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Chapter 481: The Scarlet Robed Young Noble

The female cultivator in the light blue robes could only be described as ordinary, and even her skin was slightly darker compared to other average looking female cultivators. However, she had big and bright eyes, as if they reflected the stars in the night sky, making it so that people had a hard time not paying attention to her. At the same time, she exuded an extremely tyrannical aura, which caused Ning Cheng to feel very afraid of her instinctively. Although this female cultivator sported severe injuries, Ning Cheng guessed that he still was not an opponent for her.

The blue-robed female cultivator also saw Ning Cheng. She carefully scrutinised Ning Cheng from top to bottom a few times before she showed a frown and spoke up, "Who are you? With your shallow cultivation, how can you remain in the Bright Void Gorge?"

This was only the second time for Ning Cheng to hear the words 'Bright Void' from the mouth of others; the first time he heard it was from Cang Wei's mouth. He recalled that Bright Void was the Void between the Planar Boundaries, sometimes referred to as Void by others for simplicity. Since this woman also knew about Bright Void, which meant that she was not someone ordinary within the True Cultivation World. She might even be a cultivator from the starry skies.

Although this female cultivator looked ordinary, there was a faint halo behind her. Just looking at the light emanating from that halo could cause one to go dizzy. It even reminded Ning Cheng of the gods from the Chinese Mythology, who also had bright halos behind them.

From Ning Cheng's memories, he knew that these halos had different names like the Wisdom Wheel, or the Splendour Wheel or the Attribute Light. There were even other names to it, but they all shared a similar meaning of bathing all things in radiance. Was the weak halo behind the blue-robed female cultivator something similar to those legends?

The blue-robed female cultivator on seeing Ning Cheng not answer her question spoke up with a slightly sunk expression, "Did you not hear what I said a moment ago?"

Ning Cheng, on sensing that the other party did not attack him outright, quickly spoke up, "I don't know. I was sucked into the Spacial Collapse, and then fell in here."

"Is that so? Were you the one controlling the battleship that I was chasing? What happened to the scarlet-robed young noble inside it? How could he let you inside of his Void Battleship? Moreover, with your cultivation, how were you able to survive after the battleship entered the Spacial Collapse? How are you even alive?" The blue-robed female cultivator shot out questions at Ning Cheng with increasing levels of surprise and shock. Apparently, she understood what might have transpired from Ning Cheng's previous words.

When he heard the blue-robed female cultivator's words, Ning Cheng also made a connection in an instant. This female cultivator was not chasing him; regardless of whether or not this female cultivator sensed the Wasp King Egg's Aura, she should have been tracking the scarlet-robed youth. That scarlet-robed youth should be the scarlet-robed young noble she mentioned. However, the scarlet-robed young

man died at his hands; at the same time, he also was the one who took control of that person's Void Battleship. It resulted in the blue-robed female cultivator misunderstanding the events that transpired.

After understanding this, Ning Cheng felt greatly annoyed. If he had known this earlier, he certainly would not have rushed into the Spacial Collapse, let alone arriving in this damned place.

"I do not know. When I found this battleship, there indeed was a scarlet-robed youth inside it. That person seemed to have already died. I saw that the battleship was quite good, so I took control of it and played around with the controls for a bit. I did not expect to end up chased by the Void Explosive Golden Wasps. It resulted in straying into...." Ning Cheng quickly tried to explain his situation with a smile.

The blue-robed female cultivator walked to the front of Ning Cheng before pausing for a moment, circling around Ning Cheng, and speaking out in a cold tone, "Just a load of bullshit. I was the one who severely injured that scarlet-robed young noble; however, I definitely know that those injuries were not nearly enough to kill him. Most likely, you killed the scarlet-robed young noble. I may not know how, but you definitely have many cards on you. With your low cultivation, you not only managed to kill that scarlet-robed young noble, you even survived falling through the Spacial Collapse...."

Cold sweat immediately started trickling down Ning Cheng's back. This woman truly was pressing him on to force out his secrets; even if the other party knew about his bullshitting, he could not admit it outright. "This senior, when I entered the battleship, the scarlet-robed youth was already dead, afterwards...."

The blue-robed female cultivator waved her hand and spoke, "You don't have to defend your words; besides, did you really think that you could actually outsmart me with that puny cleverness to you? Did you actually think that I would believe that someone else killed the scarlet-robed young noble inside? If so, then let me ask you this, if someone indeed killed that scarlet-robed young noble, they absolutely would not leave behind the Explosive Golden Wasp's Wasp King Egg."

"You don't have to ask me why I know that you took the Explosive Golden Wasp's Wasp King Egg. If you were not the person who took away the Wasp King Egg, why would the Explosive Golden Wasps deem it necessary to chase after you? Why else would you feel willing enough to seek the path of death by consciously diving into the Spacial Collapse? These points indeed are quite interesting to ponder. Did you, perhaps, sneak up on the scarlet-robed young noble and seize the chance to kill him while he tried to heal? Perhaps you snuck up on the scarlet-robed young noble while he was recovering within the Explosive Golden Wasps' colony. If it really was you, then I quite admire you. You sure have a lot of guts."

Ning Cheng on hearing those words immediately turned silent. This woman was just too frightening. She already had made out the gist of what had happened. Lying in front of such a woman simply required dealing with a lot of unwanted pressure.

"That's right, that scarlet-robed young noble truly died by my hands...." Ning Cheng finally caved in and admitted to his actions.

The blue-robed female cultivator showed a faint smile and spoke, "You are a dead man anyway. Do you know who that scarlet-robed young man was? You dared to kill him, yet you are still alive. That indeed is the strangest thing."

"As long as you don't speak about it, no one will know about it." Ning Cheng on seeing that this female cultivator had no intentions to kill him felt a little relieved.

The blue-robed female cultivator then spoke out dismissively, "Didn't I make it clear before? Even if I did not speak about this matter to another soul, everyone already knows about it. You killed the scarlet-robed young noble, which means there is already a tracking mark on you. The moment you step out into the starry sky, someone will immediately catch you."

"Ah..." Ning Cheng suddenly felt surprised, especially after recalling the last words of the scarlet-robed youth. After he had killed the scarlet-robed young man, he had repeatedly looked over his body with his Spiritual Consciousness, yet he could not find any mark or anything remotely similar to a tracing mark on him. Was he wrong about it?

Seeing Ning Cheng's actions, the blue-robed female cultivator calmly spoke up, "There is no use looking for the mark. That tracing mark is something that even I cannot remove. Wishing to even find it is nothing short of a dream for someone at your level."

Ning Cheng disappointedly gave up on continuing looking for the mark for now. He anyway did not even know the exact location of this Bright Void Gorge. Since he had fallen into such a place, then any sort of danger would have to wait until he got out. Thinking until this point, Ning Cheng spoke out in a tranquil tone, "The person who actually killed that scarlet-robed young noble is not just me. If it weren't for you severely wounding him, I would not have managed to kill him."

The blue-robed female cultivator had never thought that Ning Cheng would actually say those words. She froze for a bit, before giving out a short laugh and speaking, "Thank you for reminding me. Wouldn't everything return to normal if I just kill you?"

Hearing the words of the blue-robed female cultivator, Ning Cheng immediately retreated a few steps back while vigilantly staring at her.

The blue-robed female cultivator on seeing Ning Cheng's vigilant demeanour spoke out in an exasperated manner, "You don't have to be that anxious about it. You at least helped me kill that scarlet-robed young noble. If I really wanted to kill you, then showing such vigilance towards me would be nothing more than useless. Even if you could kill that severely injured scarlet-robed young noble, that kind of strength is still useless in front of me."

Ning Cheng instinctively knew that the other party was telling the truth, despite being unwilling to admit it, and could only put up the act of vigilance. If the other side truly wanted to kill him, then it would not even require her to use her full strength or any strength for the matter. In the face of absolute power, any kind of vigilance would have no effect whatsoever.

"Don't you want my Explosive Golden Wasp King Egg?" Ning Cheng asked in a doubtful voice.

The blue-robed female cultivator replied, "Explosive Golden Wasp King Egg? What am I going to do with it? You anyways need a pair of Wasp King Eggs to cultivate an Explosive Golden Wasp King. One egg is simply not valuable at all. That scarlet-robed young noble had once obtained one at an auction, which is why he wanted to snatch the other Wasp King Egg from the Explosive Golden Wasp Colony."

Ning Cheng stood there in stunned silence. It was only after a good long while that he spoke up, "In that case, why was the entire Explosive Golden Wasp Colony chasing me. Since I only have a single Wasp King Egg, it would be worthless for them to pursue me to recover it."

"If you don't know about something, then don't go around spewing nonsense. See it for yourself." The blue-robed female cultivator spoke as she took out a jade strip and casually tossed it towards Ning Cheng,

Ning Cheng grabbed the jade strip, allowed his Spiritual Consciousness to sweep in, and quickly understood the crux of the matter.

To cultivate the Explosive Golden Wasp King, the Wasp King Egg must pair up with another one. With the two King Eggs put together, each of them ends up in a competition to absorb the Wasp King's Essence from each other. This process will continue until one of them is at a disadvantage. The one egg that entirely incorporates the other egg's essence will then gain the ability to break out of the egg. As for the other Explosive Golden Wasp King Egg, one with its essence absorbed, it will no longer have any value at all.

If there was only a single King Egg, no one else could cultivate it apart from the Explosive Golden Wasp Colony. That is because the Explosive Golden Wasp Colony can use its own life essence to cultivate the sole King Egg over a long time before it gains the capability to break out of its shell.

Moreover, there were also various methods to cultivate the Explosive Golden Wasps recorded in the jade strip, as well as the way to make it recognise someone as its master. Ning Cheng could not help but feel happy in his heart. Although he had truly wanted to obtain such a jade strip, he never expected to find it in such an unexpected manner.

"So that's how it is." Ning Cheng calmly handed the jade strip in his hands to the blue-robed female cultivator. He guessed that there might be more such jade strips within the ring of that scarlet-robed young noble.

The blue-robed female cultivator did not take back the jade strip and casually spoke up, "You can keep it. I guess you will never be able to get out of this place in your life. Staying in this place to play around with the Explosive Golden Wasp King Egg could be a good idea."

Play with the egg by yourself, Ning Cheng cursed in his heart.

The blue-robed female cultivator apparently felt Ning Cheng's unfriendly thoughts; however, she did not pay any attention to Ning Cheng before turning around and walking away.

On the contrary, this female cultivator actually left a favourable impression over Ning Cheng. This female cultivator definitely had some principles. She did not continue pressing him for an answer on how he survived the passage through the Spacial Collapse.

Ning Cheng immediately ran after her and asked, "Senior. Can you tell me how to get out of this Bright Void Gorge?"

"Do you really want to go out?"

“Yes, I want to go out.” Ning Cheng replied in a no-nonsense tone. This was not idle talk, which person in their right mind would willingly decide to stay in this place?

“Oh, then why don’t you tell me about how you were able to survive the fall to this place? As far as I know, even someone with cultivation higher than me would find it very difficult to survive such a fall. Didn’t you see that my most precious Void Warship also ended up torn to shreds by the Spatial Collapse?” The blue-robed female cultivator spoke out lightly.

Ning Cheng then understood why the other party had not asked it previously. It turned out that she was just waiting for him to ask the right question.

“Sorry, this is my secret.” Ning Cheng refused without hesitation.

The blue-robed female cultivator showed a captivating smile before speaking, “That’s ok. As to the method of getting out of this place, it is also my secret.”

Saying that, the blue-robed female cultivator felt as if her words were not enough and added another sentence, “You don’t want to fly out of this place. With your cultivation, you would not get out even if you flew for decades. Also, if you fell midway, perhaps you might just plunge to your death.”

After saying that, the blue-robed female cultivator sped up and quickly disappeared from Ning Cheng’s line of sight and his range of Spiritual Consciousness.

Ning Cheng also did not try to catch up to her again. The other party had an unfathomable level of cultivation compared to him. Since the other party did not show any willingness to share information, then so be it. Since he had the Mysterious Yellow Bead, he did not believe that he would not be able to get out of this gorge and return. Initially, he wanted to slowly fly through the canyon and then walk out of it eventually. However, after hearing the words of the blue-robed female cultivator, he immediately changed his thoughts. He also did not believe that the blue-robed female cultivator had deceived him.

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Chapter 482: The three Celestial Scryer Realms

Ning Cheng did not continue moving forward. Since the blue-robed female cultivator left behind those words, it proved meaningless to proceed forward and took out the ring of the deceased scarlet-robed young noble. He now realised that the scarlet-robed young noble was someone most likely from the same place as the blue-robed female cultivator, the vast starry sky. Therefore, there might be some useful things within his ring.

With Ning Cheng’s abilities as a Tier 8 Array Formation Grandmaster, along with comparable accomplishments in the field of Restrictions, coupled with his comprehension and deductive skills, he only had to spend a few days to open the scarlet-robed young noble’s ring.

However, what caused Ning Cheng to feel surprised was that the scarlet-robed young noble did not have any Crystal Stones within in ring. Nor were there any Spirit Stones or any other materials. The only thing it contained was a few cards, blue and black in colour.

No, the scarlet-robed young noble cannot possibly have only these things. It at least had to contain the cultivator’s most important weapon, which he could not even see. He definitely did not believe that the scarlet-robed young noble did not have at least a weapon to his name.

Ning Cheng could not help but put away the ring in disappointment before standing up. It looks like he still needs to find the blue-robed female cultivator. Otherwise, he might end up permanently trapped in this Bright Void Gorge.

It took a few days walking along the rough path along the bottom of the gorge, and even though the temperature inside this place was nothing for Ning Cheng, it still caused his mind to wander.

In this place, seemingly without any end and completely silent, just walking around all day every day felt boring. Without any sounds, without any hope, it could cause depression to creep up on anyone.

“Bang....” Just when Ning Cheng thought of not hearing any sound, a violent explosion erupted from somewhere in front of him, which caused a lot of gravel to rise up and blast out in all directions.

Ning Cheng immediately quickened his pace. He did not feel afraid of sensing movement in this place. What he felt more afraid was not sensing any kind of action in this place.

After half an incense stick worth of time, Ning Cheng finally arrived near to the general area from where the explosion originated.

Just as Ning Cheng moved closer to the centre of the explosion, a burning heat wave swept over him. Ning Cheng’s body contained the Celestial River Flame, yet he still had to circulate his True Essence to create a wall of sorts to block it. If an average person had to face this heat wave head-on, that average person would have long since turned into ashes.

Ning Cheng possessed a Rank 6 Imperial Body, as well as the support from the Celestial River Flame. Only because of these factors was he able to walk closer towards the centre of the explosion.

Only at this moment was he able to make out things clearly. Right in front of him was the blue-robed female cultivator; however, there were layers of fire covering her from all sides. However, at this moment, her robes had almost completely turned into ashes. Besides a belly sash and a delicate brassier, her practically naked body stood out in the middle of the flames. At the same time, no fire reached within a ten feet radius of her body.

Although this female cultivator stood tall and straight, seeing her in that kind of an outfit made her look very pleasing to the eyes. However, Ning Cheng did not have even a shred of appreciation within his eyes right now.

What he was looking at right now was the ever-increasing waves of fire inundating the surroundings around her. These fiery waves were continuously superimposing on one another, which caused them to remain under a continually increasing compressive force. Apparently, by the time these fiery waves completely closed upon themselves, the woman inside would also completely turn to ashes.

