

The Gate 881

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Chapter 881: Ning Cheng's Role

When the two Human-faced Poison Centipedes saw the crowd withdraw to a certain distance but didn't leave, they immediately screamed at each other as if discussing something. Although those present here didn't understand the 'language', they knew that these two Human-faced Poison Centipedes would eventually attack them as long as they stayed here.

Qu Baiyi, the one wearing a white robe, suddenly spoke up, "There are still twenty-four people here. Since everyone decided to stay here, we naturally have the same intentions about the divine grasses concealed behind the array formations. But if we can't kill these two Human-faced Poison Centipedes, we can forget about the divine grasses in this place. I think we should split into two groups, one group to deal with one Human-faced Poison Centipede. Huo Erqi and I will remain in one group, which means we can take in another ten people."

Qu Baiyi just finished his words when ten cultivators, who had already noticed the opportunity, quickly rushed up and landed beside Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi.

The eleven people on Ning Cheng's side couldn't even choose a side and got assigned to the other group by default.

Some of the slow-thinking cultivators saw Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi form a group together could only look at each other. In this place, people considered Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi as powerful experts. Moreover, both of them had a spot amongst the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children. Therefore, according to conventional thinking, these two men should have formed two separate groups. Yet, the two people decided to create a group together.

How many fools could cultivate to the Eternal Realm and enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm? Everyone already understood that Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi had murder in their hearts.

Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi, plus the ten other experts, this kind of strength would be more than enough to deal with one of the Human-faced Poison Centipedes. The other group of twelve didn't have any strong or capable leader to lead them. Meaning the other Human-faced Poison Centipede could kill them one-by-one. They would only serve to delay it for some time at most.

Qu Baiyi aimed explicitly for this delay. By the time their group killed the first poison centipede, most of the other group would have already fallen. Plus, with their hands now freed, they could join hands with the survivors to kill the second Human-faced Poison Centipede. In this way, not only would they kill the two Human-faced Poison Centipedes but also reduce the number of people aiming for the divine grasses.

Seeing the other group of twelve not speaking, Qu Baiyi continued. "Just as this friend said previously, we should all work together to take on this challenge and then distribute the divine grasses according to strength. There are two Human-faced Poison Centipedes here, and I'm sure that no one would want to idle around and then ask for their share while others risk their lives."

After speaking, he shot a cold stare at Ning Cheng. Just now, he purposely said those words directed at Ning Cheng, who had opposed Huo Erqi's proposal.

Seeing Qu Baiyi staring at Ning Cheng, some of the people standing close to Ning Cheng subconsciously stepped away.

Huo Erqi promptly seized the opportunity and added onto Qu Baiyi's words, "I also agree with Baiyi's words. If you don't want to fight, please leave this place immediately. But there is also one ugly thing that I will say to you all. In case you decide to leave this place, and information about this place somehow got leaked out. In that case, you'd be making a sword enemy of Baiyi and me."

Several of the cultivators already had thought of retreating before these two people had spoken up. Who among them didn't know about the aggressive nature of the Human-faced Poison Centipede? But Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi were also the same; no one wanted, no, dared to offend either of them.

Ning Cheng walked out of the group slowly and brought out a middle-rank spear-type spirit artefact before speaking up with a calm tone. "In that case, count me in the other group. Any of the dao friends here wanting to join my group can come over. As for those unwilling, you can do whatever you like."

"I want to join Brother Huo and Brother Qu...." Hearing what Ning Cheng said, someone immediately spoke up. Ning Cheng had already offended both Huo Erqi and Qu Baiyi. Who would want to stay with him?

Ning Cheng smiled and then said to Qu Baiyi, "Brother Qu, this friend said that he doesn't want to be in a group. Let's attack together."

Before Qu Baiyi could answer, the expression of the cultivator who just spoke suddenly changed. He quickly retorted, "Careful of what you speak. Don't try to instigate discord. When did I say that I don't want to be in a group?"

Ning Cheng gave a cold snort, "Did you forget how to count, or have you gone blind? We need to divide the twenty-four people here into two groups. The other group already has 12 people, and you say you want to join them. Wouldn't it mean that the other group would have one less?"

"You...." Hearing Ning Cheng's sharp words, the cultivator suddenly felt angry.

Huo Erqi heard the two Human-faced Poison Centipede's screams getting louder and could also feel the aura starting to overflow from their bodies. From the looks of it, those two would rush over at any time. Therefore, he didn't bother to talk nonsense anymore and said with a cold voice, "That's the end of it. Our group of twelve will deal with the Human-faced Poison Centipede on the left. The rest will take care of the one on the right. Those unwilling to join the other group can get lost."

As soon as Huo Erqi's voice fell, the two poison centipedes rushed over.

Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi simultaneously brought out their weapons and, at the same time, shouted at the other, "Stop the other one."

Huo Erqi and Qu Baiyi truly had the strength to back up their reputation. As the two stretched out domains, they quickly superimposed over the others' domains in their group. The twelve people

promptly brought out their weapons and simultaneously activated them, which allowed them to block the Human-faced Poison Centipede's charge on the left.

As for the Human-faced Poison Centipede, it pounced directly towards Ning Cheng's group. At the same time, a unique spacial constraint descended, intending to suppress everyone. Ning Cheng didn't do anything at all but instead encouraged his domain to block the Human-faced Poison Centipede's space constraint on him.

The two who wanted to escape ended up fully bound by the Human-faced Poison Centipede. A spacial vortex suddenly appeared and sucked away the two into the mouth of the Human-faced Poison Centipede. The group at their side hadn't come together, but the poison-centipede rushed over and had devoured two people. It immediately disorganised the remaining people in the group.

The three cultivators who were still on the periphery immediately decided to escape without hesitation and disappeared without a trace in an instant. Divine grasses were tempting, but no matter how alluring, one could only enjoy them if one was alive.

The rest of the people, including Ning Cheng, were bound by the spacial constraint unleashed by the Human-faced Poison Centipede. Even if they wanted to leave, they couldn't get away for a while.

"Everyone, let's do our best together. Otherwise, we'll just be waiting for our deaths." Before Ning Cheng could even speak up, someone here quickly spoke the thing he wanted to say.

Ning Cheng saw that the rest couldn't escape and understood that they had decided to work together. Only then did Ning Cheng fully spread out his domain. At the same time, he also cast the Maximal Flame Spirit Technique.

Ning Cheng's Maximal Flame Spirit Technique was no longer the same as the previous pseudo-spirit technique. Instead, it had transformed into an actual spacial flame spirit technique.

The Human-faced Poison Centipede attacking Ning Cheng's group had just swallowed the two people and gained the upper hand. It powered up once again and spat out more of those grey spacial vortices. But just when another Eternal cultivator was about to get sucked in, the surrounding space suddenly turned violent.

A spacial collapse appeared right below the Human-faced Poison Centipede's mouth, and a terrifying heatwave spread out.

The moment this spacial collapse appeared, the spacial vortex spat out by the Human-faced Poison Centipede started to disperse it. From this, everyone thought that the spacial collapse created by Ning Cheng's Maximal Flame Spirit Technique would quickly get sucked into the spacial vortex spat out by the centipede. However, everyone also understood that Ning Cheng hadn't fully activated the spirit technique.

A late-stage Eternal cultivator yelled at Ning Cheng impatiently. "Don't use this meaningless spirit technique. Even if you fully cast that spirit technique, it wouldn't harm the Human-faced Poison Centipede....."

Ning Cheng ignored the screaming cultivator. If he were such an idiot, he would have died a hundred times already.

A Spiritual Consciousness Chop slammed into the Sea of Consciousness of the Human-faced Poison Centipede silently. The spacial vortex formed by the Human-faced Poison Centipede suddenly turned weak. It allowed the Eternal cultivator, who was about to get sucked into the giant vortex, to escape the constraints immediately.

While the person was still under shock, a terrifying flame exploded out under the head of the Human-faced Poison Centipede from the spacial collapse.

The Human-faced Poison Centipede let out a scream as its chin immediately exploded from the explosive force contained within the Maximal Flame Spirit Technique. Black blood sprayed all over, falling like a rain of blood.

When Ning Cheng's Maximal Flame Spirit Technique exploded, his Spiritual Consciousness Chop also got forced out of the Human-faced Poison Centipede's Sea of Consciousness.

The cultivators in the group with Ning Cheng immediately understood that Ning Cheng truly was a powerhouse. It immediately alleviated everyone's confidence, and they all started to put forth their best. Even if the Human-faced Poison Centipede grew angry at Ning Cheng and raged out even more powerfully, the battle no longer was one-sided.

All kinds of spirit technique and skill blasted out. The Human-faced Poison Centipede had already experienced Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness Chop and got injured by Ning Cheng's Maximal Flame Spirit Technique. Therefore, even if it raged, it would only be for a while. As long as they could survive through this period, they would then gain the upper hand.

No one knew that Ning Cheng used a Spiritual Consciousness-based attack. But everyone knew that they had to put everything they had to get through this and survive.

Apart from casting one or two Maximal Flame Spirit Techniques during the fight, Ning Cheng used the Traceless Spear Pattern against this Human-faced Poison Centipede.

However, the Human-faced Poison Centipede had a varied repertoire of attacks. Apart from the Poison Mist Blades that it kept shooting out, even its blade-like feet were akin to spirit artefacts. Every time it connected with a cultivator's spirit technique, it resulted in a huge celestial essence explosion.

But the most potent attack method of this Human-faced Poison Centipede was the spacial vortex it shot from its mouth. Once caught by the Human-faced Poison Centipede's spacial vortex, you'd end up in the mouth of the Human-faced Poison Centipede.

Ning Cheng purposefully didn't use any of his other means. Instead, he repeatedly used the Spiritual Consciousness Chop to sneak in a few attacks. Once anyone got caught up in the Human-faced Poison Centipede's spacial vortex, he would immediately attack it with the Spiritual Consciousness Chop. Every time the Sea of Consciousness of the Human-face Poison Centipede got hit, its spacial vortex would suddenly weaken. At that time, Ning Cheng's long spear would inevitably shoot out to rescue the trapped cultivator.

It made the Human-faced Poison Centipede truly angry. Although it didn't let Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness Chop cut into its Sea of Consciousness, Ning Cheng's persistent actions severely limited

its strength. It had to let go of its prey at every critical juncture. This kind of frustration made it so that it wanted to rush out to Ning Cheng's side and swallow Ning Cheng whole.

In just a few breaths, Ning Cheng's group's cultivators quickly caught onto a few things. Ning Cheng was the reason why their group had the upper hand right now, as none of the seven remaining in the group had fallen.

As long as Ning Cheng didn't fall, the Human-faced Poison Centipede would also find it impossible to devour them. As for their bodies' infected wounds, once they got rid of the Human-faced Poison Centipede, they could then take the time to detoxify them. Understanding these points, the seven quickly divided their responsibilities. Two of the seven remained behind to protect Ning Cheng, while the rest attacked the Human-faced Poison Centipede with all their strength.

No matter how powerful was the body of the Human-faced Poison Centipede. No matter how powerful the suction power of those spacial vortexes. With Ning Cheng's Spiritual Consciousness Chops sneaking it from the side, it couldn't exert its full strength. If alone, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness couldn't compare to the Human-faced Poison Centipede. But he didn't have to fight alone right now. Ning Cheng just had to take care of the most lethal attacks from the Human-faced Poison Centipede. In contrast, others could take care of killing the Human-faced Poison Centipede.

As everyone expected, in just half an hour since the Human-faced Poison Centipede started its rampage, it had already weakened considerably. At this time, Ning Cheng didn't even need to use the Spiritual Consciousness Chop. The others could easily hold their own against the now-weakened Human-faced Poison Centipede.

Another half-an-incense stick later, the Human-faced Poison Centipede let out a roar. The next instant, a black-faced cultivator from their group smacked it to the ground. After that, it could no longer get up.

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Chapter 882: Contradiction

Although everyone worked together, the seven people in Ning Cheng's group still couldn't believe that they managed to defend against and even kill the Human-faced Poison Centipede. Except for Ning Cheng, who remained untouched, the seven people only suffered some minor injuries. But minor injuries and death were two completely different things. The seven worked together and killed a Human-faced Poison Centipede, yet they suffered only a few minor injuries. It truly was a great matter.

The group then glanced at quite a few celestial essence explosions and multi-coloured lights resulting from various spirit techniques in the distance. But regardless of everything, Ning Cheng's group confirmed that they were the only ones to have completed their part of the task. All that remained was to collect the divine grasses.

"They are only seven people left in that group." A female cultivator spoke up in surprise. Everyone looked over and saw that the other group now only contained seven people.

The group containing the two men from the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children had already lost five people while fighting the Human-faced Poison Centipede. Apart from the three people who had decided to escape earlier, Ning Cheng's group had only lost two people to the Human-faced Poison Centipede. Moreover, the two got swallowed before the group had the chance to come together.

The previous cultivator, who said that Ning Cheng's spirit technique was nothing but a useless move, took the initiative to come to Ning Cheng before bowing and apologising. "I didn't know that this dao friend was so strong. I was blind and uttered some useless and insulting words. I hope this dao friend can forgive me. Since we managed to kill this poison centipede because this dao friend, this dao friend should be the one to decide distribution."

Although Ning Cheng's performance wasn't very outstanding, as long as they weren't fools, they knew that the only reason they survived and won was because of Ning Cheng's help. Methods that one couldn't see were the most terrifying means of all. Offending Ning Cheng, an expert of such unknown techniques, meant offending a person who wasn't any less dangerous than the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children. Only an idiot would choose to do that.

Moreover, the remaining people also understood that their group lost two people to the Human-faced Poison Centipede due to Ning Cheng's deliberate inaction. Besides, of the two who died to the Human-faced Poison Centipede, one already wanted to escape. While the other had openly wished to join the other group.

Ning Cheng only smiled, "This time, the only reason we were able to kill the Human-faced Poison Centipede was because of us giving it our all. Alone, none of us could have taken it. Besides, the seven of us are of the same team, with no one strong or weak. As for this Human-faced Poison Centipede, I'm not going to ask for it. You can just divide it among yourselves."

With that, Ning Cheng casually glanced at the faces and expressions of the other six people. Ning Cheng's current disguise was that of a fierce-looking fellow. Therefore, this time, when his gaze swept over them, it appeared cold and made the other six people feel chills running down their spines.

The six people 'understood' the implications of Ning Cheng's gaze and words. That is, don't reveal my methods outside; otherwise, I wouldn't like it. When asked, we all worked together to defeat it. What's more, Ning Cheng even mentioned that he didn't want the Human-faced Poison Centipede, which made the other six quite ecstatic. A Human-faced Poison Centipede's body had quite a high value already. Plus, with the few rings in its stomach already, its value had increased by several folds.

