

## Grasping 561

Chapter 561:

The Limitless Pavilion inn the east of the Vast Cold City was ten thousand li\* (500m per li) aay from the city north.

With the Gold Core Realm speed of that middle-aged scholar, he had to fly for one entire day at full speed in order to reach there.

Luckily, Ning Fan was with him and he naturally did not need to spend one whole day on travelling.

As Ning Fan just flicked his sleeve, a massive amount of magic power carried the middle-aged scholar away. The both of them instantly traversed ten thousand li\* (500m per li) and appeared outside the Limitless Pavilion.

“D-Divine Transformation Realm old monster!” The scholar was scared half to death by Ning Fan’s speed.

Based on what he knew, those who could travel across ten thousand li\* (500m per li) instantly were at least cultivators at the Divine Transformation Realm.

Only old monsters at that level could use teleportation techniques which allowed them to travel so far instantaneously!

He originally guessed that Ning Fan was a Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. Now, however, it seemed to him that Ning Fan was at least an old monster at the Early Divine Transformation Realm!

This man is actually a Divine Transformation Realm old monster! I actually am able to be a guide for such a powerful old monster!

The middle-aged scholar was deeply shocked but his eyes were burning with excitement.

He bowed toward Ning Fan courteously and pointed at the ten thousand zhang\* (3.33m per zhang) pavilion in front of them. Then, he said, "Senior, please look.

Filler Word

"If I make a single step on the Dao Stairs, I'll lose a day of life, huh..."

Ning Fan was first at first. After that, his face was filled with hesitation. When his eyes scanned across the area, he discovered an ancient silver stone stele at the foot of the mountain. The stele was carved with five letters which were in Divine Seal Writing.

"Each step costs a day!"

Indeed. Just as what he expected, every step that of the Dao Stairs would require one day of life.

"Could it a test about the Heart of Dao...?"

Ning Fan's eyes turned gloomy and took the second step on the stairs.

After he ascended to the second step of the stairs, his lifespan was shortened by one day again.

He was not frightened by the Dao Stairs that would shorten one's lifespan. Instead, he stopped ascending the stairs and started pondering.

As he still had twenty thousand years of life, a few days of life were not worth mentioning.

That being so, he continued ascended the stairs. Every step he took would drain away one day of his life.

When he stood at the 365th step of the stairs, he had lost one year of life in total.

When he climbed to the 730th step of the stairs, he had lost two years of life in total.

The higher he ascended, the deeper his eyes looked.

When he arrived at the 3650th step of the stairs, his lifespan was already shortened by ten years.

At the mountain slope beside the Dao Stairs he was standing, there was a second ancient stele that was also carved with five letters.

“Each step costs a year!”

Ning Fan frowned.

Is it possible that every step from now on will no longer reduce my life by one day but by one year instead...?

If every step ahead would shorten one’s lifespan by a year, even Ning Fan would need to think twice before acting

After hesitating for a while, he took a step forward and ascended the 3651th step.

Instantly, one year of his life was drained away!

Ning Fan ignored the amount of life he had lost and took two hundred steps consecutively. When he stood at the 3850th step, his life was reduced by two hundred years.

Then, he saw the third stele standing at the slope beside the staircase. It was also carved with five letters.

“Each step costs ten years!”

Ning Fan wondered inwardly.

Could it be that I have to give up ten years of life for every step I take from now on?

He gazed forward following the trail of the staircase and saw that he would encounter the fourth stele after making two hundred steps. With his vision, he could vaguely see that the stele was also carved with five letters – each step costs one hundred years!

For every two hundred steps ahead, there would still be the fifth stele, the sixth stele, the seventh stele, the eighth stele and so on... However, he was unable to clearly see the details on the steles.

Ning Fan closed his eyes and doubts started to creep into his mind.

Ascending the Dao Stairs of this Earth Stage will actually shorten one’s lifespan. Moreover, the higher I go, the more lifespan I will lose. It’s obviously unwise to continue climbing up the stairs.

Even if Ning Fan possessed twenty thousand years of life, if a single step cost one hundred years or even one thousand years of life, he would die of old age at this stage...

Should I give up? Since this stage reduces one’s lifespan, why not giving up this stage...

However, why will one lose their lifespan by climbing the Dao Stairs...? What exactly is the meaning behind the Rain Ancestor’s intention of setting up this stage...?

Ning Fan closed his eyes and dismissed all the miscellaneous thoughts, emptying his mind. His ears could only hear the wind brushing against his face.

His mind became quieter. Gradually, he could not even hear the wind.

Slowly, he sensed a mysterious and enchanting power that was hidden beneath the Dao Mountain.

The power was extremely abstruse and it seemed to possess the Dao Power that could control life and death...

“Life and death...”

Ning Fan raised his head and stared at the endless Dao Stairs and his eyes became deep, as if he could see through everything.

At the first half of the Dao Stairs, every jade stair was surrounded with death qi which could seize one’s life force.

However, starting from the fifth stele, the jade stairs were filled with life qi which could replenish one’s life force.

The reason why the Rain Ancestor set up this stage was naturally not to seize the lifespan of the descendants.

Every step in the first four steles might take away one’s lifespan but every step in the final four steles would return their lifespan.

From life to death and from death to life... By going through this process, a cultivator would be able to comprehend life and death.

This was an opportunity, an opportunity to comprehend life and death, the essence to ascend the heavens and become an immortal!

If one does not have a firm Dao Heart, they would probably give up this stage outright upon discovering that they would lose their lifespan for every step they climb.

Only those who had firm Dao Heart would persist in climbing the stairs. And when they reach the fifth stele, they would regain their lifespan and obtain an opportunity to comprehend life and death.

“One will age gradually for every step that made in the first four steles. Each step will draw them closer to their doom... In this phase, there is the Great Dao of Death.”

Ning Fan moved his fingers to perform hand seals, displaying the Immemorial Fishing Lines.

Strands of black fishing lines revolved around his fingers. At the same time, his eyes also turned pure black eerily. His presence was filled with death qi.

One step, two steps, three steps... Ning Fan continued climbing to the top of the mountain step by step. For every step he made, his lifespan would reduce by ten years.

However, he did not stop his pace, as if he felt nothing about the loss in his lifespan. After making two hundred steps, he arrived at the fourth stele but he had already lost two thousand years of life.

Starting from his current position, every step of stairs would cost him one hundred years of life.

Ning Fan did not have any hesitation and he began climbing the stairs one after another, moving toward the fifth stele.

One step cost him one hundred years of life. Ten steps cost him one thousand years of life. One hundred steps cost him ten thousand years of life...

There were 200 steps of Dao Stairs between the fourth stele and the fifth stele. In other words, one would need to lose twenty thousand years of life.

Usually, everyone who had arrived at this point would probably back off in fear. In Ning Fan's mind, however, there was no doubt or fear at all!

One step, two steps, three steps... Ning Fan's lifespan was draining away for every step he made and his appearance started to age.

When a cultivator's lifespan was about to finish, they would gradually show their age.

As Ning Fan's life force was draining away rapidly, the death qi around him became thicker and thicker.

From being a young man, his appearance gradually became like a middle-aged man. Then, he continued to age and became an old man who was at his final years of life.

His black hair turned gray. Age spots and wrinkles surfaced on his face while his body started to hunch over, forming a hunchback. Only his eyes, however, were pure black all the time. They looked frighteningly calm.

His flesh also started to wilt while his Sea of Consciousness dried up. His body felt like it was going to reduce to ashes...

Only his Dao Heart, however, was as solid as a rock. It was not wavered by anything at all!

After making two hundred steps, Ning Fan reached the fifth stele. The current him was already on the brink of death.

His eyes, however, looked deeper than before. At this very moment when he was about to die, his feeling about death was particularly profound!

"This is death!"

Ning Fan examined his dantian inwardly. In his dantian, a strand of pure black death qi was gradually forming!

Qi of Death! It was the power that countless rogue immortal s had spent their entire lives cultivating and comprehending! If one wishes to become an immortal, they must first experience life and death!

It was not true that one could gain immortality by becoming an immortal. In fact, only those who live a long life without dying deserved to be called as immortals!

There was only a strand of Qi of Death in Ning Fan's body. However, it was like a seed that planted the Dao Comprehension of Death in Ning Fan's heart.

If Ning Fan's Dao Comprehension of Death increases in the future, this seed would eventually germinate and grow and become his aid in becoming an immortal!

"It isn't a bad deal by exchanging twenty thousand years of life for this comprehension. However, I still have to get back the lifespan that I've lost from this Dao Mountain!"

Ning Fan's appearance was old and his voice was croaky but his eyes, however, were firm and stubborn. He scanned across the fifth stele. The stele was carved with five words in the Divine Seal Writing.

"One step returns one day"!

Starting from the fifth stele, the Dao Mountain would return the life that a cultivator had lost from the beginning for every step they make!

Ning Fan dismissed the death qi around him and performed a series a hand seals to display the Fishing Net of Creation.

This technique contained the Dao Power of Life. The moment he used this technique, his eyes instantly turned pure white and his presence was filled with a dense power of life force.

One step, two steps, three steps...

Ning Fan climbed all the way up, passing by the sixth, seventh and eighth stele.

One step one day, one step one years, one step ten years, one step one hundred years... The life he had lost in the previous journey was slowly returning to him.

His appearance gradually turned younger. His complexion slowly regained its vitality. His eyes were becoming deeper, just like the ocean.

Meanwhile, a strand of pure white life qi was forming in his dantian!

The moment the white qi was formed, the black and white qi in his dantian intertwined with each other, forming into a ring that was half-black and half-white. It then hovered above his primordial spirit.

His primordial spirit in the dantian opened his eyes and reached out his two tiny hands to grab the two strands of qi and swallow them into his abdomen.

Immediately, that miniature primordial spirit put on a smile of satisfaction.

“Excellent!”

At this moment, Ning Fan’s aura force rose. The black and white qi flashed in his eyes!

Standing on the eight thousand and five hundredth step of the Dao Stairs, Ning Fan’s lips curved upward into a smile.

After the formation of the Life and Death Q in his body, he did not get a brand-new ability. His magic power also was not improved. His Dao Heart, on the other hand, was unprecedentedly clear while his Dao Comprehension became more profound.

“The Rain Ancestor’s intention of leaving the Dao Stairs behind for the descendants of the Rain World to comprehend life and death was great. However, I just wonder what else is at the higher part of the mountain...”

Ning Fan glanced sideways to look at the ninth stele on the mountainside. It was also carved with five letters.

“Kill a person in ten steps”!

Deep in thoughts, he climbed ten steps slowly. Upon reaching the tenth step a golden light flashed before him and the silhouette of a burly man in golden armors appeared.

The burly man in golden armors had Void Glimpse Stage cultivation base. It was produced by a trace of sovereign qi left behind by the Rain Ancestor.

Moreover, this burly man existed due to the cloud mountain and was formed due to the sovereign qi. Thus, he would not disperse easily unless he is attacked by a sovereign qi attack.

The burly man had a blank expression. The moment he emerged, he instantly roared at Ning Fan coldly.

“Get off the Dao Mountain!”

Ning Fan narrowed his eyes. Since he possessed sovereign qi, he naturally had ways to kill that shadow in golden armor.

However, if he were to do that, he would be exposing his sovereign qi...

Perhaps Revered Sage was carefully observing the illusory realm right now, hoping to see the scene where Ning Fan eliminates the shadow using his sovereign qi.

Ning Fan shook his head.

If I wish to kill this golden-armored shadow, the only method probably is by using my sovereign qi.

However, the core test of this stage is one's Dao Heart. It isn't a test for one's abilities. Therefore, I might not necessarily need to kill this golden-armored shadow in order to clear this stage.

Ning Fan no longer paid any attention to that shadow. He continued moving forward directly and climbed the next jade stairs, trying to go past the golden-armored shadow.

The golden-armored shadow was infuriated. He turned around and hurled a punch at Ning Fan, aiming at his back.

Ning Fan directly summoned the Primordial Lightning Armor. He did not care about the fists from the golden-armored shadow at all.

As that punch was just equivalent to a Void Glimpse Stage attack, it could not break the defense of his Primordial Lightning Armor.

Ning Fan climbed up the stairs calmly. For every ten steps he made, a Void Glimpse Stage shadow in golden armors would appear but none of them could hurt him.

Ning Fan ignored every one of them. Gradually, it was unknown when all the shadows had disappeared...

What replaced them was all kinds of temptations. Shadows of heavenly ingredients and earthly treasures and figures of exquisite and alluring women would occasionally appear along the Dao Stairs.

Ning Fan walked all the way up the stairs. His Dao Heart was as firm as rocks. He did not spare a glance for those shadows.

As for this Dao Mountain, it did not seem to have a peak at all. No matter how long Ning Fan had walked, he also could not reach its end.

So this is the Dao Mountain. The Dao has no boundaries while the mountain had no summit. The path of cultivation itself is endless in the first place.

It's also difficult to say who is the strongest being on the cultivation path.

In the mortal realm, Vein Opening Realm cultivators are unrivalled celestial beings.

In low-grade cultivation countries, Gold Core Realm experts are regarded as old ancestors of a country.

In the Rain World, Void Fragmentation Realm experts are the sovereigns of the world.

In the Four Heavens, perhaps immortal emperors are the rulers.

However, immortal emperors aren't the strongest...

There is no peak in the path of cultivation. However, if one looks back at the path, which cultivation realm isn't a peak?

Today's beginning is yesterday's peak. Today's peak is the next year's starting point...

Ning Fan no longer raised his head and cast his eyes toward the top of the mountain. Instead, he lowered his head and stared at the path beneath his feet.

Slowly, the Dao Mountain no longer existed in front of his eyes. The Dao Stairs beneath his feet also disappeared.

After walking for an unknown amount of time, he suddenly stopped and raised his hand to pat his chest. With a faint smile, he muttered, "Dao Heart. The Dao is in the heart... The Dao Mountain itself does not have an end as the end isn't at the mountain peak but in one's heart!"

"If I make this place as the mountain peak, then here will be the mountain's summit!"

\*Chi\*

Ning Fan touched his glabella and starlight glinted. The Separation Slayer Sword appeared in his hand. Without hesitation, he raised that sword and slashed the Dao Mountain.

“He is... cutting the Dao!” Luo You suddenly cried out, as if she had just witnessed something astonishing.

Ning Fan had already discovered the true method of clearing this stage and that was to cut off the Dao Mountain. Then, wasn't the place where he was standing become the end of the mountain?

It was the correct way of clearing this stage. Moreover, it was an extremely important step for a true immortal to become an immortal emperor after cultivating for ages!

An immortal is someone who stands on top on the mountain while an immortal emperor must be someone who stands at the peak of the mountain.

