

Grasping 981

Chapter 981: This Junior... Dares Now

Within the Southern Clan, Ning Fan's act of slaying a Quasi-Saint caused quite a stir.

On Mu Island, the gathered cultivators were also astounded by Ning Fan's near-miraculous achievement.

How could Ning Fan, with mere Eternal Calamity Immortal Venerate cultivation, kill a Quasi-Saint with a single palm strike? What kind of divine skill was that golden palm print, so terrifying in its power!

Was Ning Fan's true cultivation indeed just Eternal Calamity, or was he hiding it?

Every person, including Daoist Wood Pine, harbored doubts in their hearts, each with different guesses, yet no one voiced them to inquire of Ning Fan.

However, Xiang Mingzi, who had a close relationship with Ning Fan, was less concerned and secretly asked about the matter. Ning Fan's response was that he relied not on cultivation suppression but on a divine skill specially countering the Southern Clan's Barbarian Sect to slay Man Daosan's Quasi-Saint clone.

Ning Fan genuinely connected with Xiang Mingzi and did not conceal this matter, though he did not elaborate.

This was enough to shock Xiang Mingzi, who, with all his Quasi-Saint experience, had never heard of a divine skill enabling an Immortal Venerable like Ning Fan to instantly kill a Quasi-Saint.

Absurd, this matter was truly too absurd! Had he not seen it with his own eyes, Xiang Mingzi would never have believed such a fearsome divine skill existed! His regard for Ning Fan heightened to unprecedented levels; this young man's methods were indeed endless. Perhaps, even without his help, Ning Fan could still contend with the Dark Clan...

Wu Laoba was even more excited, claiming that recognizing Ning Fan as his master proved to be a wise decision! Slaying a Quasi-Saint—how many could accomplish such a feat across the Four Heavens! That scene left Wu Laoba with burning blood, increasing his respect and fear for Ning Fan.

"Master, might you be a Second-Rank Quasi-Saint? Have you hidden your cultivation?" Wu Laoba secretly asked Ning Fan once.

"What do you think?" Ning Fan responded ambiguously.

"I believe the master isn't, but the master has means to kill a Second-Rank Quasi-Saint, relying on something rather than mere cultivation suppression... Is Little Ba guessing correctly?" Wu Laoba asked submissively.

"Little Ba?" Ning Fan was slightly startled; Little Ba...

"Little Ba is just little me; before outsiders, I am Wu Laoba; before the master, I am only fit to be a Little Wu Ba... Master, oh master, you are truly formidable! Slaying a Quasi-Saint—heehee, could you teach me that divine skill?" Wu Laoba asked, as obedient as a lapdog.

"This divine skill cannot be imparted to you... But if you remain obedient and faithfully follow me, there will be benefits for you in the future," Ning Fan said with deep meaning.

"Indeed... the master relies on divine skill rather than cultivation to slay Quasi-Saints." Wu Laoba secretly confirmed this, suddenly surprised that the master seemed intentionally candid with him?

Was this trust? Or a reminder? Perhaps there was deeper motive in this act...

Nonetheless, the master mentioned rewards for loyal following...

Wu Laoba's eyes burned with hope; what did it matter if the master wasn't currently a Quasi-Saint? With such incredible talent, the future surely wouldn't fare worse than Daoist Wood Pine. Plus, when he imparted a few peerless divine skills to me, heehee, imagine Wu Laoba dominating the Four Heavens!

Thus, from this incident, Wu Laoba's loyalty to Ning Fan greatly increased, an unexpected benefit indeed.

The journey to Mu Island had ended. Ning Fan bid farewell to Daoist Wood Pine after making an agreement and headed back toward the Dongming Star Domain. Accompanying him were only Lv Wen and Wu Laoba; Xiang Mingzi didn't return to the Dongming Star Domain but went elsewhere to visit several friends, claiming he seldom ventured out.

Until Ning Fan departed, Daoist Wood Pine remained unclear about how Ning Fan kept his eyes shut while slaying the Quasi-Saint...

"Getting old, truly old. The future will surely see a place for this young man in the Dreamland Realm. At this moment, facing the threat of the Dark Clan, if this old man can lend him a helping hand, perhaps good karma can arise, and who knows what good consequences may come..."

After Ning Fan left, Daoist Wood Pine sequestered himself again to prepare for potential confrontations with the Dark Clan.

Swallowing the Carp Eye, he saw even more images, then attempted to take the fifteenth step on the Origin Bridge... If successful, his strength would surely advance again...

...

Upon returning to the Dongming Star Domain once more, Ning Fan intended to fulfill the promise made to the Luo Family, awakening the War King.

Although physically on Mu Island, with a single thought, he could let rain fall on Dongming, sensing the situation of the Luo Family, whose preparations were nearly complete, about eighty to ninety percent done.

Along the way, Lv Wen engaged in congenial conversation with Ning Fan. Lv Wen's character, dedicated to repaying favors and exacting revenge, shared certain commonalities with Ning Fan, thus their personalities harmonized. Moreover, after this episode, Lv Wen chose to stand by Ning Fan's side,

dealing with the Southern Clan's difficulties, bonding with Ning Fan through adversity; such partnerships are true friendships, even if spanning merely a century.

"The Southern Clan's threat has subsided, it seems. Even if a Southern Clan Quasi-Saint seeks you out in the future, out of their fear, they'll treat you courteously without excessively troubling you. However, do not underestimate the Southern Clan; heed this brother's advice. The Southern Clan's cultivators are most obstinate, akin to unruly mules in the mortal realm. While they fear you and treat you politely, pushing them too severely will turn them into mad dogs, fighting relentlessly. Furthermore, the Southern Clan's highest forbidden area harbors a severely injured Ancient Great Cultivator... If the Southern Clan sends more people, do not push them too hard!" Lv Wen advised.

"Rest assured, elder brother, I know my limits."

"Yes, this trip is for saving the Luo Family's War King, isn't it? In recent years, the War King of the Luo Family's condition has worsened, forcing the Luo Family to seek pills and remedies everywhere but finding no salvation for the War King. Additionally, I hear that several renowned old eccentrics accepted the Luo Family's invitation, attempting rescue with various secret techniques rather than using the Luo Family's War God Art, all returning severely injured... I don't know the specifics, but reports claim the War King has birthed a demonic entity within, presenting significant danger... If your connection with the Luo Family isn't strong, perhaps avoid involving in this troubled water, as even several Immortal Kings suffered severe injuries from the War King's internal demon..."

"Oh? The War King birthed a demon inside?" Ning Fan was slightly startled but merely surprised, unchanged in his plans.

He was a man of his word and would ensure the promise to the Luo Family was fulfilled, regardless of the demon's strength; this journey would honor his commitment!

"That demon reportedly possesses Pinnacle Immortal King cultivation, and I also heard the Luo Family's ancestors were seemingly cast-offs from the Southern Clan. But after several generations, the Luo family's Southern Clan bloodline had thinned considerably. The Luo Family cultivates in battle, possibly originating from the Southern Clan's four divisions' Combat Unit. If true, the demon could well be the mythical entity of the Southern Clan's Combat Unit, the Witch God..." Lv Wen shared further details known to him with Ning Fan.

"Witch God?"

Ning Fan was slightly stunned, hearing for the first time that the Luo Family might originate from the Southern Clan's Combat Unit. Nonetheless, he didn't doubt the credibility; Lv Wen spoke with conviction, implying certainty.

A demon with Pinnacle Immortal King cultivation, likely the legendary terrifying entity from the Southern Clan's Combat Unit, the Witch God... Alas, about the Witch God, details were scant for Lv Wen too, likely known in-depth only by the Southern Clan's higher echelons.

Ning Fan pondered slightly; Pinnacle Immortal King was beyond his ability to defeat. Whether slaying Quasi-Saints or Dao Carp, he relied not on his cultivation. His true power exceeded Wu Laoba's but wasn't overwhelmingly strong.

Fortunately, he had the God-Extinguishing Shield for protection. Even facing an Eight Tribulations Celestial Emperor, self-defense was ensured, so fear of a demonic Witch God was unwarranted. Within the context of self-preservation, using the War God Art to rescue shouldn't pose excessive danger...

Ning Fan's group, all cultivators of profound prowess, traveled at full speed and returned shortly to the Dongming Star Domain.

Tianhai Star, the Cultivation Star where the Luo Family's War King resides.

Inside the Luo Family's main hall, Patriarch Luo Shi was currently smiling humbly at a few guests, three of them renowned Fragmented Thought Elders of Eastern Heaven fame. Besides Luo Shi, several known juniors from the Luo Family, such as Luo Xuan and Luo Xiao, were present.

Among the three guests, two were at the Later Stage of Shattered Thought, and the strongest person was an elder who was a half-step into the Peak of Shattered Thought. In terms of cultivation, they were all far superior to Luo Shix. In such a scenario, the juniors such as Luo Xuan and Luo Xiao had no right to speak.

Previously, when Ning Fan was delayed from appearing in the Eastern Heavens, Luo Shix sought help to save the War King. These three guests were the alchemy experts invited by the Luo Family back then, all of whom were Silver Elixir Grade Ninth Revolution Pill Refinement Masters, known in the Eastern

Heavens as the 'Three Elders of Magic Pills.' Moreover, they were originally brothers, and by combining their efforts, they could attempt to refine even the Ninth Revolution Golden Pill.

Unfortunately, although their alchemy skills were indeed high, they were unable to produce pills that could awaken the War King. In their final attempt to save him, they were severely injured by the demon within the War King, and filled with fear, they dared not attempt to save him again.

As the saying goes, it's easy to invite the deities but hard to send them away. The three of them were terrified of the demon, constantly making excuses to avoid helping the War King, yet they were unwilling to leave the Luo Family.

Ah, the Luo Family, those who came to save the War King were almost guaranteed anything they asked for; pills, cauldrons, whatever they needed, the Luo Family would present to them. The Three Elders of Magic Pills were loose cultivators without family resources. If they stayed in the Luo Family, they could enjoy food and drink and use the family's resources for cultivation, and the family's medicinal materials to enhance their alchemy skills. Having tasted the benefits, they were reluctant to leave the Luo Family.

Luo Shix had summoned the three today with the intention to send away these three deities.

Now that Ning Fan had returned to the Eastern Heavens, the Luo Family could rely solely on Ning Fan and no longer needed to depend on these parasites.

The thought of these parasites only taking and not helping enraged Luo Shix. Because the Luo Family was eager to save the War King and offered generous terms, everyone in the Eastern Heavens, from cats to dogs, wanted to come to the Luo Family to gain some benefit and linger without leaving. Most of them, however, were not enthusiastic about saving anyone; they just wanted to take the Luo Family's resources for cultivation.

Like the Flesh Mountain Cultivator who attacked Ning Fan earlier, and the current Three Elders of Magic Pills, the present Luo Family included all sorts of people, left with no choice previously. But now, well...

"Respected Daoists have expended much effort to treat our ancestor for decades. This is a small token of gratitude from our family to you three," said Luo Shix.

With a wave of his sleeve, three jade boxes appeared on the wooden table beside the Three Elders of Magic Pills. Although sealed, a faint medicinal fragrance still emanated from the boxes, indicating that what was contained within was not ordinary.

The Luo Family treated them generously and even provided a parting gift. They certainly had not mistreated anyone.

Alas, the Three Elders of Magic Pills did not appreciate this kindness. Dan Lingzi, the second elder, and Dan Xiuzi, the third elder, both darkened their faces and coldly questioned, "What do you mean, Daoist? Are you trying to drive us away?"

"It's too unpleasant to say 'drive away.' Over the years, how well have you lived in our Luo Family, and how much effort have you put into saving the War King? I won't mention it. I just wanted to leave you some dignity. You should go, and so maintain some face. Our Luo Family War King no longer needs your concern!" Luo Shix's gaze was equally cold. As the Family Head of the Luo Family and an elder of the Godly Void Pavilion, he was giving these people face, but he certainly wasn't afraid of them!

"Good for you, Luo Shix! Good for the War King Luo Family! When you needed us, you used sweet words. Now that you don't, you burn bridges? Just three Blue Spirit Roots of five hundred million years, do you think you can dismiss us brothers as beggars?" Dan Lingzi angrily exclaimed.

"Do you think your War King Luo Family is still the Luo Family of old? The Luo Family has already declined! You may be an elder of the Godly Void Pavilion, but we have people there too, people with a higher elder position than your Ninth Elder's. We are not intimidated by your Godly Void Pavilion background! With your cultivation just having broken through to the Mid-Phase Shattered Thought, you're even less in our eyes! If you want us to leave, sure, but we demand one hundred five-million-year Spirit Medicines. Not one less! If you can't gather the medicines, we three brothers will consume your Luo Family dry and see what you can do!" Dan Xiuzi sneered.

The eldest, Dan Leizi, said nothing, closing his eyes in meditation, clearly dismissing Luo Shix.

What was the War King Luo Family? Just a declining force, a wall that everyone pushes over. They might as well step on it while they have the chance; after all, the law does not punish numerous offenders!

Moreover, they indeed had backing in the Godly Void Pavilion, with elder positions higher than Luo Shix's Ninth Elder.

Luo Xuan's beautiful eyes flashed with anger, and Luo Xiao and the young talents of the Luo Family were even more outraged. How could they not be angry at someone defaming their family?

"Your backer is probably the Eighth Elder Feng Hai?" Luo Shix suppressed his anger, narrowing his aged eyes as he uttered an unrelated remark.

This time, the expressions of the Three Elders of Magic Pills changed, indicating that Luo Shix had struck a nerve.

Luo Shix's anger grew.

The larger the force, the more internal strife. A hundred years ago, the Eighth Elder Lei Jinshi died because of Ning Fan. The new Eighth Elder, Feng Hai, disliked the Luo Family and intentionally tolerated parasites like the Three Elders of Magic Pills to remain in the Luo Family, consuming its resources.

If the War King were still here, who would dare bully the Luo Family like this!

"Since you know who our backer is, you should understand we do not fear the Luo Family. Let's make it fifty Spirit Medicines. Give my brothers fifty five-million-year Spirit Medicines, and we promise not to help the Eighth Elder maneuver against the Luo Family. How does that sound?"

The eldest, Dan Leizi, thought for a moment and decided to make a small concession. After all, it wouldn't be wise to push Luo Shix too hard.

Luo Shix nearly laughed in anger!

To give these people a single five-million-year Spirit Medicine already was a great favor from the Luo Family. Fifty five-million-year Spirit Medicines... Ha, they really thought they were as common as cabbages!

"Take these three Spirit Medicines if you want them. If not, return them to me. I won't send you off!" Luo Shix laughed angrily and motioned for tea to be served to his guests.

"How dare you! Just a mere Luo Family..."

Dan Lingzi and Dan Xiuzi erupted in anger, slamming the table and about to attack Luo Shix. Suddenly, an extremely cold pressure descended from the heavens, pinning them down.

This single pressure was like heaven collapsing, as if countless thunderclaps erupted in their ears, roaring incessantly. It felt like their divine sense was about to explode, simply unbeatable!

Both of them groaned, spurring blood. Dan Leizi was not spared and turned pale under the pressure, his very spirit was injured!

The Three Elders of Magic Pills were both shocked and furious, but more than that, they were terrified.

All three were strong practitioners at the Later Stage of Shattered Thought, yet they couldn't withstand this pressure! Who was it that exerted this pressure!

An Eternal Immortal Venerable! No doubt about it, this pressure carried the domineering presence of ancient eons. Only someone of eons cultivation could have such an awe-inspiring presence that left the three of them... powerless to resist!

When did the Luo Family acquire an Eternal Immortal Venerable as an ally!

"Daoist Luo Shix, when did your Luo Family become so chaotic that all sorts of strange people showed up? Could it be that Ning Fan needs to help you clean them out? After all, I am considered a Guest Elder of your Luo Family, and hearing people belittle the Luo Family makes me uncomfortable," came a voice.

The newcomer was none other than Ning Fan's group!

Lv Wen, at least, was known to many Eastern Celestial Cultivators. Ning Fan's face was less familiar, given that a hundred years ago, he was just a junior and not widely recognized.

Wu Laoba was even less familiar, but his eonian pressure was equally intimidating.

The Three Elders of Magic Pills were gasping, as three ancient strong individuals had arrived at the Luo Family! Two Immortal Venerables and one Immortal King!

The pressure that acted upon them came from Ning Fan! Among the three, he stood at the forefront, seemingly the leader!

Wait, he said his surname is Ning! Could it be...

He is the Rain Immortal Monarch, Ning Fan, who recently stirred up Eastern Heaven?! The ruthless man who didn't kill the newly ascended Immortal Venerable, Deyun Ancestor!

"Rain Monarch, please calm down! We three brothers did not know your honor is a Guest Elder of the Luo Family. If we had known, we would never have dared to oppress the Luo Family! This matter was our recklessness, so we three brothers will forgo these spiritual medicines and take our leave!"

The Three Elders of Magic Pills were terribly afraid of Ning Fan. Ning Fan's oppressive aura was not only strong but also filled with extremely terrifying Evil Qi. The three were demonness, highly sensitive to such aura, and it was unmistakable that Ning Fan had definitely killed more than just one Immortal Sovereign like Deyun Ancestor. They could not provoke such a powerful person, as doing so would put them in grave danger!

No wonder the last time they three brothers went to Elder Feng Hai to ask if they should continue staying at the Luo Family, Feng Hai advised them to leave as soon as possible. It turned out... the Luo Family had such a backing, a presence even Elder Feng Hai feared!

The Three Elders of Magic Pills only wanted to leave this place of trouble quickly, but sadly, as they were just about to step out of the main hall, Ning Fan's cold voice echoed again.

"Did I allow you to leave!"

Thunk!

The three of them jumped internally, thinking in panic that the Rain Monarch might be about to rise up and kill!

After all, most of Ning Fan's stories circulating in Eastern Heaven were about how many people he had killed. From the Void Fragmentation, he had dared to set up an array, slaughtering a hundred immortals, and after that... tsk tsk tsk, that was no ordinary cultivation road; the Rain Monarch's path was paved with bones. Compared to such a person, the Three Elders of Magic Pills felt embarrassed to call themselves demons.

Thankfully, what Ning Fan said next was not about ending their lives. He simply ordered, "Ten years! Within ten years, return everything you've taken from the Luo Family over the years. Otherwise, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

The three of them heaved a sigh of relief and respectfully said, "Do not worry, your honor. It won't take ten years, at most three. We three brothers will definitely return everything we owe to the Luo Family." Return, they must return! Otherwise, they would surely be targeted by the Rain Monarch!

Though it is now widely spread in Eastern Heaven that the Ancient Chaos is nearing its end and the Dark Clan wishes to kill Ning Fan, those are just rumors. Not every old monster will act against Ning Fan upon hearing rumors. The Three Elders of Magic Pills were well aware of their place. Whether it's the Dark Clan or Ning Fan, becoming involved in such muddy waters would lead to a swift demise. They didn't wish to tread those paths; they preferred to find a weak and easily oppressed family to muddle through, for safety...

Thus, despite Luo Shix's attempts to retain the Three Elders of Magic Pills, Ning Fan's mere three sentences frightened them off.

All because... the Luo Family now had Ning Fan as their backing!

"Forgive us for the embarrassment, Ning Daoyou... In order to save the War King, our Luo Family unknowingly attracted many parasites. Alas, let's not talk about it. Everyone, come forward and pay respects to the Rain Monarch!" At Luo Shix's order, Luo Xuan, Luo Xiao, and the other young talents of the Luo Family all stood up, showing respect to Ning Fan, Plague King, and Wu Laoba.

Luo Xuan lowered her head, not daring to look up, for fear of rudeness. Her beautiful eyes bore amazement, and bitterness as well. It had been a hundred years since she last saw Ning Fan, and he had already reached such heights. Back then, she already felt she couldn't catch up to Ning Fan, and now, they were worlds apart...

Luo Xiao, on the other hand, was full of admiration and worship. To their generation of masters, Ning Fan was a legend. In a century, he rose from Fate Immortal to Immortal Venerable, and no one from this generation can rival him!

Even from the previous generation and the one before that... even those old monsters who've lived for hundreds of thousands or even millions of years, how many dared to provoke the current Ning Fan!

Among the young generation of the Luo Family, Ning Fan had only slight acquaintance with Luo Xuan and Luo Xiao. Seeing the two not daring to lift their heads in front of him, he couldn't help but sigh.

"No need for such formalities, just be as you were then."

These were his words, yet facing the current Ning Fan, Luo Xiao and the others couldn't manage to act unfettered. Even Luo Shix was more cautious and wary, fearing uttering something inappropriate in Ning Fan's presence...

As it was, Ning Fan didn't feel like chatting with the people of the Luo Family for long. After some brief conversations, he got to the main topic.

The preparations to save the War King were almost ready, and by the next day, it should begin.

Ning Fan meticulously inquired about the procedure for saving the War King and also asked about the entity inside the War King. Unfortunately, Luo Shix had little knowledge about the entity and could provide very limited intelligence to Ning Fan. The repeated sentiment was that the creature was

extremely dangerous with a Pinnacle Immortal King's cultivation level, warning Ning Fan to be extremely cautious when saving the War King tomorrow.

What remained was to wait.

Ning Fan, Lv Wen, and Wu Laoba temporarily resided in the Luo Family. Wu Laoba was Ning Fan's footman; naturally, he went wherever his master did. Lv Wen was Ning Fan's sworn brother, discussing taking up a position as a Guest Elder at the Qianqiu Sect, wanting to join the Qianqiu Sect to help Ning Fan.

Of course, Ning Fan wouldn't refuse, and the matter was quickly settled. The three temporarily resided at Broken Spear Peaks, where Ning Fan had stayed a hundred years ago to comprehend its battle intent.

Yet after just a hundred years, there was already a sense of change...

Lv Wen and Wu Laoba rested in their respective lodgings, preparing for the possibility of combating the creature while saving the War King the next day, which would require their assistance.

Ning Fan, meanwhile, walked alone in Broken Spear Peaks, occasionally encountering some Guest Elders of the Luo Family. Upon seeing Ning Fan, they were all full of reverence and trepidation.

Only one person, upon seeing Ning Fan, was overjoyed — Wang Meng, who had once provoked Ning Fan but was taken as his footman.

"Wang Meng pays respect to the master!"

Upon seeing Ning Fan, Wang Meng immediately bowed respectfully, this bow carrying unparalleled admiration, unlike a hundred years ago.

A hundred years prior, though he feared Ning Fan, he still had some pride as a Crossing Truth Realm master and a bit of discontent.

A hundred years later, Ning Fan was now the untouchable Eternal Immortal Venerable, while he remained at the Initial Stage of Crossing Truth. For a Crossing Truth Realm master to serve an Immortal Venerable as his master was not demeaning, but rather aspiring. How fortunate he was to have an Immortal Venerable master, truly a blessing!

Even though this master was now in a precarious position, coveted by the legendary secret clans, but... the master is an Immortal Venerable!

Although the master had a somewhat cold and fierce personality, difficult to get along with, but... the master is an Immortal Venerable!

Despite it all... the master is an Immortal Venerable!

As long as the master was an Immortal Venerable, in Wang Meng's eyes, Ning Fan was flawless, the truth incarnate.

"It's you, haven't you broken through to the Mid Stage of Crossing Truth yet?" Ning Fan, seeing it was Wang Meng, couldn't help but recall memories from a hundred years ago, smiling slightly.

Wang Meng perked up! The Immortal Venerable master was smiling at him, such a great honor! Alas, he let the master down. The master took a hundred years to break through to Immortal Venerable, yet in a hundred years, he hadn't even advanced from the Initial Stage of Crossing Truth to the Mid Stage. He... he wasn't worthy to be a slave for the master!

"This humble one deserves death, I am guilty, I have worked hard but lack the talent to even step onto the true bridge of the Mid Stage Crossing Truth..." Wang Meng said with shame.

"A hundred years is normally not enough time for an ordinary person to break through a level in the Crossing Truth Realm. I recall you having the Eight Extremes Battle Body; your potential is not bad, all you need is some experience."

Pausing for a moment, Ning Fan pondered slightly before continuing.

"Speaking of which, there was no enmity between us at first. You provoked me, and I planted a Restrictive Spell on you, taking you as a servant. A hundred years have passed, and now I return your freedom and grant you a blessing, thus resolving this cause and effect."

As soon as Ning Fan said this, Wang Meng was immediately shocked, kneeling and bowing fiercely.

"I beg Master not to abandon me! I am willing to cultivate diligently, willing to serve Master for a lifetime. If I did something wrong and angered Master, I'm willing to change! I can change anything!"

After years of cultivation, surprisingly Wang Meng felt unusually flustered in his heart.

During the hundred years when Ning Fan was not around, Wang Meng, due to being Ning Fan's slave, received considerable favor from the Luo Family, leveraging Ning Fan's reputation, he got plenty of benefits, and in his heart, there was indeed a trace of gratitude toward Ning Fan's kindness.

Occasionally during meditation, he would even think of Ning Fan, his lucky master, and offer a few prayers for Master's safety.

Finally waiting for the master's return... only to find that the master no longer wanted him!

Clearly free, yet Wang Meng did not feel happy, instead, he felt somewhat uncomfortable. He couldn't quite figure out whether he longed for Ning Fan's eternal Immortal Venerable reputation or missed the days of being constantly teased by Ning Fan. Or perhaps, he had become addicted to being a servant, not wanting to gain freedom?

"If you can live with a straight spine, do not bow down. Becoming addicted to being a servant..."

Ning Fan sighed slightly, with a flick of his sleeve, he unraveled the Restrictive Spell on Wang Meng. Then, with a flick of his finger, he tapped Wang Meng's forehead, leaving Wang Meng's eyes dazed, his divine sense in tremendous pain, seeing scene after scene of wondrous sights, seemingly containing countless Dao Enlightenments...

Those were the Dao Enlightenments Ning Fan had comprehended during his cultivation journey, only a portion; if Wang Meng could comprehend them, it should be enough to make him break through to Mid Stage Enlightenment, it was just a matter of time.

"Thus, our master-servant relationship is ended, our cause and effect are resolved. Go now, retreat and absorb these insights."

Ning Fan waved his hand and walked past Wang Meng's side.

Instantly, Wang Meng unexpectedly felt a sense of sorrow, as if Ning Fan's departure meant there would be no further connection between them, just as Ning Fan said, the conclusion of cause and effect.

The white-haired Wang Meng, at this moment, truly seemed like a loyal old servant with a sour feeling, with a touch of reluctance...

"In the future, rest assured and stay with the Luo Family. After all, you are a Guest Elder of the Luo Family. Of course, if you wish, you can join the Qianqiu Sect. In this way, although we are not master and servant, if opportunities arise in the future, I can still guide you once or twice."

Ning Fan said with significant intention. He was serious this time, truly preparing to develop the Qianqiu Sect.

Whether it was Enlightenment or Immortal King, those who could be drawn into the Qianqiu Sect were recruited with complete effort.

Wang Meng's eyes immediately lit up, and his sorrow was swept away.

"Can I still join the Qianqiu Sect? Very well, joining the Qianqiu Sect would also allow me to contribute to Master's ambition of dominating the Eastern Heaven!"

It's decided!

Even Ning Fan, usually expressionless, almost broke his composure at that moment.

To dominate the Eastern Heaven? When did he ever have such a plan? Wang Meng actually wanted to assist him in dominating the Eastern Heaven; this old fellow had quite the ambition...

To dominate the Eastern Heaven, well, if such a day truly comes, it would be interesting.

Being able to dominate the Eastern Heaven would make one the Ancestral Emperor from the Eastern Heaven...

Ning Fan slightly drifted off in thought, walking along the mountain path, and suddenly saw Luo Xuan under a Bodhi Tree.

Luo Xuan was leaning against the tree, holding a piece of worn white cloth, seeming lost in thought. Upon Ning Fan's arrival, she was slightly surprised, hurriedly putting away the cloth and greeting.

"Luo Xuan of the Luo Family, pays respect to Rain Monarch."

Her greeting was without fault, yet carried an indescribable sense of alienation. Within this alienation, there was some deliberation, as if she didn't truly wish to be so distant, but dared not climb high...

"That white cloth..." Ning Fan had just asked when Luo Xuan's face flushed with embarrassment, hastily explaining,

"It's something left by an old acquaintance, not anything special..."

Not anything special, yet you keep it like a treasure? This lie, so lacking in skill...

With Ning Fan's eyesight, even expressions unseen by Luo Xuan were captured by him, further enhanced by the Mind Reading Technique, he quickly saw through Luo Xuan's heart.

It was the cloth from his clothing, left when he first arrived at Tianhai Star, colliding with Tianhai Star with Vertical Golden Light...

A piece of torn cloth, yet this woman has kept it till now; the affection within, how could Ning Fan not see it?

Unfortunately, Ning Fan's feelings for Luo Xuan at most held a slight favor...

"Accompany me for a chat; in this grand Luo Family, there is not a single person who speaks sincerely anymore." Ning Fan gazed at the familiar Broken Spear Peaks scenery, sighing slightly.

"Junior, junior doesn't dare..." Luo Xuan immediately refused nervously, her heart thrown into disarray the moment Ning Fan invited her.

"You don't dare, then let's leave it..." Ning Fan sighed again and walked past Luo Xuan's side. Indeed, things change over time...

Luo Xuan's eyes instantly reddened.

She clearly longed to speak with Rain Monarch, yet... why couldn't she face her true heart...

"Wait!" Luo Xuan took a deep breath, seemingly regaining some of her pride as Miss Xuan of the Luo Family.

"Hmm?" Ning Fan paused his steps, surprised to look at Luo Xuan.

"Junior... dares now."

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Ning Fan nodded, indicating that if they dared, it was a good thing.

Thus, for the entire next day, Ning Fan stayed with Luo Xuan, from noon to dusk, then into the night, and finally until dawn. They didn't do anything unnecessary, just walked along the mountain path of Broken Spear Peaks, chatting casually. Their topics included the changes in Eastern Heaven, the plight of the Luo Family, and their insights into cultivation, yet they didn't speak of romance.

This greatly relieved Luo Xuan. As long as they didn't talk about love and emotions, she felt much less awkward around Ning Fan and could relax more.

Ning Fan walked in front, with Luo Xuan trailing half a step behind. To those Guest Elders of the Luo Family coming and going at Broken Spear Peaks, this scene appeared unexpectedly harmonious.

"Hmm, Miss Xuan and the Rain Monarch..." The Luo Family Guest Elders whispered to themselves, seemingly uncovering a remarkable secret affair.

If this were to spread, it would surely become a hot topic among the Old Monsters of East Heaven... The Rain Immortal Monarch is indeed charming, even Miss Xuan, who usually keeps her distance from men, is charmed... It makes one truly envious.

As dawn broke, Luo Shix sent someone to invite Ning Fan, saying everything was ready.

Given the gravity of the situation, Ning Fan naturally wouldn't linger with Luo Xuan any longer and brought along Lv Wen and Wu Laoba to the Luo Family great hall.

According to Luo Shix, to awaken the War King this time, the Luo Family spent thirty trillion Dao Crystals to set up a "Sealing Witch Formation."

Thirty trillion Dao Crystals was an enormous expenditure that nearly emptied the Luo Family's Dao Crystal reserves.

This so-called Sealing Witch Array was an ancient formation passed down by the Luo family ancestors. It was only this time at the Luo Family that Luo Shix fully disclosed to Ning Fan the details about the War King's prolonged unconsciousness.

Forty-five million years ago, Shenluo caused a massive upheaval in East Heaven. At that time, beneath the Immortal Emperor level, almost no one could withstand the Eon-old Five Tribulations of Shenluo. With chaos imminent, the cultivators were fearful. Yet, the Eon-old Three Tribulations' War King Luo Hou stepped forward, resolutely fighting to protect the Godly Void Pavilion.

Shenluo of those days was naturally not as powerful as Shenluo later became. Even so, it was nearly invincible below the Immortal Emperor level and had even killed an Immortal Emperor of the Dark Clan. No one believed Luo Hou could be Shenluo's match. However, the valiance of War King Luo Hou exceeded everyone's expectations. Using all his means, he surprisingly fought evenly with Shenluo at first. Of course, Shenluo wasn't using full strength initially, yet this feat was still astonishing.

War King Luo Hou's reputation spread across Eastern Heaven due to this battle. Sadly, as Shenluo fought with all his might, the War King was ultimately defeated, his Fourth Transformation Combat Method's power was scattered, and he fell into a slumber.

Shenluo had shown mercy, appreciating Luo Hou's strength; otherwise, he likely would have killed Luo Hou directly.

These matters were rumored outside, but some details were unknown to the public.

For example, the Luo family indeed descended from the Southern Clan's castaways, but that was a long time ago.

Another example, War King Luo Hou's strongest divine skill wasn't the Fourth Transformation Battle Art but the Southern Clan's Combat Unit's bloodline talent known as "Witch God." Regrettably, Luo Shix was merely a servant of the War King and knew little about Witch God; even within the Southern Clan, few understood it. Luo Shix had only seen the War King use the Witch God's power a few times, thus couldn't provide Ning Fan with much information about it.

According to Luo Shix, the War King was able to challenge Shenluo above his level ranks not only due to the Fourth Transformation Combat Method but because he also utilized the power of the Witch God within him. This fact was rarely known. Therefore, in this rescue of the War King, two precautions were necessary: one was relying on Ning Fan's Fourth Transformation Battle Art to restore the scattered cultivation of the War King; the second... was guarding against the Witch God's attack within the War King!

This Sealing Witch Array was an ancient formation passed down by the Southern Clan, and today it was its time to shine.

During the rescue, Ning Fan would need to focus solely on saving the War King and couldn't divert his attention to defend against the Witch God's attack, necessitating strong protectors for him. In fact, before Ning Fan arrived at the Luo Family, Luo Shix had paid a heavy price to invite an Eternal Immortal Venerable to join forces with Ning Fan to save the War King by controlling the Sealing Witch Array and acting as Ning Fan's protector. That Immortal Venerable was the Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate of the Godly Void Pavilion.

The Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate was also shrewd, knowing the risks involved in rescuing the War King and initially unwilling to help the Luo Family. However, upon hearing that Ning Fan would also join, he agreed to the Luo Family's request.

The Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate obviously agreed to help due to Ning Fan's influence, apparently seeking a friendship with Ning Fan.

This was an opportunity to befriend Ning Fan, though it carried certain risks...