Although the six people didn't understand why Ning Cheng didn't want the poison centipede, no one would refuse such a generous offer. The six quickly distributed the things on the poison centipede's body and then stood behind Ning Cheng while patiently watching Qu Baiyi's group. However, no one wanted to go up and help the other group with it. Since they already obtained quite a few good things, only a fool would go out looking for trouble instead of staying idle.

Looking at the fight between the Human-faced Poison Centipede and Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi's group, Ning Cheng also gained a new understanding of spiritual consciousness. No wonder people had such an undue attraction to spiritual consciousness cultivation methods. His group could quickly kill the Human-faced Poison Centipede without significant losses. But Ning Cheng understood that it wasn't the result of them having a high level of strength, but because of his Spiritual Consciousness Chops.

He also didn't let the other six people talk about it, not because he was afraid that they would end up leaking information about his strength. But because he felt fearful that his spiritual consciousness spirit techniques would leak out.

Just when the Human-faced Poison Centipede swallowed another person, Huo Erqi's hammer came smashing into its head. The Human-faced Poison Centipede finally gave out a miserable scream before crashing into the ground. A moment later, attacks giving off the aura of various dao laws smashed into the Human-faced Poison Centipede's body, killing it almost in an instant.

After killing the other Human-faced Poison Centipede, Qu Baiyi's group now only contained six people. Moreover, apart from Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi suffering some minor injuries, the other four had quite severe wounds all over their bodies.

Only after the six people divided the Human-faced Poison Centipede's corpse did Qu Baiyi glance at Ning Cheng and spoke up with a soft voice. "Looks like your group have the real powerhouses, with a strength much higher than ours."

Although he said those words, his gaze quickly locked on to Ning Cheng. He suspected that Ning Cheng was the only truly powerful among that group. If it were an ordinary cultivator, who would dare to stand up against the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children?

Ning Cheng gave a slow response, "Everyone in my group gave their best, unlike others, who only used half their strength.."

Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi's expressions immediately changed, making it difficult to look at them. Ning Cheng's words were a mockery at their inability to do their best, which was also the truth. If they had truly given their best, at most, only two people would have died in their group of twelve. If Ning Cheng's group hadn't already dealt with their centipede, they would have probably let one or two more in their group die before ending the fight.

Ning Cheng's words successfully instigated the other group. The surviving cultivators quickly took a few steps away from Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi.

If Ning Cheng hadn't said those words, none of them would have thought about this possibility. But as soon as Ning Cheng spoke up, these cultivators who had teamed up with Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi immediately thought back to the few problems and issues that cropped up during the fight. Their group had two of the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children, so how could they have suffered so much damage? How could they not start to doubt their intentions?

Huo Erqi suddenly gave a cold snort, "Who did you say did not contribute?"

Ning Cheng replied with an even calmer tone, "Are you insinuating that I didn't contribute because I was the least injured in my group? If I were like that, wouldn't I feel guilty about not making any effort?"

Even an idiot could understand that Ning Cheng spoke about Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi. Ning Cheng didn't suffer a single injury at all; at least, compared to Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi's injuries, Ning Cheng practically looked untouched.

Qu Baiyi didn't wait for Huo Erqi to speak, and instead, quickly spoke up. "Both Human-faced Poison Centipedes are dead, so everyone can now grab the divine grasses here. Whoever gets it keeps it."

After speaking, he rushed in first. He knew that at this time, almost no one was on their side. Therefore, he wanted to grab the divine grasses and leave quickly.

When Qu Baiyi moved, the rest also quickly forgot about the other things and rushed in behind him. Ning Cheng also activated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds and rushed in even before Qu Baiyi entered the concealed array formation.

Upon entering the concealed array formation, a more concentrated aura of divine grasses greeted them. He even saw numerous divine grass gardens neatly arranged side-by-side. However, each of the divine grass gardens had a crystal-like array formation. Except for a few gardens in the front that had already broken into, most of the gardens' array formations were still intact and complete. If one wanted to get these divine grasses, one would have to break through these array formations one by one.

Every cultivator that came in understood the reason in just an instant. Almost at the same time, the cultivators quickly rushed over to the medicinal gardens with already broken defensive arrays. All the cultivators had the same thought. That is, to first empty the divine grass gardens with the already broken array formations. Only then would they think of other things.

Ning Cheng was the only one among the thirteen people who didn't rush over. The divine grass gardens with the broken defensive arrays only contained low-level divine grasses. But what he wanted were high-grade divine grasses.

Since each divine grass garden here had the protection of a defensive array, Ning Cheng had the best outcome. Unlike other cultivators, Ning Cheng's attainments in the Dao of Arrays had already far surpassed his cultivation. As such, the defensive arrays here didn't pose much of a challenge to him. For him, he could enter any defensive array here in just a few moments. As for using brute force to open the arrays, even if a few people teamed up, it would still take more than an incense stick worth of time, maybe even longer.

After taking in the situation at hand, Ning Cheng also pounced towards a medicinal garden. However, he chose a high-grade divine grass garden. While the other cultivators robbed the gardens with the already-broken defensive arrays, Ning Cheng quickly broke through the defensive array of a high-grade divine grass garden and entered.

Hundreds of high-grade divine grasses appeared in front of Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng didn't dig out the grasses one by one. Instead, he dropped several array flags and moved the entire garden into his True Spirit World.

"I didn't expect this friend also to be Spirit-tier Array Master. Hehe...." Huo Erqi saw Ning Cheng put away an entire high-grade divine grass garden and spoke with jealousy flashing through his eyes.

By this time, the few medicinal gardens with already-broken array formations had already been robbed clean by everyone. With everything available cleaned up, the other people could only look at Ning Cheng in shock, just like Huo Erqi.

A cultivator qualified to enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm naturally was not a weak one. However, this 'strength' mostly referenced the power of one's cultivation. As for the Dao of Arrays, people didn't usually consider it a measurable 'power'. Besides, there were only a few people as powerful as Ning Cheng when it came to the Dao of Arrays.

Seeing that Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi didn't continue to attack the rest of the medicinal gardens, the other people also stopped their thoughts about it. No one would stupidly go up and attack the medicinal

gardens. Once they ended up breaking down the formations, everyone would immediately swarm towards it. In Other words, breaking open medicinal gardens would be akin to doing thankless labour for everyone else.

Qu Baiyi finally walked up and cupped his fists towards Ning Cheng and said, "This dao friend truly is someone with many means. The medicinal garden here not only has guards but also sealed under array formations. An ancient peerless expert must have arranged it...."

Ning Cheng interrupted Qu Baiyi, "What do you want? If it's nothing, then step aside, don't waste my time and hold me back from digging out the divine grasses."

Qu Baiyi chuckled, "What I mean is, the two Human-faced Poison Centipedes are dead. We also have only thirteen people left. So, let's talk about how to break the rest of the array formations here."

Ning Cheng sneered. Break the array formations here? Put it bluntly, Qu Baiyi wanted to use him to break open the array formations here. Then, they could assign divine grasses.

"Very good....."

Qu Baiyi felt overjoyed when he heard Ning Cheng's words. He thought that this fellow might truly be afraid of him and Huo Erqi.

Ning Cheng continued, "Then, I won't bother you with your work. You can assign things according to what you want. You can go ahead and ignore this little old me."

After Ning Cheng finished, Ning Cheng's figure flashed and appeared beside another high-grade divine grass garden with a still-intact defensive array.

Qu Baiyi's face paled with anger, and his tone no longer had the same gentleness from before, "This friend, do you want to swallow everything by yourself?"

Ning Cheng raised his hand, and a long spear fell into his palm. The aura of his powerful domain stretched out, and he stared at Qu Baiyi with a cold gaze, "Are you deaf, or do you have dementia? We had already decided before entering that we can keep whatever we can grab. Or is it that your face is just like an ass? That what comes out of your mouth is nothing more than fart? Did you truly think that you could take back what you already said?"

"You're looking for death....." Among the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children, Qu Baiyi was the weakest. However, because of this, he also was the one who paid the most attention to face. It was why he wore a scholarly white robe and had an outwardly amicable personality. With Ning Cheng openly ridiculing him to this degree, how could he bear it? A white streak suddenly appeared in the sky as soon as he raised his hand. Qu Baiyi's weapon of choice was a strip of white silk. Under this weapon, even a late-stage Eternal cultivator would find it hard to escape.

Ning Cheng didn't care about Qu Baiyi's attack at all but said to the rest of the people, "There are ten or twenty medicinal gardens here. I suggest that everyone should make temporary teams to attack the garden's defensive array. Don't be like this idiot....."

While talking, Ning Cheng's long spear suddenly erupted with numerous spear patterns, looking almost similar to the white shadow cast by Qu Baiyi. In just an instant, they crossed through the space between the two.

Ning Cheng deliberately didn't ask for a part in the Human-faced Poison Centipede's corpse before, precisely for this moment. He exerted the most significant strength when fighting outside, but he purposefully chose not to divide the spoils. As such, if anyone joined Qi Baiyi and Huo Erqi at this moment to deal with him, it would be a shameless act.

By the time Ning Cheng's words ended, the spear patterns had already clashed with the white shadow of Qu Baiyi's white silk.

Qu Baiyi could acutely feel that Ning Cheng's domain had entirely suppressed his domain. Moreover, the spear patterns had easily pierced through the white shadows created by his white silk. Those spear patterns felt as if each of them carried a force enough to blow a planet into smithereens and crushed every scrap of momentum he had gathered.

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Chapter 883: Escape

I can't win. That was the only thought in Qu Baiyi's head as he saw the two attacks clash against each other.

Qu Baiyi quickly retreated the moment his domain broke. He hoped that Ning Cheng wouldn't take it as an opportunity to chase after him.

Fortunately, Ning Cheng didn't chase after Qu Baiyi. However, the backlash caused his dantian to surge violently. Even his Sea of Consciousness erupted with a tearing pain, causing him almost to spurt out a mouthful of blood.

After finally neutralising the backlash effects, Qu Baiyi looked at Ning Cheng with a blank stare. Who was this cultivator? How was he so powerful? This person's domain wasn't any weaker than that produced by a half-step Dao Sculpting cultivator. No, rather, even half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators would find it hard to match.

One had to know that he held the 11th spot among the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children. It meant that he was far stronger than an ordinary cultivator. Yet, the cultivator's strength in front of him could easily match the top three of the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children. No one else among the rest could match against Ning Cheng.

The other cultivators who wanted to step forward to deal with Ning Cheng quickly stopped. Even Huo Erqi's expression changed a few times, but he didn't say anything. Although Qu Baiyi was below him in the ranking, Qu Baiyi's strength wasn't much below him. Therefore, Huo Erqi had made it a point to not make an enemy out of Qu Baiyi. But noticing the result, he almost felt sure that Ning Cheng was a secret disciple cultivated by a particular prominent sect.

"I'll still repeat what I said earlier. Everyone can already see that there are many divine grass gardens here; grab whatever you can. If anyone dares to disturb me or want to snatch my divine grass garden, then don't blame me for not stopping." Ning Cheng coldly stared at Qu Baiyi. He even snorted before

turning away. He wasn't in the mood to deal with Qu Baiyi and landed in front of a high-grade divine grass garden. Ning Cheng then raised his hands and continuously shot out array flags.

Seeing Qi Baiyi and Huo Erqi staying silent, the other cultivators naturally wouldn't come forward. Moreover, seeing that Ning Cheng had already started to break the formation in front of him, the others quickly formed into teams and began attacking the formations nearest to them. The only difference was that Ning Cheng used array flags to break the formations while the rest of the cultivators had to rely on brute force.

In the beginning, Ning Cheng still had to take a few minutes to break through a formation, but the more formations he broke through, the faster he became.

The others teamed up and broke apart one of the array formations around one medicinal garden after spending some effort and time. But by that time, Ning Cheng had already broken through the defensive formations around five divine grass gardens. Seeing Ning Cheng easily break open one formation after another with so much ease quickly arose the other cultivators' jealousy. But no matter how jealous they felt of Ning Cheng, no one dared to snatch anything from Ning Cheng.

By the time Ning Cheng broke through the seventh high-grade divine grass garden, all the high-grade divine grass gardens had already been swept clean. The only things left were the low-level divine grass gardens.

After half-an-incense stick worth of time, even the low-grade divine grass gardens had been broken open and swept clean. Ning Cheng alone managed to grab more than an 80% share of the divine grasses.

Everyone quickly divided the rest of the divine grasses from the gardens amongst themselves. However, no one left, not even Ning Cheng.

This place had so many divine grasses and even two powerful Human-faced Poison Centipede. From this, everyone understood that this place must contain a top-grade divine source.

After all the divine grass gardens got swept clean, the ground beneath one of the high-grade divine grass gardens still gave off rich spirit qi fluctuations. Moreover, one's spiritual consciousness couldn't penetrate the ground at all.

"This place should contain the source of divine grasses' growth. Let's act together." Huo Erqi pointed to the fluctuations of spirit qi coming from the ground and spoke up. He didn't talk about distribution at all. With Ning Cheng here, he understood that he couldn't continue to act like before and claim the lion's share of the loot.

Everyone readied their weapons and moved forward. Even Ning Cheng held on to his long spear.

More than a dozen people collaborated and attacked at one point. In just a few minutes, a loud bang erupted, and the ground collapsed. Suddenly, an empty world that looked like an endless abyss appeared within the range of everyone's spiritual consciousness.

A moment later, a strong fishy smell erupted. Ning Cheng was the first one to discover that something was wrong. There indeed was a strong fluctuation of spirit qi coming from below. But at the same time, he also saw another Human-faced Poison Centipede sleeping inside this place. The explosion from a

moment ago had woken up that sleeping Human-faced Poison Centipede. It let out a hellish scream before raising its head.

The poison centipede hadn't made any moves yet, but its aura had entirely suppressed everyone. The suppression was so bad that they couldn't even breathe.

Everyone immediately felt a bad premonition. Just the head of this poison centipede exceeded a thousand feet in length. From this, one could say that once this poison centipede stretched out its body, it could easily cover the entirety of this space.

A terrifying spacial vortex suddenly emerged, and four cultivators who had no time to retreat got pulled into it. They couldn't even scream before they lost their lives.

Ning Cheng had noticed that horrifying poison centipede earlier than the others, and he had already backed away immediately. Even so, as the spacial vortex swept over, he still felt the terrifying wave of suction force coming from it.

Moreover, this poison centipede had not fully woken up. Once this Human-faced Poison Centipede fully sobered up, how terrifying would it become? Ning Cheng fully activated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds and escaped as far as possible.

Not only Ning Cheng, but everyone else also did the same and escaped like crazy people.

The Human-faced Poison Centipede quickly discovered that something was not right with its home. Its medicinal gardens had disappeared, and even its two children had also vanished. A terrifying roar erupted from somewhere behind Ning Cheng, and an even more violent spacial collapse seemed to pull Ning Cheng back.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness could only sense a destroyed world at its edge that got swept away by the spacial whirlpool. As for the two cultivators who fled in the same direction as Ning Cheng. They disappeared into the vortex without any ability to resist.

