

The Gate 781

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Chapter 781: Le Continent's Twin Lotus Flowers on One Stock

As more and more cultivators passed by the mound, Yan Ji understood that she couldn't stay here for long. If she didn't quickly move from this place, someone would eventually discover her.

After taking out a simple Appearance Changing Mask and putting it on, Yan Ji carefully removed the Concealment Array Disc. She knew that the Appearance Changing Mask was of a low grade, so someone with higher cultivation would eventually see through it.

Yan Ji had just put away the Concealment Array Disc and hadn't brought out a flight-type weapon when a black ray of light suddenly shot towards her. Yan Ji risked her life all year round, which meant that she had developed a habit of keeping vigilant to any changes around her. This habit had even transformed into a second nature now that she was a wanted person.

The moment just before that black ray of light slammed into Yan Ji, Yan Ji reacted and immediately brought out a defensive shield.

"Bang...." The black ray of light then exploded on Yan Ji's defensive shield. However, the powerful counter-shock formed by the celestial essence contained in the attack pushed Yan Ji back. The already-badly wounded Yan Ji also spat out a mouthful of blood.

Yan Ji's vigilance and swift action allowed her to escape disaster temporarily. But it also allowed her to see the person who attacked her, a male cultivator at the late-stage Undead Realm.

"Haha, I guessed that you hid somewhere around here, you are this Si Long's great opportunity...." As this male cultivator spoke, he also raised his hands. He unleashed a circular net about a few hundred feet in diameter.

This large net sealed every inch of space within its range. If not for Yan Ji's injuries, she could have escaped this weapon's encirclement easily. Unfortunately, Yan Ji had severe injuries, so even if she wanted to run away, it would prove almost impossible.

Yan Ji understood that if she couldn't escape this net's encirclement, suicide might turn out to be the best-case scenario. Caught by this bastard, nothing good would ever happen to her.

But Yan Ji also felt desperation welling up inside of her. Although she had managed to bring out her weapon, the Thousand Mile Chart, she didn't have the strength to activate it. Her spiritual consciousness and celestial essence had almost hit rock bottom, and her injuries were just too severe.

Seeing the net about to close in on her, Yan Ji sighed and decided to commit suicide.

But before her hand made contact with her forehead, the male cultivator attacking Yan Ji suddenly screamed. The next moment, this person fell into the swamp below, before bursting like a clump of blisters.

Without the male cultivator's control, the net suddenly lost all its power, even the spacial suppression also weakened. It allowed Yan Ji to escape from the clutches of the net closing in on her. The next moment, the net shrank to less than a tenth of its original size and landed in front of Yan Ji.

A female cultivator in a grey robe suddenly appeared out of thin air. She raised her hand and grabbed at a bamboo arrow that had suddenly shot out from the swamp with a ring attached to it. The bamboo arrow paused over her open palm, and she immediately put it away.

Only then did Yan Ji understand that this grey-robed woman had shot that male cultivator with the bamboo arrow. Although she didn't know the purpose of this grey-robed woman, Yan Ji still said, "Thank you for saving me."

At this moment, she also saw several flight-type weapons flying towards them from a distance. Seeing that, the grey-robed woman suddenly said to Yan Ji, "If you continue to stay in Thorn Tooth Lake, you will die. Someone gave the order to seal the Orchid Restraining Star, so you can't get out at all."

"Do we know each other?" Yan Ji stared at this female cultivator and asked in doubt. If she knew her, why would she help her? Wouldn't it be the best just to catch her and turn her in for the reward? Although Yan Ji didn't know what the compensation for her capture was, she knew that it wouldn't be too low.

But she also understood the implications. How could an ordinary person comprehend the wealth of a Celestial River King? Comparing her life to the wealth of a Celestial River King, one couldn't even put the two on the same scale.

The grey-robed woman nodded, "Yes, we know each other. Besides, only I can save you from this situation. Thorn Tooth Lake has a place, and apart from me, even Shangguan Xiang, who you hate to the core, wouldn't find it."

"How do you know that I have a vendetta against Shangguan Xiang?" Yan Ji stared at the grey-robed woman with a little more caution. She believed that even if Shangguan Xiang wanted to capture her, Shangguan Xiang would never reveal the reason.

The grey-robed woman calmly spoke up, "Because I was cultivating in Thorn Tooth Lake when I saw you kill Shangguan Man'er. I only gave you a suggestion; if you don't want to come with me, then I'll leave first."

Yan Ji agreed after a moment of silence and said, "Okay, I'll come with you."

She knew that even if she didn't leave with this grey-robed woman, she couldn't escape her either. Besides, if she wanted to kill her, she wouldn't go about it in such a roundabout manner.

The grey-robed woman seemed to know that Yan Ji would agree. She stepped forward and grabbed Yan Ji's hand before speaking, "Don't move, I have a Transfer Talisman, which can immediately teleport the two of us away."

Sure enough, after she finished speaking, she took out a jade talisman. Activating the Transfer Jade Talisman, it immediately transformed into a white light that swept the two away.

Shortly after they left, several Daoist shadows reached the place. But because these cultivators did not have high cultivation, they couldn't find out what had happened here.

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After a short spell of dizziness, Yan Ji's feet touched solid ground and stumbled a bit. As soon as she stepped onto solid ground, Yan Ji immediately started to look all around her in caution.

From the looks of it, this area felt like a cellar. No, it shouldn't be a cellar. Yan Ji quickly noticed stone passageways branching out of this 'cellar' through her spiritual consciousness. Moreover, despite having many Clear Light Arrays installed in the 'passageways' and the 'cellar', she couldn't see anything with a clear focus.

She then carefully looked around the cellar and only found a stone bed, a stone table and two stone piers along with a praying mat. It didn't look anything different from the most unadorned cultivation cave, with nothing extra.

"Where is this place?" Yan Ji asked subconsciously.

The grey-robed woman took out two glasses and filled them up with some spirit tea before handing Yan Ji a cup. She then said, "This place still is within Thorn Tooth Lake. But there's no way for anyone else to find this place. You're severely injured so have some spirit tea first."

Yan Ji didn't hesitate. She took the spirit tea and finished it in one gulp before putting the cup down. "Aren't you supposed to be in Striking Order Starry Sky, how come you came to Nine Jewels Starry Sky?"

"You know who I am?" The grey-robed woman looked at Yan Ji in shock.

Yan Ji raised her hand and took off her mask before replying with a calm voice. "I didn't know it back then, but I realised it when you held my hand."

Not only did she know this woman, but she also knew that there were a few grudges between the two of them. This woman was also from Le Continent, and one of the darlings of heaven. Moreover, the two were even known as the Le Continent's 'twin lotus flowers on one stock'. However, the two didn't share a good relationship; rather, the two had a lot of conflicts.

Moreover, the conflicts between the two originated because of Ning Cheng.

The grey-robed woman sighed after hearing Yan Ji's words and also took off her mask, revealing a pretty face no worse than Yan Ji. If not for Yan Ji's currently pale face, with the two women standing together, they truly would look like 'twin lotus flowers on one stock'.

She was Nalan Ruxue, who like Yan Ji, came from the Le Continent.

"Nalan Ruxue, why did you save me? If I remember correctly, didn't you hate me?" Yan Ji spoke with a calm voice and even looked at Nalan Ruxue with a steady gaze.

"Yan Ji, do you think that I'm someone who dwells on taking revenge?" Nalan Ruxue spoke with a someone dejected tone.

Yan Ji remained silent. Yeah, she did think that Nalan Ruxue was a person who chased after revenge. It's just that Nalan Ruxue had saved her, so she didn't want to be an ungrateful person.

"Why are you in the Night Essence Celestial River?" After a long silence, Yan Ji didn't directly answer Nalan Ruxue's words but instead chose to change the topic. In her opinion, Nalan Ruxue was a person who chased after revenge, so she couldn't figure out why Nalan Ruxue wanted to save her.

Nalan Ruxue took in a deep breath and said, "Do you know what school I joined at Tian Continent?"

Without waiting for Yan Ji to answer, Nalan Ruxue voluntarily replied, "It's the Battle Devil Palace."

At this point, her tone turned a bit self-deprecating, "Haha. I came from Le Continent's Thoughtless Academy, but joined Tian Continent's Battle Devil Palace."

"You, because he was a devil cultivator, you joined a devil sect? Why, was it to relieve your guilt?" Yan Ji suddenly asked.

Although Nalan Ruxue answered Yan Ji's words, it felt like she was talking to herself. "I don't know. In the eyes of everyone in Le Continent, devil cultivators are a taboo existence, treated as poisonous weeds that need rooting out. But he became a devil cultivator, not because he wanted to, but because of me. Maybe because I almost killed him...."

Yan Ji spoke up with a rather chilly tone, "You didn't just almost kill him. Did you forget that when he entered Law's Way, he almost died because of you? When Hang Jiaojiao and others ganged up on him, you could have stood up and set the record straight. But instead, you almost let Que Penghai kill him."

"At that time, replaced with anyone else, they would have stood up and at least tried to set the record straight. Yet, it was you. If not for you, would Hang Jiaojiao ever dare to target him? He saved you from Hang Jiaojiao and Si Kongkai, yet you almost killed him to help the enemy."

Nalan Ruxue lowered her head but remained silent. Yan Ji spoke the truth. If it weren't for Yan Ji coming forward and speaking up at the right time, Ning Cheng, who went under the pseudonym of Cheng Xiaoning back then, would have died under Que Penghai's hands. As for a reason, of course, it was because she stood up for the injustice.

After coming out of Law's Way, she already suspected that Ning Cheng was her life-saving benefactor, yet she still used Ning Cheng as a shield. In the end, because of Ning Cheng's grassroots origin, she did not care much about his life or death.

The Thoughtless Academy was a prestigious and upright faction within the eyes of people. But her master had drilled into her head that the world only cared about strength. One could only enjoy freedom corresponding to one's power and influence, which meant that people would only listen and look up to the strongest individuals. Besides, she only suspected that Ning Cheng helped her back then, and did not know for sure. Yet, instead of sitting down and thinking it over with a calm mind, she had accused Ning Cheng of something he hadn't done. By the time she realised it, it was already too late.

Only after being influenced by Meng Jingxiu and Yue Ying's words and coming to Tian Continent, did she realise that Ning Cheng had already surpassed everyone. Despite his grassroots origin. In contrast, none of Le Continent's so-called geniuses could even come anywhere near to Ning Cheng's achievements. Only at that point did she start reflecting over all her past actions.

She grew up under the heavy influence of her master, and as such, had also developed an intense hatred towards devil sects and devil cultivators. Ning Cheng's use of Devil Qi, coupled with her dirty little secret, naturally formed an extreme distrust and hatred towards him. At the very least, she had felt apathetic to Ning Cheng's plight and situation back then. But the truth she learned later created a psychological shock so massive that it almost destroyed her mind and even her foundation. The

uncomfortable guilt that emerged within her heart then led her to join a devil sect as a means for atonement.

However, Tian Continent and Le Continent held vastly different views. Tian Continent never treated devil sects as mortal enemies, and in fact, treated them as equals. After Nalan Ruxue joined the devil sect, her temperament started to change gradually. After spending some time in the sect, she no longer was the same person as in the past. She now fully believed what Yue Ying had said to her when she left. That is, sometimes even if you see it with your own eyes, it may not necessarily be the truth.

Eventually, after years of gruelling training and hardships, she managed to shed her past self. Moreover, because she now walked the path of a devil cultivator, she wanted to head to the Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky. But while passing through the Night Essence Celestial River, she accidentally came across this place. As it helped her cultivation a lot, she decided to make this place a temporary home for now.

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Chapter 782: An acquaintance presides over the auction

Ning Cheng didn't stay in Striking Order Starry Sky for long and returned to Jiangzhou Star. Jiangzhou Star had Cang Caihe presiding over everything, so no one would dare to pick a fight for now. Ning Ruolan had also decided to go into secluded cultivation for three years, as her cultivation had already reached the late-stage Celestial Shatterer Realm. She wanted to advance to the Celestial Gatherer Realm during this seclusion.

As for Warren and Yue Wanxue, both had already stepped into the Heaven Seated Realm with the help of Ning Cheng's pills. Their addition took the strength of Jiangzhou Star one step further. As for Yu Clan, they quickly moved everyone to Mysterious Yellow Celestial River's Fighting Pit Star and began rebuilding it from the ground up.

Ning Ruoqing was the only one who didn't come out. Still, Ning Cheng could feel that Ning Ruoqing had entered a deep secluded cultivation session and did not want to disturb her. Therefore, after taking care of a few matters and once again handing over things to Cang Caihe, Ning Cheng immediately headed towards Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky.

He could never give up on the Starry Sky Radish Grass. Moreover, if Duan Gantai obtained the Radish Grass, it wouldn't matter whether Duan Gantai found someone to refine the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill. It would only end up bad for him.

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Silent Bubble Starland, just like Culmination Grand Starry Sky's Culmination Starland, was the premier starland within the Devil Domain. Moreover, this starland also contained the largest starry sky city within the Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky, the Returning Capital Starry Sky City. Therefore, Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce, as the premier Chamber of Commerce in the Devil Domain Grand Starry, also had its headquarters situated in Silent Bubble Starland's Returning Capital Starry Sky City.

This time, the auction hosted by Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce had exceeded all the events it had hosted previously. Even if it did not advertise all the top-grade treasures for the auction, just a few listed and publicised treasures would turn most of the people crazy. With so many 'known' treasures

appearing, it naturally attracted many powerhouses, who flocked to the city like a gathering of clouds during a thunderstorm.

Fortunately, Ning Cheng managed to reach the Returning Capital Starry Sky City a few days before the auction started. However, by the time he arrived, the Returning Capital Starry Sky City had already begun to overflow with people. Even finding a small rest stop proved difficult. Ning Cheng enjoyed some fame and reputation within Striking Order Starry Sky and even in the Culmination Starland. But not many people knew about Ning Cheng in Silent Bubble Starland.

Finally, Ning Cheng had to spend a few thousand Perpetual Moon Pills to find a place to rest in a small rest stop in a remote corner.

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Half a month later, the Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce officially declared the start of the grand auction. The chamber of commerce used that half a month to make the necessary arrangements due to the rapid influx of a large number of powerhouses and also inventory.

