

The Gate 741

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Chapter 741: Measureless Gourd

Currently, there were only four people qualified to stop Chuan Xinlou, Zhangkang Tianji, Qiao Jierui, Yi Jiufeng and Ning Cheng. The first three had already laid claim to their golden chests, and neither one had torn away enough face with Chuan Xinlou to publicly offend him. Therefore, they most likely would not come forward to stop Chuan Xinlou.

Ning Cheng had also obtained a golden chest, but he was the only cultivator here who had torn away every shred of decorum with Chuan Xinlou. Therefore, if someone had to step up to stop Chuan Xinlou, then the only option was Ning Cheng. But since Ning Cheng did not come forward, Chuan Xinlou obtained the Dao Fruit without any accident.

Chuan Xinlou felt immensely relieved as he put away the Dao Fruit. Worry about Ning Cheng stepping up to stop him had consumed almost his entire mind. Just like how Ning Cheng might have felt jealous of him, he also felt jealous of Ning Cheng. Therefore, when Ning Cheng didn't stand up to stop him, he naturally felt relief.

With four out of the five golden chests now open, everyone immediately shifted their focus to Ning Cheng's golden chest.

Ning Cheng understood that he would never get the chance to open this golden chest alone and that he had no choice but to open it in this place. Besides, since the first four boxes contained top-ranked treasures, it also made Ning Cheng look forward to seeing the contents of his chest.

Opening the chest, he found only a three-inch-tall black gourd inside. The gourd looked ordinary, so ordinary that one's spiritual consciousness could quickly scan through it in just a passing sweep. It did not contain any Dao Charm, did not provide even the remotest hint of an aura, and looked like a regular everyday gourd.

"What is it?" This time, even Yi Jiufeng couldn't recognise the gourd in Ning Cheng's chest.

Ning Cheng reached out and picked up the gourd. It felt quite cold to the touch, but even after his spiritual consciousness scanned the gourd repeatedly, he couldn't find anything unique about it. Turning the gourd upside down, he saw two words etched into the bottom 'Gourd, Measureless'.

"I think I can make use of this gourd. If Sect Master Ning doesn't want it, why not give it to me," Yi Jiufeng could clearly see Ning Cheng's disappointment and spoke with a wide smile.

Ning Cheng put away the gourd and gave a quick reply, "Since Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix shows such interest in this gourd, I might consider exchanging it for that talisman along with a branch from the Wind Thunder Apricot Tree."

Yi Jiufeng smiled, but before she could reply, the crowd immediately heard a creaking sound coming from the middle of the great hall.

The ground beneath the people standing in their respective corners immediately started rising up. At the same time, the original pentagonal-shaped hall also started to spread outwards, and a dark public

square appeared at the centre, deep below everyone's feet. Standing at the hall's five corners and looking down, everyone felt as if they were looking at the ground while standing at the top of a high-rise building.

The public square looked dark under the dim lighting conditions, but the cold aura that rushed up gave people a very uncomfortable feeling. Moreover, from the pentagon-shaped hall to the public square below, they could not see any stairs or ladders. They also could not make out any place or protrusion along the smooth walls to take advantage of; except for directly jumping in, there seemed to be no other way.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness scanned this dark public square repeatedly and found it akin to a deep well. Moreover, it severely restricted one's spiritual consciousness. Even with his Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness, Ning Cheng felt powerful shackles limiting the range of his spiritual consciousness. However, it wasn't much of a problem for him. Whether he used the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds or jumped straight down, it wouldn't injure him.

"I'm going down to check it out." After Zhangkang Tianji finished, he jumped down without hesitation.

Zhangkang Tianji landed closer to the centre of the public square under the great hall and made quite the loud noise. Although he did not use any flying techniques, it looked as if Zhangkang Tianji had only jumped from the height of several dozen floors, and didn't suffer any visible injuries.

Therefore, after Zhangkang Tianji jumped in, the others followed suit. In fact, for such presumed height, even if they couldn't use celestial essence or spiritual consciousness, it wouldn't cause any damage to these Eternal experts.

However, Ning Cheng knew it very well that it definitely was not a problem of just a few dozen floors. In fact, he found this place similar to the dry well he encountered in Time Wilderness, but only realised it after jumping down the pit. He found that the hole didn't actually have a depth of around a dozen floors as it looked from above; moreover, it also contained a strong suction force.

"Kacha, katcha....." With everyone jumping down at the same time, the legs of five or six people immediately broke one after another the moment they landed.

Tang Yitang, Yang Yu and Shi Jinyu's cultivation did not match up to a majority of the people here, so the fall broke almost all their leg bones. But for cultivators in the Eternal Realm, leg fractures practically had no effect at all. They could make a full recovery in less than a breath.

As for Ning Cheng, he was a body-refining expert with a Starry Sky Body; therefore, even if he didn't use his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds, he could land on the public square without any injuries.

Qiao Jierui looked over at Ning Cheng and smiled, "No wonder Sect Master Ning can stop Brother Levelled Heart. Looks like your forged body's strength exceeds that of Brother Levelled Heart."

Chuan Xinlou remained expressionless and acted as if he didn't hear anything at all. However, Ning Cheng gave a calm reply, "I don't know if it exceeds that of Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor, but it's definitely stronger compared to yours."

Qiao Jierui gave a cold snort but did not continue with the provocations.

The others also did not pay any attention to Qiao Jierui's provocation, and instead focused their attention at something in the centre of the public square. A paper door had materialised out of nowhere in the centre of the public square. One could even hear the nether winds blowing behind this paper door, giving out rattling-like noises.

However, this paper door showed no signs of breaking apart despite the crackling noises from the nether winds. Moreover, everyone could see four characters etched onto the frame, Hell's Gate, just above the paper door.

But before the crowd could make sense of those words, a violent gale of nether winds suddenly swept in from the outside of the dark public square. At this moment, even the small trace of spiritual consciousness that Ning Cheng had access to could not stretch out under the effects of these violent nether winds.

The raging nether winds then quickly made its way to the place where everyone stood before sweeping past them. The crowd had no way to escape or dodge and had to bring out weapons to protect themselves.

With just a thought, Ning Cheng immediately materialised his Everlasting Blue Thunder City, Chuan Xinlou and others quickly followed and brought out their own respective weapons. At this moment, no one had the same cultivation he or she had come in with, all because this place suppressed everyone's spiritual consciousness too much. This caused a delay in bringing out weapons for many in the crowd.

Several screams erupted, and Ning Cheng saw the winds carrying away four or five people from amongst the crowd. Even if in the Eternal Realm, these people couldn't defend against these terrifying nether winds. As to the ultimate destination of those four or five people carried away, no one could guess it at all.

The violent nether winds drowning the public square suddenly converged towards a spot and instantly shredded apart the two Eternal experts who couldn't move away in time, turning into a pile of bones.

These nether winds had appeared suddenly and swept past them a bit too quickly. In just a few dozen breaths, the winds covering the dark public square disappeared without a trace. However, the number of people standing on the public square had also decreased to less than half.

Tang Yitang who followed Striking Order, Yang Yu who followed Chuan Xinlou and that handsome-looking man named Shi Jinyu who followed Yi Jiufeng along with Jinming Qianbo, Fu Yingkui, Shi Haiyan, Heavenly Emperor Wu Hong and a few more had also gone missing.

Over the dark public square, apart from the four starry sky emperors of four grand starry skies, only Ning Cheng, Striking Order, Shen Mao, Mu Hai, Xin Zhihe, and Gua Sangan remained. One could also see a heap of white bones in the middle of the public square, but no one knew the owners of those bones.

Apart from Ning Cheng, who was the only cultivator in the Life and Death Realm here, Striking Order and Gua Sangan had the lowest cultivations, only at the middle-level of the Eternal Realm. Although they managed to escape disaster, they both looked pale and in tatters.

Even Starry Sky Emperor Xin Zhihe from Water Immortal Starry Sky had a haggard look over her face despite having late-stage Eternal cultivation.

"It looks like we need to get out of this place first and discuss things in detail. Things are too bad here." Zhangkang Tianji spoke with a sigh.

"Want to get out? There is no way out of this place at all." Yi Jiufeng spoke with an ugly expression. She now regretted jumping into this place.

Standing on this public square, with limited access to one's spiritual consciousness, one would find it impossible to fly out of this place.

But after obtaining those treasures in that pentagonal hall, and then seeing the public square open up right in front of everyone, would anyone of them choose to stay behind? Moreover, with the caution instilled into everyone here, how could they all choose to jump down together?

Yi Jiufeng's voice had just ended when everyone heard another whimpering sound emerging at the edges of the public square. Everyone knew that another wave of nether winds was about to sweep over again.

Striking Order Heavenly Emperor hurriedly came over to Ning Cheng and spoke with some fear, "Brother Ning, I'm afraid I wouldn't be able to block the second wave"

Ning Cheng understood Striking Order's intention and gave a simple nod before speaking, "Brother Striking Order does not have to worry; my thunder fort still can provide us some protection, just stay behind me."

Gua Sangan immediately rushed to Chuan Xinlou's side on seeing this development. This was not the time to care about one's face. In case those winds swept through them once again, it would either blow him to god-knows-where or shred him to bare bones.

Xun Zhihe shot an envious look at Ning Cheng. In this place, the best weapon to block the nether winds without much effort seemed to be Ning Cheng's Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort. With Chuan Xinlou's Burning Sky Eroding Sun Pagoda coming a close second. However, she had no friendship with Ning Cheng and thus could only resist by her own strength.

The whimpering yet violent nether winds struck once again, and this time, it even had substance to it. This was the first time Ning Cheng had seen wind having a form to it; moreover, it was still as fluid as the wind.

"Whoosh-whoosh" sounds rolled up. Even though Ning Cheng managed to materialise the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort in time, and even if the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort was the most effective weapon against these nether winds, he still felt uncomfortable. It felt like his soul wanted to get out of the body; moreover, this feeling kept growing stronger with each passing moment.

Ning Cheng secretly felt frightened. No wonder the previous wave of nether winds swept away those Eternal experts. It's not because they couldn't block the winds, but once caught up in it, it would immediately destabilise one's essence spirit[1]. With one's essence spirit destabilised, coupled with the suppression of one's spiritual consciousness and cultivation, it would be strange if one could actually react in time.

Fortunately, the moment those nether winds came close to the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort, the lightning arcs immediately bombarded it, forcing the nether winds to move past Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng had just breathed in a sigh of relief when he heard Gua Sangan's scream, "Chuan Xin....."

Gua Sangan could only call out two characters when his voice abruptly cut off, apparently swept away by the nether winds. However, Ning Cheng had the most powerful spiritual consciousness here, combined with the relative closeness to each other, he could clearly see Chuan Xinlou pushing out Gua Sangan. After a little more than a dozen breaths, the winds finally calmed down and disappeared along with one more person.

Gua Sangan had disappeared, and Ning Cheng saw him taken away by the nether winds. However, Ning Cheng stayed calm. He knew the reason why that wave of nether winds had managed to take away Gua Sangan. Not only did Chuan Xinlou not save his follower from death, but Ning Cheng also realised the sinister nature hiding underneath Chuan Xinlou's face.

To the rest of the world, Gua Sangan was like a little brother to Chuan Xinlou. Even the Dao Fruit that Chuan Xinlou obtained came to him due to Gua Sangan's proposal. It made sense that Chuan Xinlou would have done something to save Gua Sangan. But the fact was that Chuan Xinlou not only failed to save Gua Sangan, he actually pushed him away at the most opportunistic moment.

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Chapter 742: Yellow Spring Pond

Ning Cheng's thoughts churned a little and quickly guessed what might have happened.

Chuan Xinlou truly had a vile character. He previously used Gua Sangan to deal with him, mostly because Chuan Xinlou didn't consider him much of a threat. Later realising that Gua Sangan couldn't deal with Ning Cheng.

Moreover, Chuan Xinlou had already obtained the Dao Fruit, which meant that as long as he went into secluded cultivation, he most likely would make some substantial progress in his cultivation. Therefore, Chuan Xinlou didn't want to take up any unnecessary risks.

For Chuan Xinlou, Ning Cheng was one such risk. Once everyone got out of this place, he must have reasoned that Ning Cheng likely would go find trouble with Gua Sangan. But Gua Sangan obviously wasn't Ning Cheng's opponent, which meant that Gua Sangan would definitely come to seek refuge at his Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain.

If that happened, Chuan Xinlou, as the 'elder brother' of Gua Sangan in the eyes of the public, naturally wouldn't sit back and let Ning Cheng murder Gua Sangan in his own territory. But didn't feel confident enough to kill Ning Cheng, and would definitely involve even more risks at that point. How could Chuan Xinlou willingly take up so much risk after obtaining the Dao Fruit, especially when it was the key to reach Dao Confirmation? Therefore, if he needed a temporary peace, he decided not to offend Ning Cheng anymore. At least not until he consumed the Dao Fruit.

Since Chuan Xinlou didn't want to offend him, the only choice was to eliminate Gua Sangan secretly.

But Chuan Xinlou didn't expect Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness could easily see his minute movements during the nether winds' assault.

Ning Cheng sighed in his heart as he thought all of it. Compared to these Heavenly Emperors, his way of thinking was almost like a blank piece of paper.

"If we can't do something, none of us will survive." Yi Jiufeng's expressions had turned gloomy. That second wave of nether winds contained much more power than the previous waves, which meant that the next wave would be even stronger. Therefore, what she said was not wrong at all.

Xun Zhihe immediately moved towards Ning Cheng. The recent wave of nether winds had almost torn apart her robes, and her face now looked even more haggard. If she had to face it for the third time, maybe only Ning Cheng's Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort could block it. Therefore, she decided to approach Ning Cheng in the hopes that Ning Cheng would take her in like Striking Order. It's just that she was a starry sky heavenly emperor that had nothing to do with Ning Cheng. Moreover, Ning Cheng didn't particularly speak to her, which made it quite awkward for her to ask for help.

Neither Zhangkang Tianji nor Qiao Jierui spoke, apparently agreeing with Yi Jiufeng's words. However, even if they all decided to return, none could come up with a safe way. Therefore, even if they all knew about the dangers of continuing, they could not do anything else.

"Sect Master Ning, the Ancient Shadow Temple is within your Jiangzhou Star, do you have a good way to get out?" Yi Jiufeng could see that no one here could figure out a way to retreat, so she looked at Ning Cheng and asked.

Ning Cheng looked at the paper door in the distance, but before he could give a reply, another whimpering sound emerged. From the looks of it, the third wave of nether winds would sweep out in a few moments.

Everyone's expressions turned hard to look at on hearing this sound, while the even weaker Xun Zhihe's face drained of all colour. Although she had recently advanced to the late-stage of the Eternal Realm, she still had to face considerable difficulty with persisting until now. Otherwise, as a Heavenly Emperor, would she have willingly come to find asylum with Ning Cheng?