Ning Cheng continued to escape with all his might. Even when he encountered some good divine grasses, he didn't stop to collect. After fleeing for a few days, Ning Cheng could no longer feel the poison centipede's aura at all. Only then did he slump onto the ground and took in a big sigh of relief.

With that terrifying poison centipede sobering up, not many of those dozen people would have managed to escape. Even Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi would find it challenging to escape from it.

When he arrived at this place, Ning Cheng couldn't find his bearings. He just wanted to sense the direction of the teleportation array when two beautiful figures flashed away within the range of his spiritual consciousness.

"Qionghua?" Ning Cheng almost yelled out in surprise. One of the disappearing figures looked precisely like Shi Qionghua.

Whether it was Shi Qionghua or not, Ning Cheng wanted to catch up to that shadow and confirm it.

But just as Ning Cheng was about to rush over, a familiar fishy smell and a powerful suppressive aura washed over him. Ning Cheng fully activated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds once again, choosing a direction opposite to the one taken by the two beautiful-looking female cultivators.

The fishy smell and the suppressive aura both belonged to that horrifying poison centipede. Ning Cheng didn't expect that even when he ran for several days, this poison centipede would still catch up to him. From this, Ning Cheng understood that the poison centipede must have put a mark on him. Since the poison centipede chased him to here, the others must have suffered from bad luck. Maybe he was the last survivor.

This time, however, the poison centipede was fully awake. It no longer was in the previous state of confusion. Ning Cheng could feel the powerful spacial vortex trying to suck him in. He even felt the death-like aura that slowly closed in on him. Even the fishy smell around him had started to grow heavier with each passing moment.

Ning Cheng's heart sank. If this continued, the Human-faced Poison Centipede's domain would suppress him entirely. At that point, the spacial vortex formed by the poison centipede would suck him into its stomach.

At this time, Ning Cheng felt a little regretful. He should have brought out the Starry Sky Wheel. With the Starry Sky Wheel, he could escape and look for the mark without anyone disturbing him.

Ning Cheng kept running like a crazy person, with a long Human-faced Poison Centipede chasing him around. No one dared to come anywhere near the poison centipede's path on seeing this. Some unfortunate cultivators who couldn't get away in time fell into its mouth with it rushing through the area.

But the poison centipede's main target was Ning Cheng. As long as the others escaped to a specific range, the poison centipede would ignore them.

Everyone then focussed on Ning Cheng running in front with the poison centipede chasing after him in shock. Who was this person? What did he do? How could anyone in their right mind choose to anger such a terrifying spirit beast?

Feeling the Human-faced Poison Centipede getting closer and closer, Ning Cheng knew that he had no choice left. If he didn't think of something, today would become his death anniversary next year.

Spiritual Consciousness Chop, Dark Consciousness Storm, Time Wheel, Sunset's Twilight, None-depend-on.....

Ning Cheng went through all the spirit techniques he knew and found that he knew of no spirit technique that could stop, or at least hinder, this Human-faced Poison Centipede chasing after him. It's not that these spirit techniques weren't any good; rather, it was his strength that wasn't up to the mark.

Maybe the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow could stop it for one or two moments. But if he brought out the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow, he would truly die.

Besides, Ning Cheng felt that the strength of the Human-faced Poison Centipede's power was not what the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow could lock onto and kill. Just like his spirit techniques, it's not that the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow couldn't kill it; rather, it was his strength that couldn't support it. If he was a Dao Sculpting cultivator, he could most likely kill this poison centipede in one shot. But unfortunately, he wasn't a Dao Sculpting cultivator. The huge power gap wasn't something that he could fill with other means.

Right now, the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow could block it for one or two moments. But it only referred to the situation if he managed to fire the arrow, not when he hadn't fired the arrow.

Moreover, the strong suction power brought forth by the spacial vortex had already affected Ning Cheng's speed quite drastically. Ning Cheng didn't dare to waste time anymore before turning around and stopping. He had decided on doing something, which either would turn out as something extremely stupid or pure genius. Burning his essence blood, Ning Cheng grabbed the Seven Bridges Realm Book before making seals in the air. He wanted to cast the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique's First Bridge of Coping.

A gloomy and cold air rushed out from the realm book and a huge stone stele then suddenly appeared and blocked the suction force of the spacial vortex. A moment later, five characters appeared on the stone stele 'First Bridge of Coping'. A faint white stone arch bridge then slowly started to materialise behind the stele.

A billowing blood river then suddenly appeared under the bridge. Ning Cheng saw that the Human-faced Poison Centipede had just arrived when the First Bridge of Coping blocked it. No, the bridge didn't block it; rather, it was the Human-faced Poison Centipede who took the initiative to stop. This poison centipede seemed a little afraid of the First Bridge of Coping, but it didn't seem to care much about the growing Yin Qi around it.

The gloomy winds carried with it a sorrowful voice, "No retreat from birth, no retreat from death; once you enter, you never return...."

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness and celestial essence flowed out like a leaking tap. Rather, it felt like a dam emptying through a massive hole. But even then, the First Bridge of Coping and the blood river under the bridge still looked fuzzy.

Ning Cheng felt very gloomy at the sight of this. He understood that he couldn't fully materialise the First Bridge of Coping. Moreover, Ning Cheng could manifest the First Bridge of Coping to such a degree due to the Seven Bridges Realm Book. If it kept going like this, even if the Human-faced Poison Centipede didn't come after him, he would turn into a dried husk.

Fortunately, the centipede stopped in front of the First Bridge of Coping. From the looks of it, it felt some apprehension towards the bridge's low-level version. However, it also couldn't figure out the sudden change in the situation. Ning Cheng could tell from his location that the First Bridge of Coping only had a weak deterring influence on the Human-faced Poison Centipede.

Sure enough, the Human-faced Poison Centipede hesitated for a short while before rushing onto the First Bridge of Coping.

The rolling Yin Winds slowed down the speed of the Human-faced Poison Centipede. It allowed Ning Cheng to take this opportunity and bring out the Starry Sky Wheel. At the same time, he grabbed the Seven Bridges Realm Book and pushed the Starry Sky Wheel to its limits to escape once again.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 884: Lost Stone Forest

As soon as Ning Cheng left, the First Bridge of Coping, which already looked almost transparent, turned even more obscure. By the time the Human-faced Poison Centipede rushed past it, one could only hear some small clanking sounds. A moment later, the First Bridge of Coping disappeared without a trace.

Looking at the Human-faced Poison Centipede still chasing after him, but now at a considerable distance, Ning Cheng felt somewhat relieved. Although he cast the First Bridge of Coping with the support of the Seven Bridges Realm Book, it still consumed a lot of energy and vitality. Fortunately, Ning Cheng didn't need too much celestial essence and spiritual consciousness to escape. Besides, the Starry Sky Wheel only needed Chasing Bull to control it, and he could power it with spirit crystals.

After giving control of the Starry Sky Wheel to Chasing Bull, Ning Cheng focused his attention on the Human-faced Poison Centipede chasing after him. After half a day, Ning Cheng finally felt some relief. Although this Human-faced Poison Centipede could still run after him, his Starry Sky Wheel could at least keep up in speed and stay ahead of it. The current pace of the two was nearly identical.

It was the main reason why Ning Cheng felt so much relief. As long as it couldn't catch up with the Starry Sky Wheel, the Starry Sky Wheel would eventually lose the Human-faced Poison Centipede. It just needed some more time.

Back in the cabin, Ning Cheng finally recalled the figure he saw before the Human-faced Poison Centipede started chasing after him. That person looked too similar to Shi Qionghua, almost precisely the same. But now that Ning Cheng thought back to it, he felt that the person wasn't Qionghua.

What was Qionghua and Luofei's cultivation when they got separated? It should be impossible for Qionghua to become an Eternal cultivator and enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm in such a short time. Even if she used spirit crystals for cultivating, she couldn't have made so much progress in such a short amount of time. Could she?

Whether that person was Shi Qionghua or not, he had to meet that female cultivator first.

Putting aside these things for the moment, Ning Cheng also stopped paying attention to the Human-faced Poison Centipede chasing after him. He took off all his clothes and thoroughly started searching his body for any Spiritual Consciousness Imprints.

Two hours later, Ning Cheng had to burn away all his clothes. He couldn't find a single mark on his body or his clothes; as such, he had to burn his clothes as a precaution and continue escaping.

The Human-faced Poison Centipede didn't seem to want to give up before killing Ning Cheng. Even after chasing Ning Cheng for over a month, it still didn't stop. But just as expected, after a month passed by, the Human-faced Poison Centipede could no longer match its speed with the Starry Sky Wheel.

During this month, Ning Cheng had also resumed cultivation. Unfortunately, even after he recovered his cultivation, he couldn't go down to search for divine grasses as the Human-faced Poison Centipede continued to chase after him.

"Master, that fellow's crazy. I burned almost half a million spirit crystals, yet that fellow is still chasing after us. It must be an idiot. Can't it realise that it can't catch up?" Chasing Bull spoke up angrily on seeing Ning Cheng walk up to the control room. Looking at the star chart, Ning Cheng confirmed that the Human-faced Poison Centipede was still chasing after him.

Ning Cheng smiled and took out a bunch of array discs and handed it to Chasing Bull. “I’ll take control of the Starry Sky Wheel now. You just need to drop these array discs behind us.”

What Ning Cheng had given Chasing Bull were the array discs he had refined at the start. Although these array discs didn’t have to power to block it individually, they could still help hinder the poison centipede.

As Chasing Bull dropped the array discs one by one, the human-faced Poison Centipede’s speed started to slow down gradually. It wasn’t because the array discs managed to stop it, but because of the array discs coming down in the front. As such, the Human-faced Poison Centipede couldn’t maximise its speed.

Moreover, with the Starry Sky Wheel under Ning Cheng’s control, its speed had also risen quite substantially. As a couple of days flew by, the Human-faced Poison Centipede could no longer chase after Ning Cheng. Another day later, Ning Cheng’s spiritual consciousness could no longer detect the human-faced Poison Centipede’s aura.

But to prevent the Human-faced Poison Centipede from catching up, Ning Cheng still kept complete control of the Starry Sky Wheel for the next half a month. He only stopped in front of a stone forest. Rather, Ning Cheng stopped here because he felt something here drawing his Spiritual Consciousness towards it.

Only now did Ning Cheng feel the vastness of the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. He controlled the Starry Sky and flew around for a month or two at almost full speed, yet he didn’t find himself going around in circles.

Putting away the Starry Sky Wheel, Ning Cheng then descended into the stone forest.

This stone forest looked very strange, with tall and steep peaks jutting out of the ground. The tall ones were a hundred or even thousands of feet tall, while the shorter ones were about a few centimetres tall. Standing in the stone forest, Ning Cheng felt as if he had entered a bamboo forest full of bamboo shoots, with high and low bamboo shoots popping up everywhere.

However, no matter where he looked, this stone forest didn’t contain anything apart from those stone peaks. Ning Cheng didn’t even see a single blade of grass. It wouldn’t have mattered if this place was devoid of spirit qi, but Ning Cheng could acutely feel that the spirit qi here was quite dense. This place felt quite suitable for cultivation.

Ning Cheng couldn’t help but ruminate over it as he couldn’t find even a single divine grass in this place. In the Grand Essence Mystic Realm, especially in a spirit qi rich area, no one would believe if someone said that this place contained no divine grasses.

Ning Cheng’s spiritual consciousness stretched out to look at things even more carefully. However, he still did not find any indication of divine grasses.

Quickly, however, Ning Cheng started to feel a slightly cold aura permeating the area apart from the vibrant spirit qi.

As he cultivated the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique, Ning Cheng wasn’t a stranger to different types of cold and even yin-aligned auras. However, he still didn’t like this type of aura very much, so much so that he didn’t want to stay here for long.

But by the time Ning Cheng decided to leave, he discovered something wrong with the place. He couldn't find the exit at all. Moreover, his spiritual consciousness couldn't sweep out of the stone forest, nor could he find any sense of direction in this place.

Ning Cheng forced himself to calm down and activated the Twin Wings of the Heavenly Clouds. However, he quickly fell to the ground. From the looks of it, the stone forest's Forbidden Space Restriction was much stronger than the one over the Grand Essence Ruins' public square. It prevented him from flying too high. Moreover, while passing through the stone forest, he still couldn't find his bearings.

Ning Cheng finally came to an understanding that this place most likely a natural maze. One could go in, but one can't get out.

Ning Cheng didn't grow anxious just because he found himself in a natural maze. He was currently a Spirit Array Master, which meant that even if he didn't have an array pattern, he could still get out of this maze.

It's a pity that he couldn't lure that stupid centipede in here. Otherwise, he could have trapped the poison centipede in the maze before leaving.

Five days later, Ning Cheng stopped scurrying around like a headless fly. Ning Cheng realised that his understanding of the Dao of Arrays couldn't help him in this place. Even though five days had gone by, he couldn't even figure out a single corner of this maze. The only thing he did realise correctly was that this area was a natural maze.

"Snap" Another pile of human bones snapped into two as Ning Cheng touched it. It wasn't one or two times Ning Cheng saw skeletons while walking in this stone forest. Ning Cheng kept checking whether the bones had any rings. If there were any rings, he would have collected them and then continued searching for the array entrance.

A few days later, he picked up two rings. But the bones Ning Cheng found this time made him stop.

The skeleton he found this time was that of a male cultivator. Plus, the clothes on this skeleton looked quite gorgeous and exquisite. Moreover, the robes still looked pristine, with not even a single speck of dust on it. From this, Ning Cheng understood that this robe was also a top-grade artefact. However, it wasn't the robe that surprised Ning Cheng, but rather the skeleton.

The skeleton glowed with a faint golden colour. It even contained a faint aura of dao charms circulating around it. Ning Cheng carefully scanned the frame with his spiritual consciousness, confirming that this cultivator had truly fallen.

After a while, Ning Cheng's eyes fell on the ring on this fallen cultivator's hand. Even Ning Cheng had to admit that he hadn't seen such an ornately carved storage ring. Moreover, the finger bones had a pale blue gem-like light covering them, giving one an impression that one was looking at the blue skies' stars.

Ning Cheng bent down and wanted to take the ring off.

But just when his hand was about to touch the ring, a faint voice emerged, "I haven't died yet, and you want to grab my things?"

Ning Cheng, caught by surprise, quickly backed away and stretched out his hand. A long spear then suddenly appeared in the palm of his hand.

“Don’t worry; it’s not like I can fight anyway. Besides, my essence spirit is feeble to the point of extinguishing. I used a secret method to force my essence spirit into a fake death state. If it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t have woken up at all.” A weak voice once again emerged from the skeleton in front of him.