Regardless, Ning Cheng casually followed the crowd and strolled into the large auction venue. Immediately after entering, the jade card in his hand glowed with some words, Row 39, Seat 137.

Sure enough, as Suo Zihui mentioned, it was only an ordinary entrance jade card. The location wasn't anything special and wasn't even near to the front row.

But looking at the large venue, Ning Cheng felt that the position wasn't too bad. Although the 39th row wasn't the same as the 1st row, many cultivators considered the 39th row as a very suitable location.

After Ning Cheng sat down, he let his spiritual consciousness out freely. The auction venue was in the shape of colosseum with a large stage placed in the middle and covered with top-grade starry sky array formations and restrictions. Glancing at the private booths situated in the front row, Ning Cheng sensed several relatively powerful auras. From this, he understood that these booths had some compelling characters.

Ning Cheng already had a bad relationship with Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky's Qiao Jierui. But since Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce operated and established such a huge base within the Devil Domain. Ning Cheng wouldn't believe that its leader Yi Cang had nothing to do with Qiao Jierui. In any case, he didn't come here to pick a fight with Qiao Jierui but to just bid for the Radish Grass.

Of course, if something that interested him appeared, he naturally wouldn't give up on it.

After half an hour, the noisy scene within the venue finally subsided. With almost everyone holding the invitation jade cards inside the site, the chamber of commerce slowly closed the doors to mark the start of the auction.

Ning Cheng had already noticed Duan Gantai sitting in a row behind him, not too far away from his seat. He also believed that Duan Gantai had already taken note of him. As for the powerhouses in the booths in front, Ning Cheng didn't peek at them with his spiritual consciousness. In any case, they were most likely Sect Masters of some big sects or Starry Sky Emperors.

An old-looking gentleman with a long beard slowly walked onto the auction stage and lightly cupped his fists towards everyone. "As Deacon Youcheng of Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce, I thank all the friends here for participating in my Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce's auction. I believe everyone here has already heard about a few things appearing in today's auction. But let me tell this before the auction officially starts. You'll find many more items previously unlisted. I'm sure that this auction will bring you enough surprise and excitement for everyone here."

Youcheng's words immediately caused some restlessness in the crowd, showing that many people, just like Ning Cheng, came with a purpose. Ning Cheng breathed in a sigh of relief. If he hadn't extorted Duan Gantai for 20 Starry Sky Spiritual Veins, he most likely wouldn't have the capital necessary to bid in this place.

Moreover, Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce had a well-deserved strength and reputation. Deacon Youcheng was only a deacon, yet his power had reached the early-stage Eternal Realm. No wonder this chamber of commerce could become the premier chamber of commerce within Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky.

Waiting for the restlessness to calm down a bit, Youcheng continued, "As we have a lot of things to auction, I won't take up any more of your time. Please welcome my Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce's third deputy-lord, Shui Wuchang to host this auction."

Shui Wuchang? Ning Cheng had just heard of this name when a beautiful woman in a red-coloured robe walked onto the stage.

It truly was the Shui Wuchang he knew. Ning Cheng didn't find it strange that Shui Wuchang had advanced to the Heaven Seated Realm. After all, Duan Gantai had given Shui Wuchang a Celestial River Essence Qi King Pill. But what Ning Cheng felt a little surprised was that Shui Wuchang left Moyi City's Shui Clan and came to the Devil Domain. She even became the third deputy lord of Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce. Wasn't this sort of change a bit too abrupt?

Ning Cheng suddenly thought of the Perpetual Moon Time Key he prepared for the auction. He had taken Shui Wuchang's Perpetual Moon Time Key back then. And now he used the same Perpetual Moon Time Key as one of the items in the auction presided over by Shui Wuchang. I wonder what she would think of it once it appeared?

Despite this, Ning Cheng didn't find anything wrong with it. He took away Shui Wuchang's Perpetual Moon Time Key mainly because Shui Wuchang wanted to use him against Duan Gantai. Moreover, she even wanted to take his life. Since this woman aimed for his life, he decided to take away her Perpetual Moon Time Key.

In any case, Duan Gantai was the main culprit in Shui Wuchang's eyes, so he also wondered what Duan Gantai would do about it later.

Shui Wuchang stood over the stage and first bowed towards everyone before showing a charming smile. "Without wasting any more time, I will preside over today's auction. We will not accept any celestial coins, only Perpetual Moon Pills, Permanent Essence Pills and Starry Sky Spiritual Veins. Our first item today is a drop of Single Essence Heavy Water. However, it's not a complete drop of Single Essence Heavy Water, more like slightly more than half a drop...."

The first item for auction was the Single Essence Heavy Water, which immediately excited and confused many people in the audience. Who here didn't know the value of Single Essence Heavy Water? Even if one did not use it as supplementary material in crafting a weapon, one could still refine into a powerful treasure.

Ning Cheng only knew that Qiao Jierui obtained a full drop of Single Essence Heavy Water. But since only half a drop appeared here, then most likely the other half went to Chuan Xinlou.

"This drop of Single Essence Heavy Water has a base price of 50 million Perpetual Moon Pills, and each price increase must not be less than 1 million. The bidding starts now." Shui Wuchang spoke with a soft voice that created a deep impression in everyone's mind. Moreover, since the very first item was the Single Essence Heavy Water, it immediately drew the enthusiasm of all the cultivators within the auction hall.

Fifty million Perpetual Moon Pills, a sum that ordinary cultivators couldn't even dream of earning in their entire life, yet it was the starting price for this item. However, everyone here knew that the Single Essence Heavy Water, even half a drop, commanded a price much more than 50 million Perpetual Moon Pills.

On the bid-registering screen, prices continued to change quickly, showing only the highest current bid.

"60 million Perpetual Moon Pills."

"70 million...."

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"130 million...."

The price of Single Essence Heavy Water quickly reached 130 million Perpetual Moon Pills. Seeing this, Ning Cheng sighed. Looks like Duan Gantai and he weren't the only 'rich' cultivators here. Within the vast starry skies, no one could say for sure about how the many heaven-sent opportunities a cultivator would encounter anyway.

Although Ning Cheng currently had more than a billion Perpetual Moon Pills, he did not intend to bid on this item. He wanted to use this wealth for the development of the Mysterious Yellow Sect. Besides, he didn't care about this half a drop of Single Essence Heavy Water.

"2 million Permanent Essence Pills." An abrupt offer suddenly knocked away the current price reported in Perpetual Moon Pills. Seeing this offer, everyone turned silent for a moment.

One Permanent Essence Pill theoretically equated to one hundred Perpetual Moon Pills. But only a few people would use Permanent Essence Pills in place of Perpetual Moon Pills. Permanent Essence Pills had a much higher value compared to Perpetual Moon Pills for cultivators. Not only did it contain pure and dense Starry Sky Essence Spirit Qi, but it also contained vague Dao Charm auras.

Moreover, one would have a much easier time in cultivating using Permanent Essence Pills compared to Perpetual Moon Pills. In any case, everyone knew that the higher one's cultivation, the lower the effect of Perpetual Moon Pills. Only Permanent Essence Pills would show better results at that point.

In the end, no one decided to contest against the offer of 2 million Permanent Essence Pills for half a drop of Single Essence Heavy Water.

Shui Wuchang's gaze suddenly fell on Ning Cheng, but she quickly looked away and continued with the auction. "Congratulations to the friend in booth 394 for obtaining the Single Essence Heavy Water and also for offering a bid that no one could match. For the next item, I will say that as long as one is a starry sky cultivator, no one would not want to get their hands on it. If it weren't for the repeated instructions from the person who sent this item to the auction house, we most likely would have used this treasure as our final piece for today."

The cultivators seated in the hall felt intrigued by Shui Wuchang's words. One could say that except for Ning Cheng, everyone wanted to know about this item. What was this item that even the auction house deemed as their final closing treasure?

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As the suspense continued to increase, Shui Wuchang raised a jade box and said, "This jade box contains a jade card. That is to say, the jade card inside is not something ordinary, but a Dao Confirming Perception Jade Card...."

Shui Wuchang's voice immediately caused a flurry of noise, even the owners of booths situated in the front felt quite excited at this information. A jade card with the understanding of a Dao Confirming cultivator, one could consider it as a priceless treasure. This time, no one in the audience felt anything wrong with Shui Wuchang's previous words. This item truly could take the position as the closing item of this auction.

Only after the excitement subsided, did Shui Wuchang continue. "This Dao Confirming Perception Jade Card comes from the Crow Star and something left behind by Daoist Crow after he reached the Dao Confirming Realm."

Hearing Shui Wuchang's words, most people immediately understood and made a few connections. Daoist Crow had left this plane after reaching Dao Confirming Realm, everyone already knew about this and wasn't a secret. However, people did not expect Daoist Crow to leave behind his inheritance in the form of a Dao Confirming Perception Jade Card. But regardless of the envy and greed in people's heart, most people understood that they couldn't compete for this item. Only Eternal cultivators had the right to contest for this thing.

However, Eternal cultivators didn't sit in the hall, but in the individual booths placed in front. It also meant that only those occupying those booths had the privilege to contest for the jade card.

Shui Wuchang gently placed the jade box on the table in front of her. "This Dao Confirming Perception Jade Card has a base price of 10 million Permanent Essence Pills. At least 1 million Permanent Essence Pills per increase. The auction starts now...."

A starting price of 10 million Permanent Essence Pills for a Dao Confirming Perception Jade Card wasn't high at all, nor was it too low. If one could successfully understand the Dao Confirming sentiment inside it then not to mention 10 million Permanent Essence Pills even a 100 million Permanent Essence Pills wouldn't be considered expensive. But if you use it and fail to understand the Dao Confirming sentiment

in it, it might severely affect one's Dao. At that point, even if you gave it up for free, it would still be too expensive.

Ning Cheng didn't need Daoist Crow's Dao Confirming Perception Jade Card. In any case, he walked his unique path, so he didn't need to prove someone else's Dao.

But after Shui Wuchang finished her words, the auction hall remained silent. No one placed a bid for a long time.

Ning Cheng felt a little depressed with such a reaction. He had planned to use this Dao Confirming Perception Jade Card to gather some Permanent Essence Pills, which he could then spend on the Starry Sky Radish Grass. But he never expected that no one would try to buy this item. Don't tell me that no one wants it?

If no one participated in the auction, he would have to sell it to the auction house for 10% of its initial price. It meant that Ning Cheng would have to take the initiative to bid first to rile up the crowd. But if he placed a bid and no one put forth a counteroffer, wouldn't it also mean that he shot himself in his foot?

As a few minutes passed, Shui Wuchang smiled and spoke up. "It looks like everyone here feels confident in reaching the Dao Confirming Realm by themselves and don't care much about Daoist Crow's Dao Confirming Perception Jade Card. I will make an announcement one last time, but if no one makes an offer, we will take off the Dao Confirming Perception Jade Card permanently."

"I bid 11 million Permanent Essence Pills." Shui Wuchang had just ended her words when a sudden voice rang out in the hall.

The screen within the hall only displayed the highest bid for an item, but now only one person made an offer. Seeing this, everyone thought that the auction house would mark it sold immediately.

But before Shui Wuchang could speak, someone immediately placed another bid, "12 million Permanent Essence Pills."

With two competing prices coming out, the venue almost exploded with excitement and more bids kept appearing on the screen.

"15 million Permanent Essence Pills."

"16 million ..."

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"21 million Permanent Essence Pills."

The bid prices rose quickly, and for a short period, the large screen continuously changed prices at blinding speed. New quotes kept overwriting the previous bids before people could even read off of it.

Ning Cheng breathed in a sigh of relief. It looks like I can rake in some money. Apart from the 20 Starry Sky Essence Qi Veins from Duan Gantai, he now would have a few million Permanent Essence Pills to use on the following items.

Glancing around the hall, Ning Cheng understood that the venue had too many wealthy cultivators. No wonder that Yan Xishuang could easily take out 10 million Permanent Essence Pills. Within the vast starry skies, everyone had a relatively similar chance to strike it rich.

“20 million Permanent Essence Pills plus a complete high-rank star vein.”

A new offer once again erased the previous price. A star vein was just another name for Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein. But a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein’s Starry Sky Spirit Qi wasn’t as pure as Permanent Essence Pills. However, a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein, even a low-grade one, contained enough Spirit Qi comparable to that of ten million Permanent Essence Pills.

Once this quote appeared, no one else tried to increase the price. Even Ning Cheng felt satisfied with the price, as he currently lacked Permanent Essence Pills.

With this many Permanent Essence Pills, as long as he obtained the Starry Sky Radish Grass, he would certainly advance to the Eternal Realm.

The third and fourth items for auction were the Parting Flame Silver Wing and Heaven Seizing Flying Sand. Both things were top-grade artefact-crafting materials needed to craft top-ranked Dao Artefacts.

Ning Cheng didn’t place any bids, but the two quickly changed hands for over ten million Perpetual Moon Pills each.

“The next item is an attack-type weapon....”

Shui Wuchang hadn’t finished her words when Ning Cheng lost interest. He was a top-grade artefact-crafting master. So, even if he wanted a top-ranked weapon, he could craft it as long as he had the required materials.

“This weapon is a long spear, and I’m sure many people already know about it. That’s right; this is one of the three Spirit Artefacts in this auction, the Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear. The Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear is, without a doubt, a Spirit Artefact. Moreover, after undergoing numerous evaluations by our seniors, they determined that this long spear’s grade exceeds that of pseudo-Spirit Artefacts. According to the evaluations, it reaches the level of peak low-ranked Spirit Artefacts. If you wield this Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear as your main attack-type weapon, you’ll be able to show a level of strength beyond your peers....”

As Shui Wuchang put it, many cultivators here came explicitly for the Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear. They all focussed every bit of attention on her words and wanted to know if they could afford this kind of treasure.

Even Ning Cheng snapped back to attention on hearing those words. He wasn’t surprised about a long-spear appearing in the auction as he could easily craft any type of long-spear. However, a long spear at the level of a low-rank Spirit Artefact, it was a different story. Let alone the fact that he couldn’t currently craft a low-rank Spirit Artefact, even if Ning Cheng could do it. He simply had none of the required materials. Moreover, the materials needed to craft the low-rank Spirit Artefacts weren’t easy to find either.

