

Grasping 991

Chapter 991: Fate's End

In an instant, day and night alternated, Yin and Yang reversed, and on the Twelve Stars of Donglai, the climate turned chaotic between spring and autumn. Above Mount Zhaoyao, the weather grew colder, as if entering a frosty winter. Moreover, there was the rumbling sound of winter thunder, echoing with the mournful cries of ancient apes.

In the starry sky, countless cracks of lightning appeared at that moment. Those cracks interwoven and connected, surprisingly forming an ancient thunder diagram of White Ape Controlling Thunder beneath the feet of Great Emperor Chonghe!

Great Emperor Chonghe stood on the thunder diagram expressionlessly, as if at this moment, he was the king among lightning!

On Mount Zhaoyao, anyone with divine skills of lightning felt their spirit trembling, just like all those who cultivate lightning skills in the world, feeling utterly insignificant before this thunder diagram! One after another, their eyes were filled with shock, then fervor!

"I never knew that our ancestral master was capable of lightning divine skills! This skill is so powerful, it seems to suppress all lightning!"

"It's rumored that the ancestral master is versed in the divine skills of ancient and modern Daoism, able to imitate some... This thunder diagram skill is somewhat similar to the Tai Su Lightning Diagram described in ancient texts. Could it be that the ancestral master imitated and created this skill based on the Tai Su Lightning Diagram!"

The speculations of the cultivators were not wrong. This divine skill of Great Emperor Chonghe was indeed an imitation of Lightning Emperor Tai Su, combined with his own creation!

Ning Fan, as the successor of Tai Su Lightning Star, naturally could sense the similarities and differences between the thunder diagram before him and the Tai Su Lightning Diagram.

Very similar, extremely similar, but ultimately not the genuine Tai Su Lightning Diagram. Its power is much weaker than the authentic one and has many flaws...

"Yuan Magnet Yin Thunder Seal, collect!"

Great Emperor Chonghe shouted in a deep voice, and the thunder diagram under his feet immediately extended wildly towards the starry sky where Ning Fan was located. Ning Fan's gaze flickered, instantly retreating. Though his retreat was swift, the speed of the thunder diagram's onslaught was even faster. In the blink of an eye, it reached beneath Ning Fan's feet. Suddenly, an indescribable suction force emanated from the diagram, transforming into overwhelming thunder light that engulfed Ning Fan. With Great Emperor Chonghe's cultivation, Ning Fan was unable to resist such a suction force of thunder light and was directly absorbed into the thunder diagram.

In one move, Ning Fan was subdued!

Great Emperor Chonghe bent his palm for a retrieval gesture, and the thunder diagram that filled the starry sky instantly transformed into a ray of thunder light, flying into his palm, becoming a thunderbolt scroll three feet long. Great Emperor Chonghe slowly rolled it up, his expression still indifferent, as if subduing Ning Fan was just a trivial matter.

The entire Mount Zhaoyao erupted in excitement!

The ancestral master's action was indeed extraordinary! This is the power of an Immortal Emperor, a strength distinctly different from Immortal Venerables and Immortal Kings!

Despite Rain Monarch's toughness, unable to subdue the Two Kings and Six Venerables, yet how is it any different in front of an Immortal Emperor, unable to last a single move!

For a moment, cheering filled Mount Zhaoyao, yet there were also concerns that the ancestor might have harmed Ning Fan, causing catastrophe to Mount Zhaoyao.

"It's rumored that the lightning diagram of Lightning Emperor Tai Su, in its absorption and release, could turn the cultivators absorbed into the diagram into ashes... If the ancestor's diagram was imitated from the Tai Su Lightning Diagram, I wonder if it would have such terrifying destructive power... With Ancient Chaos Great Emperor yet to be defeated, killing Ning Fan would be unwise..."

However, reality proved these concerns to be unnecessary.

One breath, two breaths, three breaths...

Great Emperor Chonghe slightly closed his eyes, seemingly waiting, and when the twelfth breath arrived, he suddenly opened his eyes. In the very next moment, the thunder diagram in his palm exploded with a bang, shattering into pieces, the entire starry sky erupted with fragmented thunder light.

As the thunder diagram shattered, a golden light shot out and landed a hundred feet away—it was Ning Fan!

Ning Fan, completely unharmed!

The whole of Mount Zhaoyao was filled with the sound of gasping in shock!

"This child actually blocked Master's divine skill completely unharmed! Is he truly the Eternal Immortal Venerable!"

"Even the Flying Thunder Immortal King couldn't achieve this!"

"How could this child be so formidable to this extent!"

What the cultivators didn't know was that the imitation thunder diagram was powerful due to its imitation of the Tai Su Lightning Diagram, but this was also its weakness. For others, once trapped in this diagram, it's extremely difficult to escape. But for Tai Su's successor Ning Fan, this imitation thunder diagram was full of flaws, easily finding a weak point, utilizing Tai Su Lightning Diagram to break through, absorbing the entire lightning power of the imitation thunder diagram, and escape forcefully!

Without using the power of God-Extinguishing Shield, Ning Fan could escape from this diagram!

This diagram couldn't seal him, nor could it kill him! But there was one thing that made Ning Fan serious...

From the Thunder Star at Ning Fan's brow, an overwhelmingly cold sensation constantly emerged... Having forcibly absorbed the lightning power of the imitation thunder diagram and escaped, the absorbed lightning power contained a difficult to seal icy thunderbolt, exuding an almost massive thunder might!

What thunderbolt is this!

Though only a single one in quantity, the contained lightning power was almost massive, even pure beyond imagination. If used to cultivate Thunder Yin-Yang, it'd be an invaluable resource, comparable to Jianmu's Essence! Unfortunately, the quantity is too limited, if there were over a hundred, Ning Fan might truly be able to cultivate Thunder Yin-Yang using this!

What moved Ning Fan more was that, with his Calamity Blood cultivation combined with Tai Su Lightning Star, he couldn't fully suppress this mere single thunderbolt, showing signs of possibly escaping his brow! This, unexpectedly, was a mysterious thunderbolt even Tai Su Lightning Star couldn't completely suppress!

Unexpectedly, after escaping from the suppression of Great Emperor Chonghe's thunder diagram, he could gain such a mysterious Yin Thunder...

However, in this moment, Ning Fan's heart suddenly felt an odd sensation, which grew stronger upon meeting the calm, unfathomable gaze of the Great Emperor Chonghe.

Is all of this too coincidental...

Could it be...

That the Great Emperor Chonghe doesn't truly intend to kill him; everything was orchestrated by Emperor Chonghe...

"This emperor deliberately used a counterfeit Thunder Diagram supernatural power to suppress me. Is it possible that he saw through my identity as the inheritor of Tai Su and deliberately gave me the chance to break free from this diagram's seal? Legends claim that Great Emperor Chonghe excels at mimicking the supernatural powers of many, and has created countless supernatural powers himself. This imitation Thunder Diagram is not his strongest technique nor his usual method, yet he used it. Saying it is a coincidence would be less fitting than suggesting there's more intentionality..."

"Did this emperor know from the beginning that I was Tai Su's inheritor, or did he discover it during our confrontation..."

"Was this Dark Thunder deliberately inserted into the Thunder Diagram for me to take away? Or perhaps the Thunder Diagram was intentional, and the Dark Thunder was coincidental..."

Ning Fan's mind was racing, considering multiple possibilities in an instant.

One possibility is that Chonghe Great Emperor fears the terrifying reputation of the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor, and inwardly dares not make a move against him. Yet, Ning Fan forced his way into Mount Zaoyao, tarnishing its dignity. Thus, to save face, the Great Emperor Chonghe was compelled to act, though his vigor appeared thorough, he still left a chance for Ning Fan, using the most likely supernatural power for escape to suppress him...

Another possibility is that Great Emperor Chonghe has another scheme, seamlessly connected through the Thunder Diagram and Dark Thunder, serving another purpose...

Ning Fan leaned towards the latter.

Because Great Emperor Chonghe's gaze is truly unfathomable, it isn't due to profound cultivation, but his inscrutable schemes...

This is an Eastern Heaven Great Emperor, whose cultivation might only be at the Sixth Calamity, but whose eyes reveal a deeply ingrained arrogance and domineering nature, showing no fear of Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor!

This old monster has lived from ancient times to today, his actions definitely domineering, yet he survives till this day, which speaks volumes. Often, those who live the longest aren't the ones with the highest cultivation. But if he survives long, there must be something extraordinary about him...

"Rain Immortal Monarch, truly extraordinary, able to withstand one technique from me. After today, few among Eastern Heaven's Immortal King cultivators would dare to underestimate you! Flying Thunder, retrieve the Flash Thunder Mirror and return it to Rain Monarch!"

Great Emperor Chonghe ordered coldly, still showing no signs of emotion.

The Flying Thunder Immortal King dared not delay, though reluctant to part with the Flash Thunder Mirror, at this moment he could only grit his teeth and return it to Ning Fan.

The third Flash Thunder Mirror, acquired!

Mist Serpent and Thunder Fish were injured by Ning Fan and felt indignant, wanting to seek their ancestor's support but were intimidated into silence by a mere glance from Great Emperor Chonghe.

That glance was a warning! Since he promised Ning Fan that if Ning Fan could endure one technique, he could leave with the Flash Thunder Mirror, the matter ends here, and no one could disobey his orders, expanding the situation further!

Other matters are trivial, only his orders are absolute!

"Rain Monarch's goal has been achieved, now quickly leave Mount Zaoyao! Our cultivators at Mount Zaoyao do not welcome your presence! Oh, by the way, pass a message to Ancient Chaos: 'The tall tree in the forest is the first to be destroyed by the wind, the ape hidden in the mountain has the longest lifespan. Hehe, back then, the Immortal Emperor looked down on me, yet it seems I lived longer than you, the Immortal Emperor's judgment was somewhat lacking...'"

Great Emperor Chonghe chuckled, though his smile seemed peaceful, Ning Fan sensed a mocking tone...

Ning Fan frowned slightly, could it be that Great Emperor Chonghe knows the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor and is such a figure from long ago? But judging by his tone, this emperor doesn't seem to have a good relationship with Ancient Chaos...

The Immortal Emperor in Great Emperor Chonghe's words, is it the Purple Dou Immortal Sovereign?

Ning Fan didn't intend to be a messenger, if it were kind words, he wouldn't mind delivering them, but for mocking words like this, he wouldn't relay them, fearing it might irritate Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor...

"Since Senior is seeing the guests off, the junior won't stay any longer..."

Ning Fan's tone paused slightly.

He managed to retrieve the Flash Thunder Mirror, due to Great Emperor Chonghe's odd attitude, Mount Zaoyao surprisingly didn't completely break off with Ning Fan, an outcome that exceeded Ning Fan's expectations.

The only discomfort Ning Fan felt was from the mysterious Dark Thunder within the center of his brow...

Breaking through the Thunder Diagram, retrieving the Dark Thunder... for some reason, Ning Fan always felt as though he'd fallen into Great Emperor Chonghe's trap.

This Dark Thunder is excellent, although not abundant, it can nevertheless accelerate the cultivation progress of Thunder Yin-Yang. But if there's another scheme within this Dark Thunder...

During Ning Fan's primitive journey, he was schemed against by Sparrow God Kidd, Yin Mo, and in just a hundred years, his approach became much more cautious. It's not that easy to scheme against him!

"...But before leaving, there's something that must be returned to Senior!"

With that, Ning Fan suddenly pointed at the center of his brow, extracting a Dark Thunder, and casually tossed it back to the Great Emperor Chonghe.

The entire Zhaoyao Mountain was suddenly enveloped in exclamations of shock! Anyone with eyes could see that the Yin Thunder was no ordinary object; it was something valuable indeed! They couldn't understand why Ning Fan suddenly withdrew this thunder and handed it to the Great Emperor Chong He... Could this Yin Thunder be a compensation Ning Old Monster offered out of fear of Zhaoyao Mountain's mighty name? Yet Ning Fan called it a return; could it be that this item originally belonged to the Great Emperor Chong He, but then how did it end up in Ning Fan's possession...

"Farewell!"

Ning Fan slightly cupped his hands toward the Great Emperor Chong He and transformed into a streak of golden light, departing.

The Great Emperor Chong He still showed no emotion, only giving a sinister sneer long after Ning Fan had left.

"Quite a cautious lad; if you had dared to seize this thunder, heh heh... it's a pity, a real pity... Like Ancient Chaos back then, being cautious allowed him to take away what should have been my Luotian Dao Fruit, thus his Dao was complete... Ancient Chaos wasn't stupid, and his disciple is equally not stupid... Forget it, if I can't scheme for the Primordial Magnetic Yin Thunder against this boy, there are other opportunities... or maybe I can wait for Elder Yuan Dan to make a move and then reap the benefits..."

...

As Ning Fan made his way out of the Donglai Star Domain, he finally shook off the feeling of being schemed against.

The trip to Zhaoyao Mountain revealed a glimpse of the mystery surrounding the Emperors of the Eastern Heaven for Ning Fan.

He witnessed Senluo single-handedly battling multiple emperors, was possessed by the Eye Orb Monster, fought against Yin Mo, and even saved many Immortal Emperors, which, unbeknownst to him, imbued a sense of pride, his broadened horizons led him to gradually begin to underestimate the existence of Immortal Emperors...

Facts proved that even Immortal Emperors like the Great Emperor Chong He of the Eternal Sixth Calamity were not to be underestimated. The level difference between Immortal Emperors, Immortal Venerables, and Immortal Kings was significant...

In terms of cultivation level, the Great Emperor Chong He was only marginally stronger than a Pinnacle Immortal King, yet even that tenuous margin could hardly be crossed or ignored. Even Senluo prepared extensively by acquiring the Power of the Sands of Time before daring to provoke the Eastern Heaven and oppose the Emperors there...

"I can't see through this Chong He... whatever, I've retrieved the Mirror of Flash Thunder, let's return to Jilei Palace first."

Heading back to Jilei Palace didn't take Ning Fan much time. He had stirred up quite a sensation at Zhaoyao Mountain, but it would take some time for the news to spread throughout the Eastern Heaven.

Therefore, when Ning Fan returned to Jilei Palace, Lan Xiaoqian and the other three women had no idea about the commotion he had caused at Zhaoyao Mountain, believing he resolved the matter peacefully as taught by them.

"The outside world says the Rain Monarch acts recklessly. The four of us sisters were worried that the Rain Monarch might cause trouble at Zhaoyao Mountain, but now it seems we were worried for nothing. When necessary, the Rain Monarch can indeed endure. The Two Kings and Six Venerables of Zhaoyao Mountain must have wronged you quite a bit. We are sorry for letting the great Rain Monarch suffer grievances on behalf of us four sisters..."

Lan Xiaoqian and the other women bowed gracefully, full of gratitude.

Ning Fan had no way to explain.

At Zhaoyao Mountain, he didn't seem to suffer any grievances; rather, he severely injured the two Immortal Venerables, Mist Serpent and Thunder Fish...

If anything, it seemed Mist Serpent and Thunder Fish were the ones more aggrieved...

"With the Mirror of Flash Thunder, the Palace Master can proceed to the final stage of Thunder Body evolution, though even with the protection of the Mirror of Flash Thunder, the risk remains great..."

The four women appeared deeply worried.

Xian Luoli was carefree, consuming various thunder fruits to replenish the constantly depleting thunder power in her body.

Ning Fan was similarly concerned about Xian Luoli's Thunder Body evolution.

Thus, in the following days, Ning Fan almost every day accompanied the four women in overseeing Xian Luoli's Thunder Body evolution.

The location of the Thunder Body evolution was the forbidden area of Jilei Palace—Flash Thunder Pool!

Flash Thunder Pool was a forbidden area established by the founder of Jilei Palace, created using Four Directions Immortal Material to refine a pool capable of condensing thunder into water. Hence, the water in the pool was entirely transformed thunder.

This thunder-transformed pool water was extremely potent: if a cultivator below the Immortal Venerable level entered the pool, they would be blasted into ashes by the pool water, simply unable to withstand the thunder power within!

This highlighted the disparity in cultivation levels between individuals!

When Lan Xiaoqian and the others entered Flash Thunder Pool, they had to be extremely cautious and were unable to approach within a thousand zhang of the center of the pool.

Ning Fan was significantly better in this regard: based solely on his Calamity Blood cultivation, he could venture within five hundred zhang of the pool's center. If leveraging the power of Tai Su Lightning Diagram, he could reach a distance of two hundred zhang from the center.

Two hundred zhang was a distance even ordinary Immortal Kings couldn't reach!

If protected by the God-Extinguishing Shield's golden light, Ning Fan could enter the center of Flash Thunder Pool, completely unscathed!

Bear in mind, the thunder power at the center of Flash Thunder Pool was unbearable even for some Great Emperors of the Sixth Calamity! Ning Fan's ability to enter the center of Flash Thunder Pool left the four women utterly astounded... It seemed they had underestimated Ning Fan all along...

Regrettably, Xian Luoli was even more formidable than Ning Fan.

At her peak, she was a dignified Seven Tribulations Immortal Emperor. Although not at the ruling position, her life was one of cultivating with thunder, and because of her Thunder Body physique, she dared to swallow lightning as if eating candy effortlessly.

She made her way to the center of Flash Thunder Pool, not deliberately resisting the thunder, letting the thunder within the pool water temper her tender skin, comfortably calling it enjoyable.

She entered Flash Thunder Pool bare, unlike Ning Fan and the four women...

She disrobed on her own because she wanted to bathe and play in the pool water of Flash Thunder Pool...

"Daddy, aren't you going to take off your clothes?"

"No. Thunder Body evolution doesn't require undressing. Put your clothes back on immediately! It's not appropriate to be naked..." Ning Fan's forehead was covered in black lines.

"What's wrong! Is it because Daddy thinks Xianxian's bare bottom isn't pretty..." Xian Luoli appeared deeply hurt, pouting her little bottom.

"..." Ning Fan was speechless. How should he respond: praise his own daughter's pretty bottom?

"Indeed, Daddy thinks Xianxian's bottom is ugly..." Xian Luoli seemed even more hurt.

"..." Silence, silence, more silence.

"Hmph! I won't wear clothes; I love being bare-bottomed. Others can't see even if they wanted; I'm only showing Daddy!"

"..." Alright, as you wish; after all, you're just a little girl.

"Hehe, Daddy, do you want to see other places..." Xian Luoli cupped her little chest, slightly spread her legs...

"Continue messing around, and I'll leave, letting you evolve your Thunder Body alone!" Ning Fan rubbed his forehead, helpless.

Xian Luoli stuck out her tongue and finally stopped being mischievous. She was genuinely afraid Ning Fan would leave her, and being alone in the center of Flash Thunder Pool would scare her. Fear drove her to act out-of-line, attracting Daddy's attention...

This Flash Thunder Pool didn't hold good memories for her. She seemed to have been here many times, and each time, she suffered a lot...

"Daddy, once my Thunder Body evolution is complete, and I become powerful, I'll go and help Daddy beat up the bad guys!" Only when thinking about this did Xian Luoli regain her courage for Thunder Body evolution.

She needed to become stronger, she needed to protect Daddy!

"Alright, I'm counting on Xianxian to help me defeat the bad guys."

Ning Fan patted Xian Luoli's head, sending spirit sense to the four women a thousand zhang away.

Then, it was the four women's turn to activate the Thunder Flashing Tri-Mirror at the periphery to protect Xian Luoli, while Ning Fan stayed close to Xian Luoli. If anything seemed amiss, he'd immediately take her out of the Thunder Pool.

According to the four women, during Xian Luoli's last Thunder Body evolution, she failed and was injured by the thunder power in the Flash Thunder Pool, causing her to regress from adulthood to a child...

This time, with Ning Fan's protection, things should be significantly better...

Thus began the lengthy Thunder Body evolution.

The evolution lasted a full three months.

The first month, everything proceeded smoothly.

In the second month, Xian Luoli's entire body began turning red, unable to withstand the thunder power here.

By the third month, the Thunder Body evolution failed!

The evolution of the Nine Revolutions Thunder Body was inherently difficult, and no one expected Xian Luoli to succeed on the first attempt.

Even with prior mental preparation, personally witnessing Xian Luoli's evolution failure and her turning pale, coughing up blood, Ning Fan's heart tightened as if someone had fiercely yanked it.

"Daddy, it hurts; everything hurts..."

"..."

Ning Fan didn't know what to say or how to comfort this little girl.

Furthermore, time was scarce for him to indulge in wild thoughts. As Xian Luoli's Thunder Body evolution failed, the thunder power of the entire Flash Thunder Pool suddenly became tumultuous, forming a thunderstorm centered on Flash Thunder Pool!

Ning Fan and Xian Luoli were at the center of that thunderstorm, while Lan Xiaoqian and the others were outside it. One blast from the storm made them cough up blood and sent them flying out of Flash Thunder Pool, leaving their delicate faces pale.

Last time, the Palace Master was swept out of Jilei Palace by this thunderstorm and went missing!

This time...

Back then, even with Lan Yunxian's cultivation at the peak of seven tribulations, he still suffered serious injury under this thunderstorm. Now, Ning Fan is staying at the center of this storm, how could he not realize its horror.

No holding back, not an ounce must be spared, otherwise the storm won't be contained!

Ning Fan did not hesitate, he swiftly picked up the frail Xian Luoli, instantly transformed into the complete form of the God-Slaying Giant, sheltering both Xian Luoli and himself within the giant's body!

The God-Slaying Giant charged forward, wielding a shield in both hands, rushed out from the center of the storm, directly out of the Flash Thunder Pool.

Unscathed!

Lan Xiaoqian and the others were dumbfounded.

Even a Great Emperor of ancient seven tribulations couldn't remain unharmed under this storm, but Ning Fan could!

This golden-armored gigantic body, what kind of divine skill is it, such terrifying defensive strength, it's unheard of...

"Today, you saw nothing, understand?"

Ning Fan dismissed the golden-armored gigantic body, instructed the four women, clearly unwilling to explain much about the giant.

He just looked tenderly at the frail Xian Luoli in his arms.

The evolution of the Nine Revolutions Thunder Body, the hardest is the ninth revolution, even with the protection of the Flash Thunder Mirror, even with Ning Fan's rescue, Xian Luoli still suffered severe backlash...

"Daddy, Xianxian wants to become strong, wants to help you fight the bad guys..." Xian Luoli weakly said.

"..."

Ning Fan was silent.

Cultivation itself is laden with hardships and dangers, trading life for advancement is never wrong in Ning Fan's view, after all, without sacrifice, there is no gain, without effort, there are no rewards.

If it were him, personally, he wouldn't find it improper, but watching Xian Luoli walk through the gates of hell, he found it hard to accept...

"Thank heavens, though the Palace Master failed to evolve, it didn't affect the foundation...without the Thunder King Seal, yet still safeguarded the foundation, truly rare..." The four women were relieved.

Yet Ning Fan's heart remained heavy.

For the months following, Xian Luoli was healing, every day, Ning Fan crafted delicious pills for Xian Luoli. Saying crafted might be inaccurate, he merely coated high-quality pills obtained from the Fourth Revolution Dan Refinement Master with syrup, making them into sweet pills.

"Rain Monarch truly cares for the Palace Master..." Lan Xiaoqian and the others were secretly amazed.

If not for Xian Luoli's current lack of mature features, the four women almost thought Ning Fan's attentiveness was due to Xian Luoli's beauty.

With Ning Fan's care, Xian Luoli's wounds gradually healed, then once again entered the Flash Thunder Pool, seeking Thunder Body evolution.

And yet, another failure...

This time, the resulting storm was even greater than before, even with the protection of the God-Extinguishing Shield, Ning Fan almost couldn't protect Xian Luoli!

According to the four women, in the evolution of the Nine Revolutions Thunder Body, each failure leads to increasingly intense storms.

This is not a matter where failure can be endless!

"Unless guarded by the Thunder King Seal, which prevents storms from descending... alas..." The four women sighed dejectedly.

If there were the Thunder King Seal, not only could evolution proceed unharmed, but the success rate of Thunder Body evolution would greatly increase.

Such a treasure of innate mid-grade level, rare even across the whole Eastern Heaven... Alas, it was taken by Senluo...

"The Palace Master has already remarkably achieved the eighth revolution of Thunder Body evolution from her own efforts, yet the ninth revolution, could it truly be insurmountable..."

Ning Fan didn't interrupt, just silently wrapped pills in syrup, handing them to Xian Luoli to eat.

Another few months passed, Xian Luoli's wounds healed, for the third time, she walked into the Flash Thunder Pool.

This time, Xian Luoli entered the Flash Thunder Pool with a resolute mindset.

"Daddy, I may be little, but I'm not silly. I can sense, that this time, might be my last attempt at Thunder Body evolution. If I fail, the resulting storm will be greater than ever... but I have no choice... the evolution of the Nine Revolutions Thunder Body is unavoidable..."

"I will try hard to evolve, strive for success, then gain strength, then help daddy fight the bad guys..."

"If I fail... Xianxian couldn't bear leaving daddy..."

The little girl sniffled, her eyes brimming.

She feared she might die in this storm, dying leaves no awareness, dying leaves no daddy...

"Don't talk nonsense, just focus on evolving! This time, you will succeed!"

Ning Fan lightly tapped Xian Luoli's little head, yet his heart was shrouded heavily.

A month passed, everything went smoothly.

Two months passed, everything was still smooth.

The third month, even towards the end, everything seemed smooth, yet at the final moment, there was suddenly another change!

At that moment, Ning Fan's eyes suddenly turned bloodshot, faintly realizing that at that moment, he could perceive destiny!

An ancient saying goes, human effort can change the world, this time's Thunder Body evolution had no mistakes, everything clearly went smoothly!

Yet, it seemed there was an invisible hand at the last moment, meddling with Xian Luoli's fate, altering her seemingly successful evolution outcome!

That invisible hand was not anything other than destiny!

Destiny forbids Xian Luoli's successful Thunder Body evolution!

When forbidden, no matter how hard you strive or how close to the end you are, heaven will block your path at the last moment...

Ning Fan did not know that what he saw was not destiny, but... fate!

In this realm, those who can see fate are rare, this is unrelated to cultivation, what is needed, is qualification!

Ning Fan being at the Second Realm of Tianren cultivators, naturally possessed the qualification to perceive fate, now just a trigger, resulting from anger, making him see fate's presence!

What is fate!

If fate has run its course, then heaven's path breaks, then this path becomes unreachable!

If fate is spent, then despite a thousand lifetimes of struggle, it will only lead to defeat!

If fate is spent, then unable to return against the heavens!

Ning Fan suddenly recalled the words of the Immortal Venerables on Mount Zhaoyao.

'Our ancestor practices the Innate Dharma Eye, can perceive fate, the ancestor said that Lan Yunxian's fate is spent, no possibility of Thunder Body evolution, holding Lan Yunxian as a banner does not intimidate us!'

Indeed, no wonder the cultivators on Mount Zhaoyao defied Extreme Thunder Palace, because Great Emperor Chonghe saw fate...

Knowing Xianxian's evolution would fail, thus... dared to bully!

Ning Fan originally did not understand what fate was, but now vaguely comprehended, he, can perceive fate... saw that Xian Luoli's path has been severed, her path, leading no future...

No future meant no forward path, meant... reached an end...

"Heh, fate..."

Ning Fan sneered, swiftly picked up the frail Xian Luoli, instantly transformed into the giant form of the God-Slaying Giant!

In the next moment, overwhelming storm engulfed him, this time, the storm's power enough to severely harm a Nine Tribulations Immortal Emperor!

Even with the Slaughter Emperor arriving, it would be a dismal result, Ning Fan, wielding the God-Extinguishing Shield, could not completely nullify the storm's force.

The storm's fury broke through the defense of the God-Slaying Giant, not attacking Ning Fan but heading straight towards Xian Luoli.

Xian Luoli's eyes filled with despair, that despair in Ning Fan's eyes was like being gripped fiercely.

"If I insist on defying destiny, so what!"

"Today, I shall protect her, in the future, I shall pave the way for her, no force of destiny can impede! Her fate will be determined by me alone!"

Ning Fan tightly held Xian Luoli with his left hand, while his right hand suddenly pointed to his forehead. The Tai Su Lightning Diagram immediately manifested, frantically absorbing the thunderstorm heading towards Xian Luoli.

Swallow! Swallow! Swallow!

Ning Fan's face began to show an unusual flush. Moments later, blood trickled from the corner of his mouth, and the injuries inside his body grew increasingly severe.

His thunder cultivation was simply not strong enough to absorb a thunderstorm of this magnitude!

His Ancient God cultivation was merely at the Initiate Realm of Shekong. The Tai Su Lightning Star counted under his spirit severing cultivation, and having cultivated Thunder Yin-Yang, his strength was inadequate, which is reasonable.

But Ning Fan refused to accept this common sense!

With his cultivation, forcefully controlling the Tai Su Lightning Diagram to absorb the thunderstorm had already exceeded the diagram's limits. The cracks on the diagram increased, and even the lightning star at his forehead became illusory, showing signs of... collapse!

Yet Ning Fan didn't care about this matter at all. While using the diagram to protect Xian Luoli, he simultaneously manipulated the golden-armored gigantic body to forcefully break through the thunderstorm circle!

As soon as the God-Slaying Giant was released, Ning Fan immediately spat blood, his aura plummeting like mad, his expression showing a trace of unwillingness.

The Xian Luoli in his arms had already fallen unconscious. This thunderstorm was already so terrifying. If another comes... should he try again...

"The Palace Master, she's... she's fine. She hasn't been fundamentally injured. Young Master Ning, please don't be sad," the four women consoled seeing Ning Fan's grim expression.

"I'm not sad; I'm unwilling... Human efforts have reached their limit, and if the will of heaven doesn't assist, so be it, but to obstruct deliberately, to interfere—this, Ning Fan cannot tolerate!"

First, heal the injuries!

After that... he couldn't rashly attempt the next evolution. With the next thunderstorm, even if he gave his all, he wasn't sure he could shield Xian Luoli...

Should he improve his strength first?

Or perhaps ask someone to help and act as a protector for Xianxian?

That night, under the care of the four women, Xian Luoli's aura finally stabilized.

Ning Fan stood alone in the night sky above Jilei Palace. Noticing Xian Luoli's aura stabilizing, he let out a slight breath.

He then looked to the sky, feeling, for the first time in his life, such heavy coldness!

The heavens nurture all things to support people, yet man has nothing to repay heaven. Ning Fan has always believed that the heavens owe cultivators nothing, even braving the tribulations is as expected, even if the will of heaven isn't with me, it's of no consequence.

But this time, it's a different story.

Heaven's will should not deliberately cut off Xianxian's path at the moment of her evident transformation success...

Even if Xianxian's fate runs out, that cannot be!

"First nine, harmonize, auspicious... Looks like the Rain Immortal Monarch encountered trouble, in which case, I have confidence in negotiating this trade with the Rain Monarch..."

An elderly, slightly gloomy voice suddenly sounded from behind Ning Fan; the speaker was an elder in a blue robe.

Ning Fan's gaze immediately sharpened, "Immortal Emperor!"

And not just any Immortal Emperor, but a... Yaozu Great Emperor!

A Yaozu Great Emperor had actually arrived at the Four Heavens! In the past, this would have been an unthinkable difficulty, but now, due to the agreement between the human and demon races over the Ancient Passage, the wars have ceased, grudges temporarily laid aside, thus if a Yaozu Great Emperor truly wanted to come to the Four Heavens, it wouldn't face much resistance, though it wouldn't be easy regardless.

Why did this Yaozu Great Emperor come looking for him!

Ning Fan's spirit sense swept over the blue-robed elder, and he was immediately shocked.

If he hadn't sensed wrong, this emperor's bloodline was actually the same as that of the Tian Lan Phoenix Consort he had captured earlier!

This was an emperor of the Tian Lan Phoenix Clan! Could he have come for those seven Phoenix girls!

Ning Fan's vigilance soared to unprecedented heights!

If the other party indeed came for that purpose...

But the previous words of the other party, mentioning the word trade...

"My daughter, her life is in your hands. Your daughter, her life is in my hands. This old man wants to make a trade with you!"

The blue-robed elder's somber expression somewhat lightened as he flipped his hand and produced a purple seal shimmering with thunder.

"This Thunder King Seal, I expended all my energy to determine its location, retrieving it from deep within the Boundary River! Do you want it?"

Ning Fan's eyes shook.

The Thunder King Seal that Jilei Palace tirelessly sought, was actually in the hands of this Yaozu Emperor!

The trade this emperor spoke of, could it be to exchange this Thunder King Seal for his daughter...

Only then did Ning Fan notice that despite being a dignified Yaozu Emperor, the aura of the blue-robed elder was weak, surrounded by deathly energy, with less than half of his cultivation exerted, seemingly... not far from death.

"This emperor is unsure of winning over me with such a frail body, which is why he chose to trade with me, is it..." Ning Fan thought silently.

The blue-robed elder seemed exceptionally adept at reading people's thoughts and replied, "It's not because of my lack of strength that I chose to trade with you, but due to pursuing the trade, I forcibly ventured deep into the Boundary River, resulting in these severe injuries... My clan is in great peril, yet they are unaware. I merely wish to secure a path for my daughter... While my end seems near, it's unrelated to these injuries, but rather, my fate has run its course..."

The blue-robed elder sighed, directly handing the Thunder King Seal to Ning Fan.

Ning Fan was momentarily stunned.

"I, Chongming Phoenix Emperor, can divine the heavens above, calculate the earth below, and ascertain the sentiments of the world. Though we've never met before, I've calculated you for a long time, not knowing it was you, just divining that for my daughter to have a path of survival, she must meet someone... I knew not who that person was, only that they'd be in primitive and wild, causing a change. With the estimated time, I sent my daughter to primitive and wild... only for her to be captured by you. I've calculated you, knowing your character, your ways, and even some of your secrets..."

Seeing Ning Fan still guarded, Chongming Phoenix Emperor sighed, flipped his hand to produce a flame-textured wine gourd, uncorked it, took a sip himself, then offered it to Ning Fan.

"This is wine brewed from the Phoenix Soul Fruit of my ancestors. There are only a hundred drops in the world, and I've always been reluctant to drink it. I gift it to you to drink now. Shouldn't you, Ning Fan, having accepted my Thunder King Seal, assist me in some matters in return, given your nature?"

This person indeed understood Ning Fan's nature thoroughly!

Ning Fan slightly furrowed his brow, yet still accepted the Thunder King Seal...

This person came at an opportune moment; just as Xian Luoli narrowly survived, he arrived, presenting the Thunder King Seal...

Was everything within this person's calculations?

From when his daughter was captured, to Xianxian's Thunder Body Evolution failure... from Ning Fan's character, to his location... If everything was within this person's calculations, wasn't this person too dreadful!

"Rest assured, while I may be able to deduce the matters of heaven and earth, the price paid far exceeds your imagination, and now my fate exhausted, it's one of the costs involved... In the Dreamland Realm, none surpass me in this art, for I do not use ordinary divination techniques, but the forbidden of the forbidden—The Art of Tri-life, are you familiar with it?"

Seeing Ning Fan didn't take his wine, Chongming Phoenix Emperor drank again, eyes carrying a sigh, with a hidden worry.

His concern was not just for his daughter but also for the countless Phoenix cultivators, for the billions upon billions of lives in the Immortal Demon World...

"Do you know that this world will soon face a great calamity... Do you know what I've calculated with the Art of Tri-life..."

Ning Fan remained expressionless on his face, yet his heart was quite shocked.

The Art of Tri-life, isn't this the highest supernatural power of the Nalan Zi clan! The incommunicable secret of the Purple Cuckoo Race, and even among the demon race of the Purple Cuckoo, few can master it, so why could Chongming Phoenix Emperor master it as someone from another clan...

And what does the great calamity of the world refer to...

"You needn't look at me, I cannot determine the source of the great calamity, only deducing a point, it's related to the once-missing Ancient Great Demon... The Four Heavens will be isolated, causing a great war in Eastern Heaven... I am not truly of the Purple Cuckoo Race, and what I can deduce is limited..."