Ning Cheng’s spiritual consciousness stretched out and truly found a faint trace of essence spirit fluctuations now coming from the skeletal frame. Ning Cheng would never have thought of picking up a ring from a cultivator who had not fallen. Even if he knew that the cultivator couldn’t resist him, he still wouldn’t do such a thing.

Seeing Ning Cheng not taking any action, the skeleton seemed to have heaved a sigh of relief and said, “Shall we have a friendly discussion? If you can help me, I can tell you how to get out of this place. Of course, I can’t guarantee that you and I can get out, lest you say I lied to you.”

Feeling that this skeleton was speaking the truth, Ning Cheng immediately had a good impression about it in his heart. If this skeleton had ‘guaranteed’ that it could take him out, even without saying anything about saving it first, it would have meant that the skeleton had another plan.

Seeing Ning Cheng not speaking, the skeleton thought Ning Cheng wanted his ring, so he didn’t bother with it and continued. “Entering the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest, the chance of survival is almost non-existent. But since you can come here, then it means that the Grand Essence Mystic Realm should have opened once again, right? Well, that doesn’t matter. You can say that no one knows how to get out of the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest except for me. If you want my ring, I can give it to you. But there aren’t any good things inside of it.”

Ning Cheng had to admit that the skeleton was correct about one point. But he still asked about a lingering suspicion, “Did you come here the last time the Grand Essence Mystic Realm opened?”

“Last time?” The skeleton repeated but then fell silent. After a few minutes, it sighed and said, “I’ve slumbered here for over 60,000 years. I got severely injured back then and had to escape to this place 60,000 years ago. I wandered around this place for tens of thousands of years and found many rings. I’m probably the only one who knows the situation in this place. It’s just that although the spirit qi here feels vibrant, one simply can’t absorb it for cultivation. If you noticed the lack of divine grasses in this place, you would have already guessed what’s going on....”

When Ning Cheng heard this, he immediately tried to absorb a trace of spirit qi to try it. However, he stopped immediately. The inability to absorb the spirit qi here didn’t seem to apply to him. He could easily absorb the spirit qi here and turn it into fuel for his cultivation. It most likely was related to the Mysterious Yellow Formless Cultivation Method, but Ning Cheng didn’t say it aloud.

The skeleton continued, “After consuming all the resources I could get, I could only use the secret method to feign death. If no one touched me, I might have never woken up at all.”

Ning Cheng took out two Bodhi Cauldron Heaven Buds and many spirit crystals and threw them towards the skeleton. “I don’t have any medicinal pills, but you can use these two high-grade divine grasses to help you restore your body. You’ll have to do it by yourself.”

The skeleton had lost its muscles, and its essence spirit also had weakened to the point of collapse. Fortunately, although the body had collapsed, the frame remained intact. Bodhi Cauldron Heaven Bud was a high-grade divine grass specifically used to restore one's body. Plus, with a bunch of spirit crystals, Ning Cheng believed that the skeleton could recover soon.

The skeleton grabbed the two divine grasses and the bunch of spirit crystals in a daze, feeling quite overwhelmed. It had never encountered a person like Ning Cheng. Moreover, Ning Cheng hadn't negotiated any terms or talked about anything else before taking out those resources. The skeleton knew the preciousness of a Bodhi Caldron Heaven Bud and knew it wasn't any less precious than an ordinary Dao Fruit. Moreover, rarely if ever, would one find this divine grass within the Grand Essence Mystic Realm.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 885: Myriad paths to perfection

Ning Cheng understood that the skeleton was in shock. If it were before entering the Grand Essence Mystic Realm, not to mention two Bodhi Caldron Heaven Buds, even a leaf from the Bodhi Cauldron Heaven Bud most likely would have been an unattainable treasure for him.

But now, Ning Cheng had harvested more than a hundred Bodhi Cauldron Heaven Buds from the divine grass gardens guarded by those Human-faced Poison Centipedes. Moreover, the bones of this skeleton had a golden glow to them. From this, Ning Cheng also understood that this person was a top-grade body refining expert. Unfortunately, as a top-grade body refining expert, a Bodhi Cauldron Heaven Bud might not be able to entirely restore this person's flesh and blood.

Fortunately, Ning Cheng also felt that this person didn't have nefarious thoughts and wouldn't disregard the fact that someone had helped him recreate his body. It made Ning Cheng a bit more generous than usual and took out two buds for the skeleton.

It hasn't been a day or two since Ning Cheng got trapped in the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest. He naturally realised a few of the horrors in this place and could cultivate in this place. But it didn't matter if it was for one year or 60,000 years; he didn't want to waste time here. In any case, this skeleton was here for tens of thousands of years. Meaning it should have a better idea about how to get out of this place. Besides, Ning Cheng also had no idea about body refining cultivation methods that could take him past the Starry Sky Body. As such, he wanted to consult with the skeleton in front of him on both these points.

The skeleton quickly began to use Ning Cheng's things to restore its essence blood, and body. Ning Cheng also didn't continue to search around and waited on the side.

A few days later, Ning Cheng saw a skinny male cultivator come out of the temporary cave, put away the cave and walk towards him.

At this time, the skeleton finally had some flesh and blood on its frame. Although the male cultivator looked extremely thin and almost bony, it was better than being just a skeleton. This cultivator seemed to have a weak aura around him, but Ning Cheng could tell that he would be quite a powerful expert once he recovered fully.

“Many thanks for this friend’s sincere help. My name is Qi Shisanxing, and I am an Inner Sect Disciple of Profound Moon Spirit Gate.” The male cultivator bowed to Ning Cheng as soon as he walked up. His eyes even glowed with the joy of escaping from certain death.

Ning Cheng had heard about the Profound Moon Spirit Gate; it was one of the top ten sects in the Grand Essence Domain. But the name Qi Shisanxing felt too weird.

But since Ning Cheng had already seen and encountered too many strange things in the world of cultivation, he no longer cared about someone having a peculiar name. Instead, he cupped his fists and spoke with a slightly surprised voice, “I’m called Ning Cheng. Although I could save Brother Qi, it was only an accident. If Brother Qi recovers fully, I might have to rely on Brother Qi.”

Ning Cheng didn’t hide it this time and spoke out his real name.

Qi Shisanxing saw that Ning Cheng had some doubts and smiled before speaking, “When I was born, thirteen stars had appeared on my forehead. But after I opened my eyes, the thirteen stars disappeared into my body. My father took it as an auspicious sign and named me after it. Brother Ning, did you make a special trip to the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest?”

Make a special trip? Ning Cheng waved his hand and said, “No, a Human-faced Poison Centipede chased after me, and I ended up in this place.”

Qi Shisanxing looked at Ning Cheng in shock, “Did you find the medicinal garden of Pill Sage Min Kong? Only Pill Sage Min Kong’s medicinal garden has a Human-faced Poison Centipede holding the fort. But that Human-faced Poison Centipede’s cultivation has long surpassed the Dao Sculpting level. How did you manage to escape?”

Without waiting for Ning Cheng’s answer, Qi Shisanxing’s eyes lit up, “No wonder you could take out two Bodhi Cauldron Heaven Buds. You must have found Pill Sage Min Kong’s medicinal garden....”

“Pill Sage Min Kong’s medicinal garden?” Ning Cheng asked in doubt.

Qi Shisanxing nodded, “Yes. If a Human-faced Poison Centipedes was guarding it, it undoubtedly was the medicinal garden of Pill Sage Min Kong. Pill Sage Min Kong was a top-grade Dao Essence Pill Sage. There isn’t a single person in the entire Grand Essence Realm who would dare to disrespect him.

Unfortunately, the Grand Essence Realm slowly started to run out of divine grasses and places to grow them, for his alchemy.”

“Fortunately, the Grand Essence Mystic Realm is one of the most suitable places to grow divine grasses. Therefore Pill Sage Min Kong decided to dissipate his cultivation and brought his companion beast, the Human-faced Poison Centipede, into the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. I heard that it was to cultivate the divine grasses he needed for a specific alchemy recipe. But after he entered the Grand Essence Mystic Realm, no one heard anything about it. Brother Ning, since you met a Human-faced Poison Centipede, then it must have come from Pill Sage Min Kong’s medicinal garden.”

Ning Cheng couldn’t help but sigh after hearing this. Sure enough, everyone had something for which they could give up everything. Even someone like Pill Sage Min Kong decided to abolish his cultivation just to come to this place to grow divine grasses. Replaced by him, he would have never done such a

thing. From the looks of it, those two poison centipedes most likely were the offspring of that poison centipede. Whether Qi Shisan knew about it or not, Ning Cheng didn't explain it.

Seeing Ning Cheng not speaking, Qi Shisanxing said, "Some people say that Pill Sage Min Kong wanted to reach the Third Step Dao Confirming through the Dao of Pills but failed in the end."

Ning Cheng's consciousness shook on hearing those words, and he quickly asked, "Brother Qi, does Dao Confirming truly have a third step?"

Qi Shisanxing looked at Ning Cheng in doubt and asked, "Brother Ning, looking at your ability, you should be a disciple from a big sect, right? Didn't your master teach you this?"

Ning Cheng only reported a name before and didn't mention anything about a sect. Qi Shisanxing initially thought that Ning Cheng didn't want to speak about it and didn't ask. He never thought that Ning Cheng, someone who could escape a Human-faced Poison Centipede's pursuit, was not affiliated to any sect or faction.

Ning Cheng smiled, "I'm just a rogue cultivator. So no one really would take the time to teach me these things."

Qi Shisanxing felt stupefied and sighed only after a long time before speaking up. "No wonder. Dao Confirming's Third Step does exist, but no one can reach the third step in the Grand Essence Realm because of its broken laws. Therefore, I can only tell you this about the third step. It exists. If you want to enter the third step, you must go to the Grand Change Realm, or at least own an intact law world on the same level as the Grand Change Realm."

"I heard that Dao Perfection is the highest cultivation level in the Grand Essence Realm. Just how powerful is a Dao Perfection expert?" Ning Cheng finally found someone willing to talk about these things. He naturally wouldn't let go of such an opportunity.

"Dao Perfection?" Qi Shisanxing sighed and said, "Actually, not all Dao Perfection experts are as powerful as you think. There are thousands, no, millions of Dao Perfection paths that one can choose. But despite Dao Perfection having a million different paths, in the Grand Essence Realm, only a few cultivators can embark on a 'powerful' Dao Perfection path."

"Can you please elaborate on it?" Ning Cheng had long forgotten about the time or that he had to get out of this place. Instead, he took out a stone chair and placed it next to Qi Shisanxing. He then took out another stone chair and sat down on it.

Qi Shisanxing seemed to know about the difficulties of being a rogue cultivator. As such, he didn't find it abnormal for Ning Cheng to not know about such things. He sat down and said, "Brother Ning, I can explain it to you, but I can only give you a brief about it. If we can come out of the lost stone forest this time, I promise to take you to my Profound Moon Spirit Gate's Literary Pavilion to flip through the classics...."

This kind of promise was a big deal to someone like Ning Cheng, as the most crucial thing he currently lacked right now was information about cultivation. Since Qi Shisanxing promised this, he had a special status within the sect. It also indicated that he felt truly grateful towards Ning Cheng.

Gesturing Ning Cheng to not mind it, Qi Shisanxing continued, "I said that the Dao Perfection Realm is not necessarily as strong as you think. I don't mean that the Dao Perfection Realm in itself is not strong, but that Dao Perfection has too many paths that one can choose to reach it. The most common means of reaching Dao Perfection are the Realm Perfection path, the Artefact Perfection path, and the Artificial Perfection path. However, my father told me that people who reach Dao Perfection through these paths aren't powerful Dao Perfection experts....."

Seeing Ning Cheng wanting to ask something, Qi Shisanxing waved his hand, "Brother Ning, you don't need to ask me about it. I don't know the strongest path to reach Dao Perfection; even my father does not know about it. I can only speak about the common paths in the Grand Essence Realm that lead to Dao Perfection. Realm Perfection path is the most common and gives a huge boost to your strength post-Dao Perfection. It's a Dao Transformation type that allows the person to coexist on the same level as an interface. Anyone in this Dao Perfection expert's interface would be nothing more than an ant in that person's eyes. However, if that person wants to leave the interface, although not impossible, it would be extremely difficult."

"As for the path of Artefact Perfection, it's only for those who have the 'best' innate treasure. In this path, a cultivator combines one's cultivation with one's innate treasure and searches for the pinnacle of cultivation with the innate treasure's strength. Compared to the Realm Perfection path, this kind of expert can go anywhere and is, in general, freer. However, one first needs to cut off all emotions before merging with the innate weapon to reach Dao Perfection....."

Ning Cheng sighed and asked, "How's it any different from becoming a weapon spirit?"

Qi Shisanxing smiled, "It's completely different from being a weapon spirit. Experts who reach Dao Perfection through this method use their innate weapons to pin down their Dao Intent instead of transforming themselves into a weapon spirit. As for the Artificial Perfection path, my father said that it's not a path to reach Dao Perfection at all. Rather, it's just a method that some people use to get close to reaching Dao Perfection. At best, it makes one equivalent to a half-step Dao Perfection Holy Emperor. Although such people are stronger than Dao Fusion experts, they cannot compare to the real Dao Perfection powerhouses."

Ning Cheng shook his head; none of these three paths to reaching Dao Perfection suited him, nor did he want to pursue any of these three paths.

Qi Shisanxing saw Ning Cheng shaking his head and smiled once again before speaking. "We're still a hundred and eight thousand miles away from reaching Dao Perfection. Don't think about it too much."

Ning Cheng put aside these things and asked, "Brother Qi, you asked if I came here specifically. Does no one come here otherwise?"

Qi Shisanxing sighed and said, "I came here with a specific purpose. A cultivator's foundations determine how far they can go after reaching the Dao Confirming Realm and whether they could even reach the Dao Confirming Realm. Apart from understanding the dao and the spirit essence conversion, the most important thing required is a strong Sea of Consciousness, along with a condensed spiritual consciousness."

Ning Cheng agreed with this point, "Yes, I agree with Brother Qi."

Ning Cheng could battle far above his cultivation level mainly due to his Sea of Consciousness. Of course, his powerful cultivation method and celestial essence also played a part. However, the stronger one's Sea of Consciousness, the more intense the epiphanies of Dao Laws and spirit techniques that one would experience.

"Many of the powerful sects know that the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest has a way to condense spiritual consciousness and produce a powerful Sea of Consciousness. However, nobody knows how to achieve it. For countless years, nobody knows how many people have entered the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest. But one thing for certain is that not a single one has managed to come out. Even if someone somehow found a way to get out, they would still fall in this place."

Speaking of this, Qi Shisanxing sighed again and felt somewhat embarrassed. Although Ning Cheng had rescued him, he still didn't know if he could get out or not.

"This place has a way to condense spiritual consciousness? Why haven't I heard of it?" Ning Cheng asked in surprise.

