

The Gate 891

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Chapter 891: Bright Cicada True Fruit

Qi Shisanxing's eyes gleamed with bright lights, "It truly is the real deal. Ning Cheng, please teach it to me quickly. This kind of technique is something amazing. If someone comes knocking at my doors for a fight, I can simply scare them to death with just the first bridge."

Ning Cheng replied with a resigned tone, "You'll need to use this spirit technique with the Seven Bridges Realm Book...."

Ning Cheng paused halfway as he felt something wrong. He had just used the spirit technique with a 'casual' wave of his hand. If it worked in such a way, why did he need the Seven Bridges Realm Book? Most likely, his strength was just too bad, requiring the assistance of the Seven Bridges Realm Book for assistance.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng patted Qi Shisanxing on the shoulder and said, "Okay, I will teach you the spirit technique for the first bridge. If you can learn it, I will then let you learn the second bridge. But if you can't even learn the first bridge, don't ask me about the second bridge. Also, don't leak any information about the Seven Bridges Spirit Technique."

Qi Shisanxing rubbed his hands and spoke with excitement, "Naturally, I would never reveal...."

But before Qi Shisanxing's words ended, a ray of light, as if escaping from something, rushed over from a distance. The figure hadn't arrived yet, but Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing could smell the stench of blood.

Ning Cheng knew the cultivator escaping towards them, Yan Xishuang of the Seven Star Sacred Shrine. Yan Xishuang currently sported a dishevelled look with blood oozing out from multiple wounds. Even her aura felt highly unstable. From this, both understood that she suffered some severe injuries. Behind Yan Xishuang, they also noticed two other lights chasing after her. The aura of these two people didn't lose out to the grey-robed cultivator Ning Cheng just killed. Both were half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators.

If this continued, sooner or later, these two would catch up to Yan Xishuang, given her current state.

Yan Xishuang had also noticed Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing from a distance. Maybe she had already realised that there wasn't any point in continuing to escape. Therefore, her voice arrived before her, "Two friends, I have two dao fruit trees. If you two are willing to help me out, I can give you one of them."

"Dao fruit trees?" Qi Shisanxing cast his gaze at Ning Cheng. A dao fruit tree was just too precious. But he also knew that they couldn't fight against those two with their current strength. Moreover, Ning Cheng had just finished off a half-step Dao Sculpting cultivator, and by the looks of it, also took a severe hit. As such, their strength simply wasn't enough to stop two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators chasing after her.

But by this time, Yan Xishuang had already closed in the distance between them. Seeing that the other two were about to catch up, Ning Cheng took out the Starry Sky Wheel without hesitation and said, "Get on."

While speaking, the long spear in his hand shot out countless spear patterns that blasted towards the two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators who hadn't yet caught up to them.

Qi Shisanxing and Ning Cheng have worked together for a few months already, which meant that they both could read each other's actions. Therefore, as soon as Ning Cheng brought out the Starry Sky Wheel, he rushed up. Yan Xishuang also had no choice at all. Faced with two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators, while she sported severe injuries, it would be a miracle if she could escape death. Therefore, she also rushed forward without hesitation.

The two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators had just arrived when Ning Cheng's spear patterns intercepted them. The killing intent in Ning Cheng's spear pattern ignored the spacial distance. It abruptly appeared in front of the two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators. Even if it wasn't enough to injure the two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators, it could at least stop them for a few moments.

Ning Cheng didn't intend to fight those two anyway; all he aimed was for a moment of pause. As the two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators paused out of surprise, Ning Cheng had already taken control of the Starry Sky Wheel and disappeared into the distance.

The two tried to catch up but couldn't. Even the Human-faced Poison Centipede couldn't catch up to the Starry Sky Wheel's speed. Therefore, the two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators could only dream about it.

"Thank you for your help. I'm Seven Star Sacred Shrine's disciple, Yan Xishuang." Although Yan Xishuang got on the Starry Sky Wheel, she still felt worried. Under normal circumstances, she wouldn't worry about Ning Cheng or Qi Shisanxing. But currently, she had some severe injuries that prevented her from using most of her strength.

Ning Cheng had only rescued Yan Xishuang because he knew her and knew that Yan Xishuang was trustworthy. Since she said she would take out a dao fruit tree, she would keep her word.

What he currently lacked right now the most was a dao fruit tree. He did obtain a thunder-attributed dao fruit tree previously. But even if he planted it in a pile of Law Soil and used Wood Origin Crystals to nourish it, it could only help stop the tree from withering. As for wanting to restore its life force, it would still take a lot of time. As such, he couldn't even think of obtaining a dao fruit from it any time soon.

Lately, Ning Cheng kept feeling the urge to put the half Wood Origin Bead into the Mysterious Yellow Bead and then plant the tree. However, Ning Cheng always chose to give up on it in the end. The Mysterious Yellow Bead was his biggest ace card. If the inner world couldn't form because of the lack of half a Wood Origin Bead, he would lose out big time.

Now that Yan Xishuang had a dao fruit tree to share, he naturally wanted one. He guessed that Yan Xishuang found the trees due to the Azure Lotus fragment. But what puzzled Ning Cheng was that Yan Xishuang's strength should have far surpassed ordinary half-step Dao Sculpting experts. So why would she get chased by two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators?

Qi Shisanxing secretly praised Yan Xishuang's beauty and spoke up with cupped fists. "I'm Qi Shisanxing of Profound Mood Spirit Gate. I didn't expect that someone would dare to chase and kill someone from the Seven Star Sacred Shrine."

"They had appearance changing masks. If I hadn't fought with two other people while snatching the trees, I wouldn't have cared about those two."

Ning Cheng didn't care about what Yan Xishuang said, as he knew that Yan Xishuang did have that kind of strength. But at least he now understood why Yan Xishuang got chased around by two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators. Qi Shisanxing, however, felt shocked on hearing that Yan Xishuang wouldn't have taken two half-step Dao Sculpting experts seriously under ordinary circumstances. This level of strength was too scary, right? He then glanced at Ning Cheng unconsciously. Without Ning Cheng's help, he wouldn't have come out of that place even after another ten thousand years. When did the cultivators outside become so powerful?