Luo Shix's intention was to have Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate as Ning Fan's protector. However, since Ning Fan brought along Lv Wen and Wu Laoba, these two could also protect him. This meant three ancient level experts would be his protectors, and with the power of the Sealing Witch Array, rescuing the War King would likely not be too difficult.

When Ning Fan and his entourage arrived at the Luo Family great hall, many old monsters of the Luo Family were already there, clearly paying great attention to today's matter.

Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate was also present, resting with closed eyes. When he saw Ning Fan and others arriving, he naturally didn't put on airs, greeting Ning Fan, Lv Wen, and Wu Laoba.

Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate felt, perhaps it was a misperception, that since Ning Fan's last visit to the Godly Void Pavilion over ten days ago, he seemed to have grown much stronger...

It should be a misjudgment; at the Eon-old level, progressing wasn't easy. Ten days is definitely not enough.

"Haha, unexpected to see, besides myself, that two more Daoist friends have come to serve as protectors for the Rain Monarch today. Let's not mention the Plague King, but this one is..." Cloud Thunder recognized Lv Wen but not Wu Laoba.

This was reasonable, as few across the Four Heavens knew Wu Laoba. Even among those who knew of him, he was rarely mentioned, making him almost anonymous.

But, this person must not be underestimated! This was the first impression the Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate had of Wu Laoba!

Cloud Thunder was at the Second Calamity cultivation level, while Wu Laoba was only at the First Calamity. Yet, at first glance, Cloud Thunder felt an intense aura of misfortune from Wu Laoba...

"This person is certainly not as simple as he appears..." Inwardly, Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate gave Wu Laoba a rather high evaluation.

"I am Wu Laoba, a slave of Rain Monarch." Wu Laoba said with immense pride, as if being Ning Fan's slave was something to be proud of.

"Hiss! This Eternal Immortal Venerable is actually Rain Monarch's slave!" Instantly, Cloud Thunder, Luo Shix, and the many old monsters of the Luo Family were all shocked. Only Lv Wen was already aware of this and was not surprised.

Previously, even Luo Shix did not know Wu Laoba was Ning Fan's servant, and merely thought Wu Laoba was Ning Fan's friend. An Immortal Venerable servant; this is something that only an Immortal Emperor can have! That Ning Fan could subdue an Immortal Venerable as a servant, even if the person were inconspicuous, was enough to move anyone.

"So, it is Daoist Wu, no offense, no offense..." Cloud Thunder bowed his hand towards Wu Laoba, internally, his evaluation of Ning Fan soared.

Anyone could see that Wu Laoba was willing to be Ning Fan's servant. To make an Eternal Immortal Venerable willingly serve... This Rain Immortal Monarch is truly impressive!

Wu Laoba returned the courtesy politely but inwardly scoffed at their shocked expressions.

Why the surprise? Do you think my master doesn't have the ability to have Immortal Venerable servants so you are shocked? Know that my master has even killed Quasi-Saints, such a powerful being, taking an Immortal Emperor servant isn't too much, let alone just an Immortal Venerable servant... Truly a group of people who have never seen the world.

Ning Fan's group only exchanged a few pleasantries with Cloud Thunder before diving into the main topic, confirming that there were no omissions in the plan. Then Luo Shix and five Shedding Void Stage members from the Luo Family led Ning Fan and four ancient strong experts into the Luo Family's highest forbidden place—the Dao Essence Secret Realm.

This place, a hundred years ago, Ning Fan visited it once, obtaining a lot of Dao Essence from here, greatly advancing his Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor cultivation level.

This place is also the Land of Slumber for War King Luo Hou. The entire area seemed like an ancient and vast cave, with droplets of spirit liquid continuously dripping down from above, forming a sea below.

At the center of the ocean below stood nine profound black cauldrons, each cauldron containing swirling spiritual energy. Around the ocean, many Dao Crystal mountains stood tall, occupying strategic positions, forming a formation. Faintly, beneath the ocean, a grand formation was laid, precisely the Sealing Witch Formation.

At the center of the formation, in the middle of the nine cauldrons was a square sea altar. At each corner of the altar, a copper lamp was lit with violet flames. At the center of the altar lay a copper coffin, lidless, with a black-faced big man asleep inside.

That black-faced big man was naturally War King Luo Hou, but compared to a hundred years ago, the deadly aura on War King was heavier. If he couldn't reunite his cultivation to awaken, he might only have a few years left to live.

"Master, Stone Slave is here to save you, just wait a little longer..."

The other strong members of the Luo Family didn't have much emotional fluctuation, but Luo Shix, upon seeing the heavy death aura of War King, was overwhelmed with tearful grief, falling to the ground.

Old slave... is guilty!

Only today, able to save the master, allowing the master to slumber for countless years, old slave... is guilty!

One kneel, knelt for this old slave's incompetence, delaying rescue for the master.

The second kneel, Luo Shix knelt before Ning Fan and the four ancient strong experts, clasped his hands and spoke solemnly,

"If you can save my master, I, Luo Shix, will gratefully repay with life and death!"

Each word like thunder, echoed with strength!

The members of the Luo Family were all descendants of War King except for Luo Shix, who was an outsider, taken in as a servant after being enlightened by the War King during one of his outings. Many Old Monsters of Eastern Heaven had heard about this.

As an outsider, only due to remembering the master's kindness, he sacrificed his life guarding the Luo Family, diligently and sincerely. Upon seeing the master suffer, he was filled with genuine emotions, tear-filled eyes, humbling himself seeking help... This scene moved even those with a cold-hard disposition like Cloud Thunder and made them feel warmth. Internally, they gave Luo Shix a high evaluation.

Luo Shix, a loyal servant! This person's loyalty is as firm as gold and stone, rare in this world!

Cloud Thunder originally participated to form ties with Ning Fan, but now secretly grew serious, unwilling to fail Luo Shix's loyalty.

Lv Wen, though a villain, valued loyalty highly throughout his life. Otherwise, he wouldn't stand against the Southern Clan due to Ning Fan's guidance and appreciation; his expression also turned serious.

Wu Laoba found a kindred spirit. Luo Shix, a loyal servant! He, Wu Laoba, was also Ning Fan's loyal servant! Sharing similar compassion and understanding... This person's loyalty nearly rivaled mine, remarkable, truly remarkable! Wu Laoba, long determined to be the world's most loyal servant, now viewed Luo Shix with respect.

Ning Fan's expression remained calm, without any unnecessary words, merely lifting Luo Shix up. He disliked idle talk and simply said succinctly,

"Senior Luo, there's no need for this. I promised you back then, and today, I will definitely fulfill it!"

He didn't address him as Daoist Luo but called him Senior, just like in the past.

From Luo Shix, Ning Fan saw something rarely found in the cultivation world and increasingly lost. It was something that every Purple Dou Immortal Cultivator once possessed—an unyielding valor that treated promises as light as the Five Sacred Mountains, a heroism that faced life and death with ease, willing to die for someone amidst the ancient westerly winds.

Integrity... The current cultivation world lacks this.

Without further ado, everyone confirmed some details once again and began to take action. Luo Shix and five other Shedding Void Stage members of the Luo Family controlled the auxiliary formations on the periphery, while Lv Wen, Wu Laoba, and Cloud Thunder managed the main formations within, providing protection for Ning Fan against any sudden appearance of the Witch God.

Ning Fan, meanwhile, entered the altar at the center of the great formation alone, using the flames of the Battle Art Fourth Transformation to assist the War King in recondensing his cultivation.

Standing before the War King's copper coffin, Ning Fan gently closed his eyes, activating the power of War Yin and Yang. The battle laws of the world were immediately stirred by his presence, transforming into an endless stream of battle intent flames that filled the sky, blazing brilliantly!

"Gasp, this is the power of Palm Position Path! It's actually the Palm of War!" the crowd of cultivators was shocked; Ning Fan had cultivated the Palm of War to a profound level with his Immortal Venerable cultivation, truly remarkable!

This level was beyond what the Fourth Transformation of the Battle Art could achieve. Such flames of battle intent would undeniably help the War King consolidate his cultivation!

"Activate the formation!" Luo Shix gained considerable confidence, waving the array flag, causing the periphery formations of the Witch-Sealing Great Array to start functioning immediately.

The five Shedding Void Stage members of the Luo Family left to control the formations, while the three of Lv Wen didn't remain idle, constantly vigilant against the possible appearance of the Witch God.

Ning Fan, fully focused, extended his hand and struck the copper coffin, causing the War King's physical body to rise up.

Ning Fan's eyes, covered with an azure glow, could clearly see the disorderly and intertwined lines of laws on the War King's Spirit. Many had even been severed completely... What Ning Fan found most daunting was a shadow next to the War King's Spirit, emitting a rather dangerous aura comparable to that of a Pinnacle Immortal King...

First, the chaotic laws of war within the War King must be corrected and restored! As for this shadow, it would be left to his sworn brother and others to handle!

"Descend!"

Ning Fan pressed forward with his five fingers, causing the flames of battle from the heavens and earth to surge into the War King's body.

It was as if he had forgotten everything in front of him, with only the War King's physical body remaining in his eyes. The body magnified and became increasingly clear in his vision, precise down to each cell, further breaking down into even finer details. Ning Fan could nearly see the most microcosmic units of energy forming the structure.

Thus, in his eyes, the War King's body no longer resembled a person but rather... a vast starry sky!

Each energy unit composing the physical body was akin to a cultivation star, gathered within that starry expanse!

Connecting these energy units were the laws the War King cultivated throughout his life!

This was Ning Fan's first detailed observation of the human body with the eye power of the Second Realm of Tianren, a fleeting insight that resembled seeing each person as their own autonomous starry sky...

Such a peculiar realization...

Yet, this realization was brief, and Ning Fan didn't dwell on it. He carefully examined the residual and chaotic laws within the War King, subdividing the repair processes to each energy unit, gradually repairing them...

Xinyi, Qian, Gen, Kun, Zhen, Li, repair this position...

Jiashen, Kun, Qian, Dui, Xun, Li, repair this position...

Kuiwei... The damage at this location was significant, not easy to repair, requiring more precision...

Ning Fan was entirely engrossed in saving others, paying no heed to the shadow within the War King.

Firstly, he had the God-Extinguishing Shield for self-defense, immensely secure.

Secondly, he trusted Lv Wen and the others, believing that even if the Witch God attacked, they would protect him.

"Another ant trying to save Luo Hou? Kill, kill, kill!"

Suddenly, a sharp and chilling voice emanated from within the War King, and the next instant, a shadow flew out from the War King's Dantian at a lightning-fast speed, heading straight for Ning Fan.

A single burst of force, comparable to a strike from a Pinnacle Immortal King, changed the color of the sky and earth, booming like thunder!

"Be careful, my brother!"

Lv Wen's expression froze, and he wouldn't give the shadow a chance to attack Ning Fan. With a pinch of his fingers, the inner formation suddenly accelerated. The shadow that was originally charging towards Ning Fan was directly moved through space, from beside the copper coffin to the middle between the outer and inner circles.

From the top of the nine cauldrons, each shot out a violet flame, transforming into nine fire seals, which forcibly sealed the shadow in mid-air.

Only then did everyone see the true form of the shadow—a headless monster with nipples for eyes, a navel for a mouth, fangs protruding from its mouth, emitting strange howls. In its left hand, it held a dark red axe, and in its right, a pitch-black iron shield, a sight quite terrifying. Fortunately, those present were seasoned old monsters with years of cultivation, having seen all sorts of strange things, so they remained unfazed despite the surprise.

This monster was the Witch God within the War King!

The nine fire seals binding the monster each held the powerful force of sealing a newly ascended Immortal Venerable. Combined, they could slightly seal even an Immortal Sovereign. Unfortunately, trying to seal this monster was somewhat forcing it.

The monster suddenly roared with anger, its bones creaking as if struggling mightily. In the next instant, all nine fire seals shattered, and the monster broke free from the seal!

"Ants, all of you ants! Kill, kill!"

The monster moved swiftly, appearing within a meter of Lv Wen in a blink, giving Lv Wen a feeling of heart-pounding fear. He hurriedly summoned the Bright Yellow Pearwood Sword to shield in front of him against the monster's powerful axe strike.

Boom!

The might of the axe was so great it seemed to split the starry sky. Lv Wen was not a physique refinement cultivator; taking the attack head-on shook him, person and sword, into flying backward, spitting blood in mid-air.

This was the power of a Pinnacle Immortal King, beneath the Immortal Emperor, the Pinnacle Immortal King stood supreme! Far stronger than the current Lv Wen, beyond just a little!

The monster struck Lv Wen away with a hit, and with another flicker, appeared in front of Lv Wen again, cleaving down with the axe once more. This time, Wu Laoba and Yun Lei were prepared, flashing to Lv Wen's side as the monster approached, launching a joint attack.

Wu Laoba spat out a stream of black sewage, forming a water arrow that shot straight at the monster. It was his life-bound Black Water, related to Black Fortune, restrained by Ning Fan. He had not used this divine skill against Ning Fan the other day.

Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate, meanwhile, summoned a bolt of lightning, his Dao Weapon Lightning Sword, aiming directly at the monster.

Lv Wen continued using his Pearwood Sword, and the combined attack of the three carried considerable force, nearly equivalent to a strike from a Four Calamity Immortal King. It barely managed to hold off the monster's axe for a moment.

Unfortunately, the monster, after its initial futile strike, continued with the second axe, the third, the fourth... Axe lights relentlessly hacked at Lv Wen and the others. Yun Lei and Wu Laoba, being slightly weaker in cultivation, were the first to be struck, coughing blood as they flew back. Then it was Lv Wen's turn, making it hard to withstand the monster alone, retreating swiftly as he shouted,

"Luo Family cultivators, form a formation to protect me!"

Lv Wen had clearly realized that even the combined power of three Ancient Strong People was no match for this fierce creature. Until now, this creature had not even used any divine skills, relying only on brute force to slash at them, making Lv Wen and the others hard-pressed to cope. This monster was too formidable to confront head-on, all they could do was maintain distance to delay it, gaining time for Ning Fan to rescue the War King!

Luo Shix and others dared not delay, activating the outer formation to its maximum power, with more fire seals flying out from the nine cauldrons, sealing down on the monster.

The monster looked on with disdain, swinging the axe and shattering all the fire seals with ease, then flickering to appear before Yun Lei.

Lv Wen had the highest cultivation among them, and killing him would not be easy, so... starting with the others it was!

"Not good!"

Seeing the monster approach, the cold hairs on Yun Lei's back stood on end. Such a level of crisis, though not unheard of in his life, was not a common experience. This time, the monster did not use the axe but opened its mouth to spurt out a stream of black gas, which transformed into a ghostly head and crashed toward Yun Lei's chest.

In a hurried retreat, Yun Lei had no escape, no time to evade, forced to receive the black gas's attack. With a shout, a layer of thunder armor appeared over his body, majestic, as he swung the Thunder Sword toward the ghostly head. The head was quite peculiar; the sword strike passed through it as if it were intangible, immune to any slash damage.

The ghostly head heavily struck the armor, provoking a cascade of thunder lights, yet it neither shattered the armor nor collapsed the barrier, instead passing right through to hammer against Yun Lei's chest.

What kind of divine skill was this, so strange it ignored spirit equipment defense!

The blow from the ghostly head gave Yun Lei the illusion of being hit by a Cultivation Star. This strike was too deep, too heavy! His breaths weakened directly, his face turned pale, and he spat blood as he flew backward—this time, genuinely injured.

The monster appeared slightly surprised not to have killed Yun Lei in one blow, opening its mouth again, it spat out dozens of ghostly heads, wailing and howling, breaking through the void.

Yun Lei's face changed drastically—a single ghostly head could gravely injure him; dozens of them might very well be able to wipe him out completely!

Lv Wen and Wu Laoba saw that the situation was worsening and rushed over to help, but the situation suddenly changed again.

Dozens of ghostly heads suddenly turned their direction and flew towards Wu Laoba.

"Not good!"

Wu Laoba didn't dare hold anything back, instantly transforming into his Eternal True Body and hiding within a turtle shell.

Unfortunately, those ghostly heads plowed straight past Wu Laoba's turtle shell defense, crashing into his undefended flesh.

Boom!

Wu Laoba, with his cultivation of the Eternal First Tribulation, was hit by those dozens of ghostly heads and burst open like being struck by a meteor shower from a Cultivation Star, his body exploding into a mist of blood.

Amidst the blood mist, a black light suddenly shot out, revealing a tiny turtle shrunk countless times.

Once the little turtle escaped, it immediately shook and turned back into Wu Laoba. Although alive, his face was pale, obviously severely injured.

"What a close call! It's just my Eternal True Body is good at protecting life. If it were anyone else, they would have been killed by these ghostly heads! The monster's divine skills are incredibly formidable!" Wu Laoba still had lingering fear.

"These ghostly heads seem to only dare to wander around the periphery, could it be they fear the power of the inner formation... Let's try attacking these ghostly heads with the formation!" Lv Wen seemed to discover something, immediately making gestures to activate the inner formation, sending sealing flames from the nine cauldrons to seal the ghostly heads.

Indeed, these ghostly heads feared the sealing flames and could be sealed by this Witch-Sealing Great Array...

ROAR!!!

The monster was enraged when its divine skill was broken, igniting a battlefield fire in its eyes, swinging a battle axe that set half the sky ablaze.

The sea of fire engulfed everything, its scorching heat was unbearable for cultivators below the level of the Eternal.

"Collect!"

Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate flipped his hand to summon a Gourd Magic Treasure, attempting to absorb the sea of fire, but unfortunately, the gourd turned to ashes after collecting only one-tenth of the fire.

It was still Wu Laoba who excelled in the Water Dao Principle, spitting out a vast ocean and borrowing the power of Lv Wen's Twelve Nirvana Fire-Avoiding Pearl to extinguish the endless flames.

However, with this strike, Wu Laoba's mana was depleted by nearly seventy percent, and Lv Wen's Fire-Avoiding Pearl was also damaged.

If another sea of fire came, the three of them together couldn't fend it off!

"Damn it, usually this monster does harm people, but not to this extent, why is it so fierce today, even the Witch-Sealing Great Array isn't very effective, do we need to summon an Immortal Emperor to subdue this monster!" Luo Shix said unwillingly.

Usually, when others tried to save the War King, the monster simply swung its axe, and when people were repelled, it would stop. But today, it's as if it's fighting for its life, why...

Luo Shix didn't know. Normally, those people couldn't save the War King, so the monster had no sense of crisis, wouldn't go all out.

But today was different, Ning Fan indeed possessed the ability to save the War King. If the War King awakened, the monster would lose its freedom, being controlled by the War King, even assimilated by the War King...

From Ning Fan, the monster indeed felt uneasy, it couldn't hold back, had to kill all who intended to save the War King!

ROAR!!!

The monster roared, axe after axe, rendering Lv Wen and the other two helpless.

Moreover, this monster was extremely strange, as its battle intent grew stronger, its attack power seemed to increase, each axe dealing varying degrees of serious injury to Lv Wen and others.

Couldn't hold on!

ROAR!!!

Numerous sealing flames bound the monster, but it only held for a few seconds before it forcibly broke free.

During those few seconds, Lv Wen and the other two's relentless attacks landed on the monster, but the result was no harm to the monster, its physical body was too powerful, without an innate treasure, they couldn't break its physical defense!

Boom!

The monster broke free from the sealing flames once again, not attacking Lv Wen and the others this time but charging straight into the inner perimeter, diving into the core of the formation, and from a high position, an axe swung down towards Ning Fan's back.

"Watch out!"

Lv Wen and the others exclaimed, unable to rescue Ning Fan in time.

Focused entirely on healing, Ning Fan was startled by the axe light, the golden light of the God-Extinguishing Shield autonomously transformed into a wide golden wall of qi, blocking the rear.

Boom!

This axe, filled with the monster's hatred, was already infinitely close to an Immortal Emperor's strike.

Yet this strike only caused Ning Fan to sway slightly before he steadied himself.

"Blocked...blocked it!" Lv Wen and the others were greatly astonished.

Having personally fought against the monster, they deeply understood the monster's brute force; no Immortal King could easily withstand such a desperate axe swing.

But Ning Fan only wobbled slightly, stopping the monster's attack... What kind of divine ability was that golden light, with such strong defensive power!

The others didn't know, but this was Ning Fan without completely transforming into the God-Slaying Giant. If Ning Fan were shielded by the complete God-Slaying Giant instead of a golden qi wall, Ning Fan wouldn't even budge.

"It seems just relying on elder brother and the others can't hold back this monster..."

Ning Fan was slightly helpless.

Lv Wen and the other two could not beat the monster together, so he certainly couldn't defeat the monster either.

Not continuing to heal the War King; with the monster disturbing, it was impossible to concentrate on healing. With a flip of his hand, he summoned the Memory Severing Dao Sword, and with a swing, four kinds of Palm Position Paths entwined around the blade, stepping onto the altar, transforming into a golden arc, charging directly towards the monster.

"Daoist, don't be reckless!" Cloud Thunder shouted in surprise. Such reckless charge towards the monster, even he, a Second Calamity Immortal Sovereign, dared not. Ning Fan's action was too dangerous, facing this monster, evasion wasn't enough, how could he directly confront it!

Slice!

Responding to Cloud Thunder Celestial Venerate was an unimaginably sharp four-colored sword light.

The monster, confident in its strong body, completely ignored Ning Fan's sword light. However, this strike was the first to breach the monster's physical defense, leaving a very fine wound on its left shoulder.

A few beads of blood seeped from the wound, not a severe injury, but enough to astonish Cloud Thunder.

Teaming up with Lv Wen and others, they couldn't break the monster's physical defense, yet Ning Fan breached it with only a Dao Weapon!

Though the wound was only a trace, this trace indeed injured the Pinnacle Immortal King!

"That's... four kinds of Palm Position Paths! This boy, this boy..." Cloud Thunder was so shocked he couldn't speak.

Lv Wen had seen even more astounding feats from Ning Fan, so although surprised now, it wasn't overwhelming.

Wu Laoba was incredibly expectant, hoping Ning Fan could still unleash that one strike which could kill a Quasi-Saint, confident that if his master unleashed that divine ability, the mere monster would be annihilated with a flick!

With the master taking action, a mere Pinnacle Immortal King was nothing worth mentioning!

Unfortunately, he overestimated Ning Fan...

Being able to make a cut on the Pinnacle Immortal King dedicated to physical cultivation was already Ning Fan's current limit. To kill the monster, was extremely difficult.

It's not impossible, because there's still Origin Qi, the means of Blood Ignition, and the Slaughter Emperor's Jade Slip. If Origin Qi exploded, even an Immortal Emperor would retreat, let alone this monster; however, Origin Qi was too precious, and Ning Fan didn't want to use it unless absolutely necessary.

Blood ignition is even more of a waste. Ning Fan has noticed from the act of ancestral blood merging into the demon symbol. The cultivations of god, monster, and demon in the future will likely face this step of ancestral blood fusion, so unless necessary, ancestral blood cannot be wasted; otherwise, it will be difficult to cultivate again later.

As for the Slaughter Emperor's jade scroll...

Alternatively, Ning Fan can invite others to help slay this monster, like Xiang Mingzi... But asking Mingzi for help means owing him a favor, and it seems he's already owed Mingzi quite a bit...

Luckily, Ning Fan still has a slight upper hand in facing the monster.

Without the God-Extinguishing Shield, he wouldn't be a match for this monster, but with the shield, the monster can't even touch him, while he can at least inflict a tiny wound on it...

And this wound, because it is caused by the four positions of the Dao Principles, is surprisingly difficult to recover with physical healing ability.

"You should leave this realm for now; I will first test if I can kill this monster. If this beast isn't killed, I'm afraid rescuing people won't be peaceful."

Ning Fan was dismissing people primarily to avoid revealing the complete form of the God-Slaying Giant in front of everyone.

This matter concerns the primitive war. Many Immortal Sovereigns have seen the full form of the God-Slaying Giant and know what the true form of the God-Extinguishing Shield looks like. To Lv Wen and others, it might not be a good thing; they could get involved in some cause and effect.

Upon hearing that Ning Fan is going to fight the monster alone, Yun Lei and others are worried. Only Lv Wen and Wu Laoba know that Ning Fan has numerous methods; even if not victorious, he won't be in any danger.

If victorious, it wouldn't be surprising... After all, Ning Fan has killed a Quasi-Saint before... They were all seriously injured, staying here wouldn't help much, and could even be a burden...

Thus, Lv Wen and Wu Laoba decisively led their group out of the Dao Essence Secret Realm, leaving Ning Fan and the headless monster confronting each other.

Seeing everyone leave, Ning Fan had no further scruples, directly summoning the God-Slaying Giant's Dharma Form, the giant holding a shield in his left hand and the enlarged Memory Severing Dao Sword in his right.

Roar!!!

That monster saw Ning Fan unleash the power of the God-Extinguishing Shield, inexplicably feeling a fear originating from its bloodline.

The four divisions of the Southern Clan, Witch, Gu, Barbarian, War, few know that these four divisions, the entire Southern Clan, are the descendants of one cultivator family.

War Witch!

In the immemorial era, the War Witch tribe was one of the subordinate tribes of the Barbarian Clan. After the Barbarian Clan was enslaved by ghost servants, few remained of the War Witch lineage. The remaining people were later subdued by the Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign, becoming guards of the Da Luo Heaven at the southern heavenly gate of the Zi Dou Immortal Domain, and gradually split into four divisions.

The Barbarian division received gifts from the Barbarian Clan, allowing them to cultivate Barbarians and have Barbarian identities.

The Witch and War divisions were direct descendants of the War Witch tribe.

The Gu division is a newly emerged tribe of the War Witch lineage.

The ancestor of the War King is the abandoned cultivator of the Southern Clan's War division, and the Witch God is the legendary divine skill of the War division, with very few War Witches able to cultivate their own Witch God during the War Witch era.

If talking about origins, the Witch God is the flagship divine skill of the War Witch lineage, and the War Witch is a subject of the Barbarian Clan.

Even this Witch God himself doesn't know that the unease he feels from Ning Fan is not only because Ning Fan has the power to awaken the War King, but also because Ning Fan is a legitimate Tenth Generation Barbarian God and possesses the Barbarian Clan's inherited object, the God-Extinguishing Shield!

Unfortunately, the Witch God is not a Barbarian cultivator; otherwise, Ning Fan could directly suppress him with the power of Slaughter and Punishment.

Despite this, when faced with Ning Fan, a little fear has already formed in the Witch God's heart. This fear further amplified in their subsequent confrontation. He attacked Ning Fan with all his might, yet was completely ineffective!

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Axe after axe, ghost head after ghost head, this Witch God exhausted nearly all means but couldn't break through the defenses of the God-Slaying Giant.

And Ning Fan, with each sword swing, left a faint wound on the Witch God. Later, Ning Fan even used the Liangyi Square Seal, with its first transformation Yin Phoenix, to strike the Witch God.

Limited by Ning Fan's cultivation level, even using innate treasures could only inflict near-insignificant damage to the Witch God.

Yet, do not underestimate these wounds. As the Witch God accumulates more wounds, the injuries gradually deepen.

One day, two days... three days!

Ning Fan fought this battle with the Witch God for three full days!

With his cultivation level, without using Origin Qi, ancestral blood bottom cards, he indeed couldn't kill the Witch God. However, he inflicted quite significant injuries on the Witch God.

Having cultivated Wood Yin-Yang, gaining nearly heavenly mana recovery, allowed Ning Fan to engage in battle with the Witch God for three days, mana still abundant. Relying on the defense of the God-Extinguishing Shield, remains innately undefeated.

Theoretically, if this cutting could last for dozens of years, Ning Fan indeed has hope in killing this Witch God with these ever-deepening injuries.

However, the problem is that the War King couldn't survive for dozens of years, and he couldn't truly waste decades in splitting with the Witch God here.

Indeed, to kill this monster, using bottom cards might be needed...

Origin Qi, Slaughter Jade Scroll are indeed precious, but to fulfill promises, Ning Fan wouldn't be stingy with these external items.

Turning, Ning Fan simultaneously took out Origin Qi and Jade Scroll. One of these feared must be used to kill this Witch God.

With Ning Fan determined, this time, the Witch God on the opposite side lost his last shred of luck in his heart.

In his sparse bloodline memories, Shienie Wilderness's Three Energies are extremely fearsome. Just one Origin Qi could annihilate him...

And that Jade Scroll... What Jade Scroll! So dangerous, extremely dangerous! How can this child refuse so easily and have this endless array of means!

"Don't... kill me! I and Luo Hou... are one! Killing me, Luo Hou dies! I wish... to submit!"

The Witch God was terrified of Ning Fan, putting away his shield and giant axe, half-kneeling before Ning Fan.

This is... submission!

The Barbarian God's might from Ning Fan brought fear to his heart, making him not dare to contest.

Ning Fan's defenses couldn't be broken through; Ning Fan's attack deepened his injuries bit by bit, making him increasingly uneasy.

What truly made him despair was Ning Fan's final revealed bottom cards, Ning Fan... entirely capable of killing him!

Compared to death, he'd rather be recomposed by the War King or directly assimilated with the War King. After all, he was Luo Hou, the awakening of Luo Hou's War Witch bloodline, not losing much.

Better than dying!

"Oh? Killing you, the War King Luo Hou would also die?"

Ning Fan took a deep breath.

What a close call!

If he had used the bottom cards directly without knowing, killing the Witch God, wouldn't that create a big blunder, failing to save people and instead causing the War King to die?

"Requesting the Divine Transformation Realm, spare my life..."

The Witch God bowed to the ground once more. Deeply convinced, the mighty Barbarian God cannot be opposed by the little Witch God of the War Witch tribe.

Barbarian is master of the witch!

Even though today's era leans towards ghost servants, losing the former positions of the barbarian, this fact will not change!

Chapter 983: Holder Cultivator of the Yin Path, Master of Niku

Once the Witch God submitted, the rescue of the War King proceeded smoothly.

Ning Fan also breathed a sigh of relief, putting away the Origin Qi and the Slaughter Emperor Jade Slip. The Origin Qi was one thing, but avoiding the need to use this jade slip was certainly for the best. This was his second jade slip, capable of summoning sixteen Immortal King puppets... It was also the second life-saving item given to him by the Slaughter Emperor.

As for the third life-saving item... the jade slip for the Slaughter Emperor's personal appearance, he had already stored it away and had no intention of using it for rescuing the War King this time.

Slaughter Emperor...

If the soul blood of an adult Nine-Tailed Fox can delay Dao extinction, it should also be useful for the Slaughter Emperor...

To Ning Fan, the Ancient Chaos was a relationship of master and disciple, whereas the Slaughter Emperor was a debt that must be repaid. Although not as deep as with the Ancient Chaos, he still placed considerable importance on it.

He seemed to see again the elderly man who sacrificed everything to protect the descendants of the Northern Dipper, and he recalled the promise he made to that old man years ago to seek the Eternal Jade and save him...

If he could indeed let the Nine-Tailed Fox reach its adult stage...

As soon as this thought appeared, the feeling of the impending arrival of the Shedding Void Heart Tribulation emerged once again...

The feeling of its descent grew even closer!

For others, Shedding Void meant discarding attachments, but he took an entirely different path, continually carrying burdens that others scoffed at. Within those burdens were gratitude, affection, righteousness—warm experiences he had encountered time and again on his cultivation path...

Forsaking attachments is the way approved by the heavens, perhaps it is considered Yang.

Not forsaking attachments, the path of cultivation disapproved by the heavens, could it be... Yin...

Yin...

During his journey to Mu Island, Ning Fan's understanding of the Dao gained an entirely different perspective, reaching a new level.

To view the Dao from the perspective of Yin and Yang!

It turned out that the cultivation path always stood on the side of Yin, in a position disapproved by the heavens.

But, what does it matter if the heavens disapprove? As long as I approve of this path... I will shed this void, carry my attachments, wander obstinately on the shadowy side of the world!

If a mortal could reach the state of Yin...

Thump! Thump! Thump!

It was the sound of Ning Fan's heart pounding!

At this moment, a thought from Ning Fan unexpectedly triggered the Shedding Void Heart Tribulation, which originally showed signs of dispersal, to be genuinely drawn for the first time!

The first Shedding Void Heart Tribulation... descends!

"Why does it have to arrive at this moment..." Ning Fan felt speechless as he still intended to save the War King, and just then the Shedding Void Heart Tribulation came, so what now?

Is this perhaps what mortals say, "intentionally planting flowers doesn't make them bloom, unintentionally planting willows creates shade?"

Ning Fan didn't realize that the reason he was able to trigger the heart tribulation was because he recognized the essence of the path of steadfast cultivation, which happened to be a catalyst. Besides, Ning Fan's act of saving the War King was itself an act of fulfilling a promise, perfectly aligning with the opportunity for the first heart tribulation to descend, hence allowing the tribulation to truly come down.

It was a coincidence, yet also an inevitable consequence of completing the War King's karmic relation...

"This heart tribulation could wait a bit longer... let's save the War King first!"

Ning Fan took a deep breath, barely suppressing the wild beating of his heart, and once again proceeded to treat the War King.

This time, with the Witch God already subdued, the entire healing process was unhampered by outside disturbances and went extremely smoothly. In just half a day, the treatment of the War King was complete.

The originally lifeless body of the War King was now continuously regaining vitality, as the spiritual energy from the entire Dao Essence Secret Realm frantically surged into the War King's body. A powerful aura gradually emerged on the War King's physical form!

The Third Calamity of Eternals! It was a formidable aura that only a Triple Calamity Immortal King could possess!

Moreover, that aura continued to rise. After the time it takes to burn an incense stick, it unexpectedly broke through the peak of the Third Calamity, reaching the level of the Fourth Calamity of Eternals!

It had broken through!

The War King, who had slept for forty-five million years, broke through to the Fourth Eternal Calamity at the moment of his awakening!

Ning Fan was slightly surprised, but quickly understood the reason behind it.

As a loyal servant of Luo Shix, when the War King fell into slumber, he had specially arranged the Dao Essence Secret Realm to continuously produce Dao Essence, nourishing the War King's body. Through the endless years, the War King absorbed an unknown amount of Dao Essence. Though he hadn't awakened, his cultivation had improved, and the breakthrough to the Fourth Eternal Calamity was logical.

