

Grasping 541

Chapter 541: A Crazy Man

With a single teleportation technique, Ning Fan brought Yun Ruowei and Ning Qingqing back to Hai Ning.

He had already grown used to smiling. No matter how difficult the path ahead of him, he would also never lose the smile on his face.

To him, smiling was just an attitude and it had nothing to do with his feelings... Today, however, he could no longer put on a smile on his face, even if he tried forcing it.

“Mistress Yun, if you encounter any trouble in the Southeastern Cultivator Union in the future, you can come to Seven Apricot City to seek help anytime. Mistress Qing, as long as I am alive, you can rest assured that the Ning Family of Hai Ning will continue to exist and prosper...”

As soon as he finished speaking, he turned around looking slightly depressed and left.

Ning Qingqing had something to ask him at first but she was unable to get a word out from her mouth.

Yun Ruowei originally wanted to ask for the blue jade from Ning Fan but when she saw his sad expression, she also could not open her mouth to ask for it.

Seemingly, there was a feeling that rose within her heart and told her that he should be the one who keeps the jade and no one could replace him...

“Why will he be so depressed...?” Neither Yun Ruowei nor Ning Qingqing could understand him.

No one would...

Ning Fan returned to Seven Apricot City in a ray of travelling light. Three days later, he received a message-transmitting flying sword from the Endless Sea.

Right after he had heard the message from the flying sword, he entered the Sovereign Tomb using his separated soul without speaking a word to help Old Ancestor Dong Xu who had been waiting for him to break through to the Void Refinement Realm.

It had been a long while since the last time Old Ancestor Dong Xu met Ning Fan. He planned to crack a joke upon meeting him but when he noticed Ning Fan's desolate expression, all the jokes he planned to tell turned into sighs.

One month later, Old Ancestor Dong Xu had successfully gotten through the bottleneck of the Void Refinement Realm under Ning Fan's aid. All he needed to do next was to return to his island and commence a long secluded cultivation and he would truly become a Void Refinement Realm expert.

After Ning Fan had done his part, he left Seven Apricot City all alone and headed to the Middle State.

The little sable still stayed in the city as her injuries were yet to recover. With her and Min Luo around the city, it would be strong enough for the city to defend against someone like Moksha Sovereign even if they personally come.

Ning Fan walked past the land of Wu Country on his own and travelled across four countries, passing by each and every one of the foreign countries which he had never visited before.

He travelled all the way north. Sometimes, he would fly in the sky and sometimes, he would travel on foot. During his journey, he would walk for some distances and stop and occasionally go deep into the mountains and ridges to rest while looking at the blooming mountain flowers... It was unknown how many cultivation countries he had passed by within one month...

He intruded the den of a demon tiger by mistake and a tiger cub bared its fangs fiercely and pounced on him ignorantly.

He slightly released his aura force and it literally made that tiger cub cower in fear.

He lifted his finger with the intention to kill that tiger cub. However, a large black tiger jumped in front of the tiger cub and knelt to the ground like a human. With eyes filled with despair, it kept kowtowing to Ning Fan, begging him to spare them.

It was a tigress and it probably was that tiger cub's mother...

Ning Fan let out a sigh and his killing intent diminished instantly. Then, he turned around and left the den.

Evening rain started to drizzle. Ning Fan stood on the edge of a nameless river and stared at the duckweeds on the river that were scattered by the raindrops.

The mayflies which were originally resting on the duckweeds immediately leaped and flew away from the scattered duckweeds to look for another resting place.

The rain gradually became heavier and the fine raindrops became so dense that it looked a curtain, blocking the view on the other side of the river. Eventually, the light rain turned into a stormy downpour.

Filler Word to make up the word count.

Ning Fan stepped on the ancient golden sword with a cold glint in his eyes as he went straight after the three demoness.

The three of them had been spying on him. Besides, they did not conceal their killing intent against Ning Fan at all. Since they harbored ill intentions against him, it was impossible for Ning Fan to let them go.

The speed of his ancient sword was close to the Void Fragmentation Realm. The three demoness could not outrun him at all. Within just a few breaths, Ning Fan had already caught up with them.

Ning Fan kept his ancient sword and stood coldly in front of them, blocking their escape route.

“This is bad! We’ve been caught up by this malevolent being!”

“We can’t run away from him. The speed of the golden ancient sword that he rode is too terrifying. There is literally no way we can escape from him!”

“He doesn’t summon his Void Fragmentation Realm spiritual puppet. Let’s fight him with all we have!”

The three demoness were already aware that there was no hope in escaping and the only choice they had was to fight a desperate battle against Ning Fan.

Without hesitation, each of them took out their natal magic treasures and delivered an attack at Ning Fan.

“Demon Bone Fan!”

“Yin Phoenix Stings!”

“Poisonous King Cauldron!”

The three magic treasures were all High Grade Mortal Void Realm treasures. They went straight at Ning Fan’s head. Their vigorous momentum caused heaven and earth to shake.

Ning Fan, however, still remained a neutral expression. With a flick of his sleeve, he took out a blood umbrella and pointed it at the three incoming treasures.

As the blood umbrella spread open, it gave off faint red halos of spirit wheels that pulled all the three magic treasures into the umbrella.

The three demoness were immensely surprised. The blood umbrella that Ning Fan used was too unusual. Besides, despite his Void Inquiry Stage magic power, he actually could handle High Grade Mortal Void Realm magic treasures so easily!?

Judging from the situation, the three demonesses could not put up a fight against Ning Fan at all unless they use Peak Grade Mortal Void Realm magic treasures!

Furthermore, if Ning Fan breaks through to the Void Pierce Stage, he probably could directly take away every magic treasure below the Void Fragmentation Realm and Immortal Void Realm magic treasures using his blood umbrella!

“Since our magic treasures can’t hurt him, we’ll use our demon techniques to kill him!”

Panic-stricken, the three ladies made a series of hand seals together. A massive void sea appeared beneath their feet and roiling demon power began filling the sky.

Ning Fan naturally would not give them a chance to display their magic techniques. He stepped on his ancient sword and turned into a pure golden sword ray, abruptly vanishing into nothingness.

When he appeared again, he was already behind the three ladies. He gathered his magic power in his hand to summon a half-black and half-white rope and cast it at the three demonesses.

The three demonesses felt danger from the black and white rope. They wanted to avoid it but they could not make it in time at all.

The rope suddenly sped up. All they could see was a flash of light and they were already bound by the rope.

The power of this black and white rope clearly was not as powerful as Giant Zi Dian’s lightning fetters. However, when it tied around their bodies, it actually sealed off their entire magic power, weakening their bodies and restricting their mobility!

Their expressions paled with fright. All of them realized that the black and white rope was a type of extremely scary bewitching technique that specialized in restraining female cultivators!

This technique was none other than the Yin Imprisoning Rope Technique that Ning Fan used to capture Old Ancestor Bi Tong in the past!

Yin Plucking Finger, Yin Imprisoning Rope... The further Ning Fan's cultivation in the Yin Yang Transformation, the scarier those techniques would be in restraining female cultivators.

"From today on, you all will be my human cauldrons!"

As soon as Ning Fan finished speaking, he dragged the three demonesses back to the desolate island. After a session of plucking, the three of them were only left with a cultivation realm at the Harmonious Spirit Realm. Then, he put them in the repentance palace of his Cauldron World.

Well, he was not a kind and magnanimous person. If someone tries to harm him, he would certainly not show them mercy.

Ning Fan had fused his magic power, demon power and devil qi together in the past. Even though the human cauldrons he plucked were demonesses, they still could raise his magic power. After plucking the three of them, his magic power rose by two hundred thousand units, reaching eight million and two hundred thousand units in total.

Combined with nine million units of essence qi in him, the total units of his magic power and essence qi had reached a terrifying figure of seventeen million and two hundred thousand, which made him not far away from the threshold of becoming an Absolute Void Stage expert – twenty million units of magic power.

Theoretically speaking, when Ning Fan accumulates thirty-six million units of magic power, he could then start trying to pushing through the bottleneck of the Void Fragmentation Realm. However, his chances of achieving the breakthrough was extremely slim.

Many Absolute Void Stage old monsters had accumulated eighty to ninety million units of magic power but still only a few of them managed to break through to the Void Fragmentation Realm. The rest of them would eventually die due to the end of their lifespans.

The magic power required to advance to the Void Fragmentation Realm was too massive. At the Void Fragmentation Realm, units returned to yuan. The denomination for the measurement of magic power was no longer a unit but a yuan.

A unit was 60 years but a yuan was 129600 years.

Void Refinement Realm magic power and Void Fragmentation Realm magic power were not on the same level. Hence, it was extremely difficult for Void Fragmentations Realm experts to disregard the difference of their cultivation realms and defeat someone with a higher cultivation realm.

If Ning Fan wants to break through to the Void Fragmentation Realm, he must find some Void Fragmentation Realm arts to cultivate when he is at the Absolute Void Stage to turn his unital magic power into yuan magic power...

As for exactly how many yuan of magic power one would need to achieve the Void Fragmentation Realm, it was different from each and every single person. Ning Fan also was not sure about it.

There were a few Void Fragmentation Realm experts around him. Unfortunately, none of them had the same situation as Ning Fan who fused his magic power, demon power and devil qi into one. Without a doubt, the verbal spells or arts that other Void Fragmentation Realm experts used were already not suitable for Ning Fan.

If he wants to advance to the Void Fragmentation Realm, he must find a Void Fragmentation Realm art that is suitable for all the three races – the demon race, devil race and human race to practice... Well, it probably would take him some effort in order to find this kind of art.

“I’ll only need a Void Fragmentation Realm art after breaking through to the Absolute Void Stage. I’ve just attained the Void Inquiry Stage recently and the Absolute Void Stage is very far-off. Hence, there is no need to be in a rush to search for an art that is suitable for me...”

“As I’ve already broken through to the Void Inquiry Stage, none of the female cultivators below the Void Fragmentation Realm will be my match. Male cultivators, on the other hands... With my current cultivation realm, I’m certainly unrivalled among all Void Pierce Stage experts. And, I should be able to put up a fight against an Absolute Void Stage expert who has yet to turn their unital magic power into yuan. However, if I face those Absolute Void Stage cultivators who have successfully obtained yuan magic power, I’m afraid that I won’t have much chances in defeating them...”

Ning Fan muttered to himself on the desolate island. After quiet some time, he left the South Gazing Sea in a flash of light.

At the border between the South Gazing Sea and the eight hundred cultivation countries, Ning Fan suddenly stopped moving with a surprised look on his face.

On the shore of a cultivation country nearby the South Gazing Sea, a lady was quietly standing on a reef, gazing into the sea waves all alone. She seemed to be waiting for someone.

That lady wore a set of snow-white plumage dress and a light veil to cover her face. Her long sleeves made her look graceful and her eyes were picturesque. Her expression, however, was cold and arrogant. She looked like a saintess who looked down upon the mundane world and led a life that departed from common livings.

Her presence emanated the Mid Nascent Soul Realm qi. She had been staring blankly at the ebbs and flows of the ocean waves without speaking a single word.

Only when she noticed Ning Fan's travelling light passed by did she raised her head and looked into the sky. Her eyes contained resentment, longing and complicated emotions.

"I've been waiting for you..." Her tone was ice cold.

"Waiting for me, huh..." Ning Fan also put on an uneasy look. He descended upon the reef and stood facing the lady.

"Should I call you Si Si or Si Wuxie or... Weiliang...?"

The white-robed lady in front of him was none other than the sect master of the Heaven Separation Sect – Si Wuxie...

Her other identity was the seven physical souls of Mu Weiliang...

Because she was a part of Mu Weiliang, Ning Fan could not bear to kill her in the end. He clearly knew that she was his enemy but he still let her go alive...

Ning Fan was always sure that he never owed or treated any of his women shabbily. However, when he thought about it today, the person whom he treated the most unfairly was Si Wuxie.

When he was trying to rescue Ning Gu in the past, he annihilated the entire Heaven Separation Sect and captured Si Wuxie. Then, he wiped off her memories and turned her into a spiritual puppet.

When he thought about it carefully today, he realized that even though Si Wuxie was at fault, it was the elders of the Heaven Separation Sect who plotted against him and Ning Gu and it was not Si Wuxie herself.

Wasn't there just an innocent reason for why Si Wuxie came to the Lower Realm in her clone...? All she wanted to do was to find back the three spiritual souls of Mu Weiliang. Why would she still go to such great lengths to plot against two mortal young men...?

The grudges and debt of kindness in the past might be difficult to tell but Ning Fan still felt that he owed Si Wuxie to a certain extent.

She was Weiliang's seven physical souls. No matter what, how could he hurt her...?

"You indeed have figured out my identity..." After hearing Ning Fan call her 'Weiliang', Si Wuxie's body felt a jolt. Her eyes flickered with a hint of sadness.

She was Mu Weiliang's seven physical souls. Because her seven physical souls were yet to disperse, she still preserved some memories of her previous life. She still remembered her three spiritual souls. She still remembered that butterfly...

In the past, she went against the heavenly laws of the Kunlun Jade Pool in the Western Heaven and secretly descended to the Lower Realm in her clone just because she felt the existence of her three physical souls in the Rain World and she wanted to find them back.

Unfortunately, before her clone attained the Nascent Soul Realm and started to find her three spiritual souls, Ning Fan eliminated her Heaven Separation Sect and captured her, making her his human cauldron and spiritual puppet.

Her memories went blank. She became Si Si. She started to be dependent on Ning Fan. She started to like him.

However, when her memories came back to her, she was in extreme agony after remembering how Ning Fan humiliated her and turned her into a puppet.

During the battle of the devil armies and Yue Country, she had already recovered her memories. She wished that she could give Ning Fan a stab on his back and cause him to die in Yue Country.

In the end, however, she still could not convince herself to do that cruel act and eventually helped Ning Fan resist the invasion of the Heavenly Dao Sect...

She took Ning Fan's Nascent Formation Pill and left in sadness.

She still remembered that final words she said to Ning Fan on the day she left.

"From today on, we owe each other nothing..."

Owing each other nothing... How wishful that idea was. When she returned to Yue Country, she discovered that Ning Fan had already found the three spiritual souls of Mu Weiliang. Then, she faintly understood something...

How could it possible for the two of them not to owe each other anything? Both of them were already entangled with each other in their previous lives. He was that butterfly, that butterfly who sacrificed himself to destroy one of the immortal emperor's eyes just to protect her...

While she had been looking for her three spiritual souls, she was also searching for that butterfly she met in her previous life. However, who would know that the butterfly whom she was always thinking of was that young man who hurt her in the past...

Only asking to bid a long farewell but who could guess the two of them owe each other.

Ning Fan let out a sigh and raised his hand. He wanted to touch Si Wuxie's cheek but when he saw her avoid him like the plague, he put down his hand eventually.

"Do you still hate me?"

"Of course! If I turn you into a spiritual puppet, wipe off your memories and trample your dignity but I am also in love with you, would you hate me...?" Si Wuxie gnashed her silver teeth. The deeper the love one had for the other, the more intense the hatred.

She hated Ning Fan but she could not bear to turn into his enemy no matter what... Because in the end, be it the previous life or the current life, she still loved him.

She suddenly grabbed Ning Fan's hand and sank her silver tenth into his arm, biting it violently.

Ning Fan did not dare to activate the defense of his physical body. He only let her bit to her heart's content as he was worried by his ancient devil body would harm her.

Si Wuxie bit his arm until fresh blood was flowing down from his arm in streams. Ning Fan did not say a word nor stop her. He just silently let Si Wuxie vent out her emotions.

Only after a long while did Si Wuxie calmer down a little. Then, she said with a teasing tone.

"I didn't expect that the young man who only has the Harmonious Spirit Realm in the past would actually reach this level after forty years of training and become a Void Inquiry Stage expert, gaining the title 'Marquis White Robe' that shook the Rain World. Such innate talent in cultivation realm is truly shocking. Perhaps the greatest four sects of the Upper Realm will also come to recruit you and aid you in your ascension."

"However, let me give you an advice. You better not ascend to the Western Heaven Immortal World. You're an ancient devil, an evil creature that many Buddha sects in the Western Heaven are fond of

killing. If you ascend to the Western Heaven, I'll certainly tell others that you are an ancient devil due to the resentment between us. If that happens, you will be pursued and hunted down by countless True Immortal Realm Buddha cultivators and die without a burial place!"