Yan Xishuang didn't explain. Instead, she took out a tree exuding a powerful aura of dao charm and placed it on the floor. "This is the tree. Since you saved me, you can keep it."

"That's a Bright Cicada True Fruit Tree." Qi Shisanxing immediately recognised it.

Ning Cheng's eyes also lit up. It indeed was a perfect and fully formed Dao Fruit Tree. The tree was only three feet tall, but what attracted his attention were the hundred Bright Cicada True Fruits hanging on the tree.

Ning Cheng also understood Bright Cicada True Fruits' role and knew that it was a rare dao fruit. Moreover, these fruits were one of the few Dao Fruits that could help Holy Emperors condense more spirit essence. But more importantly, one could refine them into Bright Cicada True Pills, spirit pills highly suitable for cultivation.

Generally, after a cultivator successfully entered the Dao Confirming Realm, they would only use dao fruits and other medicinal pills to perceive the dao charm. They might also occasionally use them as assists in perceiving spirit techniques, at most use them for healing. Unfortunately, only very few people had access to pills that could assist in cultivating spirit essence.

It's not that no one wanted to do it, but mainly because there weren't many pills that could help Holy Emperors condense spirit essence. Even if it could help Dao Confirming Holy Emperors speed up their cultivation, ordinary spirit pills could potentially affect the perception of dao charm. In other words, if one wanted to improve one's strength artificially, it would, in most cases, end up decreasing their perception of dao. As such, everyone could clearly distinguish between gains and losses by themselves.

However, this wasn't the case with the Bright Cicada Spirit Pill refined from the Bright Cicada True Fruit. The Bright Cicada Spirit Pill could not only assist a Dao Confirming Holy Emperor in improving their cultivation speed. It would also not have any effect on the Holy Emperor's perception of dao charm. That is, using the Bright Cicada Spirit Pill would not only improve one's cultivation; it would also not affect your perception of Dao. In some cases, depending on the grade of the pill, it might even deepen the perception of your dao.

"Ji He, you're an Alchemy Master. Hurry up and put away the tree." Qi Shisanxing quickly reminded Ning Cheng.

He knew that every sect, big or small, would covet this tree. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that even major sects might go to war over this tree. But he also knew that Ning Cheng needed this tree more than anyone else. Ning Cheng was an Alchemy Master, which meant that he required various dao fruits for training. Maybe he could even become a Pill Sage because of this tree.

Seeing Ning Cheng put away the tree, Yan Xishuang glanced at Ning Cheng with some confusion before shifting her gaze to Qi Shisanxing once again. Qi Shisanxing seemed to be a disciple from the top ten sects, but who was this Ji He? Why would he let this Ji He put away the tree?

Immediately, she recalled something and focussed on Qi Shisanxing. "Ah, you're the son of Profound Moon Spirit Gate's Sect Master Qi who got lost in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm sixty thousand years ago...."

No one had any idea about how many cultivators had entered the Grand Essence Mystic Realm and never came out. But as the son of the Spirit Gate's Sect Master, Qi Shisanxing had quite the fame attached to him. As such, almost every disciple from a prominent sect knew about him.

Qi Shisanxing showed a broad smile, "Am I?"

Yan Xishuang felt slightly relieved when she heard that the other party truly was Qi Shisanxing despite his response. Qi Shisanxing was quite a famous disciple from the top ten sects and had a good reputation, so he most likely wouldn't mistreat her. She exchanged a few words with Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing before taking the initiative to enter the inner cabin area and choose a cabin to go into seclusion.

"This time, I obtained a good harvest. After you finish your spirit essence transformation, you better find a way to become a Pill Sage after coming out. Let me bask in your light for some time." With Yan Xishuang gone, Qi Shisanxing spoke with the same smile.

Ning Cheng took out a jade strip and engraved the first bridge's spirit technique before passing it to Qi Shisanxing. "You can go and study the first bridge by yourself. I want to break into that fellow's ring."

Pill Sage Min Kong's ring would take a lot of time to open. But Ning Cheng believed that he could easily break open the ring from the half-step Dao Sculpting cultivator he had killed earlier.

Qi Shisanxing eagerly grabbed Ning Cheng's jade strip and quickly picked a corner to sit down and study the First Bridge of Coping. In the face of such a prestigious spirit technique, who would bother about appearances?

As the Starry Sky Wheel continued to fly towards a set destination, the previous two half-step Dao Sculpting cultivators had already disappeared. During this time, Ning Cheng had also opened the ring from the cultivator swallowed up by his Bridge of Coping. When Ning Cheng saw the piles of divine grass in the ring, he couldn't help but marvel.

Although most of these divine grasses were only at the low and middle level, he also found a few high-grade divine grasses. Ning Cheng had obtained most of the divine grasses from Pill Sage Min Kong's medicinal garden. Yet, this fellow still managed to find so many divine grasses after entering the Grand Essence Mystic Realm.

That's not it, Ning Cheng quickly understood. He immediately thought back to his conversation with Xiong Cang. This fellow couldn't find so many grasses by himself. Most likely, just like Xiong Cang, he snatched these divine grasses by intercepting and killing other cultivators. Only then could one accumulate so much. Sure enough, Ning Cheng immediately found a bunch of broken rings from other cultivators in a corner.

Ning Cheng smiled; no matter how much this fellow obtained, it belonged to him now.

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A few days later, Ning Cheng finally finished sorting out the divine grasses and found the surrounding space's pressure starting to increase. From the looks of it, Qi Shisanxing spoke correctly. When the time's up, Grand Essence Mystic Realm's worldly laws will begin growing in strength.

At this time, Yan Xishuang also walked out from the inner cabin. She had almost fully healed her injuries. Sensing Yan Xishuang walking into the cabin, Qi Shisanxing reluctantly put away the jade strong containing the First Bridge of Coping Spirit Technique.

After Yan Xishuang came out, she thanked Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing once again. When she had thanked them back, she still felt quite nervous. But now that her strength had almost recovered, she started to understand that Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing truly were upright figures. They didn't bully her for more, even after the deal.