Thinking about how he didn't have a weapon suitable for him, Ning Cheng quickly made up his mind to buy this Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear. If he had to face Chuan Xinlou in the future, he needed a good weapon first.

Seeing people turn even more excited, Shui Wuchang showed a bright smile before speaking. "The Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear has a base price of 1 million Permanent Essence Pills, with a minimum increase of one hundred thousand Permanent Essence Pills."

Before Ning Cheng could even put in a bid, the price on the screen had already jumped to 3.7 million Permanent Essence Pills with no indications of stopping.

Ning Cheng, who wanted to bid on the Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear using Perpetual Moon Pills, immediately dropped the idea. Although he had a lot of Perpetual Moon Pills, he had earmarked it for the sect, which also meant that he didn't have too many Perpetual Moon Pills to spend.

"Better not rob me of it, I will give 5 million Permanent Essence Pills." A booming voice filled the hall. The quote on the screen also changed to 5 million Permanent Essence Pills.

Many cultivators seated in the back didn't know this person. However, most of the people occupying the booths in the front knew about this person's identity and background. Among the powerhouses who came here to participate in the auction, very few were like Ning Cheng. They would always look up and research the people attending the auction to avoid creating conflict and offending people who they couldn't offend.

Ning Cheng hadn't bothered to make such inquiries not entirely because of the confidence in his strength, but because he was a relatively new person in the cultivation world. Compared to the powerhouses in this place, who've been alive for thousands or even tens of thousands of years, he didn't know many people. So, even if he wanted to make inquiries, he wouldn't know where to start right away.

Some belonged to big starry sky clans, and others belonged to big sects. So, Ning Cheng couldn't get the information required with just a few questions. Only by creating connections over a long time would one get such information. Moreover, although Ning Cheng had considerable fame and deterrence within Culmination Grand Starry Sky, not many people knew about him in the Devil and Demon Domains. That's why the Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce tried to invite Chuan Xinlou and Spiritual Heaven Sect's Chen Xingwen but not Ning Cheng.

Besides, Ning Cheng came here mainly for the Starry Sky Radish Grass and didn't expect the auction house to put up the Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear.

Many people here already knew the background of the cultivator, who placed a bid of 5 million Permanent Essence Pills. They all knew that the Daoist family behind him always acted in arrogance. Besides, if one had the power to increase the bid by several hundred thousand Permanent Essence Pills in just one go, why would one not use it?

Even if one didn't know that cultivator's identity, no one would mess with the Daoist family behind him. Why would someone dare to shout their bid in this auction arrogantly if one didn't have the necessary power? How could someone without any influence or power occupy the 19th booth in this auction?

Everyone in the hall understood that the lower the number, the higher the status of the person holding it.

Shui Wuchang, seeing no one interested in increasing the price, spoke up in a loud voice. "Booth 19 offers 5 million Permanent Essence Pills. Is there anyone here who wants to offer a better price? Five million Permanent Essence Pills going once..."

Shui Wuchang knew the identity of the person in that booth, so she decided to call it in earlier.

But before she could call out the second time, the quote on the screen suddenly refreshed. The latest offer was a complete high-rank Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein.

Ning Cheng also felt helpless at this; he still hadn't received the Permanent Essence Pills owed from the previous auction. So, he could only use Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins to bid.

When this quote appeared, the entire auction hall fell into a brief silence. A high-rank Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein against the previous quote of 5 million Permanent Essence Pills? Wasn't this increase too much? But that wasn't the reason for the silence.

The main reason for this silence was the conspicuous line in front of the quote of high-rank Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein 'Row 39, Seat 139'.

In just a couple of breaths, several spiritual consciousnesses swept towards Ning Cheng. Everyone wanted to uncover the identity and the background of this second-generation idiot.

But when those powerful spiritual consciousnesses reached Ning Cheng, everyone felt startled. Many immediately recognised Ning Cheng. Realising it was Ning Cheng, everyone understood why he dared to quote.

However, some cultivators who did not know about Ning Cheng still kept probing at Ning Cheng with their spiritual consciousness for a long time.

Ning Cheng, however, remained calm and sat leisurely in his seat. He had no intention of hiding himself. However, just next to Ning Cheng sat a middle-aged female cultivator. It wasn't until the several spiritual consciousnesses swept over did she realise that the cultivator sitting next to her had dared to bid and compete against Booth 19.

Although these spiritual consciousnesses did not target her, her face still turned pale. She cautiously whispered to Ning Cheng, "Friend, you should quickly withdraw your bid...."

She had only said half a sentence when she stopped. She suddenly recalled that her advice wouldn't help much. In such an auction, suicide was a much better option compared to a bid recall.

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Chapter 784

Shui Wuchang knew Ning Cheng, but she didn't expect Ning Cheng to dare jump in at this time and bid against Booth 19. She even forgot to call in the price.

But before she could call it in, the person from Booth 19 spoke up, "I'd like to ask the auction house to take a break. I want to negotiate with the person in Row 39, Seat 139."

Ning Cheng sneered, who did this fellow think he was? Even Qiao Jierui wasn't in a position to order an auction house to take a break to resolve personal grievances, right?

But what surprised Ning Cheng was that Shui Wuchang agreed to this fellow's rude request. Not only did she agree to it, but she also came forward on the auction stage and said aloud, "Respected guests, Booth 19 belongs to the top 20 booths here. According to the rules of my Ash Pagoda Auction House, owners of the top 20 booths can negotiate directly with those in the lobby during a conflict of interest over auction items. We hope that the guests here understand."

Ning Cheng shook his head; he didn't think Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce would have such a weird rule. If this happened in his Jiangzhou Star, he would have slapped the fellow in Booth 19. No matter the position, to participate in the auction, they would treat everyone equally, regardless of the price of the item or the status of the person. If people did not agree to it, they would simply kick that fellow out the door.

Although Ning Cheng found this behaviour strange, the others did not find it strange at all. In any case, how many places within the vast starry skies held the same rules as Jiangzhou Star? Besides, the only reason Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce added this rule was to create a sense of honour among the guests occupying the first twenty booths. Just think about it, which cultivator sitting in the hall or the lobby would dare to compete against the owners of the top cabins? Moreover, even the admission ticket for these booths sold for an astronomical price.

Yet such a thing happened. Not only did it happen, but it also happened in such a large-scale auction. Shui Wuchang, as the third deputy-leader of this auction house, naturally knew about all the rules and regulations about such a scenario.

The auction venue remained quiet. Everyone wanted to see how the person from Booth 19 would handle this matter. Even those cultivators who knew about Ning Cheng's identity also remained silent. Besides, from what little they knew about Ning Cheng, Ning Cheng was the type of person who didn't give a damn about anyone. As for those who didn't know about him and didn't want to speak, they simply didn't care about Ning Cheng's life or death.

At this moment, a male with late-stage Heaven's Mandate Cultivation came out of Booth 19 and walked over to Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng, through his spiritual consciousness, already knew that Booth 19 had two more cultivators inside. The one still sitting inside was someone with a late-stage Life and Death Cultivation. While the one who came out, and the other person inside most likely, were this person's followers or servants. Moreover, the Life and Death cultivator had a look of deep disdain in his eyes, as if he didn't consider Ning Cheng as even an ant.

The Heaven's Mandate fellow walked up to Ning Cheng, took out a ring and placed it in front of Ning Cheng and said, "This contains 5 million Permanent Essence Pills, it's yours now."

"What do you mean?" Ning Cheng asked with a frown.

The Heaven's Mandate fellow spoke up with a cold voice. "Little Lord is a reasonable person. These 5 million Permanent Essence Pills are here for you. Take out that Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein. As for bidding on the Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear, you're not allowed to put in any."

Ning Cheng understood that this bastard wanted to exchange the 5 million Permanent Essence Pills for his Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein. How was this a reasonable exchange? Moreover, it had nothing to do with him, but the auctioneer.

If he took out a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein and only exchanged it for 5 million Permanent Essence Pills, it would result in a huge loss. Moreover, this 'little lord' could use another 5 million Permanent Essence Pills for the Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear. At the same time, he would also gain a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein.

Ning Cheng took the ring with the five million Permanent Essence Pills and said, "I'll take it. You can leave now."

The Heaven's Mandate cultivator, on seeing Ning Cheng take the Permanent Essence Pills without taking out the Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein, immediately exploded with killing intent. He immediately raised his hand to grab Ning Cheng's neck.

Ning Cheng snorted, raised his hand and gave a casual slap.

"Slap" With a loud snap, that Heaven's Mandate cultivator shot backwards and hit the defensive restriction in front of the auction stage, stirring a flurry of alarms.

With another 'bang' sound, that Heaven's Mandate cultivator fell to the ground and spurted a blood arrow from his mouth. With Ning Cheng's power, it was already mercy that he didn't shatter this man's cultivation.

Some cultivators, who felt slightly worried about Ning Cheng, couldn't close their mouths on seeing Ning Cheng's actions. Ning Cheng had only casually slapped that Heaven's Mandate cultivator, which meant that he was at least above Heaven Seated Realm. But even if one were an Eternal cultivator, doing such a thing would create a life and death grudge. At that point, even escaping Returning Capital Starry Sky City would prove impossible.

"You're looking for death....." The man in Booth 19 stood up angrily, filling the entire booth with killing intent. Ning Cheng had taken his Permanent Essence Pills but didn't take out the Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Veins. Even if he disregarded that, this fellow had even slapped his servant. Never had anyone dared to act in such arrogance in front of him. Only he had the right to be arrogant in this place.

"Enough. Booth 19 has already exercised its right. The auction will continue." A cold voice emerged that immediately stopped the man in Booth 19.

Even if blue veins popped up on his forehead and he oozed with rage and brutality, he immediately stopped and forcibly calmed himself on hearing this voice. Another servant rushed out of the booth and quickly brought the injured Heaven's Mandate cultivator, who hit the defensive restriction, into the cabin.

Everyone understood that the owner of Booth 19 would not let Ning Cheng go once the auction ended. But at least for now, many people started looking at Ning Cheng with some fear.

Ning Cheng had remained calm throughout, without a single fluctuation. If the cultivator in Booth 19 dared to find trouble with him outside, he would get rid of the problem without batting an eye. Even if the auctioneer himself came up to him at that point, he would still do it.

But he never expected that the auction house would give Booth 19 such a right. After seeing the potential of trouble, the auction house immediately tried to act in fairness. Since this was the case, he also would not continue to make trouble, at least as long as others didn't trouble him. In any case, he picked up five million Permanent Essence Pills for free, didn't he?

Shui Wuchang spoke with a resonant tone, "Congratulations to this friend in Row 39, Seat 137. You won the Celestial Rainbow Purgatory Spear."

As Shui Wuchang's words ended, a ring containing the long spear appeared in front of Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng scanned it with his spiritual consciousness and confirmed that this weapon surpassed top-ranked Dao Artefacts. Taking out the long spear and putting it away, he then put a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein into the ring, following which the ring then disappeared.

"The next item for auction is quite strange. Honestly, even I have no idea about this item. That's because the sender has a very out-of-the-box request. That is, we have to open this box on the spot, and if no one bids for it, we have to destroy it on the spot. Please rest assured that my auction house doesn't think that this item is a worthless object. In fact, even if you added up the price of all the things taken out earlier, it wouldn't match the base price of this auction item."

Shui Wuchang's words once again roused the curiosity of all the cultivators in the auction venue. Even adding up the prices of the previous items wouldn't reach the base price of this auction item? Was there such a valuable treasure? Besides, if it was such a precious treasure, why would someone ask to destroy it if no one bid for it? Wasn't this a contradiction? But that wasn't even the strangest part. Not even the host of the auction house didn't know about it.

Shui Wuchang's tone turned even more charming, "I believe everyone here is just as curious about this item as I am. I want to know more about this item and what makes it so mysterious. I would also like to know why the sender made such an arbitrary request to destroy the item if no one bid for it."

Duan Gantai suddenly frowned at those words. He had a bad feeling about this item.

Ning Cheng sneered internally. He didn't believe that Duan Gantai wouldn't make a bid on this item. The truth is, Ning Cheng had made a deal with the auction house. If someone bought it, he would give the auction house 5% of the selling price. But if no one bought it and they had to destroy it; he would still provide the auction house half a Starry Sky Essence Qi Spirit Vein.

Although this cut was less than the usual 10% that the auction house charges, the auction house readily agreed to Ning Cheng's generous request without hesitation.

"Quickly show it to us. We can't wait any longer." Some of the anxious cultivators sitting in the lobby called out. As for the conflict between Ning Cheng and Booth 19, it took a backseat in front of this mysterious item.

Shui Wuchang lifted a jade box and said, "Let's all see what this mysterious treasure is, and why would someone put in such a mysterious request?"

Everyone in the venue intently stared at Shui Wuchang's hand and watched Shui Wuchang slowly open it.

The moment the lid of the jade box fully opened, Shui Wuchang's mouth almost popped open as she stared at the jade box in shock.

There was a restriction covering the auction stage that blocked spiritual consciousness from looking at anything. The auction house had made such an arrangement to not allow people from sweeping in; therefore, everyone could only watch with their eyes. But the people simply couldn't see the items in the jade box from their seats. Therefore, seeing Shui Wuchang's reaction, the people in the auction venue turned even more anxious.

Seeing such a scene, the people at the auction wanted to know even more about this item. What kind of thing was it that it even shocked the auction host into speechlessness?

"What is it?"

"Yes, hurry up and announce...."

.....

The flurry of noises finally sobered Shui Wuchang from the shock, and her shocked expression also quickly returned to normal.

"Respected guests, forgive me for the previous debacle. The thing inside is just a key, but how is it a mysterious treasure? It wasn't until I saw the key by myself, did I start to understand why it had such a mystery to it."

As she spoke, Shui Wuchang quickly calmed down her inner emotions, and her tone once again turned soft and crisp. "Many people surely know that Culmination Grand Starry Sky's Striking Order Starry Sky had three mysterious temples. The Ancient Shadow Temple, the Guardian Temple, and the Temple of Time. That's right. This key is the key to one of these three temples. More specifically, this key opens the Temple of Time. Or rather, this key is one of the three keys to open the Temple of Time."

