

Grasping 451

Chapter 451: Spare No One, Including the Country Lord

Ning Fan's long hair danced in the air. With a single punch, he injured Shi Kun. Then, he dashed towards him in a ray of travelling light and engaged in a physical fight with him only relying on their bodies.

Shi Kun felt even more surprised as time went by. Every time his kicks and fists clash against Ning Fan's, he would feel the same sensation as being struck by a thousand mountains, inflicting great amounts of pain on his abdomen and chest.

He had always been proud of the fact that he practiced both magic techniques and body techniques which rendered him peerless among Void Glimpse Stage experts. He was always confident in his own combat power, especially the strength of his physical body.

Today, however, even though the level of his magic power was clearly higher than Ning Fan's, he lost to him in terms of physical body strength. How could he remain calm?!

Ning Fan crushed the azure scales on his body. Seeing that the injuries on his body were getting more and more severe as their fight continued, Shi Kun's eyes suddenly flashed with ferocity and he hurled a strong strike at Ning Fan. Then, with the help of the force from the collision of their strikes, he pulled away from Ning Fan.

Then, he patted his storage pouch and took out a black jade bottle. His face grimaced in pain as he crushed the bottle with his hand.

There was only a single drop of black liquid in the bottle. As the bottle broke, the liquid flowed out. It was as viscous as blood and contained a massive amount of power. Shi Kun opened his mouth and sucked it into his abdomen in order to refine it.

A few moments later, several pieces of strange black scales began to grow on his body. At the same time, his qi also became gloomier. However, the strength of his body had gotten a little stronger than before. He was now nearly on par with Ning Fan.

Ning Fan's eyes turned grim. He could naturally tell that the black liquid was some kind of secret medicinal blood which could enhance the body's strength of the one who consumes it for a short period of time.

Countless experts who were watching the fight on the sides sucked in cold breaths. Evidently, they recognized what that black liquid was and where it came from.

"The core blood of a sovereign beast! It can't be wrong. T-This is the core blood of a sovereign beast! It's demon blood that was concocted using the demon pill of a sovereign beast with a secret refinement method! The power contained in a single drop of this core blood is nearly equivalent to a sovereign beast's demon pill!"

"What?! A sovereign beast?! That is a ferocious beast comparable to a Void Fragmentation Realm beast! The power within the sovereign beast core blood is explosive. Even a Void Refinement Realm old monster would need to use countless spiritual herbs to harmonize its power before refining just a single droplet of sovereign beast core blood. Even if Shi Kun is an unrivalled expert among Void Glimpse Stage cultivators, there's no way he can just directly consume the sovereign beast core blood!"

"You're right. This is not the true sovereign beast core blood. It has been diluted and probably only has 1% of the power of the genuine one. That's why Shi Kun was able to consume it directly."

"However, even if it's diluted sovereign beast core blood, it's still priceless. I didn't expect that Shi Kun would be so afraid of Venerated Ming. The fight had only just begun and he had already decided to use his secret medicine..."

Just as what the old monsters had said, the price of a sovereign beast core blood cannot be calculated. If it wasn't for Ning Fan who drove Shi Kun into desperation, the latter would certainly not be willing to consume that bottle of diluted core blood.

Long ago, he found the corpse of a dead sovereign beast in a ruin by luck and managed to dig out a demon pill from it. Using a secret art, he refined a droplet of sovereign beast core blood.

To a Golden Body Refining Realm cultivator, sovereign beast core blood is an extremely precious item for body refinement.

Shi Kun had been personally keeping that sovereign beast core blood inside his storage pouch as he did not dare to hand it to anybody.

Besides, he only extracted strands of the core blood and kept them inside a jade bottle that would serve as his secret medicine to temporarily increase his strength at crucial moments.

If it wasn't due to his physical strength being weaker than Ning Fan's, he would definitely not choose to consume his secret medicine.

Bang* *Bang* *Boom

After consuming the secret medicine, Shi Kun's body was completely covered in black scales. His strength was being enhanced greatly. He stretched his fingers and slowly clenched his fists. His aura force became incredibly strong. As Ning Fan attacked, he actually managed to block all of his attacks.

As the fight continued, Shi Kun became stronger and stronger. His character might not be good but his combat power was not to be underestimated. In the Rain World, he definitely was a man who was famous far and wide.

"Stone Sword, Cut!"

Shi Kun's aura force had reached its peak. His eyes flashed with ferocious killing intent. As he raised one of his hands and grasped, countless broken stones on the ground suddenly floated in the air and clumped together, forming into a gigantic turquoise sword that glittered brilliantly.

That gigantic turquoise sword was also an item that was summoned using magic technique. That magic technique was a Low Grade Mortal Void magic technique.

As the sword light condensed, Shi Kun wielded the sword and made a slash towards Ning Fan. Green sword light cut through heaven and earth. The vast sky within the vicinity of several ten thousand li* (500m per li) was cut apart by this sword light, revealing the space in the dark void.

That sword light was capable of killing any cultivator who had yet to attain the Void Refinement Realm. Countless cultivators who were spectating the fight held their breaths in terror.

However, such powerful sword light could still not trouble Ning Fan.

The shiny golden armor that was protecting his body made him look like an ancient god. Without trying to evade at all, he stood facing the incoming sword light and allowed that attack to cut his golden armor.

The blow from the sword light gave out an ear-splitting boom. The sword qi that that attack discharged pierced through countless layers of moving clouds.

However, no matter how sharp the sword light was, it could not leave a single scratch on Ning Fan's golden armor.

After taking a direct hit from Shi Kun, Ning Fan still remained unscathed!

The durability of the Primordial Lightning Armor once again amazed everyone. Countless old monsters reckoned that it was possible that not even a Void Inquiry Stage old monster could break such a solid armor. As long as Ning Fan has the lightning armor, Shi Kun would not be able to harm him at all.

Without a doubt, Ning Fan was already in a situation where he would never be defeated from the beginning of their fight!

Shi Kun was completely stunned. He could not believe that he, the unrivaled old monster among Void Glimpse Stage cultivators, was unable to harm a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm junior.

How could this even be possible?!

“The Art of Concept of Self!”

Ning Fan took a step forward. His body shone with golden light. Two golden virtual shadows then emerged.

Both of the two golden virtual shadows had First Level of the Golden Body Refinement Realm. With him and his two shadows, the three of them instantly surrounded Shi Kun and delivered their strongest attacks without mercy.

The trio blasted the vast sky to pieces. Shi Kun was in the middle of all these attacks, holding his gigantic turquoise sword. While blocking Ning Fan's attacks, his body was constantly struck by the attacks of the two golden shadows, worsening his injuries.

Who was he? He was a famous Void Refinement Realm old monster who could travel across the Rain World unhindered. A dignified king of a Void Grade cultivation country. Now, he was being beaten so badly by a junior. How could he endure such humiliation?!

"Zhou Ming, don't be too excessive! You have nothing to do with the matter between the Giant Devil Clan and me. Why did you intervene?! I don't get it at all!"

Shua

Shi Kun spurted out a few mouthfuls of blood essence in a row. Then, his gigantic turquoise sword gave off an extremely dangerous glow. A flash of sword light slashed horizontally across the air. The heavens broke while the earth was sliced into two!

It was a wrathful attack from Shi Kun. He delivered this attack using his full power and its destructive power was extremely close to that of the Void Inquiry Stage!

Even so, such a powerful strike was still unable to break the defense of Ning Fan's lightning armor. He was still unhurt.

The two golden shadows, on the other hand, were grievously injured. The wrathful attack from Shi Kun had severed an arm from one of them and a leg from the other.

Shi Kun let out a cacophony of laughter as his eyes revealed a hideous, evil expression.

Each of the golden virtual shadows had First Level of the Golden Body Refining Realm. They possessed strength equivalent to an ordinary Void Refinement Realm cultivator. However, so what if they had that strength?

Having been struck by Shi Kun's wrathful attack, even the golden shadows suffered severe injuries.

Terror coursed through each and every one of the spectators. The destructive power of that sword attack just now was enough to heavily injure or even kill an ordinary Void Glimpse Stage cultivator!

In terms of combat power, Shi Kun indeed deserved his reputation. Being dubbed as an unrivaled expert among Void Glimpse Stage cultivators was definitely not a baseless claim!

Ning Fan's eyes turned slightly stern. Shi Kun was indeed very strong. If Ning Fan were to face him before he entered the Black Lightning Tower, he certainly would not be his opponent.

However, after experiencing the things that had happened inside the Black Lightning Tower, Ning Fan's cultivation base might not have increased but his combat power had been greatly enhanced. No matter if it was his defensive techniques or his attacks, all of them had pretty much been strengthened. Now, experts like Shi Kun were already incapable of being a threat to him.

After all, Ning Fan in his devil form could even kill a Void Inquiry Stage expert!

Facing Shi Kun, Ning Fan was very confident in dealing with him even without turning into that form!

"You have overdone it, Zhou Ming! How dare a mere revered elder of the Rain Palace like you provoke me?! You should die!" Shi Kun pointed his sword at Ning Fan and dashed towards him. He refused to believe that he could not break the latter's lightning armor.

"So what if I have gone too far on you?!"

Ning Fan's black hair danced wildly in the air. A cold light flickered in his eyes. Ten thousand streaks of golden light shone on his right palm. Using that palm, he slammed it on Shi Kun's gigantic turquoise sword.

The impact of that blow shook heavens and earth. A great part of the vast sky was literally fragmented into countless pieces.

After receiving that sudden strike from Ning Fan, Shi Kun felt a great and irresistible force that slammed on his sword, crushing his weapon!

Meanwhile, the two badly injured golden shadows behind him had inexplicably healed all of a sudden and delivered heavy attacks at Shi Kun's back.

Bang *Bang*

Two punches directly hit Shi Kun's back, shattering his black scale armor. Then, he fell down from the sky like a kite with a broken string. He glared at the two golden shadows with an expression that was filled with confusion.

"How could it turn out like this?! I have clearly grievously injured your two golden shadows. How could they heal in such a short time?!"

Shi Kun would never know that the golden shadows were the effect of the Art of Concept of Self. Unless they receive a fatal strike, they could heal themselves completely in just a few seconds no matter how severe the injuries they get.

With a loud thud, he crashed into the ground. His body created a large pit which was a few thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) wide.

He climbed out of the pit with a body that was badly hurt. The attacks weren't able to kill him. This level of toughness indeed matched the capabilities of an unrivaled expert among the Void Glimpse Stage cultivators.

He lifted his head and stared at Ning Fan. A hint of madness filled his eyes.

Then, a rush of terrifying aura force spread out from his body. He had decided to use his strongest trump card to finally determine the victor of this fight.

All of the rocks beneath the land on his feet began to move towards him. It looked extremely strange.

Shi Kun's body emanated a strange evil light. In just a single moment, his body started to grow.

“Dao of Ghost Stone: Stone God True Body!”

Within just a few breaths, Shi Kun's body had grown up to five thousand and five hundred zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall. He had turned into a giant formed out of turquoise stones.

He held a huge ancient turquoise shield in his left hand while holding a massive turquoise sword in his right, making him look like an ancient god. He let out a roar of rage.

At this moment, his combat power was already extremely close to the Void Inquiry Stage!

“T-This is... the ‘Fiendgod True Body’...” Each of the old monsters spectating the fight were dumbstruck.

Some of them had no idea behind the inner workings of Shi Kun's magic technique. Hence, they refused to make any comment.

Some of them recognized the essence of this magic technique. It was too startling that no one dared to believe what their eyes were seeing.

Many fiendgod cultivation methods had secret techniques that practitioners could use to turn into giants. However, the giants they turn into could also be differentiated into different grades.

The giant forms that can be achieved through common gigantifications would only be called ‘Giant Body’. Their physical bodies might be strong but they could not display the divine abilities of the ancient fiendgods.

If the practitioners of fiendgod cultivation methods could master their 'Giant Body', they could then achieve the 'True Body'. After that would be unlocking the divine abilities of the ancient fiendgod and they would even have the chance to create the Immemorial Divine Weapons of the ancient deities and devils through imitations!

Shi Kun's son who was incapacitated by Ning Fan showed a face of admiration and pride when he looked at his father who had turned into a gaint.

"My state instructors, behold! This is my father's greatest trump card, 'Stone God True Body'! The cultivation method that my father practices is a fiendgod cultivation method named 'Ghost Stone Divine Art'. It is rumored to be a type of cultivation method that was left behind by a revered deity of the Stone Tribe. My father has not only achieved the true body of the Stone God. He has also recreated the famous Immemorial Divine Weapon that once belonged to that ancient deity! Look! The stone sword and shield that my father are holding right now are the divine weapons of that ancient deity! With these divine weapons, no matter how strong that Zhou Ming is, he is definitely not my father's match!"

Shi Kun's son did not even lower his voice down at all as he spoke and everyone nearby could hear him. With his words in mind, they became more and more fearful as they looked at the gigantic Shi Kun.

In the distance, an old man in golden robes and five pill masters were standing in midair. They were observing the fight.

The five pill masters were the pill masters of the Scarlet Heaven Palace that Ning Fan had severely injured previously.

As for the old man in golden robes, he was none other than the palace lord of the Scarlet Heaven Palace, Mo Xiu!

Mo Xiu scanned around the battlefield. When he noticed Ning Fan, his eyes flashed with a hint of indiscernible fury. However, because of the Rain Sovereign's orders, he suppressed his anger within him.

When he saw Shi Kun who was in his giant form, his expression turned solemn for the first time.

“Is it the ‘Fiendgod True Body’? *Snort* This Shi Kun is quite impressive. He actually attained the True Body of a Fiendgod and he even forged two Immemorial Divine Weapons. Even I will need to spend some effort in order to defeat him. There’s no need to watch it any longer. Unless that Zhou Ming has Void Inquiry Stage cultivation base, he will certainly die today.”

Anxiety filled Yue Lingkong’s heart. She did not expect that Shi Kun had attained the Fiendgod True Body.

Little Cucumber is really in danger this time. I have to save him.

Even Xu Qiuling who had been calm all this time began to show an uneasy look.

Fen Chi was also worried about Ning Fan. She had finally fallen for a man after so long. How could she bear to let her man face such danger?

However, no matter how worried the three women were, none of them intervened in Ning Fan’s battle.

It was Ning Fan’s battlefield. What they should do right now was to believe in him.

They had to trust him and believe that he would win. They had to trust him that he would not be defeated.

If you win, I will accompany you as you reign over the world beneath the heavens! If you lose, I will stand by your side as you start from scratch all over again!

Shi Kun laughed evilly at the sky with his voice cracking like thunder.

“Zhou Ming! Since the day I have attained the Stone God True Body, this is the second time I displayed this to the world. During the first time, I have used this true body to eliminate the strongest bandit cultivator of Shi Le Country...”

His laughter did not cease as his words shocked countless old monsters.

Shi Le Country was once a country that was dominated by bandit cultivators. Their strongest leader was a Void Inquiry Stage old monster. That expert used a secret art to quickly advance into the Void Inquiry Stage and that was why his cultivation base was unstable. Hence, he could be regarded as the weakest cultivator among Void Inquiry Stage experts.

Even so, the weakest expert of the Void Inquiry Stage cultivators was still several times stronger than a Void Glimpse Stage cultivator.

However, that expert suddenly went missing one day and Shi Kun wiped out the entire Shi Le Country by himself, killing countless bandit cultivators. Then, he occupied the country and became the new ruler.

No one had ever known that Shi Kun was the one who killed the previous leader of the bandit cultivators.

Today, the reason Shi Kun revealed this shocking incident was to let everyone know that his strength was beyond all doubts. He could even kill a Void Inquiry Stage expert, much less Ning Fan who was just a Half-Step Void Refinement Realm junior!

“The shield that I am holding in my left hand is the Ba Chi Shield. It can deflect all kinds of Void Glimpse Stage magic attacks!”

“The sword in my right is the Ten Fists Sword. A single slash is equivalent to the strength of ten punches from a Void Glimpse Stage cultivator. In other words, it’s comparable to a Void Inquiry Stage attack!”

“Zhou Ming, you should feel honored to be able to die under the sword and shield of my Fiendgod True Body!”

Shi Kun laughed fearlessly and confidently, as if victory was already within his grasp and Ning Fan was already a dead man.

Ning Fan’s eyes flashed with impatience. He was already fed up with Shi Kun’s bullshit.

The game is over.

He extended his five fingers and clawed at the ground, completely extracting the soul from the vast earth. Moments after that, his magic power was comparable to that of a true Void Refinement Realm cultivator.

He spurted out a few mouthfuls of blood essence and suddenly held the seven Yellow Dragon Jade Tokens in the air, summoning seven layers of yellow skies. The appearance of the yellow skies exuded immense aura force.

Each of the seven layers of yellow skies had the capability to deal considerable damage to a Void Inquiry Stage expert. Each of them was equivalent to a Void Inquiry Stage attack!

As for the combined force of the seven layers of yellow skies, its destructive power was comparable to that of a Void Pierce Stage attack. It was capable of putting a Void Inquiry Stage expert in a grievous condition and crushing every Void Glimpse Stage cultivator!

“T-This... What is that magic treasure?! Impossible! How could a Divine Transformation Realm junior like you possess such a powerful magic treasure?! How is it possible that you are able to activate a magic treasure of that level?!”

All the pride and confidence within Shi Kun turned into nervousness at this moment.

His Ba Chi Shield might be able to deflect every Void Glimpse Stage attack but each layer of the yellow skies that Ning Fan had summoned carried Void Inquiry Stage level of destructive power. With the seven of them combined, their destructive power would be comparable to an attack at the Void Pierce Stage. How could he deflect them then?!

“This is not good. I have to escape!”

Just as Ning Fan activated the Yellow Dragon Seven Tokens, all of his arrogance got engulfed by the frustration of having no chances of winning.

Each of the old monsters present was once again greatly surprised by Ning Fan. The latter actually had such powerful means up his sleeves. This kind of magic treasure was enough to strike fear into every Void Inquiry Stage old monster!

With this treasure in his hands, which Void Inquiry Stage old monster would willingly dare to offend Ning Fan?!

“Crush!”

Ning Fan pointed at the skies. The seven layers of yellow skies plummeted as if the sky was falling. That was the true might of the falling skies.

The weight of the seven layers of yellow skies was immeasurable. The immense force of the plummeting skies flattened countless mountains and rivers.

Shi Kun wielded his gigantic turquoise sword and delivered his greatest attack. It managed to destroy one layer of the yellow skies at the end but the remaining six layers continued to fall down upon him.

In just a second, all the bones of his body were crushed by the yellow skies. With a loud screech, his massive body was squashed into a pile of flesh. No one knew whether he was dead or still alive.

As the smoke and dust cleared, the battlefield gradually turned silent. However, Shi Kun had already gotten out of his giant form. He was lying on the ground like a pile of mud. He no longer had the strength to move a single muscle but he was still breathing.

As for Ning Fan, he stood indifferently in front of Shi Kun and said with a cold voice.

“I’ve warned you. You can’t afford to mess with me. You chose not to believe it yourself.”

“*Coughs weakly*...Z-Zhou Ming, the honorable Revered Ming, you must not kill me. You can’t... I am the... country lord... of Shi Le Country... The country lord... appointed by the Rain Palace... Killing me... is against the Word Law...”

“Oh. So you are still aware of the Rain Palace and the World Law, aren’t you? You are the lord of a country that was appointed by the Rain Palace while I am a revered elder that was personally appointed by the Rain Sovereign. You have tried to kill me first. You are the one who violated the World Law in the first place for trying to murder a revered elder of the Rain Palace. Even if you are the lord of a country, you shall be executed without exception!”

Bang

Ning Fan made a heavy stomp and pulverized Shi Kun’s skull, destroying the latter’s physical body instantly.

At the same time, he sent a ray of sword light through his finger at Shi Kun’s dantian. It directly struck Shi Kun’s primordial spirit which was frantically running away.

The miniature primordial spirit let out a wail and perished with resentment.

Ning Fan had killed Shi Kun, the country lord of Shi Le Country!

He had not only killed him but also labelled him as a criminal who went against the World Law for trying to murder a revered elder of the Rain Palace. Hence, no one could seek trouble with Ning Fan for this matter!

He took Shi Kun’s storage pouch away with a wave of his hands. As he scanned through the pouch using his spirit sense, he found out that there were quite a lot of excellent items inside. What satisfied him especially was the jade bottle that sealed the sovereign beast core blood within.

The loot from this battle was indeed abundant.

Suck in cold breaths

At the moment Ning Fan finished off Shi Kun, countless old monsters were overwhelmed with astonishment!

What did they just see?!

They had actually witnessed the death of a Void Refinement Realm old monster with their own eyes!

Moreover, that Void Refinement Realm old monster was the country lord of Shi Le Country. He was a strong and ruthless expert who was invincible among Void Glimpse cultivators and who even killed a Void Inquiry Stage expert before!

He's dead... just like that?!

Venerated Ming managed to kill Shi Kun. His strength is really unfathomable!

All of a sudden, countless old monsters spectating the fight fell into silence. The way they looked at Ning Fan was filled with fear and terror.

The cultivators of the Giant Devil Clan who had come to offer their help were different from these old monsters. After understanding the whole incident and realizing that Ning Fan had saved the Giant Devil Clan from annihilation by killing Shi Kun, each of them were extremely grateful to him from the depths of their hearts.

“Venerated Ming is mighty!”

Loud hurrahs reverberated across the skies. They spread further and further and eventually, it echoed throughout the whole Cold Northern Country!

Chapter 452: A Snow Child

Each and every one of those who had just arrived at the province witnessed a shocking scene at the battlefield.

All mountains and rivers within an area of one hundred thousand li* (500 per li) got destroyed. It looked particularly desolate under the falling pure white snow. No one could imagine that this place was

actually where the most important base of the Giant Devil Clan – The Evening Snow Pavilion, was previously located.

They did not have the chance to witness the terrific fight between Ning Fan and Shi Kun. What they could feel, however, was the remaining fluctuations of magic power that still lingered.

It was one of the greatest battles in history. In this battle, Ning Fan had fiercely killed an old monster who was matchless among Void Glimpse Stage experts.

Moreover, this old monster was also the king of a Void Grade cultivation country. He was a man with quite an honorable and esteemed identity.

However, no one would dare say that Ning Fan was wrong in killing him. The reason for that was because Ning Fan stood up for what was morally right and exercised justice, taking action by making full use of his identity as a revered elder of the Rain Palace.

Shi Kun had harbored malicious intentions towards the Giant Devil Clan. It was an awful misdeed but this sin was not serious enough to give him a death sentence.

His intention to kill Ning Fan, however, was an extremely serious crime that could never be atoned even if he dies ten thousand times.

Who was Ning Fan? He was the person whom the Rain Sovereign had personally given orders not to harm him. Even the palace lord of the Scarlet Heaven Palace and King Lan Ling did not dare to lay a finger on him. How could Shi Kun be so bold as to touch him? Who was he?

Not to mention that the Endless Sea was not under the jurisdiction of the World Law, even if someone tries to look into this matter, Shi Kun would still be considered as a violator of the World Law by trying to harm a revered elder of the Rain World and his crime naturally deserved more than just a death penalty. Hence, no one could find any fault with Ning Fan.

Furthermore, if the Rain Palace ever finds out about this, they would also suppress Shi Kun's descendants and hold them accountable for the serious crime Shi Kun committed by provoking Ning Fan.

For example, the palace lord of the Scarlet Heaven Palace, Mo Xiu, who was at the scene during that day actually publicly declared that Ning Fan was not guilty of killing people!

Those who had a discerning eye were well aware that the Scarlet Heaven Palace and the Great Heaven Palace were on bad terms back in the Rain Palace.

Since both of them were of different factions, it was absolutely impossible for Mo Xiu to say something good on behalf of Ning Fan. However, he had done it anyway. What did this mean?