Ning Fan's heart was stirred.

The words of Chongming Phoenix Emperor, how similar they are to the divination words of Nalan Zi...

'I saw the future, a terrifying future... The Four Heavens will be isolated, Eastern Heaven will have a great war... thereafter, the royal clan will die, killed by the Western Demon Ancestor... the Spirit swallowed by the royal clan will also die, will die...'

'Save Ling Er, she's my sister! She can't die! She's still waiting for me to save her!'

Could it be that the world is truly about to face a great calamity?

Ancient Great Demon... Ancient Great Demon... Could this be related to the Ancient Great Demon that previously descended upon the Divine Tomb, attacking Ancient Chaos!

"Senior, giving me the Thunder King Seal, what do you need me to do? So long as it doesn't go against principles, I will do my best."

"What I ask does not violate your principles. I want you to agree to three requests, to exchange this Thunder King Seal for three requests! Of course, I have other benefits to offer you, so after my passing, I may have no regrets..."

Chapter 992: Water-Flooding Realm Bottle

Three requests...

If it doesn't go against my principles, I'm willing to agree to Chongming Phoenix Emperor's three requests. That's just my nature; when others have shown kindness to me, I must repay it. Chongming Phoenix Emperor understood this about me, which is why he waited until Xian Luoli could no longer hold on and presented the Thunder King Seal...

This seal might just be crucial for Xian Luoli's Thunder Body evolution... With such a life-saving grace, if I, Ning Fan, do not repay it, I would not be myself.

"I wonder what requests Senior has? I'm willing to hear them in detail."

"The first request, I want you to protect my daughter well, help her unify her seven souls, and aid her in breaking through to the Immortal Emperor Realm! If she has affections for you, you may marry her; if not, you must not harm her! Once she breaks through to Immortal Emperor, send her back to the Tianlan Phoenix Clan! This matter...can you promise this to me?"

Chongming Phoenix Emperor's expression was stern.

I was slightly taken aback.

Chongming Phoenix Emperor doesn't plan to directly rescue his daughter?

On further thought, it makes sense. Chongming Phoenix Emperor went through so much effort and scheming just to send his daughter to me, hoping I could save her. Naturally, he wouldn't take her away before she was saved.

The inability to absorb the Phoenix maiden's essence is a small matter, merely losing an Eternal Cauldron Furnace. To me now, it's not a big deal.

The troublesome part is Chongming Phoenix Emperor also asking me to help his daughter break through to Immortal Emperor...

"Is Senior perhaps joking? My own breakthrough to Immortal Emperor is still a distant dream; how could I have the ability to help your daughter with such a breakthrough?" I said with a bitter smile.

"You may be unable to accomplish this now, but who can say about your future capability? I have great faith in you. If you can even kill the Ninth Generation Savage God, what can't you do, right, Tenth Generation Barbarian God?" Chongming Phoenix Emperor spoke with a faint smile.

He even managed to deduce the secret events of me killing Yin Mo and ascending to the Tenth Generation Barbarian God! Truly, his divination skills defy the heavens!

"Senior seems to know quite a lot." My gaze slightly hardened.

"Rest assured, I have my requests of you and so will not divulge anything I know. I don't seek for you to do too much for Lan'er, only what lies within your capability. You are the flame destined for her; with you, her fate can be ignited... and with your help, she can surely break through to Immortal Emperor..." Chongming Phoenix Emperor sighed slightly. Lan'er was his daughter's name.

Alas, his life wouldn't last another few hundred years, and he feared not seeing the day his daughter becomes an Emperor...

Both Great Emperor Chonghe and Chongming Phoenix Emperor were skilled schemers with deep minds. I harbored no good feelings toward Chonghe, but had little disdain for Chongming.

Because at this moment, Chongming wasn't the lofty Demon Emperor, just a father concerned for his daughter...

"The first request is not difficult; I agree to Senior's request," I said, with a slight sigh.

Pity the hearts of parents under heaven, even an esteemed Immortal Emperor cannot escape such bonds.

"Good, with your promise, I can rest easy. My second request is for a promise from you, Rain Monarch."

"What promise?"

"If one day the Phoenix Clan's last bloodline faces extinction, I hope you will intervene to protect some of the Phoenix Clan bloodline, not necessarily all, just so that the Phoenix bloodline continues..."

Chongming Phoenix Emperor's eyes were full of worry, not only for his daughter but also for the future of the Phoenix Clan.

"Phoenix Clan is a foremost True Spirit Race, they shouldn't fall to the point of bloodline extinction..." I said.

"Who can say what the future holds? Even extrapolated results are not always unchangeable; they are but one evolution among myriad possibilities. Just tell me, will you agree to this request?"

After some thought, I nodded, "This is likewise not difficult. If the Phoenix Clan truly faces extinction of its bloodline, I can't promise to protect the entire Phoenix Clan, but I can keep a portion of its cultivators safe."

"With that, another of my wishes is fulfilled." Chongming Phoenix Emperor nodded with satisfaction, after a pause, said, "My third request is to ask for a treasure back from you."

"Which treasure?"

"The Liangyi Square Seal!"

I was taken aback, but quickly understood Chongming Phoenix Emperor's intention.

The Liangyi Square Seal was a magical treasure painstakingly refined by Daoist Mu Song. To craft this treasure, he once killed four dragons and four phoenixes, using the souls of eight Demon Emperors to create this seal...

"Among the four phoenixes killed by Daoist Mu Song, one was an old acquaintance of mine. His fate was self-inflicted, so I do not blame Mu Song for killing, yet I still wish to retrieve this seal and bring it back to the Phoenix Clan. There, I will conduct the burial rites for the souls of the four Phoenix Emperors sealed

within, to allow my old friend to rest in peace... This seal was previously in Mu Song's possession; as a person from a different race, I did not dare venture to Mu Island to ask for it. But now that it is in your hands, I find it much easier to speak up..."

Ning Fan hesitated slightly.

This Liangyi Square Seal is currently his most powerful attacking magical treasure, just a step away from advancing to an innate mid-grade. If given to the Chongming Phoenix Emperor, his combat strength would be significantly reduced...

However, the hesitation lasted only a moment. Ning Fan eventually nodded and handed the Liangyi Square Seal to the Chongming Phoenix Emperor.

The Chongming Phoenix Emperor had given him even the mid-grade innate Thunder King Seal; it would seem petty if he were unwilling to part with a lesser-grade innate treasure.

"Thank you, young friend, for yielding this seal. One seal exchanged for another, one woman for another, everything is destined in the mysterious ways of heaven."

The Chongming Phoenix Emperor was filled with emotion, yet there was an indescribable sense of loneliness in his expression as he removed the storage pouch and handed it directly to Ning Fan.

There wasn't much in the storage pouch, just some medicinal herbs, all at least millions of years old, and even four Innate Spiritual Medicines.

"Great Soul Ganoderma, Spirit Restoring Leaf, Seven Yin Phoenix Blood Vine, Life Extending Purple Wood..." Ning Fan's eyes glinted slightly.

These four Innate Spiritual Medicines are all soul-nurturing herbs!

"According to my deductions, to reunite Lan'er's seven souls into one, at least seven different types of innate soul-nurturing herbs are needed, and a cultivator of the Second Realm of Tianren must intervene to render aid. Unfortunately, Innate Spiritual Medicines are hard to come by in this world, and soul-

nurturing herbs are even rarer. I have traveled across the Immortal Demon World and found only these four kinds; the remaining three should be found in the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain... As the Great Emperor of the demon race, entering the Eastern Heaven is my limit; the Eastern Heavenly Emperors would not allow me to go to the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain. Thus, the task of herb-seeking can only trouble you, my young friend...this treasure, I gift to you..."

The Chongming Phoenix Emperor took out a purple compass and handed it to Ning Fan. The compass had a drawing of three eyes, faintly exuding innate power.

"This is..." Ning Fan inquired.

"This is the Treasure-searching Compass crafted by this old man, of inferior innate grade. Though it lacks offensive and defensive abilities, it excels in tracking and searching, its benefits are endless... With it, young friend, your search for herbs in the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain will surely be much facilitated..."

Thereafter, the Chongming Phoenix Emperor gave Ning Fan a detailed explanation of the Treasure-searching Compass's usage.

He spoke earnestly, indicating the importance he attached to the search for herbs. Yet his expression carried a sense of loneliness, as if regretting that he could not personally rescue his daughter, having to rely on others instead.

"I must impart some things to you before I take my leave. The time spent in the Eastern Heaven has been quite considerable, and I cannot linger any longer, lest some of the Eastern Heaven Great Emperors grow displeased."

"Predecessor, do you not wish to see your daughter?" Ning Fan was slightly surprised.

"...Better not. I do not want her to see me in such a despondent state..." the Chongming Phoenix Emperor sighed.

"Predecessor, you are an Immortal Emperor, though severely injured, is there really no remedy?" Ning Fan voiced his inner doubts.

"Healing the injuries is not difficult, but my lifespan has ended; this is the true cause of my demise..."

"If someone's lifespan has ended, is there truly no way to save them?" Ning Fan's heart was heavy.

Xianxian's lifespan has ended. If he insists on saving her, can he succeed...even though he obtained the Thunder King Seal...

"Some whose lifespan has ended can still be saved, akin to a snuffed candle that can be relit if the method is correct; others cannot, as their lifespan is exhausted as a consequence of their own actions, having willingly discarded the candle itself... I am one such self-inflicted individual. The Palace Master of the Extreme Thunder Palace isn't, so she can still be saved. This, you need not worry about, the retrieval of the Thunder King Seal is an opportunity for her lifespan to be reversed..."

Lifespan, this thing, is too mystical. Though the Chongming Phoenix Emperor is skilled in this way, it cannot be explained to Ning Fan in just a few words.

He was not of the Purple Cuckoo Race, yet he insisted on cultivating the Purple Cuckoo bloodline and learned the Art of Tri-life, breaking the first taboo.

The Art of Tri-life allowed for only three prognostications, all of which he had exhausted, breaking the second taboo.

His lifespan was not exhausted by himself, but because...he made a deal with the heavens, losing the candle without the chance to relight it...

Thus, even the Nine-tailed Blood could not save a cultivator like him.

"I have pursued the great path of divination all my life, repeatedly breaking taboos. If I die because of this, I will have no regret in my heart, for it is merely an equivalent exchange..."

"Lifespan unsalvageable, death is inevitable; from the first time I traded with the heavens, I was prepared, hence no dissatisfaction. However, I still have my defiance... The phoenix lineage will not resign to dying quietly. If I must die, it will be a spectacular death, worthy of the phoenix bloodline! If

there truly is a great catastrophe of heaven and earth...I will continue to hold on, until that day arrives! If the heavens mean to take my life, so be it, but I must determine the manner of my dying myself!"

In Chongming Phoenix Emperor's eyes, there was arrogance, the pride belonging to the Phoenix Clan!

"I have drunk twenty drops of the Phoenix Soul Wine from this gourd, enough to sustain me for some years, the remaining eighty drops are for you! With this item, as the inheritor of Ancient Chaos, you're sufficient to produce a Phoenix Clan bloodline beyond ancestral blood, even awakening the Phoenix Clan's strongest talent is slightly possible!"

The Phoenix Clan's strongest divine skill is the Phoenix Nirvana, an extremely powerful immortal skill!

Ning Fan was greatly moved. Could these mere eighty drops of Phoenix Soul Wine really help him produce an ancestral-grade Phoenix Clan bloodline? And perhaps even awaken the Phoenix Clan's phoenix nirvana talent?

"Do not belittle this wine, it is brewed from the sycamore phoenix soul fruit left behind by countless generations of phoenix cultivators in my family after their deaths. In the Phoenix Clan, this Phoenix Soul Wine signifies bloodline inheritance, it is of great import! You must not underestimate this wine!"

Chongming Phoenix Emperor's expression was solemn.

This solemnity was not allowing anyone to belittle the ancestors!

"Take it!" Chongming Phoenix Emperor handed over the blazing wine gourd to Ning Fan.

This time, Ning Fan did not refuse and accepted the wine. He agreed to three requests from Chongming Phoenix Emperor and took away three benefits, including the Thunder King Seal. Thus, he owed nothing to Chongming Phoenix Emperor.

"This wine has always been drunk only by men of the Phoenix Clan; if not for this, I would certainly have left this wine to my daughter... With this wine, you'll certainly produce phoenix blood, and even count as having made a connection with the Phoenix Clan; of course, this wine has another great benefit for

you that you'll know in the future... As two parties to a transaction, there's no more cause and effect between us. But as a senior of the Phoenix Clan, I have an obligation to guide you a little, so let me tell you my insights from years of deducing fate."

"As a person travels the road, how many miles one travels in an hour, how many hours to reach the destination, these can be predicted."

"But deduction is different; it calculates not these things, but those variables, those accidents, when does this person stop on the road, when does he walk, when is auspicious, when is ominous, when will he meet certain people, when will he miss certain scenes, when will he lose some heart... Changes in the world are dominated by destiny, and what's called prophecy is actually about fathoming destiny."

"Destiny is like wind, shapeless and bodiless, traceless and rootless, but even the wind has sound, and it can be fathomed."

"Silently the wind rises, encountering objects it makes sound, large objects make large sound, small objects make small sound, with obstacles it faces resistance, without obstacles it remains silent, responding with composure, this is the sound of wind."

"Do you know what the word 'Feng' in Phoenix means! We Phoenix Clan aim to add a stroke to the wind of destiny, to reverse it, and rewrite destiny! Because we defy it, thus we are Phoenix! Therefore, in ancient times, the Phoenix even knowing its fate will end, still enters the fire of nirvana, seeking a spark of rebirth within the fire, seeking if there's no way to live, then issuing a last rebellion to the heavens! Sworn to compete against the heavens for fate once more!"

"Do you know, where a phoenix falls, if blood splashes onto the heavens, there will naturally be sycamore growing!"

"Have you ever witnessed a true phoenix's heroic death!"

"Have you seen... the unyielding will contained within the sycamore that sprouts from the raging fire!"

"Have you heard... the funeral song of the Phoenix Clan!"

"The Phoenix soars in the Nine Heavens, not resting on non-sycamore! The demon wages war against Nijun, not relying on non-master! Wishes to be buried in fiery flames, dies rather than submits! Singing in rage to the heavens, reborn as emperor in the next life!"

Chongming Phoenix Emperor's voice was old and hoarse, singing this Phoenix Clan funeral song, bringing a more desolate, tragic feeling.

After finishing this song, Chongming Phoenix Emperor suddenly clasped his fists and bowed to Ning Fan,

"Although I made three requests, ultimately I have personal motives... I care about the Phoenix Clan, care about the souls of old friends, but what I care more about is my daughter. I entrust my daughter to you! Ning Fan, remember the promise you gave to me!"

This bow gave Ning Fan an impression of entrusting the orphan, and then Chongming Phoenix Emperor turned and left!

In the night, echoes of the Phoenix Clan funeral song remain, Chongming Phoenix Emperor walks gradually into the receding night, slowly disappearing from sight, the wind blows, and his white hair is somewhat chaotic.

He ultimately did not go to see his daughter, one reason being he did not want his daughter to see him heavily wounded and dying, another reason being he did not know what to say to his daughter.

How many years has it been since he last had a good conversation with his daughter? Well, he can't remember. It seems since Lan'er's mother passed away, he forever wore a strict face, and the occasional words spoken were nothing but stern reprimands.

...

'Dad, today I want to rest, don't want to train...'

'No way!'

'But today is mom's death anniversary...'

'As a master, one should abandon personal feelings, and seek the path of heaven; a master closing off once can easily last hundreds or thousands of years, if you commemorate the anniversary of those passed every year, do you still want to cultivate the way!'

'Yes, Lan'er understands...'

...

'Dad, the pressure of this Feng Qishan is too heavy, Lan'er can't walk anymore, can dad carry Lan'er...'

'Impossible! As the next Tianlan Phoenix Consort, if you can't even endure this bit of hardship, how can you achieve anything!'

'But...'

'No buts!'

'Yes, Lan'er knows...'

...

'Dad, I want...'

'No way! It's too dangerous!'

'Dad...'

'No way! This girl is not of good character, do not associate with her anymore!'

'Dad...yes, Lan'er understands.'

...

Chongming Phoenix Emperor walked to the edge of the boundary river of Eastern Heaven, his face increasingly showing signs of old age.

In these years, has he been too harsh on his daughter... Is this departure possibly already irretrievable.

He stood by the boundary river, boarded the river, and landed on the shore, hesitating, looking ahead and behind, yet ultimately sighed, stepped onto the boundary river, and left...

Above the night sky of Extreme Thunder Palace, Ning Fan withdrew his Rain Intent, knowing that Chongming Phoenix Emperor had truly left, slightly sighing.

"The boundary river, separating the Four Heaven's immortal worlds, is the essential passage connected to the Crimson Penetration Passage to the Immortal Demon World. Rumored deep within the boundary river, countless fierce different races lurk, even an Immortal Emperor, entering the deep river recklessly, would face a scenario of nine deaths and one life... The Thunder King Seal was taken by Senluo, yet it's unknown how it ended up in the depths of the boundary river. This Chongming Phoenix Emperor, in search of the Thunder King Seal within the river depths, must have undergone countless blood battles, leading to such serious injuries..."

"Thunder King Seal, Ning Fan did indeed receive it, your daughter, Ning Fan will take good care of for you!"

In a flash, Ning Fan entered the Xuan Yin Eastern Region, arrived at the repentance palace, releasing the Tianlan Seven Concubines.

"You... you suddenly let me go..."

The seven women were somewhat frightened, speaking with the same voice.

Ning Fan wouldn't change his mind, deciding no longer to cure them, preparing directly to exploit?

"Rest assured, I've made some agreements with your father, won't take actions against you anymore. From today, you are no longer my cauldron furnace, but my guest. When I fulfill the agreements made with your father, I'll return you intact to the Tianlan Phoenix Clan. But before the agreement is complete, I hope you can be peaceful, don't cause trouble for me. The restrictions planted on you, I cannot remove temporarily, as I'm still unable to trust you, so in the coming days, your cultivations will be sealed, but your daily life won't be restricted, I hope you can understand this point."

Their faces were somewhat pale, bitterly saying, "Unexpectedly, our father indeed came, so it's no wonder you've suddenly changed your attitude... Didn't expect father wouldn't directly rescue us, but make agreements with you, indeed, it's feeling we've disgraced the Tianlan Phoenix Clan, resolved to abandon us then..."

Abandon?

Ning Fan shook his head, took out an empty jade scroll, and inscribed the scene of meeting Chongming Phoenix Emperor into the jade slip, only omitting parts involving his secrets.

"You can view the detailed content of the agreements. Before I assist you in uniting your seven souls, just live temporarily in the Xuan Yin Eastern Region."

Ning Fan arranged accommodations in the Xuan Yin World for the seven women and was about to leave.

At this moment, suddenly the seven women called out to him in unison,

"What is it?" Ning Fan paused, asking.

"My name is Qi Yelan. Since you have an agreement with my father, let's consider our past grievances settled. Before I leave, I'll listen to you carefully and won't cause you any trouble..."

"That's good."

Ning Fan left the Xuan Yin Eastern Region and went directly to the Western Region, entering a Millennium Age Tower for secluded cultivation.

Through the deal with Chongming Phoenix Emperor, though losing the Liangyi Square Seal, Ning Fan gained the Thunder King Seal, Treasure-searching Compass, and eighty drops of Phoenix Soul Wine. Naturally, he entered this Millennium Age Tower to refine the Phoenix Soul Wine.

Based on Chongming Phoenix Emperor's tone, the Phoenix Soul Wine has a significant origin, but how great it is can only be determined through Ning Fan's own experience.

Thus, in the Tower of Years, a millennium passed in a blink of an eye.

When Ning Fan exited the Tower of Years again, his cultivation had dramatically changed!

Other cultivations remained unchanged, but only the Ancient Demon Cultivation advanced to the peak of the Initiate Realm of Shekong! Just one Heart Tribulation short of breaking into the Mid Stage of Shekong!

In his left eye, a star point emerged, surprisingly it was the star point of Demon Yin-Yang, cultivated within the millennium!

Phoenix Yin-Yang!

His body's Monster Race Ancestral Blood, surprisingly due to this Phoenix Soul Wine, directly refined a drop of Phoenix Clan Ancestral Blood!

It's truly a great advancement of the bloodline!

The Phoenix Clan excels in fire control, with Ning Fan refining the Phoenix Clan bloodline, his fire control ability significantly improved. Phoenix Clan's control position is similar to fire but different from pure fire control, not so upright and magnificent, but rather gives a sense of peculiar unpredictability.

Unexpectedly, by leveraging the Phoenix Soul Wine's power, Ning Fan truly awakened the strongest talent of the Phoenix Race... [Phoenix Nirvana]!

Yet the Phoenix Nirvana he awakened seems... slightly different from other Phoenix cultivators...

Other Phoenix cultivators' Phoenix Nirvana, their flame colors are mostly dazzling, while Ning Fan is enveloped in black flames.

Within those black flames, not only does it encompass the Phoenix Clan's divine skills, but also for unknown reasons, merges with the power of Immortal Bloodline and Black Star Technique. Thus, it's black!

'This wine has another significant benefit for you, which you'll realize later...'

Chongming Phoenix Emperor's words echoed once more in Ning Fan's ears.

Could the great benefit mentioned by Phoenix Emperor be the fusion of Phoenix Nirvana, Immortal Bloodline, and Black Star Technique, forming a new divine skill?

Feeling the Phoenix Nirvana crafted by the fusion of three divine skills, Ning Fan was greatly moved, his physical regeneration ability now somewhat terrifying...

The injuries caused by Shekong Cultivator's attacks can almost instantly regenerate, reborn amidst fierce flames!

Once, the awakening of Immortal Bloodline, Ning Fan considered fusing the Immortal Bloodline and Black Star Technique into a single divine skill. Unexpectedly, through the deal with Chongming Phoenix Emperor, unintentionally achieving this, and more thoroughly, not just two divine skills merging, but three!

If the Phoenix Clan's Nirvana divine skill can be cultivated to a higher realm, if the Immortal Bloodline and Black Star Technique can evolve to a higher level... the recovery ability of this skill can grow even stronger!

"Thus, I should indeed thank Chongming for gifting me the Phoenix Soul Wine. However, I wonder why Immortal Emperor, Immemorial Phoenix, Heavenly Emperor and others don't leverage Phoenix Soul Wine to merge divine skills, enhancing their divine skills... or maybe, it's only my kind of Yin-Yang Variant Cultivator that can achieve this..."

The reality indeed aligns with Ning Fan's speculations. For other cultivators, even with Phoenix Soul Wine, merging three divine skills is impossible.

Only authentic Yin-Yang Variant Cultivators, inherently compatible, combined with the assistance of Phoenix Soul Wine, can accomplish this.

Moreover, this matter not only requires cultivating Yin-Yang Transformation and Chaos Ring Decision cultivation technique but also needs the aid of Yin Yang Locket, otherwise, it's impossible to merge divine skills with differing properties together.

"Now with Thunder King Seal in my hand, Xianxian's Thunder Body Evolution should proceed more smoothly..."

Ning Fan exits Mysterious Yin World.

In the subsequent months, as Xian Luoli's injuries heal, Lan Xiaoqian and the other girls are joyfully busy preparing for the next Thunder Body Evolution.

Never could the four girls anticipate that Ning Fan would actually find the long-missing Thunder King Seal. Even the most proficient at deduction in Eastern Heaven, the Thousand Proliferation Emperor, failed to deduce the whereabouts of the Thunder King Seal back then...

How did Ning Fan find the Thunder King Seal! Incredible!

The four girls asked Ning Fan, however, he only smiled without answering.

Finally, Xian Luoli's injuries have healed.

For her next Thunder Body Evolution, Xian Luoli appeared rather nervous, yet Ning Fan was not at all worried.

He could see that after retrieving the Thunder King Seal, Xian Luoli's luck... returned.

Luck, an utterly unpredictable thing, akin to the heavenly will spoken of by Chongming Great Emperor, as spoken of by the resonating wind...

Indeed, this Thunder Body Evolution was extraordinarily smooth, ultimately a success!

In front of Ning Fan's eyes, Xian Luoli's naked petite frame gradually matured, becoming fuller and more captivating...

A silver-haired naked woman stood up from within the Flash Thunder Pool water, opening her eyes.

In her beautiful eyes, half was confusion, half was complexity, while possessing an awe-inspiring pressure akin to a vast starry sky, uniquely belonging to the Eternal Seven Calamities Immortal Emperor's mighty aura! With the presence of Ning Fan beside her, her impeccable side profile suddenly showed a blush, yet her gaze was unprecedentedly distant.

Damn, how come she's not wearing clothes! How is she exposing herself in front of a strange man!

No, he's not a strange man... very familiar, without such ingrained familiarity, she couldn't calmly be naked in front of this person...

Her first reaction should be to scream, to be ashamed and angry, shouldn't it be to immediately put on clothes... why is this all so habitual...

Increasingly more memories surged like floods, one scene after another, all of her calling the man in front dad...

She, the dignified White Emperor, the proud Lan Yunxian, accepted a dad during her amnesia... But why, why isn't this rejection...

But this isn't right... she's the Extreme Thunder Palace Master, she's the face of the Three Thousand Thunder Realm, she can't continue calling him that...

Just at this moment, more memories filled her mind!

Scenes from the Three Thousand Thunder Realm... Scenes from Primitive and Wild... during Primitive and Wild era, when her Spirit was captured, this man risked his life to save her... during Thunder Body Evolution, this man risked his life repeatedly leading her through the lightning tempest of Flash Thunder Pool, and when her luck ran out, he roared at the heavens...

'If I must defy heavenly will, then so be it!'

'Today, I shall protect her, in the future, I shall pave her path, even if this destiny is heaven's will, it can't be stopped! Her luck, only I can determine!'

As more and more memories surged into her heart, Lan Yunxian couldn't say she wasn't moved, that would be false, it's just, just...

Now that she's regained her memories, she's no longer that lively Xian Luoli, she truly cannot call Ning Fan "dad" anymore...

But astonishingly, she didn't resist being bare in front of Ning Fan! A part of her character still is Xian Luoli, only... matured...

It's best to put on clothes first... even though she's not embarrassed in the slightest.

Lan Yunxian gracefully waved her hand, surrounding lightning power instantly formed a light and airy robe, dressing her.

She tried hard to act indifferent, tried to be distant, tried to tell Ning Fan she is no longer Xian Luoli.

'Young Master Ning, I'd like to talk to you...'

That's what she intended to say.

At the tip of her tongue, somehow it turned into,

"Daddy, I want a hug!"

Ning Fan was stunned, failing to react.

Lan Xiaoqian and the other girls were also stunned, how could such a cold Palace Master say something so childish, could it be the memories didn't recover!

Lan Yunxian truly wanted to swallow her tongue!

Having transformed into Xian Luoli for so long, living with Ning Fan in every little detail had already seeped into her very bones; this kind of nonsense was spouted by the former Xian Luoli many times before, but now it just came out naturally, and it's so hard to change!

"Young Master Ning, I'm sorry, that's not what I meant..." Lan Yunxian explained apologetically.

This apology, however, made Ning Fan sigh even more. Indeed, the Lan Yunxian who had regained her memory could no longer be that mischievous little girl from before, and there was now an emotional distance between them.

This was only natural; he and Lan Yunxian had been connected for a hundred years, but Lan Yunxian was someone who had lived for millions of years, a mere hundred-year memory was just a drop in the long river of her life.

In the past, Ning Fan was everything to Xian Luoli, he was her father, her heaven.

Now, he was just a drop in the river of all living beings...

From now on, his life would no longer include a playful Xian Luoli clinging to him.

"No worries, I have finished my matters at the Extreme Thunder Palace; it's time for me to leave. Remember to close off your Thunder Body Evolution properly, these expensive pills..."

Ning Fan wanted to take some expensive pills and leave them with Lan Yunxian, only to find when taking them out that all the high-grade pills in his hand had been coated with syrup.

These seem unable to be given to others...

"Forget it, just focus on your seclusion, I'm leaving."

Ning Fan sighed and turned away to leave the Extreme Thunder Palace.

Lan Yunxian's heart ached, she didn't know why, but seeing Ning Fan's lonely departing figure, she was overwhelmed by the urge to cry.

However, the words 'Father, don't go' ultimately couldn't be spoken...

"Palace Master..." Lan Xiaoqian and others were at a loss for what to say.

"I want some quietness..."

Lan Yunxian lightly inhaled, suppressing the myriad of emotions swirling within.

She must calm down; the current her was nothing like her former self...

The four women left, while she continued to seclude herself in the Flash Thunder Pool; the Thunder King Seal Ning Fan did not take away, leaving it with her...

All was silent around, and for some reason, she recalled those carefree days spent with Ning Fan.

She simply couldn't calm her mind...

...

Ning Fan, however, remained very calm.

After all, he had already prepared mentally before bringing Xian Luoli back. Moreover, the current Lan Yunxian was clearly still very concerned about him, except she couldn't overcome the hurdle of addressing him as 'father'...

It was already quite good; at least he did not end up in enmity with Lan Yunxian, at least he still retained some affection with her.

"How did I end up picking up such a little girl back then..."

Ning Fan lightly lamented, the hundred years of companionship replaying scene by scene before him, so near yet so far.

Forget it, there's no use in dwelling on it; thinking too much isn't part of his nature.

Ning Fan quickly found new things to do, to alleviate his current complex and tangled emotions.

"Wu Laoba's bottle seems almost repaired..."

Ning Fan's lips curved into a playful smile.

Let's deal with Wu Laoba to divert the mood!

...

Eastern Heaven, Water Curtain Star.

The Shui Family was one of Eastern Heaven's super powers, with their ancestor being one of the Heavenly Kings of Eastern Heaven.

Being a Heavenly King force, Water Curtain Star had always been unprovokable, but lately, it was said a lewd-eyed little cultivator was extorting the Shui Family.

This was prime news!

Outside Water Curtain City, a sinister-looking old man in black robes didn't mind the dirt on the ground, directly sitting down against the large stone base at the city gate, tapping a broken bowl with chopsticks while joyfully singing.

Passing cultivators all pointed at the black-robed old man, but he remained indifferent.

Occasionally, a few lackeys from the Shui Family tried to drive the black-robed old man away, but bizarrely, before coming close, they stumbled one by one, falling to the ground.

This was so strange!

As cultivators, the odds of tripping while walking—if not zero—should be close to zero, how could so many people find it impossible to approach the black-robed old man, falling one after another!

"This person's cultivation is unfathomable, and their divine skills unusual and hard to defend against!" A crowd of Shui Family cultivators began to dread the black-robed old man.

The old man huffed without enthusiasm.

He hadn't done anything at all! It was these people who couldn't fend off bad luck, how could he be blamed!

Hey, hey, in ten days it'll be the Shui Family ancestor's little lightning tribulation...

A small lightning tribulation wouldn't kill a Heavenly King, but if he were present, hey...

Ahchoo!

Wu Laoba suddenly sneezed, feeling a vague premonition, glancing nervously around before breathing a sigh of relief.

"I'm getting paranoid; that star of misfortune can't possibly appear right at the last moment of me repairing the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle... hmm, I'm overthinking, must be overthinking; keep singing!"

Wu Laoba cheerfully continued tapping the broken bowl, singing, while inside the bowl a cute ugly little turtle playfully rolled around, matching Wu Laoba's rhythm.

A passerby pointed at Wu Laoba, suddenly having his mana circulation stuck, unexpectedly entering into insanity...

A big man cursed at Wu Laoba under his breath, suddenly biting his tongue and his mouth filled with blood...

A gentlewoman cast a disdainful glance at Wu Laoba, only for a gust of wind to lift her skirt high, attracting wide-eyed stares from many nearby cultivators...

And even more bizarre events continued to unfold on Water Curtain Star...

Water Curtain Immortal King was really about to lose his composure!

In these days, as the minor lightning tribulation approached, he increasingly felt the onset of insanity, and it was far too strange; he, a dignified Immortal King, simply crossing a minor lightning tribulation, how could he possibly enter a state of insanity!

Could the legend be true!

The legend of the Dark Luck Sect, the damned Black Turtle Sect...

"Did that Wu-named cultivator only say he wanted the Spirit Supreme Water Pearl? Didn't say anything else?" Water Curtain Immortal King sighed helplessly.

Could it be this time... he really had to break his fortune to avert disaster?

Damned Black Turtle Sect!

Chapter 993: Eternal Undying Rain

Upon hearing the Water Curtain Immortal King's question, the people below were somewhat afraid, and nervously replied,

"Reporting, reporting to the Ancestor, that cultivator named Wu has an even bigger appetite this time. He not only wants the Spirit Supreme Water Pearl, but also, also..."

"What! It's only been a few days, how did he raise the price! What else does he want in order to leave Water Curtain Star!" The Water Curtain Immortal King burst out in anger.

"He also wants thirty trillion Dao Crystals, claiming that he watched the city gate of Water Curtain City for my Shui Family for three days, and it can't be for nothing, one trillion a day. He also said that the longer Ancestor drags on, the more he wants money. He can afford the delay, but the Shui Family's bottom line may not, nor may the Ancestor's lightning tribulation..."

Bang!

The Water Curtain Immortal King was crazed with anger!

Watching the city gate for one trillion a day, what a joke! Is this Wu Laoba's status that high? Does he think he's a Quasi-Saint? Even a Quasi-Saint wouldn't demand so many Dao Crystals for guarding a gate! Does he really think the Shui Family is easy to bully!

"Someone, go to the Dao Spring Pool! Retrieve my Water-Splitting Fallen God Halberd! This halberd should be almost repaired by now! So, the turtle bastard won't leave, fine, I'll beat him until he does! People say the heir of Dark Luck can't be killed, that killing him is inauspicious. Humph, I happen to want to see if the heir of Dark Luck can be killed!"

The people below were even more jittery, "This matter... this matter, I'm afraid it's not possible... there was an error in the repair process of the Water-Splitting Fallen God Halberd... it can't be used yet..."

"What!" The Water Curtain Immortal King's heart trembled.

The Water-Splitting Fallen God Halberd was his twelve Nirvana Magical Treasure that he had refined for years. Due to a previous duel, the treasure's Artifact Spirit suffered some minor damage and was handed over to his servants for repair.

But that was only a small injury, very easy to repair, it just needed to be placed in the Dao Spring to nourish the Artifact Spirit, nothing else was needed. How could such a simple repair process go wrong!

"Ancestor, you may not know this, but just yesterday, there was a once-in-a-million-years terrestrial pulse change on Water Curtain Star. The accumulating turbidity in the ground surged out, polluting the Dao Spring, and further aggravating the injury of the Water-Splitting Fallen God Halberd's Artifact Spirit, causing it near extinction... If not greatly repaired, this treasure may not be usable..."

Sss!

The Water Curtain Immortal King trembled.

A once-in-a-million-years terrestrial pulse change coincidentally happened during the repair of his treasure?

"Then, bring me my Immortal Water Bow! I will shoot that turtle bastard to death!" The Water Curtain Immortal King ordered again.

"This... I'm afraid won't work either... the bowstring of the Immortal Water Bow has unexpectedly snapped..." The servants shivered.

"What! The bowstring of the Immortal Water Bow was refined from the tendons of a Qiu Dragon, resistant to water and fire, and resistant to damage from swords and blades. How could it suddenly break! Is it because you didn't guard well, letting someone sneak into the treasure vault and ruin the bowstring!" The Water Curtain Immortal King was furious!

"Injustice, Ancestor! An Artifact Refiner has already examined it. The wear on the bowstring happened to reach its limit, and it broke from deterioration... It's not the fault of these small ones!"

"What a joke! The bowstring never broke before or later, but it breaks as soon as Wu Laoba arrives! Don't use coincidences to brush off the old man, I don't believe it!"

The Water Curtain Immortal King was still shouting in anger, but deep down, he was a bit scared.