If that was all, it wouldn't be enough to shock Ning Fan too much, but soon, he was once again astonished, for the War King's aura, after breaking through the Fourth Calamity, continued to rise,

soaring all the way to the peak of the Fourth Calamity, and then breaking through the bottleneck of the Fifth Calamity!

The Fifth Calamity of Eternals Immortal King!

And that aura continued to climb, ultimately... reaching the realm of the Pinnacle Immortal King, before finally halting its escalation!

"Finally... awakened. Was it you who saved me?"

The War King's physical body suddenly stood upright, opening its eyes for the first time in forty-five million years!

His gaze was wild and imperious, yet carried the innate boldness of an Eastern Celestial cultivator, giving the impression of a present-day hero. And when he turned his gaze to Ning Fan, it softened considerably, showing gratitude.

Even while slumbering, the War King could faintly perceive outer events. He vaguely remembered that it was this white-clothed youth who saved him, though the specifics were unclear.

If Ning Fan indeed saved him, then regardless of Ning Fan's virtue or vice, he would be an benefactor to Luo Hou. As long as it doesn't violate his principles, Luo Hou owes Ning Fan his life!

"Senior was saved not only by me, but also by Senior Luo Shix and several other Daoists. Quite a few cultivators from the Lu Family also made contributions..." Ning Fan answered truthfully.

"No need to be modest, young friend. Though I was asleep and unaware of specifics, it was you who subdued my Witch God, wasn't it?" Luo Hou slowly landed at the center of the altar, meaningfully looking at the respectfully standing Witch God beside him.

He was hardly aware of external matters but was certain that they were saved largely due to Ning Fan's efforts; this fact was indisputable.

Of course, he would also express gratitude to the others, but Ning Fan was the chief contributor, unquestionably.

Luo Hou, being straightforward by nature, disliked unnecessary talk; he had noted Ning Fan's life-saving grace and would repay it someday!

Ning Fan nodded; it was indeed he who subdued the Witch God, and he didn't need to deny it.

"Luo Hou, you've finally awakened..." The Witch God looked at Luo Hou complexly and sighed.

Had Luo Hou not awakened, at the moment of his imminent demise, the Witch God could have devoured Luo Hou, reviving in his place, which was unbeknownst to Luo Shix and others.

Had Ning Fan not intervened, the War King would have been devoured by the Witch God at the weakest moment of his life... Alas, Ning Fan intervened, making it impossible for the Witch God to devour Luo Hou and forcing him once again under Luo Hou's control.

"You are my Witch God, let's become one. I've slept long but accumulated vastly. If we merge, I am confident I can swiftly break through to the Immortal Emperor Realm! I am you, and you are me; why should there be any distinction between us? Return, and together let's rule the Eastern Heaven!" Luo Hou continued.

"...Very well, I agree to merge with you! From today, there is no War King nor Witch God, but War Witch Luo Hou!"

The Witch God sighed; defeated by Ning Fan and having promised submission, he could no longer reject Luo Hou's proposal.

The Witch God strode towards Luo Hou, who also walked large steps towards him. As they collided, they became one amidst a blinding light... War Witch Luo Hou was fully awakened!

Still the same black-faced burly man, still led by Luo Hou, but at this moment, his cultivation surged dramatically!

The combined cultivation of two Pinnacle Immortal Kings instantly gave him the aura of a Quasi-Emperor. A Quasi-Emperor merely needs to pass the Nine-Five Tribulation, complete the Emperor's spirit fusion, to truly become an Immortal Emperor. The amount of mana was nearly comparable to that of a Sixth Calamity Immortal Emperor; the only difference being the fusion of the Emperor's golden primordial spirit!

"The War King has nearly stepped into the Immortal Emperor realm, nearing the Emperor!" Ning Fan was greatly moved.

The comatose, nearly dying War King saw a surge in cultivation upon awakening, nearing Emperor status... If this news spread, the Eastern Heaven would stir greatly.

"...I've slept for forty-five million years, and have accumulated quite a few minor and major tribulations throughout the years. Naturally, there remains the Nine-Five Tribulation to break through to the Emperor Realm, but the preparations for becoming an Emperor aren't complete, so the Nine-Five Tribulation must be temporarily shelved. This slumber brought significant benefits, having accumulated cosmos-sized cause and effect owing to Senluo. He had discerned my Witch God cultivation was on the wrong path, using immense cost to disperse my cultivation while sealing my minor and major tribulations, allowing a secure slumber for countless years. Otherwise, without Luo Shix and them, these increasingly powerful tribulations would have been insurmountable. What's more, without this slumber, the synchrony between the Witch God's heart and mine wouldn't have reached today's extent... Senluo, oh Senluo, what kind of person are you? You brought calamity to Godly Void Pavilion back then; yet today, you bring me the opportunity to become an Emperor..." Luo Hou marveled.

The one he felt most grateful to for his awakening was Ning Fan, but his hope of breaking through to Immortal Emperor was owed to Senluo.

Senluo, Senluo... Hmm? Senluo, is he actually dead...

Upon achieving the Quasi-Emperor realm, many personally relevant matters can be sensed to some extent, and it seems Senluo has passed away...

This grace cannot be repaid.

No, it's not that it cannot be repaid... Luo Hou then had an epiphany.

Back then, Senluo pursued a woman, provoking the Dark Clan, becoming an enemy of the world, even risking his mentor and the Godly Void Pavilion; guilt surely burdened Senluo. It seemed this guilt repayments ended up blessing him, Luo Hou.

Senluo assisting in becoming an Emperor aimed to add an unparalleled Immortal Emperor to Godly Void Pavilion, to compensate for his inability to protect the Pavilion in his mentor's stead.

Luo Hou owed Senluo immense karmic consequences, and to repay such debt, the best method is to replace Senluo and protect Godly Void Pavilion throughout life...

"So that's how it is, when you scattered my cultivation back then, you foresaw this outcome. Very well, you helped me become an Emperor, and if protecting Godly Void Pavilion was your dying wish, then this wish... I, Luo Hou, shall bear it for you!"

In this way, he resolved his debts with Senluo with mutual absolution.

As for Ning Fan...

"Young friend, you saved my life, and I should profusely thank you, but unfortunately at this moment, I still have tribulations to cross, not a time for lengthy discussion with you. Could you wait briefly until I complete the tribulation, and then we can talk more?" Luo Hou slightly bowed to Ning Fan, sincerely.

"Please feel free, senior, as I, too, have pressing matters to attend to, requiring immediate seclusion." Ning Fan referred naturally to the heart tribulation he's been suppressing.

This heart tribulation he'd held back for half a day, and now his heart was racing uncontrollably, reaching a limit; he must immediately enter seclusion to cross the tribulation.

Otherwise, he would very much like to witness how Luo Hou would overcome the multitude of tribulations. Listening to Luo Hou's tone, having accumulated forty-five million years of tribulations...

Calculating the minor tribulation every nine hundred years and major tribulation every nine thousand years for Timeless Realm cultivators...

Luo Hou would have to withstand fifty thousand minor tribulations and five thousand major ones!

Understand, the strength of cultivators' minor and major tribulations grows with each cycle... Ning Fan did indeed desire to witness how Luo Hou would handle such an astonishing number of tribulations, which surely promised to be a grand spectacle.

It's a pity that he's also very busy.

Thus, Ning Fan temporarily left the Dao Essence Secret Realm and returned to the outside world, while War King Luo Hou remained in the secret realm to overcome his tribulation.

As soon as he returned to the outside world, Luo Shix and others surrounded him, inquiring about the progress of the matter.

Lv Wen, Wu Laoba, and Yun Lei, who were severely injured, had only temporarily suppressed their injuries and were still waiting outside the secret realm for news of Ning Fan, naturally because they cared about the progress of the situation.

Ning Fan didn't go into detail about the process of subduing the Witch God, only saying that he successfully awakened the War King, who is now undergoing his heavenly tribulation in the secret realm, an accumulation of tens of millions of years, its power extraordinary. He advised Luo Shix and others not to enter the secret realm to watch the tribulation, so as not to be affected by it.

After that, Ning Fan acted like a hands-off shopkeeper and retreated into seclusion in the Xuan Yin Treasure for closed cultivation.

His promise to the Luo family was fulfilled, the War King has been awakened, and the rest will be handled by the Luo family.

Upon hearing that Luo Hou had awakened and was enduring the heavenly tribulation that had accumulated for tens of millions of years, the cultivators not yet in the Timeless Realm, like Luo Shix, naturally did not dare to enter the secret realm to observe the tribulation.

Lv Wen, Wu Laoba, and Yun Lei, however, had their eyes light up. Without much hesitation, they joined forces to enter the secret realm to watch the War King overcome his tribulation.

Watching an Immortal King undergo a tribulation accumulated for tens of millions of years is a rare opportunity. Perhaps the three of them might gain some enlightenment from it. Compared to gaining enlightenment, postponing closed cultivation to heal injuries seemed justifiable, watching the War King first, and then recuperating was not too late.

Wu Laoba, the loyal servant, even took out a high-grade recording jade slip, intending to record the details of the War King's tribulation to show Ning Fan.

The master has urgent matters to attend to and missed the chance to watch the tribulation, so as the world's number one loyal servant, he naturally needs to exert some effort for the master...

To record the process of a formal Immortal King's tribulation, the required recording jade slip must be of the highest grade, with such a slip costing at least tens of billions of Dao Crystals in Eastern Heaven.

Seeing Wu Laoba go through such expense just to let the master watch the recording of the Immortal King's tribulation, Yun Lei and the others were filled with emotions, giving Wu Laoba a most impartial evaluation.

"Wu Laoba, a loyal servant you are! Your loyalty shines like the sun and moon, carrying the ancient chivalrous spirit!"

If Ning Fan heard this evaluation of Wu Laoba, he would surely be speechless. To call Luo Shix a loyal servant he agrees, but to say Wu Laoba is a loyal servant, he could only chuckle...

...

But it's a pity Ning Fan is destined not to hear this evaluation.

Upon entering the western region of the Xuan Yin Treasure, Ning Fan lifted the suppression of the Shekong Heart Tribulation, and at the moment the heart tribulation was unleashed, the shadows of his Four True Bridges immediately appeared in the sky.

Beneath the Four True Bridges, there were flowing streams, and under the first True Illusionary Bridge, there was a very dim reflection.

Ning Fan's figure flickered and appeared on the first True Illusionary Bridge, leaning on the railing, looking at the blurred reflection in the stream.

As the heart tribulation deepened, those reflections gradually became clearer, revealing scenes of Ning Fan keeping promises made since he began cultivating.

"If Elder Ning can promise to take action for the Hu Clan three times... I, old man, am willing to use the price of not entering reincarnation and condense a Cultivation Pill with my lifetime's cultivation as a gift to Elder!"

"This pill, I initially intended to keep for Hu Ming... But it seems he is ultimately too young to bear great responsibilities..."

"Cultivation Pill! You have done too much for the family..."

"I have no regrets! Elder Ning, just say, do you agree or not!"

"Enough. If I get the Cultivation Pill, I, Ning Fan, promise that in my lifetime, I will take action three times for the Hu Clan!"

This promise was made when Ning Fan was in the Harmonious Spirit realm, agreeing to guard the Hu Clan of Yue Country. Later, he indeed fulfilled this task.

The Hu Clan, Hu Fengzi, that's already a distant memory. If not for seeing the past in this reflection, Ning Fan would almost have forgotten this tiny power like a grain of rice.

Yet, he cannot forget Hu Fengzi, cannot forget this person who was willing to be utterly destroyed and not enter reincarnation, to turn into a cultivation pill in exchange for Ning Fan's three interventions to protect the Hu Clan.

This was the first time, at the beginning of Ning Fan's cultivation, that he encountered such a person, willing to willingly be utterly destroyed for the sake of protecting others.

Was it worth it...

Ning Fan once asked himself back then, the answer he arrived at was, whether it was worth it or not.

The world has long forgotten Hu Fengzi, even the family members he desperately protected have forgotten him. Time has passed, and in the present Rain Immortal World, the present Yue Country, perhaps no one remembers that there once was an insignificant master who made a soul-stirring decision to protect his family.

It is truly magnificent!

The rain is born from the heavens, and falls to the earth, nourishing the grass and wood, and nurturing living things... It is called rain, not water, not the Yangtze River, not the lake or sea, because... it has its Dao.

It nourishes the grass and wood, without seeking any reward from them, with nothing to do with worth or unworthiness, just doing as the Dao dictates.

Simply because it is the Dao, one can proceed with no regrets!

Ning Fan looked at the reflection in the stream, looked at Hu Fengzi in the reflection, seeming to gain some enlightenment.

The Shekong Four Realms, the Four True Bridges, the reflections under the bridges... Perhaps each heart tribulation will show more of the reflection in the river.

Crossing Truth cultivators work on the bridges over the river, while Shekong cultivators work on the shadows under the bridges. What is called a shadow is attachment, is illusion, is what the heavens do not recognize.

Hu Fengzi's path once moved Ning Fan, making Ning Fan's cultivation unknowingly carry traces of Hu Fengzi's influence.

Shedding Void, Shedding Void, it's precisely about discarding these irrelevant shadows in order to achieve a breakthrough...

The first step is to see the reflection in the True Illusionary River, and the second is to discard it... But that's the path of ordinary cultivators, not Ning Fan's path.

Ning Fan has already gained some insight into his Shedding Void path. His path is different from others; his path requires persistence, requires determination rather than abandonment!

He said no more, continuing to watch the reflection in the river, as even more reflections appeared beneath the first bridge.

The second reflection scene was of Ning Fan's past roaming the nine divisions of the Lu Clan.

That year, he promised Honorable Demon General Lu Daochen to bury his master Lu Wu. Afterwards, with Lu Bei's famed name, he accomplished this task.

Ning Fan still cannot forget the hunchbacked silhouette of the old man guarding his master's portrait, solitary yet without regret.

Honorable Demon General Lu Daochen poured his life's blood into fulfilling one thing, which was to bury his master Lu Wu. Just to fulfill this wish, he gave everything, without regret.

A model of cultivation!

"The reflections I see during this first Shedding Void heart tribulation seem to be all related to promises..." Ning Fan murmured.

This heart tribulation appeared at the time of fulfilling the Luo Family promise and recalling the Slaughter Hall promise. Could it be that his first Shedding Void heart tribulation must correspond to the word 'promise'...

In the great river, subsequently appeared a third reflection scene of his promise to the Slaughter Emperor to protect the descendants of the Big Dipper and safeguard the Slaughter Hall.

The fourth reflection scene was about the Luo Family promise.

There were more reflections, surprisingly all related to promises to others, ranging from promising a pill or a medicine to sacrificing one's life for others. Most of Ning Fan's life's promises have been fulfilled, but there are still many promises ongoing, limited by cultivations and other factors, unable to be realized temporarily.

Yet, every promise unexpectedly emerged within the water, becoming the reflections under the first True Bridge, and turning into Ning Fan's persisting dedication.

Ning Fan gazed at the river water beneath the True Bridge, gradually hearing the voice of the grand path from the endless river. That voice was very indistinct, astonishingly the Shedding Void Celestial Sound heard during the heart tribulation by Shedding Void cultivators!

"Turn back, turn back, turn back... come across my path of infinite crossing, the Four Illusions and Four Extinguishments Stepping into Emptiness Realm, Sect of SoleFlame from the Ground..."

Suddenly, there was a blaze from the river water, turning into a withered old hand, dry as if it might crumble anytime, yet causing Ning Fan an overwhelming sense of awe, as if it could seize all traces between heaven and earth, freezing time and space!

That withered hand didn't seemingly exist in reality but rather within the reflection in the river water, arising with the appearance of the reflection!

That withered hand appeared for no other purpose than to erase Ning Fan's reflected shadow from the river!

Erase this shadow, and Ning Fan's Shedding Void path would be accomplished, allowing entry into the initiate realm of Shedding Void, but at the cost of damaging the spirit sense, making a path of persistence impossible!

Unlike ordinary cultivators, for whom abandoning obsessions is insignificant, Ning Fan is different. He is not an ordinary cultivator; his path does not permit light abandonment, especially abandonment concerning promises of his spirit sense.

Ning Fan had an illusion of heart-stopping dread, believing if the withered hand erased the river reflection, his spirit sense would be forcibly altered, changing his temperament entirely, never to be a man who keeps promises again!

What kind of withered hand wields such terrifying erasing power, capable of altering one's spirit sense!

Ning Fan flipped through many texts on Mu Island, among them records of Shedding Void heart tribulations, yet even after reviewing Mu Island texts, he found no mention of the appearance of a withered hand. Other cultivators breaking through Shedding Void likewise hear the Shedding Void Celestial Sound, but the content of the celestial sound is usually straightforwardly pointing out flaws in the cultivators' paths for compensation, never as cryptic and difficult to understand as Ning Fan's.

No one has had a fiery withered hand appear trying to erase reflections during a heart tribulation!

For a moment, Ning Fan realized that this cryptically obscure Shedding Void Celestial Sound and this extremely dangerous, spirit sense-altering withered hand are likely the unique "benefits" of the Holder Cultivator... dangerous benefits!

Absolutely cannot allow this withered hand to erase the river reflection!

Ning Fan's expression changed drastically, without hesitation, he opened the God-Slaying Giant's Shadow, thrusting directly into the river water, explosively charging towards the withered hand!

He won't allow anyone to alter his spirit sense, nor does he need others to establish the path of Shedding Void for him. His path is not of abandonment, no need to erase the river reflections, this hand has insidious intentions, seeking to destroy his reflections and corrode his spirit sense, never!

Boom!

A loud bang, it was the God-Slaying Giant's collision with the withered hand's reflection...

"Turn back, turn back, turn back... come across my path of infinite crossing, the Four Illusions and Four Extinguishments Stepping into Emptiness Realm, Sect of SoleFlame from the Ground..."

The withered hand was unaffected by the God-Slaying Giant's impact, while the giant's golden flame body... was struck by the withered hand, creating a depression, and the golden flame showed signs of extinguishing. Sheltered within the giant, Ning Fan suddenly coughed up fresh blood, wounded by the withered hand through the God-Slaying Giant, his insides burning like fire!

The withered hand's terrifying power, even the God-Extinguishing Shield couldn't completely defend against its strong force!

Having clashed with the withered hand, Ning Fan finally confirmed its origin... Indeed, within the withered hand, existed the will of the heavens, a hand bestowed by the sky to eradicate Ning Fan's river reflection, denying Ning Fan the path of determined persistence in Shedding Void!

Turn back, turn back, turn back...

If you don't turn back, then I, the heavens, will force you to return!

Heaven's Rejection of Cultivation Path, this road is blocked!

Chapter 984: Has Everyone Arrived...?

Ning Fan could feel a strong rejection from this withered palm. The Heaven's Rejection of the Cultivation Path, this road is impassable. This withered palm, without a doubt, is Heaven's way of blocking the cultivation path.

Even Ning Fan, who possesses the God-Extinguishing Shield, could barely withstand the power of the withered palm. Other ordinary cultivators who wish to walk this path of cultivation would be unlikely to withstand the power of this palm.

The power contained in this palm far exceeds Ning Fan's understanding. It's a difference in dimensions! Though Ning Fan's vision spans the Four Heavens and he's at a first-class level, he can't comprehend the mystery of this palm, which is enough to indicate the severity!

The power of this palm is definitely at the level of the Third Step, and it might possibly have reached the Fourth Step!

Unbeatable!

Unless Ning Fan steps into the Third Step, becomes a Saint, and possesses a complete God-Extinguishing Shield, he wouldn't have even half the confidence to receive this palm! Such a terrifying withered palm stands ahead, questioning which cultivator of the path could pass this hurdle!

This path, too difficult! Perhaps in the history of pre-Immemorial, the cultivation path has had its glory, but in the present Era of Decline, the road of the cultivation path might truly be impassable, blocked by life itself.

At the Enlightenment, there is no True Bridge over the Zhenhuan River. How many people can create their True Bridge on the river? At that time, Ning Fan had actually accomplished a magnificent feat, but if it were someone else, they might only abandon this path of cultivation.

During the Shedding Void Stage, there's the obstruction of the withered palm. This withered palm is more like an insurmountable high wall, giving Ning Fan an unprecedented sense of unbeatable. Trying to forcibly defeat the withered palm, there is no possibility at all...

"Turn back, turn back, turn back...come from my boundless way, Four Illusions and Four Extinguishments Stepping into Emptiness Realm, Sect of SoleFlame from the Ground..."

"Turn back, turn back, turn back...come from my boundless ancient path, offer to the Bright Firmament Palm's reverse decay, Sect of SoleFlame from the Ground..."

That withered palm struck heavily upon Ning Fan, and once again suddenly attacked the reflection in the river, determined to destroy the reflection. Ning Fan forcibly tried to block, yet still, a small part of the reflection was wiped by the withered palm, and he himself had his injuries deepened by the withered palm.

Although the injuries on the body were severe, Ning Fan could barely endure them, but with one sweep of the reflection, Ning Fan only felt his path being forcibly torn apart, and a part was erased. Moreover, a will of heaven forcibly invaded his body, bit by bit, collapsing the cultivation path within him and affecting his spirit sense.

It seemed that at this moment, there was another voice of Ning Fan within his heart, constantly advising him to follow the will of heaven, to cultivate the path of Yang, to abandon cultivation, to convert!

'Convert! Convert! You are me, I am you, convert to the Bright Firmament, convert to the Sect of SoleFlame from the Ground...'

Every time that other voice in his heart echoed, Ning Fan's path would collapse a bit, and his spirit sense became numb bit by bit, being guided towards the path recognized by Heaven.

'Abandon, abandon, abandon...abandon all obsessions, abandon all important people, leaving only conversion...'

'Convert, to the Sect of SoleFlame from the Ground...'

'Abandon the attachment of bygone dust, cultivate the path of the afterlife, quickly convert, from this point, enter the empty door, let bygones be bygones, bestow upon you the fortune of brightness...'

'I am you, you are me, follow me...convert...'

That voice penetrated continuously, making Ning Fan's gaze dazed for a moment, but the next moment, he suddenly roared towards the sky, like a demon roaring defiantly, forcibly suppressing that eerie voice.

In his eyes, there was even a flame of anger!

Such a strong allure power, but wanting to seduce me to abandon the path, it's insufficient!

This path is impassable, is it? What if I insist on going, insisting on being the only cultivator in this Era of Decline who obstinately persists in cultivation!

If a path can be changed, it's not a true path. Once Ning Fan has stepped onto the path of cultivation, he will never turn back in this life, this withered palm can suppress his cultivation level, erase his reflection, but his path will not allow anyone to erase it!

"This divine skill of the palm is defiant of the heavens, beyond my ability to defeat, but it's not that I can't endure to the end!"

Ning Fan keenly discovered that compared to the first palm, the power of the withered palm's second strike seemed to have weakened. This weakening was like the withered palm itself having limited power, consuming some, and less remaining.

As it is said, the grand Dao is fifty, Heaven evolves forty-nine, leaving a thread of life... This withered palm indeed intends to block the cultivation path's emergence, but it seems Heaven has left a sliver of possibility for Ning Fan to cultivate...

The power of the withered palm is actually limited!

If one can endure the withered palm's attacks, enduring a certain number of times, could it be possible to exhaust the power of the withered palm and, with the result of unyielding obsession, walk onto the path of Shedding Void?

If one is an ordinary cultivator without such a heavenly defying artifact like the God-Extinguishing Shield, and without Ning Fan's daring audacity, they might only succumb to the withered palm, walking the path the withered palm has laid down for them.

But Ning Fan is different, he naturally is this way, once he decides on something, no matter how small the possibility, he has to fight desperately for it, regardless of gains or losses. Perhaps, he might truly be able to exhaust the power of the withered palm...

That withered palm came again, intending to extinguish the reflection in the river. Ning Fan's gaze was fierce, having made a decision, fearlessly manipulating the God-Slaying Giant, clashing with the withered palm once more.

Boom!

The result was that Ning Fan spewed blood for the third time, being blasted away by that withered palm, but the battle spirit in his eyes was even more vigorous.

Indeed, the power of this third strike was even weaker than the second strike...

A great number of Healing Pills were taken out by Ning Fan, swallowed in handfuls. In such circumstances, he couldn't care to slowly refine the power of the pills, letting the medicinal power rampage within his body, constantly delivering pain that he ignored, developing a bit of ruthless streak.

If the path is impassable, he will use his entire body of flesh and blood to crash open that road!

With a turn of his hand, the Yin Yang Memory Severing Dao Sword, enlarged, appeared in the giant's right hand, entangled with four kinds of palm position luminous light, directly charging towards the withered palm, striking down with a sword.

This was the first time Ning Fan took the initiative to attack the withered palm after enduring three attacks; it was his defiance against anyone trying to strip his path!

The withered palm showed no emotion, only leisurely unleashed the fourth palm, seemingly weak and powerless, yet upon contact it instantly extinguished the four palm position luminous lights on the Dao Sword, then with great force suppressed it, sending the God-Slaying Giant flying.

Dimensions differ!

Using the power of the palm position principles, he couldn't leave the slightest injury on the withered palm, not even a scratch!

"If palm position power is ineffective, then I'll use divine skills! I let my bones be mountains, my blood be the sea, my palm be the way, my way be submerged currents! This is, Dao Like a Submerged Current!"

Ning Fan flipped his hand within the God-Slaying Giant, the entire Zhenhuan River water instantly metamorphosed into the Obliteration River, rolling the withered palm to the riverbed.

"Calamity Technique...Taicang Calamity Spirit?" From within the withered palm, a voice of hesitation echoed for the first time, seemingly greatly dreading the Taicang lineage. But the dread lasted only a moment; the withered palm still turned its hand, and directly suppressed Ning Fan's Obliteration River without damage.

This was the fifth palm!

Once that withered palm suppressed the Obliteration River, it immediately pressed lightly towards the God-Slaying Giant, Ning Fan wanting to dodge, only to realize in shock that the entire God-Slaying Giant had lost control, sealed by an invisible force, trapped in place, and then the palm landed!

Bang!

This palm directly pressed on the heavenly spirit of the God-Slaying Giant, causing the golden flame body of the God-Slaying Giant to extinguish completely, with Ning Fan inside spewing blood and flying backwards. With each retreat, the physical body's collapse intensified, and if not for an unwavering will sustaining it, the physical body would instantly become unsustainable and scattered. During the path of

retreat, Ning Fan forced down more Healing Pills, without caring for his internal injuries, forcibly transforming the God-Slaying Giant once more.

The seventh palm, the eighth palm, the ninth palm... Ning Fan was covered in blood, long since numb to the excruciating pain on his body, his eyes solely possessed with a nearly frenzied battle spirit, relentlessly controlling the God-Slaying Giant, continuously colliding with the withered palm.

The eleventh palm, the twelfth palm, the thirteenth palm... Ning Fan's Healing Pills had long been exhausted, and any other pill that was harmless, that had even a slight healing effect, was stuffed into his mouth, only to maintain the vitality within him, continuing the battle with the withered palm!

The twentieth palm, the thirtieth palm, the fortieth palm...

The power of the withered palm grew steadily weaker, gradually almost unable to break through the defense of the God-Extinguishing Shield.

...

Ning Fan's vitality was equally weak, but he held on with the will of War Yin and Yang. Such unwavering determination was unyielding, even in the face of heaven, like a spine straightening little by little before the sky, still charging towards the withered palm again and again. Attacking is always better than waiting passively for doom!

No Cultivator of Void-Forsaking has ever withstood so many attacks from the withered palm!

Even if the heavens left a sliver of hope for the cultivators, no one had ever seized that chance in the Era of Decline, only Ning Fan achieved this feat!

Forty-seventh palm, forty-eighth palm, forty-ninth palm!

Those forty-nine palms seemed to have drained the last bit of strength from the withered palm. As one palm fell, it couldn't continue, finally turning into fragmented light and disappearing, while Ning Fan, barely able to stand, still maintained his fierce gaze, watching the withered palm vanish.

So, does that mean he won...

Before the withered palm disappeared, it left behind a message, the tone sounded like a threat.

"Desertion of the cultivation, you alone succeed, since you don't look back, don't regret. You may be a Taicang Calamity Spirit, but you are not a cultivator of the Real Realms. When the day comes for you to enter the True Realm, you will face the Destruction of Obsession Fire Punishment from the Sect of SoleFlame from the Ground, eternally imprisoned in the Prison of Bright Firmament, and not even the Calamity Master can save you! The matter of extinguishing the obsession, as discussed by the Third World, is heavenly will, and no one can change it. If you wish to live, then stay in the Dreamland Realm and eke out your life!"

Uh, even as the withered palm was leaving, it still issued such a lengthy threat to Ning Fan?

Destruction of Obsession Fire Punishment from the Sect of SoleFlame from the Ground... what is that?

Calamity Master...

This is someone Ning Fan dared not even mention, yet the withered palm spoke of them freely, indeed impressive...

Ning Fan didn't take the threat from the withered palm to heart. He withdrew from the God-Slaying Giant's Divine Skill, and could no longer bear the physical weakness, hardly able to stand without sheer willpower supporting him.

The injuries he sustained in this battle were horrific, his physical form nearly shattered, and his Spirit severely damaged.

But he had no regrets, at the very least, he held onto his path, at least he became the only cultivator in this Era of Decline who preserved his obsession and broke through the Void-Forsaking stage!

The erased reflections had now spontaneously restored themselves with the disappearance of the withered palm, and Ning Fan's cultivation level surged as the withered palm departed, completely breaking through the bottleneck, with his energy rising rapidly.

Spirit Severing level, Initial Stage Shedding Void! Yin Yang Transformation level, Initial Stage Shedding Void!

Finally shattered the void, in this way, the cultivation levels of Spirit, Demon, and Monster, all count as stepping into the Shedding Void Realm, what follows is to make these three cultivation levels gradually achieve Thought-Shattering and eventually reach eons, only thus can the three cultivation levels equal the Calamity Blood Cultivation!

Ning Fan pondered, when the withered palm dissipated, it left a threat, and from the tone, it seemed that the future Heart Tribulation of Shedding Void would no longer descend, otherwise, it would not have stated he had to wait until Ning Fan arrived at the Real Realms to start the punishment.

Improving the Shedding Void cultivation level in the future should be much easier, though it's not impossible that the withered palm might descend again...

"This matter need not be considered, it's time to heal..."

After the True Bridge phenomenon disappeared, Ning Fan went directly into a Millennium Age Tower to begin healing.

This time, he completely exhausted his Healing Pills and had no choice but to open a furnace himself, using his not-too-excellent Seventh Grade Mid-Level Pill Technique to refine some pills for healing.

The Seventh Revolution Pills' efficacy wasn't great, but there were many of them. Moreover, Ning Fan possessed countless precious medicinal materials, many used for refining Nine Transformations Lead Pills, Silver Elixirs, Golden Cores, yet he squandered them to make Seventh Revolution Pills.

In this way, his alchemy experience skyrocketed, not to mention the pills refined had remarkable efficacy, not unlike that of peak Eighth Revolution healing pills, only slightly weaker.

No wonder, looking across Eastern Heaven, there's definitely no alchemist who would use Nine Revolution materials to refine Seventh Revolution pills, that would be wasteful, a prodigal act, primarily because few people have Ning Fan's abundant resources to withstand such extravagance. Neither the Pill Sect nor the Medicine Sect nor the Three Elders of Magic Pills could... Alchemists as wealthy as Ning Fan are rare!

Ning Fan didn't care at all, after all, these medicinal materials were all plundered through his slaughtering along the way, to not use them for his own healing would be the true waste.

The expensive pills were of high quality and plentiful, thus combined with the healing effect of the Black Star Technique, they slowly patched up Ning Fan's injuries. Moreover, what Ning Fan did not expect was that, despite the life-threatening injuries, an unexpected gain arose!

The saying "no destruction, no establishment" held true; the more severe wounds compared to those he had when crossing the Origin Bridge surprisingly awoke the dormant Immortal Blood within Ning Fan's body.

In the past, Ning Fan had cultivated a trace of Immortal Blood by using the God-Extinguishing Shield. However, that trace of Immortal Blood had never been utilized until now. This time, with life on the brink, that trace of Immortal Blood was sensed, awoken, and joined in the task of healing his injuries.

Despite the fact that it's merely a trace of Immortal Blood, its regenerative prowess surpasses the production of those wasteful Seventh Revolution pills by far, truly defying the heavens! Ning Fan's Spirit was almost completely damaged, shrunk from palm-sized to only the size of a thumb—an unprecedentedly grave injury. Even some ninth-revolution Golden Pills struggle to treat injuries of this magnitude. Yet, as the Immortal Blood continuously nurtures him, Ning Fan's dwindling Spirit gradually recuperates, without overly relying on the concoctions, recovering from its dilapidated state! Though, its recovery is indeed slow...

Why would anyone resent Ning Fan's scant Immortal Blood?

But it was indeed this scant Immortal Blood that eventually mended Ning Fan's heavily wounded Spirit... this truly defies the heavens!

If Ning Fan's Immortal Blood multiplied by a hundred times or a thousand times, reaching as much as a drop, Ning Fan would have confidence in healing such Spirit injuries within a year rather than a millennium!

Should the Immortal Blood grow more plentiful... Ning Fan could heal in the blink of an eye, his physical body regenerating at super speed, all of which are possible.

Moreover, the Heavenly Emperor's Black Star Technique and Immortal Emperor's Immortal Blood breeds both are rare masteries in healing, if only these two divine skills could be merged into one...

Once this thought sprouted, it couldn't be dismissed. Alas, he can only imagine these things; in his current state, he has no ability to blend the unrivaled skills of these two godlike figures.

A millennium passed, and Ning Fan's injuries were eighty to ninety percent healed. He was still consolidating his Sky-Traversing Cultivation in the Tower of Years, and over the span, he overcame two minor True Immortal Lightning Tribulations within six hundred years, only remaining are the deficiencies in Primordial Qi.

The scale of his Heavenly Tribulation descended based on the level of spirit, demon, and evil cultivation, with the Blood-lightning not summoning tribulation. Previously, Ning Fan couldn't understand the reason, but through enlightenment in Yin and Yang, he could reason it out.

Spirit, demon, and evil are Yin, unaccepted by the heavens, hence they face tribulation. Taicang Calamity Spirits are Yang, accepted by heaven, hence spared from tribulation's punishment...

A millennium went by, Ning Fan stepped out of the Tower of Years, and stayed briefly in the Mysterious Yin World, for ten successive days, replenishing the lost Primordial Qi with the help of cauldrons. The replenishing process benefited both parties, needless to go into the allure.