Since there is no end in a cultivation path and no peak on the Dao Mountain, one has to cut the Dao in order to stand on the peak of the mountain! Only when one severs the unnecessary and unreachable Dao and keep the Dao beneath their feet can they become an immortal emperor!

Luo You was in disbelief that Ning Fan actually severed the Dao with a slash...

No one had ever told Ning Fan that one would need to cut the Dao in order to become an immoral emperor. He managed to figure it out based on his own power of understanding. It was truly frightening...

Obviously, only an immortal emperor was capable of severing the Dao. The current Ning Fan was still unable to cut off the Dao Mountain.

Even though his sword attack was strong and powerful, when it lanced on the Dao Mountain, it only caused the mountain to tremble slightly. After that, everything returned to normal.

Furthermore, his attack barely left any mark on the Dao Mountain...

“It’s so unfortunate. Although I have found the true method of clearing this stage, my current level is still far from enough to execute it...”

“The Rain Ancestor travelled across the Four Heavens and Nine Worlds unhindered. His capabilities could even impress immortal emperors. He left behind the Four Stages of Heaven and Earth. This Earth Stage perhaps was meant for the descendants of the Rain World to sever the Dao and become an immortal emperor...”

“Unfortunately, how would the Rain Ancestor be able to imagine that the Rain World would fall into today’s situation after his passing. In the Rain World, there isn’t an immortal. Besides, there are just a handful of Void Fragmentation Realm experts... I’m afraid no one in this world will be capable of severing this Dao Mountain.”

As soon as Ning Fan finished speaking, rays of dazzling light suddenly emerged behind him and sent him out of the illusory realm.

Chapter 562:

The moment the black-robed young man shattered the grand formation of the Vast Cold City, the city was filled with commotion. Cries of surprise drowned the atmosphere!

“T-This man... He is the young lord of the Flying Flower Valley – Du Yu, who is also known as ‘Flying Flower Marquis’!”

“What?! This man is Flying Flower Young Lord who commanded millions of bandit cultivators of the Flying Flower Valley? According to hearsay, he is the only personal disciple of the Vine Sovereign of the Western Tree Ocean. Even though he is just at the Void Inquiry Stage, he travels the Northern Tree Ocean unhindered. No one dares to mess with him at all. Even those Void Fragmentation Realm old monsters who never show themselves in the world also don’t dare to act against him rashly...”

“What?! This Du Yu actually is the only disciple of Vine Sovereign?! Vine Sovereign... He is the Tree Sovereign who rules the Western Tree Ocean. His cultivation level is at the Fifth Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm. He alone is strong enough to overpower anyone in the Northern Tree Ocean! Who will dare to provoke Du Yu since he has such a fearsome master?”

“As soon as Du Yu arrived, he shattered the grand formation of the Vast Cold City. I’m afraid his intention of coming here isn’t kind... Judging from what he said, someone in the city has actually killed the members of the Flying Flower Valley... I wonder who that is to have such courage to kill his men.

Filler Word

“If I make a single step on the Dao Stairs, I’ll lose a day of life, huh...”

Ning Fan was first at first. After that, his face was filled with hesitation. When his eyes scanned across the area, he discovered an ancient silver stone stele at the foot of the mountain. The stele was carved with five letters which were in Divine Seal Writing.

“Each step costs a day!”

Indeed. Just as what he expected, every step that of the Dao Stairs would require one day of life.

“Could it a test about the Heart of Dao...?”

Ning Fan’s eyes turned gloomy and took the second step on the stairs.

After he ascended to the second step of the stairs, his lifespan was shortened by one day again.

He was not frightened by the Dao Stairs that would shorten one’s lifespan. Instead, he stopped ascending the stairs and started pondering.

As he still had twenty thousand years of life, a few days of life were not worth mentioning.

That being so, he continued ascended the stairs. Every step he took would drain away one day of his life.

When he stood at the 365th step of the stairs, he had lost one year of life in total.

When he climbed to the 730th step of the stairs, he had lost two years of life in total.

The higher he ascended, the deeper his eyes looked.

When he arrived at the 3650th step of the stairs, his lifespan was already shortened by ten years.

At the mountain slope beside the Dao Stairs he was standing, there was a second ancient stele that was also carved with five letters.

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Ning Fan frowned.

Is it possible that every step from now on will no longer reduce my life by one day but by one year instead...?

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After hesitating for a while, he took a step forward and ascended the 3651th step.

Instantly, one year of his life was drained away!

Ning Fan ignored the amount of life he had lost and took two hundred steps consecutively. When he stood at the 3850th step, his life was reduced by two hundred years.

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Ning Fan wondered inwardly.

Could it be that I have to give up ten years of life for every step I take from now on?

He gazed forward following the trail of the staircase and saw that he would encounter the fourth stele after making two hundred steps. With his vision, he could vaguely see that the stele was also carved with five letters – each step costs one hundred years!

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Should I give up? Since this stage reduces one’s lifespan, why not giving up this stage...

However, why will one lose their lifespan by climbing the Dao Stairs...? What exactly is the meaning behind the Rain Ancestor’s intention of setting up this stage...?

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The power was extremely abstruse and it seemed to possess the Dao Power that could control life and death...

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However, starting from the fifth stele, the jade stairs were filled with life qi which could replenish one’s life force.

The reason why the Rain Ancestor set up this stage was naturally not to seize the lifespan of the descendants.

Every step in the first four steles might take away one’s lifespan but every step in the final four steles would return their lifespan.

From life to death and from death to life... By going through this process, a cultivator would be able to comprehend life and death.

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If one does not have a firm Dao Heart, they would probably give up this stage outright upon discovering that they would lose their lifespan for every step they climb.

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The golden-armored shadow was infuriated. He turned around and hurled a punch at Ning Fan, aiming at his back.

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As that punch was just equivalent to a Void Glimpse Stage attack, it could not break the defense of his Primordial Lightning Armor.

Ning Fan climbed up the stairs calmly. For every ten steps he made, a Void Glimpse Stage shadow in golden armors would appear but none of them could hurt him.

Ning Fan ignored every one of them. Gradually, it was unknown when all the shadows had disappeared...

What replaced them was all kinds of temptations. Shadows of heavenly ingredients and earthly treasures and figures of exquisite and alluring women would occasionally appear along the Dao Stairs.

Ning Fan walked all the way up the stairs. His Dao Heart was as firm as rocks. He did not spare a glance for those shadows.

As for this Dao Mountain, it did not seem to have a peak at all. No matter how long Ning Fan had walked, he also could not reach its end.

So this is the Dao Mountain. The Dao has no boundaries while the mountain had no summit. The path of cultivation itself is endless in the first place.

It's also difficult to say who is the strongest being on the cultivation path.

In the mortal realm, Vein Opening Realm cultivators are unrivalled celestial beings.

In low-grade cultivation countries, Gold Core Realm experts are regarded as old ancestors of a country.

In the Rain World, Void Fragmentation Realm experts are the sovereigns of the world.

In the Four Heavens, perhaps immortal emperors are the rulers.

However, immortal emperors aren't the strongest...

There is no peak in the path of cultivation. However, if one looks back at the path, which cultivation realm isn't a peak?

Today's beginning is yesterday's peak. Today's peak is the next year's starting point...

Ning Fan no longer raised his head and cast his eyes toward the top of the mountain. Instead, he lowered his head and stared at the path beneath his feet.

Slowly, the Dao Mountain no longer existed in front of his eyes. The Dao Stairs beneath his feet also disappeared.

After walking for an unknown amount of time, he suddenly stopped and raised his hand to pat his chest. With a faint smile, he muttered, "Dao Heart. The Dao is in the heart... The Dao Mountain itself does not have an end as the end isn't at the mountain peak but in one's heart!"

"If I make this place as the mountain peak, then here will be the mountain's summit!"

\*Chi\*

Ning Fan touched his glabella and starlight glinted. The Separation Slayer Sword appeared in his hand. Without hesitation, he raised that sword and slashed the Dao Mountain.

“He is... cutting the Dao!” Luo You suddenly cried out, as if she had just witnessed something astonishing.

Ning Fan had already discovered the true method of clearing this stage and that was to cut off the Dao Mountain. Then, wasn't the place where he was standing become the end of the mountain?

It was the correct way of clearing this stage. Moreover, it was an extremely important step for a true immortal to become an immortal emperor after cultivating for ages!

An immortal is someone who stands on top on the mountain while an immortal emperor must be someone who stands at the peak of the mountain.

Since there is no end in a cultivation path and no peak on the Dao Mountain, one has to cut the Dao in order to stand on the peak of the mountain! Only when one severs the unnecessary and unreachable Dao and keep the Dao beneath their feet can they become an immortal emperor!

Luo You was in disbelief that Ning Fan actually severed the Dao with a slash...

No one had ever told Ning Fan that one would need to cut the Dao in order to become an immoral emperor. He managed to figure it out based on his own power of understanding. It was truly frightening...

Obviously, only an immortal emperor was capable of severing the Dao. The current Ning Fan was still unable to cut off the Dao Mountain.

Even though his sword attack was strong and powerful, when it lanced on the Dao Mountain, it only caused the mountain to tremble slightly. After that, everything returned to normal.

Furthermore, his attack barely left any mark on the Dao Mountain...

“It’s so unfortunate. Although I have found the true method of clearing this stage, my current level is still far from enough to execute it...”

“The Rain Ancestor travelled across the Four Heavens and Nine Worlds unhindered. His capabilities could even impress immortal emperors. He left behind the Four Stages of Heaven and Earth. This Earth Stage perhaps was meant for the descendants of the Rain World to sever the Dao and become an immortal emperor...”

“Unfortunately, how would the Rain Ancestor be able to imagine that the Rain World would fall into today’s situation after his passing. In the Rain World, there isn’t an immortal. Besides, there are just a handful of Void Fragmentation Realm experts... I’m afraid no one in this world will be capable of severing this Dao Mountain.”

As soon as Ning Fan finished speaking, rays of dazzling light suddenly emerged behind him and sent him out of the illusory realm.

Even though he failed to sever the Dao Mountain and destroy the Earth Stage, he managed to discover the correct method of clearing this stage. Thus, he could also be deemed to have passed the stage.

In a flash, Ning Fan and Yun Daoku appeared in the Temple of Rain simultaneously.

All of a sudden, the entire temple was filled with cries of surprise.

“Oh my god! White-Robed Marquis actually managed to pass the Earth Stage! It’s extremely rare to have someone who managed to pass the Earth Stage successfully!”

“Indeed. The last time someone managed to get through this stage seems to be several hundred thousand years ago!”

“It’s already a rare occasion for common Void Refinement Realm cultivators to get through a single stage of the Four Stages of Heaven and Earth. White-Robed Marquis, on the other hand, has already passed two stages! According to rumors, he is also a Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Master. It probably

also isn't difficult for him to pass the third stage... It's indeed scary that the White-Robed Marquis can get through at least three stages today!"

"I wonder what prize the White-Robed Marquis will get after passing the Earth Stage!"

The Rain Sovereign's brows were drawn together. Through telepathy, he asked Revered Sage who was standing beside him.

"Did he reveal any sovereign qi when he encountered the golden-armored shadows in the Earth Stage?"

"No..." Revered Sage answered truthfully.

"Is that so... The third stage can't test anything about sovereign qi. It all rests on the fourth stage."

Ning Fan took out his palace lord token. After passing the stage this time, his merit points increased by one billion points again.

Countless silver light dots flickered in front of him suddenly. Those light dots then condensed into a treasure box made out of silver. The item that was stored inside the box seemed to be the prize of passing the Earth Stage.

Before the treasure box was opened, a massive wave of vigorous magic power flowed out from within, causing all old monsters in the temple to catch their breaths in anticipation.

Even the Rain Sovereign's countenance changed with surprise taking over his grim expression. It even made him cast the matter about sovereign qi to the back of his mind!

"This is...! This is...!" Countless old monsters started to breathe more heavily and quickly.

Ning Fan also was slightly shocked. He did not expect that the prize of getting through the Earth Stage would be such an excellent item.

It was a great item and he liked it very much. However, since he obtained the item in the public, it was unknown if it would incite others to seize it from him...

Everyone in the temple could already guess what was inside the box. Ning Fan also did not try to hide it. With a gentle sigh, he opened the treasure box.

The moment the lid of the box was opened, cold white mist immediately wafted out from within.

The item that was stored inside the box was a Dao fruit!

It was a Dao fruit at the level of rogue immortal that was frozen by a seventh grade cold qi!

The magic power that this Dao fruit contains was at least two million units!

It was an extremely tempting item even to old monsters at the level of the Rain Sovereign!

“White-Robed Marquis, if I may be so bold, will you be willing to exchange for some other things with me using this Dao fruit...!?” A few Void Pierce Stage old monsters were already unable to suppress their desire and expressed their intention to trade for that Dao fruit.

“I’m willing to use a seventh-grade immortal void flame to exchange for this Dao fruit!” Even Yun Zhongyan, who was a prince of the Rain Palace, had made an offer.

“...” Although the Rain Sovereign stayed silent, his eyes were also staring at the Dao fruit with desire.

Who would not want something that could allow them to obtain an additional of two million units of magic power...?!

“I’m sorry everyone. I’m not going to trade this Dao fruit for anything!”

Ning Fan kept the treasure box containing the Dao fruit and scanned across the temple with a gloomy look on his face. He stared at every prince, every Void Fragmentation Realm expert and the Rain Sovereign.

Chapter 563:

Vast Cold City is the largest trading city of the Northern Tree Ocean. There were one hundred thousand cultivation stalls set up in that city.

Guang Hanzi was nominally the city lord. Inwardly, however, the city was connected to the vital interests of tens of Void Refinement Realm forces.

Ning Fan killed Du Yu in the Vast Cold City, abducted Guang Hanzi and massacred the entire city. Within just a day, his infamy spread across the whole Northern Tree Ocean!

When 13 old monsters at the Absolute Void Stage and Void Fragmentation Realm arrived at the city, Ning Fan had already left the place, leaving behind an empty city!

Three days later, the Vine Sovereign of the Western Tree Ocean was informed about Du Yu's death. He was greatly infuriated and sent out countless experts to hunt Ning Fan down.

Ten days later, everywhere in the Western Tree Ocean and Northern Tree Ocean was filled with the wanted notice of Ning Fan.

"Murderer, Lu Bei, with a cultivation base at the Void Inquiry Stage, killed the Vine Sovereign's disciple at the Abyss Country of the Northern Tree Ocean. The Vine Sovereign is enraged and wants the entire Tree World to pursue this man! Whoever kills Lu Bei will be rewarded with ten billion immortal jade and ten bottles of Sixth Revolution Pills!"

