despite being at the center of the golden lightning sea, Ning Fan remained unscathed even without summoning his natal stars!

When a flash of lightning ray flashed beneath his feet, a blood-red lightning diagram unfolded like a painting scroll, extending into an area of ten thousand li* (500m per li).

Just as this lightning diagram appeared, the golden lightning rays in the sky shook and stopped. Then, they were all absorbed into the diagram with an oppressive force.

Just like that, the full-powered attack of that elderly man in dragon robes was literally crushed!

"Tai Su Lightning Diagram!"

An overwhelming astonishment rose within the elderly man's heart. He finally understood why his lightning technique could not leave even a single scratch on Ning Fan at all but was absorbed by the latter instead!

With the Tai Su Lightning Diagram, all lightning attacks of the same level as the caster can be absorbed!

Ning Fan condensed the golden lightning armor. His comprehension of the Dao of Lightning had already reached the gold lightning grade from the silver lightning grade.

Thus, the elderly man in dragon robes who also wielded golden lightning was definitely unable to hurt Ning Fan at all!

The thunder sovereign had once said: The one who holds the Tai Su Lightning Diagram will be the lord of all lightning!

"Throughout my cultivation journey, the magic power I have been cultivating is only lightning. Even though I have attained the Void Refinement Realm, all of my lightning power will still be restrained by this young man. I can't even hurt him using my magic techniques and magic treasures. As such, the only way to defeat him is through physical combat!"

The elderly man smirked. His physical body had already attained the Fourth Level of Jade Life Realm. With the strength of his physical body alone, he was already able to win against someone at the Peak Divine Transformation Realm. Besides, with all of his high-grade body strengthening techniques, it should not be difficult to overpower Ning Fan.

When he made a step forward, his physical body grew one thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall.

After he had taken ten steps, his physical body was already five thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall.

He had turned into a giant in dragon robes. Each step he took crushed mountains and rivers.

Whenever he inhaled, he would suck in clouds and air. Each breath he took was so powerful that it seemed as if he could also take in the mountains and rivers. He lifted one of his hands and swung it down on Ning Fan vertically, carrying the massive force which could overturn the sea!

“Trying to suppress me using your physical body? Unfortunately, you are too weak!”

Ning Fan sneered. Stepping on the lightning diagram, his physical body enlarged. He also took ten steps and turned into a five thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall giant clad in golden armor.

“You are also a body cultivator at the Fourth Level of the Jade Life Realm?!”

The elderly man was slightly surprised. However, he did not think he would lose to Ning Fan at all considering the grade of the body techniques he had was uncommon.

He hurled a fist at Ning Fan while the latter also threw a punch in return.

Even though both of them were at the Fourth Level of Jade Life Body Refinement Realm, as soon as they exchanged blows, the bones of the elderly man’s fist were pulverized upon contact. A massive force broke the bones of his entire arm and then spread to his chest. That blow caused his gigantic body to retreat one hundred li* (500m per li) away before he could regain his balance again. In just an instant, he was already severely injured!

Ning Fan, on the other hand, did not even move half a step backwards after throwing a punch. He was as composed as before. The force of the elderly man’s punch did not break the defense of his lightning armor!

A single punch!

With just a single punch, the elderly man in dragon robes had lost to Ning Fan. His physical body was far too weak compared to Ning Fan’s!

“The strength of a single punch of yours is definitely at the Peak Level of the Jade Life Realm! No. It’s even stronger than the Peak Level of the Jade Life Realm. It is nearly comparable to a single strike from a cultivator with the Golden Body Realm!”

“Your insight is not bad. The strength of my punch is already close to the Golden Body Realm!”

Ning Fan’s eyes were like the sun and the moon. He dashed past one hundred li* (500m per li) with a step and caught up with the elderly man. Without hesitation, he hurled one hundred punches at the latter in one breath.

A single punch made the heavens and earth darken.

Ten punches caused the mountains and land to shake.

When Ning Fan threw one hundred punches, the skies collapsed and the earth crumbled.

After taking one hundred punches from Ning Fan consecutively, the elderly man’s physical body was completely pulverized. Blood flowed like rivers, flooding the wastelands. His breathing, thin and feeble. He was already on the brink of death.

His face revealed a look of terror and shock. To think a dignified cultivator of the Void Glimpse Stage would actually be afraid of a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator. If others hear of it, they would definitely find it hilarious!

However, reality was always this cruel.

His magic power had been restrained by Ning Fan’s lightning diagram and the strength of his physical body was inferior to him as well. He did not have a chance of winning against Ning Fan at all.

“You must not kill me. I am Xu Longzi, the younger brother of Ying Longzi who is the lightning lord of the twenty-fourth floor. If you kill me, you will certainly be pursued and hunted down by all the members of the next twenty floors in this tower!”

“The lightning lord of the twenty-fourth floor, huh...”

Ning Fan was as indifferent and cold as usual. He was not intimidated by Ying Longzi’s reputation at all.

When Xu Longzi noticed that his threat was ineffective, his eyes were filled with hopelessness.

He could already tell that Ning Fan was a person who would never be threatened by anything. Even if his elder brother is the number-one expert among the cultivators of the Void Inquiry Stage in this lightning tower, it would still not make Ning Fan afraid of him.

Eventually, his hopelessness turned into madness.

Xu Longzi was also an outstanding being. If begging was useless, the only thing he could do was to fight Ning Fan to death!

His mouth muttered an incantation and two dragon horns gradually grew on his head. When he shook his body, he underwent a transformation. Lightning rays turned into pieces of golden scales which covered his body.

In seconds, he had actually transformed into a massive golden lightning dragon which was five thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) long!

His dragon eyes flashed with a hint of ferocity.

The reason why he showed his true form was to put up a desperate fight against Ning Fan!

“Crushing Dragon Roar! *Roar*”

As soon as the gigantic dragon opened his jaws and let out a deafening roar, traces of golden light turned into golden circles that spread towards Ning Fan’s direction.

Ning Fan's eyes remained indifferent. No matter how strong this sound wave technique was, it still had the essence of golden lightning power after all.

Hence, there was nothing to be afraid of!

Ning Fan made a forceful stomp in his golden-armored gigantic body, breaking the lightning diagram beneath his feet into traces of blood-red lightning.

At the next moment, a massive lightning diagram condensed in his palm.

That was a picture scroll which was ten thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) long and the blood-red lightning served as the pen and ink which drew abstruse and mysterious lightning runes on the scroll.

The golden-armored giant held the lightning diagram in his hand at the direction of the golden dragon.

As soon as the lightning diagram spread out, it sucked the golden dragon and kept it into the scroll.

Then, the scroll rolled up and was sealed, keeping the lightning diagram. The golden-armored giant held it in his hand.

The golden dragon which was trapped in the scroll let out frightening and painful roars. However, a brief moment later, its voice gradually grew quiet.

Ning Fan's face remained tranquil. He then spread out the lightning diagram again and shook it. Then, traces of golden ashes fell out.

Judging from the situation, Ning Fan had directly kept Xu Longzi who was already grievously injured into the lightning diagram and turned him into a pile of ashes.

What a terrifying Tai Su Lightning Diagram!

“The Tai Su Lightning Diagram can be used to defend against or attack my opponents. If it’s used for defense, it will turn into the diagram formation and appear beneath my feet. No lightning attacks can then destroy me. If it’s used to attack my opponents, it will turn into a painting scroll and trap all the lightning cultivators beneath this heaven within it. With a single thought, they will be reduced to ashes. This is the punishment of Lightning Emperor Tai Su who commands and wields lightning in ancient times!”

“Even though this technique is strong, it is only effective on lightning cultivators. Besides, to kill a lightning cultivator, their cultivation base must not be too high from mine. With my current cultivation base, I can originally kill lightning cultivators below the Void Refinement Realm with the help of this diagram. I was not capable of killing Xu Longzi on my own. However, I managed to grievously injure him. Thus, it was not a surprise that he would be absorbed into this diagram and turned into ashes in his weakened state.”

“With this diagram around, I only need to beat a lightning cultivator of the Void Glimpse Stage half to death and put them into this diagram. Then, it can kill whichever lightning cultivator that gets trapped within!”

Ning Fan withdrew his golden-armor giant form and kept his lightning diagram. He waved at the sea of blood and brought a trace of golden primordial lightning into his hand. Without further delay, he refined it into his lightning armor.

His faint golden lightning armor immediately turned pure gold. At this moment, it had completely broken through to the first level of the gold grade!

At the same time, the other items he obtained from this battle were a piece of golden lightning jade and a dark golden bamboo leaf.

Now, he was done with the fifth floor after eliminating the lightning lord of this floor and getting what he needed!

“This Xu Longzi was not weak. However, he was still a lightning cultivator in the form of an undead spirit at the end of the day. Thus, his lightning power was completely restrained by me. Since the moment I condensed the Tai Su Lightning Star, I am already the lord of all lightning and have the ability to restrain all lightning cultivators. There is nothing to be afraid of against all lightning cultivators of the Void Glimpse Stage in the floors below the tenth. What I need to be wary of is Xu Longzi’s brother, Ying Longzi who is the lightning lord of the twenty-fourth floor!”

“The fact that this Ying Longzi was capable of becoming the lightning lord of the twenty-fourth floor implies that his cultivation base must be at the Void Inquiry Stage. Besides, he probably is unrivalled among all the experts of the Void Inquiry Stage. With my capabilities, it is definitely impossible for me to kill him. However, it would also be completely impossible for him to kill me. I have the Heaven Deceiving Cloak and many other techniques. Even if Ying Longzi personally pursues me, I will definitely not suffer any injuries.”

“What if I kill all the way up to the twenty-fourth floor in one go...?!”

As soon as this bold idea surfaced in Ning Fan’s mind, he immediately eliminated it without a second thought.

He was in a hurry to accomplish Hong Yi’s mission by obtaining seven pieces of dark golden bamboo leaves in order to exchange for the golden leaves to treat Yue Lingkong’s injuries. He did not really have much time to slaughter his way up.

Dark golden bamboo leaves could also heal and nourish one’s primordial spirit. Naturally, it could also be used to save Yue Lingkong.

However, after witnessing the dark golden bamboo leaves with his own eyes, Ning Fan realized there were two difficulties posed a problem in saving someone using the dark golden bamboo leaves.

