

The Gate 771

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Chapter 771: Suspected Yin World

Ning Cheng nodded and said, "I do want to exchange a Wind-thunder Apricot Tree branch with Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix. Of course, if Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix still feels unwilling, we can just forget this conversation. Besides, I also want to ask you about a few other things. Well, more precisely, about how you escaped from the Ancient Shadow Temple. And your willingness to exchange for that talisman."

Calling Yi Jiufeng as 'Senior Apprentice Sister', Ning Cheng indicated his intent to form a friendship with Yi Jiufeng. In any case, he could tell that Yi Jiufeng and Chuan Xinlou weren't close enough to wear a pair of pants.

Yi Jiufeng sighed and said, "I no longer have the Wind-thunder Apricot Tree. However, I do have a branch that I managed to save."

Ning Cheng looked at Yi Jiufeng doubtfully. He couldn't understand Yi Jiufeng's meaning.

Seeing the puzzled look on Ning Cheng's face, Yi Jiufeng gave a simple explanation. "My Wind-thunder Apricot Tree and that talisman both now are in Chuan Xinlou's hands. Not only me, but even Zhangkang Tianji and Qiao Jierui had to surrender a few things to Chuan Xinlou."

Ning Cheng then asked in a deep voice, "Are you implying that Chuan Xinlou helped you escape the Ancient Shadow Temple?"

Yi Jiufeng nodded. "He did. If I'm not wrong, Zhangkang Tianji and Qiao Jierui should have already returned to their respective Demon and Devil Domains."

"So Chuan Xinlou didn't confirm his Dao in Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain, but in the Ancient Shadow Temple?" Ning Cheng asked again. If Chuan Xinlou hadn't reached Dao Confirming Realm, how could he have taken everyone out of that place?

Yi Jiufeng shook her head. "It shouldn't be. If I guessed it right, Chuan Xinlou had left the Ancient Shadow Temple and returned to Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain. He should have reached the Dao Confirming Realm at the safety of his residence. In any case, based on the situation at that time, we simply couldn't have escaped from that place. I don't know what had happened, but we all heard an angry roar somewhere in the distance and then power binding us suddenly decreased. Chuan Xinlou used that opportunity to take out a talisman. He said that his talisman could break open the void in that place to let everyone escape. Of course, he put forth some conditions."

Ning Cheng immediately understood something. He suspected that Chuan Xinlou and others would escape eventually. But it looks like his actions sped up the process. He had attracted the attention of the strong presence behind the First Futility Bridge, giving Chuan Xinlou and others a chance to escape.

"So, both the Life and the Death gates led to the same place? Did Striking Order and others also come out?" Ning Cheng continued to probe.

“Yes. Although the Life and the Death gate both had different levels of danger, they both lead to the same place where we got trapped. In other words, if not for Chuan Xinlou’s talisman, we all would have fallen regardless of which gate we chose. I didn’t see Striking Order, but Mu Hao and Xun Zhihe should have also escaped.”

Sitting beside Ning Cheng, Ning Ruoqing spoke up in disdain, “And just like that, he reached Dao Sculpting Realm?”

“Ruoqing, what do you mean by Dao Sculpting? Is it not Dao Confirming? Is there a higher realm after Dao Sculpting?” After Ning Cheng learned about the Eternal Realm from Cang Wei’s mouth, he already suspected about the existence of higher and more powerful realms. However, he had never thought about it until now, and he also didn’t know what those realms were.

Yi Jiufeng heard Ning Cheng’s words and immediately started paying attention. She knew that confirming one’s Dao was the next step after the Eternal Realm. However, even she didn’t know about it very well.

When asked by Ning Cheng, Ning Ruoqing immediately frowned and seemed to want to grab at her hair again.

Seeing that, Ning Cheng quickly spoke up. “Ruoqing, if you can’t remember, don’t think about it too much. It’s not very important to me.”

Ning Ruoqing just made an ‘en’ sound. Sure enough, she didn’t think about it anymore and gave a reply. “When I saw that man named Chuan Xinlou attack, a cultivation level naturally appeared in my mind. But he seemed much below this level. I can’t remember the specific situation why, and decided to retaliate with an equal force.”

Ning Cheng worried that Ning Ruoqing would continue to pull at her hair and immediately stopped asking.

Yi Jiufeng took out a branch and handed it to Ning Cheng with a few words. “I had already planned to trade with Sect Master Ning, but I never had the chance. So, when Chuan Xinlou took my Wind-thunder Apricot Tree, I managed to hide a branch from him.”

Ning Cheng quickly took the branch. As soon as it reached his hand, he could immediately feel the wind and thunder auras from it. Sensing that, Ning Cheng understood that Yi Jiufeng had truly given him a branch of the Wind-thunder Apricot Tree.

Carefully putting away the branch, Ning Cheng took out a drop of First Glimmers of Dawn Ice Essence and handed it to Yi Jiufeng with some words. “I know that Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix needs the First Glimmers of Dawn Ice Essence. If you want something else, then please say so. If I have it, I will share it with Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix.”

Yi Jiufeng took the jade bottle from Ning Cheng’s hand and showed a slight smile. “I just need a drop of First Glimmers of Dawn Ice Essence, and...”

But seeing Ning Cheng’s worried look, Yi Jiufeng giggled. It was the first time, since leaving the Ancient Shadow Temple, did she feel at ease. “And I would like to invite Sect Master Ning to help me once.”

Ning Cheng breathed in a sigh of relief and said with affirmation. "I can help Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix; you don't need to worry about it. But I don't know what Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix wants my help with?"

"I don't know it yet. In the future, if I need Senior Apprentice Brother Ning's help, and ask Senior Apprentice Brother Ning's help, please don't refuse it." Yi Jiufeng turned even more relaxed on hearing Ning Cheng agree. Moreover, she also wanted to form a friendship with Ning Cheng, so Yi Jiufeng also changed her form of address.

Having promised it to Yi Jiufeng, Ning Cheng wouldn't go back on it now. "As long as Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix can deliver the request to me in time, I will come to help you once."

Yi Jiufeng nodded, took out a jade card and a ring, and handed it to Ning Cheng. "Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, this jade card is my Spiritual Sense Jade Card, but without any tracking ability. Only when I send a message through it will this jade card disintegrate and show you my position."

"That's no problem, but this ring...." Ning Cheng took the jade card but looked at the ring in Yi Jiufeng's hand with doubt.

Yi Jiufeng put the ring in Ning Cheng's hand. "I know that Senior Apprentice Brother Ning has only recently established your sect and might lack some cultivation resources. I just hope that these cultivation resources can support Senior Apprentice Brother Ning."

"Starry Sky Spiritual Veins?" Ning Cheng finally took Yi Jiufeng's ring. But when he saw the inside, he immediately felt moved.

Yi Jiufeng had given him two Starry Sky Spiritual Veins in the ring, and both were of very high-quality. The purity of celestial essence and spiritual qi in the two veins, although not as good as Permanent Essence Pills, definitely made up for it in quantity. Two complete high-ranked Starry Sky Veins was more than a generous gift. It also indicated that the thing Yi Jiufeng wanted his help with wasn't something easy.

Yi Jiufeng stood up, "Senior Apprentice Brother Ning; the truth is, the matter I want your help with isn't too complicated. It's just a precautionary measure against people who want to make a move against me. I hope you would help me out at that moment."

Even if Yi Jiufeng hadn't clarified it, Ning Cheng already understood what Yi Jiufeng meant while looking at her behaviour. Except for Chuan Xinlou, who would move against Yi Jiufeng, or even dare plot against Yi Jiufeng?

He and Chuan Xinlou already hated each other. But even if this hate didn't exist, he would help out Yi Jiufeng just because of Yi Jiufeng's two Starry Sky Spiritual Veins.

"Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix, please rest assured. Since I accepted Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix's offer, I will help out." Ning Cheng said without hesitation. He felt sure that Chuan Xinlou wouldn't dare to mess around for now. In any case, this fellow most likely would focus on stabilising his cultivation, considering how quickly he left after that confrontation.

"Then, let me thank Senior Apprentice Brother Ning in advance. I will return to my Spirit Heaven Grand Starry Sky now." Yi Jiufeng said with a happy tone.

Ning Cheng quickly asked, "I have one more thing to ask about Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix. Can you tell me what's behind the Ancient Shadow Temple's Life and Death gates?"

Hearing Ning Cheng's words, Yi Jiufeng's expression changed slightly. It showed that the impact of whatever was behind those Life and Death gates left some significant after-effects. She pondered over it for a while before replying. "I haven't discussed what happened behind those Life and Death gates with anyone. Besides, I only entered the Gate of Life. However, it gave me the feeling of entering hell, or at least a Yin world. However, I have never heard of any Yin worlds like that place. It was far worse than anything I knew."

What could make Yi Jiufeng, a peak-level Eternal Heavenly Emperor, have such an unnatural expression? How could it be an ordinary Yin world? Yin worlds only contained ghosts and some Spiritual Souls. But Yi Jiufeng was an Eternal-level expert, and a peak one at that, so even if the place held a billion Yin Spirits, it wouldn't affect her at all.

Ning Cheng suspected that the place beneath the Ancient Shadow Temple wasn't a Yin world. Instead, it resembled more like an entrance to the real Yin world, but under the control of a powerhouse.

Seeing that Yi Jiufeng also didn't know too much, Ning Cheng thanked her, "Many thanks, Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix. I'm sure that Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix must be feeling very worried about Spirit Heaven Grand Starry Sky. So, I will not occupy Senior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix's time anymore."

Yi Jiufeng already wanted to return to Spirit Heaven Grand Starry Sky. So, hearing Ning Cheng's words, she promptly left.

"What is this Ancient Shadow Temple? Is it more dangerous than that big hole in the heart of the Lost Mountain Range?" After Yi Jiufeng left, Ning Ruoqing immediately asked.

Ning Cheng replied with a solemn look. "Yes, it most likely is. I plan to go there when I get stronger."

Ning Ruoqing spoke up without hesitation, "Then let me come with you."

"For now, just pick one of the abodes here and cultivate. Maybe you could remember something when you slowly recover your cultivation."

After finishing, Ning Cheng took out one of the two Spiritual Veins given by Yi Jiufeng and handed the ring with the remaining Starry Sky Spiritual Vein to Ning Ruoqing. "You can use this Starry Sky Spiritual Vein for cultivation. As for the other, I'm going to plant it under the Mysterious Yellow Sect."

With two Starry Sky Spiritual Veins, an ordinary cultivator could quickly advance from the middle-level Life and Death Realm to the peak of the Life and Death Realm. But Ning Cheng knew that if he wanted to push himself to the full-circle of Life and Death Realm, then these two Spiritual Veins wouldn't help him much. Since he couldn't use it to advance, then he might as well use it for more practical things.

Ning Ruoqing also didn't refuse and put away the ring given to her by Ning Cheng and picked out a cultivation cave, just as Ning Cheng asked.

Ning Cheng quickly implanted the other Starry Sky Spiritual Vein under Covered Snow City. And almost instantly, everyone in Covered Snow City could feel the rapid increase in the concentration of Starry Sky

Spiritual Qi. Covered Snow City already had a much higher density of Starry Sky Spirit Qi compared to the average city. But now it rose again, immediately surprising everyone.

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After Ning Cheng placed the Starry Sky Spiritual Vein under Covered Snow City, he decided to upgrade the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds. But before he could start, he felt Duan Gantai's position once again.

This fellow came again. I still can't figure out why he almost begged me to give him some None-to-depend-on Wine. Thinking of this, Ning Cheng gave up the idea of upgrading the Twin Wings of Heavenly Clouds and left Covered Snow City.

Ning Cheng knew it very well that Duan Gantai had some top-grade escape methods. Therefore, even if he called out Ning Ruoqing, he didn't have 100% confidence in catching him. Once Duan Gantai escaped, he would have to give up on entering the Temple of Time permanently.

Feeling Duan Gantai's speed in approaching Jiangzhou Star, Ning Cheng couldn't help but secretly admire this fellow who moved like a loach through a marsh. Moreover, he didn't use any transmission arrays this time.

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Chapter 772: Life and Death Friendship

Duan Gantai had an ugly look over his face. He had no idea if Ning Cheng was currently in Jiangzhou Star or not. But regardless, it wouldn't change the fact that he had exchanged a Breaking Boundary Talisman for a few jars of fake wine. It would be strange if he felt happy about it.

But when he saw Ning Cheng standing on the public square outside Jiangzhou Star, the ugly look on his face disappeared instantly, and he laughed from far away. "Brother Ning, oh Brother Ning. I couldn't sense Brother Ning's location, so I thought Brother Ning wasn't in Jiangzhou Star. But since I saw Brother Ning the moment I came here, I presume Brother Ning came out to greet me specifically. It makes me truly happy. Haha, having friends sure is a great thing."

Ning Cheng only then remembered that he had not unsealed the restriction on his Connecting Spirit Silk. So, he looked at his wrist and spoke up with a little disappointment. "Oh, since Brother Duan couldn't sense my Connecting Spirit Silk, then it looks like the quality of this thing doesn't match up to its name."

Finished saying that, Ning Cheng shook his hand a bit and unsealed the restriction over his Connecting Spirit Silk. Then, Ning Cheng suddenly spoke up, "Okay, this thing is stupid. It didn't start working until I shook it."

Duan Gantai didn't seem to have realised that Ning Cheng had just unsealed the restriction over the Connecting Spirit Silk. Instead, he still showed a smile and spoke up. "Yes, my Connecting Spirit Silk has its good and bad moments too. Honestly, it's annoying at times. Fortunately, I have a strong friendship with Brother Ning. If replaced by a small-minded person, maybe they would have already become angry."

Ning Cheng looked at Duan Gantai with a smile. "Brother Duan, you already set up a teleportation array in the public square outside of my Jiangzhou Star, why didn't you use it? It would have saved you a lot of time."

Duan Gantai waved his hand, "I didn't know if Brother Ning was in Jiangzhou Star. If I had known about it, I would have used it immediately. I was just passing by Jiangzhou Star when I suddenly started to miss Brother Ning in my heart. So, I decided to make a special trip. I didn't expect to see Brother Ning here, which is why I feel quite excited now."

Although he said those words, Duan Gantai utterly despised saying it. Since you know that there is a teleportation array here, would I ever dare to use it? Even if I turned into a complete idiot, I don't want to die.

"I heard that Brother Duan has a top-notch escape technique. To be honest, I only have an average escape technique, so could Brother Duan give me some pointers?" Ning Cheng decided to play along with Duan Gantai's hypocrisy. In any case, he also wanted to test if he could catch Duan Gantai quickly. He wanted to see if Duan Gantai could still escape if he suddenly attacked, even with the help of Ning Ruqing.