The Eastern and Southern Tree Oceans, on the other hand, did not give a strict order to hunt Ning Fan down. Probably it was because the tree sovereign of the two areas were on bad terms with the Vine Sovereign.

Above a deserted tree mountain on the Northern Tree Ocean, Ning Fan was holding a wanted poster of himself in his hands. His expression turned cold.

After he had robbed the Vast Cold City, he immediately left that place and flew tens of cultivation countries away to avoid the pursuit of countless experts.

“I didn’t expect that I would be listed as wanted by the Vine Sovereign of the Western Tree Ocean. In this case, there will be some trouble for me to sneak into the Western Tree Ocean...”

The Fire Tree Clan resided in the Western Tree Ocean. It was the place where Ning Fan was prepared to go.

However, the Western Tree Ocean was the Vine Sovereign’s territory as well. As Ning Fan had killed Du Yu and enraged the Vine Sovereign, he probably would be pursued by countless cultivators instantly once he goes to the Western Tree Ocean...

In this case, he could not go to the Western Tree Ocean anymore. At the same time, the Northern Tree Ocean was also full of danger.

From the Vast Cold City, Ning Fan had looted twenty billion immortal jade, countless spiritual herbs, magic treasures and cultivation methods as well as four Void Refinement Realm Dao fruits.

Simultaneously, his actions had offended countless forces in the Northern Tree Ocean. According to his knowledge, there were countless forces in five hundred plus cultivation countries of the Northern Tree Ocean wished to kill him...

“For now, it is unsuitable to go to the Western Tree Ocean. Since I can stay in the Tree World for three years, I don’t need hurry to the Fire Tree Clan. It is also not suitable to stay in the Northern Tree Ocean for long. Now, there are already three Void Fragmentation Realm experts...”

Filler Words

“If I make a single step on the Dao Stairs, I’ll lose a day of life, huh...”

Ning Fan was first at first. After that, his face was filled with hesitation. When his eyes scanned across the area, he discovered an ancient silver stone stele at the foot of the mountain. The stele was carved with five letters which were in Divine Seal Writing.

“Each step costs a day!”

Indeed. Just as what he expected, every step that of the Dao Stairs would require one day of life.

“Could it a test about the Heart of Dao...?”

Ning Fan’s eyes turned gloomy and took the second step on the stairs.

After he ascended to the second step of the stairs, his lifespan was shortened by one day again.

He was not frightened by the Dao Stairs that would shorten one’s lifespan. Instead, he stopped ascending the stairs and started pondering.

As he still had twenty thousand years of life, a few days of life were not worth mentioning.

That being so, he continued ascended the stairs. Every step he took would drain away one day of his life.

When he stood at the 365th step of the stairs, he had lost one year of life in total.

When he climbed to the 730th step of the stairs, he had lost two years of life in total.

The higher he ascended, the deeper his eyes looked.

When he arrived at the 3650th step of the stairs, his lifespan was already shortened by ten years.

At the mountain slope beside the Dao Stairs he was standing, there was a second ancient stele that was also carved with five letters.

“Each step costs a year!”

Ning Fan frowned.

Is it possible that every step from now on will no longer reduce my life by one day but by one year instead...?

If every step ahead would shorten one’s lifespan by a year, even Ning Fan would need to think twice before acting

After hesitating for a while, he took a step forward and ascended the 3651th step.

Instantly, one year of his life was drained away!

Ning Fan ignored the amount of life he had lost and took two hundred steps consecutively. When he stood at the 3850th step, his life was reduced by two hundred years.

Then, he saw the third stele standing at the slope beside the staircase. It was also carved with five letters.

“Each step costs ten years!”

Ning Fan wondered inwardly.

Could it be that I have to give up ten years of life for every step I take from now on?

He gazed forward following the trail of the staircase and saw that he would encounter the fourth stele after making two hundred steps. With his vision, he could vaguely see that the stele was also carved with five letters – each step costs one hundred years!

For every two hundred steps ahead, there would still be the fifth stele, the sixth stele, the seventh stele, the eighth stele and so on... However, he was unable to clearly see the details on the steles.

Ning Fan closed his eyes and doubts started to creep into his mind.

Ascending the Dao Stairs of this Earth Stage will actually shorten one's lifespan. Moreover, the higher I go, the more lifespan I will lose. It's obviously unwise to continue climbing up the stairs.

Even if Ning Fan possessed twenty thousand years of life, if a single step cost one hundred years or even one thousand years of life, he would die of old age at this stage...

Should I give up? Since this stage reduces one's lifespan, why not giving up this stage...

However, why will one lose their lifespan by climbing the Dao Stairs...? What exactly is the meaning behind the Rain Ancestor's intention of setting up this stage...?

Ning Fan closed his eyes and dismissed all the miscellaneous thoughts, emptying his mind. His ears could only hear the wind brushing against his face.

His mind became quieter. Gradually, he could not even hear the wind.

Slowly, he sensed a mysterious and enchanting power that was hidden beneath the Dao Mountain.

The power was extremely abstruse and it seemed to possess the Dao Power that could control life and death...

"Life and death..."

Ning Fan raised his head and stared at the endless Dao Stairs and his eyes became deep, as if he could see through everything.

At the first half of the Dao Stairs, every jade stair was surrounded with death qi which could seize one's life force.

However, starting from the fifth stele, the jade stairs were filled with life qi which could replenish one's life force.

The reason why the Rain Ancestor set up this stage was naturally not to seize the lifespan of the descendants.

Every step in the first four steles might take away one's lifespan but every step in the final four steles would return their lifespan.

From life to death and from death to life... By going through this process, a cultivator would be able to comprehend life and death.

This was an opportunity, an opportunity to comprehend life and death, the essence to ascend the heavens and become an immortal!

If one does not have a firm Dao Heart, they would probably give up this stage outright upon discovering that they would lose their lifespan for every step they climb.

Only those who had firm Dao Heart would persist in climbing the stairs. And when they reach the fifth stele, they would regain their lifespan and obtain an opportunity to comprehend life and death.

"One will age gradually for every step that made in the first four steles. Each step will draw them closer to their doom... In this phase, there is the Great Dao of Death."

Ning Fan moved his fingers to perform hand seals, displaying the Immemorial Fishing Lines.

Strands of black fishing lines revolved around his fingers. At the same time, his eyes also turned pure black eerily. His presence was filled with death qi.

One step, two steps, three steps... Ning Fan continued climbing to the top of the mountain step by step. For every step he made, his lifespan would reduce by ten years.

However, he did not stop his pace, as if he felt nothing about the loss in his lifespan. After making two hundred steps, he arrived at the fourth stele but he had already lost two thousand years of life.

Starting from his current position, every step of stairs would cost him one hundred years of life.

Ning Fan did not have any hesitation and he began climbing the stairs one after another, moving toward the fifth stele.

One step cost him one hundred years of life. Ten steps cost him one thousand years of life. One hundred steps cost him ten thousand years of life...

There were 200 steps of Dao Stairs between the fourth stele and the fifth stele. In other words, one would need to lose twenty thousand years of life.

Usually, everyone who had arrived at this point would probably back off in fear. In Ning Fan's mind, however, there was no doubt or fear at all!

One step, two steps, three steps... Ning Fan's lifespan was draining away for every step he made and his appearance started to age.

When a cultivator's lifespan was about to finish, they would gradually show their age.

As Ning Fan's life force was draining away rapidly, the death qi around him became thicker and thicker.

From being a young man, his appearance gradually became like a middle-aged man. Then, he continued to age and became an old man who was at his final years of life.

His black hair turned gray. Age spots and wrinkles surfaced on his face while his body started to hunch over, forming a hunchback. Only his eyes, however, were pure black all the time. They looked frighteningly calm.

His flesh also started to wilt while his Sea of Consciousness dried up. His body felt like it was going to reduce to ashes...

Only his Dao Heart, however, was as solid as a rock. It was not wavered by anything at all!

After making two hundred steps, Ning Fan reached the fifth stele. The current him was already on the brink of death.

His eyes, however, looked deeper than before. At this very moment when he was about to die, his feeling about death was particularly profound!

“This is death!”

Ning Fan examined his dantian inwardly. In his dantian, a strand of pure black death qi was gradually forming!

Qi of Death! It was the power that countless rogue immortal s had spent their entire lives cultivating and comprehending! If one wishes to become an immortal, they must first experience life and death!

It was not true that one could gain immortality by becoming an immortal. In fact, only those who live a long life without dying deserved to be called as immortals!

There was only a strand of Qi of Death in Ning Fan’s body. However, it was like a seed that planted the Dao Comprehension of Death in Ning Fan’s heart.

If Ning Fan’s Dao Comprehension of Death increases in the future, this seed would eventually germinate and grow and become his aid in becoming an immortal!

“It isn’t a bad deal by exchanging twenty thousand years of life for this comprehension. However, I still have to get back the lifespan that I’ve lost from this Dao Mountain!”

Ning Fan’s appearance was old and his voice was croaky but his eyes, however, were firm and stubborn. He scanned across the fifth stele. The stele was carved with five words in the Divine Seal Writing.

“One step returns one day”!

Starting from the fifth stele, the Dao Mountain would return the life that a cultivator had lost from the beginning for every step they make!

Ning Fan dismissed the death qi around him and performed a series a hand seals to display the Fishing Net of Creation.

This technique contained the Dao Power of Life. The moment he used this technique, his eyes instantly turned pure white and his presence was filled with a dense power of life force.

One step, two steps, three steps...

Ning Fan climbed all the way up, passing by the sixth, seventh and eighth stele.

One step one day, one step one years, one step ten years, one step one hundred years... The life he had lost in the previous journey was slowly returning to him.

His appearance gradually turned younger. His complexion slowly regained its vitality. His eyes were becoming deeper, just like the ocean.

Meanwhile, a strand of pure white life qi was forming in his dantian!

The moment the white qi was formed, the black and white qi in his dantian intertwined with each other, forming into a ring that was half-black and half-white. It then hovered above his primordial spirit.

His primordial spirit in the dantian opened his eyes and reached out his two tiny hands to grab the two strands of qi and swallow them into his abdomen.

Immediately, that miniature primordial spirit put on a smile of satisfaction.

“Excellent!”

At this moment, Ning Fan’s aura force rose. The black and white qi flashed in his eyes!

Standing on the eight thousand and five hundredth step of the Dao Stairs, Ning Fan’s lips curved upward into a smile.

After the formation of the Life and Death Q in his body, he did not get a brand-new ability. His magic power also was not improved. His Dao Heart, on the other hand, was unprecedentedly clear while his Dao Comprehension became more profound.

“The Rain Ancestor’s intention of leaving the Dao Stairs behind for the descendants of the Rain World to comprehend life and death was great. However, I just wonder what else is at the higher part of the mountain...”

Ning Fan glanced sideways to look at the ninth stele on the mountainside. It was also carved with five letters.

“Kill a person in ten steps”!

Deep in thoughts, he climbed ten steps slowly. Upon reaching the tenth step a golden light flashed before him and the silhouette of a burly man in golden armors appeared.

The burly man in golden armors had Void Glimpse Stage cultivation base. It was produced by a trace of sovereign qi left behind by the Rain Ancestor.

Moreover, this burly man existed due to the cloud mountain and was formed due to the sovereign qi. Thus, he would not disperse easily unless he is attacked by a sovereign qi attack.

The burly man had a blank expression. The moment he emerged, he instantly roared at Ning Fan coldly.

“Get off the Dao Mountain!”

Ning Fan narrowed his eyes. Since he possessed sovereign qi, he naturally had ways to kill that shadow in golden armor.

However, if he were to do that, he would be exposing his sovereign qi...

Perhaps Revered Sage was carefully observing the illusory realm right now, hoping to see the scene where Ning Fan eliminates the shadow using his sovereign qi.

Ning Fan shook his head.

If I wish to kill this golden-armored shadow, the only method probably is by using my sovereign qi.

However, the core test of this stage is one's Dao Heart. It isn't a test for one's abilities. Therefore, I might not necessarily need to kill this golden-armored shadow in order to clear this stage.

Ning Fan no longer paid any attention to that shadow. He continued moving forward directly and climbed the next jade stairs, trying to go past the golden-armored shadow.

The golden-armored shadow was infuriated. He turned around and hurled a punch at Ning Fan, aiming at his back.

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“...” Although the Rain Sovereign stayed silent, his eyes were also staring at the Dao fruit with desire.

Who would not want something that could allow them to obtain an additional of two million units of magic power...?!

“I’m sorry everyone. I’m not going to trade this Dao fruit for anything!”

Ning Fan kept the treasure box containing the Dao fruit and scanned across the temple with a gloomy look on his face. He stared at every prince, every Void Fragmentation Realm expert and the Rain Sovereign.

Since the item was already exposed in the public, there was no way he could avoid trouble. It can’t be helped that some greedy individuals would set their eyes upon the Dao fruit due to its benefits.

Ning Fan believed that with the Black Devil Sect being his backer, people with significant identities like the Rain Sovereign would not go so far to turn against him for a Dao fruit.

However, it was hard to ensure that no ruffian would try plotting against the Dao fruit after this...

The expressions on all the old monsters in the temple was different from each other. No one could tell if someone was already scheming to seize the Dao fruit.

Only the few individuals who had a good relationship with Ning Fan did not have any intention to possess that Dao fruit even though they envied him.

The Pill Sovereign walked out from his place with a cold expression while stroking his beard and sweeping across the hall with his piercing eyes.

“Heavenly ingredients and earthly treasures belong to those who are predestined to get them! This Dao fruit belongs to Ning Fan. Since he isn’t willing to trade it, it’s better that everyone stops thinking about it. Cultivation level might be important, but it isn’t as important as your life. Please consider properly before acting!”

The Pill Sovereign’s voice was extremely faint but it sounded threatening. His intention of protecting Ning Fan was apparent.

When everyone saw that Ning Fan had the Pill Sovereign’s protection and thought of his background, they had no choice but dismiss the greedy thought in their minds.

The Rain Sovereign did not utter a single word throughout the session. Only after the Pill Sovereign had come out to say something did he speak with a smile.

Chapter 564:

The mountain of trees was surrounded by four eight thousand zhang\* (3.33m per zhang) tall tree devils. One of them had wore a tree crown on his head. One of them was clad in vine armors. One of them had wooden wings and the other one had one thousand wooden hands.

The moment Ning Fan appeared at the forest, the four giants roared in anger and hurled their fists toward him.

The four of them were at the Absolute Void Stage. When the four of them attacked simultaneously, the mountain immediately collapsed. The land within several hundred thousand li\* (500m per li) around it sank three zhang\* (3.33m per zhang) deeper!