These flames emerged from somewhere deep underneath the gorge. Moreover, it was continually strengthening itself.

What was this woman doing? With such terrifying flames wrapped around her, was she trying to embrace death?

“Do you want to die? This is the Incinerating Void Flame. With your cultivation, once it curls around you, even surviving a few breaths would probably be your limit.... Huh....” The female cultivator came to an

abrupt stop with her words, which instantly turned into absolute shock. All because Ning Cheng not only was walking closer to the flame, even the robes covering his body had not turned to ashes.

She could not help but look at Ning Cheng in shock. According to her, Ning Cheng was just a puny Crucible Transformation Cultivator. Even just standing at the outermost periphery of this flame should have proven impossible for someone at his level. She already knew and understood that Ning Cheng was someone different from ordinary; however, she did not expect any sort of help from him. With Ning Cheng's cultivation, even if he had genuine intentions to save her, it was something completely impossible.

Ning Cheng initially did not have any intentions to meddle in other people's business; however, at this moment, the Celestial River Flame in his Zifu trembled violently. Apparently, it was the Celestial River Flame's method of indicating him to allow it to rush into this Incinerating Void Flames.

Ning Cheng no longer continued to restrain the Celestial River Flame. The next moment, the Celestial River Flame instantly rushed into the piling layers of flames.

"Celestial River Flame....." The female cultivator spoke up in shock as she saw the Celestial River Flame rushing into the Incinerating Void Flames. She just could not close her mouth at all. As for her clothes that barely covered her body, she completely ignored it. It was as if she had forgotten about the flames around her altogether.

At this time, Ning Cheng did not have any intentions of taking care or even helping this female cultivator. All his focus remained concentrated on the Celestial River Flame. The Celestial River Flame was something that he cherished as his baby; he did not want it to perish in this kind of inexhaustible Incinerating Void Flame.

A moment later, his Spiritual Sense connection allowed him to feel his Celestial River Flame coming to a stop. At this moment, his Celestial River Flame clung onto a crystal as its colour rapidly changed from red to blue. He immediately realised that his Celestial River Flame was also growing a lot stronger with each passing moment.

"Incinerating Void Flame Essence....." The female cultivator called out again, showing the envy she felt.

With the Celestial River Flame devouring the Incinerating Void Flame Essence, the Incinerating Void Flames surrounding the female cultivator quickly started to retreat. In just a short while, the seemingly inexhaustible waves of flames turned palpably weak.

The Celestial River Flame also quickly changed colours from red to green then to cyan before finally turning into a blue flame.

When the Celestial River Flame's colour turned blue, the Incinerating Void Flame Essence completely disappeared without any trace. Even the flames around the female cultivator also vanished completely.

The Celestial River Flame then floated over to the centre of Ning Cheng's open palm while transmitting an extraordinarily wild and satiated fluctuation to him before it dissipated. Ning Cheng knew that the Celestial River Flame had not actually dispersed but had returned to his Zifu.

“Quite the good flame, but a complete waste of the Incinerating Void Flame.” The female cultivator quickly recovered from her shock as she spoke while shaking her head. If she could have obtained the Incinerating Void Flame, it would have been a good thing for her.

Ning Cheng gave out an awkward cough, “Shouldn’t you put on some clothes first?”

The female cultivator did not show even a shred of shyness as she looked at Ning Cheng and spoke, “Whether it was you looking at me, or even if there were hundred more pairs of eyes looking at me, it’s the same anyway. Besides, since you’ve been looking at me for so long, you could’ve at least taken out a robe or something for me, or would it cause you to suffer a terrible loss?”

Although the female cultivator sported a bland look, only she remained aware of the waves raging in her heart. Apart from deliberately displaying a flat expression, she did not know what to do in this sort of a situation.

“Take out clothes for you, you.....”

Ning Cheng did not manage to complete his words when that female cultivator immediately interrupted him, “I know I should have paid attention to it, but I didn’t notice. My ring collapsed.....”

That female cultivator did not need to continue with her words before Ning Cheng understood what might have happened. He took out a set of clothes and threw it towards this female cultivator with the phrase, “These are new, have never been used before.”

These were Luoifei’s clothes; he could only let the other party borrow it for now.

“Gee, I thought you only would have clothes for male cultivators. I did not expect you to carry around a brand new set of clothes for female cultivators. You better not look.” The female cultivator quickly put on the set of robes before replying awkwardly. One could not tell if her words were towards praising Ning Cheng’s thoughtfulness or directed at Ning Cheng sarcastically.

“Give me a ring if you a few extras with you. I will also require some ordinary materials. I want to craft a few things.” The female cultivator spoke. It felt as if she regained her confidence after putting on the new set of robes. At the same time, the tone of her speech made one feel as if it was all entirely according to the natural order.

Seeing Ning Cheng frowning and not talking, she once again spoke, “If you want to get out of this place then you will need my help. Without me, you would not have even realised what a Bright Void Gorge is. Moreover, once I get out, I will return it all back to you with interest.”

Ning Cheng reluctantly took out the scarlet-robed youth’s ring before passing it onto her and speaking, “This is the scarlet-robed young noble’s ring. It only had a few cards inside that I took out. Other than those, it did not contain anything else. It did not contain any other materials or weapons, even if I wanted to give them to you.”

The female cultivator also did not feign politeness as she took the ring and spoke, “Are you afraid that the scarlet-robed young noble set a trap inside of the ring? You are just overthinking things. This is just a regular ring. The scarlet-robed young noble’s real storage ring is something locked and intrinsically linked with his Spiritual Soul. Once he dies, the ring will also turn to ashes. With your cultivation, it’s impossible to obtain a Celestial Scryer Cultivator’s ring.”

So that was the case, Ning Cheng finally understood something and immediately asked, "Who are these Celestial Scryer Cultivators? Also, I also want to ask Senior, what is that faint halo behind your back? Is that because of a special cultivation method?"

"Can you really see my Celestial Wheel?" This time this female cultivator had a look of genuine shock over her face. It was only after a long time did she recover and added, "You don't have to keep calling me 'senior' from now on. My name is Lan Ya."

"My name is Ning Cheng. I look forward to receiving pointers from Senior Apprentice Sister Lan." Ning Cheng on seeing that Lan Ya did not appear significantly older than he did, also no longer chose to remain polite.

Lan Ya nodded and continued, "It seems that you come from a broken mainland. Since you lack even the basic common sense. However, you do seem to possess an amazing cultivation method, since you can see my Celestial Wheel. After a cultivator reaches the Grand Completion of the Domain Realm, they will need to face the Nirvana Tribulation....."

"Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, what is this 'Grand Completion of the Domain Realm' and 'Nirvana Tribulation' that you speak off?" Ning Cheng immediately asked.

Lan Ya massaged her forehead before replying, "You don't even know this. How were you able to survive in the Void?"

Seeing Ning Cheng's embarrassed look, she quickly waved her hands and spoke, "Forget what I said. Do you know what realm comes after the Crucible Transformation Realm? You should at least know that much, right?"

"I know this. It's the Plundering Life Realm." Ning Cheng finally managed to reply with some self-confidence.

"That's right; it is the Plundering Life Realm. Surpassing the Thunder Tribulation at the Great Circle of the Plundering Life Realm allows one to step into the Domain Realm. The Domain Realm is different from the previous realms. That is, this Realm has no nine levels to it; instead, there is only a single dividing line, that is, the Grand Completion and Non-Grand Completion. The word 'Domain' here not just refers to your own ability to use True Essence and Spiritual Consciousness but also your ability to control the area around you. You are only at Crucible Transformation, so you do not need to think about Domains for a while. Such things are anyway too far from you."

"Besides, if one's Domain does not reach Grand Completion that also means that one could never hope to cross the Nirvana Tribulation. It is also because of this very reason that countless cultivators remain stuck in this realm; without one's Domain reaching Grand Completion, attempting to cross the tribulation would only result in failure. The Nirvana Tribulation and ordinary tribulations are vastly different; in fact, they cannot even compare with each other, as the power contained within it is too frightening. Even the slightest misstep will result in immediate death." Lan Ya carefully tried to explain these facts. At the very least, she found Ning Cheng grasping onto every word she spoke.

"What happens when you successfully pass through the Nirvana Tribulation?" Ning Cheng already knew that he had a False Domain; however, he did not choose to mention it.

Lan Ya nodded before continuing, "This is what I wanted to tell you before. After you successfully cross the Nirvana Tribulation, it will lead to the formation of the Celestial Wheel. At the same time, it will also transform your True Essence into the Celestial Essence, a type of force within the starry skies. Only after this conversion can any cultivator continue to absorbing from the Starry Sky's Spiritual Source to cultivate within the Starry Sky. The cultivators who manage to form their Celestial Wheels then will then advance through the Celestial Scryer's three Realms, distinguished separately as Celestial Novice Realm, Celestial Shatterer Realm and Celestial Gatherer Realm."

"Then, what realm is Senior Apprentice Sister Lan in?"

Lan Ya gave Ning Cheng a bland look before replying, "I just entered the Celestial Shatterer Realm. While that scarlet-robed young noble is quite a talented individual, with a peak Celestial Novice Cultivation. If not for his severe injuries, even a hundred of you would not be enough to even stop a casual palm flick."

Ning Cheng did not refute it; he already had sensed the terrifying strength of Lan Ya. At this time, he needed to figure out the main powerhouses within the Starry Sky before stepping in there, "Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, allow me to ask another question. After one's cultivation reached the peak of Celestial Gatherer Realm within the Celestial Scryer's three realms, would they be considered as the strongest experts?"

"Strongest expert? You sure dream big. There are innumerable galaxies within the endless starry skies containing innumerable stars. Not to mention the Celestial River Kings, a powerhouse on the level of Celestial Lord has enough strength to pinch many stars to dust. Moreover, I must also mention this to you that the scarlet-robed young noble's father is a Celestial Lord." At this time, Lan Ya's eyes only contained a despising gaze within it. Ning Cheng only possessed a Crucible Transformation Cultivation, yet he actually wanted to be the strongest.

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Chapter 483: Unable to go back in this life

Ning Cheng turned quite. Within the Rootless Black City, people associated him with the monogram 'fiercest'; however, he now knew that he was nothing at all. Put in the perspective of the starry skies, his cultivation simply was not worth mentioning. Someone could kill him with just a casual flick of his or her hand. As for Celestial Lords or Celestial River Kings, those kinds of existences were just too far away from him.

"You don't have to sport such expressions. You seem to possess some good qualifications; perhaps under my guidance, there might be a chance for you to surpass the Nirvana Tribulation. As long as you successfully surpass the Nirvana Tribulation, then you might have a slim chance of survival in the starry skies. Besides, the most important thing now is how to get out of this Bright Void Gorge." Seeing Ning Cheng's somewhat dejected look, Lan Ya tried to comfort him with good intentions.

"How do we leave this place? What did you do to end up trapped within Incinerating Void Flames a few moments ago?" Ning Cheng, unlike Lan Ya's imagination, had not remained silent because of dejection but because of thoughts relating to improving his strength as soon as possible. Otherwise, how could he obtain a foothold within the starry skies to stand together with Luofei?

Lan Ya, on hearing Ning Cheng's tone, immediately realised that she had misread him a moment ago and spoke up in a somewhat helpless manner, "The Bright Void Gorge is actually an abyss hidden between outer and inner planar boundaries and is formed over time due to the countless Void Collapses and Spatial Compressions piling up on each other. There are many such gorges; at the same time, even a lifetime might not be enough to escape from some of them."

"I just wanted to find a weak spot within the gorge and then force my way out from that spot. I did not expect my luck to be so bad that I would end up encountering the Incinerating Void Flames just when I found that weak spot. It actually ended up profiting you a lot. Otherwise, trying to upgrade your Celestial River Flame would prove extremely difficult for someone like you. The Celestial River Flame is a top-notch flame, you know, and is especially difficult to upgrade."

Seeing Ning Cheng not willing to speak about the matter relating to the Celestial River Flame, she did not continue with that line of thought; instead, she said, "The Bright Void Gorge is not extremely difficult to get out of, unlike what you think. The fact is that if you can tear through the walls of the gorge, you can then easily enter the Void outside. Of course, you cannot just tear through any random spot inside; at the same time, precisely locating this particular spot might lead to you remaining trapped in this place for hundreds of years. However, every Bright Void Gorge will have a weak spot from where one can tear out of it and get out."

"How do we find it?" Ning Cheng simply had too little information about these types of gorges.

Lan Ya shot a look at Ning Cheng. "Already found it, we are right at the precise location. Now that your Celestial River Flame absorbed the Incinerating Void Flames, we can now pass through the bottom of this canyon with much more ease. Stop talking nonsense now. If you want to get out of this place then just follow me."

As Lan Ya spoke, she immediately dove into the seemingly bottomless pit created by the explosion from the Incinerating Void Flames. Seeing this, Ning Cheng immediately followed her actions.

In front of Ning Cheng, Lan Ya was akin to a loach in mud; she not only moved quickly but also showed great manoeuvrability. Ning Cheng on seeing such manoeuvrability felt secretly speechless in his heart. He affirmed that he could not achieve such speed in escaping even on the ground, let alone underground. If he was not closely following Lan Ya, he could never reach such levels of speed in this place.

For a few consecutive days, Lan Ya kept 'swimming' around below the ground of the Bright Void Gorge, while Ning Cheng followed right behind her, not knowing where she wanted to end up.

On the tenth day, Lan Ya finally came to a stop before she raised her hand and pointed towards a greyish hole in the front, "We'll rest here for some time. I do not know how long it will take to escape through that location. If we are lucky, then a few moments, if not then maybe several years. There is also a possibility that we might die in the depths of the canyon."

The surroundings were pitch-black, without even a ray of light to illuminate it. If not for closely following Lan Ya, Ning Cheng knew that he would never find this place if he used his Earth Escape Technique to its maximum. Since Lan Ya wanted to rest, then he could only follow her actions and rest up for a while.

“Why did you want to kill that scarlet-robed young noble?” Ning Cheng took out some Spirit Stones to recover his True Essence, while also asking her a question.

“This man slaughtered my best friend’s family, and is utterly ruthless, even more so than his father. I only managed to sneak up on him after entering the Void. Even so, I ended up hunting him for over several years, before a Spacial Storm sucked us up out of nowhere.”

“This person sure had luck on his side and found an Explosive Golden Wasp King Egg right after exiting. If not for the sudden attacks from them, I not only would have killed him off, I could have even obtained the Wasp King Egg. Alas.” Lan Ya talked about it in a calm tone.

Ning Cheng had an ingrained sense of danger, which he had cultivated unconsciously over time. If that scarlet-robed young noble had not suffered severe injuries, it would have merely been a dream for him to kill that scarlet-robed young noble. But then again, if not for the scarlet-robed young noble suffering severe injuries, he would not have used the Explosive Golden Wasps to massacre people. As for Lan Ya, he owed her a lot. He just had not realised it before. If not for encountering Lan Ya surrounded by the Incinerating Void Flames, where would he have found the opportunity to follow Lan Ya out of this place?

“Can you talk more about the Celestial Wheel?” Ning Cheng on sensing Lan Ya’s mood took the initiative to change the subject. In any case, he really wanted to know if a Celestial Wheel also had differences in strength when it came to cultivation.