"It's no wonder the seller put such a sky-high price for it. After all, the Temple of Time is a legacy left behind by the Perpetual Moon Holy Emperor. I heard that one could not only understand the Laws of Time on entering it; it also contains many worldly treasures. Unfortunately, there is only one key here...."

After she said the last sentence, Shui Wuchang suddenly felt something wrong. She shouldn't have said such a negative statement for an auction item. However, she subconsciously wanted to own this key. Rather, more specifically, this key once belonged to her.

Fortunately, she reacted quickly, realising her position and her job. She quickly changed the subject and said, "Now let's look at the starting price of this key...."

Shui Wuchang's words caused quite a stir. Even if it was just one key, it was still the key to the Temple of Time. Everyone in the starry skies knew about the value of Temple of Time's Time Stones. One would find it almost impossible to find someone within the starry sky who didn't know about this particular treasure. But if one obtained this key, wouldn't it also invite a whole host of troubles to their doorstep? At the same time, if someone managed to get into the Temple of Time and took control of the Laws of Time inside, then

The only person with a livid face, however, was Duan Gantai who sat in the row behind Ning Cheng.

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Chapter 785

He knew that Ning Cheng coveted his star veins, but he didn't expect that Ning Cheng would use such a trick. Should he bid for the key or not?

For Duan Gantai, if Ning Cheng's didn't set a high asking price, he would rather not destroy it. He had obtained a lot of good things from the Guardian Temple, so he didn't want to give up on the Temple of Time.

Shui Wuchang's voice trembled a bit as she spoke, "The reserve price for this Perpetual Moon Time Key is ten Star veins. Each price increase shouldn't be less than one Star Vein...."

Even if she had some idea about the reserve price being star veins, her voice still cracked a bit when quoting the price. She had never seen anyone using star veins as an incremental unit for bidding.

Duan Gantai clenched his fists. He had already steeled himself that if Ning Cheng placed an asking price of more than 10 Star Veins, he would rather let it get destroyed. It wasn't the same as the previous instance where he 'purchased' the first key for 20 Star Veins. He had no choice but to purchase that key at that time; otherwise, Ning Cheng might have found a way to enter the Temple of Time by himself.

But if the Temple of Time's key got destroyed, he wouldn't get anything from it, nor would Ning Cheng. Yet unexpectedly, Ning Cheng put a starting price of ten Star Veins, an amount still within the scope of his willingness to purchase it. This bastard truly had a cunning mind.

Ning Cheng had thoroughly deliberated about the base price of ten Starry Sky Spirit Veins. He knew that if the price were too high, Duan Gantai most likely wouldn't compete for it at all. The bastard wasn't only insidious, but also decisive. Therefore, he had to put a price that would make it hard for Duan Gantai to choose giving up on it. At the same time, it wasn't also an excruciating price. With Duan Gantai's possible net worth, ten Starry Sky Spirit Veins was just the right amount.

Once the price of ten Starry Sky Essence Spirit Veins emerged, everyone in the auction venue felt shocked. This price would even shut down those influential people sitting in private booths. Ten Star Veins, even they wouldn't take out such a sum easily.

At this time, the auction venue remained rather quiet. Everyone wanted to see if anyone would bid 11 Star Veins.

Duan Gantai did not bid. 11 Star Veins wasn't something too painful for him, and he would even willingly take out 11 Spirit Veins to purchase the Perpetual Moon Time Key. However, he didn't like the feeling of someone scheming against him, especially by Ning Cheng. Only Duan Gantai had the right to plot against others, how could he let other people calculate against him?

Even if he wanted to buy this key, he would do it on his terms. He would never let others control the flow. Purchasing the first Perpetual Moon Time Key previously, he had done that because of a lack of choice. But now, he was not without options.

Even after a few minutes, no one offered a bid; even Duan Gantai remained silent. Ning Cheng, however, couldn't sit still. He truly didn't want to destroy this Perpetual Moon Time Key. He only did this to force Duan Gantai to bid on it. But he didn't think that Duan Gantai wouldn't place a bid for 10 Star Veins, which made him feel a little jittery.

If Duan Gantai didn't bid, he would have to destroy the Perpetual Moon Time Key. Duan Gantai might not lose much, but he would lose a lot. Maybe if he made an offer to let Duan Gantai have all three Perpetual Moon Time Keys, he might just get to extort many good things from Duan Gantai in return.

Ning Cheng was just about to send Duan Gantai a message, threatening him to bid or the key really would be destroyed. But at this time, Duan Gantai took the initiative to send Ning Cheng a message. "Brother Ning, this little brother might not lack wealth right now, but he doesn't like people threatening him. If Brother Ning can take back the key now and make a private deal with this little brother later, this little brother might just agree to your demands. Otherwise, both of us will lose a lot here."

Ning Cheng initially wanted to threaten Duan Gantai with a few words. But after hearing Duan Gantai's words, he immediately felt upset. He replied with a cold voice, "Brother Duan, you said you don't like other people threatening you, but did you think I like people threatening me? If you want to bid on it then go for it, I don't mind destroying it."

Going back and forth so many times, taking back his words and items, and even find Duan Gantai for another deal, all for ten Star Veins. Duan Gantai, you can stop dreaming.

Duan Gantai truly felt shocked as he heard Ning Cheng's words. He felt afraid of Ning Cheng's desperation, which would lead to the destruction of the Perpetual Moon Time Key.

Shui Wuchang's voice broke the silence in the venue, "Since no one bid for the Perpetual Moon Time Key; the house will start the countdown..."

When Duan Gantai heard the word 'countdown', he understood that he had to make a choice. He didn't like people threatening him, but he also had set his sights on the Temple of Time for a long time. He had sought for the Temple of Time long before the Guardian Temple and coveted it much more than the Guardian Temple. However, before he could even get his hands on it, someone wanted to destroy all chances of entering it right before his eyes. How could he let this happen?

Just when Duan Gantai clenched his fists and agreed to succumb to Ning Cheng's threat, a sudden voice sounded in the auction hall, "I'll give 11 Star Veins."

Did someone put in a quote? Not only Duan Gantai, but even Ning Cheng froze. He set a base price of ten Star Veins to pit against Duan Gantai. He never thought that others would bid on it, especially with such an insane base price. Now, not only did Duan Gantai not bid on it, but someone else had put up a quote.

After a brief silence, the auction venue once again turned restless. Someone had truly bid 11 Star Veins for a key.

Shui Wuchang also felt a bit relaxed. In truth, although she realised that this key did not belong to her, but to destroy the Perpetual Moon Time Key that once belonged to her, she truly would have felt a little bit sad. Now that someone bid on it, she naturally felt relieved and then spoke up in a loud voice.

“Booth 7 offers 11 Star Veins. Is there anyone else willing to offer a higher price? 11 Star Veins, going once....”

Ning Cheng gave out a deep sigh, with Duan Gantai’s scheming mind, he wouldn’t put up a bid now. Even when Shui Wuchang called out the three countdowns, Duan Gantai did not put up a quote. In the end, the key went to the owner of Booth 7.

However, it wasn’t a bad thing for Ning Cheng either. He didn’t have to worry about the identity of the person who bought the Perpetual Moon time Key from Booth 7, nor did he care about it. It was now Duan Gantai’s headache. As long as Duan Gantai wanted something from the Temple of Time, he must coordinate with the person from Booth 7.

“Congratulations to this friend from Booth 7 for winning the Perpetual Moon Time Key.” With Shui Wuchang’s congratulations, the Perpetual Moon Time Key, which only had one offer, finally went to its new owner.

Although only one person bid on it, it was the highest price ever offered in an auction, which surprised everyone.

Shui Wuchang once again raised a jade box. “The next item for auction is a set of six Accordance Heavenly Pills. That’s right, not one Accordance Heavenly Pill, but a set of six Accordance Heavenly Pills. Moreover, each one is a top-quality pill. If I’m not wrong, only Culmination Grand Starry Sky’s Premier Pill Emperor Cang Caihe can refine pills of such quality....”

The previous items were too far away from ordinary cultivators. But these Accordance Heavenly Pills had an extraordinary connection to the cultivators in the lobby.

But what troubled these cultivators was why someone would put up these pills as a group? Wouldn’t it be better to bid for each separately?

“The base price of this group of Accordance Heavenly Pills is 60 million Perpetual Moon Pills. Each price increase must not be less than one million Perpetual Moon Pills. The auction starts now.”

The moment Shui Wuchang finished announcing the price, the quotes on the screen rapidly changed.

At the same time, cultivators seated in the lobby started to look for partners. After all, there were 6 Accordance Heavenly Pills. So even if six people joined together to bid, each would get one.

In the end, a group of six people purchased this set of Accordance Heavenly Pills for a price of 230 million Perpetual Moon Pills. Not everyone in the lobby had the same wealth as Ning Cheng or Duan Gantai. Therefore, even though six people teamed up to purchase this item for more than 200 million Perpetual Moon Pills, people still considered those six as rich among rich.

Ning Cheng had put up this set of Accordance Heavenly Pills for precisely this reason. Selling it for more than 200 million Perpetual Moon Pills also made him very satisfied.

For the following seven or eight auction items, although good-quality treasures, Ning Cheng did not place any bids. Moreover, Ning Cheng also noticed that Duan Gantai hadn’t put in a quote since the start of the auction.

“The next item up for auction is a top-grade Starry Sky Spirit Fruit. I believe many people here have already guessed it. That’s right. It’s the Starry Sky Radish Grass that we had advertised. The Starry Sky Radish Grass is a treasure essential to refining the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill. A pill that would help a Life and Death expert to advance to the Eternal Realm. I believe many people here came specifically for this supreme fruit, the Starry Sky Radish Grass.”

Shui Wuchang hit the nail on its head with her words. Just like Heaven’s Mandate cultivators requiring Accordance Heavenly Pills, the Starry Sky Radish Grass was a treasure that every Life and Death expert dreamed of owning.

Not to mention about others, Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai had explicitly come here for the Radish Grass. Although people considered Accordance Heavenly Pills as precious treasures, it wasn’t something particularly valuable to the powerhouses seated in the auction venue. Even a low-level Pill Emperor can refine these pills as long as one had access to corresponding starry sky spirit grasses. However, the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills was not something ordinary Pill Emperors can refine. Even if a Pill Emperor who could refine it, the main ingredient required for the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill, the Starry Sky Radish Grass, wasn’t readily available.

Therefore, as soon as the Starry Sky Radish Grass came out, Duan Gantai immediately put aside the matter of the Perpetual Moon Time Key. Even if he wanted to negotiate with the cultivator who bought the key, he would have to wait till after he gets his hands on the Starry Sky Radish Grass. Moreover, he speculated that Ning Cheng might have also come here for the Starry Sky Radish Grass. In any case, he would never allow Ning Cheng to obtain this Starry Sky Radish Grass.

Just as Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai readied themselves, the other cultivators also mentally prepared themselves to fight for the Starry Sky Radish Grass.

Shui Wuchang showed off the jade box with the Starry Sky Radish Grass in her hands. “The base price of this Starry Sky Radish Grass is one million Permanent Essence Pills. Each price increase shall not be less than one hundred thousand Permanent Essence Pills. The bidding starts now.”

This price immediately discouraged many cultivators from competing. Even if one was a Life and Death cultivator, not many could take out millions of Permanent Essence Pills. The starting price of this Starry Sky Radish Grass was just too high.

If an Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill had a starting price of a million Permanent Essence Pills, many people would have still accepted it. But who would dare put a starting price of one million Permanent Essence Pills for a Starry Sky Radish Grass?

But despite having a sky-high starting price, some people specifically came to the auction for purchasing this Starry Sky Radish Grass. Besides, if someone could buy the Perpetual Moon Time Key for 11 Star Veins, what was a million Permanent Essence Pills?

Every cultivator who reached the Life and Death Realm dreamt of advancing to the Eternal Realm. But only a few opportunities existed to enter the Eternal Realm. If missed, one might never get another chance.

“1.1 million Permanent Essence Pills.”

“1.3 million Permanent Essence Pills.”

.....

“2.1 million Permanent Essence Pills.”

“2.2 million”

The price of this Starry Sky Radish Grass quickly reached 2.4 million Permanent Essence Pills. This price was already very high, but someone suddenly called out a quote at this time. “I’ll give 3 million Permanent Essence Pills, this Starry Sky Radish Grass, I want it.”

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As soon as this voice emerged, people didn’t have to look at the words on the screen. They all instinctively knew that it came from Booth 19. Most cultivators here didn’t expect that Booth 19, after Ning Cheng’s face-slapping incidence, would still come up with such a quote.

But everyone also understood the reason for this quote. After all, the cultivator sitting in Booth 19 was a late-stage Life and Death cultivator. If he wanted to advance to the Eternal Realm, he naturally would need the Starry Sky Radish Grass.

Starry Sky Radish Grass was such a precious item that even Eternal cultivators would find it difficult to obtain. With Ning Cheng forcing Booth 19 to lose all face, coupled with the urgent need for the Starry Sky Radish Grass, the owner of the booth wanted to use this opportunity to restore some pride. Moreover, cultivators who knew about the background of the person sitting in Booth 19 wouldn’t offend him for a Starry Sky Radish Grass.

“Booth 19 bids 3 million Permanent Essence Pills, is there anyone here offering a higher price? If no one else puts in a higher bid, you might lose the chance to refine this Starry Sky Radish Grass into an Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill to Booth 19.” Shui Wuchang did not rush to call it at this time. Giving that person some face last time was already the limit. No matter the background, the auction house wouldn’t always show the same respect to someone.

Shu Wuchang, as the person in charge of the auction, naturally didn’t need anyone to teach her this lesson.

“4 million Permanent Essence Pills....” A new price immediately wiped off the bid of 3 million Permanent Essence Pills. It felt as if the person who placed the new bid treated the previous threat as just a fart.

Even after the owner of Booth 19 wanted to get this item, someone had still increased the price. Moreover, someone had increased it by a million Permanent Essence Pills, an equivalent to a fierce slap on the face. No matter who put in the bid, they would incur the wrath of Booth 19.

Everyone immediately shifted their focus to the screen, wondering who wanted to look for a fight.