Amidst the flying dust, Ning Fan who was a set of white robes gradually appeared. None of the four giants attacks managed to hit him.

“Are you all the followers of the Vine Sovereign?” Ning Fan’s tone was extremely faint.

The four giants, however, did not even spare a glance at him. They just exchanged glances among themselves and smiled contemptuously with killing intent flashing in their eyes.

“How dare a mere Void Inquiry Stage junior like you mess with the Vine Sovereign. You really are courting death!”

“This kid is Lu Bei. Kill him!”

“There is no need to show mercy to him!”

All four of them displayed their techniques. The giant wearing a tree crown shook its crown, causing countless leaves to fall around him. Hundreds of millions of leaves immediately condensed into a gigantic wooden dragon which charged at Ning Fan. The sky around it broke due to its massive pressure.

The giant in Vine Armor held a pair of huge hammers while the giant with wooden wings wielded a pair of halberds. Those were enormous immemorial divine weapons. Without hesitation, they swung their weapons at Ning Fan’s head.

As for the giant with one thousand hands, he violently performed a series of hand seals. Suddenly, countless huge wooden hands grew out from the ground and tried to slap Ning Fan.

The four of them were actually not showing a hint of mercy to Ning Fan. Once they had recognized Ning Fan, they immediately deliver their fatal attacks.

Filler word

The moment the black and white ring shadows appeared, the ten suns above the sky of the illusory realm exploded one after another. The sky began becoming dim and dark. The earth, however, started to tremble and the lava surged, initiating a raging flame that engulfed each of the volcanoes!

As the ring shadows flashed, an unimaginable medicine soul gradually permeated heaven and earth. It was so powerful that it could crush the medicine soul of any Fifth Revolution Pill Refinement Masters!

It was the medicine soul power accumulated in the Heavenly Dao from the countless deceased pill masters since ancient times. It was the reward that heaven and earth gave to a Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Master!

A Fifth Revolution Pill Master did not have the right to observe the breakthrough of a Seventh Revolution Pill Master at all! Every single one of them was unable to endure the force given out by the medicinal soul of heaven and earth!

Each of the volcanoes erupted in succession, filling the sky with sparks of flames. Those flames, however, suddenly fell down, raining down upon the Pill Sovereign's location.

At this moment, the Pill Sovereign's forehead was beaded with sweat. He was sitting down with his eyes closed, beginning to push through the bottleneck of the Seventh Revolution.

A towering ancient tree was standing upright behind him. It was the form of his medicine soul.

That ancient tree had luxuriant foliage. It gave off a faint layer of light screen that was condensed from medicine soul power, preventing the rain of flames from falling upon him.

Ning Fan raised his head and looked into the sky. His expression turned grim as he was staring at the black and white ring shadows.

"This black and white ring shadow is the first ring of the Heavenly Dao – The Ring of Life and Death. If cultivators at the First Step of Cultivation are unable to escape the restriction of the first ring of the Heavenly Dao, they won't be able to achieve immortality..." Luo You explained.

“A mere black and white ring shadow like this is the Heavenly Dao of the Lower Realm, huh...”

Ning Fan was deep in thoughts. This black and white Heavenly Dao was probably the one he offended in the past.

Maybe it was an illusion. When he stared at the black and white ring shadow, he suddenly felt that the ring shadow turned into a huge eye. Its black pupil was clearly distinctive from the whites of the eye around it. That large eye batted once at him...

After he observed it carefully, he realized that the ring shadow did not undergo any changes. It seemed just like an illusion.

There was an instant where a fierce and piercing qi seemed to have been released from the ring shadow and it was locked on Ning Fan.

The Heavenly Dao of the Lower Realm seemed to have recognized Ning Fan and knew that he was the person who captured the messengers of the heavenly tribulation twice and offended the might of the heavens.

However, a brief moment later, that qi which was targeted at Ning Fan dispersed.

The reason why the heavenly ring appeared today was because the Pill Sovereign achieved the breakthrough in his pill refinement realm.

Even though the Heavenly Dao detested Ning Fan, it was aware of what was right and wrong and it did not intend to go against the rules and punish Ning Fan.

Only an indolent female voice suddenly echoed from the ring shadow of the Heavenly Dao and entered Ning Fan's ears. Other than Ning Fan, no one else could hear that voice.

“Junior of the Rain World, you are quite bold to harm my puppets in the Lower Realm. I have been in control of the heavenly ring for 150 million years. You are the first cultivator who dare to defy the heavens publicly. Although your sins are deep, I know what is right and wrong and I won't summon

tribulations upon you personally now. Besides, you are already not far away from the heavenly tribulation of the Void Pierce Stage. I'm looking forward to you dying in that heavenly tribulation... But still, hopefully you can go through the tribulation safely..."

The lady seemed to have chuckled. Then, it vanished all of a sudden. That voice seemed to be coming from very far away. Neither the Pill Sovereign nor Luo You could hear it. Only Ning Fan was able to hear it.

Ning Fan's eyes widened with surprise.

Who exactly is the lady who spoke to me via telepathy just now? Her abilities are so terrifying...

Commanding the Heavenly Rings for 150 million years... Could she be an immortal emperor...?

Ning Fan sighed. He never expected that he would be targeted by such a frightening lady.

Luckily, she was a lady who goes by the law and did not try to summon tribulations on Ning Fan personally.

Although the heavenly tribulations that Ning Fan faced became scarier and scarier starting from the Void Glimpse Stage, they also did not give him no chance to survive...

The heavenly tribulations might be terrifying, but their power was still restricted to the level of the First Step of cultivation. The Heavenly Dao was not so cruel to summon an immortal tribulation on him.

An immortal tribulation was the heavenly tribulation that the Heavenly Dao of the Second Step of cultivation would summon for immortals... If Ning Fan were to encounter that level of heavenly tribulation, he would not need to make any struggles at all as he would be directly killed.

With that lady's strength, she could kill Ning Fan in a single breath. Even so, she did not abuse her power and go against the laws to summon an immortal tribulation to kill him. In a way, she could not be counted as his enemy.

Ning Fan had a feeling that even though she looked forward to seeing him die in the next heavenly tribulation he would face after attaining the Void Pierce Stage, she was also excited to see him go against the heavens and get through the tribulation...

Perhaps the terrifying heavenly tribulations that came after him every time was just a test while the heavenly tribulation puppets were his rewards...

“Ning Fan! What are you doing? Hurry up and absorb the soul power that was flowing across the heaven and world!” The Pill Sovereign suddenly opened his eyes and urged him.

Ning Fan did not utter any word. He had already decided not to absorb the Pill Sovereign’s soul power.

Every time when a pill master is advancing to the Seventh Revolution, there was a limitation to the soul power that the heaven and earth would grant to them.

For ordinary Peak Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Masters, even if they absorb all the soul power that the heaven and earth give to them, they also might not necessarily be able to advance to the Seventh Revolution.

If Ning Fan absorbs the Pill Sovereign’s soul power now, it would then lower his chances of success in the advancement...

Ning Fan was not a kind person. However, since the Pill Sovereign was kind to him, he was not going to repay his kindness with evil!

Suddenly, he stood up. He did not plan to absorb the soul power at all. Instead, he turned into a ray of light and flew out of the protected area of the ancient tree, soaring into the sky. Standing mid-air, he said.

“I’ll help you withstand the tribulations!”

His words were simple and brief but they were loud and determined.

Upon hearing his words, the Pill Sovereign was stunned. Then, he looked touched but he sighed with a hint of disappointment at the same time.

“Silly child... This is a rare opportunity! If you absorb some of the soul power, perhaps your pill refinement realm can advance to the High Grade Sixth Revolution!”

“I never lack opportunities in my entire life. If I am not blessed with opportunities, I’ll just need to seize them with force. The only thing that I can never neglect is my Dao Heart!”

With determination in his eyes, he opened his mouth and inhaled. The rain of flames that fell around the sky were absorbed into his abdomen.

Then, with a wave of his hand, he gathered the soul power that was scattered across heaven and earth near the ancient tree to make it easy for the Pill Sovereign in absorbing it.

He took out several formation disks and planted layers of Mortal Void Grade formation light around the ancient tree!

He knew that the moment the Pill Sovereign finishes absorbing the soul power, he would then start facing the tests from the heavenly tribulation!

The heavenly tribulation of the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm was not trivial. What Ning Fan was doing now was considered as helping the Pill Sovereign increase his chances in achieving his advancement.

The Pill Sovereign sighed and closed his eyes. He had decided to grant Ning Fan a vast opportunity but if Ning Fan insisted not to accept it, he also could not force him.

After making a sigh, what occupied more of his heart was the feeling of relief.

His judgement was not wrong. The disciple that he had set his eyes on was indeed a man with excellent personality. Unfortunately, that man already had a master and therefore, there was no chance for him to be his master in this life anymore...

“Fine... Since you don’t accept my soul power of heaven and earth, this second session of guidance is invalid...”

“Why? Having the chance to observe a pill master attaining the Seventh Revolution at such a close distance is an opportunity itself!”

Ning Fan smiled at the sky. Just like what he had said, how many chances does one have in the world to observe the breakthrough of a Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Master?

Commonly, every Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Masters was worried about others seizing their soul power. Thus, most of them would choose to achieve the breakthrough in a remote area without allowing any outsider to witness sit.

The Sixth Revolution was like Heaven while the Seventh Revolution was like attaining the Immortal Realm. Breaking through to the Seventh Revolution was even more difficult than the Sixth Revolution. Its difficulty was not just in the aspect of soul transformation but also the fact that a majority of pill masters could not get the experience from those who had successfully achieved the breakthrough. Pill masters without the necessary knowledge could only explore themselves, just like a blind man travelling at night. Thus, it was naturally beset with difficulties...

The Pill Sovereign closed his eyes and stopped speaking.

In the Temple of Rain, each of the old monsters were shocked by Ning Fan’s tolerance.

Be it a divine cultivator or a devil cultivator, there is basically no one who could persevere in not seizing the soul power.

How many Sixth Revolution Pill Masters in the world could keep their mind intact upon seeing a Seventh Revolution Pill Master who wants to share his soul power with them...?

Even the likes of Chu Chang An also began to have respect for Ning Fan.

Yun Qingge's eyes were staring at the bronze mirror, deep in thought.

She was Yu Chong Er's master. She was the daughter of a former Rain Sovereign. Guarding the Rain Palace was always her main priority.

Yu Chong Er had developed infatuation for a devil cultivator to a point of giving him the Heaven Deceiving Cloak, sacrificing her Insect Sovereign's Blood and even stealing the White Tiger Vambrace for him... This made Yun Qingge extremely furious.

Yu Chong Er did not tell Ning Fan that she did not request the White Tiger Vambrace from her master but she stole it from her instead...

Yun Qingge already found out that Ning Fan was that devil cultivator. Hence, she harbored enmity against him!

She stubbornly thought that Ning Fan used some kinds of lowly tricks to bewitch Yu Chong Er which caused her to do such audacious acts.

Today, she saw that even though he might be a devil cultivator, he was a magnanimous person. Therefore, she denied her original thought of him bewitching and hoodwinking Yu Chong Er...

"Could it be that Yu Chong Er gave him those things out of her own free will..." Yun Qingge seemed to have understood something and her eyes were gradually filled with confusion.

One day, two days, three days... After seven days, the Pill Sovereign had finished absorbing all the soul power of heaven and earth within the illusory realm. He then took out an unknown pill from his pouch and ate it.

That pill seemed to be effective in tempering one's medicine soul as it gradually restrained all the soul power that he had just absorbed.

The moment he finished taking in the soul power, waves of bone-chilling wind suddenly blew across the place!

At the areas where the chill wind passed by, the lava in the cracks on the land were extinguished bizarrely!

Every mountain and river directly disintegrated into ashes!

Even the ancient tree that was protecting the Pill Sovereign began withering rapidly!

In just an instant, the Pill Sovereign's medicine soul was severely injured. Blood flowed out from his lips. His eyes widened with shock!

"What a strong chill wind tribulation!"

A chill wind tribulation was a heavenly tribulation that only Void Fragmentation Realm experts would encounter.

The Pill Sovereign was at the Third Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm. However, even when he broke through to that cultivation realm, the chill wind tribulation he faced also was not as strong as this!

Even if the Pill Sovereign is fully prepared, he also would not have more than fifty percent chance of getting through such powerful heavenly tribulation!

As for the current him, he did not even have ten percent of chance as he did not expect that the chill wind tribulation would be so powerful!

Despite just breaking through to the Low Grade Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm, the chill wind tribulation he faced was actually comparable to the heavenly tribulation at the Fourth Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm!

In the Temple of Rain, surprise filled everyone's faces. Even the Rain Sovereign's scalp tingled.

“Everyone said that the Seventh Revolution is like achieving the Immortal Realm. I didn’t believe it at first. However, judging from the current situation, that saying is true. Even I will have difficulties in withstanding such a powerful heavenly tribulation... No. I must immediately enter the illusory realm of the Black Stage to help the Pill Sovereign get through the tribulation!”

Even though the Rain Sovereign had suspicions for the Pill Sovereign, he naturally became willing to lend him a hand as the latter was about to achieve the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm which would be of great use to him.

However, as he swung his body, his expression turned grim suddenly. To his surprise, he discovered that the entire illusory realm inside the heavenly dwelling space of the Black Stage was sealed by the power of Heavenly Dao. With his power at the Fifth Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm, he also could not break it open!

“This is bad! I can’t get inside the heavenly dwelling space. The Pill Sovereign is in danger!”

For the first time in his life, the Rain Sovereign hated himself for being unable to help the Pill Sovereign.

Even though he relied heavily on the Pill Sovereign in the past, he suppressed him even more. After all, he was unwilling to see that the Pill Sovereign could grow his influence in the Rain World. If he were to see him in danger in the past, he naturally would not be nervous.

Today, however, the Pill Sovereign was on the verge of attaining the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm. After the Rain Sovereign had reassessed the advantages and disadvantages of the Pill Sovereign’s existence, he chose to help him.

Unfortunately, he also was unable to enter the illusory realm of the Black Stage. There was no way he could help the Pill Sovereign at all.

If the Pill Sovereign achieves the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm, the Seventh Revolution Pills he concocts would be an important aid to the Rain Sovereign in achieving the Immortal Realm...

The Rain Sovereign's face was filled with rage. After so many years, a Seventh Revolution Pill Master was about to be born in the Rain World. However, reality told him that the Seventh Revolution Pill Master was facing a terrifying chill wind tribulation and he had ninety percent chance of dying!

"The Pill Sovereign can't die!" He roared in wrath. Those who did not know him well would probably think that he had a deep relationship with the Pill Sovereign. However, it was just for his own benefits in reality.