Evil luck, too evil luck! As soon as Wu Laoba came, everything went wrong for him, two consecutive magical treasures couldn't be used...

Suddenly, another group of Shu Family masters hurriedly arrived at the main hall to report messages to the Water Curtain Immortal King.

"Report! Guest Elder Liu Shinan was injured by a meteor falling from the sky and requests the Ancestor to bestow medicine to save his life!"

"Report! The Fourth Elder was returning to the Shui Family's route encountered a once-in-ten-thousand-years constellation storm, now severely injured and dying, asking Ancestor to use the clan's secret medicine to save him!"

"Report! The eternal, indestructible ancient giant statue in Shui King Hall collapses bizarrely..."

"Report! The star nucleus of Water Curtain Star is unstable and at risk of collapsing, please Ancestor quickly migrate the star and find a new clan land for our tribe!"

"Report..."

Enough!

The Water Curtain Immortal King fiercely smashed the table, and then sighed heavily.

He believed it! He believed the legend! If he doesn't drive Wu Laoba away, his magical treasures will be accidentally destroyed completely, his men will accidentally die en masse, his home base will face star collapse and earth rupture!

More importantly, in ten more days, it would be the time of his minor lightning tribulation. Previously, he would never believe that he would face a cultivation deviation during his minor tribulation, but now... he believed it!

If he doesn't drive Wu Laoba away or become an enemy of Wu Laoba, at the next minor lightning tribulation, he would either die or shed a layer of skin!

The legend says, you can't talk about Heiyun Sect, can't mention, can't provoke.

The legend says, it is a lifelong curse to offend the heir of Dark Luck, and killing the heir will bring their black luck entanglement for life.

The legend...

"Come, fetch the Spirit Supreme Water Pearl, and also fetch thirty trillion Dao Crystals, deliver them to Wu Laoba! Ask him... to quickly leave Water Curtain Star!"

...

Thus, Wu Laoba happily left Water Curtain Star with the extorted items.

Strangely enough, as soon as he left, Water Curtain Star returned to normal, the star didn't collapse, the earth didn't rupture, the terrestrial pulse returned to normal, the Shui Family masters who had been plagued by bad luck, suddenly were freed from the misfortune.

"Hehe, dare to battle with me, Wu Laoba, without weighing one's good fortune! Ever since the star of misfortune left, except for Ning Fan, below a Quasi-Saint, I haven't really feared anyone! This Water Curtain Immortal King couldn't even withstand thirty percent of my bad luck, weak, too weak! If I used ten percent bad luck, wouldn't this boy kneel down and beg for mercy..."

Wu Laoba was in a great mood.

Hanghai Sect, Long River Sect, Mohe Star Great Goose Sect, Shui Family of Water Curtain Star... counting them one by one, in just three years, he had extorted dozens of Eastern Heavenly powers.

In three years, Wu Laoba scoured Eastern Heavenly sects, not only gathering the materials needed to repair the Flooded Bottle, but also reaping countless benefits.

Days without the star of misfortune restraint were truly joyful, he somewhat missed the free and easy days of the past.

Unfortunately, such free and easy life is gone forever, it's better to accept reality and obediently serve Ning Fan as a loyal servant. After all, being a loyal servant isn't without benefits, Wu Laoba thought optimistically.

"Ever since recognizing the star of misfortune as my master, for reasons unknown, my cultivation of bad luck has become increasingly easy to control. Previously, wherever I went, misfortune followed. Now, only those I wish to suffer bad luck experience it..."

"Thanks to the star of misfortune's blessing, the progress of my cultivation technique has improved significantly. The extremely difficult destiny points to unlock from the past have one by one been successfully cultivated. Previously breaking through a cultivation bottleneck required failing hundreds or thousands of times, but now it's extremely easy to break through dozens of bottlenecks..."

"Master once said, when things reach their extreme, they will reverse. Cultivators like us who refine bad luck, if we can find life's turning point, can turn misfortune into blessings, becoming top fortune stars in the world. Looking at it now, this Ning old monster is certainly my life's turning point. Hehe, at the current cultivation speed, soon, I should be able to slightly touch the bottleneck of Eternity's Second Tribulation..."

Hehe, living by the star of misfortune is actually not bad. Wu Laoba secretly planned that once the Flood Bottle is repaired, he would take the sealed item inside and return to the star of misfortune. With the current cultivation speed, continuing to follow the star of misfortune for tens of thousands of years, he was confident to cultivate all the way to the Immortal Emperor Realm!

Speaking of which, the materials to repair the bottle are already gathered, it's time to find a place to properly repair the bottle.

Wu Laoba took out the Treasure-Seeking Turtle, confirmed a direction, and then raced forward, crossing countless galaxies, arriving outside a water-blue Cultivation Star.

This star is known as Water Demon Star, a Cultivation Star where Loose Cultivators congregate. The cultivators on the star aren't many, mostly crossing the starry sea to come here to cultivate as Water Cultivators.

Wu Laoba calculated that this Water Demon Star has excellent water veins, perfectly suitable as a place to repair the bottle.

The process of repairing the Flooded Bottle would drain the Water Essence Force of an entire Cultivation Star. After repairing the Flooded Bottle, this Water Demon Star would likely become an Abandoned Star. But this was not something Wu Laoba cared about.

"Within a hundred breaths, all cultivators on this star, leave! This star, I want it!"

Wu Laoba lazily picked his nose, his voice filled with eternal pressure, yet in an instant, it spread throughout Water Demon Star, causing the entire star's cultivators to panic.

At once, all cultivators on Water Demon Star turned pale with terror, those in seclusion rushed out from their rocky seclusion caves, those refining artifacts collected their embryos, those practicing Alchemy packed up their Fragmentation Cauldrons, hastily gathering their belongings and fleeing towards the outside of Water Demon Star.

Would you dare not leave? Didn't you hear an Eternal Immortal Venerable came to seize the star? Such a person, with just a single Divine Skill, could annihilate all life on Water Demon Star in an instant! Who would dare oppose, who would dare not leave when such a person arrives?

Within a hundred breaths, such a vast Water Demon Star became empty!

All Loose Cultivators who came to this star to cultivate departed across the stars!

Wu Laoba flicked away the booger from his nose, landed on the Water Demon Star, found the best spot of the water vein, and then, smugly humming a tune, began to take things out one by one. Everything he took out was an extremely rare Immortal Material used to repair the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle.

The joyful repair process began.

For the following month, the off-key singing on the Water Demon Star never ceased!

A month later, the spiritual energy on Water Demon Star was depleted, turning it into an Abandoned Star! The rare Immortal Materials Wu Laoba had scavenged were also used up!

Wu Laoba held the Water-Flooding World Bottle in his hands, handling it cautiously, unwilling to part with it.

A month ago, this bottle still looked old and damaged.

A month later, this bottle had regained its innate might, with a constant emanation of blue spiritual energy, making the surrounding world instantly have the salty scent of sea breeze.

After the repair, the appearance of the bottle was still that of a Sheep Fat Jade Purifying Bottle, without any change; only three water drop-shaped runes were added to the bottle's body.

Wu Laoba caressed the three water drop runes on the bottle, grinning from ear to ear.

Innate Mid-grade Magical Treasure, Water-Flooding Realm Bottle! The famous treasure of the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor—the third ancestor, Emperor Shuiyan! Now, it's in the hands of him, Wu Laoba!

It's rumored that a sea is sealed within the Water-Flooding Bottle, the sea water inexhaustible and continuous, and just a single drop of sea water weighs as much as a mountain!

It's said that during the era of the Demon-Sealing Peak, there was once a rebellion of Ancient Chaos Grand Emperors, gathering seven Immortal Emperors, attempting to challenge the Demon-Sealing Peak. In that battle, Emperor Shuiyan faced the rebellious realm alone, summoned the sea water within the bottle, sealing the heavens and earth, flooding one realm's living beings, including the seven Immortal Emperors, all drowned in the sea water!

This battle made the Water-Flooding Bottle's name resound!

It's said, if this bottle's power were fully unleashed, even a Quasi-Saint must avoid its sharpness. Of course, fully unleashing its power is not an easy matter, requiring great risk, which is also the biggest limitation of this bottle...

At the thought of the huge risks involved in using this bottle, Wu Laoba felt a shiver run through his scalp. This bottle, he could not enjoy its benefit; better let the star of misfortune use it instead...

"Hehe, I Wu Laoba am the world's foremost loyal servant, obtaining an Innate Mid-grade Magical Treasure and the first thought in my mind is to dedicate it to the master, this loyalty could illuminate the sun and moon. Though Luo Shix is also a loyal servant, compared to me Wu Laoba, he's still a notch below... Ah, young friend Luo Shix, you have much to learn." Wu Laoba narcissistically muttered to himself.

"Master, oh master, I've given you the bottle, let the little trinkets sealed inside be a reward for this humble one... With your elderly vision so high, how could you possibly take interest in such trinkets? This is not to say that this little one is disloyal, but simply that there is no need to bother you, my lord. Ah, I am just this loyal. Once I collect this item, refine it into a Dao Weapon, and increase my strength, I will certainly repay the master well! The Eternal Undying Rain of the Nether Dust Sea, hehe..." Wu Laoba licked his lips.

His master, Ancestor Heiyun, once told him a story.

Outside the Dreamland Realm, there are Three Great Realms, among them one is called the Nether Dust Realm.

In the Nether Dust Realm, there is an area surrounded by sea, originally the Zi Wei and Northern Dipper Immortal Domains, but was pacified by a single person and merged into the Zi Dou Immortal Domain.

The Zi Dou Immortal Domain is the homeland of Dreamland Realm cultivators!

The sea surrounding the Zi Dou Immortal Domain is the Nether Dust Sea, famous across the three realms!

A single drop of water from the Nether Dust Sea can be as heavy as a mountain, and within the sea dwell creatures named 'the Northern Cold Country,' any attempt to take water from the Nether Dust Sea results in an attack by 'the Northern Cold Country.'

Unless they are saints, one simply doesn't have the power to take water from the Nether Dust Sea!

Yet Emperor Shuiyan, with a Second Step status, somehow took countless sea waters from the Nether Dust Sea, refined them into a bottle, the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle!

The sea sealed within the Water-Flooding Bottle is the sea water from the Nether Dust Sea!

Legend has it, every thirty million years, the water of the Nether Dust Sea evaporates, turning into vapor that returns to the sky, falls as rain over three days, and once more becomes the sea.

And there will be a few raindrops that stay forever in the sky, never returning to the sea; those few raindrops are called the 'Eternal Undying Rain' by True Realm Cultivators, the supreme Immortal Material for water cultivators to refine Dao Weapons! Its value is high enough to make a saint intervene!

Wu Laoba does not dare to covet the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle, nor plans to betray Ning Fan, but he is determined to obtain the 'Eternal Undying Rain' within the bottle!

"Water is the softest thing in the world, but extremes breed their opposites. When the ultimate softness is reached, it becomes the hardest thing in the world! The Eternal Undying Rain is precisely the product of the softness and hardness of the Nether Dust Sea's water, heavier than ordinary seawater. A single drop is equivalent to the weight of a Cultivation Star! If refined into a Dao Weapon, it can greatly enhance the power of the weapon, something that Heavenly Dao Purple Qi cannot compare to..."

"Emperor Shuiyan achieved the Dao in ancient times, but obtained the Nether Dust Sea's water and refined the Flooded Bottle rather late. He didn't hold the Flooded Bottle long and only caught one instance of the bottle's sea transforming into rain, missing another transformation thirty million years later... After the fall of the Demon-Sealing Peak, the nine ancient devil ancestors were suppressed under nine mountains, and this bottle was destroyed and lost in battle..."

"Legend has it that Emperor Shuiyan experienced only one sea transformation rain in his life, from which he obtained a single drop of Eternal Undying Rain... Just one drop greatly increased the Dao Weapon's power, and if fully activated, it could slash out a trace of the Power of Reincarnation, surpassing the power of the Second Step!"

"Since this treasure was destroyed in battle, it has been one and a half billion years, enough time for five sea transformation rains within the bottle!"

Five sea transformation rains!

If each rain could birth a drop of Eternal Undying Rain, there should be five drops in this bottle!

Of course, sea transformation rain doesn't necessarily produce Eternal Undying Rain, nor can it only produce one drop at a time... Whether this bottle contains Eternal Undying Rain, and how many drops there are, remains uncertain...

"When I open the magical treasure space of the Flooded Bottle, I will know! Master, let your loyal servant, Little Ba, retrieve these Eternal Undying Rains for you!"

Wu Laoba chuckled slyly, holding the bottle in one hand while making a spirit sense gesture with the other.

A beam of blood light shot straight out of the bottle, but Wu Laoba was not surprised, as if he had anticipated this all along. He quickly retreated, cautiously watching the blood light.

The blood light landed on the ground, shook, and transformed into a seemingly illusory red-faced elder, clad in a green robe with golden armor, exuding an awe-inspiring ancient demonic aura.

It turned out to be an ancient demon with the cultivation of a Pinnacle Immortal King!

"You, you sensed my presence?" The red-faced elder squinted slightly, looking deeply wary at Wu Laoba. He let out a disdainful snort upon seeing Wu Laoba's Eon-old Tribulation Cultivation.

Wu Laoba chuckled wickedly, saying, "My Treasure-Seeking Turtle is innately gifted; even without opening the Purity Bottle space, even if you never uttered a word, I'd know you're hiding in this bottle! If I'm not mistaken, you should be one of the avatars of Emperor Shuiyan..."

"Correct, I am indeed Shuiyan's Eleventh Avatar! During the great calamity at Demon-Sealing Peak, my true body was suppressed, yet many avatars scattered and fled. Most were destroyed, but this one, hidden within the Flooded Bottle, was not detected by the Great Honored Zhanqing! You can consider me a Shuiyan Avatar, or as Shuiyan himself! I'm quite curious how you, with an Eon-old Tribulation Cultivation, have the ability to repair the battle-destroyed Flooded Bottle. No matter, once I've killed you and searched your memories, all will be clear! Surprisingly, even without the blood-sucking harming method, I can exit this bottle. Since you released me, I'll grant you a swift end!"

The red-faced elder sneered slightly and charged at Wu Laoba like a vicious wind.

Wu Laoba laughed more maniacally. He knew, given the notorious ruthless nature of Emperor Shuiyan, that even if he released him, he would not return kindness.

No matter, no matter!

Wu Laoba's plan was to first kill the Shuiyan Avatar before entering the bottle's realm to collect the Eternal Undying Rain!

"Though you are a Pinnacle Immortal King, due to long years of entrapment, you're on the verge of death. Even though I'm just Eon-old Tribulation, my Divine Skills are not as weak as you imagine!"

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In the blink of an eye, Wu Laoba had exchanged several rounds with the red-faced elder without falling into disadvantage!

After all, the red-faced elder had been trapped for far too long, his cultivation could only be exerted at one to twenty percent. Wu Laoba could actually hold a tie in the battle.

And after Wu Laoba transformed into his Eternal True Body, he even gained a slight upper hand!

This left the red-faced elder inwardly grim!

Countless galaxies away, Ning Fan stood on an Abandoned Star with an amused smile.

Everything happening on the Water Demon Star did not escape his Heaven Prying Rain Technique!

"Emperor Shuiyan, huh..."

With a golden light flash under his feet, Ning Fan departed from this Abandoned Star. Some passing cultivators, startled by his escape light, had their expressions drastically change...

"Eternal Immortal Venerable!"

Chapter 994: A Stern Lesson

The great battle between Wu Laoba and the red-faced elder lasted for three days and nights!

Their battle ranged from the Water Demon Star to the Ancient Sea Star, then to Yundao Star, and finally to the Liangku Star... one cultivation star after another was destroyed due to the fluctuations from their duel!

The Immortal Sovereigns battled, the spectacle was immensely grand, naturally startling many Old Monsters of East Heaven nearby, but oddly, few wanted to watch this world-shaking battle...

Those with lower cultivations naturally dared not linger near the Immortal Sovereigns' battle, afraid to be dragged into it and lose their lives.

Those with higher cultivations, upon seeing Wu Laoba, were shocked and dared not linger, all hurriedly withdrew.

Who knows, in just three short years, Wu Laoba's reputation stank to what degree throughout Eastern Heaven. Now, almost no one in the True Immortal circle doesn't know the legend of the Black Turtle Sect. Of course, everyone usually avoids mentioning this ominous sect, fearing it might bring bad luck.

A few uninformed old monsters chose to stay and watch the battle, only to encounter accidents—either a meteor shower or a starry sky storm—with none meeting a good end...

Scene One:

"Ah! An Immortal Sovereign battle, let's go and see it, perhaps we can pick up some fragments of magical treasures, which would be priceless Immortal Materials for us..."

"Hold on, Daoist! If my senses are correct, one of these Immortal Sovereigns is that infamous Wu surname Immortal Sovereign who has caused chaos in Eastern Heaven in recent years! Two years ago, I saw the Great Goose Immortal King of Mohe Star suffer a great defeat at this person's hand but still humbly apologized to him! You and I must not approach this piece of the starry sky! This Wu surname Immortal Sovereign is eerily terrifying; this is not an empty claim! Once close, many things are likely to happen to us!"

"Daoist, you are joking, just watching a battle, what bad things could happen..."

As they spoke, a once-in-a-hundred-thousand-years starry sky storm came forth, directly swallowing this unbelieving Master, leaving no trace...

Scene Two:

"Ancestor! Near the Water Demon Star, we discovered a phenomenon where water light surged to the sky, likely indicating the emergence of an invaluable water treasure! Should we go snatch this treasure!"

"Haha! Go, why not go! When such treasure emerges, we cannot miss it!"

As they walked halfway, they suddenly sensed the surging aura Wu Laoba released, intentionally or unintentionally.

"Turn back, turn back immediately! We cannot tread on these troubled waters! It's the aura of Wu Laoba, the heir of the Black Turtle Sect! Things he's handled, we can't take, we will suffer calamities if we do! Duowen Immortal Sect is the precedent! Leave swiftly!"

Scene Three:

"Ancestor, after passing the Water Demon Star and traversing twelve star domains, we reach our destination."

"Hmm? This aura is... wait! Pass my order, immediately change route! We cannot advance any further in this starry sky! We reroute to the Great Evolution Star Sea! This instant!"

The group of cultivators were shocked, "Dare to ask Ancestor, why suddenly change routes... is it because of the fluctuations from the battle ahead? Even though the Immortal Sovereigns battle is strong, Ancestor is a formidable Immortal King, why fear this battle?"

"Ah, you have been in seclusion too long, just newly emerged, and are unaware. A phrase is now prevalent throughout Eastern Heaven: 'When the Black Turtle blocks the way, even an Immortal King must shed a layer of skin...' Even an Immortal King like me, upon encountering that Black Turtle, must retreat threefold... never provoke the Turtle in civil, nor the Rain Bandit in martial, remember these words."

...

As a result, what was originally a sky-shaking Immortal Sovereign battle ended with barely anyone daring to watch nor anyone daring to loot, due to Wu Laoba's intentional release of aura!

This is precisely the effect Wu Laoba desired, as his understanding is that Emperor Shuiyan specializes in a blood-siphoning technique that, if blood is siphoned, can greatly heal injuries and restore cultivation.

What Wu Laoba wanted was to chase away all Masters from this land, not leaving a single person for the red-faced elder to consume.

This was also the most frustrating aspect for the red-faced elder, having a heaven-defying blood art but no human blood to use for its deployment, resulting in already poor combat power further weakened by thirty percent.

Bang!

Another direct collision, Wu Laoba's million-zhang turtle body directly slammed the red-faced elder, vomiting blood and retreating, afterward laughing heartily, his laughter full of smugness.

"This is the 1056th time I've knocked you flying, weak, too weak! Shuiyan's spirit sense is merely this much! Daring to duel with me, Wu Laoba, heh heh, even if you're an Ancient Emperor's spirit sense, see how I, today, commit the feat of slaying an emperor!"

Bang!

Wu Laoba knocked the red-faced elder flying for the 1057th time.

The 1058th time...

The 1059th time...

The red-faced elder was knocked flying again and again by Wu Laoba, almost brutally, having barely survived years of entrapment, and now, after a three-day fierce battle, his injuries were worsening, leaving his spirit sense body on the brink of collapse, not far from death!

Inside the red-faced elder was an unyielding spirit!

He was the Eleventh Spirit Sense of the renowned Emperor Shuiyan, albeit not Shuiyan's true self; at full strength, he wielded the power of a pinnacle Immortal King! If not trapped for so long, too frail, how could he be so suppressed by a mere First Calamity Immortal Sovereign!

If only there were human blood to absorb, he wouldn't have ended up in this situation, but frustratingly, there was not a single living soul here, and any occasional living person invariably met misfortune...

"Damn it! Damn it! If I were in my prime, how could I allow you a petty person to have your way; slaying an Immortal Sovereign of the First Calamity would be akin to slaughtering a dog!" The red-faced elder shouted in rage.

"Blow, keep blowing! Got the guts to come and slaughter me, woof woof woof!"

Wu Laoba knocked the red-faced elder flying for the 1297th time, gradually the red-faced elder's half body crumbled, his expression terrifyingly fierce.

"Youngster! Knowing I am Shuiyan's spirit sense, then be aware, should you kill me, one day when my true self is free, the first thing he'll do is follow the cause and effect to take your worthless life! If you want to be sensible, release me this spirit sense and hand over the World Bottle of Shuiyan, today's matters will be forgiven..."

The red-faced old man truly had no choice!

He had to speak out in threats!

The surrounding starry sky was sealed by Wu Laoba's bizarre Black Fortune Divine Skills, escape was impossible. To fight, with this near-death body, he couldn't win...

Boom!

The response to the red-faced old man was Wu Laoba's 1298th collision.

Next came Wu Laoba's increasingly gleeful laugh.

"Want to threaten me, it's your real self crawling out from the Third Mountain first, what nonsense Shuiyan Emperor, a relic, how dare you act arrogant in front of me, provoke me and I'll go to Ancient

Demon Abyss, settle beneath your Demon Abyss Third Mountain, let your Shuiyan Path vanish under the three mountains!"

While snickering, he sent the red-faced old man flying dozens of times.

The 1300th time flying...

The 1400th time flying...

The 1500th...

The 1600th...

Even the red-faced old man couldn't hold on anymore, and finally, on the fourth day, he was killed by Wu Laoba.

"You, wait for me! Today's cause and effect, will surely be reckoned one day!"

This was the last threat left by the red-faced old man before his fall, his voice tinged with a mad killing intent.

Wu Laoba exited his Eternal True Body and spat disdainfully.

This kind of empty threat, he knew how to issue since he was three years old, what use did it serve.

Thinking back:

Wu Xiaoba: 'If you don't let me touch your bottom, you better wait, when I grow up I'll beat you to death!'

Neighbor girl Xiao Juan: 'Wah, Daddy, Tiger Kid (Wu Laoba's nickname) wants to touch my bottom, and when he grows up, he wants to beat me!'

The result of the threat was that Wu Xiaoba was beaten hard by the neighbor's dad, and then by his own dad...

Later, when he grew up, whether parents or neighbors, they all became dust in the ground. Only he lived forever, in the ranks of immortals...

Enough reminiscing.

Wu Laoba wasn't afraid of this kind of threat and saw through some of the red-faced old man's little schemes.

This kind of threat couldn't scare a real demoness, its only meaning was to let those who heard think the speaker was really dead, thereby lowering their guard...

In fact, the fight wasn't over yet.

"Trying to outsmart me, heh, you've found the wrong target..."

Wu Laoba flipped his hand to take out the Treasure-Seeking Turtle, set a direction, and sprayed a black light in that direction, striking an uninhabited area in the starry sky.

Oddly enough, once the black light struck, a blood mist suddenly exploded there, followed by a piercing scream...

It was the red-faced old man's voice!

This time, the red-faced old man was truly dead.

"After working for four days, finally killed this old thing, what nonsense about Shuiyan spirit sense, in my Wu Xiaoba's eyes, isn't scarier than a hair from the star of misfortune. Heh, it's time to enter the bottle world, and collect the Eternal Undying Rain! Master, oh Master, once I collect this thing and increase my strength, I will definitely repay you well, as I am Wu Xiaoba, the top loyal servant under heaven..."

Wu Laoba found an Abandoned Star to land, just about to enter the Flooded Bottle world, when suddenly a chill ran through him, turning him sharply around.

This turn sent Wu Laoba's three souls flying, nearly dropping the bottle in his hand, his heart pounded with anxiety.

A figure in white clothes fell into his view!

"Mas...mas...master! How are you here!"

Behind Wu Laoba stood none other than Ning Fan!

A snatch and grab! This is blatant snatching!

Given Wu Laoba's mind, with a quick turn of his beady green eyes, he understood the key immediately, knowing that Ning Fan had premeditatedly waited for him to repair the bottle, kill the Shuiyan, toil through this exhausting task, only to pick his fruits at the end, enjoy the benefit, and reap the profit!

Wu Laoba couldn't help being angry! That's not just anger, that was biting fury, if it weren't Ning Fan standing there, Wu Laoba would directly curse out loud!

Dammit! He has only ever calculated and trapped others, yet today the tables have turned, he's been snatched, his fruits picked! This star of misfortune is indeed despicable and shameless, he considered himself despicable enough, shameless enough, yet the star of misfortune managed to out-trick him, isn't he even more despicable, even more shameless!

But this is the star of misfortune, the only one in the world who restrains his Black Fortune, who once killed a Quasi-Saint on Mu Island, who holds his soul and can decide his fate at any moment... Even with

the urge to curse, Wu Laoba didn't dare to speak a dirty word. Compared to anger, his fear of Ning Fan was greater.

If there was a small man in Wu Laoba's heart full of anger, dissatisfaction, and criticism of Ning Fan's fruit-picking behavior, then there were ninety-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine small men feeling guilty, fearful, uneasy, grieving, thinking about how to give Ning Fan a plausible explanation to deceive him, and get through this hurdle...

"Does this star of misfortune know that I'm plotting to take the Eternal Undying Rain behind his back? No, he can't know! But what if he does know! This star of misfortune has always been ruthless, could he, in a fit of anger, just kill me off?"

Wu Laoba was shivering.

Facing countless Eastern Heavenly Powers, Wu Laoba had never trembled.

Facing the spirit sense of the Shuiyan Path, Wu Laoba had never trembled.

But at this moment, facing Ning Fan, Wu Laoba couldn't stop trembling, involuntarily, he was intimidated...

The result of being intimidated was that out of tens of thousands of little men within his heart, the only furious one was gloriously sacrificed, and all the little men resigned to fate, knelt in a row, chanting praises to Ning Fan.

Alas, he could only pray that the star of misfortune doesn't know the truth, otherwise, with the star's ruthless nature, it's highly likely that he'd directly kill him...

How else could one say Wu Laoba was a slick character? Seeing Ning Fan's expression still somewhat bright, Wu Laoba relaxed internally.

The matter of swallowing the Eternal Undying Rain didn't seem to be exposed yet, or else the star of misfortune wouldn't have such a good face... So Wu Laoba's eyes twitched, coming up with a solution.

Indeed, he handled this matter improperly, compared to an official in a mortal dynasty, he'd be considered a corrupt official, daring to embezzle the Emperor's silver!

If he really embezzled, by law, he ought to die, but luckily he hadn't had the chance yet!

Wu Laoba felt immensely grateful.

He hadn't had the chance to embezzle the Undying Rain, as Ning Fan arrived, which is a good thing! Therefore, this matter still had leeway!

At most, he could only be deemed unsuccessful, and at that, the star of misfortune seems unaware...

"The bottle, is it already repaired... Give it to me for a look," Ning Fan smiled seemingly casually.

Wu Laoba became even more convinced of his speculation, his spirits lifted, cradled the World Bottle respectfully, bowing deeply while offering it to Ning Fan, displaying the demeanor of the world's most loyal servant, then brewing emotion, suddenly burst into tears,

"Master, you might not know, in these three years, I've traveled throughout the Eastern Heaven, visiting over forty Eastern Heavenly forces, bearing countless humiliations, groveling, just to obtain all the repair materials needed to fix this bottle... The hardships, grievances, inexpressible to outsiders, several times I faced life and death crises repeatedly bullied by those Immortal Venerables and Kings of Eastern Heaven, many times, nearly gave up for the sake of some dignity, foregoing fixing the bottle, abandoning the unwavering loyalty held till now... But every time I wanted to give up, I remembered the Master's smile, the Master's earnest anticipation, the loyalty that once touched heaven and earth, then Little Ba found strength, time again gritted teeth through tears, continuing to beg those Eastern Heavenly powers, finally obtaining all the Immortal Materials to repair the treasure..."

Wu Laoba's words sounded pitiful, unaware, one might genuinely believe the search for repair materials was extremely arduous and full of grievances.

Ning Fan twitched his mouth, having personally seen Wu Laoba's joyful demeanor on Water Curtain Star, singing songs, blocking doors, hurling threats, and obtaining Immortal Materials and Three Trillion

Dao Crystals... Who bullied him! Who wronged this fellow! Clearly, it was this fellow bullying countless Eastern Heavenly forces! If anyone should feel wronged, it would be those Eastern Heavenly forces...

Seeing Ning Fan was not moved in the least, Wu Laoba lamented Ning Fan's heart of stone, indeed ruthlessness embodying. He changed strategy, ceased complaining, began to claim credit.

To claim credit, naturally, one must speak contrarily, this was Wu Laoba's life wisdom...

"Through great hardships, I've repaired the World Bottle, not for the Master's rewards, but for pure loyalty, sincere devotion..."

Wu Laoba secretly thought, he'd spoken to this extent, if the star of misfortune doesn't give a reward, it's too stingy then.

"Don't you want a reward?"

"I..." Wu Laoba halted, should he say he eagerly wants a reward? Wants the Eternal Undying Rain outright?

"Since you don't want it, I won't force you, let's drop the matter of rewards."

"..."

Wu Laoba wanted to rip out his tongue!

Why did he speak contrary words unnecessarily, didn't he know he shouldn't speak contrary words to straightforward people! The star of misfortune would take them seriously!

"Master, actually, actually... I don't reject the Master's rewards, truly, I want not the rewards themselves, but the supreme honor they represent... If the Master feels compelled, truly wants to bestow something upon me, I'd willingly accept, only, I wish to select a reward myself."

Wu Laoba secretly observed Ning Fan's expression, only to see Ning Fan's smile suddenly vanished at this moment, a cold glint flickered in his eye.

"What reward do you want, is it the World Bottle, the Nether Dust Sea within, or... the Eternal Undying Rain!"

No good! The star of misfortune knew everything! He really knew I wanted to gobble the Undying Rain! Wu Laoba was shocked!

That gaze was too cold, also too terrifying, meeting it for an instant, Wu Laoba felt a strange chill from the soles to the Tian Ling, heart raced endlessly, sensing impending doom.

Calamity! It's all discovered!

The star of misfortune was angry! With the star's unforgiving nature, he won't spare me!

Previously seeing Ning Fan smiling, Wu Laoba thought he could gloss over this, now it seemed, this star of misfortune clearly knew everything already!

No chance of glossing over!

"Mas-master-master, Little Ba wants no rewards! Little Ba was wrong, Little Ba knows his mistake! Little Ba shouldn't have had his heart clouded with foolish ambition, attempting to embezzle the Master's Eternal Undying Rain, please give Little Ba a chance, Little Ba will reform and start anew!"

Wu Laoba thudded as he knelt on the ground, shaking all over.

Ning Fan's eyes bore even colder intent, his real thought was actually just to scare Wu Laoba, that cold intent, was fake.

This Wu Laoba, indeed needed a knock, as a servant, dared to covet the Master's treasure, considering Ning Fan's past conduct, he certainly wouldn't give Wu Laoba a chance to live!

However, if Wu Laoba had any karmic ties with the old monster, just based on this alone, as long as Wu Laoba didn't cross Ning Fan's bottom line, Ning Fan wouldn't kill Wu Laoba. Although Wu Laoba had thoughts of seizing the Eternal Undying Rain for himself, he had no real intention of betraying him. On the larger stance, he's still quite steadfast... Ning Fan sighed slightly, he didn't want to chill the old monster's heart. In this way, if accountability was necessary, at most there would only be a slight reprimand and a gentle warning to this fellow.

A warning is necessary! Ning Fan does not seek Wu Laoba's unwavering loyalty, yet he must make him understand what can and cannot be done.

Along his journey to today, Ning Fan had taken in numerous servants, among whom the vast majority were irredeemable evil sects.

Can you really expect true loyalty from these irredeemably evil, sly as foxes demonic heads? You cannot!

Therefore, even for Earth Controlling Devil Star and Iron Crow, Ning Fan never expected true loyalty. It was always a mix of reward and punishment, showing favor on one hand, while threatening with the soul on the other. Only then could these demonic heads be prevented from acting recklessly, ensuring they never harbor thoughts of betrayal.

For Wu Laoba, the same should apply!

Ordinarily, he was quite courteous to Wu Laoba. When Wu Laoba was injured, he gifted him expensive pills, and self-reflectively felt he had never mistreated Wu Laoba nor wantonly driven him.

Indeed, he had achieved this.

Now, he needed to make Wu Laoba understand his might, letting him know what might happen if he betrayed his master!

Ning Fan flipped his hand and took out Wu Laoba's soul, gripping it tightly.

Wu Laoba's face turned ghastly pale at once; if Ning Fan crushed this soul, he would surely die with no chance of survival!

Standing on the brink of life and death, his fate depended entirely on Ning Fan's decision!

"Master, I was wrong! I truly realize my mistake now! Your humble servant will dare no more; your humble servant really won't dare anymore in the future!"

"Forty trillion Dao Crystals! The forty trillion Dao Crystals your humble servant collected will all go to the master! Also, expensive pills, Dao Fruits, various Spiritual Medicine and immortal materials, all for the master! Your humble servant will never dare to embezzle even a fraction again! Master, spare my life!"

This fellow actually collected so many Dao Crystals!

And it only took him three years!

Ning Fan couldn't help but be moved. This Wu Laoba could definitely be a competent helper. With him, it would be easy to establish a sect, lacking nothing in logistics support, and he could use his Black Fortune to deter countless invaders, causing endless trouble in enemy camps...

Wu Laoba keenly caught the momentary change in Ning Fan's expression. In his understanding, it was his own worth that touched Ning Fan, thus opening up a possible chance for survival.

He couldn't imagine that Ning Fan hadn't intended to kill him from the start, merely frightening him...

"Master! From today onwards, any cultivation materials you need, just tell Little Ba. Little Ba will go through fire and water to get them for you! Whatever orders you have, Little Ba will diligently and vigorously complete them! If you fancy any woman, Little Ba... Little Ba will camp outside her home. If she doesn't comply, Little Ba will make her sect fall into ruin!"

What kind of nonsense is this!

Does Ning Fan seem like the type to bully men and prey on women?

Well, actually... he does seem like such a villain. As Ning Fan self-reflected, he realized he had done quite a bit of such things...

"Master, Little Ba is of great use to you, of tremendous use. Killing me would be like killing the goose that lays the golden eggs!"

Is that how you use "killing the goose that lays the golden eggs"? Ning Fan wondered if he's being taken for ignorant...

Oh, forget it, forget it. The act has been performed enough, Ning Fan truly couldn't bear to watch Wu Laoba's crying and nonsensical chatter any longer.

After frightening Wu Laoba for a while, Ning Fan then purposely said coldly,

"Remember what you said. This is your last chance! There won't be a next time!"

After frightening Wu Laoba, Ning Fan's mood, tangled due to Xian Luoli, inexplicably improved a bit.

He began to understand Tantai Weiyu; perhaps truly, those with black bellies can indeed find joy in others' suffering...

From the angle of entertaining Ning Fan, this Wu Laoba has truly made a small contribution.

Wu Laoba cried tears of joy!

The star of misfortune agreed to give him a way out. That's truly wonderful! Any Eternal Undying Rain or Water-Flooding Realm Bottle was far less thrilling than this joy of escaping death!