Firstly, with the intensity of the medicinal power in a dark golden bamboo leaf, it needed at least one hundred thousand years old spiritual medicine to harmonize its medicinal effect. That was an immortal medicine that would only be used in refining Seventh Revolution Pills. Ning Fan had none of them.

Secondly, the medicinal power of the dark golden bamboo leaves was too strong. It was not something a Void Refinement Realm cultivator could consume.

Perhaps only someone with Hong Yi’s status could obtain some one hundred thousand years old spiritual medicine to harmonize the dark golden bamboo leaves for consumption.

However, Ning Fan felt rather doubtful about this.

“Hong Yi... If this lady is just a Void Refinement Realm expert, could she really endure the terrifying medicinal power of the dark golden bamboo leaves? I keep having a feeling that she is hiding something from me. Fine. I have no interest in snooping on her secrets. If she has nothing to do with Honghong, then I also have nothing to do with her. What I should focus right now is to kill all the way up to the seventh floor as soon as possible.”

A terrifying killing intent rose in his eyes. He marched forward to the teleportation formation and entered the sixth floor.

At the moment he arrived at the sixth floor, he immediately patted his storage pouch to summon his three Void Refinement Realm spiritual puppets.

After fixing the injured spiritual puppet, he immediately went all-out and killed whatever was in his way.

After he gained new techniques, cultivators at the Void Glimpse Stage were no longer that scary to him.

He could travel unhindered in all floors below the tenth floor!

...

Three days later.

On the twenty-fourth floor of the lightning tower, a six thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall yellow dragon which had a pair of wings was lying down on a lightning swamp. He seemed to be asleep.

A black-armored guard then came and knelt on the ground to report something.

Suddenly, after hearing his subordinate's report, his eyes widened with intense killing intent.

“Xu Longzi is dead?! Someone go and investigate. Find out who was behind his death. I want that person's existence erased from the Black Lightning Tower forever!”

“Your Majesty, there’s no need to investigate anymore. This subordinate has found out who did it. In just a few days, the first to the ninth floor of the lightning tower have all been wiped out by a single man. According to some low-grade undead spirits who have personally seen him, the killer is this man!”

Shua

The black-armored guard rolled open a painting scroll which had a drawing of Ning Fan’s appearance.

When the yellow dragon saw his face, he narrowed his eyes and coldly said.

“So this is the man who committed the murder? Very well. Pass down my command. All undead spirits below the twenty-fourth floor shall pursue this evil creature with all their strength. No mistake is allowed! Within three days, I want the head of this evil creature to be presented before me as a sacrificial offering for my dead brother’s spirit!”

Chapter 417: Immortal Emperor’s Lightning Bone

In just three days, Ning fan managed to kill his way to the ninth floor as unstoppable as a strong gale.

To him, there was no difficulty in killing the creatures in the tower at all. Moreover, he was in a place where he could kill without having to worry about future consequences.

With the restraining effect of Ning Fan’s Tai Su Lightning Diagram on lightning and the formidable strength of his three spiritual puppets which could eliminate Void Refinement Realm beings, even lightning experts of the Void Glimpse Stage residing in this tower ended up dead when they tried to oppose him.

Ning Fan could be considered to be a natural enemy of lightning. He alone was already enough to eliminate Xu Longzi. With his three puppets by his side, whichever floor he went, it would mean catastrophe to that floor!

On the sixth floor, there was only the lightning lord left who was at the Void Glimpse Stage. He was surrounded by Ning Fan and his three puppets. In just a brief moment, he was directly beaten to death.

On the seventh floor, there were two beings of the Void Glimpse Stage in total. However, they were still not Ning Fan's opponents. Both of them were killed without taking much time.

There were also two experts of the Void Glimpse Stage on the eighth floor and the both of them were also eliminated without exception.

On the ninth floor, there were three experts of the Void Glimpse Stage in total. However, only two of them were put down while the other one managed to flee!

From the sixth to the ninth floor, Ning Fan had killed 7 beings of the Void Glimpse Stage in total.

After calculating it carefully, 11 Void Refinement Realm experts had already died in his hands.

500 traces of Divine Transformation Realm primordial lightning and 7 traces of primordial lightning of the Void Glimpse Stage fell into Ning Fan's hands.

He also kept all of the silver grade and golden grade lightning jades which the undead spirits dropped after he killed them. Perhaps he could use these lightning jades when he trades with Lei Shiyi again next time.

This much primordial lightning could only make his lightning armor which was at the first level of the gold grade advance two-thirds towards the second level. He still needed to kill at least 6 experts of the Void Glimpse Stage or 600 Divine Transformation Realm lightning spirits in order to gather enough primordial lightning to upgrade his lightning armor to the second level of the gold grade.

However, even though his lightning armor had yet to break through to the second level, its defense was already terrifyingly abnormal. None of the Void Glimpse Stage experts he met in the first nine floors could break the defense of his lightning armor.

Now, Ning Fan had already gathered 9 pieces of dark golden bamboo leaves in his possession. They were more than enough for him to accomplish Hong Yi's mission.

According to the information he had gathered so far, the tenth floor of the lightning tower was being guarded by four Void Glimpse Stage beings.

Ning Fan was reluctant to risk his life to fight against four Void Glimpse Stage experts. Currently, he was already preparing to leave the tower.

He looked at the Thunder Sound Jade in his hands. That Lei Shiyi had yet to contact him and it inevitably made him feel a bit disappointed.

It appears he would not be able to trade with Lei Shiyi once more before leaving this tower.

Originally, Ning Fan had prepared to use these useless lightning jades to once again exchange for some excellent items that Lei Shiyi possessed.

However, he was not a Void Refinement Realm cultivator after all and he had fought his battles just depending on his lightning restraining ability and technique and his spiritual puppets.

If he gets surrounded by too many Void Glimpse Stage experts, there was no way he could win against them.

He had already made up his mind. He then walked towards the teleportation formation leading to the lower floor.

At this moment, however, a group of black travelling lights dashed past the vast sky. All of them revealed their killing qi without concealing it and they seemed to have come for him!

Ning Fan's eyes flashed with solemnity. That group of black travelling lights consisted of more than a thousand Divine Transformation Realm beings and ten Void Refinement Realm experts!

All of the Void Refinement Realm experts on the ninth floor should already be dead. Undoubtedly, this group of experts came from the floors above the tenth floor!

"You bold and wild creature. How dare you murder King Ying Long's brother?! You are digging your own grave!"

The Void Glimpse Stage cultivator leading the group was the lightning lord of the tenth floor of the tower. He released his forceful aura which turned into a sky-high colossal mountain that collapsed towards Ning Fan.

Ning Fan's eyes turned cold. He immediately understood that these experts went after him under the command of the lightning lord of the twenty-fourth floor!

Ying Longzi, the lightning lord of the twenty-fourth floor...!

This man really held great power. He could actually send such a huge army just to deal with Ning Fan. He could actually make so many Void Glimpse Stage experts yield to him and sincerely recognize him as their king!

While the mountain that had transformed from the aura force of an expert was falling down on Ning Fan, the other experts displayed their respective secret techniques. Each of the secret techniques went straight for Ning Fan's primordial spirit. All of them were techniques that specialized in attacking one's primordial spirit.

Facing the joint attacks of ten Void Refinement Realm beings, even his Tai Su Lightning Diagram could not absorb all their lightning attacks.

Seeing their group outnumber Ning Fan, all of the ten Void Refinement Realm experts firmly believed that he could certainly not escape death.

At this very moment, however, a black-colored cloak suddenly emerged and draped over Ning Fan's white robes.

Then, his presence literally vanished right before the eyes of countless experts!

"Impossible! This man is clearly just at the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm. How could he have a strong concealment technique that even we, Void Glimpse Stage experts, are unable to detect him!"

"It has been said that the reason why this man could wipe out the first nine floors was because he possessed three Void Glimpse Stage spiritual puppets while he only had insignificant strength himself. However, judging from what we have seen, it is definitely not the case! The techniques he has makes him a person who is difficult to deal with. This concealment technique alone is already enough to make us unable to locate him..."

"Even if we have no methods to search for him, we still have to find him! Otherwise, how are we supposed to report to King Ying Long?!"

The faces of the group of Void Glimpse Stage experts darkened. They had tried several kinds of magic techniques that could break one's concealment but they still could not detect Ning Fan's traces at all.

After all, the Heaven Deceiving Cloak was a spiritual equipment of the Profound Divinity Grade. It could even conceal the user from being detected by Void Fragmentation Realm spirit sense. How could this group of lowly Void Refinement Realm experts discover Ning Fan's location?

All of them could not locate Ning Fan, but an idea suddenly hit them. They ordered a large group of people to tightly guard the teleportation formation leading to the eighth floor and wait for Ning Fan to fall into their trap.

While the large group of cultivators were searching for Ning Fan, he had already escaped one million li* (500m per li) away. The killing intent in his eyes gradually became more fearsome.

Even though this group of experts were unable to discover him, they had sealed off the way leading to the floor below. As such, Ning Fan would not be able to escape the lightning tower unless he kills every last one of the ten Void Glimpse Stage experts.

“Ying Longzi, you will certainly regret not letting me leave.”

Ning Fan’s travelling light did not move towards the teleportation formation to the eighth floor. Instead, he dashed towards the teleportation formation to the tenth floor.

He was not leaving anymore!

He had decided to teach Ying Longzi a lesson!

With so many experts coming to the lower floors, the line of defense on the tenth floor must be extremely weak.

The killing began!

When countless experts were guarding the path to the eighth floor, a gruesome and bloody calamity had befallen the tenth floor.

The lightning lord of the tenth floor had only brought one Void Glimpse Stage expert with him to the ninth floor. Other than the two of them, the remaining eight Void Glimpse Stage experts who joined their pursuit were experts from the eleventh floor.

There were only two Void Glimpse Stage experts left on the tenth floor. They were in the middle of a discussion while guarding the dark golden bamboo leaf on behalf of their lightning lord.

The topic that they were discussing was actually related to Ning Fan.

“That wild creature was actually bold enough to kill King Ying Long’s brother. It’s indeed an act that could get himself killed. I’m afraid that he should be already dead by now.”