"We've arrived. Haha, I've been trapped here for over 60,000 years, and I really can't wait to get out." Qi Shisanxing's spiritual consciousness swept out and found the teleportation array within range. He immediately stood up and laughed.

Ning Cheng immediately stopped the Starry Sky Wheel. After Yan Xishuang and Qi Shisanxing went out, he was just about to put away the Starry Sky Wheel when he saw the familiar back once again.

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Chapter 892: Coming out of the mystic realm

Ning Cheng didn't even think, and with a flash, appeared right in front of the woman. The female cultivator wore a scarf over her face, which covered her appearance and concealed her aura and cultivation.

Seeing her from the front, Ning Cheng felt increasingly sure that this female cultivator was Shi Qionghua. However, standing in front of her, he suddenly realised that he couldn't make any waves. Especially since Ning Cheng currently impersonated Ji He. Thinking of this, Ning Cheng quickly asked, "Do you know about Sifting Orchid Star?"

"Get lost." A shout, followed by a strong domain, came crashing down. Ning Cheng, unguarded, had to take ten steps back before stopping.

Only then did Ning Cheng see the tall female cultivator standing next to the female cultivator with a scarf on her face. He knew this woman, named Shi Yishuang. This woman seemed to love talking down to people. In Peng Ruimei's words, she acted as if the flesh on her body was on a different plane of existence from others.

Wait-wait...

Shi Yishuang had the surname 'Shi' and came from 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond. Plus, Qionghua also held the surname 'Shi' and cultivated the 9 Life Revolutions..... Was Shi Yishuang, Qionghua's sister, and the veiled woman Qionghua?

Ning Cheng couldn't take it anymore and quickly walked over.

"You're looking for death...." Shi Yishuang raised her hand, and a red half-moon-shaped ring appeared over her head. At the same time, several female cultivators from 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond also gathered around.

As the powerful killing intent from several people concentrated at one spot, Ning Cheng felt shocked and quickly calmed down. He had assumed Ji He's identity, which meant that he couldn't 'behave' like Ning Cheng; thus, he couldn't create a conflict with 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond. Even if Qionghua knew him, 'Ji He' couldn't have known Shi Qionghua.

Moreover, the woman in front of him, the one wearing a veil, didn't seem to have any impression of Sifting Orchid Star. If this person truly were Qionghua, she would have never forgotten about the Sifting Orchid Star. Meaning, she wasn't Qionghua; either that or someone sealed or had taken away that memory from her.

"So, thinking about bullying others just because you have more people, eh?" Qi Shisanxing finally reacted and arrived next to Ning Cheng with a step. It didn't sit well with him seeing Ning Cheng being attacked by Shi Yishuang and surrounded by people from 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond.

Shi Yishuang didn't know about Qi Shisanxing; plus, her strength had also exceeded Qi Shisanxing's apparent power. So how could she feel afraid of Qi Shisanxing and Ning Cheng?

"That's right. I'm using the crowd to bully a few. Were you not convinced? Dare poke your nose in this matter, and I will kill you right away. You can see if I dare to or not." Shi Yishuang showed a disdainful sneer and spoke up with a sarcastic voice.

Some sects used rogue cultivators to enter the Grand Essence Mystic Realm for collecting divine grasses. In the end, they were still just rogue cultivators. Yet, they dared to talk in such a manner to people from her 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond.

At this time, more and more cultivators started gathering near the exit array. They even called in their friends to watch the show in excitement. Every cultivator who knew Shi Yishuang knew that Shi Yishuang wouldn't speak empty threats. If she said that she would dare kill Qi Shisanxing and Ning Cheng, she would truly do such a thing. They all just wanted to see if it would stir up some waves after she killed them.

Qi Shisanxing's face twitched with anger. Qi Shisanxing was also someone from the top ten forces; plus, he was even the Sect Master's son. When has he ever received so much despise?

"Did you think that your 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond can run around without any consequences? Does this place belong to your 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond? Just because someone's standing here, you want to kill them, huh. I'm standing here, come on, come kill me." Yan Xishuang's cold voice arrived before she appeared next to Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing.

Both Yan Xishuang and Shi Yishuang had “Shuang” in their name, and both had a cold expression on their faces. But in Ning Cheng’s view, both encompassed two different types of coldness. Shi Yishuang always thought of herself as above everyone else, while Yan Xishuang simply had a cold personality.

Seeing Yan Xishuang stand up, the disciples of Seven Star Sacred Shrine also stood up immediately. Some of them even started to prepare for battle.

Shi Yishuang’s expressions turned ugly in an instant. She could despise Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing, but she couldn’t look down on Yan Xishuang. Seven Star Sacred Shrine was one of the top ten sects and one of the three sacred shrines.

“Yan Xishuang, I just said that I want to kill these two ants. What does this matter have to do with you? Do you want to poke your nose in other people’s business?” Shi Yishuang spoke with a sombre tone.

Yan Xishuang showed a disdainful tone before bursting into a laugh, “Kill two ants? I’m afraid that even if these people stood in front of you and asked you to kill them, would you still dare do it?”

The red half-moon ring over Shi Yishuang’s head suddenly buzzed and started to overflow with killing intent. Shi Yishuang only felt irritated with Qi Shisanxing and Ning Cheng before and wanted to teach them a lesson. But now, because of Yan Xishuang, she truly overflowed with the killing desire to rip them apart.

If Ning Cheng didn’t know about Yan Xishuang’s character, he would have thought that Yan Xishuang deliberately wanted to rile her up.

Seeing that Shi Yishuang truly had the desire to kill them, Qi Shisanxing finally turned around his head. “I’m Profound Moon Spirit Gate’s Qi Shisanxing and remained inside the Grand Essence Mystic Realm for 60,000 years. Is there anyone here from Profound Moon Spirit Gate?”

“Little Sect Master?”

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Qi Shisanxing had purposefully not stated his name before. Plus, some were also not sure about his identity. But now that Qi Shisanxing finally said his name, the disciples from Profound Moon Spirit Gate immediately confirmed their speculations and stood up.