Duan Gantai put up an embarrassed expression and waved his hand. "Brother Ning, I don't deserve such ridiculous praise. My escape technique is only average at best. I only obtained this Thought-based Escape Technique by chance. But I can tell you that even if someone completely took control of me, as long as my mind can still function, I can escape in an instant."

While talking, Duan Gantai unconsciously took two steps back, moving slightly further away from Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng pretended not to see Duan Gantai's reaction and also temporarily gave up on the idea of taking down Duan Gantai. Duan Gantai might have spoken the truth, but he also had indirectly warned Ning Cheng not to make a move. Otherwise, everything between them would fall apart.

As for the Thought-based Escape Technique, Ning Cheng had never heard of it, so he decided to take it on its face value. No wonder this fellow could come to Jiangzhou Star so many times. This fellow already knew that he couldn't catch him. Ning Cheng had no way to confirm if what Duan Gantai said was the truth or not without attacking anyway. But he also knew that Duan Gantai managed to escape from Eternal Night Domain's already-closed array formation. Something even he would have found impossible after it closed up.

Since he couldn't catch Duan Gantai right away, Ning Cheng simply asked, "Since Brother Duan has a face full of red, then presumably you obtained a great harvest, right?"

Duan Gantai knew that Ning Cheng wanted to ask about him taking away the None-to-depend-on Wine last time. So, he sighed and replied, "Don't mention it. Last time, I took three jars of None-to-depend-on Wine from Brother Ning, but my friend said that the wine was fake. He asked me to return the Breaking Boundary Talisman. But since I already gave my Breaking Boundary Talisman to Brother Ning, where else would I find one to return? As a result, well, let's not talk about it...."

At this point, Duan Gantai sighed and frowned, making his forehead look like a mountain range.

He didn't have to pretend at this time. He had obtained three pots of None-to-depend-on Wine and had immediately gone to the Guardian Shrine. It's just that when he tried to comprehend the None-to-depend-on Spirit Technique, those three pots of None-to-depend-on Wine fell a little short. Finally, within the cultivation method of the None-to-depend-on Spirit Technique inscribed on the Guardian Temple's entrance, he found the reason. The three pots of None-to-depend-on Wine given to him by Ning Cheng were not the real None-to-depend-on Wine.

If he wanted to understand the None-to-depend-on Spirit Technique, he obviously couldn't do it without the real None-to-depend-on Wine. And without understanding the None-to-depend-on Spirit Technique, he couldn't open the real Guardian Temple.

"Ah, I thought the Breaking Boundary Talisman belonged to the Yu Clan, so I didn't think it was your friend's." Ning Cheng made a minor sarcastic comment on Duan Gantai, but nothing too much.

"It's all the same. It's all the same..." Duan Gantai felt quite anxious about the treasures within the Guardian Temple, so he didn't pay any mind to Ning Cheng's nonsense.

Seeing that Ning Cheng didn't want to say anything, Duan Gantai knew that he couldn't go on speaking in a roundabout manner. So, he decided to speak up directly, "Brother Ning, I know you still have the real None-to-depend-on Wine. I don't know if Brother Ning wants to part with it or not, but I would be satisfied with just a few pots."

Ning Cheng sneered internally. He did have some top-ranked None-to-depend-on Wine. Ning Cheng also knew for sure that it was the real None-to-depend-on Wine as this top-ranked None-to-depend-on Wine helped him in comprehending the None-to-depend-on Spirit Technique. But the question was, why should he give some of this wine to Duan Gantai? He had already used up Duan Gantai's Breaking Boundary Talisman. So, for Ning Cheng, there existed only one reason to exchange for things with Duan Gantai. That is, to go to the Temple of Time as soon as possible.

"As I said before, I don't have the real None-to-depend-on Wine. Oh right, Brother Duan, if you aren't busy right now, we can go to the Temple of Time to have a look." Ning Cheng refused without hesitation. He currently needed a lot of cultivation resources, and only by going to the Temple of Time would he possibly obtain the resources needed.

Duan Gantai frowned when he heard Ning Cheng's words. If Ning Cheng didn't give him the real None-to-depend-on Wine then even if he took control of the Guardian Temple, it wouldn't help him in any way. As to sharing the Guardian Temple with others, Duan Gantai would never agree to it.

"Brother Ning, the Temple of Time isn't open now, so we can't get in at all." Duan Gantai replied with sincerity.

Although he spoke with sincerity, he sneered in his heart. Even if you have two keys to the Temple of Time, so what? Nobody knew about the life or death of Striking Order Heavenly Emperor, the only one who had access to Time Wilderness, apart from only me Duan Gantai. Even if you have two keys to the Temple of Time, only I know the right time to enter the Time Wilderness.

Ning Cheng felt a little surprised. Because he still had a jade talisman to enter the Time Wilderness, so he forgot that the Time Wilderness was still closed. In the beginning, Striking Order Heavenly Emperor

had given him two talismans to enter Time Wilderness as a sign of 'friendship'. He used one to search for Yu Qing, but he still had the other one.

Should he tell Duan Gantai that he could enter the Time Wilderness? Ning Cheng hesitated and kept thinking about why Duan Gantai wanted the real None-to-depend-on Wine this badly.

"Brother Ning, if you have some real None-to-depend-on Wine, just one pot would be more than enough for me. I can also give Brother Ning anything that you want on me." Duan Gantai's tone became more sincere.

Duan Gantai's words immediately forced Ning Cheng to dispel the fact that Duan Gantai could also enter the Time Wilderness. Duan Gantai desperately needed the None-to-depend-on Wine. If he missed this opportunity, then he would truly feel 'sorry' about his 'friendship' with Duan Gantai.

"Brother Duan, I don't have the real None-to-depend-on Wine. But if Brother Duan has a Void Shimmering Light Crystal, I will do everything I can to help Brother Duan obtain the real None-to-depend-on Wine. Aren't we good friends already? If I don't help Brother Duan, who else can help Brother Duan?" Ning Cheng spoke up with an equally sincere voice.

If it weren't for Ning Cheng, Duan Gantai would have already cursed out aloud when he heard the words 'Void Shimmering Light Crystal'. What was a Void Shimmering Light Crystal? It's a treasure to upgrade a starry sky flame by a full level. Even if he opened the Guardian Temple's treasury, he didn't know if he would even find such a thing inside.

But through Ning Cheng's words, Duan Gantai also understood that Ning Cheng had a starry sky flame. Moreover, it most likely was a high-ranked starry sky flame. Otherwise, he wouldn't have asked for a Void Shimmering Light Crystal.

Duan Gantai spoke up with a smile. "Brother Ning must be joking. If Brother Ning wants a Starry Sky Spiritual Vein, I will try my best to help Brother Ning get one. However, it would take me some time. But if it's a Void Shimmering Light Crystal, then I really can't do anything about it."

Ning Cheng nodded in agreement. "I was just joking. Brother Duan doesn't have to worry about it. Don't worry. I will pay attention to any news of None-to-depend-on Wine for Brother Duan's sake. If I get any news, I will immediately contact Brother Duan."

Duan Gantai knew that Ning Cheng was speaking bullshit. Once he separated from Ning Cheng, he knew that Ning Cheng would never contact him, let alone contact him with 'news' regarding None-to-depend-on Wine.

Thinking of this, he gritted his teeth and spoke up once again. "Brother Ning, I will give you a Starry Sky Spiritual Vein. Although I don't have one now, please wait for me to take the None-to-depend-on Wine to my friend first. I can get the Starry Sky Spiritual Vein from him. For this, I'm also willing to put the third key of the Temple of Time in Brother Ning's hand for safekeeping."

The happiness that emerged within his heart almost made Ning Cheng forget to answer Duan Gantai's request. If it was this easy to get the third key to the Temple of Time, he should have already asked Duan Gantai for it. Ning Cheng had truly not expected it. He hadn't thought of asking it when Duan Gantai offered it up himself.

Duan Gantai, you said it yourself, don't blame me for not giving you any soup.

Ning Cheng quickly spoke up, "Brother Duan sure likes to joke. With all three keys on me, I wouldn't be able to sleep peacefully at night." He knew that as long as Duan Gantai remained determined, even if he kept bluffing, Duan Gantai would take it out.

Sure enough, before Ning Cheng could even push him, Duan Gantai took out a half-foot long black-coloured key. "With such a deep friendship between Brother Ning and I, if I didn't believe in Brother Ning then what's the use of me coming here? Brother Ning, you can keep it with you without any remorse. Even if you took away all the things within the Temple of Time, I would willingly form a life and death friendship with you."

As soon as he brought out this key, Ning Cheng knew that this was the real black Perpetual Moon Key.

Since Duan Gantai had taken it out without much fanfare, Ning Cheng also didn't try to push him. He took out a pot of real top-ranked None-to-depend-on Wine without any hesitation. "I'm not sure what happened, but I suddenly found a jar of None-to-depend-on Wine. Please see if this is what you need. As long as Brother Duan needs it, I will do my best to search for more even if I have to go through many hardships."

Opening the lip of the None-to-depend-on Wine Pot, the top-ranked None-to-depend-on Wine's unique lingering fragrance spread out. Duan Gantai instantly affirmed that this was the real None-to-depend-on Wine. He had a hunch that he could understand 100% of the None-to-depend-on Spirit Technique with just this one jug.

The two quickly exchanged the items, and Duan Gantai showed a smiling face as he repeatedly thanked Ning Cheng. He acted as if he had never heard Ning Cheng say that he didn't have any real None-to-depend-on Wine. Or about his words about going through hardships to search for more None-to-depend-on Wine.

"Then, I won't be seeing off Brother Duan." Ning Cheng cupped his fists towards Duan Gantai and spoke up. He didn't even speak a word about the Starry Sky Spiritual Veins that Duan Gantai had mentioned.

Duan Gantai also replied with an equally polite tone and cupped fists. "Brother Ning, this little brother will take his leave now. Don't worry. I will return soon and bring the Starry Sky Spiritual Vein to Brother Ning. Who can say no to such a good friendship?"

Duan Gantai's mood had completely changed from when he first arrived. He knew that Ning Cheng had finally drunk his foot wash. Even if Ning Cheng had all three Perpetual Moon Keys, Ning Cheng couldn't enter the Temple of Time. But he has a real pot of None-to-depend-on Wine, which meant he could now enter the Guardian Temple's treasury.

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Chapter 773: Opening the Temple of Time

Sitting in front of a dark gate for a few days, Duan Gantai suddenly stood up. His hands then created vague traces as he slammed them down.

A desolate aura immediately filled the entire space, mixing in with the yet-to-dispel fragrance of None-to-depend-on Wine. In the next moment, the gate started to open.

Duan Gantai, with an excitement-filled face, went into shock on seeing the things behind the open door. His ugly face couldn't stop twitching.

He had developed a habit of grabbing any spiritual object regardless of its origination. It didn't matter if it were Guardian Pills, Permanent Essence Pills, or even Starry Sky Spiritual Veins.

As long as he received information about it, he'll do everything to get it. Whether it meant killing people, setting fires, deceiving people, even destroying families, Duan Gantai wouldn't hesitate to do anything. For Duan Gantai, nothing else mattered apart from cultivation resources.

But even if he looted and pillaged huge amounts of cultivation resources till now, he had never seen such a shocking scene as it appeared in front of him. He saw Starry Sky Spiritual Veins, but even a Starry Sky Spiritual Vein couldn't have made him feel this excited.

That's right. Starry Sky Spiritual 'Veins'. This room didn't just contain one, but a bunch of them. He saw Starry Sky Spiritual Veins piled over each other like dragons coiling around each other. Just doing a rough count, he found no less than a hundred of them. He hadn't even entered through the door, but the Starry Sky Essence Qi from the spiritual veins had already wrapped around him.

Even if he didn't step inside, he could feel his cultivation improving with each breath.

The Guardian Temple, it truly contains many treasures. Moreover, this was just the entrance to the inner hall of the Guardian Temple. From his position, he also saw another gate at the deepest part of the Guardian Temple. There seemed to be a statue in front of it as if a gate guardian. But judging from what he saw, there had to be even more treasures behind the gate guarded by the statue.

Thinking of all this, Duan Gantai started boiling with excitement. He believed that after entering the gate, Ning Cheng, who made him always feel uneasy, would never catch up to him again. He couldn't wait to see Ning Cheng again after this. Not to talk to Ning Cheng, but to crush Ning Cheng with his momentum, so that Ning Cheng would never go against him, Duan Gantai.

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At the same time, under the Ice-crystal Forest within Time Wilderness. It was Ning Cheng's second time standing before the triangular-shaped ice-crystal gate of the Temple of Time.

The first time he had come here, he didn't have the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys, and forcibly tried to break it down with the Nirvana Spear. But the Temple of Time's gate erupted with a terrifying wave of flowing time that almost took his life. If not for the Mysterious Yellow Bead, he would have fallen in this place.

Ning Cheng took in a deep breath and stood in front of the Temple of Time's triangular-shaped gate. But before Ning Cheng took in a deep breath, he took out the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys and gently waved them out towards the door.

The three Perpetual Moon Time Keys flew out as if they had eyes of their own and aligned themselves with their respective keyholes.

The next moment, the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys disappeared into the black, white and grey keyholes causing the Temple of Time's ice-crystal gate to flash with a black, white and grey light. It felt

as if the passage of time had taken a physical form, as the black, white and grey colours began to flow. It then gave a burst of light rays filled with Dao Charms. The triangular ice-crystal gate seemed to open at this moment, and then also close up at the same moment.

Ning Cheng, however, didn't seem to see the Temple of Time's opening and also didn't seem to care about the Temple of Time's door closing. At this moment, he had unconsciously immersed himself in the Dao Charm of flowing time. It allowed him to touch the Laws of Time once again, letting the passage of time to grow brighter and substantive within his consciousness. Ning Cheng completely forgot that he stood at the entrance, he even forgot that he came here to enter the Temple of Time.

Years seem to flow by like flowing water before his eyes, but it all felt substantive as if he could just reach out with his hand and catch the flow of time.

"Life within heaven and earth; passes by like a white colt...."

Since the realisation of the spirit technique 'Dusk'[1], this sentence had given Ning Cheng many revelations. But this time, when he immersed himself in the Laws of Time once again, he gained another brand-new understanding of this sentence.

Time was like a white colt that flashed by as it leapt over a gap to reach the other side. If one wanted to seize 'time', then one just had to grasp this 'gap'.

This gap went by very fast, and this gap was also very short. But no matter the speed, as long as you can understand the essence of this 'gap', you can then grasp it. Even if the colt cannot see it, as long as it could feel this 'gap', it could reach into this 'gap' and seize it at any moment or even let it pass.

The Dao Charm flowing around Ning Cheng started to grow bright. One could vaguely begin to sense the formation of a Dao Charm Spirit Technique similar to that of the Temple of Time's gate. However, this Dao Charm Spirit Technique felt slightly different from the Dao Charm Spirit Technique embedded in the Temple of Time's entrance.