"There is no way out of this place, even if we find a way out, it would be too late for us to even reach the edge of this public square. It's better to enter Hell's Gate first....."

As soon as Ning Cheng spoke those words, everyone immediately snapped their necks towards Ning Cheng. Did he just say enter Hell's Gate? They all had a hunch that these waves of nether winds originated from somewhere behind the Hell's Gate. If it truly were the place from where the nether winds originated, then wouldn't entering it spell death?

After Ning Cheng made his decision, he didn't wait for others at all. Instead, he immediately rushed towards the Hell's Gate. It didn't matter to him if the others came in or not, he would go in first.

Seeing Ning Cheng rushing into the Hell's Gate, Striking Order hesitated only for a while, before quickly rushing in behind Ning Cheng. With Ning Cheng gone, staying here would only result in death, so better follow Ning Cheng. Xun Zhihe also promptly followed the two along with Mu Hao and the others.

Although the whimpering sounds of the nether winds grew louder behind them, Chuan Xinlou and the others could only keep rushing towards the Hell's Gate. Just as Ning Cheng said, there really was no place to go except through the Hell's Gate.

After everyone entered through the paper door, the paper door squeaked a bit before closing. Apart from the sounds of nether winds blowing and rattling the paper door behind then, no one's spiritual consciousness could feel any part of the public square on the other side.

Instead, they appeared in a large chamber with a huge pond in the centre, but the pond water looked identical to that of ink, black and shiny. Even Ning Cheng's suppressed spiritual consciousness couldn't see the bottom of the pool. A stone tablet stood at the edge with three prominent black characters, Yellow Spring Pool, etched onto it.

Just behind this Yellow Spring Pond were two doors opposite to each other. One entrance had the character 'Life (生)' inscribed on top, which shone with blood-red light, while the other door had a black 'Death (死)' character.

Whether it was the word 'life' or the word 'death', both gave a very uncomfortable feeling. Except for the two doors and the pond, one couldn't find anything else in here.

"There are only two doors here, Life or Death. Whether we go in or not, we have no way else to go." Zhangkang Tianji said with a deep voice.

No one answered Zhangkang Tianji's words. No matter which door one entered, it wasn't a simple choice at all. However, the rustling sounds of the paper door also grew more apparent with each passing moment. It felt like that the paper door would definitely tear apart the next moment, letting the nether winds from outside to sweep in.

Zhangkang Tianji gave a snort, "If that's the case, then I'll go first."

After that, Zhangkang Tianji rushed directly into the 'Death' door. As soon as Zhangkang Tianji went in, a wave of Yin Qi rolled up, and Zhangkang Tianji's aura completely disappeared.

No one spoke, but no one felt that Zhangkang Tianji had chosen to die.

"I'm going in too." Yi Jiufeng said and rushed into the other door. Staying in this tiny place put too much pressure on her. The outside only suppressed their cultivation, but as soon as everyone entered this place, they all felt a one-of-a-kind deathly aura. In fact, the longer one stayed in this chamber, the more oppressive this aura would grow.

Even if one were an Eternal cultivator, one would find it impossible to block the deathly suppression that wanted to overwhelm every sense.

Moreover, no one could say for sure if Zhangkang Tianji chose the wrong door. Although he entered the 'Death' door, who could be sure about survival when choosing either 'Life' or 'Death'?

Besides, the cold aura coming from the 'Life' gate and the bloody 'Life' character made people even more uncomfortable.

However, not everyone had the same mind-set as Zhangkang Tianji. Yi Jiufeng picked the 'Life' gate. But just like him, she disappeared completely the moment she entered the door, without any hint of a lingering aura.

Chuan Xinlou gave Ning Cheng a cold look before rushing into the 'Death' door without any hesitation. Obviously, he and Zhangkang Tianji held the same views and felt that the 'Death' door was the safer of the two options.

With three of the four Heavenly Emperor rushing in, the others also started to rush in. Qiao Jierui also chose the 'Death' Gate, while Striking Order, Shen Mao and Mu Hai entered the 'Life' gate.

In just a few breaths, only Ning Cheng and Xun Zhihe remained in the room.

The rattling sounds of nether winds banging on the paper door grew even louder. Every time it slammed into the paper door, it made people feel a little more flustered.

Xun Zhihe looked at Ning Cheng and asked carefully, "Sect Master Ning, I didn't come here in response to Gua Sangan's invitation. I came here purely for the Ancient Shadow Temple. If I had known that I wouldn't obtain anything here and would most likely fall in this place, I definitely would not have come to this place at all."

Ning Cheng showed a smile, "Senior Apprentice Sister Xun overthinks. I never thought that Senior Apprentice Sister Xun came here to help Gua Sangan or the others."

"Many thanks, Sect Master Ning for your generosity. If this Xun Zhihe manages to survive, I will definitely come to the Mysterious Yellow Sect in the future to give you my heartfelt thanks....." Xun Zhihe couldn't finish her sentence when the violent nether winds finally smashed open the door behind them and rushed in.

Ning Cheng felt slightly touched and immediately brought out the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort to help Xun Zhihe a bit.

As the nether winds swept past them and finally died down, Xun Zhihe spoke up with an even more grateful tone, "Many thanks Sect Master Ning for your help once again. Does Sect Master Ning want to leave this place together?"

Ning Cheng shook his head, "Senior Apprentice Sister Xun can go ahead. I want to look around this place a bit more."

After saying that, Ning Cheng added, "I think the 'Death' door might be a bit safer. Of course, it's just my intuition."

Ning Cheng knew that Xun Zhihe wanted to ask which door he would enter, as Xun Zhihe wasn't sure about her choice.

When Xun Zhihe heard Ning Cheng's words, she quickly thanked him once again. "Many thanks, Sect Master Ning. I'll take my leave now."

With that, Xun Zhihe quickly rushed and disappeared into the 'Death' door. She chose to listen to Ning Cheng's words.

After everyone left, Ning Cheng didn't enter any of the doors; instead, his gaze quickly locked onto the dark pool in front of him.

If he hadn't felt a very familiar aura coming from this pool, he would have definitely entered one of the two doors. But because of that aura, he decided on not choosing one of the two doors. This familiar aura actually belonged to Grey Toottoot.

Grey Toottoot had accompanied him for many years, and later he put Grey Toottoot in Ruolan's care. But Grey Toottoot had gotten lost during a trip outside with Ruolan looking for cultivation resources. Moreover, because Grey Toottoot went missing near Covered Snow City, Ning Cheng deliberately took a few days to search for it, but couldn't find any clue. He never expected to find Grey Toottoot's aura coming from the inside this dark Yellow Spring Pond.

With Grey Toottoot's strength, it would be impossible to come here by itself. But since Grey Toottoot's aura appeared here, then the only possible explanation he could think of was that someone must have brought it to this place. If someone actually brought Grey Toottoot here, it also meant that someone had managed to reach this place before him and everyone else.

If it weren't for Grey Toottoot staying with him for many years and helping Ruolan find necessary cultivation resources, Ning Cheng would not have stayed back.

Therefore, although this place gave off a very dangerous aura and even if grew more dangerous, after knowing that Grey Toottoot had come here, he couldn't leave Grey Toottoot behind once again.

Ning Cheng once again materialised the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort and dived straight into the Yellow Spring Pond. Ning Cheng had a much stronger spiritual consciousness compared to the other Eternal cultivators who entered this place, but he still couldn't use his spiritual consciousness to scan the bottom of the pond. Therefore, to find Grey Toottoot, jumping into the water was the only option available.

As soon as Ning Cheng entered the pond, the cold aura that pulled at one's Essence Spirit immediately affected him. However, the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort was Ning Cheng's best weapon of choice right now; therefore, even if it had no weapon spirit, Ning Cheng could still use the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort to split the surrounding dark pool water.

This pond didn't appear deep from the outside, but the moment Ning Cheng entered, it felt like the pool had suddenly transformed into a bottomless hole.

Ning Cheng held on to the Nirvana Spear tightly and quickly rushed to the bottom. The closer to the bottom, the more coldness and pressure he felt. This was not purely the natural coldness one would experience at the bottom of a pond or a river, but a kind of yin-attributed chill that permeated into one's Essence Spirit and Spiritual Soul.

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Chapter 743: The First Futility Bridge

Ning Cheng didn't know for how long he kept sinking down, only that his Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort kept shrinking in size the lower he went. By the time his Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort shrank down to about a foot around him, his feet finally landed on the ground.

The slabs under his feet were all dark red as if forged out of solidified blood. At the same time, there seemed to be whimpering and shrieking sounds coming from all around. Ning Cheng simply couldn't find the source of all this noise.

However, despite the unsettling sounds around him, Ning Cheng paid no attention to it and kept walking in the direction of Grey Toottoot's aura. Although the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort managed to block the black waters of the Yellow Spring Pond, every step Ning Cheng took still left a deep footprint on the dark red slabs.

The whimpering nether winds still kept attacking the blue thunder fort despite being underwater, but each time the wind got close to the blue thunder fort, thunder rays immediately blew them away. Seeing this, Ning Cheng secretly rejoiced about owning the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort. If not for the fort, these nether winds would have definitely swept him away.

But even with the support from the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort, Ning Cheng understood that he couldn't stay down here for too long. If he waited for his Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort to shrink to the extreme limit, he would then have to rely wholly on his physical body. At that point, even he couldn't say if his body could resist the Yin Qi in this place.

After half-an-incense-stick worth of time, Ning Cheng finally stopped and saw a blood river flowing under the Yellow Spring Pond. The blood river and the Yellow Spring Pond were like two completely different entities, unable to merge at all.

Just above this blood river, he also saw a pale white stone arch bridge that spanned across the blood river. Ning Cheng reached the bridge's head, but could only dimly see the opposite side of the bridge. Nether winds kept flowing erratically around the bridge, and with screaming and whimpering sounds. One could only see the vague situation on the opposite side and nothing specific. Moreover, over the bridge, one could also feel a cold and gloomy aura that gave people trying to cross it a very daunting feeling.

Looking around, he found a stele engraved with five characters, 'First Futility[1] Bridge'.

Ning Cheng carefully stepped on this bleak white stone arch bridge but, despite hearing the sound of his footsteps, it felt as if his every step fell on empty space. Once on it, Ning Cheng turned even more careful. Take a few steps forward, he immediately saw a blurred figure materialise in front of him.

Gua Sangan? Ning Cheng immediately recognised Gua Sangan's figure. He had seen it with his own eyes that Chuan Xinlou had deliberately pushed Gua Sangan into the path of nether winds. So how did he appear here?

Ning Cheng quickly felt something wrong about this situation. He saw that Gua Sangan's face lacked any sort of expression. In fact, it seemed as if Guan Sangan didn't have a single thought running through his head. He wandered around the bridge for a while before drifting towards the opposite side and disappearing without a trace.

Ning Cheng clenched the Nirvana Spear in his hands even more tightly. What was going on? Was this really the Yellow Springs? Was the opposite side of this bridge the underworld that contained the souls of dead people? Did it mean that as long as he crossed this Futility Bridge, he could find the souls of his acquaintances?

Thinking of this immediately made Ning Cheng excited. With his cultivation reaching the Life and Death Realm, how could he feel afraid of such things like the underworld? Not to mention Grey Toottoot, wouldn't he also find the soul of his acquaintances on the opposite side of the bridge?

Ning Cheng took in a deep breath to calm down before taking a few steps forward again. However, just when Ning Cheng took another step forward, a powerful wave of nether wind swept over. This wave of nether wind not only contained immense power but also had a violent feel to it. In fact, this wave of nether wind had actually formed a substantial vortex of nether winds on top of Ning Cheng before directly swallowing up Ning Cheng.

This nether wind vortex contained much more power compared to the previous waves faced on the public square. If not for Ning Cheng's abilities, and replaced by any other ordinary Eternal Realm cultivator, the powerful combination of Yin Qi and nether winds would have long since swept them away.

Ning Cheng frantically stimulated his Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort to block this wave of nether wind vortex from sweeping him away. In any case, if not for the blue thunder fort, Ning Cheng would not have lasted this long.

But even with the blue thunder fort, it could not provide him with much help. As the horrifying nether wind vortex swept through the Futility Bridge, it prevented him from advancing or retreating. If it kept going, there was a good chance that this wave of nether wind would definitely sweep him away, unless he entered the Mysterious Yellow Bead.

Seeing Gua Sangan's unconscious dead body without any Essence Spirit, Ning Cheng naturally did not want the nether winds to sweep him away.

Therefore, even when the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort kept shrinking, Ning Cheng continually stimulated the blue thunder fort with his spiritual consciousness.

"Ka..." A small sound emerged, and Ning Cheng immediately felt a stinging pain erupt within his Sea of Consciousness. It immediately shocked him to the core and forced him to scream internally like a raging lunatic. Maybe he shouldn't have forced his spiritual consciousness to such an extent that it caused his Sea of Consciousness to crack.

Once his Sea of Consciousness broke apart, it would definitely spell his end.

But Ning Cheng quickly felt surprised. His Sea of Consciousness had indeed cracked, but not because he had pushed it to the extreme. Rather, it had broken to expand. Although this place suppressed spiritual consciousness, this pressure had unknowingly benefitted his Sea of Consciousness, allowing his spiritual consciousness to grow stronger by a few folds in just an instant. In fact, everything immediately turned clear around him as his Sea of Consciousness improved by another level.

Moreover, he no longer needed to stimulate the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort desperately, yet its range expanded to nearly ten feet around him. When the waves of nether wind rolled in once again, the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort quickly managed to neutralise it.

Ning Cheng breathed in a sigh of relief. With his Sea of Consciousness rising to another level, it also meant a significant increase in his power. Previously, when he used Sunset's Twilight to deal with Chuan

Xinlou, one of the primary reasons why he couldn't injure Chuan Xinlou more seriously was that his spiritual consciousness could not keep up with Chuan Xinlou.

With his Sea of Consciousness expanding once again, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness could not sweep out without any scruples. However, the opposite side of the bridge remained vague, obscured by the raging nether winds. Despite that, Ning Cheng could now see clearly everything within ten feet of himself.

When Ning Cheng's gaze reached the middle of the bridge, he saw a black stone man clutching Grey Toottoot in one hand. Grey Toottoot seemed to be struggling in the black stone man's grasp with its four feet in the air, which made him furious. He rushed up without hesitation and quickly shot out the Nirvana Spear in his hand.

"Boom...." Ning Cheng's Nirvana Spear had not yet reached the stone man when a black-coloured wave of nether wind suddenly condensed and struck the tip of Ning Cheng's Nirvana Spear,

A powerful backlash erupted that directly blew away Ning Cheng from above the Futility Bridge.