“Hehe. Our lightning lord has personally gone there. How is it possible for the mission to fail? Unfortunately, we can’t join the pursuit mission this time. Otherwise, we will definitely gain a lot of

credit from King Ying Long if we can kill that evil being with our very hands. King Ying Long is the strongest Void Inquiry Stage expert in this Black Lightning Tower. It's just a matter of time before he can attain the Void Pierce Stage. Once King Ying Long breaks through to the Void Pierce Stage, he will certainly be the strongest expert in the first thirty-six floors!"

"If we can befriend this kind of expert by only pursuing a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator, what harm would it be to do so?!"

As the two of them were chatting and laughing, they suddenly heard wails and shrieks of pain from afar. Slowly, the noise of fighting and killing became even more discernible.

The smile on their faces froze. In the next second, their expressions were filled with anger and shock and they roared in rage.

"Who is so bold as to create troubles on my tenth floor!"

The tenth floor was the most formidable floor in the first ten floors of the tower. No undead spirits had ever dared to create trouble on this floor.

Both of them turned into two rays of travelling light and went out of the palace. Their cold eyes scanned their surroundings. They wanted to see what kind of wild creature was audacious enough to court death in this place.

When they saw the individual, the two of them found it difficult to conceal their astonishment.

Right before their very eyes, the figure of a man who wore white robes and golden armor walked indifferently across the mountains of corpses and sea of blood. He would attack every creature in his sight ruthlessly and vigorously wherever he walked past. Countless undead spirits died tragically.

By his side, three spiritual puppets in black robes were also killing their enemies without mercy. When the four of them joined forces, there were completely no Nascent Soul Realm or Divine Transformation Realm beings that could stop them in their tracks.

Ning Fan's eyes shone with a cold light and his baleful qi was so intense that it covered the skies. Within his baleful qi, there were eleven traces of terrifying qi which were left by dead Void Refinement Realm beings.

The minds of the two Void Refinement Realm experts which stayed to guard the bamboo leaf were invaded by Ning Fan's baleful qi after they exchanged a glance with him. They were unable to retain their composure.

"This wild being has clearly been heavily surrounded by ten Void Refinement Realm experts and one thousand Divine Transformation Realm cultivators. How did he still manage to get away from them?!"

"Eleven individuals! It can't be wrong. This man has taken the lives of eleven Void Refinement Realm beings in total! This man is extremely dangerous! We must quickly retreat and join the lightning lord!"

The two of them wanted to flee. However, it was already too late!

The divine star on Ning Fan's glabella flickered. The lightning diagram spread out and trapped all of the undead spirits into the diagram. His intention to kill was set.

"Kill!"

When he gave the command, his three puppets charged at the two Void Refinement Realm experts and surrounded them...

One hour later, this place turned into a wasteland.

Ning Fan stood on the dead corpses of the two Void Refinement Realm experts and devoured two traces of blood-red lightning. His gaze locked onto the teleportation formation of the eleventh floor.

The eleventh floor might be dangerous but why should he be afraid?!

Moreover, Lei Shiyi seemed to still be on the eleventh floor.

I wonder if I can still buy some primordial spirit from that man now.

...

On the eleventh floor of the Black Lightning Tower.

The news about Ning Fan had spread throughout the lightning tower with terrifying speed.

He had annihilated the first ten floors of the lightning tower with his own strength.

Although he had been surrounded by ten Void Refinement Realm experts, he could still vanish right before everyone's eyes.

Even some Void Inquiry Stage old monsters did not dare to underestimate him.

Myriad Treasure Pavilion was one of the forces on the eleventh floor of the lightning tower. The leader of this force was the famous Lei Shiyi!

This Lei Shiyi had an odd temperament. Even though he was strong, he seemed to be on bad terms with the lightning lord of the eleventh floor. He never befriended any of the Void Refinement Realm experts in the lightning tower.

The only hobby this person had was doing business and earning lightning jades which he would devour to raise his cultivation level.

Even though he might normally haggle over a single lightning jade with others, he was definitely the wealthiest cultivator in the first twenty-four floors.

Now, in the Myriad Treasure Pavilion, Lei Shiyi was fiddling with a golden lightning abacus. With a wretched smile, he was calculating the number of primordial lightning he had newly obtained.

“Chu Nanfeng. This old man has contributed 1700 traces of Divine Transformation Realm primordial lightning and 4 traces of Void Refinement Realm primordial lightning to me... Mo Feiyun has contributed 3000 traces of Divine Transformation Realm primordial lightning and 7 traces of Void Refinement Realm primordial lightning... Old Man Yang has contributed 2500 traces of Divine Transformation Realm primordial lightning and 5 traces of Void Refinement Realm primordial lightning... There are still...”

Lei Shiyie revealed a look of excitement. In his trip back to the eleventh floor this time, he had acquired 10000 traces of Divine Transformation Realm primordial lightning and 35 traces of Void Refinement Realm primordial lightning in total.

If he sells all of them to Ning Fan, he would be able to earn quite a lot of money.

In the great hall, five Early Void Refinement Realm experts wore expressions of confusion. All of them were the feudal ranking elders of the Myriad Treasure Pavilion. They were none other than Chu Nanfeng, Mo Feiyun and the other names Lei Shiyi muttered.

They could not understand. They could not understand why the pavilion lord would spend so much effort to gather a large number of primordial lightning.

To undead spirits, these primordial lightning were trash.

They really could not comprehend why the pavilion lord would need them.

“Pavilion Lord, may I be so bold as to ask what magical use do these items have exactly...?” Chu Nanfeng asked with a doubtful tone.

“Magical effect? How would I know what use this garbage has? I only know that they can be sold for money... It’s not difficult to sell them for four to five hundred silver jades.”

“This trash can be sold at such an exorbitant price? What kind of person can afford to buy them at a price of five hundred silver jades? Could it be that your customer is also a Void Inquiry Stage old monster?” Mo Feiyun asked, confused.

“He’s not an expert of the Void Inquiry Stage. He is just a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator. However, this person is somewhat abnormal. Even I find him difficult to deal with.” Lei Shiyi sighed.

“Pavilion Lord must be joking. How could there be a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator that could resist a Void Inquiry Stage old monster in this world...?” Old Man Yang shook his head and disagreed. However, all of a sudden, he stopped speaking as if his tongue was tied in a knot. He recalled the crazy individual from the rumors who had wiped out the first ten floors of the lightning tower.

That individual seemed to be a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator as well. He has annihilated ten floors on his own.

The notoriety of that individual made ordinary Void Glimpse Stage cultivators deeply fearful.

“No! This rumor must be fake. For sure, there’s no Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator that strong in this world! I will certainly not believe it unless I meet him with my own eyes!” Old Man Yang was reluctant to believe it.

“A rumor might not necessarily be fake!”

They suddenly heard an arrogant and powerful voice from outside the door, interrupting Old Man Yang’s words.

This voice carried a Mid Void Refinement Realm aura force. It without a doubt belonged to a Void Inquiry Stage old monster. His aura force was even stronger than Lei Shiyi’s.

“Lightning Lord!” Old Man Yang, Chu Nanfeng, Mo Feiyun and the others instantly rose to their feet and their eyes were staring at their visitor warily.

Even Lei Shiyi’s expression turned grim. With a displeased tone, he said.

“Zhu Feng, why did you come to my place?!”

“I heard you are gathering a lot of primordial lightning. It’s truly hilarious. What’s the point of gathering this kind of trash?” Zhu Feng teased.

“You haven’t answered my question!” Lei Shiyi’s eyes turned even colder.

“The reason why I came here is to take away your ‘Immortal Emperor’s Lightning Bone’!” Zhu Feng smiled evilly.

“Why should I give it to you?!” Lei Shiyi sounded like he had just heard something ridiculous.

“If you don’t hand that item over, the Myriad Treasure Pavilion will be annihilated! This is King Ying Long’s intention. You should understand the consequences of defying him! You have one day. Consider it wisely! One day later, I hope to hear a satisfying answer from you!”

Zhu Feng sneered and left ethereally. The atmosphere in the hall was solemn.

Lei Shiyi’s face darkened. It felt extremely uneasy to be threatened by others.

When the group of experts were deathly silent, a subordinate nervously rushed into the great hall. His head was covered with sweat.

“Pavilion Lord... I-It’s bad...”

“What’s going on?! What happened?!” Lei Shiyi sounded very displeased.

“H-He has come...” The subordinate looked like he had just seen an extremely frightening thing.

“Who has come...?”

Before Lei Shiyi could ask about the details, a young man in white robes flew into the Myriad Treasure Pavilion at the next moment. Smiling gently, he said.

“Fellow Daoist Lei, how have you been since our last meeting? Have you gathered enough primordial lightning? This time, I have brought a lot of money.”

Just as Ning Fan appeared, he faintly released a trace of his ferocious aura. All of the members within the hall were shocked.

“Thirteen traces of Void Refinement Realm baleful qi! This young man has such a fearsome baleful qi. Is he really just a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator?!”

“It’s him! Isn’t he being pursued in the floors below? How did he intrude the eleventh floor?!”

Chapter 418: A Trade

On the eleventh floor of the lightning tower, the Myriad Treasure Pavilion was well-deserved its reputation as a supreme force.

The pavilion lord, Lei Shiyi, was a Void Inquiry Stage expert and he also had five Void Glimpse Stage subordinates. With so many experts in his force, no one had ever dared to enter the Myriad Treasure Pavilion without permission.

The lightning lord of the eleventh floor, Zhu Feng, came depending on the influence of the King Ying Long. Thus, there was certainly no one who dared to stop him.

However, how did Ning Fan who was just a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator get past the heavy lines of defense of the Myriad Treasure Pavilion and invade the great hall?!

Chu Nanfeng, Mo Feiyun and the other three Void Glimpse Stage experts stood up in surprise and their eyes flashed with cold light.

They recognized Ning Fan. He was the person whom King Ying Long had sent out all his military strength to pursue. He was the person who slaughtered everyone on the first ten floors of the lightning tower on his own. He was a ferocious and ruthless devil.

Ning Fan's baleful qi subsided as soon as it appeared. It made the five experts be filled with confusion, thinking that what he had felt earlier was just an illusion,

Was it just an illusion? Could that frightening baleful qi be just an illusion?