The Dao Charm Spirit Technique within the three-coloured Temple of Time's gate started flowing more quickly. At the same time, the spirit technique's Dao Charm began to fuse with the Dao Charm around Ning Cheng.

"Boom...." An explosion erupted within Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness, and he opened his eyes.

Ning Cheng breathed out slowly. It was the third time he experienced an epiphany because of the Laws of Time since entering the Time Wilderness. However, although just touching upon the Laws of Time, Ning Cheng vaguely felt that the Laws of Time within the Time Wilderness weren't perfect. Even if he understood all the Laws of Time within the Temple of Time, it would still feel as if it lacked something.

To truly control the Laws of Time, he had to integrate what he learned into his understanding of time and change it again.

Looking at the Temple of Time's gate, which still shone with three colours, Ning Cheng did not continue to perceive the Dao Charm of Time. He felt that he had already learned and understood everything that was to be understood. If he continued to study someone else's understanding of the Laws of Time, it would cause him to deviate from his own Returning-to-one Dao.

Moreover, deep in his heart, he felt that all the Laws of Time in Time Wilderness were of low-level, and not the real Laws of Time of the universe.

Ning Cheng's gaze finally focussed on the Temple of Time's three-coloured ice-crystal gate. As he kept looking at the faint aura of flowing time, he saw the door open again and closing at the same time. He recalled that opening the door had forced him into a state of epiphany.

Ning Cheng took a step forward, raised his hand and waved it.

A Dao Charm filled with flowing time, invisible to the naked eye, gently blew by the ice-crystal gate of the Temple of Time. As Ning Cheng's Dao Charm-filled 'flowing time' flowed past the ice-crystal gate, the three-colours on the ice-crystal door gradually slowed down, before finally stopping.

Ning Cheng then began counting before suddenly stopping and spitting out a blood arrow. At the same time, he also stopped moving his hands.

It's not that he did not comprehend the full spirit technique, which could theoretically turnaround time. It's just that he wasn't strong enough to sustain it for more than a few moments. Moreover, he understood that he still did not have the power to reverse the flow of time, to let the triangular door return to the moment before it just opened.

The three-colours quickly faded and disappeared, letting the three keys fall to the ground.

Ning Cheng didn't feel disappointed. He raised his hand once again and picked up the three keys. The three keys then entered the three keyholes on the Temple of Time once again.

The triangular-shaped ice-crystal gate, just like before, started to flow with a black, white and grey coloured Dao Charm. Just a moment later, the triangular-shaped ice-crystal gate opened once again.

But before the triangular-shaped ice crystal gate 'closed', Ning Cheng raised his hand and manifested a seemingly profound Dao Charm.

After Ning Cheng cast the Dao Charm Spirit Technique, it connected with the ice-crystal gate. It forced the Dao Charm's flow over the ice-crystal door to slow down once again.

The time around the door still kept flowing, but the flow on the triangular-shaped ice-crystal gate paused. It's as if a barrier split the two into two different worlds.

This 'pause' was like a gap for the white colt to pass. If one didn't take advantage of this gap, this gap would pass by in the blink of an eye.

But this gap was more than enough for Ning Cheng. When time paused, he stepped through the Temple of Time's gate which had not yet closed.

When Ning Cheng entered through the Temple of Time's gate, the three colours on the ice-crystal gate of Temple of Time started to flow once again. It felt as if this door had never opened at all. The only thing different was that Ning Cheng, who stood outside the door a moment ago, now stood on the opposite side of the door.

"Ding...." Ning Cheng had just entered the Temple of Time when the three keys fell in front of him.

The other side of the Temple of Time's gate looked precisely like the outside, with the same three keyholes. He had opened the door from the outside. But after he entered the Temple of Time, the keys also fell in.

Ning Cheng picked up the three keys and felt a little speechless about the Temple of Time's creator. Facing that mighty gate, even if one had the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys, it wouldn't matter. Without comprehending the Laws of Time, one couldn't open the door at all, let alone enter.

If he had known about it earlier, he would have let Duan Gantai give it a try first. In any case, Ning Cheng didn't believe that Duan Gantai had prior experience with the Laws of Time.

In any case, Ning Cheng felt quite happy with entering the Temple of Time. However, he couldn't see any treasures. Wasn't the Temple of Time supposed to be a place filled with treasures?

Therefore, after Ning Cheng scanned the Temple of Time with his eyes, he then scanned it more thoroughly with his spiritual consciousness. Very quickly, however, his expressions turned ugly.

The Temple of Time, famous throughout the four grand starry skies, turned out to be just a circular chamber with an area of less than 20 square meters. But it contained nothing. Nothing at all, apart from the ice-crystal walls composed of array formations and random ice crystals.

Even the Starry Sky Spirit Qi inside wasn't any different to the outside.

Ning Cheng frowned. If the Temple of Time was this bad, he shouldn't have even bothered to come here.

He had gained a deeper understanding of the Laws of Time Spirit Technique at the Temple of Time's triangular-shaped entrance. However, this kind of enlightenment was just icing on the cake. Even if he didn't come to this place, his understanding of the Laws of Time would have eventually reached this level by itself.

Ning Cheng felt quite disappointed at such a turnout and looked around the Temple of Time a few more times. But even after using his spiritual consciousness to scan everything for over an hour, he couldn't find anything. In the end, he finally came to a stop once again at the triangular-shaped door. It looks like the Temple of Time was a misnomer. There wasn't anything good here except for the Laws of Time embedded in the door.

It meant that the benefits one would obtain from the Temple of Time weren't even comparable to those one could get from the Sea of Twilight and the ice plains ravaged by time wheels. At least in those places, one could still obtain some Time Stones and other treasures.

Ning Cheng took out the Perpetual Moon Time Keys again and decided to leave this place. He sent the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys into the keyholes in the Temple of Time's triangular-shaped entrance. It once again lit up like the time when Ning Cheng came in, and the Dao Charm once again began to flow over the Temple of Time's gate.

But to Ning Cheng's surprise, he didn't see the Temple of Time's door open despite sensing the almost substantial flow of time. Moreover, this time, the flow felt completely different from the flow of time he had detected before stepping inside the chamber. Previously, the Laws of Time he comprehended felt soft and elusive, almost fleeting. But this time, it felt sharp and violent, like a fierce and ruthless blade.

Although it was not Ning Cheng's first day to come in contact with the Laws of Time, it now felt as if he had never perceived the Laws of Time.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 774: Spirit Technique – Time Wheel

A faint grey, almost invisible, wheel crossed through Ning Cheng's consciousness. Although just a perception, Ning Cheng still felt his Sea of Consciousness bursting with pain.

Invisible and immaterial, it's as if this invisible grey-white wheel erased everything that wandered into its path. Ning Cheng vaguely felt that even his Domain at full power couldn't block this grey-white wheel for even a moment.

What the hell was this, how was it so terrifying?

The shock that emerged from the bottom of his heart awakened Ning Cheng suddenly. He looked up at the Temple of Time's gate, which still flowed with three colours, and then suddenly turned around. He raised his hand and tried to trace some of those mysterious trajectories, which then immediately spread out.

A faint light wheel composed of the Laws of Time then suddenly shot out of Ning Cheng's hand. Even Ning Cheng himself felt shocked to see the disc. He felt sure that others couldn't see it as it comprised entirely of the Dao Charm of Time. Even he couldn't capture it with either his gaze or spiritual consciousness. Only cultivators who comprehended the Laws of Time, or experts much more powerful than him, could feel this vague light wheel.

Everything before this light wheel would return to dust. Any life that appeared in front of its path would come to an end.

The initially empty Temple of Time's circular chamber after Ning Cheng's light wheel came out, immediately started to rattle. It seemed as if Ning Cheng had split apart something. But when Ning Cheng looked at the empty chamber before him once again, he still couldn't find anything.

No, once the grey-white light wheel came out, the Temple of Time's circular chamber turned clearer. Ning Cheng took in a breath of air and suddenly realised that something else had appeared in the Temple of Time. It's just that Ning Cheng couldn't see it right now. And the reason he couldn't see it was because of a vague Sealing Array Formation. His attainments in array formation hadn't reached the required level yet to see through it.

From the looks of it, as his grey-white disc shot out, it most likely cut through one of the primary nodes of a Sealing Array Formation within the Temple of Time's circular chamber. It most likely weakened the formation and caused everything in front of him to turn clearer. If not for the contrast, Ning Cheng wouldn't have realised it at all. Processing everything a few more times, Ning Cheng realised that he currently stood in the array formation's eye.

"Time Wheel..." Ning Cheng now no longer cared about what was in the Temple of Time. Instead, he raised his hand and carefully looked at his palm.

The huge shock from a few moments ago had drawn in Ning Cheng's full attention. Even if Ning Cheng turned into an idiot, he realised that he had just unconsciously comprehended another spirit technique.

That's right. It was the Time Wheel. Although derived from the Laws of Time, it comprised of a very different type of Law of Time. The Time Wheel had a very violent and destructive nature. Anything that stood in its path would turn into nothingness under the annihilating power of time contained within it.

The ice-crystal plain was the best example. Time wheels ravaged the ice-crystal plain for countless years, turning that place into a flat and endless plain. Nothing raised existed in that place as the Time Wheels erased anything in its path and return it to the previous flatness.

Even if he didn't obtain anything from this place, Ning Cheng couldn't contain the inner ecstasy. He had just comprehended the second Laws of Time Spirit Technique, Time Wheel.

In terms of power, the Time Wheel was not worse than his initial Law of Time Spirit Technique, Sunset's Twilight. It's just that the later was like a gentle wind, while the former was a vicious storm.

As the excitement gradually subsided, Ning Cheng once again started to look at the circular Temple of Time carefully. The circular Temple of Time still looked as if it contained nothing. Rather, even if it did have something, under Ning Cheng's newly comprehended Spirit Technique, Time Wheel, it might have turned into nothingness.

However, as Ning Cheng carefully looked around once again, a circular jade platform about half a meter in diameter suddenly appeared in the very centre of the Temple of Time. Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness repeatedly scanned it and determined that this jade platform didn't pose any danger to him. But despite that, Ning Cheng still kept caution as he carefully walked up to it.

Ning Cheng had just reached the jade platform when a horrifying wave of Starry Sky Spirit Qi washed over him. Ning Cheng immediately stopped. Even if he had seen and consumed many precious treasures during cultivation, he had never encountered anything with such an abundant Starry Sky Spirit Qi.

An ordinary person would explode just by standing near this wave of Starry Sky Essence Spirit Qi, let alone try cultivating using it. This wave of Starry Sky Spirit Qi had a terrifying feel to it. But what felt even more frightening was that this Starry Sky Spirit Qi wasn't even an overflow, it was just a remnant portion.

Ning Cheng took in a deep breath and let his spiritual consciousness penetrate the jade platform. Unfortunately, although he could feel an unparalleled quantity of Spirit Qi inside, and even absorb it, his spiritual consciousness could not enter the jade platform at all. It also meant that, even if he wanted to, he couldn't take away this Starry Sky Spirit Qi-filled jade platform.

Ning Cheng didn't have anything else to do right now. In any case, wasn't he desperately trying to search for more sources of Starry Sky Spirit Qi? This abundant Starry Sky Spirit Qi definitely could help him in cultivation.

Ning Cheng no longer wanted to head out immediately. Instead, he immediately activated his cultivation method to absorb all the Starry Sky Essence Spirit Qi.

With the Mysterious Yellow Formless, the thing Ning Cheng feared the most was not drowning in cultivation resources, but not having enough cultivation resources. For others, cultivating within Permanent Essence Pills and Spiritual Veins might produce better results. But for Ning Cheng, they could no longer bring in any significant results.

But in this place, he could absorb nearly infinite amounts of Starry Sky Spirit Qi. Moreover, he also felt that if the jade platform continued to provide the same quantity of Spirit Qi, he might not even manage to incorporate it completely.

Since returning from the Eternal Night Domain, Ning Cheng rarely experienced such a happy cultivation opportunity. Even absorbing Permanent Essence Pills and Starry Sky Essence Qi Veins couldn't compare to cultivating in this place.

Ning Cheng continuously extracted the endless and pure starry sky Essence Spirit Qi and absorbed it. Very quickly, a starry sky Essence Spirit Qi cocoon formed around him. Once it fully encased Ning Cheng, not a single strand of starry sky Spirit Qi leaked out.

At the same time, Ning Cheng's cultivation level also started to rise under this kind of crazy cultivation.

Time was the least valuable thing when it came to secluded cultivation. But three months later, Ning Cheng finally had to open his eyes. He felt ecstatic with this cultivation session. However, his Good Fortune Origin Aura could no longer smoothly integrate with the Spirit Qi's circulation as it did in the past, which undermined the progress by a bit. It resulted in limited growth of his perception and meridian development. Therefore, in these three months, despite absorbing so much starry sky Spirit Qi, his cultivation had only risen from the peak to full-circle of middle-level Life and Death Realm.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng took out the Mysterious Yellow Bead and put it over the jade platform and then entered it. Without the Mysterious Yellow Bead's full cooperation, his cultivation speed would always remain slow.

After placing the Mysterious Yellow Bead in close contact with the jade platform, Ning Cheng then once again entered another crazy cultivation session inside the bead.

This time, Ning Cheng had just barely begun the cultivation session, when his cultivation broke through the shackles with a much smoother integration of the Mysterious Yellow Origin. An instant later, he entered the late-stage Life and Death Realm.

Ning Cheng felt thankful that he found this place at the right time. Once reaching the late-stage of the Life and Death Realm, his absorption of starry sky Spirit Qi more than doubled, in both volume and speed. Without the Temple of Time, he would not have found a suitable cultivation location at all. Even with many Permanent Essence Pills and Starry Sky Essence Qi Veins, he would only be able to increase his cultivation one step after another. What's more, he didn't have any of those things right now.

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Since the return of Culmination Grand Starry Sky's Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor, the Culmination Grand Starry Sky once again returned to its usual tranquillity. However, during the past few years, many people discovered a problem. That is, Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor no longer seemed to care about the things going on in the starry sky as he once did in the past.

Even if someone started a big fight in Culmination Starland's Eternal Heaven Starry Sky City, Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor never came out to manage it. Nor did he send out any of his men. Over time, everyone started to get used to it.

Since such things became a common occurrence within Culmination Starland, the Striking Order Starry Sky, the Bright Heaven Starry Sky, the Snagging Ascendance Starry Sky and the Silver Feather Starry Sky became even more chaotic with the lack of their respective Starry Sky Emperors. If Chuan Xinlou had not returned, then the premier stars within these starry skies would have already designated a Starry Sky Heavenly Emperor. But despite Chuan Xinlou returning, he went immediately into deep secluded cultivation. As such, these major starry skies remained in a state without any Starry Sky Emperor.