It implied that Ning Fan's identity in the Rain Palace was definitely uncommon as he was capable of making Mo Xiu who was from a different faction to avoid offending him!

Shi Kun was now dead and nobody showed any interest in his death. Even though it had been said that he deserved more than death, what happened to him had really aroused some pity inside the hearts of some old monsters.

No matter how talented and astounding a cultivator was or how powerful one's cultivation level becomes, when they make a single misstep on the road of cultivation, they would still end up dead.

Today, Shi Kun fell but Ning Fan's notoriety meanwhile, spread across the internal sea, the external sea and even the whole Rain World encompassing the eight hundred cultivation countries!

Countless old monsters confidently claimed that the strongest person of the current generation of young cultivators in the Rain World was surely Ning Fan!

Yes. Ning Fan made the name of that dude, Zhou Ming, who died an unjust death, to be famous once again. If the true Zhou Ming ever knew about it in the netherworld, would he wake up from laughing?

After that great battle, Ning Fan did not take any rest. Instead, he followed Ju Qing and the others to another forbidden area of the Giant Devil Clan.

During that battle, he took zero damage thanks to the protection of his lightning armor. However, at the end of the battle, he sacrificed some of his blood essence in order to forcibly activate the Yellow Dragon Seven Tokens which were Mid Grade Mortal Void equipment in order to incapacitate Shi Kun.

The loss of blood essence might be a troublesome issue to ordinary cultivators. However, to Ning Fan who had the protection of the black stars, his body was healing all the time under the effect of the starlight. Hence, it was not something important at all.

They arrived at the Sad Devil Palace of the Giant Devil Clan.

Ning Fan and his three women, Xu Qiuling, Yue Lingkong and Fen Chi sat in the front row of the guest seats. There were many elders of the Giant Devil Clan around them. Each of them was standing and they all took turns to express their gratitude to Ning Fan.

These elders were sincerely feeling thankful towards him. If it wasn't because of him, the Giant Devil Clan would certainly be in grave danger.

Fortunately, Ning Fan insisted on intervening and eliminated Shi Kun. He had not only helped the Giant Devil Clan keep their Void Inquiry Pill but also intimidated countless old monsters who had been eyeing the pills.

Shi Kun was the first old monster who dared to obtain the Void Inquiry Pills using shady means but he definitely would not be the last one.

In fact, there were still several Void Glimpse Stage old monsters who had come from the eight hundred cultivation countries plotting to seize the Void Inquiry Pills of the Giant Devil Clan.

However, after knowing what happened to Shi Kun, those Void Glimpse Stage old monsters should have learned their lessons and it was likely that none of them would dare to offend the Giant Devil Clan anymore.

Besides, the prestige and reputation Ning Fan earned from this battle was also good news to the Six-Winged Clan. It had a greater intimidating effect against the Ghost Eye Clan and the Mist Horn Clan.

Everybody was now aware of the destructive power of the Yellow Dragon Seven Tokens and many saw that they could even harm a Void Inquiry Stage expert.

The strongest expert in the Mist Horn Clan was also just a Void Inquiry Stage expert. The Ghost Eye Clan might be stronger than the Mist Horn Clan but it would still not dare to brazenly provoke Ning Fan.

Ning Fan had shown his domineering and arrogant side to countless old monsters. Even though Shi Kun was a king of a country that was recognized by the Rain Palace, he still got rid of him without exception.

The reason he did this openly anyway was to let those who had evil plots and schemes in their minds understand how important he was to the Rain Palace and why they should avoid messing with him.

He wanted to let everyone know that the Rain Sovereign had his back and he was so important to the Rain Palace to the extent where he was not even found guilty in killing a country lord.

He wanted to let everyone understand that they could not lay a finger on him but he was free to kill anyone. Thus, they must never cross him or they would have to bear the consequences themselves.

What Ning Fan did was borrow the Rain Palace's authority and use it to his own advantage.

Ning Fan did not like having to deal with troubles after troubles. That's why he chose to go through great lengths to deal with Shi Kun this time and cut off the chains of troubles once and for all.

Inside the Sad Devil Palace, Ning Fan directly searched the souls and erased the memories of Shi Kun's son and the five state instructors in front of Ju Qing and the others. Then, he killed the six of them to completely root out the problem, following the saying which goes: digging up the roots of the weeds after cutting them.

From the memories of Shi Kun's son, Ning Fan discovered all of Shi Kun's plans and told the Giant Devil Clan about them.

Shi Kun's true intention in coming to the Giant Devil Clan was indeed the Void Inquiry Pill.

However, he not only wanted to get the Void Inquiry Pill but also brazenly schemed to abduct Feng Xueyan too!

Shi Kun's original plan was to ask his son to get close to Feng Xueyan and secretly kidnap her a day before the date they've agreed upon when they would inscribe the devil marks. Then, he would blackmail the Giant Devil Clan by bringing up Feng Xueyan's refusal to do the inscription.

As such, not only could Shi Kun get the Void Inquiry Pill but also Feng Xueyan who was a well-known tattoo master.

Unfortunately, when Shi Kun's son had just intruded Feng Xueyan's boudoir back then, he was discovered by her maidservants. With a shush, Feng Xueyan literally vanished before his very eyes. It was extremely bizarre.

Feng Xueyan's mastery in the art of devil marks inscription was certainly of the highest level compared to other tattoo masters in the Rain World.

With the devil mark inscriptions from Feng Xueyan, all body cultivators would experience a great advancement in their body refining realm.

Shi Kun really had wild ambitions as he wanted to break through to the Void Inquiry Stage using the Void Inquiry Pill and use Feng Xueyan to create a large army of body cultivators.

If it wasn't for Ning Fan's intervention, his plan would really have succeeded.

After hearing Shi Kun's entire plan, Ju Qing flew into a rage and his hair stood up in anger.

His Giant Devil Clan had always been maintaining a low profile just to realize the wishes of the eight previous ancestors. However, the result of them having an overly low profile gave others an impression that they were weak and could be overcome easily!

Ju Qing really wished that he could declare the true strength of the Giant Devil Clan to the world right away to let the world know that the strongest clan among the Four Clans of the Hidden Ocean was not the Ghost Eye Clan but the Giant Devil Clan!

Unfortunately, he could not act impulsively. The only option he had was to be tolerant. All of the tolerance and patience was all for the salvation of the ancestors of the clan.

“Fellow Daoist Zhou. In the past, Little Shan¹ highly recommended you to me and he even praised you using flashy descriptions. I didn’t believe him back then. However, after witnessing your strength with my own two eyes today, only now do I realize that Little Shan indeed has a keen eye. Very well! Qiuling has found a good partner! For her, you were even willing to take care of the problem troubling my Giant Devil Clan and kill the king of a Void Grade cultivation country. My Giant Devil Clan really owes you a huge favor. If Fellow Daoist ever faces any difficulty and requires help, my clan will be more than willing to repay what you have done for us all today with all of our strength!”

Ju Qing solemnly cupped his fists towards Ning Fan. He was extremely grateful to him.

Ning Fan nodded and cupped his fists in return. Compared to the Six-Winged Clan which prioritized benefits, the Giant Devil Clan obviously placed more emphasis on relationships and loyalty.

At least, Ning Fan believed that the Giant Devil Clan would not do something like selling out Ju Qing’s daughter for the safety and prosperity of the clan which the Six-Winged Clan, on the other hand, had done.

The members of the Giant Devil Clan still had a backbone and were genuine and dignified devil cultivators.

Ning Fan secretly glanced at his three women. Among the three of them, Fen Chi was sitting quietly and sipping some tea on her own.

As for Xu Qiuling, she was taking the initiative to start a conversation with Yue Lingkong. Both of them were talking secretly via telepathy. No one knew what they were discussing.

The relationship between the two of them seemed a little inexplicable. They were not too close to each other but they have not gotten to a point where they envied each other.

What Xu Qiuling asked Yue Lingkong was whether or not he was living well and if he put himself in danger ever since they parted.

What most people see was Ning Fan's drastic increase in strength time after time and how glorious he was.

However, Xu Qiuling felt anguish for the great efforts he had to put in and the danger he had to put himself through in exchange for greater strength

She understood him. She knew that every ounce of strength he had today was from risking his life.

She knew that he had never cultivated with a calm heart and a peaceful mind before. The reason why he kept slaughtering and plundering from others was all to obtain enough strength to protect the people behind him.

"You are very special. Aren't you jealous of me for having such an intimate relationship with Little Cucumber? Honestly, I felt a bit jealous when I saw him fighting for you. I really wished that I could give him a kick in the face at that time... and keep kicking him until he surrenders to me." Yue Lingkong was very bold. There was nothing she was afraid to say out loud.

"Jealous? Sister Yue, I wonder if you know that my only wish is for him to keep on living safely and peacefully. When the day where he no longer needs to kill and could stand aloof from these worldly affairs comes, perhaps I will finally have the mood to feel jealousy over his love. Now, however..."

Xu Qiuling suddenly paused and continued with a faint smile.

"Now, I only wish that I can continue on living together with him... Living is very difficult. Being able to live in this world is already a blessing because you never know when you will pass away unexpectedly... Besides, my surname, 'Xu' (许), means promise. Since I have given my vow to love him, I'll follow him and support him no matter what happens..."

“When I met him, we both became each other’s scenery similar to when you met him... However, there is no eternal scenery in this world... Perhaps I might die under the heavenly tribulation one day. Perhaps he might die under the attacks of his enemies... We, who do not even know if we could last for another day, don’t have the right to feel jealous at all... There is no leisure in too much romance and there isn’t too much peace in rest. We could only keep on going and moving forward... As long as one can feel satisfied with their life, there will be no regrets when they die...”

Xu Qiuling’s words made Yue Lingkong fall into silence.

As long as one can feel satisfied with their life, there will be no regrets when they die... Indeed. I don’t even know how much longer I can still play with Little Cucumber. Why should I feel jealous because of him...?

But why does my heart sting when I think about Little Cucumber dying someday?

Hmm! Why does this Little Cucumber need to risk his life every single time and charge into danger even if he knows how dangerous it is?! Isn’t he afraid of death?!

All of a sudden, Yue Lingkong felt sympathy for Ning Fan.

She realized that she had never truly understood him. She did not even know why he would be so desperate every time.

“Little Cucumber, stop playing with your life next time. You aren’t allowed to die! Hide behind my back and let me protect you!” Yue Lingkong suddenly spoke with a domineering tone. Her words were like a confession to Ning Fan and it startled all the cultivators of the Giant Devil Clan that were there.

“... I won’t die...” Ning Fan did not know whether to laugh or cry. He had no idea why this Yue Lingkong would suddenly be so protective of him, like a mother would to her child.

He looked at Xu Qiuling, as if he wanted to find out what she had talked with Yue Lingkong.

Xu Qiuling blinked her eyes and smiled faintly. Her large bright eyes carried a hint of mischief. The look on her face seemed to be saying, "It's our secret woman-only talk. Why do I have to tell you?"

Ning Fan shook his head with a smile. He did not use his Mind Reading Technique to learn of their thoughts because it was rather disrespectful to the both of them.

However, he believed that Xu Qiuling would not fight with Yue Lingkong because of jealousy... At least, for the time being.

Having too many lovers is also troublesome...

Ning Fan rubbed his forehead and suddenly asked Ju Qing.

"Patriarch Ju Qing, Shi Kun's matter is finally resolved but your daughter is still 'missing'. Are you really not going to look for her?"

"That girl... If she wants to hide, no one will be able to find her. Let's wait until she is hungry. Then she will come home to eat..." Ju Qing broke into laughter, as if he understood his daughter very well.

After all, his daughter was just a Tenth Level Vein Opening Realm cultivator and her body was weak. She could not really open up a temporary abode outside. Hence, when she has nothing more to eat, she naturally would come home.

"Big Brother, what if you go looking for Sister Xueyan. Her body is weak. We must not let her get hungry..." Xu Qiuling pleaded with eyes filled with concern. She really was worried about that little sister of hers.

"Me? Are you really sure that I will be able to find her? Not even the members of the Giant Devil Clan managed to find her... Fine. I'll go!"

Ning Fan wanted to shake his head and decline. However, when he saw Xu Qiuling's pleading look, his heart softened.

Well, I'll just go look for her and quickly get her home so that she can eat as to not worry Xu Qiuling.

“Patriarch Ju Qing, please give me a personal belonging of the eldest mistress. I might need her qi to track her down.”

“It's no use. Once that little girl hides, her qi will disappear completely. There's no way to find her...”
Even though Ju Qing said so, he also hoped that Ning Fan could try it out and bring Feng Xueyan back as soon as possible.

After pondering for a while, he ordered a maidservant to bring over a soft little shoe and handed it to Ning Fan.

That shoe was left behind in Feng Xueyan's room when she turned invisible and ran away.

No matter where Feng Xueyan had run to in Cold Northern Country, the current her must have one of her feet bare.

If Ning Fan manages to find her, he could bring this shoe to her just in time.

“...”

Ning Fan suddenly felt speechless. He, the dignified Devil Lord Ning, actually had to deliver a shoe to a girl. If this news were to spread out, perhaps no one would believe that he would actually do such a thing.

The shoe gave off a whiff of an extremely faint female fragrance.

That fragrance was very light. Right after it went into Ning Fan's nose, it disappeared.

Ning Fan's eyes flashed with a hint of surprise. He tried to recall that smell but he failed to do so.

The smell seemed to have been erased by some kind of force...

This scene was very familiar to him. It was just like the words on the white paper which were erased by the power of Samsara that Ning Fan encountered in the past.

“The reason why Feng Xueyan’s invisibility is so mysterious seems to have something to do with the power of Samsara...”

Ning Fan closed his eyes. He activated the power of his Memory Intent and borrowed a trace of the power of Samsara which allowed him to identify Feng Xueyan’s smell again.

After that, he locked on to a trace of qi and took a step forward, dashing towards a specific direction. Apparently, he found a clue.

All the experts of the Giant Devil Clan were shocked as they saw Ning Fan’s expression that seemed to say that he had figured it out.

Inwardly, they muttered.

Could it be that he is really that powerful and could find the eldest mistress’ whereabouts? None of us manage to do so but he can. He is indeed strong!

Ning Fan flew all the way like a trace of smoke.

He trailed after a trace of qi and got one million li* (500m per li) away from the province. Then, he suddenly stopped inside a barren snow forest.

It was where that trace of qi came to an end!

He released traces of power from his Memory Intent. Suddenly, on the snow around him, small footprints which should have already vanished reappeared.

The left footprint was an imprint of a lady's shoe while the right footprint was an imprint of a bare foot.

Following those footprints, Ning Fan went into the depths of the snow forest. At the end of the forest, there was actually a tiny snowman.

On the surface, it was clearly just a common snowman that had a mountain ginseng as its nose and two tiny rocks as its eyes.

However, when Ning Fan arrived, the eyes of the snowman that were originally rocks suddenly flinched with anxiety. It turned out to be an actual living thing.

Shush

The little snowman suddenly rose to its feet. After taking a gentle step, it vanished in a puff of smoke without leaving any traces!

The body of that snowman gave off traces of coldness of wind and snow. Every hint of qi and footprints it left on this area was erased completely.

“Interesting. She might only be a Tenth Level Vein Opening Realm cultivator but she knows teleportation and she could even use an ‘artificial Samsara power’... That’s why she could travel up to one million li* (500m per li) away from the province... Trying to play hide-and-seek with me, eh?”

A mere little snowman was trying to play hide-and-seek with Ning Fan. However, she was obviously too inexperienced for it.

Chapter 453: Brother-In-Law, Don't!

Shush

With just a single move, the little snow girl literally vanished in front of Ning Fan's eyes.

Ning Fan was not in a hurry to chase after it. He waved his palm in the air and spread out the power of his Memory Intent Realm. The qi and tracks left by the snow girl that had just disappeared gradually became clear and obvious.

Ning Fan turned towards a direction and took a step forward. His body seemed to have turned into a trace of smoke which flew to the summit of a pure white snow mountain.

The snow mountain was around seven thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall. As expected, the little snow girl was standing on the peak of the mountain.

The little snow girl was panting heavily, exhaling white gas from her mouth. Evidently, the movement technique she had used just now was extremely taxing to her.

When she saw that Ning Fan had come after her again, she hurriedly fled once again and disappeared in a shush.

This time, she was too hasty in running away and failed to notice that a scroll had come out from her body and fell to the snowy ground.

Ning Fan wore a mischievous smile on his face.

This little girl runs really fast. Never mind the ordinary cultivators who won't be able to find her, even if they do, almost none would be able to catch up with her.

Ning Fan did not immediately go after her. Instead, he casually picked up the scroll and shook his head with a bitter smile.

“She doesn't even know that she has dropped something...”

As soon as Ning Fan's voice fell, his expression suddenly turned serious. From this scroll, he sensed a trace of extremely faint devil qi which made his devil blood suddenly tremble.

He did not continue to pursue the snow girl right after that. Instead, he opened the scroll and took a look at what's inside.

This scroll looked extremely ancient. It was made out of some kind of demon beast's hide.

Inside this scroll was an actual paragraph from an incomplete devil scripture. Written in Gu Tuo Writing, the handwriting was quite elegant and had a vigorous style.

The person who wrote this paragraph should be a woman. Judging by the era where these words would usually be used, the writer should be a cultivator from ancient times.

Somehow, Ning Fan kept having a feeling of familiarity towards the handwriting on this scroll. After contemplating for a bit, he realized that it was actually the same as the words that had been carved on the stele outside the Evening Snow Pavilion.

“Was it the earliest ancestor of the Giant Devil Sect who recorded this paragraph from a devil scripture...?”

Ning Fan carefully studied the devil scripture. The meaning of the scripture was obscure, making it hard to understand. However, its contents were rather familiar to him.

As he thought about it for a while, he immediately realized why this kind of familiar feeling would occur.

From the contents of this scripture, a part of it was actually exactly the same as what was inside the devil statue slate of the Six-Winged Clan...

“Where do these devil scriptures come from...? In the past, why didn't the unusual phenomenon, the one where the devil blood dyed the green sky, happen to the Giant Devil Clan just like in the other three devil clans...? Is there any relation between the two of them?”

“If they are related, the matter regarding the devil scriptures will be of great significance. Then, why would they give something as important as this to a little girl...? Could there be some sort of secret behind all of these...?”

Ning Fan imprinted the devil scripture into another jade slip and kept it under his sleeves. After that, he took a step forward and dashed towards the direction where the little snowman had left to chase after her.

Inwardly, he was pondering over the matter about the devil scripture.

If the Giant Devil Clan has the devil scripture slate but chose to keep it a secret from the world, should I seize it from them...?

But the Giant Devil Clan has never betrayed me. If I turn on them, it will be against my Dao Heart... Fine, I shall put this matter aside for the time being. Bringing back the little snowman is much more urgent.

Shush

Ning Fan went after the qi of the little snowman once again. This time, he stopped inside a snow valley which was ten thousand li* (500m per li) away.

The snow valley was being occupied by a large group of snow apes and each of them possessed Gold Core Realm strength.

After the little snowman intruded in the snow valley, tens of snow apes immediately surrounded her and tried to attack her.

The little snowman was somewhat nervous. She did not expect to be surrounded by demon beasts here.

She stopped moving and gasped for air. She seemed to have no strength left to make another escape. Fear began to creep in as she looked at the group of demon beasts that were slowly approaching her.

“So, are you scared now?”

In no hurry, Ning Fan sauntered into the snow valley. His calm and indifferent tone which was filled with immense baleful qi echoed throughout the valley.

Without even doing anything to these low-level snow apes, their pupils widened with terror as soon as they sensed his arrival.

Apes had the best understanding of human emotions. All of these snow apes sensed that Ning Fan was not someone that they could provoke. Instinctively, they all ran away quickly as if their lives depended on it.

Ning Fan did not try to pursue them or finish them off. He was not being kind but he had some concerns in his mind instead. He did not want to let this little snowman witness some bloodshed.

“If you run again and get yourself into a dangerous situation, I won’t come to save you another time. I am here to bring you back...”

He gently touched the glabella of the little snowman with his index finger. A warm and gentle light shone. And then, layers of snow and ice began to melt, revealing the young lady who camouflaged herself as the little snowman.

She wore a pure white dress and looked like a teenage girl who was about fourteen or fifteen years old. With Ning Fan being so close to her, it would be a lie if the young lady said she was not afraid. Ning Fan’s baleful qi was really terrifying. Just imagine this, he could even scare off brutal ferocious beasts using his baleful qi alone.

However, she appeared to be extremely calm. Without muttering a single word, she silently raised her head and stared at Ning Fan. Well, she really had the courage to be able to do so.

Her long hair was white like snowflakes which was adorned with a snow-white down feather.

Her small face was a little pale with her right foot still bare.

Since Ning Fan saw that the young lady was not going to hide or run away anymore, he nodded with a smile.

This lady's cultivation level is not high but she is quite courageous. That makes her qualified to become Xu Quiling's sister.

"You are Feng Xueyan, aren't you?"

"..." The young lady nodded.

"Are you afraid of me?"

"..." The young lady wanted to nod but she hesitated for a while but shook her head in the end.

"Don't you know how to speak?"

"..." The young lady nodded as a hint of sadness flashed in her eyes. However, she quickly hid her emotions and put up an indifferent face.

"You are such a pitiful lady."

She was indeed pitiful. Despite being at the Tenth Level Vein Opening Realm, she still had no spirit sense and was also incapable of speech. Basically, she could not communicate with anyone.

Even though she deserved pity, the concern Ning Fan had for her was all due to Xu Qiuling's request.

He reached out his hand to pull Feng Xueyan up, intending to bring her back to the province. However, she gently backed away from him and shook her head. It was obvious what she meant. She did not want to go back.

"Are you worried that the son of the Shi Le Country's country lord might bully you again?"

When Ning Fan's calm and gentle voice reached Feng Xueyan's ears, her expression immediately changed.

She felt particularly surprised. This young man right in front of her did not seem to be that much older than her. However, how could he be so perceptive as if he knew about everything.

That night, Shi Kun's son sneaked into her room with malicious intentions in mind. She noticed somebody was outside her room and immediately ran away in panic. Ning Fan was not there during that time. How could he know about it?

Even though Ning Fan was unable to directly communicate with the young lady, he could use the Mind Reading Technique. The young lady might not know how to speak but he could read what she was thinking.

"Don't worry. Everything is over now. You can follow me back home with ease."

"..." The young lady made a step backwards out of instinct. She looked at Ning Fan with caution.

She felt quite comfortable facing this young man who spoke with a gentle tone. However, he was still a stranger after all. There was no way she could easily believe his words and follow him.

"I am Qiuling's husband. The reason why I came to look for you is because she wants me to get you back home as she's worried that you might be hungry."

Ning Fan took out a small shoe from his sleeve and bent down.

With a smile, he said.

"Lift up your foot. Let me put it on for you."

Just as Ning Fan mentioned Xu Qiuling and took out her shoe as to authenticating his identity, she instantly had more trust in him than before. However, caution still lingered at the depths of her eyes.

She carefully looked at Ning Fan from head to toe. The longer she looked at him, the more she felt that this young man before her was familiar. It was like he was exactly the same person from the painting that Xu Qiuling had once shown her.

During those days that Xu Qiuling spent together with Feng Xueyan, the former had always talked about Ning Fan and she had even shown her his true appearance.

And thus, the caution that she previously held towards him gradually diminished. She gently lifted her bare right foot and let Ning Fan put on her shoe for her.

“Thank you...” Her lips moved but she could not make a sound. She looked disappointed but she immediately replaced it with a calm look.

That calmness was similar to Xu Qiuling from the time when she had that incurable illness in the past and treated life and death indifferently.

There was some similarity between the two’s personalities. That’s why they became bosom friends.

“Don’t worry. I can hear your voice. You are saying ‘Thank you’, aren’t you?”

“How did you know...?” Feng Xueyan could still not emit any sound. Only her lips were moving. However, Ning Fan was able to hear what she was saying in her mind.