Si Wuxie's tone sounded like she was threatening Ning Fan. However, Ning Fan heard the concern she had for him from those words.

Did Si Wuxie just warn him not to ascend to the Western Heaven...?

This woman actually still cared about him in the bottom of her heart, didn't she...?

Ning Fan was also aware of the endless feud between the Buddha sects of the Western Heaven and the ancient devils. Even if he has the opportunity to ascend to the Upper Realm, he also certainly would not choose the Western Heaven.

"Thank you..."

"What are you thanking for? Let me get this straight. I don't have slightest concern regarding your life and death." Si Wuxie turned to one side and said, stubbornly denying her kind intention.

"Did you just want to tell me this by waiting for him at the South Sea today? Speaking of which, how did you find me...?" Ning Fan asked.

"The entire Yue Country knew that the great Marquis White Robe headed to the South Gazing Sea to face his tribulation. So was it very difficult for me to know your whereabouts? As for the reason why I looked for you this time, it's actually because I have something that I want to discuss with you... First of all, I'm very thankful to you for finding the three spiritual souls..." When Si Wuxie said 'thankful', she obviously looked somewhat reluctant and embarrassed.

"I have not only found the three spiritual souls but also the seven physical souls..." Ning Fan deliberately stared at Si Wuxie and said with a faint smile.

“The seven physical souls will never belong to you!” Si Wuxie frowned and glared at him with a cold expression. Then, she continued, “No matter what grudges or debt of gratitude between us in our previous life or the current one, it’s already all over now... The two of us no longer owe each other anything...”

“Is that so...?” Ning Fan let out a sigh. Apparently, letting Si Wuxie to accept him again was not something that could be done within one day.

“The reason why I looked for you is to tell you that I sensed that Mu Weiliang’s corpse will wake up in another twenty plus years. Before that happens, you must ‘return’ her three spiritual souls and seven physical souls to her... You must let her souls return to their original place...” Si Wuxie lowered her face, trying to hide her expression that was filled with reluctance.

She was the seven physical souls while Zhi He and the others were the three spiritual souls.

If Ning Fan returns the souls to their original body, she and the other women would vanish from this world forever...

If the souls are not returned to their original body, Mu Weiliang would only be a soulless shell even if she is revived...

Si Wuxie was unwilling to die. No one in the world would want to die. However, letting Mu Weiliang’s souls to return to their original body was her obligation as her seven physical souls.

“So you sensed that Weiliang is about to wake up, huh... I suppose the reason why you came to find me is to discuss the matters about how to return Weiliang’s souls to their original place. Unfortunately, I don’t have the idea of returning her souls to her body.”

“What?! You aren’t planning to let her souls return to her body?! Do you have any idea how long her souls have been dispersed?! Do you have any idea how eager she wanted to open her eyes and have a look at that goddamn butterfly?! She misses you so much but you refuse to return her souls to her!” Si Wuxie’s ice cold face was filled with rage.

“It’s not because I refuse to do so. I just can’t bear to do sol... To me, be it Zhi He, Mu Xiaoliang or Mu Xiaohuan, all of them are Weiliang. And you, Si Wuxie, are also Weiliang... All of you are her. If she regains her souls, all of your existences will disappear... I guess this also isn’t what Weiliang wants in the end.”

“Twenty years later, her artificial souls will be created using the power of the Seven Treasures Buddhist Relics. Then, she will be revived. She might not be able to become a true living person without her true souls. However, I will find a way one day to truly revive her without hurting you, Zhi He, Xiaoliang and Xiaohuan!”

“I’ve promised her that I will provide her a life with no conflicts. This world will certainly grant her a peaceful life!”

After hearing Ning Fan’s words, Si Wuxie’s anger dissipated and complicated emotions began taking over her heart.

It turned out that Ning Fan did not just care for Mu Weiliang but also them who were a part of her souls...

All of a sudden, she recalled the scene when Ning Fan gave to her the Nascent Formation Pill and let her go... Her ice cold heart was gradually melted with warmth.

“Very well! You are the butterfly that she is waiting for. Since you said you aren’t going to return her souls to her, then so be it. After all, I am not willing to have my existence erased. However, remember what you’ve said. You must help her condense her true soul one day. Otherwise, I will never let you go!”

“Since you’ve already found all her three spiritual souls, it’s meaningless for my clone to continue lingering in the Lower Realm. I’ll return to the Western Heaven Immortal World now. In another fifty years, the sealed gate of the Ancient Heavenly Court will be opened again. When that time comes, I’ll send a Void Fragmentation Realm true soul to look for you.”

Si Wuxie’s words made Ning Fan slightly stunned. “Why will you look for me fifty years later?”

“There is an Undying Tree in the Ancient Heavenly Court that can help a cultivator whose souls are completely scattered to condense their souls again... Fifty years later, I’ll bring you to look for that Undying Tree to recondense the souls for Mu Weiliang...”

After Si Wuxie had finished speaking, she made a series of hand seals and performed a magic technique called Body Shattering Art. It could make the user’s clone to disperse while carrying its memories back to their original body.

She wanted to return to the Western Heaven...

“So we’ll meet again fifty years later, right, Si Si?” Ning Fan said with his lips curved upwards. At the next instant, he took a step forward and pulled Si Wuxie who was performing the hand seals into his embrace, tightly hugging her.

“Let go of me! Don’t touch me! You shameless man!” Si Wuxie’s face was still as cold as ice. She was unwilling to let Ning Fan hug her but was reluctant to break free from him at the same time. All she did was just cursing him in a low tone.

“I’ll never let go. And, don’t you ever think you can run away from me. I’m your tribulation and you can’t avoid me in this life...”

Under Ning Fan’s faint smile, Si Wuxie’s body gradually grew fainter and broke down into strands of starlight which flew into the Four Heavens.

At the edge of the holy pond in Kunlun Jade Pool of the Western Heaven, a white-robed lady who covered her face with a light veil was sitting on a bluestone peacefully.

All of a sudden, strands of starlight flew toward her and entered her body.

Chapter 542: Five Countries Nine Palaces and Thirteen Sects.

With Ning Fan around, no matter how arrogant the Rain Summoning Four Elders were, they did not dare to punish Wu Chen.

Wu Chen's expression was filled with anxiety. According to rumors, White-Robe Marquis was a devil lord with terrifying devil prestige and he viewed people's lives as grass. He would usually kill people when he was enraged. Hence, Wu Chen was worried that Ning Fan would kill the four elders.

All the cultivators in the Vermillion Bird City held their breath in fear as they were suppressed by the massive baleful qi and devil might that covered the entire sky.

The city became as quiet as the grave and only the noise of torrential rain and fierce storms.

Every cultivator was gulping in trepidation. If Ning Fan wants to commit a large-scale killing, not to mention the Vermillion Bird City, even the entire Zhao Country would be wiped out.

To him, the World Law of the Rain World was just some nominal laws!

Ning Fan's eyes indifferently scanned past the four elders and shifted toward Wu Chen. When he saw Wu Chen's anxious face, he could not help but laugh.

The conflict between Wu Chen and the Vast Heaven Palace was not big. Moreover, he did not have the intention to punish the Rain Summoning Four Elders despite being the victim. Thus, Ning Fan naturally would not kill the four of them here.

The reason why he stood up for him was just to return Wu Chen a favor by helping him sort out the problem. That was all.

With a word from him, even the Vast Heaven Palace Lord would no longer punish Wu Chen.

"Don't worry. I came here today just to get myself drunk. I won't kill anyone... The four of you have ruined my mood for drinking. Dismiss yourselves at once."

After Ning Fan had finished speaking, he returned to his seat again and began drinking on his own. His expression was calm and composed and his presence did not emanate the slightest trace of baleful qi. No one could tell that he was a devil lord who could create chaos to heaven and earth.

“This...” The Rain Summoning Four Rain exchanged glances among themselves. Judging from Ning Fan’s actions, he was going to protect Wu Chen today no matter what. Thus, they would not be able capture Wu Chen back to their palace for his punishment.

The mistake that Wu Chen made was just a trivial one. The reason why the Vast Heaven Palace Lord wanted to punish was merely because he disliked his attitude of

Filler words to make up the word count.

After Si Wuxie’s clone was gone, Ning Fan stood on the reef of the South Sea.

A huge reef beside him was carved with two graceful words that were of the small plum blossom calligraphy style. They should be the words that Si Wuxie carved on the it when she was waiting for Ning Fan.

Sky’s Horizon...

Apparently, these two words that Si Wuxie left behind expressed her intention to bid farewell with Ning Fan.

Unfortunately, Ning Fan stubbornly embraced her, vowing to become her tribulation. Probably, he was not going to give her a chance to bid farewell with him...

Looking at the flowing sea water, Ning Fan’s eyes gradually turned deep.

The waves splashing on the shores had their ebbs and flows. At the end of the day, they would need to return to the vast ocean.

She belongs to Kunlun Jade Pool. She’s left...

“So after fifty years have passed, I still feel slightly reluctant...”

Ning Fan sighed gently.

He remembered the promise he made to Si Wuxie. Fifty years later, he would head to the Ancient Heavenly Court to search for the Undying Tree. Today, however, he must return to Seven Apricot City.

Just as he was about to leave, a message-transmitting flying sword suddenly appeared in the sky, flying toward him by tracking his qi.

Ning Fan made a wave with an open palm, catching the flying sword into his hand and broke it as soon as he caught it.

A voice immediately echoed into Ning Fan's ears. It was Xu Qiuling's voice.

"If you've successfully attained the Void Inquiry Stage, return as soon as possible. There are guests in Seven Apricot City – the Qiu and Han companions from the Southeastern Cultivator Union."

Ten years had passed. Xu Qiuling had already broken through to the Mid Divine Transformation Realm and had the ability to send out message-transmitting flying sword.

Zhi He, Lan Mei, Bai Lu and others had also achieved the Gold Core Realm. Even Bai Su had already advanced to the Harmonious Spirit Realm.

Yue Lingkong, on the other hand, had a huge improvement in her magic power under the help of the moonlight gemstone that Ning Fan gave to her. However, she was still far away from advancing to the Void Pierce Stage. That moonlight gemstone was none other than the gemstone Ning Fan obtained from the auction in the Mist Horn Clan in the past.

After hearing Xu Qiuling's voice, Ning Fan's face looked as if he was deep in thought.

Some guests had visited Seven Apricot City. They were the Qiu and Han companions, who were members of the Southeastern Cultivator Union of the Rain World.

One hundred plus cultivation countries including Yue Country were all located at the southeastern continent of the Rain World. Before the rise of Seven Apricot City, the largest force on the continent was none other than the Southeastern Cultivator Union.

It was a union of rogue cultivators and it was led by the Qu and Han companions who were husband and wife.

The husband, Yang Qiu, was a Void Pierce Stage sword cultivator whereas the wife, Sun Han, was a Void Inquiry Stage zither cultivator.

Countless thoughts ran across Ning Fan's mind. However, he could not figure out what brought them to Seven Apricot City.

The only thing about the Southeastern Cultivator Union that concerned him was Yun Ruowei. When he parted ways with Yun Ruowei in Great Jin in the past, she said that she wanted to leave the Rain Palace and join the Southeastern Cultivator Union.

"Yun Ruowei... In Great Jin, I'd seen Ning Qian and Yun Tianjue in her dreams... According to rumors, the reason why she could join the Rain Palace despite her demon body was because of Yun Tianjue's recommendation..."

"If I am not mistaken, the winged demon in her dream, Ning Qian, is my mum... Yun Tianjue has lost his memories and he can't remember who Ning Qian is. Hence, I can't ascertain the relationship between him and Ning Tian. Yun Ruowei, however, must know it. With her help, I might be able to find Ning Qian..."

"Ning Qian... My mother... I was born without a parent. If I can find my mother, it'll really make me at a loss of what to do..."

"Dong Xu once helped me perform divination on my mother in the past and found out that she isn't dead yet. She's still in the Rain World... As a son, I have to find her whereabouts in order to put my mind at rest..."

Ning Fan shook his head and smiled. Speaking of Old Ancestor Dong Xu, he once promised him to help him achieve the Void Refinement Realm.

Ten years have already passed. I guess he probably is already fully prepared for that breakthrough. If I have time, I'll help him to advance to the Void Refinement Realm in the Sovereign's Tomb.

With Ning Fan's current understanding of the 'void', it should not be difficult for him to aid Dong Xu in achieving that breakthrough.

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As Ning Fan turned around, his body transformed into a ray of travelling light and returned to Yue Country.

...

The Flying Snow Palace of the western part of Seven Apricot City was a newly-built palace that was meant for receiving all visitors.

In the Flying Snow Palace, Su Yan, Yue Lingkong, Ming Que, Xu Qiuling and the other women were sitting on the main seats, welcoming their guests.

On the guest's seating, there were a man in green robes and a lady in pink robes. Forty plus Nascent Soul Realm cultivators and six Divine Transformation Realm experts were standing behind them in attendance.

That pink-robed lady was called Sun Han. She looked like she was at her late twenties. Her appearance was not peerlessly beautiful but she looked extremely dignified and decorous.

That green-robed man was called Yang Qiu. The way he spoke was rather refined and gentle. Unfortunately, there were a few scars on his face which made him look like a rough bandit.

The two of them were none other than the leaders of the Southeastern Cultivator Union – the Han and Qiu companion.

As for the cultivators who were standing behind them, all of them were rogue cultivators they brought from the union.

Su Yan was once the leader of a clan while Yue Lingkong was once the master of a sect. Therefore, it was an easy task for them receive the guests.

When the Qiu and Han companion arrived at Seven Apricot City, they never mentioned anything about their intention of their visit. They only said that they would tell them about it after Ning Fan returns.

“What exactly is the intention for the members of the Southeast Cultivator Union to come to Seven Apricot City?” Yue Lingkong asked Su Yan via telepathy.

“I have no idea. However, I heard that the Qiu and Han companions are rogue cultivators and they actually have already joined the Rain Palace. They even carry the identities as the feudal ranking elders of the Rain Palace and always help the Rain Sovereign pass a secret order. Perhaps the reason why they came is because they want to convey a secret message to Ning Fan...” Su Yan guessed.

At the rooftop outside the Flying Snow Palace, a small black sable was yawning lazily while guarding Seven Apricot City. It seemed like she was being wary of the Qiu and Han companions in case they bore malice toward the city.

All of a sudden, a ray of light flew into the city.

The little sable raised her head lazily and took a glimpse at the travelling light. Then, she snorted lightly and turned around to leave.

“Humph. This stinky man is finally back. It seems like he has successfully attained the Void Inquiry Stage. His luck is quite good...”

That travelling light was publicly exposing the Void Inquiry Stage aura force. It descended outside the Flying Snow Palace and turned into a young man in white robes. He was Ning Fan.

He slowly walked into the Flying Snow Palace. When the women in the palace sensed the Void Inquiry Stage aura force from Ning Fan, their faces were filled with joy. Apparently, Ning Fan had already achieved the Void Inquiry Stage with success.

The Qiu and Han companions were slightly stunned upon seeing Ning Fan enter the Flying Snow Palace. The two of them immediately rose to their feet. The man cupped his fists while the lady curtsied. Together, they said, "The Qiu and Han companions from the Fallen Autumn Country greet Marquis White Robe!"

"Fellow Daoist are being too polite. So what's the matter that brought the two of you to visit my Seven Apricot City?" Ning Fan cupped his fists toward both of them and went to the main seat of the palace. His eyes unintentionally glimpsed at the group of Nascent Soul Realm and Divine Transformation Realm cultivators behind them.

When he saw no sign of Yun Ruowei among those cultivators, he could not help but feel slightly dispirited.

"The reason why we headed to Seven Apricot City is to pass an imperial order from the Rain Sovereign to you. Marquis White Robe, please have a look at this jade slip."

Yang Qiu took out a jade box which contained a golden jade slip. As he flicked his finger, the jade box flew toward Ning Fan.

Ning Fan took out the golden jade slip and inserted his spirit sense into it. There was only one order from the Rain Sovereign inside the jade slip. After Ning Fan had read it, it instantly burned itself without fire and disintegrated into ashes.

The Rain Sovereign's order was simple. He was just hoping that Ning Fan could head to the Rain Palace in the Middle State as soon as possible as he had something to discuss with him.