Even the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort, which had expanded to more than ten feet, shrank to an area less than a foot around him. Seeing that he was about to fall into the blood river, Ning Cheng quickly activated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds and forcibly managed to stop himself at the very edge of the blood river.

At this point, Ning Cheng felt secretly horrified. If it weren't for his Sea of Consciousness advancing to another level just a few moments ago, that backlash would have forced him into the blood river.

But since Grey Toottoot remained on the Futility Bridge and in the hands of that black stone man, how could he let Grey Toottoot stay here? Ning Cheng once again rushed onto the Futility Bridge and attacked.

"Boom!" A more powerful backlash erupted, but this time, Ning Cheng was ready. And despite suffering some injuries, he did not land in the blood river.

When he rushed onto the Futility Bridge for the third time, Ning Cheng felt a bit flustered. He could already fight against Heavenly Emperors, but he couldn't even break a stone man in this place who held Grey Toottoot in its hand.

Facing the stone man again, Ning Cheng tightly held on to the Nirvana Spear and started burning some of his Essence Blood. Grey Toottoot didn't seem to show any consciousness or any signs of life, except for the slight twitching of its head. Moreover, if not for the faint familiar aura coming from it, no one could tell if it was alive or dead. If he couldn't take away Grey Toottoot quickly, it might actually die in this place.

With Ning Cheng crazily gathering celestial essence, his spiritual consciousness also started breaking free of the surrounding restraints. At this time, circles of celestial essence ripples had begun to manifest around Ning Cheng. Even the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort trembled at this time and started automatically overflowing with thunder rays that blasted apart the surrounding nether winds.

With celestial essence transforming into something with substance, and with the help from the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort, Ning Cheng once again shot forward with the Nirvana Spear.

“Boom... Katcha.....”

The violent nether winds once again condensed in front of the black stone man and struck Ning Cheng’s Nirvana Spear, creating a huge explosion. This time, however, Ning Cheng did not go flying; instead, his Nirvana Spear actually hit the stone man and shattered it to pieces. Once the stone man exploded to bits, Ning Cheng immediately rushed forward to catch Grey Toottoot.

But at this time, the nether wind seemed to have gained consciousness and immediately wrapped around Grey Toottoot, who the stone man had dropped, before quickly moving to the other side of the Futility Bridge.

Ning Cheng immediately felt a wave of weakness wash over him; but at the same time, he also felt more nether winds rolling up from the opposite side of the bridge. Before he could do anything, it directly struck Ning Cheng’s Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort.

In just a few breaths, the nether wind once again pushed Ning Cheng away.

For the fourth time, Ning Cheng stood at the head of the Futility Bridge, supported by his Nirvana Spear, while his eyes spewed anger. He could clearly tell that the last attack was not a natural backlash, but a conscious counterattack. It not only stopped him from taking away Grey Toottoot, but it had also actively tried to injure him.

Feeling unwilling to let go, Ning Cheng once again stepped onto the Futility Bridge. But when he walked to the place where the stone man was, he only saw a pile of rubble. Apart from that, it had nothing else. He couldn’t even find a shadow of Grey Toottoot. Ning Cheng deliberately stopped and waited for a long time, but could no longer sense Grey Toottoot’s aura.

Ning Cheng then had just stepped over this pile of rubble and had taken a step forward when an even more horrifying wave of nether wind swept out. This time, Ning Cheng simply couldn’t put up any resistance at all, and it pushed him back to the bridgehead. Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort bore the most of the power, and Ning Cheng once again felt a stinging pain within his Sea of Consciousness. This time, he couldn’t hold himself back and spat out a mouthful of blood. If it weren’t for that little bit of strength still left within him, he would have definitely fallen into the blood river a moment ago.

Standing once again at the head of Futility Bridge, Ning Cheng wiped the blood from the corners of his mouth, while blue veins popped up over his hands. Somebody definitely controlled the mechanisms in this place; otherwise, it wouldn’t be possible for such a thing to happen.

Previously, when he guessed that the opposite side of the Futility Bridge might be the underworld, it made Ning Cheng a little excited. He wondered if he could go and find the souls of Xun Hanrui and Yu Qing in that place. But now it seemed like a naïve thought. Not to mention finding Yu Qing’s soul, he didn’t even seem to have the strength to walk past this bridge.

If it weren’t for his spiritual consciousness, each of those waves of nether wind would have forced him into the blood river. Even though Ning Cheng dared to come down the Yellow Spring Pond relying on the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort, he didn’t dare do that with the blood river. Ning Cheng had a hunch that once he descended into the blood river, even if the strength of his Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort grew by a few levels, the Yin Qi within it would instantly turn him into bones.

“Offending the Ghost Soldiers, a punishable crime; jump into the blood river, never to reincarnate.....”

A hollow voice rang inside of Ning Cheng’s mind, which suddenly put Ning Cheng’s mind into a daze. He even started walking towards the blood river, as if following the instructions of the voice and jump into the blood river. To use the price of never reincarnating to wash off the sin.

No, Ning Cheng suddenly stopped at the edge of the blood river. The Mysterious Yellow Aura quickly scoured through his Spiritual Soul and Sea of Consciousness, which forced him to sober up almost instantly. If he had been a moment late, he would have voluntarily dived into the blood river under the influence of that voice.

Sure enough, this place definitely had a master; otherwise, such a thing would have never happened to him.

Ning Cheng took in a deep breath, shot a sharp look across the bridge, and said, “I will return. I will return today’s treatment to you ten times over.”

After speaking, Ning Cheng quickly retreated. He understood that he couldn’t do anything to improve the current situation with his current strength.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 744: The only person to come out?

As Ning Cheng retreated, the sound of a cold snort spread out from somewhere behind him. Despite his current cultivation and strength, that cold snort shook his soul to the core.

The next moment, waves of nether winds suddenly rushed towards him, and Ning Cheng’s Essence Spirit started to loosen up. It felt like it wanted to leave his body permanently. If it weren’t for the Mysterious Yellow Bead nourishing Ning Cheng’s body and soul, Ning Cheng guessed that he wouldn’t have held on for so long.

Ning Cheng’s only thought right now was to stimulate his celestial essence to its limits and rush out of the Yellow Spring Pond. He had a hunch that if he delayed things for even an extra moment, he might not get to leave this place at all.

The sound of the cold snort spread, a hollow almost-human sounding voice rang out within Ning Cheng’s mind, “Did you think you could just leave after taking my stuff?”

Just as the voice ended, the winds around the bridge suddenly churned and shot out one wave after another of nether winds. The winds had not even reached the silhouette of Ning Cheng’s Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort when the black-as-ink water of the Yellow Spring Pond also started churning.

Ning Cheng didn’t care anymore and ignited his celestial essence to rush out.

This time, Ning Cheng moved faster than when he dived to the bottom of the Yellow Spring Pond. But just after he rushed out of the pond, the black water churned even more violently, and an intense roar erupted from inside it.

Ning Cheng didn’t even look back after coming out and rushed towards the paper door. He didn’t rush towards either of the ‘Life’ or ‘Death’ doors, as he now felt that both doors had some problems.

If his Sea of Consciousness hadn't expanded, he might have chosen one of the two doors. However, now that his Sea of Consciousness had grown, it skyrocketed the power of his spiritual consciousness. With this rapid increase in strength, he could now use his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds on reaching that hall again.

Moreover, he had a vague feeling that returning to that main hall was the only safest option right now.

Ning Cheng had just rushed out of the Yellow Spring Pond when dozens of waves of nether winds also rushed out. These winds came out with such force that it lifted the Yellow Spring Pond's water a few hundred feet into the air as it rushed towards Ning Cheng.

Fortunately, Ning Cheng managed to grasp the opportunity in time. Therefore, when those winds emerged from the Yellow Spring Pond and reached the paper door, Ning Cheng had already rushed onto the large public square.

The waves of nether winds banged onto the paper door, forcing it to rattle even more violently. The paper door managed to stop the first wave, but as more waves of nether winds crashed into the paper door, the winds finally tore through the door and quickly rushed towards Ning Cheng.

But Ning Cheng didn't stop at all. Rushing to the public square, he immediately brought out the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds.

Just as the waves of nether winds swept into the public square, Ning Cheng activated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds. With the expansion of his Sea of Consciousness, he quickly managed to fly up from the public square.

"Bang....." But still, several nether winds struck Ning Cheng's Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort, and the thunder glow over the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort suddenly dimmed. A series of sudden rattling-like noises erupted, and Ning Cheng's rising body quickly started to drop.

Ning Cheng knew it very well that he could not fall back onto the dark public square. He simply put away the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort and started pouring every shred of strength he could muster into the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds.

Without the added consumption of Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort, Ning Cheng's speed increased once again. In just a little more than a dozen breaths, Ning Cheng could finally see the edge of the pentagon-shaped hall.

Just then, however, a violent wave of nether winds swept over.

Ning Cheng had put away the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort; therefore, this wave of nether wind directly tore through Ning Cheng's domain and struck Ning Cheng's body.

Ning Cheng shivered the moment the wave of nether winds hit his body and felt his Essence Spirit almost loosening and leaving his body. This caused his spiritual consciousness and celestial essence circulation to plummet, weakening him considerably.

Sensing his Essence Spirit about to loosen entirely and his body about to fall again, Ning Cheng immediately went into a panic. He grabbed a Rootless Green Bamboo Leaf and stuffed it into his mouth.

His Essence Spirit, on the verge of scattering, forcibly stabilised and the Mysterious Yellow Origin Aura started flowing more quickly. Feeling his spiritual consciousness and celestial essence growing stronger once again, Ning Cheng stimulated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds to its limits. He had almost died just now, if not for the Rootless Green Bamboo, he couldn't even imagine what would have happened to him.

No wonder those Eternal-level cultivators couldn't escape those nether winds sweeping through the area.

"Boom...." Two more waves of nether winds blasted towards Ning Cheng. But just at the exact moment that these two waves of nether winds were about to wrap themselves around Ning Cheng's ankle, Ning Cheng managed to switch directions and land at the edge of the pentagonal-shaped hall.

Not waiting for the nether wind to catch up to him, Ning Cheng immediately rushed out from the hall without even stopping or looking back.

Those waves of nether wind also rushed into the hall, but couldn't seem to come out from the hall's doorway. It felt as if an invisible force stopped it from getting out. However, Ning Cheng didn't dare to relax. He immediately started throwing out array flags, sealing the pentagonal-shaped hall with layers and layers of array formations.

Half a day later, Ning Cheng managed to seal the pentagonal-shaped hall completely, before finally sitting down weakly on the ground. Having experienced the terror of those nether winds, he understood that he had managed to escape by an extremely minuscule margin.

As for how Grey Toottoot reached the Futility Bridge, Ning Cheng still couldn't figure it out. But he knew for sure that there had to be someone on the other side of that Futility Bridge. But Ning Cheng suspected that this person couldn't come out. If he or she could actually come out, then escaping would have been an impossibility.

But since that person can't get out, how did Grey Toottoot get onto the Futility Bridge?

.....

This was the 39th day since Ning Cheng came out of the Ancient Shadow Temple. During these 39 days, Ning Cheng tirelessly worked on arranging the most powerful Sealing Array Formation outside the Ancient Shadow Temple. The Sealing Array Formation arranged was on the same level as the Star Protecting Grand Array if not higher. Moreover, Ning Cheng refined and used only high-rank Dao Artefacts for the array base.

Moreover, Ning Cheng had also arranged many sealing arrays inside that would prevent anything from reaching outside. The terrifying events that had transpired inside the Ancient Shadow Temple had invoked a particular dread within Ning Cheng. Since Jiangzhou Star now belonged to him, and now that Covered Snow City had become his home, he did not want the terrors from inside to spill out.

However, he also didn't want to move the Mysterious Yellow Sect. Ning Cheng believed that his sealing would suffice for now. If something happened to the Ancient Shadow Temple, he would immediately know about it. Moreover, under such a blockade, even Chuan Xinlou would find it challenging to come out.

By the time Ning Cheng finally finished and came out of the Ancient Shadow Temple's site, he looked frail and almost on the brink of collapse. He had remained inside for more than a month under constant pressure and now looked even weaker.

Fortunately, he was still in Jiangzhou Star. As long as he walked a little further, he could return to Covered Snow City to heal.

Ning Cheng had just walked through the gates of Covered Snow City when he saw Ning Ruolan rushing out.

"Ruolan, what's the matter?" Ning Cheng called out in confusion.

"Brother....." Ning Ruolan on seeing Ning Cheng immediately turned happy. She quickened her pace and rushed into Ning Cheng's arm, "Wu.... you scared me. I thought you would never return....."

Ning Cheng gently patted Ning Ruolan on her shoulder and spoke with a comforting voice, "Ruolan, what's going on?"

Seeing Ning Ruolan once again, Ning Cheng felt quite happy. Moreover, Ruolan's cultivation had already reached the Celestial Shatterer Realm despite cultivating in seclusion for only a short while. From this, he could tell that Ruolan had quite a fast cultivation speed with the support from his massive stash of cultivation resources.

Ruolan finally eased up but still spoke with some fear, "I heard rumours that nearly 20 Eternal experts had entered the Ancient Shadow Temple this time. But none could come out, all perishing in the Ancient Shadow temple. After hearing that, I immediately came out to look for you....."

Ning Cheng frowned; none of the people who entered the Ancient Shadow Temple came out? Where did this rumour come from? Arguably, they had only been in the Ancient Shadow Temple for less than two months. Moreover, even if an Eternal expert did not come out for two full years, no one would spread rumours about their deaths this quickly.

However, Ning Cheng also understood that if he hadn't managed to return, this rumour most likely would have turned into a fact. Was he really the only one to come out of the Ancient Shadow Temple?

"Brother, since you're here, then those rumours obviously are false." Ning Ruolan spoke in a relaxed tone.

Ning Cheng shot a cautious look at Ruolan and said, "Ruolan, remember, if you ever hear such a rumour in the future, you must never act on it. Just think about it, if I really did die in the Ancient Shadow Temple, what's the use of you going in there?"

Ning Ruolan understood that Ning Cheng spoke the truth and nodded, "I know. Brother, are you staying this time or are you heading out once again?"

"Well, I have a few things to take care of outside. Besides, I haven't heard any news about your sister-in-laws Luofei and Qionghua, and I still have to take a trip to Grand Culmination Starry Sky. Ruolan, when I'm not here, you must work hard by yourself. Put everything else aside and just focus on cultivation. Only if you have the required strength will others listen to you, whether it's this place or anywhere else." Ning Cheng urged.