Lan Ya did not seem to care about it and explained, “To a Starry Sky Cultivator, the strength of the Celestial Wheel represent the strength of their cultivation. For a formidable cultivator, once they gather enough Celestial Essence, the Celestial Wheel can even transform into a form of a scorching sun above their heads. I only have a Celestial Shatterer Cultivation, which is why my Celestial Wheel is still faint.”

It turned out that the Celestial Wheel represented the strength of a person’s cultivation, and not the Wisdom Light or Glow as he thought it out as.

“Is ‘Celestial Lord’ another realm?”

“No, ‘Celestial Lord’ is just a title. Only when you cross over to the Celestial Gatherer Realm, which involves harmonizing completely with the Celestial Wheel over time, will you then earn the qualification to take up the title of a ‘Celestial Lord’, meaning one could then theoretically take control over a star.”

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As he continued conversing with Lan Ya, Ning Cheng’s knowledge also grew significantly. At the same time, he also gradually started to understand how insignificant he was in the grand scheme of things. Before, when he killed the scarlet-robed young noble, he did not take the last words of the scarlet-robed young noble to heart; however, he now understood what it meant to feel fearless due to ignorance.

As the conversation went forward, Ning Cheng turned silent. Lan Ya also did not continue talking on seeing this. Ning Cheng was just a Crucible Transformation Cultivator. It would indeed have been a weird thing if he showed a pleasant mood after realising how difficult would it be for someone at his cultivation to survive in the starry skies.

However, the silence between them did not last for long. Just two days later, Lan Ya felt Ning Cheng had turned significantly more relaxed.

“We came out, we should be somewhere within the range of the Starry Skies’ Void.” Lan Ya spoke up.

Ning Cheng had also felt that there was no trace of even a single Spacial Wind Edge anywhere around them, only some mildly powerful Spacial Turbulences. These Spacial Turbulences could not affect him, let alone someone like Lan Ya.

“Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, I want to go back to the area from where we entered the Void Collapse. How can I get there?” Ning Cheng quickly asked.

What he wanted to do immediately was to rush back to the Rootless Black City as fast as possible. No matter what, he must see Luofei again.

Lan Ya shook her head and spoke, “Ning Cheng, if you truly want to go to the initial location from where we entered, then it is almost impossible. Even an ordinary Void Collapse covers a huge area within the Void; even I do not know how many Void Spaces we ended up passing through. If I did not have a good battleship with me, I definitely could not have survived passing through that Void Collapse.”

“If you want to reach the initial location, you must know which Celestial System is your location in, and what Celestial River does it belong to. My ring does not exist anymore, which means I now have no coordinates to refer. Therefore, I will not be able to answer your question. One thing that I can tell is that we are not far from a Starry Sky. The place from which we entered was completely within the Void, without even the slightest shadow of a Starry Sky, so it is definitely far away from this place, so.....”

As Lan Ya spoke, she saw a Void Battleship flying by at a distance. Not waiting for the Void Battleship to drift further away, Lan Ya raised her hand to shoot out a signal flare.

Ning Cheng guessed that Lan Ya had made this signal flare out of the materials that he had provided. It turned out that she wanted to use the materials to refine this thing. He had no idea of the uses of this type of signal flares; however, he deduced that it had something to do with signalling others for help.

Seeing Ning Cheng looking at her doubtfully, Lan Ya explained, “This is a Void Distress Signal. If others saw this signal, and if they are in the vicinity to help, then they might come and have a look. Of course, not everyone will pay attention to such signals.”

“Are people really that kind-hearted?” Ning Cheng could not help but feel even stranger. He had experienced too many ignominious practices and just could not believe that the people of the starry skies were this helpful.

Lan Ya showed a sneer, before replying, “Kind-hearted? Those who chose to heed the signal will only come to help you if there is any compensation to earn; if you can’t pay up, then it’s better to not ask for help at all.”

“But isn’t your ring destroyed, what can you bring out then?” Ning Cheng asked as he looked at Lan Ya.

Not knowing the thoughts in Lan Ya’s head, Ning Cheng only saw her face turning red, before he heard her speak out in anger, “I don’t have anything, that doesn’t mean that you don’t have anything either? You obtain a few cards right? Take them all out.”

“What cards are these?” Ning Cheng guessed that these cards did have some purpose to them, but was unsure the use of these cards.

“Don’t ask, just take them out.” Lan Ya spoke while beckoning with her hand.

Ning Cheng did not pay attention to Lan Ya’s action. Although Lan Ya had helped him in coming out, he had also helped Lan Ya. Therefore, it was difficult to guess who owed whom. Even if he wanted to take out the cards, Lan Ya at least needed to help him understand the role of those cards.

At this moment, a brown coloured battleship quickly flew over and stopped in front of Ning Cheng and Lan Ya.

The door of the battleship opened, and a fat man with a brutal gleam in his eyes spoke up, “Do the two of you need any help?”

“I want to buy a battleship equipped with a set of Void Coordinates, do you have it? Preferably a battleship with the most detailed Void Coordinates.” Lan Ya had no time to talk nonsense with Ning Cheng, as she replied to the fat man.

“Of course, I have it. I have an Advanced-level Domain Battleship, but the price is one billion Blue Coins.....” The fat man’s tone grew softer.

“Why don’t you just rob us outright then? One billion Blue Coins is more than enough to purchase a Best Quality Domain Battleship; in fact, you could buy a few of them with that money.” Lan Ya retorted without missing a beat.

The fat man shook his head, “That might be the case from where you come from, but the business price in this place is definitely higher. You also can name a price if you want to, but if I’m not satisfied with it, everyone can then just go about their merry way without having to do anything with each other.”

“50 million Blue Coins....” Lan Ya immediately countered by drastically reducing the opposite party’s price by a dozen times.

The fat man did not turn angry, and leisurely spoke up, “200 million Blue Coins; if you want it then agree to it, if you don’t want to, then I’m leaving.”

Lan Ya on hearing those words knew that she had hit the bottom line; she quickly turned towards Ning Cheng and spoke, “Take out 200 million from your Blue Card.”

Ning Cheng immediately realised that the Blue Card actually contained Blue Coins inside. Something equivalent to a bank card. He took out three Blue Cards and let his Spiritual Consciousness to sweep inside, only to find it inscribed with the words ‘100 Million’ inside.

Since he had the necessary Blue Coins, they quickly completed the trade. After the fat man received the Blue Coins, he threw out a black coloured battleship and promptly took control of his own battleship and disappeared into the void.

“This place is within the Orchid Borough Celestial River, countless miles from where we came from. The place we came from belongs to the Kun Zhuo Celestial River. Separated by a full Celestial River, I guess you might never make it back in your lifetime.” After entering the battleship, Lan Ya immediately opened the Void Coordinates and spoke out a sentence that cased Ning Cheng to feel extremely frustrated.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 484: Lesser Thunder Star

Lan Ya shot a sympathetic look at Ning Cheng before continuing, "From what I heard about the Orchid Borough Celestial River, this area is quite weak within its starry sky. There are only a few strong people in this place; however, it definitely is many times stronger than the neighbouring Kun Zhuo Celestial River. With the Blue Coins on you, wanting to cross the Celestial River is simply impossible."

"Even if you have enough Blue Coins, your cultivation will not allow you to cross through the Celestial River. If you want to go back to the Void where we originally came from, then there is only a single way. That is, find a place for yourself within the Orchid Borough Celestial River and slowly cultivate until the day you become a Celestial Lord. Only at that time, will you be able to return."

"At what general realm does one become a Celestial Lord? What comes after the Celestial Gatherer Realm?" Ning Cheng's fists clenched tightly, to the point that his nails were practically digging into his palms. He absolutely did not want to stay in this place.

Lan Ya glanced at Ning Cheng's clenched fists, before giving out a sigh and speaking up, "After the Celestial Gatherer Realm comes the Celestial River's three realms – the Celestial Bridge Realm, the Undead Realm and the Heaven's Mandate Realm. Only after the fusion with the Celestial Wheel to form the Celestial Bridge can you step into the Celestial Bridge Realm. Cultivators in the Celestial Bridge Realm can then proceed to cultivate spiritual powers, all because of the steady stream of the Starry Skies' Essence Force at their command."

"After fully fusing with the Celestial Bridge, they can then use those spiritual powers to completely remould their body. This process would not require any help from Spirit Objects at all. As long as one's cultivation reaches this level, one's Life Essence will transform into something almost inextinguishable. It is also because of this reason that this realm goes by the name 'Celestial River's Undead Realm'. People who reached the full circle of the Undead Realm can then obtain the ability to glimpse into their own destiny, which is also the reason why next realm is known as the Celestial River's Heaven's Mandate Realm and is also the highest realm within the Celestial River's three realms."

Ning Cheng gave a sigh before speaking, "Being a cultivator in the Heaven's Mandate Realm does not make you a Celestial River King, does it?"

Lan Ya looked into the endless Void in front of her before shaking her head and speaking, "No. Even if one possesses an undead body, that does not mean one can control their own destiny. Therefore, after Heaven's Mandate Realm, there are still the Destiny's three realms. Destiny is not something that one can control; rather, it is under the control of the Heavenly Dao. Only when you step into one of the three realms above Heaven's Mandate Realm will you be eligible to hold the title of 'Celestial River King'."

Ning Cheng turned utterly silent. He knew that he encountered a few powerful opportunities when compared to others; however, he also had his own disadvantages. That is, every time it came to an advancement, Ning Cheng had to face many almost-impossible difficulties compared to others. This remained true even in the condition that he had sufficient cultivation resources available.

He was not a Celestial Lord's son, nor did he have a Celestial River King as his relative; he could only rely on himself to trudge forward.

"You have relatively good qualifications. The nearest star to us is the Lesser Thunder Star. If you cultivate in a proper Starry Skies' planet, you will find it much easier and faster in regards to cultivation when compared to a True Cultivation Mainland. Perhaps in another hundred or two hundred years, you might successfully pass through the Nirvana Tribulation and condense a Celestial Wheel to become a Celestial Novice Cultivator. Moreover, there is something that might prove advantageous to you; that is, if you stay within the Orchid Borough Celestial River to cultivate, no one will know about your identity." Lan Ya had a good heart, and could not help but try to comfort Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng understood Lan Ya's intentions. It would prove beneficial for him to remain within the Orchid Borough Celestial River since he killed the scarlet-robed young noble. The scarlet-robed young noble's father back in the Kun Zhuo Celestial River might not even manage to locate him.

This was just a consolation prize for him, however. As for the second time that Lan Ya mentioned about his qualifications, Ning Cheng simply did not care about it. He just did not want to find out about it. The Mysterious Yellow Bead possessed the property to improve his Spirit Roots automatically, something Ning Cheng had known for a long time. After so many years, even he did not know how far his qualifications had improved. He could not describe it, despite wanting to. As for Lan Ya's consoling words of becoming a Celestial Novice Cultivator within a hundred or two hundred years, Ning Cheng did not even think about it.

Even taking ten years to become a Celestial Novice Cultivator felt too slow for Ning Cheng.

"Senior Apprentice Sister Lan. Are you not going to stay at the Lesser Thunder Star?" Ning Cheng temporarily decided to stay at the Lesser Thunder Star and cultivate. He hoped that Lan Ya could temporarily stay somewhere nearby. After all, unlike Lan Ya who knew a lot about the Starry Skies, he did not understand many of the things in this place.

Lan Ya nodded, "I have better qualifications than you; therefore, I will not stay at the Lesser Thunder Star for long. Besides, I have heard a bit about the Celestial Lord of the Lesser Thunder Star, who goes by the title 'Lesser Thunder'. He is an ordinary fellow, and only became the Celestial Lord of the Lesser Thunder Star out of sheer luck. Someone will eventually snatch the Lesser Thunder Star from him; however, it would not have anything to do with ordinary cultivators."

"Let me remind you of two things. First, upon reaching the Lesser Thunder Star, you must immediately obtain a Lesser Thunder Star's residential status. Second, even if you run out of money, never sell yourself to others. Once you end up a slave to others, you will never be able to stand up. Also, do not try to leave the Lesser Thunder Star if you do not possess the required strength; otherwise, you will only become prey for others. Turning into a slave would be the lighter of the options at that moment. Right, there is another thing you need to keep in mind. Do not meddle in or even wander into other people's business."

Ning Cheng thanked her with a sentence and went silent again. Lan Ya also did not interrupt his thoughts anymore. He already knew that Lan Ya could not take him with her, his cultivation simply was too weak. Following Lan Ya with his cultivation would only drag her down.

“Let’s go.” Lan Ya spoke while pressing the button to close the door of the battleship. The moment the black battleship’s door closed, it immediately rushed out leaving behind only an afterimage. She did not warn Ning Cheng about being careful of his secrets. This kind of matter anyway did not require a warning from her. From the moment she met Ning Cheng to the present, Ning Cheng had never revealed how he survived the passage through the Spacial Collapse. She realised just from that point that Ning Cheng definitely had better coping mechanisms compared to her.

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As Lan Ya said, the Lesser Thunder Star was not far from their location. With Lan Ya’s control over the Void Battleship, it only took a few days for them to arrive at the Lesser Thunder Star.

As they approached the Lesser Thunder Star, Ning Cheng also found that the starry skies around it did not have any Spacial Wind Edges or any meteorite streams. Looking at it from the air, the Lesser Thunder Star seemed like a grey cotton ball suspended in the vastness of the sky.

Lan Ya controlled the battleship and came to a stop outside the periphery of the Lesser Thunder Star’s atmosphere, right next to a row of luxurious looking buildings suspended in space. There was also a large public square outside these buildings; however, besides a few grotesque looking black ships which somewhat resembled flying saucers, there was nothing else over it.

Lan Ya did not park the battleship over the public square. After she let out Ning Cheng from the battleship, she just collected and stored the battleship away.

After that, the two of them then entered one of the buildings. In the main hall of the building they just came inside, Ning Cheng finally managed to see some people again. This main hall was vast, but there were just as many people inside. Many people here had a similar Celestial Wheel like Lan Ya, while some of them even had more than a single Celestial Wheel.

A variety of Array Formation Displays filled the central hall’s quartet; some people drank excellent Spirit Tea, some drank fine Spirit Wine while resting, while a few were intently watching the information flashing over the Array Formation Displays in front of them.

Ning Cheng did not speak; he instinctively knew what Lan Ya had come to do in this place. Lan Ya had told him that to enter the planet; one must obtain a Lesser Thunder Star’s residential permit, something fundamental if it was someone’s first time at the Lesser Thunder Star. This place most likely issued those IDs before entering the Lesser Thunder Star.

This was the first time that Ning Cheng had seen such an identity document outside of Earth. Previously, whether he was in the Graceful Star Mainland or the Rootless Black City, Identity Jade Cards was the norm in establishing identity.

However, this identity document was only half the size of the various identity documents familiar to him on Earth. At the same time, it recorded a variety of information in it, even including a trace of the cultivator’s aura. He could not also identify the materials that made up this paper but found that it was several times harder than the materials used for making Black Coins.

Learning that a long-term residence in Lesser Thunder City required 100 million Blue Coins, Ning Cheng and Lan Ya drew back and asked for the next best thing. This led them to buy a temporary residence

permit for the Lesser Thunder Star. This kind of document only needed 100 million Black Coins; however, one could not enjoy many benefits, and it only lasted for a limited time.