The reason why the Rain Sovereign made Ning Fan as a revered elder of the Rain Palace and even appointed him as the palace lord of the Scarlet Heaven Palace eventually was solely because Ning Fan's 'Indestructible Fire Body' was of great use to him. He needed Ning Fan's help to retrieve something from an abyss of flames.

He now found that it was about time to borrow Ning Fan's power.

There was a formation technique that was set up on the golden jade slip that would make the jade slip to disintegrate after it was read once. Doubtlessly, the Qiu and Han companions completely had no idea about its content.

Since the Rain Sovereign passed this message to Ning Fan in such a secretive manner, the thing that he was up to did not seem to be something small. Without a doubt, the thing he wanted Ning Fan to get must be something extraordinary.

"Have Fellow Daoist read the secret order?" Yang Qiu asked with a faint smile.

"Mm. I've already received the order and I'll head to the Middle State within the next few days."

"Hehe. It's good then. In this case, the two of us will excuse ourselves."

"Wait a minute. I wish to ask about someone from the two of you."

"Oh? Who does Marquis White Robe want to know about?"

"I have a friend called Yun Ruowei. I heard that she has joined the Southeast Cultivator Union. May I know where she is currently at?"

"Yun Ruowei?" Yang Qiu was rather surprised and held his stare at Ning Fan.

"I've long heard that Marquis White Robe is a genuine and sentimental man with an unconventional and frivolous bearing and has countless beauties. When I met you personally today, it seems that the rumors

are true... Hehe. Yun Ruowei indeed is within my Southeastern Cultivator Union. However, she has a quite significant background. She is the blood younger sister of the White-Robe Sword God. It's better that Marquis White Robe doesn't mess with that lady in order to avoid getting yourself into a big trouble..."

It was already extremely polite of Yang Qiu to describe Ning Fan as a frivolous man. After all, Ning Fan's name that was widely known in the Rain World was all about his notoriety and infamy.

Well, all of it was built on the countless people he had killed and the human cauldrons he had plucked.

When Yang Qiu came to Seven Apricot City today and saw Ning Fan have countless wives and concubines, he naturally was more convinced that Ning Fan was a lustful man.

However, it was none of his business how Ning Fan behaved. When Ning Fan asked him about Yun Ruowei, he just thought that Ning Fan had his eye on her. That was why he gave him a warning out of kindness.

Ning Fan shook his head helplessly. He did not expect that his name would actually have been ruined to such a point where he just talked about women and others would think that he was hatching a sinister plan in his mind...

"Rest assured, Fellow Daoist Yang. Yun Ruowei and I have already known each other. Both of them have a friendly relationship. The reason why I'm looking for her is because I have some questions that I need to ask her in person. I certainly harbor any malicious intentions..."

"Hehe. I see. It seems like I've misunderstood you... Since Fellow Daoist just wants to ask her some questions, I naturally can tell you where she is. However, I have one condition..."

"Oh? What condition does Fellow Daoist Yang have?" Ning Fan already figured out what Yang Qiu was asking after seeing a rising battle intent in Yang Qiu's eyes that was itching the latter for a try.

Chapter 543: That Look!

Upon seeing Ning Fan who still remembered her, a mixture of joy and shyness rose within Yu Chong Er's heart. She lowered her head with her ears turning slightly hot.

After dismissing the feeling of astonishment they felt initially, Fang Sheng and Fang Si walked forward to cup their fists at Ning Fan and politely said, "We've been waiting for White-Robed Marquis for quite a while to guide you into the Heaven's Cloud under the sixth prince's order."

"The sixth prince's order, huh...?"

Ning Fan was somewhat taken aback. He did not expect that it would be Yun Youmu who sent his people to welcome him.

Ning Fan could not see through Yun Youmu at all. He just felt that he was a shrewd and deep person. He never did things according to the rules and regulations.

Is Yun Youmu just expressing his kindness or is there some other reason for him to deliberately send his men to welcome me...?

Ning Fan kept his thoughts aside and cupped his fists respectfully toward Fang Sheng and Fang Si. No matter what, he would not cold-shoulder them since they welcomed him with smiling faces.

"Ning Fan greets the two palace lords and the fellow Daoists of the Serene Heaven Palace. It has been many years since we last met. It's nice seeing everyone again."

He at most would behave politely toward Fang Sheng and Fang Si. To Yu Bai, Yu Chong Er and the others, however, he felt the closeness of reuniting with his old friends.

Yu Chong Er lowered her head even further downward without daring to make an eye contact with Ning Fan. Her cheeks, at the same time, was slowly becoming boiling hot.

"Damn it. Damn it. Damn it... I can't breathe at all whenever I look at him... Am I sick? Yes, that must be the reason..."

Yu Bai and the others made the same gesture at Ning Fan, looking somewhat surprised. It was truly their honor to receive a friendly greeting from the dignified White-Robed Marquis.

“*Cough*... If White-Robed Marquis wants to catch up with your old friends, you can do it later. Let’s follow us to head to the ‘Serene Heaven Realm’ for now. The sixth prince has already set up a feast of spiritual fruits and wines in the Serene Heaven Palace to welcome White-Robed Marquis. Some changes have happened to the Scarlet Heaven Palace today, making it uninhabitable temporarily.

Filler word to make up the word count.

Yun Ruowei’s appearance was the same as before. She wore a plain green robes. Her eyes were bright and sparkling like clear spring. Her smile was soft and tender.

Her feet were still bare. She wore a bracelet around her wrist which had a hanging silver bell. When a gentle breeze blew, it would give out sweet-sounding ringing.

“Are you willing to help me look for the jade? The thing that I’m looking for is a piece of Blue Bridge Jade. It’s something that belongs to my elder sister... The true reason why I’m looking for the jade is because I want to look for my elder sister... I knew that she isn’t dead yet. I knew it...” When she heard that Ning Fan was willing to lend her a hand, Yun Ruowei no longer hid her thoughts from him. Instead, she put on a hopeful look.

She was just a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator while Ning Fan was a Void Refinement Realm expert who had powerful capabilities. With his help, it would be much easier to find the jade.

“Is your elder sister the little winged demon that I saw in your dream last time?” Ning Fan asked.

“Yes... Yun Ruowei hesitated for a while and decided to answer truthfully.

“I remember that her name is Ning Qian...”

“Indeed...”

“She and Yun Tianjue are...”

“The two of them... are Dao companions... My elder sister went missing one thousand years ago. Yun Tianjue forwent his emotions at around the same time... Before my elder sister disappeared, she had given birth to a child for Yun Tianjue. It was a premature birth... No one knew what happened after that and my elder sister actually vanished with her child within a single night... After quite some time, that child’s life plate broke. It should have already dead. As for my elder sister’s life plate, it turned grey and dim. Even though she isn’t dead, she should have fallen into a difficult situation... She should not be dead yet. However, I couldn’t find her even after I have painstakingly searched for her for one thousand years. Where exactly is she...? What exactly happened in the past...? Yun Tianjue did not protect my elder sister nor his own child well. However, what’s worse about him is that he has completely forgotten my elder sister after she went missing and he didn’t even remember who Ning Qian was already... He really is a heartless and cruel person!”

Yun Ruowei no longer concealed anything from Ning Fan. She even told him some secrets through telepathy. Her eyes were filled with sadness and anger.

She hated Yun Tianjue’s cold-heartedness. Therefore, she was unwilling to continue staying in the Rain Palace and decided to join the Southeastern Cultivator Union.

She could not bear to harm Ning Fan in the past because his smile shared a striking resemblance with her elder sister’s and thus, sympathy overtook her...

“...” Ning Fan went silent. His heart, however, was not quiet. Would he be the deceased child of Ning Qian and Yun Tianjue...?

Yun Tianjue had forgone his emotions for one thousand years and Ning Qian went missing one thousand years ago. If he was the child that was dead in that year, how could he still survive until today...?

Yun Ruowei regarded Yun Tianjue as someone cold-hearted but Ning Fan had a completely different opinion about him. To him, Yun Tianjue was a person who prioritized his loved ones.

Perhaps he might not even bat an eye when annihilating a sect or a country but he definitely was not someone who would abandon his own wife and children...

Ning Qian is nowhere to be found, Yun Tianjue has forgotten everything about his past and the mysterious death of that child... Something must have happened one thousand years ago...

Ning Fan gently closed his eyes. Perhaps he could only find out the truth behind this confusing mystery after finding where Ning Qian was.

As for the clue for searching for Ning Qian, it seemed like there was only the Blue Bridge Jade Pendent...

"I'll help you find the jade but I have a question for you. Why would you come to the Ning Family of Hai Ning to look for the jade? Is it possible that there are some clues in this place?" Ning Fan asked.

"No. There is nothing here... I originally was following the Southeastern Cultivator Union to head to Seven Apricot City but when we passed by Hai Ning, I felt a intent realm qi within this city. It's my sister's qi... That intent realm qi was extremely faint. However, it still lingered around here even one thousand years have passed and it also contained a deep sorrow... There must be something extremely saddening that has happened to my elder sister in Hai Ning! Otherwise, she would not leave behind the sorrowful qi that won't go away after one thousand years!"

"But I've already asked the cultivators of the Ning Family of Hai Ning about it... The Ning Family was established for just one thousand years. Moreover, there isn't anyone in the family who has live for one thousand years. No one knew whether there was a winged demon lady who came here one thousand years ago..."

Yun Ruwei's face was filled with disappointment.

The three ancestors of the Ning Family, on the other hand, were extremely sacred. As they could not provide Yun Ruwei a satisfactory answer, they did not know whether it would provoke her who was a Nascent Soul Realm female cultivator.

"You all may leave... Mistress Yun, come with me. I'll bring you to search for clues around the Ning Family. Mm... Mistress Qing, if you don't mind, you can also join me."

Ning Fan dismissed the three ancestors of the Ning Family. The three old men immediately left as if they were given an amnesty and informed the entire city not to stop Ning Fan no matter where he wanted to go.

After the three ancestors of the Ning Family had left, Ning Fan brought Yun Ruowei and Ning Qingqing to start their search in the whole Hai Ning City.

Ning Fan spread his spirit sense extremely far away, making it cover an area of four hundred thousand li* (500m per li). Then, he carefully inspected every place within that vicinity.

He did not notice it before this. However, after Yun Ruowei had told her about it, he indeed sensed an extremely faint sorrowful intent realm within the city...

That sorrowful intent realm was very vague. Even though its power was weak and delicate, it would not go away even one thousand years went by, as if it had been etched into this place.

All of a sudden, Ning Fan was stunned.

This intent realm qi is exactly the same qi from my mother whom I've spent day and night with in the illusory realm...

"I've already search all over Hai Ning. There isn't a single clue that my elder sister left behind..." Yun Ruowei sighed dejectedly.

"Your elder sister came to the land of Wu one thousand years ago and experienced something heart-rending... Even though Hai Ning has her sorrowful intent realm, it isn't the place where she really felt heartbroken... I suppose she only passed by this area in that past... The place where she felt saddest wasn't here..."

Yun Ruowei could only sense a sad intent realm from the land of Hai Ning and determine that it was left behind by her elder sister based on her ability.

Ning Fan, however, could trace the qi of sadness and find the place where it was the most concentrated...

Would there be any clue in that place...?

Even the Void Fragmentation Realm of the Rain World might not necessarily be able to discern the intensity of sadness and look for the source of it.

But Ning Fan was able to do it because the intent realm he learned was the Intent Realm of Memory. It was a Second-Step Intent Realm. Just in terms of the comprehension of intent realm power, Ning Fan was actually much greater than Void Fragmentation Realm experts!

“Come with me!”

He suddenly displayed the void teleportation travelling light and travelled to the north while carrying both Yun Ruowei and Ning Qingqing. In the blink of an eye, he had traversed a distance of forty thousand li* (500m per li).

He descended onto the ground. It was a demon forest with a desolate mountain that was surrounded by blood mist. The place was called the Weeping Blood Forest. It was a quite famous training place of Wu Country. Many bloodthirsty winged demons were born in this place and many cultivators of Wu Country liked to come here to hunt demons and cultivate.

The area outside the Weeping Blood Forest was the place where the sorrowful intent realm qi was the most intense!

“It’s my elder sister’s intent realm qi! It didn’t dissipate even after one thousand years! Is it possible that she is right inside the Weeping Blood Forest?!” Yun Ruowei said in surprise.

“There are many mortal cities within five thousand li* (500m per li) around this Weeping Blood Forest. Wars happened frequently here and many orphans became homeless and destitute. The Ning Family always search for some orphans in this place to adopt... I’ve checked the slave records of the family. In that year, you were also picked up from nearby this place...” Ning Qingqing was deep in thoughts as if she was recalling her memories with her brows slightly knitted together.

“Really...”

Ning Fan sighed gently, sensing the thick sorrowful qi in this place. He already had some guesses about the early stage of his life. Without saying any word anymore, he took the lead and quietly walked into the forest with the two ladies.

They walked past the dry twigs and decomposed leaves. They stepped on the mud and swamp. Along the way, there was not any demon beast which dare to stop Ning Fan.

At the deepest part of the Weeping Blood Forest, there was a small pond which was just one zhang* (3.33m per zhang) deep. The water of the pond was red like blood.

Ning Fan stopped by the edge of the pond.

The pond did not contain any spiritual qi at all. It was just a normal pond that would never be noticed by any cultivators or demon beasts.

However, Ning Fan sensed an inerasable sorrowful intent realm from the pond.

He gazed into the bottom of the pond and saw a blue jade pendant lying quietly on the muddy floor...

Other than that, there also seemed to be some broken stone chips on the bottom... Ning Fan carefully studied them and discovered that they were the stone chips that were left behind by a broken demon cocoon of the demon race...

With a wave of his hand, the jade pendant below the pond immediately flew out from the water and fell onto his palm.

The warm and wet blue jade pendant had the shape of a mandarin duck. Besides, there was also a line of words in beautiful writing.

When mountains become plain, when the heaven and the earth fuse, only then will I dare to part from you...

Yun Ruowei got closer to Ning Fan and meticulously observed the blue jade. At the next moment, her beautiful eyes flashed with joy.

Those writing were none other than Ning Qian's writing. It was the Blue Bridge Jade Pendant that belonged to Ning Qian!

"We've found it! But where is my elder sister...?"

Yun Ruowei spread out her spirit sense, scanning across one thousand li* (500m per li) around the Weeping Blood Forest. Even so, she could not find any traces of Ning Qian at all.

She isn't here. She isn't here... Other than the sorrowful intent realm, there isn't any of her qi.

The blue jade is here but Ning Qian isn't here... She once regarded this jade like her own life. How could she leave it behind here so carelessly?

"Ning Fan. I beg you. Please help me find her!" Yun Ruowei held Ning Fan's hand helplessly. How could it just end like that after making so much effort to find a clue about Ning Qian's whereabouts...?

"I'll try my best!"

He wanted to find Ning Qian not only for Yun Ruowei but also for himself.

He held the Blue Bridge Jade Pendant and unleashed the power of his memory intent, enveloping the entire Weeping Blood Forest with it!

He took out a pile of Min Luo Fruits. He obtained all of them from the treat. There were twenty of them in total. Without hesitation, he consumed every single one of them!

He did not wish to enter the dream state by taking those Min Luo Fruits. The reason why he released his memory intent was not because he wanted to wipe out anyone's memories.

A single Min Luo Fruit could allow one to go through fifty years of dream realm. Twenty of those fruits would be equivalent to one thousand years of dream realm!

He just wanted to clearly see everything that had happened throughout the past one thousand years!

He closed his eyes and sat cross-legged on the ground. The scenery in his mind was rapidly changing.

Min Luo Fruits could improve one's state of mind in the dreams while allowing them to look back at the things in their memories.

Ning Fan had the memories of Hai Ning. That was why he managed to see that his original surname was Yun in the Min Luo Dream Realm.

Ning Fan did not have the memories of the Weeping Blood Forest. Therefore, he could only borrow the memories of the forest to enter the dream!

Min Luo Dream Realm!

In the dream, Ning Fan was not a human but the entire Weeping Blood Forest, the forest in one thousand years ago!

He could not move nor speak. All he could do was to observe all the living creatures using his spirit sense in his territory.

He had become a vast land and mountain forest!

One thousand years ago, the Weeping Blood Forest was not surrounded by a thick blood mist. There also was not a blood-red pond in its deepest part.

The sun rose and the moon fell. Countless demon beasts were born and passed away in this forest. Countless cultivators of Wu Country entered the forest to temper themselves by killing demons. Some of them died, some of them lived.