More than a dozen cultivators flew over in just a few breaths and appeared in front of Qi Shisanxing and even greeted him with highly respectful salutes.

Shi Yishuang’s expressions twisted into something grotesque. She never thought that a person she felt as a random nobody would turn out to be the young master of one of the top ten sects. Even if she liked to act with wanton abandon, she would never dare to kill Qi Shisanxing of the Profound Moon Spirit Gate. Especially not in front of so many cultivators.

Moreover, the 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond also didn’t have the strength to go against them.

“Stinky woman, did you think too highly of your 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond? Ptooe.” Qi Shisanxing spat at the ground to vent.

Even if Shi Yishuang could hold herself back, she couldn't bear the arrogance and disdain shown by Qi Shisanxing. What's more, she was never a person who could take such insults. She was always the one to despise others; when had someone else dare scolded her in public?

A war of domains was just about to start.

But at this time, a half-step Dao Sculpting female cultivator standing behind Shi Yishuang stopped Shi Yishuang from taking action. "Junior Apprentice Sister Yishuang, we can't make the first move."

The raging Shi Yishuang finally calmed down a bit after receiving the timely reminder.

Ning Cheng also stopped Qi Shisanxing in time. Replaced with any other sect, if Qi Shisanxing wanted to go crazy, he would have helped him.

But he felt pretty sure that this sect was most likely from where Qionghua came from; as such, no matter what, he couldn't start a fight against them. If he truly took action, it might become difficult for him to face Qionghua in the future.

Since both parties stopped at a crucial moment, the fight everyone expected did not happen. By this time, cultivators from the Profound Moon Spirit Gate had already surrounded Qi Shisanxing. They kept asking why he chose to stay in this place for so many years out of concern.

Ning Cheng also finally looked away from the female cultivator wearing a scarf over her face. In the future, he must go to the 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond, but not now. Regardless of whether this female cultivator was Qionghua or not, he currently couldn't do anything.

Qi Shisanxing finally got himself free from his sect disciples' clutches after explaining why he remained in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm for 60,000 years. He then immediately ran to Ning Cheng's side. He patted Ning Cheng's shoulder and tried to comfort him. "Although the women from 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond look beautiful, you don't need to care about any of them."

After speaking, he shot a glance at Yan Xishuang, indicating that Yan Xishuang was much more beautiful than Shi Yishuang.

Ning Cheng only smiled but did not explain.

In the following days, more and more cultivators arrived from everywhere. Ning Cheng also started to feel the increasing pressure standing near the perimeter. Under such pressure, even a cultivator who didn't know the way would actively take the initiative to reach this place.

As more and more people gathered at the teleportation array, it finally lit up. As Ning Cheng made a rough count, he found that the number of cultivators going out was far less than the 10,000 that came in with him. The Grand Essence Mystic Realm seemed to have become their final resting place from the looks of it.

Ning Cheng also didn't see Xiong Cang, who came looking for him earlier to form a team. But Ning Cheng didn't feel surprised that Xiong Cang did not come out.

Xiong Cang only had average strength and thought about robbing divine grasses from others. Even if he had many ace cards, how could any cultivator entering the Grand Essence Mystic Realm be simple? Always walking by the river, one's shoes would eventually get wet. Whether he died or disappeared, it

was already an expected thing. Similarly, Ning Cheng also didn't see any of the cultivators who entered Pill Sage Min Kong's medicinal garden with him. It seems those fellows also suffered from some ill fortune.

"Ninth Prince didn't come out...." A low voice sounded not far from Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng calmly scanned through the crowd and locked in a few cultivators giving off a strong sea aura. These fellows most likely came from the Grand Essence Sea.

Whether this Ninth Prince fell in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm or not, no one would try to ask them about it, no matter what the reason. The Barbarian Dragon Clan had a Dao Perfection powerhouse, which meant that even the three sacred shrines wouldn't want anything to do with this matter.

Once the array activated, cultivators started teleporting out one after another. Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing also teleported out following the many disciples from the Profound Moon Spirit Gate.

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The place Ning Cheng came out was the same spot from where Ning Cheng went inside. A year ago, when Ning Cheng had entered from here, it was only a barren wilderness. There were only a few residential structures set by the major sects, and it wasn't so busy.

But a year later, once Ning Cheng came out, it had become much livelier. The barren wilderness had become something akin to a huge public square with three platforms placed in the middle for counting divine grasses. The major sects set themselves up around these three divine grass-counting platforms and were ready to receive the divine grasses and distribute rewards.

As soon as Qi Shisanxing came out, people from the Profound Moon Spirit Gate once again surrounded him. Qi Shisanxing had remained trapped inside the mystic realm for 60,000 years and finally managed to come out. It naturally was a very happy occasion for the Profound Moon Spirit Gate.

Ning Cheng understood that Qi Shisanxing and the people from his sect had a lot to discuss, so he decided to not join in on the fun and festivities. Instead, he just stood there quietly, letting several powerful spiritual consciousnesses sweep over him, over and over again.

Ning Cheng remained calm and unwavering under this scrutiny. He also didn't use his spiritual consciousness to find Man Huishan's location. Rather, he felt sure that Man Huishan checked every cultivator coming out of the mystic realm. The news about the fall of Ninth Prince Man Jiuren should have already reached Man Huishan when the first group came out.

Even Qi Shisanxing wouldn't have managed to escape Man Huishan's scrutiny.

As Ning Cheng felt more and more spiritual consciousness falling on him, he started to feel a little worried. He was a Dao Sculpting Pill Emperor. He could take advantage of the Form Changing Pill and the Mysterious Yellow Formless Cultivation Method to camouflage himself from others perfectly. However, Ning Cheng didn't know if it could work against a Dao Essence powerhouse. Once discovered, it would become disastrous for him. After all, he had no ace cards except for Qi Shisanxing.

If Man Huishan wanted to take him away by force, he wouldn't even have the ability to resist.

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Chapter 893: Ji He's Fiancée

"Ji He, Ji He....." Qi Shisanxing finally squeezed out of the encirclement and kept waving at Ning Cheng.