Once his Primordial Qi was replenished, Ning Fan returned to the Luo Family—a matter that took ten days.

The timing was at night on Tianhai Star, and throughout the Luo Family, lanterns were hung, brilliantly lit with joy, while above Tianhai Star, guests surged in from all directions, an unprecedented festivity.

The Luo Family, in decline, had not seen such liveliness for a long time.

Ning Fan's spirit sense gently dispersed, enveloping Tianhai Star, listening to some cultivators' idle chatter, immediately understanding the reason.

As it turns out, the Luo Family was celebrating the awakening of the War King, indeed a joyous occasion worth celebrating.

Ten days prior, War King Luo Hou overcame numerous minor and major Lightning Tribulations with unparalleled cultivation, immediately entering seclusion due to some minor injuries obtained during the tribulation and currently in the healing process.

Lv Wen, Wu Laoba, and Cloud Thunder were severely injured, having watched the war king's tribulation, Lv Wen and Wu Laoba temporarily stayed in Broken Spear Peaks for healing, remaining secluded. Celestial Venerate Cloud Thunder returned to the Godly Void Pavilion's main star for recovery.

The Luo Family executives did not heavily publicize the War King's awakening, though this matter was learned by a few of Eastern Heaven's Old Monsters, watching Luo Family closely.

Thus, the Luo Family didn't conceal it, opting for an open celebration on Tianhai Star, venting their joy. The War King's awakening signaled the Luo Family's imminent rise. Moreover, Luo Shix and others later realized that not only had their War King awoken, his cultivation had actually increased dramatically, suggesting that this resurgence would be unstoppable.

Many guests truly arrived, mostly cultivators from Dongming Star Domain's same star domain, but a few were from the distant starry skies, relying on individual starry teleportation arrays to arrive. The least of them were at the Fate Immortal Realm, and Void Fragmentation cultivators were not qualified to join the celebration, while strong figures like Shekong and Thought-Shattering Old Monsters were also amongst those who came to Luo Family.

However, the vast majority still harbored doubts, not believing that a celestial king sleeping for forty-five million years had a chance to awaken.

Others believed the War King had indeed awoken but firmly believed that the War King's cultivation must have severely declined after such prolonged heavy injuries. They could not believe that his cultivation would remain undiminished after so many years of imprisonment and injury.

Though many guests were present, only Luo Shix was hosting, with the War King not appearing, thus those attendees couldn't assess the War King's current cultivation level.

Ning Fan naturally didn't plan to show up. These people were here to congratulate the Luo Family, and he didn't need to participate, so he went to the cave abodes of Lv Wen and Wu Laoba to check on them.

Both of them were severely injured during the rescue of the War King. Fortunately, the injuries weren't critical, and with an ample supply of healing pills, they would recover and emerge in a year or so. However, this meant that they wouldn't be able to participate in the upcoming major event...

Calculating the time, in a few days, it would be the time for the Anti-Ning Assembly held by the Pill Sect. By then, it seemed he would have to go alone...

Pill Sect!

Ning Fan's spirit sense encompassed the entire Tianhai Star, and among the guests who came to congratulate the Luo family, many were casually discussing this matter.

"Have you heard? The Sect Master of the Pill Sect has issued hero invitations, calling for reinforcements to join the Anti-Ning Alliance. I don't want to get involved in these muddy waters, and I was just fretting about finding an excuse to decline. Just heard that the Luo Family War King has awakened, so I came here..."

"The Pill Sect really struck lucky with a newly ascended Ninth Turn Golden Core Alchemist, who is said to have reached the bottleneck of the Emperor Pill... Although the Sect Master's cultivation isn't high, his alchemy skills are unrivaled in Eastern Heaven, no wonder he could rally such a huge force."

"I wonder how the Rain Immortal Monarch will respond to this. Do you think the Rain Monarch will cause a commotion at the scene..."

"Probably not, this time the Anti-Ning Assembly has gathered all the Pill Sect's experts. It's rumored that the Pill Sect has invited three Immortal Venerables, including the ancestor from the Han family... If the Rain Monarch goes, he might not fare well and could even risk his life..."

"What! Even the Han family ancestor made a move! That's a Second Calamity Immortal Lord! If that's the case, the Rain Monarch should likely get word and wouldn't rush in recklessly."

"Hehe, you two are too worried. This is an affair between the Rain Monarch and the Pill Sect, it has nothing to do with small people like us. Let's just drink happily; the Luo family's Spiritual Wine is truly fine wine..."

There were plenty of similar conversations buzzing around.

Ning Fan listened for a while before tuning out, as the content was all too similar. Most people didn't believe he could stand against the Anti-Ning Alliance.

Let them think what they will. The opinions of others had no impact on him; he didn't care at all.

Despite this careless demeanor, having just triggered his first Shekong Heart Tribulation, Ning Fan suddenly felt a stirring within.

It seemed to be the sensation of the second Shekong Heart Tribulation's imminent arrival!

Of course, having just triggered the first, Ning Fan wasn't about to encounter the second heart tribulation immediately. The feeling was fleeting, especially since his cultivation alone wasn't enough to break through to the next realm.

At the very least, he needed to elevate both his spirit and demon cultivations to the peak of the Shedding Void Stage, only then crossing the tribulation to advance. Hence, Ning Fan's primary task was to push those cultivations to the limit of the Shedding Void Stage—for the second heart tribulation, it was still early days.

However, the first heart tribulation was tied to a 'promise,' but what the second was connected to, he wasn't sure yet.

The Luo Family was bustling with joy, and Ning Fan, not intending to bring trouble, quietly left Tianhai Star, mentioning his departure only to Lv Wen and Wu Laoba. Thus, neither the Luo Family nor the War King were aware of his departure.

In fact, the War King had already ordered that once Ning Fan emerged from seclusion, he must be notified so he could personally express gratitude for Ning Fan's life-saving kindness.

But Ning Fan didn't need the War King's thanks. He saved the War King not for gratitude, but due to a promise to Luo Shix. Now that the promise was fulfilled, the matter was settled; neither owed the other anything. The War King owed him nothing.

When he left, there was no rain on Tianhai Star, but soon after his departure, a delicate guest arrived, whose presence altered the celestial phenomenon, bringing rain.

She was a woman holding an umbrella, with eyes as gentle as rain, and three thousand strands of black hair slightly swayed by the breeze, with a light-blue headscarf. She usually didn't dress this way, but today, she felt compelled to.

This was the attire she had worn when she first met Ning Fan.

"Miss is..." The Luo family's disciple tasked with welcoming guests, at the Nascent Soul stage, couldn't discern the woman's cultivation; he only sensed her noble presence and dared not slight her.

"My surname is Tan Tai. I've come today first to congratulate the War King's awakening, and secondly, to see someone. Is the Rain Monarch here?" From her storage pouch, the woman produced a gift, and her first inquiry was not about the War King but about the Rain Monarch.

The reception disciples immediately grew wary. Tan Tai? There's no major power in Eastern Heaven with the surname Tan Tai, right? Such compound surnames typically belong to well-known families, mostly in the South and North... Unsure of her intent or background, they dared not answer casually.

The Family Head had instructed that if any visitor inquired about the Rain Monarch, they were to feign ignorance since Ning Fan had made many enemies in Eastern Heaven. Who knew what intentions lay behind such questions.

Seeing the reception disciples' silence, the woman asked no more but instead spread her divine sense across the Tianhai Star, then smiled lightly.

It seemed she was late; a vast swath of Yin energy had departed from Tianhai Star half an hour prior. The owner of that Yin energy, unmistakably, was Ning Fan.

Though it was a brief encounter, and centuries had passed since, she was confident she wouldn't forget the scent of Ning Fan's Yin energy.

In the Dreamland Realm, every Netherworld inhabitant had their unique scent. Such a distinctive Yin cultivator like Ning Fan was rare. And over the years, his Yin energy had only grown... Transitioning from Yin to Yang would be even harder in the future.

With Ning Fan absent, the woman didn't linger at the Luo Family, soon taking her leave. Her departure, whether by coincidence or design, was directed towards the Pill Sect.

She certainly couldn't track Ning Fan's traces but, with her intelligence, quickly deduced where Ning Fan had likely gone after leaving Tianhai Star.

If she went there, she would probably meet Ning Fan.

In the blink of an eye, another six days passed.

Pill Sect, Danxia Star.

That day, Danxia Star was also festively decorated, an atmosphere of sheer joy permeating the air.

Today marked the establishment of the Anti-Ning Alliance. After today, the grand Anti-Ning Alliance would form, with the Sect Master of the Pill Sect becoming the alliance leader.

This indeed was a matter of celebration. Each Pill Sect cultivator exuded boundless joy, basking under the prosperity of their sect.

Back in the day, Ning Fan had thrown a bounty worth tens of billions on the head of the Pill Sect's Sect Master, marking the most humiliating era for the Pill Sect. With constant threats from Eastern Heaven's old monsters, their sect master dared not leave the sect, akin to a turtle in hiding, mocked by old monsters...

Fortunately, later on, the sect master reached the Ninth Revolution of the Golden Core Alchemy, allowing Pill Sect cultivators to hold their heads high once more. No longer did anyone dare seek trouble with the Pill Sect over mere Dao Crystals.

After all, that was a Ninth Revolution Golden Core Alchemist! Even eternal old monsters had to show respect, be it three parts. The Sect Master's influence was formidable. Once, in Eastern Heaven's alchemical forces, the Pill Sect and Medicine Sect vied for leadership, holding half of the territory each. Now, the Pill Sect reigned supreme over all Eastern Heaven's alchemy sects.

Now, their sect master needed only to send some hero invitations to establish a cultivation alliance. So far, three Eternal Immortal Venerables presided over the alliance, demonstrating enormous influence that ignited the blood of the Pill Sect disciples with enthusiasm.

The secret clans don't count, nor do the Immortal Emperors. Across Eastern Heaven, who else but the sect master could summon three Immortal Venerables with just a word?

"The sect master is our pride!" exclaimed the Pill Sect cultivators, eyes filled with fervent admiration.

Above Danxia Star, a constant stream of cultivators entered and exited. For today's celebration, a floating city was constructed in the skies, housing the main venue, already crowded with powerful figures eager to join the alliance. Remarkably, over 100,000 cultivators above the Void Fragmentation level had gathered!

At the center of the venue stood a high platform, where only True Immortals above Enlightenment had the right to sit. Although it wasn't noon yet, more than two hundred True Immortals had already taken their seats.

Among them, there were 31 Shedding Void Cultivators, 9 Thought-Shattering Cultivators, and 3 Eternal Immortal Venerables. The remainder were all Enlightenment level, each a legendary True Immortal from Eastern Heaven.

What a grand event! What a spectacular occasion!

Few in Eastern Heaven could muster such influence to assemble so many powerful beings!

The Sect Master of the Pill Sect had yet to appear, and the three Eternal Immortal Venerables were still meditating with closed eyes. Some True Immortal old monsters gathered here and there, engaged in discussions.

"Haha, isn't this Brother Qin? From today onwards, we will be fellow alliance cultivators. We must keep in touch in the future!"

"Oh? Daoist Zhang is here too? The Pill Sect has quite a face, inviting you, a Thought-Shattering powerhouse, who has been reclusive for many years!"

"Hiss! Isn't that the demon cultivator Feng Li! He's here too!"

Some were exchanging pleasantries, others were recognizing people, and some were discussing Ning Fan, with their tone mostly filled with disdain.

"In my opinion, that so-called Rain Immortal Lord is nothing but an empty name, how could he possibly be our alliance's rival!"

"Exactly, exactly. If the Alliance Hierarch could advance further in pill refinement and become the legendary Nine Revolutions Imperial Elixir Alchemist, even the Immortal Emperors would likely be eager

to join our Anti-Ning Alliance. Haha, what's that Rain Lord anyway, but someone with a powerful master. If he angers the alliance, I'll be the first to teach him a lesson!"

"I've heard that besides the establishment of the alliance today, they will also classify four levels of guilty sects..."

"Indeed, the Hierarch's intention is that we should not only kill Ning the Bandit alone but also exterminate all forces related to him. According to those forces' closeness to Ning the Bandit, they can be divided into four levels: the first being complete extermination, the second only the sect leader is killed, the third pays a Dao Crystal penalty, and the fourth is reprimanded by imperial decree. The Qianqiu Sect established by Ning the Bandit is a first-level guilty sect, and as for the Medicine Sect, it is a second-level..."

"Sigh, in truth, this old man indeed harbors some concerns. That Rain Lord is from the Slaughter Hall and has close ties with the Godly Void Pavilion..."

"Daoist, you're being foolish! What about the Slaughter Hall! What about the Godly Void Pavilion! Can they compare to the Dark Clan, huh, think about it..."

Laughter and chatter were everywhere, morale running high. Seeing this, the Sect Master of the Pill Sect felt a bit relieved, secretly cursing himself for being cowardly. He had the alliance on his side; why should he fear Ning Fan? It was laughable how he'd been feeling anxious these past few days, as if doom was imminent. This feeling was probably just overthinking, right... He had the alliance with him; could Ning Fan possibly kill him among thousands of troops?

He had three Immortal Venerables overseeing his side.

"Look, the Alliance Hierarch is here!"

"Greetings, Alliance Hierarch!"

"Wishing the Hierarch peace and prosperity!"

"Your servant respectfully greets the Hierarchy!"

Someone suddenly shouted, and everyone's gaze fixated on the Pill Sect Master who was slowly walking down from the sky, followed by a fervent wave of salutations.

The Sect Master of the Pill Sect landed at the center of the high platform, gesturing to quiet the bustling venue; unfortunately, the enthusiasm was so high, he couldn't control the situation and had to give up, letting the crowd chatter continuously. Consequently, it was only after a long time that the entire venue gradually quieted down.

Once the venue was silent, three Eternal Old Immortal Venerables opened their eyes simultaneously, nodding slightly toward the Pill Sect Master. Although proud of their status, they showed the Sect Master enough respect.

Other True Immortal monsters stood up one after another, courteously saluting the Pill Sect Master.

This scene unknowingly ignited countless people's fervor!

What does one live for if not fame and fortune? To be renowned worldwide, to have a rallying call answered by ten thousand immortal cultivators, this is what a true man is made of! This is the worth of a lifetime of cultivation!

"Ladies and gentlemen, there's no need for formalities. Today marks the founding of our Anti-Ning Alliance. How fortunate for my sect to have invited so many renowned immortal cultivators to join our alliance. I am grateful for everyone lending me their support. After the alliance is established, our first priority is to eliminate the scoundrel Ning Fan. This scoundrel has been wreaking havoc in the Eastern Heaven for too long. Back in the day, while still in Void Fragmentation, he dared to set up an array to kill a hundred immortals. Since then, he has continued on a path of slaughter, making enemies everywhere, giving no regard to any sects of our Eastern Heaven. This scoundrel must be removed for the sake of my peace of mind, and I have no choice but to ask for your assistance. Please help me to cut down this scoundrel! Create an alliance, kill the Ning Bandit! If the Ning Bandit is not removed, the heavens themselves will not stand for it!"

As soon as the Pill Sect Master's words fell, from among the hundred thousand cultivators present, countless people immediately shouted back in response.

"Create an alliance, kill the Ning Bandit!"

"If the Ning Bandit is not removed, the heavens will not stand for it!"

"Create an alliance, kill the Ning Bandit!"

"If the Ning Bandit is not removed, the heavens will not stand for it!"

The chorus of voices reached higher and higher, ultimately coalescing into a terrifying momentum. The world changed colors, the wind and clouds surged, causing the eardrums of cultivators to ache, yet they tirelessly shouted as if Ning Fan was their blood enemy.

However, everyone knew full well that the killing of Ning Fan was merely to curry favor with the Pill Sect Master and the Dark Clan; it's not about morality. Does morality have a price? They wouldn't risk opposing Ning Fan for something like that.

None of those who reached the Void Fragmentation realm were fools; without driving interests, who would take such great risks to provoke a being as perilous as Ning Fan?

The sound waves grew increasingly intense, almost breaking through the heavens. Some disciples of the Pill Sect, lacking sufficient cultivation, had already burst their eardrums from the noise. A few even had their divine sense shattered and died!

Seeing this, the Sect Master of the Pill Sect became unhappy once more. He wanted to control the situation and calm the crowd but found the crowd was already so fever-pitch, they didn't heed his orders...

Just at this moment, a voice suddenly echoed as if directly emerging from the deepest layers of the Nine Nether Darkness, carrying a bone-chilling coldness. Though the voice was not loud, it overwhelmed all the noise, clearly reaching the ears of every Alliance cultivator present.

"Is everyone here yet..."

Hiss!

The previously high-spirited assembly seemed to enter a sudden midwinter, with all cultivators calming down at once. The meeting hall, which the Pill Sect Master couldn't control no matter what, suddenly fell into dead silence.

All was silent; one could hear a pin drop! Only the sound of many gasping for breath continuously echoed!

Countless pairs of eyes fell on the unannounced white-clothed youth.

The Rain Immortal Lord, Ning Fan!

This star of misfortune actually came! He dared to come! This place clearly gathered ten thousand powerhouses, with three Immortal Venerables sitting in; how did he dare to come!

"It's the Rain Bandit, alliance cultivators, quickly follow me to kill the Rain..."

Suddenly, a burly man with a bare torso shouted, trying to rally people to attack Ning Fan, but high above the stars, Ning Fan lowered his gaze with a cold look, scaring that burly man into silence.

He was a Late Stage Enlightenment True Immortal, yet he was speechless from a single cold look from Ning Fan!

It wasn't just him; whether Shedding Void or Thought-Shattering, there wasn't a single True Immortal here that dared to meet Ning Fan's icy gaze, akin to an apocalyptic killing god!

Even the three Eternal Immortal Venerables were horrified to find that when gazing into Ning Fan's eyes, they felt an uncontrollable shiver in their hearts.

How is this possible! This child is just a newly ascended Immortal Venerable; even if he had slain the Deyun Ancestor, his killing intent shouldn't be this potent. What kind of demon could possess such an aura of killing intent! Unimaginable, inconceivable!

Dead silence, dead silence, nothing but dead silence!

In front of Ning Fan, not a single soul in the vast alliance dared to step forward or utter a harsh word at this moment.

"It seems everyone is present, that's good; I won't have to hunt you all down one by one later."

Ning Fan seemed to talk to himself for a moment, causing everyone's hearts to skip a beat, as if a peerless slaughter was imminent!

"Since it's an alliance, do not waste my time... come at me together!"

What arrogance, yet what confidence! As the words spurred, they instantly infuriated countless alliance cultivators, causing many to suppress their fear in humiliation and anger, causing thousands to soar into the sky, surrounding Ning Fan.

Cries like "kill the Ning Bandit, kill the Rain Bandit" rose one after another, echoing instantly across the starry sky...

Chapter 985: An Old Acquaintance

Thousands of cultivators soared into the sky first, converging towards Ning Fan. Among them, there were indeed a few cultivators of the second step, yet the majority were those of the Void Fragmentation.

Various magical treasures and divine skills streaked across the dark sky, instantly illuminating what was once dim, with majestic waves of mana surging higher and higher, stirring up one void storm after another in the starry sky!

More and more cultivators from the Alliance continuously took to the sky, joining in the siege against Ning Fan, each filled with killing intent that pierced the skies.

If it were alone, naturally none of these alliance cultivators would dare provoke Ning Fan, but now, with the strength of numbers on their side, why would they fear Ning Fan alone!

The initial shock had been suppressed. Ning Fan dared to intrude alone on the joyous day of the Alliance's establishment, clearly holding the Alliance in no regard. Since he came, he shall not leave!

"Kill! Kill! Kill! With the blood of the Rain Bandit, let us raise the prestige of our Alliance!"

"Whoever captures the whole corpse of the Rain Bandit, three hundred lashes with the cane! Whoever captures the head, a reward of ten billion Dao Crystals! The torso, a reward of six billion Dao Crystals. The limbs, a reward of two billion Dao Crystals each. And for even an inch of flesh, a reward of one billion Dao Crystals!"

The upper echelons of the Alliance had even placed a heavy reward, aiming to tear Ning Fan to pieces!

Although these alliance cultivators were a motley throng, they were wanderers from the most war-torn Eastern Heaven, each one a desperado who had been around for years. With such a heavy reward, their courage was even greater. In the cultivation world, there's no lack of slaughter. The tale of a lone tiger slaying a pack of wolves exists! But tales of wolf packs killing a tiger are even more numerous!

Kill! Kill! Kill!

Cries of killing soared into the sky, and endless attacks came from all directions, leaving no retreat.

Moreover, Ning Fan never planned to retreat; he came today to annihilate the Alliance, to use today's event to give the entire Eastern Heaven a bloody warning!

Ning Fan's gaze locked directly upon an old monster at the early stage of Shattered Thought amidst the myriad soldiers and horses. It was this person who earlier shouted to tear him apart!

The assault of thousands of cultivators was like nothing to him. With a casual sweep of his sleeve, all the attacks from thousands of Void Fragmentation and Fate Immortal cultivators were collected into his sleeve.

If it were thousands of well-trained cultivators attacking Ning Fan in an array, Ning Fan would not have so easily absorbed all their magical treasures and divine skills. But unfortunately, the so-called alliance cultivators were indeed a mob. An array attack? Could you expect an alliance just formed and with mutual unfamiliarity to attack Ning Fan in any array?

With another sweep of his sleeve, those divine skills and magical treasures that initially attacked him immediately flew out from his sleeve, recoiling back towards the thousands of alliance cultivators.

The crowd was all surprised, hastily defending, but there were at least several hundred Void Fragmentation and Fate Immortal cultivators who were directly killed by stray shots on the chaotic battlefield.

"Don't panic! All cultivators, listen to my order, ten people per formation, form a Square Array!"

It was the same early-stage Shattered Thought figure who had urged to tear Ning Fan apart, commanding the starry sky. He was Elder Tianzhen, the Sect Master of the Tianzhen Sect in the Eastern Heaven, known for his expertise in battle arrays, hence he was appointed as the Tenth Elder of the Alliance.

Unfortunately, before the Square Array was formed, Ning Fan took a step across the starry sky, transforming into a golden flash like a specter, disappearing from his original spot. In a flicker, he bypassed thousands, appearing before Elder Tianzhen, exploding into action, slashing down with a sword!

Elder Tianzhen, in great shock, summoned a Dao Weapon, attempting to block, yet it was futile. Both man and Dao Weapon were cleaved into two by Ning Fan's single strike!

The prestigious Shattered Thought couldn't withstand a single sword from Ning Fan, blood spilling across the starry sky!

In the next instant, a streak of light shot out from the corpse, precisely Elder Tianzhen's Spirit. His Spirit, in great panic, fled from the physical body, only to be captured by Ning Fan with a casual grab, swallowed whole!

Immediately, the essence around Ning Fan enhanced significantly!

"Tenth...Tenth Elder was actually eaten alive by the Rain Bandit!"

Hiss! Scores of gasps echoed throughout the starry sky!

Ning Fan's instant killing of the Tenth Elder amidst thousands of enemies was shocking enough, but what was even more horrifying was the scene of Ning Fan devouring the Spirit.

Without the Tenth Elder's command, the alliance cultivators' formation finally fell into complete chaos.

"Lifestealer Technique, ancient demon's lost Divine Skill, Mo Zhong's renowned technique. Today, let you all witness...the fear of the ancient demon!"

The Lifestealer Technique is an ancient demon's lost Divine Skill. When killing, it absorbs the blood aura of the deceased, replenishing the ancient demon's essence.

But this is just the effect when ordinary ancient demons use the Lifestealer Technique. After Demon Blood Fusion Charm, Ning Fan gained new insights into this technique.

If an ancient demon with Demon Blood Fusion Charm uses this technique, not only can the consumption of essence be swiftly replenished, but by devouring the person's Spirit or Demon Soul, it can act like a secret technique, temporarily boosting the ancient demon cultivator's fighting power.

For ancient demons with Demon Blood Fusion Charm, the more they kill, the stronger their cultivation can be augmented!

Ning Fan swallowed Elder Tianzhen's primordial spirit whole, gaining one-tenth of Elder Tianzhen's cultivation as an enhancement within a few hours!

The ancient demon cultivation level of the Eighth Nirvana of the Heavenly Demon peaked instantly after devouring Elder Tianzhen! He no longer suppressed his ancient demon cultivation but allowed his body to fully transform into a giant, appearing at the center of the battlefield!

"Ancient Demon!"

Many experienced old monsters exclaimed at this moment, especially those Void Fragmentation and Fate Immortal cultivators, for whom ancient demons were a very distant existence, yet now they witnessed it with their own eyes.

"Do not fear! So what if it's an ancient demon, so what if it eats people! Since you began cultivating, it's not the first time you've seen a cultivator eating people, don't fear the Rain Bandit!"

Another old monster at the peak of the Shedding Void Realm transmitted his voice to the heavens, his voice echoing through the starry sky, calming the crowd's panic.

This person took over Elder Tianzhen's duties after his death and wanted to command the situation; he was the seventeenth elder of the Alliance.

Unfortunately, just after he finished speaking, Ning Fan's ancient demon giant body directly stepped across the starry battlefield, walking straight toward him. With the might of his ancient demon physical body, each step crushed many Alliance cultivators who were too slow to dodge. After just a few steps, Ning Fan stood right in front of him. The demon palm pressed down, and the heavens and earth seemed to collapse!

"Not good!"

The seventeenth elder spat out a cold light, a flying sword that he had refined as a Dao Weapon for many years, hoping to block the descending demon palm, while he frantically retreated backward.

But there was no escape!

Ning Fan's demon palm simply pressed down, directly shattering the flying sword Dao Weapon. The demon palm seemed to cover the sky. As it clenched, it seemed to grasp eons within its giant palm, crushing the seventeenth elder to death with its immense force. Along with him, no fewer than a hundred Alliance cultivators were crushed to death by the giant palm.

Fortunately, the seventeenth elder used a secret technique, and his heavily injured primordial spirit barely escaped from the gaps of the giant palm, only to face another calamity, being swallowed whole by Ning Fan.

"Even the seventeenth elder was eaten!"

The fear permeating among the cultivators grew stronger, while Ning Fan, at this moment, took the opportunity to start a one-sided massacre.

The ancient demon physical body, despite being huge like a target, after transforming into a giant body, its physical defense was greatly enhanced. Even the Divine Skills at the Shedding Void Realm could hardly harm Ning Fan at all. As he charged through the midst of the enemy, with every punch and palm, he had the power to shatter cultivation stars, and each strike resulted in hundreds of cultivators meeting their doom!

Ning Fan's combat power was nearly unstoppable with the combination of the ancient demon giant body, Blood Lightning, Spirit, and demon cultivations. Continuously, the bodies of cultivators were smashed by the ancient demon giant, and their primordial spirits escaped, yet after each strike, the ancient demon giant would open its mouth and suck them in, swallowing all the surviving primordial spirits!

Slaughter, swallow primordial spirits! Slaughter, swallow primordial spirits!

After annihilating the seventeenth elder, Ning Fan continued the massacre. The more he killed, the stronger his ancient demonic aura grew.

One hundred people, two hundred people, three hundred people...thousands!

Two thousand, three thousand, four thousand...ten thousand!

In the entire Alliance, a hundred thousand strong were involved. Except for the Sect Master of the Pill Sect and the three Immortal Venerables, nearly all joined the fray, yet they couldn't stop Ning Fan's slaughter. In less than a stick of incense's time, the battle loss reached one-tenth! Ning Fan primarily chose the strong to kill first, resulting in a high proportion of the dead being strong cultivators!

Out of 200 Void Fragmentation cultivators in the Alliance, Ning Fan killed more than half, with over forty Enlightenment primordial spirits being devoured!

Out of 31 Shedding Void cultivators, Ning Fan killed 19, with 14 being directly swallowed!

Out of 9 Shattered Thought Peak cultivators, four have died, all swallowed by Ning Fan, including even two at the Shattered Thought Peak!

With the Lifestealer Technique, Ning Fan's ancient demon cultivation temporarily surged to the Ninth Nirvana peak of the Heavenly Demon, and the aura unique to the ancient demon shocked every Alliance cultivator's heart!

The Fiendgods are known for cultivation speed, the ancient demons for tricky Divine Skills, and the ancient demons...for their brutal violence and murderous nature!

The ancient demon clan is bloodthirsty, and ancient demons skilled in the Lifestealer Technique are even more ferocious, terrifying those who witness it.

The strength of ancient demons left a huge shadow in the hearts of all cultivators here!

Bang!

The Seventh Elder of the Alliance, directly crushed by Ning Fan with one palm, primordial spirit swallowed!

Hiss!

The Fourth Elder of the Alliance met his doom...primordial spirit swallowed!

There were the Thirteenth Elder, Fifth Elder, Eleventh Elder, Sixth Elder... one by one, the powerful members of the Alliance kept falling, more and more cultivators having their Spirits devoured by Ning Fan. The entire starry sky was filled with killing intent! Ning Fan's ancient demon aura continued to rise... the Tenth Nirvana of the Heavenly Demon, the Eleventh Nirvana of the Heavenly Demon...

The Eleventh Nirvana seemed to be the current limit of what Ning Fan's ancient demon cultivation could endure... The Lifestealer Technique, of course, had its limits, otherwise, how could Ning Fan continue killing indiscriminately and not directly breakthrough to become an Immortal Emperor or a Quasi-Saint? That was naturally impossible, Ning Fan couldn't withstand such power.

However, an ancient demon of the Eleventh Nirvana already exuded an incredibly terrifying aura, especially the act of devouring Spirits, which made countless Alliance cultivators pale and be intimidated by this aura.

Is this the Rain Immortal Monarch! Powerful, ruthless... Countless Alliance cultivators began to regret, regret getting involved in this chaos, but it was too late to regret now, they could only follow this path to the end!

"Please, the three Immortal Venerables, take action, kill the Rain Bandit, protect the Alliance!"

The Alliance army was utterly defeated by Ning Fan, on one side they scattered in all directions, on the other, they begged the three Immortal Venerable ancestors on the high platform below for help.

As the Alliance Hierarch, the Sect Master of the Pill Sect naturally didn't join the battle, but those three Immortal Venerables had also been holding back, not making a move.

At this moment, the Sect Master of the Pill Sect was also looking for help towards the three Immortal Venerables, Ning Fan's ferocity and strength acted like a shadow, looming over his heart. Before this, although the Sect Master of the Pill Sect had heard of Ning Fan's fierce name, he had never seen it with

his own eyes, having only a vague concept of Ning Fan's ferocity. Today, he finally witnessed it in person!

Devouring a Shattered Thought Peak Spirit with a mere mouthful... This is something that requires powerful strength! It seemed that only these three Immortal Venerables here possessed the strength to kill Ning Fan. Ning Fan must die, must be killed here, if Ning Fan does not die, he wouldn't be able to sleep comfortably in this lifetime, with such a great enemy beside him, who can sleep peacefully!

Among the three Immortal Venerables, the old ancestor of Wang Clan and the old ancestor of Sun Family were First Calamity Immortal Sovereigns, only the Han Family Patriarch was a Second Calamity cultivation level, naturally, it was also Han Family Patriarch whom the three looked up to.

Initially, the three Immortal Venerables hadn't acted, one was to secretly observe Ning Fan's strength, the other was to let those below besiege Ning Fan, using their lives to fill in the gap. Not seeking to injure Ning Fan but to thus deplete Ning Fan's mana.

Unfortunately, Ning Fan slaughtered for a stick of incense's time, yet had not used too much Divine Skills, using again and again merely that one Dao Weapon, that giant ancient demon body, making it impossible for the three to see through Ning Fan's reality, not knowing what trump cards Ning Fan still held.

What they couldn't anticipate was, after slaying countless old monsters, Ning Fan didn't seem to flush or pant, appearing as if not much mana was exhausted...

The three naturally did not know, Ning Fan cultivated Wood Yin Yang, his mana recovery speed was inherently fast, at this moment he also used the Lifestealer Technique, killing while simultaneously recovering essence, thereby minimizing expenditure.

"Please, three fellow Daoists, take action, slay this fiend! If the matter succeeds, this old man will surely have great rewards!" pleaded the Sect Master of the Pill Sect.

"Rest assured! Such a mere Rain Bandit, vanquishing him with a flick of a finger!" The three exchanged glances, finally agreeing to intervene.

No matter how many others were harmed or killed, it didn't concern the three, but if too many were harmed or killed, it wouldn't be beneficial to the Alliance either. Enough observation had been done, it was time to take action!

The Han Family Patriarch slammed the table and rose, alongside were the old ancestor of Sun Family and the old ancestor of Wang Clan, all three ascended into the air, appearing at the center of the battlefield, and as soon as the three appeared, the surviving Alliance cultivators were overjoyed, withdrawing to a safe distance, leaving the battlefield to the three Immortal Venerables.

Next came a true great battle, in which there would no longer be any room for their intervention!

The Alliance cultivators, who were scared out of their wits by Ning Fan, also regained some of their courage due to the involvement of the three Immortal Venerables.

These were after all three Eternal Immortal Venerables! Among them, there was even a Second Calamity Immortal Sovereign. Who was Ning Fan, compared to them, just a newly ascended Immortal Venerable (according to outside speculations), a newly ascended Immortal Venerable, to kill Deyun Ancestor might already be his limit, facing an encirclement by three Immortal Venerables, even if he managed to survive, he would probably have to pay a huge price.

"Please, the three ancestors, kill the Rain Bandit, protect the prestige of our Alliance!"

"Kill the Rain Bandit, protect the Alliance!"

"Kill the Rain Bandit, protect the Alliance!"

Suddenly, the rain began to pour down across the starry sky. It was a drizzle at first, but as Ning Fan's killing intent moved, it instantly turned into a torrential downpour enveloping the starry sky.

"Han Yunguai of White Spirit Island, Sun Lin of Sea Spirit Star, Wang Yangzi of Wind Tomb Star... Considering the difficulties of your cultivation, I, Ning Fan, am granting you a chance to repent. If you surrender and become slaves, joining the Qianqiu Sect, I can spare your lives! Give me a reply within three breaths, otherwise this offer becomes void!"

Ning Fan withdrew from his ancient demon giant body, looking at the three expressionlessly. Facing the three Immortal Venerables, with the premise of insufficient physical defense, transforming into a giant body was of no good, only making him a target, better to not use it. Of course, slaying small soldiers in the form of a giant body was indeed convenient, killing swathes at a time, very efficient.