However, within Striking Order Starry Sky, the Mysterious Yellow Celestial River was the only place no one dared to make any moves. This place was the residence of the Premier Pill Emperor and Eternal expert, Cang Caihe. Moreover, it also contained many Heaven Seated experts loyal to Ning Cheng. Therefore, although Mysterious Yellow Celestial River's Ning Cheng vanished the same time as Chuan Xinlou, no one dared to come to this place and cause any trouble.

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The Radial Immortal Star was on the edge of Night Essence Celestial River. As such, the Radial Immortal Star remained starved of starry sky Spirit Qi. Moreover, because of the Ice Immortal Ridge incident from many years ago, the number of cultivators living on this star decreased even more. But even before the event, one wouldn't find many cultivators on the edge of such a remote area.

At this time, in a humble mountain range at the edge of the Radial Immortal Star, a young woman wearing a yellow robe suddenly appeared.

If Ning Cheng were here, he would feel ecstatic because this woman was none other than Ji Luofei who went missing many years ago.

After Ji Luofei had obtained that ring from the Ice Immortal Ridge, she immediately went into hiding. Over the many years, she still hadn't left the Radial Immortal Star.

She understood that hiding on the Radial Immortal Star with her strength was probably the safest option. Once she left the Radial Immortal Star, many more uncertainties would crop up. Especially near the time when the Ice Immortal Ridge opened and closed.

However, she wasn't without any luck. In the ring, she had found lots of medicinal pills and cultivation resources, and even a small half of a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein.

For so many years, Ji Luofei kept herself hidden on the edge of such a desolate star that didn't even have a decent flow of Starry Sky Spirit Qi. But when Everlasting Sacred Shrine kicked Qionghua and her out, and when that white-robed woman snatched Qionghua from her, she understood that there was nothing guaranteed in this world without strength.

She finally realised why Ning Cheng always made every effort to search for cultivation resources and improve his strength.

Therefore, with so many cultivation resources, she immediately decided to go into secluded cultivation. After cultivating in silence for many years, she finally advanced to Heaven's Mandate Realm. As a cultivator in Heaven's Mandate Realm, even if she just reached the early-stage, people in Radial Immortal Star would still regard her as a genuine powerhouse. Achieving this level, Ji Luofei now felt determined to go out and look for Ning Cheng. In any case, even if she continued with secluded

cultivation, she wouldn't reach the Heaven Seated Realm in the short term. It might take ten, a hundred, or even tens of thousands of years.

Ji Luofei walked into the Penannular Jade City's Trade Union again. The last time she had come here, she had learned about the Ice Immortal Ridge. Despite almost dying in the Ice Immortal Ridge, that place also gave her a heaven-sent opportunity, helping her in reaching Heaven's Mandate Realm.

This time, Ji Luofei came to the Penannular Jade City's Trade Union, not to inquire about new mystic realms but to get up to date with what happened over the years during her seclusion. She even hoped to find some information about Ning Cheng.

But as soon as she entered the Penannular Jade City's Trade Union, Ji Luofei stood rooted in place by a mission flashing on the large screen.

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Chapter 775: A Great Harvest

The screen highlighted a mission to kill a female cultivator named Yan Ji. The mission details also had a portrait of the female cultivator attached to it.

Who was Yan Ji? Ji Luofei naturally knew about her. Ning Cheng had spoken about her quite a few times. Moreover, Ning Cheng had also shown her a portrait of Yan Ji in the past. On arriving at the Receiving Heaven's Stone, people had forced Yan Ji into the void. Learning this, Ning Cheng ended up destroying several local forces in anger.

Therefore, seeing someone offer a reward to kill Yan Ji, even if Ning Cheng wasn't here, she couldn't sit back and watch.

The mission also stated an approximate location and cultivation of Yan Ji. From the information, she learned that Yan Ji hid somewhere within the Thorn Tooth Lake with cultivation somewhere in the range of Undead and Heaven's Mandate Realm.

Ji Luofei lived in the Night Essence Celestial River for quite a few years, so she naturally knew about the Thorn Tooth Lake. Thorn Tooth Lake was on Orchid Restraining Star, two stars away from Radial Immortal Star. Moreover, Thorn Tooth Lake was a famous testing ground within the Night Essence Celestial River, second in fame only to Devouring Bone Sea.

But what made Ji Luofei even more worried was the reward next to Yan Ji's name. It was a Great Heaven Essence Fruit. Ji Luofei's cultivation reached Heaven's Mandate Realm. So how could she not know about the value of a Great Heaven Essence Fruit, the main ingredient required to refine the Accordance Heavenly Pill?

Moreover, Accordance Heavenly Pills were rare treasures that could help a cultivator in Heaven's Mandate Realm advance to the Heaven Seated Realm. Yet, someone used it as a reward to kill a cultivator who most likely hadn't even reached the Heaven Mandate Realm. Was this person crazy?

A Great Heaven Essence Fruit wasn't the same as an Accordance Heavenly Pill. But it was still a valuable starry sky spirit fruit that would drive almost all Heaven's Mandate cultivators crazy. Even if one couldn't refine it into Accordance Heavenly Pills, it still gave people a better chance to advance to the Heaven Seated Realm.

To use such a treasure as a lure to kill an ordinary cultivator, it also showed how much hatred this person had for Yan Ji.

“Are there any other teams working on the 36th mission? If not, let’s go to the Thorn Tooth Lake together. Besides, even if you can’t complete the 36th mission, we can still obtain a lot from the Thorn Tooth Lake.” An early-stage Heaven’s Mandate cultivator stepped forward.

Ji Luofei frowned and clenched her fist. She naturally knew that the 36th mission was the one relating to Yan Ji.

Another cultivator sitting in the Trade Union’s lobby spoke up with disdain, “So many have teamed up to take the 36th mission. What’s the point of taking up this mission?”

“Going to the Thorn Tooth Lake doesn’t necessarily have to do with the 36th mission. In any case, that place still has other treasures. Moreover, if we didn’t sign up for this mission, what would you do if you did encounter Yan Ji?” That Heaven’s Mandate cultivator with a smile.

At this moment, someone exclaimed, “Huh, someone updated the 36th mission. In addition to a Great Heaven Essence Fruit, the 36th mission also mentions a Starry Sky Basic-grade Battleship, 10,000 Perpetual Moon Pills and 100 million purple coins. My god, isn’t this reward too much even for killing a cultivator in Heaven’s Mandate Realm?”

Just a Great Heaven Essence Fruit drove a significant portion of the cultivators here crazy. But the addition of a starry sky battleship, 10,000 Perpetual Moon Pills, and 100 million purple coins thoroughly shocked everyone within the Trade Union.

At this time, no one paid attention to any of the other tasks and missions. Almost all people immediately flocked to the desk to form teams and sign up to kill Yan Ji.

“We need four people to form a group, and we already have three. Anyone can join our group as long as your strength is above the Undead Realm. I already have a positional diagram of Yan Ji’s approximate position, so we shouldn’t miss her.” That same cultivator who had spoken about the Thorn Tooth Lake and the one who asked for the 36th mission spoke up after looking at the updated rewards. However, this time his tone became even more excited.

It’s just that there weren’t many cultivators here with cultivation above Undead Realm. Moreover, most of the cultivators above the Undead Realm had already teamed up.

“I’ll join.” Ji Luofei stood up without hesitation and said. Initially, she planned to head out to the Thorn Tooth Lake alone and find Yan Ji by herself. But after hearing that this person say that he had a positional diagram of Yan Ji’s hiding area, she immediately changed her mind and joined them without any hesitation.

Seeing the celestial wheel behind Ji Luofei, he understood that Ji Luofei was either at the late-stage Undead Realm or the early-stage Heaven’s Mandate Realm.

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Within the Temple of Time, the Mysterious Yellow Bead placed on top of the jade platform flashed lightly. It then disappeared without a trace. After another moment, Ning Cheng's figure suddenly appeared over the jade platform.

The pure Starry Sky Essence Spirit Qi coming from this jade platform still hadn't diminished by even the slightest. Moreover, even under Ning Cheng's crazy absorption speed and long cultivation time, the starry sky Spirit Qi coming from the jade platform did not decrease at all. In anything, it grew even denser.

However, Ning Cheng couldn't continue cultivation anymore. He had already reached extremely close to the full-circle of Life and Death Realm. Despite that, he still couldn't sense the Thunder Tribulation for the Eternal Realm.

Without thunder tribulation, even if he cultivated for countless years, he would remain in the Life and Death Realm. He had to go out and find opportunities to trigger the thunder tribulation, or find the Starry Sky Radish Grass and refine a furnace of Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills.

But what worried Ning Cheng was that once he went out, it might become impossible to return. At least not before he found Striking Order Heavenly Emperor. However, Striking Order Heavenly Emperor hadn't come out from the Ancient Shadow Temple, which he might have already fallen.

After looking at the jade platform below his feet, Ning Cheng started to hesitate. His cultivation required horrifying quantities of cultivation resources. As such, only by staying in this place could he make rapid progress. Otherwise, anywhere else, his cultivation speed would once again drop to an almost turtle-like pace. There was even a possibility that it wouldn't improve at all.

Over time, Ning Cheng had come to understand a few crucial points in regards to his method of cultivation. Unlike others, he had a much more difficult path when it came to advancing. Even with the Mysterious Yellow Bead, his cultivation sessions were starting to grow longer and longer. If not for the Temple of Time, Ning Cheng estimated that it would take him decades to advance from the early-stage Eternal Realm to the middle-stage Eternal Realm.

Although reaching the peak of Life and Death Realm significantly improved his strength, Ning Cheng knew that it still wasn't enough. He understood that if he fought against Chuan Xinlou right now, Chuan Xinlou wouldn't take him seriously without Ning Ruoqing.

Chuan Xinlou's cultivation progressed at a consistent pace, which meant if he, Ning Cheng, couldn't advance, he would die an ugly death in the future. Although Ning Ruoqing could match against Chuan Xinlou right now, he couldn't tell if the stalemate against Chuan Xinlou would still exist in the future.

After pondering over things for a while, Ning Cheng decided to head out. The first thing to do after going out was to find the opportunity to advance to the Eternal Realm. In any case, he had no other choice but to make some trade-offs to obtain the most benefits.

After advancing to the Eternal Realm, he would then head back into the Ancient Shadow Temple to find Striking Order Heavenly Emperor. As long as he found Striking Order Heavenly Emperor, he could once again enter the Temple of Time for cultivation.

Ning Cheng took out the three keys for the Temple of Time and then sent the three keys into the three keyholes. The triangular ice-crystal gate of Temple of Time once again started flowing with the black, white and grey Dao Charm. But even after waiting for a long time, Ning Cheng still did not see any signs of the gate opening.

Ning Cheng frowned; if he couldn't open the Temple of Time's gate, wouldn't it mean that he would remain locked up inside for eternity?

After an incense stick worth of time, the three-coloured Dao Charm flowing over the Temple of Time's gate started to grow thinner and thinner. When the three-coloured Dao Charm disappeared, the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys fell to the ground once again.

Ning Cheng picked up the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys but did not continue to use them to open the Temple of Time's gate. He wasn't caught up in the Laws of Time epiphany but continued to stare at the gate in front of him for another incense stick worth of time. Yet, even after an incense stick worth of time passed, he couldn't see any gap opening up in the Temple of Time's gate.

Could he use brute force to open the gate? Ning Cheng had just thought of using a strong attack, when he immediately thought of the new spirit technique, Time Wheel, he had learned from this triangular gate.

He decided to use it. Even if it caused the same crazy phenomenon of flowing time like before, he could immediately hide in the Mysterious Yellow Bead.

After a short while, Ning Cheng condensed the Laws of Time Dao Charm and used the same profound movement to cast the technique. A grey and white coloured light wheel appeared out of thin air, and following Ning Cheng's gestures, transformed into an invisible disc that shot towards the triangular Temple of Time's gate.

"Click...." With a small noise, Ning Cheng felt surprised to see that his spirit technique, Time Wheel, had easily opened the triangular-shaped Temple of Time's gate. Even the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys in his hands couldn't produce such an effect.

Ning Cheng resisted the doubt creeping up in his heart and walked out of the Temple of Time's gate. Turning back, he found that the entrance already closed up, returning to its previous state.

Ning Cheng really couldn't help it. Turning around a full 360 degrees, he once again blasted out another Time Wheel.

With another 'click' the Temple of Time's door opened, and another moment later, the gate closed once again.

Ning Cheng finally understood that the Perpetual Moon Time Key was only a one-time use item to open the Temple of Time. After that, one would need to cast the Time Wheel Spirit Technique each time one wanted to enter. Otherwise, don't even think of getting in or out of the Temple of Time.

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"Haha...." With a burst of laughter, a figure suddenly appeared within the empty starry sky.

Duan Gantai had finally come out of the Guardian Temple. He had always held a great desire to enter the Guardian Temple even before truly entering it. But he never expected that the Guardian Temple would give him such a big surprise. Within the Guardian Temple, he not only obtained a bunch of Starry Sky Spiritual Veins, but he also got a huge harvest of Permanent Essence Pills. But these weren't even the most pleasant of surprises. What surprised him the most was that he found ten jade bottles of Repairing Heavens Beginning Essence Pill. Moreover, most were top-grade Repairing Heavens Beginning Essence Pills.

As a modern-day starry sky cultivator, hardly anyone would know about the Repairing Heavens Beginning Essence Pill. It was a long-lost ancient medicinal pill, with no one capable of refining it in the present day. Even the Premier Pill Emperor Cang Caihe wasn't capable of producing the Repairing Heavens Beginning Essence Pill, even the lowest grade.

Repairing Heaven Beginning Essence Pill was a top-quality pill even with the top-quality Grade 9 Starry Sky Medicinal Pills. Taking this medicinal pill would speed up a cultivator's absorption of starry sky Spirit Qi. At the same time, it would even help in completing the Dao Charm missing during cultivation. Without this pill, if someone tried to cultivate too fast, it would result in an unstable foundation and ultimately create a situation where one would succumb to the devilish flames.

Because of the heaven-defying effects, this medicinal pill had 'Repairing Heavens', which pointed to its ability to make up for the innate deficiencies and shortcomings during cultivation.

With so many cultivation resources and Repairing Heavens Beginning Essence Pills, in just a few years, his cultivation had made significant progress. It wasn't any wonder why Duan Gantai felt so full of pride.

However, within the Guardian Temple, he still hadn't managed to open the Guardian Door, but that did not matter. After advancing to the Eternal Realm, he would return and open that Guardian Door. The reason he had come out right now was to find opportunities to reach the Eternal Realm.

But he also had one regret. The regret of not finding any medicinal pills in the Guardian Temple that could help someone advance to the Eternal Realm.