Great despair followed by great joy; in his excitement, Wu Laoba unexpectedly opened up another good fortune point. Oh my, again, it's the benefit of following the star of misfortune. He's indeed too lucky!

Thus Wu Laoba felt ashamed, humiliated. Look at what he's done; he constantly benefits from the star of misfortune, enhancing his cultivations, yet still brazenly schemed for the star's Undying Rain. It's simply repaying kindness with rancor, the behavior of a rascal, not just shameless but utterly shameless! It's completely tarnishing the upright and majestic image of his master!

Wu Laoba had already deliberately ignored the fact that he had just accused Ning Fan of being a despicable, shameless person...

"Master, Little Ba promises to be the most loyal servant under the heavens, living for the master and dying for the master from this moment on!" Wu Laoba vowed confidently.

Ning Fan's mouth twitched.

If Earth Controlling Devil Star or Iron Crow said this, Ning Fan might believe it thirty percent, but Wu Laoba... well, he'd better keep a close watch on this fellow in the future, constantly warning him, lest he misbehaves again.

"Tell me about the Eternal Undying Rain; I want to know the details." Ning Fan casually ordered.

Wu Laoba's spirits rose!

Having just offended Ning Fan, it was indeed the moment for him to eagerly make amends; naturally, he would speak without reserve, leaving nothing unsaid...

Chapter 995: Reverse Sea Sword

Ocean, is the inverted sky.

In ancient times, there was a general named Cang, who after the chaos of heaven's fall, became an earthly general, guarding the reverse sea. There were also loyal souls from eight directions, who died in battle on land, their heroic souls returned to the sea, transformed into rain returning to the sky,

eternally entrenched in the heavens as rain, never perishing for eons, capable of forging mythical weapons, even saints competed for them...

Wu Laoba, with a tongue like a rolling river, recited the ancient secrets his master told him to Ning Fan. Of course, Wu Laoba only understood the general gist, which was that the Eternal Undying Rain has a significant origin, and can be used to forge the legendary Ancient Map Dao Weapon.

"Ancient Map Dao Weapon..."

Ning Fan slightly savored Wu Laoba's words, for this was the first time he had heard of the term.

"Yes, this Eternal Undying Rain is specifically for forging Ancient Map Dao Weapons! Master should know, in the same tier, Dao Weapons are weaker than magical treasures!" Wu Laoba suddenly changed his tone, asking.

"Generally... that is indeed the case." Ning Fan thought for a moment, then answered.

The power of Dao Weapons lies in their ability to grow with their owner's cultivation, however, there is gain and loss. The power and abilities of Dao Weapons are generally inferior to those of magical treasures in the same tier. Therefore, neither the strong individuals Ning Fan had seen, nor Ning Fan himself, used Dao Weapons as their trump card. It's an indisputable fact and a consensus in the cultivation world that Dao Weapons are weaker than ordinary magical treasures at the same level.

"Wrong, everyone is wrong! How can Dao Weapons be weak? It is rumored that among the Three Great Realms, one is ruled by various Ancient Holy Sects, whose cultivators generally do not use magical treasures and wield only Dao Weapons. The power of their Dao Weapons far exceeds the scope of ordinary magical treasures! It is said that those Holy Sects have inherited many pre-Immemorial Dao Weapon forging designs, able to forge the legendary Ancient Map Dao Weapons, hence their power far surpasses that of other tiers..."

Wu Laoba flipped his hand, taking out a yellowed scroll ancient book, respectfully handing it to Ning Fan,

"To be honest, master! The master of my master's master's master's master... who is the grandmaster of the Black Fortune Sect, once by chance, picked up this ancient book, which actually records many

designs for forging Ancient Map Dao Weapons! This item was originally a treasure passed down for generations in our Black Fortune Sect, but because of Wu Xiaoba's loyalty, he painfully parted with this book to offer it to master! Wu Xiaoba does not seek the master's approval but seeks loyalty and ardor, for... um, Wu Xiaoba has not finished speaking, master don't be hasty in reading, first, listen to Wu Xiaoba express his loyalty..."

Ning Fan automatically ignored Wu Laoba's expression of loyalty and began browsing through the yellowed ancient book, first sensing a fierce beast's aura from ancient times.

This is... the skin of an immortal emperor-level fierce beast... and it dates back a long time...

The cover is wordless, and the first ten pages of the ancient book depict the forging design for the Barbaric Soldier Mountain Sea Axe, detailing materials and forging steps, with an introduction by the designer at the end.

"Barbaric Soldier Mountain Sea Axe, this axe should be included in the sixty-sixth rank of the Holy Sect, but heavenly materials lack the Dao Man Ancient Star, and the Ancient Crystal of the Ancient Wind Kingdom, and earthly materials lack Mount Buzhou Ridge, and the teeth of the Earth Giant... Despite pouring all my life's efforts, I couldn't forge it out, it's a pity."

Ning Fan gave a cursory glance at the materials and was immediately stunned.

Among the materials needed for this Barbaric Soldier Mountain Sea Axe, not a single one was familiar to him, and clearly, they are extraordinary items, such that even with the blueprint, he could not forge such Ancient Map Dao Weapons.

Ning Fan glanced subconsciously at Wu Laoba, who instantly shook his head like a tambourine, "Master don't look at me! Immortal materials that don't exist in the Dreamland Realm, little me can't obtain!"

The implication is that the materials for the Barbaric Soldier Mountain Sea Axe simply cannot be gathered in the Dreamland Realm, so master, you shouldn't even think about it.

"Master's Dao Weapon is a sword, right? Master might as well directly look at page 182!" Wu Laoba reminded with a beaming smile.

Ning Fan ignored Wu Laoba and turned the pages one by one.

Ten Ancient Lives Whip, can be included in the seventy-first rank of the Holy Sect...

Feng Yue Mirror, can be included in the eighty-fourth rank of the Holy Sect...

Tiangang Silver Sky Rush, can be included in the sixty-ninth rank of the Holy Sect...

Scattering Soul Demon Banner, can be included in the seventy-first rank of the Holy Sect...

As he kept looking, Ning Fan gained a certain understanding of the grading system for Ancient Map Dao Weapons.

The Ancient Map Dao Weapons are graded from one to one hundred, the higher the rank, the stronger the power in the same tier. Of course, even the weakest hundredth-grade Ancient Map Dao Weapon is much stronger than ordinary Dao Weapons.

However, Ning Fan flipped through the entire ancient book, finding only the Barbaric Soldier Mountain Sea Axe at the sixty-sixth rank and no higher-grade Dao Weapon blueprints.

What Wu Laoba wanted him to see was a Dao Weapon called the "Reverse Sea Sword."

This Dao Weapon's grade is not high, barely included in the ninety-eighth rank of the Holy Sect, naturally its drawback is that the grade is too low, but the advantage is also very obvious—easy to forge! Apart from the Eternal Undying Rain, no other immortal materials are needed.

At the end of the blueprint, there is also a statement by the designer.

"Reverse Sea Sword is the superior disciple sword of the Hunkun Holy Sect, if a non-Holy Sect disciple wields the sword, they may also enter the Holy Sect Dao Field and sit to listen to Dao... With this

convenience, many Masters strive for a drop of Undying Rain, just to forge this sword and enter the Holy Sect to listen to Dao..."

Hunkun Holy Sect?

Ning Fan slightly pondered, forging the Reverse Sea Sword is very simple, just need to integrate Eternal Undying Rain into his existing Dao Sword as per the Secret Technique, and then it can be refined step by step.

"Master obtained the Eternal Undying Rain, there are two methods to use it: one is to directly integrate the Undying Rain into the Dao Weapon, greatly enhancing the Dao Weapon's power while adding a trace of reincarnation force to its attacks. Emperor Shuiyan did this, as he didn't have a blueprint. The second method is to upgrade the former Dao Weapon to the Reverse Sea Sword according to this forging blueprint. Using the blueprint to forge would better leverage the power of the Undying Rain, the resulting Dao Weapon's power naturally cannot be compared to the first method..."

Saying this, Wu Laoba felt somewhat regretful. If the star of misfortune hadn't intercepted him, he could have forged a Reverse Sea Sword for himself... Alas, one drop of Undying Rain, the forged Reverse Sea Sword is ninety-eighth rank, if there were two drops, three drops, it wouldn't be this rank...

It's uncertain how many drops of Undying Rain are in the Water-Flooding Bottle.

Alas, no more thinking, cannot think any further, the more he thinks, the more he feels heartache, these Undying Rain droplets already belong to the star of misfortune, if Wu Xiaoba dared to covet them again, he would lose his life!

"Master, let us first go collect the Undying Rain! We don't even know if there are any Undying Rain droplets in the bottle, theoretically each thirty million years, the bottle's sea undergoes a sea-to-rain transition, but not every transition yields Undying Rain, there could be five consecutive transitions without one drop... If that happens, it would be too dreadful!"

But it wouldn't be dreadful! If there were no drops, it would be interesting!

The dark villain in Wu Laoba's heart silently drew circles, anyway these Undying Rain droplets did not belong to him, if the bottle didn't contain even one drop of Undying Rain, or just one or two drops, who knows what the star of misfortune's mood, what expression would be...

"No need to worry, the number of Undying Rain droplets in the bottle won't be few..."

Ning Fan flipped his hand, taking out the Treasure-searching Compass, glanced at the violently shaking needle on the compass, smiled faintly, confirming.

Wu Laoba looked at the Treasure-searching Compass, his eyes widened instantly!

"This this this... this is... Three Wasteland Elder's Treasure-searching Compass! Known as the supreme treasure for searching in the heavens and earth! Ranked second in the Dreamland Realm treasure-hunting, five ranks higher than my Treasure-Seeking Turtle! Wasn't this item destroyed in a battle along with the fall of Three Wasteland Elder? Why is it in master's hand!"

Ning Fan naturally wouldn't explain the origin of the Treasure-searching Compass to Wu Laoba.

Judging by Wu Laoba's reaction, this Treasure-searching Compass seems to be an extraordinary treasure, though its rank isn't high...

No item unsearchable in heavens and earth...

Under Wu Laoba's lustful gaze, Ning Fan, together with Wu Laoba, entered the realm within the Water-Flooding Bottle.

Within view lay a silent sea, its water so heavy that Ning Fan stood on the sea surface, finding it quite difficult to dive, despite his eons-honored Immortal Venerable strength.

The wind blew, bringing the salty smell of sea wind. Ning Fan gazed solemnly at the sea beneath his feet; the seawater here was drawn from the Nether Dust Sea surrounding Zi Dou Immortal Domain, water from the homeland of Dreamland Realm cultivators...

Above the sea and sky, countless layers of clouds hide seven azure blue light clusters, concealed deep within the clouds.

This concealment naturally couldn't escape the keen eyes of powerful figures like Ning Fan and Wu Laoba.

Wu Laoba wore a slightly distressed expression, "There are actually seven drops of Eternal Undying Rain!" Damn it, his curse failed...

Fortunately, Wu Laoba was perceptive, his expression changed quickly. He immediately shifted to a loyal servant's tone and congratulated Ning Fan,

"Congratulations Master, felicitations Master! If the Master uses the seven drops of Undying Rain to refine the Reverse Sea Sword, it may result in an Ancient Map Dao Weapon surpassing the ninth grade! You're indeed blessed with great fortune, truly wise and bold, truly..."

Ning Fan automatically ignored Wu Laoba's flattery, remained silent briefly, and then asked meaningfully,

"If I take only six drops and give you one... would you want it?"

Wu Laoba shivered instantly, secretly thinking this must be a test by the star of misfortune, yes, a test! It's definitely testing his loyalty! If he indeed asked for that Undying Rain drop, he'd be Pig Laoba, and the star of misfortune certainly wouldn't spare him lightly!

"No! How could Little Ba take the Master's treasure! A supreme treasure like the Undying Rain is only fit for the Master, no one else is worthy! Whoever dares to compete with the Master for this rain, even if it costs Little Ba seven steps in blood, he will make them pay, even himself! Heaven can bear witness! Little Ba lives for the Master, dies for the Master! Little Ba is a top-tier loyal servant in the world! The ancestors of Little Ba from eight generations all were loyal successors! Little Ba..."

"Since you don't want it, let's leave it at that."

Ning Fan smiled slightly, ascended to the clouds to retrieve the seven drops of Undying Rain.

Considering that Wu Laoba repaired the bottle, he initially intended to reward Wu Laoba with the smallest of the seven drops, for balancing kindness with authority is the way to lead. However, since Wu Laoba declined so righteously, he naturally wouldn't force it. After all, who wouldn't want more treasures? Hmm, he'll keep it for himself.

Wu Laoba watched Ning Fan retrieve the rain, with a righteous face, seeming like 'If you give me the Undying Rain I'll fight you,' yet inwardly quite pleased.

Star of misfortune, oh star of misfortune, your probing acts are too obvious; you're clearly underestimating the intelligence of Wu Xiaoba. Would I fall for it? Hehe, your standard is still low, oh so low!

After collecting the Undying Rain, Ning Fan and Wu Laoba left the bottle realm, then returned all the way to Qianqiu Sect.

With less than two years until the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain opens, Ning Fan decided to refine the Reverse Sea Sword and then patiently wait for the Sacred Domain to open. Therefore, as soon as he returned to Qianqiu Sect, he immediately entered the Xuan Yin Treasure for secluded cultivation.

This made Burying Moon Immortal Princess rather upset, she would have to find another time to talk with Ning Fan.

The loyal Wu Laoba naturally stayed at Qianqiu Sect to guard the sect for Ning Fan.

Of course, Wu Laoba's presence was very low-key, without any fanfare. Only a few knew of his existence, most were unaware of the addition of an Eternal Immortal Venerable within the sect.

And who could blame Wu Laoba for being spooky? Discussing him would trigger misfortune, he had no choice but to keep a low profile.

Fortunately, Wu Laoba could now control his bad luck somewhat. His presence, if kept quiet, wouldn't cause the whole Qianqiu Sect to be chaotic.

This was also why Ning Fan was at ease leaving Wu Laoba behind.

In the Western Xuanyin Realm, Ning Fan entered a Millennium Age Tower, spending a thousand years before finally emerging from it.

With a flip of the hand, the Dao Weapon appeared in his hand, causing the entire world to be covered in a face-whipping sea breeze.

It was a Dao Sword that emitted a dim blue glow, its body seemed made of water and even capable of flowing. Holding the sword felt not like holding a sword, but a piece of the sea.

This was the Reverse Sea Sword, upgraded from the Memory Severing Dao Sword! Its grade could enter the eighth-nine grade of the Holy Sect!

"With my current cultivations, this sword is already enough to serve as a Twelve Nirvana Magical Treasure, and its power exceeds common Twelve Nirvana Magical Treasures. Wrapped with five types of Palm Position Paths, it could rival innate inferior-grade treasures! If my cultivations grow higher, this treasure could be even stronger! And the most formidable aspect of this treasure is it can append a trace of reincarnation attack, capable of withstanding the divine power of the third step... Limited by my cultivation, I can't make this sword unleash too much reincarnation power, but if my cultivation reaches a certain level, this sword can injure even a Saint! It can grow into a third-step Ancient Map Dao Weapon!"

However, this sword is indeed heavy!

A drop of Undying Rain weighs as much as an entire Cultivation Star, and infused with seven drops, the forged Reverse Sea Sword weighs the Seven Stars Weight!

What kind of concept is this?

Without Ning Fan controlling the sword to make it feel light, its mere weight could crush the Cultivation Star!

Cultivation below the Timeless Realm can't swing this heavy sword a few times!

Ancient demons refine the body, Ning Fan's ancient demon cultivation hasn't reached the Ancient Star level, relying solely on physical strength can't swing this sword, it must depend on mana to maintain.

"With this sword, the Four Emperors Luohan Pine is optional... As for the innate aspect, I lack the Liangyi Square Seal, but now, I have the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle."

Ning Fan stowed the Dao Sword.

Dao Sword needs to grow, it must synchronize with his cultivation. Though it is high-grade, regrettably, his cultivation level isn't enough, and it can't yet serve as a trump card.

Fortunately, he acquired the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle, an innate mid-grade treasure, far superior to the Liangyi Square Seal.

"As for how to use this bottle, I asked Wu Laoba, but he was elusive, unwilling to clarify... Though he didn't say, I could sense that using this bottle is extremely dangerous..."

Ning Fan left the Western Realm Cave Dwelling, holding the Water-Flooding Bottle, continuously realized it for three months, attempting to communicate with it spiritually.

After three months, he finally decided to try triggering its power, and the moment he activated it, a counter-collapse force immediately transmitted back from the Water-Flooding Bottle.

The counter-collapse force was extremely strong, enough to instantly kill a Shedding Void Cultivator. If a Shedding Void Cultivator imprudently tried to use the treasure, they would be revived and die instantly!

"And not just that..."

Ning Fan's gaze grew more intense.

As he continuously infused mana, the three droplet patterns on the Water-Flooding Bottle, the first droplet gradually lit up, emitting a water glow.

When the first droplet was lit over one-third, the counter-collapse force from the bottle already sufficed to kill a Thought-Shattering Cultivator!

When the droplet was lit over halfway, the counter-collapse force exceeded the tolerance levels of a newly ascended Immortal Venerable!

As the illumination reached two-thirds, the counter-collapse force directly shattered half of Ning Fan's arm, marking the limit of what Ning Fan could achieve at present!

At the broken arm, the Black Flame burned fiercely, and the severed arm gradually regrew, displaying the Phoenix Race's Nirvana divine skill.

"Two-thirds of a droplet..."

Ning Fan was deeply moved.

No wonder Wu Laoba didn't want this bottle; obviously with his cultivations, he couldn't use it at all.

To unleash this bottle's divine power, at least one droplet must be fully lit. Ning Fan only lit two-thirds of a droplet, causing his arm to collapse. If he continued...

Ning Fan smiled faintly. Of course, he could continue!

The previous incident of a shattered half-arm was because he deliberately disabled the defense of the God-Extinguishing Shield, resulting in such an effect.

If he had relied on the protection of the God-Extinguishing Shield and forcibly lit the water droplets on the bottle, what then!

This time, Ning Fan activated the defense of the God-Extinguishing Shield, surrounding himself in golden light, and forcibly lit the first water droplet!

Afterward, he lit half a water droplet, once again reaching his limit.

It wasn't until he became a complete God-Slaying Giant that Ning Fan barely lit up the second water droplet pattern.

The third water droplet, however, was beyond his current cultivation to light up. If he forced it, even with the protection of the God-Extinguishing Shield, he would undoubtedly suffer severe injuries, or even die!

Ordinary people couldn't use this bottle at all! Although Ning Fan couldn't fully unleash the bottle's power, he could at least use it.

"Find someone to test the bottle's capabilities..."

Ning Fan released his giant form and walked out of the Xuan Yin Treasure.

With a thought, the Rain Intent instantly spread over the entire Eastern Heaven.

"Master, you're out? How can it be so quick, it's only been three months... Did the sword casting not go well! That's... that's such a pity!"

Pity my foot! This is tremendously good news!

Wu Laoba secretly cheered; the master's misfortune is Wu Xiaoba's great fortune! Of course, on the surface, he had to appear extremely loyal.

Little did he know, while three months had passed here, Ning Fan had already endured a millennium, having long completed the sword casting.

"You are more familiar with the Perennial Ancients of Eastern Heaven, are there any who are skilled in defense? I want to find someone to test the God-Extinguishing Shield's divine ability."

Hiss!

Could it be that this star of misfortune can withstand the collapse backlash of the God-Extinguishing Shield and light up the first water droplet totem!

Wu Laoba was secretly startled, then realized he was overreacting. The star of misfortune could even subdue a Quasi-Saint, so being able to withstand the capsule's backlash wasn't that surprising.

Ah, the star of misfortune is indeed formidable; if it were Wu Xiaoba, using the God-Extinguishing Shield would be seeking death.

"When Xiaoba was gathering materials, he met many ancients of Eastern Heaven, many of whom are skilled in defense. If the master has a need, Xiaoba is willing to lead the way. With Xiaoba here, they wouldn't dare refuse to help the master!"

Wu Laoba declared confidently, his tone somewhat domineering, as if he would force them if they were unwilling.

Ning Fan shook his head; for such matters, mutual consent was required, and Ning Fan didn't want to offend a large group of Perennial Ancients of Eastern Heaven over such a trivial matter.

Well, if others helped him test, he should give some token of gratitude.

"Lead the way then."

Thus, Wu Laoba's first stop was to take Ning Fan to Water Curtain Star.

By then, the Water Curtain Immortal King had already passed a minor lightning tribulation. However, upon hearing Wu Laoba was here again, he was still full of apprehension. Within his apprehension, there was even a hint of anger.

This damned turtle! He wanted the Spirit Supreme Water Pearl, and I gave it! He wanted three trillion Dao Crystals, I gave that too! It's only been a few months, and he's here again!

Does he intend to extort more things!

Does he really think the Shui Family of Eastern Heaven is easy to bully!

"Hmm? This turtle isn't here alone this time, beside him is... the Rain Bandit Ning Fan!"

The Water Curtain Immortal King's face immediately turned grim.

One doesn't provoke a turtle in writing, and one doesn't provoke the Rain Bandit in martial battle... Why have these two come together! What are they here for...

"This Wu Laoba is someone I am indeed apprehensive of, but only to a degree. If pushed, no matter what kind of turtle he is, I will not hesitate to kill him! But the Rain Bandit must not be underestimated... As the rumors say, after exterminating the Anti-Ning Alliance, the Rain Bandit did something incredible — he single-handedly stormed Zaoyang Mountain on Eastly Star, fought two kings and six lords to a stalemate, and, even more unbelievable, he blocked an ability of Great Emperor Chonghe! If this bandit is truly here to cause trouble, it won't be good..."

Thus, the Water Curtain Immortal King led a group of Shui Family cultivators, fully vigilant, to welcome Ning Fan and Wu Laoba.

To think a dignified Immortal King had to lower himself to welcome an Immortal Venerable; it was the first time something like this happened in Eastern Heaven.

"May I ask what business brings the Rain Monarch and Brother Wu here today..." The Water Curtain Immortal King cautiously observed the two, seeing Ning Fan's smile without any hostility, he felt slightly relieved. He then noticed Wu Laoba lagging half a step behind, serving Ning Fan attentively, bowing and scraping like a servant, and was immediately astonished.

How come this turtle, a peculiar giant in his own right, acts so low before the Rain Bandit!

"Worry not, Daoist Water Curtain, I, Ning Fan, have come today merely to ask you to test a magical treasure's power. I bear no malice, and this token of appreciation is merely for you to try the test; I hope Daoist doesn't refuse."

Ning Fan turned his hand, taking out a jade box, and handed it over to the Water Curtain Immortal King.

The Water Curtain Immortal King glanced at it, frowned slightly, but still accepted the token.

The reward wasn't much, but that's to be expected, for a simple test that takes but a moment, how much compensation could there be?

Fine, as long as the two aren't here to make trouble, it's best to test it with the Rain Bandit's trial and quickly send off these two mighty figures.

"Our Immortal Venerable duels often cause immense fluctuations that can destroy galaxies. May the Rain Monarch move the trial into my water realm."

The Water Curtain Immortal King flicked his finger, and a portal of light appeared in the starry sky.

Still cautious, he hadn't completely lowered his guard against Ning Fan; if Ning Fan was indeed malevolent, it would be safer to defeat him in his own water realm.

"Very well, I too wish not to have too many witnesses for this treasure's divine ability."

And so, Ning Fan and the Water Curtain Immortal King stepped into the light portal and entered the water realm for the trial.

This left Wu Laoba feeling regretful, wishing he could witness the God-Extinguishing Shield's divine skill with his own eyes. Ah, that star of misfortune is too stingy, letting him see wouldn't kill him.

Time passed little by little, and the Shui Family cultivators began to whisper among themselves.

"Quite a bit of time has passed already, who knows what the result of the trial is? The old ancestor just crossed a minor lightning tribulation and has not returned to full strength; hopefully, he hasn't been injured by the Rain Monarch?"

"Relax! Our ancestor excels in defense, with a Water God's Treasure Armor rarely breached by any Immortal Venerable. Even though not at full strength, he remains an experienced Triple Calamity Immortal King, beyond the Rain Monarch's power to harm."

"But I heard that the Rain Monarch ventured alone into Zaoyao Mountain, battled against two kings and six sovereigns without defeat, and even withstood a divine ability from the Immortal Emperor..."

"You're somewhat uninformed. The Rain Monarch's undefeated performance relied on a single Golden Light Defense Divine Ability... Hmm? There's movement, it seems to be over, the ancestor should be about to come out."

However, the situation was somewhat different from what the Shui Family cultivator anticipated.

The light gate suddenly began to shake violently, faintly giving an impression of impending collapse!

No, it wasn't the light gate collapsing, but the entire Water realm!

Bang!

The light gate suddenly exploded, and then two figures charged out from it, naturally they were Ning Fan and the Water Curtain Immortal King.

Ning Fan's face bore a satisfied smile, seemingly very pleased with the power of the Water-Flooding Realm Bottle.

Only using the power of water alone was enough to scare off the Water Curtain Immortal King, hmm, the power is quite decent...

The Water Curtain Immortal King appeared rather disheveled, though unharmed, his hair was let down, and with a disheveled appearance, his eyes had a trace of fear.

Yes, fear indeed!

If it hadn't been for Ning Fan's mercy, he, a grand Water Curtain Immortal King, would certainly have been drowned by Ning Fan's single divine ability!

What kind of bottle is that, how could it be so terrifying! And intuition tells the Water Curtain Immortal King that Ning Fan did not exert his full strength.

"...Thank you, Daoist, for your mercy." After a long while, the Water Curtain Immortal King finally recovered from his fear, grudgingly smiling and clasping his hands towards Ning Fan.

Now he could finally confirm that Ning Fan came to Water Curtain Star without malicious intent. Just joking, if there was malice, he could have just submerged Water Curtain Star directly, with such a treasure in hand, why resort to cunning tricks, he could directly destroy the Shui Family!

Indeed, this Rain Bandit is not to be trifled with!

"It was merely a test move, nothing about mercy, you're exaggerating, Daoist. Farewell!"

Ning Fan politely clasped his hands to the Water Curtain Immortal King and left with Wu Laoba.

The entire Shui Family was naturally in an uproar, considering the situation, could it be that their ancestor nearly couldn't even withstand a single divine ability from the Rain Monarch? Relying on the Rain Monarch's mercy to survive!

What a joke! A dignified Triple Calamity Immortal King, unable to withstand a single move from an Immortal Venerable... such a thing, too absurd!

Some doubted if this scene was a play performed by their ancestor in cooperation with the Rain Monarch, unwilling to believe that their ancestor couldn't withstand even a single move from the Rain Monarch.

Sadly, no one personally witnessed that battle, naturally unable to provide a definitive answer.

...

As time passed little by little, more and more people began discussing the upcoming opening of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain.

The Qianqiu Sect was also busy with preparations, as entering the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain required a large amount of Medicine Soul Stones, because without Medicine Soul Stones, survival in the Sacred Domain was impossible.

Within the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain, there are countless ancient immortals medicines, with the potency too strong, as medicines have three parts poison, if the medicinal essence is too strong, it becomes poison. Cultivators enter there, every moment requiring the power of the medicine soul to counteract the medicinal vapors, requiring the use of Medicine Soul Stones.

The stronger the Medicine Soul, the fewer Medicine Soul Stones needed; if the Medicine Soul is not strong, even an Eternal Immortal Venerable would struggle to withstand such medicinal essence using their own power.

Currently, the Six Desires Sect has already migrated stars, merging into the Qianqiu Sect. They found a mine vein of Medicine Soul Stones, and have now extracted a large amount of Medicine Soul Stones, preparing this aspect thoroughly, Ning Fan was ready.

In terms of maps, Ning Fan did not manage to collect much, the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain is divided into two major areas: the outer and inner areas. Typically, cultivators entering to train remain in the outer area but entering the inner area means almost certain death. Yet, some have survived the inner area, acquiring great fortunes, like the Sect Master of the Pill Sect, who once acquired the Great Desolate Cauldron there.

Ning Fan had long obtained the outer area map, but maps of the inner area were hard to come by.

It was said that the inner area well collapsed into tens of thousands of broken continents, with unpredictable terrain and extreme danger, few survived from the inner area, so few maps were circulated. Occasionally, maps were extremely fragmented, only sketching one or two continents among the thousands of broken continents...

Regarding maps, Ning Fan couldn't prepare and would have to rely on the Ice Rain Technique to navigate after entering, which wasn't a significant problem.

Nonetheless, based on information he obtained, once the Sacred Domain opens this time, it will permanently close, leading many old monsters to willingly suppress their cultivation to enter the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain one last time...

The entry quotas are limited!

As a result, quite a few juniors' quotas were taken by their own old monsters...

These matters were also things Ning Fan was concerned about. He too planned to suppress his cultivation to enter the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain, a feasible plan given many old monsters were busy with this, but such suppression still had its limits...

"Even if the Seven Calamity Immortal Emperor suppresses his cultivation, he cannot enter, this was the result of recent tests, but the Sixth Calamity remains unknown..."

Ning Fan casually flipped through some information gathered by his subordinates, undeniably having a wave of subordinates is enjoyable, especially having a capable subordinate like Wu Laoba.

Just after Ning Fan mentioned needing some Daoquan to irrigate the Seven Treasures Marvelous Tree, Wu Laoba eagerly scurried off to various sects to ask for Daoquan, eager to curry favor and improve Ning Fan's impression of him...

Thus, over the following days, every ten or so days, Wu Laoba would return to Qianqiu Sect, bringing back a batch of Daoquan for Ning Fan to irrigate the Seven Treasures Marvelous Tree to enhance cultivation.

With ancient Fiendgods and ancient demon cultivation reaching the limit of the Initiate Realm of Shekong, they were limited by Heart Tribulation, unable to continue improving.

Contrarily, ancient demon cultivations progressed rapidly, as the Seven Treasures Marvelous Tree continued to grow, producing more fruits, ancient demon cultivation steadily advancing towards the Ninth Nirvana Essence of Heavenly Demon.

Gradually, Ning Fan discovered a troublesome aspect of the Seven Treasures Marvelous Tree.

This tree became immune to absorbing power from lower-level Daoquan after being over-irrigated by them, thus requiring high-level Daoquan for further growth.

This was one trouble.

Another trouble was the Burying Moon Immortal Consort seeking Ning Fan out on a peculiar full moon night.

On this night, the aura of Burying Moon was incomparably strong, akin to not just a residual soul, but a once mighty Immortal Emperor!

"What do you want from me?" Ning Fan pondered solemnly, considering the enhanced aura of Burying Moon tonight to be perhaps related to the full moon...

"I have something to discuss with you, concerning the Grand Princess."

The Burying Moon Immortal Consort wore a serious expression.

Matters involving Mu Weiliang required seriousness, no room for jokes.

Chapter 996: Divine City Snowfall, Holy Domain Approaches

Tonight, the presence of Burying Moon Immortal Concubine was unprecedentedly strong, and unprecedentedly serious.

She came today to negotiate with Ning Fan, and the negotiation was about two points: First, she demanded that Ning Fan stay away from Mu Weiliang, and second, she wanted Ning Fan to rebuild the Ancient Heavenly Court.

Ning Fan frowned; he did not expect Burying Moon Immortal Concubine to meddle in his affairs with Mu Weiliang. The nature of his feelings for Mu Weiliang seemed not something Burying Moon could intervene in.

What surprised him more was the second demand — to rebuild the Ancient Heavenly Court.

The Ancient Heavenly Court had long been destroyed, its cultivators perished. What significance did rebuilding it have? What benefit would it bring her, and why would she make such a request...

"Regarding the second demand, if you can provide me with a reasonable reason, I can consider helping you. But as for the first demand, I will not agree to it. For me, Aliang holds a special significance; without her, my past self might never have had the chance to rise from the ashes and would have died long ago..."

Ning Fan recalled the past he had once seen.

There was once a butterfly that flew desperately towards the Ancient Heavenly Court and was supposed to die, yet a foolish girl extended its life with dew from a one-million-year-old spiritual herb, allowing it to struggle on.

In terms of feelings, his two lives intertwined with Mu Weiliang, making it impossible to abandon her.

In terms of gratitude, Ning Fan could even less forsake her. His feelings for Mu Weiliang were extremely complex, more profound because of their complexity, mixed with part of his feelings for the paper crane, Little Stammer, Mu Xiaoliang, and Wuxie, as these women were Aliang's soul and spirit reborn...

The current Mu Weiliang had a new soul but had lost her memory.

This memory, someday, might be restored. Yet gradually, Ning Fan began to wonder, if Aliang never regained her memories, would it perhaps be better.

He didn't want her to recall the sadness of the Ancient Heavenly Court's destruction, nor the harshness of the cultivation world. He just wished for her to remain forever innocent and blissful...

Thus, Ning Fan never thought of rebuilding the Ancient Heavenly Court. He had no intention of making Aliang return as the Grand Princess of the Ancient Heavenly Court.

But Burying Moon Immortal Concubine seemed intent on having Aliang resume her role as the Grand Princess...

"You should understand that tonight I am not here to negotiate but to command. Though I am merely a remnant of moonlight divinity, I still possess a trump card yet unused, which is to resist you at the cost of my life! Before, when you placed the Calamity Thought King's Ban on me, I valued my life and didn't plan to fight to the death. When you humiliated me multiple times, I was too timid for a life-or-death battle, but now, concerning the Grand Princess, if you truly do not agree to my demands, I will fight to the death, take the Grand Princess away from your side, and even with the King's Ban, you won't be able to stop my escape! Little lecher, your reputation is terrible; I can't stand idly by while the Grand Princess is ruined by you, even if it means my death!"

Burying Moon Immortal Concubine spoke righteously, her aura growing stronger.

Ning Fan's gaze narrowed slightly, as if he were reassessing Burying Moon Immortal Concubine. In his impression, Burying Moon Immortal Concubine was essentially someone who feared death, which wasn't shameful; everyone cherishes life and fears death. However, some will forget their fear of death for certain beliefs... Burying Moon seemed to be of this kind. He was unsure of her relationship with Aliang, or why she would protect her at the cost of her life.

Unfortunately, Burying Moon was indeed meddling too much this time.

"In your impression, is my character so poor? Am I not worthy of Aliang's entrusted care?" Ning Fan asked with a hint of a smile, not at all fearing Burying Moon's increasing momentum. Command, indeed... this woman was bold, befitting a former Immortal Emperor.

This made Burying Moon secretly alarmed; she thought to herself that this little lecher was indeed becoming more formidable. Even though she wasn't at her peak form, the momentum she emitted was something an ordinary Sixth Calamity Immortal Emperor might not withstand, yet this little lecher could endure it! Judging by cultivation and talent alone, this little lecher indeed matched the Grand Princess, but his character and conduct... these were the reasons behind Burying Moon's determination to separate Ning Fan and Mu Weiliang.

In her heart, Ning Fan's character was indeed extremely poor; otherwise, she wouldn't always refer to him as a little lecher.

Moreover, throughout Eastern Heaven, in whose heart does Ning Fan hold a good name?

The inheritor of Ancient Chaos was synonymous with Dual Cultivation Masters, and everyone assumed Ning Fan had to be a lecherous scoundrel. However, compared to these notorious reputations, Ning Fan's infamy for slaughter was even more pronounced, causing others to overlook his identity as a Dual Cultivation Master and directly categorize him as one of Eastern Heaven's most untouchable villains.

You don't annoy the turtle when unarmed, nor the Rain Bandit... Ning Fan's name had long become synonymous with the likes of Wu Laoba.

Burying Moon bit her lip, "If you let the Grand Princess go, I, Burying Moon, willing to be your cauldron furnace after regaining my physical form! To exchange myself for the Grand Princess, is this enough!"

"You are already my cauldron furnace; how is it an exchange? And even if you weren't, not even a hundred of you could exchange for Aliang. No matter how high the price, I won't trade. There's something you might not know..."