Seeing Ning Fan daring to boast as he faced the three alone, even with the deep-seated cunning of the three Immortal Venerables, anger visibly surfaced, each sneered continuously.

"Hmph! Offering us a way out! What audacity you have! Do you think you are an Immortal King?"

"Why argue with him, kill him, the Dark Clan will surely not disappoint us!"

The three had long since had the mind to gain credit for slaying Ning Fan, at this moment, they each unleashed their Divine Skills, exuding a sky-high killing intent, sparing no effort.

Wang Yangzi took the lead, opening his mouth to spit out a blazing red flying sword, engraved with nine fire dragons, named the Nine Dragons Succession Sword, an ancient magical treasure of the Twelve Nirvana Rank, exceedingly formidable. As soon as the sword appeared, dragon roars resonated endlessly in the starry sky, as a world-destroying heat spread, causing the entire starry sky temperature to surge abruptly, an endless sea of fire rising, illuminating half the starry sky in red.

"Descend!"

With Wang Yangzi's shout, the sword immediately whistled out, slashing straight at Ning Fan's face.

Ning Fan's face showed an expressionless look as he pressed his palm towards the Thousand-Zhang sword shadow. This palm was infused with the force of the Ancient Demon, as well as the strength of three other systems, making it extraordinary. With a press, the Thousand-Zhang sword shadow could no longer advance even a half-inch. With another slap, the Nine Dragons Succession Sword was sent flying by Ning Fan's palm!

Wang Yangzi was secretly shocked. Ning Fan could catch his full-force attack with just his bare hand. Few during the Eternal First Calamity could achieve this...

The Rain Bandit is indeed formidable!

"Soul Sacrifice Banner! Billion Soul Beasts appear!"

It was Sun Lin who seized the opportunity to make a move, attempting to sneak attack Ning Fan by raising a blue ghost banner high.

With the wave of the banner, a billion ghostly souls flew out, those killed by Sun Lin throughout his life. The billion ghostly souls condensed into a giant soul beast shadow resembling a bull or elephant. The soul beast had two horns, giving a sense of unstoppable sharpness. As Ning Fan sent Wang Yangzi's flying sword away, the soul beast was already fully formed and charged towards Ning Fan in that instant. Its footsteps were heavy, each step causing the starry sky to tremble!

Ning Fan just turned his body, and the soul beast had already collided. Its brute strength made Ning Fan almost lose his balance, sensing the beast's formidable force. He chose not to confront it head-on, stepping on golden light and instantly disappearing from his original position, leaving the soul beast colliding only with a mere afterimage, which was shattered into pieces.

Sun Lin felt slightly regretful.

This Rain Bandit is astonishingly fast, managing to evade in such a crucial moment...

Han Yunguai frowned slightly because the soul beast missed the attack but, having gained too much momentum, couldn't change direction and was headed straight towards him.

Such poor coordination, Sun Lin's attack missing, yet affecting him...

"Get out!"

Han Yunguai waved his large hand, sending a hundred-zhang hand seal towards the soul beast's giant body. The beast let out a tragic cry and its giant form collapsed, shattering into a billion soul images.

However, after the soul images broke, they reformed into the shape of a soul beast, seemingly undamaged and usable again. Still, the soul beast now looked at Han Yunguai with deep fear.

Who knew Han Yunguai was so powerful that he could shatter its soul body with one slap...

From this, it's evident that in terms of cultivation, Han Yunguai is stronger than Ning Fan, Sun Lin, and Wang Yangzi. Here, only he can shatter the soul beast with mere cultivation.

But in terms of divine skills, trump cards, and combat power, Ning Fan is not inferior to Han Yunguai. This is the confidence that propelled him to venture alone into the Alliance Battle.

With the Black Cat, he could battle against the Second Calamity of the ancients, along with the Obliteration Technique, Four Emperors Luohan Pine, and Liangyi Square Seal, Ning Fan was unbeatable in the Second Calamity, except against a Triple Calamity Immortal King.

Once more, golden light flashed, and Ning Fan appeared a thousand zhang away, not giving Han Yunguai and the others a chance to attack him again. He flipped his hand to summon the Black Cat.

"Black Evil Sect, unite with me!"

Ning Fan knew the Black Cat's name, so he casually called out, naturally summoning the Black Cat to unite, and his aura rapidly escalated, nearly rivaling Han Yunguai!

Comparable to the Second Calamity of the ancients!

"The Rain Bandit's aura has strengthened, reaching the level of the Second Calamity of the ancients!"

Han Yunguai, Sun Lin, and Wang Yangzi all narrowed their pupils, unable to discern what secret technique Ning Fan used to achieve such terrifying enhancement in cultivation!

Especially Sun Lin and Wang Yangzi, they now looked at Ning Fan with some fear. The Second Calamity of the ancients...even in the First Calamity, this individual was hard to deal with, but in the Second Calamity...

"I gave you the chance, and you missed it."

With significantly enhanced cultivation, Ning Fan suddenly pressed his five fingers towards Han Yunguai. Instantly, in the starry sky appeared the phantom of the Obliteration River, with a world-shaking momentum.

Han Yunguai felt a blackout before experiencing a sense of vertigo. In the next instant, he was directly suppressed under the Obliteration River!

This river, capable of suppressing the Eternal True Body state of Wu Laoba, could suppress Han Yunguai!

"What kind of divine skill is this! To capture Han Daoist with just a flick of the hand!"

Sun Lin and Wang Yangzi both inhaled sharply, assessing the divine skill's strength. It seemed, it seemed...to be at the level of an Ancient Great Cultivator's divine skill!

The Rain Bandit is indeed not to be underestimated, possessing such high-level divine skills. His combat strength cannot be measured by conventional reason! This battle, it does not bode well...

Han Yunguai was even more terrified internally, because despite his cultivation, he couldn't break free from the depths of the Obliteration River...he was captured by Ning Fan's divine skill and trapped at the river's bottom!

This river has such a strong power of confinement. If Ning Fan can trap another Immortal Venerable in the river, perhaps he might break free with the two working together, but if it's just him alone... he won't get out!

All the alliance cultivators watching felt a sense of absurdity at this moment. With a flip of his hand, suppressing a Second Calamity Immortal Venerable... Ning Fan is not an Immortal King, how can he accomplish such an inconceivable thing!

But this is indeed happening right before their eyes!

With a palm suppressed Han Yunguai, Ning Fan didn't bother talking nonsense with Sun Lin and Wang Yangzi. He flipped his hand and took out two treasures, each striking towards the two.

Wang Yangzi's reliance was a Twelve Nirvana Flying Sword. Ning Fan directly used the Four Emperors Luohan Pine against Wang Yangzi. Thirty million flying swords roared out, and the overwhelming number of flying swords made one's scalp tingle, directly covering half the starry sky above the Pill Sect.

"Not good!"

Wang Yangzi's spirit was scared out of his body. Among those thirty million flying swords, there were countless Immortal Swords, and nine Twelve Nirvana Flying Swords were among them.

Those are Twelve Nirvana Flying Swords! Ning Fan actually unleashed nine at once! To know, he has cultivated for tens of millions of years and only possessed one Twelve Nirvana Flying Sword... to fight one against nine is dire, truly dire!

Wang Yangzi, holding the Nine Dragons Succession Sword, struggled bitterly amidst the dense rainfall of swords. He was doing relatively well, at least capable of holding out temporarily.

Sun Lin, however, was truly terrified! He didn't even see what came at him before he let out a muffled groan, being struck by something that directly shattered his Tian Ling, and his physical body froze into an ice sculpture at the moment of impact. His vitality was severed, maintaining a fearful expression as he stood in the starry sky, both eerie and terrifying.

Only Sun Lin's Spirit escaped perilously, trembling uncontrollably after leaving his body!

One strike cut off the vitality of his body and froze him! What kind of treasure has such terrible power! If he had reacted just a moment slower, even his Spirit would have been killed by that one hit!

It was only then Sun Lin saw clearly that Ning Fan was using a cold and terrifying treasure seal, faintly revealing innate majesty...

It is an Innate Treasure!

What kind of joke is this! In an Immortal Venerable battle... someone is using an Innate Treasure! How can one fight, how can one win!

Just the Acquired Twelve Nirvana treasure is enough to decide the outcome of an Immortal Venerable battle. Ning Fan actually has an Innate Treasure... under cultivation suppression, it's not surprising at all that he obliterates his physical body in one go!

Escape, must escape!

Sun Lin, being no stranger to life and death, instantly recognized the situation and turned to flee without a word, ignoring the battlefield's circumstances.

The situation, humph, what situation still remains!

Daoist Han was suppressed... Daoist Wang was trapped by thirty million flying swords... he was destroyed by an Innate Treasure Seal in one stroke...

Even with three Immortal Venerables sitting in the alliance, so what! This battle... is lost, and there is not even a chance to redeem it! If he escapes, perhaps there is still a chance for Sun Lin in this life to take revenge on Ning Fan, but if he does not escape... the next fall of the seal would be the time of his demise!

But, can he run!

Yin Seal Phoenix Freeze Heaven!

As Ning Fan's spell was recited, four Phoenix cries resounded through the starry sky.

With the first cry, the temperature between heaven and earth plummeted suddenly.

With the second cry, heavy snow fell in the starry sky.

With the third, Sun Lin's escape light stalled; his fleeing escape light was frozen, unable to move further away, terrified beyond belief!

With the fourth, centered on the Liangyi Square Seal, a blue light suddenly swept away. It was the beam formed by the power of the Yin Dao Source, sweeping across the starry sky. Wherever the beam passed, the sky began to freeze, and the frozen area expanded. One by one, the watching alliance cultivators were affected, frozen into ice sculptures, deprived of vitality, frozen to death!

"Retreat quickly!"

Countless cultivators retreated desperately in horror, lucky enough to escape the frozen distance, but many were directly affected and frozen to death.

Sun Lin, at the center of the attack, felt a dire calamity about to befall on him, that he would die, would die, would die! This was the most severe sense of crisis he had ever felt in his life; he couldn't withstand even one strike of the seal! But he was not reconciled; if only he also possessed various heaven-defying divine skills, if only he also had an Innate Treasure, if only he also... he was not resigned to losing to Ning Fan!

Trying to resist the descending blue light, his body stiffened, frozen. His vitality, moreover, dissipated incredibly rapidly...

"Spare... spare me..."

Sun Lin hid his inner resentment, trying to plead for mercy to Ning Fan, but unfortunately, he couldn't even finish this last plea. His Spirit was frozen into a block of ice, the last ounce of vitality ultimately lost.

Boom!

Once again, the Liangyi Square Seal smashed down, shattering the frozen Spirit.

Sun Lin, dead!

This was the first Eternal Immortal Venerable killed by Ning Fan upon arriving at the Pill Sect, but it certainly was not the last one!

"Sun Lin was killed by this child with just two seals!"

This scene made Wang Yangzi's heart drop with fright. Unlike Sun Lin, he had extensive knowledge about Innate Treasures. Even if Ning Fan's Innate Treasure Seal was not an Intermediate Innate Treasure, it was not far off!

Intermediate Innate... even most Immortal Emperors have no fate to possess such a prized treasure!

With such a treasure in hand, unless an Immortal King appears, who can suppress this child!

Sound after sound of flying swords penetrating flesh echoed; Wang Yangzi fought his way through despite being slashed by the Luohan Pine's pins and sword needles in a strong bid to escape!

His cultivation level was even weaker than Sun Lin; he could not resist the seal that killed even Sun Lin!

At this moment, Wang Yangzi regretted, regretting why he coveted that little benefit and waded into these muddy waters, regretting why he did not simply agree to Ning Fan, submitting and serving the Qianqiu Sect, thus preserving his life...

Boom!

Regrettably, Wang Yangzi had not yet escaped the flying sword's siege when a ray of cold light fell squarely on his Tian Ling.

A miserable scream sounded instantly... he was not like Sun Lin, he didn't even manage to escape his Spirit!

Wang Yangzi, dead!

"Who knows how many seals you can withstand!"

Ning Fan looked expressionlessly at the Obliteration River. Above the river, a beam of blood light suddenly burst out.

Han Yunguai had forced his way out of the Obliteration River at great cost!

At this moment, Han Yunguai's face had already turned pale as paper, clearly indicating that the cost of breaking free from the Obliteration River was substantial.

The demise of Sun Lin and Wang Yangzi, Han Yunguai had already sensed it. Now, he dared not contend with Ning Fan; upon breaking free from the Obliteration River, he immediately spat out a mouthful of essence blood, using the blood to flee for his life.

In response to Han Yunguai, however, was a cold beam descending overhead, yet unlike Sun Lin and Wang Yangzi, even in extreme weakness Han Yunguai was not killed by a single strike of the treasure seal, only spat blood and was held back from escaping.

Being a Second Calamity Immortal Venerable after all, even if Ning Fan's treasure was mighty, he couldn't completely suppress him.

"Ning Fan! This old man admits that joining the alliance to besiege you was wrong, very wrong! Spare this old man, and I promise never to deal with you again. If you push this old man too hard, believe it or not..."

"Don't believe!"

Ning Fan couldn't even be bothered to listen to Han Yunguai's threats. With a push of the treasure seal, another smash, Han Yunguai attempted to resist but was hit and spat blood again.

Third seal, fourth seal... the seventeenth seal!

Even someone as strong as Han Yunguai, under the pressure of the Liangyi Square Seal, could only withstand seventeen strikes before hanging by a thread!

Madness filled Han Yunguai's eyes; death was looming from both sides. Without killing Ning Fan, he couldn't quell his hatred!

"Old Monster Shui! You once promised me, if I gave you my life, you would agree to one request of mine, would this agreement still stand now!" Han Yunguai suddenly sneered as if talking to himself, yet seemingly speaking to someone.

"Certainly! This Immortal has always been true to his word!" A sudden aged voice emerged from Han Yunguai's body.

"Good, I give you my life; I want you to kill this child! Chop him into a thousand pieces!" Han Yunguai roared deceitfully.

"This matter, easy, this Immortal is going to drink your blood..."

Bam!

The conversation between Han Yunguai and that strange voice hadn't finished, when the Liangyi Square Seal slammed down for the eighteenth time.

This time, it finally obliterated Han Yunguai directly.

What a pity... Han Yunguai never managed to complete his transaction with that strange voice before he died. That made Ning Fan quite curious, what confidence did Han Yunguai have to attempt a counterattack at death's door...

Scanning Han Yunguai's corpse with his spirit sense, Ning Fan discovered a Jade Purity Bottle hidden within Han Yunguai's Dantian.

The Jade Purity Bottle was very worn, empty inside, without any indication of special features. It seemed... just a magical treasure with lost powers.

"Could that voice be coming from this bottle..." Ning Fan slightly frowned.

He couldn't see anything special about this old bottle, it seemed just an ordinary bottle...

But if it were ordinary, how could a strong master like Han Yunguai carefully store it within his Dantian...

This bottle, definitely has something strange...

"Damned! I was about to drink this person's blood, yet you ruined it... You, wait, if this Immortal can escape from here..."

Another voice came from within the bottle!

Ning Fan's gaze slightly narrowed, he seemed to understand. The bottle seemed to have its own magical treasure space, but because it was already destroyed, the space could never open again.

Within the bottle space, something seemed trapped...

Forget it, this matter isn't important. Now that he has killed three Immortal Venerables in succession, it's time to settle the final account with the Pill Sect!

With Han Yunguai's death, the Anti-Ning Alliance was completely disbanded, countless cultivators began to flee, but sadly, their cultivation speed couldn't hope to escape from Ning Fan, it was pure wishful thinking.

"You moved to kill me, so be prepared to be slaughtered by me, no one will escape! Especially... you!" Ning Fan's killing intent directly locked onto the Sect Master of the Pill Sect.

The karma of Bright Sparrow, the karma in the Heavenly Court, the karma after ascending to Eastern Heaven... The karma to settle with the Pill Sect was definitely numerous. Today, it must be resolved!

"You cannot kill me, can't kill, haha! I have split a thread of Medicine Soul, fused it with the Great Desolate Cauldron, you cannot kill me, unless you can destroy this cauldron, haha!"

It was the Sect Master of the Pill Sect, in despair, becoming insane, desperately commanding the cultivators to besiege Ning Fan.

In vain!

No one listened to him anymore!

The entire alliance has collapsed, annihilation was inevitable.

...

Half an hour later, Ning Fan left Danxia Star, the Pill Sect Masters were entirely annihilated, the Anti-Ning Alliance was wiped clean!

Days later, Eastern Heaven was in an uproar.

The once prominent Pill Sect and Anti-Ning Alliance, were utterly swept by a single person, slaughtered to the last!

On Danxia Star, the Spirit Veins were completely destroyed, it has become an Abandoned Star. On this star, five blood-red words were carved with sword marks!

"The killer, Ning Fan!"

Rumor has it upon hearing this news, countless Eastern Heaven's sect leaders risked their lives to hurry to the Chaotic Demon Star Domain where the Qianqiu Sect was located, only to plead for forgiveness.

Even the Anti-Ning Alliance, which possessed three Eternal Immortal Venerables, was wiped by Ning Fan all at once. Who in Eastern Heaven would dare offend this ferocious star!

Numerous powerful figures had been invited by the Anti-Ning Alliance. Although they hadn't agreed to join the alliance, who knows if Ning Fan would rather err on the side of caution, holding them accountable later. In this case, better to take the initiative to clarify and apologize, maybe it could avert a disaster.

Those families and sects with members joining the Anti-Ning Alliance were even more miserable, afraid Ning Fan might eradicate them entirely, they wished to apologize but dared not, fearing even more... it was the real torment.

"Terrifying, truly terrifying! The entire Anti-Ning Alliance of a hundred thousand strong was butchered clean by Rain Monarch alone! That was a faction with three Eternal Immortal Venerables, they say Rain Monarch battled those three Venerables for ten days and nights before succeeding..."

"How do you know it was ten days and nights; the Pill Sect went from jubilant celebration to the door within less than ten days. Also, how do you know Rain Monarch went alone; he might have brought lots of people?"

"Uh, I heard it too..."

"I heard Rain Monarch brought several Ancient Strong People... also heard that when Rain Monarch left Danxia Star, it was with furrowed brows, seemingly something unfinished..."

"Where did you hear that..."

"From Old Wanghead in the city patrol..."

"Uh, me too, why does the info we hear differ? Old Wanghead must be talking nonsense..."

"Hey, rumors are flying; who knows which is true. Old Wanghead probably just heard it from someone else, no need to mind him, regardless of how big this gets, it has nothing to do with us, drink, drink!"

Southern Dipper Star, today suddenly a slight rain fell, this was a very inconspicuous Lower-Level Cultivation Star in Eastern Heaven, merely for location, it was extremely remote, thus very few second-step cultivators ever passed by.

But today, a white-clothed youth happened to pass this star.

Slaughtering the Anti-Ning Alliance was seven days ago, Ning Fan did not immediately return to the Luo Family but wandered aimlessly around Eastern Heaven.

It seemed aimless, but he was actually on constant alert.

"I don't know who is tailing me... this person is extremely weird, spirit sense simply cannot approach them, once close, it would be absorbed by a force directly... unclear..."

Ning Fan descended onto Southern Dipper Star, he could feel that the person stalking him was accelerating towards him.

"From the moment I left Danxia Star, I've been tailed by this person; I advance, they retreat; I retreat, they advance. If this person harbors malice, it doesn't seem that way. If no malice, yet I don't know why they painstakingly follow... today, they began closing in, surely to reveal their true identity. In that case, let's see their purpose here on Southern Dipper Star!"

Ning Fan walked into a cultivation city on Southern Dipper Star, entered a small tavern, and requested a jug of wine and two cups from the shopkeeper.

This Southern Dipper Star surely was remote, with many cultivators discussing him, yet none recognized his appearance. He sat clearly within the tavern, but those loudly discussing him were completely oblivious to his presence.

That mysterious person kept approaching, continuously closing in, they soon followed him onto Southern Dipper Star and were heading towards this tavern.

Finally, the tavern's curtain was raised once more, a blue-clothed woman holding an umbrella and smiling mischievously walked in.

"Are you finally willing to show yourself..."

Ning Fan slowly raised his head, gazing at the doorway, initially carrying a bit of coldness in his eyes, but upon seeing the arrival, it turned to a pause.

This woman is...

"I am Tantai Weiyu, do you remember me?" The woman casually sat opposite Ning Fan, picked up the cup, poured herself a drink, and tasted, yet frowned.

"Not mortal wine."

"Seems this star doesn't sell mortal wine." Ning Fan surveyed the woman.

Tantai Weiyu?

I happen to have met a woman with this name in the Rain Immortal World. However, this Weiyu and that Weiyu differ in appearance and aura... seemingly not the same person.

But if not the same person... why does the attire resemble so much.

The discourse on Dao that day still lingered in Ning Fan's mind... originally only a faint recollection, but upon intentional thinking, those past events gradually clarified...

"You once said, in wine, there's life and death, reality and illusion, karma, and also reincarnation, do you remember..."

The woman retrieved a jug of wine for herself, poured a glass, and inquired Ning Fan, "I have mortal wine here, it's wine from my hometown, do you want to drink?"

In her eyes was a bright confidence, curving smile, as if certain Ning Fan would accept.

Chapter 986: The Path Blocked by Heaven

"May I ask, young master, what is wine?"

"The word 'wine' refers to the water of the hour of You. You is the tenth of the earthly branches, symbolizing the west, autumn, and the time when rice is ripe. Grain brewed into water is called wine!"

"These are words from classics, but I wish to hear the young master's heartfelt thoughts."

"Anything that intoxicates is wine. Beautiful women, wealth, fame, and fortune in the world—anything that can intoxicate the heart, what is not wine?"

"May I ask, young master, what is intoxication?"

"To die by wine is intoxication, to live by wine is sobriety! Between intoxication and sobriety lies the meaning of life and death..."

...

The scene of discussing wine in the Endless Sea gradually surfaced in Ning Fan's mind.

The Rain World today—could it be the same person as back then... If it is, why is the aura different, and the cultivation vastly disparate!

Back then, Tantai Weiyu that Ning Fan encountered was merely of the Void Fragmentation realm, and arrived in the lower realms only as a spirit sense, but now...

The Rain World in front of him has reached the peak of the Eternal Fifth Calamity!

Actually a Pinnacle Immortal King!

The Rain World of that year, Ning Fan could use the Mind Reading Technique to see what was in her heart, but today's Rain World, he cannot do so at all; the Mind Reading Technique has no effect...

It's not that Ning Fan's cultivation is insufficient, but rather that this Rain World possesses an almost terrifying suction that seems to devour any spirit sense, any divine skills that approach her...

"The Rain World who discussed wine with you years ago was a witchcraft body double I left in the southern heavenly gate. The Southern Sky Dantai Clan is an ancient branch of my family. I secretly sent a witchcraft body double out to have fun, and the elders in the clan are unaware, so please don't tell anyone about this, okay?"

Seeing Ning Fan's confusion, Tantai Weiyu explained proactively.

"Witchcraft body double?" Ning Fan was slightly stunned.

"Yes, it's a witchcraft body double. If I didn't send a little one to secretly have fun, I'd be bored to death. You might find it hard to imagine, but I haven't stepped out of the house for three million years... Fortunately, you startled my family's elders, so I took this opportunity to come out and play."

"Startled your family's elders?" Ning Fan was once again stunned.

"My family is in the Southern Clan. Though our home is there, my homeland is not..." Tantai Weiyu sighed softly.

The Southern Clan!

Ning Fan's eyes narrowed slightly; he originally had many doubts in his heart, but after hearing "Southern Clan" from Rain World's mouth, everything clicked.

This woman follows him for matters concerning the Southern Clan!

If she is the same Rain World from back then, she must know his background! Is she here to expose my identity as a cultivator from the Rain Immortal World? But the fact of being from the Rain Immortal World is not something that cannot be explained away...

It's just...

For some reason, facing Tantai Weiyu's sly gaze, Ning Fan felt an odd sensation of being completely exposed in front of this woman.

Moreover, if she really harbored ill intentions, she would not have come alone, as those Southern Clan old monsters would show no mercy...

"You've followed me for seven days but haven't shown yourself. Could it be, you just wanted to scare me..." Ning Fan suddenly had a bizarre guess.

"I can't be blamed for this. Who told you to shatter the Quasi-Saint body double of third grandpa, scaring my grandfathers to the point of fearing a great enemy for the Southern Clan. Hehe, so I scared you back. Even ancient great cultivator, Zhao Jian... Sister almost believed it, how did it feel these seven days, Young Master Ning?"

Tantai Weiyu put down the wine cup, elegantly covering her mouth with a laugh, exuding a dignified maturity, yet giving off a scheming impression. As if chasing Ning Fan across the entire starry sky was somehow amusing...

Ning Fan was at a loss for words.

These seven days, he thought a supreme being was targeting him; though he wasn't utterly terrified, he was extremely cautious, treating it as a grave threat...

Turns out, it was just this woman's prank!

Playing tricks to scare him for seven days, did she find it that amusing? The world of the scheming is indeed incomprehensible.

Another matter left Ning Fan slightly distracted. Tantai Weiyu referred to herself as "sister," which inadvertently reminded Ning Fan of Luo You.

That woman also liked to call herself a sister. Not sure where that woman is now, has she returned to Northern Heaven, after all, it's her hometown...

"Young Master Ning, who has countless beauties on his mind, are you thinking of some lady again?" Tantai Weiyu covered her mouth with a meaningful smile.

"... Hmm." Ning Fan did not deny, instead thought of another lady, asking, "The one who helped ascend Fairy Suqiu back then was your witchcraft body double, how is Suqiu doing now, has she adapted to life at the Zifu Academy?"

This time, he was asking about Yin Suqiu.

"My junior is doing well, according to news from the witchcraft body double, my junior has now reached Void Refinement in cultivation..."

Tantai Weiyu's voice paused before continuing,

"Let's not talk about that, you haven't answered me, would you like to try the wine from my homeland?"

"Wine from your homeland..."

Ning Fan nodded, filled a cup for himself, tasted it, and was slightly surprised.

It wasn't wine... it was actually clear water!

But it wasn't ordinary clear water...

No distinct taste, no spiritual energy, not even qualifying as wine, but for some reason, after drinking this cup of water, Ning Fan's heart instantly settled into peace.

Ning Fan drank a cup, then a second, and a third... After three cups, he slowly closed his eyes, at this moment, seemed to forget the slaughter of seven days ago, forget the years of traversing the bloody mist, forget the path of swords and bones, forget his cultivation, the martial world of cultivation...

He seemed to regain the feeling of being a mortal, recalling the days of climbing mountains and gathering herbs in his youth... recalling his hometown, Hai Ning, remembering a river there, the water from that river seemed to carry this very taste...

He also remembered Yue Country, remembered the snow of Seven Apricot City, this water as wine, seemingly the melted snow water...

No, no, this is not true clear water...

Water brewed into wine is a transformation.

Wine brewed into water is a return.

This is not clear water, but... water made from brewing wine. If one insists on calling it wine, it is clear water wine!

"Good wine."

Ning Fan slowly opened his eyes, delivering a heartfelt appraisal.

The utterance wasn't loud, but it drew the attention of many cultivators in the tavern, these low-level cultivators gathered in the tavern, naturally lovers of good wine. Upon hearing mention of good wine, they naturally paid some attention. Unfortunately, they were bound to be disappointed. Scanning with spirit sense, they found that what Ning Fan drank wasn't wine but water.

"Is this person crazy? Drinking water and calling it good wine, must have a problem with his head? This isn't even wine!"

"Let's not talk about him, if you ask me, my thousand-year-old dew-induced Immortal's Intoxication is true good wine."

"Nonsense, compared to my three-thousand-year-old Jade Maiden's Beauty, your Immortal's Intoxication is nothing!"

"My Heaven and Earth Red..."

"My Purple Nectar..."

The hall was filled with arguments, immediately drowning out Ning Fan's previous commendation. A few seasoned old wine lovers, reeking of alcohol, pounded the tables with laughter, treating Ning Fan's

blunder of mistaking clear water for wine as a joke. Of course, these wine lovers casually laughed a few times before letting it go, returning to their own drinking, uninterested in Ning Fan, the novice of wine ways.

Tantai Weiyu silently closed her eyes, unable to hide the turmoil within her heart.

Though she gave Ning Fan this wine, she did not expect him to understand, for until now, no Eastern Celestial Cultivator had ever grasped the subtlety of this Clear Water Wine.

Even she herself did not understand...

But Ning Fan understood...

In front of Tantai Weiyu's eyes, the silhouette of that elder brother seemed to appear again, day after day standing at the Tantai Crossing, gazing toward the direction of the Vast Expanse Path. From dawn, to dusk, then to eternal night, from spring bloom to autumn silence, then to the depth of winter...

She could not forget the lonely expression of the elder brother as he drank the Clear Water Wine in big gulps.

She could not forget the elder brother patting her little head, telling her stories of the Vast Expanse Path with a voice full of the vicissitudes of life...

"My name is Nifan, I'm a Vast Expanse Cultivator, but also not..."

"What I'm watching is not the Vast Expanse Path, but waiting, waiting for an encounter with the butterfly. Not the Vast Expanse Nine Butterflies, but... that once insignificant self."

"...The Vast Expanse Path is the homeland of the butterfly, here cultivators worship the butterfly as a deity, simply because the Vast Expanse Nine Butterflies were born here, while countless inconspicuous Butterflies go unnoticed... People only know that only the Vast Expanse Nine Butterflies have flown out of the Vast Expanse Path, while a Butterfly attempting to traverse the Vast Expanse would turn to dust... Few know that there was once a Butterfly that flew out of the Vast Expanse Path... On that day, the

Master of the Primeval Sword entered the Vast Expanse Path to bathe his sword, and a audacious butterfly hid within the sword master's clothes..."

"...It wasn't strong and seemed ordinary at best, but this very ordinariness caught the eye of the Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign, who saw a trace of hope in the midst of darkness, thus granting clemency outside the laws, promising upon the Master of the Primeval Sword's earnest plea, granting the butterfly a second chance at life..."

"...When entering the Land of Dreams it was a Butterfly, in countless reincarnations it remained a Butterfly, the Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign didn't aid the butterfly much, fearing it would alter the shadow of the butterfly, the only intervention was to link the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor's cause and effect with that of the butterfly... Unfortunately, the hope was still too distant, even before the Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign died in battle, there was no hope held for the butterfly, instead placing high hopes on the Ancient Ten Spirits... Alas, the Ancient Ten Spirits failed the expectations of the Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign, failed the trust of millions upon millions of Purple Astral Immortal Cultivators..."

"...We of the Vast Expanse Path have a saying, a butterfly flapping its wings is enough to alter a reincarnation... The butterfly's origins were indeed humble, without ancient lineage, without the support of clan fate, if it wasn't ruthless then it would have no future. No one would ever expect the path that butterfly chose was one no True Realm Cultivator dared to try! If it doesn't die, then someday it will return to the Vast Expanse Path, I must wait for it, only then can I achieve complete success!"

Not understanding, not understanding why the elder brother had to wait bitterly for a butterfly.

Not understanding, not understanding why the elder brother loved to drink this Clear Water Wine...

Tantai Weiyu could not see the benefits of this Clear Water Wine, she always believed, if it's beloved by the elder brother, then it must be good... Today, she simply wanted to share this wine with Ning Fan, a kindred spirit in this drink.

But Ning Fan understood...

"Young Master is indeed a connoisseur of wine, upon meeting again today, permit Weiyu to be impolite once more, may I ask Young Master, what is wine?"

For the first time, Tantai Weiyu asked for the path of wine, Ning Fan responded with life and death, real and unreal, cause and effect, reincarnation, but this time was different.

The question was still the same, but what Tantai Weiyu asked was not the path.

It was just the Clear Water Wine...

She remembered scenes from the Vast Expanse Path, remembered the elder brother, wished to understand why the elder brother loved Clear Water Wine, wished to comprehend the person she never understood... Her eyes held sadness, bitterness, but mostly longing.

Endless longing for the one far away...

Ning Fan slightly frowned, not knowing why he couldn't bear Tantai Weiyu's sadness, last time it was this way, and this time too. He felt no infatuation for this woman, rather such as Zhao Die'er, like regarding a younger generation. It was a kind of... elder's affection for a younger one, a kind of... bizarre sense of familiarity across countless ages.

However, Ning Fan was certain, that in this lifetime, he had only met Tantai Weiyu these two times, thus the extreme familiarity could only be explained as an illusion.

"Is what you asked about this Clear Water Wine?"

"You indeed understand what I wish to ask." Tantai Weiyu's sadness slightly lessened, she nodded and replied.

"Lady first gave me this Clear Water Wine, then asked this question, naturally I can infer a bit." Ning Fan paused, savoring the taste of the Clear Water Wine, for some reason, he thought of the scene of an old man fishing, after pondering, he continued,

"Last time, I saw life and death, real and unreal, cause and effect, reincarnation in the wine, this time, I saw complete success..."

Ning Fan moved the wine jug and cup aside, extended his finger, urged his mana, and drew a circle on the table, shimmering with a faint glow.

"I draw a circle, there must be a starting point, and the starting point is inevitably the endpoint of the circle, this is, perfection."

"From water to wine, what is sought is transcendence; from wine back to water, it is a process of retrospection. This retrospection is precisely the journey from the starting point, circling back to the starting point. Though still at the starting point, the circle is complete, hence this Clear Water Wine can no longer be considered merely water, for it has achieved perfection, and therefore is extraordinary."

"Life and death is a completeness, from life to death, from death to life, thus recurring, forming a circle."

"Truth and illusion is a completeness, from seeing the truth as not true, to seeing the truth as truth, completing this circle, then the path of reality and illusion can be perfect."

"Cause and effect is also a completeness. Today a man fishes, another year the heavens fish me, the cycle of cause and effect is indeed like a circle."

"Look at the Cultivation Star, why is it round? Look at the sun and moon, why are they round? Look at human eyes, why are they round? Look at this vast starry sky, where is there no round? Every living being in this world is in pursuit of their perfection. The edges of a pebble will be rounded by the tides; the youthful spirit will be rounded by the world. This roundness is the path acknowledged by the heavens, the destination of all living beings, but, there are exceptions..."