Inside the illusory realm, Ning Fan stood amidst the waves of chill wind. His eyes were filled with astonishment.

The moment the wind appeared, he could not get out of the illusory realm. Moreover, he also could not enter the Yuan Yao World or the Profound Yin World!

The chill wind tribulation was extremely scary. Even the Pill Sovereign only had ten percent chance of successfully withstanding it. He without a doubt did not stand a chance against it!

All the Mortal Void Grand Formation he had set up were turned to flying ashes by the wind tribulation.

That bone-piercing cold wind continued to blow toward Ning Fan and he could only feel that his body was going to be reduced to ashes as well. He quickly recovered from shock and activated his Yin Yang Devil Flame, summoning a black fire wall that covered the area of ten thousand zhang\* (3.33m per zhang) around the Pill Sovereign!

When ice and fire mix and the yin and yang achieves harmony between each other, yin yang flame is produced.

The flame that Ning Fan used was the combination of twenty-four types of Heavenly Cold Qi and Earth Flames. Its grade reached High Rank Seventh Grade. It contained a trace of power from the harmony of yin and yang which naturally had some resistance toward the cold wind.

All of a sudden, the wind was kept outside the fire wall.

Ning Fan looked at the Pill Sovereign who was still sitting in a meditative posture and slightly gnashed his teeth.

At this moment, the divine wood medicine soul inside the Pill Sovereign's body was gradually experiencing soul transformation. However, Ning Fan had no idea exactly how the transformation would occur.

Chapter 565:

When Qian Shou and Mu Chi saw Ning Fan chasing after them, they exchanged glances with each other. With gritted teeth, they both went the opposite direction. One of them went to the east while the other went to the west.

They knew that they were not Ning Fan's match. If Ning Fan catches up with them, they would certainly die in his hands.

At this moment, they could only make a bet on their luck and see who Ning Fan goes after. The unlucky one would be pursued and killed by Ning Fan.

"Fleeing in different directions, huh..."

Ning Fan unsealed his sword pouch and five rays of sword light immediately flew out from within, turning into five little agile sword spirits.

His opponents were experts at the Absolute Void Stage. If they run in different directions, Ning Fan could at most go after one of them and would lose track of the other person.

"All of you, chase after that man with wings. I'll go after that man with eight arms!"

After giving an order to them with an indifferent tone, he immediately stepped on an ancient golden sword and went after Qian Shou.

The five sword spirits pursed their lips. They were reluctant to be Ning Fan's subordinates.

However, they could not defy his order at all as they were planted with a life-threatening sword seal. After snorting with dissatisfaction, they obediently transformed into five rays of sword light and chased after Mu Chi.

Even though Mu Chi was not a sword cultivator, the five little girls' original strength were already extremely heaven-defying despite their natural restraint to sword cultivators. Each of them was equivalent to an Absolute Void Stage expert.

Therefore, it would not be very difficult for five Absolute Void Stage little girls to hunt down an Absolute Void Stage expert.

Qian Shou had already gotten out of his one thousand-handed giant's avatar and turned into an eight-armed elderly man. After separating with Mu Chi, he was fleeing desperately all the way.

Filler Word

The moment the black and white ring shadows appeared, the ten suns above the sky of the illusory realm exploded one after another. The sky began becoming dim and dark. The earth, however, started to tremble and the lava surged, initiating a raging flame that engulfed each of the volcanoes!

As the ring shadows flashed, an unimaginable medicine soul gradually permeated heaven and earth. It was so powerful that it could crush the medicine soul of any Fifth Revolution Pill Refinement Masters!

It was the medicine soul power accumulated in the Heavenly Dao from the countless deceased pill masters since ancient times. It was the reward that heaven and earth gave to a Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Master!

A Fifth Revolution Pill Master did not have the right to observe the breakthrough of a Seventh Revolution Pill Master at all! Every single one of them was unable to endure the force given out by the medicinal soul of heaven and earth!

Each of the volcanoes erupted in succession, filling the sky with sparks of flames. Those flames, however, suddenly fell down, raining down upon the Pill Sovereign's location.

At this moment, the Pill Sovereign's forehead was beaded with sweat. He was sitting down with his eyes closed, beginning to push through the bottleneck of the Seventh Revolution.

A towering ancient tree was standing upright behind him. It was the form of his medicine soul.

That ancient tree had luxuriant foliage. It gave off a faint layer of light screen that was condensed from medicine soul power, preventing the rain of flames from falling upon him.

Ning Fan raised his head and looked into the sky. His expression turned grim as he was staring at the black and white ring shadows.

"This black and white ring shadow is the first ring of the Heavenly Dao – The Ring of Life and Death. If cultivators at the First Step of Cultivation are unable to escape the restriction of the first ring of the Heavenly Dao, they won't be able to achieve immortality..." Luo You explained.

"A mere black and white ring shadow like this is the Heavenly Dao of the Lower Realm, huh..."

Ning Fan was deep in thoughts. This black and white Heavenly Dao was probably the one he offended in the past.

Maybe it was an illusion. When he stared at the black and white ring shadow, he suddenly felt that the ring shadow turned into a huge eye. Its black pupil was clearly distinctive from the whites of the eye around it. That large eye batted once at him...

After he observed it carefully, he realized that the ring shadow did not undergo any changes. It seemed just like an illusion.

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The Heavenly Dao of the Lower Realm seemed to have recognized Ning Fan and knew that he was the person who captured the messengers of the heavenly tribulation twice and offended the might of the heavens.

However, a brief moment later, that qi which was targeted at Ning Fan dispersed.

The reason why the heavenly ring appeared today was because the Pill Sovereign achieved the breakthrough in his pill refinement realm.

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The lady seemed to have chuckled. Then, it vanished all of a sudden. That voice seemed to be coming from very far away. Neither the Pill Sovereign nor Luo You could hear it. Only Ning Fan was able to hear it.

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Commanding the Heavenly Rings for 150 million years... Could she be an immortal emperor...?

Ning Fan sighed. He never expected that he would be targeted by such a frightening lady.

Luckily, she was a lady who goes by the law and did not try to summon tribulations on Ning Fan personally.

Although the heavenly tribulations that Ning Fan faced became scarier and scarier starting from the Void Glimpse Stage, they also did not give him no chance to survive...

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"I'll help you withstand the tribulations!"

His words were simple and brief but they were loud and determined.

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"Silly child... This is a rare opportunity! If you absorb some of the soul power, perhaps your pill refinement realm can advance to the High Grade Sixth Revolution!"

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His judgement was not wrong. The disciple that he had set his eyes on was indeed a man with excellent personality. Unfortunately, that man already had a master and therefore, there was no chance for him to be his master in this life anymore...

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She stubbornly thought that Ning Fan used some kinds of lowly tricks to bewitch Yu Chong Er which caused her to do such audacious acts.

Today, she saw that even though he might be a devil cultivator, he was a magnanimous person. Therefore, she denied her original thought of him bewitching and hoodwinking Yu Chong Er...

“Could it be that Yu Chong Er gave him those things out of her own free will...” Yun Qingge seemed to have understood something and her eyes were gradually filled with confusion.

One day, two days, three days... After seven days, the Pill Sovereign had finished absorbing all the soul power of heaven and earth within the illusory realm. He then took out an unknown pill from his pouch and ate it.

That pill seemed to be effective in tempering one’s medicine soul as it gradually restrained all the soul power that he had just absorbed.

The moment he finished taking in the soul power, waves of bone-chilling wind suddenly blew across the place!

At the areas where the chill wind passed by, the lava in the cracks on the land were extinguished bizarrely!

Every mountain and river directly disintegrated into ashes!

Even the ancient tree that was protecting the Pill Sovereign began withering rapidly!

In just an instant, the Pill Sovereign’s medicine soul was severely injured. Blood flowed out from his lips. His eyes widened with shock!

“What a strong chill wind tribulation!”

A chill wind tribulation was a heavenly tribulation that only Void Fragmentation Realm experts would encounter.

The Pill Sovereign was at the Third Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm. However, even when he broke through to that cultivation realm, the chill wind tribulation he faced also was not as strong as this!

Even if the Pill Sovereign is fully prepared, he also would not have more than fifty percent chance of getting through such powerful heavenly tribulation!

As for the current him, he did not even have ten percent of chance as he did not expect that the chill wind tribulation would be so powerful!

Despite just breaking through to the Low Grade Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm, the chill wind tribulation he faced was actually comparable to the heavenly tribulation at the Fourth Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm!

In the Temple of Rain, surprise filled everyone's faces. Even the Rain Sovereign's scalp tingled.

"Everyone said that the Seventh Revolution is like achieving the Immortal Realm. I didn't believe it at first. However, judging from the current situation, that saying is true. Even I will have difficulties in withstanding such a powerful heavenly tribulation... No. I must immediately enter the illusory realm of the Black Stage to help the Pill Sovereign get through the tribulation!"

Even though the Rain Sovereign had suspicions for the Pill Sovereign, he naturally became willing to lend him a hand as the latter was about to achieve the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm which would be of great use to him.

However, as he swung his body, his expression turned grim suddenly. To his surprise, he discovered that the entire illusory realm inside the heavenly dwelling space of the Black Stage was sealed by the power of Heavenly Dao. With his power at the Fifth Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm, he also could not break it open!

"This is bad! I can't get inside the heavenly dwelling space. The Pill Sovereign is in danger!"

For the first time in his life, the Rain Sovereign hated himself for being unable to help the Pill Sovereign.

Even though he relied heavily on the Pill Sovereign in the past, he suppressed him even more. After all, he was unwilling to see that the Pill Sovereign could grow his influence in the Rain World. If he were to see him in danger in the past, he naturally would not be nervous.

Today, however, the Pill Sovereign was on the verge of attaining the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm. After the Rain Sovereign had reassessed the advantages and disadvantages of the Pill Sovereign's existence, he chose to help him.

Unfortunately, he also was unable to enter the illusory realm of the Black Stage. There was no way he could help the Pill Sovereign at all.

If the Pill Sovereign achieves the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm, the Seventh Revolution Pills he concocts would be an important aid to the Rain Sovereign in achieving the Immortal Realm...

The Rain Sovereign's face was filled with rage. After so many years, a Seventh Revolution Pill Master was about to be born in the Rain World. However, reality told him that the Seventh Revolution Pill Master was facing a terrifying chill wind tribulation and he had ninety percent chance of dying!

"The Pill Sovereign can't die!" He roared in wrath. Those who did not know him well would probably think that he had a deep relationship with the Pill Sovereign. However, it was just for his own benefits in reality.

Inside the illusory realm, Ning Fan stood amidst the waves of chill wind. His eyes were filled with astonishment.

The moment the wind appeared, he could not get out of the illusory realm. Moreover, he also could not enter the Yuan Yao World or the Profound Yin World!

The chill wind tribulation was extremely scary. Even the Pill Sovereign only had ten percent chance of successfully withstanding it. He without a doubt did not stand a chance against it!

All the Mortal Void Grand Formation he had set up were turned to flying ashes by the wind tribulation.

That bone-piercing cold wind continued to blow toward Ning Fan and he could only feel that his body was going to be reduced to ashes as well. He quickly recovered from shock and activated his Yin Yang Devil Flame, summoning a black fire wall that covered the area of ten thousand zhang\* (3.33m per zhang) around the Pill Sovereign!

When ice and fire mix and the yin and yang achieves harmony between each other, yin yang flame is produced.

The flame that Ning Fan used was the combination of twenty-four types of Heavenly Cold Qi and Earth Flames. Its grade reached High Rank Seventh Grade. It contained a trace of power from the harmony of yin and yang which naturally had some resistance toward the cold wind.

All of a sudden, the wind was kept outside the fire wall.

Ning Fan looked at the Pill Sovereign who was still sitting in a meditative posture and slightly gnashed his teeth.

At this moment, the divine wood medicine soul inside the Pill Sovereign's body was gradually experiencing soul transformation. However, Ning Fan had no idea exactly how the transformation would occur.

When the wind tribulation assaulted suddenly just now, it inflicted a serious damage to the Pill Sovereign's medicine soul, causing him unable to use any of his magic power temporarily...

The Pill Sovereign coughed out a mouthful of fresh blood. His face turned pale. The moment the blood came out from his mouth, it immediately vanished into ashes.

He was injured by the cold wind. He knew that his chances of attaining the Seventh Revolution today was extremely slim. He did not even have the confidence whether he could escape to safety or not.

He felt a little regretful. If he had known that the wind tribulation would be so terrifying, he certainly would not have been so opinionated to promise to share soul power of heaven and earth with Ning Fan.

If he had known that the tribulation would be so powerful, he certainly would have chosen a remote and deserted area to achieve the breakthrough on his own. In that case, even if he fails to withstand the tribulation, he would only just sacrifice his own life without involving anyone else...

He suddenly understood why so many pill masters would be so cautious and avoid being noticed by anyone including their closed ones when they were achieving the Seventh Revolution.

Perhaps some of them were just unwilling to share the soul power with others.

For some others, however, it might be because they had no assurance to withstand the tribulation and did not want to put their disciples or descendants in danger...

The Pill Sovereign sighed deeply and took out an ancient brown wooden plate from his pouch.

It was unknown how old that wooden plate was and what ability it had. However, it seemed to hold a mysterious power within.

The moment the Pill Sovereign took out the wooden plate, the entire illusory realm started trembling.

In the temple of Rain, the Rain Sovereign was staring at the wooden plate through the bronze mirror with an expression filled with joy and concern.

“This is... World Tree Token! According to rumors, there was once an ancient tree that grew in the Eastern Heaven Immortal Realm. It is called ‘World Tree’. The flowers it produced naturally carry a heavenly dwelling space. The fruits it bears naturally contain small chiliocosm! A piece of that tree bark can be made into a token. Cultivators who hold the token can immediately make an escape even if they are trapped inside a small chiliocosm!”

“However, this token can only be used once and it can just bring out a single person at a time. After it’s used, it will self-destruct!”

“The Pill Sovereign is able to get out of the heavenly dwelling space with the token in his hand. However, Ning Fan will still be in danger!”

The Rain Sovereign gritted his teeth. There was only one token. Even if the Pill Sovereign could escape, Ning Fan would still be killed by the wind tribulation...

“These two individuals are important to my great plan of achieving the Immortal Realm. Whoever dies is also a huge loss... What should I do?!” The Rain Sovereign pounded the dragon table beside him with his fist.

A brief moment later, the Pill Sovereign did something that many cultivators in the temple felt unthinkable.

He gave the World Tree Token to Ning Fan...

“Hurry up and activate this token to leave this world! I’ve dragged you into this. I can’t let you die in this place!”

Ning Fan’s face was filled with shock. He did not move forward to take the token.