Ning Fan touched the center of his forehead, and black starlight immediately surrounded his body. In an instant, Burying Moon Immortal Consort's almond-shaped eyes widened.

"Matters between Aliang and me were even acknowledged by her father, so why do you need to interfere?"

"It's the Heavenly Emperor's Black Star Technique! Impossible, this technique, this technique..." Burying Moon Immortal Consort was so shocked she couldn't speak.

The Black Star Technique is a secret art passed down through the generations in the Heavenly Emperor's lineage, and there's also an unknown secret to it: only if the prior black star cultivator personally passes it on can the next person develop the Black Star Technique.

During the era when the ancient Heavenly Court still existed, the Heavenly Emperor never passed on the Black Star Technique to anyone, not until his death.

There shouldn't be any cultivators in this world who know this technique, and yet Ning Fan does... Could it be that he met the Heavenly Emperor after his death and received the Heavenly Emperor's legacy!

Does the Heavenly Emperor know about his affair with the Grand Princess and actually approve of it!

Burying Moon gazed into Ning Fan's eyes for a long while and then gave a bitter smile.

Indeed, although this little rogue's character isn't great, he has always been a man of his word, and he would never deceive her. Someone so domineering wouldn't stoop to lying.

This time, she truly meddled in someone else's business! Even the Grand Princess's father approved of this son-in-law, yet here she was unnecessarily mixing herself up in their affairs... She nearly got herself involved as well!

"Uh... Let's pretend I never mentioned my first request, and the matter about exchanging me for the Grand Princess... Let's pretend I never said that either..." Burying Moon Immortal Consort's demeanor grew increasingly feeble, feeling somewhat guilty.

"Heh heh, what exchange? You were always meant to be my Cauldron Furnace..." Oh well, sooner or later, she would still be harvested by this little rogue!

The thought of Ning Fan pressing down on her, fiercely harvesting her once her physical body recovered, filled Burying Moon Immortal Consort with gloom and inner turmoil.

Nonetheless, recalling that her first request was retracted, she still had a second request to attend to. Gathering her spirits, she shared her reasoning for insisting on rebuilding the ancient Heavenly Court with Ning Fan.

It turned out, this woman owed a great debt to Aliang's mother, and thus she sought to repay it.

Her desire to rebuild the ancient Heavenly Court was also because she hoped to gather the lineage's fortune and bestow it upon Mu Weiliang...

"Though the ancient Heavenly Court was destroyed, the cultivators wiped out, and its lineage's fortune dispersed, if it could be rebuilt and recognized by the heavens once more, it could again consolidate the lineage's fortune. I once heard from the Heavenly Empress that the ancestors of the ancient Heavenly Court were once disciples of some ancient Holy Sect in the Real Realms, and it was with the support of that ancient Holy Sect that they established the ancient Heavenly Court. Within the Holy Sect, they also allocate a portion of fortune according to quota, giving a small amount of lineage fortune to the ancient Heavenly Court every millennium... If the ancient Heavenly Court can be rebuilt, and the Grand Princess ascends the throne of the Heavenly Emperor, then perhaps she could re-establish a connection with that ancient Holy Sect and gain a bit of fortune from it..."

Lineage fortune... So that was Burying Moon Immortal Consort's reason.

Ning Fan didn't know much about lineage fortune. In fact, he still had one thousand five hundred vibrant streaks of lineage fortune unused, acquired from the Dao Carp Clan...

"Is lineage fortune really that important?" Ning Fan asked.

Burying Moon shot Ning Fan a sideways glance, "Didn't your master Ancient Chaos ever tell you about the importance of lineage fortune?"

"No." Ning Fan sighed. The frail Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor never talked with him for long, leaving many things unsaid.

"Never mind, since you don't know, I might as well explain it to you. Individuals have destiny, clans have lineage fortune, nations have national fortune, and heavens have heavenly fortune. If a person's destiny is strong, they can gain more opportunities and undergo greater transformations, and the same goes for clans. For example, your Qianqiu Sect has Qianqiu Sect's lineage fortune, as does the Slaughter Hall and Godly Void Pavilion. Similarly, the entire human race has its own lineage fortune, and so does the demon race... If a clan's lineage fortune is strong, the chance of producing powerful figures within the clan is greater. The stronger the lineage fortune, the more prosperous the clan becomes; otherwise, it gradually declines. The greatest benefit of lineage fortune is that it can be used to empower oneself... like you, if Qianqiu Sect's lineage fortune were strong enough, you could directly overcome cultivation bottlenecks without effort and advance! If there's an undefeatable lightning tribulation, you could also utilize lineage fortune to withstand it! These are the benefits of lineage fortune empowering you!"

If empowered with lineage fortune, could he really directly disregard the Shekong Heart Tribulation and ascend ranks effortlessly? Ning Fan felt a stir in his heart. To be honest, that Shekong Heart Tribulation was quite troublesome. If he could find a way around it, he might be able to break directly into the Mid Stage of Shekong in both his Godly and demon cultivations...

"How much lineage fortune is needed to overcome the Shekong Heart Tribulation?" Ning Fan asked.

"Shekong Heart Tribulation? At least a thousand streaks of vibrant lineage fortune are needed to disregard it. The Shattered Thought bottleneck at least requires more than ten thousand vibrant lineage fortunes. The Eternal bottleneck then needs a hundred thousand or even more... Don't bother thinking about it. There's no clan in this Dreamland Realm with even a thousand vibrant lineage fortunes—not even the declining Ten Great Guardian Clans have that! After all, the lineage fortune within the heavens is limited and already monopolized by the major clans of the Real Realms, which is why there's competition for it and little power to share with the small forces of the Dreamland Realm..."

Ning Fan's expression remained unchanged, but internally he was shaken.

The fortune of the clan, others may not have it, but he certainly does!

Everyone knows that the heart tribulation of Shekong is difficult to pass. It's normal for cultivators to be stuck for hundreds of thousands of years, and many get stuck for life. Now, with the blessing of a thousand aura of clan fortune, one can ignore the heart tribulation and directly advance! Although accumulating Shekong's mana still takes time, bypassing the heart tribulation essentially makes the path to breaking through Shekong wide open. As long as the mana is sufficient, one can continually advance without any bottlenecks!

Ning Fan has fifteen hundred aura of clan fortune in hand. If he uses it on the Qianqiu Sect, doesn't it mean that in the future, as long as the cultivators of Qianqiu Sect have sufficient cultivation, they can ignore the Shekong bottleneck and continuously produce Shekong-level powerhouses!

Even he himself could benefit from this!

"...However, using clan fortune to advance has its drawbacks. The principle behind clan fortune and merit are similar, both taking shortcuts, and thus among those of the same level, they are weaker than those who break through normally..."

The words of the Burying Moon Immortal Consort brought Ning Fan slightly back to his senses.

It seems that he himself should not use clan fortune to break through the Shekong heart tribulation, but he can use it for those aptitude-challenged Crossing Truth realm cultivators. Those lacking in aptitude would be fortunate to enter Shekong, and even if they are weaker compared to normal Shekong, they are still stronger than any Crossing Truth cultivator.

Furthermore, if the Shekong heart tribulation can be ignored, there's no need to mention the bottlenecks of Crossing Truth or Fate Immortal... It is foreseeable that once Ning Fan bestows fifteen hundred aura of clan fortune on Qianqiu Sect, the disciples within will consecutively break through bottlenecks and make significant progress in their cultivation!

Yes, this can be done immediately, and Aliang and others could also benefit from it...

"... Speaking of which, it's fortunate that this Qianqiu Sect doesn't have clan fortune; otherwise, those Four Heavens major forces would spare no effort to destroy the Qianqiu Sect and seize your clan fortune... Alas, clan fortune is extremely important, especially precious in this Dreamland Realm where there's none..." The Burying Moon Immortal Consort poured another cold bucket of water onto Ning Fan, making him more calm.

It seems that before he possesses the strength to protect the clan fortune, he cannot use it. If he were to use it now, he would likely be attacked by the forces of the Four Heavens... Ning Fan sighed slightly. His current strength is enough to establish a foothold in the Four Heavens, but it's still insufficient for contending with old monsters over clan fortune.

The matter of clan fortune will have to wait until he grows stronger.

"I understand your reason for reconstructing the Ancient Heavenly Court, but this matter requires careful consideration..."

According to Burying Moon, with the reconstruction of the Ancient Heavenly Court, a small amount of clan fortune can be obtained from the Ancient Holy Sect every thousand years. Whether this will provoke the old monsters of the Four Heavens to snatch it is unknown. Ning Fan does not have the strength of a Heavenly Emperor to protect it right now...

"Yes, this matter does indeed need careful planning. Just preparing one aspect requires handling many affairs... but you can rest assured, leave the preparations to me. I only ask you to assist me with one thing, find me a suitable physical body as soon as possible!" The Burying Moon Immortal Consort's face was full of worry.

She needs a body to restore her cultivation, so she can protect the reconstructed Ancient Heavenly Court! But once having a body, she would be preyed upon by the little lecher, ah ah ah, how troublesome, how conflicting...

"At your peak, you were a Ninth Calamity Immortal Emperor. Finding a suitable body for a Ninth Calamity Immortal Emperor to seize is not easy..." Ning Fan frowned, it was indeed tricky.

"I know a place with a suitable body, and you will soon be going there, take me with you then."

"You mean... the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain!" Ning Fan's gaze slightly focused.

"Yes, that's the place. It used to be the place where a Sage from the Dao Soul Clan gathered herbs, later taken by an Immortal Emperor to become a hidden area sealing the nine gates of Desolate Realm years. During the era of the Ancient Heavenly Court, I went there many times, and I still have an impression of the terrain there. Take me there, and it will certainly be helpful!" This was the first time the Burying Moon Immortal Consort volunteered to take the initiative to do something for Ning Fan, of course, it was to find a body for herself.

Upon hearing Burying Moon's familiarity with the terrain, Ning Fan was very tempted, but also had some concerns, "I heard that even if a Seventh or higher Calamity Immortal Emperor suppresses their cultivation, they still can't enter the Sacred Domain..."

"I have died leaving only a remnant moonlight soul, what kind of Immortal Emperor am I? Naturally, I can enter. Those Seventh Calamity Immortal Emperors, if they are willing to die like me, could naturally enter too, but surely none would willingly pay such a price just to enter. The outer perimeter of the Sacred Domain offers few benefits and serves only for trials of the juniors, whereas the inner perimeter has substantial benefits, but even if I entered at my peak, I would be very cautious... However, once inside, you don't need to suppress your cultivation. If there truly are any changes, with your numerous methods, you should be able to escape."

The implication was that this time she needed to enter the inner perimeter to find a body.

Ning Fan pondered slightly.

Ouyang Nuan's trial only needed to be conducted in the outer perimeter, without venturing into the inner perimeter. However, the Jiuli Ritual Vessel is most likely in the inner perimeter; had it been in the outer perimeter, someone would have found it already...

This means that ultimately, a trip to the inner perimeter is necessary...

There are indeed dangers involved, but in order to allow Jiuli to mature, there's no choice but to take risks now. Moreover, if a suitable body can indeed be found in the inner perimeter for Burying Moon, Ning Fan's gains would definitely not be small!

He had planted a sub-Sarira inside Burying Moon!

If Burying Moon regained her cultivation and her power improved greatly, he would also gain considerable strength through that sub-Sarira. After all, Burying Moon was his Sarira Cauldron Furnace!

"By the way, how can you be sure that there's a suitable body for you in the inner sanctum of the Sacred Domain?" Ning Fan asked casually.

"That sage who once collected herbs in the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain was obsessed with raising young boys and girls as medicine slaves to test drugs. Most of the medicine slaves would die early, but there were also some who died only after reaching a high level of cultivation... The young boys and girls who died from the drugs were said to be frozen by that sage for viewing, and among them were peak Immortal Emperors, even Quasi-Saint bodies, since those medicine slaves' master was a dignified sage..."

Oh, it seems they plan to seize those drug-killed corpses.

So there are four objectives for this journey: take Ouyang Nuan for trials; help Jiuli become an adult; assist Burying Moon in finding a body; and seek out innate soul-nourishing spiritual medicine to heal the Phoenix Emperor's daughter, Qi Yelan.

After a discussion with Ning Fan, Burying Moon seemed to have eased her mind. While she still managed the two girls, Mu Weiliang and the other, who were running around chaotically, she no longer resisted Mu Weiliang's contact with Ning Fan.

The day when the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain opens was drawing closer and closer, and Ning Fan's Seven Treasure Marvelous Tree was also growing taller and taller.

A small bottle of ninth-grade Daoquan could sell for ten million Dao Crystals, while an eighth-grade could fetch fifty million. These Daoquan, which were unimaginably expensive to ordinary cultivators, were casually used by Ning Fan to water the Seven Treasure Marvelous Tree.

Usually, nearly ten billion worth of Daoquan could only make the Seven Treasure Marvelous Tree grow about a foot taller, but fortunately, the Daoquan brought by Wu Laoba was plentiful, with a total value exceeding fifty trillion Dao Crystals.

The Seven Treasure Marvelous Tree, from a height of 135 zhang, was forcibly grown by Ning Fan to 700 zhang!

During this period, the Seven Treasure Marvelous Tree produced seven treasure fruits six consecutive times, greatly increasing Ning Fan's Ancient Demon cultivation, and he was just a step away from breaking through the Ninth Nirvana of the Heavenly Demon!

It's equivalent to stepping half a foot from the Peak of Shekong into the Early Stage of Shattered Thought!

In the Eastern Heaven, who can, in just two short years, move from the Peak of Shekong cultivation near breakthrough to the Early Stage of Shattered Thought!

It's impossible! Once cultivation reaches this level, it needs to be advanced steadily and gradually, but who told Ning Fan to throw nearly fifty trillion Daoquan at it!

This kind of wealth, if used to establish a sect, could create an Immortal King power!

What a waste, what a waste...

But the benefits are obvious, Ning Fan's strength is increasing rapidly, and that's enough, after all, these Daoquan were extorted by Wu Laoba, without spending a dime.

The Seven Treasure Marvelous Tree at 700 zhang is sufficient for refining Twelve Nirvana Magical Treasures, and if it can break through to a thousand zhang, it can be refined into an Innate Treasure.

Of course, Ning Fan wouldn't be so wasteful as to refine treasures with the current Seven Treasure Marvelous Tree. If this tree can grow to ten thousand zhang, it would be enough to protect him on his path to sainthood!

Alas, reaching ten thousand zhang is not easy.

After reaching 700 zhang, watering the Seven Treasure Marvelous Tree with ninth-grade Daoquan is almost ineffective, and even eighth-grade and seventh-grade have poor results. Only Sixth-grade and above Daoquan can cause the treasure tree to grow rapidly, which is troubling.

In the Eastern Heaven, Daoquan above the Sixth-grade isn't many. Even if the major powers still have stock, almost all have been scoured by Wu Laoba, so it's hard to ask for more...

In the markets of various cultivation stars, the price of Daoquan has increased tenfold, and there's nothing that can be done, Daoquan production is limited, and most of the stock has been scoured by Wu Laoba, reducing supply, and naturally causing prices to increase...

"Damn it, why is Daoquan so expensive now! The old man intended to buy a bottle of eighth-grade Daoquan to warm up his magical treasure, but exhausting all his assets, he could only afford a bottle of ninth-grade, causing the old man's magical treasure to remain unrepaired. Hmph! The old man was planning to grab a spot in the Supreme Pill Divine City, but now, that plan is off since even the magical treasure is gone!"

"Just you! With the Eighth Heavenly Layer of the Void Fragmentation Realm cultivation, you still want to grab a spot in the Sacred Domain? Do you know, this time the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain only released two hundred spots, and because it's the last time the Sacred Domain opens, over ninety percent of the spots have been taken by Second Step old monsters. The remaining ten percent have all been divided among emerging talents of the major powers. Although some scattered spots are released for us Loose Cultivators to compete for, twenty spots are far from enough for Loose Cultivators in the Eastern Heaven. I've heard that just amongst our Loose Cultivators competing for spots, Fate Immortal cultivators alone exceed four hundred, with many Crossing Truth Realm and Shekong too..."

"Hiss! So many strong contenders vying for spots, then what's left for the old man! Maybe it's better not to go to the Supreme Pill Divine City at all this time!"

"Go! Why not go! It's said that this time, even secret clan cultivators might participate, and that's the secret clan! We fragmented Void Cultivators have never seen secret clan cultivators with our own eyes!"

"Oh? The secret clans will be here? Then I really have to take a look!"

The snow began to fall gently over the starry sky of Supreme Pill Divine City.

More and more cultivators rode the wind and snow towards Supreme Pill Divine City, naturally coming to witness this rare gathering.

The market of Supreme Pill Divine City was already teeming with cultivators from all directions. Every temporary cave residence was full, and the shops in the market were bustling with customers.

In the snowstorm, a young woman in a green dress hugged a fluffy little beast, strolling leisurely down the long street. Her beautiful eyes sometimes showed anger, sometimes joy, sometimes melancholy, and sometimes bewilderment, as if lost in thought.

Behind her, several Fate Immortals and True Immortals followed secretly, protecting her.

Occasionally, passing cultivators recognized the woman and were secretly astonished, with some even whispering.

"Isn't this the first disciple of the Medicine Sect, Ouyang Nuan? Now that the Pill Sect has been destroyed, the Medicine Sect is without a doubt the top alchemy sect in Eastern Heaven. The weight of this first disciple is certainly heavier than before!"

"I heard that this lady, upon coming out of seclusion this time, actually broke through to the Nine Transformations Lead Grade in the Medicine Soul realm! She can now refine the Nine Transformations Lead Pill. She's truly a prodigy, and it's only a matter of time before she enters the Silver Elixir Rank. To even advance to the Golden Core is highly possible in her lifetime! After all, she is the legendary Five-Color Medicine Soul..."

"I've heard quite a few old monsters in Eastern Heaven have expressed a desire to protect her, including some Eternal Immortal Venerables. They must admire her exceptional alchemy talents. After all, she will at least be a Ninth Revolution Silver Elixir Alchemist in the future. Her prospects are indeed limitless, so it's good to make connections early..."

"I've also heard that she has an ambiguous relationship with the Rain Immortal Monarch..."

"Nonsense! Ouyang Nuan is the goddess in my heart, how could she get involved with the Rain Bandit! Don't mention it again, or we can't even be friends!"

Ouyang Nuan furrowed her delicate brows. She disliked hearing people speak poorly of Ning Fan, but there was nothing she could do to stop their gossip.

Nowadays, Ning Fan's infamous reputation had spread across all of Eastern Heaven. Infamy, of course, wasn't a good reputation... Whenever she thought of the saying 'Provoke not the turtle in literature, nor the Rain Bandit in martial arts,' she would get angry. When did her man become synonymous with turtles, as if it were a curse? The name Rain Monarch sounds so nice, why call him Rain Bandit!

"Maoqiu, oh Maoqiu, soon you'll see your father, do you miss him..."

Ouyang Nuan stroked the little beast in her arms, which immediately gave a comfortable purr.

This little beast, Lingze, discovered by Ning Fan during the Qi Shen's Treasury event, had been raised by Ouyang Nuan to the Guixuan Level, a frighteningly fast cultivation advancement.

"It's been a long time. I wonder if he's doing well..." Ouyang Nuan muttered, watching the snowstorm.

Suddenly, a bright voice called out to her from behind.

"Miss Nuan, I never expected to meet you here, what a coincidence! Are you walking around the market? Do you need Lin to accompany you?"

The one who called out to Ouyang Nuan was a gentle and jade-like white-robed cultivator, whose surname was Lin and given name was Xiantong, a disciple of the Maha Emperor of Eastern Heaven. His bone age was less than a million years, yet he had already reached the Late Stage of Shekong.

Ouyang Nuan frowned slightly. Although she didn't enjoy speaking with this person, she was cautious due to his status and replied distantly,

"So it's Young Master Lin. Thank you for your kind offer, but I don't need anyone to accompany me."

A clear rejection.

Lin Xiantong's brow furrowed, then he replied gently, "If that's the case, Lin won't disturb you. Please, be at your own leisure."

Ouyang Nuan bade farewell and left. Lin Xiantong, after a long while, showed a dark expression in the direction Ouyang Nuan had gone.

"Pretending to be chaste, as if this young master cannot tell you've lost your Yin energy! Hmph, if not for my master's order to approach you..."

Lin Xiantong let out another cold snort and turned to join his fellow disciples.

Ouyang Nuan clearly did not care much about Lin Xiantong.

Since her alchemy skills had greatly improved, many male cultivators from Eastern Heaven had sought to approach her. Encountering these people always made her feel endlessly irritated.

Unknowingly, she found herself at the gambling den of Supreme Pill Divine City. Inside, countless old monsters were betting on Qi Shen's Treasury, and the shouts reminded Ouyang Nuan of past events.

The year she first met Ning Fan was at a Qi Shen's Treasury event, and even the little Maoqiu was obtained from there.

"It's a little over a month until the Holy Domain opens, he should be here soon..."

While lost in her thoughts, Ouyang Nuan suddenly realized that the entire Supreme Pill Divine City had quieted down.

People on the streets stopped moving, craning their necks in awe to look at the starry sky.

The gambling den's patrons no longer shouted, all emitting sounds of gasping for breath.

Inns and teahouses — cultivators drinking and sipping tea rushed out, gazing at the figure descending towards the divine city, their expressions full of dread and fear.

Even Lin Xiantong's expression changed dramatically, looking up at the sky with humbleness.

Only in Ouyang Nuan's eyes did a brightness and clarity appear.

The figure kept descending towards the gambling den, eventually landing beside Ouyang Nuan.

Consequently, the long street cleared a large circle of space with Ouyang Nuan at the center, and no one dared to approach.

At that very moment, countless streaks of light burst from the depths of the divine city, rushing madly toward this location.

They had no choice but to come!

Even if an Immortal King arrived, it would not cause such a sense of foreboding for Supreme Pill Divine City, but this person was different. Wherever he went, trouble followed — big trouble!

"Rain Monarch's arrival, could it be for the opening of the Holy Domain! Our Supreme Pill Divine City has prepared superior cave residences specifically for hosting Eternal Cultivators. If the Rain Monarch is weary, perhaps you'd like to rest in the cave dwelling, awaiting the Holy Domain's opening!"

An Immortal King riding a rhinoceros, leading a large group of divine city strongmen, hurried over with solemn expressions.

They weren't inviting Ning Fan to rest in a cave residence!

They intended to place Ning Fan in a cave dwelling before the Holy Domain opened, confining him there, preventing any trouble, and making him easier to monitor!

"It's actually the Douxi Immortal King! The Rain Monarch really has a grand presence, just arriving at the city and already welcomed personally by such a Four Calamity Immortal King as Douxi Immortal King!"

Countless people were secretly astonished.

Ning Fan was unsurprised; he had already received the news that he would be 'invited' into a special cave residence upon entering the divine city. He wasn't the first; a few Eternal Demons had been 'invited' immediately upon arrival as well.

Though not meant to harm, the actions of Supreme Pill Divine City were equally domineering, insisting on containing these mischievous demons, providing them with good food and drink, until the Holy Domain opened and they would be released.

"Husband..." Ouyang Nuan watched Ning Fan, half longing, half speechless.

Why was it that wherever her husband went, chaos ensued? Surely! Her husband was clearly gentle and completely harmless!

"Nuan'er, wait, let me finish talking with the Douxi Immortal King, then I'll stroll around this gambling house with you and accompany you to explore Qi Shen's Treasury."

Ning Fan stroked Ouyang Nuan's black hair, smiled, and leapt into the air. Amidst the wind and snow, he cupped his hands slightly towards the Douxi Immortal King.

The Douxi Immortal King dared not act arrogantly, immediately returning the courtesy, though his face remained unapproachable.

"Please, Rain Monarch, follow me to the VIP chamber for a rest!"

"What if I don't go?" Ning Fan chuckled.

In an instant, all the cultivators behind the Douxi Immortal King drew their flying swords, pointing them at Ning Fan with a vigilant expression.

However, the Douxi Immortal King remained calm, knowing that with his ancestor presiding over the city, Ning Fan wouldn't cause any trouble here. He waved his hand, signaling his followers to withdraw their swords, and replied.

"If the Rain Monarch doesn't want to rest in the chamber, that's also fine. My ancestor mentioned that the Rain Monarch is special. If you don't wish to be confined in the chamber, you must accomplish one task. Achieve it, and within the divine city, you will have absolute freedom!"

"Oh? What must I do to gain freedom?" Ning Fan pondered the Douxi's words thoughtfully.

"It's simple. If you can persist for the time it takes for one incense stick to burn in a fight against me without losing, you can do as you please! If you cannot, then obediently follow me into the chamber to rest!"

The Douxi Immortal King waved his hand, and his followers immediately retreated, leaving the sky open for Douxi and Ning Fan.

Knowing that without a fight, he'd have to be submissively confined, Ning Fan said no more. With a flip of his hand, a graceful, flowing, dark blue Dao sword appeared in his grasp.

"Very well, I've improved my divine skills significantly recently, and I wish to learn from you, Daoist. Please enlighten me!"

"A Dao weapon? Using a single Tribulation cultivation against four Tribulations and only employing a Dao weapon? Do you underestimate this King... Indeed, this boy is as arrogant as the ancestor said!"

The Douxi Immortal King snorted coldly, flipped his hand, and retrieved a pair of purple-gold maces, charging straight at Ning Fan atop a rhinoceros.

Those purple-gold maces were also Dao weapons. Ning Fan's cultivation was low, only employing Dao weapons; if he used something stronger than Dao weapons, wouldn't he be ridiculed by cultivators worldwide!

The rhinoceros lunged, reaching Ning Fan in an instant. The maces descended simultaneously, and the purple-gold maces crackled with arcs of electricity, illuminating the entire starry sky with lightning and discharging energy.

The cultivators in the divine city stared wide-eyed, many learning for the first time that the Douxi Immortal King's Dao weapons were a pair of purple-gold maces.

"Though it's just a Dao weapon attack, it's an attack from a Four Tribulation Immortal King. Even a casual Second Tribulation Immortal Lord might not withstand it without employing a magical treasure... The Rain Monarch trying to block this attack with just a Dao weapon is challenging! He might need to use that mysterious golden light body-protection divine skill..."

Many people thought this way, including the Douxi Immortal King himself.

However, Ning Fan did not activate the God-Extinguishing Shield for defense; he merely positioned the Reverse Sea Sword to block the descending maces.

Bang!

Ning Fan was knocked back seven steps by the maces before stabilizing himself.

The Douxi Immortal King was similarly pushed back seven steps, with surprise now in his usually indifferent eyes.

Did he just hit a real Dao sword! Even with a hasty strike, he felt an almost terrifying weight from that Dao sword...

Whoosh!

However, Ning Fan stepped forward with golden light, giving Douxi no time to hesitate, swinging his sword down directly at him.

Seeing the powerful momentum of the sword, Douxi naturally couldn't underestimate it, raising his maces to block. But the weight of the Dao sword numbed his arms with pain, and the rhinoceros beneath him let out a miserable cry, unable to withstand Ning Fan's sword's force, vomiting blood and dying!

Greatly surprised, Douxi lifted his maces and flew down from the dead rhinoceros, retreating hastily, while Ning Fan closed in again. This time, his sword was entwined with the glow of three kinds of palm position paths: rain, darkness, and battle.

Wood and phoenix, Ning Fan did not employ, so this strike was still not at its full potential.

Yet, the sharpness of this blade already made Douxi's scalp tingle! Still intending to block with the maces, but this time, both maces were shattered by Ning Fan's one sword slash!

In this Dao weapon duel, it was Douxi's Dao weapon that lost to Ning Fan's Dao weapon, and the result was decided in just two rounds!

"Why is this kid's Dao weapon so powerful! Among the Twelve Nirvana Magical Treasures, few could reach this level of power!"

Douxi was extremely astonished. Just relying on Dao weapons, he had no confidence in withstanding Ning Fan's attacks! If he brought out a magical treasure to fight again, he would lose face in front of the entire city's cultivators.

Thinking of this, Douxi's gaze darkened slightly, feeling that he had been outplayed by Ning Fan since he brought out the purple-gold maces.

This boy intentionally used Dao weapons to set up this scenario...

"Enough, the Rain Monarch can damage my Dao weapon with a single strike, so persisting against me for an incense stick's time shouldn't be difficult. Therefore, I am willing to grant the Rain Monarch full freedom, but I hope you won't cause trouble in the Supreme Pill Divine City! If the Rain Monarch violates this, I'll be the first to capture you. Even if you can fight the Two Kings and Six Venerables of Mount Zhaoyao, you might not be able to resist my insect technique!"

The Douxi gestured with his robe, collecting the deceased mount, and left with his troops.

Cultivators who witnessed this battle were all in shock.

The fact they saw was Ning Fan and the Douxi Immortal King's Dao weapon duel, resulting in the significantly weaker Ning Fan holding the upper hand, and forcing the Douxi Immortal King to retreat in just two rounds!

Another great topic of discussion indeed!

Ning Fan descended to the ground, where Ouyang Nuan's small mouth was already agape, astonished and unable to close.

Though she'd heard countless tales of Ning Fan, she hadn't witnessed it firsthand and thus couldn't experience the full impact.

But this time it was firsthand! That was the Douxi Immortal King, a prominent figure among the fourth Tribulations of eternity, yet he was so easily forced back by her husband!

"Having come to this gambling house, shall we explore Qi Shen's Treasury?"

Ning Fan opened a treasure-searching compass from his sleeve, almost exposing all the mysteries of the casino before him. It was clear who had valuables and who hid dangerous items with a single search...

Unfortunately, though there were occasionally good things here, there was nothing that truly moved him. After all, with the Immortal Emperor under his nose, what good things would come to him? But if he were to accompany Ouyang Nuan for a casual venture, the items here were sufficient.

"Sure, let's see who finds better things. The loser will be punished! Let's compete in cutting medicine treasure."

Ouyang Nuan was full of confidence. Her Medicine Soul had greatly evolved, making her more sensitive to spiritual medicine treasures, not believing she'd lose to Ning Fan.

Ning Fan tucked the treasure-searching compass into his sleeve, refusing to admit he cheated.

So, after exploring Qi Shen's Treasury, Ning Fan and Ouyang Nuan returned with a full load. Of course, Ning Fan slightly surpassed her.

"Let's go to the chamber prepared by the Douxi Immortal King, and discuss punishments at length." Ning Fan glanced meaningfully at Ouyang Nuan.

Ouyang Nuan blushed bright red.

She knew the punishment in his mind was this...

Chapter 997: Dabei Clan

It's been many years since Ning Fan last saw Ouyang Nuan, and upon this reunion with the lamb at his mouth, of course he wouldn't let go easily.

The two wandered around the Supreme Pill Divine City for a long time before returning to the cave dwellings arranged by the Divine City. After a session of joy, Ning Fan also conveniently planted a Zi Relic in Ouyang Nuan.

Originally half a step into the Second Step, Ouyang Nuan, with the help of the Zi Relic, directly broke through the Human Profound bottleneck and advanced to the Late Human Profound stage!

This is not the main point. The main point is that after planting the Zi Relic, Ning Fan temporarily suppressed the heavenly tribulation for Ouyang Nuan and continued with the deed...

The divine city maidservants serving outside the cave dwellings listened to the faintly charming sounds coming from within, blushing. Dawn was approaching, yet the Rain Monarch was still at it. Cultivators of such indulgence, truly worthy of being the inheritor of the Ancient Chaos...

"Douxu Ancient Ancestor instructed us to serve Rain Monarch while keeping an eye on all his actions. If there's anything unusual, we must report immediately... Such intimate matters probably don't need reporting, right?" A maidservant with Void Fragmentation realm transmitted privately to the others.

"Indeed not, Douxu Ancient Ancestor mentioned that Rain Monarch is inherently licentious, so such matters are extremely normal and naturally don't need reporting. It's just unexpected that the first disciple of Medicine Sect, who is now quite famous in Eastern Heaven, is also Rain Monarch's bed warmer, tsk tsk tsk..." Another maidservant sighed and added,

"...as long as Rain Monarch doesn't trespass the ancestor's forbidden land or commit killings in the Divine City, the other matters don't need reporting."

"Speaking of the ancestor's golden land... lately there's been a strange fragrance coming from the ancestor's forbidden land, and the senior brothers say it's the ancestor's Heavenly Peach Branch blooming..."

"The ancestor's famed magical treasure was originally the Demon-Sealing Ranking, but during the chaos years ago, it was taken by the Senluo Old Demon. Luckily, the ancestor still has this treasure in hand and although not an innate mid-grade treasure, it ranks top among low-grade treasures..."

While the maidservants were transmitting privately, they failed to notice a small furry thing suddenly zipped out from the cave dwellings.

It was none other than the Maoqiu given to Ouyang Nuan by Ning Fan!

Maoqiu almost snuck out of the cave dwellings while covering its face. Terrified, shy, shy, she is already a grown girl and has some understanding of matters between man and woman. Dad and mom doing the deed right in front of her, do they really think she's just a small demon beast who knows nothing!

Whatever, let dad and mom mate; she wants to sneak out and play!

Maoqiu's bloodline is the ancient extinct True Spirit—Lingze, which likes white, likes motion rather than stillness, and its innate divine skill is stealth. Maoqiu, now at the Ghost Profound Early Stage, deliberately avoided the maidservants' watchful eyes; it was effortless.

After sneaking out of the cave dwellings, where should it go to play?

Under the night sky of falling snow, Maoqiu stretched and sniffed towards the entire Divine City, immediately catching a very secretive strange fragrance, and involuntarily flew towards that direction.

Supreme Pill Divine City is vast, but with Maoqiu's speed, it crossed the entire Divine City within a few breaths.

In the night sky, many Divine City cultivators were patrolling back and forth, including True Immortals with Crossing Truth Realm. Fortunately, Maoqiu's stealth talent was astonishing, and none of the True Immortals discovered its presence, as it reached the center of the Divine City, outside an ancient palace, dilapidated and desolate.

The palace entrance pathway was unusually quiet, with no guards posted there, making Maoqiu quite surprised.

Moreover, a wave of ancient oppression continued to emanate from deep within the palace, preventing the snow flurries, permeating the starry sky, from blowing into the domain of the palace, resulting in thick accumulated snow outside the palace entrance.

Inside the palace, there are peerless powerhouses stationed!

This is Maoqiu's acute intuition as a True Spirit demon! The intuition tells it that it absolutely cannot enter this location, even though enticing strange fragrances keep emanating from deep within the palace.

This aroma should be from the Heavenly Peach Branch. In Maoqiu's bloodline memory, it's considered a rare treasure; the branch itself can be refined into a wood magical treasure, when the peach blossoms bloom, it can lock the heavens and earth and imprison the ten directions, and when the peach fruit matures, consuming it can greatly enhance medicine soul power, a precious treasure for both alchemists specializing in medicine soul and demon who temper tyrant pill body...

It's a shame; smelling this fragrance, it's feared not only the peach blossoms have bloomed, but quite a few peach fruits have also matured. If it could get a couple and let dad and mom taste them, that'd be great.

Alas, no good, this place is guarded by such formidable old monsters; this isn't a treasure it can covet...

If Maoqiu hadn't transformed yet, its throat bone unformed, unable to speak human language, it would be regretfully sighing right now.

"Alas! It's truly a pity. Treasures like the Heavenly Peach Branch are in Emperor Yuan Dan's hands, and they aren't individuals I can threaten; otherwise, if offered to the master, it would be a great merit, the branch, blossoms, fruit... Alas, such a pity..."

Maoqiu shuddered!

What's going on! How could there be speaking voices in the empty snowy area! Indeed besides it, there's someone else hiding here?

With this thought, Maoqiu didn't want to stir more trouble, wanting to leave this ancient palace region, when suddenly a gentle light wall appeared, blocking it, causing it to fall from the sky, forcing it out of stealth mode and revealing itself.

Not good! This place actually has a formation array set, allowing entry but prohibiting exit!