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After entering the Lesser Thunder Star, Lan Yan then brought Ning Cheng to the Ocean Gambling City. Ocean Gambling City was just a medium-sized city in the Lesser Thunder Star. One could find countless such 'cities' within the Lesser Thunder Star. The individual City Masters managed these cities as the norm. At the same time, these City Masters reported to an Area Lord, and the Area Lords then communicated their reports to the Celestial Lord. An Area Lord typically oversaw several to a few dozen of such ordinary cities.

The Ocean Gambling City's City Master had the name Evelyn, but that had nothing to do with Ning Cheng and Lan Ya. They had just arrived in the Ocean Gambling City and needed to find a place to settle down.

After Lan Ya entered the Ocean Gambling City, she once again put on a very calm facade, as if nothing in the world could affect her calmness.

However, Ning Cheng felt shocked in his heart. He could feel that the Spirit Source in this place was more than a few times richer than the Graceful Star Mainland and nearly equivalent to that from a Spirit Vein. What made Ning Cheng tremble even more was that the Spirit Source he felt from this place was the same that he felt coming from Lan Ya, utterly different from Spirit Veins and Spirit Stones that he had used previously.

Ning Cheng immediately recalled what Lan Ya said to him, "You cultivation is just at the Crucible Transformation 7th Level, you'll find it easier to buy Spirit Stones in the Lesser Thunder Star. Cultivate using Spirit Stones until you reach the level of touching the Nirvana Tribulation. Even if you just used Spirit Stones to cultivate, in a world with Laws much more powerful compared to even the True Cultivation Planets, you should find it much easier to advance. When your Domain reaches grand completion, and you cross the Nirvana Tribulation, turning your True Essence into Starry Skies' Essence Force, you can then directly absorb the Essence Qi from the starry skies."

However, Ning Cheng had a vague feeling that he did not need to go through the Nirvana Tribulation to convert his True Essence. He felt that he could just absorb directly from the starry skies' Spirit Source for his cultivation.

The starry skies' Spirit Source also had the name starry skies' Essence Qi; most people, however, addressed it as Celestial Essence in the most direct manner.

Ning Cheng estimated that it might have some relations to his Mysterious Yellow Formless; however, he did not mention it to Lan Ya. When it came to the Mysterious Yellow Bead, he had not spoken about it to anyone apart from the people closest to him.

In addition to the shock Ning Cheng experienced in sensing the starry skies' Spirit Source, Ning Cheng also suffered another blow due to the surroundings around him. If it were not for him consciously knowing that he was many billion miles away from Earth, he would have even doubted if he had returned to a city on Earth.

On both sides of the broad street, there were only high-rise buildings. A variety of streamlined energy-powered vehicles roamed the streets. Even many of the advertisement displays did not show fluctuations of an Array Formation. Instead, they gave out a feeling that they ran on something similar to electricity.

Occasionally, one could see smaller flying vessels in the air; however, the number of flying ships were too few compared to the vehicles he saw running over the ground. Not only that, but there were also all kinds of billboards on both sides of the street. Brothels, casinos, merchant houses, arenas and so on, all with bright, eye-catching designs.

In any case, he had to admit that the technological civilisation here was a lot stronger compared to Earth.

Seeing Ning Cheng closely watching the flying vessels over the city and the billboards on both sides of the street, Lan Ya explained, "Those who can fly in this place are people with both high status and a distinct identity. Those means of transport are something that only the rich can afford to splurge. Moreover, if not particularly necessary, I suggest that you do not go to the Dual Cultivation Courtyards or to the casinos or the arenas in this area, for the matter."

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Chapter 485: Simple Advancement

Even if Lan Ya had not mentioned it, Ning Cheng already knew that he did not have the required strength to visit the Arenas or the Casinos.

Although it was a first for Lan Ya to come to this place, she still managed to find a living quarter quickly. With a down payment of 10 million Blue Coins, she managed to rent an Immortal Cave in a very safe cultivation environment for ten years.

Leasing the Immortal Cave in the Ocean Gambling City was not too expensive as it equated to a lease of 1 million Blue Coins per year for ten years. Lan Ya thought that Ning Cheng's cultivation was too low to live in a place with poor security. This was the only reason why she decided to use 10 million Blue Coins to help Ning Cheng rent a better Immortal Cave.

The Immortal Cave was not extravagant; except for a five by seven feet large Spirit Grass Garden, there were only two rooms. However, Ning Cheng found it satisfactory because of the abundance of starry skies' Essence Qi in this location. For him, although safety remained an important factor, he also placed a similar, if not higher, importance to cultivation.

"Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, you can choose any room, and I'll take the other room." Ning Cheng had calmed down from his initial shock. He knew what he needed the most at this moment was to go into cultivation seclusion and cultivate for as long as possible.

Lan Ya gave a smile, "We can be friends from now on. You saved me, while I also helped you out. I already mentioned to you that I would not stay in the Ocean Gambling City. I will go out and check out the other places. Currently, the most pressing matter for me is to earn Blue Coins. After I earn enough Blue Coins, I will then leave the Lesser Thunder Star. However, since I currently have no Blue Coins on me, I can't leave this battleship with you."

Ning Cheng did not expect that Lan Ya would leave immediately; however, he also did not try to persuade her to stay back. The starry skies were vast, and one day in the future, he would leave the Ocean Gambling City definitely, which meant that this place was just a temporary stop in his journey.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng took out the card with nearly 100 million Blue Coins and passed it onto Lan Ya., saying, "Senior Apprentice Sister Lan, I will definitely be going into seclusion in this place. I already have enough Spirit Stones and Blue Essence Stones, along with nearly 100 million Black Coins. You can keep these Blue Coins; I anyways cannot use them temporarily."

Lan Ya did not expect Ning Cheng to be so generous. Do not look at the fact that they had used up 200 million Blue Coins to purchase the battleship, both of them knew they had suffered quite a loss. A hundred million Blue Coins still had a plethora of uses in the Lesser Thunder Star. However, now that a Crucible Transformation Cultivator like Ning Cheng actually decided to part with these Blue Coins without hesitation, it truly touched some of Lan Ya's heartstrings.

She did not refuse it, taking Ning Cheng's Blue Coin Card, she replied, "I really do have a need for Blue Coins. Thank you for your help. I will definitely come back here to see you before I leave the Lesser Thunder Star."

Ning Cheng understood Lan Ya's meaning. Lan Ya wanted to head out to make money and to get ready to leave this place. However, she definitely will come back in the future to return the money.

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After Lan Ya left, Ning Cheng placed a Rank 8 Defensive Array outside of his Immortal Cave and immediately readied himself to go into cultivation seclusion. As for the original Defensive Array Formation outside the Immortal Cave, he did not remove it. This Defensive Array Formation was at a higher level compared to his own Array Formation anyway, and he could not arrange something on the same level right now.

Luofei was in the Rootless Black City, Shi Qionghua was in Qin Wu City and his little sister Ruolan had taken away Grey Toottoot. For Ning Cheng right now, he honestly felt all alone in a foreign land within the starry skies. This made him even more eager to cultivate to a higher level and then leave this place as soon as possible.

In the Ocean Gambling City, Ning Cheng's arrival was akin to an additional speck of dust, which did not cause even half a wave of fluctuation or any ripples. No one knew who Ning Cheng was, and no one cared who Ning Cheng was anyway.

Ning Cheng also did not care about the Ocean Gambling City. He anyway did not belong to this place, nor did he want to come to this place. His stay here was only a temporary stop.

After resuming cultivation, Ning Cheng only felt joy in his heart. Under the powerful Laws of this world, his cultivation speed soared to an unimaginable level.

As he absorbed the starry skies' Essence Qi, he did not feel even half a shred of discomfort. Even the True Essence in his body had automatically started transforming into Celestial Essence. In other words, although he still had not achieved Nirvana, nor had he passed the Nirvana Tribulation, yet his True

Essence had automatically initiated the transformation because of the changes in the Spirit Source he absorbed.

His meridians had also started to expand under the influence of the more powerful Celestial Essence and slowly turned sturdier. Even if it did not improve upon his realm, his strength had definitely improved by more than a few grades or even more.

After his True Essence completely transformed into Celestial Essence, Ning Cheng instantly broke through the Crucible Transformation 7th Level and entered the Crucible Transformation 8th Level. Moreover, Ning Cheng found that after the type of energy he absorbed changed from the essence of Spirit Qi to the Starry Skies' Celestial Essence, the Mysterious Yellow Origin flowing inside his meridians had become even more active, which improved his cultivation fundamentally to an even stronger level.

In just three months, he advanced once again from Crucible Transformation 8th Level to Crucible Transformation 9th Level. Another three months later, Ning Cheng's cultivation reached the Grand Completion of the Crucible Transformation Realm.

Ning Cheng immediately stopped cultivating after reaching this juncture. He knew that he had to find a place to surmount the incoming tribulation and then advance to the Plundering Life Realm.

A Thunder Tribulation for the Plundering Life Realm did not account for much in the Lesser Thunder Star, so after leaving the Ocean Gambling City, Ning Cheng just chose a spot of barren wilderness.

In the Lesser Thunder Star, trying to surmount the Thunder Tribulation for crossing a realm did not require any need of pills or even decorating a Spirit Gathering Array Formation. This was because the Worldly Law's and the Worldly Essence Qi in this place was more than enough.

Ning Cheng, who had already reached Grand Completion of the Crucible Transformation Realm, under the powerful Worldly Laws, almost immediately touched upon the barrier to the Plundering Life Realm. Ning Cheng had just thought to attack the boundary of the Plundering Life Realm when his Celestial Essence instinctively struck the Plundering Life Realm's Cultivation Barrier.

After it attacked the barrier a few times, the Thunder Tribulation immediately started gathering in the sky above and quickly descended down onto him. The first wave of this Thunder Tribulation consisted of dozens of thick lightning arcs, mixed in with large swaths of Thunder Waterfall.

Ning Cheng possessed a Thunder Spirit Root, plus his True Essence had long since transformed; therefore, even if the Thunder Tribulation turned even more violent, he felt that he would not need to bring out his Everlasting Blue Thunder City.

Ning Cheng easily breezed through the first two waves of the Thunder Tribulation. At the same time, just when the Thunder Tribulation's third wave descended, Ning Cheng finally managed to break through from the Crucible Transformation Realm, becoming a Plundering Life 1st Level Cultivator. Following that, Ning Cheng felt disinclined even to passively resist the rest of the Thunder Tribulation. He just sat down on the spot and let the Thunder Tribulation descend upon him; however, he made sure to absorb as much of the Thunder Spirit Source along with converting it into Celestial Essence to improve his cultivation as much as possible.

When the last wave of the descending Thunder Tribulation disappeared, Ning Cheng also managed to break through from the Plundering Life 1st Level, advancing to the Plundering Life 2nd Level.

In the Lesser Thunder Star, a Plundering Life 2nd Level might be something insignificant; however, Ning Cheng still felt some satisfaction. As he thought back upon it, there should only be a handful of people like him, who could immediately reach the second level right after surmounting their tribulations, right?

At the time of entering the Ocean Gambling City, Ning Cheng was only a cultivator at the Crucible Transformation 7th Level; yet, now his cultivation had reached the second level of Plundering Life Realm. Looking back at it, it only took him 6 months to accomplish it. Initially, Lan Ya had said that he might need a few decades to advance from the Crucible Transformation Realm to the Plundering Life Realm. As for cultivating to the Domain Realm, it might even take a hundred to two hundred years. However, if he followed his current rate progress, then he definitely had a significant chance of advancing to the Celestial Novice Realm within 10 years.

Ning Cheng finally felt the benefits of cultivating within the starry skies. Not only was the starry skies' Essence Qi a lot stronger than ordinary Spirit Qi, but even the Worldly Laws were also far from those within the low-level Void. One just did not need to prepare too much for advancing to the Plundering Life Realm.

After cleaning himself, Ning Cheng then returned to the Ocean Gambling City. It was just as he thought; his descending Thunder Tribulation had not attracted the attention of anyone at all. After returning to the Ocean Gambling City, he still wanted to continue with his original thought of cultivation, cultivation and even more cultivation.

There were many people within the Ocean Gambling City with similar cultivation to Ning Cheng, and many with cultivation even lower compared to Ning Cheng. Therefore, Ning Cheng with his cultivation of Plundering Life 2nd Level did not stand out within the streets of the Ocean Gambling City.

"Get out...." someone thundered, followed by a young man wearing grey robes flying out and falling right in front of Ning Cheng. If not for Ning Cheng's quick reaction, of immediately taking a few steps back, the flying youth would have definitely smashed into him.

The grey-robed youth was just about to get up, when a man with brown hair descended and with a foot on the back of the grey-robed youth coldly spoke, "Jing Hao, the next time you dare to repudiate a debt in my casino, I will immediately sell you to the slave market, get lost...."

After the brown-haired man finished his words, he spat on the grey-robed youth before turning around and slowly walking into the building across the street.

Ning Cheng then saw the words 'Ocean Gambling's Premier Casino.' This casino also had a pair of couplets underneath those words, 'Guests from the boundless heavens, bringing together endless wealth.'

Ning Cheng shook his head internally, not to mention about Lan Ya's warning to him about not going to such a place, even if Lan Ya had not reminded him, Ning Cheng would never visit such a site. This person, named Jing Hao, seems like a Celestial Novice Cultivator, how could he still indulge in establishments like casinos?

Jing Hao? Ning Cheng suddenly had another thought before he came to an immediate stop. It was as if he had heard of this name somewhere.

In just a short moment, Ning Cheng recalled where he had heard the name, Jing Hao. Once in the Graceful Star Mainland, there was quite a famous character by the name of Jing Hao.

This person was once the premier disciple of the Kun Yun Academy; however, because he loved a woman, who also was a Devil Cultivator, he decided to help her. As a result, it ended with the eradication of the Kun Yun Academy by the joint forces of the other academies at that time.

At that time, Ning Cheng felt quite the admiration towards that Jing Hao. If replaced by him, he also would not have hesitated to help the woman he loved. No matter what label people put on her.

However, now that the Kun Yun Academy had long since disappeared in the long rivers of time, Ning Cheng could not confirm if this Jing Hao was the same Jing Hao from the Kun Yun Academy.

Thinking of this and wanting to satisfy his curiosity, Ning Cheng deliberately went to the other party and asked with cupped fists, "This senior, I want to ask if senior knows about the Le Continent's Kun Yun Academy?"

Even if Jing Hao had an embarrassed look over his face, he still had a Celestial Novice Cultivation; as such, Ning Cheng did not dare to act out at will.

Initially, seeing that Ning Cheng was just a little Plundering Life Realm Cultivator, the grey-robed man did not care much about him. Even if kicked out by the casino, he still had a Celestial Novice Cultivation, while Ning Cheng was just a little cultivator in the Plundering Life Realm, how could he place someone like him on an equal footing?

However, after hearing Ning Cheng's words, he only felt shocked. His mouth remained open as he stared at Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng did not need an answer from the other person; he knew that his guess was spot on. This Jing Hao definitely was the premier disciple Jing Hao from the Le Continent's Kun Yun Academy.

"How do you know about the Le Continent's Kun Yun Academy? Where are you from?" Only after a good while did Jing Hao spoke out in eagerness.