As soon as Duan Gantai came out, he unlocked the seal on the Connecting Spirit Silk. He felt quite eager to find Ning Cheng. He wanted to see if Ning Cheng could persist in front of him now and also to force Ning Cheng to return the Temple of Time's key. Even if he knew that Ning Cheng couldn't enter the Temple of Time, he did not feel at ease with leaving all three keys with Ning Cheng.

Just when Duan Gantai unlocked the Connecting Spirit Silk, he felt Ning Cheng's location. Sensing Ning Cheng's position, Duan Gantai felt so ecstatic that he left without any hesitation.

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Chapter 776: Testing out each other

Just as Duan Gantai felt eager to find Ning Cheng, Ning Cheng also wanted to find Duan Gantai quickly. It's not that he wanted to return the black-coloured Perpetual Moon Time Key to Duan Gantai. Even if he no longer needed it, he wouldn't act with so much selflessness. Since he already exchanged the Perpetual Moon Time Key for the None-to-depend-on Wine, he naturally wouldn't return it to Duan Gantai. Even if he wanted to exchange it, Ning Cheng would make sure to ask Duan Gantai for at least a few Starry Sky Spiritual Veins.

The reason why he wanted to look for Duan Gantai was to see if Duan Gantai had any means to enter the Temple of Time.

But Ning Cheng didn't expect to sense Duan Gantai's location from the Connecting Spirit Silk as soon as he came out of the Temple of Time. Moreover, Duan Gantai moved in quite a hurry towards him.

Ning Cheng wasn't too far from Striking Order Starland, so he simply decided to go to Striking Order Starland.

Walking into the Striking Order Starland's Lucky Heavens City, Ning Cheng still felt a little emotional. He had come to the Lucky Heaven City twice and encountered Xu Binglan both times. However, he knew that he wouldn't meet Xu Binglan this time. With that woman's cunning mind, she must have already taken Xu Yingdei and moved far away.

Striking Order Heavenly Emperor didn't return yet. Still, Lucky Heavens City remained relatively stable under the management of Striking Order's assistants and helpers. But this was only for the Lucky Heavens City within Striking Order Starland. As for the rest of the Striking Order Starry Sky, it still had its problems.

Striking Celestial Rest Stop, a relatively large rest stop in Lucky Heavens City. Just after Ning Cheng walked inside, he saw an acquaintance. Aunt Xu, a high-influence assistant under Striking Order Heavenly Emperor.

Aunt Xu did not have high cultivation, only at the middle-level of Heaven Seated Realm. But Ning Cheng knew about her status very well. Within Lucky Heavens City and even within Striking Order Starry Sky, she was only second to Striking Order Heavenly Emperor in rank. That's because Striking Order held an enormous trust in Aunt Xu, even more than Tang Yitang. To put it into more context, Tang Yitang was the only other Eternal expert within Striking Order Starry Sky apart from Striking Order.

It wasn't unusual to see Aunt Xu in Lucky Heavens City. But Aunt Xu's current behaviour struck Ning Cheng as somewhat strange. Striking Order Heavenly Emperor's most trusted aide currently stood with her head bowed behind a middle-aged male cultivator. It looked as if she was reluctantly following the commands of the middle-aged male cultivator.

This middle-aged male cultivator was a bit taller than Aunt Xu but at the early-stage Life and Death Realm. Why would Aunt Xu, as the most trusted person under Striking Order Heavenly Emperor, behave in such a manner? She wouldn't show such behaviour to even the most influential person within Lucky Heavens City.

"This rest stop will be under Chuan Ping's care from now on. You don't need to ask about it." The middle-aged male cultivator said with a calm voice.

"Yes." Aunt Xu responded with a respectful voice.

"Okay, you don't have to keep it here. I'll just go up there." The middle-aged man waved his hand said to Aunt Xu casually.

"Yes, it's just that Lord Heavenly Emperor hasn't returned yet. Since it pertains to the affairs of Emperor Mountain, we need to wait....." Aunt Xu spoke up with a somewhat scared tone.

The middle-aged man snorted, "What if Striking Order doesn't return, do you want to keep the Striking Order Starry Sky in a state of chaos? Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor has already sent out orders before going into seclusion. We'll be taking over the responsibility of Striking Order Starry Sky. You only need to do the things we tell you to do. As for Striking Order Emperor Mountain's affairs, you don't have to worry about...."

"Aunt Xu, long time so see." Ning Cheng walked in at this moment, interrupting this middle-aged man. No matter what Striking Order had on his mind, Striking Order at least remained polite to him and had even helped him. Today, meeting someone who wanted to take over the throne of Striking Order Starry Sky, he couldn't just stand by and watch. However, Ning Cheng also knew that he could only stop this particular instance. With no one actually in control of Striking Order Starland, it would always contain hidden dangers.

Aunt Xu felt shocked. She felt most worried about her acquaintances coming up to meet her. In case they ended up angering this Lord in front of her, not only would it be the end of her friends, but even she would have to suffer.

But when she looked up and saw Ning Cheng, her worries disappeared instantly, and the shocked look got replaced by surprise. "Senior, you...."

"Who are you?" The middle-aged man stared at Ning Cheng coldly and barked at Ning Cheng with a cold voice. He felt upset that Ning Cheng had interrupted him in mid-sentence.

Ning Cheng rarely showed up to gatherings and was a Life and Death cultivator who just emerged from a long session of secluded cultivation. Therefore, even people who came from Culmination Starland didn't know much about Ning Cheng's appearance.

But although he did not recognise Ning Cheng, since Aunt Xu addressed Ning Cheng as 'senior', he forced his anger down. Aunt Xu was a Heaven Seated cultivator, so for her to treat someone as 'senior', this person should at least be a Life and Death cultivator.

But Ning Cheng looked so young with a blurry celestial wheel. Therefore, even if in the Life and Death Realm, he would only be an ordinary Life and Death cultivator, not an Eternal-level expert.

"Haha, Brother Ning, it truly is a small world. As soon as I learned that Brother Ning was here, I came right away." Another laughing voice arrived, ignoring the middle-aged man.

As this voice emerged, Duan Gantai's ugly face appeared in the rest stop's welcoming hall.

The middle-aged man's face turned cold. With an early-stage Life and Death cultivation, he always garnered respect wherever he went. But this was the first time where he felt so neglected.

"This is the Striking Celestial Rest Stop, which is about to become my Yue Clan's property. Unrelated people should get out. Aunt Xu, please show these two people out." Although this middle-aged man felt unhappy, he did not tear away all pretences and even used the word 'please'. All because Aunt Xu called Ning Cheng as 'senior' and also because he didn't know about Ning Cheng's origins.

"Who's this bastard? Get the fuck out of my face...." Duan Gantai slapped without hesitation.

Don't look at him and Ning Cheng's sincere yet insincere behaviour. The only reason he had not made any move against Ning Cheng was that he didn't have enough strength to devour Ning Cheng. If he had enough power to eat Ning Cheng, he would have killed Ning Cheng a long time ago. But now an early-state Life and Death cultivator dared talk about throwing him out, why would he stay calm?

The middle-aged man on hearing Duan Gantai telling him to fuck off immediately turned furious. But before he could even do anything, he felt as if a block of ice had suddenly formed around him. He instantly understood that a powerful domain had sealed all of his movements, leaving him with no room to resist.

The middle-aged man immediately turned scared. Even when he faced Yue Chengfei, the early-stage Eternal-level expert of Yue Clan, he never felt such a level of suppression. From this, he understood that this person was much stronger than the Clan Head of Yue Clan, Yue Chengfei.

When Yue Clan decided to return to Striking Order Starry Sky, he had investigated everyone. The Striking Order Starry Sky only contained two powerhouses, Striking Order and Tang Yitang, but both should have already fallen. As long as they did not touch the Mysterious Yellow Celestial River, they could take control of the entire starry sky without any issues.

The Mysterious Yellow Celestial River had the power to take over Striking Order Starry Sky. But from his investigations, the owner of Mysterious Yellow Celestial River didn't have any intentions towards Striking Order Starry Sky.

"Slap...." Before the middle-aged man recovered, Duan Gantai's slap landed on his face. The middle-aged man flew back like a broken kite. Duan Gantai's slap not only knocked him away, but it also forced him to spill blood and teeth along the way.

After the middle-aged man landed on the street outside the rest stop, the rest stop's entrance finally crumbled, a delayed reaction to Duan Gantai slapping the middle-aged man.

"Just a small fry and yet daring to throw out Brother Ning and me. Brother Ning, please come this way, I have something important to discuss with you." After Duan Gantai slapped away the middle-aged man, he then reached out to Ning Cheng. He even treated the rest stop as if it was his family home.

Ning Cheng sneered in his heart. Duan Gantai currently seemed less afraid of him and even less polite. From this, he understood that this fellow had already reached the full-circle of Life and Death Realm. As such, this fellow stopped treating him as people on the same level.

However, he wasn't in any mood to talk with Duan Gantai right now. He had just heard the middle-aged man mention Yue Clan. It had reminded him of Yue Clan snatching Qionghua's 5-element Falling Treasure Copper Coin and forcing Qionghua to enter the cycle of reincarnation. If these two came here representing Yue Clan, they better not blame him for taking revenge.

"Brother Duan can leave first. I still have a few things to attend." Ning Cheng said while walking out of the rest stop.

Duan Gantai smiled, "Brother Ning, please don't hurry out if it's nothing urgent...."

While talking, Duan Gantai tried to grab Ning Cheng's shoulder. At the same time, he also pressed down with his domain. Even Aunt Xu, who stood next to Ning Cheng, ended up in within the area of effect of

this domain. She felt as if someone had suddenly taken away her ability to breathe, and subconsciously took several steps back. Fortunately, she wasn't the target of this domain; otherwise, she couldn't have taken even a step back, becoming Duan Gantai's lamb for slaughter.

But just this brush with death terrified Aunt Xu to her core. What was the origin of this person whom Ning Cheng called a Brother Duan? How was he so powerful?

Ning Cheng didn't bother to look at Duan Gantai. But when Duan Gantai reached out his hand and pressed down with his domain, Ning Cheng also stretched back his hand and unleashed his Celestial River Domain.

In any case, it's not that he didn't have the confidence to kill Duan Gantai, he just didn't want to deal with Duan Gantai right now. But since Duan Gantai dared to stop him from asking about Yue Clan, it would be strange if Ning Cheng didn't retaliate.

"KaKaKaKa...." The Celestial River Domain was so powerful that Duan Gantai could hear his domain cracking apart.

Although Duan Gantai had confidence in his domain's power, Ning Cheng's domain crushed his in strength. Not only did Ning Cheng's domain break Duan Gantai's domain, it even partially affected him.

"Bang...." The moment Duan Gantai's domain cracked open, his and Ning Cheng's celestial essence palimpsest collided.

The terrifying spacial suppression immediately sullied and deflated Duan Gantai's mood. Although the two were only probing each other and hadn't officially started to fight for real, Duan Gantai understood that he had lost. Even after advancing to the full-circle of Life and Death Realm, he still was not an opponent for Ning Cheng.

"Boom...." All the chairs between the two turned to nothingness when the domains collided. If they had not controlled the strength of their domains, even if they didn't go at each other at full power, the street would have also turned to nothingness.

Duan Gantai stood there with a pale face, while his heart kept thundering. He knew that he hadn't used his full power, but he knew that Ning Cheng had also not tried his best. Without advancing to the Eternal Realm, he understood that he could never hope to win against Ning Cheng. That was the conclusion he came up with after the exchange.

"Looks like Brother Ning's cultivation took another step forward. This little brother admires you a lot. This little brother's cultivation had improved a bit, so I wanted to try out my domain on Brother Ning. This little brother didn't realise till now that this little brother was only a frog sitting at the bottom of a well watching the sky above. It looks like this little brother fails at life. Compared to Brother Ning, this little brother is just too far away, too far."

Duan Gantai forcibly calmed himself and complimented Ning Cheng with polite words and cupped fists. He even exaggerated the differences in strength between him and Ning Cheng. Even his attitude had changed as if the person who showed such rudeness to Ning Cheng wasn't him but someone else entirely.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 777: Who the hell are you?

Ning Cheng replied with a calm voice, "Oh, so that's what happened. I thought that you wanted to rely on your Life and Death cultivation to kill me and take my things."

Duan Gantai gave an awkward smile and repeated, "Dare not, dare not...."

"Really? I think you would dare. Didn't you just blow away Yue Chengchong? Is there something you would not dare do within the entire starry sky?" An ice-cold voice came over, but not from Ning Cheng.

As this sentence dropped, three cultivators suddenly appeared at the entrance of this rest stop, two men and one woman.

Behind these three people stood the middle-aged man, the one Duan Gantai had slapped out of the rest stop. Although the slap's traces had disappeared from his face, the anger within his eyes hadn't melted away.

"Chengchong, who did this to you?" The thin man standing on the far left of the rest stop's entrance asked coldly.

Not waiting for the middle-aged man slapped by Duan Gantai to speak up, Duan Gantai simply walked up with a smile plastered all over his face. "I'm the one who hit him. This little caterpillar dared to interrupt my words, so I swatted it away out of convenience. Yet, this little insect brought over quite a few 'strong' people. Be thankful that I'm a merciful fellow, and just gave him a little lesson. Don't worry though that debt remains settled. So, I can promise not to look for you for retribution in the future."

Of the three people who had just arrived at the entrance, only the female cultivator standing on the right was at Heaven Seated Realm. The lean man on the left was an early-stage Eternal cultivator. The man in the middle had late-stage Eternal cultivation and was about the same height as the man on the left, but with blonde hair. However, Ning Cheng still didn't take either of them seriously.

Ning Cheng had no fear facing these people, and he also knew that Duan Gantai also didn't fear them. Duan Gantai was a ruthless person. So even if he couldn't fight these people right now, as long as these people dared to make a move on him, it would create an irreconcilable feud with him.

This fellow had a vindictive nature when it came to resolving grievances. Besides, Ning Cheng felt sure that these few people still couldn't match up to Duan Gantai. At the same time, he also understood that Duan Gantai's last words weren't a vow of retribution. Instead, this fellow wanted to push these people to him.

"Did you just advance to the Eternal Realm and feel that you can now put the entire starry sky under your feet? This Emperor Yue Chengfei comes from Culmination Starland's Yue Clan. The little caterpillar that you injured is also from my Yue Clan. Maybe I should get some pointers from the 'expert' who blew away the caterpillar from my Yue Clan." The man on the left gave a cold snort and even released a hint of killing intent in his voice.

He felt that Duan Gantai had not advanced to the Eternal Realm. But since Duan Gantai could blow away Yue Chengchong with a slap, it also indicated that this fellow wasn't in the Life and Death Realm.