“This is a secret. If there is a chance in the future, I will slowly tell you about it. Let’s go. It’s time to go home.”

“Wait for a bit, Brother-in-Law... I have dropped something...”

Feng Xueyan anxiously bit her lips. She only realized just now that the scroll under her sleeves was gone.

Ning Fan was stunned for a moment. It was his first time hearing someone call him “Brother-in-Law” although it was from within someone’s mind.

The way he looked at Feng Xueyan became even more gentle. With a smile, he took out the scroll from his sleeves and passed it to her.

“I picked it up by chance. Now, everything is fine and we can now go home, right?”

“En. Thank you, Brother-in-law. I am so hungry...”

Then, Feng Xueyan’s stomach grumbled. That noise had just confirmed her thoughts.

Ning Fan laughed.

This young lady really doesn’t act like a cultivator. If she doesn’t know how to fast, wouldn’t she die from hunger if she has to go into seclusion for a year or more in the future?

Anyway, she is my sister-in-law after all. If there’s a chance, I really need to refine some pills for her and cure her illness. No matter what, she at least has to have a Harmonious Spirit Realm cultivation base. With that, she could fast while doing cultivation and she would then be able to communicate through telepathy and spirit sense. Otherwise, how boring would it be for her to be mute all day without being able to communicate with others.

Holding the hand of the young lady, Ning Fan was about to take a step and turn into a trace of smoke. All of a sudden, Feng Xueyan fell to the snow below and curled up like a ball. Her little face was beaded with sweat and her body was burning hot.

“Brother-in-law, it’s painful. Very painful...” Feng Xueyan helplessly cried for help inside her mind. Ning Fan’s expression turned solemn instantly.

He checked her entire body using his spirit sense. At the next moment, his calm and tranquil eyes were filled with a hint of rage.

“This is!”

Ning Fan squatted down and held Feng Xueyan in his hands. He turned her around with her back facing him. Then, he tore her shirt apart, revealing her white and clean tube top. He stared at her back and spine and the coldness in his eyes became even more intense.

On Feng Xueyan’s spotless white back, there were eight seals with the marks of black flames. They were burning on her back.

Each of these eight seals had been planted on her by Void Refinement Realm cultivators with their full strength. When these eight seals combine into one, even a Void Fragmentation Realm old monster would not be able to break it!

These eight seals that were planted in her to suppress something inside her body!

The seals could block all kinds of spying and probing. No one could find out what’s within Feng Xueyan’s body.

However, Ning Fan sensed that the item inside her body was a drop of devil blood that burns like fire!

It was almost the same as the blood of Mo Luo inside his primordial spirit. However, its power was just a bit weaker than his. There were still some flaws and it wasn’t pure.

Feng Xueyan was different from Ning Fan. She was just a Vein Opening Realm cultivator and did not have profound magic power like him. How would she be able to endure the sufferings and torments caused by the blood of Mo Luo?

Could it be that all of the sufferings and illnesses she had was brought upon by this drop of devil blood?

Ning Fan investigated more closely and his eyes turned even colder. He finally found out the viciousness of these eight seals.

The person who sealed the devil blood was not suppressing the blood in her but raising the blood instead!

Before this blood of Mo Luo was sealed inside of her, it was not a drop of complete blood yet. It was probably just a strand of the blood.

Someone then sealed this strand of blood inside Feng Xueyan's body and used her to feed the blood, making it grow slowly in order to reach their objective.

After the devil blood completely matures, Feng Xueyan's life would be sacrificed to complete the final stage which was to get rid of the flaws of the devil blood and get it out from her body.

The person who planted the seals on Feng Xueyan with the purpose of raising the devil blood is indeed vicious.

But what kind of people would do such a thing?

What is their objective?

Why did they pick Feng Xueyan?

Ning Fan held Feng Xueyan's hand and put her clothes back in one piece. Then, he kept channeling his magic power into her, gradually stabilizing her qi.

At the moment they put their palms together, the feeling of the two of them being connected to each other suddenly appeared in him.

Ning Fan had only felt this feeling from Fen Chi before.

At that very instant, Ning Fan seemed to have understood why Feng Xueyan would be chosen to raise the devil blood.

“She is the Devil Concubine of the Giant Devil Clan of this generation!”

Countless thoughts ran across his mind but the channeling of magic power continued.

The pain within Feng Xueyan’s body gradually disappeared and she slowly regained consciousness.

As soon as she noticed that she was in Ning Fan’s arms while her dress was half undone which revealed a large part of her skin, a hint of fear flashed past her large bright eyes.

“Brother-in-law, don’t... Don’t molest me...”

Her lips moved and she quickly placed her hands around her chest. She was afraid.

Ning Fan did not know whether to laugh or cry. Does he look a lot like a bad guy who will not even let go of his sister-in-law?

Perhaps he really does look like one... He wasn’t sure of it himself because he really was a man with great notoriety now. Anyone who sees him would be afraid of him and any beast that sees him would run away from him...

Chapter 454: Who Is That Black Shadow?

Translator: GE_Team

Ning Fan let go of Feng Xueyan. He had no intentions of violating her.

She was Xu Qiuling’s sworn younger sister. Thus, she can be considered as his sister too in a way. Even though Ning Fan was a fickle lover, he was well aware that if he harmed Feng Xueyan in any way, it would break Xu Qiuling’s heart.

To Ning Fan, Xu Qiuling's tolerance and understanding was a unique kind of inexplicable warmth. And that was why he would definitely not hurt her sister.

Feng Xueyan rose to her feet. She quietly pulled herself away from Ning Fan and quickly tidied up her clothes.

When she imagined the scene of Ning Fan looking all over her body after undressing her while she had fallen unconscious, her face turned pink and her ears became red and hot. She was really embarrassed even by just imagining it. Inwardly, she grumbled with a hint of anger present in her tone.

However, when she noticed the surge of warm and massive magic power flowing through her body, her frown immediately disappeared.

She may be a taciturn lady. She may have a weak cultivation base. She may be all of those things, but she was not a fool.

She, of course, sensed that the new surge of magic power within her body was relieving her pain and nourishing her body.

Needless to say, she also understood that such a massive amount of magic power within her body couldn't naturally be possible with her Tenth Level of the Vein Opening Realm cultivation base. Moreover, even her father did not have such a strong magic power...

He must have injected this magic power into my body.

He was not trying to take advantage of my body earlier. Instead, he was trying to save me.

"I'm sorry, Brother-in-law. I've misunderstood you... You were trying to save me. I should have thanked you for doing that and should not have accused you..." Feng Xueyan's lips twitched as she apologized to Ning Fan.

Somehow, she was a little worried of Ning Fan getting angry at her. This brother-in-law whom she had just met for the first time was not only a kind person who saved her life, but also the very first person who found her and also the first person who could communicate with her directly.

“Silly girl... Oh right. What’s with the marks of black flames on your back?” Ning Fan asked with curiosity.

“What marks? I don’t know what you are talking about...” Feng Xueyan shook her head.

“Really? Then, forget about what I have just said ... I have another question for you. Where did you get that scroll made out of beast hide?”

“My grandpa gave me that...”

“Your grandpa? Who is he?!” Ning Fan had a feeling that this so-called grandpa was closely related to the devil blood that was being raised in her body.

“My grandpa is... Erm... I’ve forgotten who he is...” Feng Xueyan had actually forgotten who her grandpa was.

Could it be that her memories had been erased by the artificial Samsara power?!

Ning Fan’s eyes turned grim. This Giant Devil Clan was far more mysterious than he initially imagined.

The devil blood that is being raised inside Feng Xueyan, the scroll made out of beast hide, the eight seals, the artificial Samsara power, Feng Xueyan’s grandpa and the hidden Void Pierce Stage expert...

Apparently, there were unfathomable mysteries within the Giant Devil Clan!

The reason why Feng Xueyan’s body has so many illnesses and why her cultivation level remained low is all because her body had been turned into a vessel for raising the devil blood. Common members of the Giant Devil Clan might have no idea about this but Venerated Giant who is Feng Xueyan’s father should be aware of it. Why didn’t he do anything about it?

As for the person whom Feng Xueyan called as 'Grandpa', since he is such a close relative to her, he should naturally be a member of the Giant Devil Clan. So could the person who put Feng Xueyan in this miserable situation be an outer or inner member of the Giant Devil Clan?!

Could it be... is it the hidden expert of the Giant Devil Clan? But I can't be sure of it!

Ning Fan frowned. Since the situation of the Giant Devil Clan was as clear as mud, should he really involve himself in their affairs and help Feng Xueyan?

He could not be sure who his hidden enemy was. The only thing he knew was that if he ever decides to help Feng Xueyan, he would certainly ruin their secret plan and offend them completely.

Since he did not even know who they were, it would be extremely unwise to offend them recklessly.

With Ning Fan's personality, he valued benefits over anything else. There was no way he would choose to do such a thing. Just like what happened with the Six-Winged Clan where he showed his cold-blooded side to them from the beginning until the end.

Feng Xueyan, however, was different. She was a close friend of Xu Qiuling whom the latter treated as her own sister. If she dies, Xu Qiuling would definitely be sad...

For Xu Qiuling's sake, determination gradually filled Ning Fan's eyes.

"In my entire life, I, Ning Fan, did things my own way regardless of what others say. I don't judge whether my actions are good or evil. All I want is to have no regrets in my heart and no remorse in my Dao... If I abandon this lady without providing any aid and make Qiuling sad, I will certainly regret it!"

"I have to save this lady. However, there must be clear steps in doing it. Firstly, I have to find out who my enemy is. One could only be fully prepared after thoroughly knowing both themselves and their adversaries. Secondly, Ju Qing does not seem to be pretending in his concern over his daughter. Apart from that, the Giant Devil Clan's act of searching for spiritual medicine to cure his daughter by dispatching a great deal of manpower does not seem to be fake. Even though people's hearts are unpredictable and it's hard to fend off those who have sinister intentions, I should participate in the Pill

Ceremony that will be held soon. Even if I don't get the Void Inquiry Pill, I have to obtain the qualifications to concoct the pill to cure her illness. Let's see whether that pill can really cure her. If it can't..."

A sharp light flickered across Ning Fan's eyes like cold electricity.

"If it can't, then I have to find another way to save her. As for the mastermind behind this vicious plan, I must make a thorough investigation!"

According to Ning Fan's personality, once he had made up his mind, he would never back out.

He looked at Feng Xueyan and said with a solemn expression.

"Little girl, don't tell anyone that I have seen your half naked body and the scroll made out of beast hide. The same goes for the questions that I've asked you today. Keep them all a secret."

"Understood."

Feng Xueyan beamed with a smile that was really sweet. She realized that the current Ning Fan was fierce, terrifying and not gentle at all with his stern look.

However, compared to his gentleness before this, the current him showed an extra hint of concern. He was genuinely concerned about her. The concern he had for her was from the depths of his heart and was clearly not a pretense.

She did not know why she could not tell anyone about all that had happened today but she still nodded and kept it in mind.

After all, she was mute. Who could she tell these things to?

Brother-in-law is really dumb. Is this what they call disorder stems from concern?

“Alright. Let’s go back to the province and get some tasty food.”

“Brother-in-law, you are really kind...” She could tell that Ning Fan was truly concerned about her. Hence, she gently tiptoed and planted a kiss on his cheek. Her eyes were pure and innocent. There was no lust within them.

Ning Fan touched his cheek and laughed while shaking his head. In his eyes, Feng Xueyan was like a snowman that was built from white ice and snow. She was still as clean as a blank sheet of paper.

Thus, her kiss was similar to how children use kisses to express their joy.

More thoughts surfaced in Ning Fan’s mind.

I have to keep what I have seen today to myself first. After returning to the province, I will try to sound Ju Qing out.

He did not believe that a sincere and honest man like Ju Qing would be so vicious to his own child. However, people’s hearts were unpredictable. He had no choice but to be on guard against him as well.

As for the method to save Feng Xueyan, it would still require further considerations.

It would be fine if the pill is effective on her. If it is ineffective, Ning Fan would have to think of another way.

Ning Fan had gained the power of Samsara. He could probably use it to break the eight seals on Feng Xueyan’s back.

However, what’s strange about it was that Feng Xueyan’s body not only had the devil clan’s secrets and seals but also a hidden trace of ‘artificial Samsara power’.

The intensity of that artificial Samsara power might not be as strong as Ning Fan's true Samsara power but it could still neutralize the corrosive effect of his true Samsara power, preventing him from successfully erasing the seals.

He would have some difficulties as well in wearing away the eight seals by only depending on his Wind Mist Technique.

What Ning Fan felt particularly troublesome was that even if he could break the seals, he could not dare to recklessly extract the Blood of Mo Luo from Feng Xueyan's body.

This devil blood should have been placed inside her when she was still very young. It had already become a part of her life force. If it were carelessly extracted from her, her life would be in danger and she would certainly die eventually.

If Feng Xueyan could assimilate this drop of devil blood herself, it would be the best solution to all of this.

However, the Blood of Mo Luo was not something ordinary people could assimilate. Even Ning Fan still could not assimilate it completely up until now, much less a Tenth Level Vein Opening Realm cultivator like Feng Xueyan...

If she forces herself to assimilate the Blood of Mo Luo, her body would implode and she would end up dead as her body would not be able to endure the power of the devil blood even if she just assimilates a single strand of the blood.

Perhaps Ning Fan should first gather the four slates of the devil statues and collect all of the scriptures written on those slates to put together the complete devil scripture about the "Ancestral Talisman Blood Refinement Technique". When he attains his natal ancestral talisman, only then would he have other ways to deal with the Blood of Mo Luo.

As for the details of how to save Feng Xueyan, Ning Fan could not help but set them aside for the time being...

"Let's go."

With a swing of his hand, his sleeve produced some wind. Just as he was about to bring Feng Xueyan away, his eyes suddenly widened with surprise. He glanced at the snowy sky in the south-eastern direction.

“Who is it?!”

At the same time Ning Fan shouted coldly, he pointed his finger at that direction as well. A trace of sword light pierced the tip of the clouds like lightning. It was none other than his Separation Slayer Sword.

On top of the clouds, a black shadow suddenly revealed itself. Its appearance was veiled by devil mist, making it difficult to see clearly. One could only see its muddy eyes.

The eyes of the black shadow were filled with a hint of surprise. He had just arrived here and was still in an invisible state. Hence, he clearly did not expect for Ning Fan to sense his presence.

Even though he was surprised, the feeling of surprise was pretty insignificant. The black shadow looked at the sword light of the Separation Slayer Sword with contempt in his eyes. He stretched his five fingers out and clawed at the incoming sword light. His body also shone with a bright golden light.

Judging from the intensity of the golden light, he was actually a body cultivator at the Second Level of the Golden Body Refining Realm!

However, his qi was extremely strange. It gave Ning Fan a feeling that he was not a living being.

Bang

With just a random strike, Ning Fan’s Separation Slayer Sword was instantly deflected and went back to his hand. It was still trembling violently when it reached his hand.

As for the black shadow who dealt with the sword with his bare hands, he received a few cuts on his fingers from the tip of the sword. This really shocked him. He never expected a mere Low Grade Void Treasure would actually be able to hurt his fingers, even if he was too careless when he dealt with it.

“A Two-Star Divine Weapon, huh... Humph! Your skills aren’t half bad. That’s why you managed to kill Shi Kun but you are still too young. Young man, you do resemble me in my younger years. However, there are some things you just cannot interfere in.”

Shush

The black shadow suddenly shot out a ray of black light that went straight towards Ning Fan’s chest. He then turned around and left. Just before he disappeared, he secretly glanced at Feng Xueyan. After making sure that the latter was safe, his heart was at ease. His eyes, however, were filled with shame and pain.

“Just now, I clearly sensed that the effects of Yan Er1’s seals recurred which is why I purposely came to rescue her. However, it was beyond my expectation for this young man to get ahead of me and save her first...”

The black shadow turned into a ray of flowing light and faded into the distance. To Ning Fan’s surprise, the aura force of the magic power that emanated from the flowing light was at the Void Pierce Stage!

The black shadow had Void Pierce Stage magic power and the Second Level of the Golden Body Refining Realm. He was really strong and he was definitely not someone who the current Ning Fan could defeat!

Ning Fan did not chase after the black shadow. He just reached out a finger and touched the black light that was heading to his chest.

That black light was not a hidden weapon delivered to harm him. Instead, it was a black jade slip.

Ning Fan took the jade slip and accessed its contents using his spirit sense. At the next second, his expression turned serious and he kept silent.

There was only a single sentence inside the jade slip.

“For your kindness in protecting the clan, I’ll keep this gratitude forever in my heart. But remember, you must never interfere with Xueyan’s matter. You are not capable of withstanding the wrath of the Eight Ancestors.”

The fearsome qi from the tone of the sentence gave Ning Fan a light hint of familiarity. He seemed to have encountered this qi somewhere before.

Ning Fan sorted out his thoughts and emotions and he then gradually remembered where he had encountered this trace of qi before.

“It was at the Stele of Slaughter located outside the Secret Realm of the Broken World on Pleasure Devil Immortal Island! It belongs to the number-one individual on the Stele of Slaughter’s rankings. His name is Ju Yan. He is the former Venerated Giant, the father of Ju Qing and the grandfather of Feng Xueyan!”

“According to rumors, Ju Yan has already been dead for a long time. Why was he still capable of appearing in this place at this time...? He seems to have zero hostility against me. Otherwise, I would definitely not be a match for him with his strength unless I use the stored attack of Stele of Sun and Moon...”

“Ju Yan is clearly aware of the reason behind Feng Xueyan’s seals. Is he the one who schemed against her?”

“Since this man has thanked me for protecting the Giant Devil Clan, it means that he is someone who values his friends and family and those who have helped him before. Therefore, him telling me not to interfere with Xueyan’s matter could still be regarded as a kind reminder. It could also be a warning. He said that, ‘I am not capable of withstanding the wrath of the Eight Ancestors.’ Who are the Eight Ancestors? Could it be that they are the ones who were the masterminds of all this...?”

“When Ju Yan mentioned the Eight Ancestors, his tone was rather polite. It can be assumed that they are the early ancestral figures of the Giant Devil Clan. No matter who the true mastermind of this scheme is, the person who put Feng Xueyan in this condition is very likely to be one of our own... What is their objective...?”

Ning Fan could not figure it out!

However, even though he had no idea, he did not have any plans of ignoring Feng Xueyan and abandoning her to her plight.

My investigation of this can only be carried out slowly but surely. Now, I should first send Feng Xueyan back.

Even though he did not know the goal of the Giant Devil Clan, Feng Xueyan certainly would not face any danger before the devil blood fully matures. She would be protected, like what had happened just now where Ju Yan came from thousands of miles away in order to save her.

“Grandfather... He is my grandfather... Ah! My head hurts...” Feng Xueyan suddenly placed her hands on her head and held it. She recovered some of the memories that had once been erased which made her rather sick.

“Don’t be afraid. I will bring you home right away!”

Ning Fan held Feng Xueyan’s wrist and secretly channeled his magic power into her. His eyes gradually turned gloomy.

Even though he did not know what goal the Giant Devil Clan had for them to jeopardize Feng Xueyan’s life, Ning Fan despised the Giant Devil Clan currently, regardless of what their reasons were.

It was similar to the Six-Winged Clan that abandoned Fen Chi in exchange for their clan’s safety.

The Giant Devil Clan, for some reason, had abandoned Feng Xueyan.

Ning Fan might find it more acceptable if it was the doing of their enemies or nemesis.

However, the fact that it was their own doing angered Ning Fan the most.

He was once set up by Young Master Ning Tian. Even though he did not have a close relationship with Ning Tian, being betrayed by his own family had always been a thorn in his heart.

Thus, he understood the disappointment that Old Devil felt when he was betrayed by his adopted son.

And that was why he had some compassion and more tolerance towards Fen Chi who was abandoned by the Six-Winged Clan like a pawn and the same goes for Feng Xueyan.

Shush

Holding Feng Xueyan in one of his arms, Ning Fan turned into a trace of smoke and flew all the way back to the Sad Devil Hall.

He secretly hid all of his expressions and emotions, as though nothing had happened.

When everyone saw that Ning Fan actually managed to find the eldest mistress within such a short period of time, all of them were deeply impressed.

When Xu Qiuling saw that Ning Fan had really returned with Feng Xueyan, her eyes were filled with gratitude but she did not say a single word of thanks to him.

After all, both of them did not need to thank each other...

However, right after he returned, her keen senses captured a hint of rage in Ning Fan's eyes.

That emotion was buried very deeply within him and no one would be able to notice it. Xu Qiuling, however, was able to discern it because she understood him.

"Did something happen?" Xu Qiuling asked with a gentle voice.

"Don't worry."

Ning Fan comforted her but his eyes were secretly checking the elders of the Giant Devil Clan.

The clan leaders who were in the Sad Devil Hall included the clan leader, Ju Qing, the great elder, Fu Bai and ten other elders.

Among the other elders, only one of them was a woman. She was the second elder of the clan, Yao Lian.

According to rumors, she was a woman of loose morals. She was said to engage in sexual intercourses with many different devil cultivators. She cultivated the devil cultivation method of bewitching techniques. Her appearance in the world of cultivation was considered as above average but her sexual techniques were extraordinary.

Of course, although she led a dissolute lifestyle, she was infinitely loyal and devoted to the Giant Devil Clan. She was never perfunctory and careless on major issues of the clan. She might have some problems with her personality but she was not a despicable villain.

Other than being a little coquettish, she was friendly to the members of the clan.

Human personality was originally complex. There was nothing one could do about it.

Ning Fan's eyes became stern. He had the Mind Reading Technique. If he wants to find out some secrets about the Giant Devil Clan, he would naturally need to look for a high-level female higher-up. On that account, this Yao Lian was the perfect person.

“*Giggle*... It seems like I have gotten your interest, Fellow Daoist Zhou... I am rather free tonight. I wonder if you want to come to my boudoir later and have a drink?”

Yao Lian looked at Ning Fan's handsome face and licked her lips. Her action made her look like a beautiful female snake.

Ning Fan was just right to be her favorite type. She really wanted to find out how it feels to be banged by him...

“Yao Lian, if you want to seduce men, you better watch out as to whom they belong! This Little Cucumber is mine!” Yue Lingkong said domineeringly and gave Yao Lian a deathly stare. The latter was shocked and no longer dared to hit on Ning Fan anymore.

Yue Lingkong was a female tyrant after all. Besides, she was the strongest of the seven venerated beings in the internal sea in the past. That is to say that she was much stronger than Dong Xu and Ju Qing.

Now, she had broken through to the Void Glimpse Stage and reached a level where she was unrivalled among Void Glimpse Stage cultivators. Among the seven venerated beings in the internal sea, who would dare to provoke her?

Based on her personality, if it wasn't because Ning Fan had a close relationship with the Giant Devil Clan, she would not be so polite towards Ju Qing and Dong Xu.

As for Yao Lian, she was a promiscuous woman who could accept different men to be her husband. There was no way Yue Lingkong would allow Ning Fan to sleep with her.

Even if Little Cucumber wants to find another concubine, there is no way he would keep an ugly woman like her!

Yue Lingkong was firmly convincing herself while contemplating as she refused to admit that she was jealous.

Ning Fan gave Yue Lingkong an ambiguous smile. He found Yue Lingkong quite cute whenever she was jealous.

Ju Qing made a dry cough, eliminating the awkward atmosphere in the Sad Devil Hall. Then, he suddenly asked Ning Fan.

“I heard Little Shanzi said that Fellow Daoist Zhou is quite a skillful pill refinement master. I wonder if you are interested in participating in the competition of the Pill Ceremony that will be held soon?”