"Thirteen, is this Pill Emperor Ji He? The one who trapped with you for over 60,000 years?" A phoenix-eyed woman followed Qi Shisanxing to Ning Cheng and asked. Even though this female cultivator didn't release her aura, Ning Cheng could feel an overwhelming pressure coming from her. This female cultivator most likely wasn't a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor. She probably was an expert far beyond a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor.

Qi Shisanxing patted Ning Cheng's shoulder and replied to the phoenix-eyes female cultivator's question, "Yes. He is Ji He. We went through quite a few life and death experiences together."

After speaking, he then said to Ning Cheng, "Ji He, this is my big sister, Qi Yuling. My sister made it a point to come here every time the Grand Essence Mystic Realm opened, to find any information about me. This time, I finally managed to live up to her expectations and came out."

After hearing Qi Shisanxing's words, Ning Cheng understood that Qi Yuling truly cared about Qi Shisanxing.

"Ji He greets sister Yuling." Ning Cheng gave her a quick bow and a respectful greeting.

Qi Yuling had a sincere smile on her face, "Ji He, thank you for staying with my Thirteen in the mystic realm for so many years. From now on, you're also my brother."

"Yuling, who is this person?" A man's thick voice emerged.

Ning Cheng had his guard up at all times, and he became even more cautious when he saw the man walking over to them. This man didn't seem to be too old. He also had long hair, which he tied up into a simple cultivator's bun and wore a purple robe. The skin on his face looked coarse and rough and sported a pair of thick eyebrows. However, the feeling of strength from this person felt much more substantial than Qi Yuling. Most likely, this person's cultivation had far exceeded that of Qi Yuling.

"Brother He, he is Ji He, a Rank 8 Pill Emperor from the Pill Union. He's also good friends with my brother Thirteen. They had entered the mystic realm together and also came out together." When Qi Yuling saw the purple-robed man walking over, an expression of joy immediately appeared on her face.

The purple-robed man smiled at Ning Cheng and said, "It turned out to be Pill Emperor Ji He. My name is Wei He. I'm from the Battlefront Cliff's Wei Clan of the Grand Essence Domain. Both you and Thirteen are welcome at my Battlefront Cliff."

Wei He had an excellent demeanour. Ning Cheng didn't feel any trace of disdain one would usually find when someone from a big family spoke to rogue cultivators. Although Ji He's current identity was a Rank 8 Pill Emperor from the Pill Union, he was still a rogue cultivator in the final analysis.

At this time, no cultivators were coming out of the mystic realm, indicating that except the dead, everyone had already come out.

Qi Yuling then said to Ning Cheng, "Thirteen said that you wanted to gain more experience from the mystic realm...."

Ning Cheng nodded and said, "Yes, I want to see if I can get a spot for the Grand Essence Great Meet."

Wei He interjected from the side, "I'm afraid it might be difficult. This time, thousands of people have come out of the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. It wouldn't be easy to make it to the top ten."

He had entered the Grand Essence Mystic Realm before. So naturally, he had a good understanding of what happened within the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. Near its closing time, the Grand Essence Mystic Realm brought down too much pressure on the cultivators inside it. Regardless of Ning Cheng and Qi Shisanxing being trapped in the mystic realm for over 60,000 years, he felt sure that they wouldn't have managed to look for divine grasses for 60,000. Rather, they must have struggled unbearably just to survive for 60,000 years. Therefore, when it came to harvesting divine grasses, they might not have fared much better than other ordinary cultivators.

"I'm just trying my luck." Ning Cheng replied with a smile.

"Then, go over there. I wish you good luck." Qi Yuling spoke up with a warm smile.

Ning Cheng signalled Qi Shisanxing to not come with him and walked to the middle of the public square alone. After talking with Qi Shisanxing, Qi Yuling and Wei He, Ning Cheng could feel that the spiritual consciousnesses scanning him had entirely disappeared. Most likely, they had taken the meeting as a confirmation for his identity as Ji He.

Reaching the Divine Grass Counting Platforms, Ning Cheng saw thousands of cultivators crowding around them. They all gathered here to brag about the divine grasses they had obtained. They also talked about how they wanted to exchange them for spirit pills, dao fruits, sect mission points, spirit techniques and other things. Some of them even exchanged them for Grand Essence Ruins' points. There didn't seem to be many cultivators who wanted to reach the top ten, like Ning Cheng.

Most cultivators had a good understanding of their abilities. As such, even if the number of divine grasses they obtained could push them into the top ten, they wouldn't achieve even a decent result in the great meet.

Usually, cultivators like Ning Cheng wouldn't stand in front of everyone. Rather, they would stand on the side and keep observing the divine grass numbers that appeared on the platform's back. That way, they could get at least a good idea about winning.

Many cultivators had the same idea as Ning Cheng and didn't want to show all the divine grasses they had obtained. Once they took out all the divine grasses, they would immediately lose one-fifth of it. Therefore, the more they brought out, the more would disappear.

A red-faced but ordinary-looking old man suddenly appeared in front of the three platforms. He cupped his fists before speaking, "Dao friends coming out of the Grand Essence Mystic Realm must have all worked hard. I believe everyone must have learned something from this experience."

"It's time to turn in your divine grasses as announced before you entered. After we finish counting, we will collect one-fifth of it as the sect's respective representatives. You can then exchange the rest for items you need from the sects you represent or other sects. But remember, you can only exchange items with the divine grasses you took out."

Although this old man had no dao charm fluctuation around him, when Ning Cheng gazed at this old man, he couldn't help but feel a sense of fear. He had a vague feeling that this old man's cultivation exceeded Man Huishan.

The first person who turned in the divine grasses was a middle-aged female cultivator. She chose the first counting platform. Ning Cheng noticed that once the cultivator counting the divine grasses checked the woman's ring, a line appeared on the screen behind the podium.

"First Place, Wu Xuanjing of Great Bear Seven Peaks. 160 low-level divine grasses, 70 intermediate-level divine grasses, and 11 high-level divine grasses."