However, Ning Cheng felt a few vague Spiritual Consciousnesses sweep over his body at this time; these Spiritual Consciousnesses absolutely did not have any good intentions contained within them. Ning Cheng sighed; it seems that this Jing Hao has offended a few influential people within the Ocean Gambling City. To be honest, he actually had nothing to look for and talk to with Jing Hao, his previous actions were just to satisfy some curiosity; however, he did not know if he would end up finding himself in trouble.

"I'm sorry." Jing Hao suddenly apologised to Ning Cheng with a truly apologetic tone, before he once again asked in anxiety, "Excuse me but, is Kun Yun Academy still okay? My master....."

Jing Hao was not a fool. On seeing Ning Cheng's change in expression, he immediately guessed some of the things that might have happened.

Ning Cheng also did not feel the need to conceal anything and spoke up, "When I went to the Le Continent, I found that Kun Yun Academy had already vanished a long time ago. However, I also heard that several other major academies had joined forces to destroy the Kun Yun Academy."

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Chapter 486: None to depend on

"It really was destroyed, it was destroyed... I destroyed the academy, I killed my master, and it was my fault...." Jing Hao muttered to himself for a long while. He even forgot about Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng shook his head and turned away. He did not continue to talk with Jing Hao. Initially, Ning Cheng had heard that Jing Hao had dared to fight against the entire Le Continent for his woman. He felt that this person had a good heart; however, the feeling he got right now was just of pittance and relief. After exchanging a few words with Jing Hao, Ning Cheng felt that Jing Hao possessed a somewhat cowardly character. If such a thing had happened to him, he would have definitely tried to find a way to go back and wipe out all the parties involved in the destruction of Kun Yun Academy.

This matter was just like the feud between the Rainbow Fall Sword Sect and the Red Star Sword Faction; however, he had already turned the Red Star Sword Faction to ashes.

"Wait a little while." Jing Hai reacted and quickly caught up with Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng cupped his fists and spoke, "What else does senior want from me?"

"Just call me Jing Hao from now on. It has been a while since I saw anyone from the Graceful Star Mainland. We both are from the same hometown; can you sit with me for a while?" Jing Hao's eyes showed a glimmer of hope. Ning Cheng immediately understood the loneliness deep inside his heart from the look in his eyes. People only regarded other people coming from the same place as 'home-towners' after stepping out into the starry skies.

"All right." Ning Cheng knew that whether he sat with Jing Hao or not, someone had already noticed him. In that case, he might as well clear this matter, to avoid the situation of the pot calling the kettle black.

Jing Hao took Ning Cheng to a medium-sized rest stop and waved at the server, "Two pots of 'None to depend on'..."

Saying those words, he seemed to have thought of something and hurriedly whispered to Ning Cheng, "Do you have Black Coins? The price of 'None to depend on' is not low. A pot of it costs a hundred thousand Black Coins. I don't have any."

Ning Cheng nodded while feeling speechless. He had the money anyway. Not to mention the hundred million Black Coins he had, there was still the bunch of Blue Essence Ores.

After a few moments, the server brought two dark grey jugs. Ning Cheng picked up one of the pitchers and saw a row of words at the bottom, "Often apart, an abandoned heart; gazing at distant stars, none to depend on."

"Often apart, abandoned heart; gazing at distant stars, none to depend on....." Jing Hao muttered to himself before opening the other jug and taking a big gulp.

This person is not lovelorn, is he? Ning Cheng immediately thought of the Female Devil but did not ask about it. He also opened his jug and took a sip.

The wine was mellow and was like a gentle stream that flowed down while nourishing his throat. To tell the truth, Ning Cheng did not like wines with such characteristics; he preferred something stronger, which burned all the way down from the mouth. Something that stimulated a feeling of passion within his chest.

However, Ning Cheng soon realised the terrifying feeling of dependence 'None to depend on' evoked. He had clearly drunk a small sip of the wine, but it elicited a powerful surge of hurt and sadness within him. It felt as if Ning Cheng honestly had no one to depend on; a parting will that filled his heart. He felt as if he stood on a single boat, and the boat flowed along in a constant drift on an endless river. While Luofei and Shi Qionghua silently looked at him from the pavilion by the riverside. Their eyes filled with the hope of his early return, made him feel a one-of-a-kind burning within his heart. This feeling was like a hot knife piercing through his heart, something that made people feel a kind of torment and suffering.

"Often apart, abandoned heart; gazing into the distant stars, none to depend on....." No, Ning Cheng suddenly stood up. He did not want to gaze into the distant stars.

"Oh, evidently this friend is just as passionate as me. 'None to depend on' is the worst kind of alcohol to drink, especially if you end up downing a pot filled with 'None to depend on'. Once you get sucked in, you can never wake up." Jing Hao gave a sigh and spoke.

Ning Cheng felt cold shivers run down his body, immediately sobering him. He had only drunk a mouthful of this wine.

"Many thanks for Brother Jing's reminder." Ning Cheng held up his cupped fists towards Jing Hao as a show of gratitude. He could feel that his heart and mind were still far from perfection. Otherwise, how could he lose his calm just because of a sip?

As Jing Hao said, he still had no idea about the challenges that he would have to face in the future within the starry skies that could have a significant effect on his heart and mind. If he could not keep his heart calm because of just a sip of wine, what would happen to him in the future?

"Well, it's no wonder that you would dare to come to the Lesser Thunder Star with a Plundering Life Cultivation. Oh right, I didn't get to ask this friend's name?" Jing Hao showed a glimmer of appreciation in his eyes. The desolation and decadence from before also seemed to have wiped away from his face.

Ning Cheng felt moved in his heart. He had previously felt that Jing Hao's appearance in the street outside was the real deal; however, there now seemed to be a new feeling to him. Therefore, he calmly held up his cupped fists and spoke, "My name is Ning Cheng, and I was brought here by a senior with a Celestial Gatherer Cultivation."

Lan Ya did not possess a Celestial Gatherer Cultivation; however, Ning Cheng also felt that Lan Ya would not face many difficulties in advancing to the Celestial Gatherer Realm. At the same time, it was also necessary to mention that he had a patron to rely on.

“Brother Ning, everyone has their own story. You must have your own story that led you to this place. However, I will not ask about your story, I just want you to hear my story. If you think that I’m not worth wasting your time, I won’t blame you at all.”

As Jing Hao spoke those words, he once again drank a big mouthful of ‘None to depend on’ before continuing, “Her name was Shi Yulan, the most beautiful woman I had ever seen in my life. For her, I could abandon everything, even if she was a Devil Cultivator....”

Ning Cheng realised that Jing Hao was talking about the matter between him and that Female Devil. He felt no impatience, might as well hear out what the person had to say.

“She had killed several important disciples of the few 9-Star Academies; however, I still chose to stand by her and even took her to my academy. This was a secret affair; however, none of us could figure out as to how people discovered it. Several of the 9-Star Academies then united with the other academies to march on a crusade against my Kun Yun Academy. My master, to protect me, packed me off and sent me away secretly, ha-ha.....”

As Jing Hao laughed, he once again grabbed the wine jug and chugged down a few mouthfuls of ‘None to depend on’; however, there were tears in his eyes.

“Today, I finally know that I not only lost my Master, I even caused the destruction of my academy. The many brothers and sisters... All died... I am not a human; I am not even a beast... Haha.....”

Ning Cheng remained silent. He could guess that Jing Hao might have ended up entering Heaven’s Way with Shi Yulan after leaving the academy. As for how Jing Hao reached the Lesser Thunder Star, Ning Cheng did not intend to ask. Before coming here, even he did not know that he would end up in the Lesser Thunder Star.

If Ning Cheng replaced him in this matter, what would he do? Ning Cheng asked himself silently, and quickly got the answer. If he knew that the academy faced complete destruction, he would never escape alone, let alone when he had such a respectable master?

Ning Cheng did not despise Jing Hao; Jing Hao already seemed extremely downcast. Presumably, this matter had left a significant psychological impact over him. Otherwise, no matter how disappointing a Celestial Novice Cultivator he was, he definitely would not let others trample over him on the streets.

“She and I relied on a weapon to rush into the Chaotic Star Space of the Graceful Star Mainland; however, because of our carelessness, we got sucked into a Spatial Collapse. By the time we came out, we were already in the starry sky.....”

When he heard this, Ning Cheng felt shocked. Not because Jing Hao and Shi Yulan could enter the Chaotic Star Space, but because of the words that the two people ended up sucked into a Spatial Collapse, yet had not died and had even arrived in the starry skies. One had to know that even Lan Ya, with a Celestial Shatterer Cultivation, almost lost her life in the Spatial Collapse. What weapon did Jing Hao use? It was just too powerful

“Brother Jing, I heard from the Celestial Gatherer Senior who brought me here that it would prove extremely difficult to preserve someone’s life once they get sucked into a Spatial Collapse.” Ning Cheng did not directly ask Jing Hao about the weapon he used; however, his words already indicated his

thoughts. If Jing Hao did not provide an answer, he will also not continue asking about it. It was a kind of secret that nobody would willingly share it with others anyway.

Jing Hao put up a soundproof restriction around them, before giving out a sigh and speaking, "Junior Brother Ning, I had no intention to hide this from you. It was all because of a True Spirit World that I had obtained by chance. The reason why my cultivation method could sweep through the entire Graceful Star Mainland was also due to that world."

"Miniature World?" Ning Cheng immediately thought of the Miniature World Ring that he had; however, it was also not much different from an ordinary ring. The only reason why he could preserve his life in the Void Collapse was all due to the Mysterious Yellow Bead, not the Miniature World.

Jing Hao shook his head, "Not a Miniature World, but a True Spirit World. When I obtained this world, I realised that it was a True Spirit World. Thankfully, it was a Spacial Collapse at the low-levelled Planar Boundary. If we had entered a high-levelled Planar Boundary's Spacial Collapse, then I estimate that even the True Spirit World would not have helped us survive."

Ning Cheng frowned but did not continue. It was a first for him to hear about something like a True Spirit World.

"After entering the starry skies, I gave her the True Spirit World. Later, we drifted around until we reached the Lesser Thunder Star and finally reached the Ocean Gambling City. Once within the Ocean Gambling City, I did everything in my power to seek out resources for her cultivation. There were simply too many powerhouses within the Lesser Thunder Star, and most of the cultivation resources were under their control. So the only way to obtain more resources was to head into the stars."

"One time, I found a sliver of Fire-attributed Origin. Since she possessed a Fire-attributed Spirit Root, this sliver of Origin allowed her to advance rapidly. In a short while, her cultivation far surpassed mine....."

Ning Cheng could not bear to remain silent at this point and interrupted Jing Hao once again, "Brother Jing, did you say that you found the Fire-attributed Origin?"

Initially, he had sensed the Water-attributed Origin Aura in the Angry Axe Valley, which resulted in obtaining the Water-attributed Origin Bead by following that sliver of Water-attributed Origin Aura. This allowed his Mysterious Yellow Bead to gain a hint of water-attributed properties. Since Jing Hao mention Fire Origin, did it have any relation to Fire Origin Beads?

"Yes, it definitely was the Fire Origin. Because she obtained a sliver of Fire Origin, she almost spent her entire time in seclusion, while the words exchanged between us grew fewer and fewer. I still had to earn Blue Coins from the starry skies, and then use them to exchange for some cultivation resources, which ultimately all went to her. When she finally came out, she had already reached the Celestial Shatterer Realm, while my domain had still not reached grand completion. Haha....."

Jing Hao gave out a self-deprecating laugh while finishing the entire pot of wine in one gulp. He eyes gradually turned cloudy before he spoke up, "Later, an important figure visited the Ocean Gambling City, a Celestial River King. He and Shi Yulan actually fell in love at first sight; ha-ha, love at first sight..."

Jing Hao shook the empty jug and suddenly shouted, "Waiter, another jug of 'None to depend on'..."

“Do you know what she said? Just before she left with the Celestial River King, all she said was ‘Thank you for taking care of me for all these years.’ A fucking thank you.....” Jing Hao cried while smiling at the same time.

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Chapter 487: Friends

Ning Cheng remained silent, not knowing how to comfort Jing Hao.

One could not say that Jing Hao had invested himself heavily in Shi Yulan. The two of them had probably gone through many hardships to reach this place, only for Shi Yulan to dump Jing Hao and willingly leave with the Celestial River King.

Ning Cheng simply chose not to express his opinion, especially since he had never seen Shi Yulan. Nor did he know what kind of person was Shi Yulan.

However, with Ning Cheng’s experience in the True Cultivation World, even if he and Jing Hao came from the same star, Jing Hao would not be so open with him without any reason. Apparently, Jing Hao had something to ask from him; however, it looks like the conversation touched upon his sore wound, causing him to vent out of frustration.

“In that case, why didn’t Brother Jing leave the Ocean Gambling City to strive for success, instead of staying in this place?” Ning Cheng asked. He very much wanted to ask about the situation with the Fire-attributed Origin; however, he also knew that it was not the time.

Jing Hai finally sobered up from his sad recollections and picked up the second pot of wine that the server had just brought in. He took a swig from it before giving out a sigh and continuing, “It’s not that I do not want to leave, rather I can’t leave. After Yulan left, I felt as if I hit rock bottom, and unexpectedly got seduced into gambling at the casino. I just wanted to forget about this matter.”

Ning Cheng noticed that this was the first time that Jing Hao called out the word ‘Yulan’, contrary to how he previously referred to her as ‘she’.

“I ended up owing a few million Blue Coins to the casino, while the deadline to pay it back is approaching fast. I have been working like crazy for the past many years to repay the Blue Coins that I owe. However, even after so many years, there are still a few million Blue Coins that remains to be paid back, alas...”

Ning Cheng asked with a doubtful voice, “Since it amounts to just a few millions of Blue Coins, why can’t you pay it all off?”

Jing Hao shook his head and spoke, “The deadline is fast approaching, and it’s only a few months from now. If I cannot pay off these Blue Coins before the deadline, I will become a slave and mortgaged off to others. From then on, this world will no longer have a Jing Hao, only a slave with the same name.”

Ning Cheng remained silent. He had already heard from Lan Ya that turning into a slave was the worst kind of fate one could experience.

“The only reason I chose to go back to the casino was to just obtain a chance. However, every time I went there, not only did I not win any Blue Coins, I instead kept losing more and more.”

As Jing Hao spoke until here, Ning Cheng finally understood why Jing Hao decided to head to the casino. If replaced with him, with the deadline fast approaching, other than the casino there might not be any other way to earn back such a vast amount of Blue Coins. Simply put, it was a move out of complete desperation.

“Therefore, I want to ask a small favour from you.....” After Jing Hao finished this sentence, Ning Cheng finally understood what the other party needed from him; in other words, Jing Hao wanted to borrow money from Ning Cheng.

A few hundred million Blue Coins simply was not something that Ning Cheng could take out casually. Therefore, Ning Cheng replied apologetically, “Brother Jing, although I want to help you, I, however, do not have that many Blue Coins. All I have is around a few million Black Coins on me. Its miles apart from you are asking.”

Jing Hao’s eyes revealed a hot light, “Junior Brother Ning, as long as you provide me with some Black Coins, I will definitely win it back and more in the casino.”

Ning Cheng could not help but speak up in exasperation, “Brother Jing, it’s not that I do not believe in your gambling skills. As far as I know, there is absolutely no way to make a fortune by gambling. Every gambler’s history shows regret, built upon blood and tears. I do not recommend that you go gambling. Just think about it, if the casinos can’t make money, would people open casinos?”