Ning Fan did not care about these demon beasts and cultivators. He was just waiting for the person he was looking for to come.

One day, a gentle woman wearing light yellow dress stumbled into the forest while carrying an ice cold child in her arms.

“She is...” Ning Fan wanted to speak but he could not make any noise because he was just a piece of land.

She was Ning Qian!

Ning Qian’s body was emanating the Late Nascent Soul Realm qi. However, she was gravely injured and her face was pale.

Her eyes were extremely beautiful. They were bright like the moon but they were filled with sadness and despair. Tears were flowing down her cheeks incessantly.

“My... child...”

Ning Qian was carrying a baby boy that was not even one-month-old. She fell down at the end of the forest, overwhelmed by grief.

The child in her embrace was wearing a cotton jacket with a jubilant color. His soft like hands were still holding to her sleeve but he was already dying and unconscious.

The baby was on the brink of death. His heart meridians were broken and all his essence qi was sucked dry by someone... He could only hang on to life because he had consumed a high-grade pill.

Ning Fan was shocked upon seeing baby's condition. Who could be so cruel to actually suck a baby's blood dry?!

Ning Qian felt like her heart was shredded to pieces and her face became even paler.

She stroked the baby's ice cold baby with her hand and looked at the baby's breathing that was getting weaker and weaker. She held back her tears with forced a smile.

"I won't let you die... As long as I can revive you, I'm willing to even give up my life!"

Ning Qian stared at the pond that was one chi* (30.7 cm per chi) in front of her with her eyes flashing with determination.

She bit her finger and suddenly performed a series of hand seals while enduring the pain. She condensed her fresh blood into silks to form a cocoon and sealed the baby inside it. Then, she took off the blue jade pendant she was wearing and placed it inside the blood cocoon with the baby.

"You father said this is the Life Locking Demon Cocoon Technique of the ancient demon race. The demon cocoon can shield a person from the heavenly secret and lock their life force..."

Ning Qian's face turned paler than before. Apparently, it was extremely taxing for her to display that technique.

"They've extracted all your blood. I'll then give you my blood. You must come back to life. Come back to life..."

Ning Qian embraced the demon cocoon as gently as she was hugging her baby.

She bit her other fingers and pressed them on the rough surface of the demon cocoon, spreading her blood all over it.

When she was rubbing her wounds on the rough demon cocoon, the pain was excruciating but she did not bother it.

“I won’t let you die. I won’t let anyone harm you...” Ning Qian said with a pale smile while rubbing her blood over the demon cocoon repeatedly.

One day. Two days... On the tenth day, all of her ten fingers were covered with wounds. Her blood was nearly drained completely.

She stared blankly at the demon cocoon in her embrace and continuously channeled her demon power into it.

As the demon cocoon absorbed her blood, it gave off faint red glow. However, it could not retain the baby’s life force that was slowly draining away.

Ning Qian shed tears of despair. She was helpless and sad. As her tears fell onto the demon cocoon, it washed away a few droplets of blood.

She hurriedly wiped off her tears and bit her fingers again, trying to repaint that spot with her essence blood.

However, there was already no blood within her meridians... If she were a mortal, she would have certainly been dead. However, since she was a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, she could still live as long as her nascent soul was not destroyed.

“I have no more blood. What should I do...?”

Panic filled her face. At the next instant, she seemed like she had thought of an idea as she took out a small but sharp flying sword and plunged it into her chest.

“I still have heart blood... It’s still fine. It’s still fine...”

After piercing through her heart, her cultivation base began regressing. From the Late Nascent Soul Realm, it fell to the Early Nascent Soul Realm... Slowly, even her Nascent Soul Realm was started to become unstable...

She did not have time to care about her own injuries and cultivation base. She just took out a jade bottle and filled it up with every drop of her heart blood. After that, she spread it on the demon cocoon.

Even though she had already sacrificed her heart blood, the baby inside the demon cocoon was still dying slowly.

One day, two days... On the third day, Ning Qian was carrying the demon cocoon with her body trembling. The red glow of the demon cocoon was gradually diminishing. As she was sensing the breathing within the cocoon that was weakening by the time, agony drowned her...

On the fourth day, the baby had stopped breathing completely and dead...

“NO—”

Ning Qian’s voice was hoarse. Her tears dried. Her body was shaking uncontrollably as if her soul had been pulled away from her. It was as if she had lost the whole world...

“I won’t let you die! I won’t let you die!!!”

Her dim beautiful eyes were filled with sadness.

She gazed into the sky, wailing helplessly as if she was about to go crazy... She could not lose her child! She could not!

Her eyes always looked gentle and feeble. At this moment, however, they flickered with an inextinguishable persistence!

No one could seize her child from her!

She was willing to give up everything as long as she could exchange for the child's life!

Chi

A flying sword penetrated through her dantian, piercing into her nascent soul. Ning Qian already could no longer feel any physical pain. Then, she wiped the blood of her nascent soul on the demon cocoon with a blank expression.

It was the blood of a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator's life. When her blood was drained completely, it would be the end of her life!

"I beg you... Please return my child to me..."

"Please..."

"Please... I beg you..."

Ning Tian was begging and praying helplessly. Even though she was about to die, all she wished was to revive her child before she breathes her last.

The current Ning Qian had lost all of her cultivation base. Despite her imminent death, the persistence in her as a mother was so stubborn that even the Heavenly Dao could not douse it!

She dismissed all of her demon blood. The blood mist covered the entire Weeping Blood Forest. Even the pond water was dyed red.

The breathing of the baby in the demon cocoon gradually stabilized. All of a sudden, he started laughing in his dream. It was unknown what beautiful dream he had dreamed of...

Ning Qian put on an ashen smile. She had rescued her child from fate...

As such, she would have no regret even if she dies...

The baby was sucking his thumb while chuckling joyfully. Well, how would he know that he was about to lose his mother.

Chapter 544: The Rain Ancestor's Famous Technique

Ning Fan dashed straight toward the Cloud Mountain of the Scarlet Heaven Realm in a ray of light while carrying Yu Chong Er with him. At the same time, he took out a cloth bag and captured several hundred thousands of cloud lion puppets. As for the cultivators of the Scarlet Heaven Palace, he did not even spare them a glance.

He was the palace lord of the Scarlet Heaven Palace. However, every single member of the Scarlet Heaven Palace was Yun Jinghong's trusted subordinate. He could not use any of them.

These puppets, however, were quite useful. They would be excellent guards for Yue Country.

Ninety thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) up above the sky, a ray of travelling light went by. There was a floating sea of clouds as far as the eyes could see. As for the area beneath him, there were cultivation cities which looked as big as ants from his current view.

All the cultivators within the Scarlet Heaven Realm had to move to other realms because the cloud lions had gone out of controls. The massive territory had now become deserted and uninhabited.

An hour later, a ninety thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall cloud mountain loomed before his eyes. Countless cloud palaces and buildings were built on the top of this mountain.

Ning Fan kept his travelling light and descended on the summit of the cloud mountain with Yu Chong Er in tow. Both of them stood outside a gigantic gate.

The gate had been inscribed with four large golden words – Scarlet Heaven Cloud Palace!

This place was the Scarlet Heaven Palace. However, because the cloud lions had gone out of control, not a single cultivator dared to remain in the Scarlet Heaven Palace. All of them had taken refuge in other realms.

“We’ve arrived...”

Ning Fan gazed at the empty cloud palace and stood with his hands clasped behind his back. Looking at the sea of clouds which was ninety thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall, he sighed emotionally.

Ninety thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) above the sky, red-crowned cranes were flying and dancing in the air while colorful clouds would sometimes be visible and would sometimes be hidden from view. It felt like one could touch the sky just by raising their hands.

“Fifty years ago, I was still in Wu Country. At that time, I had thought that Ning Bi Hill, which is one thousand and four hundred zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall, was the tallest mountain in the world...”

“Standing on this ninety thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall cloud mountain today, I realized that there must be countless mountains higher than this in the whole wide world...”

“At the end of the road of cultivation, no one knows those who are at the peak... Immortals are those who stand at the top of the mountain but no one really knows how tall a mountain one must climb to glimpse the path of the Great Dao and become an immortal with a single step..”.

Yu Chong Er stood behind Ning Fan and looked at his back. She could feel that the current Ning Fan seemed to be becoming one with the sea of clouds and had a temperamen like that of an immortal.

She was taken aback and could not help but take a second look at Ning Fan. When she came back to her senses, she lowered her head and bit her lips with her face red.

“Ning Fan, thank you... Back in the Blood Dragon Pool, I nearly lost my life trying to get my hands on the Blood Dragon Moss. Luckily, you were there to rescue me... I brought the Blood Dragon Moss back to the family and had let my mother eat it. Her illness has already been fully cured... Thank you... I’m indebted to you and I will surely repay you.”

“I once saved you but you already gave me the Heaven Deceiving Cloak. Which is why you don’t really owe me anything and there’s no need for you to repay me. It’s a good thing that your mother has recovered from her illness. As the saying goes, a tree might wish to remain quiet but the wind will not stop... It’s great that you still have the chance to be filial to your own parents when they are alive.”

Ning Fan sighed and asked her a question.

“Mistress Yu, you’ve already brought me to the Scarlet Heaven Palace. Now, do you plan on returning to the Serene Heaven Palace or staying here temporarily in my Scarlet Heaven Palace?”

“I have to return to the Serene Heaven Palace or else my elder brother will scold me.” Yu Chong Er stuck out her tongue and lightly chuckled. A five-marked immortal cloud appeared out of thin air when her lotus feet gently leaped off from the ground.

“I’ll come looking for you when I figure out how to repay you. I, Yu Chong Er, never owe anyone a favor. I’ll certainly give you something that will satisfy you!”

“Really? I’m looking forward to it.” Ning Fan gave her a smile in return.

“Then... I’ll take my leave now...”

Yu Chong Er steered the immortal cloud to turn around and flew away. Inwardly, she actually felt a hint of reluctance.

“Damn it. Damn it. Damn it... Why am I feeling reluctant to leave...? I really must be sick...”

“When he asked for something in return the last time, he took away my Heaven Deceiving Cloak... He seems to be fond of Profound Divinity Grade spiritual equipment... What if I request a Profound Divinity Grade spiritual equipment from my master and then give it to him?”

...

Ning Fan wore a subtle smile while looking at Yu Chong Er who was disappearing into the distance.

He had read all of her thoughts using his Mind Reading Technique.

“That silly little girl wants to give me a Profound Divinity Grade spiritual equipment, huh... I’m truly looking forward to it...”

He took his eyes off of her and turned around to walk into the Scarlet Heaven Cloud Palace. The empty cloud palace did not have a single cultivator present. The defensive formation, however, was still activated.

As the Scarlet Heaven Palace Lord, Ning Fan possessed the palace lord’s token which allowed him to directly go past the formation.

Even though there were currently no cultivators in the palace, the problem with the cloud lions had already been resolved. Naturally, the cultivators who had left the palace would soon return to the Scarlet Heaven Realm.

At the end of the day, he did not really care whether or not there were any people in the Scarlet Heaven Palace.

Even though he was the palace lord of the Scarlet Heaven Palace, he showed absolute disinterest in managing the affairs of the Scarlet Heaven Palace.

The only thing that concerned him was how many benefits he would actually receive by being the Scarlet Heaven Palace Lord.

As far as he knew, the palace lord of the nine great divisions occupied a single respective realm of the country. They could freely use all of the magic treasures and pills and read the secret techniques and cultivation methods within their realms.

Even though all the cultivators of the Scarlet Heaven Palace had gone to seek refuge in other realms, it was only temporary as it was all part of a plan to give Ning Fan a display of Yun Jinghong's authority. The treasure vault and the scripture pavilion still remained.

Layers of formations had been set up around the treasure vault and the scripture pavilion. However, since Ning Fan had the palace lord's token, he could naturally enter those places freely.

Even if he did not have the token, he still had the Wind Mist Finger. With that technique, would there be a formation below the Immortal Grade which could stop him?

He first entered the treasure vault of the cloud palace. To the cultivators of the Scarlet Heaven Palace, all the items inside the vault could be obtained by exchanging some contribution points for them.

The cultivators of the Rain Palace would be given contribution points each year which was their salaries. If they accomplish the missions assigned to them by the Rain Palace, they would receive additional contribution points.

However, since Ning Fan was the palace lord, he could take any of the treasures in the vault away freely without needing to exchange his contribution points for them.

There were a total of 5.5 billion immortal jade, 72000 tufts of spiritual herbs of ten thousand years old and older, 400 bottles of Fifth Revolution Pills, 3 bottles of Sixth Revolution Pills, 4000 lumps of four-marked immortal clouds, 70 lumps of five-marked immortal clouds and 4 lumps of six-marked immortal clouds...

Apart from that, there were also twelve thousand sets of magic treasures at the Nascent Soul Realm and above, more than seven thousand sets of spiritual equipment at the Profound Jade Grade and above, 500 Nascent Soul Realm puppets, 42 Divine Transformation Realm puppets and 1 Void Glimpse Stage puppet...

Naturally, he took them all away. This was the benefit of being the palace lord.

As for how the revered elders and divine messengers in the palace would cultivate after he took away all of those items, what does it have to do with him? After all, all of them were Yun Jinghong's people.

The treasure vault was rather empty when he left.

He then entered the scripture pavilion. This place had many cultivation methods and magic techniques of the Rain Palace as well as pill recipes.

Ordinary cultivators of the Scarlet Heaven Palace would need to spend some of their contribution points just to read those scriptures. Ning Fan, however, could randomly browse through all of the magic techniques and pill recipes there because of his status.

The lowest grade cultivation methods in this place were of the Spirit Grade, while the highest were of the Mid Rank Mortal Void Grade.

As for the pill recipes, the highest level was at the Mid Grade Sixth Revolution.

Pill recipes and cultivation methods of higher grades could only be found in the main palace of the Rain Palace. To read the magic techniques and pill recipes of the main palace, even the palace lords of the nine divisions would need to pay contribution points.

Naturally, Ning Fan did not spare a glance at the low-grade cultivation methods and pill recipes. He only made a copy of the high-grade jade slips and took them away.

The only thing that slightly piqued his interest was a puppet crafting technique which explained the steps to make a low-level cloud lion.

As such, Ning Fan nearly emptied the entire Scarlet Heaven Palace.

“Hehe... Well, you didn’t come here to be the palace lord, did you? You obviously came here to be a bandit. But are you really going to dig three feet deep here in this place before you stop?” Luo You mocked him inside the Profound Yin World.

“Digging three feet into the ground, huh...? It is as you said. This cloud mountain seems to be hollow. I wonder if there’s something hidden inside the mountain...”

Ning Fan smiled and ignored Luo You's mockery. He was palace lord of the Scarlet Heaven Palace in name only. So long as Yun Jinghong still remained in the Scarlet Heaven Palace, he would never truly be able to take control of the Scarlet Heaven Palace.

So what if he is going to dig three feet into the ground? After all, the land here belonged to Yun Jinghong.

Ning Fan displayed the Earth Movement Technique and dived deep into the cloud palace, heading straight into the core of the cloud mountain.

The inside of the ninety thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall cloud mountain had been hollowed out and the space was built into an extremely vast palace.

The walls inside the mountain were embedded with moonlight stones that would give off faint light to illuminate this place.

Peak Mortal Void Grade formations were established in every direction of the palace and only the palace lord of the Scarlet Heaven Palace could enter there.

"Oh? Is this the place where the former Scarlet Heaven Palace Lords entered seclusion...?"

Ning Fan entered the palace all alone. The palace had forty-nine stone chambers. In the main hall, there was a large ancient stele.

That ancient stele was nine hundred zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall. It gave off an extremely faint cloud light. Mysterious and abstruse runes had been etched on its four corners while four words were carved into the body in Divine Seal Writing.

Scarlet Heaven Rain Stele!

Ning Fan walked toward the giant stele. The closer he got to it, the stronger the feeling of an irresistible damp and humid force coming straight at him. All of a sudden, his clothes became soaking wet.

He found that humid force extremely familiar. It was the Divine Intent of Rain. However, it was slightly different from the rain intent that Ning Fan had comprehended.

The owner of this intent realm was terrifying. He left behind a trace of his intent realm power by only carving four letters on the ancient stele which made someone as powerful as Ning Fan unable to resist the rain intent even though an unknown number of years had already passed.