Ning Ruolan nodded and stopped talking. She knew that the power gap between her and her big brother was widening with each passing day. If she didn't work hard on her cultivation, it would only hold back her big brother in the future.

"Well, someone called Duan Gantai came to Jiangzhou Star to find you. Sect Master Cang stopped him outside and did not allow him to enter."

Ning Ruolan had just finished speaking when Cang Caihe came out followed by a few other people.

"Sect Master....." Cang Caihe turned genuinely happy on seeing Ning Cheng. He had also heard about the rumours that none of the Eternal experts who entered the Ancient Shadow Temple had come out, which Cang Caihe believed to a certain extent. As one of the Eternal experts, he usually kept a lookout for any news about other Eternal-level experts. Besides, the Ancient Shadow Temple was in the Jiangzhou Star, which meant that this rumour had a direct bearing on him, so how could he not pay attention to any reports concerning it.

Ning Cheng gave a calm reply, "Looks like Sect Master Cang worked quite hard while I was away."

"Greetings Senior Ning....." Two cultivators in the Heaven Seated Realm carefully approached Ning Cheng and bowed.

Ning Cheng nodded. One of the two was Ou Zhenkong, the one with his restriction. Looking at him now, it seems like someone had forcibly sealed the restriction as a temporary measure. If he didn't show up, the restriction would have eventually threatened Ou Zhenkong's life.

"Senior, this is my uncle Ou Xingshang. My uncle was the one who brought Dao Friend Warren and me to Jiangzhou Star....." Ou Zhenkong couldn't hide the relief welling up inside his heart on seeing Ning Cheng.

After Ning Cheng put the restriction on him, he could not remove it at all, no matter what method he tried. If Ning Cheng had truly fallen in the Ancient Shadow Temple, he would have had no choice but to accept his fate. Moreover, the Mysterious Yellow Sect's Deputy Sect Master Cang Caihe was not only the Premier Pill Emperor but also a late-stage Eternal powerhouse. Which meant that even without Ning Cheng around, his Ou Clan wouldn't dare to offend this force.

"Greetings Sect Master...." Warren and Yue Wanxue had long since wanted to come to greet him but didn't want to interrupt others who tried to speak to Ning Cheng.

In all respects, Ning Cheng had saved both of their lives. Moreover, without Ning Cheng, they both would have died at least twice. Therefore, although everyone had only shown them kindness after coming to Covered Snow City, they couldn't calm down until they finally met Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng laughed, "Everyone here is a friend, what is the need of such politeness? Do the two of you have any plans for the future?"

Warren and Yue Wanxue quickly replied, "Sect Master, we want to join the Mysterious Yellow Sect...."

After hearing those words, Ning Cheng immediately took out two jade bottles and sent them to the two. "Each one has an Accordance Heavenly Pill. Go into seclusion and prepare to advance to the Heaven

Seated Realm. Once you advance to the Heaven Seated Realm, you can become elders of my Mysterious Yellow Sect.”

Even if Warren and Yue Wanxue had not planned to join the Mysterious Yellow Sect, Ning Cheng would have still entertained them politely before sending them away with a few gifts. However, he would have never taken out even a single Accordance Heavenly Pill. He didn’t have many Accordance Heavenly Pills to distribute anyway.

Although vaguely aware that Ning Cheng wanted to bring them in under him, after receiving the Accordance Heavenly Pill, Warren and Yue Wanxue once again became excited and found it difficult to control themselves. Both were rogue cultivators with a lifetime of adventures; however, both knew it very well that no matter what they did, they might never obtain an Accordance Heavenly Pill. Roaming around while cultivating in the starry sky, they had to rely mainly on chance encounters.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 745: Reappearance of the glaze

Ou Zhenkong stood there in anxiety. But he didn’t want to interrupt Ning Cheng’s words despite the growing anxiousness.

Fortunately, after Ning Cheng handed over the medical pills to Warren and Yue Wanxue, he motioned Qu Zhenkong to come forward. Ning Cheng then raised his hand and placed it onto Ou Zhenkong’s forehead. The motion was so fast that Ou Zhenkong couldn’t react at all. Even Ou Xingshang, who stood at the side, found his expressions changing, but didn’t dare to step forward.

After Ning Cheng’s palm left Ou Zhenkong’s forehead, Ou Zhenkong immediately bowed to Ning Cheng with a face full of surprise and gratitude. “Many thanks for getting rid of the restriction for this junior.”

Hearing Ou Zhenkong’s words, Ou Xingshang also felt relief and thanked Ning Cheng in a hurry. Their clan had to pay an extremely high price to cultivate a Heaven Seated expert. Therefore, if Ou Zhenkong died, it would have been a massive blow to his Ou Clan.

Ning Cheng simply nodded and asked Warren, “You should have visited the Cheng Ruolan Artefact Crafting Store, right? Did you meet with Jian Jiao?”

Warren shook his head. “We did wait for some time at the Cheng Ruolan Artefact Crafting Store, and we did hear about Junior Apprentice Brother Jian Jiao. However, Junior Apprentice Brother Jian Jiao never returned during our stay.”

Ning Cheng suddenly frowned. From what he heard from the store assistant, Jian Jiao should have returned a long time ago. Since Jian Jiao hasn’t returned, then something must have happened to him.

“You can head back to secluded cultivation first; I have a few things to take care of first.” After understanding that Jian Jiao most likely had gotten into trouble, Ning Cheng immediately felt worried. He wanted to directly head out and check the situation.

Ning Ruolan also knew that she had to speed up her cultivation. Now that her big brother returned and looked all right, she also wanted to head back into seclusion. As for Warren and Yan Wanxue, they both had long since wanted to ascend to the Heaven Seated Realm. Now, with Ning Cheng’s help, they also immediately took their leave.

After Ou Zhenkong and others left, Ning Cheng asked, "Sect Master Cang, I heard that a cultivator named Duan Gantai had come here?"

Cang Caihe gave a solemn reply, "Yes, I was just about to bring it up with Sect Master. When this Duan Gantai came here, we had a vague confrontation of sorts. I have to say that although he appeared to have just entered the Life and Death Realm, he definitely has incredible strength. He didn't use his full power, but I could see that he had great potential. He came here looking for Sect Master, so you must be careful when dealing with him. He doesn't seem easy to deal with."

Ning Cheng secretly praised him. Cang Caihe was supposedly one of the three most influential rogue cultivators and the foremost Pill Emperor. As such, he definitely would have a sharp vision and was a good judge of character. Besides, if it were so easy to deal with Duan Gantai, he would not have chosen to cooperate with him to this day.

"Sect Master Cang, I need to go into seclusion for a while before I head out to Devouring Bone Sea and then to Culmination Starland. For the matters relating to Jiangzhou Star and Mysterious Yellow Celestial River, I would like to ask Sect Master Cang to continue to take care of it." Ning Cheng spoke with an apologetic tone. After setting up the sect, he rarely did any work related to managing it. Moreover, Cang Caihe also visibly didn't care about things at first, but he still managed to pull it off.

Moreover, Ning Cheng truly had no time to stay around in Covered Snow City to manage the sect. He simply had too many things to do.

He also wanted to search for the Purple Light Treasure Essence in the Devouring Bone Sea as his Celestial River Flame had already reached Grade 2 Nirvana. If he wanted to improve his strength once again, then he had to accelerate the evolution of his flame. Moreover, from Heavenly Emperor Wu Hong's jade strip, he understood that those pieces of Purple Light Treasure Essence came from the Devouring Bone Sea.

Heavenly Emperor Wu Hong was a nice person. Unfortunately, Ning Cheng could not do anything to save him. If he could, Ning Cheng would have definitely helped.

.....

Five months after coming out from the Ancient Shadow Temple, Ning Cheng once again gave the reigns of the sect to Cang Caihe and left Jiangzhou Star. At the same time, he also left a talisman with Cang Caihe, a talisman with a trace of his spirit sense. No matter whether he was, as long as Cang Caihe crushed the talisman, he would sense it.

Moreover, during the five months in seclusion in Mysterious Yellow Sect, Ning Cheng finally managed to drive out the cold within his body and stabilised his Sea of Consciousness. During that process, his Sea of Consciousness had expanded once again, which further improved his spiritual consciousness's strength. After the stabilisation process, Ning Cheng then started refining the Measureless Gourd.

But even after refining the Measureless Guard, Ning Cheng could only understand a few things about how this gourd worked. Moreover, he could not find any offensive or defensive uses for this gourd. According to the information Ning Cheng obtained after refining it, the guard had only one purpose, and that was to store things.

Ning Cheng really couldn't figure out anything beyond it. Why would someone put this gourd in the same place as the Opening Heaven Child Talisman or even that Dao Fruit?

Moreover, after experiencing the dangers of the Ancient Shadow Temple, Ning Cheng started to have doubts. He wondered if the person behind that Futility Bridge had intentionally put those things there. If that person had deliberately placed those five chests, then it most likely was bait to attract experts to jump down from the pentagonal-shaped main hall.

In all honesty, Ning Cheng had not hesitated to jump off at that time as he had the same idea as the other starry sky emperors. Since there were already quite a few treasures in the pentagonal-shaped hall, then there definitely would be many more treasures down below. Who knew that jumping into that pit would actually become such a terrifying thing?

.....

In any case, Ning Cheng decided not to return to the Ancient Shadow Temple until his strength reached a certain level. While pondering over these matters, Ning Cheng had already arrived at the Night Essence Celestial River.

Strictly speaking, Devouring Bone Sea did not belong to the Night Essence Celestial River.

Initially, there was an unnamed star in the starry sky near the Night Essence Celestial River. But this star had a variety of poisonous gasses and mists shrouding it, with only a thin layer of starry sky Essence Qi around it. These conditions did not make a hospitable place for cultivators.

However, because of the limited resources within starry skies, people would still colonise a star. Even if it weren't suitable for living. This became especially true for rogue cultivators who had to wander around for cultivation resources.

In fact, rogue cultivators looking for resources were the ones who discovered this star, which led to the discovery of the Devouring Bone Sea.

The Devouring Bone Sea covered most of this star. One could say that on this unmanned star, apart from a sprinkle of islands scattered all over, the rest was entirely the sea. This sea precisely was the Devouring Bone Sea.

Even for an ordinary star, Eternal-level experts would find it almost impossible to sweep through the entirety of it with their spiritual consciousness. Which meant that no one in the contemporary times could sweep through the star that contained the Devouring Bone Sea, especially since it was quite a few times larger compared to the average planet.

But despite the size and dangers, many cultivators found various heavenly woods and earthly treasures in the Devouring Bone Sea after its discovery. In fact, the Devouring Bone Sea regularly attracted Eternal experts seeking cultivation resources.

However, although one could find many good things in the Devouring Bone Sea, it was also a perilous area. Of the cultivators entering the Devouring Bone Sea, less than half would manage to make it out alive. As for the cultivators who could not come out, they all disappeared without a trace. However, skeletons often washed up on the few beaches of the Devouring Bone Sea, which gave it the name 'Devouring Bone' Sea.

Over time, people started calling the star where the Devouring Bone Sea was located as the Devouring Bone Star.

Ning Cheng had initially thought that there wouldn't be many people in such a dangerous place like the Devouring Bone Sea. However, when he reached the Devouring Bone Sea, he knew how far-off his thoughts were. The number of people here was not small at all. In fact, the numbers here exceeded that of a bustling starry sky city.

A temporary city had long been established somewhere at the edge of one of the larger islands in the Devouring Bone Sea. One could see cultivators moving through this place to trade materials and team up with others to enter the Devouring Bone Sea.

"Boy, you stole this old man's things and want to get away, don't even dream about it...." Ning Cheng was just about to select a store to buy a map of the Devouring Bone Sea when a somewhat familiar figure appeared in the range of his spiritual consciousness. Ning Cheng unconsciously heard the words, not intending to eavesdrop.

However, whether it was the voice or the figure, Ning Cheng quickly recognised it. He knew this person. More precisely, he knew this starry sky beggar.

Within the starry skies, many dressed up as wanderers or adventurers, but not many would choose to dress up like a beggar. However, this fellow liked to dress up like a beggar and swindle everyone. Even Ning Cheng had almost wandered into this fellow's path sometime in the past. Fortunately, Ning Cheng had a good head over his shoulders and ended up playing this beggar at his own game.

As Ning Cheng walked towards the shop, he saw the old beggar slap a couple to the ground.

"Well, boy, I was looking for you. I didn't expect you to come to my door. This old man had told you to come to the Bright South Celestial River, so why didn't you show up? Don't worry, wait a little bit as I straighten up these two ants. This old man will then settle my accounts with you."

When the old beggar saw Ning Cheng, his eyes immediately lit up in joy. Back then, he wanted to leave a mark on Ning Cheng, but he never expected that Ning Cheng would counter him instead. It's just that he felt too lazy to go look for Ning Cheng, and didn't think of meeting Ning Cheng in this place.

Ning Cheng only showed a slight smile, didn't speak, nor did he leave. This old beggar was the Celestial River King of Bright South Celestial River. When he had first met the Bright South Celestial River King, he was still a Celestial Novice ant, tens of thousands of times weaker than the Bright South Celestial River King. However, when Ning Cheng met him this time, he was already a Life and Death expert. But Bright South Celestial River King was still hovering in the Heaven Seated Realm.

If he was an ant in front of Bright South Celestial River King back then, Bright South Celestial River King was now an ant in front of him.

The world truly was unpredictable, who could think that in just a short time, the power difference would reverse? Bright South Celestial River King was still a chess piece under Striking Order Heavenly Emperor. Yet, he and Striking Order already address each other as brothers.

When Bright South Celestial River King saw Ning Cheng waiting patiently, he felt a little satisfied. He then shifted his attention to the couple who he had just slapped to the ground and spoke, "Just two ants, and yet dared to steal this king's things. What're your names?"

Ning Cheng secretly felt nothing but disdain for this fellow. This couple clearly had Celestial Novice cultivations. Therefore, Ning Cheng absolutely would not believe that these two Celestial Novice Cultivators would steal something from a Celestial River King. Most likely, something on the couple must have caught the eye of Bright South Celestial River King, who then found an excuse to seize them.

Ning Cheng couldn't be more precise on what kind of a person was this Bright South Celestial River King. If it weren't for that middle-aged scholar back then, this king would have definitely taken him away at that time, instead of wasting an image card on him.

"This junior is called Lie Junfeng, and this is junior's Dao Companion Bei Xialan." Although Bright South Celestial River King had dispersed the Celestial Shatterer male cultivator's cultivation, he still spoke with a respectful voice. Even the people next to him could feel the sincere respect coming from his tone.

Ning Cheng secretly admired this fellow. If this person hadn't run into Bright South Celestial River King who wasted his cultivation, he would have definitely become a compelling character in the future.