"In this world, there are also cultivators who will not smooth out their edges, the heavens impose softness, yet they insist on showing hardness! The heavens impose roundness, yet they choose to defy with square! The same journey from start to end, except... they would rather break their heads in the cycle of reincarnation and bleed, yet retain their edges, with exposure and conflict against heavenly intentions... It's not that they cannot retreat, but that they cannot compromise, because those edges are their path, something more crucial than their life. An ancient saying states, 'Heaven is round, earth is square,' people blindly pursue roundness, forgetting there's also a path of square..."

Heaven is round, earth is square... Big Brother seemed to have said similar words back then...

Tantai Weiyu stared blankly at Ning Fan, and for a moment, was under the illusion that she had returned to endless years before, as if she had returned to the Vast Expanse Path, returned to Tantai Crossing, returned to those days and nights of heavenly blue skies before rain.

She remembered the day when Big Brother Nifan stood at the crossroads, sighing long, saying this Clear Water Wine tasted best when homesick, and could be called the best wine in the world.

But, it couldn't be called the best wine underground...

That day, she naïvely promised that she would brew an underground best wine for Big Brother, only to elicit a burst of laughter from him.

"Young Master Ning, do you think this Clear Water Wine deserves the title of best wine in the world?" Tantai Weiyu suddenly asked.

"Best wine in the world? When I drank this wine, I felt a sense of homecoming, reminiscent of youthful days; this wine, deserving of the best wine in the world." Ning Fan replied.

"Then, Young Master Ning thinks, could this wine be the best wine underground..."

"Best wine underground?"

Ning Fan was startled; it was the first time he heard such a term.

But upon reflection, it was understandable; where there's a world, there's underground, what's inappropriate? The world is yang, underground is yin, the circle is heaven's approval, this Clear Water Wine's intent is perfect, worthy of being the best wine in the world, but if it is to be the best wine underground, it can't pursue roundness, but must be square, must be spicy, cannot be plain...

"This wine is not worthy of being called the best wine underground." Ning Fan responded.

"If I asked you to brew the best underground wine, how would you go about it..." Tantai Weiyu pressed further.

At this moment, she had a bit of expectation; if Ning Fan knew how to brew it, perhaps she could fulfill the promise she made to Big Brother back then, and brew this wine.

Even though... Big Brother is no longer here...

"If I were to brew..." Ning Fan recalled his father, remembered the scene from years back when his father brewed wine with blood, that spiciness remains unforgettable.

"If I must brew this best underground wine, I would still brew using the method of perfection, but would add the blood and bones of my battles throughout the journey to make edges in the wine. Only by brewing with bone and blood can it be drunk with flesh and blood, worthy of the title best wine underground!"

Holder Cultivator's wine should indeed be spicy, indeed should... walk the path of square!

If circle is yang, then square is yin, is ultimate yin...

Clearly discussing wine, yet Ning Fan seemed to have a great realization, as if at this moment, he recognized his own path.

Heaven's Rejection of Cultivation Path, this path is blocked... Blocked meaning, this path exists, but has been sealed.

"This word 'square'... could it be the path that heaven wants to seal off for Holder Cultivators!"

Others cultivate heaven, could it be that Holder Cultivators cultivate... the earth!

With this thought burgeoning, Ning Fan's gaze upon the Southern Dipper Star's mountains and rivers suddenly changed!

Chapter 987: Relics Destroyed in the Battle of the Three Old Ancestors

The mountain has its ridges, the water has its waves... All things in this world, though pursuing completeness, also retain their essence, seeking their differences individually.

The Southern Dipper Star is a Southern Dipper Star, not an Eastern Dipper Star or a Western Dipper Star, precisely because it retains its uniqueness.

The same goes for cultivation...

Some cultivators pursue completeness by abandoning everything, eventually losing their true nature, even altering their path, like Daoist Wood Pine who changed to cultivate ancient Buddhism just to gain the approval of the heavens... If one loses one's true nature, if one alters their path, then what is the point of achieving a Dao!

You are no longer yourself.

Just one who obediently submits under the heavenly great path.

Holder Cultivators are different, no matter how far they walk along the great path, they still remain themselves...

"Why am I Ning Fan, not Lin Fan or Zhao Fan, because I have my path, my unique edges! Enlightenment, Shedding, Shattering—each step of the Three Realms of True Immortal is just the heavens polishing the cultivators' edges. To grant them a promise of completeness. But can the heavens really smooth out all edges in the world? Continuous abandonment, is the cultivated completeness truly complete?"

Ning Fan was absorbed in his Dao Enlightenment, forgetting the discussion with Tantai Weiyu. He slowly stood up, eyes dazed, and walked to the window of the tavern, looking through it at the magnificent mountains and rivers of the Southern Dipper Star.

What he saw wasn't the mountains and rivers, but the path between them that belongs to the Holder Cultivator's road to the Three Realms of True Immortal!

Like the ridges of the mountains, the waves of the water, the undulating unevenness of the earth!

To not cross, not abandon, not shatter, is this True Immortal path, the way to retain edges...

"With bone and blood brewing wine, only then can a drink have flesh and blood..." Tantai Weiyu stared at Ning Fan, seemingly understanding yet not understanding.

Years ago, she couldn't comprehend Ning Fan, why a Lower Cultivator in the Rain Immortal World could possess such profound insight, and now she understood him even less.

Unable to understand, just as she never understood that big brother named Nifan.

After a long time, Ning Fan emerged from his comprehension and returned to the wine table apologetically, "Sorry, I was somewhat distracted."

"No worries, being able to hear Young Master Ning's insights is Weiyu's great fortune, how could I blame you. I wonder about the underground first wine... can Young Master brew it? Weiyu has a friend who desires to drink this wine... Weiyu wishes for this wine, but unfortunately, doesn't know how to brew it."

Faced with Tantai Weiyu's expectant gaze, Ning Fan could only smile wryly.

"Apologies, this wine, at present, I cannot brew it..."

For this underground first wine, Ning Fan could only propose a concept. Not to mention whether the casual theory he mentioned is correct, it is yet to be verified, asking him to brew it, he lacks the skill to brew such wine...

He knows something about brewing wine; during his time in the Rain Immortal World, he brewed blood wine, during the Northern Dipper Dao Inquiry, he brewed wine for many years. But he knows his own limitations, regarding brewing skills, countless in Eastern Heaven surpass him, even if the theory is correct, with his brewing skill, it's unlikely he could brew the number one wine.

Moreover, brewing the underground first wine requires not only brewing skills but also something of a higher realm.

Ning Fan poured a cup of Clear Water Wine, held the cup, and gently swirled it. Like this Clear Water Wine, he could see the path from water to wine, wine returning to water. But to truly brew it, he knew he didn't have the ability to make wine return to water, nor could he infuse this sense of completeness into the Clear Water Wine...

The one who brewed this Clear Water Wine, even if not a Third Step Saint, must be someone who truly reached the realm of completeness!

Such people don't exist in Eastern Heaven, nor in the Four Heavens, nor in the Dreamland Realm! Because even figures like Ancient Chaos and Immortal Emperor, all their lives, never achieved completeness...

He cannot brew Clear Water Wine, nor can he brew the underground first wine of his imagination...

Looking again at Clear Water Wine, Ning Fan felt solemn. Where did this wine come from? It's absolutely not a wine brewed by a cultivator from the Dreamland Realm!

Tantai Weiyu said, this wine is from her hometown, does that mean her hometown is not in the Dreamland Realm...

Could it be in the legendary Three Great Realms...

"No worries, just because Young Master can't brew it now doesn't mean he never will. Weiyu has great confidence in Young Master. Weiyu has only one small wish, whether it takes a thousand years, ten thousand years, if Young Master brews this wine, could he share some with Weiyu? No matter how long, Weiyu can wait." Tantai Weiyu pleaded earnestly.

"Alright. If one day I truly brew such a wine, I will definitely give some to you to taste. In return, could you answer me a question?"

"What question? If I can answer, I certainly won't hide it from you."

"Where is your hometown..."

As soon as Ning Fan spoke, Tantai Weiyu was taken aback, and then covered her mouth with a gentle laugh, "Young Master has sharp eyes, even noticing such a detail..."

Is this an indirect admission she is not a cultivator of the Dreamland Realm?

"But, I can't say... It's not that I don't want to relay, I simply can't..."

Tantai Weiyu smiled wistfully.

She couldn't explain to Ning Fan that some matters are real realm taboos, if disclosed to the People of the Netherworld, it would bring catastrophic disaster...

Her hometown Vast Expanse Path, is one of the taboos in the real realm; those in the real realm can discuss among themselves, but not the People of the Netherworld...

"Can't say... then let it be."

Ning Fan did not insist on Tantai Weiyu's answer.

Things that cannot be spoken surely relate to great secrets of heaven and earth, forcing may not be beneficial. He had already experienced this.

The two of them drank more Clear Water Wine and discussed other matters, finally moving toward the Southern Clan's issue.

"Weiyu doesn't know how Young Master killed Third Grandfather's body double, but Weiyu can see Young Master's true cultivation level, which is certainly not as those few grandfathers speculated. Rest

assured, Weiyu regards Young Master as a friend and won't disclose Young Master's background to the elders of the family but also hopes Young Master does nothing detrimental to the Southern Clan. Can Young Master promise this?"

"Miss, please rest assured. I always conduct myself according to the principle: If people don't antagonize me, I won't antagonize them. As long as the Southern Clan does not offend me, I naturally will not offend the Southern Clan."

"Good, Young Master speaks directly. Weiyu will also make you a promise. The matter of impersonating a Southern Clan member, I can help Young Master calm it down, and end it here, okay?"

"Good, this matter ends here."

With the Southern Clan matter settled, Tantai Weiyu no longer stayed, and bid farewell.

She didn't rush back to the Southern Clan but took the opportunity to travel around Eastern Heaven.

Normally, having finished the business, one should immediately return to the Southern Clan, conveying the success of the task to the family elders for reassurance.

Instead, she seemed intentionally wanting the grandfathers to worry for a few more days. Is seeing those old folks restless an amusing thing?

The world of belly blackness, indeed hard to comprehend...

Seven days ago, Ning Fan massacred the Anti-Ning Alliance, obtaining countless spoils, and emptied the Pill Sect's storage. Unfortunately, immediately sensing someone was tailing him, Ning Fan did not have time to sort through the spoils during those seven days.

Now that Tantai Weiyu has left, he didn't rush to leave the Southern Dipper Star but found a secluded location to enter the Xuan Yin Treasure directly.

All the spoils are stored in the Western Xuanyin Realm!

First are the three corpses of Eternal Immortal Venerable; they have been thawed, though the Tian Ling was crushed by the Liangyi Square Seal, they are roughly intact. Adding Deyun Ancestor's body, there are four bodies for Earth Controlling Devil Star and Iron Crow to choose from.

They should be able to find bodies with high compatibility.

In terms of magical treasures, Ning Fan acquired three Twelve Nirvana Magical Treasures: the Nine Dragons Succession Sword, the Hundred Billion Yin Soul Banner, and the Xuming Sword.

The first two are the treasures of Wang Yangzi and Sunx Lin, the third is Han Yunguai's treasure.

All three magical treasures are of Twelve Nirvana rank, to the now-holder of Four Emperors Luohan Pine and Liangyi Square Seal Ning Fan, they are dispensable things.

The Nine Dragons Succession Sword and Hundred Billion Yin Soul Banner Ning Fan won't use. He can gift them to Earth Controlling Devil Star and Iron Crow, as after Corpse Seizing Sect rebirth they need handy treasures to wield combat power. As for his sworn brother Li Wen, he has Twelve Nirvana Magical Treasures already, no need to gift such level items. In the future, if acquiring compatible Innate Treasures, he can gift them to his sworn brother...

As for the Xuming Sword...

This sword seems to have a hint of hidden Void Dao, suitable for gifting to the little demoness, as it would be very handy for her.

The remainder are the Dao Fruits obtained from slaying, and piles of Dao Crystals and low-grade magical treasures.

Ning Fan did not pay much attention to these things, and most were given as rewards to the Cauldron Furnace of the Xuan Yin Eastern Region. The remaining ones were prepared to be returned to the Qianqiu Sect.

In this battle at the Pill Sect, there were only two war trophies that he truly valued.

The Great Desolate Cauldron and that worn-out Sheep Fat Jade Purifying Bottle!

The Sheep Fat Jade Purifying Bottle seemed to seal something, but unfortunately Ning Fan had not yet repaired it, otherwise, he could open the bottle space and take a look...

But the Great Desolate Cauldron...

This cauldron was the only part of Ning Fan's journey to the Pill Sect that he was dissatisfied with!

On the day the entire Pill Sect was slaughtered, no one survived, and afterward, all kinds of rumors started to spread, yet some news actually coincided with the truth. Some fabricated rumors claimed Ning Fan left Danxia Star with a frown—that part was unexpectedly correct.

Ning Fan looked at the giant cauldron before him, brow deeply furrowed. This Great Desolate Cauldron is a treasure cauldron of innate origin.

Inside the treasure cauldron, there's a semi-finished expensive pill sealed within it, nurturing in the cauldron...

Ning Fan couldn't open this Great Desolate Cauldron, and naturally couldn't see the appearance of that semi-finished expensive pill, but when he killed the Sect Master of the Pill Sect, he searched through memories to know what this expensive pill was.

After the annihilation of the Pill Sect, this expensive pill and the Great Desolate Cauldron naturally fell into Ning Fan's hands. Unfortunately, the cauldron couldn't be opened, and Ning Fan couldn't control even a bit of it!

Because the Sect Master of the Pill Sect wasn't dead yet!

Bang!

Ning Fan flipped his hand and slammed it hard against the Great Desolate Cauldron, instantly unleashing an immense recoil force, like the anger of the starry sky, sweeping back with a roll. With one tremble as if a star had collapsed, the explosion shook him back several steps, and then a sinister laugh came from within the cauldron.

"Ning Fan brat, you cannot kill me! Haha, I'm not dead, how could I die! This thread of my Medicine Soul has already fused with the Great Desolate Cauldron. Unless you can destroy the Great Desolate Cauldron, you cannot kill me!"

"Unfortunately, you cannot destroy the Great Desolate Cauldron either. This Great Desolate Cauldron was obtained by me when I accidentally entered the depths of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain years ago! This cauldron is only of innate inferior grade, but the materials used to forge it are exceedingly against the heavens. Have you heard of the Primordial Star Reverser!"

It was actually the voice of the Sect Master of the Pill Sect!

"Not afraid to tell you! This Great Desolate Cauldron is precisely forged from the Primordial Star Reverser, using nine-star rank Primordial Star Reverser! Its sturdiness is such that even the Immortal Emperor holding mid-grade innate treasure cannot shatter it! Moreover, this cauldron can reflect attacks; the stronger your attack on the cauldron, the stronger the recoil! If the recoil force reaches a certain level, even someone like the Eternal Immortal Venerable would still be severely wounded! You cannot kill me, so why not release me, it would be good to release me!"

"As long as you give me a way out, I swear on my life, never to be your enemy again throughout my lifetime! And the expensive pill being nurtured in the cauldron, I can deliver it to you. Without my permission—unless you can shatter this cauldron—you won't be able to take this expensive pill! Do you know... what kind of pill this is?"

"It's not the Ninth Revolution Golden Pill, nor the Nine-Turn Emperor Elixir, but... the Ten Revolutions Ancestor Pill! Unfortunately, I have exhausted my entire life's work but haven't been able to gather all the materials required by the pill recipe, this Ancestor Pill is still semi-finished. But in terms of efficacy, it's not inferior to any Emperor Pill! I can deliver the pill recipe to you—with your Rain Monarch's capability, you can definitely complete the collection! By then, this will be a truly genuine Ancestor Pill! A pill enough to make Saints envious!"

"Release me, and this pill belongs to you, the Great Desolate Cauldron belongs to you too! I don't understand, I don't understand! What deep hatred exists between us that with so many advantages, can't you release me just this once?"

The Sect Master of the Pill Sect roared close to madness; this kind of roar had been heard by Ning Fan since he took away the Great Desolate Cauldron from the Pill Sect.

Until the Pill Sect was destroyed, and the memory of the Sect Master of the Pill Sect was searched, Ning Fan realized the Sect Master of the Pill Sect had spent his entire life scheming just to refine a Ten Revolutions Ancestor Pill!

When young, the Sect Master of the Pill Sect had accidentally entered the depths of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain and picked up the Great Desolate Cauldron and a roll of pill recipe therein. Picking up an innate magical treasure was already a great joy, more challenging was the fact that the Great Desolate Cauldron still sealed within it an Proto-Pill!

It was the semi-finished expensive pill left in the cauldron by its former master!

According to the pill recipe record, this pill is called the Bodhi Merit Pill, already initially formed, and if fully developed, would be of the Ten Revolutions Ancestor Pill grade! Consuming it could induce the protective blessing of heavenly merit, increasing a master's half-success Saint probability!

Even if just a semi-finished expensive pill, it could help Quasi-Saint cultivators to realize the bottleneck of the next realm!

The Sect Master of the Pill Sect was also an arrogant and high-spirited individual, resolved to refine a Ten Revolutions Ancestor Pill in an era of decline.

Increasing half-success Saint probability was of no concern to him; if not reaching that stage, that half-success probability was also useless. That wasn't what he aspired for.

Understanding the Quasi-Saint bottleneck was also of no importance; he sought only the refinement technique itself, the supreme honor of refining a Ten Revolutions Ancestor Pill. Thus, he spent his entire life seeking rare materials listed in the pill recipe to nurture this Proto-Pill.

Unfortunately, the items needed by the pill recipe were all exceptionally rare in the world, the Sect Master of the Pill Sect plotted throughout his life, yet could only manage to collect seven of the materials required by the pill recipe.

Five more were not obtained; this was the reason the pill is still not promoted to the Ten Revolutions Ancestor Pill, and hasn't reached even the status of the Nine-Turn Emperor Elixir.

The Sect Master of the Pill Sect couldn't obtain what he desired, including the Pill Demon possessing a formidable hybrid demon bloodline, and Ouyang Nuan's Five-Color Medicine Soul...

To be honest, the Sect Master of the Pill Sect devoted his entire life solely for the Alchemy Dao, and Ning Fan admired such dedication.

Unfortunately, the Sect Master of the Pill Sect should never have calculated against the Bright Sparrow, nor should he have schemed against Ouyang Nuan, and even more so, he shouldn't have become an enemy of Ning Fan...

If it weren't for Ning Fan destroying the Pill Sect, the Sect Master of the Pill Sect would have targeted Ouyang Nuan sooner or later... Ning Fan only learned of this after searching the memory of the Sect Master.

"In this case, I cannot spare you. Victory and defeat are meaningless, pleading for mercy is also meaningless, but I can let you understand your death."

With a wave of Ning Fan's sleeve, scenes appeared in the sky, showing the time when he was young and entered the Dark Sparrow's Grave of the Sinister Sparrow Sect, forming a connection with the little Bright Sparrow girl.

After that, scenes of killing Loose Immortal Changshan in the ancient Heavenly Court...

"The Immemorial Dark Sparrow! This is my Pill Demon nurtured in the Rain World, it was you! It was you! When the ancient Heavenly Court opened, my Pill Demon went missing, it was you!"

The Sect Master of the Pill Sect laughed maniacally, having been enraged by this matter back then, unknowingly it was Ning Fan's doing...

If it wasn't for Ning Fan, he would have already acquired the eighth material on the pill formula!

"You schemed against others, Ning Fan wouldn't mind, but you dared to scheme against the Bright Sparrow, against Ouyang Nuan, they are my people, you touched them, so you deserved to die, this is your first sin! You placed a hundred billion bounty on me, nearly leading to my death at the hands of a group of immortals, this is your second sin! You formed a cultivation alliance to kill me, this is your third sin! I will kill you with these three sins, so you can understand your death!" Ning Fan stated expressionlessly.

"It seems you must kill me, what a pity, you can't kill me! Can you shatter this cauldron? You think... you are an Immortal Emperor?" The Sect Master of the Pill Sect mocked hysterically.

"You hide within this cauldron, without shattering it, I can't kill you! Certainly, based on my cultivation, I can't shatter this cauldron, even when using my trump cards, the result remains the same..."

Ning Fan once obtained the Six-Star Primordial Star Reverser, creating the Contrary Star Demon Armor, capable of reflecting Shedding Void Divine Skills, incredibly powerful.

This cauldron was crafted from a Nine-Star Primordial Star Reverser, capable of reflecting Quasi-Saint level Divine Skills...

Origin Qi, the Slaughter Emperor's second jade scroll... None suffice, inadequate destructive power...

"What if I invite someone to shatter this cauldron?" Ning Fan suddenly suggested.

Invite someone?

The Sect Master of the Pill Sect's heart skipped a beat, he had heard about Ning Fan's deep connections to the Slaughter Hall and the Godly Void Pavilion, and if he invited an Immortal Emperor to take action...

However, even if it's an Immortal Emperor, so what! Before the Nine-Star Primordial Star Reverser, even an Immortal Emperor might not gain anything!

"Hmph! You think an Immortal Emperor is easy to invite! Even if an Immortal Emperor takes action, they might pay a significant price due to the cauldron's counteracting force, and there's a possibility of severe injuries, I don't believe an Immortal Emperor would risk injury to help you!"

Bang!

Yet Ning Fan heavily slammed the Great Desolate Cauldron again, taking both man and cauldron out of the Mysterious Yin World.

The Sect Master of the Pill Sect grunted, suffering in pain, unable to finish his words.

He was fused with the Great Desolate Cauldron; though the cauldron wasn't destroyed, he couldn't die, yet Ning Fan's attacks on the cauldron still caused him pain, as the cauldron had become part of his body.

"Senior Xiang Mingzi seems to have returned to the Godly Void Pavilion..."

Ning Fan intended to invite was indeed Xiang Mingzi, ordinary Immortal Emperors may not shatter this cauldron, but what if a Quasi-Saint took action!

Swoosh!

Ning Fan carried the great cauldron on his shoulder, stepped on the golden spear, transformed into a streak of golden light, and flew away from Southern Dipper Star.

The entire Southern Dipper Star's cultivators were terrified by the astonishing escape light, countless cultivators wished to know which high authority had visited Southern Dipper Star, but Ning Fan had already left.

Returning from Southern Dipper Star back to the Godly Void Pavilion didn't take much time, when Ning Fan appeared outside the Divine Tomb, Xiang Mingzi was mingling among the disciples of Godly Void, cleaning the long stairway outside the Godly Tomb.

Noticing Ning Fan's arrival, countless cultivators outside the Divine Tomb were thrown into chaos, scattered all over. No wonder, Ning Fan had destroyed the Anti-Ning Alliance seven days ago, extinguishing three of its leaders, such shocking achievements once again intensified the average cultivator's fear of him.

In the hearts of ordinary cultivators, Ning Fan has become synonymous with the word 'demon'. Without intervention from an Immortal King, there is no one left to stop Ning Fan's sharpness, not even Han Yuenguai, with his Second Calamity Cultivation, escaped death at Ning Fan's hands!

Even knowing that Ning Fan came to the Divine Tomb not to cause trouble, the cultivators of the tomb still felt a sense of dread.

Xiang Mingzi's expression also showed a faint change; the cauldron Ning Fan was carrying... was extraordinary, an Innate Treasure of inferior grade. Where had this young man acquired such a treasure...

Boom!

Ning Fan landed right next to Xiang Mingzi, placing the Great Desolate Cauldron on the ground, and saluted him with a slight bow of his fists.

"Senior Xiang, I have an enemy hidden within this cauldron. Could you assist me by shattering it?"

Tsk!

The daring cultivators who had not gone far gasped upon hearing Ning Fan's words.

Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that the cauldron Ning Fan brought was an Innate Treasure. Was Ning Fan crazy, asking Senior Xiang to smash an Innate Treasure?!

Isn't that a waste, to destroy a cauldron just to kill an enemy hidden inside? Not even an Immortal Emperor would be so extravagant! Innate Treasures are hard to come by; yet the Rain Monarch is willing to shatter one!

"This is... a cauldron forged by the Primordial Star Reverser, and of this opposing star rank!" Xiang Mingzi touched the Great Desolate Cauldron, deeply moved.

It was a cauldron made by the Nine-Star Primordial Opposing Star!

Such materials are not found in the Era of Decline... Even a Quasi-Saint can hardly acquire such crafting materials; its rebounding force is not to be underestimated, even for him, exerting full power might not break it without injury...

Oh well, since this little guy is requesting it, let injury be injury.

Xiang Mingzi nodded, agreeing to Ning Fan's request without even inquiring about the enemy's identity hidden within the cauldron, willing to risk injury to help Ning Fan destroy the cauldron.

Ning Fan felt warmth in his heart; he owed Xiang Mingzi a great deal. Precisely because he owed so much, he hadn't asked Xiang Mingzi for help against the Witch God before. But this time, with the Nine-Star Primordial Opposing Star, he genuinely had no way out other than requesting Xiang Mingzi.

The Sect Master of the Pill Sect must be killed, even if it means breaking the Great Desolate Cauldron! And breaking the cauldron might not be a bad thing, after all; what use does he have for the cauldron? Instead, the materials it was made from...

"Senior has helped me greatly; if the cauldron shatters, all the materials from the Primordial Opposing Star go to Senior; use them to forge defensive armor!"

The materials will be given to Senior Xiang as a gesture of repaying his constant help.

Xiang Mingzi was even more moved; the cauldron materials, even a Quasi-Saint must treasure the Nine-Star Primordial Opposing Star, yet Ning Fan gives it away without reservation, truly considering him as one of his own.

"Such a precious thing, I cannot accept it! You should keep it for your own use!"

Keep it? No need, the Primordial Opposing Star is meant for forging Contrary Star Demon Armor; creating anything else is pure waste. As for demon armor... Ning Fan already has treasures like the God-Extinguishing Shield, and the Demon Armor is no longer necessary for him.

"Senior, do not hastily refuse; inside this cauldron is something more precious than the Primordial Opposing Star, also intended for Senior. We can discuss this later, for now, please, shatter the cauldron!"

Something more precious than the Primordial Opposing Star?

Xiang Mingzi didn't believe it at first, but when he exerted full force and shattered the Great Desolate Cauldron, he was filled with excitement. Although slightly injured due to the cauldron's rebound, compared to this pill, those were insignificant injuries!

What kind of pill is this!

Though unfamiliar with the pill, he could feel its vast medicinal power, greatly beneficial for breaking through the Quasi-Saint realm!

It's not beneficial for enhancing cultivation but rather for comprehending the bottleneck of the Second-Grade Quasi-Saint!

This pill may not be of much use to an Immortal Venerable, Immortal King, or Immortal Emperor, but to any Quasi-Saint, it carries a deadly temptation!

"This pill is too precious; I... cannot take it!"

Ning Fan, however, didn't dwell on pleasantries with Xiang Mingzi. After the cauldron shattered, he reached out and grabbed a wisp of soul attempting to escape into the heavens and earth, thanked Xiang Mingzi for breaking the cauldron, and then left.

The semi-finished Bodhi Merit Pill and fragments of the Great Desolate Cauldron were all left for Xiang Mingzi as gratitude.

What he sought was merely the last wisp of the Sect Master of the Pill Sect!

"No, don't kill me!" The Sect Master of the Pill Sect trembled all over, having never imagined that Ning Fan could easily invite a Quasi-Saint to intervene!

Ridiculous, ridiculous, ridiculous!

How farcical it was to form an alliance to kill Ning Fan—what was that so-called appeal? Ning Fan could easily invite a Quasi-Saint with a word, that is true terror!

"In the next life... do not be my enemy!"

Ning Fan raised his hand, extinguishing the last wisp of the Sect Master of the Pill Sect's soul, recalling the little girl always clamoring for Pill Cookies.

Er, did he say it wrong, was it Cookie Pills?

So many years have passed, he still can't tell the difference. The Sect Master of the Pill Sect is dead; he has avenged that little girl. Hopefully, she is doing well among the Immemorial Dark Sparrow Tribe...

After leaving the Divine Tomb, Ning Fan went to the main star of Godly Void Pavilion, and gave the captured Xuming Sword to the little demoness.

The little demoness was still in seclusion, comprehending the realm gained from the Zi Relic, so Ning Fan merely left the sword behind and departed without disturbing her cultivation.

Afterward, Ning Fan visited the Luo Family once more and, this time, finally met with Wang Xiao.

Wang Xiao wanted to express his deep gratitude for Ning Fan's life-saving grace, which Ning Fan declined. He saved Wang Xiao in fulfillment of his promise to Luo Shix; Wang Xiao did not owe him anything.

However, Wang Xiao was a stubborn one; the more Ning Fan declined, the more he insisted on giving.

"I've heard that a young friend was bullied by the Dark Clan! If you ever need Luo Mou, just say the word! Luo Mou will go through hell and high water without hesitation!"

These words were spoken with impressive dignity and unwavering resolve.

Ning Fan could only smile wryly.

Others avoided the Dark Clan at all costs, yet Wang Xiao insisted on wading into these troubled waters... If any disputes arose with the Dark Clan in the future, Wang Xiao might not remain uninvolved... Ning Fan, therefore, owed Wang Xiao this favor.

After a feast, Ning Fan bid farewell to the Luo Family cultivators, to Lv Wen, and returned to the Qianqiu Sect, taking only Wu Laoba with him.

Lv Wen, after all, was a Godly Void Pavilion cultivator; although registered as a Guest Elder at the Qianqiu Sect, he couldn't reside there permanently. Ning Fan, having defeated the Pill Sect, acquired many premium Healing Pills and left a fair amount for Lv Wen.

Lv Wen was severely injured while rescuing Wang Xiao and would need three to five years of rest before moving around Eastern Heaven again.

Wu Laoba also received a lot of pills and planned to follow Ning Fan back to the Qianqiu Sect to recover. He followed Ning Fan obediently, at times deferential, to the point that one might mistake him for the world's most loyal servant.

On the way back to the Qianqiu Sect.

"Master, Master, do you think I've behaved well lately? Won't you reward me a little?" Wu Laoba rolled his tiny eyes, all green bean-like, in mock cuteness.

Ning Fan's mouth twitched; if it were a little girl being adorable, he might indulge, but Wu Laoba's antics were better left alone...

"Speak straightforwardly!"

"I want a reward."

Ning Fan's gaze narrowed slightly, asking, "What kind of reward do you want?"

"Since meeting you, Master, I don't know what's happened to me; my bad luck has vanished. Before, cultivating was incredibly arduous, but recently, I've managed to unblock dozens of good fortune apertures, possibly due to your presence. Oh, by the way, you might not be aware, but these apertures are part of our Heiyun Sect's Cultivation Techniques, taught by my master and his master..."

"Get to the point!" Ning Fan frowned slightly.

"Master, you smell so good! This scent... is addictive!" Wu Laoba inhaled deeply, adorned with a blooming chrysanthemum smile.

Ning Fan felt a chill run down his spine. What was wrong with Wu Laoba's mind, rambling nonsense without limits? Or perhaps Wu Laoba had some unknown peculiar hobbies...

Could it be...

Long Yang?

Ning Fan silently kept a distance of one zhang from Wu Laoba.

Wu Laoba gleefully approached, sniffing, sniffing away.

Ning Fan silently widened the distance to ten zhang.

Wu Laoba still gleefully approached, sniffing, continuing to sniff.

Cold light flashed in Ning Fan's eyes.

Wu Laoba shivered all over, hurriedly retreated, and looked at Ning Fan in confusion, not understanding why Ning Fan was looking at him with such disdain.

In his heart, he reflected several times in an instant.

Oh no! Why does this star of misfortune suddenly disdain me, could it be I've done something wrong!

He smacked his forehead, only then did Wu Laoba realize the misunderstanding caused by his words and behavior just now—what a big misunderstanding! Wu Xiaoba is one of the most normal guys in this world! Even if he were abnormal, he'd never dare flirt with his own master! That kind of star of misfortune who extinguishes alliances just for a disagreement, he'd be insane to flirt with!

He was merely moved by the scent of water essence on the master's body, alright!

"Master, you've misunderstood! I wasn't saying you're fragrant, I meant the water essence on your body is fragrant! I'm normal, please master, you must believe me!"

"Water essence?" Ning Fan was startled.

"Yes! When the master returned to the Luo family, I sensed it—the water essence is so strong, did you perhaps obtain some water elemental treasure? I've long wanted to ask, but with so many mouths and minds in the Luo family, it wasn't appropriate to speak up."

Wu Laoba was adept at the water elemental Dao traces, thus his perception of water was particularly sensitive, and he excelled at one form of treasure-seeking divine skills... There's no mistake! The master definitely acquired some water elemental treasure!

This powerful water essence couldn't possibly be an ordinary item. If he could earn it as a reward...

Ning Fan contemplated slightly. This time, upon returning from the Pill Sect, he hadn't acquired anything particularly special. There were treasures with water essence, but they were all low-grade magical treasures, unlikely to excite Wu Laoba...

Could it be...

Ning Fan flipped his hand and took out a worn-out Sheep Fat Jade Purifying Bottle.

Wu Laoba's eyes instantly glazed over, his breath heavy like a bull, seemingly eager to swallow the bottle!

"Did you sense the water essence on this bottle?" Ning Fan's gaze slightly sharpened.

He was proficient in perception, yet could sense no water essence from the bottle, but Wu Laoba could...

"There's no mistake! It must be, it must be this! I've seen it in my master's treasure-seeking notes, a top-five water elemental treasure within the Dreamland Realm! Look, even the Treasure-Seeking Turtle senses it..."

Wu Laoba excitedly pulled out a small turtle from his sleeve, its big eyes adorably dumb, very much like his Eternal True Body.

At this moment, the little turtle was rolling excitedly in Wu Laoba's palm—such a reaction only occurs upon encountering truly good stuff.

"What is a Treasure-Seeking Turtle?"

Ning Fan looked at Wu Laoba with a half-smile, it seemed he was hiding quite a bit.

"Master, that's not the point—the point is this bottle, it's ruined, how could it be ruined! It must be repaired! But the needed items are excessive—an essence of the sea eye over millions of years, ten shades or more of blue jade, and..."

Wu Laoba rattled off a list that Ning Fan barely recognized, suggesting that repairing the Purifying Bottle would require exceedingly rare materials.

"Master, would you consider temporarily entrusting the bottle to me? I guarantee to repair and return it within three years!"

Wu Laoba declared confidently.