“The cultivation level of the person who carved this on the stele is far beyond my original cultivation level...” Luo You said with her beautiful eyes filled with seriousness.

“When you were at your prime in the past, you should have been a true immortal at the Shedding Void Realm, right? If that person is stronger than you, what kind of cultivation base would he have?”

Ning Fan caught sight of the stone wall beside it. Ancient words had been carved there which introduced the giant stele.

The giant stele was a rain stele. It was left behind by the ancestor of the Rain World – the Rain Ancestor. The cores of each of the cloud mountains of the nine divisions contained a respective rain stele.

It has been rumored that the nine rain steles contained one of Rain Ancestor’s abilities. The reason he left these rain steles behind was to let his descendants learn that technique.

Unfortunately, ever since the Rain Ancestor passed away, no one in the Rain World had managed to learn the technique.

“No one has ever managed to learn this technique, huh...? How difficult is this technique exactly...?”

Ning Fan’s expression turned serious as he continued reading those words on the stone wall.

According to the information written on the wall, the technique the Rain Ancestor left behind was called the ‘Heaven Prying Rain’. It was an extrasensory perception type of magic technique.

The perception range of a cultivator's spirit sense was limited. However, some secret techniques could extend the range of one's spirit sense by tens of times, hundreds of times or even more.

When Ning Fan was in the Sinister Sparrow Sect in the past, he inadvertently became one with the world which allowed him to display the Myriad Miles Wander Technique. Even though he was still a mere Harmonious Spirit Realm cultivator at the time, he managed to stretch his spirit sense into an extremely fine line, enabling him to go beyond the Rain World and explore the Northern Heaven Immortal World.

The Myriad Miles Wander Technique was an extremely powerful perception ability. Even an individual with True Immortal Realm spirit sense might not necessarily be able to successfully master this technique.

With Ning Fan's current cultivation base, he certainly could not display the same technique again. It nearly cost him his life the last time he did it.

Back in the Star Palace, Ning Fan had once been pursued by a realm beast. That realm beast merged its spirit sense with the entire world within the Star Palace, allowing it to spread its spirit sense across every corner of it.

Even though a perception type ability could not be used for battle, it was definitely an incredible ability.

According to the information on the wall, the Rain Ancestor had once entered the Northern Heaven Immortal World during his prime. With the help of his Heaven Prying Rain Technique, he commanded his spirit sense to envelope countless star domains of the Northern Heaven which shocked several immortal emperors!

It was said that as long as one successfully masters this technique, it would allow them to envelop the entire Central State with their spirit sense even if their spirit sense was only at the Void Refinement Realm!

"The magic technique hidden in the rain steles... is actually the Heaven Prying Rain Technique! Heaven Prying, Heaven Prying... A drizzle of rain allowed the Rain Ancestor to pry into the entire Northern Heaven. That's how this technique got its name! It's the technique that made the Rain Ancestor famous!" Luo You sounded surprised. She seemed to have heard of this technique before.

“Silly younger brother, hurry up and get closer to the rain stele. Put your spirit sense into it and try to learn the technique! Once you master it, it’ll be extremely advantageous to you!” Luo You urged.

“Ever since the creation of the Rain World, not a single cultivator of the Rain World has ever managed to successfully master it. I don’t think I can learn it... According to the stone wall, if one fails to master the technique, they will receive a backlash from the rain stele which will seriously damage their Sea of Consciousness... If I can’t learn this technique, I will be grievously injured for sure. But if I manage to successfully master it...”

Ning Fan was struggling with indecision.

If he masters the technique, even if he could not cover the entire Rain World with his current spirit sense, he certainly would be able to envelop the Central State with it.

If he could spread his spirit sense over the entire Central State, he could probably find Ning Qian in one single try...

She was in the Central State!

Even if he only had one in a billion chance of mastering this technique and might even suffer a serious backlash from the rain stele, he still would not mind it!

“Let me see how difficult this Rain Ancestor’s ability is that no one in the Rain World had ever mastered!”

Ning Fan took in a deep breath and walked toward the bottom of the rain stele. Then, he stopped in place, staring at the nine hundred zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall giant stele.

He closed his eyes and entered the stele using his spirit sense.

An extremely thick Divine Intent of Rain suddenly assailed his spirit sense. Instantly, Ning Fan’s spirit sense in the rain stele was completely crushed, inflicting a sharp pain to his Sea of Consciousness. At the

same time, his chest felt like it had taken a serious blow which blew him one hundred zhang* (3.33m per zhang) backward. His body crashed heavily into the stone wall, nearly breaking all of his bones and muscles!

“Did it fail...?” Luo You sighed gently. Apparently, Ning Fan did not have any luck of mastering the technique.

She wanted to comfort Ning Fan but she then discovered that his expression looked quite complicated.

There was confusion, surprise, bewilderment, disappointment as well as a hint of joy.

“Perhaps I have a chance to master this technique... The reason no one has ever mastered it isn’t because it is obscure and difficult to understand. The biggest reason is... one will need to possess devil, demon and divine power in order to use this technique!”

“The Rain Ancestor wasn’t a pure divine cultivator... Because of some lucky encounters, his body possesses the power of the three races at the same time! The first condition in mastering this technique is to fuse magic power, demon power and devil qi into one! No one in the Rain World met this criteria... That’s why no one has been able to learn this technique ever since the creation of the Rain World...”

“The reason why I was hurt by the rain stele is because the rain intent that I comprehended has yet to achieve the minimum requirement for cultivating this technique... The rain intent I comprehended in the past is a divine intent. It isn’t a demon intent nor a devil intent... However, the Rain Ancestor’s rain intent contained the Divine Intent of Rain, the Devil Intent of Rain and the Demon Intent of Rain...”

“This technique is divided into nine different parts. The inheritance in this stele is just one-ninth of the complete magic technique...”

Ning Fan stopped talking and sat down below the rain stele in a meditative pose. With a wave of his hand, he summoned his ninety-nine natal black stars to heal his injuries using their starlight.

One day, two days... On the seventh day, Ning Fan suddenly stood up. All of his injuries were now completely healed.

He looked at the rain stele, feeling the network of the rain intent in the rain stele. After staying silent for a long time, he spread out his spirit sense again and put it into the stele.

He was once again sent flying away by the rain stele. However, he managed to regain his footing after retreating for one hundred zhang* (3.33m per zhang). The damage he took was also not as serious as his previous attempt.

Without speaking a word, he sat down below the rain stele again to treat his injuries.

This time, he only took four days to completely recover!

After his injuries were fully healed, he stood up again and silently stared at the rain stele for a long time.

This time, he was not in a hurry to command his spirit sense to go inside the rain stele. Instead, he closed his eyes to feel the rain intent of the Rain Ancestor.

The Divine Intent of Rain must contain compassion and benevolence which enabled the rain intent to nourish all things in the world.

The Demon Intent of Rain must be filled with the power to confuse the minds of the people, allowing the rain to cover all living creatures.

The Devil Intent of Rain must carry the intention to kill which would turn rainwater into a flash flood...

Ning Fan stood before the rain stele, carefully studying the characteristics of the Rain Ancestor's rain intent. Ten days went by quickly!

The disposition of his body changed from time to time. Sometimes, he would be as kind as a god. Other times, he would turn as cold-blooded as a devil. There were even times where he would be evil and seem like a demon...

On the eleventh day, Ning Fan suddenly opened his eyes and placed his spirit sense into the rain stele for the third time.

The rain stele did not send him flying!

This time, an archaic voice resounded in his ears. It sounded like it was preaching Dao!

“The nine heavens has rain which connects the entire world. The clouds are my eyes. The rain are my senses. Heaven and earth fuses in my heart. This is the rain that pries into the heavens...”

“The Heaven Prying Rain Technique is divided into Nine Heavens. The rain in the Third Heaven is named Scarlet Heaven Rain...”

All of a sudden, information regarding the technique flooded into Ning Fan’s Sea of Consciousness.

Luo You looked like she was smiling yet she was not. Ning Fan had truly managed to learn the Heaven Prying Rain Technique even though it was just one-ninth of the complete magic technique...

The corners of Ning Fan’s lips curved upward. He then closed his eyes and began to perform a series of hand seals while standing in the palace within the mountain.

One time. Two times. Three times...

Half a month went by. It was unknown how many times he had practiced the same set of hand seals within the mountain and had become more and more skilled at it.

The cultivators who had left the Scarlet Heaven Realm had already returned one after another.

The cultivators of the Scarlet Heaven Palace that had returned discovered that their palace’s vault seemed to have been looted...

No one expected that Ning Fan was practicing the rain technique inside the mountain at this moment.

However, rain suddenly started to fall within the Scarlet Heaven Realm that was as large as seventy million li* (500m per li).

“It’s strange. The Heavenly Cloud Country is protected by a grand formation. Not a single drop of rain can penetrate through the formation. How can there be rain all of a sudden within our Scarlet Heaven Realm...?” Countless cultivators were confused.

Within the mountain, Ning Fan’s eyes were deep like a bottomless pond. His hands were performing hand seals non-stop.

He was the one who caused the rain to fall!

His Absolute Void Stage spirit sense could only sense what was happening within a vicinity of four hundred thousand li* (500m per li) at the start.

At this moment, however, he felt like his eyes were able to see everything within an area of seventy million li* (500m per li)!

All the clouds above the sky of the Scarlet Heaven Realm became his eyes!

Every drop of rain that had fallen within the seventy million li* (500m per li) of territory became his senses!

Even a Void Fragmentation Realm expert could only sense up to one million li* (500m per li) of area. Ning Fan, however, could truly sense everything up to an area of seventy million li* (500m per li)!

The only downside of this technique was that his magic power had nearly been depleted after only using it once.

Well, powerful abilities always had an extremely high consumption of magic power.

“Silly younger brother, if you master this technique completely, you might even be able to cause rain to fall within the entire Central State... The Rain Ancestor’s Heaven Prying Rain Technique truly is incredible...” Luo You clicked her tongue and complimented.

“Mm. Next, I’m going to completely master this technique. According to the stone wall in the nine palaces, the cultivators of a palace aren’t allowed to comprehend the rain stele of the other palaces. In order to comprehend the rain steles of the other palaces, one must fulfill a condition!”

“Defeat the palace lords of the eight other palaces. Then, the winner can comprehend the technique from their respective rain steles!”

“I have to master this technique. I want to summon rain within the entire Central State and... find her!”

Chi

A ray of travelling light flew out from the inner part of the mountain and headed toward the eight other realms while carrying an extremely intense battle intent!

Ning Fan wanted to challenge the palace lords of the eight other palaces with his status of Scarlet Heaven Palace Lord and winning was his only option!

Chapter 545: Wiping Out The Heavenly Cloud Country (1)

In the fourth realm of the Heavenly Cloud Country – Vermilion Heaven Realm!

A ray of golden sword light cut through the sky, flying rapidly toward the cloud mountain where the Vermilion Heaven Palace was located!

It was an ancient golden sword which had a speed close to that of a Void Fragmentation Realm expert!

Countless cultivators in the Vermilion Heaven Realm were greatly shocked upon seeing that sword light that was as dazzling as a golden sun.

It was not only that impressive sword light that had shocked them but also the person who was standing on top of the sword.

A cold young man was standing at the tip of the flying sword. His robes were as white as snow with a body that was as sturdy as a mountain. His qi was like rain while his eyes were like lightning!

His presence gave off an extremely powerful aura force which contained a vigorous battle intent!

“White-Robed Marquis! That man is the White-Robed Marquis. I’ve seen portraits of him before!”

“What?! That old monster who has immense battle intent is actually the White-Robed Marquis, Ning Fan?! Is he going somewhere to fight someone?”

“I have no idea. But judging from the direction where he is headed, he is going to the cloud mountain of the Vermilion Heaven Palace...”

“Vermilion Heaven Palace?! Why is he going there?!”

Ning Fan travelled at full speed all throughout and passed by countless cultivation countries without paying attention to the discussions.

There was only the sound of howling wind at his ears, misty clouds before his eyes and a single belief in his mind – to defeat the eight palace lords of the Rain Palace and learn the complete secret technique of the Rain Ancestor!

Half a day later, the cloud mountain of the Vermilion Heaven Realm was already visible!

He came to a halt and kept his ancient sword. His figure descended at the summit of the cloud mountain at an incredible speed!

The cultivators who were guarding the entrance of the palace were stunned. None of them had actually managed to see how Ning Fan appeared. His movements were too fast!

Before the cultivators of the Vermilion Heaven Palace could recognize Ning Fan's appearance, his voice had already resounded loudly across the cloud mountain. It blasted throughout the entire area like thunderclap, reverberating in the ears of each and every one of the cultivators in the Vermilion Heaven Palace for a long time!

"As the Scarlet Heaven Palace Lord, I've come forward to battle against the Vermilion Heaven Palace Lord in order to get permission to see your rain stele!"

A bald old man was in the middle of seclusion inside the inner area of the Vermilion Heaven Realm's cloud mountain.

When he heard Ning Fan's voice which resounded across the entire cloud mountain of the Vermilion Heaven Realm, his face immediately turned cold and he smirked disdainfully.

"To this day, I've already cultivated the Dao for seven thousand and four hundred years and I rarely found a worthy opponent among cultivators at the Void Pierce Stage. Now, a mere Void Inquiry Stage cultivator has actually come to challenge me. He really does not know the immensity of heaven and earth!"

The bald old man chuckled coldly and transformed into a ray of grey light, instantly vanishing from the inside of the mountain. At the next second, he was already at the summit of the mountain!

He had naturally heard of the rumors about Ning Fan being a wicked person who had committed heinous killings. However, he refused to believe it until he saw it for himself!

He did not believe that Ning Fan had great power and capabilities. He only believed in his own strength and greatness!

He was the palace lord of the Vermilion Heaven Palace – Marquis Long Nan who was a Void Pierce Stage expert!

“Ning Fan! You aren’t my match and have no right to see the rain stele of my Vermilion Heaven Palace. Leave at once!”

Terrifying lightning rays were revolving around Marquis Long Nan’s body. As he spoke, his voice turned into an unimaginable blast of air which dispersed all of the clouds within an area of three hundred thousand li* (500m per li)!

Several hundred divine messengers and revered elders of the Vermilion Heaven present had fairly strong cultivation bases. They were at least of the Nascent Soul Realm and Divine Transformation Realm. However, under the force of Marquis Long Nan’s voice, none of them could maintain their balance!

“Our palace lord’s aura force... is extremely strong! Even if it is the White-Robed Marquis, he still won’t be able to defeat our palace lord!”

“During his seclusion, our palace lord has obtained new comprehensions of the ‘Seven Lightning Technique’ which has considerably improved his strength... White-Robed Marquis won’t be able to withstand that technique of our palace lord!”

Layers of blasting air rushed toward Ning Fan. However, when they got closer to him, they would strangely part for him.

Ning Fan glanced at Marquis Long Nan and said with a flat tone.

“Your aura force can’t terrify me. Make your move. If you still refuse to do it, you will lose your only chance!”

“A wild and arrogant boy!”

Marquis Long Nan’s expression turned grim. It was his first time being underestimated by a Void Inquiry Stage cultivator!

Seven-colored lightning rays rose in his eyes. He made a series of hand seals with his ten fingers while muttering a chant.

“Humans have seven emotions. Heaven has seven lightning... Joy, anger, worry, contemplation, sadness, fear and shock... Seven Lightning Technique!”

Marquis Long Nan suddenly raised his hands and summoned a seven-colored lightning flag. Seven-colored lightning clouds instantly emerged within the vicinity of three hundred thousand li* (500m per li) and condensed into seven lightning fists that were one thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) long. All of these fists rushed down the summit of the mountain where Ning Fan was standing!

Seven Lightning Fists. Even ordinary Void Pierce Stage experts would not be able to resist them!

If the seven lightning fists fall, the entire cloud mountain would be destroyed!

“This is bad! Once the palace lord is infuriated, he will no longer consider the severity of his attacks. White-Robed Marquis will certainly be injured or killed. And even our Vermilion Heaven Palace would probably be destroyed by the fluctuations from that attack!” A group of cultivators of the Vermilion Heaven Palace were deeply filled with astonishment.

However, something that went beyond everyone’s expectations appeared!

Before the seven lightning fists could touch the mountain, Ning Fan abruptly stomped on the summit of the mountain. A huge blood-red lightning diagram emerged beneath his feet, engulfing all of the seven-colored lightning.