But when everyone saw the line in front of the quote, the whole venue erupted in noises once again. The screen showed, “Row 40, Seat 163. Bid: 4 million Permanent Essence Pills. Item: Starry Sky Radish Grass.” The current highest bid for this item.

The bid of 4 million Permanent Essence Pills wasn't an unusual number, as this auction venue seated many rich and wealthy cultivators. But the cultivator who placed this bid was someone from an ordinary seat in the lobby, not one from the private booths.

The Life and Death cultivator in Booth 19 shivered with rage. He never expected cultivators sitting in the lobby would time and time again treat him with such disrespect. Did these people hit their head before coming here and thought that they could bully him around? He already lost a lot of respect before. Moreover, the only reason he hadn't taken revenge on the spot was that this place was the auction venue, not because he did not dare attack.

These village bumkins most likely came from other stars, to not even know his identity.

"I would like to negotiate with Row 40, Seat 163." The words immediately baffled others. Booth 19 once again voiced the intention of negotiating with the bidder in the hall.

This time Shui Wuchang did not answer directly but pressed a button.

A few breaths later, the same voice echoed within the auction hall once again. "Allow Booth 19 to negotiate with guests seated in the lobby for no more than half a quarter of an hour. At the same time, this auction house will announce another thing. After this auction, our auction house will no longer allow any private negotiations. If you want the auction items, speak with your bids."

Because 'negotiations' happened twice in this auction, the higher-ups of Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce decided to abolish this problematic rule once and for all. Usually, such a thing never happened in any of the previous auctions, but that didn't mean it would happen at all. Today was the prime example. Unfortunately, they couldn't get rid of this rule today. They could only agree to the request of negotiation put forth by Booth 19.

No one here liked the actions of Booth 19 in this auction. But they understood that if it wasn't for the background of the owner of Booth 19, the auction house might have already refused this request.

The door of Booth 19 opened once again, but the late-stage Life and Death cultivator seated inside held up his hand to stop his remaining servant from going out. From the looks of it, he already learned a lesson from Ning Cheng, so he planned to negotiate by himself.

Seeing the man in Booth 19 walking towards Row 40, everyone in the venue silently gave their condolences to the cultivator in Seat 163 of Row 40. Being rich wasn't wrong, but not having a discerning eye would always result in downfall. This person had personally come out to negotiate, which was, in a way, a means to get back some of his lost pride.

Ning Cheng felt somewhat speechless. He hadn't even placed his bid when Duan Gantai reeled in the fellow from Booth 19. This fellow might have reached the late-stage Life and Death Realm, but it still wasn't enough to contend against Duan Gantai.

"I know you're also a Life and Death cultivator, so I'll not let you suffer. You will give me the Starry Sky Radish Grass for the same price." This Life and Death cultivator walked up to Duan Gantai and spoke with an indifferent voice.

He didn't do what the others thought he would do; that is, restore some of his pride and then return. Instead, from the looks of it, he truly wanted the Starry Sky Radish Grass. Otherwise, this person would

never use such a tone for negotiations. Moreover, his words weren't utterly unreasonable, considering his background.

Duan Gantai slowly stood up, just staring at the cultivator without speaking.

The Life and Death cultivator from Booth 19 frowned slightly on seeing the look in Duan Gantai's eyes and said, "I'm from...."

"Get lost...." Without waiting for the Life and Death cultivator from Booth 19 to finish speaking, Duan Gantai immediately told him to get lost and slapped.

Duan Gantai already felt rage building up inside him due to Ning Cheng auctioning off the Perpetual Moon Time Key. However, he also understood that he couldn't make a move against Ning Cheng right now. But if someone else wandered in and stoked his anger, why would he let it go? Duan Gantai was the only one who forced others, when did it become someone else's turn to force Duan Gantai? Why would he care about the background of the person from Booth 19, when he didn't even care about Qiao Jierui? Why would he let others pluck one of his hairs?

The Life and Death cultivator from Booth 19 never imagined that a person from the lobby would dare to take the initiative to deal with him. But his strength couldn't even match up to Duan Gantai, plus with no defence prepared beforehand, Duan Gantai's slap sent him flying straight through the air.

"Bang...." The cultivator slapped by Duan Gantai, just like the previous one, hit the restrictions around the main stage, forcing the alarms to erupt once again.

Everyone felt utterly shocked. What kind of strange day was today? At least that rogue cultivator from Row 39 waited for the other party to make the first move before slapping him away. But now, that cultivator from Row 40 seemed to have a much bigger temper compared to the person from Booth 19. Not only did this fellow start first, but this fellow had enough strength to slap away a late-stage Life and Death cultivator without any effort.

The Life and Death cultivator from Booth 19 stood up and didn't even wipe the blood from the corner of his mouth. Instead, a crazy amount of killing intent shot out of his body and a weapon suddenly materialised in his hand. In all his life till now, he never experienced this much insult.

But just when he was about to rush to the 40th Row, the same icy voice sounded out within the auction house, "Dare to do it again, and I'll kill you without a second thought."

When the Life and Death cultivator from Booth 19 heard those words, it felt as if someone had poured a barrel of cold water over him. He understood that if he dared to make any moves, the master of this auction would truly kill him.

He immediately put away his weapon, then taking a cold hard look at Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai, turned around and left. Not only did he not say a single word, but he didn't even enter the booth. With their master gone, the two followers also hurried out.

No one tried to stop him. In any case, people could leave the auction at any time. However, after leaving, the auction house would not allow them inside for the rest of the event. At the same time, everyone also understood that the cultivator from Booth 19 had decided to exit to gather his forces. As soon as the auction ended, those fellows from Row 39 and 40 would have to face a life and death trial.

Shui Wuchang stared blankly at Duan Gantai, the person she was to marry in the past. How was he this powerful? She also looked at Ning Cheng subconsciously again. In terms of intimacy, she was the most intimate with Ning Cheng, not Duan Gantai. Just thinking about being held in Ning Cheng's arms almost made her legs go weak.

This Ning Cheng had not only held her but had also spoken a few ridiculous words. "Junior Apprentice Sister Wuchang, I finally understand what it means to fall in love at first...."

But when she left, she found that her Perpetual Moon Time Key had gone missing.

Her gaze subconsciously flicked between Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai, feeling that both of them had the same insidious mind. Then when she thought of how these two men had almost wiped out her entire Shui Clan, she sneered in her heart. The cultivator from Booth 19, no doubt, had a significant background. However, she knew that it wasn't enough to threaten these two people.

No one understood the treacherousness of Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai better than her. These two had even taken away her Shui Clan's Spirit Vein, something that her clan had kept hidden from everyone.

Shui Wuchang, however, had gotten a few things wrong about Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng had taken away Shui Wuchang's Perpetual Moon Time Key, it was the truth. But it was Duan Gantai who wanted to take away Shui Clan's Starry Sky Spirit Vein, not Ning Cheng. Moreover, Duan Gantai had indeed taken away Shui Clan's Spirit Vein. And by right of association, Ning Cheng became the one who helped him take it away.

After things quieted down a bit, Shui Wuchang reeled herself in and said, "Row 40 Seat 163 quoted 4 million Permanent Essence Pills. Does anyone else want to quote a higher price?"

No one dared to increase the price. If people considered Ning Cheng's matter as an accident, then Duan Gantai's actions needed no explanation. Everyone understood something from these two incidents. It didn't matter whether one sat in the lobby or a private booth, better not look down on anyone. That person might be a powerhouse in disguise.

Moreover, the price of 4 million Permanent Essence Pills for a Starry Sky Radish Grass had already exceeded the ceiling price of a Starry Sky Radish Grass.

Duan Gantai glanced at Ning Cheng, thinking that Ning Cheng would bid against him. But he didn't expect that Ning Cheng wouldn't even bother to put in a quote. As for whether Ning Cheng could bid against him, Duan Gantai didn't even entertain the thought. Ning Cheng wasn't someone kind enough to stop before he bled out some star veins. Therefore, such an action truly confused him.

Initially, he had made a firm decision. If Ning Cheng increased the price, he would outbid it regardless of the quote. In any case, he didn't believe that Ning Cheng could match him in wealth. Even if he had to take out dozens of star veins, he still would have enough for cultivation. But now, Ning Cheng didn't even place a bid, making him feel like an idiot. It truly made him feel uncomfortable.

"Four million Permanent Essence Pills going once..... Four million Permanent Essence Pills going twice.... Four million Permanent Essence Pills going thrice. Congratulations to the friend from Row 40, Seat 163, for purchasing the Starry Sky Radish Grass for four million Permanent Essence Pills." With the announcement from Shui Wuchang, the auction for Starry Sky Radish Grass finally ended.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 787

When Ning Cheng's Accordance Heavenly Pills came up for sale, he already had decided to give up on the Radish Grass. He could sense Duan Gantai's determination. So, he understood that if he decided to bid for the Radish Grass, it would result in an all-out wealth battle with Duan Gantai. Ning Cheng had an inkling feeling that his wealth couldn't match up to Duan Gantai. Moreover, Duan Gantai might even use spirit veins like a brain-dead person to stop him from obtaining the Radish Grass. Besides him, no one, even someone with brain damage, would use spirit veins to bid for a Starry Sky Radish Grass.

After looking at the quote, Ning Cheng simply gave up on forcing Duan Gantai to use up some star veins. Besides, he already made plans to extract Duan Gantai's star veins, so how could he let Duan Gantai spend it on this auction?

Duan Gantai had just received the Radish Grass when Ning Cheng's voice rang in his ears.

"Congratulations to Brother Duan for winning the Starry Sky Radish Grass. You know, I had to force myself not to put in a bid so that Brother Duan wouldn't need to spend too many Permanent Essence Pills."

Duan Gantai also replied with the same playful voice, "Ah, so Brother Ning also has a good side. But Brother Ning, you shouldn't have done it."

"Brother Duan, do you know who put up that previous batch of top-quality Accordance Heavenly Pills? Do you know who refined it?" Ning Cheng didn't care about Duan Gantai's sarcasm and continued talking.

As soon as he heard Ning Cheng's words, Duan Gantai understood Ning Cheng's meaning. He sneered and said, "Brother Ning, don't tell me you made them and that you want to help me refine the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill?"

Ning Cheng showed a smile, "Brother Duan, you sure know how I think. Yes, I truly refined those Accordance Heavenly Pills. Since I can refine top-quality Accordance Heavenly Pills, then I naturally am a Starry Sky Grade 9 Pill Emperor. Brother Duan, you purchased the Radish Grass. But if no one helped you in refining it, even if you obtained a dozen more Radish Grasses, it wouldn't be of any use. Brother Duan, you didn't think that you could readily find Pill Emperors capable of refining Starry Sky Grade 9 Pills everywhere, did you? If Brother Duan truly thinks that, then I won't say anything more about it."

Duan Gantai replied with a cold tone, "No wonder Brother Ning did not want to compete and instead took out those Accordance Heavenly Pills. Brother Ning, you truly made some good calculations. But as to whether I invite Brother Ning to refine the pills, that purely depends on my mood."

Duan Gantai naturally didn't want to call upon Ning Cheng to refine those pills. He knew that as long as he invited Ning Cheng for the refinement, even if the refining failed, he could not put Ning Cheng at fault. In case the refining succeeded, then Ning Cheng would also stake a claim on the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills. However, he also understood that Ning Cheng spoke the truth.

Ning Cheng didn't continue persuading Duan Gantai. He believed that Duan Gantai would come to him sooner or later, as long as he wanted the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill. As for seeking out Cang

Caihe the only other person who could refine this pill, hehe, that person was also part of his Mysterious Yellow Sect.

The auction continued, but Duan Gantai quickly realised that he had become a fierce character in the eyes of everyone in the venue, which allowed him to place bids smoothly. During the past few days, he bought almost everything he bid for on the first quote.

After seeing Duan Gantai's ferocity in the previous offers, no one felt willing enough to stand up and fight the price against Duan Gantai. Everyone realised that when it came to wealth, this cultivator sitting in the lobby seemed to be the richest out of everyone.

Ning Cheng also bid on a few items, buying all the auxiliary spirit grasses needed for refining the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill. He also placed a few bids on some good-quality artefact crafting materials.

Whether Duan Gantai came to him or not, he still needed the Radish Grass to refine the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill. However, that didn't mean that he could forget about the auxiliary spirit grasses required to refine the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill.

As for leaving the auction venue early, Ning Cheng didn't even think about it. Such an auction wouldn't happen again for a long time. Moreover, he wasn't short on time either, so why should he rush out? Besides, he still hasn't received an answer from Duan Gantai.

Halfway through the auction, everyone seated in the auction venue got to know about the two rich fellows in the hall. If these two competed for treasures, no matter how many Permanent Essence Pills it costed, no one else would place any bids.

On the last day of the auction, Ning Cheng finally got tired and felt as if nothing worthwhile would show up. However, just when decided to leave, Shui Wuchang raised a wooden box.

When this wooden box came out, Ning Cheng felt the Underworld Crow Ghost Rattan tremble. The next moment, the tremor turned into excitement.

"Everyone, this box contained a Wood Origin Crystal. I believe any wood-attributed, or even cultivators who practice alchemy, wouldn't let go of this Wood Origin Crystal. Everyone here knows that among the five elemental origin crystals, the most difficult to find in the Wood Origin Crystal. Even if one tried to use a hundred Earth Origin Crystals, I'm afraid that it wouldn't be enough to buy even a single Wood Origin Crystal. This Wood Origin Crystal has a base price of 500,000 Permanent Essence Pills, with each price increase not less than 10,000 Permanent Essence Pills..."

Shui Wuchang had exaggerated a bit with the introduction. But despite this, as soon as her words ended, many cultivators went wild and started shooting up the price.

Ning Cheng understood from the message transmitted by Underworld Crow Ghost Rattan that if it swallowed the Wood Origin Crystal, it would advance by another level.

Ning Cheng rarely relied on the Underworld Crow Ghost Rattan during battles. But he understood that if it advanced by another level, it would bring him better benefits. Besides, Ning Cheng had started to value the Underworld Ghost Crow Rattan a little more after the experience within the Eternal Night Domain's Petrification Wood Forest. If not for the Underworld Ghost Crow Rattan's help at that time, he simply couldn't have escaped that forest that easily.