"Repair it within three years?" Ning Fan looked at Wu Laoba meaningfully.

This bottle's damage seemed irreparable to him, yet Wu Laoba had a way and seemed highly skilled in this field...

Ning Fan was more curious about the bottle's origins. Ranked among the top five water elemental treasures in the Dreamland Realm, it presumably wasn't an ordinary magical treasure...

Or perhaps, something sealed within it stirred Wu Laoba so fervently?

"That's right! I've decided, I'm not returning to Qianqiu Sect with you, Master. I'm going to Eastern Heaven to search for materials to repair this bottle!" Wu Laoba's small, sly eyes twinkled.

Searching for materials? That's just a pleasant phrase. Wu Laoba's material-seeking process involved employing the divine capabilities of the Treasure-Seeking Turtle, locating the sects or forces with the coveted materials, and... planting himself at their doorstep, refusing to leave until he receives them.

Ning Fan watched Wu Laoba with amusement. After a moment, he finally handed over the Sheep Fat Jade Purifying Bottle.

"What exactly is this bottle?"

"Once I've repaired it, Master will know."

Wu Laoba chuckled dryly, secretly praying that the master never learns of the bottle's origin.

At least not until he's extracted the contents of the bottle's space... A battle-worn item of the lineage of Ancient Chaos, one of the nine ancient devil ancestors, Emperor Shuiyan... an artifact coveted by Moro the Great Emperor... To think, he'd encounter it here...

And so, Wu Laoba gleefully departed.

Ning Fan then cast a contemplative glance in the direction Wu Laoba went.

With his understanding of Wu Laoba, it was likely he found a great benefit in the Purifying Bottle, wanting it all to himself.

Heh, wanting to hoard it, is he...

I wonder if what Wu Laoba wishes to keep for himself is linked to the old voice once heard from the bottle.

Regrettably, that voice only appeared once, and never again... Oh well, I'll wait until Wu Laoba repairs the bottle to address this.

Refusing to acknowledge tampering with the bottle, Ning Fan smiled slightly.

Then, he returned alone to Qianqiu Sect.

The sects and clans coming to make amends with Qianqiu Sect were innumerable, yet Ning Fan was indifferent, delegating all mundane affairs to Zhao Die'er and the other female cultivators.

He discreetly returned to the sect, promptly calling upon the two slaves, Earth Controlling Devil Star and Iron Crow, placing four True Immortal corpses before them.

"Choose! Which one do you want!"

Ning Fan smiled. With loyal ones, he was never stingy; what others find hard to acquire—a body of a True Immortal—he granted four at once!

Both Earth Controlling Devil Star and Iron Crow were fervently eager.

Could it be that they finally have a chance to restore their cultivation and come back to life!

This chance for rebirth is gifted by Ning Fan's hand! Offering four True Immortal corpses in one gesture. Single-handedly confronting alliances, extinguishing sects, defeating three deity-level threats! Such a person is worthy to be their master!

"The gift of life is an unrepayable debt; from today forth, this humble one's life is the master's! From this day forth, we live for the master and die for the master!"

The gift of life outweighs all!

Both solemnly knelt, bowing deeply to Ning Fan.

This bow marked a vow—a man’s promise that lasts a lifetime!

From this day forth, we live for the master and die for the master!

Chapter 988: Return to the Three Thousand Thunder Realm

Earth Controlling Devil and Iron Crow each chose a physical body and began seclusion for body possession.

Iron Crow chose Wang Yangzi’s body, while Earth Controlling Devil chose Sun Lin’s body. The standard for selecting a body for possession wasn’t solely based on the original master’s cultivation level, but also on compatibility.

Therefore, even though Han Yunguai had the highest cultivation in life, neither of them chose his body.

As a result, it became simple; Ning Fan bestowed the two Twelve Nirvana Magical Treasures from Wang Yangzi and Sun Lin to them, which were suitable for their use.

Cultivating rebirth through body possession requires a significant amount of time in seclusion and a lot of expensive pills for assistance. Since Ning Fan had destroyed the Medicine Sect, he naturally wouldn’t let the two be short of pills, and granted many to the Earth Controlling Devil and Iron Crow.

The two were naturally extremely grateful, but that’s idle chatter and will not be elaborated on.

The bodies of Han Yunguai and Deyun Ancestor were still unused. After some thinking, Ning Fan decided to refine the essence of the two corpses’ blood and flesh and gave them to Mu Weiliang and Zili for consumption, which led to significant improvements in the two female cultivators’ abilities. Of course, it was not enough for them to break through to the next realm.

With the help of the Zi Relic, Zili had already achieved the Initial Stage of Crossing Truth, and Mu Weiliang similarly possessed a powerful body comparable to the Initial Stage of Crossing Truth. Even if

they consumed the blood and flesh essence of an Immortal Venerable, it wouldn't forcefully increase their cultivation by a level.

After consuming the blood and flesh essence, the two little girls were clamoring to go out and play in the Xuan Yin Treasure. This time, Ning Fan helplessly agreed.

With the lively characters of these two little girls, it was impossible for them to stay quietly in the Xuan Yin Treasure for cultivation. Innocence should not be caged, and even if locked in a cage, the two girls would not be able to increase their true comprehension. One must know that their cultivation was forcibly enhanced by Ning Fan, but their comprehension lagged far behind...

"Little butterfly, please! Just let me and little Zizi go out and play, we promise not to cause trouble, okay!"

"Little butterfly! You're the best, please, please!"

"Little butterfly..."

"Alright! You can leave the Xuan Yin Treasure, but you must stay in the Qianqiu Sect, and if you leave the Sect, you must not go far without me accompanying you, otherwise, I won't be at ease..."

"Agree, agree, agree! As long as you let us out to play, we'll do whatever you say! We'll be good!"

Smooch!

Mu Weiliang stood on her tiptoes and kissed Ning Fan, causing a ripple in Ning Fan's heart, akin to the descent of a Shekong Heart Tribulation, yet it was fleeting.

Zili also stood on her tiptoes and kissed the other side of Ning Fan's face, leaving him somewhat speechless...

This Zili, her courage seems to have grown, daring to kiss him on her own initiative...

Whenever he interacted with Mu Weiliang, Ning Fan would have the feeling of a Shekong Heart Tribulation descending, and after experiencing the first Shekong Heart Tribulation, Ning Fan had some speculations.

His first heart tribulation should have been on the word 'promise,' and there would still be three heart tribulations afterward. It's highly likely that one of these tribulations is connected to Mu Weiliang, and even if it's not, there must be a tribulation with a significant connection to her...

Forget it, his Immortal and Demon cultivations have not yet advanced to the peak of the Initiate Realm of Shekong. Talking about heart tribulations now is premature.

Finally, Ning Fan took Mu Weiliang and Zili out of the Xuan Yin Treasure. With Ning Fan's approval, the two women officially held virtual titles as outer elders in the Qianqiu Sect and stayed there.

Ning Fan was no longer worried about Zili's Nieli identity being exposed. He was no longer the person he used to be and didn't need to act as cautiously as before. Across the Eastern Heaven, no one senselessly called out to oppose him anymore. Beneath an Immortal King, everyone feared Ning Fan and dared not provoke him! Above an Immortal King, they were wary of the Ancient Chaos and dared not recklessly stir up trouble.

The Dark Clan remained silent, as if they were unaware that Ning Fan had destroyed the Anti-Ning Alliance, and from beginning to end, they never openly made any drastic moves against Ning Fan...

But Ning Fan knew that the Eastern Celestial Cultivators targeting him must have had prodding from the Dark Clan! However, as long as the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor wasn't truly annihilated, the Dark Clan wouldn't publicly take action against him! After all, if they were really driven by the Ancient Chaos, the consequences would be unbearable even for the Dark Clan!

"Though the karma with the Medicine Sect is settled, there's still much to be done..."

There are still five years until the opening of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain.

The maturation of Jiuli is not something that can be rushed. He decided to send Xian Luoli back to Ji Lei Palace first, and on the way, he would visit the Medicine Sect to see Ouyang Nuan.

The evolution of Xian Luoli's Nine Revolutions Thunder Body was nearing its end, and the thunder-type heavenly materials and earthly treasures Ning Fan possessed were no longer enough to help Xian Luoli evolve, which was very dangerous...

It was imperative to send Xian Luoli back to Ji Lei Palace as soon as possible...

Being an immortal emperor-level thunder sect, Ji Lei Palace must have enough thunder for Xian Luoli to absorb and refine. Xian Luoli was originally the Master of Ji Lei Palace, and she should return to her Sect...

Master of Ji Lei Palace...

Ning Fan smiled slightly. If he guessed correctly, this Xian Luoli was mostly likely the Palace Master of Ji Lei Palace – Bai Di Lan Yunxian...

"During the evolution of the Nine Revolutions Thunder Body, there is a slight possibility of temporary memory loss, but once the evolution is complete, the memory will be restored..."

If Xian Luoli regained her memory and her identity as 'White Emperor' Lan Yunxian, what would happen...

A dignified Immortal Emperor, the esteemed Master of the Extreme Thunder Palace, because of losing his memory due to the Thunder Body Evolution, he ended up calling a junior "Daddy" for a hundred years. This matter could be considered absurd, and if it were some Immortal Emperor old monsters who care about face, they might even kill Ning Fan to cover up this scandal...

Ning Fan doesn't believe Xian Luoli would be so heartless, but he wasn't sure whether Lan Yunxian would do so... Who could guess the temperament of an Immortal Emperor old monster?

Regarding Xian Luoli, Ning Fan had very complex feelings. He had no children in his life, but Xian Luoli, by happenstance, called him "Daddy" for so many years as if she were a daughter...

If indeed because of such a matter, he and Xianxian turned into enemies...

Even if they didn't turn into enemies, once Lan Yunxian restored her memory, it would also be impossible for her to be unreservedly close to him again...

"Forget it; let's talk about the future later... Xianxian's Thunder Body Evolution is the most important thing right now!"

No matter how things develop, Ning Fan will bring Xian Luoli back! Let's talk about what happens afterward...

"Xianxian, shall I take you home?"

Ning Fan found Xian Luoli in the Qianqiu Sect and asked her.

"Home? Where to, isn't this my home? Daddy, do I have another home?" Xian Luoli asked in confusion, not understanding.

"Do you still remember where we first met?" Reflecting on the past of the Three Thousand Thunder Realm, Ning Fan felt some sentimentality. How did he, by sheer providence, find such a little girl...

"I don't remember... The memories are very blurry... But lately, I've often been having some strange dreams, dreaming of strange people and strange things... I dreamt someone called me Palace Master, called me Lan Yunxian... Who is Lan Yunxian? I'm clearly called Xianxian, not Lan Yunxian, right, Daddy?"

Silly girl, those aren't strange dreams, they are most likely your past memories!

Lan Yunxian, oh Lan Yunxian, what should I, Ning Fan, do with you...

"The lightning power needed for your Thunder Body Evolution is too overwhelming. Daddy's place doesn't have enough lightning power, so I'll take you to a place with abundant lightning power, alright?"

"Eh? Where to? Will Daddy accompany me? If Daddy doesn't go with me, I won't go anywhere; I want to stay here. This is the home that Daddy and I have; I want to be with Daddy for a lifetime, and I want Daddy to bestow me with the Zi Relic..."

"The Zi Relic... Truly is not possible..."

Ning Fan helplessly said.

The Reverse Relic is a bewitching technique. Planting the Zi Relic means Xian Luoli would become Ning Fan's Cauldron Furnace solely...

Of course, the Cauldron Furnace of the Zi Relic requires no supplementation and no acts between men and women, which is why Ning Fan bestowed Zhao Die'er with the Zi Relic, solely to enhance Zhao Die'er's cultivation.

But Xian Luoli, truly cannot be given the Zi Relic...

If Lan Yunxian restores her memory and finds out that she was made to accept the Bewitching Relic and became Ning Fan's Cauldron Furnace, would she not be furious, who could know...

Ning Fan doesn't want to lose the last bit of affection with Xian Luoli because of such a matter!

"...Let's go; I'll take you home. Once back home, your Thunder Body Evolution will surely complete the last step!"

"Then, alright. Xianxian wants to complete the last step of the Thunder Body Evolution, to become stronger, to help Daddy defeat the bad people!"

Xian Luoli angrily shook her little fists. She heard that some force called the Dark Clan bullied Daddy!

What is the Dark Clan? She didn't understand, but bullying her Daddy, not allowed! She wanted to become stronger, to crush the Dark Clan, to give Daddy a release for his anger!

Thus, Ning Fan, having just returned to the Qianqiu Sect, left with Xian Luoli again.

Unexpectedly, just as he left the Qianqiu Sect, the Burying Moon Celestial Concubine came looking for him, wearing an anxious expression.

Unfortunately, she was unlucky and just missed Ning Fan.

"This little pervert, where has he gone off to fool around now..."

The Burying Moon Celestial Concubine pushed open Ning Fan's door and, seeing the room empty, frowned slightly.

She inquired within the sect, and several disciples of the Qianqiu Sect told her that the Sect Master Ning Fan had just left the Qianqiu Sect not long ago with Elder Xian...

Indeed, this little pervert has really gone off to fool around again!

"I originally wanted to ask this little pervert some questions, but it seems I can only wait until he comes back now..."

The Burying Moon Celestial Concubine sighed at the wonders of fate.

She never expected that she could once again encounter Mu Weiliang in this life — the daughter of the Heavenly Emperor who had already perished along with the ancient Heavenly Court!

God knows how shocked she was when she stepped out after handling the mundane affairs of the Qianqiu Sect and saw the lively Mu Weiliang!

'Grand Princess, how... how are you here! Aren't you already...'

'What Grand Princess? I'm not the Grand Princess, I'm Mu Weiliang, the wife of little butterfly.'

'What little butterfly... Could it be, Grand Princess, you lost your memory! You don't remember anything about the ancient Heavenly Court?'

'Don't remember, don't know what you are talking about...'

Burying Moon Immortal Concubine felt a twinge of bitterness.

She was not a good person, she even betrayed her own sect for personal reasons, but that didn't mean she had no principles or her own persistence.

Once, she owed a debt to the ancient Heavenly Court, so when it faced disaster, she stood up, joining the ranks to protect it as an outsider, nearly perishing as a result. Luckily, she was fortunate enough to escape with a sliver of her soul...

On that day, when the ancient Heavenly Court was destroyed, all cultivators of the Heavenly Court perished... Who would have thought, countless years later, she could see Mu Weiliang again, the Grand Princess once cherished by the Heavenly Emperor...

'Grand Princess, I have old ties with your mother, the Heavenly Empress saved me...'

'Who is the Heavenly Empress, I seem to know, but somehow don't remember. It seems... very sad...'

'Don't be sad... Though the ancient Heavenly Court is no more, you still have me. If you don't mind, I, Burying Moon, will be your kin, and I will protect you on behalf of the Heavenly Empress!'

'No need, no need, I have little butterfly to protect me, I don't need your protection, thank you.'

'Grand Princess, could I ask you a question... Who exactly is little butterfly? Why have you appeared here?'

'Little butterfly is Ning Fan, he is my husband, wherever he is, I am there.'

What a joke!

When did Ning Fan, that little rascal, become the husband of the Grand Princess of the Heavenly Court!

Burying Moon Immortal Concubine decided to have a serious talk with Ning Fan.

First, she wanted to ask Ning Fan why Mu Weiliang appeared here. She had asked Mu Weiliang many times, but Mu Weiliang's memory was incomplete and couldn't explain clearly.

Second, she wanted to protest to Ning Fan, expressing subtly her disapproval of the marriage between the Grand Princess and Ning Fan.

Third, she wished to make a request to Ning Fan to rebuild the ancient Heavenly Court!

If Mu Weiliang were dead, that would be that, but now Mu Weiliang is alive, she is obliged to assist Mu Weiliang in rebuilding the ancient Heavenly Court!

She had so much to discuss with Ning Fan, but unfortunately, Ning Fan had already left the Qianqiu Sect.

"Forget it, I will talk about these things when that little rascal returns. I need to keep an eye on the Grand Princess, her personality seems a bit too lively after rebirth..."

And so, Burying Moon Immortal Concubine bustled to find Mu Weiliang, offering to be her babysitter for free.

She must take good care of the Grand Princess, owing such a big debt to the Heavenly Empress, how could she not repay it! That's not her style!

In the following days, several cultivation stars around the Qianqiu Sect were all turned upside down by Mu Weiliang and Zili, the two little girls. This was something Ning Fan, who had already left, was unaware of.

The first day.

"Let's go, little Zizi! Little butterfly allowed us to go out and play! Let's go have fun!"

"Where to?"

"To Shi Zhong Star... I heard there's a fierce creature with Life Immortal Realm cultivations causing havoc, killing low-level cultivators. Let's go and fight for justice!"

"Yes, yes, let's go together!"

And so, Shi Zhong Star was in chaos, while the fierce creature was ground into dumpling filling by the two girls...

Burying Moon Immortal Concubine stealthily followed behind, and as the two girls had their fun, she forcibly took the merry-playing Mu and Zili back to the Qianqiu Sect.

The second day.

"Weiliang, where will we play today?"

"To Juyan Star, I heard there's a rock monster with Life Immortal Realm cultivations... Let's go and fight for justice!"

"Yes, yes!"

So, Juyan Star was in chaos, and the rock monster was chopped into pieces by the two girls...

Afterward, Burying Moon Immortal Concubine took time from her busy schedule to drag the two girls back to the Qianqiu Sect.

The third day.

"Weiliang, where will we play today?"

"Hancheng Star!"

Thus, chaos ensued on Hancheng Star, and afterward, Burying Moon Immortal Concubine used a Vertical Golden Light to rush over and bring the two girls back...

The fourth day.

"Little Zizi, let's go to Lin Cang Star to uphold justice!"

"Yes, yes!"

Burying Moon Immortal Concubine rubbed her forehead; this reborn Mu Weiliang was really hard to manage, where had the once dignified and virtuous Grand Princess gone!

Let it be, hard to manage or not, manage she must! She must take care of the Heavenly Empress's daughter!

And as the two girls frolicked, she again came forward to bring them back...

Fifth day, sixth day, seventh day...

With Burying Moon Immortal Concubine constantly watching over, Mu Weiliang and Zili were not causing too much trouble. Instead, the two were constantly upholding justice, vanquishing fierce creatures on nearby cultivation stars, making a bit of a name for themselves in nearby space.

But that's a story for another time.

...

On the day Ning Fan left the Qianqiu Sect, he took Xian Luoli, returning all the way to the Extreme Thunder Palace.

Passing by the Medicine Sect, Ning Fan wanted to meet with Ouyang Nuan, but unfortunately, Ouyang Nuan seemed to be in an extremely important seclusion, concerning the progress of her Five-Color Medicine Soul. Hence, Ning Fan did not interrupt her cultivation; he only chatted with Medicine Sect's Sect Master Wei Wuzhi, left some Dao Fruit and magical treasures for Ouyang Nuan, and left.

After all, once the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain is opened, Ouyang Nuan will exit her seclusion, and they will meet then, so there is no need to rush.

The journey to the Three Thousand Thunder Realm did not take too much time. A hundred years ago, Ning Fan visited the Three Thousand Thunder Realm, and a hundred years later returning to the same place, he felt a sense of people changing over time.

Upon arriving at the Three Thousand Thunder Realm, Xian Luoli felt dazed, vaguely feeling familiar with the place, but when trying hard to think, could not remember for a moment, causing her a splitting headache instead.

"Father, it hurts... there are many fragments in my mind, but the more I try to recall, the more it hurts..."

Xian Luoli whimpered, snuggling closer into Ning Fan's embrace.

Ning Fan stroked Xian Luoli's little head, sighed, "Then don't think about it..."

Ning Fan entered the Three Thousand Thunder Realm, and although he didn't deliberately emanate his aura, he still startled countless cultivators.

"This person's escape light is so fast! Though his aura is hidden, it faintly gives a sense of dominating eons, could it be... this person is an Eternal Immortal Venerable!"

"Unfamiliar face! In this lifetime, he seems unfamiliar! I just exited my seclusion after thousands of years, but in my memory, the Eastern Heaven didn't have this Immortal Venerable..."

"Old Chen, that's just your narrow-mindedness. You may not have seen him, but you've certainly heard of his infamous reputation! He's the one who obliterated the Anti-Ning Alliance..."

"What! It's the Rain Monarch! He's the Rain Immortal Monarch, Ning Fan!"

"Not good! The Rain Monarch has come to the Three Thousand Thunder Realm, alert, the entire realm alert!"

Three thousand places within the Three Thousand Thunder Realm echoed with the highest-level alert horn sound at this moment!

All because, the great demon of the Eastern Heaven, Ning Fan has arrived!

Who knows for what reason Ning Fan has come! We must be prepared!

Chapter 989: Mirror of Flash Thunder

The sounds of horns echoed in all directions, continuously mixed with the undying beacons of smoke, lighting up one after another from the beacon towers of each Thunder Realm!

The war horns resounded through the skies! The beacon fires burned throughout the Three Thousand Thunder Realm!

This scene had only appeared forty-five million years ago when only the arrival of a world-shattering monster would cause the entire Thunder Realm to issue a warning!

Countless Thunder Masters emerged from their abodes at this moment, showing expressions of shock!

"What on earth has happened! I have lived for three million years and never seen the beacon towers of the Thunder Realm light up. Why are they lit up today! Who ordered this!"

"This is a signal of an impending enemy! It must be that the patrol Thunder Masters discovered an unprecedented enemy approaching, warning us to be on guard!"

"This scene... I've heard my grandmaster mention it! It is said that forty-five million years ago, the Three Thousand Thunder Realm experienced a similar scene! Back then, the demon Senluo descended upon the Extreme Thunder Palace, heavily wounding the former White Emperor, seizing the Thunder King Seal, and causing rivers of blood across the Three Thousand Thunder Realm..."

"This time, which demon is it that has come to the Three Thousand Thunder Realm!"

"It is Rain Lord Ning Fan! A close friend just sent word; he personally witnessed the Rain Immortal Monarch invading the Thunder Realm!"

"What! It's Ning the old monster who has come! Not long ago, this man extinguished the Anti-Ning Alliance, and now he comes to the Thunder Realm, with what intent!"

Upon hearing that it was Ning Fan's arrival, many low-level Thunder Masters took a deep breath, for that is the fierce man who destroyed the alliance and killed three lords. Why would he suddenly come to the Three Thousand Thunder Realm! Could it be that some Thunder Realm cultivators got involved in that dispute, and Ning the old monster is here to settle accounts with them?

No, it shouldn't be. The Three Thousand Thunder Realm is the domain of White Emperor Lan Yunxian. Despite Ning the old monster's fierce reputation, he may not dare to act recklessly here...

Come to think of it, without even figuring out Ning the old monster's intentions, the patrol Thunder Masters light the beacons, blow the horns—isn't that a bit overboard? There's really no need for the entire realm to be on alert... We are, after all, a major force with an Immortal Emperor in charge, why be so cautious!

But, is there really no need for such caution!

Only those Thunder Realm old monsters with a cultivation at the Shedding Void and Shattered Thought Realm levels truly understand that the Extreme Thunder Palace, the Three Thousand Thunder Realm, though appearing grand and glorious on the surface, are internally riddled with flaws and incapable of enduring the turmoil caused by a monster of Ning Fan's level! Thus, Ning Fan's entry into the realm indeed warrants extreme vigilance from these old fellows!

White Emperor Lan Yunxian had a breakthrough a hundred years ago during a thunderbody encounter and later went missing, her whereabouts unknown!

Now, only four Eternal Immortal Venerables remain watching over the Extreme Thunder Palace, and all four have only the cultivation of the First Calamity...

To the ordinary masters, an Eternal Immortal Venerable is the highest existence, but to someone at Ning Fan's level, even four with the cultivation of the First Calamity may be insufficient! Haven't you heard that the Anti-Ning Alliance, which had one Second Calamity Immortal Lord and two First Calamity Immortal Lords, was entirely uprooted by Ning the old monster! How could the current Three Thousand Thunder Realm fare any better than the Anti-Ning Alliance!

Besides, even if Ning Fan's cultivation is immensely strong, coming to the Three Thousand Thunder Realm wouldn't usually incite such massive panic.

The critical point is... Ning Fan's reputation is terrible!

Murder and arson, massacring clans and exterminating families... In the eyes of the Eastern Celestial Cultivators, those are Ning Fan's favorite pastimes!

If Ning the old monster comes with ill intentions... just the thought of this possibility makes every Thunder Realm old monster's face turn ashen, unable to remain composed.

"Quickly notify the four Protectors, Rain Lord Ning Fan has entered the realm! Please, the four Protectors... emerge from seclusion!"

"Quickly activate the realm-guarding formation! If this demon creates chaos, then we must defend the realm to the death, at all costs!"

"Someone! Come with me to greet the Rain Lord, remember not to anger this demon, or a great calamity will befall us!"

The True Immortals of the Three Thousand Thunder Realm, upon receiving news of Ning Fan's entry into the realm, all steeled themselves, gathering their courage, and led people to greet Ning Fan.

This was a situation Ning Fan hadn't anticipated; his original intention was just to discreetly head to the Extreme Thunder Palace, but he hadn't expected that as soon as he entered the Thunder Realm, it would cause such turmoil and make the entire Three Thousand Thunder Realm act as if facing a formidable enemy.

"Papa... it's so noisy here, my head hurts..." Xian Luoli raised her little head, looking at Ning Fan with a furrowed little face.

Coming to this place stirred many memories, already giving her a headache, and with the endless blaring of horns everywhere, her headache worsened.

"Then, let's not let them make noise anymore!"

Ning Fan waved his sleeve, instantly creating a void barrier around Xian Luoli, silencing the horns that hadn't even approached, rendering them incapable of entering Xian Luoli's ears.

This was a divine skill of Ning Fan, possessed after his Demon Cultivation reached the Shedding Void Stage, allowing all worldly sights, sounds, scents, tastes, and touch to return to void extinction, unable to reach him. Most Shekong Cultivators have this skill, although their proficiency varies.

Thunder Chariots rushed in, one after another of the famed Thunder Realm old monsters arrived on escape light. In just a few moments, over a thousand Immortal Cultivators had arrived in this place to form an array welcoming Ning Fan, with even more Thunder Realm old monsters en route to this place.

"We Thunder Realm cultivators welcome the Rain Immortal Monarch!"

Even among the numerous Immortal Cultivators present, few dared to lift their heads to meet Ning Fan's gaze. Only the few leading Thunder Realm Shattered Thought Cultivators dared to lift their heads slightly, yet still in extreme trepidation, fearing any incorrect expression would offend Ning Fan, this mighty being.

"No need for you all to be so cautious, I have no ill intentions in coming here, only some matters to discuss with the Protectors of the Extreme Thunder Palace," Ning Fan spoke with a relatively courteous tone.

Yet everyone remained skeptical.

Is something the matter that brings you to see the guardians?

Could it be that you are here to kill the guardians? Or perhaps, to capture the Immortal Venerable Furnace!

The Rain Monarch is the inheritor of the Ancient Chaotic Great Emperor. Each of the four guardians possesses cultivation at the Immortal Venerable level, and the Yin energy is still present, so could it be...?

Upon conceiving this possibility, several Shattered Thought Realm Masters within the Thunder Realm broke into a cold sweat; this is highly possible!

"Might I ask you all to take me to the Jilei Palace to meet the Lei Palace protectors?" Ning Fan spoke again. Since the host had come to welcome him, it would be inappropriate to go to Jilei Palace alone.

The crowd fell into a silent pause, with no one daring to speak. If Ning Fan came with ill intentions, and they brought him to Jilei Palace...

"Forget it, I'll head there myself..." Ning Fan shook his head, unwilling to bother with these people, and led Xian Luoli by the hand, intending to bypass the crowd and continue forward.

The crowd's expressions changed suddenly. They wanted to stop Ning Fan but dared not; letting him go to the Jilei Palace seemed inappropriate...

Some cast puzzled glances at Xian Luoli, not understanding why Ning Fan would bring a young girl to Jilei Palace. If he was there to provoke, wouldn't bringing a young girl be cumbersome?

Or could it be, this young girl is also a Furnace captured by Ning Fan! It's highly possible! To think even a young child isn't spared by the inheritor of Ancient Chaos!

No one realized that Xian Luoli was actually the White Emperor Lan Yunxian. Of course, they couldn't recognize her; Lan Yunxian transformed into Xian Luoli completely changed her cultivation, aura, and appearance, which was also the most troublesome point. Even the high-ranking officials of Jilei Palace were unaware of Lan Yunxian's current appearance, only knowing she would become smaller... For centuries, Jilei Palace had undergone massive efforts to search for Lan Yunxian, but due to lack of any identifying information, it was all in vain.

While they were perplexed, four long rainbows shot through the sky—it was four six-colored Thunder Chariots!

Then, four silver-haired women gracefully descended from each of their chariots. They were the four Immortal Venerable guardians of the Extreme Thunder Palace! Known as the 'Yue Lu Qing Lan' four Immortal Venerables: Qianyue Immortal Honor, Youlu Immortal Honor, Qingxiao Immortal Honor, and Roulan Immortal Honor!

"I am Lan Xiaoqian (Lan Xiaoyou, Lan Xiaoqing, Lan Xiaorou), greetings Ning Fan. May I know the purpose of your visit today..."

The four women watched Ning Fan as if facing a great enemy. Their strength was already not on par with Ning Fan's, and coupled with Ning Fan's ability to suppress female cultivators, they felt a deep-seated sense of crisis when facing him...

Dangerous, extremely dangerous!

The sense of crisis was so intense, as if Ning Fan could easily subdue all four of them if he wished!

This feeling was truly absurd!

However, when their gaze fell upon Xian Luoli, their previous expressions of alarm transformed into disbelief and joy.

With their knowledge of Lan Yunxian, how could the four women not recognize that this little girl was indeed their Palace Master, Lan Yunxian!

The four were also deeply strategic thinkers, and instantly deduced Ning Fan's intention—he was here to deliver someone!

"Rain Monarch's intention, could it be..."

"Indeed."

"In that case, the Rain Monarch is our esteemed guest of Jilei Palace. Please, Rain Monarch, proceed to the Hall of Flash Thunder. We, sisters, shall properly entertain you!"

The four women and Ning Fan spoke in enigmatic terms, then deviated sharply from their previous uneasiness, joyfully welcoming Ning Fan into the Jilei Palace.

What's going on!

Greatly influenced by the White Emperor of this generation, the four protectors, usually averse to men, were surprisingly delighted by Ning Fan's visit, so happy indeed!

Moreover, isn't the Hall of Flash Thunder supposed to exclude all men, being the White Emperor's chamber? Why then did the protectors invite Ning Fan there as soon as they saw him...

Could it be!

Suddenly, many old monsters revealed playful smiles, privately theorizing that Ning Fan was not here to cause trouble but to seek pleasure. They had not anticipated that the four usually solemn protectors were not chaste as they appeared, secretly involved with Ning Lao Mo. Upon seeing Ning Fan, they rushed joyously, impatiently to the chamber for enjoyment. One dragon and four phoenixes... oh no, Ning Lao Mo even brought a little girl, making it one dragon and five phoenixes... Ning Lao Mo truly knows how to play, a true inheritor of Ancient Chaos...

But what does this have to do with these lower cultivators? Ning Lao Mo's preference for dragon and phoenix affairs doesn't require their comments or permissions.

Many keen observers also noticed the change in the guardians' expressions occurred only after seeing Xian Luoli...

"Could that little girl be..."

Some of the older monsters felt their hearts racing, almost unable to contain their joy.

It was highly possible... the White Emperor of this generation had already been found!

In this light, the Rain Monarch's arrival in the Thunder Realm was not a catastrophe but a great blessing, indeed!

Alas, only a few could see so clearly...

Jilei (Extreme Thunder) Palace, Hall of Flash Thunder.

Ning Fan briefly explained to the four women the situation regarding the discovery of Xian Luoli, omitting the trip to the primitive and wild and only mentioning that he retreated with Xian Luoli for a hundred years in a certain place without detailing the experience.

Afterward, it was the long-overdue reunion scene of Xian Luoli with the four women.

Like a small animal, Xian Luoli hid behind Ning Fan, only poking out her small head, looking at the four women ahead in confusion.

Who are these four women? It seems I've dreamed of them...

"Palace Master! You're finally back! Do you know how worried we were about you! Without the Thunder King Seal's suppression, your Thunder Body evolving to Nine Revolutions already carries great risk, and yet you went out, and you were gone for a hundred years! If there's a next time, don't blame us for being wild; we'll lock you directly in the Flash Thunder Pool! This... is for the sake of your esteemed self!"

Lan Xiaoqian scolded Xian Luoli with her brows furrowed, but her concern was evident.

Xian Luoli pouted: This woman is so fierce!

"Palace Master! You ran off again, how can you keep running off! You're too mischievous, I've told you before not to run off, you see how worried the four of us are when you run off, even if we aren't worried, countless cultivators in the Three Thousand Thunder Realm would be worried, and even if they aren't worried, countless flowers and grass would be worried... if you really want to go out and play, just tell us, if you don't say anything how will we know, besides..." Three hundred sentences were omitted here.

Lan Xiaoyou kept talking nonstop, and Xian Luoli shivered slightly: This woman is so nagging, even more terrifying than the last one!

"Palace Master, rules cannot be abolished! According to the Jilei Palace Thunder Statute Article Seventeen, as the Palace Master, you should not recklessly go out during Thunder Body evolution, according to Thunder Statute Article Thirty-one, as the Palace Master, you should not... according to Thunder Statute Article Seventy-nine, as the Palace Master, you should not..."

Lan Xiaoqing laid out rule after rule, and Xian Luoli's ears grew calluses: This woman, so rigid, I hate these rules the most.

"Sob sob sob... Palace Master, you've gotten thin, I feel so heartbroken... sob sob sob, sob sob sob, sob sob sob..."

Lan Xiaorou's tears didn't stop!

Xian Luoli felt a chill: This woman, loves to cry, talks so coyly, how pretentious!

"Papa, these women are so scary, can we go home..." Xian Luoli pleaded.

Papa!

The four women frowned and looked at Ning Fan.

They would only act abnormally in front of the Palace Master, but they appeared very proper in front of others.

"Young Master Ning seems yet to explain why our Palace Master calls you papa?" the four women asked with frowns.