Then, he summoned his Eight Black Fire Wings and took a step forward, disappearing without a trace. Only a faint flame afterimage was left at his original spot...

In that instant, Marquis Long Nan could feel a tingling sensation across his scalp as a massive sense of danger filled him!

Without hesitation, he drew back while summoning a High Rank Heavenly Profound Grade armor to protect him!

That was a High Rank Heavenly Profound Grade armor which was sturdy enough to withstand an ordinary Void Pierce Stage attack!

He was not slow but Ning Fan's travelling light was much faster. In the blink of an eye, he had already appeared in front of him. He pointed his finger at him that had gathered both his essence qi and magic power. That attack was nearly as strong as an Absolute Void Stage attack!

"Break!"

With a loud bang, the Heavenly Profound Grade armor shattered and an excruciating pain struck Marquis Long Nan's chest. He coughed out blood and had to fall back for hundreds of steps before he could regain his footing. He then stared at Ning Fan with eyes filled with terror!

He, the dignified Vermilion Heaven Palace Lord, was actually not capable of lasting a single round against Ning Fan!

Moreover, he even noticed that Ning Fan was already being merciful to him when he used that finger on him. Otherwise, he would have been injured or have died from that attack and certainly would not still have the strength to stand up!

"White-Robed Marquis, stop! I concede defeat. You have my permission to see our rain stele. Please follow me to the inner part of the mountain!"

Tsk

Countless cultivators of the Vermilion Heaven Palace sucked in a cold breath. The palace lord whom they had always respected could not actually last a single round against Ning Fan...

Marquis Long Nan was unable to recover from his defeat. It was highly likely he would be haunted by this trauma for the rest of his life...

“Fine. This man is incredibly strong. I’m afraid his full strength is already close to the Absolute Void Stage. I’m certainly not his match. There’s no need for me to engage him in a life and death battle. I’ll allow him to see the rain stele. After all, no one has ever managed to understand it... Besides, if he fails to understand the rain stele, he will certainly be injured by the backlash...”

The two of them entered the palace within the mountain. Ning Fan stood before the rain stele of the Vermilion Heaven Palace and cast his spirit sense into the stele.

After an incense stick of time, Ning Fan turned around to leave and did not linger, leaving Marquis Long Nan behind whose face was filled with confusion.

“Why wasn’t he struck by the rain stele... Usually, any cultivator who attempts to learn the Rain Ancestor’s technique would be sent flying away by the rain stele!”

“Could there be something wrong with the rain stele?”

With the intent to find out an answer for his doubts, Marquis Long Nan also spread his spirit sense to study the rain stele.

At the very next moment, the sound of spurting blood accompanied by a miserable wail echoed from within the palace.

“The rain stele... is perfectly fine...”

Marquis Long Nan’s face was as pale as joss paper. The rain stele had almost instantly killed him...

This is a lie. This is clearly a lie! Why wasn’t Ning Fan struck by the rain stele while I was?!

Is it possible that he has obtained the Rain Ancestor’s inheritance? This must be a joke. How could that be possible?! Ever since the birth of the Rain World 150 million years ago, no one has ever managed to comprehend that technique!

There's no way I will believe it even if I were to be beaten to death...

...

In the fifth realm of the Heavenly Cloud Country – Complete Heaven Realm!

Riding on a golden sword light, Ning Fan dashed swiftly toward the cloud mountain of the Complete Heaven Realm.

One day had already passed since he defeated Marquis Long Nan. Within just one day, news of him defeating Marquis Long Nan with a single finger spread across the country like wildfire!

When the cultivators of the Complete Heaven Realm saw that Ning Fan was heading for their realm, everyone there was shocked.

Ning Fan did not only want to defeat Marquis Long Nan. Judging from the situation, he was planning on heading out from his Scarlet Heaven Realm and circle the entire Heavenly Cloud Country while challenging the eight other palace lords along the way!

It seemed that his objective was the Rain Ancestor's steles that no one could comprehend...

“*clicks tongue* I didn't expect for White-Robed Marquis to be so powerful that he could actually defeat Marquis Long Nan with just a single finger... However, is he truly going to challenge all the other eight palace lords?”

“From the rumors I heard, the reason why White-Robed Marquis fought Marquis Long Nan was to look at their Rain Ancestor's stele... The rain stele contains the Rain Ancestor's technique. However, it's impossible for anyone to learn that technique. In my opinion, asking to see the rain stele is not White-Robed Marquis' true intention. Instead, it's merely an excuse for him to challenge the eight other palaces just to establish his might!”

“Establishing his might? I heard that White-Robed Marquis’ true cultivation base is only at the Void Inquiry Stage. Can he really defeat the other eight palace lords?”

Every time Ning Fan passed by a cultivation city, his presence would cause a commotion.

He travelled at top speed all the way without slowing down for even a second. Only when he saw a cloud mountain emerging in the distance did he keep his ancient sword. With a leap, he instantly appeared at the top of the sea of clouds, standing in midair outside the Complete Heaven Palace!

“I wish to take a look at your rain stele!”

“Humph! If you want to look at my rain stele, you’ll have to defeat me first!”

An old man in yellow robes had already been waiting for him for some time. As a yellow light flashed in the sky, the old man flew up from the cloud mountain and faced off against Ning Fan above the clouds.

That yellow-robed old man was Huang Gu who possessed Void Pierce Stage qi. The magic power which his body exuded transformed into yellow maple leaves. He was the one and only Complete Heaven Palace’s Palace Lord!

When Huang Gu waved his large hand, a dark yellow flag appeared in his hand.

“This flag of mine is called the ‘Flexible Gray Maple Wood Flag’. After I tempered it using the primordial spirit flame for more than one thousand years, it now has immeasurable power. Even a Void Pierce Stage expert might not necessarily be able to withstand it. You are no exception!”

“Really...?” Ning Fan’s expression remained neutral.

“Humph! Since you don’t know what is good for you, I won’t show you any mercy! Wood Dragon, rise!”

Huang Gu unleashed all of his magic power. His aura force shattered the sea of clouds within several hundred thousand li* (500m per li) from him. Then, he violently shook the flag in his hand.

As his magic treasure moved, countless shadows of yellow maple leaves emerged within the area, condensing into a deep yellowish wood dragon that was seven thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) long.

The wood dragon's eyes glowed with ferocity. It opened its jaw and blasted out a massive beam of yellow light at Ning Fan.

That yellow beam was extremely fast. The space in the sky broke down when it passed by and was incredibly powerful. It was even slightly stronger than Marquis Long Nan's Seven Lightning Technique.

However, Ning Fan did not even spare a glance at the incoming yellow beam. He touched his glabella and drew his Separation Slayer Sword. When he raised his hand and slashed, the yellow beam was split into halves.

Right after that, he kept his Separation Slayer Sword and quickly performed hand seals with ten of his fingers. His black hair was dancing wildly in the air while his eyes burned with black flames.

The moment he completed the hand seal, large black fire rings surrounded the area with the wood dragon at the center. There were 216 layers of fire rings in total!

The entire sea of clouds was engulfed by flames. When the wood dragon came into contact with the black flames, its blank eyes were suddenly filled with fear and it became terrified as if it was human.

The dragon cried in agony. Within seconds, the black fire rings had completely burned it into ashes!

crack

A crack formed on the flag in Huang Gu's hands. It seemed to have broken after the wood dragon was burned to cinders.

Before he had the time to grieve for his natal magic treasure, the sea of flames in the sky had transformed into nine black fire dragons and charged at him!

The black fire dragons were extremely swift. Within a single breath, the flames had devoured Huang Gu.

'Ahh!"

Engulfed by a sea of flames, Huang Gu shrieked in pain. He hurriedly jumped out from the flames and fell down from the sky like a kite with a broken string, crashing directly onto the summit of the mountain and forming a large crater on the ground.

Ning Fan opened his mouth and inhaled, sucking in all of the black flames into his abdomen. He then descended to the Complete Heaven Palace and indifferently stared at Huang Gu who was coughing out blood incessantly inside the crater.

"I've already held back. Otherwise, you'd have died within those flames."

"*Cough*... Thank you for showing mercy to me, Palace Lord Ning. I'll bring you to see the rain stele now..."

Huang Gu climbed to his feet. He was still deeply traumatized by the power of the black flames earlier.

Even though he fell down from the sea of clouds looking battered and beaten, when he examined his internal body, he realized that his injuries were not that serious. Without a doubt, it was because Ning Fan had held back on him.

Although Huang Gu was proud and arrogant, he was not ignorant as to not notice other's good intentions. He instantly led Ning Fan into the palace inside the mountain to let him look at the rain stele.

Hiss

Each of the revered elders and divine messengers of the Complete Heaven Palace were dumbfounded with their mouths wide open.

They were aware of their palace lord's strength. His Flexible Gray Maple Wood Flag, in particular, was extraordinarily powerful. Even so, he was still defeated by Ning Fan in just a single round!

They originally did not believe in the rumors of Ning Fan beating Marquis Long Nan in a single round. Judging from what they had witnessed today, the rumors were true and Ning Fan's combat power was actually already at an exceptional level. He had probably already reached the peak of the Void Pierce Stage!

Having unrivalled strength among all Void Pierce Stage experts!

With that level of combat power, who else could put up a fight with him other than the palace lords of the Serene Heaven Palace, the Great Heaven Palace and the Vast Heaven Palace?!

"If White-Robed Marquis defeats all of the eight palace lords with his own strength, the Scarlet Heaven Palace will become the strongest palace of the nine palaces from today onward!"

Chi

A golden sword light flew out from the inner part of the mountain. It was headed toward the Serene Heaven Palace, ignoring the cries of surprise from the people around the mountain!

The sixth realm of the Heavenly Cloud Country – Serene Heaven Realm!

Within the Serene Heaven Realm, Fang Sheng stood arrogantly at the peak of the Serene Heaven Realm cloud mountain with his body emanating a peerless Void Pierce Stage aura force. He was waiting to fight Ning Fan!

He knew Ning Fan would come!

During the battle in Song Country, he never got to fight Ning Fan and deeply regretted it. Their fight today would make up for what he had missed and they would battle it out until a winner emerges!

“Ten years ago, even though he managed to defeat Fang Si, his combat power should still be slightly weaker than mine... It has already been ten years. I wonder if he can really put up a fight against me!”

The entire Heavenly Cloud Country was shaken at the moment. Countless cultivators headed to the Serene Heaven Realm and waited to watch the fight between the Scarlet Heaven Palace Lord and the Serene Heaven Palace Lord!

While countless cultivators were looking forward to it, a ray of golden sword light arrived at the cloud mountain of the Serene Heaven Palace!

Ning Fan was travelling unhindered at the peak of the sea of clouds while standing on an ancient golden sword. He stared coldly at the cloud mountain with immense battle intent in his eyes!

“Fang Sheng, fight me!”

Chapter 546: Wiping Out The Heavenly Cloud Country (2)

“Fang Sheng, fight me!”

The moment Ning Fan arrived, a heavy aura force appeared which felt as if a torrential mountain rain was about to fall upon the entire cloud mountain.

All the cultivators near the cloud mountain regardless of cultivation level felt difficulties in breathing. All of them were unable to withstand Ning Fan’s forceful aura force.

Yu Chong Er looked up at the sea of clouds and stared at the white-robed young man who stood above the ancient golden sword.

At this moment, Ning Fan was no longer his usual easygoing self. His eyes contained a stubborn determination – the determination to wipe out the eight palaces!

Ning Fan's current state was similar to the time where he engaged in a bloody battle in the Blood Dragon Pool, powerful and formidable!

"Did White-Robed Marquis come to fight against the palace lords of the other eight palaces to comprehend the rain steles or to establish his might...?" Yu Bai spoke while contemplating.

"No. He's not fighting for any of those reasons... He must have an extremely important reason to defeat the eight palaces by himself..." Yu Chong Er muttered to herself.

The eyes of all the Divine Transformation Realm revered elders of the Serene Heaven Palace were filled with respect and awe. Not a single Divine Transformation Realm cultivator there could withstand Ning Fan's aura force. All of them were stupefied and could not move!

Revered Snow could not. The ugly man, Yun Lie, could not, let alone the lowly Nascent Soul Realm divine messenger, Yun Kuang who was directly pinned to the ground by Ning Fan's aura force!

When they were in Great Jin in the past, Yun Kuang had caused some trouble for Ning Fan several times because of Yin Suqiu. However, Ning Fan destroyed his Dao Heart in return. Fifty years had passed but Yun Kuang's cultivation base did not improve at all. He had failed to go through the bottleneck of his cultivation multiple times. During his last attempt, both of his eyes were even destroyed by the heavenly tribulation...

Fifty years ago, he was a Nascent Soul Realm old monster while Ning Fan was merely a Harmonious Spirit Realm ant.

Fifty years later, a single trace of Ning Fan's qi could make him unable to stand on his feet!

"Compared to him, what else can I be other than an insignificant ant...? All I can be is a lowly ant..." Yun Kuang was prostrated on the ground, overwhelmed with frustration and despair.

Ning Fan stood on the peak of the clouds and kept his ancient sword without even sparing Yun Kuang a glance. He was inferior to him in their last encounter and was still inferior to him today.

Ning Fan's eyes were only focused on Fang Sheng alone, waiting for him to accept his challenge!

"You successively defeated both Marquis Long Nan and Huang Gu. I'm afraid you already possess strength that makes you unrivalled among Void Pierce Stage experts. Then, show me if you really are as strong as me!"

Chi

Fang Sheng's old eyes shone with light. His body turned into a snow-white travelling light and he appeared above the sea of clouds in the next instant. The aura force coming from his body was like a fierce gale, making his white robes flutter in the wind.

Fang Sheng used his magic power and the Ocean of Void immediately emerged beneath his feet. Standing above the Ocean of Void, his magic power seemed endless and inexhaustible.

He lifted one of his fingers which gave off an extremely brilliant cloud light. Then, he pointed it at Ning Fan while shouting coldly.

"Cloud Mask Technique!"

As the cloud light scattered, millions of white clouds formed all around Ning Fan. Each of them had a ghost face which was eerily grinning hideously.

The several millions of ghost faces then started to take in breaths together, sucking in the air around them. Within seconds, they completely devoured the aura force that Ning Fan exuded. Aside from that, traces of magic power were also drawn out from Ning Fan's body and were absorbed by those ghost faces.

Ning Fan's expression turned slightly cold as he sensed that the magic power within his body was being drained temporarily. He tried to use his devil flames to get rid of the clouds.

However, just as he tried to produce his devil flames, his magic power was being drained even faster. Even his essence qi was starting to be depleted.

Meanwhile, Ning Fan had a feeling that the clouds with the ghost faces could devour most magic techniques. Even his black flames would not be able to do anything to them... Fang Sheng's magic technique certainly is strange and wicked.

"This is... A Peak Mortal Void Realm magic technique, Cloud Mask Technique!" A Divine Transformation Realm revered elder regained his mobility and exclaimed in surprise.

"Palace Lord Fang Sheng had once completely extracted the magic power of a few Void Pierce Stage experts using this technique. Since he has used this technique, it won't take long for White-Robe Marquis' magic power to be completely drained by the ghost faces on the white clouds!"

"Those white clouds can devour magic power and absorb all kinds of magic attacks. From what I've heard, only cultivators who cultivate a unique consciousness and sense can resist the clouds."

"Once White-Robed Marquis loses all of his magic power, he won't stand a chance against Palace Lord Fang Sheng no matter how strong he is!"

The discussions of the crowd on the cloud mountain echoed into Ning Fan's ears. Within a few breaths, seventy percent of his total magic power and essence qi had been absorbed by the ghost faces.

He turned to look at the clouds with ghost faces in the sky. In the next second, his eyes flashed with determination as he abruptly spread out his sword sense.

In the sea of clouds, a droplet of thick ink spread across the vast sky. In an instant, it transformed into black sword light which filled the sky and shielded the sun, cutting down countless clouds with ghost faces.

"Sword sense, huh... Indeed, I can't defeat you with just my Cloud Mask Technique. Fishing Net of Creation!"

Fang Sheng was not too surprised upon seeing his Cloud Mask Technique being broken by Ning Fan.

To him, it was already great that he was able to deplete seventy percent of Ning Fan's magic power using this technique at the beginning of their fight. At this moment, Fang Sheng already had a certain assurance of his victory.