“Hehe. If I don’t participate in such a great ceremony, wouldn’t it be a waste? If I join the Pill Ceremony and get into the top three of the competition, I would have the right to take up Clan Leader Ju Qing’s mission and concoct the life-saving pill for Mistress Xueyan. If I succeed in creating the pill that Clan Leader Ju Qing requires, not only could I obtain a Void Inquiry Pill as a reward, but also save Mistress Xueyan’s life. It would be quite a joyful matter if that happens. Don’t you think so, Clan Leader Ju Qing?” Ning Fan asked with a meaningful tone.

“What Fellow Daoist Zhou said is indeed correct. If my daughter, Yan Er, could be cured, it would naturally be an extremely joyful matter...” Ju Qing’s eyes were filled with hope. He genuinely wanted to cure Feng Xueyan.

Ning Fan stayed silent for a while.

Could it be that Ju Qing has no idea of what happened to Feng Xueyan? His concern and care for Feng Xueyan don’t seem to be fake.

This gave Ning Fan a hint of relief. If even Feng Xueyan’s own father also turns against her, how cruel would it be to her.

If that’s the case, I shall find a chance to fish for some information from Yao Lian.

Mind Reading Technique really comes in handy in situations like this.

“Hehe. Since Fellow Daoist Zhou has the intention of joining the Pill Ceremony, this old man will give Fellow Daoist a good introduction about the whole process of the Pill Ceremony. What do you think?”

Dong Xu nodded with a faint smile while stroking his beard.

“Alright. Thank you, Fellow Daoist Dong Xu, for doing the explanations for me.”

To be honest, Ning Fan was quite interested in the Pill Ceremony. If it wasn’t because of the new discovery he had of Feng Xueyan’s case, he would be very pleased to have an exchange of pill refinement techniques with countless pill refinement grandmasters by competing with them.

The mastery of pill refinement techniques was complementary to the Yin Yang Transformation. It was an extremely essential aspect in improving one's cultivation base and must not be neglected.

Chapter 455: Questioning Yao Lian at Night

Dong Xu introduced the entire flow of the Pill Ceremony in great detail.

This ceremony was jointly organized by the Giant Devil Clan and the Pill Island. Moreover, having Void Inquiry Pills as prizes for this competition, made it an unprecedentedly grand occasion.

Countless old monsters and pill refinement masters who usually seclude themselves from the world had come to the Endless Sea to either participate or spectate in this competition.

The splendor of this time's Pill Ceremony was nearly comparable to the Pill Conference that was held once every fifty years in the Middle State by the Rain Palace.

Pill refinement masters of all grades were qualified to sign up for the Pill Ceremony. However, those whose pill refinement skills were below the Third Revolution would very likely be disqualified in the first round.

This Pill Ceremony was separated into three rounds of tests. The first round was called 'Grade Testing with the Pill Tablet'. The so-called pill tablet was an item the Pill Island had provided for this grand competition. It could test the grades of the pill refinement masters ranging from the First to the Fourth Revolution. Those who had yet to attain the Third Revolution would be directly disqualified.

The second round was called 'Melting Spiritual Herbs'. In this round, pill refinement masters would be tested in their speed of melting spiritual herbs and the purity of the end product after their refinement.

Commonly, the process of pill refinement consists of three steps.

The first step would be melting the spiritual herbs and turning them into medicinal liquid. Then, keep refining the medicinal liquid with fire.

The second step would be mixing the medicinal power of different spiritual herbs.

The third step would be turning down the fire and forming the pills.

During the melting process, the medicinal power of the spiritual herbs would more or less dissipate. Hence, the faster the spiritual herbs melt, the less medicinal power would dissipate.

After completely melting the spiritual herbs, one would need to purify the medicinal liquid by getting rid of the impurities. The more purifications done, the better the quality of the medicinal liquid. Consequently, the quality of the pills that are refined from the medicinal liquid would be better. Of course, the longer the purification process, the greater the difficulty. If one makes just a single careless mistake, all of the medicinal liquid would be ruined.

For an example that incorporates the level of mastery in pill refinement, a Fourth Revolution Pill Refinement Master could carry out purification on a one thousand years old spiritual herb up to 5 to 10 times. It was rare for pill refinement masters of such level to purify a one thousand years old spiritual herbs up to 11 times or more.

As for a Fifth Revolution Pill Refinement Master, one could carry out the same process on a one thousand years old spiritual herb up to 50 times or more!

In the second test, those who fail to carry out the required number of times of purification on the given spiritual herbs within the specified amount of time would all be disqualified.

As for the third round of the tests, it was called "Uncover the Furnace and Concoct Pills". In this round, the participants would have the freedom to choose what pills to concoct. Then, the appraiser would assess the quality of the pills they refine. After that, the rankings of the competition would be decided based on the assessment.

Those who get into the top three would not only win generous prizes, but also gain the qualifications to accept a mission from Ju Qing. The mission was to concoct a life-saving pill for Feng Xueyan. If the pill is successfully concocted, each of them would then receive a Void Inquiry Pill as a reward.

Other than the top three, the participants of the third round could also win different prizes depending on their ranks. The prizes include precious pill recipes, rare spiritual herbs and so on. To common pill refinement masters, these prizes were quite attractive.

Without doubt, many old monsters came for the Void Inquiry Pills and they aimed to get into the top three.

Nevertheless, most of the pill refinement masters who were aware that they had no chance of getting into the top three would still give their best shot for the other prizes.

News about the Pill Ceremony had already been released and spread around since a few years ago. Many pill refinement masters from all corners of the Rain World had come to the Internal Endless Sea for it.

For instance, one of the most outstanding young cultivators of the Rain Palace, Yun Niansu, had come to participate in this Pill Ceremony. He had met Ning Fan once in the past and he even invited him to stay on the Pill Island for a while. Unfortunately, Ning Fan ignored his offer.

There was still one month before the start of the first round of selections.

The Giant Devil Clan had thrown a banquet which was celebrated with hundreds of types of fruits to welcome Ning Fan and his group. After the feast, Ning Fan left along with his women with the reason of making preparations for his participation in the Pill Ceremony. They settled down in a guest house in the province.

Yue Lingkong and Fen Chi had been following Ning Fan all the way to the Giant Devil Clan. Both of them were already quite exhausted. Hence, as soon as they arrived at the guest house, they went to rest in their respective rooms.

Feng Xueyan insisted on sleeping on the same bed with Xu Qiuling. Both of them truly had a close relationship. However, her decision left Ning Fan no chance to interact with Xu Qiuling privately.

Anyhow, Ning Fan was already aware of the mystery behind the Giant Devil Clan. He handed over the four Void Glimpse Stage spiritual puppets to Yue Lingkong and had them guard outside where the women rested.

He sat alone on the west wing and lit up the candlelight. He looked at the piles of fine writing paper under the candlelight in silence.

Each sheet of paper was filled with the beautiful writings of a lady. They were written by Feng Xueyan in the past.

Since she could not talk to Xu Qiuling, she had to write out everything that she wanted to express on papers. Well, being mute left her with no choice.

In her writings, there was the feeling of loneliness and stubbornness, just like the snow in a cool windy night that no one understood.

She was the daughter of a man who was recognized as one of the seven venerated beings in the internal sea. However, her body was weak while her cultivation base was equally inadequate. All of her peers had already attained the Gold Core Realm or the Nascent Soul Realm but she was still just a Vein Opening Realm cultivator. She felt reluctance in having a slower progress compared to her peers but her fate was beyond her power to change.

The magic power that she gained from all the bitter cultivation she did would eventually become nourishment for the devil blood in her and be devoured by it. She was fated to never attain the Harmonious Spirit Realm in her current life.

Fortunately, she still had her innate talent in engraving devil marks. Thus, she put all of her focus in learning and researching the art of engraving devil marks. She had poured so much effort that common people would not be able to even imagine it and it paid off as she became a tattoo master whose name was widely known in the internal sea.

She engraved the teleportation devil marks on her own body. Thus, she gained the ability to fly. However, that devil mark was some type of general rank devil marks that needed forty plus inscriptions to complete.

Ning Fan found it hard to imagine how a young lady at the Tenth Level Vein Opening Realm could endure forty plus inscriptions on her white silky skin.

Ning Fan had the Stone Warrior Devil Mark. He obviously understood how painful it was to endure forty plus inscriptions.

“Ling Er really has a keen eyesight to have befriended this young lady and treating her like her own sister... The Giant Devil Clan, on the other hand, is trying to sacrifice such an outstanding individual. What exactly are they up to...?”

Creak

After blowing off the candlelight, he quietly pushed the door open and walked into the snowy night.

Under the effect of the Heaven Deceiving Cloak, his figure slowly faded and eventually vanished into thin air. No one knew where he went.

The Snow Lotus Pavilion was where the second elder of the clan, Yao Lian, lived.

The pavilion was being illuminated by flickering candlelight. There was also the sound of water flowing. Apparently, Yao Lian was bathing.

Outside the pavilion, a dozen Gold Core Realm maidservants were standing guard with vigilance.

The wind was quite strong and the atmosphere was filled with flying snow.

All of a sudden, a light breeze blew past them and went into the pavilion. None of the maidservants sensed anything wrong.

Elder Yao Lian was at the top floor of the pavilion. She was immersing herself in a wooden barrel filled with bathwater that was sprinkled with flower petals. Behind a veil of steam produced by the hot

bathwater, her curvaceous body looked like juicy honey peaches that would make anyone who saw it feel tempted to take a bite.

Her appearance might be common, but her body was extremely alluring.

Bathing in hot water, a feeling of warmth enveloped her whole body.

Meanwhile, her eyes were recalling Ning Fan's figure whom she had just met during the day. She was unable to forget that cool and handsome young man.

She closed her eyes and licked her lips. Within her mind, she visualized her doing erotic activities with Ning Fan while moving one of her hands down into the water, reaching to somewhere below her body.

She imagined Ning Fan tossing her to the bed in a rough manner and violating her fiercely.

She imagined having all of her clothes ripped apart by that man cold-heartedly.

She imagined the scene where the both of them physically wrapped each other while experiencing rapture together.

Soft moans resounded across the pavilion. As she continued to immerse herself in her imagination, she went into ecstasy over the images in her mind, causing her to succumb even more deeply to her sexual urges.

"V-Venerated Ming...My Brother Ming... I want it... I want it..."

Yao Lian who was in the middle of masturbating failed to notice that a young man in white robes had appeared in her room some time ago. His face darkened.

He had never expected that a day would come where he would be remembered by a loose woman to such an extent. He had actually become Yao Lian's imaginary partner during her masturbation...

This Yao Lian is really lustful to the marrow of her bones.

Ning Fan shook his head. Even though he did not despise the likes of this woman who would sleep with countless men, he did not like them either.

After all, he was also a devil lord who practiced dual cultivation. His body might not necessarily be any cleaner than Yao Lian's. That being so, he did not despise her.

However, he would also not try to make out with a woman like her. Why? There's no why.

He doesn't need a reason to dislike a person.

"Lady Yao Lian, what an excellent mood you have..." Ning Fan made a teasing smile and suddenly talked. He then sat beside a wooden table and poured himself a cup of light wine. While looking at Yao Lian, he was slowly sipping the cup of wine.

Yao Lian had no idea at all that someone else was inside her room. Ning Fan's voice made her heart leap to her throat.

Yao Lian's beautiful eyes turned to Ning Fan with a hint of coquettish anger. Then, she gave him a seductive look and said with a breathless but alluring voice.

"This is so embarrassing... When did Venerated Ming come into my room? Why didn't you tell me earlier? *chuckle* Was that live masturbation just now enjoyable?"

This woman truly did not have any shame. Even though Ning Fan had seen her whole naked body, she could still remain so composed. As a devil cultivator, she was not half bad.

"You knew that I would come, didn't you?" Ning Fan played with his cup with eyes that were as deep as the ocean.

“*chuckle* During the day, the way Venerated Ming looked at me was as if you wanted to gobble me down. Therefore, during that time, I figured that you will certainly come and spend a pleasurable night with me.”

Yao Lian rose up from the bathwater without wearing a single piece of garment. She got out of the wooden barrel and slowly wiped every part of her body dry in front of Ning Fan. Then, she randomly pulled a thin silk to wrap around her body and sat beside him.

She activated the power of her bewitching art to its maximum in each of her actions. Besides, with the nudity she purposely revealed, it was enough to entice just about any man.

She knew that her appearance was not unique but she had immense confidence in her own physique.

She was good at observing men. From the moment she exchanged glances with Ning Fan during the day, she could tell that he held some desire for her.

However, she naturally could not guess that Ning Fan only wanted to fish for some secrets from her mouth. She just thought that he was hooked by her body, like other men.

She made a deeply passionate expression but inwardly, she felt proud of herself and disdainful towards Ning Fan.

So what if he has great strength? Isn't he just like other men who are obsessed with sex? Didn't he also get hooked so easily like them with just a little seduction?

So what if Yue Lingkong is strong? Didn't her man still succumb to me mindlessly?

“Venerated Ming, I am feeling very uncomfortable right now... *Moan*”

She bent her upper body forward and laid in Ning Fan' arms.

She then placed both of her arms around his neck, pulling herself towards him.

As soon as Yao Lian came into contact with Ning Fan's body, her lust was reinvigorated.

Her body was only covered with a thin layer of clothing.

This is weird... Why would my body be so excited...? It shouldn't be! When I was masturbating earlier, I deliberately made my body excited. The reason was to attain my peak condition. Now, in order to seduce Venerated Ming, I have secretly activated my bewitching power and shut off the sensitivity of my body... But why did my body lose control as soon as I touched his body...?

Suddenly, Yao Lian was filled with shock. It was at this moment that she recalled that Ning Fan was not just a devil lord who cut people down like scything flax but also a devil cultivator who cultivated the Yin Yang Devil Veins and practiced dual-cultivation.

She was extremely sure that Ning Fan did not use his bewitching power on her at all. However, just an unintentional physical contact could still arouse her...

What level of bewitching power is that?!

Ning Fan's mastery in bewitching arts was far beyond Yao Lian's ability to comprehend!

She raised her head once again. As she met Ning Fan's eyes that were as indifferent as usual, she was surprised again.

"H-How is this possible? Did my seduction have no effect on him at all?"

At this very moment, Yao Lian began to realize that the man before her eyes right now was different from those whom she had met before. He was a tough one.

The set of calm eyes that had no trace of lust not only meant that Ning Fan was a man whose heart was as cold as iron but also implied that the reason he came to find her tonight had nothing to do with having sex with her.

“I wonder what made Venerated Ming find me at such an hour.”

Yao Lian bit the tip of her tongue and shook off the lustful desire in her. She straightened up her back and stopped seducing Ning Fan any longer.

She was not foolish. If Ning Fan did not come to have sex with her, she might probably enrage him by seducing him and end up being smashed to pieces.

Her beautiful eyes were now filled with a strong sense of failure.

She had always thought that she could toy with all men beneath the heavens with her voluptuous body. However, she discovered today that there were people whom she could never mess with.

“I have some questions to ask you, Second Elder. If the questions I ask are related to the secrets of your clan, you can just choose not to answer and act like I have never asked them before. Rest assured, Second Elder. I am close and friendly with your clan. The reason why I’m asking these questions is because of my curiosity after hearing some rumors from the three other clans of the Hidden Ocean. Even if you don’t wish to tell me the truth, I certainly won’t harbor a single bit of hatred against the Giant Devil Clan.”

“*Chuckle* So the reason why Venerated Ming came to pay me a visit at this late hour is because you have something to ask. Well, if you have any questions, just ask them directly. As long as it is something I’m allowed to say, I will certainly tell the truth. If it is related to something I am prohibited to say, I will never dare to tell Venerated Ming even if you force me to. Even if you choose to search my soul and memories, you won’t be able to access my true memories.”

Yao Lian was well aware of Ning Fan’s behavior. Killing people and searching their souls and memories were just common occurrences to him. Hence, she was quite cooperative with him. As long as it is something that she could tell him, she would surely tell him frankly but if it is a secret that could not be told, she would not dare to say it out even if she wants to as she would die after disclosing it.

“Alright. Is there a Devil Concubine in the Giant Devil Clan?!”

The first question that Ning Fan asked startled Yao Lian.

She gave him an awkward look. All of a sudden, traces of seals in her Sea of Consciousness caused a sharp pain in her mind as if they were warning her not to tell anything about it.

She naturally knew that a Devil Concubine had been born in the Giant Devil Clan and the Devil Concubine was the current clan leader's daughter, Feng Xueyan.

However, the Eight Ancestors forbade this matter to be leaked and accordingly, they planted seals on the Sea of Consciousness of those who knew about it.

If Yao Lian divulges any information regarding this matter, her Sea of Consciousness would be crushed instantly, killing her directly.

"..." She kept silent. However, the awkward look on her face had said everything.

She, of course, had no idea that Ning Fan had the Mind Reading Technique which allowed him to read all of her thoughts when she was thinking.

From her thoughts, Ning Fan found out that the Eight Ancestors are the ones who masterminded all of this!

Feng Xueyan is indeed the Devil Concubine of the Giant Devil Clan!

Ning Fan's expression remained unchanged but inwardly, he became more certain of the guesses he had made.

He wished that he could just directly ask Yao Lian who the Eight Ancestors were and the artificial Samsara power.

However, it requires technique in asking questions. When he asked about the Devil Concubine, he did not directly ask whether Feng Xueyan was the Devil Concubine or not. Instead, he asked whether there was a Devil Concubine in the Giant Devil Clan.

In this way, even if the conversation between Ning Fan and Yao Lian tonight was passed on to the Eight Ancestors, it would not expose the fact that Ning Fan knew that Feng Xueyan was the Devil Concubine.

“About the seals on your Sea of Consciousness, who planted them?!”

Ning Fan did not ask about the Eight Ancestors straight away. Even so, facing the question that Ning Fan had just raised, she certainly would think about everything she knew regarding the Eight Ancestors.

Even if the Eight Ancestors knew the questions that Ning Fan asked from Yao Lian, they would only think that he was just concerned about her by asking regarding the seals.

No one would expect that Ning Fan had already obtained the information about the Eight Ancestors.

“I’m sorry. I can’t tell you about that...” Yao Lian gave Ning Fan a bitter smile. Each of the questions he asked was related to the important secrets of the Giant Devil Clan. She could not answer any of them at all. As soon as she answers, she would immediately die from the destruction of her Sea of Consciousness.

The Eight Ancestors... They were the eight predecessors of the Giant Devil Clan. Each of their cultivation levels was above the Void Inquiry Stage.

The eight of them not only included the current clan leader’s father, Ju Yan, but also the seven generations of experts before him.

The Eight Ancestors were overseeing the “Eight Gates, Six Dao and the Boundless Evil Sea Formation”. They hid themselves in Ju Mo’s remnant world while seeking for the path to save the Giant Devil Clan using their undead bodies.

They intend to wash away the slave marks on the members of their clan and their humiliation after being enslaved by Mo Luo at the expense of Feng Xueyan alone.

They had already extracted the devil slate from the devil statue and had been studying the devil scripture on the slate with great effort. However, none of them could understand it. However, the preserved copy of the devil scripture on the slate had already been circulating within the Giant Devil Clan. It was left by the earliest ancestor of the clan, Patriarch Ju Mo. Now, it was kept in Feng Xueyan's hands.

The strongest being among the eight ancestors was not Ju Yan. Instead, it was another Void Pierce Stage old ancestor. He had managed to create the artificial Samsara power by imitating the true power of Samsara. This showed how extraordinary he was.

All of these were great secrets of the Giant Devil Clan. How could Yao Lian who was the second elder of the clan tell these to Ning Fan who was an outsider?

Besides that, only Fu Bai, Yao Lian and a few elders of the clan knew about this.

Even the current clan leader, Ju Qing, had his memories erased by the Eight Ancestors. He did not have the slightest idea about the real reason for his daughter's suffering and he was still serving them with full loyalty.

Yao Lian would never tell Ning Fan anything about these.

However, Ning Fan found out about all of them by making Yao Lian think with a single question.

His eyes were as deep as the ocean. There was no emotion on his face but inwardly, his heart became even colder.

Very well!

Now, Ning Fan had finally figured out who his enemies were.

The Eight Ancestors or the eight predecessors of the Giant Devil Clan might be honorable individuals of the clan as they had given their all to eliminate the slave marks of the Giant Devil Clan.

However, they intend to sacrifice Feng Xueyan in order to achieve their goal. Ning Fan would not allow this kind of thing to happen.

By exchanging a single person for the entire clan's prosperity, perhaps this kind of sacrifice is worthwhile.

However, if the person who is going to be sacrificed is you or your family, would you agree?

At least, Ning Fan was not going to agree.

He suddenly rose to his feet and nodded to Yao Lian. With a cold voice, he muttered, "Farewell."

He just asked her two questions but he had gained every information he needed.

Even if the Eight Ancestors knew that he asked Yao Lian two questions, they would certainly not expect him to know everything.

Creak

The door was opened and then closed. There was already no sign of Ning Fan.

His departure allowed Yao Lian to loosen up her tense body. Ning Fan's aura was truly terrifying. Even Yao Lian who had seen much of life found it a little unbearable.

"He really is a terrifying man. A man like him is not someone I can get... If I try to toy with him, I will certainly end up dead... *Giggle* But I have to admit that this man is the most outstanding man that I have ever seen in my whole life. He's really charming..."

“He was not disturbed even though I was on his lap just now...”

Yao Lian suddenly made a self-deprecating smile.

If I have never been so unrestrained in the past... If I am still a virgin right now, I wonder if I would have the chance to be his partner...

When she asked herself that question, she suddenly felt that she had been living a really bad lifestyle...

I guess it's time to make some changes on my lifestyle and behavior...

Chapter 456: A Weird Old Daoist

After Ning Fan left, Yao Lian headed to another forbidden place of the clan on the same night and reported what had happened earlier to the Eight Ancestors.

Yao Lian did not know that Ning Fan was only pretending to leave. In fact, he had turned invisible and tailed after her all the way. Eventually, they came to a small chiliocosm where the eight ancestors were hiding. Ning Fan stood outside their hiding place with a frown for the entire night.

Ning Fan could not enter that small chiliocosm! Outsiders could only enter the place under the guidance of the people from within.

The Eight Ancestors would obviously not welcome Ning Fan, let alone guide him into the realm.

It was an extremely secretive forbidden place of the clan as it was inside a dilapidated small chiliocosm.

It was pitch black inside that realm. There was a faint flow of formation power but nothing was clearly visible.

The only thing that one could see clearly was eight gigantic pillars which glowed faintly in the dark.

A black figure sat cross-legged on top of each of the stone pillars. Every single one of them had vigorous and boundless qi but none of them was alive. It was really bizarre.

These eight individuals were the eight ancient ancestors of the Giant Devil Clan who had already died in the past. However, they still existed in a strange form inside this small chiliocosm!

Yao Lian's report did not attract the attention of the eight ancestors.

It was because the two questions Ning Fan asked did not involve anything which would be a threat to the Giant Devil Clan and Yao Lian did not leak any important information as well.

After a brief moment of silence, none of them decided to hold Ning Fan accountable. Only one of the ancestors, Ju Yan, found it rather difficult to understand.

He had met Ning Fan one time. Even though he just had a glimpse of him, he was sure that Ning Fan was similar to him who might seem to be generous on the outside but was meticulous and smart on the inside.

Based on his understanding of Ning Fan, it was rather weird for him to purposely visit Yao Lian tonight and ask her those questions. Ning Fan's actions were just so unreasonable but he knew that people like him would never do unreasonable things. Thus, just as the saying goes, when things are unusual, something bad must be going on.

On that day they met, Ju Yan had warned Ning Fan not to intervene in Feng Xueyan's matter.

Inwardly, Ju Yan muttered to himself.

In the questions he asked Yao Lian, he indeed did not mention anything about Feng Xueyan at all... Did this young man really listen to my warning?

However, if it wasn't for Yan Er, why would this young man look for Yao Lian...

Ju Yan could not figure it out. Eventually, he tossed this matter to the back of his mind.