Jing Hao stood up and grabbed Ning Cheng’s robes and spoke, “Junior Brother Ning, no Big Brother Ning, you must help me out, please. I know that gambling is not something good; however, I do not have any other way apart from this one. If I do not pay the amount I owe back, I will turn into a slave in a few months. I practically have no way of retreating at this moment. Besides, the casinos merely rake in a small portion; the casino itself does not participate in gambling. Going into gambling is entirely based on luck.”

Ning Cheng sneered. He felt too lazy even to retort back at Jing Hao. Casinos do not take part in the gambling and raked in a small percentage, this is not even enough to deceive ghosts. He came from Earth and had seen too much of such things back there. This Jing Hao has lived for at least a thousand years more than he has; however, it looks like he either led a life devoted to cultivation or disdained to spend time and inquire about such things.

“Well, I will not give you any more advice. I only have a few million Black Coins on me. You can take some of it if you want; however, just stop speaking anymore.” Ning Cheng took out the Black Coin Card and handed it to Jing Hao. He anyway had a few things to ask from Jing Hao, and these few million Black Coins were not enough for him to feel a pinch while giving it away anyway.

Jing Hao took the Black Coin Card before bowing in ceremony towards Ning Cheng and speaking, “Many thanks, Brother Ning. Whether I am successful or not, I will forever remember Brother Ning’s kindness.”

“It’s nothing much. Brother Jing doesn’t have to mind it.....” Ning Cheng quickly replied in politeness. These few million Black Coins were just equivalent to a million Blue Coins, which really did not amount to much compared to his reserves. Besides, the Immortal Cave that Ning Cheng rented out required a million Blue Coins per year.

Jing Hao nodded and no longer remained polite. After he put away the Black Coin Card, he once again deployed another sound isolating restriction and spoke, "Brother Ning, since we are about to separate, there is one thing that I have to tell you. When I obtained the sliver of fire attributed Origin, there was also a Fire Origin Bead, and the trace of the fire attributed origin definitely originated from the bead. However, my cultivation at that time was too low, and I couldn't take away the Origin Bead....."

Ning Cheng suddenly felt his heart pounding. He was just thinking of ways to ask Jing Hao about the location from where he obtained the Fire Origin. He never expected that even before he asked, Jing Hao would actually take the initiative to talk about it. What surprised him, even more, was the confirmation about the Fire Origin Bead.

"When I gave her the trace of origin, she immediately decided to go into seclusion. I had initially thought that I would tell her about it once she came out. However, it looks like I do not have to share this information with her anymore. This jade strip contains a star map inside it, which is marked with the location where I found the Fire Origin Bead. I drew it in a very detailed manner; you can have it" Jing Hao spoke as he took out a jade strip and handed it to Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng subconsciously received the jade strip; however, thinking about how Jing Hao took the initiative to give it to him, he couldn't help but feel a bit ashamed as he spoke up, "This, Brother Jing, I am aware of what an Origin is, its value is something that cannot be measured. As for an Origin Bead, its value is simply inconceivable. Although I do have desires for such kind of things, but....."

"I've been working tirelessly all year round to make money, looking for various cultivation resources; however, I do not have anybody to call my friend. You are the only friend to me. You actually lent me a few million Black Coins the first time we met, despite knowing that I possibly might not be in a position to return it back. Giving this thing to you is just to satisfy my heart." Jing Hao spoke and then gave out a long sigh. He had initially wanted to obtain this Fire Origin Bead for Yulan; however, she had already abandoned him.

He was like a mortal who found a golden mountain and only scrapped a bit of golden sand off the golden mountain to bring it back to his lover just for his lover to kick him away after taking it from him. Wonder what she would have thought if she knew that, he still had the location of the golden mountain.

"Brother Jing, since you have this jade strip, no matter where you go, you can easily exchange this for tens of billions of Blue Coins." Ning Cheng spoke slowly.

Jing Hai laughed at himself before speaking, "Brother Ning, you too naive to think that. Did you actually think that I could exchange this jade strip for Blue Coins? If I took it out in the open, its equivalent to forfeiting my life. Besides, no one will give me tens of billions of Blue Coins just because I took out a jade strip. It would be much simpler for people to just take me to the place where I found the Fire Origin Bead and then kill me after obtaining it."

"Besides, this Fire Origin Bead is something that I found after facing many hardships. I will not give it up this easily to those bloodsuckers. Brother Ning, we both are from the Graceful Star Mainland, and I can see that you and I are somewhat similar in nature to each other. I anyway have a Metal attributed Spirit Root so I cannot use this thing even if I obtained it. Giving this thing to you is something out of my own willingness."

"In that case, this Ning Cheng offers his thanks to Brother Jing for the gift." Ning Cheng received the jade strip before standing up and giving a formal bow towards Jing Hao to show his sincere thankfulness. Origin Beads were really too important to him. Moreover, with his experience, he had a vague feeling that Jing Hao had not lied to him and spoke out his words in full sincerity.

Ning Cheng had a character that reciprocated ten times the respect that he received. Not to mention that the Origin Bead simply had no actual value attached to it in traditional denominations. To put things in perspective, even if the Ocean Gambling City emptied every scrap of its Blue Coin reserves, it still would not possess the capability to purchase something like a Fire Origin Bead.

He had not asked about it, yet Jing Hao took the initiative to provide him with the location of the Origin Bead. This fact alone resolved Ning Cheng's mind that even if Jing Hao could not win back the few million Black Coins, he would definitely use the Blue Coin reserves within his ring to help Jing Hao. It was a mutual payout anyway; Ning Cheng did not want the other party to think of him as someone who just took advantage of others without intending to pay them back.

Jing Hai laughed and tossed down the second pot. The sadness and melancholy from before completely disappearing from his face. It was as if the sad and melancholic person from before was someone else entirely. "Ning Cheng, you should go back and cultivate. Your cultivation is too low. At least wait until you reached the Celestial Gatherer Realm before heading out. I am going to the casino; regardless of success or failure, I have no other choice but to try once again. Regardless of whether you treat me as a friend or not, I already regard you as my friend."

"Brother Jing, let me accompany you to the casino." Ning Cheng also tossed the wine down his mouth and calmly spoke up while sitting at the table.

Jing Hao could not help but look at Ning Cheng in doubt before speaking up, "I thought of you as a person who hated gambling. So why do you want to come with me?"

"I definitely hate gambling; however, that doesn't mean that I hate Brother Jing. I don't have many friends, and since Brother Jing regards me as his friend, then this Ning Cheng only hopes that Brother Jing will continue to remain friends with me into the future."

He honestly did not have many friends, let alone those that he could consider as close friends. Except for Taishu Shi and Cang Wei, there were only a select few in his list of friends. Xun Hanrui and Liang Kexin also were his friends; however, they were women.

Ning Cheng already knew that a few people had set their targets over Jing Hao. Since he already decided to regard Jing Hao as his friend, he chose not to care about them at all. Paying for someone did not constitute as being friends, just icing over the cake, but lending a helping hand in the hour of need, is what formed a real friendship. Similarly, Ning Cheng also hoped that Jing Hao did not turn into a friend who was just icing on the cake, but a friend who could lend his hand to others in the time of need.

"Good, from now on there is no such person as Jing Hao. I will take up the name Jing Wuming (nameless) from now." Jing Hao did not believe that Ning Cheng had no awareness of the troubles coming his way in associating with him; yet, he still chooses to treat him like a friend despite knowing about the risks.

Previously, when the two of them entered the pub to drink together, although it might have had some lingering effect over Ning Cheng, it would not have been too big. As long as Ning Cheng could explain things out clearly, no one would willingly aim to cause trouble for some cultivator in the Plundering Life Realm. As long as the only reason between the meeting between Ning Cheng and him remained on the topic of borrowing money, it would have been fine.

However, now that Ning Cheng expressed his wish to accompany him to the casino, it created an entirely different meaning. This implied that the two of them advanced and retreated together. He never thought that he and Ning Cheng would have such similar thinking; Ning Cheng definitely was a friend worthy enough. If real friends met with adversity, they always shared the burden together, or at least put some effort in facing the challenges together.

Only at this moment did he discover the multitude of things had he missed during the time he poured all his energies into that woman. Friendship, such a warm feeling that seemed incredibly distant to him, was now something that he also currently possessed.

Ning Cheng also understood the meaning of Jing Hao's words. The reason why Jing Hao chose to change his name was to forget about his past completely, preferring to remain a nameless person from now on.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 488: Cheating

Ocean Gambling's Premier Casino definitely was worth its fame. In the Ocean Gambling City, none of the others casinos could compare to its grandeur. Ning Cheng finally found out the extent of this 'luxury' after passing through the door with Jing Hao.

After Ning Cheng came in, the first feeling was that of the liveliness inside, followed by the perfect order and organisation. Even though filled with many people gambling, the level of organisation in this place did not let the people feel disorganised in any manner.

The entire area of the casino had different regions, and as Ning Cheng's eyes swept around, he found that the rules of gambling within each region was different. The casino also had all kinds of tables in different areas, along with stairways leading to the second level, which had a few guards around it.

"Jing Hao, your courage truly knows no bounds, eh. I told you to fuck off out of my kindness, yet you even dared to come back again....." The brown-haired man who had previously stepped on Jing Wuming out in the streets quickly arrived and stood in front of Ning Cheng and Jing Wuming.

"Deacon Teng, can't I come back to pay the money?" Jing Wuming spoke back while calmly staring at the brown-haired man standing in front of him.

The brown-haired man looked Jing Wuming carefully from top to bottom a few times before shifting his gaze at Ning Cheng standing right behind him before showing a sneer and spoke, "I wondered how you came into some money so quickly. Looks like you caught an idiot."

When the brown-haired man finished his words, he then turned to Ning Cheng and spoke up, "Son, this father promises you that no one in the Ocean Gambling City will ever threaten you. You don't need to feel frightened to the point of actually giving out the pitiful amount of money you have to him."

The brown-haired man was a Celestial Novice Cultivator, and because Ning Cheng was not willing to invite more trouble, he chose not to answer his words.

Seeing Ning Cheng not providing an answer to his words, the brown-haired man snorted and did not continue to care about Ning Cheng. He initially had the intention that once Ning Cheng dared to refute him, he could then immediately teach Ning Cheng a lesson about proper hierarchy. However, since Ning Cheng did not reply, he also did not have a way to pick on them.

“First return the 10 million Black Coins, and then get out of this place.” The brown-haired man spoke to Jing Wuming in the same impolite tone.

Jing Wuming ignored the brown-haired man and went straight to the token collection point. After transferring 10 million Black Coins, he then exchanged 90 million Black Coins for nine chips.

Although the brown-haired man wanted to continue picking on Jing Wuming, he could not do so with his current cultivation. Moreover, now that Jing Wuming had paid off the money he owed to them, trying to instigate trouble for Jing Wuming would only direct more problems his way.

“Brother Jing, this brown-haired man seems to be specifically targeting you.” Ning Cheng sent out a sound transmission.

Jing Wuming also sent back a sound transmission, “I’ll tell you about this later, for now, let’s gamble.”

Before coming to this place, Ning Cheng had heard Jing Wuming describe a few gambling methods. From what he heard, these gambling methods were not gambling in the most real sense, but a specific way of betting. Moreover, there was a particular ‘method’ popular among the crowd to place one’s bets, and that was through ‘Gambling Formation’.

This kind of gambling was somewhat similar to Mah-jong, but at the same time, much more concise when compared to Mah-jong. There were altogether 108 cards, and each card had a certain quantity of Spirit Qi attached to it. These cards were also called as ‘flags’ since one could use them as Array Flags. When gambling, each person drew 12 cards and then used the ‘flags’ at hand to arrange an array formation.

Because the 12 Array Flags contained 12 different quantities of Spirit Qi, those flags can potentially form many different array formations depending on the various permutations and combinations. These Spirit Qi Cards had different Spirit Qi values attached to them, randomly divided between 1-line Spirit Qi Flag and all the way up to 99-line Spirit Qi Flag. After every shuffle of these 108 cards, the lines of Spirit Qi would change at random.

Even if four people used their Array Flag Cards to arrange the same array formation, because the Spirit Qi used in each position of the array formation was different, the final array formation would have disparities. Moreover, having a higher value of Spirit Qi on the flag did not mean a more powerful configuration, especially since the Spirit Qi required at different positions were utterly different.

The final winner, of course, was the one who arranged the most potent array formation.

However, the most attractive part of this kind of gambling was definitely not the arrangement part, but the section relating to the exchange of the flags. After the four people drew their twelve cards, they usually hold off on immediately using them to arrange their array formation. Instead, they put down a

card that they did not feel much use for and then continued until they got rid of all the less-needed cards.

If the others also felt that the flag put down also had no use to them, they would generally not pay attention to it. However, if someone thought that the flag put down had some use, they will immediately exchange it with one they did not need.

If the flags put down turned out exactly what someone else needed to arrange their array formation, then that person could immediately open up their own array formation after the exchange. As long as there were no array formations more potent than the one already arranged, that array formation would immediately take the winning spot.

This kind of gambling method did not depend on the level of the array formation arranged; that is because these array formations were all so low-levelled, that they had no 'level' attached to it. This kind of gambling involved reacting to the immediate conditions and then manipulating them to create the best array formation out of the cards at hand. As for the strength of the array formation set up, the table gave out the final score.

Just like diving, there was a difficulty factor involved along with trade-offs with quality; however, that was what gambling was all about.

Jing Wuming quickly found a spot, and Ning Cheng sat next to Jing Wuming. This place utterly forbade the use of Spiritual Consciousness and looked the same on the surface as what Jing Wuming described. Theoretically, cheating was something impossible in such conditions. However, Ning Cheng did not have that naive way of thinking; as long as it was a casino, fairness would never exist in it.

After a few rounds, Ning Cheng got an ever-clearer understanding of the rules of gambling in this place. At the same time, out of Jing Wuming's nine chips, only four chips were remaining. Up until now, Jing Wuming had just won a single game and had won a small sum for himself. However, the only reason he succeeded at that time was that the array formation he set up was just barely stronger than the other three.

Although Jing Wuming looked calm, Ning Cheng, however, felt the deep anxiety and uneasiness in his heart.

Once again drawing out 12 cards, Ning Cheng could see that Jing Wuming drew a very promising set of flags. As long as there was a 9-line flag, he could grasp the chance to arrange a perfect Covering Moon Array. Even if he could not obtain a flag of similar value, Jing Wuming definitely had a higher chance to win this round.

Jing Wuming obviously had no intentions of winning small, so he kept waiting for a chance. Ning Cheng also understood Jing Wuming's mood. A perfect array formation was always a rarity in this kind of gambling. Do not look at the tens of millions of Black Coins that changes hands with every win or loss. Once one managed to set up a perfect array formation, it meant an influx of up to 2 billion Black Coins every time. Something similar to 'one shot hand' in general.

Jing Wuming did not have to wait in vain; when the opposite cultivator put down the 9-line flag on the sixth round, Jing Wuming grabbed the card and pushed it into his own array formation. Then, with a clap and smile, he spoke up, "Perfect Covering Moon Array, cough out 800 million Black Coins per person....."

“What card did you just take?” Contrary to what Jing Wuming expected, the three people opposed to him did not show as much annoyance as he expected, nor did they indicate any intention to cough up the Black Coins. Instead, all of them were staring at Jing Wuming.