From the message, Ning Cheng also understood that if it advanced by a level, it would end up reaching the level of Starry Sky Grade 7 Demonic Beast. A strength level equivalent to a Heaven Seated powerhouse. It was one thing if Ning Cheng didn't have the money, but he had the capital now to compete for it. Rather, he had more than enough to fight for it.

But before Ning Cheng even put in his first quote, the price had already risen to 1.6 million Permanent Essence Pills. Seeing this price, Ning Cheng put in a quote of 3 million Permanent Essence Pills. When this price came out, the screen paused for a moment. But this pause remained only for a moment when the screen refreshed again with a new quote of 3.1 million Permanent Essence Pills.

The new quote came from Booth 10. Seeing that, many cultivators started to speculate if Ning Cheng would start another conflict as he did with the fellow from Booth 19. They also wanted to see if Booth 10 would use the same method as the cultivator from Booth 19 to suppress Ning Cheng.

"Four million Permanent Essence Pills." Ning Cheng updated his quote again without hesitation. The last things he lacked right now were star veins and Permanent Essence Pills.

"This friend from Row 39 Seat 137 bids four million Permanent Essence Pills. Does anyone here want to offer something higher?" As Shui Wuchang voiced the price on the screen, everyone immediately turned their attention to Booth 10. They all wanted to know if Booth 10 would turn angry with the cultivator in the hall trying to snatch away the Wood Origin Crystal.

What disappointed most of the cultivators was that Booth 10 didn't stand up and negotiate with Ning Cheng. So, in the end, the Wood Origin Crystal went to Ning Cheng without any other offers.

Wood Origin Crystals had a much higher value compared to other origin crystals; it remained an undisputed fact. But Ning Cheng purchasing one for four million Permanent Essence Pills, it far exceeded the cost of a Wood Origin Crystal. In actuality, a Wood Origin Crystal had a value of one to two million Permanent Essence Pills at most. Therefore, this price caused everyone in the auction venue to sigh. They all envied the person who could spend this many Permanent Essence Pills.

Ning Cheng didn't bid on any of the other items, apart from the last thing, which turned out to be a decent flame. Just like before, many cultivators went crazy for this flame. However, Ning Cheng purposefully didn't bid after putting a quote once, letting someone else buy it.

The flame, although good, wasn't something he must get his hands on. Besides, if he bid and won everything, it would also mean offending too many people.

In the end, the cultivator seated in Booth 3 bought the flame, which also marked the end of Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce's mega auction. Many cultivators started leaving the auction venue, and Ning Cheng also stood up. However, he didn't go out but went to the collection chamber next to the auction stage. All the cultivators had already sent in their payments. Therefore, he had to go to this chamber to collect his auction earnings.

Duan Gantai didn't go out immediately. Only after seeing Ning Cheng stand up and enter the collection chamber, did he stand up and started walking towards Booth 7.

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Although the auction had ended, the cultivators outside on the public square in front of Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce had not thinned out. These cultivators remained in wait for Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai. Many within the crowd came here with the intent to spectate. They wanted to see the clash between those two and the force behind the cultivator in Booth 19.

Ning Cheng, unaware, walked out of the auction hall with great satisfaction. He truly hadn't lost out by attending this auction. He not only obtained many of the things he wanted but also got a low-rank long spear-type Spirit Artefact.

Moreover, the number of star veins, Permanent Essence Pills and Perpetual Moon Pills on him had also increased significantly instead of decreasing.

Currently, he owned 30 Starry Sky Essence Qi Veins, 20 million Permanent Essence Pills and nearly 1.2 billion Perpetual Moon Pills. Plus, the other things he bought during the auction. If not for that, he would have more.

"They're out." As soon as Ning Cheng came out, the cultivators immediately spotted him.

In just a glance, Ning Cheng recognised the Life and Death male cultivator from Booth 19. Beside this Life and Death male cultivator, he also saw two Eternal experts. One of them at the late-stage Eternal Realm, and the other at early-stage Eternal Realm. No wonder this fellow had so much arrogance and even dared to pit against his spirit vein at the auction. Most likely, those two Eternal cultivators were his backers.

Ning Cheng also wondered why he didn't see Duan Gantai around. He didn't believe that the cultivator from Booth 19 would let Duan Gantai leave.

He had pocketed five million Permanent Essence Pills when Booth 19 tried to pit against him. But Duan Gantai had slapped that fellow in full public display. It stood to reason that Duan Gantai and this fellow shared a much more deep-seated hatred.

As Ning Cheng thought about it, his spiritual consciousness caught Duan Gantai coming out of the auction venue. Seeing that Duan Gantai had come out later than him, Ning Cheng instantly realised Duan Gantai's intentions. As he mulled over it, Ning Cheng couldn't help but sneer in his heart. This fellow truly wanted him to walk into a hole. No matter the craftiness, you can't use the Perpetual Moon Time Keys now.

"It's those two. One forcibly took five million Permanent Essence Pills from me, and the other attacked me at the auction." The Life and Death cultivator from Booth 19, on seeing Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai coming out of the auction venue, immediately called out.

At this moment, all the onlooking cultivators stepped aside unconsciously. In just a short while, the public square in front of Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce turned empty, except for Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai.

"This one is Spirit Devil Island's Second Island Master Zong An. This one here is my third brother, Spirit Devil Island's Third Island Master, Shuqiu Hongwen. You two don't look like ordinary people, so why did you move against my Spirit Devil Island's disciple Chu Xingshan at the auction? If you think that you can bully us thinking that the Spirit Devil Island is just a non-entity, then today we might just wash this place

with your blood.” The person speaking was the late-stage Eternal cultivator wearing blown robes. His face looked quite ordinary, but devoid of any joys or sorrows.

Ning Cheng didn’t even know the location of this Spirit Devil Island, or if it was even a significant power. But since this fellow dared to say such words to him, it showed that this force commanded a certain level of prestige in Devil Domain. Listening to this fellow’s tone, he also understood that this Spirit Devil Island usually acted in arrogance. The only reason why they hadn’t started with them as soon as they came out should be because of his and Duan Gantai’s calm expressions. Expressions that showed that they didn’t care about the two Eternal powerhouses. Meaning, they couldn’t act until they ascertained his and Duan Gantai’s background.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 788

Seeing Ning Cheng not speaking, Duan Gantai spoke up, “Brother Ning, do you want to fight or leave? If you want to fight, then I pick Shuqiu Hongwen. If you don’t want to fight, then I’ll leave.”

Ning Cheng understood Duan Gantai’s intent. If he didn’t start, this fellow would leave immediately. Don’t look at the two Island Masters from Spirit Devil Island standing right in front of them. They still would find it impossible to catch Duan Gantai.

“Is Spirit Devil Island famous? I’ve never even heard of it. Stop talking nonsense about your Spirit Devil Island here. Fight if you want to fight; otherwise, I don’t have time to waste talking with you.” Ning Cheng spoke up with an impatient tone. He can’t let Duan Gantai leave just yet. If Duan Gantai left, what about his Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill? What about his star veins?

If the other party had spoken with a reasonable tone, Ning Cheng wouldn’t have replied with such words. But these two Island Masters kept pushing the notion of their Spirit Devil Island being a great place. They even tried to use an aggressive posture in front of him. No wonder they produced a disciple like that Chu Xingshan. And what about spilling blood? Ning Cheng hated such hypocritical people, who used their backgrounds to make threats.

He didn’t believe that these two Island Masters didn’t know about Chu Xingshan’s personality. Since they knew about his behaviour and also used aggressive tactics and pressure, then they didn’t care about things like face and respect. In other words, these people openly bullied others.

Zong An’s expressions suddenly changed when he heard Ning Cheng’s words. He could say such disdainful words to Ning Cheng in front of so many people. But for Ning Cheng to dismiss his Spirit Devil Island in front of so many people, it reversed the situation entirely.

Not waiting for Zong An, Shuqiu Hongwen standing behind him snorted, “Looking for death....”

The same moment he spoke up, he rushed towards Ning Cheng. Raising his hands, he then shot out several shadows towards Ning Cheng.

Of the people standing next to the public square, no one could perceive Shuqiu Hongwen’s actions at all. They only felt an overwhelming killing intent bearing down on them. This level of killing intent made people unconsciously want to step back. If they got caught up in it, even accidentally, a murderous vortex of killing intent would sweep them away and rend them apart into oblivion.

Almost everyone here knew about the power of the Spirit Devil Island. Therefore, seeing the Third Island Master personally take action, everyone decided to stay quiet. Some cultivators, not accustomed to Spirit Devil Island's overwhelming display of force, sighed in their hearts. They had initially expected that the Island Masters would first try to deal with the cultivator who slapped Chu Xingshan. That way, they could still enjoy a pretty high-level fight. After all, this person had forced Chu Xingshan, a late-stage Life and Death cultivator, into such a sorry state with just a slap. It indicated that he most likely was in the Eternal Realm.

Shuqiu Hongwen decided to deal with Ning Cheng first, who people didn't even think would manage to put up a decent fight. From the audience's point of view, Ning Cheng had only reached the peak of Heaven Seated Realm. Therefore, facing an Eternal cultivator's head-on attack would only result in death.

As the violent killing intent swept over, Ning Cheng didn't even move and let the murderous killing intent cover him up entirely.

Seeing his killing intent cover-up Ning Cheng, Shuqiu Hongwen's mouth showed a hint of sarcasm. Sure enough, it was just a Heaven Seated larva, lacking any ability to resist.

One after another, black-coloured blade shadows filled up and blocked off all escape routes around Ning Cheng. It looked as if these seemingly endless black blades would tear apart Ning Cheng, turning him into a pool of blood on the public square.

Or rather, in Shuqiu Hongwen's eyes, Ning Cheng had already turned into a pool of blood. Trapped under his violent killing intent, reinforced by his Domain, and blocked off by his Psychokinetic Devil Blade, nobody can manage to come out alive.

Ning Cheng's heart had already started to surge with murderous intentions. This Third Island Master wanted to tear him to pieces. This bastard didn't even try clearing up the matter before exerting his might.

How could Ning Cheng remain polite in the face of such people? The next moment, his domain erupted at full power, fused with the power of the Celestial River Flame. Ning Cheng even integrated his powerful celestial essence and spiritual consciousness into it. It allowed his domain to tear apart the murderous domain enveloping him in just a blink of an eye.

Shuqiu Hongwen, although an early-stage Eternal cultivator, couldn't even put up half-a-bit of resistance in the face of Ning Cheng's domain.

"Hiss Hiss..." Shuqiu Hongwen's expressions changed significantly.

He had already taken killing Ning Cheng as something granted. Moreover, he had even used his trump card. But despite that, he could see and sense Ning Cheng's domain utterly crushing his domain. Furthermore, he couldn't even put up a shred of resistance.

The black blade shadows that had sealed off Ning Cheng's escape routes also disintegrated in the next moment. They couldn't even touch Ning Cheng's body at all. No, this fellow was most likely a late-stage Eternal powerhouse.

Shuqiu Hongwen had just thought of this when he decided to escape. However, it might have been easy for him to rush up, but it wouldn't be easy for him to leave.

The space around him seemed to stagnate, and even his breathing became difficult. Before he could scream, a huge fist slammed into his chest. He couldn't even muster up half-a-point of resistance, and could only watch the incoming fist strike his chest.

At this moment, he felt deeply regretful. He hated the fact that he acted out in pure arrogance. He should have first taken out an attack weapon, or at least a defensive weapon, and then take action against Ning Cheng. But would taking out a weapon even work against someone like Ning Cheng?

The moment Ning Cheng's fist slammed into his chest, endless spear intent came pouring in and raged through his meridians. At the same time, he also heard Ning Cheng's words. 'Even if I let you bombard me, you can't hurt even half of my hair.'

Ning Cheng's truly wasn't bragging. His Starry Sky Body's strength had already reached the peak of middle-level. Therefore, even if Shuqiu Hongwen had caught him unprepared, it would have only injured him a little, and that was the best-case scenario. If he prepared beforehand, then even under constant attacks, he wouldn't receive even the slightest injury. So, saying that Shuqiu Hongwen couldn't even hurt half a hair, it was the truth.

"Bang...." Shuqiu Hongwen spat out several blood arrows, and his body shot out like a meteor punching through the sky.

In the distance, Zong An's expressions changed significantly and immediately moved forward to grab and slow Shuqiu Hongwen. At the same time, he realised that his Spirit Devil Island was in big trouble this time.

"Hurry up, call Elder Brother...." Shuqiu Hongwen kept coughing blood in Zong An's arms, but he still managed to convey a few things to him during the gaps.

Chu Xingshan, who stood in the middle of the public square, turned sluggish. He did not expect Ning Cheng to be so overpowering, even stronger than Duan Gantai.

"Boom...." Only then did the explosion from celestial essence spread out, dispersing towards the public square in all directions. The residual force felt like a hammer blow to the chests for the spectating cultivators.

The Third Island Master of Spirit Devil Island got blown away by a single punch. At this moment, every gaze directed at Ning Cheng had changed. A cultivator at the early-stage Eternal Realm had almost died in a single blow. Within the entire Devil Domain Grand Starry Sky, most likely only Qiao Jierui could do such a thing. Who was this person? Why hadn't they heard about him till now?

Duan Gantai took a few steps forward and walked towards Chu Xingwen before slapping him once again. Chu Xingshan had already gone into shock on seeing Ning Cheng's strength. But as a late-stage Life and Death powerhouse, he managed to return to senses the moment Duan Gantai started. However, by that time, he found that a powerful force bound everything in his surroundings.

He couldn't escape anywhere and could only watch Duan Gantai's slap connect to his face once again.

“Just an ant, yet still daring to call people to block me.” After Duan Gantai’s slap took out a sizable portion of Chu Xingwen’s teeth, he then kicked away Chu Xingwen.

Zong An, who just managed to catch Shuqiu Hongwen, also managed to stop Chu Xingshan’s fall.

“Sect Master Ning truly is a powerhouse, coming to my Devil Domain from Culmination to show off.” As these words ended, a Daoist shadow suddenly appeared in the middle of the public square in front of Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce.

“Heavenly Emperor Jierui!”

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As soon as this person appeared, all noise over the public square disappeared instantly. From this, one could see the status and prestige enjoyed by this person among the people here.