Qi Shisanxing showed a wry smile, "The original name of Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest is the Grand Essence Lost Forest. It means that anyone who enters this place will become lost and eventually fall. People who know about it would rarely come to this place willingly. Moreover, this place is too far away from the teleportation array. Even if a full-circle Eternal cultivator flew towards it at full speed, it would still take them three to four months and the same time to get back."

"Because of this, most cultivators wouldn't even bother coming here at all. Besides, this information isn't available to even inner sect disciples, let alone rogue cultivators."

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Chapter 886: Condensing the first bridge

Ning Cheng nodded; what Qi Shisanxing said did make sense. Not everyone had a Starry Sky Wheel. But even with the Starry Sky Wheel, it took him two months to reach this place at full speed. Replaced with another flight-type weapon, it wouldn't be a surprise if it took him three, four or even five months to reach this place.

"I have already reached the full circle of the Eternal Realm and about to step into the Dao Sculpting Realm. Although I came to the Grand Essence Mystic Realm, I didn't come here for the Grand Essence Great Meet. I just want to look for a way to condense my spiritual consciousness and expand my Sea of Consciousness. But even if I came here fully prepared, I almost fell into this Grand Essence Maze. If I wasn't a body refining cultivator, I might have already fallen long before you came....."

Ning Cheng interjected with a doubt, "Brother Qi, you said that one couldn't walk out of this place, or even cultivate in this place. But even if one didn't have spirit crystals or medicinal pills, one wouldn't die in this place, right? This place doesn't seem to contain any danger."

Qi Shisanxing shook his head, "If you stayed in this place for a few months, you would also understand why I said those words. Even if you have a strong Sea of Consciousness, you will start to fall into hallucinations after one month. Later, once you begin to feel weak, you would try to use your various cultivation resources to arrange Spiritual Gathering Arrays for cultivation. But even if you did that, you

wouldn't be able to cultivate for even half a day before you threw away everything and look for another place."

"On the way, you'd even end up fighting against non-existent monsters condensed out of Yin Qi. Unable to absorb the spirit qi in this place, you might even resort to throwing down spirit crystals in the fight to arrange Spiritual Gathering Arrays....."

Ning Cheng frowned; if what Qi Shisanxing said was the truth, no one could stay alive in this place for a long time.

Qi Shisanxing sighed, "I've been struggling here for tens of thousands of years, yet I barely can resist those illusions. But you have to be careful. If you stay here for too long, you will also get affected. Therefore, we have to take advantage of you not being affected and leave this place quickly."

"How do we leave?" Ning Cheng took in a deep breath. He didn't think that Qi Shisanxing lied to him.

Qi Shisanxing's expressions turned serious as he spoke up in a deep voice. "While I wandered this Lost Stone Forest for tens of thousands of years, I found a jade strip from one of the fallen cultivators. The jade strip mentioned that this maze-like stone forest has a special type of chalcedony, called Divine Chalcedony. One can mix this divine chalcedony with some divine grasses and refine it into Spirit Essence Pills. Spirit Essence Pills help in increasing one's spiritual consciousness and also expand the Sea of Consciousness. But this medicinal pill can not only expand one's Sea of Consciousness, but it can also prevent cultivators from getting lost within the Lost Stone Forest. The most feared thing within the Lost Stone Forest is to get lost. If we can prevent that, we can then find a way out with our strength."

"Then, how did you end up wandering this place for sixty thousand years?" Ning Cheng asked with a quiet voice.

The dry skin on Qi Shisanxing's face twitched a few times before he finally spoke up. "That's because life rarely goes as planned. Every month, I fall into madness. I exhaust my strength and spiritual consciousness in that bout of madness and finally faint. Again and again, it's been a never-ending hell for me. Only this strong body of mine helped me survive this torture. But I would also be lying if I said that I didn't hate and curse at it at times."

"When I woke up, all the previous inferences about the way out of the Lost Stone Forest would get blurred, and I end up repeating everything once again. In the end, I understood that there wasn't any point in going on like this. Therefore, I no longer tried to infer a way out but kept memorising all the important information I could find from the fallen cultivators. Especially information about the Divine Chalcedony, Spirit Essence Pills and the hallucinations."

"Why didn't you use jade strips to inscribe these things. Just like the jade strip that contained information about the Spirit Essence Pill?" Ning Cheng asked once again.

Qi Shisanxing shook his head, "If you want to try inscribing a jade strip in this place, you can go ahead and try it. You'll come to why."

Ning Cheng immediately took out an empty jade strip and engraved the words Qi Shisanxing spoke just now. But he quickly discovered something wrong. The words Ning Cheng carved had disappeared. He

tried one more time and got the same result. From this, he understood that there was no way to engrave a jade strip in this place.

"I suspect that cultivator brought the jade strip I got from outside. Plus, I think that cultivator was also an Alchemy Master. He should have come here looking for the Divine Chalcedony. I guess he couldn't find it and ended up falling in the Lost Stone Forest just like the others." Qi Shisanxing didn't care about Ning Cheng taking out a jade strip and testing what he just said. He would have done it himself if someone else had told him this information.

Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest, Divine Chalcedony, Spirit Essence Pill, Pill Sage Min Kong, Divine Grass Gardens.....

Irrelevant things started to appear in Ning Cheng's mind for no reason. He suddenly thought about why Pill Sage Min Kong decided to abolish his cultivation before coming here. Was it to re-cultivate his spiritual consciousness and open up a new Sea of Consciousness? If that was the case, did Pill Sage Min Kong also fall in the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest?

Qi Shisanxing didn't know that Ning Cheng's thoughts turned so quickly. He continued to voice his opinions, "Well, none of us is a Pill Deity, and we also don't have any pill recipe. I only have one way, that is, we try our best to find some Divine Chalcedony. I don't know if it would have any effect before turning it into a pill. But as long as it can keep us from getting lost, we can find a way out....."

Ning Cheng wanted to say that he was already a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity. But thinking about refining pills like the Spirit Essence Pill, he felt that it wasn't something a newly advanced Dao Sculpting Pill Deity could refine. Especially without a pill recipe.

"What if we get lost even after finding Divine Chalcedony?" Ning Cheng asked.

Qi Shisanxing sighed once again, "Then we can only wake up and go at it once again after losing ourselves. Maybe, in the end, you will also turn into a skeleton and wait for other people to save you. Because every time you wake up after descending into madness, it would feel as if countless things were gnawing at you. People wouldn't notice the loss in weight, but everyone would notice the Yin Qi accumulating in the Sea of Consciousness. Therefore, once someone wakes up, the first thing you should do is to drive out the Yin Qi."

Ning Cheng then took out a long spear, pointed it at a giant stone summit in front of him and said, "Let's try to level out these stone peaks first; that way, we can get a clearer picture....."

"Please don't....." Qi Shisanxing stopped Ning Cheng before Ning Cheng could finish his words. "There is no Divine Chalcedony among these stone peaks. If you try to do it, you'll immediately fall into madness. You wouldn't even have the time to shatter one of the stone peaks completely....."

"Then, do you have a better solution? And how do you know that these stone peaks have no Divine Chalcedony?" Ning Cheng asked while looking at Qi Shisanxing.

Qi Shisanxing shook his head, "At the beginning, I used a secret method to break a few small stone peaks. But none of them contained any Divine Chalcedony inside. Moreover, attacking the stone peaks would create a stronger illusion and increase your madness duration. My way is to look for Divine Chalcedony slowly....."

As he reached this point, Qi Shisanxing started to lose confidence. He had been searching for tens of thousands of years already, not to mention Divine Chalcedony; he hasn't found even a drop of water.

Ning Cheng looked at Qi Shisanxing's expression and understood that he had no confidence. Besides, since Ning Cheng had already wandered around this place for a few days, he understood that he wouldn't gain any results using such a method. Sooner or later, they would have to attack these stone peaks. Therefore, it was better to attack while they still had the energy to do so.

"Brother Qi, I must give it a try. Let me give it a try first. If I don't try smashing these stone peaks, I wouldn't be able to settle down and slowly search for Divine Chalcedony."

Qi Shisanxing could see Ning Cheng's determined look and understood that he couldn't stop Ning Cheng. As such, he had no choice but to say, "Wait, let me first go into fake death state. You can then try it. Otherwise, you might end up attacking me in madness....."

After speaking, he ran into the former cave and lay down. An instant later, he closed off all his sensed and entered a death-like state.

Ning Cheng didn't care about Qi Shisanxing either. He took a deep breath, realigned his long spear and aimed it at one of the stone peaks about a hundred feet in height. The next moment, he immediately stuck it at full power.

Celestial essence blew up, causing space to buzz and vibrate. Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness stopped suddenly as a power to tear apart the surrounding area erupted from the stone peak. Ning Cheng even felt a shadow suddenly appear and cover his Sea of Consciousness. Moreover, there seemed to be something that resonated with his Sea of Consciousness that negatively affected it.

Endless Yin Qi poured out from underground, forming one demonic beast after another. These beasts didn't even linger before pouncing onto Ning Cheng. A powerful suppressing force then erupted, and Ning Cheng's celestial essence blasting towards the stone peak suddenly weakened. By the time it reached the target, it felt like a strand of grass stroking the surface of a rock.

But because of Qi Shisanxing's reminder, Ning Cheng had already prepared himself. Therefore, when the endless Yin Qi poured out from underground and turned into Yin Qi demonic beasts, Ning Cheng reminded himself that it was just an illusion. He firmly guarded his Sea of Consciousness and even let the Mysterious Yellow Aura continue to scour his Sea of Consciousness. He did feel slightly afraid that he might still fall into hallucinations.

But what horrified Ning Cheng was that it didn't matter how the Mysterious Yellow Origin's aura scoured his Sea of Consciousness. His Sea of Consciousness still kept growing dim. Moreover, the attacks from the Yin Qi demonic beasts had also started to affect him. If his Sea of Consciousness wasn't more robust than average, he might have already fallen into a frenzy of counter-attacks.

It made him want to cast all the various spirit techniques he knew to destroy those Yin Qi demonic beasts in front of him. However, he didn't reach the point in the illusion where he had to lay down Spiritual Gathering Arrays as Qi Shisanxing had mentioned. It most likely was because he could absorb the Spirit Qi in this place and already had a Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness.

Ning Cheng unconsciously shot out a Time Wheel. The illusion felt too real, and Ning Cheng started to feel afraid of stopping himself from counterattacking.

The Yin Qi demonic beasts seemed endless. No matter how many the Time Wheels killed, the Yin Qi demonic beast kept spawning. Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness started to wither up more and more and even grow dimmer. It felt as if many foreign enemies had invaded his Sea of Consciousness. Not only that, but he also started to feel his celestial essence beginning to run out.

Not good. Ning Cheng reacted unexpectedly. It wasn't an illusion at all. The rest might be hallucinations, but these yin demons must be the real deal. He kept scouring his Sea of Consciousness with the Mysterious Yellow Origin Aura. After a moment, he realised why this cold aura felt a bit familiar.

Ning Cheng finally understood how those bones formed. It was a type of attack that combined illusion with reality. Once caught inside it, the target would eventually pass out. Then these yin demons would devour the comatose cultivator's flesh and blood. Qi Shisanxing was a body-refining cultivator; thus, it would have been a difficult thing for these yin demons to devour his flesh and blood. It was most likely the only reason he managed to persist for so long and explained the gnawing sensation he talked about previously.

When these yin demons attacked, something in this place formed a resonance with one's Sea of Consciousness, which seemed to empower the illusions. However, Ning Cheng became more and more confident that at least these yin demons weren't hallucinations at all.

After thinking about this, Ning Cheng raised his hand and grabbed the Seven Bridges Realm Book. At the same time, he flipped his hand and cast the first spirit technique, the Bridge of Coping.

The vague stone stele of the first bridge appeared once again. A moment later, a pale stone arch bridge that was as vague as Ning Cheng used to deal with the Human-faced Poison Centipede slowly started to materialise.

But this time, Ning Cheng didn't need to burn his essence blood. There were many yin demons here, and their strength couldn't compare to the Human-faced Poison Centipede.

Therefore, as soon as the First Bridge of Coping came out, yin winds started to roar, and a fuzzy blood river began to flow under the bridge.

The yin demons formed out of Yin Qi rushed towards the First Bridge of Coping like moths rushing towards a flame. Reaching the First Bridge of Coping, a mysterious voice emerged, "No retreat from life, no retreat from death. Once you enter, you never return.... Not looking homewards, no reincarnation, jump into the blood river to wash your sins...."

As this voice emerged, those yin demons condensed out of Yin Qi started rushing up the bridge with even more frenzied enthusiasm.

At this moment, Ning Cheng didn't even need to stimulate his celestial essence or spiritual consciousness. The First Bridge of Coping automatically started to grow clear. The more yin demons rushed over it, the clearer the First Bridge of Coping became.

Looking at the countless yin demons that kept rushing onto the bridge to their deaths, Ning Cheng couldn't help but mutter to himself. "So one honed and condensed the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique through such a method."

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Chapter 887: Divine Chalcedony

Ning Cheng gleefully looked at the First Bridge of Coping. As it became clearer and more apparent, he started to imagine the same thing happening to the second, third and other bridges. Once the five bridges solidified, he could escape from that poison centipede without much effort, even if he met it again.

Unfortunately, fantasy would remain as fantasy. Just at the critical moment when the First Bridge of Coping was about to become a reality, the endless yin demons disappeared without a trace. As a result, the materialisation of the First Bridge of Coping also stopped.

The surrounding illusions also disappeared, and the Yin Qi in the surrounding also dissipated. The stone forest was still the stone forest, and Qi Shisanxing remained in a comatose state within the cave, without any changes.

Ning Cheng frowned slightly. Without the yin demons, he might not be able to condense the First Bridge of Coping fully.

Feeling somewhat reluctant, Ning Cheng didn't put away the First Bridge of Coping. Instead, he stimulated the long spear in his hand and shot it towards the same stone peak.

The same violent celestial essence erupted along with the same berserk power. The only difference was that this time the long spear managed to strike the stone peak without accident. Unfortunately, it didn't even produce any illusions, nor did it erupt with Yin Qi to block the incoming strike.

"Boom...." With a loud bang, the hundred-foot tall stone peak shattered to pieces under Ning Cheng's spear.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness carefully swept over the stone peak's shattered remnants but found nothing apart from gravel. Not to mention Divine Chalcedony, he didn't find even a trace of spirit qi in any of those fragments.

Putting away the Seven Bridges Realm Book, Ning Cheng then walked over to another stone peak about a thousand meters in height. He then struck it with his spear.

Sure enough, yin qi suddenly erupted from it, and Ning Cheng's long spear came to a sudden stop. This time, however, Ning Cheng had prepared for it. Before it could affect his Sea of Consciousness, he immediately connected with the first bridge.