"This young man is just at the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm. It's certainly impossible for him to kill thirteen Void Refinement Realm beings with his own hands. Yes. That must be it. He is rumored to have three Void Refinement Realm puppets. The baleful qi that we sensed from him must belonged to the spiritual puppets in his hands!"

"After all, he is still a Divine Transformation Realm cultivator! As long as we don't give him enough time to summon his spiritual puppets, there's nothing to fear about him!"

When they thought like this, the five experts felt much calmer than before. Because of their own assumption, they could not help but slightly underestimate Ning Fan.

They did not know Ning Fan's intention of coming to the Myriad Treasure Pavilion. However, judging from his words, it seemed like he had come to trade with Lei Shiyi.

If that's the case, this man is not considered to be an enemy to us...

With the pavilion lord around, no matter Ning Fan was their enemy or friend, it would not need them deal with him.

“Oh? I have just gathered some primordial lightning. Before I have the time to contact Little Friend with the Thunder Sound Jade, you have already come to my Myriad Treasure Pavilion. You’re really a rare customer.”

Lei Shiyi put down his golden abacus and gave Ning Fan a deep and meaningful look. Then, his lips parted and formed into a grin.

“Little Friend really has a lot of techniques reserved up your sleeves. You can actually get into my Myriad Treasure Pavilion without making any sound. I’m truly impressed!

“Please pardon me for my lack of manners.”

Ning Fan smiled faintly. He did not talk much about his Heaven Deceiving Cloak. Then, he sat down on his own on a seat which was near to one corner of the hall.

Seeing Lei Shiyi had a friendly relation with Ning Fan, Chu Nanfeng and the other Void Glimpse Stage experts felt even more composed than before. They then returned to their respective seats.

It seemed that Ning Fan would not harbor any other plots against the Myriad Treasure Pavilion as he had just come to purchase the primordial lightning.

The doubt which had been bothering them had finally gotten its answer.

So it turns out that the reason why Lei Shiyi hurriedly returned to the eleventh floor and spend a great effort to acquire primordial lightning was just to sell all of them to Ning Fan?

Strange. It’s strange.

No matter what, Ning Fan was just a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator. How did a cultivator with such a lowly cultivation base make Lei Shiyi treat him with politeness? Moreover, how did he manage to get away from the heavy pursuits from King Ying Long?

This young man is nothing more than a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator. Even though he possesses three Void Glimpse Stage spiritual puppets, he still has no chance of winning at all in the face of a Void Inquiry Stage expert and five Void Glimpse Stage experts.

Why is he so calm? Isn't he scared to sit down alone in the Myriad Treasure Pavilion which is an extremely dangerous place to him?

"All of you seems to be very interested in me, don't you?" Ning Fan had sensed the faintly discernible spirit sense from the five individuals who were studying him from time to time. He released a bit of his sword sense and then repelled all of their spirit sense. After that, he talked with a faint smile on his face.

Hiss

The expressions of the five Void Glimpse Stage experts changed.

The means that Ning Fan had used to repel their spirit sense was none other than a sword sense. Besides, the strength of his spirit sense was completely not any weaker than an expert of the Void Glimpse Stage!

"Calm down, everyone. Little Friend Zhou is my customer!" Lei Shiyi grumpily stared at his five subordinates.

Even Lei Shiyi himself found that Ning Fan's qi was erratic, making him unable to see through the latter. If his mere five subordinates were able to discover any details about Ning Fan, that would really be preposterous.

"My subordinates aren't really sensible. I apologize on their behalf. Is Little Friend coming to my place this time to buy primordial lightning? As a matter of fact, I have already prepared ten thousand traces of primordial lightning. I wonder Little Friend has brought enough money with you?"

Lei Shiyi revealed a faint smile to Ning Fan again. While he was asking Ning Fan, he picked his nose and then sniffed the air gently.

As soon as he did that, his eyes immediately burnt with excitement.

“So many lightning jades?! It seems like the rumor about Little Friend wiping out the ten floors of the lightning tower is most probably true!”

“Ten thousand traces of primordial lightning?”

Ning Fan’s expression remained unchanged and he felt slightly astonished inwardly. His lightning armor needed at least another 300 traces of primordial lightning to complete the next minor advancement.

Even though the reason he had come to the Myriad Treasure Pavilion was to buy primordial lightning, he did not expect that Lei Shiyi would have so many primordial lightning in his hands.

Ten thousand trace of primordial lightning were completely enough for his lightning armor to break through to the second level of the golden grade. Moreover, there was a chance that it could even advance to the third level!

Each trace of primordial lightning represented the life of a Divine Transformation Realm undead spirit.

If Ning Fan had to gather ten thousand traces of primordial lightning on his own, he would definitely need to slaughter ten thousand Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits. In other words, it would only be possible for him to gather such a massive amount of primordial lightning by at least killing all the way up to the fifty or even sixty floors of the lightning tower. Obviously, that was unrealistic.

Inwardly, Ning Fan thought to himself.

If Lei Shiyi really has ten thousand traces of primordial lightning, these primordial lightning are certainly not obtained from killing the Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits. They are probably left by the Divine Transformation Realm undead spirits that died in the lightning tower in the past.

“Precisely! I have gathered ten thousand traces of primordial lightning. Hehe. According to the price of one lightning jade for thirty primordial lightning and a discount for Little Friend... Hehe... Bottom price, three hundred pieces of silver jades. What do you think?” Lei Shiyi rubbed his hands excitedly.

“Three hundred silver jades?!” The five Void Glimpse Stage experts were shocked. Even though they were experts of the Void Glimpse Stage, each of them only possessed one hundred silver jades.

The lightning power contained in three hundred silver jades was nearly equivalent to the total amount of wealth of three Void Glimpse Stage experts.

They could not believe that Ning Fan who was just at the Half-Step Void Refinement Realm would possess so many lightning jades.

Besides, they found it even more difficult to believe that Ning Fan would buy a pile of useless primordial lightning at such an exorbitant price.

However, they would never know that the primordial lightning which were useless to undead spirits were excellent nourishment to Ning Fan for upgrading his lightning armor.

“It’s a deal.”

Ning Fan uttered indifferently. In just a brief moment, such a trade which involved a huge sum of money was ended.

The final decision was made!

Lei Shiyi took out a few hundred jade boxes where all the traces of primordial lightning were sealed in and handed over to Ning Fan. Then, the latter paid him three hundred silver jades. The whole process of trading was swift and direct!

Chu Nanfeng and the others were left dazed and speechless. Ning Fan actually did not even bargain for a lower price in such a huge dealing. What a courageous man!

Unconsciously, the contempt they had against Ning Fan diminished a little. At least, they were aware that they did not have such courage to do so.

Ning Fan kept the primordial lightning. Once he leaves the Myriad Treasure Pavilion, he would then devour all of them and upgrade his lightning armor.

Lei Shiyi kept the three hundred silver jades. His heart was filled with elation. Once he devours all of these silver jades, his magic power could increase a lot again.

This dealing was of everyone's delight and satisfaction.

"I wonder whether or not Fellow Daoist Lei still have any other good items. It's rare that I came to Myriad Treasure Pavilion myself this time. I still have some spare money with me and I intend to buy some more excellent items."

Ning Fan still had 10 golden jades and 800 silver jades with him. These lightning jades were useless to him. Thus, he naturally was extremely willing to exchange for some treasures from Lei Shiyi's hands.

As soon as Lei Shiyi heard his words, he immediately clapped his hands and laughed loudly, as if a harlot who had met her adulterer. Without hesitation, he replied Ning Fan.

"Little Friend, don't worry! My Myriad Treasure Pavilion lacks of everything except for treasures. I assure Little Friend that you certainly will return with satisfaction!"

He could smell that there were still a large number of lightning jades with Ning Fan.

He was extremely willing to earn all of those lightning jades away from him.

Suddenly, his eyes flashed brightly, as if he had thought of something.

I wonder if this Zhou Ming will want the Immortal Emperor's Lightning Bones or not... To undead spirits like us, that item is also an item of no use. However, to a minority of undead spirits who cultivated unique body refinement techniques, it's a supreme treasure...

This item is useless to me but it's useful to certain undead spirits. However, those people could not afford to buy this item. Now, that King Ying Long has set his eyes upon it but he is reluctant to spend a single jade to buy it... If it's a normal business, I, of course, will have sold it to him. However, he wants to seize it from me with force. Humph! Since the day I began doing business, I have never done a loss-making dealing. How can I just give the lightning bones to him for free?!"

This Zhou Ming still has 800 silver jades and 10 golden jades... What if I directly sell the lightning bones to him, just as the saying goes: either give up, or go through to the end. There are two benefits in doing so. Firstly, I can shift my trouble to him. King Ying Long will no longer have any reason to disturb me. Secondly, hehe... I can get all the lightning jades that Zhou Ming has! With so many lightning jades, even if I can't break through to the Late Void Refinement Realm after refining them into magic power, I will at least become one of the top experts among the Mid Void Refinement Realm experts!

The only thing I have to worry about is whether this Zhou Ming will buy this item...

Lei Shiyi's eyes rotated from side to side. In terms of business, he quite admired Ning Fan who had a fair attitude while trading.

Chapter 419: Immortal Emperor's Finger Bone

The might of the Tai Su Lightning that Ning Fan displayed just now filled Chu Nanfeng and the other four old monsters who were undead spirits of the lightning element with intense fear towards him.

Their expressions also carried a hint of solemnity. As they guided Ning Fan to take a look around the treasure house, they also became more vigilant and alert than before, worrying that he would try to rob the treasure house.

Ning Fan did not care about what the five of them felt. He stepped into the formation light and swept his eyes across the first level of the treasure house.

The first level of the treasure house was an extremely large and empty great hall. And on the four walls of the hall, space for items had been created. Each of them contained different kinds of treasures. All of these treasures were being protected by the formation light. Without the token, no one would be able to take them away.

The treasure house had four floors. The items displayed on the first floor were items which Void Glimpse Stage experts would normally use.

Ning Fan's eyes scanned around the four walls and was gradually filled with amazement. There were quite a lot of excellent items stored inside this Myriad Treasure Pavilion.

There were Low Grade Mortal Void magic treasures, Low Grade Mortal Void cultivation methods and magic techniques and even Low Grade Sixth Revolution pills and pill recipes!