Ning Cheng and Qiao Jierui never had a cordial relationship anyway. Moreover, this was the Devil Domain, which meant that Qiao Jierui wouldn’t show up here to help him, Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng replied in a calm voice, “So what Brother Qiao means is that I should have complied?”

Qiao Jierui glanced at Zong An and said with a flat tone, “Sect Master Ning is only a guest here. Yet, Sect Master Ning started a fight with the Third Island Master of Spirit Devil Island the moment he arrived. Isn’t this a matter of a guest bullying the master? At least, I Qiao Jierui can’t sit by idly on seeing this, can I?”

Ning Cheng chuckled, “Heavenly Emperor Jierui sure looks like in high-spirits. If a dog bit your left leg, would you also let it bit your right leg? Did you think that it’s something that I, Ning Cheng, would do? You might do it, but for me, if some dog tried to bite me, I naturally would slap it away.”

“Yes, yes, Brother Ning said it right. When that dog tried to bite me, I didn’t see the owner come out and say we’re just guests. But now that I’ve beaten the dog, the master comes out right away.” Duan Gantai, on seeing Ning Cheng and Qiao Jierui in conflict with each other, immediately added oil to the fire.

Qiao Jierui’s complexion darkened, and the killing intent oozing from his body grew thicker.

But before he could even speak, another voice sounded out, “Seeing Brother Ning here, definitely is a lucky omen for this little sister.”

“Ah, Junior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix. It’s indeed a happy event to see Junior Apprentice Sister Nine Phoenix in this big man’s territory.” Ning Cheng laughed and also taunted Qiao Jierui. Qiao Jierui, don’t think of yourself as someone famous, I don’t even fear Chuan Xinlou, so how could I fear someone like you, Qiao Jierui?

Qiao Jierui’s expressions turned sombre, making him look even more ugly. Although he didn’t know that Ning Cheng’s current cultivation had grown much higher than before, he knew that Ning Cheng wasn’t someone polite with his words. Moreover, he would never fear him just because he was in the Devil Domain. This person had snatched away and carved a territory for himself within Culmination Grand Starry Sky independent of the grand starry sky. Yet, Chuan Xinlou didn’t even dare to speak up. This fact alone spoke volumes of this person’s strength.

He couldn't make a move against Ning Cheng, but Qiao Jierui would kill Duan Gantai no matter what. How could he let an unknown Life and Death ant ridicule him in front of everyone?

At this moment, two more Daoist shadows appeared on the public square.

Both were at the late-stage Eternal Realm, with almost solid celestial essence. With Ning Cheng's current cultivation, he could tell that these two people were even more powerful than Spiritual Heaven Sect's Chen Xingwen.

"Haha, Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce's Yi Cang greets Sect Master Ning. Sect Master Ning travelled a long way to reach our home. I hope Sect Master Ning can forgive our Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce's sin of poor reception." The man on the left spoke enthusiastically to Ning Cheng with cupped fists. However, he had a tall stature and looked extremely strong with an overly muscular frame, giving him a somewhat menacing appearance.

Ning Cheng casually returned some polite words. In any case, he felt pretty impressed with Yi Cang. He truly didn't look like the person who would create such weird rules for the auction.

Yi Cang also didn't care about Ning Cheng's attitude, but turned to Duan Gantai and spoke up with cupped fists, "This must be Brother Duan from Butterfly Mountain, right? My Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce truly was too slow this time, so this Yi Cang specially came here to apologise to Brother Duan."

Ning Cheng had heard in the past that Duan Gantai came from Butterfly Mountain. But he didn't know anything about this Butterfly Mountain. Looking at Yi Cang's attitude now, it seems like this Butterfly Mountain had quite some fame. Otherwise, how could a late-stage Eternal cultivator like Yi Cang address someone in the Life and Death Realm as 'Brother'?

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 789: True or False

Hearing that Duan Gantai came from Butterfly Mountain, Qiao Jierui immediately felt surprised. He even forcibly hid his desire to kill him.

As to the man next to Yi Cang, he was a tall, handsome-looking man with a Confucian scarf on his head. He was the First Island Master Chu Angxiong of Spirit Devil Island.

Chu Angxiong had just come out when he turned furious on seeing Shuqiu Hongwen taking a beating in full public view. Even his son, Chu Xingshan, suffered a defeat like a pig on a cattle ranch.

But when he realised the identities of the two people and what had happened, he forcibly suppressed the anger in his heart. Instead, he turned to Duan Gantai and cupped his fists before speaking up with a warm smile. "Spirit Devil Island's Chu Angxiong greets this friend. My Spirit Devil Island's Chu Xingshan inconvenienced this friend at the auction. For this I, Chu Angxiong, personally want to apologise."

Chu Angxiong and Yi Cang came together, so Yi Cang had already explained to him what had happened at the auction venue. But despite the politeness in his tone, he felt quite unhappy with Ash Pagoda's way in handling things at the auction. How could a few simple statements erase the humiliation his son had to face in the auction venue?

But then he saw Qiao Jierui and Yi Jiufeng's attitude towards Ning Cheng. Moreover, after Yi Cang mentioning that Duan Gantai came from Butterfly Mountain, how could he not understand the situation?

No wonder the Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce didn't even try stopping them. Both of them had a significant background.

But Chu Angxiong had guessed a few things wrong. Yi Cang initially didn't know Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai's identity during the auction. Only after that incident in the auction venue did Yi Cang investigate their backgrounds.

"Butterfly Mountain wouldn't care about this incident, nor would they come forward for me. You don't have to worry." Duan Gantai finished and turned around to Ning Cheng, "Brother Ning, this little brother will wait for you at Sandy Street Rest Stop."

After saying that, Duan Gantai immediately turned around and disappeared into the crowd in a short while.

"Sect Master Ning, it was our Spirit Devil Island who's in the wrong this time. As the First Island Master of Spirit Devil Island, I will take full responsibility for it." Chu Angxiong had an extremely stubborn personality. Moreover, when did people from his Spirit Devil Island apologise to anyone? But he had no choice but to apologise to both of them. Otherwise, let alone an apology, he would never give a damn about that little ant in Life and Death Realm.

Spirit Heaven Grand Starry Sky's Yi Jiufeng addressed Ning Cheng as 'Brother Ning' while even Qiao Jierui showed restraint in facing Ning Cheng. He knew that no matter the strength of his Spirit Devil Island, it could never reach a level anywhere close to these two people. What other choice did he have in such a situation?

Ning Cheng had already noticed the suppressed killing intent in Chu Angxiong's tone. But he didn't care and still spoke with an indifferent tone. "No need for an apology. If the First Island Master thinks that the matter is over, then let's forget it. If not, then I live on Mysterious Yellow Celestial River's Jiangzhou Star."

Ning Cheng then greeted Yi Jiufeng and quickly left to find Duan Gantai. He had still not accomplished the primary purpose of coming to this place. Duan Gantai had taken away the Starry Sky Radish Grass, so how could Ning Cheng let it go? As for Spirit Devil Island, he didn't care about any of them. If the people of Spirit Devil Island dared to come to his Jiangzhou Star, then he wouldn't mind paying a visit to Spirit Devil Island.

Qiao Jierui looked at Ning Cheng's disappearing figure, but his face still looked ugly. Even if he wanted to fight against Ning Cheng, he couldn't do it here. However, Ning Cheng dared to leave the Jiangzhou Star alone and came to the Devil Domain. Was he tired of living? Or did he come here with Yi Jiufeng?

.....

Sandy Street Rest Stop was of a much higher grade compared to Ning Cheng's current rest stop. When Ning Cheng arrived, he saw Duan Gantai already waiting for him.

"I knew Brother Ning would be here on time. Otherwise, I would have already left Devil Domain a long time ago." Duan Gantai said with a smile.

Ning Cheng casually activated the room's restriction before sitting down. "Brother Duan, if you agree, I can start on refining the pill immediately. If you don't agree, I will leave immediately. Let's not talk any nonsense anymore."

Duan Gantai laughed and said with a casual tone. "I naturally agree with Brother Ning starting on refining the pill immediately. But how good is Brother Ning? How many pills can you refine? How will we distribute it?"

Ning Cheng didn't answer Duan Gantai's questions directly. Instead, he said, "Refining the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill requires seven main spirit grasses and about a hundred auxiliary ingredients. So, before we talk about distributing the finished pills, I'd like to ask Brother Duan, how many auxiliary starry sky spirit grasses do you have? If we don't have enough, then Brother Duan might have to wait for the pills."

From Duan Gantai's tone, Ning Cheng understood that he looked down on his alchemy.

"It doesn't matter how many ingredients the Eternal Emperor Continuance Pill requires. I'm sure we can find them without much effort. But my Starry Sky Radish Grass isn't something easy to find. If Brother Ning's refinement fails, you won't lose too much, but I, on the other hand, would suffer a major loss." Duan Gantai knew it full well that if Ning Cheng had obtained the Starry Sky Radish Grass, he would never come to find him for cooperation.

Moreover, from the beginning to the end, he did not plan on cooperating with Ning Cheng. As for looking at Ning Cheng to help him in refining pills, he wouldn't do it even if he turned into an idiot. On the other hand, Ning Cheng had no other choice but to help him in refining those pills, even if it meant suffering humiliation. He waited for Ning Cheng to come here because of the Temple of Time, not for the medicinal pill.

Ning Cheng hesitated for a short while before speaking, "Brother Duan, it isn't the first time we have cooperated. I believe in Brother Duan, but if Brother Duan doesn't believe me, let's make another deal."

Duan Gantai waved his hand, "Brother Ning, let's not talk about deals. I know that you have high attainments in Alchemy, and I also know that you used those Accordance Heavenly Pills to get my attention. It might disappoint Brother Ning, but I have to think long and hard about refining those pills. So let's leave that for now and discuss how to go into the Temple of Time."

Ning Cheng's expressions turned a little hard to look at, and he remained silent for a minute or two before speaking. "If Brother Duan fears that I would waste the Starry Sky Radish Grass, I can put down some star veins as collateral for Brother Duan."

Hearing Ning Cheng mention giving some star veins to him, Duan Gantai felt moved and immediately replied. "Even if you pressure me with some star veins, how can I let materialistic things come between Brother Ning and my friendship? Besides, Star veins are an essential cultivation resource. I can't just let Brother Ning give it to me. Maybe....."

Duan Gantai hesitated before saying. "If Brother Ning can take out and put the Perpetual Moon Time Key in my care, I can agree to let Brother Ning refine pills."

Ning Cheng sneered internally. When he sent the second Perpetual Moon Time Key, he already prepared for the possibility of Duan Gantai raising this matter. The only accident was that someone else ended up purchasing the second Perpetual Moon Time Key. But this accident also made it easier for Ning Cheng to implement his plan. Otherwise, with Duan Gantai's cunningness, if he agreed to place the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys on Duan Gantai, Duan Gantai would immediately grow suspicious.

With everything that just transpired, he truly didn't plan all of it in vain. This fellow finally came forward with this proposal.

In truth, Duan Gantai didn't expect Ning Cheng to agree to it. He believed that Ning Cheng's shrewd personality wouldn't allow him to agree to this deal. It's just that he and Ning Cheng had another partnership, which he used as an excuse to push it off.

But Duan Gantai didn't expect that after he made the request, Ning Cheng would sit there in silent contemplation. Was this a trick? Ning Cheng hadn't turned into an idiot, did he?

Duan Gantai couldn't truly confirm his suspicions. But he also understood that people would have a hard time refusing Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills. Duan Gantai suppressed his surprise and spoke with a casual voice. "It wouldn't make much sense whether the Perpetual Moon Time Key was on me or not. After all, someone else purchased the second Perpetual Moon Time Key, and now I don't even know who bought it. I'm afraid I would have to bother Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce's Lord Yi Cang for it."

Seemingly touched by Duan Gantai's sentence, Ning Cheng slapped the table and said, "Brother Duan, I have always believed in you. It's just that the Perpetual Moon Time Key is a big deal. I can agree to let Brother Duan guard it, but Brother Duan must promise me two conditions."

Duan Gantai pretended to frown, "What conditions?"

"First, Brother Duan's Transfer Jade Talisman to enter the Temple of Time, you must give it to me. I don't need to explain to Brother Duan about the why. I know that even if I put this Perpetual Moon Time Key on Brother Duan, Brother Duan would only have two keys. But you must already know that the Temple of Time is my biggest expectation. Putting the Perpetual Moon Time Key and the Transfer Jade Talisman on Brother Duan, I dare not take such a risk."

When Ning Cheng spoke about the first condition, Duan Gantai's excited heart almost jumped out of his chest. Ning Cheng, ah Ning Cheng, you're going to have to drink my foot wash for the second time today. You don't know that I already obtained the second key, do you? If you knew about it, I'm afraid you would have never proposed such a condition. As for the talisman to enter the Time Wilderness, who told you that I only have one? Wasn't it me who told you about it? Did you truly believe my words?

How could he, Duan Gantai, let the second Perpetual Moon Time Key fall into the hands of someone he didn't know? When Ning Cheng had entered the collection area, he immediately went ahead and tracked down the owner of Booth 7. He only had to speak two sentences. First, I can give you fifteen Star Veins for your Perpetual Moon Time Key. And Second, I came from Butterfly Mountain.

With just these two sentences, he obtained the second Perpetual Moon Time Key without any extra effort.

On the surface, however, Duan Gantai nodded after hearing Ning Cheng's words. "Brother Ning makes a justified request. Even if it were me, I'm afraid I would have made the same request."

Ning Cheng ignored Duan Gantai's words and continued, "Second, Brother Duan must give me 50 Star Veins."

"Impossible." Duan Gantai stood up as soon as he heard the other condition and even threw up his hands. Even with all three Perpetual Moon Time Keys, he would never give Ning Cheng fifty Star Veins. How many star veins did he have right now? If he gave Ning Cheng fifty, how will he cultivate after advancing to the Eternal Realm?

What did the Temple of Time contain? Even he didn't know about it. Since he didn't know anything about it, Duan Gantai would never take such a risk.