The endless yin qi that erupted from the stone peak couldn't form any powerful yin demons. However, the moment any yin demons emerged out of the yin qi, they all got absorbed into the First Bridge of Coping.

This time, it wasn't those yin demons who flew towards the Bridge of Coping; rather, the Bridge of Coping took the initiative to absorb those yin demons and the yin qi surrounding them.

After absorbing the near-infinite quantities of yin qi, the deck of the first bridge finally solidified. As the pale white bridge solidified, a thought of absolute control emerged in Ning Cheng's mind. Ning Cheng took a deep breath and was about to step onto the Bridge of Coping to see how much of this spirit technique he could control.

But before he could step on it, the rolling yin qi once again disappeared.

What's going on? This time, the absorption time of the first bridge was even shorter than the last time. It hadn't been long since it started, yet the yin qi and the yin demons had all disappeared.

Although Ning Cheng couldn't understand what was going on, he still shattered the thousand-foot high stone peak with another shot. However, he once again found no Divine Chalcedony in the stone peak.

Did every stone peak have only this much yin qi? Ning Cheng didn't stop and shot at another stone peak about a hundred feet high. This time, Ning Cheng felt even more disappointed. After the stone peak shattered, Ning Cheng couldn't sense a single strand of yin qi coming out from it.

After half an hour, Ning Cheng finally understood what was going on. Only when attacked the higher stone peaks would yin qi come out. But if he smashed apart another thousand-foot tall stone peak, the yin qi quantity decreased. It went on till no more yin qi came out from the other thousand-foot towering stone peaks.

The only stone peaks left were those higher than a thousand feet.

But then Ning Cheng picked a three-thousand foot high stone peak and shot at it. However, he did not feel any yin qi coming out. From this, he understood that there was no point in continuing to break these peaks. At the same time, Ning Cheng also understood that this place most likely was a Yin Qi Illusion Array set up by a super-powerful Array Dao Master. Since no yin qi came out, it meant that it was an in-built mechanism set by the master to prevent other people like him from taking advantage of it.

Ning Cheng shook his head. He was just about to put away his long spear and go wake up Qi Shisanxing. Without the illusion array, it wouldn't be too difficult for him and Qi Shisanxing to leave the Lost Stone Forest.

But just when he was about to turn around, a unique fragrance attracted Ning Cheng's attention. His spiritual consciousness immediately swept through the debris from the three-thousand foot stone peak and quickly zeroes in on the location from where the fragrance originated. The scent came from a black stone, the size of a chicken's egg.

Ning Cheng took a step forward and picked up the black stone. It felt soft to the touch, as if he was touching a soft-shelled egg.

However, a remarkably comfortable feeling penetrated his Sea of Consciousness. It made his spirit sense a little cooler, in a refreshing kind of way.

It must be Divine Chalcedony. Ning Cheng looked at the soft stone in his hand with surprise. He hadn't seen a single piece of Divine Chalcedony even after smashing apart dozens of peaks. But just when he started to think that these stone peaks didn't contain Divine Chalcedony, he unexpectedly found one.

Ning Cheng took out a jade box and carefully placed it inside. The next moment, he began to blast apart the stone peaks like a destruction-loving lunatic.

For two consecutive days, Ning Cheng smashed apart over a few thousand stone peaks. However, apart from the three-thousand foot stone peak from where he obtained the first Divine Chalcedony, he didn't find any in the other stone peaks. One had to know that he specifically sought out many three-thousand foot peaks yet found no Divine Chalcedony in them.

Ning Cheng shook his head. From the looks of it, he wasn't going to find more Divine Chalcedony easily.

It would be better to wake up Qi Shisanxing and then work together to find a way to leave this place.

"Brother Ning, how are you still sane?" Ning Cheng had just turned his head when he saw Qi Shisanxing walk over and look at Ning Cheng with amazement.

Then, without waiting for Ning Cheng to speak, he looked at the destruction around Ning Cheng and spoke up in shock. "How did you manage to smash apart so many stone peaks? How come you're still sane?"

Ning Cheng didn't bother to answer him. He simply raised his hand and shot out his spear at one of the still-intact stone peaks. "Look, no matter how many stone peak I shatter, it does not have any effect...."

He didn't want to talk about the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique. Although he felt that Qi Shisanxing was a good person, he only met him after all. Once information about the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique leaked out, who knows how many people would covet it?

Ning Cheng's words stopped abruptly. He saw a small black object in the middle of the debris of the stone peak he just shattered. Noticing the faint fragrance diffusing into the air, Ning Cheng recognised it immediately. It was none other than the same thing he put away previously, Divine Chalcedony.

Ignoring Qi Shisanxing, Ning Cheng took a step forward and grabbed the Divine Chalcedony once again. This Divine Chalcedony piece was smaller than the previous one, but it was still pitch-black like the other and soft.

"Brother Ning, that, is that....." Qi Shisanxing also quickly walked to Ning Cheng's side and pointed to the soft black rock in Ning Cheng's hand. It took him a long time to complete the sentence, "Is that Divine Chalcedony?"

Ning Cheng smiled and put the Divine Chalcedony into Qi Shisanxing's hand and said, "Congratulations, you got the right answer. It indeed is Divine Chalcedony. The stone peaks here contain Divine Chalcedony, but not all stone peaks have them, only a few. After smashing apart over thousands of stone peaks, I only found two....."

Once again, Ning Cheng's words stopped abruptly. While he spoke, his spiritual consciousness had already swept through the nearby stone peaks. He then looked back at the thousands of smashed stone peaks and felt something wrong. He was already a Spirit-tier Array Master, which meant that he was relatively good with array formations.

As his spiritual consciousness swept through the smashed stone peaks' locations, he found that the sites from where he obtained the Divine Chalcedony were somewhat strange. It seemed similar to an array base used for illusion arrays; however, there still were some differences.

"Brother Ning, are you okay?" Seeing Ning Cheng in a daze, Qi Shisanxing quickly asked.

Ning Cheng waved his hand and said to Qi Shisanxing, "I want to look for the Lost Stone Forest's array bases. You continue to break the stone peaks. Once you find a Divine Chalcedony, mark the spot and tell me."

Qi Shisanxing opened his mouth and wanted to persuade Ning Cheng from doing such useless work. He was an Array Formation Master himself, yet he never found a single array base for tens of thousands of years. Yet, Ning Cheng now said that he wanted to look for the array bases here. Fortunately, words had just reached Qi Shisanxing's lips when he swallowed it back down.

Previously, didn't he also not try to persuade Ning Cheng from attacking the stone peaks? Yet, Ning Cheng attacked the stone peaks and found Divine Chalcedony from one of the broken stone peaks. Maybe his way of going about doing things was the wrong one.

"Okay, I will look for Divine Chalcedony, and I will inform you as soon as I find one." Qi Shisanxing reluctantly returned the Divine Chalcedony in his hand to Ning Cheng and then brought out his weapon. He seemed to have gained some confidence in finding Divine Chalcedony.

Ning Cheng put it away and no longer paid any attention to Qi Shisanxing's actions. Instead, he sat down and attempted to comprehend the supposed array bases he found in the surrounding stone forest.

When Ning Cheng had started breaking down the stone peaks before, Qi Shisanxing had already put himself in a false-death state. Now when Qi Shisanxing attacked the stone peaks, Ning Cheng retreated to comprehend the supposed array bases.

Qi Shisanxing's luck was much worse than Ning Cheng. He had already forgotten how many stone peaks he had crushed till now. It wasn't until the tenth day that he found a piece of Divine Chalcedony. Even so, his excited voice still felt exaggerated.

Fortunately, after this, Qi Shisanxing's luck improved. On the sixteenth day, he found another piece of Divine Chalcedony.

One month later, his collection of Divine Chalcedonies increased to five. Seeing Ning Cheng sitting still with his eyes closed, trying to calculate something, Qi Shisanxing decided to leave a few pieces for Ning Cheng.

But Ning Cheng suddenly stood up at this point. He obtained two Divine Chalcedonies previously, while Qi Shisanxing found five. From the position of these seven pieces, Ning Cheng managed to gain a vague impression.

Perhaps his current ability wasn't enough to arrange such a huge illusion array. But he could at least find the location of the actual array base using the Divine Chalcedony positions after more than a month of calculating.

“Brother Qi, don’t do any more useless work. That stone peak doesn’t contain any Divine Chalcedony.” Just when Qi Shisanxing was about to smash a hundred-feet tall stone peak, Ning Cheng immediately stopped him.

Qi Shisanxing looked at Ning Cheng in doubt, “I haven’t broken this stone peak yet; how do you that it doesn’t have one?”

He didn’t believe that Ning Cheng’s spiritual consciousness could penetrate these stone peaks. These stone peaks’ power to shield against spiritual consciousness intrusions went far beyond their cultivation.

Ning Cheng smiled, “I found the pattern.”

After that, Ning Cheng brought out a long spear. He pointed it to a place tens of meters away from Qi Shisanxing and threw it at a stone peak about a dozen meters tall.

As the stone peak collapsed, a dark coloured piece of Divine Chalcedony appeared in front of the two of them.

Qi Shisanxing stared at the dark piece of Divine Chalcedony with a blank look on his face. He then looked at Ning Cheng and only spoke up after a long time, “Brother Ning, once you get rich, please remember me.”

Ning Cheng did indeed strike rich. After finding the pattern of Divine Chalcedony’s location, he and Qi Shisanxing dug up more than a hundred pieces of Divine Chalcedony in a dozen days. Even if they made a mistake once or twice, it didn’t matter.

“Huh, there’s another skeleton here.....” Ning Cheng stopped. He saw a skeleton not too far from him, which even had a layer of skin covering it. Since discovering the Divine Chalcedony pattern, he hadn’t seen a single skeleton, let alone such a complete one.

Qi Shisanxing also walked over. He carefully scrutinised the skeleton on the ground and suddenly sighed. “I know this person.”

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Chapter 888: Ways to get out

Without waiting for Ning Cheng to ask, Qi Shisanxing said, “He’s Pill Sage Min Kong....”

“You’re talking about the Pill Sage Min Kong who keeps Human-faced Poison Centipedes to guard his divine grass medicinal gardens?” Ning Cheng asked in surprise.

Qi Shisanxing nodded, “Yes, that’s him. He is, or rather, was the number one Pill Sage in the Grand Essence Realm. Moreover, even his robe also confirms him as the number one Pill Sage. Plus, people always said that he never wore any rings, only a storage bracelet. I honestly never thought that Pill Sage Min Kong would fall here. From the looks of it, he must have come here for the Divine Chalcedony.”

Sure enough, Ning Cheng only found a bracelet on the skeleton’s wrist and no rings at all.

“Pill Sage Min Kong’s ring must contain a lot of good things. Since Brother Ning discovered it, you can take it all. The Pill Sage’s robe is also quite a high-grade treasure. At the very least, it’s tens of thousands of times better than mine. It’s practically priceless. Brother Ning, you can take it too, if you want it.” Qi

Shisanxing came from the Profound Moon Spirit Gate. Although he also wanted Pill Sage Min Kong's bracelet, he wasn't like other cultivators and lived by his principles.

Ning Cheng put away Pill Sage Min Kong's bracelet but didn't remove his robe. Instead, he dug out a grave right next to the body, refined a jade coffin, and put Pill Sage Min Kong's body carefully into the freshly made grave.

After finishing this, Ning Cheng crafted a tombstone and engraved it with the words 'Grand Essence Realm's Number 1 Pill Sage, Pill Sage Min Kong. Made by his beneficiary, Ning Cheng.' After that, he erected it in front of the grave and bowed three times to give his respects.

Seeing Qi Shisanxing's puzzled look, Ning Cheng sighed and said, "Although I got chased around by the Human-faced Poison Centipede and almost died. I obtained a lot of divine grasses from his medicine garden. Plus, I also walk the path of Alchemy just like him. So, even if I wanted to, I will not take anything other than his bracelet. No matter what happened in the past, I still owe Pill Sage Min Kong a huge favour. It's only right to gather his remains and give him the proper respect and burial that he deserves."

Qi Shisanxing only thought about the pills and alchemic materials left behind on Pill Sage Min Kong's body and immediately felt ashamed of his actions. Quickly composing himself, he stood in front of Pill Sage Min Kong's grave and gave it a few respectful bows.

Ning Cheng pointed to a stone peak beside the tomb and said, "There should be a piece of Divine Chalcedony in that stone peak. But since this is the grave of Pill Sage Min Kong, let's move to the next place."

"Okay." Qi Shisanxing agreed to Ning Cheng's words without hesitation.

Following the previous patterns, the two of them had only taken three steps each before their eyes suddenly lit up. The misty stone forest had disappeared without a trace. What appeared in front of the two was an endless wilderness. Moreover, they could even sense some spiritual fluctuations in the distance.

"Did we come out?" Qi Shisanxing quickly asked. However, his first thought wasn't to leave but to look back. He had probed the inside of that forest with his repressed spiritual consciousness for tens of thousands of years. However, the illusion array couldn't affect Ning Cheng at all. With such an advantage, only a fool would willingly come out so early.

"Looks like we can't get in." Ning Cheng frowned and also looked at the endless wasteland behind them. Where did the Lost Stone Forest go? Where were the stone peaks?

Qi Shisanxing finally reacted and marvelled. "What a great illusion array. Brother Ning, if it weren't for you, I'm afraid I wouldn't be able to get out of it even with an additional 60,000 years. Alas, it's a pity that Pill Sage Min Kong was only three steps away from the exit but fell inside. Sometimes, three steps are all that separates life and death."

Ning Cheng remained silent. If not for the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique, he would have most likely also fallen in the Lost Stone Forest. Even the Mysterious Yellow Bead's Origin Aura would have stopped

working after a while. Under that kind of illusion array that combined illusions with yin spirits, his Sea of Consciousness would have eventually faded out of existence.

Meaning, sooner or later, he would have also fallen into insanity within the Lost Stone Forest like Qi Shisanxing. Perhaps, he might have also turned into a skeleton, like Pill Sage Min Kong.

“Let’s go. Let’s split up the Divine Chalcedony and the stuff from Pill Sage Min Kong’s bracelet.” Ning Cheng patted Qi Shisanxing’s shoulder.

“Brother Ning, you saved my life. You’re also an Alchemy Master. I don’t want that bracelet. As for Divine Chalcedony, I just need ten of them. It would be no use if I had too many.” Qi Shisanxing spoke with a sincere tone.

He was fully aware that Ning Cheng was the one who saved his life. Plus, without Ning Cheng, he couldn’t have come out of the Lost Stone Forest. Moreover, the only reason they found so many pieces of Divine Chalcedony was also due to Ning Cheng. As such, everything rightfully belonged to Ning Cheng in his opinion, including his life.