Maoqiu was instantly scared, its hairs bristling, knowing this commotion would surely draw attention from the old monster inside the palace. This was a calamity of entering a forbidden place, done with this, even dad and mom aren't here, what to do, what to do...

"Huh? This little thing is Lingze? I heard the master's old lover, that Medicine Sect's first disciple, has a Lingze demon pet, perhaps it is this one? If so..."

Suddenly, a particularly sly cultivator appeared out of thin air from the empty snowy land, his figure flickering, blocking in front of Maoqiu.

This person lightly flicked his sleeves, an unimaginable eternal oppressive aura swept towards the four dead cultivators like a whirlwind blowing leaves. Despite the four dead cultivators having Fragmented Thought Cultivations, they were all swept away by one sleeve flick, extremely embarrassed.

The four dead cultivators were extremely fearful, locking eyes on the person, not daring to move recklessly. This person undoubtedly is an Eternal Immortal Venerable!

"Lingze, Dark Fortune Cultivator, tonight it's lively. These people must all be Ning Fan's subordinates..." Deep within the palace, a long-eared Immortal Emperor sitting cross-legged suddenly opened his eyes, his gaze somewhat cold.

If others dared to cause a commotion at Emperor Yuan Dan's door, no matter being an Immortal Emperor disciple, punishment would ensue. However, this individual and beast are different, they're related to Ning Fan, thus it's inappropriate to take action against them; otherwise, even before entering the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain, there would be a falling-out with Ning Fan...

"Forget it..."

Emperor Yuan Dan closed his eyes, ignoring the person and beast who hurriedly fled the area. With Wu Laoba's help, a few palace formation arrays obviously couldn't confine this person and beast.

Indeed the cultivator who was also concealing himself outside the palace door was Wu Laoba.

With the opening of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain approaching, Wu Laoba and others followed Ning Fan to Supreme Pill Divine City. Without hastily meeting Ning Fan, being a loyal servant, he naturally understood when to discreetly leave, providing the master with an opportunity to be alone with his beauty.

Thus, with nothing to do, Wu Laoba wandered the Supreme Pill Divine City alone, holding the Treasure-Seeking Turtle, naturally sensing the continuous exotic fragrance from the Heavenly Peach Branch, hiding aside, coveting immensely, yet fearing Emperor Yuan Dan's reputation, not daring to act recklessly.

Ah, that's the Emperor Yuan Dan, not just any random person. To be frightened by his dark fortune...

Wu Laoba was full of regret. If the situation weren't so perilous, he definitely would have acted for the Heavenly Peach Branch. This item, among the treasure notes left by his master, was also considered a remarkable treasure...

If presented to the master, it would definitely be a great achievement! Such a pity, such a pity...

Forget it, saving the mistress's demon pet on a whim could be considered a small merit. Wu Laoba's small green bean eyes were spinning, giving Maoqiu an unexpectedly comical feeling.

Whoa, who is this person who saved it in a moment of crisis? Truly a good person!

Awoo—

Maoqiu wanted to express its gratitude to Wu Laoba, but suddenly saw a flicker of wickedness in Wu Laoba's eyes.

"Speaking of which, the flesh of this Lingze creature is very nourishing. Should I secretly kill this Lingze and eat the meat without telling the master?"

Maoqiu shuddered, instinctively feeling a chill, looking cluelessly at Wu Laoba, not knowing why Wu Laoba was acting erratically.

"...No, no, I am Wu Laoba, a loyal servant second to none in the world. Eating the mistress's demon pet is something I absolutely cannot do!" The main reason being, Ning Fan might find out, and the consequences, oh dear, Wu Xiaoba couldn't imagine Ning Fan's angry look, nor could he bear the consequences!

Fine! I'll just be a good, loyal servant. Safety first.

Wu Laoba's small green bean eyes softened again.

Maoqiu instinctively moved away from Wu Laoba a bit, always feeling this person had ill intentions, gave another awoo as thanks, and hurriedly ran off.

Staying here always felt very dangerous, this old man looked unpredictable, who knows what he might do. Better to go back and listen to Daddy and Mommy's intimate sounds.

"Damn it! I saved you, and you just run away like that? How will I take credit for this!" Wu Laoba spat helplessly.

The hiding ability of Lingze is too powerful. During a sincere hiding, even his Treasure-Seeking Turtle wouldn't easily detect it.

Forget it, petty merit, not worth it. Better to make a great contribution in the Holy Domain and regain the master's favor!

"This time entering the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain, the master needs four slots in total. The Medicine Sect has two slots; the master asked me to get two more by myself... Easy task, a piece of cake for Wu Xiaoba! These mere two slots, aren't they just something I can obtain effortlessly?"

In the following days, Wu Laoba easily obtained the additional two slots. According to him, it was after suffering immensely from two powerful forces in the East Heaven. These were obviously lies Ning Fan wouldn't believe, knowing well that two more forces were duped by Wu Laoba, yet he didn't mind.

Information showed, once entering the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain, all space artifacts could not be used, such as ordinary storage bags, medium and small dichotomous treasures, Cauldron Rings, all would not open at that time. Cultivators entering the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain must carry the special storage bags made by the Supreme Pill Divine City.

These things, naturally Wu Laoba prepared them, Ning Fan didn't have to worry, living peacefully with Ouyang Nuan for a month, sometimes visiting the market, sometimes receiving visits from the Old Monsters of East Heaven, sometimes just spending intimate moments, enjoying a rare period of leisure.

Until the day the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain officially opened!

That day, a massive beast corpse as if a mirage, appeared in the starry sky above the Divine City! It was not a solid entity, but the manifestation of a phantom passage.

It was a Realm Beast corpse, its massive body covering half of the sky above this place. The beast's hollow eyes slowly opened its huge mouth, inside the mouth was a dim light path, seemingly leading to another world!

This light path was the passage to the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain.

The appearance of this beast corpse instantly sent the entire Supreme Pill Divine City into a frenzy, as it signified the official opening of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain!

"It is said the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain was a herbal collection site of an ancient saint. To prevent intruders, a formidable Realm Beast of fiendish rank was slain, sealing the entrance with the unique bloodline power of the Realm Beast, appearing once every ten thousand years..."

"...Realm Beasts, they are indeed a powerful clan of the North Heavenly Realm River..."

"This particular beast's corpse is indeed ancient, its bloodline long dried, which is also why the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain will soon be permanently closed. Otherwise, if one could find another Realm Beast of fiendish rank..."

"Rumors say that upon entering the beast's belly, there are 3,600 different landing points to choose from, leading to different locations within the Sacred Domain depending on the chosen landing point..."

"Finally, the day has come! I can't wait to enter the outer areas and train. My master visited this place and left me several hidden ancient cultivation sites, many of which still have unopened stone chambers..."

Countless people were fixated on the massive beast corpse passage in the starry sky, Ning Fan also observed it, lost in memories.

He was not seeing a Realm Beast for the first time. In the past, when he traveled from the Luo Yun Nine Divisions to the Star of the Celestial Emperor Palace, he had a conflict with a Realm Beast.

Realm Beast, North Yao...

In the past, he was completely unfamiliar with Realm Beasts, knowing little. Now, he knew that the so-called Realm Beast Tribe are actually one of the many fierce clans within the North Heavenly Realm River.

The Boundary River connects the Four Heavens, with each having their own Boundary Rivers teeming with fierce clans. These fierce clans rarely leave the Boundary River, and outside cultivators seldom dare to venture deep into the Boundary River.

Even someone like the Chongming Phoenix Emperor, a Seven Tribulations Demon Emperor, suffered heavy damage in the East Heavenly Realm River, indicating just how perilous these depths are.

The Divine City had already dispatched numerous cultivators to maintain order and many Divine City powerhouses went to guard the beast corpse, inspecting the entrance situation.

Two hours later, Divine City's cultivators announced the entrance was secure. Those with slots could register their names with the Divine City's cultivators, leave a soul plate, and enter the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain!

This was a once in ten-thousand-year grand event, many eager youth from East Heaven rushed to register their names, then waited outside the beast's mouth passage.

There were also some secretive old monsters unwilling to leave soul plates, directly demanding to enter the Sacred Domain. The Supreme Pill Divine City wouldn't enforce this; soul plates for leaving were merely a precaution in case someone died in the Sacred Domain, just to inform the world. If unwilling, no one would force it.

Initially, only some well-connected young elites at the Void Fragmentation realm were registering soul plates.

Soon after, Masters like Human Profound and Ghost Profound Fate Immortals began ascending one after another.

When the number of entrants reached one hundred fifty or sixty, True Immortals began registering, each renowned Old Monster long famous in East Heaven.

There were Enlightenment stage cultivators, and some Shedding Void Stage old monsters, but almost no Fragmented Thought Stage ones. Just when many thought that the highest ranks entering this time would only be some Fragmented Thought Elders, the starry sky suddenly erupted!

Rumbling sounds echoed in the snowy starry sky, followed by a flash of thunderous lightning, descending from the heavens, transforming into a fat figure.

"It's Mount Zhaoyao's Flying Thunder Immortal King! Is he also entering the Sacred Domain?" some cultivators exclaimed in shock.

The rumor was that the Sacred Domain opening this time would allow Sixth Calamity Immortal Emperors, but in reality, no one truly believed any Sixth Calamity Immortal Emperor would take this opportunity to enter the Sacred Domain.

If those Immortal Emperor-level old monsters wished to enter the Sanctum for treasure hunting, they would have done so long ago during one of the many prior openings. With their status, there's no need to rush into this final opportunity.

After all, the final opening comes with too many unknowns and variables—there's absolutely no need to take this risk.

Unexpectedly, the likes of the Flying Thunder Immortal King have arrived!

Many instinctively glanced at Ning Fan, seemingly recalling the ruckus he caused at Zaoyang Mountain, eagerly anticipating a confrontation between the Flying Thunder and Ning Fan.

Regrettably, upon his arrival, Flying Thunder said little, exchanging a few words with the Divine City's various cultivators, completed his registration, and then closed his eyes to wait. Throughout, he did not glance in Ning Fan's direction.

"Flying Thunder..." Ning Fan murmured to himself.

Roar!

Another demonic roar came from a distant part of the starry sky, accompanied by a gigantic figure as massive as a Cultivation Star, striding boldly forward. Instantly, the disciples of the Maharaja Great Emperor were taken aback.

"Senior Brother has come out of seclusion!"

As the giant drew nearer, more people recognized his identity.

"It's the Maharaja Great Emperor's first disciple! Qin Xiansha!"

"This person began his retreat to break through the Eternal Third Calamity three thousand years ago. Now that he's come out of seclusion, could it be that he succeeded?"

"An Eternal Third Calamity body cultivator... Such cultivators in the Eastern Heaven are truly few and far between!"

Upon Qin Xiansha's arrival, he immediately retracted his colossal form, registered with the Divine City cultivators, and suddenly cast a sidelong glance downward, revealing neither joy nor anger.

A perceptive individual noticed that Qin Xiansha's gaze was directed at Ning Fan and the others' location!

"He's not looking at me, but at... Nuan'er..." Ning Fan's brow slightly furrowed.

"Is this the Medicine Sect's first disciple as my master mentioned..." Qin Xiansha muttered inwardly.

Following Qin Xiansha, there were six more Eternal Immortal Venerables intending to enter the Sanctum.

The crowd gradually became numb, no longer astonished by the Immortal Venerables entering. It was at this moment that the Douxi Immortal King unexpectedly left his soul plate at the registration site.

"The Douxi Immortal King is also planning to enter!" Many were taken aback.

After that, no other formidable figures registered.

Ning Fan, too, no longer waited and ascended into the sky with Ouyang Nuan, Wu Laoba, and Burying Moon. In an instant, the previously noisy Supreme Pill Divine City fell silent.

"...Indeed, the Rain Monarch intends to enter the Sanctum; he didn't come here just for the spectacle!"

"Rumor has it that the Rain Monarch has a deep connection with the Medicine Sect's first disciple. It seems indeed to be true..."

"Uh, hasn't Miss Nuan yet broken through the Second Step? This cultivation... Why does it seem incredibly formidable, like that of a Human Profound Cultivator!"

"Who is that veiled woman? Her cultivation appears to be at the Peak of Shekong; is there such a person in the Eastern Heaven..."

The veiled woman mentioned by everyone was naturally Burying Moon. Through her ability to conceal herself, no one here could discern her actual Immortal Emperor-level cultivation, nor could recognize her identity, given her ancient stature.

"This woman... looks familiar..." Great Emperor Chonghe, observing from a distance in the starry sky, slightly furrowed his brow.

Emperor Yuan Dan, hidden within the Supreme Pill Divine City, also furrowed his brow, yet couldn't discern Burying Moon's true nature.

Unfortunately, Ning Fan did not agree to leave his soul plate or identity information, leaving the gathered cultivators unable to unravel Burying Moon's true nature.

Gradually, attention shifted away from Burying Moon and focused on Wu Laoba.

A deathly silence filled the area!

Deathly silence followed by an uproar of discussions!

"This person, isn't he that Cultivator of Dark Fate!"

"Why is this Wu-named cultivator with the Rain Monarch? Could they be in league!"

Numerous old monsters, having once suffered at Wu Laoba's hands, experienced a chill down their backs, losing any trace of interest in spectating, now wishing to quickly depart from this place.

Restless, who knew if Wu Laoba's appearance might bring star-shattering chaos, storms, and countless casualties!

Some even began to worry that Wu Laoba's entrance into the Supreme Pill Sanctum might trigger unimaginable danger and changes! Even anxious old monsters, eager to enter the Sanctum, began to hesitate and fear moving forward.

Might the Supreme Pill Sanctum collapse due to this person's entrance!!!

Sigh, who can truly say!

"Interesting! One doesn't provoke a turtle in words nor the Rain Bandit in battle, yet it's unexpected these two have collided, hehe, interesting."

A slightly feminine young voice suddenly resounded, and without anyone noticing, another figure appeared in the starry sky!

No one could tell when this person arrived; even Ning Fan narrowed his eyes, looking towards the newcomer with seriousness. Even he could only catch a faint trace of the newcomer's arrival.

This was a black-clad youth, with an unfamiliar face, whose femininity was unusual for a man, and whose voice gave no hint of emotion yet instilled a bone-chilling coldness. His cultivation aura had reached the realm of the Eternal Third Calamity!

Gradually, people recognized the badge on a corner of the youth's robe, and some who had ample experience identified its origin, gasping in shock.

The Dark Clan!

Even the likes of Chonghe and Yuan Dan, such old monsters, had their eyes shaken in the shadows.

Rumors said this Sanctum's opening would see intervention by those of secret clans, and it turned out to be true...

Suddenly, Chonghe and Yuan Dan's eyes narrowed!

To their shock, they discovered that within the shadow of the young man in black, another person was hidden, slowly emerging from the shadow!

This was a person completely concealed under a cloak, their appearance hidden and their aura not strong, with only two ghostly flames burning where the eyes should be. The feeling it gave was extremely eerie. Even with the cultivations of Yuan Dan and Chonghe, they did not notice this person at first!

Ning Fan's eyes widened in shock.

Facing this cloaked figure, he felt a sense of dread rising from his Ancient Demon cultivation within him, as if a subordinate facing a superior!

Could it be that this cloaked figure was indeed an Ancient Demon! And one even stronger in bloodline than himself!

"In this Era of Decline, to think there are still such Ancient Demons..." Ning Fan mused to himself about the identity of the cloaked figure.

What concerned him more was that with these two members of the Dark Clan intervening in this journey to the Sacred Domain, it was unlikely to be a peaceful one.

Were these two here because of him?

It wasn't just Ning Fan, all the Masters present were speculating about this possibility. The relationship between the inheritor of the Ancient Chaos and the Dark Clan had long been irreconcilable, yet both remained wary, unable to openly tear each other apart.

Would this trip to the Sacred Domain be the opportunity to finally break the stalemate?

"Is this child the inheritor of Ancient Chaos? Hehe, what does Friend Yin think of him..." The cloaked figure rasped in a voice transmission.

"Just so-so, this child is not truly eternal, and he has many secrets on him." The effeminate young man cast an indifferent glance at Ning Fan, with a hint of disdain. Named Yin Luosha, he was reputed to have the highest talent in the Dark Clan's history, reportedly reaching the heights of their founder, An Yuanchen, in dark talent! He looked down on everything, and indeed, he had the credentials to do so.

"Does this matter require me to conveniently eliminate this child?"

"No need, our main task is the elder's affair. If successful, what does this child amount to..." The effeminate young man grew fervent.

The revival of the Dark Clan was above all else! Naturally, if everything went smoothly, even the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor would be insignificant, and he would not mind eliminating a nobody like Ning Fan along the way.

As it turned out, the conflict between Ning Fan and the Dark Clan did not occur as imagined by the masses.

As time passed, all the Masters qualified for entry completed their registrations and began entering the beast-mouth passage, stepping along the light path one step at a time into another world.

Of course, Masters with high cultivations needed to suppress their power to enter. Ning Fan, Wu Laoba, and Burying Moon all needed to suppress their cultivations before they could enter.

Though it was the same light path, it led to 3,600 different directions. Ning Fan, under Burying Moon's guidance, entered one of the light paths. To say the least, Burying Moon was very familiar with this place, and her choice of landing point was completely different from others.

"This sister seems very familiar with this place..." Ouyang Nuan marveled, unaware of Burying Moon's true identity, only roughly knowing she was one of Ning Fan's Cauldron Furnaces.

Apparently named Burying Moon, well, it shares a name with some ancient emperor, but such name overlaps are very common and nothing to be surprised about. No matter how highly she regarded her husband, Ouyang Nuan would not believe he could capture an Immortal Emperor as a Cauldron Furnace.

"Hmm, her presence makes things much more convenient." Ning Fan nodded.

Ouyang Nuan's master, Wei Wuzhi, provided her with a map marking several hidden caves with sealed items beneficial for her Five-Color Medicine Soul. Unfortunately, with Wei Wuzhi's True Immortal realm, retrieving them was impossible, but now with Ning Fan, many items could be acquired.

Moreover, the route chosen by Burying Moon happened to enter the inner regions from the outskirts, passing by these hidden caves and retrieving the sealed items one by one. This way, before entering the inner regions, Ouyang Nuan's trials could be completed, and they could proceed with other matters.

"Thank you, Sister Burying Moon."

"It's a small favor. Later on, I might need your assistance with your Nine Revolutions level Five-Color Medicine Soul." Burying Moon was quite courteous to Ouyang Nuan, unlike her hostile demeanor towards Ning Fan.

This left Ning Fan rather helpless, as Burying Moon seemed naturally at odds with him, often calling him a little pervert. Hmm, that nickname needed to be changed...

The light path gradually came to an end, and everyone felt a void beneath their feet, suddenly plummeting towards the world below. What unfolded beneath them was a world filled with the fragrance of medicine.

They barely had time to react before several silver streaks flew up, emitting hissing sounds.

"Master, be careful! Just a few Void Fragmentation Silver Flood Dragons! Let Little Ba handle these pests for you!"

Wu Laoba activated his Divine Skills, intending to slaughter the incoming Silver Flood Dragons and showcase his prowess before Ning Fan. Unfortunately, as soon as he made a move, a sense of weakness arose from within. Since suppressing his cultivation to the Crossing Truth realm had already weakened him, at this moment, his Crossing Truth mana failed to produce even a tenth of its normal effect. His mana stalled, greatly diminishing the power of his Divine Skills. In one strike, he failed to kill all the Silver Flood Dragons and was even knocked back several paces by one aggressive Silver Flood Dragon!

Damn, I forgot. The medicinal air here is too potent, requiring the power of a Medicine Soul Stone to counteract it, otherwise mana becomes weak!

What a disgrace! The lofty Eternal Immortal Venerable knocked back by mere Void Fragmentation whelps. Though unscathed, it was utterly humiliating!

Howl——

Little Maoqiu looked at Wu Laoba with some disdain. Where had the venerable demeanor of that day gone?

Ning Fan rubbed his forehead, doubting the wisdom of bringing Wu Laoba along. With a flick of his finger, the sharp edge of the Reverse Sea Sword swept across the air, swiftly eliminating all the Silver Flood Dragons. While Ning Fan's medicinal soul was not as powerful as Ouyang Nuan's, it was significantly better than Wu Laoba's, hence he was less affected by the potent medicinal air here.

After eliminating the Silver Flood Dragons, Ning Fan and his party landed and began surveying the area.

This was the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain. Every blade of grass was a rare Spiritual Medicine. Back because it was the outskirts, the ages were not too high, considering every ten thousand years the outskirts experienced a cleansing...

The medicinal air here was extremely potent. With Ning Fan's current level of Medicine Soul, he could not completely withstand the medicinal air here and had to rely on the power of the Medicine Soul Stone to survive under such air...

Among the four of them, only Ouyang Nuan, with her Nine Revolutions-level Medicine Soul, could roam freely in this place. Fortunately, they had brought plenty of Medicine Soul Stones, sufficient to sustain their consumption in the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain.

Ning Fan spread his spirit sense, carefully observing the surroundings and comparing it to the map of the outskirts.

"No need to look, we are in the southwestern region of the outskirts, a place filled with numerous valleys and many ancient cultivator caves left behind. The caves Ouyang wishes to find are mostly along this path. Before entering the inner regions, there won't be much danger, so I don't need to caution you too much. However, once inside, be extremely cautious. If you encounter a Dabei Clan cultivator, never strike them down, or you'll face great trouble, even escaping unscathed as an Immortal Emperor is unlikely." Burying Moon warned.

"Dabei Clan cultivators? What do they entail?"

Ning Fan's gaze sharpened. Information about the inner region of the Sacred Domain was rarely shared, so this was the first he heard of Dabei Clan cultivators present inside.

Dabei Clan...

He wasn't sure if it was just a coincidence, but after entering this land, there was a subtle response from the Xuan Yin Realm within the Yin Yang Locket. Specifically, the key sealed within the stone door of the Scripture Tower in the Xuan Yin Realm seemed to sense something...

Was it because there was a Tianhuang Stone Gate located in the inner region here? Ning Fan was naturally aware of this information and couldn't help but ponder this possibility.

"I don't know much about the Dabei Clan cultivators. They are extremely xenophobic... Basically, if you encounter them, be very cautious. The Dabei Clan includes many Immortal Emperor-level powerhouses,

so do not rashly slay any Dabei Clan people! In fact, to achieve several of your objectives on this trip, you might need the help of the Dabei Clan, so it will be necessary to gain their favor..."

Chapter 998: Saint's Script

Do I still need to earn the favor of the Dabei clan?

Ning Fan frowned slightly. His personality didn't enjoy flattering others, but for the sake of accomplishing his mission, even if he was unwilling, he would try to make friends with the Dabei clan.

Bringing Ouyang Nuan for training was a promise he had made; searching for spiritual medicine to heal the daughter of the Phoenix Emperor was also a promise; helping Burying Moon find a suitable physical body was yet another promise.

These promises certainly need to be fulfilled, yet the most crucial task of this journey is to help Nine-tailed Fox reach adulthood to obtain the Nine-tailed Blood to heal the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor.

"Can you sense which area of this realm the Nine-tailed Fox tribe's sacrificial artifact is located in?"

Ning Fan patted the special Spirit Beast Bag on his waist, and it immediately responded.

"...In reply to the master, the sensing is very weak, but it definitely exists. There's no mistake, within this realm, our tribe's artifact does exist, yet the distance is exceedingly far, and it seems to be stored in a tightly guarded place. Someone has sensed my presence, using magic to interfere, unwilling to let me sense the specific location of the artifact..." The Black Cat from the Spirit Beast Bag replied through transmission.

"So there's someone interfering with magic?"

Ning Fan was slightly taken aback.

The Nine-tailed Fox sacrificial artifact being in the inner sanctum of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain is likely not incorrect. It just seems that the Nine-tailed Fox sacrificial artifact here is not without an owner...

Never mind, whether it's owned or unowned, even if it means forcefully taking it, Ning Fan is determined to get his hands on this Nine-tailed Fox sacrificial artifact!

"I wonder if the Treasure-searching Compass can locate the sacrificial artifact..."

Ning Fan flipped his hand to take out the Treasure-searching Compass, his spirit sense entered it, and he cast a spirit sense spell on it. Immediately, the compass began to slowly rotate, with a series of light spots of various sizes appearing on the compass. Different colored light spots represent different meanings, the brighter the light spot, the higher the grade of the natural treasures indicated.

This Treasure-searching Compass must be used in conjunction with spirit sense, everything within the user's spirit sense range will be laid bare! Unfortunately, Ning Fan's spirit sense, can't cover the inner sanctum of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain, even using the Heaven Prying Rain Technique, he cannot achieve it. There seems to be a membrane between the outer and inner regions that prevents spirit sense from penetrating...

It's unfortunate, even the Treasure-searching Compass can't pinpoint the artifact's specific location, I can only search further upon entering the inner sanctum.

"This is... the Treasure-searching Compass of the Three Wasteland Elder! Wait, it's not the genuine, only a replica... Unexpectedly, in this Era of Decline, someone could replicate this magical treasure to such a degree!" Burying Moon saw the Treasure-searching Compass, and uttered a soft exclamation, like Wu Laoba did earlier, surprised.

"Three Wasteland Elder? Quite famous is it, you all seem pretty surprised seeing this compass..." Ning Fan manipulated the compass while asking Wu Laoba and Burying Moon. It seems likely that this Treasure-searching Compass was crafted by the Chongming Phoenix Emperor as a replica of the Three Wasteland Elder's creation.

Speaking of which, this place truly doesn't disappoint being a former gathering place of the Saint. Although the specific location of the artifact hasn't been detected, quite a few treasures have been discovered in the outer region. The outer sanctuary is regularly searched by cultivators every ten thousand years, so the years of the spiritual medicines aren't very high. But in the shadows, numerous Ancient Cultivator Cave Mansions are hidden, preserving many good things within, including Acquired Treasures, Nine Transformations Lead Pills, Silver Elixirs, spiritual medicines of over a million years...

Thus, along this route into the inner sanctum, it's necessary to ransack thoroughly; any hidden cave mansion along the way shouldn't be left any treasure.

"You don't know Three Wasteland Elder?" Burying Moon snorted disdainfully.

"Master, you didn't know Three Wasteland Elder! He is the South Heaven Ancestral Emperor!" Wu Laoba expressed surprise and directly revealed the answer.

So it was the South Heaven Ancestral Emperor!

Ning Fan felt speechless, he had cultivated till now, of course, he had heard of the South Heaven Ancestral Emperor, it is said the South Heaven Ancestral Emperor was extremely adept at divination, ruthless and cunning, turning against allies easily, yet ultimately perished fighting to defend South Heaven, dying a very tragic death...

There are many legends surrounding the South Heaven Ancestral Emperor, though it seems the title of Three Wasteland Elder was not mentioned in the popular tales. So Ning Fan can't be blamed for being ignorant, rather it's a secret known by Wu Laoba and Burying Moon that most of the mighty ones in Eastern Heaven aren't aware of.

Wu Laoba looked eager to tell Ning Fan more about the South Heaven Ancestral Emperor's tales, cleared his throat, aiming to share stories, Ning Fan, however, had no interest in listening, instead took out some pre-distributed Medicine Soul Stones, instantly absorbing the medicine soul power within them entirely, then retrieved the next one to continue absorbing. Thus, after absorbing the power of eight hundred Medicine Soul Stones, Ning Fan felt somewhat relaxed, no longer experiencing the initial weakness caused by medicine fog upon entering the Sacred Domain.

Wu Laoba sat down cross-legged, muttering to himself, similarly began refining Medicine Soul Stones. Unlike Ning Fan, Wu Laoba absorbed over a thousand Medicine Soul Stones before feeling a sense of relief.

Burying Moon also absorbed thousands of Medicine Soul Stones.

Even little Maoqiu and the black cat within the Spirit Beast Bag absorbed a thousand Medicine Soul Stones each.

As for Ouyang Nuan, she didn't need to rely on the power of Medicine Soul Stones to survive here, for she was already a Nine Transformations Lead Grade Medicine Soul, an extraordinary feat.

Ning Fan estimated that with his Seventh Grade Intermediate Medicine Soul, he could only use two hundred fewer Medicine Soul Stones than ordinary people. A single refining of a Medicine Soul Stone could last about six hours, or half a day.

Aside from Ouyang Nuan, the three people and two beasts would consume nearly ten thousand Medicine Soul Stones a day. This time, entering the Holy Domain, Ning Fan had prepared a total of only two hundred thousand Medicine Soul Stones.

Theoretically, Ning Fan and his group could stay in the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain for at most 200 days before they would need to leave, lest the shortage of Medicine Soul Stones puts their lives at risk. Of course, opening some hidden cave abodes in the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain also required Medicine Soul Stones, which means those 200 days would significantly decrease...

"Our time is limited, let's move out as soon as possible."

The group began flying towards the inner sanctum, and before long, they reached the first hidden cave abode on their route.

This was a grassland, where the grasses were as tall as a person. Occasionally, hundred-year and thousand-year-old spiritual herbs could be seen among the grass, but to Ning Fan and the others, they were insignificant and not worth the time to pick.

This was the first hidden cave abode location indicated on Ouyang Nuan's map. According to Wei Wuzhi, within this abode, there were items beneficial to Ouyang Nuan's Five-Color Medicine Soul.

"Interesting, the cave abodes of the Four Heavens cultivators are often built among mountains and rivers, but this one is hidden beneath grasslands," Ning Fan remarked casually.

Even with his keen eye, it took him quite an effort to see that a hidden cave abode existed here. For other less skilled masters, it would be difficult to discover the abode.

"Hmph, how naive. The Daxian Cultivators, born and died on the grasslands, often preferred to build their abodes underground here. Most of the cave abodes left in the outer sanctum of the Holy Domain were by the ancient Daxian Cultivators, so naturally, they were mostly under the grasslands..." Burying Moon explained with a sneer.

"Born on the grassland, died on the grassland..."

Ning Fan flicked his finger, pulling out several hundred Medicine Soul Stones and stacking them on the ground, casting a spell to open the cave abode here.

He had already obtained information that the cave abodes of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain were opened differently from those of the Four Heavens, requiring a special method that also consumed a certain amount of Medicine Soul Stones. The exact amount used was directly proportional to the cave abode's rank.

This particular cave abode did not exhaust this small pile of Medicine Soul Stones, using roughly three hundred stones. A cave abode that required three hundred stones was usually that of a Fate Immortal Master.

Knowing the relatively low rank of this cave abode, Ning Fan, Wu Laoba, and Burying Moon were not very enthusiastic. Once opened, the ground revealed a tunnel entrance with long stairs leading underground. The stone stairs were ancient, and the walls on both sides intermittently featured recesses displaying Buddhist niches. After reaching the underground, there were a total of twelve stone rooms, all sealed with formations. The formations connected to the earth, powered by the thick essence of the land, had formidable defenses. Although it was only a Fate Immortal abode, without the owner's permission, even some Crossing Truth Realm True Immortals could not open the stone rooms here!

"Such a peculiar formation..."

This was Ning Fan's first time encountering such a bizarre formation. He quietly operated his Momentum Character Secret to see through the formation's intricacies. Moments later, he raised a palm and pressed it against the stone door of the first stone room.

"Hold on!" Burying Moon hurriedly exclaimed.

At that moment, Ning Fan's cultivation was suppressed to the Crossing Truth Realm. He hadn't studied the formation thoroughly, and hastily triggering the main formation would involve considerable risks.

This was Burying Moon's concern. Despite her verbal disdain for Ning Fan due to the influence of the Zi Relic, she instinctively called out when Ning Fan acted recklessly.

To her surprise, when Ning Fan's hand touched the stone door, he did not receive any backlash from the formation. Ning Fan's technique was too mysterious; as he touched the stone door, his fingers instantly changed their formation twenty-four times... as he touched the stone door, it clicked open!

He hadn't forcefully broken the formation but had opened the stone door directly along its formation path!

"This little... rogue... his Dao of formations isn't weak! He actually saw through the formation here entirely in an instant! Among the Eternal Immortal Venerables, few could achieve this level." Burying Moon was secretly amazed, but her expression held a disdainful grin. That little rogue was indeed powerful; why was she even worried? Oh, I would never be concerned about that little rogue; it was just an illusion, an illusion.

The first stone room stored some magical treasures, though most were not of high quality and their spirituality was largely damaged due to age. Ning Fan wasn't interested in these, but there were some crafting materials piled in the corner, which he collected. Many were unique Daxian crafting materials, not high in grade but absent from the Eastern Heaven.

Following the same method, Ning Fan successively opened the rest of the cave abode, acquiring a total of four thousand Medicine Soul Stones, seven sealed expensive pills, some ancient Daxian books, and a small medicine garden. The garden contained quite a few one-million-year-old spiritual herbs. While their grades weren't high, they were genuinely unique Daxian materials, which Ning Fan had never seen before.

Ning Fan could not recognize the text of the ancient books, so he couldn't understand them. They likely contained things like Fate Immortal Cultivation Techniques, Divine Skills, and alchemical pill refining methods.

The four thousand Medicine Soul Stones, while not much, were a notable gain, allowing Ning Fan and the others to spend more time in the Holy Domain.

The sealed expensive pills made Ning Fan click his tongue in amazement. The Daxian Clan seemed extremely adept at secret techniques for storing pills. Though these seven pills were ancient, their aroma was still rich, retaining at least forty to fifty percent of their efficacy...

Moreover, even though Ning Fan didn't recognize the names of these seven expensive pills, he could sense from the Medicine Soul that these seven pills were quite beneficial for enhancing the power of the Medicine Soul!

Seven Nine Transformations Lead Grade Pills that could enhance the Medicine Soul!

"Probably, these are the seven pills your master wanted you to take."

Ning Fan inspected them repeatedly, then suddenly consumed one of the pills and, after confirming its efficacy, handed the remaining six pills to Ouyang Nuan.

These are good pills, containing slight toxicity, but not much, and for a Fate Immortal, this level of toxicity is negligible, with no harm in consumption! With just one pill, his Seventh Grade Intermediate Medicine Soul neared the Seventh Grade Advanced level. Indeed, these pills are excellent!

"There's no issue with these pills. Keep them first, and refine and consume them later when you have time. These pills are great for significantly enhancing the Medicine Soul," Ning Fan instructed.

Ouyang Nuan's Medicine Soul was stronger than Ning Fan's. With just a glance, she could see the pills were good, making her reluctant to consume them, and hesitated, "You're also an Alchemist, husband. Why not keep them for yourself and strive to breakthrough to the Seventh Grade Advanced dan refinement..."

"No need. From practicing Dao till now, dan refinement is no longer a compulsory skill for me. Whether the Medicine Soul is enhanced or not, makes little difference. You, on the other hand, with one more pill, could breakthrough to the Silver Elixir Grade Medicine Soul earlier." Ning Fan felt a bit regretful, if it weren't for testing the pills, he wouldn't have taken even one. Giving him these pills was a bit wasteful.

"Well... alright then, anyway, after my refinement skills improve, you can benefit too. Whatever pills you want, come directly to me," Ouyang Nuan thought of being able to refine pills for Ning Fan, and no longer declined.

This place was completely searched, lingering was futile, and the group left the cave mansion continuing toward the inner periphery. Along the way, they searched through hundreds of cave mansions, some recorded in Ouyang Nuan's map, others discovered by Ning Fan's Treasure-searching Compass.

Advancing like this, Ning Fan also gathered hundreds of thousands of Medicine Soul Stones. After deducting the costs of opening the cave mansions, there were 2.3 million Medicine Soul Stones left.

Besides the Medicine Soul Stones, many pills, spiritual medicines, materials, and tomes were gained too. The cave mansions needed by Ouyang Nuan for this journey were mostly searched out. The remaining few, being off-route, were no longer worth deviating for.

This kind of search truly led Ning Fan to find some valuable things.