Wait, just then Ning Cheng thought of something else. He suddenly felt the names Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan familiar.

At this time, Lie Junfeng continued, "Senior, this junior had turned blind, seeing senior's glaze scroll, it had made me greedy."

While talking, Lie Junfeng fell to his knees and raised a scroll with both his hands.

When Ning Cheng saw the glaze scroll, his expressions immediately changed. He finally recalled who Lie Junfeng was.

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Chapter 746: Laws of the jungle

Not waiting for Bright South Celestial River King to take action, Ning Cheng raised his hand and took the glaze scroll from Lie Junfeng's hands.

Bright South Celestial River King's face immediately sank. A Celestial Novice ant actually dared to take the glaze scroll he wanted. But even at this time, he didn't think Ning Cheng would really take away the glaze scroll; instead, he believed that Ning Cheng wanted to help him get it.

Even so, he felt uncomfortable; he did not want such flattery.

"You two actually dared to steal Rainbow Fall Sword Sect's glaze scroll, and even dare to give it to others." Ning Cheng spoke with a cold tone after seizing the glaze scroll.

Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan only noticed Ning Cheng at this moment. However, after seeing Ning Cheng, Lie Junfeng's face drained of all colour and quickly spoke up, "Lie Junfeng greets Sect Master Ning."

Ning Cheng had a fierce reputation in Graceful Star Mainland. As long as any cultivator came from Graceful Star Mainland's Tian Continent, they would have definitely heard of the person named Ning

Cheng. Moreover, when Ning Cheng had entered Heaven's Way, Lie Junfeng still hadn't reached a level strong enough to open Heaven's Way. Therefore, although Ning Cheng might not know Lie Junfeng, Lie Junfeng definitely knew about Ning Cheng.

"Bei Xialan greets Sect Master Ning." Bei Xialan and Lie Junfeng had gone into hiding together, so she naturally knew about Ning Cheng's name and fame. Moreover, they were the traitors of Rainbow Fall Sword Sect, responsible for almost destroying the Rainbow Fall Sword Sect. Therefore, although hidden away from the world, they kept a lookout for any news relating to the Rainbow Fall Sword Sect.

Because of this, they heard about Ning Cheng sweeping through Tian Continent's primary powers singlehandedly and about him eradicating the Red Star Sword Faction, one of the top ten forces of Tian Continent. That reputation made it impossible for them to come out before Ning Cheng left.

Bright South Celestial River King grunted and stared at Ning Cheng, "Little kid, I chased these two down for the things I lost. What do you intend to prove by those actions? Did you think that this king would spare your life by acting out?"

While talking, Bright South Celestial River King's domain opened up, and his imposing manner pressed directly onto Ning Cheng. Even if he was a slow thinker, Bright South Celestial River King now understood that Ning Cheng had not done it for the sake of flattery. Instead, he really wanted to take away the glaze scroll.

Bright South Celestial River King did not enjoy a widespread reputation. But even those who never met Bright South Celestial River King had heard about this king's title. Therefore, seeing Bright South Celestial River King turning angry, anyone would quickly let go of the things he targeted.

Ning Cheng, however, only showed a slight smile. Holding the glaze scroll, he slowly but calmly walked to the front of Bright South Celestial River King. "Beggar, this glaze scroll is the treasure of my Rainbow Fall Sword Sect and comes from a low-level positional plane. How did it become your thing? If you keep talking nonsense, you'll only make me angrier."

Bright South Celestial River King could see Ning Cheng walking over to him unaffected. Moreover, with each step that Ning Cheng took, his domain would crack open a bit more. Sensing this, his expressions immediately changed. Inside his domain and still walking in such a leisurely way. Such a thing was only possible if Ning Cheng's strength absolutely neared him. How many years had it taken? How could this kid grow up so fast and to such a point? Despite travelling to many places in the starry sky over the many years, he had never seen such a perverted character like Ning Cheng.

If he didn't read it wrong, then this kid definitely had a huge secret on him. Thinking until here, he felt a slight regret crop up in his mind. However, Bright South Celestial River King quickly suppressed this pang of regret. Forcing a smile on his face, he finally spoke up, "So it turned out to be Sect Master Ning. I don't know if Sect Master Ning has any free time. But would you care to visit my Bright South Celestial River?"

Despite what he felt, he still didn't take Ning Cheng seriously. Besides, even if he had heard of Ning Cheng's name in the past, he would not have cared about it. Instead, because Lie Junfeng addressed him as 'Sect Master Ning', he also decided to treat him as 'Sect Master Ning'.

In his opinion, Ning Cheng's cultivation should have also reached the Heaven Seated Realm; however, he didn't believe that it surpassed his strength.

Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan, however, stared at Ning Cheng dully. One could regard both of them as geniuses among geniuses. However, reaching this point in both life and cultivation both had a reasonably good understanding of what real talent meant. Yet this Sect Master Ning seemed to be a powerhouse among powerhouses no matter where he went.

Ning Cheng only gave a calm reply, "You're just a Celestial River King, better not get overly friendly with me. If not for you helping me once, I would have already ruined you today for daring to rob my Rainbow Fall Sword Sect's glaze scroll. You can leave now, and better try not to ruin my mood."

While talking, Ning Cheng's imposing aura immediately crashed down. Bright South Celestial River King's domain shattered in an instant, and almost suffocated him to death.

Facing this might, Bright South Celestial River King's heart trembled. If he had thought Ning Cheng to be an ant when he first saw Ning Cheng, he had already regarded Ning Cheng as an opponent of the same level just a moment ago. But now, he realised that he was just too far away from Ning Cheng. In fact, he was just like an ant in front of Ning Cheng right now.

Realising that he could not match up to Ning Cheng, Bright South Celestial River King quickly cupped his fists and spoke, "This Bright South acted in recklessness. Please let me know about the location of Rainbow Fall Sword Sect, this Bright South will definitely pay a respectful visit in the future."

Afraid that Ning Cheng might misunderstand his meaning, Bright South Celestial River King spoke very carefully. However, his words also implied that he was a little unwilling and wanted to know about Ning Cheng's background.

Ning Cheng showed a smile. "My name is Ning Cheng, the master^[1] of Jiangzhou Star in Mysterious Yellow Celestial River and Sect Master of Mysterious Yellow Sect. But if you want to visit me, hehe, you're not qualified enough."

When Bright South Celestial River King heard Ning Cheng's words, waves of cold sweat started dripping down his back.

Although he didn't know any Sect Master Ning, he was just too familiar with the name Ning Cheng of Jiangzhou Star.

This man was brothers with the Striking Order Heavenly Emperor. He heard that the Named Descendant Celestial River King had offended Ning Cheng over something, which resulted in Ning Cheng destroying him in public. Additionally, Ning Cheng had taken over the entire Named Descendant Celestial River and brought it under his complete control. He even changed its name to Mysterious Yellow Celestial River. Even more outrageous was the fact that the Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor and Nine Phoenix Heavenly Emperor had gone there to congratulate him in person. They didn't even talk about taking back the Named Descendant Celestial River.

For Bright South Celestial River King to offend such a powerhouse, even growing several heads would not be enough to twist off.

Bright South Celestial River King immediately cupped his fists and no longer dared to stand on the same ground as Ning Cheng. "This Bright South had gone blind. Seeing that glaze scroll, it invoked a sense of greed in me and ended up offending Senior Ning. Please have mercy on this junior....."

Despite asking Ning Cheng for forgiveness, Bright South Celestial River King still couldn't control his body's tremor. He had also heard that apart from the Mysterious Yellow Sect's Sect Master, a dozen Eternal experts, including the four grand starry sky emperors, had entered the Ancient Shadow Temple. However, no one heard any news about those Eternal-level Heavenly Emperors. In fact, the only 'news' was Sect Master Ning standing in front of him, which made him unconsciously shiver.

"You can go now, but you better work on your greed. Otherwise, sooner or later, it will bring disaster on you." Ning Cheng put away the glaze scroll and spoke with a calm voice.

"Yes, yes.... This junior will always keep the senior's teachings in mind. This junior will take his leave now...." Bright South Celestial River King didn't even dare to wipe the cold sweat off his forehead and immediately started backing away.

Ning Cheng sighed darkly in his heart. When he had faced Bright South Celestial River King in the past, didn't he go through that same shock and fear as Bright South Celestial River King did right now? One could never know how things could change in unexpected ways. Currently, Bright South Celestial River King had to address him as a senior and even had a face filled with fear.

In the starry skies, only people with strength had the right to speak. If not for having higher cultivation, Bright South Celestial River King would have definitely tried to search his soul today for his secrets.

"Sect Master...." Seeing an expert like Bright South Celestial River King address and fear Ning Cheng like a powerful senior, Lie Junfeng and Bai Xialan turned even more anxious and started retreating in fear.

Ning Cheng's gaze swept past Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan, before refocusing his cold gaze at Bei Xialan. "Shan Wenyao must have gone blind to have taken a liking to a woman like you."

"Sect Master....." Bei Xialan's voice trembled. She worried that Ning Cheng would kill her and Lie Junfeng with a wave of his hand.

"Get lost, the two of you not only deceived your teachers but also plotted to destroy your home. You deserve to fall into this situation." Ning Cheng scolded.

He didn't particularly want to kill these two people as they had already lost their cultivation. In any case, with their cultivation dispersed, they would eventually die in this place. In all honesty, he didn't feel any particular hatred for Lie Junfeng or Bei Xialan. But since he had taken up the post of Rainbow Fall Sword Sect's Sect Master for some time, he did feel some responsibility towards Rainbow Fall Sword Sect. However, in Ning Cheng's heart, he identified more with the current Mysterious Yellow Sect. Rainbow Fall Sword Sect, after all, was not a sect he established.

"Many thanks, Sect Master, for your mercy." Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan fell to their knees to thank him before slowly walking away. In truth, they felt even more shocked compared to Bright South Celestial River King. Ning Cheng, just like them, had come from the Graceful Star Mainland. But today, even someone like Bright South Celestial River King had to bow down to Ning Cheng in fear and address him

as 'senior'. Yet, despite pushing themselves to the limits to improve, they still ended up in such a situation.

Ning Cheng looked at the two disappearing backs and shook his head. He could tell that these two loved truly each other. If these two had only left the Rainbow Fall Sword Sect because of love, it would have only been a morality issue. But these two took it too far. They not only went against the trust and teachings of their own sect but also colluded with outsiders to rob the Rainbow Fall's Yonder Immortal Sword. It was not something that Ning Cheng would ignore.

If not for that, Ning Cheng could have even helped the two. It wouldn't have been an impossibility for someone like him.

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Although the Devouring Bone Sea covered a large area, cultivators wanting to explore it concentrated mostly around the fluid-like temporary cities. This meant that news of Bright South Celestial River King addressing Ning Cheng as a 'senior' quickly spread all over the temporary cities around the Devouring Bone Sea.

Therefore, when Ning Cheng entered a busy street, cultivators quickly moved away from the road and looked over at Ning Cheng in awe. This made Ning Cheng feel somewhat helpless. The strong devoured the weak, a concept clearly in full display around the Devouring Bone Sea.

No force could permanently take charge of this place; as such, the faces of ruling cultivators changed continuously over time. Moreover, it instilled a particular mentality in this place where the weak would never dare to provoke the strong; let alone walk in the same direction as an expert like Ning Cheng.

"Senior, what do you need?" Ning Cheng had just walked into the merchant house when a store assistant greeted him with a warm smile.

Ning Cheng saw many customers here, yet he was the only one greeted by a store assistant at the door with a smile.

"I need a detailed map of the Devouring Bone Sea." Seeing such a treatment, Ning Cheng didn't want to linger around this place for long. After obtaining the map, he would quickly head over to the sea.

The store assistant quickly explained with his most polite tone, "Senior, the Devouring Bone Sea is just too big. We only have maps of individual smaller areas. If you can tell me what you might be looking for, this junior could then help senior find the relevant jade maps."

"I came here to find some Purple Light Treasure Essence." Ning Cheng didn't hide it. He had indeed come here to find Purple Light Treasure Essence. Besides, with his 'strength', no one would dare to do anything to him.

The store assistant's face froze for a second before replying with an awkward tone, "Purple Light Treasure Essence? I, this...."

Ning Cheng immediately understood from the tone and the change in expression that this person had most likely never heard of Purple Light Treasure Essence. In any case, Purple Light Treasure Essence was

not something that ordinary cultivators could find. Even if it came from the Devouring Bone Sea, it wouldn't be anywhere near the edge.

"Senior, I know about this thing." A sudden voice emerged from Ning Cheng's side.

Ning Cheng felt quite happy and was just about to turn around and speak when he suddenly stopped. He saw Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan walking in supporting each from falling over.

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Chapter 747: Volcanic Island in the sea

Ning Cheng felt a little perplexed. Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan should have already left to somewhere as far away from this place as possible. It was already a stroke of luck that they met him today. If it were Rui Baishan, he would have killed them on the spot.

Ning Cheng, however, ignored the two. He looked at the dark-faced young man with a smile and said, "Were you the one who said something about Purple Light Treasure Essence?"

He already knew that this dark-faced youth had mentioned Purple Light Treasure Essence, but he still asked out of courtesy.

The dark-faced youth was only at the late-stage Celestial Gathering Realm. Therefore, his face immediately turned a little red with excitement after noticing Ning Cheng talk to him. He quickly replied, "Yes, yes, senior. I have a jade strip here. There's an area in the Devouring Bone Sea marked with the words 'Purple Light Treasure Essence' on it. However, I don't know what it is....."

While speaking, the dark-faced youth handed over a jade strip to Ning Cheng with a very respectful attitude.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness casually swept over the jade strip and understood that this youth hadn't lied. This jade strip had the marks of time over it; moreover, he could tell that the person who marked this jade strip had decent cultivation. Which meant that it definitely had some truth to it.

"Thank you." Ning Cheng put away the jade strip, took out a jade bottle, and handed it to the dark-faced youth.

"Many thanks, senior." The youth immediately bowed and put away the jade bottle. However, he felt slightly disappointed. As long as he accumulated resources for some time, he could have managed to afford the contents in the jade bottle. It only contained Grade 3 Celestial Pills, with the only one function of healing injuries. As such, it wasn't too valuable.

The people nearby also felt a little disappointed. They all thought that a senior like Ning Cheng would come up with some good things. None of them expected him to take out only a few healing pills.

Despite the slight disappointment, the dark-faced youth still felt very grateful. After all, even a few healing pills were a small fortune around these parts. Just after bowing and stepping back, Ning Cheng's voice rang in his ears, "Among those pills, there is also a Harmonising Celestial Pill. Whether you can advance to the Celestial Bridge Realm or not, it would depend on your own fortune."