Duan Gantai laughed, "Yue Chengfei, you have a shameless face. I just patted the little caterpillar, and you're already rubbing your nose in it. Culmination's Yue Clan? Sorry, never even heard of it. You're just making me more unhappy with your words. Maybe I ought to have slapped that little caterpillar...."

While speaking, Duan Gantai's domain suddenly erupted. Following that, a faint white light also burst out of his domain. If Ning Cheng hadn't paid close attention, he wouldn't have noticed that white light at all.

Yue Chengfei didn't expect Duan Gantai to dare make sneak attacks when facing two Eternal powerhouses. But he reacted quickly by stretching out his domain and also bringing out a weapon at the same time.

Ning Cheng, from his vantage point, could tell that Duan Gantai wasn't attacking Yue Chengfei or the other two people, but Yue Chengchong. The same person he had previously slapped.

"Poof...." The moment that white light flashed, Yue Chengfei's domain scattered the domain pressing against him and the others. But at the same moment, Yue Chengchong on the other side exploded into a haze of blood. Apart from Yue Chengchong's essence spirit that quickly escaped and hid behind Yue Chengfei, his body had already turned into a pool of blood.

Ning Cheng turned slightly cautious. Even he couldn't decipher what constituted Duan Gantai's white light. But he also understood what Duan Gantai meant from this gesture. This fellow had purposefully done this to show him. Meaning, don't dare to look down on me. Even if my domain can't match up to yours', I still have my means, so don't dare to push me around.

"I should have slapped this little caterpillar into ashes. All right. Although this little caterpillar's essence spirit remains, my heart finally feels some comfort." Duan Gantai clapped his hands together as if it was only a trivial matter.

"You're looking for death...." Yue Chengfei's anger started to overflow. He felt so angry that even his hair began to stand up. Even so, he did not immediately attack but looked at the blond man standing beside him. Based on Duan Gantai's attack, Yue Chengfei understood that he could only match Duan Gantai if no one helped him. He simply wouldn't be able to stop this person from leaving.

The blonde man standing next to Yue Chengfei didn't expect that Duan Gantai would dare launch a sneak attack to kill Yue Chengchong. He snorted and spoke up with a cold tone, "He's looking for death."

"Are you from Yue Clan too?" Duan Gantai, as if nothing happened, looked at the blond man and casually asked.

The blond man stared at Duan Gantai with a cold gaze and said, "Remember it well, my name is Eddie, from Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain. Yue Chengfei is about to become the Starry Sky Heavenly Emperor of Striking Order Starry Sky. And you killed Yue Chengchong in Striking Order's Lucky Heaven City. No matter where you come from, only death awaits you."

Hearing that the blonde man came from Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain, Duan Gantai frowned and did not continue speaking. It showed that he held some reservations about Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain.

But before the blonde man could continue, Ning Cheng spoke up with an ice-cold tone. "Regardless of wherever you came from, get the fuck out of here. As for Yue Chengfei, I have a few questions for you."

In Eddie's opinion, Duan Gantai was already crazy enough, Yet, unexpectedly, he met a fellow even crazier than Duan Gantai. Had this kid gone insane? How could he dare to curse at him despite knowing his background?

No matter the patience and endurance Eddie had, Eddie's domain immediately exploded out. At the same time, he also threw out a punch.

Feeling Eddie's domain blow towards them, Duan Gantai had to stretch out his domain to resist as he stood quite close. If not for his fear of Ning Cheng attacking him, he would have even taken a few steps back to lighten the load.

But Ning Cheng did not take even half a step back; instead, he took a step forward. He simultaneously stretched out his domain and also punched out.

He had a few things to ask from Duan Gantai, so he had intentionally held back during the confrontation with him. In any case, he didn't want to tear all pretences with Duan Gantai just yet. But against this Eddie from Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain, who tried to snatch the Striking Order Starry Sky, Ning Cheng naturally would not restrain himself.

This punch, in conjunction with the Celestial River Domain, formed into a sealed space. The force compressed everything within it and without any reservation, directed it towards Eddie. If it weren't for the sake of not letting Duan Gantai see his moves, Ning Cheng would have simply lifted his hand and blasted out with the Time Wheel.

"Boom, snap...." Ning Cheng's and Eddie's domain collided an instant later and immediately turned the previously broken rest stop's entrance into nothingness.

Eddie immediately felt shocked. His domain couldn't obtain even the slightest advantage. Not only that, but his opponent's domain also continued to grow stronger at an alarming rate.

"Bang...." Another violent impact erupted. The next moment, Eddie felt as if countless Axe Shadows and Spear Shadows had slammed into the depths of his Sea of Consciousness. Even his spiritual soul had started to struggle under the violent killing intent.

Eddie's fighting spirit instantly scattered. Feeling horrified, he kept asking the question to himself, who the hell was this fellow? Not only was this fellow's domain not worse than his, but even that seemingly ordinary punch contained two different killing intents. If that wasn't enough, he felt as if Ning Cheng's fist had even sealed the space around him. As long as he relaxed even a little, Ning Cheng could simply let the sealed space explode, wiping him out of existence.

A mouthful of blood flowed into Eddie's throat, but Eddie swallowed it by force. After taking a few gasps, he asked in shock, "Who are you?"

Although they had only exchanged a punch, Ning Cheng understood that he couldn't kill Eddie without a dragged-out battle, especially while keeping his cards hidden. Forcibly calming his turbulent aura, he then gave a cold reply. "Who is this emperor? It's not your turn to ask. Let Chuan Xinlou come out and

say those words to me personally; otherwise, get the fuck out the Striking Order Starry Sky. It's not even your Levelled Heaven Emperor Mountain."

Hearing Ning Cheng addressing himself as 'this emperor', and calling Chuan Xinlou's name directly, Eddie's expression turned heavy. However, he still tried to keep a calm face despite feeling extremely uncomfortable in his heart.

Eddie and Ning Cheng had exchanged only a move. Even though the two didn't use any spirit techniques, Yue Chengfei still felt as if someone had poured ice-cold water over his heart.

He couldn't understand when Striking Order Starry Sky obtained two new powerhouses. One was already on par with him, but the other one didn't even put Eddie in his eyes. This fellow even directly called out Chuan Xinlou's name.

Duan Gantai, however, felt even more shocked. He already knew that Ning Cheng was an extremely powerful individual. But he did not expect Ning Cheng to have such an insane level of power. If he had to go against Eddie, although he could fight, he would lose after a few rounds and would have had to escape eventually.

Eddie stared at Ning Cheng for a while, and then suddenly a name popped up in his head. Mysterious Yellow Sect's Sect Master Ning Cheng.

He had never personally seen Ning Cheng, but even he couldn't count the number of times he heard about Ning Cheng's deeds. He had heard from others that Ning Cheng wasn't afraid of Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor, and had even fought with Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor more than once.

A person who fought against Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor more than once, yet still alive, and not even losing a bit. Even if he had to think with his toes, he understood what monster of a person he was currently facing.

"I get it, so it's Sect Master Ning of Mysterious Yellow Celestial River. No wonder you're so powerful. This Eddie truly acted disrespectfully." After Eddie realised Ning Cheng's identity, he immediately felt relieved. He felt quite afraid of losing to an unknown fellow. With Ning Cheng's prestige, a person so powerful that he didn't even fear Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor, how could he pay any attention to Eddie? Even if Ning Cheng told Eddie to fuck off, it wouldn't become a big deal.

Ning Cheng, Sect Master Ning? Yue Chengfei, however, felt even more shocked than Eddie. Although he didn't know that Ning Cheng had a grudge against Yue Clan, he had heard of Ning Cheng's reputation a long time ago. Moreover, after deciding to let the Yue Clan return to Striking Order Starry Sky, he specifically gave orders to everyone. Not to provoke one person under any circumstances, the person named Ning Cheng.

But now they haven't even established themselves in Striking Order Starry Sky when they seem to have already started a feud with Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng simply ignored Eddie, who still was standing in shock on the side. He didn't even answer Eddie's words. Instead, he set his sights on Yue Chengfei, "Is your last name Yue?"

Yue Chengfei quickly stepped forward and cupped his fists before speaking, "Yes, I'm Yue Chengfei, from Culmination Starland's Yue Clan. Greetings Sect Master Ning."

He took things seriously at this point and directly omitted the words 'this emperor' while speaking.

"Does your Yue Clan still want to take control of Striking Order Starry Sky?" Ning Cheng spoke with a calm tone.

Yue Chengfei felt extremely uncomfortable hearing Ning Cheng's words and tone. But he still spoke up, but with even more caution, "We didn't know that Sect Master Ning was still in Striking Order Starry Sky. Otherwise, I would have never offended Sect Master Ning. My Yue Clan and I will immediately quit any thoughts over Striking Order Starry Sky."

Seeing Ning Cheng in Lucky Heaven City, Yue Chengfei quickly made a realisation. He thought that Ning Cheng wanted to take over Striking Order Starry Sky. Although his Yue Clan was the largest Talisman Clan within the starry skies, he still did not dare to start a fight with Ning Cheng.

As for Aunt Xu, who stood behind Ning Cheng, she felt a surge of blood rushing through her body, and looked at Ning Cheng with extreme respect. She would have had to hang her head low and carry out orders against her will till her death, but now the entire scene had reversed the moment Ning Cheng arrived. The person who she would have had to bow down and serve just a few moments ago now stood in front of Ning Cheng with his head bowed and speaking in a low voice.

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Chapter 778: Eternal Self-detonation

Ning Cheng behaved as if he never heard Yue Chengfei speak about giving up on Striking Order Starry Sky. Instead, his tone turned even more chilly, "Your Yue Clan originally came from Striking Order Starry Sky's Die Yuan Star, right?"

"Yes, Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor had invited us, and Striking Order Heavenly Emperor also knows about it." Sensing that Ning Cheng and Striking Order Heavenly Emperor had a close relationship, Yue Chengfei remained cautious with his words.

Ning Cheng's tone remained impassive, "I heard that Yue Clan has a person named Yue Yangzhi. Where is he now?"

"Yue Yangzhi?" Yue Chengfei immediately started recalling all of Yue Clan's outstanding disciples. It took a while, but he still couldn't remember a person named Yue Yangzhi.

"Let this Emperor help you. Yue Yangzhi came from a place called Ink Essence Star. He brought a 5-elements Treasure Fall Copper Coin, which you then gave to a genius from your Yue Clan, named Yue Huangfu." Ning Cheng's tone grew colder with each word.

Yue Chengfei, even if he turned into an idiot, immediately realised that Ning Cheng and Yue Clan had a deep grudge with each other. It was this person who killed Yue Huangfu.

Ning Cheng saw Yue Chengfei's expression change and spoke up with an increasingly cold tone. "You guessed it right. Yue Huangfu died at my hands. The Ink Essence Star's Yue Clan, should be your Yue Clan's branch, right? My wife sent many raw materials to your Yue Clan just to get them to refine a talisman. But your Yue Clan killed my wife under Yue Yangzhi's leadership and took my wife's 5-elements Treasure Fall Copper Coin....."

Yue Chengfei's blood ran cold. He didn't answer Ning Cheng's words at all. Instead, he immediately raised his hand and shot out a bright light. At the same time, he shouted, "Yue Clan, immediately leave Culmination Grand Starry Sky. Big enemies...."

Ning Cheng snorted. Bringing out a long spear, it immediately gathered an endless amount of killing power around it. The energy was so dense that a dark space formed in front of it, about a hundred meters in diameter.

Ning Cheng didn't immediately use his kill shot. He first wanted to know Yue Yangzhi's whereabouts.

Yue Chengfei roared. In the next moment, both his hands created many mudras. Each mudra then transformed into endless runes. After only a few breaths, a dense world of runes formed around his body. Yue Clan's apex-level spirit technique, Spirit Rending Myriad Talisman.

The long spear in Ning Cheng's hand twisted, and the infinite killing power gathered by the long spear transformed into one strand of spear intent after another. These spear intents, like tongues of flames in the sky, quickly tore through the Spirit Rending Myriad Talisman that Yue Chengfei had not yet fully activated. It forced the numerous killing talismans, entrapment talismans, spirit sealing talismans, explosion talismans and thousands of other talismans to explode prematurely.

The exchange between Yue Chengfei and Ning Cheng created a scene like that of a fireworks explosion, drowning the entire Lucky Heaven City in shining colours.

Just at this very moment, a horrifying aura suddenly filled the entire place. Sensing this aura, everyone understood what Yue Chengfei wanted to do and immediately started to retreat.

Aunt Xu turned even paler. She knew that if Yue Chengfei self-detonated, it would result in countless deaths and injuries within Lucky Heaven City. It might even destroy the city.

An Eternal cultivator's self-detonation, even one at the early-stage Eternal Realm, was not something a city could block.

As for Yue Chengchong in his essence spirit state, he couldn't help but tremble in horror. He had just come out of seclusion, so how could he have ever expected such a situation? Yue Clan's Clan Head hadn't even started fighting, yet he chose to self-detonate. Who the hell did his Yue Clan offend? At this moment, why would he even think of his previous condescending behaviour? Therefore, when Yue Chengfei's death-filled aura blew over, he did not retreat. Instead, he directly rushed into it.

In any case, he was only a word away from death. Better to have an immediate end rather than wait for others to kill him.

Yue Chengfei only felt hate bubbling up inside him. He had just reached the Eternal Realm not long ago. Yet someone pushed him to the point of initiating self-detonation. He hated Ning Cheng's strength, but he hated that Yue Yangzhi even more. An ant from a low-levelled interface had created such a powerful enemy for his Yue Clan. He also hated the fact that just when Yue Clan obtained the opportunity to rise to prominence, someone threw them into an abyss.

No one could understand the unwillingness in his heart, as advancing to the Eternal Realm was only a secondary thing for him. Yue Chengfei knew that as long as he had some more time, he would become the premier Talisman Emperor within the starry skies. As long as he had the time, it wouldn't be

impossible for him to achieve complete mastery over the Dao of Talismans. However, he understood that he would never get to enjoy this prestige, that's because his Yue Clan offended someone who they shouldn't have crossed.

Ning Cheng didn't expect Yue Chengfei to be so decisive that he would choose to blow himself up. However, he didn't back away. In any case, he couldn't let Yue Chengfei blow up Lucky Heaven City.

In the next moment, Ning Cheng materialised the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort and took a step forward.

The Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort transformed into a massive fort in the sky that overflowed with thunder and lightning that instantly targeted Yue Chengfei. "Boom-boom-boom...." Endless sounds of explosions shook the city.

The celestial essence explosion and the thunder rays from the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort collided together, creating a bright blast of fireworks along with a horrifying thunderous roar.

It took more than a dozen breaths before the rumbling sounds finally disappeared. However, the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort still overflowed with thunder and lightning and remained suspended above Lucky Heaven City. Yue Chengfei, on the other hand, had vanished without a trace. Except for the place where Yue Chengfei self-detonated, which created a deep crater, the rest of Lucky Heaven City remained untouched.