“The 9-line Spirit Qi Card, the one you just put down.” Jing Wuming removed the 9-line card from the Covering Moon Array to show.

The cultivator suddenly gave a laugh and spoke up loudly, “The one I put down was clearly a 12-line card. This 9-line card was something that I put down in the beginning; did you really want to take a swing at it? Deacon Teng, some people here have intentions to cheat.....”

In fact, without even waiting for this cultivator to call out, the brown-haired man immediately shot over with a sneer over his face.

Jing Wuming’s heart sank; he knew the game was up. Once caught as a cheater, the only path left was that of death and not of life. More importantly, he unintentionally pulled Ning Cheng into his own troubles. In casinos of such kind, once proven as a cheater, chopped to pieces would actually be the best-case scenario.

At this time, how could he not know that these three people were all playing along with that Deacon Teng? In this situation, he did not even think of refuting. If the other party allowed him to argue, they would not have set him up in such a manner. He suddenly stood up, “Ning Cheng just came to look at the cards. This has nothing to do with him, let him go out.”

Seeing Jing Wuming wanting to continue speaking, Ning Cheng pulled down Jing Wuming and spoke, “Don’t speak anymore. Let me speak.”

“Haha, Jing Hao, you truly are a death-seeking moron. Not only do you keep looking for death, you actually tried to feign a sleight of hand in front of us. I will definitely make it that you can’t even beg for death even if you want to.....” The brown-haired man laughed while feeling proud of himself. He even forgot that this place was a casino.

As many eyes swept over, the brown-haired man quickly converged his smile and held up his cupped fists and spoke, “Everybody, you don’t have to mind me. I was just a bit louder a moment ago. Please forgive me for any disturbance.”

“My friend doesn’t want the money he won a moment ago. We’ll be leaving now.” Ning Cheng on seeing that the brown-haired man wanted to continue speaking immediately stepped to the front and spoke out.

“Leave? Looks like you still like to daydream.....”

The brown-haired man had not yet finished when Ning Cheng took out a crystal ball and tossed it into the outstretched palm of the brown-haired man with the words, “I only have one of these crystal balls with me. Do you think we can leave now?”

The brown-haired man grabbed the crystal ball and immediately saw the situation at the table from a few moments ago with even better clarity. Where had Jing Hao showed sleight of hand? This was genuinely a win.

“Kid, you ...” The brown-haired man crushed the crystal ball in his hand while staring at Ning Cheng. A cultivator in the Plundering Life Realm, and even a fresh face to the casino. Yet, such a person showed such shrewdness, to go so far as to record the scene with the crystal ball beforehand.

He certainly did not believe that Ning Cheng only had just one; however, he also understood what Ning Cheng wanted to convey with his words. That is, let them go now, and they can just forget about this incident. If he did not allow them to leave, the crystal ball was not the only one.

Of course, a casino would always have detailed surveillance videos; however, because he wanted to cause trouble for Jing Hao, he had arbitrarily spoken up without verifying. Now that Jing Hao’s side had actually displayed a recording of the scene in the crystal balls, he just could not do anything to them now. If he dared to tear off his face, then that kid in the Plundering Life Realm would immediately take out another crystal ball, which instantly would ruin the casino’s reputation.

“Kid, you sure like to scheme. Fuck off. If I hear even a single thing about this, you then better wait for me.” The brown-haired man spoke out a hate-filled sentence at Ning Cheng.

“Leave.” Ning Cheng also pulled away Jing Wuming and quickly left the casino.

Only after they went significantly far away from the casino did Jing Wuming give out a sigh and speak, “Brother Ning, it’s all thanks to you this time, I was too....”

Ning Cheng took out another crystal ball and let him glance at it; of course, he immediately realised why the brown-haired man allowed them to leave unscathed. No wonder Ning Cheng could come to the Lesser Thunder Star with just the cultivation of Plundering Life Realm and remain safe. Compared to Ning Cheng, he still found himself lacking in many regards.

He also gained clarity as to why Ning Cheng chose that particular time to walk away from that place. If they ended up creating too big of a scene, just by their strength, only death awaited them at the end.

“Brother Ning, I’m ready to accept my fate. If you can come back to the Ocean Gambling City in the future and find me alive... Oh, forget it.” Jing Wuming did not finish his words before giving out a deep sigh.

Ning Cheng gently pats Jing Wuming’s shoulder and spoke, “Brother Jing, don’t worry about it. I will definitely help you. As for the brown-haired man, if he thinks that I will leave this matter as is, then he truly is blind.”

What the brown-haired cultivator had never imagined was that Ning Cheng had even recorded the video of him threatening Ning Cheng. However, for Ning Cheng, he did not have the necessary strength to teach this brown-haired man a lesson. However, as long as he continued cultivating, one day he definitely would come back to regain what he lost.

Swallowing a loss was not something within his character.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 489: Starry Sky Powerhouse

“Where do you live, Brother Jing?” Ning Cheng asked while putting a relatively large quantity of Blue Essence Ores into an empty ring.

Jing Wuming spoke up with a disconsolate voice, "Where would I have a place to live? I just stay wherever I end up in the Ocean Gambling City for the day, slowly waiting for the day I turn into a slave."

"You don't need to worry about this anymore. There are some Blue Essence Ores inside this storage ring. As long as what you owe doesn't exceed one billion Blue Coins, the Blue Essence Ores inside should be enough to cover it." Ning Cheng spoke while handing the storage ring in his hands to Jing Wuming.

Jing Wuming awkwardly took the storage ring. After a few breaths, he could not help but speak out in surprise, "Brother Ning, you mean I can pay off my debts with this?"

Not waiting for Ning Cheng to answer, his Spiritual Consciousness swept inside and discovered the Blue Essence Ores, before finally shouting in surprise, "Live, I finally can live again....."

Seeing Jing Wuming sobering up and showing intentions to thank him, Ning Cheng raised up his hand to stop him and spoke, "Brother Jing, you don't have to speak any unnecessary words. Just go and pay off your debts. There is also a jade strip inside the ring, which has my address. Once you pay off your debt, you can come to my place to go into seclusion. My strength is still too low, I must head back and cultivate in seclusion. As for a way to recover our things from this place, I will talk about it later."

Jing Wuming nodded and did not speak anymore. For a Celestial Novice Cultivator, one billion Blue Coins really was not a significant amount. However, for him, it was a matter of preserving his little life.

Regardless of the preciousness of the Fire Origin Bead, he only had to provide its location and did not actually have to come up with the Fire Origin Bead. Ning Cheng, a Plundering Life Cultivator, coming up with so much Blue Essence Ores at once, it not only provided him with the much-needed help, it also made him determined to help Ning Cheng out as much as possible. Making such a friend must be the luck he accumulated over his entire life.

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Inside a room within the Ocean Gambling's Premier Casino, the brown-haired male cultivator, who had initially tried to cause trouble for Ning Cheng and Jing Wuming, stood with his head down in front of a beautiful woman.

"You said that Jing Hao paid off his entire debt, something that is due in just a few months. He doesn't need to be a slave anymore?" The beautiful woman spoke out in an icy tone, which even contained a trace of killing intent.

"Yes. Jing Hao took out a heap of Blue Essence Ores and used that to pay off his debt. It must have come from that kid named Ning Cheng. For a Plundering Life Realm ant to come up with so much Blue Essence Ore, this kid definitely is not simple. Moreover, that kid also has a scheming mind. Otherwise, I definitely had enough reason to kill Jing Hao at that time." The brown-haired male cultivator replied in his most respectful tone.

"Forget it. Celestial River King Shang Mou should have already forgotten about this little thing. Chalk it up to that Jing Hao's luck. Right, where is that Ning Cheng living? Why did he help Jing Hao?" The beautiful woman asked again.

The brown-haired male cultivator had apparently dug out the information of Ning Cheng's residence; therefore, he quickly replied to the question asked by the beautiful woman. "It was a Celestial Shatterer

Cultivator who brought that Plundering Life Realm ant to this place. He is currently staying in an Immortal Cave within the Tyre District. Jing Hao has also started living in that Immortal Cave, which Ning Cheng had rented and has also changed his name to Jing Wuming.”

The beautiful woman showed a frown and spoke up after a little while, “We cannot intervene when it comes to Immortal Caves in the Tyre District. However, keep a close eye on them. They will have to leave the Ocean Gambling City eventually. Although casinos can stretch the gambling laws within their domains, extending our influence outside would not prove advantageous to us. Let us leave it like that. You can go out now.”

“Yes.” After the brown-haired man heard those words, he quickly stepped back, gave a bow and exited the room.

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“Brother Xiaocheng, I never felt this relaxed, especially now that my debts are paid off. I estimate that as long as I go into seclusion for a few years, I would have no problems in breaking through the Celestial Novice Realm and advancing to the Celestial Shatterer Realm.” Inside Ning Cheng’s Immortal Cave, Jing Wuming sported a face filled with joy and no longer looked dispirited like before.

Even Ning Cheng could feel a massive change in Jing Wuming’s vitality and soul. No wonder he heard people say that a person’s vigour and soul had a close relationship with their cultivation.

“Brother Jing....”

“Xiaocheng, just call me Wuming from now on. Since we are brothers, such politeness only makes one feel unfamiliar.” Jing Wuming immediately raised his hand and stopped Ning Cheng from continuing.

The fact was that Jing Wuming’s qualifications were much better than Ning Cheng’s was. Now that he had gotten rid of the shackles in his heart, he no longer had any stray thoughts. For Jing Wuming, he definitely could advance quickly if he wanted. In the future, even if the distance between Ning Cheng and he grew larger and larger, Jing Wuming sincerely did not wish to lose a friend like Ning Cheng. Lest Ning Cheng grew respectful towards him just because of the enhancement in cultivation.

As for the name ‘Ning Xiaocheng’, he had explicitly asked Ning Cheng about it, out of the brotherly feeling between them.

Ning Cheng did not care about the form of address anyway. Not to mention Jing Wuming being a Celestial Novice Cultivator, even if Jing Wuming turned into a Celestial River King in the future, his name would remain Jing Wuming for Ning Cheng, without any constraint of what Jing Wuming over-thought.

“Ok. I do not quite understand the cultivation system within the starry sky. Can you explain it to me?” Ning Cheng had intended to ask this question to Lan Ya. However, he and Lan Ya were only helping each other out of necessity, and the relationship between them had not reached to the point where they could ask each other about their cultivation methods or even exchange some cultivation experiences.

“Naturally. I would have told you even if you had not asked. You are currently within the Plundering Life Realm, after which comes the Domain Realm if you surmount its tribulation. Cultivating to the Domain Realm marks the start of obtaining a powerful ability. However, after you advance to the Domain Realm,

I suggest you head to the Arenas within the Ocean Gambling City. It will help you learn many things that you will never understand through explanations or writings.”

“The strength of a cultivator is not just reliant on his or her cultivation, but also on his or her use of abilities. You can find all sorts of cultivators within the arenas, which gives you access to experience all kinds of abilities. Those experiences are something that will allow you to proliferate, unlike the slow progress you might achieve in seclusion. I would have gone there if I could, but because of my initial dispiritedness, I did not dare to go to such places.”

Jing Wuming’s statements were the complete opposite of Lan Ya’s comments. Lan Ya reminded him repeatedly to not go to the arenas, not go to the brothels and definitely not go to the casinos. However, the first place that he and Jing Wuming went was the casino. Now, Jing Wuming had even advised him to go to the arena.

However, Ning Cheng did not think that what Jing Wuming said was wrong; at the same time, he also did not believe that Lan Ya’s gave him unfounded advice. Lan Ya knew that he was just too weak to participate in arena matches and would only face death. However, Jing Wuming had to fight his way through many life-and-death struggles to reach this part of the starry skies from the Graceful Star Mainland. If one did not face many life and death challenges, one could never transcend life and death.

Thinking to this point, Ning Cheng suddenly felt as if he gained some insights into the thoughts of Shi Yulan. Shi Yulan and Jing Wuming had to face many life and death sufferings along their journey to this place. She, most likely, either felt scared or felt tired of living life always on the edge of death and suffering.

Even if Jing Wuming did a lot for her, this kind of life, maybe, was not something that she wanted. Perhaps she just wanted some sort of stability in her life. However, coming to the starry sky, how could one expect to lead a stable life?

Jing Wuming had no clue about Ning Cheng’s thought process and continued in a dignified manner, “Xiaocheng, if you went to the arena with your present condition, you will, without a doubt, die. However, I would still recommend you to go there. Otherwise, once you leave the Ocean Gambling City in the future, you won’t even know how you might end up dead if you encounter any kind of danger.”

Speaking until here, Jing Wuming stood up and gave out a sigh, “Since we have already chosen this path of cultivation, there is simply no way to go back. When I had not paid off my debts, I did not feel like even mentioning the name ‘Shi Yulan’. However, now that I look back, maybe she just felt tired of having to go through those kinds of precarious days she spent with me. Perhaps she didn’t want to be a drag on me....”

Seeing Jing Wuming speak about Shi Yulan again with a somewhat dejected tone, Ning Cheng walked over to Jing Wuming’s side and pats his shoulder before speaking, “Aren’t there plenty more fish in the sea? Why would a man suffer, if not for a wife?”

“Haha, that’s not bad.” Jing Wuming laughed and did not continue speaking about things relating to Shi Yulan. “Although I asked you to go to the arena, there is also another benefit to it. That is, it could actually help perfect your ‘Domain’. It would bring you great benefits when you attempt to surpass the

Nirvana Tribulation. After surpassing the Nirvana Tribulation comes the Celestial Scryer's three realms, also called as the three realms of Nirvana."

"The first of three realms is the Celestial Novice Realm; that is, someone who has just begun to understand a part of the laws within the starry sky. They cultivate by absorbing the starry skies' Essence Qi and is my current realm. With your Plundering Life Realm cultivation, you will not gain any understanding of the laws within the starry skies; moreover, you can only absorb Spirit Qi."

Jing Wuming clearly had no idea that Ning Cheng could actually absorb the starry skies' Essence Qi to aid in cultivation and Ning Cheng also choose not to explain it. It is not that Ning Cheng did not know how to tell it; he just did not want to describe it.

"After Celestial Novice, comes the Celestial Shatterer. Celestial Shatterer implies that just by relying on one's own ability, one can destroy a common planet. Of course, I am talking about a relatively weak planet, a planet even weaker than our Graceful Star Mainland. Generally, as a rule, small planets without any life are considered as low-levelled planets."

Jing Wuming thought that Ning Cheng might not understand such concepts and began explaining things in an even detailed manner. "After Celestial Shatterer comes the Celestial Gatherer. However, reaching the Celestial Gatherer Realm is innumerable times harder compared to reaching the Celestial Shatterer Realm. A Celestial Gatherer can rely on his or her own powerful cultivation to pull together debris or something else and use it to coalesce a small planet. According to the ability of each individual, the coalesced planet can be strong or weak. However, no matter how formidable a Celestial Gatherer Cultivator is, they cannot coalesce a planet with life."

Ning Cheng felt very much interested in planet coalescing as he spoke out, "Wuming, whether in the Celestial River's three realms or the Destiny's three realms, is it possible to coalesce a planet of life?"

Jing Wuming shook his head, "Not possible. Even the Starry Sky Emperor cannot coalesce a planet of life."