The dark-faced youth trembled slightly before returning to normal. Forcibly resisting the surprise and excitement creeping up, the dark-faced young man quickly walked out of the merchant house.

He never imagined that he would obtain a Harmonising Celestial Pill. This pill could help a Celestial Gatherer cultivator advance to the Celestial Bridge Realm. Moreover, such pills were not something one could buy with celestial coins around these parts. Besides, even if someone sold it, he couldn't afford it. Devouring Bone Sea was a gathering place of many Celestial Gathering rogue cultivators. And which one of them hadn't come here looking for opportunities to advance to the Celestial Bridge Realm?

At this moment, he felt truly grateful towards Ning Cheng. He understood that Ning Cheng had protected him. If Ning Cheng had spoken about the Harmonising Celestial Pill openly, he most likely would not have survived to see the light of next day.

After obtaining news of Purple Light Treasure Essence, Ning Cheng decided to walk out towards the sea. Although he did see Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan standing at the door, he didn't speak. Instead, he ignored them and stepped out.

"Sect Master....." Just when Ning Cheng stepped out of the merchant house, Lie Junfeng hurriedly called out after him.

Ning Cheng, however, didn't stop and kept walking. He did speak a few cold words, "What? You're no longer a disciple of Rainbow Fall Sword Sect, so don't call me Sect Master."

Lie Junfeng quickly stepped forward, "Senior, the reason we came to Devouring Bone Sea was due to a Positional Diagram Ball we obtained. Xialan and I no longer have any chance to explore this place, so we wanted to give this Positional Diagram Ball to you."

Lie Junfeng no longer dared to call Ning Cheng as 'Sect Master' anymore. Instead, he changed his form of address to 'senior'.

Ning Cheng received the Positional Diagram Ball from Lie Junfeng's hands with a perplexed look. However, the moment his spiritual consciousness swept inside it, Ning Cheng's expression changed slightly. It was actually a starry sky map.

This starry sky map looked similar to the Starry Sky Positional Diagram on his Starry Sky Wheel. In fact, it had much more detail. As Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness swept through it, it looked as if he was looking at a miniature version of the starry sky.

Ning Cheng quickly found the location of the Devouring Bone Sea on the miniature version of the planet. However, it did not have 'Devouring Bone Star' marked over it; instead, it merely indicated it as an uninhabited star. Inside this star, he saw a sea along with an area marked out inside the sea with two words, 'One Piece[1]'.

According to this Starry Sky Positional Diagram, this unmanned star obviously was the Devouring Bone Star, and the sea was the Devouring Bone Sea. As long as one's spiritual consciousness could communicate with this Starry Sky Positional Diagram Ball, they could easily find the location marked in the sea.

Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan would have found it impossible to find this place through this star chart, especially with such low cultivations.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness finally left the Starry Sky Positional Diagram Ball in his hand and nodded, "This thing is useful to me. Besides, you wouldn't be able to reach this place with your cultivations. I won't take your things for nothing..."

While talking, Ning Cheng raised his hand and took out two medicinal pills.

As if possessing a will of their own, these two pills shot into Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan's mouths. A moment later, Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan felt their shattered meridians starting to reconnect. Even their already dissipated celestial essence had started recovering.

The two instantly realised that this was the effect of a top-grade healing pill. If not for this medicinal pill, even reaching the peak of Heaven's Mandate Realm, they would have never obtained such a miraculous medicinal pill.

In just a dozen breaths, the pill restored Lie Junfeng and Bei Xialan's cultivation completely. At the same time, the meridians previously broken by Bright South Celestial River King finished reconnecting.

"Many thanks for the help." Lie Junfeng fell to his knees and trembled with excitement. In all honesty, the moment Bright South Celestial River King walked in their lives, they both knew that the end was near for them. The two never expected to get a new lease at life.

Ning Cheng calmly spoke up, "Don't thank me for this. I have nothing to do with you. It was merely an exchange of interests. With your temperament, if not for the exchange of interests, I wouldn't have done anything to save you."

Lie Junfeng pursed his lips and spoke up with a hoarse tone, "I know that my ancestors already look down on me, and I indeed did some questionable things. But when Xialan and I fell in love in Rainbow Fall Sword Sect, Shen Wenyao had already forced Xialan into a marriage with him without her consent. Even Rui Baishan fully supported Shen Wenyao, so Xialan and I made plans to retaliate and then escape from the sect."

Ning Cheng just waved his hand; the next moment, his body flickered and disappeared into the depths of the Devouring Bone Sea. He hated people like Lie Junfeng. To get revenge, Lie Junfeng used his woman to go undercover and then colluded with the enemy to attack his sect. For revenge, he put a green hat to cover up his oily black hair.

Seeing Ning Cheng just leave after restoring their cultivation, Lie Junfeng's face looked a little gloomy. He only achieved half his purpose. He initially thought that Ning Cheng would protect them and even offer some benefits, but nothing of that sort happened.

"Junfeng, being able to recover our cultivation is already a blessing. Otherwise, we couldn't leave Devouring Bone Star. We would have to stay here until our deaths." After so many years of working with Lie Junfeng, Bei Xialan naturally understood Lie Junfeng's thoughts.

Lie Junfeng's expressions changed a few times before he finally gave a sigh and said, "Let's leave, Xialan. One day, I will also stand at the top of the starry skies and let those who looked down on me and bullied me, to look at me Lie Junfeng as a powerhouse."

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After entering the Devouring Bone Sea, Ning Cheng encountered some whirlpools from time to time. These whirlpools had a strong rotational pull, and if one wasn't careful, it could quickly suck someone into the sea.

No wonder people rarely came to the depths of the Devouring Bone Sea. If one did not have sufficient cultivation and tried to explore this area with just ordinary cultivation, one would find it almost impossible to survive. Especially if one encountered one of these whirlpools.

Even with Ning Cheng's speed, it took him nearly two days to reach the location marked in the jade strip given to him by that dark-faced youth.

Only after reaching this place, did Ning Cheng finally understand why Purple Light Treasure Essence would form in this place? This was actually a volcanic island in the middle of the sea. Moreover, before Ning Cheng could even approach the edge of the island, he could clearly feel the waves of terrifying heat emanating from it.

The water at the edge of the island kept raging as the horrifying temperature of the island kept it in a superheated state. It also formed a vague layer of steam that covered the entire volcanic island. If it weren't for the vast size of the Devouring Bone Sea, the heat from the edge of this volcanic island would have evaporated everything around it. Maybe even dry out the Devouring Bone Sea.

Ning Cheng finally stepped foot on this volcanic island and blocked out the horrifying temperature with his domain. But even then, Ning Cheng felt slightly uncomfortable. Facing such horrifying temperatures, even Eternal-level experts would find it impossible to step onto the island. Not unless they had some reliable heat-resistant defensive weapons or a powerful physique.

Ning Cheng didn't dare to bring out his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds. Amidst this horrifying heat, his Twin Wings of Heavenly Clouds wouldn't last for long unless it had already undergone nirvana.

Ning Cheng carefully moved step-by-step towards the heart of the volcanic island and could feel the temperature rising gradually. The rising temperature even affected Ning Cheng's domain, and it felt as if it would crack apart at any time.

Even so, Ning Cheng had no plans to take out the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort. Instead, he decided to operate his body-forging cultivation method. He found that the horrifying temperatures of this place had an incredible effect in forging his body.

"Bang....." A light explosion rang out, and just when Ning Cheng had almost reached the centre of this volcanic island, his robes suddenly disintegrated into nothingness.

Dazzling purple light containing terrifying heat shined down and slammed into Ning Cheng's body. The tearing heat, however, accelerated Ning Cheng's body-forging cultivation method, which continuously refined and transformed the energy within it to improve his corporeal body's strength.

Ning Cheng started ambling, and sometime later, his bones began to crack apart and come together, forcing him to stop immediately. He had initially come here looking for Purple Light Treasure Essence. Instead, his forged body advanced to the middle-stage of Starry Sky Body before reaching the depths of the volcanic island.

Feeling the power coursing through his corporeal body, Ning Cheng's eyes flashed with joy and felt delighted in his heart. This was definitely not an ordinary flame. No matter how powerful his body-forging cultivation method, ordinary flames would not have helped him in advancing so fast. But getting the chance to ponder the reason, a purple crystal in front of him attracted Ning Cheng's gaze. It was a piece of Purple Light Treasure Essence.

Seeing that piece, Ning Cheng understood that Wu Hong had not obtained that Purple Light Treasure Essence from this place. If Wu Hong could come here, he wouldn't have found just a piece of Purple Light Treasure Essence. Ning Cheng hadn't even started searching for it actively, yet he already obtained a Purple Light Treasure Essence. This showed how much Purple Light Treasure Essence was in this place.

Ning Cheng raised his hand, grabbed that piece of Purple Light Treasure Essence, and put it into a jade box. Just as he was about to start moving around, an inexplicable feeling of vigilance appeared in his heart. Was there someone around?

Ning Cheng quickly took out a robe and put it over his body. At the same time, he used his domain and forged body to block out the horrifying heat around him.

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Chapter 748: Celestial River's Advancement

The scorching heat waves continued to assault Ning Cheng. But Ning Cheng's Starry Sky Body managed to block the heat waves even better after advancing to the middle stage. However, he had to endure considerable discomfort. If he relaxed even for a bit, the scorching heat could easily tear through his domain and defences.

He had sensed an aura coming from the heart of the island. Therefore, he decided to investigate it. But after walking towards it for a few meters, he suddenly brought out the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort. He could walk to the heart of the island without it, but his robes were of the ordinary kind. They would disintegrate once again if he moved any further.

Unless there was no other choice, Ning Cheng did not want to face any stranger while entirely naked.

Moreover, after bringing out the Blue Thunder Fort, the pressure on Ning Cheng suddenly reduced. Walking forward for another dozen breaths, Ning Cheng finally saw the source of the aura he had felt previously.

It indeed was a person. More specifically, a woman. However, this woman did not have any form of clothing covering her body. Moreover, Ning Cheng's gaze couldn't find the slightest defect when looking at that woman's perfect curves. It felt like the fire of this place had burned away all blemishes off her body, leaving only a masterpiece between heaven and earth.

She stood in the middle of a colourless flame that raged in the heart of this island, letting the colourless flame scour her body. However, she showed no movement. One had to know that Ning Cheng currently stood a few feet away from the heart of the island and had the protection of the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort. Yet, even when combined with his middle-level Starry Sky Body, the heat still felt a bit overwhelming.

Moreover, this woman didn't have any clothing covering her, so how was she enduring the horrifying flames? These colourless flames continually scoured the woman's white jade-like body. But Ning Cheng could not find any form of Dao Trace within it or on her body despite observing it for a long time.

Ning Cheng wasn't in the mood to appreciate this woman's body, which in his opinion had already reached the limits of a Starry Sky Body. If not for that, it wouldn't have been possible for her body to remain safe in such a horrifying place.

As he thought about it, Ning Cheng secretly felt shocked in his heart. The only reason he managed to upgrade his body, apart from his tenacity, was due to the help from the Mysterious Yellow Formless. Yet, here he saw a woman whose body-forging accomplishments clearly surpassed his. In fact, this woman had already reached the full-circle of Starry Sky Body. Therefore, even if her cultivation did not match up, the strength of her body clearly exceeded his.

Ning Cheng carefully stepped back; he didn't want to alarm such an expert. It was one thing to encounter a woman who only ran her mouth. But if this woman had an unreasonable personality, coupled with higher cultivation, he would definitely have to suffer.

However, just as Ning Cheng took a step back, he felt something wrong. This woman's behaviour seemed eccentric. Standing in the heart of this island within that flame, it showed that her forged body was at the very least at the same level as him, if not higher. Even if one came here to strengthen one's body, one would remain vigilant about someone approaching. Moreover, he also felt no life-like aura from this woman.

Ning Cheng's gaze then fell on her body. He didn't look at her private areas but instead focussed his gaze over a pale blue slab under the woman's feet. Moreover, the terrifying temperature of this slab almost disintegrated his spiritual consciousness before reaching it.

From the looks of it, this blue slab was the reason that this volcanic island had such high temperature. For this woman to dare step on this slab to forge her body, just what level had this woman's body cultivation reached?

Ning Cheng suddenly felt an impulse in his heart. He wanted this slab.

His spiritual consciousness carefully landed on this woman's body. Glancing at her body warily, he sensed that this woman's consciousness had already dissipated. Moreover, her Essence Spirit also showed signs of falling apart.

Ning Cheng breathed in a sigh of relief. From the looks of it, this woman could not control the horrifying temperatures during her body forging process. As a result, fire toxins ended up invading her consciousness. To preserve her life, she forcibly sealed her six senses, and only operated her body forging cultivation method on instinct. If no one helped her undo it, her corporeal body would disintegrate once her Essence Spirit started breaking apart, resulting in total death.

At first, Ning Cheng hesitated on whether to take away this bluestone. But seeing that this woman was already on the verge of death, Ning Cheng felt slightly relieved. Taking away this bluestone would actually help this woman.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng jumped on to the bluestone at the heart of the island without hesitation.

As the terrifying temperature swept over, Ning Cheng's Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort rattled and instantly shrunk. Seeing that, Ning Cheng took in a deep breath. Just as he was about to start placing restrictions to seal this bluestone, he felt Celestial River Flame jumping around excitedly in his Sea of Consciousness.

The Celestial River Flame showed no reaction when he first picked up the Purple Light Treasure Essence. Yet, this slab caused it to jump around in excitement.

Ning Cheng felt happy and immediately brought out the Celestial River Flame.

The Celestial River Flame turned into blue light and gracefully descended on the bluestone slab. Ning Cheng and the Celestial River Flame shared a connection; therefore, he could clearly feel the changes within the flame as it underwent a metamorphosis.

The two golden shades around the Celestial River Flame quickly turned into three. Although a fourth one did not form immediately, Ning Cheng could feel that his Celestial River Flame was undergoing continuous improvement.

This bluestone definitely was a fire-attributed treasure. Ning Cheng thought to himself and took out the Polar Star Nucleus without hesitation. The moment the Polar Star Nucleus came out, the Celestial River Flame, hovering over the bluestone slab, immediately shot out a blue tongue of flame. As the blue glow faded, the Star Flame Nucleus[1] disappeared.

After about a dozen breaths, the Celestial River Flame let out a thunderous roar. It erupted with heat even more terrifying than the bluestone slab. Ning Cheng quickly stepped up and took away the woman still standing on the bluestone slab. Otherwise, even if this woman were in an unconscious body forging state, the Celestial River Flame's explosion would have burned her to ashes.

Celestial River Flame's temperature kept climbing higher and higher, and the surrounding flames quickly started to gravitate towards it. Through the spiritual connection with the Celestial River Flame, Ning Cheng could clearly feel the Celestial River Flame growing stronger. At the same time, he could also sense the rising feeling of joy in the Celestial River Flame.