Duan Gantai, standing not too far away, felt even more worried at this sight. He vaguely felt that Ning Cheng hadn't even shown one-tenth of his strength. Even in that scenario, Ning Cheng managed to counter quickly. If Ning Cheng fully utilised his power, just how powerful would he become?

After a moment, his eyes immediately filled with determination; it didn't matter how powerful Ning Cheng became. Once he, Duan Gantai, took everything from Ning Cheng, who would ever dare to go against him, Duan Gantai? As for Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor? Even he would have to retire to someplace pleasantly cool.

Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain's Ai Di also remained silent. Ning Cheng's power had exceeded his wildest expectations. He had heard that after Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor reached Dao Confirming Realm, Ning Cheng could only reluctantly take a move. But the strength displayed by Ning Cheng today did not belong to someone who could face only one attack from Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor.

Ning Cheng put away the Everlasting Blue Thunder Fort and stared at the female cultivator who came with Yue Chengfei. "Are you also from Yue Clan?"

This female cultivator only had a Heaven Seated cultivation. But when she heard Ning Cheng's words, she unconsciously shivered and quickly replied, "This junior is not from Yue Clan. This junior is Suo Zihui from Demon Domain Grand Starry Sky. This junior came to Culmination Grand Starry Sky on Senior Ai Di's invitation. Plus, this junior has another task, to send out a few auction invitations for my Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce. If free, Senior can also come to my Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce's auction. This time, Master Yi Cang will personally precede over our Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce's auction. Moreover, this auction will include many starry sky treasures."

Ning Cheng didn't know anything about Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce, so Aunt Xu standing behind Ning Cheng suddenly spoke up. "Senior, Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce is the premier Chamber of Commerce within the Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky, co-founded by Yi Cang and Zeng Taji. Its master, Yi Cang, is a late-stage Eternal expert and its deputy master, Zeng Taji, is a middle-stage Eternal expert. Moreover, Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce's reach far surpassed that of our Striking Order Chamber of Commerce."

Ning Cheng nodded and asked Suo Zihui, "What are the main starry sky treasures in this auction?"

Suo Zihui bowed and replied. "A few Spirit Artefacts, Brahmic Ocean Deep Silk, Single Essence Heavy Water, Starry Sky Radish Grass, Repairing Heaven Beginning Essence Pill...."

Ning Cheng had only asked casually, but Suo Zihui's words truly surprised him. He had never heard of so many good things appearing in one auction. Could this still be called an auction? As for the Single Essence Heavy Water, Ning Cheng already had an inkling about its origin. Most likely, it came from Devil Domain's Qiao Jierui, who got it from the Ancient Shadow Temple. Ning Cheng, however, never expected that Qiao Jierui would choose to auction it.

But what shocked him, even more, was the Starry Sky Radish Grass. The one item he desperately needed right now. If he didn't go to this auction, he would have to watch this opportunity slip away.

Not only was Ning Cheng shocked, but even Ai Di also stood on the side in shock. He had only invited Suo Zihui because he and Yi Cang were good friends. Ai Di never even asked Suo Zihui about the highlights of the auction. Just like Ning Cheng's thought thoughts, he also didn't think of this as an ordinary auction. If it were a regular auction, it would never have so many precious treasures. If he had known that this auction had so many good things, he would have thought about it more.

Even Duan Gantai, who had seen too many treasures, felt moved. He clenched his fists and secretly vowed to go to the Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky to participate in this auction. Starry Sky Radish Grass, wasn't it the one thing he desperately needed?

"I want to go to the Ash Pagoda Auction. But I don't know if I can get an invitation?" Ning Cheng asked with cupped fists.

Suo Zihui quickly spoke up, "It would be an honour for our Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce if Senior comes to our auction. If it weren't for Senior's enquiry, this junior would never dare to reveal the treasures in this auction. It's just that this junior has limited power, and I have already distributed the invitations I received. I do have a few more admission jade cards, but they are the most ordinary ones. If Senior wishes, once this junior reaches Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky, we will send you our best invitation."

Ning Cheng waved his hand. "No need. Just give me the normal entry jade card."

He no longer needed to keep his strength hidden. Even if he kept his power hidden for now, once he started bidding on those treasures, people would eventually figure it out.

Suo Zihui immediately took out an ordinary jade card and with both hands presented it to Ning Cheng. "This is the ordinary jade card for entering the auction. Please accept it, Senior."

Ning Cheng put away the jade card and said, "Many thanks, Fairy Zihui. If you need any help in Culmination Grand Starry Sky, you can come directly to my Jiangzhou Star and ask for me, Ning Cheng."

"Many thanks, Sect Master Ning." Suo Zihui bowed in surprise. She didn't expect Ning Cheng to speak with such politeness. Especially since she only took out a standard entrance jade card.

Moreover, although Ning Cheng did not state it explicitly, Ning Cheng's words also guaranteed an unobstructed journey for her within Culmination Grand Starry Sky. Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain had Senior Ai Di, while everywhere else had Ning Cheng. In this case, who would ever dare to show any rudeness to her? Besides, she could also use this opportunity to get close to Sect Master Ning.

Duan Gantai smiled and stepped forward. "I'm also very interested in your auction. I wonder if I can also get a jade card?"

Suo Zihui had seen Duan Gantai and Ning Cheng standing together. Moreover, recalling how he slapped an early-stage Life and Death cultivator to death, she naturally did not dare to say no. She quickly sent a jade card to Duan Gantai.

Suo Zihui had come here on the invitation of Ai Di. But since he accepted Suo Zihui's entry jade card, Ning Cheng's attitude towards Ai Di also eased out a bit. "Brother Ai, you can go back and tell Levelled Heart Heavenly Emperor about Striking Order Starry Sky. Please tell him that Levelled Heart Emperor Mountain no longer needs to worry about it from now on."

Ning Cheng didn't directly mention that Striking Order Starry Sky would cut ties with Culmination Grand Starry Sky. But his words indirectly implied it. That is, there is nothing for Chuan Xinlou in this place, so don't dare to come here in the future.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 779: Who's Scheming Against Whom

Ai Di cupped his fists and spoke with an expressionless face, "I will take Sect Master Ning's works back. Goodbye."

After saying that, Ai Di turned around and left. Suo Zihui also quickly saluted Ning Cheng before cupping her fists and going with Ai Di.

"Many thanks, Sect Master Ning." After Ai Di left, Aunt Xu approached Ning Cheng and thanked him with a deep bow. If it weren't for Ning Cheng, it wouldn't have mattered much if people bossed her around. The important thing was that someone would have taken over Striking Order Emperor Mountain. No matter if Striking Order Heavenly Emperor could return or not, once such a thing happened, she would truly feel sorry for Striking Order Heavenly Emperor.

Ning Cheng smiled slightly, "Brother Striking Order and I are already friends, so his problems are my problems too. Go ahead and do what you have to do; I have a few matters to discuss with Brother Duan."

That said, Ning Cheng then looked at Duan Gantai with a smile. "Brother Duan, I haven't seen you in a long time. Let's sit down and have a hearty discussion."

Duan Gantai, who just a few moments ago wanted to force a 'talk' with Ning Cheng, suddenly changed his tone. He instantly put himself on a lower pedestal to Ning Cheng and said, "Of course, Brother Ning, please take the lead. This little brother will follow you."

Aunt Xu also retired from the scene. With Ning Cheng chasing away the people from Yue Clan, she had a lot of things to do. Moreover, with Ning Cheng's words today, no one would dare covet Striking Order Starry Sky for now. But since Striking Order Heavenly Emperor hadn't returned, she had to take up the task of stabilising the Striking Order Starry Sky. No matter how bad the situation elsewhere, she knew that she had to start from securing the Striking Order Starland.

However, before leaving Striking Celestial Rest Stop, she specifically instructed others to take care of Ning Cheng.

But even without Aunt Xu's reminder, Striking Celestial Rest Stop wouldn't dare to neglect Ning Cheng. For this reason, the rest stop's master personally opened Striking Celestial Rest Stop's best booth for the two people.

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"I don't know why Brother Duan came looking for me? Brother Duan arrived right after I came to Lucky Heaven City. What a coincidence, ah." Ning Cheng said as he sat down with a smile.

Duan Gantai despised Ning Cheng in his heart. If you didn't want me to find you, would I have found you? However, he just gave a simple smile. "I've been living in seclusion lately, and as soon as I got out, I sensed Brother Ning's position. It's been a long time since I saw Brother Ning, so I immediately decided to visit Brother Ning and pick up my Perpetual Moon Time Key."

Ning Cheng frowned and asked in doubt, "Brother Duan, did you lose your Perpetual Moon Time Key in Lucky Heaven City?"

Duan Gantai laughed hard before replying. "Brother Ning, you sure know how to make a joke. I gave my Perpetual Moon Time Key to Brother Ning for safekeeping last time we met. Don't you remember, Brother Ning?"

"Oh, so Brother Duan is talking about this thing. I naturally remember it. But Brother Duan, I think you said something incorrect just now. You exchanged the white Perpetual Moon Time Key for the top-quality None-to-depend-on Wine, so how could Brother Duan say that it's yours?"

Duan Gantai naturally wouldn't let Ning Cheng corner him with words. He slapped his head and said, "Oh my goodness, I should have made it clear from the beginning. Thankfully, I recorded our conversation in a crystal ball."

While taking, Duan Gantai quickly took out a crystal ball. He then activated the crystal ball, which amplified his words. "..... To make Brother Ning believe me, I will give Brother Ning the third key for the Temple of Time for safekeeping...."

After hearing the words recorded on the crystal ball, Duan Gantai chuckled. "Brother Ning, as I said, I only placed the key in Brother Ning's care. I did not 'give' it to Brother Ning. Perhaps Brother Ning misremembered things just like I did in the past."

Ning Cheng replied without missing a beat, "Brother Duan, why does the crystal ball not show what transpired before? It seems as if something is missing. I remember giving the real None-to-depend-on Wine to Brother Duan. Or is it that Brother Duan wants to deny it?"

Duan Gantai then looked at the crystal ball before exclaiming in surprise. "Hey, that's true. Alas, it looks like my cultivation is slipping with each passing day. Can't even properly record a crystal ball."

With that said, Duan Gantai knocked on the crystal ball a few times, as if the crystal ball had a broken circuit or something. But after Duan Gantai hit the crystal ball a few times, another set of words appeared on it. "... three pots of None-to-depend-on Wine is better than nothing. Many thanks, Brother Ning, for giving it to me for free." Then Ning Cheng replied, "It's okay; it's okay; it's just a small matter."

After the words ended, Duan Gantai then put away the crystal ball. He then patted his head and said, "Oh no, looks like Brother Ning gave me the None-to-depend-on Wine for free. But don't worry, I will never forget this generous gesture. Of course, if Brother Ning feels that it's incorrect, I will follow Brother Ning's advice and try to get that None-to-depend-on Wine back to Brother Ning."

Ning Cheng sneered internally. Those two sentences weren't the full contents of the transaction. But even he had to admit, Duan Gantai had quite an insidious mind. He now felt sure about Duan Gantai secretly recording this conversation. If he gave in, Duan Gantai would most likely disseminate this crystal ball through countless channels. Even if he didn't fear it, it would sink whatever reputation he had right now.

"Oh, so you're saying that I gave None-to-depend-on Wine to Brother Duan for free?" Ning Cheng said in surprise.

Duan Gantai gave a careful nod. "Yes, I'm grateful to Brother Ning for that gift. I'm grateful for it."

"Since Brother Duan feels so grateful for it, then the None-to-depend-on Wine I gave to Brother Duan must have served an important purpose. Was it the real wine?" Ning Cheng asked with a smile.

Duan Gantai felt that this sentence was a bit inappropriate. But since he already thanked Ning Cheng for it a few moments ago, he could only say, "Yes, Brother Ning. The None-to-depend-on Wine you gave me was the real deal. It was the real stuff."

Ning Cheng chuckled and said, "Looks like Brother Duan can't properly record words using crystal balls. Fortunately, I also have a crystal ball. Brother Duan, please do have a look."

After he finished talking, Ning Cheng raised his hand and brought out a crystal ball, which recorded every word spoken by Duan Gantai. "... Brother Ning, if you have the real None-to-depend-on Wine, please give me just one jar. Whatever I have on my body, Brother Ning can freely select.... Brother Ning, I will give you a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spiritual Vein. Although I don't have one right now, I can get the Starry Sky Essence Qi Spiritual Vein after I give the None-to-depend-on Wine to my friend..."

This crystal ball also had missing gaps, but it recorded all the promises Duan Gantai had made back then. Since he took Ning Cheng's None-to-depend-on Wine, he would have to honour those promises.

After watching Ning Cheng's crystal ball, Duan Gantai patted his head again and said, "Wow, I had a feeling that my recording still had a few missing parts. I guess that was what's missing. Don't worry,

Brother Ning, I will give you half a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein. How can my let my dear Brother Ning suffer like this.”

Ning Cheng immediately stopped Duan Gantai from making any moves. “Brother Duan, what do you mean by half a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein, I don’t seem to have agreed to it.”

Duan Gantai secretly hated himself right now. To get some real None-to-depend-on Wine, he hadn’t given a second thought to the conditions he had agreed on previously. He also knew that it wouldn’t make any sense to take out the crystal ball anymore. Since he could take it out, so could Ning Cheng. As Ning Cheng said, the half a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein was something he had proposed back then, but Ning Cheng had never agreed to it. This bastard deliberately planned everything, knowing that he would come back to ask him.

Ning Cheng knew back then that Duan Gantai would return and ask for it. Duan Gantai had decisively left the Perpetual Moon Time Key with him in exchange for the None-to-depend-on Wine. It meant that Duan Gantai obtained something at least equally tempting as the Temple of Time. Otherwise, with Duan Gantai’s personality, why would he ever even consider such a loss?

Because of this reason, Ning Cheng hadn’t agreed to any offer back then. In any case, he wasn’t afraid of Duan Gantai’s regret. But what he didn’t expect that Duan Gantai, like him, would also use a recording crystal ball. Moreover, Duan Gantai used an even more insidious method than him. He even mixed up the transactions on purpose and falsified them.

“Brother Ning, let’s hit the open air to speak in full confidence. Do you want a whole Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein?” Duan Gantai understood that he couldn’t fight against Ning Cheng right now. So, he chose the most direct method. Moreover, he wanted to reach the Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky as soon as possible to buy the Starry Sky Radish Grass.