Ning Cheng only showed a faint smile. He and Qi Shisanxing had spent almost two months together. As such, he now had a relatively good understanding of Qi Shisanxing’s temperament and personality. Qi Shisanxing wasn’t a cunning person. If you treated him with sincerity, he would also treat you with equal seriousness. As for Divine Chalcedony, not being of much use, Ning Cheng didn’t believe it.

The more such stuff one had, the more valuable it would be to them. How could it be useless?

Ning Cheng took out thirty pieces of Divine Chalcedony and handed them to Qi Shisanxing. “Brother Qi, I’m going to refine the Spirit Essence Pill. Therefore, I’ll need a bit more of it.”

Hearing that Ning Cheng wanted to refine the Spirit Essence Pill, Qi Shisanxing’s eyes lit up and only took five Divine Chalcedony. “Brother Ning, I only needed ten. You can keep the other five with you. If you manage to refine the Spirit Essence Pill, remember to give me five. If it fails, just forget about it.”

Since Qi Shisanxing said that, Ning Cheng also didn’t decline it. He believed that he could successfully refine the Spirit Essence Pill. He put away the rest of the pieces of Divine Chalcedony and said, “Okay, then I will give them to you if I successfully refine it.”

“You’ve probably been in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm for more than six months, right? Since we have to go back all the way, do you want to look for divine grasses? If I’m guessing correctly, we’ll be able to reach the exit point just in time.” Qi Shisanxing was in an excellent mood. He guessed that the reason Ning Cheng entered Grand Essence Mystic Realm was to find divine grasses. In any case, Ning Cheng had also mentioned that he walked the path of Alchemy.

Ning Cheng hesitated a bit before speaking, “Brother Qi, I may need your help. See if you can be of any help; if not, then I’ll try to find another way.”

Qi Shisanxing heard Ning Cheng’s words and immediately reprimanded Ning Cheng with a harsh tone. “Ning Cheng, I won’t call you Brother Ning anymore. The two of us have passed through a life and death friendship in the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest. Hearing the wariness in your tone doesn’t sit well with me.”

Ning Cheng smiled, "Well, then I'll not remain polite about it. I won't continue calling you Brother Qi. I guess Shisanxing is a good name to go by."

Qi Shisanxing heard Ning Cheng's words and felt even better. "Say it quickly; if you want me to help fight for you, it would be for the best. It's been quite lonely for the past tens of thousands of years, and I haven't exercised properly. Hehe, I can't wait...."

While talking, Qi Shisanxing even kept rubbing his hands. With his weak and frail body, it felt pretty out of place and funny at the same time.

"Well, it's not a fight. But I did offend someone. If my guess is correct, this person will be waiting for me outside the Grand Essence Mystic Realm as it closed." Ning Cheng shook his head and said.

Qi Shisanxing laughed, "That's even simpler. When this Shisanxing comes out, let me see who would dare find trouble with my brother. No matter who it is, I will slap him to death."

He had the confidence to say this. Even if the other party were a disciple of one of the top ten sects, he would still dare to do it.

"I'm afraid it wouldn't work because that person is called Man Huishan, and I heard that he's called the Dragon Emperor or something...." Ning Cheng spoke up with some bitterness.

"....." Qi Shisanxing looked at Ning Cheng with an unbelievable look on his face. Only after a long time did he finally sit down in helplessness and said, "You said you offended Man Huishan? How could you have anything to do with him? He's a Dao Essence Holy Emperor."

Slap Man Huishan to death? Even his father wouldn't dare say such a thing. Rather, Man Huishan was the one who could slap him to death.

Ning Cheng tugged at his hair out of helplessness before sighing. "If I could, I wouldn't have messed with this kind of person. Even I know that it would be unreasonable for me to get involved with this guy."

Without Man Jiuren not showing up to destroy the Mysterious Yellow Starland, how could there possibly be a link of revenge between him and Man Huishan?

Qi Shisanxing calmed down and tried to comfort Ning Cheng. "Don't worry. I will ask my father to go to the Grand Essence Sea to talk about it. It's going to be okay."

"It probably wouldn't work either. I killed Man Huishan's son, Man Jiuren. I'm afraid it would be difficult for anyone to intercede...."

"You...." Qi Shisanxing shot an angry glare at Ning Cheng. He had seen bold people before, but he had never seen someone as bold and outrageous as Ning Cheng. Who would even dare to kill Man Huishan's son? Just what did Ning Cheng eat to gain so much courage?

After a few moments, Qi Shisanxing spoke up with a quiet voice. "Tell me everything that happened, and we'll figure it out together."

Ning Cheng could feel that Qi Shisanxing truly wanted to help him. Therefore, he fully confessed the hatred that existed between him and Man Jiuren. He only concealed the part about the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow.

If Qi Shisanxing had shown even a bit of intention of not helping, Ning Cheng would have dropped it altogether and see if he could find another way.

After hearing Ning Cheng's story, Qi Shisanxing had already put away the issue of Man Huishan's power. "This kid dared to calculate against you in the mystic realm. He deserved death at your hands. Besides, Man Huishan doesn't know that it was you who killed him. So, I don't think you have too much to worry about it. I can certainly help with it. Well, if Brother Ning stayed in my Miniature World...."

Ning Cheng interrupted Qi Shisanxing's words. "It's useless. Not to mention a Miniature World, even inside a True Spirit World, I'm afraid we can't avoid Man Huishan..."

Ning Cheng suddenly stopped. If there were people in the True Spirit World, they indeed wouldn't be able to avoid the probing of a Dao Essence expert. But what if he used the 3000 Weak Water Drop to cover the True Spirit World?

Thinking of it, Ning Cheng immediately spoke up without any hesitation. "Shisanxing, I have a True Spirit World, and I also have a drop of 3000 Weak Water. When we go out, I can enter the True Spirit World and then use the drop of 3000 Weak Water to cover up the aura of the True Spirit World. If you can take this True Spirit World out, we might be able to avoid any problems."

"Wonderful." Qi Shisanxing clapped his hand and spoke up with a joyful voice. "Since we agreed to it, let's quickly head out to find divine grasses. When it's time to go out, I will take you with me."

"Okay. It's a pity, though. I wouldn't be able to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet through this method." Ning Cheng hesitated for a while but agreed to Qi Shisanxing's words. Ning Cheng clearly understood that not participating in the Great Meet was still a better option than not having a life. For others, entering the True Spirit World might put their lives in the hands of others, but it might not be so for Ning Cheng.

He believed that he did not read Qi Shisanxing wrong. But even if something happened, and he was wrong about Qi Shisanxing, he could blow up the True Spirit World. With the Mysterious Yellow Bead, he could easily survive the explosion of the True Spirit World. The only flaw would be that it would end up exposing the Mysterious Yellow Bead.

"Do you want to go to the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring for the Spirit Essence Transformation?" When Qi Shisanxing heard Ning Cheng's words, he immediately understood what Ning Cheng wanted.

Ning Cheng nodded and said, "Yes, I came to the Grand Essence Mystic Realm, not for divine grasses, but to secure a spot to enter the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring. I want to start the Spirit Essence Transformation process."

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 889: Pill Emperor Ji He

Qi Shisanxing laughed, "That's okay too. I can help you participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet. My strength has fallen considerably after being trapped in the Lost Stone Forest for a long time. But it wouldn't be much of a problem to reach the top ten for me."

"Don't you need to transform your celestial essence?" Ning Cheng asked suspiciously.

Qi Shisanxing smiled, "Before I entered the Grand Essence Mystic Realm, I had already finished transforming my celestial essence into spirit essence. If it weren't for the tens of thousands of years inside the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest, I would have already become a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor by now."

Ning Cheng felt quite happy on hearing this and said, "That's great. I'll give you those divine grasses later. As long as your numbers can reach the top ten, you can win a spot for the Grand Essence Great Meet."

Qi Shisanxing waved his hand and said, "No need. I'll ask dad to give you my spot for the Grand Essence Great Meet. What I'm worried about is that even if you reach the top ten, you might not get the chance to enter the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring. Let alone begin transforming your celestial essence in it."

Ning Cheng smiled, "Shisanxing, the entire Grand Essence Domain has only one hundred spots in total for the Grand Essence Great Meet. I believe your Profound Moon Spirit Gate also cares about the number of spots it can get. I can get one of the spots through this divine grass collection method. That way, you wouldn't have to offend your peers and would also not put you in a difficult spot."

Qi Shisanxing understood what Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng didn't want to put him in a difficult spot. Even if his father were the Sect Master, it would only create unnecessary gossip that the sect doesn't care about its quotas. Fortunately, he knew that Ning Cheng had a lot of divine grasses, so he finally agreed and said, "Then, we'll do as you said."

Ning Cheng then voluntarily took off his mask, "Shisanxing, this is my original appearance. Don't overthink it. But I at least feel that you should know my real face."

Seeing Ning Cheng take off the Appearance-changing Mask, Qi Shisanxing suddenly felt startled. A moment later, he immediately thought of something.

Ning Cheng patted Qi Shisanxing's shoulder, "Hey, you okay?"

Qi Shisanxing smiled, "This look of yours is much more pleasing to the eye. Honestly, you looked a bit fierce before. But it did give me a better idea that could help you go to the Grand Essence Great Meet by yourself."

While talking, Qi Shisanxing took out a jade bottle and handed it to Ning Cheng, "I have a Form Changing Pill here, refined by a Dao Raising Pill Deity. It can change your appearance for up to three months. Moreover, even a Dao Raising Holy Emperor wouldn't be able to see through it...."

"Wait-wait." Ning Cheng interrupted Qi Shisanxing's words, "Shisanxing, I'm afraid it wouldn't work. Each person who enters the Grand Essence Mystic Realm has a set identity. Even if you have your identity, what would I use for my changed appearance? Moreover, Man Huishan is not a Dao Raising expert but a Dao Essence expert. After we get out of this place, there would even be Dao Fusion experts out there. Even if they couldn't see through it, they would feel suspicious about an unknown cultivator coming out of this place."

"Don't worry. I have the perfect identity for you. Back when I entered the mystic realm, I entered with Grand Essence Domain's Pill Emperor Ji He. The two of us found the Lost Stone Forest together. Later, we both got lost within the Grand Essence Lost Stone Forest and lost contact with each other."

Unfortunately, I found Ji He's remains a few years later. I found his Pill Union's identity badge, but unfortunately, I couldn't find his ring."

While taking, Qi Shisanxing took out a cyan-coloured badge made out of unknown material and handed it to Ning Cheng. "This is the Pill Union's identity card for a Rank 8 Pill Emperor. By the way, has your level in Alchemy reached the level of a Rank 8 Pill Emperor?"

Ning Cheng nodded. He had long surpassed a Rank 8 Pill Emperor and was currently a true Dao Sculpting Pill Deity. Ning Cheng took the badge and scrutinised it carefully for a long time. However, even then, he couldn't figure out the materials used to make it. Instead, he only saw eight stars engraved on the badge and some other signs that it belonged to the Pill Union.

Qi Shisanxing saw Ning Cheng carefully scrutinising the badge and thought back to why Ning Cheng came to the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. Something clicked in his mind, and Qi Shisanxing immediately spoke up. "In the Grand Essence Domain, the strength of the Pill Union can be considered at the top, at least compared to the Weapon Union, Talisman Union, and the Array Dao Coalition. As long as one reaches the rank of a Pill Emperor, you would receive a cyan-coloured identity badge. Tier 7 Pill Emperor has a light cyan one. Tier 8 Pill Emperor receive a cyan one. In contrast, Tier 9 Pill Emperor has a dark cyan badge."

"Once one becomes a Pill Deity, the colour of the badge changes to blue or purple. Once again, the union differentiates grades using a light-to-dark shade of the colour. Dao Sculpting Pill Deity is light blue, Dao Fusion Pill Deity is purple. As for dark purple, they are for ordinary Pill Sage, while a gold coloured badge is for a high-grade Pill Sage. However, no one has obtained this level till now."

"Although it's a good method, I'm afraid it won't help conceal one's aura. Besides, I have never seen Ji He, so I'm not even aware of his aura. This method is too risky." Ning Cheng still shook his head and returned the Pill Union's identity badge to Qi Shisanxing.

Ning Cheng felt sure that the Form Changing Pill could conceal his aura to the point that even a Dao Essence expert couldn't see through it. However, he couldn't imitate Ji He's aura. As long as Ning Cheng encountered any cultivator who had met the real Ji He before, things would immediately fall apart. At that point, he might even find it impossible to escape.

Qi Shisanxing smiled, "Don't worry, I have Ji He's cultivation method. Wouldn't it take a few months to go out? In these few months, you just need to try feeling the flow of the cultivation method, and even you wouldn't recognise yourself after you come out. Moreover, with me coming out with you, there wouldn't be many people who would dare to snoop at you with their spiritual consciousness."

"Do you truly have Ji He's cultivation method?" Ning Cheng asked with delight.

As long as he obtained the cultivation method, it wouldn't take him a few months at all. With the power of Mysterious Yellow Formless, he felt confident enough to simulate Ji He's aura fully in just ten days.

"Of course." Qi Shisanxing took out a jade strip and handed it to Ning Cheng. "I had quite a good friendship with Ji He. Besides, I only obtained it due to an exchange. I gave him a good spirit technique. Alas, it's a pity...."

Ning Cheng took the jade strip from Qi Shisanxing. After a moment, he understood why Qi Shisanxing exchanged the cultivation method with Ji He. Qi Shisanxing truly was a good person at heart. He didn't particularly need Ji He's cultivation method, but he knew Ji He needed his spirit technique. Therefore, he decided to conduct an exchange with Ji He. Only by doing this would he feel less guilty.

.....

In the next few months, Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing continued to rush back. At the same time, Qi Shisanxing also told Ning Cheng everything he knew about Ji He. Ji He was a rogue cultivator but was quite an outstanding prodigy in Alchemy. Later, he entered the Grand Essence Domain and became a member of the Pill Union. He helped quite a few families with his Alchemic talents and lived quite a comfortable life.

Qi Shisanxing had personally gone looking for Ji He's alchemic talent, and that was how the two met.

But when Ning Cheng heard that 'Ji He' had a fiancée, his expressions turned a little strange. A Tier 8 Pill Emperor truly didn't mean much within the Grand Essence Domain. However, Ji He had the potential to develop into a Pill Deity. If a family wanted their women to marry Ji He, it meant that they most probably took a fancy to Ji He's potential. It wouldn't bode well for him if he ended up amidst a 'family' drama after coming out.

Seeing the strange expression on Ning Cheng's face, Qi Shisanxing laughed and patted Ning Cheng's shoulder. "Don't worry, Ji He has already fallen in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm and is dead for over sixty thousand years. I don't think anyone would still have any hope of seeing him alive. Besides, his fiancée's family only got interested in him due to his alchemic talents and had nothing to do with liking him or even love between the two. Since Ji He disappeared for tens of thousands of years, people would have already had many children and grandchildren by this point. Why would they remember an unknown rogue cultivator?"