As time passed, Ning Cheng completely forgot about the woman in his arms and just kept looking at the Celestial River Flame in surprise. After his Celestial River Flame had evolved into a starry sky flame, four golden halos had gradually formed around it. However, the advancement of the Celestial River Flame did not stop, and a fifth golden halo slowly appeared on the flame's surface.

Another hour later, the Celestial River Flame gave out a crisp sound, before landing on Ning Cheng's outstretched palm. It now looked like a flower bud that had just bloomed under the first rays of dawn.

Ning Cheng then took out a robe, wrapped it around the woman before putting her aside, and forgot about her for the time being. He couldn't help but look at the Celestial River Flame in his hands in delight. Ning Cheng truly felt satisfied with the level his Celestial River Flame had grown into and could clearly feel the power contained within it. Ning Cheng even suspected that if he used the Celestial River Flame with all his strength, it could quickly destroy a planet by itself.

This flame contained so much power that Ning Cheng now only held a single desire in his heart. To find a place to refine the Nirvana Spear and transform it into a genuine weapon.

So far, he didn't have any weapon which he could call his own, which was very distressing at times.

But regardless of what he thought, his Celestial River Flame had used the bluestone slab in the centre of the volcanic island to advance. This seemed to have caused a slight drop in the temperature of this volcanic island. However, it remained sweltering.

Ning Cheng, without caring about the woman on his side, kept placing restriction after restriction onto the slab. By now, he felt sure that this bluestone was not an ordinary treasure.

One had to know, Ning Cheng's attainments in array formation had already come infinitely close to that of the Starry Sky Grade 9. That is, he was about to become an Array Emperor who could arrange Starry Sky Grade 9 Arrays. Yet, despite his accomplishments, it still consumed a lot of time.

But despite the high temperature of this bluestone, Ning Cheng's containment array formations and restrictions slowly contained and started confining the heat to the inside of it. After half a day, Ning Cheng managed to seal the bluestone completely. At the same time, he also placed the bluestone into the 5-element Array Formation within the Mysterious Yellow Bead.

The temperature contained within the bluestone slab had already reached terrifying levels during the sealing process. Therefore, Ning Cheng did not dare put this bluestone in his True Spirit World. In case the restrictions weaken, and the heat contained in the bluestone slab erupted, wouldn't it destroy everything inside?

Only after Ning Cheng put away the bluestone slab did he feel a significant change around him. It felt as if someone had turned off the source of the horrifying temperatures permeating the volcanic island. The island had actually started to cool down.

Ning Cheng felt secretly happy at this and confirmed his suspicions about the bluestone slab. Moreover, he also saw many more pieces of Purple Light Treasure Essence all around him.

After his Celestial River Flame advanced to a Grade 5 Starry Sky Flame, Ning Cheng no longer had any uses for the Purple Light Treasure Essence.

However, Ning Cheng wouldn't let go of such earthly treasures. Therefore, in just a short while, he collected nearly 100 Purple Light Treasure Essence. Moreover, with Ning Cheng taking away the bluestone slab, it seemed as if the island had lost something integral to it. Rattling sounds suddenly started emerging from somewhere from under the island, forcing Ning Cheng to sweep out with his spiritual consciousness to examine. Sure enough, he found that the island was about to crumble apart and sink.

He quickly grabbed the unconscious female cultivator, who only seemed to know about operating her body forging cultivation method and rushed out of the volcanic island.

Soon after Ning Cheng left the volcanic island, the volcanic peninsula quickly crumbled and dissolved into the water surrounding it just like mud dissolving into a running stream.

An hour later, Ning Cheng stopped on another island. He set the female cultivator aside and sealed everything around him with array formations. He couldn't wait to bring out the Celestial River Flame and begin refining the Nirvana Spear.

He still couldn't figure out what kind of material was his Nirvana Spear. But he believed that if he combined the Nirvana Spear with Twilight Sand, he could definitely make an excellent top-grade weapon for himself.

When the Celestial River Flame landed on the Nirvana Spear, it immediately made crackling-like sounds. However, to Ning Cheng's disappointment, even after his Celestial River Flame advanced to Grade 5 Starry Sky, it couldn't do anything to the Nirvana Spear. Apart from the crackling-like noises, the flame couldn't create even a single ripple over the raw material, let alone refine the Nirvana Spear.

A full day later, Ning Cheng put away the Nirvana Spear in disappointment. He really couldn't understand how such a sturdy spear shaft had appeared in a place that didn't even have any cultivators. It looks like he still had to continue enduring the pain of not having a personalised weapon.

Opening the restrictions around him once again, he also brought out the woman he rescued. Ning Cheng decided to wake her up before walking away from this place.

Previously, Ning Cheng cared more about the advancement of his Celestial River Flame and refining the Nirvana Spear; as such, he didn't particularly care about this woman's appearance. He only knew that this woman had a perfect body. In any case, it wasn't out of place for body-forging cultivators, both male and female, to have perfectly sculpted bodies.

But now that Ning Cheng finally took notice of this woman's appearance, he definitely felt impressed by it. This woman not only had a perfectly sculpted body but also a perfect face.

Because of the extended body-forging period, it made her hair and eyebrows look a little yellow. But with her beautifully sculpted nose and her soft, slightly closed lips and a face similar in shape of a goose's egg, it almost gave her an otherworldly feel to her.

Except for Yu Qing and Qionghua, Ning Cheng really couldn't recall any woman who looked more beautiful than she did.

After a moment's hesitation, Ning Cheng took out a Rootless Green Bamboo Leaf. He then tore the leaf into two halves and then put it into the female cultivator's mouth.

This female cultivator's Essence Spirit had separated from her body for a long time, which made it unstable. Therefore, to deal with the Essence Spirit's instability and the loss of Essence Spirit's control over the body, Rootless Green Bamboo was the most effective medicine.

In just an incense stick worth of time, the female cultivator finally opened her eyes and suddenly sat up. As her eyes swept around, she also stretched out her spiritual consciousness.

Soon her gaze focussed on Ning Cheng, "Did you save me?"

Ning Cheng found this behaviour slightly strange. Was it normal for this woman to wake up and see a man hovering around her naked body? This woman most likely knew that she wasn't wearing anything, yet she still behaved as if she had her robes on. How could she ignore it and ask if he saved her? Or was he reading too much into it?

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 749: 3000 Weak Water Stream

Ning Cheng gave an honest nod, "Yes, I saved you. You were in an unconscious body-forging state, which loosened your Essence Spirit. If I had left you as it is, you would have eventually fallen."

Ning Cheng didn't particularly want to give himself credit. Still, he also did not want this woman to misunderstand his actions. Moreover, he also did not want to start an unnecessary fight with her. Besides, it wouldn't be the first time such a thing happened to him. In the past, when he saved Nalan Ruxue, that woman not only did not know how to act grateful, she even let her master kill him.

"Thank you. My name is Yan Xishuang." The woman stood up after she finished speaking and the robes covering her slid off her body.

Ning Cheng had prepared himself for a potential mess but did not expect that this female cultivator named Yan Xishuang wouldn't even care about it. Not only that, even though he hadn't moved away or even turned around, she still unabashedly stood up without any care.

Yan Xishuang didn't pay attention to Ning Cheng's surprised reaction. In fact, despite in Ning Cheng's presence, she used dust removal techniques on herself several times before finally taking out a set of robes.

Even if it didn't matter to her, Ning Cheng couldn't just casually watch a woman dress in front of him. He didn't harbour such open thoughts, so he quickly turned around with an awkward smile and spoke up, "I'll take my leave first."

However, Ning Cheng still held some doubts in his mind. He could clearly see that this female cultivator's body didn't have anything on it. Yet, this female cultivator still took out things. The only possibility was that this female cultivator, just like him, had an artefact that in her Sea of Consciousness with storage space.

"Wait a minute; I don't even know your name yet." The female cultivator took things neither slow nor fast. But by the time she said those words, she had already begun putting on the lower half of her robes.

"I'm called Ning Cheng, don't need to mind me." Ning Cheng finished and quickened his pace. He didn't particularly like women with Nalan Ruxue-like nature of exploding without understanding the situation, and he didn't like exchanging too many words with such seemingly unbothered women.

By this time, Yan Xishuang had already put on her robes and spoke up with a soft voice, "You've already seen me naked, so why not continue taking in the sights? Or did you think I would get mad if you didn't look away while I put on my robes? Or is it that you think I'm a casual woman?"

Ning Cheng looked at Yan Xishuang in surprise. At this time, she wore a light blue robe, which gave her an even more refined look and pressing cleverness. In just a short while, her thin yellow hair turned dense and black, and her eyelashes became clear. However, this woman's observational power shocked him the most instead of the transformation. She had accurately guessed the thoughts in his heart from his attitude.

He could also 'see' what Yan Xishuang thought from her eyes. It only contained two characters, hypocrisy.

Ning Cheng showed an awkward smile again. He found that he indeed was a bit hypocritical with his actions.

Fortunately, Yan Xishuang didn't press on this, but just looked at Ning Cheng and asked with a calm voice, "Did you take that Nirvana Bluestone?"

Nirvana Bluestone? Ning Cheng quickly understood what Yan Xishuang meant. Most likely, the bluestone he took away should be the Nirvana Bluestone she mentioned. The name itself made it feel mighty.

"Yes, I did take it." Ning Cheng admitted to it directly. He rescued Yan Xishuang, but they hadn't come too far away from the location of the volcanic island. Just a quick sweep with one's spiritual consciousness would reveal the still crumbling volcanic island beneath the waters.

Yan Xishuang did not feel too surprised about it. Instead, she took out two chairs and sat down on one of them before motioning Ning Cheng to take the other one.

Ning Cheng also sat down calmly. After Yan Xishuang's Essence Spirit gradually stabilised, Ning Cheng began to sense her actual cultivation. He found that she was at the late stage of the Eternal Realm. But even if she was at the late-stage Eternal Realm, Ning Cheng did not fear her.

Ning Cheng did not know anything about this Nirvana Bluestone, but he certainly knew that it wasn't something ordinary. Since it was not an everyday object and had fallen into his hands, he wouldn't hand it over so casually. Besides, Ning Cheng saved Yan Xishuang's life, which should have made it up for it. He didn't want to owe others anything and thus had taken it with a clear conscience.

Besides, even if he didn't take it back then, he could have just waited until Yan Xishuang's death to take it away.

Yan Xishuang's eyes showed a slight bit of struggle, and she hesitated for a while before saying, "I went to that place for the Nirvana Bluestone. In fact, if I hadn't refined the bluestone for many years, you would have found it impossible to seal the bluestone and take it away."

Ning Cheng only knew that the flame emitted by this Nirvana Blue Stone was mighty. However, he truly didn't know that she had refined this bluestone for many years. This showed that Yan Xishuang was not only using it to refine her body but also refining the bluestone.

Seeing Ning Cheng silent, Yan Xishuang spoke up again. "I can give you a high-rank Starry Sky Spiritual Vein, and ten million Permanent Essence Pills in exchange for your bluestone. What do you think?"

After Yan Xishuang said those words, Ning Cheng only had one thought in his mind 'this woman really was rich'. With those things in hand, he could most likely advance to the middle-stage of Life and Death Realm. Therefore, Ning Cheng definitely felt his heart twitch at this offer.

However, he quickly understood something. This woman offered quite a price for the Nirvana Bluestone. This indicated that this Nirvana Bluestone had a much higher value than what he initially thought.

"Sorry, I have a flame, and I require this stone to help it evolve. Besides, I've also taken a liking to it, so I can't exchange it with you." Ning Cheng said apologetically. From Yan Xishuang's words, he understood that Yan Xishuang definitely had a part to play in why he obtained the bluestone this easily.

Seeing Ning Cheng's unwillingness to exchange, Yan Xishuang spoke up with a somewhat helpless tone, "Can you lend me this stone for a while? I promise to return it to you."

Ning Cheng showed a smile. Did this woman really think of him as someone naive? They didn't even know each other; in fact, the only thing connecting them was he saving her life. Yet, this woman didn't even think of repaying her benefactor but instead, wanted to borrow stuff from him.

This time, Ning Cheng refused without hesitation. He didn't even bother to leave behind any polite words, and directly said no.

"In that case, let's forget it." Yan Xishuang stood up.

Yan Xishuang only took a few steps when she stopped again, "I know of an important place containing either untold wealth or countless treasures. I am willing to take you there. But because I found this place first, I need 70% of the things inside."

Ning Cheng showed a slight smile, "I don't want to take advantage of you. You can go there by yourself and take away 100% of it. Goodbye."

Having said that, Ning Cheng's body flickered, and he rushed out of the island in an instant before disappearing without a trace.

Although this woman did thank him for saving her life, she even wanted to exchange for the things he obtained. If she had brought up something of at least equivalent value, he could have thought of completing the exchange. But since she could not, it showed that this woman most likely did not have anything of value equivalent to it. Moreover, she even asked him to team up to explore a treasure ground. It definitely was not because he saved her, but more likely, because she needed his help.

Wanting to enlist help from her life-saving benefactor and only offering 30% things in return. It would be a strange thing if Ning Cheng even showed any interest. Besides, he still needed to find a place; that is, the location marked in the Starry Sky Positional Diagram Ball he received from Lie Junfeng.

A location in the depths of the Devouring Bone Sea marked with the name 'One Piece'.

Since it contained a 'piece' character, then maybe it contained something good. Ning Cheng anyway didn't have the time to go on random treasure hunts, so how could he join hands with others for only 30%?

Seeing Ning Cheng disappearing so quickly, Yan Xishuang sighed and murmured to herself, "Without the Nirvana Bluestone, I don't think I can go in....."

.....

Although people considered Devouring Bone Sea as 'big', it was only in respect to ordinary cultivators. For people like Ning Cheng, the Devouring Bone Sea didn't contain any significant dangers. In fact, his passage through the Devouring Bone Sea didn't pose any threat to him at all.

Under the guidance of the Starry Sky Positional Diagram Ball, Ning Cheng didn't have to take any detours and powered through. On the way to the location marked 'One Piece' in the positional diagram ball, Ning Cheng encountered several patches of fog.

Ordinary cultivators would have had to choose a different direction to either avoid it or bypass these patches. But Ning Cheng naturally didn't need to do either. Moreover, the location marked on the map

already hinted it as a treasure trove. Which meant that people wouldn't find it easily. If one could locate it so quickly, people would have already uncovered it much before him.

But even with a middle-grade Starry Sky Body and the Starry Sky Positional Diagram, Ning Cheng's speed considerably dropped after continuously breaking through the patches of sea fogs in his path.