Unfortunately, most of the magic treasures here had lost their power. Besides, most of the cultivation methods and magic techniques were also incomplete. There were a few of them that still remained intact and complete but they were meant for undead spirits to cultivate. Living cultivators were unable to practice them.

As for the Sixth Revolution pills... Ning Fan did not expect that there were actually such high grade pills in this place. Unfortunately, each of these pills had already been stored here for countless years. The loss of the medicinal power in them was severe. Moreover, some of them had already turned bad. If one consumes them, not only would the medicinal effect be extremely weak, but it would also cause harm to the one who consumes it.

The Black Lightning Tower was a tower of undead spirits. Rumor has it that the undead spirits in this tower were the dead cultivators from a certain place and a certain era.

There were also some undead spirits which were formed from the dead ferocious lightning beasts of the later ages.

Most of the magic treasures and pills in the tower originated from a distant ancient time. Thus, it was difficult to put them to use again.

Besides, there was also no method to bring the undead spirits in the tower to the outside world. They could only continue living in this place in an unnatural state.

All of a sudden, Ning Fan appeared to be thinking of something.

The abnormal state of existence of the undead spirits in this Black Lightning Tower...

He realized that he seemed to have heard of a similar situation from somewhere.

“Yes... I remember it now... Old Ancestor Dong Xu had once said that Thunder Sovereign Bu Zhou had created the Thunder Sovereign’s Tomb using the White Lightning Treasure of the Cosmos. Apparently, there are also undead spirits in that realm which are eternal and indestructible. As for the thunder sovereign himself, he seemed to have also become one of the undead spirits and continued to exist in a state that is neither dead nor alive... Perhaps the Sovereign’s Tomb that Thunder Sovereign Bu Zhou had created is based on the concept and idea of this Black lightning Tower and he imitated the way to create the undead spirits in this place. Speaking of which, Hong Yi had also said that the Void Pierce Stage ferocious beasts which were guarding the entrance of the Black Lightning Realm had been arranged by the thunder sovereign... In other words, the thunder sovereign has indeed come to this Black Lightning Tower before.”

“The thunder sovereign had probably faced the stages of the Tai Su’s Three Questions in the past as well. However, he certainly failed to complete all of the stages. I suppose that at best, he passed through the second stage... In the inheritance of the Tai Su Lightning Star, I am able to tell that I am the first person who managed to completely condense this star after Lightning Emperor Tai Su... In a sense, my potential in the cultivation of the Dao of Lightning is slightly higher than that of the thunder sovereign in the past.”

Ning Fan then dismissed his thoughts and scanned through the Sixth Revolution pills once more. These pills had lost much of their medicinal power. Hence, they would certainly not pique his interest at all.

The Sixth Revolution pill recipes, however, made his eyes sparkle!

It was rare to find an undead spirit who knew pill refinement in the Black Lightning Tower, much less a Sixth Revolution Pill Master.

Therefore, most of these Sixth Revolution pill recipes remained good as new. There was no sign of people fighting over them at all. Evidently, no one had ever tried to seize these recipes.

Other than a few of them missing some parts, there were still twelve pill recipes which were well-preserved!

The marked prices of these pill recipes were pathetically low. All it needed was a single lightning jade to buy one of them but no undead spirit would want to purchase them.

If these pill recipes were to be brought out to the Rain World, they would definitely be fetch sky-high prices!

“Floating Life Pill, a Low Grade Sixth Revolution Pill! ‘Life passes like a floating dream and the Heavenly Dao exists like smoke.’ This pill which can be categorized as a Low Grade Sixth Revolution Pill can conceal one’s qi, deceive the Heavenly Dao and hide one’s self from the heavenly tribulation! By consuming a single pellet, a cultivator will not be disturbed by the heavenly tribulation after breaking through to the Void Glimpse Stage!”

“Life Extending Pill, another Low Grade Sixth Revolution Pill! ‘A single pill prolongs one’s life, increases lifespan by a thousand years.’ This pill can increase a Void Refinement Realm old monster’s lifespan by one thousand years! This pill is extremely good. The strongest lifespan extending pill that I’ve ever seen could only extend one’s life as much as 300 years... If I manage to refine this pill, not just the Void Refinement Realm experts of the Rain World, but even Void Fragmentations Realm experts would also try to ask for a single pellet from me. A thousand years of lifespan can change too many things in a person’s lifetime!”

“Void Glimpse Pill, a Low Grade Sixth Revolution Pill! ‘The void is hazy as if it is veiled; one shall see through it with a single pill’. This pill can aid a cultivator in glimpsing a trace of void power. Their chances of breaking through to the Void Refinement Realm will rise by at least ten percent after consuming this pill! Even I need such a pill recipe!”

Ning Fan’s heart was filled with excitement but his eyes remained calm as usual.

After briefly browsing through the other magic treasures, he returned to the pill recipes section and purchased all of the complete pill recipes in an arbitrary manner.

Ning Fan made another huge gain by using a dozen pieces of useless silver grade lightning jades to purchase a dozen types of priceless pill recipes of immeasurable value.

Of course, in the eyes of Chu Nanfeng and the other undead spirits, Ning Fan was just being wasteful of his wealth.

They had, of course, discovered that Ning Fan was not a Sixth Revolution Pill Master. Besides, even if Ning Fan was really talented enough to possess Sixth Revolution pill refinement techniques, he was just an undead spirit who could only stay in the Black Lightning Tower and could not go to the outside world. There weren't a lot of precious spiritual herbs in this place at all. Thus, it was also impossible for him to successfully refine Sixth Revolution Pills.

What bloody use does these pills recipes have?

Could it be that this young man really likes buying trash?

The five old monsters began to criticize Ning Fan internally. They had the same thought as Lei Shiyi in the past when he first met him.

"This is the end of the first level. Would Fellow Daoist like to go up the second level and have a look?" After witnessing Ning Fan's capabilities, Chu Nanfeng's tone became more courteous than before and he even addressed Ning Fan as 'Fellow Daoist'. Vaguely, it reflected that he had already seen him as an equal.

"Of course."

Ning Fan nodded his head and followed the five old monsters to climb the stairs and go up to the second level.

The formation light of the second level was at the Mid Grade Mortal Void Realm. Its power was more than a few times stronger than that of the formation light on the first level. Even Chu Nanfeng and the other Void Glimpse Stage experts had to consume some body protection pills.

If they do not consume the pills and recklessly enter the second level, ninety percent of their magic power or probably even more would be suppressed by the formation light!

In the face of such a strong and fierce individual like Ning Fan, if that happens, all five of them would not have the strength to resist him at all once he turns aggressive against them...

Even though the group of five experts had consumed the body protection pills, they still could not avoid having difficulty in using their magic power after entering the second level.

Ning Fan, on the other hand, secretly activated his Tai Su Lightning Star. When he entered the second level, he just gave the lightning rays a cold stare and none of them dared to strike him.

The five Void Glimpse Stage old monsters felt even more astonished this time.

They could still accept the fact that Ning Fan could regard the formation light of the first level as nothing. After all, Void Inquiry Stage old monsters on the same level as Lei Shiyi were also immune to the formation light of the first level.

However, even Lei Shiyi would have much of his magic power restrained by the formation light after entering the second level.

As for Ning Fan, he was not affected by the formation light at all... Perhaps only beings on the same level as King Ying Long and the old monsters who are on the verge of breaking through to the Void Pierce Stage can do something like this.

Could it be that this Zhou Ming has been hiding his true strength all this time?! Could it be that he is an expert who is strong enough to rival King Ying Long?!"

This speculation surfaced in the hearts of the five old monsters at the same time. It was a thought that was hard to erase.

They had heard of the rumors about Ning Fan. He had wiped out the first ten floors of the lightning tower all on his own. He had eliminated Xu Longzi, the younger brother of King Ying Long. This had thoroughly provoked King Ying Long who had sent out experts from all twenty-four floors to pursue him and hunt him down.

At first, when they heard the news they just dismissed it with a laugh thinking that Ning Fan who was an inexperienced and newly-promoted expert would certainly die for rashly offending King Ying Long.

Unexpectedly, after meeting Ning Fan in person today, only then did they think Ning Fan had exceptional capabilities and techniques.

Perhaps Ning Fan had really been withholding his true strength!

Perhaps Ning Fan was actually strong enough to match King Ying Long!

Perhaps Ning Fan was truly a Void Inquiry Stage old monster or even an expert who had attained the Void Pierce Stage!

A Void Pierce Stage old monster was a respectful title for Late Void Refinement Realm experts.

It was definitely not difficult for an expert at the Void Pierce Stage to fight ten Void Inquiry Stage experts alone!

If this Zhou Ming is a Void Pierce Stage old monster, it won't be difficult for him to annihilate our Myriad Treasure Pavilion by himself! Even if he isn't a Void Pierce Stage expert, I'm afraid that he is currently not that far from achieving the Void Pierce Stage! That's why the pavilion lord had been so respectful and careful when dealing with him. We must not provoke this man at all costs!

When Chu Nanfeng thought of the rude words he had said to Ning Fan earlier and his actions which might have offended him, his head was instantly covered with sweat.

Whether Ning Fan was a Void Inquiry Stage expert or a Void Pierce Stage old monster, he certainly was not a person that Chu Nanfeng could afford to mess with!

“Fellow Daoist Zhou, I hope you can forgive me for the words that I have said or the things that I have done which might have displeased you earlier!” Chu Nanfeng suddenly took a step towards Ning Fan and cupped his fists to apologize. Indistinctly, his expression looked somewhat fearful.

“Fellow Daoist must be joking. Those were just some trivial matters. There’s no need to take them to heart.”

With Ning Fan’s shrewdness, he had already seen through the reason why Chu Nanfeng began to feel afraid of him and it was probably because he was immune to the lightning formation and that old monster had misjudged his strength because of that.

Ning Fan did not give any explanation and he also did not have the intention to incur the enmity of the Myriad Treasure Pavilion.

He just casually waved his hands to extinguish Chu Nanfeng’s fear towards him. Then, his eyes began to look around the second level again.

Seeing that Ning Fan did not intend to hold him responsible for the previous matters, Chu Nanfeng heaved a deep sigh of relief. Then, he became even more enthusiastic in introducing the treasures and items they collected and were displayed on the second level to Ning Fan.