No matter what, he and the other seven ancestors still had some important matters to deal with.

Since Ning Fan had saved the clan earlier and he did not touch upon any top secrets of the clan, Ju Yan did not think there was need to deal with him yet.

“We shall put aside the matter with Zhou Ming. A Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator like him is of no importance... Yao Lian, tell us about the situation of the Pill Ceremony...”

Beside Ju Yan was another elderly person whose qi was much more forceful than Ju Yan’s. His voice was hoarse and it was filled with the malevolence of an evil spirit which made Yao Lian feel rather uneasy.

As soon as he spoke, all of the seven other ancestors went quiet. Clearly, he was the leader of the eight ancestors.

Yao Lian immediately reported to them all the matters regarding the Pill Ceremony. The night passed by smoothly.

Ning Fan returned to the west wing of the guest house. He sat in a meditative posture on his bed and sorted out his thoughts in silence.

From Yao Lian’s mind, he managed to obtain a lot of secrets of the clan.

He now knew how strong the Eight Ancestors were. Six of them were Void Inquiry Stage experts while the other two were Void Pierce Stage experts. There was no way Ning Fan could defeat them all. This, without a doubt, was bad news. If Ning Fan wants to save Feng Xueyan from the hands of the Eight Ancestors, he would need greater strength.

Of course, there was something that could be considered as a good news to him.

There was still some time before the day where they had to take out the blood of Mo Luo from Feng Xueyan's body as it still needed at least another ten years to completely mature.

That is to say that Feng Xueyan would not be in any danger within ten years. Moreover, the Eight Ancestors would secretly protect her like a precious treasure.

However, ten years later, the Eight Ancestors would certainly execute their plan on Feng Xueyan. When that time arrives, unless Ning Fan attains a great improvement in his strength, he would not be able to save her.

"Ten years, huh... Within ten years, the blood wine will be completely brewed. I wonder if I can break through to the Void Refinement Realm when I consume it... Advancing to the Void Refinement Realm is just too difficult. However, attaining the Golden Body Refinement Realm is much easier. I just need to gather the remaining three pieces of stone slates and obtain the devil qi from them, I have confidence of breaking through to the Golden Body Refinement Realm in ten years!"

"No matter what, I can't let Feng Xueyan call me her brother-in-law for nothing. I can't allow the eight ancestors of the Giant Devil Clan to harm her!"

Ning Fan remembered that the devil statue slate was currently in the hands of the Eight Ancestors.

I wonder if I can get closer to the devil slate and extract the devil qi within it...

"I can't enter the small chiliocosm where the Eight Ancestors are hiding. It will still need further investigation to figure out how to get the devil statue slate of the Giant Devil Clan... As for now, the most important thing should be placing all of my focus on improving my pill refinement techniques. In order to attain a breakthrough in my cultivation within ten years, my mastery in pill refinement definitely can't be neglected."

Ning Fan was well aware of the fact that he was a person of great notoriety. The reason why a notorious person like him could live until today was because of his strength.

His current strength had already made him famous across the entire Rain World. However, it was still far from enough!

He needed to possess the strength to wipe out the entire Rain World and only then could he be on par with Sovereign Moksha.

The first rays of the morning sun shone through the windows. Ning Fan looked for his women one by one. After passing them some messages, he asked Yue Lingkong to take control of the four spiritual puppets and take care of their safety. He then began to make preparations for the tests of the Pill Ceremony.

First of all, he must get into the top three of the competition and become one of the three pill refinement masters who would concoct the pill for Feng Xueyan.

He was a little worried. He did not know what the so-called life-saving pill was. Thus, he had to concoct the pill for Feng Xueyan himself in order to make sure that no one was trying to harm her.

Since the Cold Northern Country was the venue of the Pill Ceremony, innumerable famous pill refinement masters of the Rain World had gathered there.

In the province, many old monsters got together in the Eternal Peace Pavilion to trade pill recipes, spiritual herbs and many other items.

The Eternal Peace Pavilion was a property directly owned by the Giant Devil Clan. Hence, all of the profits earned from the sale of spiritual herbs solely belonged to the clan.

In order to satisfy the needs of the pill refinement masters, the Eternal Peace Pavilion had purposely opened up a floor for trading activities that allowed pill refinement masters to set up their own stalls here to buy or sell pills and spiritual herbs.

As the actual date of the Pill Ceremony was quickly approaching, many pill refinement masters were purchasing spiritual herbs in order to prepare for the event. Naturally, there were also many profit-oriented old monsters who just came to sell spiritual herbs, pill recipes and medicine cauldrons.

Some rare spiritual herbs were unavailable here. Thus, pill refinement masters could only resort to bartering among themselves. Well, wouldn't there be situations where the spiritual herbs that one is lacking are excess items of some other pill refinement masters?

In just a few days, Ning Fan travelled across seventy million li* (500m per li) of the Cold Northern Country.

A few days later, Ning Fan arrived at the Eternal Peace Pavilion in a manner as light as the clouds. Needless to say, he had come to purchase spiritual herbs.

Be it for collecting the main ingredients to concoct the Revered Devil Pill that could raise one's body refining realm or making preparations for the Pill Ceremony, he still had to come and take a look.

In order to attain the Golden Body Refining Realm as soon as possible, Ning Fan not only needed to gather the remaining three pieces of devil statue slates but also concoct the Revered Devil Pill.

The Revered Devil Pill was a High Grade Fifth Revolution Devil Pill. With Ning Fan's current pill refinement mastery, he was already capable of making that pill. However, he was still lacking three types of main ingredients.

They were the ten thousand years old Ghost Aconite, ten thousand years old Purple Rock Tripe and ten thousand years old human placenta¹.

The Ghost Aconite and the Purple Rock Tripe were still reasonable. Ning Fan had found some of them before but their age did not fit his requirement.

The ten thousand years old human placenta, however.... In order to develop this ingredient, one has to take another's life using a secret method of the Devil Dao and nourish the placenta for ten thousand years. The process was extremely vicious.

In the first place, devil sects were weak among the eight hundred cultivation countries in the Rain World. Hence, ten thousand years old human placentas were already long extinct.

Even in the Endless Sea where many devil cultivators reside, ten thousand years old human placentas were rarely seen.

As soon as Ning Fan arrived at the Eternal Peace Pavilion, he was immediately welcomed by the master of the pavilion in person.

The master of the Eternal Peace Pavilion was a Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. He was a person with quite an important identity in the Giant Devil Clan. He already witnessed Ning Fan's impressiveness when the latter trampled upon Shi Kun and rescued the Giant Devil Clan. Therefore, he held high admiration for him.

Besides, he even received an order from Ju Qing to give Ning Fan preferential treatment. If Ning Fan had come to the Eternal Peace Pavilion to purchase some treasures, no matter what item he wants, he could directly take them away without paying a single cent.

After all, these treasures were nothing compared to Ning Fan's goodwill in saving their clan.

The pavilion master relayed Ju Qing's kind intentions to Ning Fan. He spoke nothing about it other than nodding his head. Since he was given such a privilege, he would definitely not hold himself back with the treasures of the Giant Devil Clan. If he sees something that satisfies his needs, he would take it right away.

The Eternal Peace Pavilion had five floors in total. The first floor was where pills were sold. Pill cauldrons and pill recipes were sold on the second and third floor respectively. Spiritual herbs and ingredients could be found on the fourth floor. As for the fifth floor, it was temporarily opened for pill refinement masters and cultivators to set up their stalls and trade items.

The master of the Eternal Peace Pavilion brought Ning Fan to tour the first four floors. All of the cultivators along the way respectfully saluted to Ning Fan as soon as they saw him. After that, they hurriedly retreated. Their faces were filled with humility and fear.

Ning Fan's ferocity was just too terrifying. How could common cultivators dare to provoke him? They did not even dare to foster a relationship with him.

Facing the veneration that these cultivators had for him, Ning Fan did not bother at all.

None of the pills in the Eternal Peace Pavilion could arouse his interest. As for pill cauldrons, on the other hand, he found many of them that had far better quality than the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron that he had in the past. However, since he was already a Fifth Revolution Pill Master, he could form a cauldron using his divine intent. And so, he did not buy any of them since a pill cauldron was unnecessary to him.

When they arrived at the floor that sold pill recipes, Ning Fan really did not restrain himself at all. After browsing through all of the pill recipes on that floor, he set his eyes upon several types of Fourth and Fifth Revolution pill recipes. Without modesty, the pavilion master immediately asked his people to make a copy of those pill recipes and handed them all to Ning Fan.

On the fourth floor, Ning Fan found the ten thousand years old Ghost Aconite and ten thousand years old Purple Rock Tripe.

To Ning Fan, being able to find two of the main ingredients for concocting the Revered Devil Pill was indeed good news to him.

These two types of ten thousand years old spiritual herbs in the Eternal Peace Pavilion were all taken away by Ning Fan. In total, there were 14 tufts of Ghost Aconite and 17 tufts of Purple Rock Tripe.

The price of these spiritual herbs was extremely high. Even so, the Eternal Peace Pavilion did not dare to ask for a single penny from Ning Fan.

After touring the first four floors, Ning Fan still wanted to proceed to the fifth floor. However, the fifth floor was a place where cultivators traded among themselves. Even if the master of the Eternal Peace Pavilion followed Ning Fan there, he would not be of much help. Therefore, he excused himself and left.

Ning Fan headed to the fifth floor on his own. It was an extremely spacious hall.

The size of the hall could hold approximately ten thousand people. Hundreds of stalls had been set up in all directions. Each of the stalls was being taken care of by a pill refinement master. Some of them hung wooden boards that stated what spiritual herb they were looking for outside their stalls while some

others had arranged different kinds of spiritual herbs and pill recipes in their stalls waiting for people to come and trade.

There was a group of guards from the Giant Devil Clan maintaining the order on the fifth floor. The group consisted of around one hundred cultivators and each of them gave off deep and strong aura force.

The leader of the guards was a Late Divine Transformation Realm burly man. His forceful aura force was intimidating to each of the pill masters who were conducting trade here. His presence automatically prevented anyone from stealing, seizing and killing on that floor.

Well, in the Endless Sea, old monsters who attained the Late Divine Transformation Realm were powerful experts.

This man had a hint of arrogance in his eyes. From time to time, his eyes which flickered with a cold light would scan around the surroundings. Even those pill refinement masters who were usually supercilious would feel their breathing become heavier whenever they were within his vision. None of them dared to look at him in the eye.

“This man really has a set of piercingly cold eyes! Who is he?!” A pill refinement master who came from the eight hundred cultivation countries asked with a low voice.

“You might not know this, but he is Commander Si Mo¹, the commander of the ‘Death Devil Division’ which is the strongest troop of the “Eight Gates of Devil Guards” of the Giant Devil Clan... This man is said to be extremely strong. According to rumors, he once killed another Late Divine Transformation Realm cultivator...” Another cultivator explained.

“W-What?! That man can even kill a Late Divine Transformation Realm cultivator! We must not offend him when we are selling spiritual herbs here. A person at the Late Divine Transformation Realm like him is as rare as the feathers of a phoenix in the Rain World!”

Instinctively, many pill refinement masters had awe and fear in their eyes while they looked at Commander Si Mo.

Commander Si Mo's cultivation base was very strong. He was a bloodthirsty, cold-hearted man. No one dared to mess with him. Even some of the Divine Transformation Realm cultivators were also unwilling to provoke him.

Countless pill refinement masters tried to extend their greetings to Commander Si Mo and get close to him. However, he chased all of them away indifferently. He behaved in an unfriendly manner and kept every other individual at arm's length.

However, when Ning Fan appeared on the fifth floor, Commander Si Mo whose face was always cold and serious suddenly turned respectful. He knelt before Ning Fan and expressed his sincere admiration.

"Greetings to Venerated Ming! I'm Si Mo, the commander of the Death Devil Division! Thank you for saving the Giant Devil Clan!"

After he knelt down, the group of guards behind him also did the same in unison and saluted Ning Fan.

"There's no need for such formality." Ning Fan nodded with his expression remaining calm.

A dignified Late Divine Transformation Realm old monster had knelt to greet another person. This scene shocked countless people.

When the bystanders saw Ning Fan, they were shocked. They instantly understood why Si Mo who always wore a frosty look would be so polite to him.

Some of the young pill refinement masters who had just entered the Cold Northern Country did not recognize Ning Fan's appearance. However, they were also extremely surprised from what had happened before them. All of them began to ask their friends and partners.

"Who is that young man in white robes? He could actually make a Late Divine Transformation Realm expert kneel before him!"

"What? You don't even know who he is?! He is Zhou Ming! He is the man who killed the country lord of Shi Le Country!"

“Wait, what?! This man is Zhou Ming?! He is so young. He looks to be just around five hundred years old but he already managed to kill a Void Glimpse Stage expert!”

Voices filled with surprise echoed across the fifth floor.

Some pill refinement masters who did not know who Ning Fan was also took some time to remember his face. Moreover, they reminded themselves inwardly to not provoke this man no matter what.

Inside a stall that was selling spiritual herbs, an old Daoist wearing a set of ragged Taoist robe currently had a look of mischief.

His whole appearance was dirty and tattered. His white hair and beard were messy and untidy. He obviously was a person who was neglectful of his appearance. There was a Third Revolution badge of the Rain Palace hanging on his chest. Apparently, he was a cultivator who came from the eight hundred cultivation countries.

His cultivation base seemed to be at the Late Nascent Soul Realm, but it was somewhat illusory at the same time. Among the spiritual herbs that he was selling, some of them were of high quality while some of them were of the inferior kind. However, all of them were extremely expensive and no one stopped by his stall to ask about these herbs.

“So this kid is the one who has the Indestructible Fire Body? Hmm... His Medicine Soul is not weak. It’s of the High Grade Fifth Revolution. His Dao of Pill, however, seems to be quite multifaceted. There’s the Dao of the Riverboat¹, Dao of San Qing and the Dao of Burning Blood... The saying, ‘Jack of all trades but master of none’ is really an apt description for this man. He is still very far away from achieving the Sixth Revolution...”

The old Daoist muttered to himself and shook his head. It seemed like Ning Fan’s Dao of Pills was pretty insignificant in his eyes.

However, his turbid eyes suddenly flickered with surprise. It was as if he had sensed something from within Ning Fan’s body. Then, his eyes sparkled.

All of a sudden, his qi became comparable to that of an Absolute Void Stage old monster but no one on the fifth floor noticed it!

“This is... the Black Devil Flames!”

Chapter 457: The Pill Sovereign, Li Cangtian!

After having a brief conversation with the Death Devil Guard, Ning Fan left and continued browsing through the fifth floor on his own.

Commander Si Mo cupped his fists and respectfully bowed to Ning Fan. Only when Ning Fan had walked quite some distance away from him did he straightened up his back again. His expression turned cold and indifferent again and he showed a stern face to everyone.

He had a solitary but arrogant personality and his arrogance would only allow him to yield to Ning Fan.

The day of Ning Fan's arrival had shocked everyone. He defeated Shi Kun overwhelmingly and saved the Giant Devil Clan. His greatness that day had enthralled innumerable experts of the clan. In the clan, there were a lot of people like Si Mo who admire Ning Fan.

As Ning Fan gradually walked further and further away, the name of the troop he met earlier, the Death Devil Guard crossed his mind and it made him ponder.

In the Giant Devil Clan, there were eight great devil divisions in total. They were named after the eight gateways of Qimen Dunjia¹ which were Kai(开), Xiu(休), Sheng(生), Shang(伤), Du(杜), Jing(景), Si(死), Jing(惊).

From the information Ning Fan obtained from Yao Lian, it also mentioned the eight gateways.

The Eight Ancestors of the Giant Devil Clan hide themselves in a small broken chiliocosm and oversee the Eight Gates and Six Dao...

Many of the cultivation methods and magic techniques of the Giant Devil Clan are related to the Eight Gates. As for the Six Dao... If I am not mistaken, many of the cultivation methods of the Six-Winged Clan are related to the Six Dao.

The Eight Gates and Six Dao. The Giant Devil Clan and the Six-Winged Clan. What's the relationship between them in these aspects...?

Ning Fan chose to cast these thoughts aside for the moment.

He continued to shop around the hundreds of medicine stalls which were temporarily set up on the fifth floor. Two hours later, he had browsed through nearly two-thirds of the medicine stalls. It was a fruitful trip as he managed to buy quite a lot of excellent medicinal ingredients.

Unfortunately, after shopping for so long, he still had yet to find a ten thousand years old human placenta.

Well, he managed to find a few one thousand years old human placenta. He bought them all but he was still not satisfied.

If the ten thousand years old human placenta is substituted with a one thousand years old human placenta, not only would it become more difficult to concoct the Revered Devil Pill, but the medicinal power of the pill is guaranteed to be lower even if he could complete refine the pill by chance.

Ning Fan gently shook his head.

If I really can't get a ten thousand years old human placenta here, then I will just wait for it to pop up someday.

If I still can't get in the future... then I will just improvise with the one thousand years old human placenta.

He turned around and tried to walk away. At the next moment, however, he stopped with his eyes filled with surprise.

Just as he was about to leave, he suddenly had a feeling that someone with really fierce and penetrating eyes was staring at him. He felt a jolt with every fibre of his being which made the hair on his back stand up.

It feels extremely dangerous! Who is staring at me?!

The sharpness of this set of eyes was comparable to a Void Fragmentation Realm expert. On top of that, it was much more intense than Yun Jinghong and Chu Chang'an who possessed Void Fragmentation Realm cultivation bases!

Could it be that there's a Void Fragmentation Realm old monster spying on me nearby?!

Ning Fan quickly turned around and looked at the direction where it gave him that feeling just now. His gaze fell upon a medicine stall.

There was an old Daoist with ragged clothes sitting inside that stall. He was fanning a palm-leaf woven fan while meditating with his eyes closed in a relaxed manner.

He seemed to have been closing his eyes for a long time like he had never checked on Ning Fan at all.

Ning Fan's eyes turned slightly serious. He secretly released his spirit sense to identify this man's cultivation base. He found out that this old man had a Late Nascent Soul Realm cultivation base but it was rather illusory and unstable.

He activated his Fu Li Eye and Mo Luo Eye together. However, he could not detect any signs of him concealing his cultivation base from him.

Ning Fan then noticed the badge he wore. It was a Third Revolution badge from the Rain Palace. That discovery made Ning Fan furrow his brows.

The Rain Palace would never give a pill refinement master badge away casually. Moreover, each badge must go through the process of recognition using the blood of the owner. A single badge would only recognize a single master. If the badge is seized by others, it would immediately destroy itself.

The Rain Palace pill refinement master badge that this Old Daoist wore was not only a genuine badge but it also looked brand new. Clearly, he had just obtained this badge not long ago.

It was extremely unlikely for the Rain Palace to falsify the pill refinement mastery of a pill refinement master. Deducing from all these signs, that Old Daoist should be a Third Revolution Pill Master without a doubt.

However, Ning Fan's instincts kept telling him that there was something strange about this Old Daoist. When he carefully observed the Old Daoist again, he became more certain that he was not simple.

It was because at the moment he looked at the Old Daoist, the devil flame within his dantian was actually shivering mildly. It was giving a signal as if it was facing its nemesis!

Ning Fan's devil flame sensed the threatening feeling of its kind from the Old Daoist's body!

What kind of flame was inside the Old Daoist's body for it to scare Ning Fan's flame?!

Ning Fan's devil flame was formed from the combination of 16 types of Heavenly Cold Qi and Earth Flame and 1 type of Sixth Grade Void Flame. Its destructive power was nearly comparable to that of a Mid Level Seventh Grade Immortal Void Flame.

If the Old Daoist possesses the type of flame that could threaten Ning Fan's devil flame, it must be a flame of at least the Seventh Grade or above.

However, could a Late Nascent Soul Realm Third Revolution Pill Master possess such a powerful flame?

The answer was, of course, a big fat no!

Almost immediately, Ning Fan was convinced that this Old Daoist was the mysterious expert who was spying on him earlier.

Would this ordinary-looking Old Daoist truly be a Void Fragmentation Realm expert...?

When ordinary cultivators realize that that Old Daoist had Void Fragmentation Realm aura force, they would normally go up and curry favor with him at once, trying to obtain as much benefit as possible.

However, Ning Fan dismissed all of his feelings of surprise in the next moment. He turned around and left without taking a second look at the Old Daoist. He did not wish to expose the fact that he had already recognized the latter's Void Fragmentation Realm aura force.

He was reluctant to get involved with this mysterious old man in any way!

Who knows why this Old Daoist spied on him and why he would appear in this place?

All in all, Ning Fan did not want to bring himself any unnecessary trouble.

Just as Ning Fan had decided to leave, the eyes of the old man which were closed all this time suddenly opened. His expression was filled with a hint of surprise.

“This kid's senses are quite sharp. He actually managed to sense the Seventh Grade spiritual flame that I possess and discern my identity as a Void Fragmentation Realm expert. Moreover, after he knew of my identity as a Void Fragmentation Realm expert, he turned around and walked away while maintaining his calmness from beginning to end. Obviously, he doesn't wish to foster any relation with me with the worry that he might get himself into trouble. This is a very excellent trait. One should always be cautious in living in this world... He is worthy of owning the Black Devil Flame...”

The Old Daoist shook his head and made a satisfied smile.

The reason why he came to the Pill Ceremony in the Internal Endless Sea initially, was because he wanted to travel around after staying in seclusion for too long with the hope of getting some insights and achieving a breakthrough in his pill refinement realm that had been stuck for a very long time.

However, he did not expect that he would meet the possessor of the Black Devil Flame.

If that's the case, it seems like I should take advantage of this chance to fulfill my promise to 'that person'.

"That young friend over there, please stop." The Old Daoist called Ning Fan with an indifferent voice.

Many people around them heard the Old Daoist calling Ning Fan as a young friend. All of them stared blankly at him like they were looking at a fool.

Doesn't he know who Ning Fan was? He was a fierce man who could kill a Void Refinement Realm expert. Even ordinary Divine Transformation Realm cultivators would need to call him 'Senior' when greeting him.

Now, this Old Daoist just did himself a 'great' thing. A Third Revolution Pill Master with just Nascent Soul Realm cultivation base like him actually dared to address Ning Fan as a young friend. Was he itching to get a rough beating or had gotten tired of living?

Ning Fan's eyes turned stern.

It seems like trouble has come to me itself.

Even though he had no idea why the Old Daoist called him, it wasn't appropriate for him to continue walking away since this matter had already developed to this extent.

Ning Fan turned around and made a faint smile. He stopped. He no longer walked away. Instead, he walked towards the medicine stall of that Old Daoist.

He just did not want to get involved himself in any trouble. Besides, he had done nothing wrong. Hence, he was not afraid that this Void Fragmentation Realm old daoist would deliberately find fault in him.

On top of that, he also had the so-called 'Indestructible Fire Body' which served as his life-saving "talisman" that could ensure his safety and peace in the Rain World using the powerful influence of the Rain Palace.

"Senior, is there any advice you wish to enlighten me with?" Ning Fan stopped outside the medicine stall and cupped his fists to greet the Old Daoist.

This scene startled each of the pill refinement masters present.

Ning Fan was an extremely impressive person. However, he actually called an old daoist as his senior. What background did this Old Daoist have?

A few pill refinement masters from the eight hundred cultivation countries began to carefully study the Old Daoist's appearance. When they looked closely enough, each of them behaved like they had just seen a ghost.

They finally understood why Ning Fan would address this Old Daoist as senior despite his dignified identity.

"H-He's the Pill..." A pill refinement master's eyes were blazing with flames of enthusiasm. He was too excited that he could not speak a single word properly.

"Fellow Daoist, please speak with care! That lord dislikes making himself known the most. Since he appeared in this place while keeping a low profile, it naturally implies that he doesn't want to get attention. We must not make any commotion. We should hurry up and leave. Don't ever anger him." Another pill refinement master reminded him.