Two days later, Ning Cheng stopped. According to the identification markers on the positional diagram, he had arrived at the periphery of the area marked with the words 'One Piece'.

To Ning Cheng's surprise, the area marked for 'One Piece' was a large patch of sea different from the surrounding sea.

In fact, it did not look anything like the sea surrounding it and looked more like a dark grey patch within the sea. This dark grey patch of water was in stark contrast to the deep blue seawater surrounding its periphery. Moreover, the place where this dark grey seawater met the deep blue seawater, one could see a clear distinction as if cut by a knife.

This wasn't what surprised Ning Cheng the most. What surprised him the most was that the dark grey sea's surface was almost a foot lower than the deep blue sea's surface just outside. Winds and waves crashed around on the outside, but the surface of this dark grey water remained calm. In fact, not a drop of seawater from outside could even reach the dark grey sea's surface.

Moreover, this dark greywater not only prevented spiritual consciousness from sweeping in, but it also gave him a sense of danger.

Was this One Piece? What's good in here?

Ning Cheng hesitated for a bit before taking out a ship he had made and threw it onto the dark grey sea. He wanted to carefully go in and explore. But just in case, he decided to explore the surface first with the boat.

However, after the boat landed on the dark grey sea, it quickly started to sink. Ning Cheng couldn't believe what he saw. The ship, supposed to float on the water, sunk like a rock. Moreover, it dropped smoothly and steadily, without overturning or creating any ripples, going against common sense.

At this moment, Ning Cheng suddenly thought of a sentence from the Journey to the West, "On these loose sands, eight hundred wide; weak waters flow, three thousand deep. On its surface, not a goose feather floats; while rush petals quickly sank deep[1]."

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng searched around and took out a feather before dropping it onto the dark grey waters. Facts proved the truth of this sentence, as even the feather sank without a pause.

"Did you follow me?" A slightly dissatisfied voice rang out. But Ning Cheng already knew that it was Yan Xishuang without even looking back.

In fact, Yan Xishuang hadn't even spoken when Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness discovered her.

"Fairy Yan, isn't it me who should say those words?" Ning Cheng turned around and said with a calm voice.

Yan Xishuang paused slightly, and her face turned a little red. That's right. Ning Cheng had come here first. So Ning Cheng should have been the one to say those words. Besides, how could Ning Cheng have followed her without her noticing?

"Aah, sorry." Yan Xishuang quickly understood what was going on. "Wait, do you also know about the 3000 Weak Water Stream[2] in the Devouring Bone Sea?"

"Is it really called the 3000 Weak Water Stream?" Ning Cheng asked in disbelief, before asking another question, "Is it by any chance called by another name, say Quicksand River[3]?"

"Quicksand River?" Yan Xishuang frowned, she had never heard of this name.

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Chapter 750: The ten innate waters

"No, I haven't heard of this name. But how do you know about the 3000 Weak Water Stream?" Yan Xishuang asked.

Ning Cheng smiled, "I didn't know that it really is called '3000 Weak Water Stream'. I just followed a Starry Sky Positional Diagram Ball with the location of this place. But looking at these strange waters, do you have a way to get in?"

Yan Xishuang gave a calm reply, "I naturally have a method. Since you're already here, let's cooperate. We can divide the things in this place evenly, what do you think?"

Ning Cheng shook his head, "I don't need to cooperate with anyone. Everyone does his or her own things. What they get is what they get."

After saying that, Ning Cheng wanted to try entering the Weak Water Stream. He could tell that this woman wasn't sincere with her words and always spoke with reservation despite the previous casual appearance.

"Wait...." Yan Xishuang quickly called out to Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng looked at Yan Xishuang in doubt, "It's not like I'm stopping you; you can go in by yourself. Since you already have a method to go in, why not just use it instead of stopping others?"

Yan Xishuang shook her head. "Ning Cheng, you will turn into nothingness the moment you enter this 3000 Weak Water Stream. Even with a full circle Eternal cultivation and a late-stage Starry Sky Body, it wouldn't matter."

Hearing Yan Xishuang's words, Ning Cheng quickly stopped moving and stood over his flight type weapon before asking again, "Why?"

"Do you not know anything about the 3000 Weak Water?" Yan Xishuang asked.

Ning Cheng shook his head. He truly didn't know anything about the 3000 Weak Water. Most of his cultivation related knowledge was just a patchwork from here and there. In fact, the most significant knowledge gain he received came from the Foundations of Artefact Crafting that Zhongli Baichi had given him. If not for that book, he wouldn't have known many things about the cultivation world. However, even that book had no record of either the Nirvana Bluestone or the 3000 Weak Water.

Although Ning Cheng had heard about 3000 Weak Water in the past, it mainly came from the stories he read back on Earth. But he understood that the 3000 Water Water he heard on Earth should not be the same as this one.

“Then presumably you also never heard of the ten innate waters.” Yan Xishuang said.

Ning Cheng shook his head again before cupping his fists and speaking, “Can Fairy Yan tell me about it?”

Cultivating to this level, Ning Cheng definitely had a good picture of where he lacked. As he never had a teacher to learn from, it also meant that he didn’t understand many things already known by everyone. Therefore, Ning Cheng made it a habit to ask about the things he didn’t understand. If the other party felt unwilling to speak about it, so be it. But if they willingly shared the information, then at least he would learn a little more about the world.

Yan Xishuang, fortunately, did not hide it, “I’ve only heard about five of them, I don’t know about the rest. The first one on the list, I heard, is simply impossible to obtain. It’s called the 5-element Spirit Water.....”

Ning Cheng felt shocked. 5-element Spirit Water, wasn’t it one of the main ingredients required to forge the Good Fortune Spirit Spear? According to what he learned, this water only formed during the formation of a Good Fortune World; in fact, it only condensed within a Good Fortune World with the help of Breath Soil. Therefore, didn’t it mean that only the owners of Good Fortune Treasures would have this water?

Wait, Zhongli Baichi’s book contained information about the 5-element Spirit Water, so why did it not provide any information about the 3000 Weak Water?

As Ning Cheng thought of this, his spiritual consciousness immediately linked up with the book in his storage. However, he found that the last page had disappeared, the page containing information about the Good Fortune Spirit Spear.

Yan Xishuang had no idea that Ning Cheng had already turned over so many thoughts during this momentary pause. Instead, she continued as if speaking to herself. “I don’t know anything about the second, third, and the fourth-ranked[1] innate waters, but the fifth one on the list is called the Inquisitive Heart Water.....”

Ning Cheng sighed internally, he had also never heard of this type of water.

“The sixth one is the 3000 Weak Water.” Yan Xishuang said and then looked at Ning Cheng. “By now you should have realised the value of this type of water.”

Ning Cheng nodded in agreement; counted in the same list as the heaven defying 5-element Spirit Water, he understood that this 3000 Weak Water wasn’t ordinary at all. How could any of these ten innate waters be simple if put on the same pedestal as the 5-element Spirit Water?

“What about the other four?” Ning Cheng asked again.

Yan Xishuang continued, “The seventh on the list is called the Indeterminable Dark Water. I don’t know about the eighth and ninth ones on the list, but the tenth one has the name ‘Single Essence Heavy Water’.”

“Single Essence Heavy Water?” Ning Cheng repeated the words in amazement.

Yan Xishuang asked in confusion, “Have you seen it?”

Ning Cheng gave an honest reply, “Yes, I have seen it before, but it was only one drop. I know that this type of water contains immense weight. A drop of Single Essence Heavy Water roughly equals the weight of a small star, which is why it makes for an excellent material for refining artefacts.”

It also made Ning Cheng a little speechless. The book only contained information about the 5-element Spirit Water. It was at the top of the list, while Single Essence Heavy Water was the last in the list.

Hearing that Ning Cheng had seen the Single Essence Heavy Water, Yan Xishuang felt a little moved. But when she heard Ning Cheng say that it was only a drop, she returned to normal and said, “A drop of Single Essence Heavy Water doesn’t mean much. As you put it, it wouldn’t have much use apart from refining artefacts. However, if you managed to obtain such a large quantity of Single Essence Heavy Water, you could easily dominate the entire starry sky.....”

While speaking, Yan Xishuang pointed at the 3000 Weak Water Stream in front of her.

Ning Cheng remained silent, but she continued, “A drop of Single Essence Heavy Water has the weight of a star, but what if it was a stream, hehe.....”

Ning Cheng didn’t give a smile in return; instead, he remained in thought. Yan Xishuang, as if understanding Ning Cheng’s thoughts, calmly continued. “Did you think that the weight of many drops of Single Essence Heavy Water would simply add up?”

“Yeah.” Ning Cheng looked at Yan Xishuang in confusion. Going by a drop-by-drop basis, just how many drops did this 3000 Weak Water Stream contain? If each drop meant the weight of an entire star, just how many stars would it weigh? In fact, it might be impossible to measure the combined weight at all.

“You’re wrong.” Yan Xishuang said softly. “It’s countless times heavier than you think. It’s not just a simple one-plus-one problem. As for a reason, I don’t know.[2]”

After a pause, she added, “But that’s not what we were talking about. Besides, there wouldn’t be so much Single Essence Heaven Water in this positional plane’s starry skies.”

“Since there is not much of Single Essence Heavy Water, why is there so much of 3000 Weak Water here? If I remember correctly, you said that the 3000 Weak Water was listed sixth among the ten innate waters.” Ning Cheng said immediately.

Yan Xishuang showed a slight smile, “You’re partly wrong. If all the water here were the 3000 Weak Water, then Devouring Bone Sea wouldn’t exist. Even we couldn’t have reached this place. In fact, there is only one drop of 3000 Weak Water in here.”

One drop? How could there be such a ‘big’ drop?

As if knowing what Ning Cheng thought, Yan Xishuang gave a direct reply, “It’s not a ‘big’ drop. It’s just a fist-sized drop of 3000 Weak Water under this sea. But because this drop of 3000 Weak Water had fallen here, it’s what created this area. It not only changed the water’s colour to dark grey, it even caused the water to cave in on itself.”

“What’re the uses of 3000 Weak Water?” Ning Cheng felt moved by the idea of obtaining this drop of 3000 Weak Water, especially since it was on the same list as the 5-element Spirit Water. He very much wanted to get it, even if it was just a single drop.

Yan Xishuang offered a careful explanation, “Don’t look at 3000 Weak Water as ordinary, it doesn’t actually have a fixed form or shape. If not refined, however, 3000 Weak Water is as cold as the coldest ice. It can freeze everything in the world and turn it into nothingness. If any living creature fell into it, it wouldn’t be able to use even half its strength. Moreover, you wouldn’t be able to feel this without actually entering the water.”

“Once you refine the 3000 Weak Water into your own treasure, this treasure would then keep morphing according to your opponent’s fears. If your opponent fears the cold, this Weak Water Treasure will become the coldest thing in the world. If your opponent is afraid of flames, this Weak Water Treasure will turn into the most terrifying flame.”

“Of course, this is not the most important role of the 3000 Weak Water. If you integrate this 3000 Weak Water into a weapon, that’s where it would bring out its real power. In fact, it’s one of the most powerful artefact-crafting auxiliary raw materials in the world. Moreover, the reason I asked you to cooperate was that only your Nirvana Blue Stone could help us enter this 3000 Weak Water Stream. Otherwise, even stepping into it would mean death.”

Yan Xishuang seemed to have understood a bit of Ning Cheng’s character. So, she decided to state the role of Nirvana Bluestone first. She had a hunch that Ning Cheng might cooperate if she described how to get into the river.

Ning Cheng didn’t expect 3000 Weak Water to have such an important role. He took in a deep breath and said, “Fairy Yan, you said just now that there was only a single drop of 3000 Weak Water here. Even if we cooperate, how would we divide this drop of 3000 Weak Water?”

Yan Xishuang showed a slight smile, “I can’t take this drop of 3000 Weak Water. So this Weak Water naturally belongs to you. The rest we can divide equally between us. The area around the 3000 Weak Water always transforms into an area filled with treasures. Since this drop of 3000 Weak Water has fallen here, it means that we would definitely find many top-grade treasures.”

“Okay, I agree.” Ning Cheng said without hesitation.

He could feel some pitfalls in Yan Xishuang’s words, but since Yan Xishuang didn’t want this drop of 3000 Weak Water, why would he refuse it? As for the idea of kicking Yan Xishuang away after learning how to enter the Weak Water Stream, he never even thought about it.

Sure enough, Yan Xishuang’s eyes flashed with excitement. “Then please take out the Nirvana Bluestone. As long as you can put the Nirvana Bluestone in the 3000 Weak Water Stream in front of you, we can then stand on top of it and let it directly sink to the bottom.”

Now that they had reached an agreement, Ning Cheng acted quickly. Without a word of nonsense, he took out the Nirvana Bluestone, removed the restrictions covering it, and threw it into the 3000 Weak Water Stream.

Even the feather had sunk to the bottom of the river. Therefore, Ning Cheng somewhat expected that this bluestone would also start dropping after he threw it into the river. As for what to do later, Yan Xishuang definitely would have a method.

Unexpectedly, Ning Cheng found that the bluestone did not sink when thrown into the Weak Water Stream; instead, it remained floating in place.

Yan Xishuang quickly flew over to the bluestone and at the same time shouted to Ning Cheng. "Hurry up; only by standing over this Nirvana Bluestone can we reach the bottom of the Weak Water Stream."

Ning Cheng also quickly flew over to the Nirvana Bluestone. As soon as he landed, a horrifyingly cold wave blasted over him. The icy chill made Ning Cheng wonder if he could have survived it without advancing to the middle-grade Starry Sky Body.

Fortunately, the moment his feet touched the Nirvana Bluestone, it gave off a wave of heat that neutralised the surrounding cold.

"You seem to have quite a forged body, almost reaching the peak of Starry Sky Body." Yan Xishuang's forged body obviously was of a higher grade compared to Ning Cheng. But even so, some frost still formed over her body.

In fact, Ning Cheng's forged body had only reached the middle-grade of Starry Sky Body, but Ning Cheng did not answer Yan Xishuang's words. Instead, he felt that if it weren't for this Nirvana Bluestone, he would have had to wait for death or enter the Mysterious Yellow Bead if he had directly jumped in. Even the terrifying heat waves from the Nirvana Bluestone could not entirely block the icy cold of this 3000 Weak Water Stream. In other words, if he and Yan Xishuang weren't both starry sky powerhouses, they wouldn't be able to enter this Weak Water Stream without the Nirvana Bluestone.

"Something's wrong, the Nirvana Bluestone is starting to melt." Ning Cheng quickly noticed the change in the Nirvana Bluestone under his feet. He found its size shrinking with each passing moment; maybe this Nirvana Bluestone would dissolve before they could even reach the bottom of the river.