At the crucial moment of life and death, the Pill Sovereign chose to sacrifice himself and let Ning Fan live. This made Ning Fan clench his fists tightly.

Ning Fan gnashed his teeth. He still had his closed ones to protect. He still had revenge to seek. He could not die here now.

The wisest decision for him right now was to take the token and leave this place on his own. Besides, even if he leaves, the Pill Sovereign would still have ten percent chance to successfully withstand this tribulation. He might not necessarily be dead for sure...

However, no matter what, Ning Fan could not make that decision.

He never claimed to be a smart person because smart people would know how to protect themselves and preserve their lives. He, however, did not know it...

What he knew was that when someone showed him kindness, he must repay them with kindness; when someone harmed him, he must revenge!

He might be able to remain unmoved after killing millions but he would never watch someone whom he cared about to die in front of his eyes!

He was not going to run away nor hide!

So what if the powerful wind tribulation is strong and powerful? Is this something that could make him yield in fear for death?

Ning Fan placed his palm on his storage pouch. The next moment, he took out the two Void Fragmentation Realm puppets, Zhi Huo and Zi Dian. Without hesitation, he crushed them with his hands!

“Detonate!”

The sky was veiled by the strong cold wind. No one was able to clearly see what Ning Fan had detonated. Only the Pill Sovereign who was close to him could see it.

Chapter 566: Puppet Min Luo

This is a small city at the border of Ju Mang Country. The cultivator with the highest cultivation level in the city was just a Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivator.

Ning Fan sat alone by the window in a liquor bar. Large trees were overgrown outside the window.

The trees had a shape like the hibiscus trees. The flowers they produced were fiery red. When the breeze blew, the entire city was filled with the delicate fragrance of flowers.

Ning Fan drank his cup of wine by sips while listening to the casual conversations within the bar.

The customers on a few tables were discussing about the newly-appointed fire sovereign in the Flame World. The other few tables, on the other hand, were talking about the war in the Mountain World and Earth Immortal War.

There was a one table of customers discussing matters about the third Realm Gate – Tang Gu Realm Gate. Meanwhile, there was also a table of customer who were talking about the Pill Sovereign of the Rain World. Apparently, words regarding the Pill Sovereign achieving the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm had already spread out of the Rain World.

Naturally, the topic that was mostly discussed by the people there was still the devil lord wanted by the entire Northern Tree Ocean – the ruthless man who was daring enough to kill the disciple of the Vine Sovereign.

“I heard that the man who murdered the Vine Sovereign’s disciple is called Lu Bei. Today, the Vine Sovereign has placed a huge bounty on his head. Whoever kills him can obtain ten billion immortal jade and ten bottles of Sixth Revolution Pills... \*Clicks tongue\* Ten billion immortal jade. Can you imagine how much money is that? I guess it’s more than enough to buy an entire high-grade cultivation country, isn’t it?”

“According to what I’ve heard, that Lu Bei has three heads, six hands and eight feet. He is a survivor of the Ghost Tree Race. Because his family was annihilated, he held grudges against the Vine Sovereign...”

Filler Word

The moment the black and white ring shadows appeared, the ten suns above the sky of the illusory realm exploded one after another. The sky began becoming dim and dark. The earth, however, started to tremble and the lava surged, initiating a raging flame that engulfed each of the volcanoes!

As the ring shadows flashed, an unimaginable medicine soul gradually permeated heaven and earth. It was so powerful that it could crush the medicine soul of any Fifth Revolution Pill Refinement Masters!

It was the medicine soul power accumulated in the Heavenly Dao from the countless deceased pill masters since ancient times. It was the reward that heaven and earth gave to a Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Master!

A Fifth Revolution Pill Master did not have the right to observe the breakthrough of a Seventh Revolution Pill Master at all! Every single one of them was unable to endure the force given out by the medicinal soul of heaven and earth!

Each of the volcanoes erupted in succession, filling the sky with sparks of flames. Those flames, however, suddenly fell down, raining down upon the Pill Sovereign's location.

At this moment, the Pill Sovereign's forehead was beaded with sweat. He was sitting down with his eyes closed, beginning to push through the bottleneck of the Seventh Revolution.

A towering ancient tree was standing upright behind him. It was the form of his medicine soul.

That ancient tree had luxuriant foliage. It gave off a faint layer of light screen that was condensed from medicine soul power, preventing the rain of flames from falling upon him.

Ning Fan raised his head and looked into the sky. His expression turned grim as he was staring at the black and white ring shadows.

"This black and white ring shadow is the first ring of the Heavenly Dao – The Ring of Life and Death. If cultivators at the First Step of Cultivation are unable to escape the restriction of the first ring of the Heavenly Dao, they won't be able to achieve immortality..." Luo You explained.

"A mere black and white ring shadow like this is the Heavenly Dao of the Lower Realm, huh..."

Ning Fan was deep in thoughts. This black and white Heavenly Dao was probably the one he offended in the past.

Maybe it was an illusion. When he stared at the black and white ring shadow, he suddenly felt that the ring shadow turned into a huge eye. Its black pupil was clearly distinctive from the whites of the eye around it. That large eye batted once at him...

After he observed it carefully, he realized that the ring shadow did not undergo any changes. It seemed just like an illusion.

There was an instant where a fierce and piercing qi seemed to have been released from the ring shadow and it was locked on Ning Fan.

The Heavenly Dao of the Lower Realm seemed to have recognized Ning Fan and knew that he was the person who captured the messengers of the heavenly tribulation twice and offended the might of the heavens.

However, a brief moment later, that qi which was targeted at Ning Fan dispersed.

The reason why the heavenly ring appeared today was because the Pill Sovereign achieved the breakthrough in his pill refinement realm.

Even though the Heavenly Dao detested Ning Fan, it was aware of what was right and wrong and it did not intend to go against the rules and punish Ning Fan.

Only an indolent female voice suddenly echoed from the ring shadow of the Heavenly Dao and entered Ning Fan's ears. Other than Ning Fan, no one else could hear that voice.

"Junior of the Rain World, you are quite bold to harm my puppets in the Lower Realm. I have been in control of the heavenly ring for 150 million years. You are the first cultivator who dare to defy the heavens publicly. Although your sins are deep, I know what is right and wrong and I won't summon tribulations upon you personally now. Besides, you are already not far away from the heavenly tribulation of the Void Pierce Stage. I'm looking forward to you dying in that heavenly tribulation... But still, hopefully you can go through the tribulation safely..."

The lady seemed to have chuckled. Then, it vanished all of a sudden. That voice seemed to be coming from very far away. Neither the Pill Sovereign nor Luo You could hear it. Only Ning Fan was able to hear it.

Ning Fan's eyes widened with surprise.

Who exactly is the lady who spoke to me via telepathy just now? Her abilities are so terrifying...

Commanding the Heavenly Rings for 150 million years... Could she be an immortal emperor...?

Ning Fan sighed. He never expected that he would be targeted by such a frightening lady.

Luckily, she was a lady who goes by the law and did not try to summon tribulations on Ning Fan personally.

Although the heavenly tribulations that Ning Fan faced became scarier and scarier starting from the Void Glimpse Stage, they also did not give him no chance to survive...

The heavenly tribulations might be terrifying, but their power was still restricted to the level of the First Step of cultivation. The Heavenly Dao was not so cruel to summon an immortal tribulation on him.

An immortal tribulation was the heavenly tribulation that the Heavenly Dao of the Second Step of cultivation would summon for immortals... If Ning Fan were to encounter that level of heavenly tribulation, he would not need to make any struggles at all as he would be directly killed.

With that lady's strength, she could kill Ning Fan in a single breath. Even so, she did not abuse her power and go against the laws to summon an immortal tribulation to kill him. In a way, she could not be counted as his enemy.

Ning Fan had a feeling that even though she looked forward to seeing him die in the next heavenly tribulation he would face after attaining the Void Pierce Stage, she was also excited to see him go against the heavens and get through the tribulation...

Perhaps the terrifying heavenly tribulations that came after him every time was just a test while the heavenly tribulation puppets were his rewards...

“Ning Fan! What are you doing? Hurry up and absorb the soul power that was flowing across the heaven and world!” The Pill Sovereign suddenly opened his eyes and urged him.

Ning Fan did not utter any word. He had already decided not to absorb the Pill Sovereign’s soul power.

Every time when a pill master is advancing to the Seventh Revolution, there was a limitation to the soul power that the heaven and earth would grant to them.

For ordinary Peak Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Masters, even if they absorb all the soul power that the heaven and earth give to them, they also might not necessarily be able to advance to the Seventh Revolution.

If Ning Fan absorbs the Pill Sovereign’s soul power now, it would then lower his chances of success in the advancement...

Ning Fan was not a kind person. However, since the Pill Sovereign was kind to him, he was not going to repay his kindness with evil!

Suddenly, he stood up. He did not plan to absorb the soul power at all. Instead, he turned into a ray of light and flew out of the protected area of the ancient tree, soaring into the sky. Standing mid-air, he said.

“I’ll help you withstand the tribulations!”

His words were simple and brief but they were loud and determined.

Upon hearing his words, the Pill Sovereign was stunned. Then, he looked touched but he sighed with a hint of disappointment at the same time.

“Silly child... This is a rare opportunity! If you absorb some of the soul power, perhaps your pill refinement realm can advance to the High Grade Sixth Revolution!”

“I never lack opportunities in my entire life. If I am not blessed with opportunities, I’ll just need to seize them with force. The only thing that I can never neglect is my Dao Heart!”

With determination in his eyes, he opened his mouth and inhaled. The rain of flames that fell around the sky were absorbed into his abdomen.

Then, with a wave of his hand, he gathered the soul power that was scattered across heaven and earth near the ancient tree to make it easy for the Pill Sovereign in absorbing it.

He took out several formation disks and planted layers of Mortal Void Grade formation light around the ancient tree!

He knew that the moment the Pill Sovereign finishes absorbing the soul power, he would then start facing the tests from the heavenly tribulation!

The heavenly tribulation of the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm was not trivial. What Ning Fan was doing now was considered as helping the Pill Sovereign increase his chances in achieving his advancement.

The Pill Sovereign sighed and closed his eyes. He had decided to grant Ning Fan a vast opportunity but if Ning Fan insisted not to accept it, he also could not force him.

After making a sigh, what occupied more of his heart was the feeling of relief.

His judgement was not wrong. The disciple that he had set his eyes on was indeed a man with excellent personality. Unfortunately, that man already had a master and therefore, there was no chance for him to be his master in this life anymore...

“Fine... Since you don’t accept my soul power of heaven and earth, this second session of guidance is invalid...”

“Why? Having the chance to observe a pill master attaining the Seventh Revolution at such a close distance is an opportunity itself!”

Ning Fan smiled at the sky. Just like what he had said, how many chances does one have in the world to observe the breakthrough of a Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Master?

Commonly, every Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Masters was worried about others seizing their soul power. Thus, most of them would choose to achieve the breakthrough in a remote area without allowing any outsider to witness sit.

The Sixth Revolution was like Heaven while the Seventh Revolution was like attaining the Immortal Realm. Breaking through to the Seventh Revolution was even more difficult than the Sixth Revolution. Its difficulty was not just in the aspect of soul transformation but also the fact that a majority of pill masters could not get the experience from those who had successfully achieved the breakthrough. Pill masters without the necessary knowledge could only explore themselves, just like a blind man travelling at night. Thus, it was naturally beset with difficulties...

The Pill Sovereign closed his eyes and stopped speaking.

In the Temple of Rain, each of the old monsters were shocked by Ning Fan's tolerance.

Be it a divine cultivator or a devil cultivator, there is basically no one who could persevere in not seizing the soul power.

How many Sixth Revolution Pill Masters in the world could keep their mind intact upon seeing a Seventh Revolution Pill Master who wants to share his soul power with them...?

Even the likes of Chu Chang An also began to have respect for Ning Fan.

Yun Qingge's eyes were staring at the bronze mirror, deep in thought.

She was Yu Chong Er's master. She was the daughter of a former Rain Sovereign. Guarding the Rain Palace was always her main priority.

Yu Chong Er had developed infatuation for a devil cultivator to a point of giving him the Heaven Deceiving Cloak, sacrificing her Insect Sovereign's Blood and even stealing the White Tiger Vambrace for him... This made Yun Qingge extremely furious.

Yu Chong Er did not tell Ning Fan that she did not request the White Tiger Vambrace from her master but she stole it from her instead...

Yun Qingge already found out that Ning Fan was that devil cultivator. Hence, she harbored enmity against him!

She stubbornly thought that Ning Fan used some kinds of lowly tricks to bewitch Yu Chong Er which caused her to do such audacious acts.

Today, she saw that even though he might be a devil cultivator, he was a magnanimous person. Therefore, she denied her original thought of him bewitching and hoodwinking Yu Chong Er...

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Even if the Pill Sovereign is fully prepared, he also would not have more than fifty percent chance of getting through such powerful heavenly tribulation!

As for the current him, he did not even have ten percent of chance as he did not expect that the chill wind tribulation would be so powerful!

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In the Temple of Rain, surprise filled everyone's faces. Even the Rain Sovereign's scalp tingled.

“Everyone said that the Seventh Revolution is like achieving the Immortal Realm. I didn’t believe it at first. However, judging from the current situation, that saying is true. Even I will have difficulties in withstanding such a powerful heavenly tribulation... No. I must immediately enter the illusory realm of the Black Stage to help the Pill Sovereign get through the tribulation!”

Even though the Rain Sovereign had suspicions for the Pill Sovereign, he naturally became willing to lend him a hand as the latter was about to achieve the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm which would be of great use to him.

However, as he swung his body, his expression turned grim suddenly. To his surprise, he discovered that the entire illusory realm inside the heavenly dwelling space of the Black Stage was sealed by the power of Heavenly Dao. With his power at the Fifth Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm, he also could not break it open!

“This is bad! I can’t get inside the heavenly dwelling space. The Pill Sovereign is in danger!”

For the first time in his life, the Rain Sovereign hated himself for being unable to help the Pill Sovereign.

Even though he relied heavily on the Pill Sovereign in the past, he suppressed him even more. After all, he was unwilling to see that the Pill Sovereign could grow his influence in the Rain World. If he were to see him in danger in the past, he naturally would not be nervous.

Today, however, the Pill Sovereign was on the verge of attaining the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm. After the Rain Sovereign had reassessed the advantages and disadvantages of the Pill Sovereign’s existence, he chose to help him.

Unfortunately, he also was unable to enter the illusory realm of the Black Stage. There was no way he could help the Pill Sovereign at all.

If the Pill Sovereign achieves the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm, the Seventh Revolution Pills he concocts would be an important aid to the Rain Sovereign in achieving the Immortal Realm...