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness fell on Wu Xuanjing's ring. Her ring didn't contain any restriction allowing Ning Cheng to notice a few other things. He saw that when the cultivator finished counting her divine grasses after taking the ring, he returned it after taking out exactly one-fifth of the divine grasses.

Ning Cheng guessed that sects might not require all of this one-fifth. Rather, most of it went to an organisation or alliance that looked over the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. Sects mainly benefitted from the fact that Wu Xuanjing would swap the remaining four-fifths of the divine grasses for items from the sects.

As more and more cultivators came for the divine grass counting, the person ranked first on display also continuously changed. At present, the one at rank one had obtained 300 low-level divine grasses, 160 mid-level divine grasses, and 30 high-level divine grass.

Ning Cheng watched the show for a long time but didn't see any person handing over anything more precious than a high-level divine grass. For example, dao fruits, or even other treasures like Divine Chalcedony that Ning Cheng obtained. Since so many cultivators turned up for counting the obtained divine grasses, it should be impossible that at least one or two didn't get something more precious. It's just that even if one managed to collect such a thing in the mystic realm, no one would take it out. Besides, the cultivators counting the divine grasses also didn't care for it and defaulted to their side.

Most of the cultivators, who turned up for the counting, took the rest of their divine grasses to their respective sects to exchange for items. Only a very few rogue cultivators chose to trade things with other sects.

Half a day later, only a very few cultivators remained on the public square who didn't go in for the counting. Only then did the cultivators who wanted to grab the top ten spots stepped up.

At this time, Ning Cheng again glanced at the huge screen behind the platform and found that the first place had changed. It now belonged to someone who collected 870 low-level, 200 mid-level and 70 high-level divine grasses along with a million-year-old Gold Flame Hive.

Ning Cheng noted the cultivator's name who took out the Gold Flame Hive and internally made plans to exchange it from this person later. The growth rate of his Void Exploding Golden Bees was still too slow. Even now, they were only equivalent to Starry Sky Grade 2 demonic beasts, a pitiful level of strength around these parts.

Suppose he could obtain this hive and couple it with his medicinal pills. In that case, he could help evolve the Exploding Golden Bees to Starry Sky Grade 7 quickly.

Ning Cheng didn't wait any longer. He took out 940 low-levelled, 300 mid-level and 93 high-grade divine grasses. As for Divine Chalcedony and dao fruits, Ning Cheng didn't take out any. Moreover, the high-level divine grasses he took out were all ordinary. He purposefully didn't take out the high-value ones that were comparable to dao fruits.

Ji He's name quickly appeared in the first place on the mystic realm's harvest screen, and the cultivator with the Gold Flame Hive got pushed to second. Although the Gold Flame Hive had a high value, it had a very restrictive use. Besides, Ning Cheng had taken out many more high-level and mid-level divine grasses, which meant that he would naturally take up the first place without exception.

As soon as Ji He's name appeared, many people immediately noticed it. Soon the story of Ji He's staying in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm for 60,000 years spread out.

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"Caixuan. Not only did Ji He not die, but he also got first place...." A green-robed woman whispered in surprise at the edge of the public square.

Standing next to the green-robed woman was a female cultivator in a light red robe. She had a fair complexion, and her long hair draped down like a soft shawl. This woman also had a melon seed-shaped face with willow leaf eyebrows. All in all, she looked stunning.

But even without this green-robed woman's reminder, this red-robed female cultivator called Caixuan had already noticed Ning Cheng. However, she kept frowning. She didn't know how to deal with this matter.

"Caixuan...." Seeing that the red-robed female cultivator didn't answer her words, the green-robed woman reminder her softly once again. One couldn't just run away from some things.

The red-robed female cultivator finally returned to senses and said slowly, "He's only number one temporarily. Besides, it doesn't mean anything."

A low voice sounded out from behind her. "Caixuan, Ji He might temporarily be number one. He wouldn't have any problems securing a spot in the top ten with what he obtained inside. Even my Cen Clan has never had anyone awarded a spot for entering the Grand Essence Great Meet for so many years. Besides, since he can come up with so many divine grasses, he must have a lot more...."

This red-robed female cultivator was none other than Ji He's fiancée, Cen Caixuan. Just as Ning Cheng guessed, the Cen Clan only took fancy to Ji He's talent in alchemy and even promised her to Ji He as his fiancée. Later, news emerged that Ji He fell in the mystic realm, and the Cen Clan put aside the previous promise. One could even say that they had already forgotten about it.

"Uncle, I know. It's just that if I go with him, what would that Haoge think? He would feel uncomfortable in his heart." Cen Caixuan bit her lip and looked at a middle-aged man who walked up to her.

The middle-aged man looked at Ning Cheng and spoke up with an even lower tone. "Ji He has potential. Although he had remained trapped in the mystic realm for tens of thousands of years, he still managed to come out. Moreover, his friendship with Profound Moon Spirit Gate's Qi Shisanxing can also benefit us. Guo Haoge is one of the twelve sacred children, but he most likely looks down on our Cen Clan. It's hard to tell how sincere he would be with you."

“But....” Cen Caixuan hesitated. In reality, Guo Haoge not only had an ugly appearance but also had a petty personality. However, if she had to choose, she would still choose Gao Haoge without hesitation.

Dao Companions of the twelve sacred children enjoyed both respect and status. Besides, Guo Haoge was also born and raised in the River Luo Sacred River. On the contrary, despite having a talent for alchemy, Ji He wouldn’t go far and would just be a dead-end for her. In other words, she would never remain happy with Ji He.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 894: A Classical Curse

When the middle-aged man saw Cen Caixuan’s hesitation, he also sighed. “Perhaps now is not the time for us to go picking people. Perhaps people might not even care about this matter. That Ji He has already stayed here for quite a long time, which means he knows that you’re here. Yet, he still hasn’t come here to see you....”

Hearing this, Cen Caixuan suddenly realised something. Ji He was, by no means, a stupid person. He should have come over or at least inquired about this matter no matter what happened. So, why hasn’t he come over yet?

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At this moment, the counting of divine grasses had come to an end, and Ning Cheng also slid down to 5th place with his 940 low-level, 300 mid-level and 93 high-level divine grasses. But despite the case, he now had a qualification card to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet.