As he pointed out a finger, traces of white magic power flowed out from his finger, weaving themselves into a massive fishing net.

When he cast the fishing net into the sky, it instantly turned into tens of thousands of nets.

Several ten thousand fishing nets fell toward Ning Fan, enveloping him. The threads of the fishing lines were extremely tough. Even a Void Pierce Stage attack would not be able to break them apart.

If Ning Fan were to face this technique in Song Country ten years ago, he who had yet to gather all the Heavenly Cold Qi and Earth Flames at that point of time would not be able to destroy the fishing nets using his Yin Yang Flame.

Even an Absolute Void Stage cultivator might not necessarily be able to destroy the fishing net. Moreover, Fang Sheng did not think that the current Ning Fan whose magic power had been greatly depleted could release a magic technique at the Absolute Void Stage using his remaining thirty percent of magic power.

"You've lost! Don't worry. I will only wrap you using the fishing nets without hurting you. However, since you can't beat me, you aren't allowed to study my rain stele. It's still too early for you to defeat me with your current cultivation level."

"Is that so?!"

Ning Fan abruptly made a stomp on the sky, causing it to break and revealing the boundless and endless void space.

He clawed at the earth, drawing out the soul of the great earth within the area of four hundred thousand li* (500m per li)!

Then, he clawed at the void space, extracting the soul of the void within the vicinity of four hundred thousand li* (500m per li)!

He opened his mouth and swallowed both the earth's and the void's souls. All of a sudden, he gained an additional ten million units of magic power!

His aura force was gradually increasing and the magic power within him reached eighteen million and two hundred thousand units. His current magic power was much more than what Fang Sheng had!

"Soul Extraction Technique! Additionally, it's actually at the second level which enables him to extract the soul of the void!" Fang Sheng's expression turned pale with shock.

The Soul Extraction Technique was one of the three Void Fragmentation Realm abilities. However, even for Void Fragmentation Realm old monsters, not all of them know this technique.

In the Rain World, the only person who managed to cultivate the Soul Extraction Technique up to the second level was the Rain Sovereign!

Ning Fan was the second cultivator in the Rain World who could extract the soul of the void!

"Incinerate!"

Ning Fan raised his finger and pointed into the sky above him, directing it at the thousands of fishing nets.

A column of black flames spread across the sea of clouds. Moreover, nine peerless black fire dragons that breathed flames dashed out from the sea of flames, burning the fishing nets into ashes with relative ease.

After ten years, he had already gathered all twenty-four types of Heavenly Cold Qi and Earth Flames. The power of his devil flame was now comparable to that of a High Rank Seventh Grade spiritual flame!

Perhaps Ning Fan would not be able to destroy the fishing nets if they were displayed by a Void Fragmentation Realm expert. However, it was a different story when Fang Sheng was the user of the technique!

“What?!” Fang Sheng was shocked once again. The Fishing Net of Creation was a supreme secret technique that the sixth prince bestowed upon him. However, Ning Fan had already burned all of it into ashes with a column of black flames...

What is that spiritual flame?! Is there such a high-grade spiritual flame in the Rain World?!

Before he could even recover from his shock, cold sweat suddenly trickled down his back.

The nine fire dragons turned their heads toward Fang Sheng. Their eyes glowed with bloodlust.

The nine black dragons were created from a High Rank Seventh Grade flame. Not even the Void Fragmentation Realm experts in the Rain World possessed such an incredible flame!

Ning Fan displayed this black flame using magic power that was close to the level of the Absolute Void Stage. Even an Absolute Void Stage expert would not stand a chance against the fire dragons!

The nine fire dragons charged at Fang Sheng, carrying columns of fire which engulfed him.

In just a few breaths, Fang Sheng hurriedly jumped out of the fire like Ning Fan’s previous opponent, Huang Gu, and fell down from the sky, crashing into the summit of the cloud mountain.

Ning Fan did not say a word. He recovered his black flame and descended to the cloud mountain.

Fang Sheng climbed up from the huge pit that was created from his fall and stared at Ning Fan with confusion all over his face. Then, he said with a sigh.

“I’ve lost to you...”

Fang Sheng knew that Ning Fan had already gone easy on him.

Otherwise, he certainly would not have been able to withstand it if Ning Fan produced such a high-grade black flame using all of his magic power that was also being boosted to a frightening level with the Soul Extraction Technique.

Except for experts at the Absolute Void Stage and above, no one could have withstood the might of Ning Fan's black flame...

"White-Robed Marquis, please come with me. I'll now bring you to the inner part of the mountain to show you the rain stele of the Serene Heaven Palace..."

Ning Fan then followed Fang Sheng to the inner part of the cloud mountain without saying anything.

Among the cultivators on the entire cloud mountain, there were cultivators from the Serene Heaven Realm as well as those from the other realms. All of them were deathly silent.

"Even the Serene Heaven Palace has lost... Of those who can still resist White-Robed Marquis, only the Great Heaven Palace and the Vast Heaven Palace remain..."

"In my opinion, even the Great Heaven Palace might not be able to defeat White-Robed Marquis. After all, the Great Heaven Palace Lord is only at the Peak Void Pierce Stage... I'm afraid only the Vast Heaven Palace Lord will have a chance of defeating him as he is a genuine Absolute Void Stage expert..."

Chi

After an incense stick of time, Ning Fan flew out from the inner part of the mountain, flying to the next realm.

Along the way, Ning Fan ate several pills to recover his magic power. There was a slight delay in his arrival as he only reached the Profound Heaven Realm three days later.

The seventh realm of the Heavenly Cloud Country – Profound Heaven Realm!

Countless cultivators had already heard of the Serene Heaven Palace Lord's defeat three days ago. All of them quickly rushed to the Profound Heaven Realm using the teleportation formations in their own realms, eagerly waiting to watch another great battle.

At this moment, no cultivator doubted Ning Fan's determination in challenging the eight palaces.

Be it to study the rain steles or to establish his might, Ning Fan's true objective in challenging the eight palaces was not something that everyone was concerned about.

Everyone only wanted to know if Ning Fan could beat the eight palace lords with just his own strength and become the strongest individual of the nine palaces!

Chi

A golden sword light travelled across layers of sea of clouds and descended on the peak of the cloud mountain of the Profound Heaven Palace!

Ning Fan stood among the clouds, looking down on the Profound Heaven Palace atop the cloud mountain. The Profound Heaven Palace was the division supervised by the third prince of the Rain Palace – Yun Bushu...

In the Rain World, the Profound Heaven Palace was the only division that had a friendly relationship with the Great Heaven Palace.

In the Rain World, Yun Bushu was the only prince who had a life and death friendship with Yun Tianjue.

Ning Fan sighed. He already knew that he was Yun Tianjue's son. Logically speaking, it was inappropriate for him to challenge the palace lord of the Profound Heaven Sect and humiliate their palace.

However, in order to obtain the complete rain technique and find his mother within the large territory of the Central State, he had no choice but to fight them...

He gently closed his eyes and said with a clear voice.

“I have no intention of making an enemy of the Profound Heaven Palace. However, I have no other options but to fight the Profound Heaven Palace Lord in order to study your rain stele. I hope the Profound Heaven Palace Lord can forgive me...”

“*Coughing several times* White-Robed Marquis must be joking. How can I dare to fight you...? I concede defeat!”

An old man in bright yellow dragon robes stood on the peak of the cloud mountain and cupped his fists at Ning Fan, announcing his surrender.

This man’s hair was gray and his face looked old. He had an imposing and dignified bearing with an intimidatingly vigorous qi. Even so, his cultivation level was only at the Void Glimpse Stage.

Ning fan was slightly stunned by that old man’s actions. He had met him once before.

When he was at the External Endless Sea in the past, he killed Revered Snow and offended the Rain Palace. However, he was recommended to be a revered elder of the Rain Palace by two of their Void Refinement Realm experts.

From being a palace lord of a low-level division, Luo Jun was promoted to be the palace lord of the Profound Heaven Palace which was one of the nine greatest palaces of the Rain Palace because of his contributions of discovering an individual with the Indestructible Fire Body.

Yun Bushu who was overseeing the Profound Heaven Palace was also known as, ‘Leisure Cloud Prince’. As for Luo Jun, he was a person who did not have great ambition. All he wanted was to make a living in the Profound Heaven Palace and had no desire to excel over others and fight for power.

He originally planned to live his life peacefully while enjoying his status as the Profound Heaven Palace Lord and hoped to just break through to the Void Inquiry Stage in his lifetime.

However, who could have thought that the dignified White-Robed Marquis would actually come to challenge him who was a lowly Void Glimpse Stage cultivator?

How could he dare to accept his challenge? Even Marquis Long Nan, Huang Gu and Fang Sheng lost to Ning Fan. A lowly Void Glimpse Stage cultivator like him would probably be unable to even withstand a single finger attack from Ning Fan...

“I’ve admitted defeat. White-Robed Marquis can directly enter the inner of the mountain and see the rain stele!”

“Sounds good.”

Ning Fan nodded and kept his ancient sword, descending onto the summit of the Profound Heaven Realm’s cloud mountain.

He was also unwilling to bully a Void Glimpse Stage cultivator of the Profound Heaven Palace using his powerful cultivation base and ruin his relationship with Yun Bushu.

The two of them entered the inner part of the mountain. Everyone on the cloud mountain sighed emotionally.

“I didn’t expect that the dignified Profound Heaven Palace Lord would actually surrender without hesitation... However, he made a wise decision. With his cultivation base, he certainly wouldn’t last a single round with White-Robed Marquis.”

“*Sigh* It’s such a waste that we did not have the luck of spectating a fight between Void Refinement Realm experts after rushing to the Profound Heaven Realm... Anyway, it’s better we look for a teleportation formation at once and head over to the next realm and wait for White-Robed Marquis’ arrival!”

On the cloud mountain, a handsome young man was filled with dejection. He was the prodigy of the Profound Heaven Palace as well as Yun Bushu's adopted son – Yun Niansu.

“Nobody is worthy of being the strongest of the current generation of prodigies in the Rain World except him... Ning Fan, huh... I am not as good as him... But I just don't understand why Father wants to see him...”

...

Inside the mountain, Ning Fan passed through the formation along with Luo Jun and entered the palace, heading directly to the main hall.

Luo Jun was smiling apologetically throughout the way as he could not mess with someone formidable like Ning Fan.

The Rain Ancestor's stele which was nine hundred zhang* (3.33m per zhang) was emanating rain intent that could soak everything.

Luo Jun pointed at the rain stele and began introducing it to Ning Fan.

“Hehe. White-Robed Marquis, please have a look. This is the rain stele of my Profound Heaven Palace. White-Robed Marquis must be cautious when you study it to avoid getting yourself injured... Er. Y-Y... Your Highness!”

Luo Jun was suddenly shocked halfway into his introduction. He instantly cupped his fists and bowed.

A young man clothed in rags which made him look like a beggar gradually walked out from behind the rain stele.

The man's face was unshaven and had messy hair like wild grass. His facial features, however, were extremely good-looking while his presence was full of manliness.

His expression looked free and easy, as if nothing in the world could perturb him.

He did not reveal any of his qi. Those who did not know him would have no idea of his exact cultivation base. Ning Fan, however, could sense a vigorous aura force coming from him that was equivalent to an expert at the Second Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm!

He was the one and only third prince of the Rain Palace – Yun Bushu!

“Aiya Aiya. We’ve met once again... When we met in the Sinister Sparrow Sect last time, you were still an insignificant Harmonious Spirit Realm cultivator. It is quite unexpected for you to actually reach where you are right now after only fifty years... Er... Oh yes. My memory is not too good. What’s your name again... White... White... White...”

“It’s White-Robed Marquis...” Luo Jun reminded him with a light tone.

“Yes. Indeed. It’s White... White... White what? Aiya. I’ve forgotten it again. My memory has been deteriorating every day and it’s difficult for me to remember anything at all...”

Yun Bushu patted his back and burst into laughter. He was still as blunt and reckless as he was back in the day.

When his carefree eyes fell upon the blue jade around Ning Fan’s neck, they suddenly turned stern.

“Blue Bridge Jade Pendant?! The jade pendant is in your hands as expected! Good kid. You’ve actually managed to hoodwink me in the past!”

Yun Bushu kept his smile and put on a solemn look on his face.

With a wave of his hand, a strong gust of wind directly carried Luo Jun away, sending him out of the mountain.

“I have something I want to ask you! Where did this jade pendant come from?!” Yun Bushu stood with his hands clasped behind his back. His jolly and easygoing side was no longer present in his face.

Ning Fan stared at Yun Bushu indifferently without having the slightest hint of fear.

He was not surprised that Yun Bushu would recognize this jade pendant.

When he spied on Yun Ruowei’s thoughts that day, he already knew that this jade was the Blue Bridge Jade Pendant.

Even though the Blue Bridge Jade Pendant was an ancient item, it served no other purpose other than being a keepsake of a promise of love between Dao Companions.

When Yun Tianjue and Ning Qian pledged their love for each other in the past, they both made a vow on their Blue Bridge Jade Pendants. No outsider knew about it.

In other words, those who knew the meaning behind this jade pendant were not outsiders.

When Yun Bushu searched for this jade pendant in Yue Country in the past, his objective was different from the Rain Sovereign.

The Rain Sovereign was looking for someone who could threaten his life. Yun Bushu, however, was looking for his brother’s wife and son.

Neither Yun Ruowei nor Yun Bushu were outsiders. In Yun Ruowei’s thoughts, Yun Bushu and Yun Tianjue had a friendship forged through life and death situations...

“I can tell you about how I got this jade pendant. However, I want to know why Yun Tianjue lost his memories and why Ning Qian went missing!”

Ning Fan’s eyes also became unusually somber.

Even if Yun Bushu did not come to look for him today, he would still look for a chance to see him.

He fought against the eight palaces to learn the Rain Ancestor's technique and locate his mother.

Apart from that, he also wanted to know the truth!

Who exactly sucked his blood dry and made Ning Qian mysteriously disappear!

"You really are... their child..." When Yun Bushu heard Ning Fan's questions, he seemed to have realized something immediately and his face was suddenly filled with a mixture of joy and disappointment.

He felt joy because he found Ning Fan. He felt disappointment because he understood what Ning Fan was implying.

Just like him, Ning Fan did not know where Ning Qian was... and had no idea what actually happened that year...

"I'm not too sure about what had happened that year. Or should I say, no one in the Rain World could be sure... No one knew how Ning Qian went missing. However, I personally witnessed why Big Brother lost his memories... That day, I saw a seven-colored light which soared into the sky with the figure of an old man among the lights... It's him. He's the one who erased Big Brother's memories!"

Rage gradually filled Yun Bushu's face. He had never hated anyone like this before. That mysterious old man with the seven colors, however, was absolutely despicable!

"There was another person who travelled together with that old man with the seven colors. He was the deceased prince of the Rain Palace – The Fourth Prince!"

Chapter 547: Wiping Out The Heavenly Cloud Country (3)

"An old man with seven colors of light... Who is he?!"

Ning Fan already had a guess in his mind. Even though he does not know yet the truth behind the past event, he surmised that the people who plotted against Ning Qian and completely extracted his blood were probably the fourth prince and the old man with seven colors of light.

As such, it was clearly reasonable as to why Yun Tianjue would be so angry to the point of murdering the fourth prince. However, who exactly was that old man with seven colors of light...?

"I don't know. I don't know who he is. Moreover, I can't even see his face. I only know that he's strong, very strong. He certainly isn't a cultivator of the Mortal Realm... However, if he is a cultivator of the Upper Realm, he should hold no grudges against any of the cultivators in the Mortal Realm. Why would he risk violating the heavenly rules and attack cultivators of our realm?!" Yu Bushu's eyes blazed with anger.

"Elder Brother's memories were erased. However, what was erased along with his memories were his seven emotions... It made him forget that he had a wife and a child. From then onward, he never smiled or cried... Everyone said that he gave up his emotions to cultivate the Dao of Swords. In fact, it is completely false. Someone had permanently erased his emotions and memories... After he lost his memories, you and your mother went missing. Perhaps it's also a part of the fourth prince and the old man's plot..."

"You should be able to see what kind of intent realm that I am comprehending, right?" Yu Bushu shifted his gaze to Ning Fan and asked.