The second level of the treasure house was different from the first level. The hall on the second level was just one-third the size of the hall of the previous level. The items here were also much fewer.

Even so, all of the items and treasures that were stored on this level were much more precious than those on the first level.

Each and every one of the magic treasures that were kept on this level was at the Mid Grade Mortal Void Realm. Aside from that, there were also a few magic treasures which were in excellent condition without any damage!

Ning Fan was rather attracted by these magic treasures but he did not purchase them.

To undead spirits, magic treasures in good condition were items sold at a high price. A single intact magic treasure was priced at 500 silver jades or 5 pieces of golden jades!

Ning Fan was not prepared to spend his money on magic treasures. He did not lack magic treasures anyway. Furthermore, he already had an Immemorial Divine Weapon. As long as opportunities arrive, it would not be difficult for those divine weapons to advance to the next grade.

Additionally, with his current magic power, he was still unable to wield Mid Grade Mortal Void Realm magic treasures.

Hence, he just took a look at those items without paying too much attention.

What aroused his interest even more was some of the cultivation methods and magic techniques in this place.

Among the few complete sets of magic techniques, one of them was a Mid Grade Mortal Void Realm body technique. If Ning Fan manages to learn it, with his body refinement realm, he would be able to defeat Void Glimpse Stage old monsters and even kill them with his physical body!

Unfortunately, this body technique was extremely difficult to cultivate. Besides, it placed great emphasis on the practitioner's foundations. One would need to progress steadily and gradually to establish a strong foundation and it would take a long period of time to cultivate this technique to the highest level.

Ning Fan made a rough estimation in his mind. With his potential, he would need at least one hundred years in the outside world to finish cultivating this technique.

If he makes use of the accelerated cultivation speed in the Profound Yin World, he will still need approximately one full year to complete this set of cultivation method. He did not have that much time to spend solely on a single body technique.

He shook his head and did not purchase this body technique. Then, his eyes scanned across the section of pills and pill recipes.

Still, the pills had all gone bad. As for the pill recipes, there was only one type of Mid Grade Sixth Revolution vulnerary pill. It was known as the Bian Que1 Pill.

This pill recipe was invented by a pill master from ancient times. It had a magical effect of healing the wounds on the texture of muscles, the skin, the five viscera and the bones. As long as a Void Inquiry Stage cultivator was still alive after suffering grievous injuries, this pill could heal all of their injuries!

Even though Ning Fan's pill refinement technique was extremely far from attaining the Mid Grade Sixth Revolution, he would, of course, not miss out on such a good pill recipe when he met one.

Very quickly, Ning Fan finished browsing through the second level. After that, he followed the five old monsters to climb the stairs again and went to the third level.

The formation light on the third level of the treasure house was already at the High Grade Mortal Void Realm. The group of five old monsters had nearly activated all of their means for defense before they dared to enter that floor. Despite that, they still could not avoid having ninety percent of their magic power restrained by the formation light!

This time, even Ning Fan could no longer enter this level in a relaxed manner.

The Tai Su Lightning Star could make the user immune to damage from the lightning power of the same level as them.

However, the lightning power of the formation light on this level was obviously far greater than Ning Fan's level.

Even with the help of the Tai Su Lightning Star, Ning Fan was also unable to withstand against an old monster of the Void Pierce Stage. Thus, he certainly could not withstand the formation light of this place with composure.

With Ning Fan's cultivation base, thirty percent of his magic power was suppressed by the formation light after entering this level!

Even so, Chu Nanfeng and the other old monsters were already extremely impressed.

“Judging from how much of his qi has been weakened, this Zhou Ming only suffered a thirty percent restriction on his magic power... Is he really a Void Pierce Stage old monster?! Even if King Ying Long himself was the one who came here, approximately fifty percent of his magic power or above will be suppressed by the formation light! King Ying Long is already the strongest being among all the Void Inquiry Stage experts in this tower. If this young man is stronger than King Ying Long, what stage will he be if not the Void Pierce Stage?!”

Disbelief and astonishment filled the hearts of the five experts.

The respect that they had for Ning Fan also increased to the maximum.

Ning Fan, on the other hand, did not bother thinking about them. His attention was completely attracted by the collected treasures on the third floor.

The treasures kept here were far too precious! There were even a few Immemorial Divine Weapons and some Immemorial Star Iron.

There were also many fiendgod cultivation methods in this place!

Most of the fiendgod cultivation methods here were passed down from the weaker fiendgods in ancient times. They were not as profound as Ning Fan’s Yin Yang Transformation and Fu Li cultivation method. Without a doubt, he was not interested in these cultivation methods.

However, when he scanned past the divine weapons and star iron, he suddenly felt like his horizons had been widened.

The Immemorial Divine Weapons on display were labelled as ‘One-Star Divine Weapon’.

However, one of the Immemorial Star Iron that was for sale was labelled as ‘Two-Star Divine Iron’.

Ning Fan suddenly realized that the Immemorial Star was also categorized into different grades!

The star power contained within the Immemorial Star Iron labelled as 'two-star' was evidently higher than the one-star Immemorial Star Iron. Its hardness was far greater than the one-star divine iron!

Ning Fan examined his Sea of Consciousness internally and discovered that all of his four Immemorial Divine Weapons that were being kept and nurtured in his divine star were one-star divine weapons. Only his Separation Slayer Sword was a little different as part of its star iron had attained the standard of two-star divine iron.

The tiny bit of two-star divine iron was probably the one he obtained from Si Wuxie.

As for the rest of the Immemorial Star Iron, all of them belonged to one-star divine iron.

One-star divine weapons could be said to be indestructible in battles below the Divine Transformation Realm. However, when one attains the Void Refinement Realm, all the magic techniques and divine abilities have strong destructive power that could shatter heaven and earth and even crush stars. Thus, there was no guarantee that one-star divine weapons would remain indestructible upon receiving damage from those.

Only two-star divine weapons could remain intact in fights between Void Refinement Realm experts.

Ning Fan's eyes locked onto that piece of two-star divine iron and then slowly burned with excitement.

If he purchases this piece of divine iron and refines it into his magic treasure, he definitely could greatly improve the might of his Immemorial Divine Weapons.

In the Black Lightning Tower, undead spirits were unable to cultivate Immemorial Divine or Devil Veins. Hence, the Immemorial Divine Weapons and cultivation methods were extremely cheap. Each of them only cost around ten pieces of silver grade lightning jades.

Ning Fan no longer hesitated. He decided to buy all of the Immemorial Divine Weapons, fiendgod cultivation methods including that piece of two-star divine iron. In total, he spent 200 silver jades.

Even though the one-star divine weapons and ordinary fiendgod cultivation methods were not necessities to Ning Fan, these items were worth a great amount of money in the outside world. Buying them would naturally not make him suffer losses.

Seeing Ning Fan spend a great sum of money to buy a pile of trash, Chu Nanfeng and the other old monsters could not help but praise him for his generosity.

They had recognized Ning Fan as a Void Pierce Stage old monster who possessed a vast amount of wealth.

Therefore, no one dared to criticize Ning Fan for being wasteful in spending his money.

The two-star divine iron which was as large as his palm was probably just enough to refine the iron composition of his Separation Slayer Sword and upgrade it. Even so, Ning Fan's mood was not bad.

However, after he finished browsing the third level, his heart felt a hint of disappointment.

There were only two to three types of High Grade Sixth Revolution pill recipes on the third level. Besides, all of them were incomplete and there was no point in buying them.

Other than the two-star divine iron, Ning Fan did not seem to have any other gains on the third level.

He intended to go to the fourth level but Chu Nanfeng and the others did not dare to enter that level.

The formation light of the fourth level was at the Peak Grade Mortal Void Realm. With their current cultivation bases, they would either be injured or dead after entering the formation light!

Keeping an eye on Ning Fan? Hehe. The five of them were merely Void Glimpse Stage experts. What qualifications do they have to watch over a Void Pierce Stage expert?

Eliminating the whole Myriad Treasure Pavilion was as easy as raising one's hands to a Void Pierce Stage expert. It would be similar to blowing off dust to ask them to wipe out the twenty-four floors.

Even if Ning Fan insists on robbing the treasure house, who would dare stop him?

No. Ning Fan already had the strength of the Void Pierce Stage, why would he even need to rob them? All he needed was just to open his mouth and request for the things he wanted. Even Lei Shiyi would also have to give him face.

The reason why Lei Shiyi dared not to give King Ying Long some face was because the latter had yet to attain the Void Pierce Stage.

If he is a Void Pierce Stage old monster, would Lei Shiyi be bold enough to mess with him?

"Our cultivation bases are weak. We reckon that it's better that we don't enter the fourth level. Since the fourth level is not very large, Fellow Daoist can enter on your own. We'll just stand outside and look." Chu Nanfeng said with an awkward smile.

"Alright."

Ning Fan could tell how powerful the formation light of the fourth level was. Thus, he also did not force the five of them to enter.

When he took a step into the fourth level, seventy percent of his magic power was suppressed by the formation despite the ability of his lightning star.

The fourth level was also the highest level of the treasure house. It was just tens of zhang* (3.33m per zhang) wide.

There were no magic treasures, cultivation methods, pills and pill recipes displayed on this level. In contrast, this level exhibited some other excellent items.

On Ning Fan's left, there was a piece of lightning jade which carried a tinge of black within its gold color. A black grade lightning jade could only be obtained after a Void Fragmentation Realm undead spirit died. However, there was never a Void Fragmentation Realm being in the lightning tower. The highest cultivation realm among the undead spirits of this tower was just at the Peak Void Refinement Realm which was also regarded as the Absolute Void Stage. After an old monster of the Absolute Void Stage dies, the lightning jade it would leave behind would carry a tinge of black on its golden surface.

This piece of lightning jade was priced at twenty gold jades. Ning Fan could not afford it and neither would he decide to buy it.

He was not an undead spirit. A half-black lightning jade had no use to him.

His gaze shifted to his right. All of a sudden, he was slightly stunned.

The things that were placed on his right were all Crystals of Inheritance. There were fourteen of them in total!

These Crystals of Inheritance were perfectly sealed. Perhaps they were left behind by an expert before perishing.

However, there was a drawback in these Crystals of Inheritance. Undead spirits were unable to use them but no one knew what kind of inheritance was inside those crystals.