First, ten or so Innate Spiritual Medicines were found, among them one with a soul-nourishing effect, a kind Ning Fan had never obtained before. As such, Ning Fan had gathered five of the seven kinds of soul-nourishing Innate Spiritual Medicines needed to save the Phoenix Emperor's daughter, with only two missing!

Next, in some Ancient Cultivator Cave Mansions, Ning Fan actually found numerous Daoquan springs, whose spiritual springs were stored for countless years, of rather pure quality, perfect for watering the Seven Treasures Marvelous Tree!

These Daoquan springs were naturally all collected by Ning Fan.

Additionally, in some cave mansions, Ning Fan found several supreme wood spiritual items, containing very pure Power of Dao Laws, suitable for subsequently enhancing Wood Yin-Yang's power.

The Supreme Pill Sacred Domain was a medicinal garden, rich in wood aura, naturally producing such supreme wood spiritual items.

Altogether, it only took Ning Fan two days to journey from the outer to the inner periphery. The majority of the time wasn't spent on traveling but on searching through cave mansions. Occasionally, they encountered cultivators who also entered the Holy Domain, but mostly they were low-level masters. Seeing Ning Fan's group rushing through, they were too intimidated to act recklessly. Ning Fan had no interest in dealing with them, focusing only on his own journey.

"Ahead is the boundary between the inner and outer periphery..." Suddenly, Burying Moon became serious.

The terrain of the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain's outer periphery, generally speaking, formed a large circle. The inner circular region is the outer periphery of the Holy Domain. The boundless outside is the center of the Holy Domain.

Should low-level cultivators see this scene, they would surely burst into laughter, claiming the division of inner and outer regions by whoever set it was unclear-headed, even reversing inner and outer circles.

But was it really reversed...

"...All beings trapped in the circle, inner and outer have no definition. Like dream, like wake, like dust, like origin. The Great Dao is vast and humble, wild grass is swaying, bowing but tough..."

This was inscribed on an ancient monument at the inner boundary!

Ning Fan glanced at the ancient monument, feeling its words held infinite profound truths. What he couldn't imagine was the overwhelming power contained within those words, as if it could sweep forward from the immemorial times, giving a sense of a collapsing sky, irresistible!

Small, like ants... whether Ning Fan or Wu Laoba, even Burying Moon, all felt this way looking at this line of words, because the cultivator who wrote them had an astonishing cultivation!

Third Step!

"Could this monument have been left by a Saint who collected medicines here back then!"

Ning Fan secretly speculated.

Every word and deed of a Saint held unmatched power, even a few words could be used as unparalleled killing moves. This is something even peerless Immortal Emperors like Ancient Chaos or Immortal survivor lacked the ability to do. Though they might be strong enough to rival an Initial Saint in battle, without being a true Saint, they didn't possess such power.

A Saint's word collapses mountains and rivers, a Saint's letter submerges seas and lands! Dao arts must not be lightly spread, describing situations like this.

Upon close approach to the monument, Ning Fan could feel each word on it carrying immense power, any word could eradicate an Eternal Immortal Venerable!

"If only I could take away this monument, or the Saint's line of words..."

Ning Fan entertained the thought, Wu Laoba was equally thinking about it. A Saint's autograph, that was more powerful than any Innate Treasure. If it could be obtained...

"Don't even think about it, many powerful cultivators likely shared your thoughts, yet the reality is this monument still stands here, the Saint's words remain here. It's beyond the ability of us second-step cultivators to take it away, even an Ancient Great Cultivator couldn't do it." Burying Moon Fairy spoke in a seasoned manner to Ning Fan.

Monuments like this were still found around the entire outer periphery of the Holy Domain, lamentably no one has ever been able to collect the Saint's words, this applied to her too. She once attempted that with the cultivation of a Nine Tribulations Immortal Emperor, resulting in severe injury and failure...

For second-step cultivators, without a Saint's permission, they couldn't even touch the Saint's words!

"Heh, entering a treasure mountain without taking anything isn't how Wu Laoba operates. Without trying, how would I know if I could take these Saint's words away!"

Wu Laoba rubbed his hands eagerly, impatient to attempt, of course, necessary caution was exercised though compared to the Saint's words, all cautiousness was cast aside.

This was the Saint's inscription, imbued with awe-inspiring power! Wu Laoba could sense, if he ventured to touch the monument's words, he would suffer grave injuries... but if successful by luck... Wu Laoba would wield these thirty-six words of the Saint, enough to dominate the Four Heavens! Even an Immortal Emperor would fear Wu Laoba as if facing a venomous snake!

Wu Laoba was eager.

Ning Fan thought about it, he had the God-Extinguishing Shield for protection, he might as well give it a try. Even if it didn't work, he wouldn't get hurt.

This place being the inner perimeter boundary, there was no need to suppress cultivation anymore. Wu Laoba unleashed his full power, Ning Fan likewise released his cultivation suppression.

The two were just about to attempt taking the monument's words when their gazes simultaneously shifted.

In the next instant, an ink-drawn giant tiger, a hundred meters large, suddenly appeared out of thin air in the sky, and then roared fiercely, crashing down from the heavens, and gusts of strong wind erupted around!

The force of the crash rivaled the full power strike of a Crossing Truth Realm master!

"Those who dare touch the Tamu Clan's sacred artifact, shall be killed without mercy!"

An unexpectedly elderly voice.

Following the elderly voice, many younger voices emerged in succession.

"We vow to protect our clan's sacred artifact to the death!"

"We vow to protect our clan's sacred artifact to the death!"

"We vow to protect our clan's sacred artifact to the death!"

One after another, shadows unexpectedly crawled out from beneath the plains.

Ning Fan's gaze subtly sharpened, amidst the aggressive killing intent of the arrivals, he raised a hand to crush the divine skill of the tiger charging down from above, while scrutinizing the newcomers.

The Dabei Clan...

Chapter 999: Fools

Within the Dabei Clan, there are a total of three thousand tribes, residing for generations in the Inner Sanctum, with the Tamu Tribe being one of the weaker ones.

The border of the Inner Sanctum has one hundred and eight ancient steles, all engraved with the words of the Saint. These one hundred and eight steles are often rotated, guarded by the weakest tribes. Such as the Tamu Tribe, which rotates every thousand years to guard one of these steles. The reason for allowing only the weakest tribes to guard the steles is that no one has ever managed to remove the words of the Saint, nor has any tribe benefited from the steles... guarding is merely a formality, with no meaning or benefit, serving only as a remembrance of the ancestors by their descendants. Thus, only the weakest tribes are needed to serve as laborers.

Every ten thousand years, the Holy Domain opens once, which is also the most bothersome time for the cultivators of the Dabei Clan. Every time this happens, some audacious foreign cultivators attempt to penetrate the Inner Sanctum and step onto the sacred land of the Dabei Clan in search of treasures.

Some even audacious foreign cultivators dare to attack the words of the Saint, not knowing the limits of the heavens and earth!

If the words of the Saint are not permitted by the Saint, how can they be meddled with by the cultivators of the first and second steps? Every time the Holy Domain opens, foreign cultivators are killed by the words of the Saint, and there are also some True Immortals with high divine skills who are not killed by the words but are more or less severely injured. Rarely can anyone retreat unscathed under the words of the Saint, and even if they are lucky enough not to die, they are often intimidated by the awe of the Saint, leaving a shadow on their cultivation for life...

Tageli is the clan leader of the Tamu Tribe and the person with the highest cultivation in this generation, reaching the Mid Stage Enlightenment, considered one of the few True Immortal old monsters among the surrounding Dabei Tribes.

Today, like any other day, he led some clan members to cultivate in the underground cave, carrying out the thousand-year rotation guard duty. Being a True Immortal old monster but having to perform the most tedious guard duty without leaving his post made Tageli feel extremely oppressed, but there was no choice, as the Tamu Tribe's strength was inferior. In the millennial tribal contest, the Tamu Tribe has lost twelve consecutive times to the Southern Frontier Steppe's tribes, ranking at the bottom... for weak tribes, being the laborers is a must, with no complaints, as this is the rule of the Dabei Clan.

In other words, the Tamu Tribe has been at the bottom of the strength ranking among the dozens of surrounding tribes for twelve thousand years. Outsiders call the Tamu Tribe the weakest wolf of the Southern Frontier Steppe... this makes many young men of the Tamu Tribe feel too ashamed to lift their heads in front of outsiders! As the leader of the weakest tribe, Tageli also feels ashamed.

Fortunately, this round of guarding the Saint Monument is nearly over, and the next tribal contest is about to begin.

Outsiders are all waiting to see the Tamu Tribe at the bottom of the rankings for the thirteenth time! This makes Tageli even more determined!

For this contest, Tageli has made thorough preparations, even shamelessly borrowing several not-so-weak magical treasures from a few old friends... this time, in the tribal contest, he does not allow the Tamu Tribe to come last again. He wants to lead the Tamu Tribe out of the fate of being the weakest in the Southern Frontier!

He confidently awaited the arrival of the millennium but unexpectedly, at this crucial moment, Ning Fan and others appeared, harboring desires for the Saint Monument!

Damn it, is it the once-in-ten-thousand-year opening of the Holy Domain again? These damned foreign cultivators!

According to the Dabei Clan's clan rules, if the steward tribe neglects their duties and allows birds and beasts to touch the Saint Monument, it is considered a minor crime, punished with an additional thousand-year guard period; if foreign cultivators are allowed to touch the Saint Monument, it is considered a major crime, with the clan leader having one-tenth of their cultivation abolished, and a thousand clan members bloodily sacrificed... that is a grave crime!

Therefore, upon learning that Ning Fan and Wu Laoba intended to touch the Saint Monument, Tageli's back was chilled in fear. If these two were really allowed to touch the Saint Monument... Tageli dared not imagine the consequences. He could endure having one-tenth of his cultivation abolished, but more importantly, the Tamu Tribe, already thin in numbers, would lose a thousand fine young men, guilty and dead!

At such a critical juncture, even knowing that Ning Fan and Wu Laoba possess the terrifying cultivation of an Eternal Immortal Venerable, Tageli and the other stele guard cultivators still decided to take action.

Unfortunately, the result is obvious; with their skills alone, they simply couldn't stop Ning Fan and the others.

"You... you cannot touch this monument. I, Tageli, will fight to the death here today... to guard this monument!" Tageli bit his teeth, declaring firmly.

According to the Dabei Clan's rules, if the clan leader dies defending the stele, the other clan members can be pardoned from the negligence crime, exempting them from the penalty of sacrificing a thousand lives.

Tageli was ready to go all out; if today he truly couldn't stop Ning Fan and the others from touching the Saint Monument, then why not fight to the death here, at least protecting the lives of a thousand young men in the clan. Hmph, Plains people never lack blood and courage, why fear a battle!

Even if the opponent is an Eternal Immortal Venerable! A being he must look up to!

Ning Fan's cold gaze softened slightly.

According to his nature, if he were attacked, regardless of the opponent's strength, he would retaliate, but what he didn't expect was that this Dabei Clan Master crossing into enlightenment seemed to have some backbone, not hesitating to fight to the death, also determined to guard the Saint Monument...

Recalling Burying Moon's instructions, which advised not to become hostile with the Dabei Clan during this trip, Ning Fan's gaze calmed down slightly, raising his hand slightly to restrain Wu Laoba, preventing him from taking action against the nearby Dabei Clan Master.

"Who are you? Why are you stopping me from collecting the characters on this monument?" Ning Fan said blandly, not continuing to collect the Saint's words.

Firstly, it's because he found that the Dabei tribe seems extremely averse to such behavior. If he were to truly collect the Saint text and offend the Dabei tribe, it would be disadvantageous for this journey... The adulthood of Jiuli is of utmost importance, compared to this matter, even the Saint text is not so significant.

Secondly, Ning Fan, upon taking action, tested the depths of the Saint Monument. In fact, although he didn't complete the action of collecting the Saint text, at the moment he made a move, he felt a terrifyingly dangerous aura from the monument, one that surpassed the current defense of the God-Extinguishing Shield, and was still rising with the passage of time!

These Saint texts are too terrifying, far beyond what he can currently collect. If he forcibly took them, although he wouldn't suffer serious injuries, it would still result in an unsuccessful attempt... Of course, if it weren't for considering the mood of the Dabei people, Ning Fan would have been willing to give it a try.

Seeing Ning Fan and the others did not continue to collect the Saint texts, nor did they intend to take action against the Tamu clan, Tageli and others breathed a slight sigh of relief. Tageli took a step forward, standing before the Tamu clan cultivators, and courteously saluted Ning Fan,

"I am Tageli, the clan leader of the Dabei Tamu clan, meeting esteemed friends from afar... Guarding the Saint Monument is our duty. If there's any offense, I hope you friends will kindly overlook it."

Tageli's stance was very humble, although the Dabei tribe is xenophobic, if the other party is of the level of Eternal Immortal Venerable, it warrants different treatment. After all, even within the Dabei tribe, the Eternal Immortal Venerables are few and strong. Unless Tageli himself was an Eternal Immortal Venerable, it would be foolish to offend Ning Fan and his party.

While speaking, Tageli secretly observed Ning Fan and the others' expressions, noticing they weren't bewildered by the term 'Dabei', which piqued his interest.

It seems these foreign cultivators have heard of the Dabei tribe, and are not those guests who know nothing about the Dabei tribe...

"Since it's a matter of duties, it indeed can't be considered an offense. Rather, it was our recklessness not knowing this monument is a sacred object of your tribe... If we had touched it, you, being the guardians, would have faced serious consequences," Ning Fan noted the cold sweat on Tageli and others' foreheads, and speculated.

"Yes, fortunately, you did not touch the Saint Monument, otherwise our Tamu clan would lose many men because of your actions. You too would be hunted by the Five Emperors of the Great Dabei, and absolutely wouldn't leave the Supreme Pill Sacred Domain alive!" exclaimed several bold men of the Tamu clan angrily.

"Silence! In front of an Eternal Immortal Venerable, how dare you act so audaciously!" Tageli was frightened out of his wits, shouting at the bold Tamu men behind him.

The men of the Dabei tribe are rough by nature, so in terms of strategy, intrigue, and human relations, they are somewhat lacking. Simply put, among their cultivators, there are many rash individuals, who in their anger might even dare to curse in front of an Immortal King...

However, this doesn't mean the Dabei tribe doesn't have cultivators who understand reason, like Tageli, who is not an impulsive person. Previously, he had to act against Ning Fan and others for the monument's protection; now that there's room for resolution, Tageli naturally won't allow his clansmen to offend Ning Fan anymore.

After being scolded by Tageli, the rest of the Tamu clan cultivators dared not speak recklessly, though many still looked at Ning Fan with eyes blazing with anger.

"... The divine skill you used earlier should be Battle Soul Techniques, right?" Ning Fan ignored the rudeness of the several men and shifted the topic.

"Yes, the technique we used was indeed a collective Battle Soul Technique, which can be performed by multiple individuals together to increase the power of divine skills. My Dabei tribe cultivators are mostly born with Medicine Souls, practicing Medicine Soul divine skills; regardless of gender or age, most are Pill Masters." Tageli spoke with pride.

In the world, how many tribes are born with Medicine Souls? Not many, not many at all. The Dabei tribe is one of the few. As a Dabei cultivator, one should be proud and honorable for being part of this tribe!

"Can we foreign cultivators walk freely in the inner sanctum of the Holy Domain?" Ning Fan changed the topic again.

"To be honest, the inner sanctum of the Holy Domain is the sacred land of our Dabei tribe. If a low-level foreign cultivator wants to enter, it is absolutely impossible. If they enter, they will at least be expelled by our tribe, or at worst, they can be executed... But if a True Immortal-level expert enters, it's different. They only need to establish Three Merits, endure Six Penalties, and abide by Twelve Prohibitions, then they can walk freely in the inner sanctum. If they defy this, they will still be expelled by our tribe's experts..." Tageli explained cautiously, fearing that mentioning 'Three Merits', 'Six Penalties', and 'Twelve Prohibitions' might upset Ning Fan and the others.

Ning Fan and others indeed furrowed their eyebrows.

Three Merits, Six Penalties, Twelve Prohibitions? It seems the restrictions on outsiders entering the inner sanctum are quite significant; it might greatly limit freedom.

Nobody likes being unnecessarily restricted; neither Ning Fan nor Wu Laoba would accept being disadvantaged, and Burying Moon, being an Immortal Emperor, would even less tolerate restriction. Thinking of this, Burying Moon first snorted with displeasure; back in her prime, when she entered the inner sanctum, she always went in by force, thus, she was repeatedly besieged by the Dabei tribe's Immortal Emperors...

Unfortunately, she is no longer at her peak cultivation, lacking the privilege of dominating freely here.

"... Little Lusty Thief, when we enter the inner sanctum this time, we can't act too freely, we must accept the Dabei tribe's restrictions. Otherwise, this journey will be very difficult... Moreover, by accepting their limitations, we can avoid many dangers and receive some degree of protection from the tribe. There are indeed many fierce creatures within the inner sanctum..." Burying Moon sighed and advised Ning Fan through a sound transmission, worried he was too young and spirited to accept restrictions.

To her surprise, Ning Fan didn't take the many restrictions of the Dabei tribe to heart. Even though he felt some reluctance, for the matter of Jiuli's coming-of-age, he was willing to make concessions as long as it did not compromise his principles.

"May I ask, what do the Three Merits, Six Penalties, and Twelve Prohibitions of your noble clan refer to?" Ning Fan asked calmly.

"The Three Merits refer to the requirement for every outsider cultivator entering the inner sanctum to achieve three human-level military achievement points for our Dabei Clan. Rest assured, among you are some with Eternal Immortal Venerable level strength; human-level military achievements should be easy as pie for you. The Six Penalties..."

Tageli paused, carefully observing Ning Fan. Seeing that Ning Fan showed no particular aversion to the word "penalty," he continued, "The Six Penalties mean that outsiders must endure six penalties from our clan... These penalties are unavoidable but can be substituted. They are counted per head, pets not included... There are a total of four of you, which means facing twenty-four penalties. With the

cultivation levels of the two young ladies, should they endure the penalties, they might suffer injuries affecting their foundations. However, if these penalties are taken on by the two Immortal Venerables, it would not be difficult to bear it..."

Ning Fan frowned slightly but said nothing more. Seeing this, Tageli breathed a sigh of relief and continued, "The Twelve Prohibitions are the twelve restrictions our Dabei Clan imposes on outsider cultivators... Rest assured, they are some of the most basic prohibitions. As long as you don't engage in actions that infringe upon the interests of our Dabei Clan, you basically won't trigger the sanctions."

Tageli further elaborated on the specifics of the Twelve Prohibitions.

He wasn't foolish; it was clear that these people had intentions regarding the inner sanctum and would surely attempt to enter. The difference lay in whether they would force their way in or enter by adhering to the rules. If they forced their way in, their lives could be at risk; if they followed the rules... Tageli would warmly welcome Ning Fan and the others into the inner sanctum.

Exclusion? It depends on who is being excluded!

If Ning Fan and his companions enter...

Tageli was already contemplating another thought and was just waiting to confirm that Ning Fan and his companions would indeed follow the rules before he would make a bold decision.

He would act as Ning Fan and his companions' guarantor in the name of Chief Tamu!

"Even though their group only has four people, there are two Eternal Immortal Venerable level beings among them! If I vouch for them, they will definitely be classified under our Tamu Sect. In this way, I can, as the chief of Tamu, invite them to compete on behalf of our tribe in the grand competition! Hmph, if our tribe has two Eternal Immortal Venerables as strongholds, even if these individuals are limited by the penalties, their cultivation will not be at the bottom in the competition; they will likely achieve a very good ranking!"

Thinking of this, Tageli became more enthusiastic about Ning Fan and his companions. Upon confirming that they would abide by the rules, Tageli was overjoyed and informed them of the Dabei Clan's vouching system.

"... So, if we want to enter the inner sanctum, we must nominally join any tribe of your clan?" Ning Fan asked in surprise.

"Correct! Although there are two Eternal Immortal Venerables among you, should you suffer the penalties, your cultivations will be extremely restricted, with your capabilities likely peaking at the Shedding Void Stage... If you join other tribes, they might only treat you as a Shedding Void, and may not be too hospitable. After all, most tribes in our Dabei Clan have no shortage of Shedding Void figures. But it's different for our Tamu Sect; our tribe has no Shedding Void. If you join our Tamu Sect, I, Tageli, can guarantee not to treat outside cultivators as poorly as other chiefs might, and promise to offer you the highest degree of respect!"

Tageli assured solemnly.

Ning Fan was secretly surprised.

He hadn't known that after enduring the Six Penalties, a cultivator's cultivation would be restricted, with maximum capabilities only reaching Shedding Void. Tageli hadn't mentioned this in detail earlier... and he also didn't know that joining other tribes might result in humiliation from those tribes...

"... The cultivators of the Dabei Clan are all brawn and not friendly to outsiders. Few treat outsiders with the courtesy that Tageli does, and they are quite unreasonable... uh, that might not be entirely accurate, but once you've had deeper interactions with the Dabei Clan's cultivators, you'll understand the degree of their clumsiness far exceeds your imagination... As for the Six Penalties, don't worry too much. The so-called restriction on cultivation actually doesn't have a significant impact; you'll understand why soon," Burying Moon secretly transmitted.

"So you're suggesting we just join the Tamu Sect?" Ning Fan transmitted back.

"Yes, by joining such a small tribe, we can receive enough attention and respect," Burying Moon answered.

"Very well, you know more about the inner sanctum. We'll go with your suggestion then."

Ning Fan pondered for a moment, then agreed to Tageli's invitation. After discussing some details, they officially entered the Inner Sanctum with the Tamu Sect as guarantor.

Tageli had been guarding the Saint Monument for nearly a millennium, and there was less than a month left until the grand competition. According to the rules, they could leave this place and prepare for the competition without needing to guard the monument anymore.

This also meant that the upcoming period would see a gap in the defense around the Saint Monument. During this time, if someone touched the monument, it wouldn't implicate the Tamu Sect in any accountability...

Tageli secretly shared this information with Ning Fan after he agreed to join the Tamu Sect.

"...If you really can't forget the Saint Monument, you can sneak a look during the guard's gap period of the Great Competition, as long as you're discreet and don't get discovered by our clan..." Tageli really knew how to handle matters. If it were any other muscle-bound man of the Tamu Tribe, they would never speak such contradicting words...

"Thanks for the tip." Ning Fan accepted Tageli's goodwill. He also hoped to maintain a good working relationship with Tageli, the Tamu Clan Leader, during his stay in the Inner Sanctum, which should make this journey much smoother.

As they chatted along the way, Ning Fan also gleaned a lot of information from Tageli. For instance, the area he entered was a continent named the Southern Frontier Steppe within the Inner Sanctum.

The Inner Sanctum comprises tens of thousands of Broken Continents, most of which are uninhabited and lack Spiritual Energy, with only a few being suitable for living, where Daxian Cultivators reside for generations. The Southern Frontier Steppe is one such continent, and there are 107 others, exactly matching the number of Saint Monuments.

Thus, many Daxian Cultivators firmly believe that the existence of the 108 Saint Monuments allows the Great Humble Ones to maintain 108 habitats.

On the Southern Frontier Steppe, there are 35 tribes, with the Tamu Tribe being the weakest. The other Southern Frontier Tribes generally have Shedding Void protectors...

In a month's time, it will be the day of the Great Competition for the Daxian Tribe, where each continent will first hold smaller competitions. The weakest will be punished with guarding the monument for a millennium, while the strongest can go to the Central Continent to participate in the next round of Great Competition!

"...Regarding the Southern Frontier's small competition, as long as everyone puts in a little effort, we definitely won't be last. There's no hope for first place. After the penalty, alas, we certainly won't take the first in Southern Frontier. What a pity, what a pity! If we could take first, we could participate in the Central Continent's Great Competition. If we place well, we might even catch the attention of the Central Continent Five Emperors and receive great benefits... Forget it. If we can stop relegating my Tamu Tribe to the bottom, I will be extremely satisfied. Hmph! The Evil Sheep Tribe even claimed they would lead us by 3,000 points this time... Let's see who leads who this time!"

Tageli casually chatted with Ning Fan as he shared Tamu Tribe's current predicament with him.

This left Ning Fan speechless, realizing that the Tamu Tribe he joined was not only the weakest tribe in the Southern Frontier but possibly the weakest in the entire Daxian Tribe...

Yet even the weakest tribe has a Mid Stage Enlightenment seated. Ordinary tribes have Shedding Void seated, middle-tiered tribes have Shattered Thought seated.

In the Daxian Tribe, there are over seventy tribes with an Eternal Immortal Venerable seated, and seventeen with an Immortal King's seat!

Officially, the Daxian Tribe has only the Central Continent Five Emperors as Immortal Emperors, but secretly, Tageli tells Ning Fan an astonishing news.

The Immortal Emperors in the Daxian Tribe far exceed the Central Continent Five Emperors. The Five Emperors of the Central Continent consist of only five people. Whenever an Immortal King breaks through to Immortal Emperor, they become one of the Central Continent Five Emperors, and the ones displaced go to the Daxian Tribe's highest forbidden land to cultivate, ignoring secular affairs...

Tageli, due to his status, is not qualified to know how many Immortal Emperors there are secretly, but he is sure it's much more than five!

Not tearing apart relations with the Daxian Tribe immediately upon entering the Inner Sanctum seemed to be a wise decision...

Ning Fan subtly inquires about information on the Jiuli Ritual Vessel and although he is tactful and doesn't explicitly mention the vessel, he still couldn't gather even indirect information.

Sure enough, the Jiuli Ritual Vessel will have to be found by himself...

The Tamu Tribe's community is built on a plain in the central part of the Southern Frontier, contrary to Ning Fan's imagined scenes of underground caves everywhere. The Tamu Tribe people do not live underground but reside in tents, entering the caves only during cultivation, while daily activities occur in the tents.

The community is not large, with only about thirty thousand people, which is related to the bloodline of the Daxian Tribe. These people are often born with a Medicine Soul, but have a very low fertility rate, hence the tribe remains small. Only fifteen tribes in the Southern Frontier Steppe have more than one hundred thousand people.

It's been a thousand years since Tageli went out to guard the Saint Monument. The Tamu Tribe Guards, clad in leather armor and long boots, are clashing with a group outside the tribe.

Mu Ka, the Captain of a Thousand for Tamu Tribe, flushed with anger, is arguing with the Young Chief of the Xieyang Clan.

"My Pearl of Mohe was lost during my last visit to your Tamu Tribe, and I want to search your entire tribe. What's wrong with that? Why are you preventing me?" Xianyu Chun glared slightly menacingly at Mu Ka, who dared defy him—a mere Captain of a Thousand opposing the Young Chief of the Evil Sheep Tribe. How absurd!

"What a joke! Who doesn't know that the Pearl of Mohe is a treasure of our Southern Frontier, capable of gathering Spiritual Energy from all four directions. If it were truly within my Tamu Tribes, it would have caused a change in Spiritual Energy... The Pearl of Mohe is not here. You're just looking for an excuse to enter our Tamu Tribe's Medicine Pool and take the Medicine Marrow that takes a millennium to form! You are trying to take advantage of our Chief's absence to bully us, aren't you?" Mu Ka said angrily. Despite being a typical muscle-head, he somehow grasped Xianyu Chun's true motives. Xianyu Chun's pretext was indeed terrible; anyone could see through it.

Of course, that's for most people.

The Dabei Clan cultivators are mostly clumsy, not everyone can understand Xianyu Chun's true intentions.

"What! The Young Chief of the Evil Sheep Sect has such intentions! He is coveting our sect's Thousand-Year Medicine Marrow!" Some of the Tamu Sect guards were shocked.

"I actually believed he lost the Pearl of Mohe and even helped him look for it for half a day!" Some Tamu clansmen with intellectual shortcomings felt ashamed.

"...Master Mu Ka, I found the Pearl of Mohe! I found it in my mom's sheep pen!" A Tamu tribesman who seemed even more foolish ran over at this moment, holding a stone about the size of a goose egg.

That's a stone, isn't it! There's even sheep dung on it!

It doesn't glow at all, what nonsense pearl!

How come each of my subordinates is more stupid than the last!

Mu Ka's head throbbed with pain, but it wasn't a good time to scold his subordinates for their stupidity, as he was busy arguing with the Young Chief of the Evil Sheep Sect.

"Master Xianyu, I have seen through your scheme!" Mu Ka shouted angrily.

"What! You saw through the ingenious plan I spent ten days devising!" Xianyu Chun appeared utterly shocked, indicating his intelligence wasn't very high either.

"In fact, I received a report from an informant three days ago saying you would use such a scheme, otherwise, it's hard to imagine; the loss of the pearl was just a pretense... The plan is indeed perfect, but unfortunately, human calculations are inferior to heavenly calculations, your Evil Sheep Sect has a mole..." It turns out Mu Ka wasn't very smart either...

"What! My sect has a mole who leaked my plan! Tell me, who is that mole!" Xianyu Chun was furious.

"Do you think I'm stupid enough to tell you who the mole is! I absolutely won't tell you that the mole is your cousin Xianyu Zhu!" Mu Ka hadn't realized he misspoke.

"Damn it, you won't tell me... Wait, you just said Xianyu Zhu, it's him, isn't it!" Xianyu Chun reacted.

Mu Ka realized his slip of the tongue and was shocked, quickly changing his words, "No, I was just talking nonsense earlier, it's not Xianyu Zhu, it's someone I don't know who told me."

"So it wasn't Xianyu Zhu, but someone you don't know who told you..." Xianyu Chun believed it.

"Then... you have time to come to my tribe and tell me all the people you don't know in my tribe. I want to find out who that mole you don't know is!" Xianyu Chun foolishly ordered.

"I refuse, I'm a Captain of a Thousand for the Tamu Sect, I refuse to obey your command!"

"What, you dare refuse my order! You..."

Xianyu Chun was furious and was about to act out when a somewhat clever Evil Sheep sect cultivator secretly reminded him through transmission, "Young Chief, don't forget our purpose for coming here, there's no need to get entangled with Mu Ka..."

"Right! I actually forgot we came for the Thousand-Year Medicine Marrow, um, forgot to transmit, accidentally said it out loud..." The foolish Xianyu Chun forgot to transmit conversation, revealing the true purpose.

Instantly, the Tamu Sect guards were angry! They heard that Xianyu Chun personally admitted he came to plot for the Thousand-Year Medicine Marrow!

The Evil Sheep Sect guards heard that! Their Young Chief actually wants to plot for someone else's Thousand-Year Medicine Marrow... They really thought the chief wanted to find the Pearl of Mohe, how foolish are they!

"You really came to steal the Thousand-Year Medicine Marrow, I Mu Ka will fight to the death today and never let you take the chief's Medicine Marrow!" Mu Ka and many Tamu guards appeared ready to die, as if to protect the chief's Medicine Marrow, they would sacrifice themselves at any moment!

"Hmph, anything the Young Chief wants, we will fight to the death to seize it, especially since this time we have an Evil Wheel Mage of the Late Stage Enlightenment, even if your sect chief is here, what can he do! We will directly rob, execute a tribe plunder, and easily take the Thousand-Year Medicine Marrow!" The Evil Sheep guards all shouted, showing utmost loyalty to the Young Chief, and considering their level of foolishness, such loyalty was definitely genuine.

Xianyu Chun internally cursed his foolishness; he couldn't believe he forgot his sect's strength far surpasses the Tamu Sect. According to tribal rules, within the same continent tribe, they can plunder as long as they don't kill people, they can freely rob, seize women, cultivation resources... Of course, married women cannot be seized, which is a hard rule of Dabei Clan...

Forgot, forgot... He, as the Young Chief of the Evil Sheep Sect, absolutely didn't need to spend ten days devising such a master plan, he could directly execute a tribe plunder!

"I, in the name of the Young Chief of the Evil Sheep Sect, declare a tribe plunder on your Tamu Sect. I will seize all your resources, seize all your unmarried women, seize all your Thousand-Year Medicine Marrow, seize..."

"Who dares to seize from my Tamu Sect!"

This voice belonged to the just returned Tageli, angrily roaring to the sky!

He was in rage; his Tamu Sect may be weak, but surely not weak enough to be bullied!

Did this Xianyu Chun forget his Tamu Sect has a Clan Protecting Corpse Demon! If used, even if the Evil Sheep Sect sends Late Stage Enlightenment experts, what could they do, they'd only suffer losses, only return in vain!

Ugh, forgot, given Xianyu Chun's brain, he probably completely forgot about the Tamu Sect's Clan Protecting Corpse Demon... Tageli felt speechless, he forgot the fact that intelligent people are scarce in the Dabei Clan.

Speaking of which, why didn't Mu Ka and others deploy the Clan Protecting Corpse Demon to guard the sect when guarding was understaffed?

Ugh, they forgot... Given Mu Ka and others' intelligence, they probably forgot about it too...

A true conflict between idiots and idiots...

Tageli looked somewhat ashamedly at Ning Fan and others, landing outside the tribe.

He clearly saw Ning Fan and others' strange expressions, while only Burying Moon appeared accustomed, as if used to the foolishness of the Dabei Clan.

How embarrassing...

"The Dabei Clan is quite interesting..." Ning Fan stroked his chin, revealing a half-smile.

"The Dabei Tribe is the Medicine Slave descendants of the Herb-gathering Sage, mentally incomplete, a result of human calamity... The ancient idiom goes, of ten cultivators of the Dabei Clan, nine are pure, which was the saying of our era. In the past, not everyone knew, in this era, you probably have never heard of it..." Burying Moon transmitted.

"Didn't you say you didn't know much about the Dabei Clan?" Ning Fan said irritably, now seeming to know everything.

"I meant I don't know much about the top cultivators; the peak powerful ones of the Dabei Clan have deep waters..." Burying Moon expressed some worries, then said, "You should just watch. This kind of foolish conflict is probably the first you've encountered in your cultivation journey; the Dabei Clan is truly peculiar... Of course, not every Dabei tribesman is like this, cultivators who reach the Timeless Realm absolutely can't be mentally deficient..."

Everyone landed following Tageli.

The foolish guards from both sides merely glanced at Ning Fan and others and ignored them.

At this moment, in their dispute, they simply had no time to pay attention to Ning Fan and others, even if they felt Ning Fan and others' attire was strange, they didn't have the time to inquire.

Today, the Tamu Sect guards and Evil Sheep Sect guards must contend for supremacy!

"So, Clan Leader Tageli has returned, right when you return, hand over your Thousand-Year Medicine Marrow!" Xianyu Chun's cold light shone in his eyes, although foolish, his heart was ruthless and merciless. Since he decided to break with the Tamu Sect, he wouldn't hold back.

"You wish to seize our sect's Medicine Marrow, dream on!"

"Hmph! Tageli! You may be Mid Stage Enlightenment, but don't forget, we have a Late Stage Enlightenment expert here! If you know what's good for you, hand over the Thousand-Year Medicine Marrow, or don't blame me for my men's mercilessness!" Xianyu Chun clapped his hands, and immediately a fat-headed, big-eared monk robe cultivator stepped forward.

"Evil Wheel Mage..." Tageli's eyes narrowed. This person, with cultivation at the late stage of Enlightenment, had quite a renowned reputation on the Southern Frontier Steppe.

"Tageli, you are no match for me! Our Young Sect Leader may be somewhat naive, but the Clan Leader isn't foolish. I know what you're thinking, but unfortunately, your Clan Protecting Corpse Demon can't be used this time! Because we've brought our Clan Protecting Corpse Demon as well! If you use yours, we will use ours too!"

Evil Wheel clasped his hands, and immediately the entire ground trembled. Then suddenly, there was a crack in the grassy mud, from which wisps of black mist floated out.

An overwhelmingly strong Shattered Thought aura immediately emanated from within!

"Isn't this... the death cultivator seen in the Divine City Forbidden Land?" Wu Laoba's eyes narrowed slightly in contemplation.

"This is... a Corpse Demon killed by medicine..." Ning Fan's eyes flashed with an Azure Spike as he saw the corrosive medicinal aura within each Corpse Demon's body. No mistaking it, they were all killed by medicine and turned into Corpse Demons.