The group of pill refinement masters from the eight hundred cultivation countries did not dare to expose the Old Daoist's identity. After each of them saluted him with their utmost respect, they swiftly left the place. None of them dared to stay there any longer.

As for some pill refinement masters who were observing at the other side, many of them had discerning eyes as well.

When they saw Ning Fan being so polite towards the Old Daoist and many pill refinement masters from the eight hundred cultivation countries were showing so much respect to him, they knew that this Old Daoist must have an extremely influential background. They also did not dare to make him unhappy. After they cupped their fists to pay respect to him, they left the place one after another.

In just a brief moment, only the Old Daoist and Ning Fan were left outside the stall.

“Young friend, you have excellent self-control.” The Old Daoist complimented sincerely.

“Thank you for your compliment, ‘Senior Li’. I wonder for what reason the Senior called this junior.”

From the reactions and behaviors of the people just now, Ning Fan became more certain that this Old Daoist was truly a Void Fragmentation Realm old monster.

Aside from that, he could even guess this man’s identity.

There were only a handful of Void Fragmentation Realm experts in the Rain World. Just now, someone had said the word ‘Pill’ when he saw this Old Daoist.

Among the Void Fragmentation Realm experts in the Rain World, there was only one man whose title began with ‘Pill’...

If Ning Fan was not wrong, the old man in front of him was the Pill Sovereign!

According to rumors, the Pill Sovereign had stayed in seclusion for a very long time. He had been trying to break through to the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm. Unexpectedly, he came to the Internal Endless Sea. Ning Fan could guess that the reason why the Pill Sovereign came to the Internal Endless Sea was to gain some insights through travelling.

The Pill Sovereign was said to wholly immerse himself in the Dao of Pills and was uninterested in worldly affairs.

Besides, according to rumors, the Pill Sovereign was the leader of the 'Four Greatest Void Fragmentation Realm Experts'. His cultivation base was at the Third Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm while his pill refinement mastery was at the peak of the Sixth Revolution. However, he never involved himself in or intervened in any fights.

He had a generous personality. His demeanor was like that of a venerable elder. He never indiscriminately slaughtered the innocent too.

Because of this reason, Ning Fan was less worried in facing this person after he guessed his identity. He was not worried that the latter harbored malicious intent against him.

After identifying this person's identity, Ning Fan did not address him as the Pill Sovereign. Instead, Ning Fan called him 'Senior Li'. Without a doubt, he wanted to help the Pill Sovereign maintain a low profile without exposing his true identity.

The Pill Sovereign nodded with approval after hearing how Ning Fan called him.

Firstly, he was satisfied with Ning Fan's intelligence. In just a few breaths, he managed to guess his identity and even understand what he wanted by using a very decent greeting.

Secondly, he was satisfied with Ning Fan's composure. This level of composure was definitely not something ordinary people possessed.

The Pill Sovereign noticed that Ning Fan was just slightly shocked when he discovered that someone was spying on him.

Since then, he did not show any emotion even if he had already guessed the Pill Sovereign's identity. His eyes were as calm as a millpond. There weren't any emotional fluctuations in him as he remained tranquil and still.

Only cultivators who have gone through a lot in life and experienced countless life-threatening danger have such composure.

The Pill Sovereign was already convinced that Ning Fan was certainly a man with a strong and unwavering Dao Heart.

This young man is worthy of being the disciple of that person. He doesn't bring him any embarrassment.

“Young friend, you don't have to worry. I have no hostility in calling you over here to me. In fact, I wish to form good relations with you. I once obtained benefits from an old friend of mine and I've made a promise to him that I will give you three lessons on pill refinement. I believe that we were fated to meet in Cold Northern Country. Thus, I have the intentions of passing some knowledge about pill refinement to you. I wonder if you are willing to learn?”

The Pill Sovereign nodded gently with a smile. Even though he was ill-groomed, his presence gave off an ethereal and misty aura like that of a celestial being.

This was the quality of a pill refinement grandmaster. It was just like a green lotus that grew from mud. Despite the external environment, its quality remained unchanged.

Ning Fan's eyes flashed with surprise. He knew that the Pill Sovereign had no hostility in calling him over and only expected that he might have some questions he wanted to ask him.

However, he did not expect that the Pill Sovereign actually wanted to give him some lessons on pill refinement!

In Ning Fan's journey of learning the Dao of Pills, he never had a proper teacher. Even though he had Old Devil as his master, it was impossible for him to teach Ning Fan things about pill refinement since he was not skilled in that field in the first place.

From the bottom of his heart, Ning Fan was more than willing to accept the teachings of the Pill Sovereign. Even though he was proud and aloof, he was not arrogant. At least, he deeply understood that his current pill refinement mastery was extremely insignificant compared to the Pill Sovereign, just like the brightness of a firefly to the full moon.

The Pill Sovereign was the best pill refinement master of the Rain World. Besides, in the Nine Worlds, he was also a person with great fame.

Countless pill refinement masters yearned to obtain just a single sentence of teaching from the Pill Sovereign. However, even though the Pill Sovereign had an easygoing personality, he seldom passed his knowledge to others.

The fact that the Pill Sovereign was willing to teach Ning Fan three times was certainly an extremely good news to him. This could considerably increase his mastery in pill refinement!

However, Ning Fan had doubts. Before resolving this, he could not accept the Pill Sovereign's good intentions recklessly.

“Senior Li, if I may be so bold as to ask, may I know who requested you to teach me?” Ning Fan's heartbeat slightly sped up as soon as he asked this question. He really wanted to know who was so concerned about him that he even asked the Pill Sovereign to become his temporary teacher.

In the Rain World, Ning Fan had countless women and beauties. However, he only had a handful of people who were really close to him.

A person who was really concerned about him and was able to ask the Pill Sovereign to help him out. Who could it be...?

“I can't tell you... His identity is rather special. As a member of the Rain Palace, I can't interact with him very often. Otherwise, it will go against the heavenly rules of the Four Heavens.”

The Pill Sovereign shook his head with a smile.

“Then, please allow this junior to ask a different question. How could you be so sure that I am the one whom that person requested you to help?”

“The Black Devil Flame. The Black Devil Flame that carried a hint of his qi.”

As soon as the Pill Sovereign's words fell, a feeling of warmth suddenly flowed across Ning Fan's body.

Ning Fan gently closed his eyes with a warm smile.

Black Devil Flame...

Indeed, it was the Old Devil who was concerned about him.

After the Old Devil kept Ning Fan as his disciple, he seldom taught him magic techniques. Instead, he kept guiding Ning Fan by example, passing to him the path of survival for devil cultivators.

It was because the Old Devil thought that learning how to be a person, a proper devil cultivator, was much more important than learning magic techniques and other things...

Sovereign Moksha had learnt magic techniques very well. However, he had never learnt how to be a decent person. That was why he walked the wrong path in the end. It was the most regretful thing the Old Devil had in his life.

Even though the time the Old Devil spent with Ning Fan was short, he had passed on all of his Devil Dao to him.

However, he still felt sorry for Ning Fan because he had to head to the Sword World in such a hurry and it left him no chance to teach him magic techniques.

He knew that Ning Fan's innate talent in pill refinement was terrifying. When he was at the Seven Apricot City in the past, his pill refinement mastery was already at the Fourth Revolution.

Old Devil was not willing to neglect Ning Fan's talent. Hence, he hired the Pill Sovereign at great cost to become Ning Fan's teacher in pill refinement.

“Thank you... Master...”

Ning Fan opened his eyes. The feeling of warmth in him lingered.

The path of cultivation was cruel and lonesome. However, the relationship he had with his loved ones was what kept his conscience after killing countless people.

“Since it’s the good intentions of my master, I don’t dare to disobey it. Please teach me the knowledge of pill refinement, Senior Li!”

“Hehe. A young man like you can be taught.” The Pill Sovereign nodded with satisfaction. He could see Ning Fan’s gratitude for the Old Devil in his eyes.

Between these two people, their master-disciple relationship was like the relationship between father and son. In the cold and cruel cultivation world, it’s really rare to find such a precious relationship. Many masters and disciples turned against each other due to their selfishness. Because of some benefits, they fought and killed among themselves. That’s just how cold-blooded reality was.

The Pill Sovereign had no apprentice. He had always wished for an apprentice like Ning Fan who would treat his own master with sincerity and genuineness, just like how a son would treat his own father.

Unfortunately, Ning Fan had already recognized the Old Devil as his master. Even if the Pill Sovereign teaches Ning Fan his pill refinement techniques, he would at most be considered as half a master to him.

“That Old Man Han separated one-fourth of the ‘Pure Yang Flame’ from the ‘Pure Yang Coffin’ and gave it to me. Because of that, I promised him to teach you. Originally, I was prepared to go on a long trip and look for you in Yue Country after I have achieved the goal of my secluded training. I didn’t expect that I would bump into you right here in the Internal Endless Sea. Unexpectedly, the great and notorious Devil Lord Zhou Ming is Young Friend Ning Fan that Old Man Han is so concerned about.”

The Pill Sovereign conveyed this message to Ning Fan through telepathy. He did not have a deep relationship with the Old Devil but the both of them were easygoing, impulsive and emotional people. As the saying goes, ‘like knows like’, their relationship was similar to being supportive and compassionate to one of their own.

Moreover, Old Devil had given the Pill Sovereign one-fourth of the Pure Yang Flame. One has to know that the Pure Yang Flame was an immortal flame. Even though it was just one-fourth of the whole flame, its destructive power was stronger than common Mid Level Seventh Grade Immortal Void Flames.

That's why Ning Fan's flame was so afraid of the Pill Sovereign's flame. After all, the Pill Sovereign possessed one-fourth of an immortal flame.

“Master actually gave up one-fourth of the flame of the Pure Yang Coffin for me?!”

Ning Fan's eyes were filled with shock. He felt slightly pained inside.

That Pure Yang Coffin was the coffin the Old Devil used to hold the body of his beloved wife. It was a Pure Yang Cosmos Treasure!

After losing one-fourth of the immortal flame, the power of the Pure Yang Coffin would surely be reduced by a great deal. Even though it might not necessarily have too much impact on his 'slumbering' wife, it would still affect her more or less.

What Old Devil had done was sacrificing a small benefit for his beloved wife in order to get Ning Fan the best benefit possible.

His act was telling Ning Fan that he truly hoped that he could save his wife. However, in the Old Devil's heart, Ning Fan was similarly important and he would not give up his life for his wife.

This was Old Devil's principle!

Ning Fan became even more determined to gain the strength to wipe out the Rain World so that he could eliminate Sovereign Moksha and avenge his master!

After falling into silence for quite some time, Ning Fan regained his calmness. In his usual demeanor, he said to the Pill Sovereign with respect.

“Senior Li, may I know what pill refinement techniques you are planning to teach me today?”

“Hehe. There’s no need to rush. Come and have a look here. Can you find anything strange about the spiritual herbs I am selling here? Look at them carefully. There is a ten thousand years old human placenta that you have been looking for.”

Ning Fan did as the Pill Sovereign asked and began studying the spiritual herbs inside his stall.

Some of the spiritual herbs were extremely old while some others were low-grade ingredients. However, no matter what spiritual herb, all of their prices were excessively high.

Ning Fan checked the surroundings and could not find a ten thousand years old human placenta within the stall. There was not a single one thousand years old or one hundred years old human placenta.

“Reporting to Senior, there is no ten thousand years old human placenta in the stall.”

“Are you sure?” The Pill Sovereign’s smile faded and his expression turned extremely serious.

At the next moment, a surge of black purple medicine soul spread across the entire stall!

This black purple medicine soul was extremely close to the Seventh Revolution. Its intensity gave Ning Fan a feeling of suffocation!

However, what was strange was when the Pill Sovereign displayed his medicine soul, he only revealed the Absolute Void Stage cultivation base despite the fact that his cultivation base was said to be at the Third Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm.

The Pill Sovereign had deliberately restricted the effective area of his medicine soul and aura force. Hence, other than Ning Fan, no one in all of the five floors of the Eternal Peace Pavilion sensed his medicine soul.

As the Pill Sovereign released his medicine soul, a tuft of ordinary-looking lingzhi suddenly trembled. At the next moment, it took off its disguise and returned to its original appearance as a ten thousand years old human placenta!

Astonishment filled Ning Fan's eyes. He finally understood what was strange about this medicine stall.

Be it the good spiritual herbs or the bad spiritual herbs in the stall, all of them were disguised to conceal their original forms!

Among them, there was even the ten thousand years old human placenta that Ning Fan was looking for!

Could the first lesson the Pill Sovereign wanted to teach Ning Fan be the usage of medicine soul?

Chapter 458: The Ghost Eye Clan Messed With The Wrong Guy

Countless thoughts were running across Ning Fan's mind. Was the Pill Sovereign trying to teach him the basic usage of the medicine soul?

For techniques like undoing the spiritual herbs' disguise using the medicine soul, he had already learnt it before from Xi Ran.

Everyone knows about this technique. I believe the Pill Sovereign was not just teaching me this.

Ning Fan took a few steps closer to the medicine and held the ten thousand years old human placenta in his hand. When he studied the spiritual herb closely, he made an involuntary frown.

It isn't right. This does not look like a ten thousand years old human placenta...

Ning Fan released his dark green medicine soul. As he concentrated his medicine qi on his palm, the ten thousand years old human placenta glowed and gradually turned into a Nine Nether Orchid.

This spiritual herb's previous lingzhi form was not its true self.

The ten thousand years old human placenta was also not its true self. Its true self was a Nine Nether Orchid!

Ning Fan suddenly had a realization.

All the spiritual herbs in this stall were indeed disguised. However, the layers of disguise they are under is definitely not just one.

This Nine Nether Orchid, for example, has disguised itself twice... Unless one has a strong enough medicine soul, they would surely think that this one was a ten thousand years old human placenta.

If the wrong spiritual herb is used to concoct the medicine, the resulting pill will have no use at all. Besides, it cannot be ascertained whether it would be poisonous or not.

As a pill refinement master, one has to be extremely cautious in selecting spiritual herbs and medicinal ingredients!

Seeing that Ning Fan seemed to have gained some insights, the Pill Sovereign nodded his head with approval. Then, he continued to say.

“The first usage of the medicine soul is to detect the disguise of a spiritual herb. Even the lowly crickets and ants cling to life through every way possible, let alone the spiritual herbs of heaven and earth. In order to protect themselves, some spiritual herbs don’t just wear a single layer of disguise. That is why you don’t ever use spiritual herbs that are beyond your medicine soul’s ability to differentiate in concocting pills. You will never know whether that spiritual herb is the thing you need or not! Next!”

When the Pill Sovereign finished what he was saying, he suddenly pointed with his finger. His black purple medicine soul turned into a ray of light and went into Ning Fan’s glabella.

Ning Fan was slightly stunned but he did not resist. He knew that the Pill Sovereign was passing some of his techniques to him. The ray of light dissolved in his Sea of Consciousness and immediately turned into a voice that spoke in his mind.

“Divination masters cultivate the Heavenly Eye. They could see through the Heavenly Dao and foresee what would happen a thousand years later. Thus, the Heavenly Eye was also called the ‘All-Seeing Eye of Heaven’¹. Formation masters cultivate the Earth Eye. They could reverse the landscape by moving

mountains and filling up oceans. The Earth Eye is also called the 'Eye of the World'². Meanwhile, pill masters cultivate the Human Eye. It allows them to discern between reality and illusion and understand another's heart. It's also called the 'Eye of the Enlightened One. Without the Heavenly Eye, one cannot become a Heavenly Master; without the Earth Eye, one cannot become an Earth Master; without the Human Eye, one cannot become an Enlightened One. I will help you open your Eye of the Enlightened One. This will be my first lesson to you!"

Profound chants turned into the voice of the Great Dao which resounded in Ning Fan's Sea of Consciousness.

He closed his eyes and acted according to the chants with full concentration. All of a sudden, he felt a sharp pain on his glabella as the skin there tore apart, revealing a vertical eye.

Within that vertical eye, rays of dazzling dark green medicine light were moving.

Ning Fan was stunned. Then, he immediately realized that the Pill Sovereign had turned his Ghost Eye, one of the four features of Mo Luo, into the Enlightened Eye.

As soon as his Human Eye was opened, it slowly concealed itself right after. It did not appear to be very obvious.

However, after his Human Eye was awakened, Ning Fan felt the vision of his two eyes greatly improving. Moreover, there was medicine qi rotating inside them, allowing them to discern the disguises of spiritual herbs.

His gaze briefly scanned across the medicine stall. His eyes shot out two rays of dark green light. They struck like lightning on the tufts of spiritual herbs that were on display.

The disguises of each of the spiritual herbs were nullified one after another. Among the hundreds of types of spiritual herbs in the medicine stall, there were only 3 tufts of one hundred thousand years old spiritual herbs that Ning Fan was unable to see through. As for the rest, he could see through their disguises including the fifty thousand years old spiritual herbs.

Ordinary Fifth Revolution Pill Masters might be able to identify the disguises of spiritual herbs by covering their eyes with medicine qi. However, how could that lowly technique rival the Human Eye?

Ning Fan took a deep breath. After nullifying the disguises of nearly all of the spiritual herbs inside the stall, he found 15 genuine ten thousand years old human placenta among them. However, he did not take them. He turned around and cupped his fists at the Pill Sovereign with deep respect.

“Senior Li, thank you for your teachings!”

“Hehe. You are a quick learner. If it wasn’t for you having already manifested the Ghost Eye the members of the Ghost Eye Clan cultivate, I would not have been able to help you awaken the Human Eye so easily. After your Human Eye was activated, the current power of your medicine soul is capable of discerning fifty thousand years old spiritual herbs. As for these ten thousand years old human placenta, take it. After that, I will teach you a ‘Battle Soul Technique’. It’s a technique that I chanced upon from an ancient book. Later, I have a gift for you as well...”

The Pill Sovereign nodded with a gentle smile, signaling to Ning Fan to take the medicinal ingredients.

Ning Fan was aware of the fact that the Pill Sovereign wanted to give him the medicinal ingredients for free. Thus, he did not reject his offer. He really needed ten thousand years old human placenta. He turned around and walked towards the medicinal ingredients.

However, before he could take away the ten thousand years old human placentas, a domineering voice of a young man suddenly sounded from outside the stall.

“Oh? I didn’t expect for a stall that a lowly Third Revolution Pill Refinement Master opened to actually have so many ten thousand years old, fifty thousand years old and one hundred thousand years old spiritual herbs! Very well! I’ll buy all of the spiritual herbs in this stall! Han Ba, empty this stall!”

“Understood!”

Outside the stall, a young man in black robes with evil-looking eyes gave a command. He spoke with an arrogant tone as if he wanted to acquire the entire medicine stall for himself without allowing anyone else to buy the medicinal ingredients here.

This young man had an Early Divine Transformation Realm cultivation base. Medicine qi was also flowing around his body. It was clear that he was a pill refinement master with above average pill refinement mastery.

As soon as he gave that order, a big hideous creature moved out from behind him. It was two zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall and wore black armor. Its legs were dragging a set of heavy chains. He answered to the young man's command and walked into the medicine stall with large steps. He then threw one of his ghostlike hands at Ning Fan as if he wanted to grab him and directly toss him outside.

His grip strength was already at the First Level of Golden Body Refining Realm, which was comparable to a strike at the Void Glimpse Stage!

“You can get lost now, kid! The young lord of my Ghost Eye Clan has already bought all of the spiritual herbs in this stall. They aren't something you can touch!”

Ning Fan looked at the incoming ghostlike claw and his eyes turned grim.

The so-called young lord of the Ghost Eye Clan and the black-armored hideous creature he brought along obviously did not recognize Ning Fan.

Otherwise, with his current notoriety, how would they be so daring to mess with him.

Before the ghostlike claw reached his body, Ning Fan acted as fast as lightning and caught the wrist of the hideous creature in return. Without mercy, he grabbed his wrist and pulled ferociously. Ning Fan's overpowering force enabled him to literally rip off the creature's arm.

The pain was excruciating. Out of fear, the hideous creature immediately jumped out of the medicine stall. He stared at Ning Fan with terror evident in his eyes.

This scene deeply shocked the young man in black robes!

He was the dignified young lord of the Ghost Eye Clan while that hideous creature, Han Ba, was his personal bodyguard that the leader of the Ghost Eye Clan had arranged for him. Han Ba's body refining realm was at the First Level of Golden Body Realm. His combat power was clearly strong. Even if he faces a Void Glimpse Stage old monster, he could still put up a fight without losing.

With his physical strength, the force behind a single ghost claw of his could tear apart the body of any Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivator.

The young man in black robes clearly saw that Ning Fan only had Half-Step Void Refinement Realm cultivation base. Logically, Han Ba should be able to get rid of him in a single move.

Unexpectedly, Ning Fan's strength was far beyond the imagination of the young man in black robes. With just a casual and seemingly effortless move, he instantly ripped off one of Han Ba's arms...

That young man in black robes could not believe it. Could it be that Ning Fan's body refining realm was stronger than Han Ba's who was at the First Level of the Golden Body Refining Realm?

Detestable! Who is he?! Even though he is just five hundred years old, he actually has such a terrifying strength! I have been staying in seclusion in the medicine tower of my clan for one hundred years without asking about the current worldly affairs. This is my first time leaving the clan. Why did I bump into such a powerful opponent?! Humph! I should find out more details about him first!

The young man in black robes gritted his teeth. Instantly, he moved a few steps backwards with the hideous creature, Han Ba, while fearfully looking at Ning Fan.

Even though he was filled with hatred after Ning Fan injured his bodyguard, he did not dare to let it show. He just cupped his fists and said with a cold voice.

"I am Gui Han, the young lord of the Ghost Eye Clan. You have impressive strength. However, you destroyed one of my bodyguard's arms. Aren't you prepared to give me an explanation?!"

"The young lord of the Ghost Eye Clan..." Ning Fan's brows knitted together. He was aware of how powerful the Ghost Eye Clan was. The background of the Ghost Eye Clan was not any weaker than that of the Zhou Clan. It was not a clan that he could disregard.

Gui Han ordered his bodyguard to attack Ning Fan just now and this really displeased him. However, this place was a public area under the watchful eyes of the people around them. If Ning Fan kills the young lord of the Ghost Eye Clan right here in front of the others, it would certainly start an irreconcilable feud with the Ghost Eye Clan.

Ning Fan had yet to solve the problem in the Giant Devil Clan. Therefore, he was not willing to provoke the Ghost Eye Clan right now.

However, he definitely was not afraid of the Ghost Eye Clan. If the young lord of the Ghost Eye Clan cannot see the bigger picture, Ning Fan would not mind giving him a lesson.

“I am Zhou Ming. I have no explanation for you. Get lost!”

The last two words he said carried a rush of frightening baleful qi that shocked all of the cultivators in all five floors of the Eternal Peace Pavilion.

Under the devil might of Ning Fan’s baleful qi, Gui Han and Han Ba felt their qi become stagnant. They were completely at a loss and their eyes were filled with shock and bewilderment.

They were not just shocked by the strength of Ning Fan’s baleful qi, but also his name.

“What?! He is Zhou Ming, the man whom my father has repeatedly warned me not to offend!” Gui Han gnashed his teeth. After knowing Ning Fan’s name, his anger was smothered unconsciously.

In the Ghost Eye Clan, he was a respectable personage. No one had ever told him to get lost.

At this moment, however, he was deeply afraid of Ning Fan’s devil might. He could not help but do what he said. His instincts told him that if he continues to be ignorant and refuses to comply, Ning Fan would directly finish him off!

Detestable! It’s truly detestable! Could it be that Han Ba will lose one of his arms for nothing today? Am I really going to swallow down this embarrassment like this?

“Young Lord, the situation is not favorable to us. We should put up with it for the moment. When we have a chance in the future, it’s not too late to seek revenge again!” With a gloomy expression, Han Ba told Gui Han through telepathy.