Concerning the face of Jilei Palace, they had to ask one more question.

"Xian'er lost her memory, so..."

Ning Fan briefly explained the reasoning, and after hearing the explanation, the four women couldn't say much, they just looked at Ning Fan sympathetically.

Yes, it was sympathy!

"Young Master may not know, our Palace Master dislikes men the most, especially demons. After all, the Palace Master's master, the previous White Emperor, suffered severe injuries due to a demon and passed away early... If the Palace Master regains her memory and knows she called you papa, this matter might..."

Lan Yunxian dislikes men? Hmm, there were indeed such rumors in Eastern Heaven... As for disliking demons, this was the first time I heard of it.

"But our Palace Master values gratitude the most, you saved her, no matter what, she won't repay kindness with enmity. Young Master can rest assured on that point."

That is good.

"Young Master sent the Palace Master back, making you the benefactor of Jilei Palace, we do not know how to thank you, how about this... whatever request Young Master has, feel free to express it, Jilei Palace will exhaust everything to meet Young Master's request, how about it?" the four women sincerely said.

"Oh? Any request?" Ning Fan looked at the four women with playful interest, causing the four women to blush instantly, yet after hesitating briefly, they gritted their teeth and said.

"Yes, any request! Even if it is us... it's possible! After all, you did bring our Palace Master back!"

Any request, these four women are very loyal to Xian'er, ready to sacrifice everything for her...

Although the Immortal Zun Furnace is quite good, absorbing them could significantly boost cultivation, but these four women seem to be Xian'er's close confidants. Forcefully absorbing them might hurt Xian'er's feelings... Ning Fan asked not because he truly intended to absorb the four women but to test their loyalty.

The result of this test was quite satisfactory.

Thus, he was relieved to entrust Xian'er to the four women.

"Forget it, I didn't return Xian'er for gratitude, you don't need to thank me. By the way, your sect should have enough lightning power for Xian'er's Thunder Body evolution, right?" Ning Fan asked instead.

"The sect's stored lightning power is slightly insufficient, but not by much, just need to purchase some from Eastern Heaven's major sects and it will be enough. However..." Lan Xiaorou hesitated to speak but was signaled by the other three women not to say more.

To speak further would be to reveal the secrets of the Jilei Palace...

"Just what? Is there something wrong with Xian'er's Thunder Body evolution?" Ning Fan, concerned for Xian Luoli's safety, still chose to ask, despite knowing that Lan Xiaorou's unfinished words involved the valuable secrets of Jilei Palace.

"This... never mind, Young Master, you are a benefactor to our sect, not an outsider, so it's okay for you to know. Have you heard about the time, 45 million years ago, when Senluo first brought disaster to Eastern Heaven?"

"Of course, I've heard of it."

"Senluo's demonic fame was peerless; it is normal to have heard of his deeds, but there are certain things you might not know. Back when Senluo brought chaos to Eastern Heaven, he visited our Three Thousand Thunder Realm, where he seized a treasure from the previous Palace Master of our Jilei Palace, a seal called the [Thunder King Seal]..."

The four women sighed quietly as they recounted the past events of Jilei Palace.

It turns out that the Palace Masters of Jilei Palace across generations have all been owners of the Nine Revolutions Thunder Body. It is well known that the evolution of the Nine Revolutions Thunder Body is extremely perilous. If the evolution fails, the Thunder Body will collapse, leading to death. Most Thunder Body owners perish due to failed evolution, and those who manage to evolve their Thunder Body to the ninth level are extremely rare.

However, the ancestor of Jilei Palace, by a stroke of chance, obtained a treasure capable of protecting the Thunder Body from collapsing. This allowed Thunder Cultivators to survive even if their evolution failed, granting them a chance at survival.

This treasure is none other than the Thunder King Seal, passed down through generations of Jilei Palace.

Yet, the Thunder King Seal was taken away by Senluo and remains missing to this day...

"Our Palace Master is incredibly talented. Although she lacks the protection of the Thunder King Seal, she managed to refine the Thunder Flashing Tri-Mirror through her understanding of thunder, granting her some protection. Thus, her Thunder Body has been evolved eight times. Now, she faces her final evolution—the ninth revolution. However, this is also the most dangerous one. If she fails, the protection from the Thunder Flashing Tri-Mirror is unlikely to save her life. The more pressing issue is that the Thunder Flashing Tri-Mirror is not in Jilei Palace right now; it has been 'borrowed' by a few Old Monsters of East Heaven..."

At this point, anger and shame showed on the faces of the four women.

A hundred years ago, when their Palace Master had a close call while breaking through the ninth revolution, she barely survived with the Thunder Flashing Tri-Mirror's help, but then she disappeared...

The chances of finding the Palace Master are very slim!

If not for the Palace Master's soul plate remaining intact, the four women would have almost believed she had died due to exhausted lightning power outside...

Although Jilei Palace has tightly sealed this secret, many Old Monsters of East Heaven are aware of it. They know that currently, Jilei Palace lacks an Immortal Emperor to hold the fort and has only four First Calamity Immortal Sovereigns.

As a result, a few daring Old Monsters may attempt to take advantage of this moment to gain some benefits.

They do not dare push Jilei Palace too hard; they merely request to 'borrow' the White Emperor Lan Yunxian's renowned magical treasure—the Thunder Flashing Tri-Mirror!

Those Old Monsters frequently cause trouble for Jilei Palace, and their cultivation is not weak; the four women's cultivation levels can't contend with them. In desperation, they could only compromise by temporarily loaning the Thunder Flashing Tri-Mirror, intending to retrieve it once their Palace Master is found.

Now that the Palace Master has returned to the palace, it's time to reclaim the magical treasure.

"I ask the Young Master to stay temporarily at Jilei Palace. We have many matters to attend to recently. Please excuse any lapses."

"No problem. Please take care of your business and don't worry about me."

With that, the four women divided into two groups; one went to purchase lightning power, while the other went to reclaim the Thunder Flashing Tri-Mirror.

A few days later, the two women who went to purchase lightning power returned, having prepared it sufficiently, but the other two returned empty-handed and injured to Jilei Palace.

"What happened?" Ning Fan frowned and asked.

"We are incapable; we couldn't retrieve the Thunder Flashing Mirror..." Lan Xiaoqing and Lan Xiaorou felt utterly ashamed, but even more so, they were furious.

These people are audacious, knowing the Palace Master has already returned and yet daring to occupy the magical treasure without returning it. It seems they haven't taken Jilei Palace seriously!

'Jilei Palace? Without White Emperor Lan Yunxian, the rest are merely four good cauldron furnaces. Humph! Lan Yunxian has returned, but how can she protect you all with her Thunder Body evolution? If you push this old man too far... heh heh...'

Recalling the arrogant and domineering looks of those people, the two women gritted their silver teeth in anger, yet felt helpless.

What can they do when they're not strong enough?

Furthermore, those people are not loose cultivators; backing them is the Eastern Heaven Great Emperor...

"This is troublesome... Our Palace Master has always disliked men, causing several Immortal Kings aspiring to affiliate with her to leave with wry smiles. Now, the Palace Master's cultivation is absent, and even if the four of us go together, we probably can't get the Thunder Flashing Mirror back..." The four women looked at each other despondently.

They wished to request assistance from some friends, but unfortunately, they have few friends, and those they do have are unlikely to go against another Immortal Emperor to request the Thunder Flashing Mirror.

"Tell me, who borrowed the Thunder Flashing Mirror, and what is their background..."

Ning Fan slightly frowned and stood up.

"I will help you get it back!"

If the Thunder Flashing Mirror is indispensable for Xianxian's Thunder Body evolution, then only he can step forward!

Chapter 990: Battle of Zaoyang Mountain!

The Donglai Star Domain is a desolate region, with numerous grey abandoned stars floating within it, most of which are unsuitable for living beings.

However, in this very desolate star domain, there stands a Taoist temple of a Great Emperor from Eastern Heaven. Therefore, although this place is barren, Eastern Heaven cultivators coming and going are not few in number!

Donglai Star Domain, outer region.

A group of Void Fragmentation cultivators is swiftly traveling through space, aiming to visit the Zaoyang Mountain Dojo at the center of the star domain to attend the dojo of an Immortal Emperor!

This group consists of six cultivators, each with fervent looks. Judging by their attire, they seem to belong to the same faction, and the leader of the group, who has the highest cultivation, is a strong cultivator of the Crumbled Void Seventh Layer, currently explaining something enthusiastically to the others.

"...Donglai Star Domain is the dojo of Great Emperor Chonghe. You junior brothers may not be familiar with this emperor due to your lack of worldly experience. What you all don't know is that, although Great Emperor Chonghe's cultivation is not the highest among the Eastern Heaven Emperors, he is the most senior. It's said that the seniority of the Eastern Heaven Emperors can't match this person, and even the Quasi-Saints are younger than this emperor. There are also rumors that Great Emperor Chonghe is not of the human race but of the demon lineage, specifically the white ape bloodline, and yet he doesn't cultivate demon techniques. For this reason, Great Emperor Chonghe is also known by another name, 'The Ancient White Ape Elder Chonghe'..."

"...The dojo of Great Emperor Chonghe is built in the center of the Donglai Star Domain. On our way there, if we encounter people in grey robes and conical hats, we must not offend them. Remember this! It's said that all of Great Emperor Chonghe's disciples dress like this, with the only difference being the color of their conical hats. Disciples with the first step of cultivation can only wear bronze hats; only second-step disciples qualify to wear silver hats, which have nine different grades. Only Great Emperor Chonghe himself and his subordinates, the two kings and six venerables, can wear golden hats."

"...And regarding the rules of Zaoyang Mountain, this is something you must keep in mind..."

As the group was advancing, a gray light suddenly flashed and blocked the path of the six, revealing its silhouette.

It was a Dao Line of Life Immortal cultivator dressed in grey robes, wearing a silver conical hat, with a pattern of a gray cloud engraved on one corner of the hat.

"One with a conical hat!" The six Void Fragmentation cultivators immediately became apprehensive, halting their escape light to respectfully salute the hat-wearing cultivator without daring to be negligent.

The hat-wearing cultivator remained arrogant and did not return the greeting, merely saying indifferently, "Do you know the rules?"

"Yes, yes... Here are our storage pouches; the senior may choose one item from them..."

The six respectfully removed their storage pouches and handed them to the hat-wearing cultivator.

The hat-wearing cultivator then selected one item from each of four storage pouches, be it a magical treasure or expensive pills, and returned these four storage pouches to their respective owners, giving each of these four people a token.

"You four have the qualifications to enter Zaoyang Mountain Dojo; this is your pass token, keep it well!"

The remaining two storage pouches were directly confiscated by the hat-wearing cultivator, who sternly said to the remaining two, "Your sincerity is lacking. If you cannot present something more valuable, then you can scam!"

The rule of Zaoyang Mountain is that to enter and pay homage, one must offer their storage pouch and let the conical hat emissary choose one item; only then can they be qualified to enter. If no treasure is offered, entry to Zaoyang Mountain Dojo is not permitted. If the offered treasure is not valuable enough, the storage pouch is directly confiscated, and the owner must be expelled!

The words of the hat-wearing cultivator immediately displeased the two cultivators.

"In my storage pouch, there is clearly a Mortal Void-level magical treasure and also Sixth Revolution Pills; is that not sincere enough to demonstrate my intent? Is it not enough to exchange for a pass token?"

"Not enough! Void Fragmentation cultivators wishing to enter the dojo at least need to offer Immortal Void magical treasures, Seventh Revolution Pills, or items of equivalent value! For second-step cultivators, the price is even higher! You two clearly have Immortal Void magical treasures but hide them inside your bodies instead of placing them in storage pouches for me to choose from. Do you think I can't see through your little tricks? I'm not inclined to argue with you; if you don't present more precious treasures, then scram! If not, you'll die!"

Just as the two cultivators tried to argue further, a scream suddenly echoed from the distant starry sky. It turned out that a certain Dao Line of Life Immortal was killed by a conical hat cultivator for resisting enforcement.

Gasp! To think that a dignified Dao Line of Life Immortal could be directly slain! This Donglai Star Domain is truly too dangerous! The actions of the conical hat cultivators here are tyrannical, with no reasoning at all!

Upon witnessing this scene, the two had no courage left to haggle, reluctantly presenting more valuable treasures to finally exchange for a pass token. However, the confiscated storage pouches were irretrievable no matter what.

This is the rule of Zaoyang Mountain!

To visit Zaoyang Mountain Dojo, one must offer treasures; this is a rule set by Great Emperor Chonghe, which cannot be changed or defied! Anyone attempting to defy this must be ready to face the wrath of the conical hat cultivators here!

However, if an Eternal Immortal Venerable arrives, generally speaking, no conical hat cultivator would be foolish enough to demand that an Immortal Venerable present treasures...

While Zaoyang Mountain cultivators are tyrannical, they aren't foolish... The likes of an Immortal Venerable are not to be easily offended...

Ning Fan slightly furrowed his brows. After entering the Donglai Star Domain, he had already witnessed four people being killed, all because they resisted the orders of the conical hat cultivators.

If orders are defied, they are killed outright, with no trace of humanity left! This is the tyrannical conduct of Zaoyang Mountain cultivators!

Given the tyranny of the lower ranks, one could only imagine the domineering nature of Great Emperor Chonghe himself...

No wonder that the Eternal Immortal Venerable under Great Emperor Chonghe dared to step on Extreme Thunder Palace when Xianxian went missing, and after knowing that Xianxian had returned, actually had the audacity to borrow treasures and not return them...

Ning Fan's ears rang with the instructions of Lan Xiaoqian and the other three women before his departure.

"Young Master Ning, as you go to Zaoyang Mountain this time, you must be more amiable. As long as you can retrieve the Mirror of Flash Thunder, it's okay even if Extreme Thunder Palace has to pay some price. Just don't fall out too badly with the Zaoyang Mountain cultivators, after all, the master of Zaoyang Mountain is none other than Great Emperor Chonghe, who is known for not being reasonable. There are not a few Old Monsters of East Heaven who have been oppressed by him. We just didn't expect that this time the cultivators of Zaoyang Mountain would dare to oppress Extreme Thunder Palace..."

Ugh, these four women are truly timid. Is there really a need to fear Zaoyang Mountain that much?

However, Ning Fan could understand the ladies' concerns. Now that Xianxian's Thunder Body Evolution hadn't concluded, if they indeed fell out with Great Emperor Chonghe, it wouldn't end well...

Though he understood, Ning Fan himself did not fear Great Emperor Chonghe. An Immortal Emperor at the Eternal Sixth Calamity stage was someone he would look up to, but not fear.

Oh well, for the sake of the four women's earnest pleas, if the Zaoyang Mountain cultivators are reasonable, he would attempt to retrieve the Mirror of Flash Thunder in a gentle manner.

Ning Fan's entry into the Three Thousand Thunder Realm caused a massive stir. This time, he learned from the experience and did not expose his appearance and identity, instead using the glow of fortune to cover his appearance.

Cultivators who reach the Timeless Realm can use the Color of Fortune to conceal their appearance. Although Ning Fan was not an Eternal Cultivator, due to his powerful Blood Lightning, he could achieve the same effect.

This way, he was enveloped in a four-colored glow upon entering the Donglai Star Domain, and his overpowering fortune immediately attracted attention from all sides.

"Gasp! To think it is someone endowed with fortune! It seems an Eternal Old Freak is here! Judging by the momentum of this escape light, it appears to be an Eternal Immortal Venerable, not an Immortal King..."

"The Fourth Color of Immortal Fate! Although this senior is not an Immortal King, to have such powerful fortune is quite extraordinary among Immortal Kings! Truly remarkable!"

Though being endowed with fortune easily draws attention, it's a much better outcome compared to the entire Three Thousand Thunder Realm being on high alert.

The arrival of an ordinary Eternal Immortal Venerable wouldn't cause widespread panic, hence the Donglai Star Domain wasn't thrown into chaos because of Ning Fan's presence.

Another benefit of being endowed with good fortune is that not a single patrolling hat-wearing cultivator came to make trouble for Ning Fan, allowing him to reach the Twelve Stars of Donglai almost unimpeded.

The Twelve Stars of Donglai!

These were twelve emperor-rank cultivation stars linked by formations to form an arched star cluster. At the center of the cluster was a high mountain exuding celestial energy, floating in the endless starry sky. Many osmanthus trees and Zhuyu Grass grew on the mountain. Consuming the grass could prevent

hunger for days for mortals. Various exotic beasts inhabited the mountain, many of which Ning Fan had never seen before! The peak of Zhaoyao Mountain was spacious, with a daoist temple where ten thousand cultivators chanted year-round, offering incense to Great Emperor Chonghe.

Accustomed to seeing grand events, the Zhaoyao Mountain cultivators were hardly surprised when Ning Fan arrived, continuing their chants unfazed.

It's normal for an Eternal Immortal Venerable to visit the temple for worship, and there are designated people to receive them, requiring none of their worry.

However, moments later, no one could remain calm!

As Ning Fan unveiled the light of his good fortune, the ten thousand cultivators in the temple stood up suddenly, incredulously staring at the figure of a young man in white in the starry sky!

"Rain... Rain Immortal Monarch! Why is he here?"

"Could he be here to cause trouble? This person can decimate the Anti-Ning Alliance, if he starts a massacre here..."

"The ancestor is in seclusion, quickly inform the two kings and six honors, a strong demon has arrived, be on guard!"

"Where are the Formation Hall disciples, quickly take your positions, if this demon makes a move, activate the Zhaoyao Starry Formation, guard Zhaoyao Mountain to the death!"

The atmosphere immediately turned lethal!

Even the arrival of some Immortal Kings wouldn't put the Zhaoyao Mountain cultivators on such high alert, only Ning Fan was different, the sheer number of blood feuds in his hands was incomparable!

Dong! Dong! Dong!

It was the sound of the Chonghe Drum, echoing seven times!

Inside the rocky seclusion cave of the Zhaoyao Mountain Temple, the two kings and six honors who were in closed-door cultivation all changed their expressions and extended their spirit senses outside.

The two Immortal Kings of Zhaoyao Mountain were indifferent, seeing that it was Ning Fan who arrived, though vigilant, they were also self-assured and did not appear.

The six Celestial Venerables of Zhaoyao Mountain, however, all broke through their caves and rushed into the starry sky, surrounding Ning Fan at the center. Each wore a golden, shimmering cone hat!

Four First Calamity Immortal Sovereigns, two Second Calamity Immortal Lords!

"We do not know why Rain Monarch has come to Zhaoyao Mountain!" The six Celestial Venerables of Zhaoyao Mountain all stared vigilantly at Ning Fan, like facing a great enemy!

In the circle of the Celestial Venerables of Eastern Heaven now, no one dared underestimate Ning Fan. First it was Deyun Ancestor, and then the Alliance's three Honorable, to this point, Ning Fan has taken four lives of Celestial Venerables! Who dares to underestimate!

Even some Immortal Kings, though they could defeat lower-rank Celestial Venerables, found it difficult to kill...these eternal-old freaks, each of whom excelled at self-preservation, found it hard to kill in one strike, but Ning Fan managed, and not just once!

The Rain Immortal Monarch...must not be underestimated!

"This Ning came today without ill intentions..." As this statement was made, the six Celestial Venerables of Zhaoyao Mountain immediately breathed a sigh of relief, but Ning Fan's next sentence made the six's faces change slightly.

"... I only wish to retrieve a treasure for my friends at the Extreme Thunder Palace."

"Oh? This is related to the Extreme Thunder Palace? There's nothing of the Extreme Thunder Palace on our Zhaoyao Mountain. We do not know which item Daoist wishes to take?" A Second Calamity Immortal Sovereign pretended to be puzzled, asking in surprise. This was a red-haired old man, with three dark red runes on his right cheek, going by the daoist name Fenhe, the highest cultivation among the six.

Several other Eternal Immortal Venerables equally feigned ignorance, as if completely unaware. If Ning Fan didn't know the inside story, he'd almost believe the Mirror of Flash Thunder wasn't here.

Ning Fan frowned, a bit dissatisfied with their nonchalance, "Clear words do not speak in the dark, I am here for the Mirror of Flash Thunder! This item is very important to the Extreme Thunder Palace, I hope you can show me some favor and return this item!"

Seeing Ning Fan so direct, Fenhe and others couldn't be bothered to act any longer, their faces turning cold as they replied, "Does Rain Monarch intend to stand up for the Extreme Thunder Palace! If we don't give Rain Monarch this face, what then! Is Rain Monarch's face worth so much?"

"We take you seriously but we're not afraid of you!"

"If you are wise, then quickly leave! If you anger us, you'll find yourself in as much trouble as the women of the Extreme Thunder Palace!"

After all, being on their own ground, with both Immortal Kings and Immortal Emperors in charge, Fenhe and the others were cautious of Ning Fan but not fearful, their tone became firm.

Ning Fan's frown deepened, but recalling the advice of the Four Ladies, he remained calm, "Kill for a killing, return for a loan, since you borrowed the Mirror of Flash Thunder, it should be returned. If the Baidi Thunder Body evolution completes, and this is pursued, can you bear the White Emperor's wrath?"

The original cultivation of Celestial Luoli was at the Seventh Tribulation Eternal, higher than the Sixth Tribulation cultivation of Great Emperor Chonghe, once the Thunder Body evolution is complete, her cultivation will advance further. The wrath of Celestial Luoli is not something everyone can withstand! At least, Zhaoyao Mountain alone might not bear it!

Ning Fan was truly curious, why Zhaoyao Mountain would insist on offending the Extreme Thunder Palace for a mere Mirror of Flash Thunder.

Upon hearing this, the six honors indeed hesitated, but only for a moment, then laughed aloud in unison.

"Our ancestor, possessing the Innate Dharma Eye, can observe human fate; the ancestor said that Lan Yunxian's fate is exhausted, with no possibility for Thunder Body evolution, waving Lan Yunxian as a banner, you cannot frighten us!"

"The Mirror of Flash Thunder isn't going to be returned! Our Zhaoyao Mountain's rule is that anything that enters our pockets doesn't leave!"

"This is Zhaoyao Mountain, not Danxia Star! It's not a place for you to act recklessly! If you leave, we can treat this as if nothing happened, otherwise...hmph!"

Fenhe, the Celestial Venerable, gave a cold laugh, clearly with threatening intent.

Ning Fan's lifelong hatred of threats almost caused him to lose control, had he not been mindful of the Four Ladies' warnings. Though his tone stayed relatively calm, his eyes had grown cold, "I'll ask once more, will you return the Mirror of Flash Thunder or not? If Daoist friends return this mirror, the four protectors of the Extreme Thunder Palace said they would prepare a small gift to thank you..."

"What damn gift, not needed! If they're sending anything, let it be the women of the Extreme Thunder Palace, all cleaned up!"

"Intending to stand up for the Extreme Thunder Palace, don't you weigh your own strength! Do you think all of Eastern Heaven is your territory, Ning Fan!"

"Get lost! If you keep babbling, I'll make you leave Zhaoyao Mountain lying down!"

Fenhe and others shouted more fiercely, thinking that Ning Fan's repeated concessions were a sign of fear.

Ning Fan chuckled, a clearly calm laughter that carried an endless coldness.

In the cultivation world, strength speaks loudly, and the strong are revered! Encountering people like those of Zhaoyao Mountain, if you have no strength, reasoning is futile; only by persistently reasoning would make the other side look down upon you even more and then bully you doubly!

"I agreed with friends from Jilei Palace to resolve this matter peacefully... but now, I've changed my mind!"

Chi!

Ning Fan suddenly vanished from where he stood, appearing behind a First Tribulation Immortal Sovereign in the next instant, raising his hand for a sword strike!

The sword's edge gleamed with an unstoppable cold light from four different palm position path glows!

That First Tribulation Immortal Sovereign felt chills all over his body, instantly transforming into red mist and dissipating.

But it was useless!

The red mist recondensed, and this First Tribulation Immortal Sovereign appeared a hundred zhang away, yet Ning Fan's sword still wounded him, leaving a deep, bone-visible wound from the shoulder down to the waist!

The six venerables were shocked!

Even two Immortal Lords who were still in seclusion were astonished!

Even the Great Emperor Chonghe, who was meditating inside Zhaoyao Mountain's cavern, slightly opened his eyes, showing calculating coldness.

Everyone on Zhaoyao Mountain, all ten thousand Masters, was shocked!

It's actually four kinds of palm position path traces!

Ning Fan's sword was entwined with four kinds of palm position path traces, and with their enhancement, almost instantly killed a First Tribulation Immortal Sovereign!

The injured First Tribulation Immortal Sovereign, named Mist Serpent, could not calm his wildly beating heart!

On the brink of life and death! Absolutely on the brink of life and death! If his life-bound talent wasn't mist transformation for protection, this wound wouldn't be so simple!

"How bold! You actually dare to strike and injure someone on my Zhaoyao Mountain, simply disregarding my Zhaoyao Mountain!" The six venerables, shocked, all shouted angrily, trying to suppress their inner alarm.

Moreover, all the Zhaoyao Mountain Masters hurriedly activated the Zhaoyao Mountain formation, vowing to use it to restrain Ning Fan!

That Zhaoyao Celestial Formation, laid by Great Emperor Chonghe over ten thousand years, once activated, almost no one under Immortal Emperor could escape.

Once activated, the six venerables all retreated wildly, opening a distance from Ning Fan, followed by a rain of starlight, summoned by the formation, like silk cocoon threads wrapping around, eventually forming a massive stellar cocoon, sealing Ning Fan inside, the cocoon having thirty million seals adhered to it!

"To injure someone on my Zhaoyao Mountain, this is your end! His master Ancient Chaos isn't dead, so do not take his life, but he must be taught a lesson! Quickly use the formation to destroy his physical defense, then I will personally imprison his Spirit under Zhaoyao Mountain for ten thousand years!"

That Fenhe was ordering punishment for Ning Fan, when suddenly the sound of shattering was heard, and it was the stellar cocoon imprisoning Ning Fan, cracking from top to bottom!

In the next moment, all thirty million seals on the cocoon shattered, and Ning Fan took nine consecutive steps, directly breaking the grand momentum and walking out of the cocoon!

This formation couldn't hold him!

"The Thunder Flashing Tri-Mirror, dividing heaven, earth, and man, this human mirror is undoubtedly in your Dantian..."

With a flash of golden light, Ning Fan appeared behind the Mist Serpent Immortal Sovereign, using the Heaven Sealing Art, directly immobilizing Mist Serpent's physical defense, preventing him from transforming into mist and dissipating.

Then, the sword mark struck down!

Pity Mist Serpent spent his life mastering mist transformation Divine Skills, yet under the Heaven Sealing Art, all effects were lost, his physical defense being split by Ning Fan's sword, though his Spirit desperately resisted the seal, forcibly escaping, but the Flash Thunder human mirror hidden in his Dantian was directly seized by Ning Fan.

The human mirror has been retrieved!

"Two more Thunder Flashing Mirrors remain!"

Ning Fan's gaze fell on another First Tribulation Immortal Sovereign, named Leiyu, who was terrified and moved directly towards Fenhe Immortal Sovereign.

Ning Fan's speed was incredibly fast, his sword mark strikes were sharp and unbeatable, common defenses were useless! Against this opponent, one must not be alone and must keep a distance, otherwise, being ambushed from close range would be troublesome!

As he fled, Leiyu Immortal Sovereign spat out a bolt of thunder light, uncertain of its nature, disappearing as it flashed.

Simultaneously, Ning Fan suddenly felt a warning, three inches from Tian Ling, a three-inch long thunder nail appeared out of thin air, aiming to pierce his Tian Ling!

"This nail lacks killing power, but excels in speed, making it impossible to defend against; even an Immortal King couldn't block it unprepared..."

Leiyu was confident in his thunder nail, but what terrified him happened quickly.

Ning Fan was suddenly enveloped by a golden wall, the thunder nail striking against the wall without penetrating, unable to harm Ning Fan!

"A decent hidden weapon, but unfortunately, too weak in power!"

Ning Fan merely activated a slight defense with the God-Extinguishing Shield, and the thunder nail couldn't break it, showing how weak its attack truly was.

As he prepared to retaliate, a bare-chested Immortal Sovereign roared and punched forward, and with that punch, the power of collapsing stars erupted!

He was a Body Cultivator with an Eon-old Tribulation Cultivation; no few equivalent Immortal Sovereigns would dare to meet this punch directly.

But Ning Fan didn't move a bit, directly using the golden wall to stop the punch without damage.

More attacks from Immortal Venerables landed on him, yet none could break his golden defenses!

"Impossible! Why is this child's defense so defying the heavens! Even with the combined might of the six Venerables, we couldn't break this child's defense, and he even destroyed one of our physical bodies!"

Fenhe and the others were extremely alarmed. Amidst the alarm, Ning Fan, surrounded by golden light, charged directly toward Thunder Fish.

Thunder Fish was shocked and immediately fled, but his speed couldn't compare to Ning Fan's First Passage of Vertical Earth Golden Light!

When the sword marks slashed down, Thunder Fish Immortal Lord hurriedly dodged, yet was stabbed by the sword, piercing through the Dantian, forcibly extracting the Thunder Flashing Mirror hidden within!

Earthly Mirror, in hand!

Heavenly Mirror, however, is not here...

"Is it over there..."

Ning Fan ignored the attacks of the Immortal Venerables, directly rushing toward the Zaoyang Mountain Dao Field while facing divine skills head-on.

He could sense that within the Dao Field, two Triple Calamity Immortal Kings were in seclusion, one of them holding the third mirror!

Immortal King, what does he fear! He dares confront even the Witch God at the pinnacle of Immortal Kings, what fear has he of the Triple Calamity Immortal King here!

With the God-Extinguishing Shield for protection, even without exhibiting the complete form of the God-Slaying Giant, he is confident he will not be harmed by a Triple Calamity Immortal King!

"Stop him! Don't let him burst into the Dao Field!"

Fenhe and the others were all in a panic, but unfortunately, their all-out attacks couldn't breach Ning Fan's golden light defense at all.

They couldn't even perform the most basic defense breaking... In a duel with Ning Fan, how could they have half a chance of winning! As long as Ning Fan's Mana is sufficient, he is innately undefeated!

How can this fight continue!

Rumor has it that this child wiped out the Anti-Ning Alliance single-handedly, which the Immortal Venerables did not believe, but now it seems likely to be true. Even with six of them combined, they couldn't take down this child; how could the three Venerables of the Anti-Ning Alliance!

If no Immortal King steps forward, who can suppress this child!

At the Dao Field, there was an uproar of astonishment among the ten thousand Masters, knocked off their feet and overwhelmed by the momentum that descended from Ning Fan above.

"You are very arrogant, and indeed have the capital for arrogance... but, it's useless!"

Before Ning Fan could charge into the Dao Field, a blue light suddenly flashed out from the Dao Field, directly colliding with Ning Fan's protective golden light. Upon collision, the blue lightning power instantly surged in the air, and as it condensed, turned into a short, stout Master riddled with muscle. After colliding with Ning Fan, he retreated half a step, secretly shocked. What surprised him even more was that in the brief moment he brushed past Ning Fan, his arm was cut with a wound by Ning Fan, though not severely, it was still an injury!

Ning Fan was knocked back dozens of steps, but fortunately, the God-Extinguishing Shield protected him, rendering him completely unharmed as he coldly looked at the newcomer with the sword held horizontally.

The Thunder Flashing Sky Mirror is within this person's Dantian!

"Ah! The Flying Thunder Immortal King actually had his physical defense broken by Rain Monarch! And he is a Body Cultivator!"

"Unharmed, still completely unharmed! This Rain Monarch's divine powers are truly formidable, even with the brute force of the Flying Thunder Immortal King's collision, it couldn't break his defense!"

"This Rain Monarch is truly formidable, facing a Triple Calamity Immortal King, he seems to be innately unbeatable!"

Above the Dao Field, there was an uproar of astonishment everywhere, and some even vaguely felt that unless Great Emperor Chonghe intervened today, no one would be able to suppress Ning Fan!

After all, the remaining Immortal King who hadn't acted was even weaker than the Flying Thunder Immortal King, even if the two kings and six Venerables joined forces...

Following the Flying Thunder Immortal King, a second Immortal King from Zaoyang Mountain charged out of the rocky seclusion cave, gazing at Ning Fan with a similarly heavy expression.

Unless an accident happens next... it's likely that all out efforts from two kings and six Venerables will be needed to deal with Ning Fan alone!

Just then, a voice suddenly resounded.

"Rain Immortal Monarch, truly extraordinary... Flying Thunder, stand down, with your cultivation level, you cannot break this child's defenses... All of you, cease!"

It was an aged voice that instantly resounded throughout the entire star field, like heaven's thunder, ringing in the ears of every Master present.

Subsequently, countless millions of gray rays gathered in the starry sky, and upon condensing, transformed into an elder wearing a douli and clad in gray robes, appearing a hundred feet away from Ning Fan, his expression impossible to discern amidst a demeanor of authority.

"We of Zaoyang Mountain, pay respects to the Ancestor!"

The countless practitioners of Zaoyang Mountain, the moment the elder appeared, found their backbone and no longer feared Ning Fan, respectfully bowing. Even the Immortal Venerables and Immortal Kings dared not be negligent, all paying tributes to the elder.

This elder was the master of Zaoyang Mountain... Great Emperor Chonghe!

Facing this person, even Ning Fan felt a hitch in his breath. It was the first time he truly faced the oppression of an Immortal Emperor with his cultivation!

If he doesn't unleash the complete God-Slaying Giant... he won't withstand a single blow from this Emperor! This was the stark difference in cultivation Ning Fan felt when facing Great Emperor Chonghe!

Immortal Emperor, beyond his victory! But if he reveals all his cards...

"Borrowed the Thunder Flashing Mirror, yet didn't return it, this matter indeed places Flying Thunder and the others in the wrong... But you also injured Wushe and Thunder Fish, and I, as the master of Zaoyang Mountain, cannot stand by idly in this matter, are you aware!"

"Take one strike of divine skills from me! If you survive, I will allow you to take away the Thunder Flashing Mirror, and the matter will be settled! If you die, your teacher Ancient Chaos will come to seek revenge for you; his character is most protective. You can rest in peace!"

Great Emperor Chonghe actually gave Ning Fan no room for refusal, directly raising his hand, pressing downward toward Ning Fan.

With the press, the entire starry sky immediately alternated between day and night, reversing yin and yang...