Even so, the marked price was not cheap as well. A single Crystal of Inheritance cost 50 silver jades!

Buying all of these memory crystals were equivalent to a gamble. You don't know what they contained. Perhaps they just contained the final words of an old monster before breathing his last breath and there was no cultivation method inheritance.

But since the lightning jades were useless to Ning Fan, he was rather pleased to buy all of these crystals and check out what messages and inheritances were inside them.

He reached out one of his hands and intended to obtain those crystals. Suddenly, a strange and enigmatic voice echoed from behind him.

“Little Friend, you are indeed a living person... You are just like that Thunder Sovereign Bu Zou. You are a cultivator from the outside world who came into this lightning tower, aren't you?”

Ning Fan turned around and saw Lei Shiyi right behind him. He held a jade box which was tightly sealed. His face formed a broad meaningful smile, revealing his yellow teeth.

“I have really underestimated Fellow Daoist's insight... Precisely. I am indeed a living person. Compared to undead spirits like you, I am not one of your kind. So are you going to act against me and eliminate me?”

The atmosphere turned serious all of a sudden, as if both of them were about to fight.

But at the next moment, Lei Shiyi let out a hearty laughter.

“Whether you are living or undead, what does it have to do with me? When I do business, I just look at money. That's it. However, if you are a living person, that's even better. I have gone to take an item just now. To undead spirits, only a few of my kind can possibly use it. To living people, however... This is a priceless treasure! I suppose Fellow Daoist would want it very much.”

As Lei Shiyi finished speaking, he gradually opened the jade box in his hand.

Suddenly, a terrifying lightning might spread out from within the jade box. Just a trace of its aura was as heavy as one thousand mountains. It nearly caused heaven and earth to collapse!

There was only a finger bone in the jade box.

This finger bone was priceless!

“This is... The Immortal Emperor's Finger Bone!”

Ning Fan's eyes revealed a look of utter surprise for the first time.

Chapter 420: An Agreement

Ning Fan could not conceal his surprise. It was all because this small finger bone was just simply too precious!

The First Step of Dao Cultivation was the seven cultivation realms. Even a Void Fragmentation Realm old monster was just at the seventh cultivation realm of the First Step. An expert of that level had yet to truly become an immortal.

Once a cultivator successfully becomes an immortal, they would move on to the Second Step of Dao Cultivation which was separated into three different realms.

With Ning Fan's current knowledge and understanding, he only knew the first realm of the Second Step which was the Life Immortal Realm consisting of two major levels namely the Human Immortal Realm and Ghost Immortal Realm.

The second realm of the Second Step was the True Immortal Realm. This realm was separated into three major levels. The first level was known as the Crossing Truth Realm while the second level was the Shedding Void Realm. As for the third level, it is currently still unknown.

Above the True Immortal Realm, there was still a third realm before completing the Second Step of Dao Cultivation.

Only those immortals who had attained the pinnacle of the Second Step and were unrivalled in the Four Heavens deserved the title of Immortal Emperor!

This bone was not the same with a finger bone from a Bone Sovereign who was just a Void Fragmentation Realm cultivator. Instead, it was the bone of one of the strongest immortals in the Four Heavens!

If news about this finger bone were to spread in the Rain World, it would probably lead to bloodshed among Void Fragmentation Realm old monsters. Aside from that, countless immortals would secretly descend to the mortal world at the risk of violating the heavenly rules just to obtain this bone!

Ning Fan would have felt nothing if he did not see this bone before.

However, since he had already seen it with his own very eyes, he certainly would be determined to get it.

If I refine this bone into my body...

Ning Fan's eyes glinted with sternness and indifferently said.

"How much are you selling this bone for?"

He believed Lei Shiyi had the intention of selling it to him since he had already taken out this bone to show it to him. Otherwise, there was no need for him to do such an unnecessary thing.

From Ning Fan's perspective, however, this Lei Shiyi was a profiteering merchant no matter what. It was impossible for him to sell the Immortal Emperor's Finger Bone to Ning Fan at a low price.

Well, it was extremely normal for a cunning merchant to hoard excellent items and sell them at sky-high prices to make excessive profits.

If the price that Lei Shiyi offers is too high, Ning Fan would then just seize it from him! After all, he was not a merchant who would go along with the rules.

“Little Friend’s eyes are a little too scary which makes this old man not dare to name a price...”

Lei Shiyi closed the jade box and gave Ning Fan a deep and meaningful look.

He was not a fool. Previously, he had let Ning Fan take advantage of him because he was unaware that the latter was actually a living person.

Now, since he had already found out Ning Fan’s identity as a living person, he naturally realized that the person who benefitted the most from their trade earlier was actually Ning Fan.

With his level of intelligence, he could certainly tell how determined Ning Fan was in obtaining the finger bone. If he could not obtain it using lightning jades, he would then seize it from him by force.

If that happens, it would not matter that much to Lei Shiyi since the Immortal Emperor’s Finger Bone was a hot potato for him. Ning Fan was a living person. It was completely impossible for him to be concerned about the lightning jades.

Hence, Lei Shiyi understood that no matter how much he charges Ning Fan for the finger bone, the latter would never refuse so long as it can be paid using the lightning jades he obtained.

“I want lightning jades. I want all the lightning jades you obtain before you leave the Black Lightning Tower! If you agree to this, this finger bone will be yours from now onwards!”

“It’s a deal.”

Ning Fan agreed immediately without any hesitation. To undead spirits, lightning jades were items that could increase their magic power. To him, however, these were completely useless. Even if he does not give them to Lei Shiyi, they would only become garbage that occupies space in his pouch.

The price that Lei Shiyi offered was not that excessive.

Besides, this profiteering merchant had become a little smarter than before.

What he wanted was all the lightning jades that Ning Fan obtains before leaving the Black Lightning Tower.

He was certain that there would be a great battle between Ning Fan and King Ying Long. Countless undead spirits would die in this battle. Ning Fan could then obtain a massive amount of lightning jades and all of them would belong to Lei Shiyi in the end.

Even though the Immortal Emperor's Finger Bone was precious, it was impossible to sell it at a very high price even if he sells it to other undead spirits.

Experts at the same level as Lei Shiyi would not have too much money. As for the Void Pierce Stage old monsters, if they know that Lei Shiyi has this item, they would not even need to buy it as they can just directly seize it away from him.

"This treasure belongs to you now!"

Lei Shiyi laughed heartily and passed the jade box to Ning Fan in a very straightforward manner. His eyes flashed with a hint of surprise and also a hint of relief.

That subtle expression on his face did not escape from Ning Fan's observation.

Ning Fan took the jade box and felt a little stunned in his mind.

This Lei Shiyi really believes in me this much? He dares to hand the item to me first before I have even paid for it.

Then, he took a closer look at Lei Shiyi's expression and he felt like he had understood something.

The surprise and delight in Lei Shiyi's eyes were naturally of him being satisfied that he could sell the finger bone for a good price.

As for that hint of relief, what was he feeling relieved about?

It was like he had just let go of a large, heavy rock within his heart.

Ning Fan thought to himself.

Could it be that this Immortal Emperor's Finger Bone is actually a hot potato to Lei Shiyi?

Mm. That's very likely to be the case.

After pondering carefully, he found out that this Lei Shiyi seemed like he could not wait to sell this finger bone to him.

"Congratulations to Pavilion Lord Lei for successfully avoiding a calamity."

Ning Fan kept the jade box. He was insinuating something by saying those words. What Ning Fan said startled the other party after hearing those words as he had seen through the latter's plan behind this trade. Internally, he was impressed by Ning Fan's insight and thus, he also no longer concealed that fact from him.

Telling lies in front of a smart person would only have an adverse effect.

"Precisely. Just like what Little Friend has guessed, this finger bone is indeed a little troublesome. That King Ying Long wants to obtain this finger bone but he is reluctant to pay for it. Hehe. That's why this old man decided to sell it to you. After all, you aren't a stingy person."

"Oh? So in this case, if I eliminate King Ying Long, it will be equivalent to doing a great deed for Pavilion Lord. According to the rules of the Myriad Treasure Pavilion, how is Pavilion Lord going to return the favor if I do such a kind deed for you?" Ning Fan spoke with a fake smile.

"Hehe. These fourteen Crystals of Inheritance will be given to Little Friend as a gift. What do you think?"

“Do you think that’s enough? Those fourteen crystals are only worth 700 silver jades... Currently, I am not short of silver jades. I am only short of hands.” Ning Fan said calmly.

“Hehe. Little Friend can directly say what condition you have in mind. As long as it is reasonable and does not hurt the foundation of my Myriad Treasure Pavilion, it isn’t impossible for this old man to give a bit of support to Little Friend. However, if you want me to fight King Ying Long with my Myriad Treasure Pavilion, I will recommend that you go find someone more qualified than me. I can’t gamble the lives of the brothers under me!”

Lei Shiyi’s expression turned a little serious. He could already guess what Ning Fan’s want him to do.

Asking me and my entire Myriad Treasure Pavilion to join him and fight the final battle against King Ying Long, huh...?

He was not unwilling to go against King Ying Long. As a matter of fact, he hated King Ying Long in the first place. Speaking of which, how many Void Inquiry Stage old monsters on the first twenty-four floors liked being ruled by King Ying Long?

The lightning lord of the eleventh floor, Zhu Feng, was one of King Ying Long’s subordinates. That was also the reason why Lei Shiyi was on bad terms with him.

Honestly speaking, if Ning Fan could really kill Zhu Feng and King Ying Long, Lei Shiyi would be extremely pleased.

Moreover, Lei Shiyi believed that other than the servile followers of King Ying Long on the first twenty-four floors, most of the Void Inquiry Stage old monsters would not help King Ying Long to deal with Ning Fan.

However, Lei Shiyi did not think Ning Fan had the strength to kill King Ying Long.

Therefore, even if he wants to help Ning Fan, it would be impossible for him to help him to a point where King Ying Long would regard him as an enemy as well.

Lei Shiyi's words had already revealed his bottom-line.

"A bit of support, huh... Fine. I will keep these Crystals of Inheritance. But I wonder to what extent the 'bit of support' that Pavilion Lord Lei could give?"