After Ning Cheng paid one-fifth of the divine grasses, he showed no intention of exchanging the rest of the divine grasses for stuff. As a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity, having divine grasses was much better than any other cultivation resource. Ning Cheng even rejected the advances from sects and other individuals who wanted to acquire the rest of the divine grasses.

Some people even came by to purchase Ning Cheng’s qualification card to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet. But still, Ning Cheng rejected them without any hesitation. I paid many divine grasses just for this qualification card; why would I sell it off?

By the time Ning Cheng received and put away the qualification card, Qi Shisanxing finally walked over with a smile. “Congratulations, you got your wish. There shouldn’t be any problem with your strength if you want to enter the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring. But there is one thing you urgently need to address right away.”

“What?” Ning Cheng looked at Qi Shisanxing with a suspicious look.

Qi Shisanxing showed a schadenfreude-filled smile. “Your fiancée Cen Caixuan is looking at you, indicating that the Cen Clan hasn’t completely forgotten you. Regardless of whether the Cen Clan has forgotten you or not, you no longer have any past with them after you came out of the mystic realm. But it also creates a big problem. Whether you’re acting or not, you should go there; otherwise, it will only increase suspicion. Besides, you don’t have to care about your ‘fiancée’ either. I asked around about her. She’s already heavily involved with Guo Haoge of the Grand Essence’s 12 Sacred Children and doesn’t care about your life and death.”

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness following Qi Shisanxing's gaze and quickly noticed Cen Caixuan looking at him. He didn't want to talk nonsense with this woman, but he was also not out of danger yet. He couldn't let others doubt his identity over such trivial matters.

Just when Ning Cheng was about to walk up to her, his expressions suddenly changed.

"What's wrong?" Qi Shisanxing quickly noticed something wrong about Ning Cheng and promptly asked.

"I already met Qi Baiyi of the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children, and he didn't die yet. Didn't think he could run away." Ning Cheng whispered.

Since the Human-faced Poison Centipede pursued him like a deranged creature, Ning Cheng thought that Qu Baiyi and Huo Erqi must have already fallen to it. Only now did he realise that Qu Baiyi hadn't died. From the looks of it, Huo Erqi might have also survived.

"The Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children have their ace cards. Maybe they all have escape talismans. It's quite normal that they haven't died." Qi Shisanxing explained through a sound transmission.

Ning Cheng nodded, and his spiritual consciousness vaguely swept towards the 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond area once again. But this time, he did not see the woman with a scarf covering her face.

"I'll go over. You don't have to worry." Ning Cheng signalled Qi Shisanxing to ignore him and took the initiative to walk towards Cen Caixuan.

"Remember, Ji He was quite stupid when facing his fiancée. Don't drag things out...." Qi Shisanxing couldn't help but send Ning Cheng another voice transmission to help him out.

Before Ning Cheng reached Cen Clan's place, a middle-aged man greeted him with a smile on his face. "Ji He. It truly is a happy event that you came out of the mystic realm. Truly a great occasion. After taking care of a few things, you and Caixuan can go to Cen Clan's Corner City to celebrate. Caixuan had long wanted to find you, but because of the fear of influencing your divine grass count, she didn't dare to come to meet you."

"Ji He greets Senior Taihe." Ning Cheng quickly cupped his fists and greeted this middle-aged man. Qi Shisanxing had already introduced some of the main characters of the Cen Clan to him. It's only because of his help did Ning Cheng know that this middle-aged male cultivator was called Cen Taihe, Cen Caixuan's uncle.

Cen Taihe immediately noticed how Ning Cheng called out to him and felt it a bit off from the usual. However, before he could speak, he saw Ning Cheng's gaze falling on Cen Caixuan behind him.

Before he had the time even to register his surprise, he heard a slightly subtle but vocal voice call out from behind. "Caixuan, the Grand Essence Great Meet is about to start. You and I can go to the Heaven Essence Sacred City first, and I will take you to the Heaven Essence Auction to see if there is anything there that catches your eye."

As soon as Cen Taihe heard this voice, he didn't need to look back at all. His heart sank. He knew that Guo Haoqin of the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children had arrived. This Guo Haoqin didn't come early or late, but just in time.

Cen Caixuan looked at Guo Haoge with surprise. She didn't expect Guo Haoge to treat her this softly today. Even if Guo Haoge was a short, thin and black-eyed person, she still considered Guo Haoge the most handsome person. Ji He might have obtained many divine grasses, but how could it compare to Guo Haoge? One had to know that Guo Haoge was not just River Luo Sacred River's disciple but also one of the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children.

Ning Cheng's eyes flashed with a trace of disappointment, and he stared at Cen Caixuan with slight anger. However, internally he felt relieved to find an excuse to not make a fool out of himself. It looks like this Ji He didn't have good eyes, falling for a woman who didn't even care about him.

However, Ning Cheng soon felt something wrong with the situation. He could feel Guo Haoge looking at him with a hint of provocation and challenge.

Seeing Guo Haoge taking the initiative to hold Cen Caixuan's hand, Ning Cheng understood that this kid wanted to provoke him deliberately. His actions saying, 'even if I took you fiancée, what can you do to me?'

But then combining it with Cen Caixuan's happy expression, Ning Cheng understood that Guo Haoge didn't think anything of Cen Caixuan. From the looks of it, Guo Haoge came here not because he went out of the mystic realm and felt a crisis of someone else pursuing Cen Caixuan. But rather because someone asked him to do so.

Ji He just came out of the Mystic Realm, and even before that, Ji He kept a low profile. How could he have any enemies? Ning Cheng's gaze then trailed towards 9-revolving Sacred Dao Pond. Sure enough, he saw Shi Yishuang looking at him with contempt.

Understanding that Shi Yishuang must be the one behind it, Ning Cheng sneered inwardly. He wasn't Ji He, so what about Ji He's fiancée and other things. Ning Cheng didn't care about it at all. As for Shi Yishuang, he chose to ignore her entirely. Shi Qionghua was his wife, not Shi Yishuang.