"Starry Sky Emperor? Do they have even powerful cultivation compared to Celestial River Kings?" Ning Cheng had only heard about Celestial River Kings as the most formidable powers within the path of cultivation. Starry Sky Emperor was a term that he heard for the first time.

Jing Wuming nodded and replied, "That is correct. However, whether the Starry Sky Emperor, the Celestial River Kings, or the Celestial Lords, they are not cultivation realms, rather a certain status people earn because of their cultivation. As for Destiny's three realms, they are the Heaven Seated Realm, the Life and Death Realm and the Eternal Realm. As long as one cultivated to the Heaven Seated Realm, one can become a Celestial River King. As for becoming a Starry Sky Emperor, they are existences at least at the Eternal Realm. They control an entire starry sky, can cause a collapse of a Celestial River with a casual wave of their hand and can cause stars to flow backwards. Each one of them is extremely mighty and are terrifying existences."

"So many powerhouses....." Ning Cheng gave out a sigh. At the same time, he also came to understand that a Celestial River was equivalent to a small sized galaxy.

[TL Note: Size comparisons: Planets/Mainlands < Stars/Celestials < Celestial Systems (Star clusters within a galaxy) < Celestial Rivers (small sized galaxy) < Starry Skies (Galaxy clusters)]

As Jing Wuming spoke until here, his tone once again showed signs of turning disconsolate. "In the vast universe, I don't know how many stars exist. Even if I cultivated all the way to the top and became a Starry Sky Emperor, within this vast universe, what could it amount to?"

"Haha, Wuming, the most essential thing for a human is fighting spirit. If a person did not possess even a shred of fighting spirit, wishing for things will only bring pain and sadness. Who can affirm that we might not end up as Starry Sky Emperors in the future? Can we not break through heavens in the future?" Ning Cheng did not feel frustrated because of too many powerhouses within the starry sky; instead, he longed for surmounting the highest peak within the heavens.

Jing Wuming shook his head and laughed before speaking, "That's right. Who can affirm if we brothers cannot surpass the limits of the Starry Sky Emperors in the future?"

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 490: Celestial Novice

"That's right." Ning Cheng laughed; in any event, Jing Wuming had already walked out from the decadence of losing Shi Yulan anyway.

Jing Wuming understood Ning Cheng's intent and spoke up, "Since your Immortal Cave is rented for 10 years, I will leave the Ocean Gambling City after the time is up at the latest. You can come along with me if you want. This place, anyway, is not somewhere you want to live in."

Ning Cheng nodded, "Of course, I will tag along with you. I do not want to live this place any more than you do. However, I am not very familiar with the Lesser Thunder Star, where do you want to go?"

Jing Wuming spoke up cautiously, "If there is no accident, I will definitely advance to the Celestial Shatterer Realm within these ten years. I had initially signed myself up for the Man Lun Starry Skies' try-outs held within the Orchid Borough Celestial River. If selected, I might get to leave the Lesser Thunder Star."

"What are these Starry Skies' Try-outs?" Ning Cheng quickly asked.

"These are try-outs for the Celestial Scryer Realm. The participants must be cultivators who have not yet formed their Celestial Bridge. Therefore, only Celestial Novice, Celestial Shatterer and Celestial Gatherer Cultivators can take part in these try-outs. These try-outs are not organised by the Orchid Borough Celestial River, but by the Man Lun Starry Skies. Although Orchid Borough Celestial River is just an inconspicuous Celestial River within the Man Lun Starry Skies, it attaches huge importance to this event. If a true genius can emerge from within the Orchid Borough Celestial River, Man Lun Starry Skies would also reward Orchid Borough Celestial River amply..."

"Wait." Ning Cheng interrupted Jing Wuming and spoke, "Wuming, do you mean that this selection starts from each planet, then goes all the way up to Celestial River and finally to the Man Lun Starry Skies?"

"Yes, I heard that even the try-outs at the Starry Skies level are not the end. Only the best of the Nirvana Cultivators can enter the vast universe on behalf of the Starry Skies they represent to participate in the final competition. As to what is the ultimate prize at the end, I do not know. However, as long as one could enter the Man Lun Starry Skies, or even enter the core of Orchid Borough Celestial River, the

rewards one could obtain are simply beyond imagination. I don't have any high hopes, to be honest; as long as I could leave the Orchid Borough Celestial River, I would feel satisfied."

However, as Jing Wuming spoke until here, his tone also heated up, betraying his expectations of hoping to achieve better results.

"Unfortunately, your cultivation is too low. Otherwise, we could have participated together. It would have been much more thrilling." As Jing Wuming thought of Ning Cheng's cultivation, he could only give out a sigh.

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Jing Wuming wanted to advance to the Celestial Shatterer Realm as soon as possible. At the same time, Ning Cheng also wanted to improve his cultivation as fast as possible. As such, the two of them quickly made their preparations to go into secluded cultivation.

Although within the Plundering Life Realm, Ning Cheng's cultivation had not slowed down by even half a point. Within the Lesser Thunder Star, he suffered no bottlenecks for cultivation. Besides, he could also absorb the Starry Skies' Essence Qi. Not only could he incorporate it, but Ning Cheng could even transmute it for his own use.

It was all possible because of the Mysterious Yellow Formless, whose power relied on the Mysterious Yellow Origin; at the same time, the Mysterious Yellow Bead was the birthplace of the Mysterious Yellow Origin.

For Ning Cheng, the present conditions of cultivation in this place were excellent. Therefore, after two years of continuously cultivating within seclusion, Ning Cheng had finally reached the grand-completion of the ninth level of Plundering Life Realm.

After Ning Cheng came out, the first thing he did was to look for Jing Wuming. He wanted to know if Jing Wuming came out or not. If Jing Wuming had not left, he would then quietly exit the Lesser Thunder Star to find a place to surmount the incoming tribulation.

According to Jing Wuming, it would take him at least a few years to advance to the Celestial Shatterer Realm. However, Ning Cheng did not see Jing Wuming anywhere and only found a jade strip in his place.

"Brother Xiaocheng, I went out. I had originally thought that it would take me six to seven years to advance to the Celestial Shatterer Realm, as I did not expect my savings to be enough to get me through it. However, because of my mood experiencing a breakthrough, I unexpectedly broke through in just a little more than a year. Since you are still in seclusion, I decided to head to the Thunder Enforcement City after coming out. I hope that you can cultivate well. If I do not come back in ten years, I will have someone bring you some Blue Coins to help you come to the Thunder Enforcement City. Wuming."

Ning Cheng put away the jade strip. Ning Cheng already knew that the Thunder Enforcement City was the principal city within the Lesser Thunder Star. It was the city where the Celestial Lord resided. Since Jing Wuming went to Thunder Enforcement City, it definitely was to participate in the Starry Skies' try-outs.

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Ning Cheng easily changed his aura and carefully left the Ocean Gambling City. He was just a minor character who had gone into seclusion a few years ago. As long as he did not appear too high profile, the people from the casino would not pay any particular attention to him individually.

After coming out of the Ocean Gambling City, Ning Cheng did not immediately look for a place to surmount the incoming tribulation. Instead, he brought out his own 5-Star Battle Disc and got ready to leave the Lesser Thunder Star and enter the Starry Skies.

The reason why Ning Cheng chose to surmount the incoming tribulation in the starry skies was so that he could immediately go looking for the Fire Origin Bead after overcoming the incoming trial. The Mysterious Yellow Bead needed such an object to make it more stable anyway.

As Ning Cheng controlled the most common and garbage-looking warship to leave the Lesser Thunder Star, no one deemed it necessary enough to notice it. In any case, a cultivator with such low cultivation, even if turned into a slave, would not bring in much money.

The 5-Star Battleship Sifting Orchid had a speed lot faster compared to standard flying weapons and devices. However, within the starry skies, only the word 'slow' could describe the speed of this airborne weapon.

After flying for almost two months, Ning Cheng finally came to a stop at a barren and broken comet and decided to use it for surmounting his incoming tribulation.

Theoretically, unless one broke through to become a Celestial Novice Cultivator, one could not absorb the starry skies' Essence Qi. However, as long as one could consume even a sliver of it, it would bring about an effect stronger than that of a Rank 9 Heavenly Pill from the True Cultivation Civilisations.

Cultivating for about half a day, Ning Cheng finally incited the Thunder Tribulation for the Domain Realm.

Standing under the continuously descending lightning arcs, Ning Cheng felt it lacking something. Ning Cheng knew that not many cultivators could block the descending tribulation in such a manner. However, to Ning Cheng, this level of Thunder Tribulation felt too weak.

After the several waves of Thunder Tribulation ended, the Mysterious Yellow Origin within his body suddenly became active, and gently loosened up the shackles and helped Ning Cheng break through the obstacles of the Plundering Life Realm and enter a new realm.

As brand new feelings and various emotions poured into his heart, Ning Cheng instantly forgot about the matters relating to the Thunder Tribulation.

At this moment, he felt as if he had become the master of the universe, and felt as if he could grasp anything and everything within the palm of his hands. It felt as if the entire starry skies had become his plaything, and felt as if he could arbitrarily change anything within the space.

No, this feeling is not correct. At the same moment that Ning Cheng perceived something wrong, he also gained a much clearer understanding of something else through the Mysterious Yellow Origin. In other words, with the help of the Mysterious Yellow Origin, he got a more thorough understanding of his own Domain.

This is Domain, this was his Domain; Ning Cheng finally came to an understanding.

His Domain was different from that of Lan Yan and Jing Wuming. According to what Ning Cheng heard, the Domain Realm was where one would focus on forming a Domain. He was a cultivator who had just entered the Domain Realm; as such, his Domain definitely had not reached grand completion. Only when a cultivator's Domain reached grand-completion would they be qualified to attempt the Nirvana Tribulation before advancing to a true starry skies' level powerhouse, the Celestial Novice Realm.

However, at this moment, he felt that his Domain was gradually perfecting itself. He could even control the scope of his Domain and could use his Domain to bind anything and everything around him arbitrarily.

This was not the process someone would experience, and build upon, allowing his or her Domain to reach grand completion; instead, it felt as if his Domain had already started at grand-completion and was further perfecting itself.

What was going here? Ning Cheng closed his eyes and immersed his mind into his Domain. As Ning Cheng felt his own domain, everything around him turned silent. Only an occasional meteorite whistled past over his head.

"Boom... Katcha....." A lightning arc descended without even a warning, breaking Ning Cheng's silence.

Still unprepared, two more thick lightning arcs descended and stuck straight at Ning Cheng's chest. These two lightning arcs almost tore apart Ning Cheng from the inside out. Even his bones deformed from the power. The flesh over his chest ripped out and sprayed the surroundings with blood. This terrible change immediately cased Ning Cheng to sober up.

What is going on? Had he not just gotten through the Domain Realm's Thunder Tribulation? How could such a terrifying lightning arc descend?

"Boom-Boom-Boom....." Not waiting for Ning Cheng to understand, another dozen similarly thick lightning arcs started to descend. Although these lightning arcs had not yet struck Ning Cheng's body, the horrifying power contained within it caused Ning Cheng to feel fear involuntarily.

This Thunder Tribulation definitely wanted his life; at the same time, none of Ning Cheng's past Thunder Tribulations could compare to the one he currently faced.

Ning Cheng no longer thought about the issue with his Domain and quickly brought out his Everlasting Blue Thunder City.

"Bang-Bang-Bang....." Since the moment he stepped into the Soul Essence Realm, Ning Cheng had never experienced a state similar to what he currently faced. The Everlasting Blue Thunder City had just come out when the descending lightning arcs shattered it apart. The superfluous lightning arcs then continued their trajectory downwards towards him. A large portion of flesh and blood blew out under the explosive impact of the lightning arcs. The bones no longer remained deformed, and were breaking apart an inch at a time, even his internal organs suffered massive damage.

Ning Cheng, at this moment, honestly felt the fear of death. Could he even survive today?

36 Cosmic True Devil Axes, Flame Deacon Diagram, Nirvana Spear, the shadow of the Everlasting Blue Thunder City, Ning Cheng brought out everything he had one after another....

“Ka-Ka-Ka-Ka.....” The True Devil Axes blew apart one after another, the Flame Beacon Diagram turned to ash under the descending lightning arcs, and even the Nirvana Spear shot into the depths of the comet due to the impact. As for the shadow of the Everlasting Blue Thunder City, it once again blew to smithereens.

The incredibly powerful lightning arcs forced Ning Cheng into the ground, while Ning Cheng could not even breathe properly. What was going on?

The next wave of thunder tribulation was already brewing within the endless starry sky. Ning Cheng did not have to think about the outcome, if he waited for the next wave of thunder tribulation to descend then, it would only mean death for him.

He had a Thunder Spirit Root that could absorb Thunder Source to help in his cultivation; he also possessed the Everlasting Blue Thunder City, an object that could similarly consume the Thunder Source. However, this descending Thunder Tribulation was too terrifying, too powerful; he just could not fight against it at all.

No, this was not the Domain Realm’s Thunder Tribulation; it should be the Nirvana Tribulation.

Ning Cheng suddenly came to an understanding. He had just advanced to the Domain Realm; however, his Domain had already reached grand completion. Because of the laws in this place, he had involuntarily instigated the Nirvana Tribulation.

After understanding this reason, Ning Cheng’s fighting spirit once again soared to great heights. The reason Ning Cheng felt afraid before was due to a lack of logic behind the descending tribulation, now that he realised that this was the Nirvana Tribulation, how could he remain fearful of it?

Moreover, he was also a Body Forging Cultivator; therefore, at this moment, Ning Cheng crazily started operating the Mysterious Yellow Formless and the Body Forging Cultivation Method at the same time.

What caused Ning Cheng to feel pleasantly surprised was that after he involuntarily gained mastery over his Domain, his cultivation began climbing upwards rapidly, and his broken body began to heal at a rate visible to the naked eye.

“Boom-Boom-Boom....” Dense and thick lightning arcs rained down. At the same time, Ning Cheng also no longer showed his previous hesitation. To die with one’s head held high, without a shred of fear. Nirvana meant re-birth, how else could one find Nirvana if one did not face death? Ning Cheng did not know if the others also met a similar Nirvana Tribulation as him; however, he could only think in that direction.

Although his corporeal body showed severe signs of continually breaking down, even resulting in a fragmented body; however, after Ning Cheng realised that this was a Nirvana Tribulation, he knew that his cultivation had improved by a lot in a short period. Bringing out the shadow of Everlasting Blue Thunder City and forcibly pulling out the Nirvana Spear, Ning Cheng used the two of them to block the descending lightning arcs.

“Ka-Ka-Ka-Cha.....” The shadow of the Everlasting Blue Thunder City blew open, and the Nirvana Spear blasted into the depths of the broken comet once again.

The excess lightning arcs continued to descend onto Ning Cheng’s body causing the powerful Thunder Source and the starry skies’ Essence Qi to start aggregating. Although Ning Cheng’s vitality plummeted, his cultivation climbed up wildly. Even the Mysterious Yellow Origin went all out and overflowed into Ning Cheng’s body as if it sensed the peril its master faced.

“Boom.....” A convoluted and the most profound sense of breaking through all shackles caused Ning Cheng to turn slightly sluggish. At this moment, he felt as if his Sea of Consciousness had suddenly transformed into a starry sky. This kind of powerful feeling caused Ning Cheng to feel ecstatic. He knew that this most likely signified the entrance into the Celestial Novice Realm.