“Fine!”

Gui Han let out a cold snort. With Han Ba by his side, they turned around to leave.

A hint of cold light flickered across his eyes. He did not place that Gui Han in his eyes at all. If the latter dares to provoke him again, he would certainly kill him the next time.

Even though Ning Fan did not take any further action, it did not mean that Gui Han and his bodyguard could walk away as they wished.

The Pill Sovereign narrowed his eyes. His expression turned cold. He might have always been generous and forgiving, but when someone tried to harm the disciple of his old friend, he was not going to just sit back and watch.

“Did I allow you two to walk away? You have caused trouble in my medicine stall. Do you really think it’s appropriate to leave like this without paying a price?”

“What?!”

Both Gui Han and Han Ba stopped. They turned around and stared at the Pill Sovereign coldly. Killing intent filled their eyes.

“Interesting! Very interesting! It’s still acceptable for me to back off when Zhou Ming stood against us. Now, a mere Nascent Soul Realm pill refinement master actually dares to be rude towards me! Who are you?! Do you really think you deserve to make me pay? Humph! You’re absolutely courting death! Han Ba, kill him!”

“Understood!”

Han Ba’s eyes turned ferocious. He looked like he wanted to vent out all of his pent-up anger on the old Daoist in front of him after being injured by Ning Fan.

In his eyes, a single finger of his would be enough to crush countless Nascent Soul Realm cultivators. Hence, when facing this Nascent Soul Realm old Daoist, he naturally did not put him in his eyes.

Unfortunately, Han Ba did not realize at all that the person he was going to offend this time was much scarier than Ning Fan.

The Pill Sovereign darted a glance at Ning Fan and spoke indifferently.

“Now, I will teach you a Battle Soul Technique... Soul Hand Imprint!”

All of a sudden, an enormous force from the black purple medicine soul was released from the Pill Sovereign’s body like a fierce blast of wind. It formed into a massive black purple palm imprint which slammed directly onto Han Ba.

Bang

Before delivering the palm imprint, the force of the palm was as light as a goose feather. However, when the palm imprint hit Han Ba, it became as heavy as Mount Tai. That strike had literally turned Han Ba into meat paste, killing him instantaneously.

The control of the force of the palm imprint was extremely profound. Not a single ounce of force was wasted as the palm imprint immediately disappeared after smashing Han Ba into paste. That strike did not cause any damage in the Eternal Peace Pavilion at all.

The palm imprint that the Pill Sovereign displayed startled countless cultivators. Those with discerning eyes were able to see how terrifying the destructive power behind that attack. That was clearly the destructive power of a Void Fragmentation Realm attack!

Those cultivators who were quite sharp-witted had even noticed that no magic power or spirit sense was used to deliver this strike. Instead, the palm imprint was condensed using a medicine soul that only pill refinement masters had. It killed without splattering blood. It was the unique Battle Soul Technique that the Pill Sovereign of the Rain World had!

A Battle Soul! Engaging in battle using the medicine soul is what a Battle Soul is!

The ease in killing a Void Glimpse Stage cultivator with a palm imprint and the black purple medicine soul of the peak Sixth Revolution were both characteristics of the Pill Sovereign.

It would be impossible for anyone including cultivators who had been secluding themselves from the world for one hundred years like Gui Han to not recognize who the old Daoist was.

“P-Pill Sovereign! This old Daoist is actually the Pill Sovereign of the Rain World! It’s still somewhat acceptable to have offended someone like Zhou Ming. However, I actually provoked someone with such an esteemed identity! I’ve invited a huge disaster to the Ghost Eye Clan!”

Gui Han fell on his knees with a thud and kowtowed to beg for mercy.

Even though he was a haughty and arrogant person, he was deeply aware that the Pill Sovereign was not someone he was capable of provoking... Regarding Han Ba who died under the palm imprint of the Pill Sovereign, he did not dare to make any complaints about it at all.

This time, he was really doomed...

“Tell You Guihou! Zhou Ming is half a disciple to me. I won’t interfere in the grudges between the Ghost Eye Clan and the Zhou Clan. However, if the Ghost Eye Clan dares to harm my disciple, I will definitely wipe out your entire clan!”

Sucks in cold breath

The Pill Sovereign's cold menacing voice reverberated across the entire Cold Northern Country, covering seventy million li* (500m per li). His forceful Void Fragmentation Realm aura force enveloped the whole area.

At this moment, countless cultivators suddenly raised their heads. All of them were in disbelief!

What had they just heard? The Pill Sovereign, Li Cangtian, was actually in Cold Northern Country?! Moreover, he even gave a death threat to the Ghost Eye Clan to seek full protection for Ning Fan?!

Within the broken realm of Ju Mo, the eight ancestors of the Giant Devil Clan were all shocked and confused.

“The Pill Sovereign! Why did he come to my Giant Devil Clan?!”

Even though he was just giving the Ghost Eye Clan a piece of his mind, it revealed the Pill Sovereign's determination to protect Ning Fan.

This determination was different from the feeling Ning Fan felt from the Rain Palace that was only using him or the Zhou Clan who merely regarded him as a friend. The words that the Pill Sovereign had just said implied that he considers Ning Fan as his reverse scale.

Explicitly, it meant no one could touch Ning Fan!

This command was even more intimidating than Yun Tianjue. Yun Tianjue had just expressed some goodwill to Ning Fan. The Pill Sovereign, on the other hand, had directly announced Ning Fan as his half-disciple.

Whoever harms the disciple of the Pill Sovereign shall face death!

From today onwards, even the Void Fragmentation Realm experts of the Rain World would not dare to lay a finger on Ning Fan.

Of course, those who were shrewd had also taken notice of the name, You Guihou, from the Pill Sovereign's words.

You Guihou... Wasn't he the Void Fragmentation Realm expert that was restrained by the Thunder Sovereign ten thousand years ago...? Could it be that he didn't die in the past?

Countless cultivators swarmed towards the Eternal Peace Pavilion, hoping to witness the impressiveness of the Pill Sovereign and form a relationship with him.

The Pill Sovereign frowned lightly. He did not like these cultivators who fawned on the strong and powerful.

With a flick of his sleeve, a black purple medicine soul extended, carrying Ning Fan and all the spiritual herbs in his stall and disappeared without leaving a trace.

On their original location, only the innumerable cultivators who were spectating that incident earlier and Gui Han who was kneeling on the ground were left.

At this moment, Gui Han was terribly frightened. He no longer had the slightest hint of arrogance that he used to have whenever he acted as a young lord in his normal days.

He's doomed. He's completely finished... He not only offended Ning Fan but also the great Pill Sovereign...

If his father finds out about this, he would definitely skin him!

"Why?! Why is this Zhou Ming blessed with such good luck? Why could he become half a disciple of the Pill Sovereign and gain his protection and teachings?!"

At this moment, Gui Han was extremely resentful and jealous of Ning Fan. However, he had no guts to offend Ning Fan anymore, let alone take revenge on him.

Even if he were to die, he still would not touch Ning Fan no matter what. Otherwise, the Pill Sovereign would flatten the Ghost Eye Clan!

...

On the peak of a desolate snow mountain, a ray of dark purple light flashed. The Pill Sovereign and Ning Fan appeared one after another.

“Thank you for giving me a hand, Senior!”

The gratitude Ning Fan had for the Pill Sovereign was from the depths of his heart.

He had been seeking all kinds of protection, not for himself but for the women behind him.

With the words the Pill Sovereign announced to the world today, not to mention the Ghost Eye Clan, all forces in the entire Rain World would not dare to harbor enmity against Ning Fan.

Yun Tianjue’s notoriety might be above the Pill Sovereign’s reputation. However, one should not forget that the Pill Sovereign was a pill refinement master who was close to attaining the Seventh Revolution pill refinement realm.

Let alone the Void Fragmentation Realm experts of the Rain World, even the Void Fragmentation Realm experts from other worlds in the Nine Worlds would have to pay homage to the Pill Sovereign. If the Pill Sovereign were to really be angered, he could get help from countless experts who are willing to fight for him.

“Hehe. It’s just a small matter...” The Pill Sovereign waved his hand, thinking that Ning Fan’s appreciation was not necessary. However, his expression turned solemn after a few moments and questioned Ning Fan like a teacher.

“Did you get a good look on the Soul Hand Imprint that I used just now?”

“Yes, I did.” Ning Fan nodded. The dark green medicine soul within his body suddenly glowed brightly and exuded from his body in innumerable traces, forming into a gigantic dark green palm imprint. Then, with Ning Fan’s command, it slammed onto a snow mountain located far away with great force.

A single palm imprint was comparable to a Late Divine Transformation Realm attack and was capable of destroying a mountain.

“Not bad. You really have excellent innate talent. Old Man Han’s foresight is always sharper than most people...”

The Pill Sovereign let out a sigh. It seemed like he really felt it was rather unfortunate that he could not keep Ning Fan as his true disciple.

He shook his head and then continued speaking.

“Long ago, I obtained an ancient book called the Heavenly Dipper Imprint. It contains the thirty-six styles of Soul Hand Imprint. It is a combat method which uses one’s medicine soul and this method is called ‘Battle Soul Technique’.

“You have a lot of magic techniques and might not need a technique like the Battle Soul Technique for your battles. The reason why I’m teaching you this technique isn’t to take the lives of others but to protect yourself. When a pill refinement master is concocting pills, one must focus their magic power and spirit sense on refining the pills. They can’t move their bodies easily. This Battle Soul Technique was created by some pill refinement masters in ancient times. When they were concocting pills, they used this technique to protect themselves from being harmed by their enemies who sneaked up on them. If someone caught you by surprise when you are concocting pills, you can directly condense a palm imprint using your medicine soul and nullify their attacks.”

“Thank you for your teachings, Senior!”

Ning Fan nodded. Just as what the Pill Sovereign had just said, when a pill refinement master is concocting pills, how to protect themselves from danger is an important matter.

It would be impossible for Ning Fan to hide in a deserted place every time he concocts pills. It would also be impossible for him to rely on the spiritual puppets to protect him all the time.

Just like the Pill Ceremony that was going to be held, every participant would be concocting pills in public view. There would be all kinds of people around. If someone tries to attack Ning Fan while he is concocting pills, he would not need to split his magic power and spirit sense to block against the attacks as he could directly defend himself by forming a palm imprint using his medicine soul.

This was a self-protection technique that was the most suitable when one is concocting pills.

Today, the Pill Sovereign had not only helped Ning Fan awaken his Human Eye that enhanced his ability in discerning spiritual herbs, but also passed the Heavenly Dipper Imprint to him which he could use to protect himself when concocting pills.

Other than these, the Pill Sovereign was also going to give Ning Fan a gift.

The Pill Sovereign stretched his five fingers wide. Traces of vigorous but gentle and nourishing Divine Intent of Wood gradually condensed into a large green wooden cauldron. It sat on the peak of the snow mountain.

The Pill Sovereign condensed this huge green wooden cauldron using his divine intent.

This huge cauldron had been with him for countless years in his pill refinement. It was filled with thick and dense medicine qi.

“Ning Fan, I promised your master that I will give you three lessons on pill refinement. All of the teachings that I have passed on to you today is only considered one lesson. I’ve helped you awaken your Human Eye and taught you the Heavenly Dipper Imprint. Now, I want to give you a good fortune... There is only less than one month before the first round of the Pill Ceremony begins. During this period of time, I want to pave the path for your ascension to Sixth Revolution of pill refinement mastery! Hehe. Are you willing to accept my kind intentions...?”

“This junior is more than willing!” Ning Fan answered directly without hesitation.

“Very well! This is the ‘Divine Wood Grand Cauldron’. It is a cauldron condensed out of divine intent. It has accumulated a thick amount of medicine qi after I used it to concoct pills countless times. I allow you to absorb the medicine qi within it to nourish your medicine soul. The more medicine qi you absorb, the more your medicine soul will improve.”

“Of course, I’m not only hoping for you to absorb the medicine qi. I also hope that you can comprehend your own ‘natal pill cauldron’ from mine. I can see that you have yet to really condense your very own natal pill cauldron because you never had a proper teacher to teach you in the past. I’m really surprised that you were able to develop your Dao of Pills up to this level on your own.”

“I also have two ‘Min Luo Fruit’ with me here. By consuming them both, you can enter into a dream realm for one hundred years. Later, I will guide you in the dream realm through one hundred years of cultivation.”

“This is my first time being serious in teaching a junior. I hope you will appreciate this chance.”

The Pill Sovereign spoke earnestly.

“This junior will certainly not disappoint you, Senior.”

Ning Fan cupped his fists to express his gratitude and walked towards the large green wooden cauldron. Meanwhile, the Pill Sovereign’s guidance echoed.

“Place your palms on the body of the cauldron. Open up your medicine soul and absorb the medicine qi within. With the power of your High Grade Fifth Revolution medicine soul, you can already be considered outstanding if you are able to absorb one-tenth of the medicine qi.”

“One-tenth...” Ning Fan’s eyes were filled with fighting spirit. He wanted to absorb more than that and improve his medicine soul to the Peak Fifth Revolution in a single attempt!

Chapter 459: Pill Refinement Mastery, Peak Grade Fifth Revolution

Ning Fan touched the large green wooden cauldron. His palm felt a cool and heavy sensation from it.

The power of his medicine soul condensed into a vortex at the center of his palms. The thick medicine qi trapped inside the large cauldron was being absorbed by the vortex and it fused into his medicine soul.

The green color on his medicine soul became fainter while the color of black became more concentrated.

The blackness began to spread nearly all over his medicine soul. Ning Fan knew that if the color of black covers his medicine soul entirely with only a tinge of green left, would mean that his pill refinement mastery had advanced to the Peak Fifth Revolution.

Green was the color of a Fifth Revolution medicine soul, black was for that of a Sixth Revolution medicine soul and purple was for a Seventh Revolution medicine soul.

If the color of green continues to diminish until the last tinge of green completely vanishes, Ning Fan would then become a Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Master!

In the eight hundred countries of the Rain World, there were only seven pill refinement masters who managed to step into the Sixth Revolution.

If Ning Fan's pill refinement mastery breaks through to the Sixth Revolution, his status would nearly be as respected as other Void Fragmentation Realm old monsters!

His heart was filled with gratefulness. He was extremely thankful for the Pill Sovereign's teachings. He was even more grateful for Old Devil's concern and good intentions.

The promise between Old Devil and the Pill Sovereign gave Ning Fan three chances to learn from the Pill Sovereign. He was not going to waste any of them!

“Absorb!”

Ning Fan's eyes flashed with determination as he increased the absorption of the medicine qi.

The Pill Sovereign had used this large green wooden cauldron to refine pills countless times. It was unknown how many pellets of Sixth Revolution pills he had concocted in it before. The intensity of the medicine qi contained inside it was shockingly immense.

After just absorbing five percent of the medicine qi, Ning Fan felt that his medicine soul had swollen, as if it could no longer endure such a massive amount of medicine qi.

He gnashed his teeth and continued to absorb the medicine qi by force. When he had taken in ten percent of the medicine qi, his medicine soul nearly cracked.

The pain he felt which was so excruciating that it seemed to pierce through his soul made his brows knit tightly together. Ning Fan had already absorbed one-ninth of the medicine qi in the large cauldron.

“This young man is indeed a person with great tolerance...” The Pill Sovereign nodded his head with satisfaction. He thought highly of Ning Fan’s talent but he valued his personality even more.

The Dao of Pills was extremely challenging. If one does not have great forbearance, they would not be able to climb to the pinnacle of the Dao of Pills.

The Pill Sovereign looked at Ning Fan as if he was seeing his younger self.

When the Pill Sovereign was only seven, he was still just a mortal kid. In his childhood, he lived amidst the flames of war. He survived by feeding off the corpses of the dead from the ruins when the battle was over.

One day, an old Daoist in green robes came to the wasteland and saw him. That old Daoist gave him a warm and gentle smile and asked.

“Why did you feed on the flesh of the dead?”

“I don’t want to die a petty death!” The young child answered.

“Do you want to follow me? I will teach you pill refinement techniques so that you won’t live a petty life anymore. You will be able to stand up tall above tens of thousands of people...”

The smile of that old Daoist was forever engraved into the Pill Sovereign’s heart. It was heart-warming like a father’s love.

At that time, the Pill Sovereign did not know that the old Daoist in green robes was Sovereign Li who was personally entitled by the former Rain Sovereign!

Sovereign Li eventually passed away as he failed to achieve a breakthrough in his cultivation. The Pill Sovereign endured the sorrow of losing his father-like teacher and continued to follow his teachings. After enduring countless hardships and bitterness, he climbed to the top and became the Pill Sovereign whose name was famous across the Nine Worlds in the end.

The reason why the Pill Sovereign had not kept a disciple before in his entire life was because he had yet to meet a disciple whom he could treat like his own son.

In this world, countless pill refinement masters wished to recognize the Pill Sovereign as their master but he did not care about them at all.

Today, he finally met a disciple whom he was fond of. This disciple, however, already recognized another master a long time ago. It was truly unfortunate.

“Heal!”

The Pill Sovereign pointed a finger at Ning Fan. A rush of warm and gentle soul power went into Ning Fan’s body, nourishing his medicine soul that was on the verge of bursting.

He could not eliminate the pain that Ning Fan was enduring but he could heal the cuts and wounds on his medicine soul.

He remembered that time when he was the one absorbing the medicine qi from Sovereign Li's pill cauldron.

Under Sovereign Li's protection, he had absorbed one-third of his medicine qi.

He had a feeling that the young man in front of him right now could also absorb up to one-third of the medicine qi of the cauldron.

Hence, he decided to give Ning Fan a hand just like how his master did to him on that day.

However, when the Pill Sovereign helped Ning Fan using his soul power, he only realized at that moment that Ning Fan's body actually had countless traces of black star power that was healing him automatically.

Ning Fan who was using the black stars to heal himself suddenly felt a cooling sensation on his medicine soul. This gave him a boost in his vigor and spirit. Knowing that the Pill Sovereign was helping him, he was deeply grateful.

He clenched his teeth even harder and accelerated the absorption of the medicine qi once again while enduring an even more intense pain.

One-third of the medicine qi in the large cauldron was already absorbed by Ning Fan!

There were even more cracks and wounds on his medicine soul but the Pill Sovereign were healing them.

The pain, however, became too much for him to bear. It caused blue veins to surface on his forehead.

“Refine!”

Without any fear, Ning Fan assimilated the massive amount of medicine qi into his medicine soul. The black color of his medicine soul had immediately turned one-third more concentrated than before!

Ning Fan became even more certain that if he could swallow all of the medicine qi inside the pill cauldron, he could make his medicine soul advance to the Peak Fifth Revolution. The reason for that was because this pill cauldron contained all the medicine qi that the Pill Sovereign had amassed in his entire life!

Those who don't get tired of it after suffering hardships and bitterness could turn into an Asura that rules the world from the top...

Determination suddenly filled Ning Fan's eyes. Black mist gathered around his body and turned him into his black incarnation.

His eyes were cold and emotionless as if he could no longer feel any pain.

One must turn into an Asura and endure hardship to attain the peak of cultivation!

“Absorb!”

The massive amount of medicine qi was completely absorbed by Ning Fan's body.

He had actually swallowed up all of the medicine qi in the gigantic green wooden cauldron in a single attempt!

The soul-piercing pain became intolerable. The Ning Fan in black robes made a groan and his body suddenly broke down into a mist of blood.

Those who witness his incarnation would only think that it was an impressive technique as it could disperse and condense again and again. However, no one had ever thought about how extremely painful it was having your body broken down into nothing.

The pain was intense as Ning Fan's incarnation dispersed and condensed repeatedly. At the same time, he was digesting the medicine qi as much as he could.

He repeated the process one hundred times. By breaking down his incarnation repeatedly, it allowed him to continuously alleviate the impact of the medicine qi while he was gradually assimilating it.

The black color on his medicine soul continued to spread. From one-third of his medicine soul, it spread until two-thirds of it was covered and eventually, his entire medicine soul was dyed in extremely thick black color. There was just a thin tinge of light green on top of the black.

His medicine soul finally advanced to the Peak Fifth Revolution!

“Very well!”

The Pill Sovereign who had been staying quiet at a corner since the beginning finally complimented Ning Fan.

Ning Fan did not disappoint him. He had fully absorbed all of the medicine qi in the large cauldron after persevering.

The endurance he had was even slightly stronger than that of the Pill Sovereign.

“Try and see whether you can condense your natal pill cauldron in one go after the improvements you had on your medicine soul.” The Pill Sovereign reminded him.

“Alright.”

Ning Fan closed his eyes. Traces of his intent realm power were released from his body.

The Divine Intent of Rain. The Devil Intent of Mountain. The Demon Intent of Fu Li... Three types of completely different intent realms suddenly fused into one, forming a scene with falling black snow from his memories.

“This is!”

The Pill Sovereign realized with surprise that Ning Fan actually possessed the intent realm powers of the Divine Race, the Devil Race and the Demon Race.

What he found hard to believe the most was that Ning Fan had fused the three types of intent realm powers into one, creating the Memory Intent Realm. Moreover, his intent realm had attained Perfect Accomplishment. When he willed it, the entire sky became filled with black snow.

Each of the black snowflakes was the power of his Memory Intent Realm which was a Second Step Intent Realm.

Ning Fan did not have the intention to hide anything from the Pill Sovereign. In fact, he had already regarded him as one of the people who was close to him.

The Pill Sovereign had given Ning Fan an extremely precious gift. Even though he was just fulfilling his promise to Old Devil, Ning Fan was still very grateful to him.

In his mind, he was recalling the look of the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron. That pill cauldron was in all of his memories.

He patted his storage pouch and took out a three feet tall, black octagon-shaped cauldron with six corners.

It was the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron. It was something the Old Devil gave to him. Even though its grade was not high and it was of little use to Ning Fan now, it was loaded with all of the memories he had of Seven Apricot City.

He wanted to use the power of his Memory Intent Realm to condense his natal pill cauldron with the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron as the model and keep the memories of the snowy Seven Apricot City.

“Fuse!”

The power of his Memory Intent Realm filled the Dan Fragmentation Cauldron, slowly eating it away.

Ning Fan touched his glabella. He could feel that the solid Dan Fragmentation Cauldron had turned into an intangible form of divine intent which formed a black cauldron within his Sea of Consciousness. It was being built and tempered inside there.

“Cauldron, appear!”

Ning Fan’s eyes flashed with memories. Traces of power from his Memory Intent condensed into a black cauldron which fell upon the peak of the snow mountain.

As the Pill Sovereign watched the process of Ning Fan condensing his natal pill cauldron, his lips curved into a satisfied smile.

“This black cauldron is not the perfect pill cauldron. Why do you insist on making this cauldron instead of condensing other better pill cauldrons using your divine intent?”

“This cauldron is a gift from my master. Even though its grade isn’t high, it has a special meaning to me.”

Ning Fan answered truthfully. His answer made the Pill Sovereign even more satisfied.

“Very well. Now, it seems like there’s only one thing left to give you. Here. Consume these two Min Luo Fruits.”

Ning Fan took the Min Luo Fruits from the Pill Sovereign. Upon receiving them, he was slightly stunned as memories of the Min Luo Treant and Little Pill Devil suddenly flashed past his mind. Subconsciously, he asked.

“Senior, if I may be so bold, where did these fruits come from?”

Well, it wasn’t odd for Ning Fan to have questions regarding the fruits. After all, Min Luo Fruits could only be found in the Min Luo Treant Clan in the Tree World.

Other than the Dark Sparrow's Grave, there was no Min Luo Fruit in the Rain World. Of course, it was possible that these fruits could be a gift from some experts in the Tree World for the Pill Sovereign.

"When I passed by the Mist Horn Clan back then, I bought them by chance from the auction they held."

The Pill Sovereign faintly surprised Ning Fan.

Why would the Mist Horn Clan have Min Luo Fruits...?