Ning Fan knew that Lei Shiyi would not dare to directly go against King Ying Long and he was not going to force him to do so. Golden purple smoke swirled from his palm and he directly put his hand into the formation light, disregarding its power. He took out the fourteen crystals within the formation and kept all of them into his storage pouch. Then, he separated all of the lightning jades he had into another pouch and handed it over to Lei Shiyi.

Lei Shiyi's eyes narrowed grimly after witnessing Ning Fan break the formation with his golden purple mist. The power contained within that golden purple mist was too terrifying. He could not see through it at all!

After receiving the storage pouch, Lei Shiyi gently tossed it in his hands. He looked serious and pensive.

Perhaps Ning Fan would really be able to kill King Ying Long. If Lei Shiyi helps Ning Fan this time, he would probably be able to form a friendly tie with him in the future.

However, he had too many brothers behind his back. He could not put their lives on the line.

"I'm sorry. This old man can at most help Little Friend get rid of Zhu Feng and assist you in ascending to the eleventh floor. Even if King Ying Long asks about this matter, I can still explain that it was a result of our private fight."

"Is that so...? That's fine too. Three days! Three days later, I will return to the Myriad Treasure Pavilion. Then, I will kill all the way up to the eleventh floor. I hope Pavilion Lord can provide as much support as you can at that time. After all, the more undead spirits I kill, the more lightning jades I will obtain. When I leave this tower, these lightning jades will all still fall into Fellow Daoist's pocket."

As soon as Ning Fan finished talking, he draped a cloak over his body and literally vanished beside Lei Shiyi. He had probably already left.

Seeing Ning Fan disappear into thin air, Lei Shiyi's eyes were filled with amazement. In the past when he heard rumors claiming that Ning Fan escaped from the pursuit of ten Void Glimpse Stage experts, he did not know how he did it and he even doubted the authenticity of these rumors. It was only now that he knew that Ning Fan's concealment technique was actually so heaven-defying.

With such a technique, it would certainly be impossible for King Ying Long to kill Ning Fan!

No. Other than Void Fragmentation Realm experts, no one could see through Ning Fan's concealment. With that being said, who else could find him and eliminate him?!

"King Ying Long is someone that can't be provoked. This young man, however, is even much more terrifying than him..."

"It seems like this young man will certainly not leave the matter just like that if I don't really put in some effort this time. Even though he carries a faint smile in every word he says during our conversation, his smile somehow made me feel a little afraid... His baleful qi is a bit too strong."

Lei Shiyi's mood was a bit complicated. However, when he recalled that he was going to make a killing soon, his mood became extremely good again.

He walked out of the formation light of the fourth level. Outside the formation, the five old monsters who had been waiting there were filled with confusion.

Since they were separated from Lei Shiyi and Ning Fan by the formation light, they were unable to hear their conversation.

But they saw Lei Shiyi take out an extremely precious item, the Immortal Emperor's Finger Bone, and gave it to Ning Fan.

After that, they saw Ning Fan take out a terrifying cloak, draped it over his body and then vanished into thin air right before their very eyes!

Incomprehensible. All of this was too incomprehensible!

Without giving them a chance to ask, Lei Shiyi directly gave an order with an imposing tone.

“Be prepared for battle. Three days later, all members shall move out... There will be a great battle!”

“A great battle? What great battle?” Chu Nanfeng asked with confusion.

“The final battle against Zhu Feng!”

“What?! P-Pavilion Lord, are you joking with us? That Zhu Feng is extremely strong. Pavilion Lord has battled with him eleven times but ended up being defeated each and every time...”

“Therefore, this old man will never lose again this time. Do you think all the lightning jades that I have earned in recent years had been used on a dog’s body? Er...”

Lei Shiyi suddenly paused. He seemed to have just scolded himself.

“Get lost! No more objections are allowed! If someone still objects, I will spray dog sh** on his whole face! Er...”

It seemed like he scolded himself once more...

Seeing Lei Shiyi’s expression become more and more ghastly, Chu Nanfeng and the rest obediently shut their mouths. None of them dared to talk back at all.

All five of them had received great kindness from Lei Shiyi. If it was not for him, the five of them would never be able to live until today, let alone have a chance to attain the Void Refinement Realm.

Thus, even if Lei Shiyi wanted them to sacrifice themselves, they would not have any objections. In regards to the upcoming battle against Zhu Feng, they also did not think that Lei Shiyi would certainly lose.

In the past several centuries, Lei Shiyi had been earning lightning jades with great effort for him to devour. Now, his magic power was already far greater than before. This time, he might not necessarily lose to Zhu Feng.

“Since Pavilion Lord wants to go to battle, we will fight to death for you!” The five of them cupped their fists simultaneously as loyalty filled their chests.

When Zhu Feng arrogantly and casually came to the Myriad Treasure Pavilion and said that he would annihilate the entire Myriad Treasure Pavilion if Lei Shiyi does not hand over the emperor’s bone, he had already touched their reverse scale and infuriated them.

If there will be a battle, then bring it on!

...

Actually, Ning Fan did not actually leave the Myriad Treasure Pavilion immediately.

After he turned invisible, he stayed in the Myriad Treasure Pavilion for quite some time. He eavesdropped on the order that Lei Shiyi had given to the five old monsters and had also seen all the members of the pavilion preparing for battle.

Even though he had already met Lei Shiyi several times, it was still impossible for him to completely trust the latter in their cooperation.

After observing the situation for quite some time, he was gradually convinced that Lei Shiyi indeed had the intention to help him eliminate Zhu Feng. Thus, he could be considered as a reliable person.

Although Lei Shiyi’s behavior was somewhat despicable, he certainly had a certain level of charisma in him in order to make the five subordinates follow him even if it meant death for them.

Ning Fan could now be less worried about the Myriad Treasure Pavilion and focus on improving some of his means within the coming three days.

After he was now a million li* (500m per li) away from the Myriad Treasure Pavilion, he took off the invisibility cloak and directly entered the Profound Yin World.

He scanned the thatched cottage with his spirit sense. After seeing that Luo You was still sleeping soundly, he shook his head. He did not place any hope in Luo You helping him wipe out the Black Lightning Tower.

He sat down in a meditative position in the Profound Yin World. Then, he patted his storage pouch and took out a few hundred jade boxes. When he exerted his magic power, he made all of them float in the air.

Tens of traces of primordial lightning were sealed inside each of these jade boxes.

There were ten thousand traces of primordial lightning here in total. If Ning Fan devours all of them, the grade of his Primordial Lightning Armor would be raised to a terrifying level.

With the sword qi from one of his fingers, he cut open a jade box. He opened his mouth and absorbed all the primordial lightning into his abdomen and refined them into the lightning armor in his dantian.

Within his dantian, his primordial spirit which was the size of his palm was wearing a set of golden lightning armor and was resting while sitting cross-legged.

When he sensed primordial lightning entering Ning Fan's abdomen, he immediately opened his tiny eyes and formed a series of hand seals with his small hands. His expression looked rather serious.

"Refine!"

Traces of power from the primordial lightning were absorbed into the lightning armor.

With the accelerated refinement speed in the Profound Yin World which was one hundred times faster than in the outside world, the whole process did not take too long.

After that, Ning Fan crushed each of the jade boxes and refined traces upon traces of primordial lightning into his lightning armor.

The amount of primordial lightning that was needed for his lightning armor which was currently at the first level of the gold grade to achieve a breakthrough to the second level was extremely large.

Every time the lightning armor absorbed one new trace of primordial lightning, the golden color on its surface would become a little more dazzling. After absorbing three thousand traces of primordial lightning, the lightning armor shone with a golden light. It finally achieved an advancement and broke through to the second level.

After arriving at the second level, the defense of the lightning armor had increased to a frightening level. It could now completely withstand attacks even if they're from Void Inquiry Stage old monsters.

With the second-level gold grade lightning armor, Ning Fan could block a single strike from a Void Inquiry Stage expert and disregard full-powered attacks from a Void Glimpse Stage cultivator. However, this level of lightning armor was still not enough to resist King Ying Long.

The amount of lightning power needed by his primordial spirit in order to make his current lightning armor advance to the third level was even more massive.

All of the remaining seven thousand traces of primordial lightning were refined into his lightning armor but they were only enough for the lightning armor to complete half of its advancement. It would still need at least 6000 traces of primordial lightning in order to break through to the third level.

Ning Fan's eyes turned solemn. He had misjudged the difficulty in advancing his lightning armor.

Fortunately, the basic defense of the second-level lightning armor had greatly increased after absorbing the remaining primordial lightning although it had yet to advance to the third level. Now it seemed like Void Inquiry Stage experts who were at the same level as Lei Shiyi would probably not be able to break Ning Fan's defense.

“If it’s just killing Zhu Feng, the lightning lord of the eleventh floor, the current level of my lightning armor can be considered to be more than enough... Next! I shall reforge my Separation Slayer Sword!”

Ning Fan patted his storage pouch and the item he took out this time was a piece of two-star divine iron.

The star power in this piece of Immemorial Star Iron was more than a few times stronger compared to the one contained in the one-star divine iron which he obtained in the past.

He took out the Separation Slayer Sword and tempered it by fusing the two-star divine iron with it.

Ning Fan still had to get rid of the impurities within the sword. This time, however, the impurities also included all of the one-star divine iron!

Under the heat of his black flames, the body of the Separation Slayer Sword began to change. Gradually, it became as thin as the translucent wings of a cicada. There was even clear starlight rotating on its surface. The light given out by the sword was also cold as autumn water.

After the tempering process, the grade of the Separation Slayer Sword rose. Now, it was close to attaining the Mid Grade Mortal Void Realm!

The sharpness of the sword light which was like limpid autumn water gave Ning Fan an extremely dangerous feeling. Once he delivers a slash that shoots a ray of sword light, it would then split into millions of sword threads which would shred everything they touched to pieces!

If one’s primordial spirit or vital areas are cut by this sword, even Void Glimpse Stage experts would likely die with a single slash!

With this sword in his hands together with his Heaven Deceiving Cloak, Ning Fan could absolutely stealthily kill a Void Glimpse Stage expert with a single strike!

Only half a day had passed after he upgraded his lightning armor and reforged his Separation Slayer Sword.

He patted his storage pouch and took out the fourteen pieces of Crystals of Inheritance. His eyes scrutinized every one of them.

I wonder if there is any inheritance of secret techniques within these crystals.