"If I am not mistaken, the intent realm that you are comprehending should be the Intent Realm of Forgetfulness which is a divine intent... Because you've cultivated this intent realm, your memories will become weaker as your comprehension in this intent realm deepens. When you fully grasp this intent realm one day, you might even forget who you are..." Ning Fan answered.

His intent realm was memory while Yun Bushu's intent realm was forgetting...

"Precisely. What I've comprehended is the Divine Intent of Forgetfulness. The reason why I learned this divine intent was because I want to find a way of restoring my memories by forgetting them and then help my elder brother regain his memories."

“Even though my elder brother and I aren’t related by blood, he still treated me like his own younger brother. Thus, I regarded him like my elder brother too. As long as he can remember everything, nothing else matters to me even if I will lose all of my memory! As long as I can make him smile again, I won’t mind sacrificing my life!”

“However, one thousand years have passed and I still have yet to find a way to help him recover his memories... I heard that Thunder Sovereign Bu Zhou is skilled in the White Lightning Memory Extinguisher Technique as well as abilities that can restore one’s memories... Unfortunately, he died ten thousand years ago. I’m afraid there is no one else in the Rain World who can help my elder brother regain his memories...”

Yun Bushu closed his eyes and sighed continuously.

Ning Fan, on the other hand, remained silent all throughout.

He originally thought that the people who harmed him and his mother in the past were from the Rain Palace and he would even kill that person even if he was the Rain Sovereign.

Judging from what he heard today, the people who harmed his mother and him in the past were the fourth prince and an old man with seven colors of light instead...

However, did the Rain Sovereign really have nothing to do with it...?

Who exactly was that old man...?

Ning Fan frowned. The truth behind what happened a thousand years ago was too hard to investigate.

Compared to it, the thing of utmost importance to him right now was to master the Rain Ancestor’s technique and look for his mother within the Central State’s territory.

He did not have a close father and son relationship with Yun Tianjue. He mostly felt some admiration and gratitude for him.

He also did not have a close mother and son relationship with Ning Qian... However, his mother had given him her own blood which he had lost which gave him a new chance at life. Therefore, he had to find his mother no matter what... It was something that he must do...

“You haven’t told me where this blue jade pendant came from, have you?” Yun Bushu asked.

“This blue jade pendant... I was sealed within a demon cocoon for a thousand years. This jade pendant was something my mother left behind to me.”

Ning Fan recalled every scene in the Weeping Blood Forest which he saw in the illusory dream realm and went silent without telling anything else to Yun Bushu.

Yun Bushu sighed.

He did not mention Ning Qian’s whereabouts. Apparently, he also does not know where she currently is...

Yun Bushu studied Ning Fan again and said, “I see... No wonder your bone age seems extremely strange. So it turns out that you have been hidden from fate under the help of the demon cocoon, huh... Awakening after slumbering for one thousand years... Well, not everyone has the chance to slumber inside a demon cocoon for one thousand years.”

“If I have a choice, I would rather give up the chance of slumbering for one thousand years...”

Agony suddenly struck Ning Fan’s heart, making him go quiet again.

He had already found out a little about the truth from Yun Bushu but he did not have the intention to talk to him about the old days.

He still clearly remembered his original objective of coming to the Profound Heaven Palace and that was to study their rain stele.

“Third Prince, I still have something I need to take care of. If there’s time, I’ll have a talk with you next time. Now, I must comprehend the mystery behind the rain stele. I hope you won’t tell anybody about what we’ve discussed today, including Yun Tianjue.”

“You called me ‘Third Prince’ but you called my elder brother ‘Yun Tianjue’. *Cough* That’s really cold and distant... Anyway, it’s fine. Regarding what we’ve talked about today, I won’t tell anyone. You can proceed to study the rain stele now. I won’t disturb you. I’m going to find somebody to gamble! In the ten realms of today’s Heavenly Cloud Realm, many places have set up gambling houses to bet whether you, the Scarlet Heaven Palace Lord, can defeat the other eight palace lords or not. Hehe. I’m pretty confident in you. That being so, I’m going to bet you’ll win. I suppose I’ll be able to earn quite a lot of immortal jade this time. Hehe. I’ll take my leave now!”

Yun Bushu smiled greedily like a ruffian. His body swayed and then he already disappeared in a ray of light.

Ning Fan helplessly shook his head.

I’m being put to the gambling table again, huh...?

He did not study the rain stele immediately. Instead, he asked Luo You within his mind.

“Little You Er, have you ever heard of an expert whose body emanates seven-colored light in the Four Heavens?”

“Seven-colored light? That probably isn’t light but the color of luck. ‘The seven colors of luck appear like a rainbow’... Generally, only immortal emperors can form the seven-colored luck. Well, some true immortals might encounter special opportunities but it’s already very rare for there to be one who manages to form three-colored luck in the Three Realms of the True Immortal Realm... That person who plotted against your parents should undoubtedly be an immortal emperor. However, there are tons of immortal emperors in the Four Heavens. With just this clue alone, it’s difficult to find out that person’s identity...”

“An immortal emperor, huh...”

Ning Fan then stood below the rain stele of the Profound Heaven Palace in silence for a long time.

Only when the tidal surge of emotions inside of him calmed down did he spread out his spirit sense and begin studying the rain stele.

After an incense stick of time, he turned around to leave. Just as he was about to depart, his body began emanating a thick and heavy battle intent again.

He flew out of the inner part of the mountain and stepped on his ancient golden sword, heading straight to the eighth realm.

The eight realm of the Heavenly Cloud Country – Altering Heaven Realm!

The Altering Heaven Realm had many female cultivators with even more body cultivators. Yu Chong Er's master was a female Void Fragmentation Realm expert who commanded the Altering Heaven Palace – Yun Qingge. Not only has that lady's magic power reached the First Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm but her body refining realm had also attained the First Heavenly Layer of the Nirvana Body Refining Realm.

The palace lord of the Altering Heaven Palace was called Fairy Yun Zhi. Her magic power was at the Void Inquiry Stage but her body refining realm had already reached the peak of the Third Level of the Golden Body Refining Realm. Just by relying on the strength of her body techniques, she could overpower ordinary Void Pierce Stage cultivators.

Ning Fan travelled at top speed all the way, dashing straight toward the cloud mountain of the Altering Heaven Realm while passing by countless cultivation cities.

Gradually, the cloud mountain became visible in the distance. On the summit of that mountain, a lady with a cold expression arrogantly stood there. She looked like she was in her late twenties. She was clad in a blood-colored battle armor and her presence exuded golden rays which reached ten thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) away.

A cultivator with the Golden Body Refining Realm!

She was the one and only palace lord of the Altering Heaven Palace!

Ning Fan stashed his ancient sword away and stood above the sea of clouds, looking at the cloud mountain below him with a frown. He seemed to have discovered something which prevented him from advancing.

The moment he arrived, an uproar erupted across the entire cloud mountain!

“White-Robed Marquis has arrived! This is his fifth battle in his mission to challenge the other eight palaces in the Heavenly Cloud Country. Can he actually come out victorious in the end?!”

Palace Lord Yun Zhi patted her storage pouch and took out a formation token. In an instant, layers of cloud light began spreading from the cloud mountain.

When the formation light passed by, each of the cultivators felt that their body had been weakened and they found it extremely difficult to regulate their magic power. One after another, they cried in surprise.

“This is a magic-disabling grand formation! It’s a unique grand formation that restricts the circulation of a cultivator’s magic power!”

“From its formation light, I’m afraid it has already reached the Peak Mortal Void Realm. Even an Absolute Void Stage expert will find it hard to use their magic power if they accidentally get trapped in the formation... Is it possible that Palace Lord Yun Zhi is planning on engaging White-Robed Marquis in close combat within the formation?!”

“From the information I gathered, White-Robed Marquis is an ancient devil. He can be peerless among Void Inquiry Stage experts with just his physical strength. When it comes to physical strength, however, Palace Lord Yun Zhi is much stronger. She can even defeat experts at the Void Pierce Stage. If White-Robed Marquis enters the grand formation and fights her in hand-to-hand combat, his chances of winning are quite slim...”

Ning Fan merely casted a quick glance at the grand formation and then said with a clear voice.

“The only reason I came here is the rain stele!”

“I’ve heard about the strength of White-Robed Marquis’ ancient devil body. I invite White-Robed Marquis to enter the formation and fight against me. If you can defeat me with your physical strength, I will naturally bring you to the rain stele of my Altering Heaven Palace! So, do you dare to step into the formation?!”

When Yun Zhi took a lotus step, she was already standing above the sea of clouds. Standing within the layers of formations, her beautiful eyes flashed with battle intent.

Ning Fan did not say anything and made his decision clear through his actions as he also jumped into the formation light.

Since the formation light restricted one’s magic power, he would just engage Yun Zhi in hand-to-hand combat. He was not afraid of her at all.

“Since White-Robed Marquis has entered the formation, I won’t pull my punches. Void Technique, Cloud Phoenix!”

Yun Zhi’s body brightly shone with golden light and her gentle fist seemed to have turned pure gold. Standing far away from Ning Fan, she threw a punch toward him.

As soon as she hurled her punch, the shadow of a white phoenix appeared behind her arm.

The sea of clouds within the vicinity of three hundred thousand li* (500m per li) turned into countless shadows of snow-white phoenix.

Each of the phoenix shadows shattered and disintegrated one after another, transforming into an unimaginable force which condensed into twenty-one gigantic cloud fists which rushed at Ning Fan at high speed.

Each of the gigantic fists was comparable to a Void Glimpse Stage attack.

When the force of twenty-one fists combines into one, even a common Void Pierce Stage expert might not necessarily be able to withstand it.

“This is my strongest attack. Even an ordinary expert at the Void Pierce Stage...”

She said with a confident smile on her face. At the next moment, however, her expression froze.

Ning Fan’s body gave off a dark golden light while exuding immensely thick devil qi. In an instant, he transformed into a six thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall giant in black armor!

The black-armored giant threw out twenty-one consecutive punches, breaking every single one of the cloud phoenix fists. Then, he let out a roar that was as deafening as thunder!

It was a Reckless Devil!

The giant then released an extremely frightening qi which suddenly instilled fear in Yun Zhi.

It was the feeling of being weaker! Yun Zhi’s body refining realm was not weak but when she was faced against a true ancient devil, she was intimidated by the devil might of the Reckless Devil, making her breathless!

“This is... the might of an ancient devil!?”

Yun Zhi’s face turned pale. She hurriedly raised her head and bit the tip of her tongue to suppress her fear. Right afterward, she also shook her body and transformed into a six thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall female giant that was clad in blood-red armor.

The female giant’s body glowed with golden light. In the next instant, she pounced on her opponent and struck him continuously with her punches. The force behind her attacks broke the mountains and rivers in the area!

The Reckless Devil did not take a single step back at all. He suddenly raised his hands and started throwing punches at the female giant. One punch, ten punches, one hundred punches!

Bang *Bang* *Bang*

After exchanging one hundred blows, the bones of the female giant's fists were completely shattered and she suffered extremely serious injuries. She was already at a disadvantage. Fresh blood flowed from her body whereas the Reckless Devil remained unscathed!

After making a loud sigh, Yun Zhi got out of her giant form and immediately took a pill to suppress her internal injuries. Then, she cupped her fists toward the Reckless Devil and said with a self-deprecating tone.

"I am not White-Robed Marquis' match. Thank you for showing mercy to me just now..."

As the Altering Heaven Palace Lord, she still lost to Ning Fan even after she had activated the magic-disabling formation and fought him using just their body refining techniques which was an area she was the most proficient in!

All she could do was surrender!

...

In the ninth realm of the Heavenly Cloud Country – Great Heaven Realm!

The palace lord of the Great Heaven Palace, Lu Yu, was a sword cultivator that was unrivalled at the Void Pierce Stage.

He had cultivated the Dao for nine thousand years, putting all of his effort into cultivating sword techniques. He even had the chance to learn from Yun Tianjue personally several times. With his skills in sword techniques, he could even put up a fight against Absolute Void Stage experts!

It had already been three days since he stood at the summit of the cloud mountain of the Great Heaven Palace!

His white hair flew in the air while his gray robes fluttered. He carried a purple sandalwood sword box on his back while his eyes were closed. Each of them had a scary sword cut.

He was a blind sword cultivator!

When the sea of clouds began to rumble, he already sensed the hidden sword intent from Ning Fan without even the need to look at him and knew that his opponent had arrived.

“You are White-Robed Marquis, huh! A mere young man like you can actually cultivate to this level at the age of nine hundred years old. You’re truly extraordinary.” Lu Yu’s voice was rough and deep but it was imbued with a sword intent that was as calm as the clouds.

As soon as he finished speaking, the cloud light within several hundred thousand li* (500m per li) turned into sword shadows and faintly disappeared.

“So you are the Great Heaven Palace Lord... You destroyed your own eyes just to comprehend the sword. You really are obsessed with the Dao of Swords. Others comprehend swords using their eyes and control their swords using their senses. You, on the other hand, comprehend the sword with your heart and wield your swords using clouds. Wherever your heart goes, the clouds will follow. There is nothing you can’t turn into swords. Even if it’s a piece of cloud or a droplet of rain, you can even turn them into flying swords and kill your opponent...”

Ning Fan kept his ancient golden sword and descended on the cloud mountain, pointing out the secret behind Lu Yu’s sword techniques.

Lu Yu was slightly taken aback as he did not expect that Ning Fan would see through his sword techniques with one glance. Therefore, he could not help but feel greater respect for him.

“You have good eyes, White-Robed Marquis. However, with just your naked eyes, you won’t be able to completely see through the secrets of my sword techniques! If you wish to have a look at my rain stele, you have to defeat me first!”

Chi

Lu Yu's body suddenly scattered into countless sword rays. At the next moment, his body reformed again at the cloud mountain, becoming like a shadow of sword light and facing off against Ning Fan from afar!

Countless cultivators around the cloud mountain were bewildered. Even Ning Fan felt a bit surprised.

"Sword Light Body Transformation!"

Lu Yu had actually learned the Sword Light Body Transformation Technique!

After transforming himself into the shadow of sword light, his aura force sharply rose. As he stepped onto the Ocean of Void, his sword intent became thick like a sea of clouds. It even made experts at the Absolute Void Stage raise their eyebrows in amazement!

"White-Robed Marquis, you can't win against me. It's better you leave at once!"

"Well, that might not be the case!"

Ning Fan took a step forward and void sword shadows began emerging from around his body.

Just as the void sword rays appeared, Lu Yu's face, which originally looked calm and relaxed, was immediately filled with shock.

His sword light incarnation that was almost immune to all kinds of attacks had actually felt a sense of danger from the void sword rays.

Minor Void Swords! It was the technique which made Marquis You Gui famous when he was still at the Void Fragmentation Realm. However, after the battle with the one hundred sects, Ning Fan had stolen it using his devil eye and learned it in his heart.

Minor Void Swords was a technique that turned sword shadows into void which could even cut a cultivator's incarnation!

Lu Yu was hesitating and pondering how he should face Ning Fan's void sword technique. That technique was rather troublesome which could also break his sword light incarnation.

All of a sudden, five child-like voices echoed from the sword box on his back.

"Little Yu Yu, you don't have to be afraid. This elder sister will help you break his sword momentum!"

"This second elder sister will help you break his sword shadow!"

"This third elder sister will help you break his sword intent!"

"This fourth elder sister will help you break his sword formation!"

"This F...F...F..."

"She is stuttering. Ignore her. She is trying to say that she will help you break that man's flying swords! If he sends one, she will break one!"

No one knew what the sword box contained. The tone of those five individuals sounded extremely arrogant.

"Don't forget. It is the five of us who taught you the Sword Light Body Transformation Technique. Humph! As long as this man is a sword cultivator, he certainly won't be our match!"

Lu Yu's old face turned red. He was really embarrassed to be called 'Little Yu Yu' by several young girls while he was already nine thousand years old.

If the five young girls act together, Ning Fan certainly would not be a fearsome opponent. However, Lu Yu... did not plan to achieve victory with outside help!

As a sword cultivator, the sword in their hands was their only way to achieve victory and they disdained resorting to unorthodox ways!

“I want to battle against him with my own capabilities! Because I... am a sword cultivator! The result is secondary. Most importantly, my sword heart must not back away in fear!”

“Bah!” Instantly, the five young girls inside the sword box booed contemptuously.

“Little Yu Yu really is too rigid. We might as well find a new human pet to play with.”