Ning Fan had no time to ponder over this matter. The Pill Sovereign brought Ning Fan to a secret mountainside that was hidden from the outside world. He opened up a temporary abode and set up an invisible defensive formation. He would help Ning Fan digest the Min Luo Fruits at this place.

Once Ning Fan consumes the two Min Luo Fruits, he would enter into the dream realm that would last one hundred years.

As for the Pill Sovereign, he would use a Dream Entry Technique to enter into Ning Fan's dream and teach him about pill refinement for one hundred years in that realm.

One hundred years in the dream world would be equivalent to only several days in reality. This way of teaching was rather unconventional and unique.

Ning Fan greatly trusted the Pill Sovereign. If the Pill Sovereign really wants to harm him, he would not have any chance to retaliate at all. Hence, there was no need to have doubts about his method.

After consuming the two Min Luo Fruits, Ning Fan sat in a meditative posture and fell into the dream realm.

The Pill Sovereign also sat in the same posture and began meditating. Using his strong spirit sense, he managed to enter Ning Fan's dream easily without needing to be in contact with him.

It was a dream realm with a vast and boundless world. Ning Fan was standing inside a mountain valley. There were countless spiritual herbs growing around the area.

Well, it was a dream realm. He could have whatever he thought of.

The biggest advantage of teaching pill refinement techniques inside the dream world was that it could save time and resources.

Surely, there were disadvantages to this kind of teaching method. At the end of the day, it was not actually refining pills in reality. Even though it could increase one's proficiency in the techniques of concocting pills, it was ineffective in raising your pill refinement realm. A pill refinement master would not be able to allow his medicine soul to absorb medicine qi since it was not truly refining pills.

Bang

Ning fan summoned his gigantic Dan Fragmentation Cauldron in the medicine valley. He plucked a bunch of spiritual herbs randomly and tossed them into the cauldron and began refining pills.

At one side, the Pill Sovereign was silently looking at Ning Fan as he was refining pills with a stern expression.

He might have an easygoing personality but if someone touches his reserve scale, he would show his merciless side to them.

When it comes to pill refinement, he would be particularly strict. During the process, he was serious, focused and scrupulous of every detail. He did not allow a single flaw.

“Your method is wrong. You have three kinds of Dao of Pills and you should integrate them by choosing the ones that are effective while abandoning those which are ineffective...”

“The flame temperature is slightly higher. Not qualified!”

“Concentrate your spirit sense. Disperse your medicine soul. Consolidate and maintain your energy. Spiritual light should shine in your heart!”

...

One hundred years later, Ning Fan woke up from the dream realm.

Inside the dream, he went through one hundred years of pill refinement. His techniques and skills had become smoother. He had now completely adapted to being a Peak Fifth Revolution Pill Master.

In reality, only a few days had passed by.

Ning Fan looked around the temporary abode and realized that the Pill Sovereign had already left a long time ago. The latter only left a storage pouch for Ning Fan. It contained all of the spiritual herbs he had on display in his stall that day.

Besides, the Pill Sovereign had also nullified the disguise of the three tufts of one hundred thousand years old spiritual herbs that Ning Fan could not identify and gave them to him.

Aside from these innumerable precious spiritual herbs, the Pill Sovereign had also left a jade slip which contained a single message for him.

“I will continue travelling around the world to gain insights for my pill refinement mastery. When your pill refinement mastery breaks through to the Sixth Revolution, I will give you the other two lessons. Be careful and take care of yourself...”

The message inside the jade slip was not lengthy but it made Ning Fan silent.

He kept the jade slip and gazed at the sky at the exit of the abode. With his fists cupped, he slightly bowed.

“Thank you for your kindness in passing the Dao to me, Pill Sovereign!”

If it wasn't for the Pill Sovereign's help, it would have been certainly impossible for Ning Fan to become a Peak Fifth Revolution Pill Master in such a short period of time.

In the lesson he had this time, the Pill Sovereign had not only helped him awaken his Human Eye, condense his natal pill cauldron, give him countless spiritual herbs, but also guided him personally in the pill refinement process for one hundred years.

In the past, Ning Fan had been groping in the dark in the Dao of Pills on his own. Without proper guidance, he more or less would have some inadequacy in his skills in pill refinement.

This time, however, the Pill Sovereign personally taught Ning Fan for one hundred years. Currently, Ning Fan's pill refinement mastery was nearly unrivalled in the entire Rain World other than the seven Sixth Revolution Pill Masters!

Ning Fan did not immediately leave the temporary abode. He sat down again in a meditative position and began meditating.

The level of his medicine soul was stabilizing.

Meanwhile, he was recalling the scenes of pill refinement techniques that he had practiced inside the dream realm in his mind.

...

Another twenty days had passed.

The entire province of Cold Northern Country was extremely crowded because of the grand occasion.

Inside the province, a ten thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall jade platform was built. And on the jade platform, there was a gigantic four-colored stele. It was called the Pill Stele. It was something the Pill Island was providing for this time's Pill Ceremony.

The seats in four directions were fully occupied by pill masters and old monsters from different places.

On the main seats, there were Ju Qing and Dong Xu who were both a part of the seven venerated beings of the internal sea and also the great elder of the Pill Island.

The great elder of the Pill Island was an elderly man with a pair of sharp eyes. He had Peak Divine Transformation Realm cultivation base and High Grade Fifth Revolution pill refinement mastery.

His pill refinement techniques were famous across the world. Thus, he could skip the first two rounds.

As for some well-known Fifth Revolution Pill Refinement Masters, they would also directly participate in the third round.

At the center of the jade platform, Elder Fu Bai of the Giant Devil Clan was hosting the first round.

Each of the pill refinement masters registered their names and waited for their turn to test their pill refinement mastery under the Pill Stele.

When their palms touched the Pill Stele, that mysterious stone would release a ray of power which was similar to a medicine soul to test the pill refinement master's mastery.

The First Revolution pill refinement realm would light up one color of the Pill Stele.

Accordingly, the Fourth Revolution pill refinement realm would light up four colors of the Pill Stele.

At the same time, there were still tiny scales in between each of the colors to accurately test the level of one's pill refinement mastery thoroughly.

Every one of the pill refinement masters went up the platform to take the test while Great Elder Fu Bai announced the results of each of the participants.

“High Grade Second Revolution, disqualified!”

“Mid Grade Third Revolution, qualified!”

“Early Grade Fourth Revolution, qualified!”

Those whose pill refinement mastery was below Third Revolution would all be eliminated straight away in this round.

On the other hand, every time a Fourth Revolution Pill Master appeared, countless cheers would fill the entire arena.

A Fourth Revolution Pill Refinement Master was enough to be a person of importance to a cultivation country!

There were at least five thousand pill refinement masters who were participating in the Pill Ceremony.

Even though there were a lot of participants, the test moved rather quickly. Perhaps everyone would finish taking their tests within one day.

On the seats designated for female cultivators, Yue Lingkong looked pretty flustered.

“Where did Little Cucumber go? There has been a frenzy of rumors saying that Little Cucumber has met the Pill Sovereign and he gained recognition from that man who later announced that he would keep him as his half disciple... If this is real, it is obviously a good thing. However, why hasn't Little Cucumber returned after so long. Could he be in danger? Could that Pill Sovereign harbored bad intentions towards Little Cucumber?!”

“Brother-in-law...” Feng Xueyan's eyes were filled with worry as well. However, she could not speak.

“Young Master Zhou has the support of both the Rain Palace and the Zhou Clan. I personally think that he would not be in any danger...” Fen Chi was quite rational. However, even though she was verbally reassuring them that Ning Fan was safe, her eyes were also filled with concern.

“Elder Sister Yue, don’t worry. Big Brother will certainly come...”

Xu Qiuling’s bright eyes flickered. She understood Ning Fan. Since he had promised to participate in the Pill Ceremony, he would come no matter what.

“What?! This is!”

Exclamations of amazement suddenly resounded from everywhere within the arena. Each of the cultivators stared at the center of the jade platform in disbelief.

Chapter 460: A Slap In The Face

“What?! This is!”

All eyes gravitated towards the jade platform. On the center of the platform, a bald old monk who was as thin as a twig was standing below the Pill Stele.

He stood silently in the wind and snow by his lonesome. His presence giving off the natural demeanor of a grandmaster.

He sighed heavily. That sigh felt quite aged, bringing out heavy feelings like the vicissitudes of life that he experienced.

He placed his hands on the Pill Stele. The upright stone slab then began to give out light of four different colors. The light continued to intensify and rose as high as it could. When it reached the highest scale of the fourth color which represented the Peak Fourth Revolution, it came to a sudden halt. It was already at the maximum limit the Pill Stele could test.

At this moment, the Pill Tablet lightly trembled. Above the snowy sky, five-colored clouds suddenly emerged.

All of a sudden, countless exclamations resounded across the atmosphere.

“The five-colored clouds! The Pill Stele from the Pill Island could only test up to the Fourth Revolution of pill refinement mastery. If a Fifth Revolution Pill Master takes the test, five-colored clouds will appear. It’s because the Pill Stele could not measure Fifth Revolution pill refinement mastery! This man is no doubt a Fifth Revolution Pill Master!”

“What?! A Fifth Revolution Pill Master?! In the Rain World’s eight hundred cultivation countries, there are only several Fifth Revolution Pill Masters. All of them are famous individuals who are known far and wide. Who is this man? Why does he look so unfamiliar...?”

“It’s him! The former sect master of the Heavenly Jade Sect, Yi Yunzi! He has High Grade Fifth Revolution pill refinement mastery. This man had gone missing for many years. Unexpectedly, he came to participate in the Pill Ceremony!”

“Huh? Are you saying that this man is Yi Yunzi? But I saw him when I was visiting the Zhou Clan as a guest several hundred years ago.”

“The Zhou Clan? Could this person have already joined the Zhou Clan?”

Countless cultivators were guessing and discussing among themselves. After Yi Yunzi revealed his identity, the experts of the Giant Devil Clan immediately welcomed him and led him to the seats for honored guests. Many pill refinement masters also rose from their seats and greeted him.

Yi Yunzi’s eyes were as calm as the old leaves of an ancient vine. None of the pill refinement masters in the area could draw his attention.

Only when his eyes scanned past the great elder of the Pill Island and the sect master of the Scarlet Heaven Palace did his expression look slightly different.

His eyes suddenly became as bright as a torch. The pill refinement mastery of the great elder of the Pill Island, Huang Tingzi, should be almost on par with his.

As for the palace lord of the Scarlet Heaven Palace, Mo Xiu, his pill refinement mastery was slightly above Yi Yunzi's level!

When Yi Yunzi took his seat on the seatings designated for honored guests, Mo Xiu's expression turned stern all of a sudden. He sent a message to Yi Yunzi through telepathy.

“Yi Yunzi, you weren't better than me in the past. Even though you have become a feudal ranking elder of the Zhou Clan, you still won't surpass me!”

“Perhaps... Even though you are stronger than me, you are just a tiny bit better.”

No one knew that Mo Xiu had taunted Yi Yunzi.

The uproar gradually dissipated. The first round continued to proceed in good order.

Each of the Third Revolution Pill Masters passed the first round.

There were also many Fourth Revolution Pill Masters who managed to cut a conspicuous figure in front of countless cultivators.

Six pill refinement masters from the Scarlet Heaven Palace were joining the Pill Ceremony. Other than their palace lord, Mo Xiu who was already a well-known High Grade Fifth Revolution Pill Master, the remaining five of them had yet to attain the Fifth Revolution and were all required to take the test.

The five pill refinement masters of the Scarlet Heaven Palace had once encountered Ning Fan before this. All of them had an egg on their faces and were almost killed by Ning Fan's claw attack.

Although their combat power was weak, their pill refinement techniques were quite the opposite.

Four of them had achieved High Grade Fourth Revolution pill refinement mastery while the other had attained the Peak Fourth Revolution!

Five Fourth Revolution Pill Masters appeared on the platform at the same time which instantly stirred up a commotion among the crowd.

“These five individuals truly deserve to be the special pill refinement masters of the Scarlet Heaven Palace. Each of their pill refinement mastery is enough to be universally shocking.”

“Being a Fourth Revolution Pill Master is enough to make you a person of importance to a country. The pill refinement mastery of these five individuals are at least of the High Grade Fourth Revolution and one of them is even just a hair’s breadth away from the Fifth Revolution. The Scarlet Heaven Palace really has a well-deserved reputation of being one of the ‘Nine Palaces’ of the Rain Palace. It successively gave birth to geniuses. Not only does the palace lord have an extremely profound pill refinement mastery, but his subordinates also have outstanding pill refinement realms!”

The cheers and exclamations from the crowd were obviously extremely pleasing to the five pill refinement masters of the Scarlet Heaven Palace.

Of the five, the elderly man with the highest pill refinement realm was Chi Lao. He felt extremely pleased with the flattering response of the crowd in particular.

The pent-up frustration he had bottled up after being embarrassed by Ning Fan in the past was completely swept away at this moment.

His old eyes looked at the surroundings, deliberately questioning Elder Fu Bai who was hosting the test.

“I’ve heard that Revered Ming is also participating in the Pill Ceremony. Why hasn’t he arrived yet?”

“Perhaps something has delayed him while he was on his way. He will probably arrive in a short while.” Fu Bai politely answered. Even though he was the great elder of the Giant Devil Clan, he still had to be courteous when dealing with a Peak Grade Fourth Revolution Pill Refinement Master.

“Is that so...? Hehe. I really look forward to what kind of result Revered Ming will get. The recent hot rumors said that Revered Ming has become the half disciple of the Pill Sovereign. With that kind of identity, he would have to at least be a Fourth Revolution Pill Master, right? However, I think Revered Ming is a cultivator who goes through grueling cultivation. He is incredibly strong and even has powerful techniques. His pill refinement mastery, however, might not necessarily be strong. It is known to all that pill refinement mastery can only be gained through refining pills. It isn’t something that one can obtain from killing people.”

Chi Lao’s words fell into the ears of countless cultivators under the enhancement of his magic power.

Every one of those cultivators had no idea about the grudges Chi Lao had against Ning Fan. Hence, they found what he said rather reasonable.

Well, it was true that the Pill Sovereign had personally acknowledged that Ning Fan was half a disciple to him. Ning Fan had to at least have Fourth Revolution pill refinement realm so that he would not tarnish the Pill Sovereign’s name.

However, Ning Fan was a notorious devil lord who slaughters everywhere all day. How could he have the time and peace to research pill refinement.

Most of the people agreed with Chi Lao’s perspective, thinking that there was no way Ning Fan could have profound pill refinement mastery. They even thought that it was possible for him not to have achieved the Fourth Revolution.

In addition to that, when they saw that Ning Fan had yet to arrive after the Pill Ceremony had started for some time already, they began to wonder whether or not he was afraid of embarrassing himself as he would be disqualified without Third Revolution pill refinement mastery.

Each of the old monsters seemed to have understood what Chi Lao was hinting at. More and more people began to have this kind of thoughts.

Chi Lao’s eyes flashed with a hint of pleasure.

He could not win against Ning Fan in a real fight but it was rather fun to tarnish his reputation and harass the Great Heaven Palace behind their backs.

When it comes to killing, Chi Lao and the other four pill refinement masters together would still be unable to rival one Ning Fan.

In terms of pill refinement, however, Chi Lao was very confident that he could completely overwhelm him.

The fact that Ning Fan had heaven-defying strength while being only five hundred years old was already unacceptable to him.

If Ning Fan was also well-versed in pill refinement, it would be too unreasonable.

“It’s naturally impossible for that Zhou Ming to have Fourth Revolution pill refinement mastery. He probably isn’t even at the Third Revolution. I really don’t understand why a significant figure like the Pill Sovereign would keep someone with such a weak pill refinement mastery as a disciple... It really makes me jealous!”

Chi Lao’s heart was filled with envy and disdain towards Ning Fan.

When he was about to go down from the platform with the other four pill refinement masters after completing the test, they were suddenly stopped by two shadows.

One of them was the divine son of the Profound Heaven Palace, Yun Niansu.

The other person was the feudal ranking elder of Pill Island, Yang Gu.

Yun Niansu was a refined gentleman. The way he looked at Chi Lao was filled with mild contempt.

He had previously met Ning Fan on Gusu Island and was aware of his terrifying strength.

He was a member of the Profound Heaven Palace and the foster son of the Third Prince of the Rain Palace, Yun Bushu. The Profound Heaven Palace was the only palace of the Nine Palaces that was on friendly terms with the Great Heaven Palace.

Even though he did not know what Ning Fan's current pill refinement mastery was, he still had some admiration for him. Be it for the sake of their palaces or his friendship with him, he was willing to say something good on his behalf.

“The members of the Scarlet Heaven Palace always like defaming others behind their backs. What a shameful act. Since the honorable Pill Sovereign has chosen him, it naturally meant that he has something special going for him. Whether Revered Ming's current pill refinement mastery has reached the Third Revolution or not, he isn't someone whom the likes of you could besmirch.”

If Yun Niansu's tone was considered modest and polite, then Yang Gu's tone sounded like he had flown into a rage.

Yang Gu was very angry and discontented.

Why? Because Chi Lao was mocking Ning Fan who was the master that Yang Gu had recognized not long ago!

To outsiders, Chi Lao's words seemed to be very reasonable. However, to Yang Gu, it was pure bullshit.

Did he actually say that Ning Fan's pill refinement mastery might not necessarily be at the Third Revolution, let alone the Fourth Revolution...? Bullshit!

Yang Gu had seen with his own eyes when Ning Fan's pill refinement realm broke through to the Mid Grade Fifth Revolution. In terms of pill refinement realms, he could completely overwhelm a small fry like Chi Lao.

How could this small fry be bold enough to ridicule his master? Is he tired of living?!

“Your pill refinement mastery can’t even match a fragment of Revered Ming’s. You don’t even deserve to polish his shoes!” Yang Gu’s voice was loud. It sounded as if he was shouting those words.

Shua

At this moment, the animated discussions among the crowd quieted down.

Chi Lao’s face turned ghastly pale. He did not expect for the words he randomly said to defame Ning Fan would draw forth two pill refinement masters to stand up for him.

Besides, these two individuals were famous pill refinement masters. Chi Lao recognized them both.

Yun Niansu was a well-known pill refinement genius of the Rain Palace. He was also the foster son of the Third Prince. Before coming to the Endless Sea, his pill refinement realm was already close to breaking through to the Fifth Revolution. His pill refinement mastery was also slightly higher than Chi Lao’s. Usually, Chi Lao would not dare to offend Yun Niansu.

As for Yang Gu, he was also a pill refinement master who was a hair’s breadth away from attaining the Fifth Revolution according to some rumors. Moreover, he was born in Pill Island. On a typical day, Chi Lao would have also given Yang Gu some face due to his identity.

Today, however, Chi Lao was prepared to not show them some respect.

His face became grim. Yun Niansu said he was a shameful man while Yang Gu said he was not even deserving of polishing Ning Fan’s shoes. As a Peak Grade Fourth Revolution pill refinement master, he, of course, had his own pride. How could he allow himself to be humiliated just like that?

“Yun Niansu! Yang Gu! Both of you are only pill refinement masters at the same level as me. I will show some respect to you two because of your achievements in pill refinement. However, the words you guys used to talk about me seemed to be extremely impolite!”

“Did you just say we are on the same level?” Yun Niansu’s eyes flickered with a hint of disdain. He already could not bear to see the arrogant faces of the members of the Scarlet Heaven Palace. Thus, he did not mind giving Chi Lao’s face a slap right now.

With elegant steps, he walked towards the Pill Stele like a refined young master who remained pure and refined even if he was born in a turbid world. He placed one of his palms on the stone slab.

All of a sudden, a vigorous rush of medicine qi was released from his body. At this moment, the Pill Stele glowed with a dazzling four-colored light. On top of that, five-colored clouds suddenly emerged in the snowy sky!

Countless people sucked in a cold breath.

Young Master Niansu of the Profound Heaven Palace truly deserves to be called a prodigy in pill refinement. At such a young age, he has already become a Fifth Revolution Pill Master!

“How is this possible?! You are so young. How is it possible for you to achieve the Fifth Revolution?!” Chi Lao’s expression turned hideous. A strong sense of frustration filled his heart.

All this time, he had been thinking that his pill refinement mastery was slightly better than Yun Niansu’s. However, he did not expect that Yun Niansu had already secretly broken through to the Fifth Revolution and became a person whom he could not match!

While he was still in a trance, Yang Gu also walked towards the Pill Stele with a cold smirk and placed his palm on the Pill Stele.

A few moments later, five-colored clouds emerged in the snowy sky once again. Without a doubt, Yang Gu was also a bonafide Fifth Revolution Pill Master!

“What?!”

It was not only Chi Lao who was surprised by Yang Gu’s result, but also the great elder of Pill Island who was sitting in the hosts’ seats, also revealing a look of surprise.

He also did not know when Yang Gu attained Fifth Revolution pill refinement mastery!

Countless experts in the arena suddenly rose to their feet. Their eyes were blazing with enthusiasm as they looked at Yun Niansu and Yang Gu.

These two individuals were both Fifth Revolution Pill Masters. A Fourth Revolution Pill Master might become famous within a country, but a Fifth Revolution Pill Master was sought after by hundreds of countries!

“I have told you. You don’t even deserve to polish Revered Ming’s shoes. Do you know why?”

Yang Gu looked at Chi Lao with a cold smirk, as if he wanted to establish Ning Fan’s reputation satisfactorily.

“It’s because Revered Ming is my master. His pill refinement mastery is far beyond my reach. The reason why my pill refinement mastery could break through to the Fifth Revolution is all because of my master’s guidance! You are just a lowly Fourth Revolution Pill Master who can’t even compare to me. How could you put yourself on par with my master?!”

Hua

A huge commotion resounded across the arena.

Countless cultivators could not believe that Yang Gu, a reputable Fifth Revolution Pill Master, would recognize Ning Fan as his master in pill refinement!

Just as the crowd was still digesting Yang Gu’s words, a powerful medicine soul that was enormous like a gigantic dragon descended on the jade platform.

Countless pill refinement masters felt their minds go blank while their bodies uncontrollably shivered. Even Fourth Revolution Pill Masters could not resist the power of this medicine soul.

They were well aware that a medicine soul was a method only Fifth Revolution Pill Masters would have. However, ordinary Fifth Revolution Pill Masters would not be able to terrorize Fourth Revolution Pill Masters!

Only pill refinement grandmasters who are on the same level with Yi Yunzi and Mo Xiu could possess such frightening medicine soul power!

Shush

The shadow of a white-robed individual suddenly descended before the Pill Stele. He casually placed a single palm on the stone slab.

Moments later, the vast sky in the vicinity of one hundred thousand li* (500m per li) was fully occupied with five-colored clouds.

Moreover, among the five-colored clouds, there was a trace of a sixth color.

“What?! Six colors?! A Sixth Revolution Pill Master?! No. It isn’t the true sixth color. But...”

Yi Yunzi, Mo Xiu and Huang Tingzi stood up in surprise. They looked at Ning Fan’s direction full of doubts and shock.

“You know what they say, don’t do anything more than three times. If you dare to gossip behind my back again, you will die for sure!”

Cold light flickered in Ning Fan’s eyes. With just a stare, Chi Lao felt like his soul was about to freeze!

An unprecedented feeling of frustration filled Chi Lao’s heart... A young man of five hundred years actually surpassed him in both cultivation level and pill refinement mastery.

How could this be even possible?! How could...?!

How could such a monstrous talent exist in the world?!

Chi Lao felt his face go hot. The eyes of countless cultivators who were laughing at him made him so ashamed that he could not show his face.

Just a moment ago, he was still thinking that Ning Fan's pill refinement mastery was weak and insignificant. Now, it really slapped him in the face...

"A useless scumbag!" Mo Xiu's eyes turned gloomy. This time, Chi Lao had really brought shame to his Scarlet Heaven Palace.