Ning Cheng also gave it some thought. A Tier 8 Pill Emperor, although impressive, wasn't much important in the Grand Essence Domain. What's more, he only had to pretend for a few months, at least till he entered the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring.

With the help of Qi Shisanxing, in just a few months, Ning Cheng gained a relatively good understanding of Ji He. Besides, within a few months, Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing obtained many divine grasses. They also started to close in on the teleportation array that would take them out.

But what made Ning Cheng feel even more reassured was that the Human-faced Poison Centipede did not come after them.

One month before the one-year period ended, Ning Cheng took the Form Changing Pill. With Qi Shisanxing's help and reminders, he moulded his appearance to match it as closely as Ji He's appearance.

The closer they got to the teleportation array, the more people they started to see.

"Shisan, what happens when the one-year period is up, and you don't get out?" Ning Cheng asked in doubt as he saw many people rushing to the teleportation array.

“If you’re not in a unique place, like the Lost Stone Forest, you’ll only face one end, suppressed till death. I heard that if any cultivator stays here for more than a year, the pressure within this realm would gradually increase till it crushes you into oblivion. Plus, you won’t be able to absorb any divine qi.” Qi Shisanxing spoke with a solemn voice.

“Huh, aren’t you Qi Shisanxing of Profound Moon Spirit Gate?” A shocked voice sounded, and soon a grey-robed male cultivator stopped in front of Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing.

Qi Shisanxing looked at the cultivator in front of him before nodding and saying, “Yes, I’m Qi Shisanxing.”

He didn’t know this cultivator, but it seems this cultivator had seen him before.

“Haven’t you stayed in this place for over 60,000 years?” The cultivator seemed to know about Qi Shisanxing quite well. He even mentioned how long had Qi Shisanxing had stayed in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm.

After speaking, he didn’t wait for Qi Shisanxing to answer and turned his gaze at Ning Cheng and smiled. “This must be the Tier 8 Pill Emperor, Ji He. after all these years, Pill Emperor Ji He’s attainments should have reached incredible heights, right?”

Ning Cheng ignored this grey-robed cultivator. This grey-robed cultivator was a half-step Dao Sculpting expert. Judging by the sparkle in this person’s eyes, he most likely wanted to rob him and Qi Shisanxing. ‘He’ and Qi Shisanxing had stayed in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm for over 60,000 years. Anyone would assume that the number of divine grasses they collected might not even fit within a ring.

Moreover, neither he nor Qi Shisanxing seemed to have half-step Dao Sculpting cultivation. Plus, Qi Shisanxing still hadn’t fully recovered his vitality. Although he no longer looked skinny, he looked pretty weak.

“Ning Cheng, this guy wants to rob us. If I didn’t guess it wrong, he should be a half-step Dao Sculpting expert.” Qi Shisanxing’s voice transmission reached Ning Cheng’s ears.

Ning Cheng nodded and said to the half-step Dao Sculpting cultivator with cupped fists, “Which sect does this friend comes from?”

The grey-robed cultivator chuckled, “I’m a rogue cultivator.....”

After only a few words, the grey-robed cultivator’s domain suddenly erupted and instantly enveloped Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing. At the same time, a huge red net fell from the sky.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 890: The Power of the first bridge

“The two of you stayed here for tens of thousands of years. You must have obtained a lot of good things. I just want to borrow some.....” When the grey-robed cultivator saw that his domain could easily cover Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing, his tone became more relaxed. However, even when his domain covered Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing, and the big net also came descending, he still worried. A giant axe suddenly materialised along with thousands of strands of axe intent. It slashed down towards Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing within his domain.

The grey-robed cultivator didn't feel too surprised that his domain could restrain Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing the moment he unleashed it. After all, in his eyes, Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing were only in the Eternal Realm. He never considered the possibility that two Eternal cultivators could escape from a half-step Dao Sculpting expert like him.

Qi Shisanxing felt slightly taken aback at such action. He immediately wanted to stretch out his domain and duke it out with this grey-robed cultivator when he suddenly thought about Ning Cheng.

Besides, he had only recovered half his peak strength. Therefore, although the grey-robed cultivator's domain managed to restrain him, it was only due to the initial surprise.

However, he still felt a bit anxious for Ning Cheng. Qi Shisanxing wanted to shout at Ning Cheng to burn his essence blood and break free from the grey-robed cultivator's domain. But at that very moment, he also noticed the red net and the grey-robed cultivator's giant axe bearing down on them.

From these actions, it became apparent to him that the grey-robed cultivator had already made a quick decision. Qi Shisanxing sighed. Currently, the combined strength of him and Ning Cheng might not compare to that of the grey-robed cultivator.

However, just as Qi Shisanxing wanted to take action, he suddenly felt the restraints on him disappearing. Immediately, he felt Ning Cheng slowly unleashing his domain, easing out the pressure around both of them. Moreover, he even felt Ning Cheng's domain suppressing the grey-robed cultivator's domain.

Qi Shisanxing didn't care about how Ning Cheng obtained such strength and quickly stretched out his domain to bolster Ning Cheng's domain.

"Kaka...." Sounds of a domain shattering apart bit by bit emerged. The next moment, Ning Cheng brought out a long spear and shot out a spear trace. Ning Cheng had used axes at the beginning; meaning, he knew too well about axe intents.

Endless spear traces emerged like waves of water surging out from the centre of a lake and blocked the big red net bearing down from above. However, the moment the long spear and the grey-robed cultivator's great axe slammed together, the majestic spear intent disappeared within the axe intent, creating a loud rumble.

While the horrifying explosion erupted, Ning Cheng used the opportunity to quickly pull back Qi Shisanxing and flew out from under the stalled red net. Simultaneously, the grey-robed cultivator also flew out, taking advantage of the force of the explosion.

A thousand-foot-long gully appeared at the point where the spear and the axe collided. Rather, the gorge formed only because of the explosion, but neither of the two used any spirit techniques.

The grey-robed half-step Dao Sculpting cultivator looked at Ning Cheng in disbelief. How could an Eternal cultivator display such strength? In his view, Ning Cheng hadn't even reached the late-stage Eternal Realm. Moreover, he didn't even use any spirit technique. How could two Eternal cultivators escape injuries in that situation without even using any spirit techniques?

Moreover, Ji He was an Alchemy Master. For an Alchemy Master to have such a powerful celestial essence, it felt pretty ridiculous.

The look in the grey-robed cultivator's eyes changed a few times and quickly prepared for an escape. Ning Cheng's strength had gone far beyond his expectations. In that short exchange, he understood that he wouldn't be able to kill Qi Shisanxing and Ji He, at least, not without a long drawn out fight. Besides, there were a lot of cultivators going back and forth through this place. In case someone saw him fighting with Qi Shisanxing, even if he went all out, he wouldn't be able to escape.

"Ning..... Brother Ji He....." Even Qi Shisanxing felt shocked and almost called out Ning Cheng's name. Since Ning Cheng could escape the pursuit of the Human-faced Poison Centipede, he understood that Ning Cheng wasn't a pushover. However, he never expected that Ning Cheng could even block a half-step Dao Sculpting expert. How could such a person be simple?

Ning Cheng suddenly bent down and spouted a mouthful of blood. Immediately, it felt as if his entire body had started to wilt. Even his aura began to grow unstable while his face drained of all blood.

"Ji He...." Qi Shisanxing saw Ning Cheng's appearance and thought that Ning Cheng took a huge hit to his vitality. It looks like the clash with the grey-robed half-step Dao Sculpting cultivator injured him at the fundamental level. It wasn't surprising either. It would have been a strange event if the former didn't suffer any injuries in a face-off between an Eternal cultivator and a half-step Dao Sculpting expert.

The grey-robed cultivator, who originally wanted to escape immediately, also noticed Ning Cheng's condition. He immediately dispelled the idea of fleeing and rushed out again without even thinking about it. This time, his red net shattered and turned into an endless rain of red light that covered an area of about a hundred miles.

It was his ultimate spirit technique, Heaven-seizing Net. With Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing's current condition, they would never be able to escape from his Heaven-seizing Net.

He had already offended Qi Shisanxing. Therefore, if he could use this opportunity to kill Qi Shisanxing, he naturally wouldn't give up on it.

When Ning Cheng saw the grey-robed cultivator rushing towards them, his bent body suddenly straightened, and his eyes started to shine brightly. The aura around his body also stabilised suddenly, and he no longer looked even the slightest bit injured.

Not good. I got fooled. Seeing that the Heaven-seizing Net did not affect Ning Cheng, he understood that Ning Cheng had tricked him.

Ning Cheng had indeed tricked him. His strength certainly couldn't match up to a half-step Dao Sculpting cultivator in a head-on fight. However, such cultivators still would find it impossible to hurt him severely. Ning Cheng pretended to be severely injured because he didn't want the grey-robed cultivator to escape. Once that person ran away, he would have to give up on catching him.

If not for the slip-up from Qi Shisanxing, he would have let the grey-robed cultivator escape. But because Qi Shisanxing accidentally called out the word 'Ning', it wouldn't matter if this person didn't recall it right away. But once this person calmed down, he would immediately suspect a problem with the set-up.

The endless red lights turned into an invisible web, completely enclosing the space around them. Qi Shisanxing still hadn't recovered to his peak and was too weak for any assistance. Therefore, facing such a technique that almost sealed the space around him, he felt utterly helpless.

Ning Cheng took a step forward and took out the Seven Bridges Realm Book before pointing his hand forward, "First Bridge of Coping....."

With a bright flash of light, yin qi suddenly appeared out of nowhere and covered everything. Even though the grey-robed cultivator's Heaven-seizing Net was a top-class combination skill, it couldn't lock the yin qi within its area of effect. In an instant, the big red net that had sealed the space around them slowly shrank and solidified, turning into a red net-like weapon and falling onto the Bridge of Coping.

At this moment, the five characters 'The First Bridge of Coping' appeared, and a pale stone arch bridge slowly rose from the river. Although the blood river tumbling under the bridge still looked blurry, it still startled the grey-robed cultivator. Wasn't this the rumoured first bridge of the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique?

The grey-robed cultivator quickly reacted and forgot about the red net he used in tandem with the Heaven-seizing Net Spirit Technique. He didn't even bother to recall them before turning around to flee without hesitation.

In the face of the fiercely famous First Bridge of Coping, even if the First Bridge of Coping hadn't fully materialised, he had no courage to push his luck.

However, just when he turned around, a faint voice emerged from somewhere behind the bridge, a place where he could pinpoint at all.

Then, he saw himself taking a step onto the First Bridge of Coping for some unknown reason. The Bridge of Coping hadn't appeared in front of him, nor had he turned around to face it. Yet, he still found himself taking a step onto it. As long as one saw the bridge, no matter how many times you turned around, no matter how many steps you retreated, one would still have to step on the Bridge of Coping.

It wasn't a simulated projection of the Bridge of Coping, but the actual Bridge of Coping Spirit Technique that Ning Cheng had cast. It contained the spirit technique's dao charm that Ning Cheng had collected using the Seven Bridges Realm Book. Unless the target was far stronger than the cultivator who cast the Bridge of Coping, only then would they have any chance of escaping from its effect.

"The First Bridge of Coping, no gazing towards home, no reincarnation....." Standing on the Bridge of Coping, the grey-robed cultivator's voice trembled as he mumbled to himself. At this moment, he had thoroughly lost the will to fight.

Ning Cheng's face had also gone pale. He had used the Bridge of Coping to tie up a half-step Dao Sculpting cultivator, but he couldn't support it fully. More importantly, he still couldn't fully control the First Bridge of Coping.

The grey-robed cultivator standing on the Bridge of Coping started to sober up slowly and realised that he couldn't lose his will to fight if he wanted to escape from this predicament.

He took out a giant axe and materialised an axe shadow before blasting it outwards. The axe shadow landed on the pale bridge, and the bridge's body blurred for a moment. Ning Cheng opened his mouth

and spat out a mouthful of essence blood. This time, he wasn't pretending and had truly suffered from the backlash of the grey-robed cultivator's attack on the Bridge of Coping.

Seeing the grey-robed cultivator about to launch a second attack, Ning Cheng felt anxious. He couldn't fully control the First Bridge of Coping. The only reason he used the spirit technique was that this bridge was the only skill in his arsenal that could prevent this fellow from escaping.

But just when Ning Cheng wanted to burn his essence blood and continue to suppress the grey-robed cultivator on the bridge, his understanding of the technique suddenly changed in his mind. He seemed to have gained a more in-depth experience of the First Bridge of Coping. He started to feel like he now had a kind of life-or-death control over those who stepped onto the Bridge of Coping.

"Lock him for me." Ning Cheng moved his hand a bit, and an invisible aura of dao charm spread out like ripples. The next moment, the grey-robed cultivator got locked in place on the First Bridge of Coping. Even the great axe stopped in mid-swing as if frozen in time.

Ning Cheng had a mysterious feeling that he could now control the grey-robed cultivator's life and death with just a thought. He could easily lift the tied-up grey-robed cultivator and dangle him from his feet. Or he could even slam the grey-robed cultivator into the Bridge of Coping face-first.

Looking at the fuzzy blood river flowing under the bridge, Ning Cheng suddenly gave a cold snort, "Get down for me."

A trace of struggle flashed in the grey-robed cultivator's eyes. But the flash died out in just a moment, and he rushed off the Bridge of Coping and jumped into the blood river.

The fuzzy tumbling blood river seemed to have turned a bit clearer after the grey-robed cultivator jumped down. Ning Cheng also vaguely felt that the First Bridge of Coping had grown a little bit stronger and felt secretly surprised. At the same time, he also gained a new understanding of using other sources to strengthen the first bridge.

Ning Cheng reached out his hand, took a deep breath, and a ring flew out of the blood river and into his outstretched palm. The ring belonged to the grey-robed cultivator.

Putting away the ring, he raised his hand again and put away the First Bridge of Coping. After that, Ning Cheng quickly took out several medicinal pills and swallowed them. Using the First Bridge of Coping to kill a half-step Dao Sculpting cultivator looked relatively easy. However, he had to pay a very high cost for it.

Qi Shisanxing then reacted, grabbing Ning Cheng's arm and exclaimed in surprise. "Ning Cheng, what you brought out just now was the first bridge of the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique, wasn't it?"

Ning Cheng nodded, "It's indeed the first bridge. But it takes a lot out of me to use this spirit technique. I wouldn't have used it if I didn't have the confidence to prevent this fellow from escaping. You must also not let it out casually; after all, it is related to my life. Also, don't go calling me Ning Cheng casually. My name is Ji He. If you hadn't revealed a word of my name just now, I wouldn't have had to go to such lengths to stop that fellow."

However, without the Seven Bridges Realm Book, Ning Cheng couldn't have cast the first bridge even if he went all out. After all, it's one thing to understand a spirit technique and another thing to use the spirit technique fully.