Seeing Ning Cheng showing intentions to leave, Duan Gantai quickly spoke up. "Brother Ning, please wait. Apart from the discussion about the Temple of Time, it's indeed true that I can't find any Pill Emperor to refine a Starry Sky Grade 9 Medicinal Pill. However, the conditions proposed by Brother Ning are just too harsh. What would I do if Brother Ning took my star veins and didn't return anything to me? Of course, I do not doubt Brother Ning's character or ability, but I'm afraid of something happening just in case."

Ning Cheng said in a calm voice, "Actually, there is one other thing I want to add. Even if Brother Duan wants to leave, I already placed some restrictions in this room, to prevent anyone from leaving."

Duan Gantai's expression changed a few times. He then gritted his teeth and said, "I can put ten Starry Sky Essence Qi Veins and the Transfer Jade Talisman in Brother Ning's hand. In exchange, Brother Ning will help me refine a furnace of medicinal pills."

Ning Cheng laughed internally. This fellow had just a few moments ago said that he would have to consider long and hard about him refining pills. And now, he wanted to speak about conditions for refining pills.

"Ten is too few. I don't agree. Forty Star Veins."

"No, fifteen Star Veins at most."

"Thirty-five..."

"Twenty, that's my bottom line..."

"Thirty, if you agree, I'll start immediately. If you don't agree, I'll immediately leave. There's no room for any more bargaining."

"Twenty-five, if you don't agree, then let's forget about it."

Ning Cheng didn't put up another price. He simply stood up and walked to the door. He didn't believe that Duan Gantai would give up on the Temple of Time because of five Star Veins.

Just when Ning Cheng was about to step out of the door, he heard a teeth-grinding sound before Duan Gantai spoke up, "Thirty is thirty."

Ning Cheng felt relieved on hearing those words. He truly felt a bit worried that Duan Gantai wouldn't stop him. If Duan Gantai didn't stop him, he would have started doubting him if he returned.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 790: Changes in Mysterious Yellow Starland

"Deal." Ning Cheng turned and looked at Duan Gantai with a smile.

Duan Gantai felt his heart jump at this sudden reversal and started to consider if he made a mistake. But thinking about how he would get to keep the three Perpetual Moon Time Keys, how could there be something wrong with it?

Neither of them mentioned the deal again and immediately started setting up a variety of restrictions in the room to prevent one from suddenly escaping. When the two men finished arranging the restrictions, Ning Cheng then took out the third Perpetual Moon Time Key.

Duan Gantai resisted the weird feeling in his heart and took out a ring. It contained thirty Star Veins and one Transfer Jade Talisman. Both he and Ning Cheng knew that neither of them could deceive each other with fake items at this time.

The two quickly exchanged things, and Duan Gantai finally felt some relief. Even the two involved parties, Duan Gantai and Ning Cheng, failed to notice that they made this trade because of the Starry Sky Radish Grass. But after finishing the deal, the two didn't even discuss the distribution of Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills. It's as if the two had never even spoken about Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills, but instead did a transaction for the Perpetual Moon Time Key, which felt too weird.

It wasn't until Duan Gantai took out the Starry Sky Radish Grass did he feel somewhat strange about the whole situation.

The two didn't even negotiate the number of Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills. Moreover, why did Ning Cheng not ask him to take out the Starry Sky Radish Grass while exchanging items? But this feeling disappeared in a flash. From Duan Gantai's perspective, Ning Cheng most likely felt confident that his restrictions would prevent him from walking away in a short amount of time. Either that or he didn't consider the Starry Sky Radish Grass as a rare item. After all, it didn't have an outrageous price attached to it, only a few million Permanent Essence Pills.

"I need two Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills." Duan Gantai said while holding the Starry Sky Radish Grass.

Ning Cheng did not hesitate this time and directly agreed. "Yes, as long as I can form the pills, I will give you two."

Duan Gantai nodded, and only then handed the Starry Sky Radish Grass in his hand to Ning Cheng. He did not fear Ning Cheng not forming the pills. Rather, he wished that Ning Cheng would fail in pill refining. As long as Ning Cheng failed in pill refining, he would only lose a Starry Sky Radish Grass. With the Temple of Time still there for him, would he remain interested in a Starry Sky Radish Grass?

Duan Gantai remained silent, and Ning Cheng also stopped talking.

He then carefully looked at Ning Cheng skilfully taking out and activating the pill furnace, putting a bunch of spiritual grasses inside, and bringing out the Celestial River Flame. But all this caused Duan Gantai to grow even more shocked.

Ning Cheng's level in Alchemy truly was as strong as he said. But that wasn't even the most shocking aspect. What shocked him the most was that Ning Cheng had such a terrible flame. No wonder Ning Cheng asked him for a Void Shimmering Light Crystal, that's because his fire had already evolved to such a level.

Ning Cheng knew that he exposed a few cards here. But since he and Duan Gantai agreed on the transaction, he already expected that he would have to reveal a few secrets. In any case, Duan Gantai would never allow him to refine the pills by himself.

Ning Cheng hadn't refined many Starry Sky Grade 9 Medicinal Pills, mainly due to the lack of Starry Sky Grade 9 Spiritual Grass. But despite that, Ning Cheng still felt confident about refining Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills. He had refined many Starry Sky Rank 8 Medicinal Pills, and a few batches of Starry Sky Grade 9 Medicinal Pills, which set a precedent for future success. Moreover, his Celestial River Flame advanced to another level. Therefore, he now had a much better chance in refining at least good-quality Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills.

Ning Cheng then threw in one spiritual grass after another into the Traceless Pill Furnace in rapid succession. He didn't even hesitate to throw in the Starry Sky Radish Grass.

Duan Gantai could only see Ning Cheng continually moving his hands and throwing out some impurities from time to time. However, his spiritual consciousness couldn't sweep into Ning Cheng's pill furnace. But it wasn't because of the layers of shielding restrictions that Ning Cheng placed on the furnace. Even Duan Gantai knew that other spiritual consciousnesses shouldn't sweep into the pill furnace during the pill refining process. Otherwise, it would drastically affect the formation of medicinal pills; it might even lead to failure.

Time passed by as Ning Cheng continued with the pill refining process and Duan Gantai kept waiting. After two hours, Ning Cheng's hand movements suddenly accelerated.

At this time, even Duan Gantai, who watched from the side, felt nervous. He knew that Ning Cheng had reached the critical juncture in forming the pills. Despite the lack of proficiency in Alchemy, even he could vaguely feel that Ning Cheng's hand movements didn't come from any pill arts. As for why he felt this way, he couldn't say it clearly.

After half-an-incense stick worth of time, a burst of fragrance erupted from the furnace, and Duan Gantai saw Ning Cheng raising his hand and waving it. Even with a sharp vision, Ning Cheng's hand shielded the furnace from Duan Gantai's eyes, preventing Duan Gantai from knowing how many pills Ning Cheng refined.

Seeing Ning Cheng put away the pill furnace and withdraw the restrictions, Duan Gantai laughed a few times. "Brother Ning, you truly have a well-deserved reputation. You can easily refine Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills at a whim."

Ning Cheng casually flung a jade bottle towards Duan Gantai and said, "Brother Duan, the jade bottle contains two Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills as agreed."

Duan Gantai grabbed the jade bottle and let his spiritual consciousness scan the inside. A moment later, he immediately knew that the two pills inside were two high-quality Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills. After confirming, he quickly put away the jade bottle and smiled, "Many thanks, Brother Ning. Right..."

Duan Gantai had only said a few words when his expression suddenly changed.

Ning Cheng immediately asked, "Brother Duan, what's the matter?"

"No, someone's attacking my cave. My cave is my lifeblood. Brother Ning, please wait for me to return...." After Duan Gantai said those words, his body faded away and disappeared from in front of Ning Cheng's eyes in just an instant. The movement didn't even leave behind the slightest trace.

Moreover, the restrictions placed in the room couldn't even stop Duan Gantai for a moment. It felt as if these restrictions were nothing more than decoration.

Ning Cheng, however, showed a cold smile as he watched Duan Gantai disappear. He hadn't guessed it wrong. Duan Gantai indeed had a much better escape method compared to him. At the very least, he couldn't trap Duan Gantai. It looks like he had to go back and upgrade his Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds in addition to speeding up his progress to the Eternal Realm.

As for giving two Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills to Duan Gantai, Ning Cheng didn't care about it at all. He had refined twelve Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills, six high-quality and six top-quality. Giving away two high-quality Eternal Emperor Continuance Pills, why would he care about it?

Ning Cheng put away the things and removed the restrictions inside the room. But just when he packed up everything and was about to leave, someone touched the restriction on the door.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness swept out and found Shui Wuchang outside.

He knew for sure that Shui Wuchang would never come to see him. It looks like Shui Wuchang and Duan Gantai weren't as simple as they seem on the surface.

"Why are you here?" Shui Wuchang looked at Ning Cheng in amazement. She always felt that the relationship between Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai wasn't as harmonious as it seemed on the surface. But she never expected Ning Cheng also to appear here.

"Did you come here to find Duan Gantai?" Ning Cheng looked at Shui Wuchang and spoke with a smile.

The look on Shui Wuchang's face felt a little strange. But after hearing Ning Cheng's words, she quickly said, "No, I came to find you. Can I come in and sit?"

Ning Cheng nodded, "Come on in; it's not like this is my place."

Shui Wuchang had come here dressed up on purpose, replacing her original crimson robe with a light purple figure-hugging dress. It accentuated her full chest and slender waist tied by a belt. Combined with her long hair that draped over her shoulder, it gave her a shy and gentle appearance. Plus, with a touch of feminine fragrance, it unknowingly gave people a good impression.

Ning Cheng understood enough about Shui Wuchang, and also knew enough about her background. Fortunately, this time he didn't see the pretentious look on Shui Wuchang's face, which made Ning Cheng a little more comfortable.

"Can you tell me what's your relationship with Duan Gantai?" After Shui Wuchang sat down, she immediately asked about the relationship between Ning Cheng and Duan Gantai.

"You tell me first, about Duan Gantai's origin, and the whereabouts of Butterfly Mountain?" Ning Cheng did not answer Shui Wuchang's question and instead posed a question to Shui Wuchang.

Shui Wuchang nodded, "In truth, I already have some guesses about your relationship with Duan Gantai. But it seems that you don't even know about Butterfly Mountain. Judging from this fact alone, when you and Duan Gantai came to my Shui Clan, he should have planned to take advantage of you too. As for Butterfly Mountain, it's a pretty big deal. I heard that people seldom come out from that place, but whenever they come, it would result in earth-shattering events."

It's as if Shui Wuchang truly had come here just to say those words. After answering Ning Cheng's question, she stood up again and started walking away. But when she reached the door, she suddenly turned back and asked. "Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, do you think Duan Gantai would be a good Dao Companion?"

Shui Wuchang did not take the initiative to mention the Perpetual Moon Time Key, which immediately alleviated her impression in Ning Cheng's eyes. If this woman had spoken about the Perpetual Moon Time Key the moment she had walked in, Ning Cheng would have left without any hesitation. This woman wanted to kill him back then, so how could she dare to mention the Perpetual Moon Time Key?

But hearing Shui Wuchang ask about such a stupid thing, Ning Cheng felt a little speechless. He also guessed that something must have happened to her Shui Clan. Otherwise, Shui Wuchang would not come here. Moreover, by saying those words, it was as if she was trying to find a way out of something.

After hesitating for a little bit, Ning Cheng gave a pragmatic reply. "First thing first, Duan Gantai is not a good Dao Companion, at least not for you. Second, you won't be able to find Duan Gantai, at least not in a short time even if you want to find him."

Was Duan Gantai a good Dao Companion? Ning Cheng didn't know. But he knew that Duan Gantai never paid any attention to Shui Wuchang. If Duan Gantai had paid any attention to Shui Wuchang, he would never have used Shui Wuchang. As for not finding Duan Gantai for now, that was the truth. Duan Gantai wanted to advance to the Eternal Realm and go to the Temple of Time. It would be strange if he had any free time to do anything else.

"Many thanks, Senior Apprentice Brother Ning. Senior Apprentice Brother Ning, please don't go to the Mysterious Yellow Starland again. A teleportation vortex appeared above Mysterious Yellow Starland's Sacred Light Mountain, and powerful outsiders have established a station there. As for the Mysterious Yellow Starland's native cultivators, if they failed to escape in time, those outsiders would arbitrarily kill them or force them to build new cities for them." After Shui Wuchang said those words, she quickly went out.

Ning Cheng looked at Shui Wuchang's disappearing back and mulled over Shui Wuchang's words. Ning Cheng naturally knew about Sacred Light Mountain, as it had a Mysterious Yellow Temple. He had

almost lost his life in that Mysterious Yellow Temple, if not for the Hope-powered Jade Seal. Moreover, a commanding presence had detected his Mysterious Yellow Bead and even tried to take possession of his body.

After blasting it away, that existence had said that it would return. Was the teleportation vortex that existence's way of returning? However, it looks like it would still take some time. But that experience thought him a valuable lesson about a body's essence spirit.

In any case, Ning Cheng knew that he couldn't delay things any longer. He had to reach the Eternal Realm as quickly as possible. Only by advancing to the Eternal Realm would Ning Cheng have some confidence in facing those experts. As for going to the Mysterious Yellow Starland, he anyway had to make a trip.

Thinking about it, Ning Cheng rushed out and called out to Shui Wuchang, who was about to walk out of the door. He took out a jade card and handed it to Shui Wuchang, saying, "Fairy Wuchang, many thanks for the reminder, this is my Spirit Sense Jade Card."

Shui Wuchang took the jade card in surprise; even her eyes showed the surprise. She couldn't understand Ning Cheng's intent.

Ning Cheng spoke up carefully, "Fairy Wuchang, I want to ask for everything that has anything to do with Wood Origin. The most important thing for me right now is information about the Wood Origin Bead. Ash Pagoda Chamber of Commerce is the premier Chamber of Commerce within the four grand starry skies. Since you're working with this Chamber of Commerce, I just want Fairy Wuchang's help in keeping an eye on any such information. If you find information about the Wood Origin Bead or anything similar, I hope Fairy Wuchang would crush the jade card immediately to inform me. As long as you can let me know about it in advance, I promise not to mistreat you."

Shui Wuchang's expression calmed down again before she nodded and said, "I will help Senior Apprentice Brother Ning keep an eye on it. Please rest assured."