The Rain Sovereign's face was filled with rage. After so many years, a Seventh Revolution Pill Master was about to be born in the Rain World. However, reality told him that the Seventh Revolution Pill Master was facing a terrifying chill wind tribulation and he had ninety percent chance of dying!

"The Pill Sovereign can't die!" He roared in wrath. Those who did not know him well would probably think that he had a deep relationship with the Pill Sovereign. However, it was just for his own benefits in reality.

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The moment the wind appeared, he could not get out of the illusory realm. Moreover, he also could not enter the Yuan Yao World or the Profound Yin World!

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All of a sudden, the wind was kept outside the fire wall.

Ning Fan looked at the Pill Sovereign who was still sitting in a meditative posture and slightly gnashed his teeth.

At this moment, the divine wood medicine soul inside the Pill Sovereign's body was gradually experiencing soul transformation. However, Ning Fan had no idea exactly how the transformation would occur.

When the wind tribulation assaulted suddenly just now, it inflicted a serious damage to the Pill Sovereign's medicine soul, causing him unable to use any of his magic power temporarily...

The Pill Sovereign coughed out a mouthful of fresh blood. His face turned pale. The moment the blood came out from his mouth, it immediately vanished into ashes.

He was injured by the cold wind. He knew that his chances of attaining the Seventh Revolution today was extremely slim. He did not even have the confidence whether he could escape to safety or not.

He felt a little regretful. If he had known that the wind tribulation would be so terrifying, he certainly would not have been so opinionated to promise to share soul power of heaven and earth with Ning Fan.

If he had known that the tribulation would be so powerful, he certainly would have chosen a remote and deserted area to achieve the breakthrough on his own. In that case, even if he fails to withstand the tribulation, he would only just sacrifice his own life without involving anyone else...

He suddenly understood why so many pill masters would be so cautious and avoid being noticed by anyone including their closed ones when they were achieving the Seventh Revolution.

Perhaps some of them were just unwilling to share the soul power with others.

For some others, however, it might be because they had no assurance to withstand the tribulation and did not want to put their disciples or descendants in danger...

The Pill Sovereign sighed deeply and took out an ancient brown wooden plate from his pouch..

Chapter 567:

“Your Majesty, if I may be so bold, what is the corpse puppet of the Min Luo Race...?!”

A cold glint flickered across Ning Fan’s eyes. He did not expect that the corpses of the members of the Min Luo Tree Race would be refined into puppets and given to others as rewards when they accomplish certain missions.

Before coming to the Tree World, he promised Treant Min Luo that he would look for the Mi Luo Tree Race and give them assistance when needed.

Today, before he had even started to look for the Min Luo Tree Race, he discovered this kind of rewards for the missions. This discovery made his heart sink.

Could it be that the Min Luo Tree Race is in the Eastern Tree Ocean?

Could it be that the Min Luo Tree Race has already become so weak that others could bully them however they like, capture their members and turn them into puppets which will serve as rewards for those who accomplish the missions?

Who is that person who refines the members of the Min Luo Tree Race into puppets? Is it the Bamboo Sovereign?

If that was truly the case, Ning Fan had no choice but to stand on the side of the Min Luo Tree Race and become enemies with the Bamboo Sovereign. After all, Treant Min Luo helped him guard Yue Country. Thus, from the aspect of justice and morality, he had the obligation to help him protect his race!

The moment the cold glint appeared in Ning Fan’s eyes, even Tang Xiong who was at the Absolute Void Stage felt chills running down his spine. His face turned pale.

At first, Tang Xiong thought that Ning Fan was just an ordinary Void Inquiry Stage expert. Today, however, he felt an extremely massive sense of danger from the latter’s eyes!

The look in his eyes contained a vast amount of baleful qi and it was unimaginably terrifying!

As Ning Fan darted a cold glance at him, Tang Xiong felt a sharp pain in his Sea of Consciousness. Countless layers of illusions began appearing before his eyes!

Those were scenes of boundless seas of blood that Ning Fan had gone through!

Among those seas of blood, countless died. The Void Refinement Realm who lost their lives to him were also too many to be counted. On top of that, there were even Void Fragmentation experts who died in his hands!

“Could it be that this kid has killed V-Void Fragmentation Realm experts before?! But how could that be possible?! No matter how heaven-defying the capabilities of a Void Inquiry Stage cultivator, it’s definitely impossible for them to kill someone at the Void Fragmentation Realm!”

Filler Word

The moment the black and white ring shadows appeared, the ten suns above the sky of the illusory realm exploded one after another. The sky began becoming dim and dark. The earth, however, started to tremble and the lava surged, initiating a raging flame that engulfed each of the volcanoes!

As the ring shadows flashed, an unimaginable medicine soul gradually permeated heaven and earth. It was so powerful that it could crush the medicine soul of any Fifth Revolution Pill Refinement Masters!

It was the medicine soul power accumulated in the Heavenly Dao from the countless deceased pill masters since ancient times. It was the reward that heaven and earth gave to a Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Master!

A Fifth Revolution Pill Master did not have the right to observe the breakthrough of a Seventh Revolution Pill Master at all! Every single one of them was unable to endure the force given out by the medicinal soul of heaven and earth!

Each of the volcanoes erupted in succession, filling the sky with sparks of flames. Those flames, however, suddenly fell down, raining down upon the Pill Sovereign's location.

At this moment, the Pill Sovereign's forehead was beaded with sweat. He was sitting down with his eyes closed, beginning to push through the bottleneck of the Seventh Revolution.

A towering ancient tree was standing upright behind him. It was the form of his medicine soul.

That ancient tree had luxuriant foliage. It gave off a faint layer of light screen that was condensed from medicine soul power, preventing the rain of flames from falling upon him.

Ning Fan raised his head and looked into the sky. His expression turned grim as he was staring at the black and white ring shadows.

“This black and white ring shadow is the first ring of the Heavenly Dao – The Ring of Life and Death. If cultivators at the First Step of Cultivation are unable to escape the restriction of the first ring of the Heavenly Dao, they won't be able to achieve immortality...” Luo You explained.

“A mere black and white ring shadow like this is the Heavenly Dao of the Lower Realm, huh...”

Ning Fan was deep in thoughts. This black and white Heavenly Dao was probably the one he offended in the past.

Maybe it was an illusion. When he stared at the black and white ring shadow, he suddenly felt that the ring shadow turned into a huge eye. Its black pupil was clearly distinctive from the whites of the eye around it. That large eye batted once at him...

After he observed it carefully, he realized that the ring shadow did not undergo any changes. It seemed just like an illusion.

There was an instant where a fierce and piercing qi seemed to have been released from the ring shadow and it was locked on Ning Fan.

The Heavenly Dao of the Lower Realm seemed to have recognized Ning Fan and knew that he was the person who captured the messengers of the heavenly tribulation twice and offended the might of the heavens.

However, a brief moment later, that qi which was targeted at Ning Fan dispersed.

The reason why the heavenly ring appeared today was because the Pill Sovereign achieved the breakthrough in his pill refinement realm.

Even though the Heavenly Dao detested Ning Fan, it was aware of what was right and wrong and it did not intend to go against the rules and punish Ning Fan.

Only an indolent female voice suddenly echoed from the ring shadow of the Heavenly Dao and entered Ning Fan's ears. Other than Ning Fan, no one else could hear that voice.

“Junior of the Rain World, you are quite bold to harm my puppets in the Lower Realm. I have been in control of the heavenly ring for 150 million years. You are the first cultivator who dare to defy the heavens publicly. Although your sins are deep, I know what is right and wrong and I won't summon tribulations upon you personally now. Besides, you are already not far away from the heavenly tribulation of the Void Pierce Stage. I'm looking forward to you dying in that heavenly tribulation... But still, hopefully you can go through the tribulation safely...”

The lady seemed to have chuckled. Then, it vanished all of a sudden. That voice seemed to be coming from very far away. Neither the Pill Sovereign nor Luo You could hear it. Only Ning Fan was able to hear it.

Ning Fan's eyes widened with surprise.

Who exactly is the lady who spoke to me via telepathy just now? Her abilities are so terrifying...

Commanding the Heavenly Rings for 150 million years... Could she be an immortal emperor...?

Ning Fan sighed. He never expected that he would be targeted by such a frightening lady.

Luckily, she was a lady who goes by the law and did not try to summon tribulations on Ning Fan personally.

Although the heavenly tribulations that Ning Fan faced became scarier and scarier starting from the Void Glimpse Stage, they also did not give him no chance to survive...

The heavenly tribulations might be terrifying, but their power was still restricted to the level of the First Step of cultivation. The Heavenly Dao was not so cruel to summon an immortal tribulation on him.

An immortal tribulation was the heavenly tribulation that the Heavenly Dao of the Second Step of cultivation would summon for immortals... If Ning Fan were to encounter that level of heavenly tribulation, he would not need to make any struggles at all as he would be directly killed.

With that lady's strength, she could kill Ning Fan in a single breath. Even so, she did not abuse her power and go against the laws to summon an immortal tribulation to kill him. In a way, she could not be counted as his enemy.

Ning Fan had a feeling that even though she looked forward to seeing him die in the next heavenly tribulation he would face after attaining the Void Pierce Stage, she was also excited to see him go against the heavens and get through the tribulation...

Perhaps the terrifying heavenly tribulations that came after him every time was just a test while the heavenly tribulation puppets were his rewards...

“Ning Fan! What are you doing? Hurry up and absorb the soul power that was flowing across the heaven and world!” The Pill Sovereign suddenly opened his eyes and urged him.

Ning Fan did not utter any word. He had already decided not to absorb the Pill Sovereign's soul power.

Every time when a pill master is advancing to the Seventh Revolution, there was a limitation to the soul power that the heaven and earth would grant to them.

For ordinary Peak Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Masters, even if they absorb all the soul power that the heaven and earth give to them, they also might not necessarily be able to advance to the Seventh Revolution.

If Ning Fan absorbs the Pill Sovereign's soul power now, it would then lower his chances of success in the advancement...

Ning Fan was not a kind person. However, since the Pill Sovereign was kind to him, he was not going to repay his kindness with evil!

Suddenly, he stood up. He did not plan to absorb the soul power at all. Instead, he turned into a ray of light and flew out of the protected area of the ancient tree, soaring into the sky. Standing mid-air, he said.

"I'll help you withstand the tribulations!"

His words were simple and brief but they were loud and determined.

Upon hearing his words, the Pill Sovereign was stunned. Then, he looked touched but he sighed with a hint of disappointment at the same time.

"Silly child... This is a rare opportunity! If you absorb some of the soul power, perhaps your pill refinement realm can advance to the High Grade Sixth Revolution!"

"I never lack opportunities in my entire life. If I am not blessed with opportunities, I'll just need to seize them with force. The only thing that I can never neglect is my Dao Heart!"

With determination in his eyes, he opened his mouth and inhaled. The rain of flames that fell around the sky were absorbed into his abdomen.

Then, with a wave of his hand, he gathered the soul power that was scattered across heaven and earth near the ancient tree to make it easy for the Pill Sovereign in absorbing it.

He took out several formation disks and planted layers of Mortal Void Grade formation light around the ancient tree!

He knew that the moment the Pill Sovereign finishes absorbing the soul power, he would then start facing the tests from the heavenly tribulation!

The heavenly tribulation of the Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm was not trivial. What Ning Fan was doing now was considered as helping the Pill Sovereign increase his chances in achieving his advancement.

The Pill Sovereign sighed and closed his eyes. He had decided to grant Ning Fan a vast opportunity but if Ning Fan insisted not to accept it, he also could not force him.

After making a sigh, what occupied more of his heart was the feeling of relief.

His judgement was not wrong. The disciple that he had set his eyes on was indeed a man with excellent personality. Unfortunately, that man already had a master and therefore, there was no chance for him to be his master in this life anymore...

“Fine... Since you don’t accept my soul power of heaven and earth, this second session of guidance is invalid...”

“Why? Having the chance to observe a pill master attaining the Seventh Revolution at such a close distance is an opportunity itself!”

Ning Fan smiled at the sky. Just like what he had said, how many chances does one have in the world to observe the breakthrough of a Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Master?

Commonly, every Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Masters was worried about others seizing their soul power. Thus, most of them would choose to achieve the breakthrough in a remote area without allowing any outsider to witness sit.

The Sixth Revolution was like Heaven while the Seventh Revolution was like attaining the Immortal Realm. Breaking through to the Seventh Revolution was even more difficult than the Sixth Revolution. Its difficulty was not just in the aspect of soul transformation but also the fact that a majority of pill masters could not get the experience from those who had successfully achieved the breakthrough. Pill masters without the necessary knowledge could only explore themselves, just like a blind man travelling at night. Thus, it was naturally beset with difficulties...

The Pill Sovereign closed his eyes and stopped speaking.

In the Temple of Rain, each of the old monsters were shocked by Ning Fan's tolerance.

Be it a divine cultivator or a devil cultivator, there is basically no one who could persevere in not seizing the soul power.

How many Sixth Revolution Pill Masters in the world could keep their mind intact upon seeing a Seventh Revolution Pill Master who wants to share his soul power with them...?

Even the likes of Chu Chang An also began to have respect for Ning Fan.

Yun Qingge's eyes were staring at the bronze mirror, deep in thought.

She was Yu Chong Er's master. She was the daughter of a former Rain Sovereign. Guarding the Rain Palace was always her main priority.

Yu Chong Er had developed infatuation for a devil cultivator to a point of giving him the Heaven Deceiving Cloak, sacrificing her Insect Sovereign's Blood and even stealing the White Tiger Vambrace for him... This made Yun Qingge extremely furious.

Yu Chong Er did not tell Ning Fan that she did not request the White Tiger Vambrace from her master but she stole it from her instead...

Yun Qingge already found out that Ning Fan was that devil cultivator. Hence, she harbored enmity against him!

She stubbornly thought that Ning Fan used some kinds of lowly tricks to bewitch Yu Chong Er which caused her to do such audacious acts.

Today, she saw that even though he might be a devil cultivator, he was a magnanimous person. Therefore, she denied her original thought of him bewitching and hoodwinking Yu Chong Er...

“Could it be that Yu Chong Er gave him those things out of her own free will...” Yun Qingge seemed to have understood something and her eyes were gradually filled with confusion.

One day, two days, three days... After seven days, the Pill Sovereign had finished absorbing all the soul power of heaven and earth within the illusory realm. He then took out an unknown pill from his pouch and ate it.

That pill seemed to be effective in tempering one’s medicine soul as it gradually restrained all the soul power that he had just absorbed.

The moment he finished taking in the soul power, waves of bone-chilling wind suddenly blew across the place!

At the areas where the chill wind passed by, the lava in the cracks on the land were extinguished bizarrely!