“One? Haha, Brother Duan, it’s not that I don’t have full confidence in you, but I don’t lack any thinking capacity. As I pondered over it, I did feel something wrong with a few things. When Brother Duan asked me to go to the Temple of Time, I quite excited. But later, when Brother Duan took my None-to-depend-on Wine, I realised that Brother Duan just wanted to have fun with me at my expense. I guess there is nothing more between Brother Duan and me, and today’s the day we’re finally starting to split.” After talking, Ning Cheng stood up directly.

Duan Gantai quickly spoke up with a smile, “Brother Ning, I’ve always been a true friend of Brother Ning. How could I make fun of Brother Ning? Brother Ning misunderstood, misunderstood.”

How could he split with Ning Cheng right now? With Ning Cheng gone, what would he do about the Temple of Time? He had obtained quite a few things from within the Ancient Shadow Temple, so the contents in the Temple of Time definitely would be no less than the Ancient Shadow Temple. If this opportunity went to Ning Cheng, and he missed it, he would never forgive himself.

Ning Cheng snorted, “Well, in that case, let me tell you something. You told me to come to the Temple of Time, but you never told me that the Temple of Time hadn’t opened yet? I didn’t care about it back then because I believed in you too much. But now that I think about it, something wasn’t right about it since the start.”

Duan Gantai cursed in his heart; you trusted me this much? You just wanted the third Perpetual Moon Time Key for yourself, or did you forget?

He didn't dare to say this; instead, he spoke with a smile, "Brother Ning, please sit down, please forgive me for confusing you. I have a way to enter the Temple of Time before it opens. That's why I made that decision. Brother Ning, rest assured, the Perpetual Moon Time Keys are for both of us, and I will share the way to enter the Temple of Time."

Ning Cheng felt ecstatic; he didn't expect that Duan Gantai had a way to enter the Time Wilderness. What he had said before was purely on impulse; he didn't think it would work.

Ning Cheng sat down and said, "Brother Duan, you said something wrong. You should have said that you have a way to enter the Temple of Time, but the Permanent Moon Time Keys aren't with the two of us, but just me. Besides, I heard that Striking Order Heavenly Emperor has a way to enter the Temple of Time. So, I came here this time specifically to check whether Striking Order returned or not."

Hearing Ning Cheng's words, Duan Gantai immediately turned anxious. His greatest fear was that Ning Cheng would eventually get his hands on one of the Teleportation Jade Talismans to enter the Time Wilderness. Ning Cheng already had the three Temple of Time keys. If he also obtained a teleportation jade talisman, he wouldn't even get to drink any soup.

"Brother Ning, if you don't believe me, I'm willing to give you the jade talisman for the Temple of Time. Of course, you will have to give me one of the Perpetual Moon Time Key." Duan Gantai spoke with a positive tone.

Before, due to the anxiety of entering the Guardian Temple, he had no choice but to give the Perpetual Moon Time Key to Ning Cheng. Now that he already had 90% of the things within the Guardian Temple, he naturally had to find a way to recover the Perpetual Moon Time Keys. He didn't think that such a thing would happen. But if even one out of a ten thousand chance existed of Striking Order Heavenly Emperor returning, what would he do?

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 780: Yan Ji's Dilemma

Ning Cheng suppressed the surprise in his heart but didn't directly agree with Duan Gantai's proposal to exchange the Perpetual Moon Time Key. Instead, he said, "Brother Duan, then give me the jade talisman along with my None-to-depend-on Wine for it."

Duan Gantai replied with a dried voice, "Brother Ning, you must be joking."

How could he put the Transfer Jade Talisman and the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys for the Time of Time in Ning Cheng's hands? Why would he willingly lead the wolf into his house?

Knowing that he couldn't return Ning Cheng's None-to-depend-on Wine, Duan Gantai grit his teeth. "Brother Ning, I'll give two Starry Sky Essence Qi Spiritual Vein to you for the None-to-depend-on Wine Brother Ning gave me."

Ning Cheng's tone turned cold, "Although Starry Sky Essence Qi Spiritual Veins are good items, one could find many in the starry skies. But I only had a few jars of None-to-depend-on Wine, which I gave to you. Brother Duan, did you truly think that you could exchange a rare item with cheap goods?"

“Then how much does Brother Ning want?” Duan Gantai said while gritting his teeth.

“If you can give me 20 Starry Sky Spiritual Veins, I can consider doing the exchange....” Ning Cheng understood that he had pounced on a big opportunity. Wasn’t doing business asking and collecting payment? On Earth, a wealthy person could easily spend tens of thousands of dollars on good quality wine. So why would such a person worry if a bottle cost a bit more or less?

He had also experienced the reverse of this situation many times in the past. Among the thousands of clothes on the market, he would always bargain on the price and ultimately buy it at one-tenth of its original price.

Since Duan Gantai proposed two Starry Sky Essence Qi Spiritual Veins, so Ning Cheng decided to multiply it by ten times. In any case, although a big deal, everyone would propose a counter-offer.

Duan Gantai took in a deep breath. He didn’t expect Ning Cheng to demand such a significant price. Although he still had a hundred or so Starry Sky Essence Qi Spiritual Veins on him, it was something he had put aside for cultivation in the Eternal Realm. How could he take out twenty just because Ning Cheng said so?

“Brother Ning, I don’t have that much. I can only give you up to three Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins, nothing more. If Brother Ning wants to ask me to exchange something that I don’t have, I wouldn’t have any other choice but to stop the exchange.” Duan Gantai spoke with a very decisive tone.

When it came to bargaining, Duan Gantai’s street smarts wasn’t much worse compared to Ning Cheng. If Duan Gantai had held strong on two Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein, Ning Cheng might have thought of dropping the asking price a bit. But this fellow didn’t bite but added one. Even if turned into a fool, Ning Cheng understood that Duan Gantai had at least ten Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein. Otherwise, with Duan Gantai’s character, he would never revise the offer to three.

Ning Cheng stood up again, “Since you’re not willing to exchange, then let’s forget it. Besides, I’m not planning to trade anyway. I don’t believe I can’t find Striking Order Heavenly Emperor on my own. In any case, since Striking Order is my friend, I will have to help him out anyway.”

While taking, Ning Cheng touched his hand and sealed the Connecting Spirit Vein in front of Duan Gantai.

Duan Gantai felt anxious. He never thought that Ning Cheng wouldn’t leave any room for manoeuvre. At this point, he had to stand up and say, “Brother Ning, to tell you the truth, I only have ten Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins in total. Giving you three is already me taking a loss. Does Brother Ning want to take away everything from me?”

“Twenty Starry Sky Essence Qi Spiritual Veins, no negotiations. Also, you will give me the jade talisman to enter Time Wilderness.” Ning Cheng spoke with a firm tone. Regardless of if those words had some truth to it, he would never believe Duan Gantai.

Duan Gantai hesitated for a half-an-incense stick of time before he bit down and said, “Okay, twenty is twenty. I can give you ten Starry Sky Essence Qi Veins right away. However, if you want the Transfer Jade Talisman too, then you can’t have the rest of the spirit veins.”

Ning Cheng's heart sank. He wasn't surprised by Duan Gantai's agreement to his condition. Rather, he understood that this fellow had fooled him. Most likely, Duan Gantai had more than fifty spirit veins. Based on his understanding of Duan Gantai, if he had less than fifty Starry Sky Spirit Veins, he would never agree to give away twenty.

Where did Duan Gantai get so many Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins? Did he find a mystic realm capable of storing many spiritual veins?

Seeing Ning Cheng not speaking, Duan Gantai spoke up once again, "Brother Ning, what do you choose. Spiritual Veins or the jade talisman? If Brother Ning insists on both, then let's forget about it."

When the deal reached this point, Duan Gantai also lost all patience.

Ning Cheng took in a deep breath. He wanted the jade talisman. In any case, the jade platform in the Temple of Time contained much more Spirit Qi compared to twenty spirit veins. However, after thinking about it, he still felt that he should choose the spirit veins. As for the jade talisman, he could use the other two keys to exchange with Duan Gantai in the future. As long as he advanced to the Eternal Realm, he would have a better chance of finding Striking Order Heavenly Emperor from the Ancient Shadow Temple.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng took out the black Perpetual Moon Time Key and said, "In that case, let's exchange 20 Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins for this."

Duan Gantai felt secretly disappointed on hearing those words. He wanted Ning Cheng to choose the Time Wilderness' Transfer Jade Talisman. In any case, he had two of those jade talismans. Even if he gave one to Ning Cheng, he wouldn't have lost anything.

The two quickly exchanged things, Ning Cheng received 20 Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins. At the same time, Duan Gantai got his original black Perpetual Moon Time Key.

Only Duan Gantai knew that he had made a profit. He used the Perpetual Moon Time Key as a mortgage for the None-to-depend-on Wine. Then, using the None-to-depend-on Wine, he obtained near-infinite cultivation resources and also comprehended the None-to-depend-on Spirit Technique. As for the 'loss' of 20 Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins to Ning Cheng, it wasn't even one-tenth of the resources he obtained from the Guardian Shrine.

Seeing Duan Gantai about to leave, Ning Cheng suddenly said. "Brother Duan, how about I give you another Perpetual Moon Time Key in exchange for 20 more Starry Sky Spirit Veins?"

Duan Gantai smiled before walking to the door of the room before speaking up. "Since I can talk to Brother Ning, then I naturally have no issues with my intelligence. I believe that Brother Ning also doesn't have any problems with your intelligence. If Brother Ning can take out the two keys to exchange them with me, I might consider it."

For Duan Gantai, it didn't make any difference if he had one key to the Temple of Time or two. As long as he didn't have all the three keys to the Temple of Time, he would have to cooperate with Ning Cheng. Similarly, if Ning Cheng didn't have the three keys to the Temple of Time, he would also need to work with him.

It looks like this bastard has a lot of Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins. Ning Cheng felt an urge to take out the two keys of the Temple of Time and exchange it for Duan Gantai's 40 Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins. At the same time, he could even use the opportunity to swap Duan Gantai's jade talisman. If he could do that, he would make a lot of profit.

However, Ning Cheng didn't lose his rationality. With Duan Gantai's scheming personality, if he made any move to give up both keys to the Temple of Time, it would immediately raise Duan Gantai's suspicion. If that happened, Duan Gantai wouldn't trade no matter what happened.

Watching Duan Gantai leave, Ning Cheng didn't feel too happy about it. Duan Gantai had already reached the full-circle of Life and Death Realm. So, for him to show interest in the auction indicated that he wanted the Starry Sky Radish Grass. This fellow most likely had a much larger stash of wealth, which meant that he couldn't compete with this fellow right off the bat during the auction.

After a while, Ning Cheng said to himself, "Even if you don't want my two keys, I will give it to you."

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Thousand Cry Star was the primary star of Night Essence Celestial River. But the title of the biggest star in the celestial river still belonged to Orchid Restraining Star.

Moreover, Orchid Restraining Star wasn't only the largest in Night Essence Celestial River. It was also the biggest star in the entire Nine Jewels Starry Sky. Even if one looked throughout the whole Culmination Grand Starry Sky, one wouldn't find more than three stars larger than the Orchid Restraining Star.

However, despite Orchid Restraining Star's size, it did not have many resident cultivators. Even compared to the rest of the stars within Night Essence Celestial River, it only had a small portion of native cultivators. It wasn't because of Orchid Restraining Star's high gravity but because of the extremely sparse Starry Sky Spirit Qi.

Moreover, Orchid Restraining Star also had another more important reason for its fame. The Thorn Tooth Lake. The Thorn Tooth Lake was more of a swamp than a lake. But it was also a little different from regular swamps one would find in other places. Moreover, one would find many areas inside that contained patches of pure water. For this reason, Thorn Tooth Lake had another name, the Thorn Tooth Marsh.

Thorn Tooth Lake occupied nearly two-thirds of Orchid Restraining Star. But unlike the star containing the Devouring Bone Sea, one wouldn't have any problems in living within Orchid Restraining Star. The only drawback, if any, was that this star had high gravity and scarce Starry Sky Spirit Qi.

Thorn Tooth Lake looked ordinary on the surface. But if one entered the Thorn Tooth Lake, one would find many places inside covered with natural array formations. Some sites also contained dense fog, which even Heaven Seated cultivator's spiritual consciousness couldn't fully penetrate.

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At the same time, despite the scarce Spirit Qi, most of Orchid Restraining Star's Starry Sky Spirit Qi gathered within Thorn Tooth Lake.

Therefore, Thorn Tooth Lake eventually became a fairly popular place within Night Essence Celestial River for ordinary cultivators to train and hone their skills. Besides, one would also find a lot of heavenly woods and earthly treasures, and even some high-value demonic beasts inside the lake. With luck, one could even find one or two Spirit Springs within Thorn Tooth Lake, allowing people to stay here in secluded cultivation.

At this time, in a small mound deep in the Thorn Tooth Lake, a black-robed woman lay curled up with an unstable aura. From the looks of it, she seemed to have suffered a severe injury, even the physical wound on her body hadn't closed up.

Outside the mound, she had placed a very low-grade Concealment Array Disc, which concealed her body's aura. Otherwise, people would have found her a long time ago.

Despite hiding within Thorn Tooth Lake, six out of ten cultivators roaming this lake knew the identity of this woman. That's because she was Yan Ji, a person wanted by several trade unions within Night Essence Celestial River.

Yan Ji naturally knew why many people outside wanted to find her. That's because she killed a woman named Shangguan Man'er. She didn't realise the identity of Shangguan Man'er until after she killed her. The most beloved daughter of Night Essence Celestial River King, Shangguan Xiang. Moreover, not only did Shangguan Xiang love her very deeply, but he also pampered her like a spoiled princess. Since she killed Shangguan Xiang's daughter, it would be strange if he let her off.

Yan Ji wasn't someone new to Nine Jewels Starry Sky. She naturally knew about Shangguan Xiang's power and influence. Shangguan Xiang was a late-stage Life and Death expert and rumoured to be the strongest Celestial River King within Nine Jewels Starry Sky. Moreover, Shangguan Xiang was also the younger brother of Shangguan Fei, Nine Jewels Starry Sky's Eternal Starry Sky Emperor.

After uncovering that information, Yan Ji understood that this person wouldn't rest until she died. Therefore, she immediately fled to the depths of Thorn Tooth Lake. Even so, Yan Ji knew that it would only buy her some time. Since she offended a close relative of a Starry Sky Emperor, who would even dare to stand up for her?

Yan Ji guessed it correctly. If Shangguan Xiang weren't currently in Night Essence Celestial River, he would have personally come to Thorn Tooth Lake to look for Yan Ji. He wouldn't just issue a wanted poster in Night Essence Celestial River.

Taking out a starry sky spirit grass and scarfing it down, Yan Ji forcibly began to heal her wounds. Since entering the starry skies, she had worked ten times, no a hundred times, harder than anyone else. As such, Yan Ji didn't feel willing enough to die in such a manner. But even if she had to do it all over again, she would have still killed that perverted Shangguan Man'er.