That was a Corpse Demon identical to those dead cultivator bodies in the Divine City Forbidden Land! Its limbs were bound with chains, and malevolent energy surged around it.

Cries of shock erupted from all around.

No one expected that the Evil Wheel Mage would bring out the Evil Sheep Sect's guardian Corpse Demon!

A Shattered Thought Early Stage Corpse Demon! Once it acts, there will be blood for sure, and definitely countless casualties!

"Evil Wheel! Why am I, the Young Sect Leader, unaware of you bringing out the guardian Corpse Demon?" Xianyu Chun felt a rush of anger.

"These are the Clan Leader's orders..." Evil Wheel said with a hint of helplessness. If everything had to be reported to the Young Sect Leader, wouldn't everything be leaked...

"Enough, since it's Father's order, forget it for this time, but remember, there won't be a next time!" Xianyu Chun said coldly.

"Yes..." Evil Wheel broke out in a cold sweat. Don't be fooled by Xianyu Chun's naivety, but in terms of ruthlessness, he's one of the top in the Southern Frontier, and his cultivation talent is first-rate. That's why even being naive, his father values him, keeping him as the Young Sect Leader of the Evil Sheep Clan...

Composing himself, Evil Wheel threatened Tageli again, "Today's matter naturally shouldn't involve the Clan Protecting Corpse Demons. Can Chief Ta agree on this point?"

"Indeed, there's no need to use the Clan Protecting Corpse Demons this time..."

Tageli snorted coldly and stepped sideways slightly, revealing Ning Fan and his companions behind him.

"They are..." Evil Wheel Mage's eyes narrowed. Just seeing Ning Fan and the others' attire, he knew they were foreign cultivators! And since these people were brought by Tageli, it's obvious that Tageli decided to sponsor them, recruiting them to temporarily join the Tamu Clan.

The Supreme Pill Sacred Domain, which opens once every ten thousand years... Could these people be those legendary practitioners from the outer Eastern Heaven...?

Being valued by Tageli, these people shouldn't be weak, and having not been through the Six Penalties yet, they must still retain their original cultivations, so he couldn't be careless...

"Are you the leader of these people?" Evil Wheel Mage asked Wu Laoba.

Though Wu Laoba looked somewhat ugly, he seemed the most villainous, naturally giving off an aura of strength.

In contrast, Ning Fan appeared too gentle, and Burying Moon and Ouyang Nuan were women, so they were naturally overlooked by the Evil Wheel Mage.

"Me? I'm just a little loyal servant. This is the master! Your eyes are lacking, youngster."

Wu Laoba snorted slightly and stepped back half a step, positioning himself behind Ning Fan, looking at Ning Fan with utmost reverence, showing an overly flattering demeanor.

Evil Wheel Mage frowned. These mere foreign cultivators dared to call him a youngster... He glanced suspiciously at Ning Fan. How could such a gentle-looking person be the leader of this group? Unfortunately, his cultivation was too low, only late stage of Enlightenment. If Ning Fan and Wu Laoba deliberately concealed it, he wouldn't be able to perceive their astonishing cultivations.

Ning Fan could tell that Tageli wanted to leverage their group's influence to intimidate the cultivators of the Evil Sheep Clan, achieving a bloodless victory. For now, they were in a cooperative relationship, and if it was only leveraging their influence, he didn't mind lending a hand...

"Release your aura, don't hold back, but don't hurt anyone," Ning Fan looked deeply at Tageli, then instructed Wu Laoba.

Wu Laoba's whole body trembled instantly! As a loyal servant of the highest order, he absolutely had to faithfully execute the master's command! As he released his oppressive aura, an earth-shattering pressure swept out like a storm, spreading across the entire grassland!

The entire Southern Frontier Steppe was stunned!

Only because from the direction of the Tamu Clan, they felt an ancient aura!

"A- Ancient Immortal Venerable!" Evil Wheel Mage's tongue trembled. He was standing too close to Wu Laoba, and facing Wu Laoba's pressure directly was like an ant being crushed by Mountain Tai, his whole body was in pain and he could barely move!

Inconceivable, unimaginable! This time, the Tamu Clan actually recruited an Immortal Venerable level foreign cultivator! With this, never mind the tribal competition, this time's fight for Medicinal Marrow was sure to end in failure!

"Let's drop this matter here, my Evil Sheep Sect has been reckless!"

Evil Wheel Mage gritted his teeth, knowing it was unwise, and at this moment, he only wanted to withdraw and leave.

Tageli snorted coldly on the surface but breathed a sigh of relief inside. It was perfect for Evil Wheel Mage to back off...

Ning Fan also did not pursue the Evil Sheep Clan relentlessly as he was ultimately an outsider. How local tribes fought amongst themselves was their own affair, but if he intervened too much, it could easily provoke suppression from local tribes...

He wanted to build a good relationship with the Tamu Clan, but he couldn't offend the other Great Humble Tribe clans excessively... This was not his usual style, but for the sake of his mentor in Ancient Chaos, he had to do this, even if he was unwilling!

The cultivators from the Evil Sheep Clan, no matter how foolish, now understood that they couldn't win against an Ancient Immortal Venerable. At this moment, they only wanted to leave this place.

However, Xianyu Chun was unwilling! His face was indecisive, stepping forward, his finger trembling as he pointed at Ning Fan, seemingly extremely excited.

"You, you, you..." He was so excited that he couldn't even speak!

Was it because he was extremely angry? Why was he so excited! Evil Wheel Mage cursed inwardly, their Young Sect Leader was too foolish, and if he insisted on provoking Ning Fan... it wouldn't be wise, not wise! Even though the other party was merely a foreign cultivator, and even though the other's cultivation was unknown, no matter how weak they were, as long as they had an Immortal Venerable servants, they were definitely not an entity the Evil Sheep Sect could provoke!

"Young Sect Leader, you must not offend this person!"

"Get lost, get lost, get lost! I obviously know this person is not to be offended! The charisma, so charismatic, in my entire life, haven't I sought such a magnificent demeanor! With a word, an Immortal Venerable servant appears to intimidate all directions, changing the color of the sky and earth... So charismatic! I've decided!"

Thump!

Xianyu Chun kneeled in front of Ning Fan.

"I want to become your disciple! I want to live as gloriously as you do! The Evil Sheep Sect is too small, the Southern Frontier Steppe is too small! I want to be like you, bursting with presence!"

Ning Fan was stunned.

Was he being accepted as a disciple? By an exceptionally peculiar and foolish person?

Chapter 1000: The Emperor Descends

Accepting disciples...

Ning Fan's expression turned peculiar as he truly disliked accepting disciples. When he first entered the cultivation world, he did take on two disciples in the field of Alchemy, one named Xue Qing and the other Yang Gu, both Rain Immortal World cultivators. He once taught a boy named Little Stone the Sword Dao, and during the Northern Dipper's inquiry, he spent many years with a young man named Ren Li, imparting some insights. He even infused a couple of demons with Demonic Qi...

Yet throughout his life, it seemed he never truly accepted any disciples to inherit his entire Dao...

He didn't want to take disciples because the Yin Yang Transformation Dao was too sinister and the teachings could not be lightly passed on, and now he has even more reasons not to accept disciples.

He himself hasn't fully understood the Ancient Chaos Dao, so how could he be qualified to take on disciples?

The higher his cultivation, the more Ning Fan felt that the Ancient Chaos Grand Emperor's Dao was vast and profound. It could merge all things in the world that were incompatible... The cultivation philosophy of this technique is terrifying. Different bloodlines like Gods, Demons, Demonic Beasts, and ghost servants coexist within one body due to the Ancient Chaos Dao; Black Star Technique, Phoenix Nirvana Technique, Immortal Bloodline are forcibly integrated because of the Ancient Chaos Dao...

As the great Dao stands vast, it is immensely mighty yet humble... The higher his cultivation, the smaller and more insignificant he felt. Ning Fan's mindset was coincidentally in harmony with the words on the Daxian Clan's Sacred Stele.

Not to mention that accepting disciples and worshiping a master doesn't require checking the other party's character, cultivation, and talents? To seek a master upon first meeting seems a bit rash.

With this in mind, Ning Fan said expressionlessly, "I don't plan to take on disciples in the short term, please seek another expert."

Xianyu Chun was stunned, standing there with a dazed look.

Did I refuse too directly, did this hit the young man? Ning Fan thought silently.

Ten breaths passed.

Twenty breaths passed.

Thirty breaths passed.

Xianyu Chun suddenly asked in confusion,

"... Well, Senior, may I ask what it means to seek another expert? I'm not very smart and haven't read much, I don't understand."

"It means visiting another renowned master," Ning Fan explained with a slight smile.

"Huh? You don't want to be my master! I can give you plenty of cattle and sheep, gold and silver, and many many women, I really want to be your disciple!" Xianyu engaged his hands, indicating he could give a lot.

Cattle and sheep, gold and silver, do these hold any use for cultivators? Ning Fan was slightly speechless; in fact, he had just used his spirit sense to scan the Tamu Tribe. Many Tamu Tribe cultivators loved to raise cattle and sheep, and would even use mortal gold and silver as currency in transactions... He was not a Daxian clan cultivator, he was not interested in cattle, sheep, or gold and silver.

As for women... he considered no low-level Cauldron Furnace, and Xianyu Chun couldn't offer a high-grade one, so naturally, he wouldn't be tempted.

"Sorry, please seek another expert," Ning Fan shook his head, leading Ouyang Nuan and others to follow Tageli into the Tamu Tribe.

Xianyu Chun, after a wave of frustration and disappointment, was dragged away by the Evil Sheep Sect cultivators, and due to the arrival of Ning Fan and others, a storm subdued.

Vouching for Ning Fan and others to enter requires reporting to the Middle State, so after Tageli briefly thanked Ning Fan and others for their help, he busily contacted the Middle State tribe, only sending Captain of a Thousand Mu Ka to settle Ning Fan's group in the Tamu Tribe.

The Tamu people were also very averting, but upon hearing that Ning Fan and others agreed to join the Tamu Tribe, they became warm and hospitable. Captain of a Thousand Mu Ka even took out a batch of fine aged wine, bringing a group of tribe guards to invite Ning Fan for wine and meat.

The wine was common wine, the meat was cattle and sheep raised by the Tamu people, Wu Laoba and Burying Moon had fasting for years, naturally lazy to eat worldly wine and meat, they graciously declined the Tamu people's invitation, Ouyang Nuan also politely turned down the Tamu people's invitation, unwilling to drink and eat and buddy up with a big man of obviously flawed intellect.

Only Ning Fan accepted the Tamu people's invitation.

Though the task was weighty, he had gained very little internal intelligence so far, especially clueless about the whereabouts of the Jiuli Ritual Vessel and was naturally keen to extract intelligence from the Tamu people.

The inner region was very peculiar, after entering here, his Heaven Prying Rain Technique could not be launched too far, as if restricted by a great force. The Treasure-searching Compass was similarly restrained, as if someone was deliberately interfering, making it impossible for Ning Fan to accurately sense the ritual vessel's location...

The one interfering must have at least Immortal Emperor level, or even higher... Otherwise, it would be impossible to restrict his Heaven Prying Rain Technique and Treasure-searching Compass to such an extent...

The Tamu people were very warm-hearted and honest; most of them, though aware of Ning Fan's high cultivation, had little reverence for him, treating Ning Fan as a friend from afar.

These Tamu people were mostly foolish, allowing Ning Fan to extract huge information from them without special means. Among the people, Captain of a Thousand Mu Ka had the highest cultivation level, already at the Ghost Profound Peak-Stage, being the one besides the clan chief who knew most of the secrets in the tribe. He hiccupped while draping his arm over Ning Fan's shoulder, speaking casually of things Ning Fan wanted to hear.

The Inner Sanctum has tens of thousands of continents, only 108 of which are suitable for life, with Daxian cultivators, whereas the barren continents are termed "Tenth-grade Fierce Domain" by the Great Humble Ones.

Fierce Domain has many vicious beings surviving, ancient Corpse remnants, Saint's relics, old opportunities, and rebel Daxian cultivators hiding outside... classified by danger levels, higher levels indicate greater danger.

"... Domain outside is very dangerous. I've heard that over the thousand years, a Zhongzhou Emperor once entered the fiercest Tenth-grade Fierce Domain seeking medicine outside and ended up severely injured, reportedly by several Immortal Emperor level corpse spirits... My my, those are Immortal Emperor level corpse spirits, encountering several at once!"

Mu Ka's words made Ning Fan secretly startled; he saw Daxian cultivators leisurely living on the grassland, assuming the Inner Sanctum was not dangerous as imagined, yet unexpectedly, the real danger was in the Fierce Domains without Great Humble Ones. The Tenth-grade Fierce Domain, even an Immortal Emperor must tread cautiously...

Whether the Jiuli Ritual Vessel is in the hands of Great Humble Ones or... within that vast Fierce Domain...

"... Ritual Vessel? I don't know if there's any high-level offering vessel like that on the grassland... occasionally ancient vessels can be found in Fierce Domains..."

Indeed, there's a possibility it's within the Fierce Domain, then... Ning Fan thought silently.

"... Every millennium our tribe has a clan tournament, hoping not to rank the lowest this time... Ah, if they can win first in the Southern Frontier minor contest, then score well in the Middle State tournament, they can receive rewards from Zhongzhou's Five Emperors..."

With me here, you probably won't rank the lowest... Ning Fan thought silently.

"... Spirits medicines on the grassland, every century, must be offered once to Zhongzhou's Five Emperors. If you want to find precious Medicine Spirits, you can only go into Fierce Domains, where the land is vast and contains every kind of medicine... By the way, you foreign cultivators, if you want to establish divine, demon and devil, you likely need to enter Fierce Domains, but mostly only up to Third-level Danger Zone to accomplish, not overly dangerous..."

The Fierce Domains will be visited sooner or later... Ning Fan thought silently.

"... Entering Fierce Domains isn't just easy; all Seventh and higher Fierce Domains have seals, needing travel tokens from Zhongzhou's Five Emperors to enter..."

Such restrictions exist? Ning Fan was slightly surprised.

After some merry drinking, the honest Tamu men gradually departed, leaving Ning Fan to return to his tent, inside which Ouyang Nuan and others were already waiting.

"We have already joined the Tamu Clan. What should we do next? The physical body I am looking for is located within the Tenth-grade Fierce Domain. The passage token to enter the Tenth-grade Fierce Domain is in the hands of the Central Continent Five Emperors. It is a seal set by the saint, and without the token, we cannot enter with our current cultivation. If I were in full strength, I could go and challenge the Central Continent Five Emperors for a key, but now I can't do that..." Burying Moon felt somewhat helpless. She was no longer at her peak and could no longer act as recklessly in the Dabei Clan as she once could.

"...This is indeed a problem, but I've heard that the Great Bei Clan's millennium competition is approaching. If we can achieve a good ranking in the Central Continent competition, we might be rewarded by the Central Continent Five Emperors. Perhaps we can use this opportunity to obtain a passage token... The Southern Frontier Steppe's trial is in a month's time, and the Central Continent competition is three months away, so we have enough time..." Ning Fan pondered slightly.

This journey in search of the Jiuli Ritual Vessel is filled with uncertainties, and it's unclear whether we can find the Jiuli Ritual Vessel to mature the Jiuli...

In the ensuing days, Ning Fan and the others were required to stay within the Tamu Clan and were not allowed to go outside. According to Tageli, someone specifically would come from the Central Continent later to perform the Six Penalties on Ning Fan and the others, suppressing their cultivation.

After that, Ning Fan and the others would be free to roam within the Inner Sanctum.

During those days of waiting, Ning Fan, having nothing else to do, observed the lifestyle of the Tamu people.

The Tamu people love raising cattle and sheep and use gold and silver for currency trading. For cultivators, cattle, sheep, and gold or silver are useless, but the Tamu people fancy these things.

This behavior left Ning Fan somewhat perplexed...

Almost everyone among the Tamu people is an alchemist. Ning Fan even saw a six-year-old child in the Tamu tribe whose Medicine Soul power had already reached the Fourth Revolution!

A six-year-old Fourth Revolution Alchemist! In the outside world, they would be hailed as a once-in-a-million-years alchemy genius, but in the Dazu Clan, this seems quite commonplace.

The Dazu people are born with Medicine Souls, and within the Tamu Tribe of thirty thousand, over a hundred people have Medicine Souls reaching the Seventh Revolution, with more than a dozen reaching the Eighth Revolution.

As such, Ning Fan's mere Seventh Grade Intermediate in alchemy did not stand out here. On the contrary, Ouyang Nuan, once displaying the aura of a Ninth Revolution Medicine Soul before the Dum Tribe, was instantly revered by countless Tamu people as a deity, treated with utmost respect.

The Dazu Clan does not worship the strong but reveres alchemy grandmasters! Even rough men like Mu Ka, when they see Ouyang Nuan, treat her with the utmost respect, unlike their casual behavior with Ning Fan.

"The Tamu people are so respectful towards the head lady! I, the Eternal Immortal Venerable, never received such treatment!" Wu Laoba felt somewhat unbalanced.

"...This is probably the custom of the Dazu Clan."

Ning Fan also noticed that the Dazu people are fond of Buddhism; almost every home has a shrine for the Medicine Master Buddha. Some friendly Tamu people even wanted to give Ning Fan a statue of the Medicine Master Buddha to worship. This was the goodwill of the Tamu people, and Ning Fan naturally wouldn't refuse, but he did not offer worship behind their backs either.

Buddhism and demons do not coexist. He may not dislike Buddhism, but he won't believe in it either, as he cannot learn the Buddha's forbearance. This is a difference in Dao, something that cannot be changed.

The Tamu people are not particularly intelligent. According to Burying Moon, it is said the Tamu people's ancestors served as Medicine Slaves for the Herb-gathering Sage, leading to an intellectual deficiency in

their descendants. Wu Laoba thought very little of the Tamu people. He casually picked up a piece of mud, tricked the Tamu people into believing it was divine mud, causing a mad scramble, and sold the mud for two hundred Medicine Soul Stones!

Aside from Clan Leader Tageli, almost no one in the entire Tamu Tribe realized that Wu Laoba was deceiving them! Their low intelligence is evident.

Although the Dazu people love using gold and silver as currency, they mostly collect Medicine Soul Stones for cultivation and arranging formation techniques in their abodes. Their purpose is roughly equivalent to the use of immortal jade Dao crystals in the cultivation world.

This gave Wu Laoba infinite possibilities for deceit. He began to wildly and unscrupulously sell mud, stones, wool, withered grass... Everything he picked up from the ground could be sold to the Tamu people for Medicine Soul Stones.

In a few days, Wu Laoba earned ten thousand Medicine Soul Stones! As such, Ning Fan and the others could extend their stay in the Holy Domain even longer!

"This kind of deception is not right..." When Wu Laoba presented the Medicine Soul Stones like treasures, Ning Fan frowned slightly.

He was not a good person and had done all sorts of things like murder and arson, but deceiving people with such limited intellect, especially since these Tamu people were extremely hospitable to him and treated him as a friend... This seemed inappropriate.

If they were enemies, it wouldn't matter.

"Oh boss, you're too soft-hearted. These Tamu people are all fools, born to be deceived. If I don't trick them, someone else will..." Wu Laoba curled his lips, muttering to himself: What kind of virtuous person are you pretending to be, Star of Misfortune? You're worse than me, Wu Xiaoba. The malice in your belly could flood two rivers...

"Return the deceitfully obtained Medicine Soul Stones."

"But the Dazu cultivators are different from us. They have lived here generations and are adapted to the local medicinal qi. They can survive without Medicine Soul Stones, unlike us... Keeping these Medicine Soul Stones for them is less useful than keeping them for us." Wu Laoba was somewhat reluctant. After all, he had painstakingly deceived for them, wasting a lot of mud!

"Then offer them items of equal value in exchange, as fair trade. This way, you can still acquire many Medicine Soul Stones, and utilize them."

Ning Fan ignored Wu Laoba's protests and commanded assertively.

"Alright, alright, whatever you say, boss! You're the master, anyway. I have plenty of junk in my storage pouch, and to these people, even a random True Immortal magical treasure is a supreme treasure. Trading for their Medicine Soul Stones doesn't put them at a loss..." Reluctant, Wu Laoba could only comply with Ning Fan's forceful stance. Well, he was the most loyal servant in the world, wasn't he?

As a result, Wu Laoba collected over two hundred thousand Medicine Soul Stones for Ning Fan through bartering. The Tamu Tribe was not a wealthy tribe, and in wealthier ones, exchanging for millions of Medicine Soul Stones would be considered normal.

In addition to Wu Laoba, another person offered Ning Fan two hundred thousand Medicine Soul Stones.

The one making offerings was the Young Chief of the Xieyang Clan, Xianyu Chun!

"Master, may you be blessed with peace and joy!"

"Master, you must be exhausted. Please, sit here. Someone bring mare's milk tea!"

"Master, let me massage your legs!"

"Master, I heard you are collecting Medicine Soul Stones. It's a token of my respect, a minor gesture from your disciple..."

Ning Fan was speechless. He had clearly refused Xianyu Chun's offer to become his disciple, yet this fellow came every day, morning and night, acting like a filial and devoted child.

"I have said I won't accept disciples, so insisting will only lead to the same result." Ning Fan frowned.

"...It's alright. Your disciple believes that sincerity will win your favor! Besides, I have connections in the Central Continent and can find the news Master needs!" Xianyu Chun wasn't entirely foolish, at least knowing what Ning Fan wanted.

"News? What news can you find?" Ning Fan asked, narrowing his eyes slightly.

"That depends on what Master wants to know. If the information is too obscure, I might not be able to get it. After all, even though Saye Master is said to know everything under heaven, obtaining information from him is extremely costly..." Xianyu Chun said helplessly.

Saye Master...

Ning Fan murmured the name. He had heard of this person from Mu Ka and other Tamu people. It was said that he was a great figure within the Dazu Clan residing in the Central Continent, highly skilled in divination. While his cultivation had not reached Eternal Six Tribulations, he knew many great secrets of the Dazu Clan unknown even to the Central Continent Five Emperors, and was highly knowledgeable about the Tenth-grade Fierce Domain...

If the Jiuli Ritual Vessel can't be found, it's unclear whether it's necessary to ask this person...

"If it's just to get information, Ning Fan really has no need to take on another disciple." Ning Fan still shook his head, refusing Xianyu Chun's request to become his apprentice, which greatly discouraged Xianyu Chun. Yet, the next day, he returned eagerly to try again.

He really has an indomitable spirit, though his intelligence is somewhat lacking...

The news that the Tamu Clan has an external practitioner of the Eternal Immortal Venerable quickly spread across the entire Southern Frontier Steppe. Many speculated that this time, the Tamu Clan

would not rank at the bottom, but there were still tribes at odds with the Tamu Clan, firmly believing that the Tamu Clan's fate of being last wouldn't change.

Because that very day, an exceptionally sinister-looking old hunchback arrived at the Tamu Clan.

This was a Great Emperor of the Eternal Six Tribulations, a member of the Central Continent's Five Emperors. As soon as he arrived, cultivators of the entire Tamu Clan knelt in reverence and respect.

"I, Tamu Xiu of the Dabei Clan, pay respects to Emperor Lou Tuo!"

Central Continent's Five Emperors, Emperor Lou Tuo!

Rumor has it that this place has deep prejudice against foreign cultivators and Lou Tuo is a Great Emperor from the Ancient Times who survived till now!

Emperor Lou Tuo originally had very high potential but was once wounded by an Empress who trespassed into the Dabei Clan, damaging his foundation, so that till now, he remains stuck at the bottleneck of the Seventh Calamity, his cultivation eternally confined to the realm of the Sixth Calamity.

Because of this, no matter how many times the Central Continent's Five Emperors change, he remains one of them, stuck handling trivial clan matters instead of being able to resign and cultivate in the mansion due to his ruined foundation!

His entire life was ruined by a foreign Empress; it's imaginable how much he despises foreign cultivators!

"Who would have thought that the punishment for these foreign cultivators would be executed by Emperor Lou Tuo, who hates foreign cultivators the most? As a result, these people will at least be gravely injured, and if they dare to resist, they might even be executed by Emperor Lou Tuo..."

Some Southern Frontier cultivators spying on the Tamu Clan secretly gloated; it seemed this time the Tamu Clan was about to hit rock bottom again.

Tageli, at this moment, was utterly furious yet unable to voice it!

He knew it, he just knew it! Despite all his efforts to find external support, wishing to uplift the Tamu Clan during the clan competition, they still fell victim to upper-level restrictions!

Blame it on the Tamu Clan, for once producing a traitor who dared to murder Emperor Lou Tuo's disciple, resulting in not only the traitor's condemnation and death but also implicating the Tamu Clan to suffer Lou Tuo's repression in secret.

For twelve thousand years, the Tamu Clan has been at the bottom among the Southern Frontier tribes!

A full twelve clan competitions, the Tamu Clan wasn't devoid of outstanding clan members, nor was it lacking in powerful borrowed treasures, but... those outstanding clan members were often severely injured before the competitions, and those painstakingly borrowed magical treasures were also destroyed in secret...

Many of these incidents didn't even require Emperor Lou Tuo's intervention; there were numerous people willing to bully the Tamu Clan just to curry favor with him.

To this, the Tamu Clan could only endure, and Tageli could only endure! Like the Evil Sheep Sect declaring their intent to surpass the Tamu Clan by 3,000 points in the competition to snatch their Medicine Marrow... This too wasn't devoid of the intention to flatter Emperor Lou Tuo.

No one expected that this time, after finally attracting strong support to the Tamu Clan, Emperor Lou Tuo himself would carry out the Six Penalties... Is he personally going to suppress foreign cultivators!

"Chun'er, I heard you've been getting close to that external practitioner of the Tamu Clan, even wanting to become his apprentice?" The Shepherd Evil Tribe's Chief looked at Xianyu Chun on the distant steppe with disappointment. He knew his son was foolish, but he firmly believed that with a little guidance, this son wouldn't make grave mistakes. But unexpectedly, the son acted so foolishly!

He had painstakingly opposed the Tamu Clan all this time, in hopes of currying favor with Emperor Lou Tuo! Yet this foolish son decided to befriend the external practitioner courted by Emperor Lou Tuo, even

wanting to become his disciple. If Emperor Lou Tuo pursued this matter, how would the Evil Sheep Sect have any good days!

For the first time in his life, the Shepherd Evil Tribe's Chief considered stripping his son of his position as the Young Sect Leader, even though this son was inherently filial, possessed exceptional potential, and was born of the woman he loved the most...

"Yes, Father, I want to become that man's apprentice, I want to be like him, to move heaven and earth, to summon wind and rain!" Xianyu Chun obviously hadn't noticed the disappointment in his father's eyes, still brimming with enthusiasm. After so many years, he finally met someone he wanted to apprentice under; it wasn't easy!

"...Foolish child, Father knows you disdain how small the Southern Frontier is, and wish to master a famous teacher, to stand on a greater stage. Father has been helping you seek such a teacher, even... hoping you could apprentice under Emperor Lou Tuo himself! Otherwise, do you think why Father painstakingly targeted the Tamu Clan, if not to secure a bright future for you? Why would you sabotage yourself? Befriending the external practitioner of the Tamu Clan, won't that make Emperor Lou Tuo despise you! Our Evil Sheep Sect, looking across the entire Great Bei, is but second-rate, and the hope of apprenticing under Lou Tuo is already slim, yet you still... ah..." Sighed the Shepherd Evil Tribe's Chief again.

"From today, you must not have any contact with that external practitioner! This matter concerns not only your personal future but the fate of our entire Evil Sheep Sect lineage, remember that!"

"But..." Xianyu Chun bit his lip.

"No buts! Believe me, once Emperor Lou Tuo comes, even if the external practitioner you value doesn't die, he'll be half-crippled. There are things you don't know. Emperor Lou Tuo's hatred for external cultivators far exceeds what you can imagine! This Six Penalties will undoubtedly be extraordinary!"

Xianyu Chun was secretly alarmed.

From his father's tone, could it be that the master he eyed might be secretly harmed by Emperor Lou Tuo? Would such a powerful figure as Emperor Lou Tuo really do such things!

"Are you the foreign cultivators intending to join the Tamu Clan?"

Emperor Lou Tuo's gaze swept over Ning Fan and others like a cold lightning, carrying undisguised hostility.

As he glanced over Burying Moon, he suddenly paused, frowning slightly.

"You, take off your veil!"

As soon as Emperor Lou Tuo spoke, Burying Moon immediately tensed up, this nervousness was even transmitted to Ning Fan through the connection of the Zi Relic and the Mother Relic.

"Did you offend him?" Ning Fan's heart sank.

"Beating him half to death, does that count as offending..." Burying Moon was on the verge of tears.

In the past, she'd always intruded on the Great Bei, but this time she just wanted to abide by the law, why did she have to encounter Lou Tuo! Why is this old thing not dead yet!

"Didn't you hear what I said!" Emperor Lou Tuo's voice turned cold, a majestic and overwhelming aura pressed towards Burying Moon.

The grassland of the Tamu Tribe shook as if an earthquake occurred, countless cattle and sheep cowered in fright, and the sky seemed to crack with grey lightning, followed by a rumbling sound of thunder.

"Emperor's Wrathful Thunder Greeting!" Many Daxian cultivators secretly exclaimed. This was a phenomenon that only cultivators at the immortal emperor level could invoke on the Daxian Steppe!

The overwhelming pressure bore down like a tide, pushing Burying Moon's already weakened remnant spirit to the brink of collapse, as if it might be crushed under the pressure.

She bit her silver teeth in resentment, remembering how, in the past, she feared no one, not even if all five emperors of the Central Continent came at her, she would be unafraid. How had she ended up being bullied like this!

However, now, facing Lou Tuo again, she could only feel powerless and fragile...

Unless she was willing to risk her life to regain her cultivation temporarily, and fight Lou Tuo...

What a joke, she, Burying Moon, would never risk her life for such a reason, she didn't want Lou Tuo to see her face, she didn't want to die here...

It looks like she must flee!

At the moment she firmly believed this, Ning Fan slightly turned his body, shielding her behind him. Though his shoulders weren't broad, for the first time ever, they gave Burying Moon a sense of tranquility sufficient to weather any storm!

"As a Great Emperor of Zhongzhou, wouldn't it be too rude to insist on seeing my cauldron furnace's appearance?"

Hiss!

Countless Dabei cultivators immediately gasped!

No matter how many fools there were here, they knew that calling an Immortal Emperor rude required immense courage!

This outsider must be insane, even as an Eternal Immortal Venerable, he lacks the qualifications to chastise an Immortal Emperor! How dare he call Emperor Lou Tuo rude!

"Do you have the qualifications for this Emperor to treat you with courtesy?"

Lou Tuo's gaze was instantly drawn to Ning Fan, his imposing aura pressed heavily towards Ning Fan.

Ning Fan's expression was grave, yet he remained composed, his feet stepping a golden footwork, taking nine steps, surprisingly stomping the Emperor's overwhelming force underfoot.

"This man can actually block the pressure of Emperor Lou Tuo head-on with his Immortal Venerable cultivation!" Secretly, countless powerful Dabei people watching this place were quietly astonished. The Tamu tribe seemed to have found a strong ally this time, even in the Eastern Heaven outside, he is definitely a sky-defying presence.

"This kid's footwork..."

Emperor Lou Tuo furrowed his brow even deeper.

Although he felt a familiar sensation from Burying Moon, with Burying Moon's deliberate disguise and the passage of time, he did not immediately recognize her as the one-time illustrious Burying Moon Immortal Consort, merely finding this woman somewhat unpleasant.

Honestly, even removing her veil was of little use, he had not seen Burying Moon's face clearly when he was dealt with severely by her back then, only leaving with broken countenance...

Now with Ning Fan backing Burying Moon, it harshly broke Emperor Lou Tuo's prestige, the annoyance naturally turned more towards Ning Fan, while Burying Moon was cast aside as unaccounted by Lou Tuo.

"I've heard the Dabei tribe is typically crude yet meticulous, and knows respect, even when capturing a tribe, they never touch someone else's wife, this is my cauldron furnace, akin to my woman, the Emperor's rash demand to see this woman's appearance is indeed inappropriate." Ning Fan blocked the Emperor's might but did not flaunt his superiority and spoke calmly.

Emperor Lou Tuo's brow furrowed deeper and deeper, he snorted coldly with strange disdain, "Well then. Whether you see this woman's appearance matters not, today I'm here for the Six Penalties, you have four cultivators and two beasts, a total of thirty-six penalties, and because you defied me, the penalties shall double, totaling seventy-two penalties. The paths before you now are two: accept the penalties obediently or... forcefully trespass into Dabei and battle me!"

Countless Dabei cultivators silently inhaled.

Ning Fan and his companions were also sodden with gloom.

According to the Dabei clan's rules, outsiders entering must bear six penalties each to limit their cultivation, pets were not counted in penalties, yet Emperor Lou Tuo counted the pets, and doubled the penalty count! This was blatant targeting of Ning Fan and his companions, targeting the Tamu tribe! Without any disguise!

Either compromise or battle!

"Little scoundrel... what to do..." Burying Moon felt some guilt.

If not because of her, Ning Fan wouldn't have stepped in to resist the Emperor's might, wouldn't have affected Emperor Lou Tuo's face, naturally wouldn't have given Lou Tuo an excuse to double the penalties. Although she knew, even without this excuse, Lou Tuo would seek conflict, yet... she still felt some shame.

Based on Burying Moon's understanding of the Dabei tribe, a single penalty could seal Truth-Transcending cultivation, three penalties could seal Abandon-Void cultivation, six penalties could seal mumbling, twelve penalties could seal Eternal Immortal Venerable.

Burying Moon calculated quietly in her heart. If people like Ru Wu Laoba were to endure six penalties, their cultivation would be sealed to Abandon-Void level. If enduring twelve penalties, possibly not a trace of cultivation could be exerted. Ning Fan, likewise, twelve penalties are the limits for ordinary Eternal Immortal Venerables, possibly adding one or two penalties, but not differing greatly. If penalties exceeded cultivation, there might even be life-threatening consequences...

If seventy-two penalties were divided among four people and two beasts, spreading it thoroughly would be impossible... unless she risked her life to unlock her cultivation and endured the penalties, perhaps with sheer strength, could bear all seventy-two penalties...

What a joke! She absolutely refused to face death for penalties!

Does it truly come down to breaking into the Dabei clan forcefully! That is certainly the worst outcome!

If the Jiuli Ritual Vessel is within a high-grade Fierce Realm, what then? Breaking ties with the Dabei clan, how could they obtain a passage token, how could they enter the high-grade Fierce Realm for search? Or if the vessel is not within the realm but in the current hands of the Dabei Emperor, having yet to ascertain the situation should they hold animosity against the Dabei clan? How could the search proceed then!

Ning Fan furrowed his brow deeply.

Forcing entry into the Dabei clan, he was not afraid, yet thus many matters would become difficult. Concerns for the Ancient Chaos made him cautious, but this did not mean he would compromise without principle... if this Lou Tuo's real intention was to expel foreign cultivators, even enduring seventy-two penalties would lead to expulsion...

Just when Ning Fan was about to confront the Dabei clan, another voice full of Immortal Emperor's aura coldly hummed from afar.

"Lou Tuo, Lou Tuo, your targeting foreign cultivators, I can ignore! But if there's a Five-Color Medicine Soul among them, what then!"

It was an emaciated elder riding a bone bird, hastily arriving.

The surroundings erupted with voices of many Tami Tribe members identifying this Emperor.

Bone Spirit Emperor! One among Zhongzhou's Five Emperors, who always disagreed with Emperor Lou Tuo.

As Lou Tuo saw Bone Spirit arriving, his expression turned unpleasant, yet Bone Spirit's words made Lou Tuo anxious.

Among these foreign cultivators, was there really a Five-Color Medicine Soul! How did he not know!

If there truly was a Five-Color Medicine Soul... even if he disliked these people, he couldn't act rashly...