Every mountain and river directly disintegrated into ashes!

Even the ancient tree that was protecting the Pill Sovereign began withering rapidly!

In just an instant, the Pill Sovereign’s medicine soul was severely injured. Blood flowed out from his lips. His eyes widened with shock!

“What a strong chill wind tribulation!”

A chill wind tribulation was a heavenly tribulation that only Void Fragmentation Realm experts would encounter.

The Pill Sovereign was at the Third Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm. However, even when he broke through to that cultivation realm, the chill wind tribulation he faced also was not as strong as this!

Even if the Pill Sovereign is fully prepared, he also would not have more than fifty percent chance of getting through such powerful heavenly tribulation!

As for the current him, he did not even have ten percent of chance as he did not expect that the chill wind tribulation would be so powerful!

Despite just breaking through to the Low Grade Seventh Revolution Pill Refinement Realm, the chill wind tribulation he faced was actually comparable to the heavenly tribulation at the Fourth Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm!

Chapter 568: Assassination.

“Lu Bei! Don’t ever think that you can enjoy this mission on your own! The Min Luo puppet is mine!”

The elderly man with a pair of white eyes were smiling viciously. He called Ning Fan Lu Bei. Without a doubt, he must have seen the wanted notice that the Vine Sovereign issued and knew that Ning Fan was Lu Bei.

Ning Fan was not surprised when his identity was revealed. After all, it was not strange for that old man who was a Void Refinement Realm old monster to obtain the wanted notice with his means.

Ning Fan was not afraid of being apprehended by the Vine Sovereign. He never concealed his appearance nor deliberately hid himself throughout his entire flight. If he were to encounter enemies who came to attack him, he would just kill them.

Ning Fan's eyes scanned across the group of people indifferently. Among the nine puppet masters, eight of them looked hostile. Seemingly, he had already found out his identity.

Only that Void Glimpse Stage young lady in green robes who originally looked as calm as a millpond was currently filled with a hint of shock.

She did not seem to have expected that the elegant and refined gentleman in front of her was the devil lord that provoked the Vine Sovereign.

However, when she remembered that Ning Fan was planning to keep the entire mission to himself and seize all the Min Luo puppets, her eyes naturally flashed with enmity.

“If I insist on keeping the entire mission to myself, what can you do?”

Ning Fan said faintly with his eyes shifting toward the elderly man with white eyes.

The latter was stunned for a while. He did not expect that Ning Fan would be so strong-willed to actually ignore his threat.

With his old eyes narrowed, he snorted and said, “On the path of cultivation, the strong will be respected. If you want to take the mission on your own, then show us the strength that can convince us!”

Filler Word

The third stage – Black Stage!

Ning Fan followed the Pill Sovereign into the heavenly dwelling space where the third test would be held. As the Pill Sovereign waved his hand, the shen clouds turned illusory, transforming into a illusory world of fire.

Cracks were everywhere on the land with lava flowing below them.

Ten suns were hanging in the vault of heaven. Even Void Refinement Realm experts would have difficulties enduring the heat in this place.

“This is the illusory realm specially for testing one’s pill refinement techniques. One can save up a lot of time by refining pills here. According to the standard of this stage, as long as you can concoct a Fifth Revolution Pill, you will be considered passed... To you, this stage is pretty simple. However, I wish to find out what exactly what level in pill refinement realm you have currently achieved. Thus, I hope you can show me your best in this stage.”

The Pill Sovereign looked at Ning Fan with a smile. His turbid eyes were filled with hope and excitement.

He had been finicky in his life. His overly high standard dissuaded him from accepting any disciples. However, his meeting with Ning Fan had sparked the idea accepting the latter as his disciple in him.

Unfortunately, Ning Fan already had Old Devil as his master and the Pill Sovereign could only give up his thought of making him his disciple.

Ning Fan bowed respectfully to the Pill Sovereign. Then, he used the power of his intent realm to form a large black pill cauldron.

He extended his palm and clawed at every direction. The lava beneath the vast land immediately roiled, burning with even fiercer flames.

The heat from the lava and earth fire gradually warmed up the pill cauldron. When Ning Fan pointed at the ground in front of him with a finger, a jade table appeared with various fifty thousand years old spiritual herbs on top of it.

The Pill Sovereign’s eyes scanned past those spiritual herbs and said while nodding his head in approval.

“These are the ingredients for concocting a Void inquiry Pill. A Void Inquiry Pill is a Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Pill. It isn’t easy to make. Except for me and you, I believe that there isn’t a third person in the Rain World who can concoct this pill... Begin your concoction. Show me and the cultivators of the

Rain World your current pill refinement techniques! By letting the Rain Sovereign know your excellent pill refinement skills, he won't turn against you recklessly!"

The Pill Sovereign waved his long sleeve and the illusory realm suddenly trembled. A gigantic bronze mirror that was hanging upside down appeared above the sky.

At the same time, the fire light in the Temple of Rain flashed and a one hundred zhang\* (3.33m per zhang) tall bronze mirror emerged.

The reflection in the bronze mirror was the exact same scene where Ning Fan was concocting pills in the illusory state.

The reason why the Pill Sovereign did so was because he wanted to show Ning Fan's Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Realm to everyone in the world!

Including Ning Fan, there were now eight Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Masters in the Rain World. If Ning Fan could concoct a Void Inquiry Pill, his pill refinement skills would at least be in the top five!

The Pill Sovereign had already noticed that the Rain Sovereign ordered Revered Sage to spy on Ning Fan.

He did not know why the Rain Sovereign was targeting at Ning Fan. From his perspective, if the Rain Sovereign finds out that Ning Fan was a talented pill refinement master, he probably would need his help in concocting pills and dismiss his enmity against him.

Ning Fan raised his head and gazed into the sky. He gently sighed when he saw the large bronze mirror in the vault of heavens.

He could tell that the Pill Sovereign summoned it with the best of intentions. Therefore, he cupped his fists and expressed his gratitude to him. The Pill Sovereign, however, smiled at him and waved his hand, telling him that he did not need treat him like an outsider.

In the Temple of Rain, every old monster shifted their eyes to the bronze mirror. They were quite interested in Ning Fan's pill refinement skills.

When some old monsters saw the jade table and noticed that the ingredients which Ning Fan was planning to use were all fifty thousand years old spiritual herbs, their eyes widened with surprise.

“Fifty thousand years old spiritual herbs! According to hearsay, White-Robed Marquis is the eighth Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Master of the Rain World. Today, he indeed is going to concoct a Sixth Revolution Pill!”

“\*Tsk Tsk Tsk\* Even though he is just nine hundred years old, he is already a Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Master. His innate talent in pill refinement is truly rare in this world. Perhaps he will be the next Pill Sovereign in our Rain World!”

The cultivation of most of the old monsters in the temple were at the Void Refinement Realm. Therefore, it was impossible for them to treat a Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Master with contempt.

Only a green-robed elderly man who had a haughty expression shook his head with disapproval and said, “The next Pill Sovereign? Hehe. Although it’s a fact that the White-Robed Marquis has great capabilities, he might not necessarily be able to travel far on the Dao of Alchemy. His innate talent is quite excellent for being able to attain the Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Realm at such a young age. However, he has committed too many killings which made his devil heart difficult to be erased. I’m afraid he has no chance in breaking through to the Mid Grade Sixth Revolution in his entire life!”

As soon as the old man’s voice fell, everyone turned toward him and discovered that he was the sect master of the Five Elements Sect – Qing Yuanzi.

Qing Yuanzi was a Low Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Master. He was always the center of attention and took pride in his extraordinary life.

Recently, he had even touched the bottleneck of the Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Realm and claimed that he could achieve the improvement in his pill refinement realm within one hundred years.

He said firmly that it would be impossible for Ning Fan to attain the Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Realm in his entire life. When he said that, many old monsters also felt the same way and nodded their heads gently.

The Dao of Alchemy emphasized one's temperament the most. Ning Fan was a devil cultivator who had committed countless slaughters. Thus, it was reasonable to say that he would have difficulties in achieving success in the Dao of Alchemy.

At the same time, some old monsters were staring at Qing Yuanzi in a weird way as they thought of something else.

Qing Yuanzi might have a bad temperament, but he was no fool. Despite knowing very well that Ning Fan was not someone he should mess with, he still said badly about him at this moment to tatter his reputation. Was it because someone directed him to do so in the dark...?

The Five Elements Sect had a close relationship with the fifth prince, Yun Zhongyan... Could it be that it was Yun Zhongyan's intention to let Qing Yuanzi said those words?

Some old monsters glanced at Yun Zhongyan secretly and saw that his eyes were filled with a hint of pleasure. Besides, he even gave Qing Yuanzi a look of approval...

Without a doubt, Qing Yuanzi was very likely to have received Yun Zhongyan's order to say something bad about Ning Fan.

Qing Yuanzi felt a rush of joy after ridiculing Ning Fa.

However, just as he finished speaking, an old monster in the crowd exclaimed in surprise.

"T-These are... These are the ingredients to make a Void Inquiry Pill! Is the White-Robed Marquis trying to concoct a Void Inquiry Pill?!"

The person who cried in surprise was an old man in white robes. He was standing beneath the bronze mirror, looking carefully at the spiritual herbs on the jade table in the mirror.

This man was the lord of the Flowing Cloud Valley. He was a hair's breadth away from attaining the Absolute Void Stage.

The Flowing Cloud Valley was one of the thirteen sects in the Central State. As the lord of the Flowing Cloud Valley, the words he said naturally carried some weight.

He was holding a scroll of pill recipe in his hands while carefully inspecting each of the spiritual herbs on the jade table. The result made him believe even more firmly that the pill that Ning Fan was going to concoct was Void Inquiry Pill!

“The White-Robed Marquis is actually preparing to make a Void Inquiry Pill!? Could it be that he has already achieved the Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Realm?”

“Didn’t Fellow Daoist Qing Yun say that White-Robed Marquis won’t have the opportunity to attain the Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Realm?”

Some old monsters cast a strange look at Qing Yuanzi. Immediately, his old face turned red. He snorted coldly and said, “Even though the medicinal ingredients he is planning to use are meant for concocting a Void Inquiry Pill, it might not necessary prove that he is a Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Master. He certainly won’t be able to concoct the pill!”

Just as Qing Yuanzi finished speaking, a few other old monsters said in astonishment.

“T-This... What grade is that flame?!”

“A Fifth Grade Earth Vein Demonic Flame? A Sixth Grade Mortal Void Flame? No. It isn’t... It is a Seventh Grade Immortal Void Flame!”

“The White-Robed Marquis’ pill refinement flame is actually an immortal void flame?! What is that name? It actually is stronger than common immortal void flames. Why haven’t I heard of this kind of black flame before...?”

Qing Yuanzi glanced sideways at the people who spoke. This time, it was the Minute Dust Three Elders from the Minute Dust Sect.

The reason why they were shocked was because Ning Fan had already summoned his black flame and started refining pill in the bronze mirror!

The black flame was the combination of twenty-four types of Heavenly Cold Qi and Earth Flames which made its grade comparable to that of a High Rank Seventh Grade Immortal Void Flame!

“Why is his spiritual flame so powerful...?” Qing Yuanzi was so shocked that he was at a loss for words.

In the illusory realm, Ning Fan had no idea about the dispute that was happening in the outside world. He only started to refine pill with a calm mind.

He summoned his intent realm cauldron and released his black flame. Then, he tossed each of the spiritual herbs into the cauldron to refine them. During the process, he unleashed a strong medicine soul power!

The moment he released his medicine soul power, a mysterious black light glowed around his body, giving him an unworldly aura.

In the next moment, countless black butterflies appeared, filling up the entire illusory realm. Those butterflies were produced by his medicine soul!

Despite being at the other side of bronze mirror, Qing Yuanzi also could deeply feel the intensity of that medicine soul.

Qing Yuanzi's smile froze. He stood there startled.

He stared at Ning Fan who was inside the bronze mirror in disbelief. Even his voice started to tremble.

“I-It's the M-Mid Grade Sixth Revolution medicine soul!”

Moments ago, he firmly said that Ning Fan would not be able to attain the Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Realm. However, the fact was Ning Fan was already a Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Master now!

“Fellow Daoist Qing Yuanzi’s foresight seems a little unconvincing.” Some old monsters looked at him with a meaningful smile on their faces.

Immediately, he only felt that he had lost face and was deeply embarrassed.

Facts proved that Ning Fan’s temperament was completely suitable to cultivate the Dao of Alchemy while Qing Yuanzi was apparently the one who did not have a suitable state of mind for the Dao of Alchemy...

A Void Inquiry Pill was not easy to concoct. An ordinary Mid Grade Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Master would need to spend at least one year to make a single Void Inquiry Pill.

The quality of Ning Fan’s flame was obviously better than a lot of people. At the same time, his medicinal cauldron was produced using an intent realm at the Second Step which allowed him to surpass ordinary old monsters in terms of the speed in pill concoction.

However, despite having all the advantages, the entire process still took him half a month.

It was not his first time concocting a Void Inquiry Pill. Therefore, he was already very used to the making of a Void Inquiry Pill.

Half a month later, Ning Fan patted the lid of the cauldron and took out a Void Inquiry Pill that he had successfully concocted.

At this moment, the expressions of all the old monsters in the temple changed!

It was now evident that Ning Fan not only had attained the Sixth Revolution Pill Refinement Realm but also the middle grade of that level!

His pill refinement techniques had already reached such a terrifying level despite his young age. If he continues his cultivation, it certainly would not be difficult for him to become the next Pill Sovereign in the coming days!

The next Pill Sovereign!

Even the Rain Sovereign was slightly moved. A genius in the Dao of Alchemy like Ning Fan had extremely important to the future of the Rain World.

Ning Fan's innate talent in the Dao of Alchemy was astonishing. If he becomes a Seventh Revolution Pill Master one day, probably the Rain Sovereign would need to ask for some Seventh Revolution Pills from him in order to become an immortal...

“This kid has the Black Devil Sect as his backer, the Indestructible Fire Body and a scary innate talent in the Dao of Alchemy... If he isn't the person who will stop me in attaining the immortal realm, I must draw him over my side. He is someone whom I must never turn against!” The Rain Sovereign's eyes flashed with determination.

Logically, Ning Fan was considered to have passed the Black Stage after successfully making the Void Inquiry Pill. However, both him and the Pill Sovereign had yet to leave the illusory realm.

Inside there, Ning Fan was packing up the remaining spiritual herbs that were not used during the process and sealed that Void Inquiry Pill that he had just concocted into a box. Then, he cupped his fists at the Pill Sovereign courteously and said, “Elder Li, please give me guidance!”

Even though Ning Fan had pride, he was not a self-conceited person..