Cen Taihe looked at Ning Cheng and Guo Haoge awkwardly. At this time, he did not dare to say anything. He could still afford to play around and even provoke Ji He, but his Cen Clan cannot afford to provoke one of the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children.

"Presumably, you're Ji He? Congratulations on getting a Grand Essence Great Meet Qualifications Card. The Grand Essence Great Meet is a very dangerous competition, not a place for children to play. I heard that you know Caixuan. If you want, I can help you transfer this qualification card. After all, having one in your hand will be quite troublesome to you." Guo Haoge spoke with a sarcasm-laden tone when he saw Ning Cheng's gaze on him.

Cen Caixuan had already woken up from her initial happiness, and her expressions turned a little ugly. In any case, she was still Ji He's fiancée. But now, she stood here holding hands with another man in front of her fiancée. It was a bit too much. She wanted to take her hand away from Guo Haoge, but she also felt very reluctant. Moreover, Guo Haoge had quite a firm grasp.

Seeing Guo Haoge's expression, Ning Cheng felt the urge to laugh. Guo Haoge's appearance and the way he spoke brought up an image of another person in Ning Cheng's mind. Song Jiang from Water Margin. Short, black and ugly.

Ning Cheng wanted to retort, but he gave up when he remembered Ji He's supposed character.

Seeing Ning Cheng turning around and slowly leaving, Cen Caixuan suddenly felt a sense of guilt and emptiness.

Guo Haoге laughed, "I will also participate in the great meet this time. In case I meet you at the Heaven Essence Sacred City's battle stage, I promise to spare your life for Caixuan's sake."

Someone had asked him to ridicule Ji He. Otherwise, as one of the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children, he wouldn't have come here to do such boring things. As for Cen Caixuan, hehe, if he wanted, he could take her right here and now. He didn't care about her, even a bit.

Ning Cheng finally stopped. He glanced at Guo Haoге with a calm gaze and said, "It's not your fault that you look ugly, but it just doesn't feel right for you to try and look scary with your face. Well, it only shows that your father loves you a bit too much. Instead of pushing you to the margins, he even gave you a way to live."

How could Guo Haoге even understand Ning Cheng's classic and earthly curse words in just a short period? He couldn't fully digest the words when Ning Cheng suddenly looked at the sky and then looked at Guo Haoге with a smile and said, "I had my heart on the bright moon, but the bright moon..... Alas."

Before he finished speaking, the smile on Ning Cheng's face instantly converged. He quickly turned around and left.

People counted Guo Haoге among the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children. Plus, the River Luo Sacred Sect had even raised him. It meant that he naturally wasn't a fool. Even if he hadn't experienced the classical curses from Earth, he quickly put two and two together after some time. He never thought that someone would use such vicious words without a bit of poison in them.

"You're looking for death." After understanding the intent behind Ning Cheng's words, Guo Haoге finally felt flames of anger rising towards Ning Cheng. Even his murderous aura started to flow out suddenly.

"What, want to fight? I'll accompany you." Qi Shisanxing saw Guo Haoге's current state and immediately walked over.

Seeing Qi Shisanxing walk over, Guo Haoге's anger suddenly calmed down. He wasn't afraid of facing Qi Shisanxing, but he didn't want to start here. As one of the 12 Sacred Children, he cannot be the one to start a fight in such an open place.

Seeing that Guo Haoге did not dare to continue, Qi Shisanxing sneered disdainfully, patted Ning Cheng's shoulder and smiled. "Ji He, why didn't you finish that sentence just now? That sentence sounded truly beautiful. What about the bright moon?"

Ning Cheng pretended to sigh, "But the bright moon shines on shit."

"Haha..." Qi Shisanxing covered his stomach and laughed. He truly couldn't figure out how Ning Cheng thought of it, but he loved it.

Qi Shisanxing couldn't help but laugh even louder when he thought of how Ning Cheng treated the twelve Sacred Children as shit. Not only Qi Shisanxing but the people around them who heard this

sentence also couldn't help but laugh. Guo Haoge's face turned blue with anger, and by now, he had already started to regard Ning Cheng as a dead person in his heart.

It didn't matter if Ning Cheng hid in the Profound Moon Spirit Gate. As long as he dared to go to the Heaven Essence Sacred City to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet, he would have a way to kill Ning Cheng.

Knowing that he couldn't do anything to Ning Cheng in this place, Guo Haoge, who almost vomited blood out of anger, turned around and also left. He didn't even bother with Cen Caixuan.

Cen Taihe sighed as he looked at Guo Haoge's back. For him, even if Ji He wanted to return to the Cen Clan right now, he would never dare accept it. After offending Guo Haoge, would his Cen Clan still dare to have a relationship with Ji He?

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 895: Ji He's Origin

"Ji He, I have to return to the Profound Moon Spirit Gate. If you want, you can also come to the Profound Moon Spirit Gate with me, then...."

Ning Cheng interrupted Qi Shisanxing, "I'm going to Heaven Essence Sacred City. You should go back first. After a month, if you have the time, you can come to the Heaven Essence Sacred City to see my matches. If you don't find the time, I will come to the Profound Moon Spirit Gate to find you."

Ning Cheng understood Qi Shisanxing's intent and even felt quite happy with the offer. But it would also reveal a few things to others if he accepted it right away. Even if Guo Haoge looked down and cursed at the previous Ji He, Ji He would have swallowed the anger. But now, 'Ji He' not only cursed back at Guo Haoge, he even took it to the point where Guo Haoge almost vomited blood out of anger.

Ordinary people might think that Ji He's personality changed after being trapped in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm for so many years. But if someone decided to look into it a bit more, they would eventually realise a few discrepancies.

Eventually, it would lead to people doubting his identity as Ji He. Moreover, if 'Ji He' tolerated Guo Haoge's 'insult' and 'disdain', it might even affect his dao heart, which would limit his future progress.

But Ning Cheng wasn't Ji He. Even if Ji He could stand all of the abuse and insult, Ning Cheng wasn't one to endure such things. Besides, since he took advantage of the dead Ji He to escape disaster, he could at least help alleviate Ji He's image in others' eyes.

Qi Shisanxing asked him to come to the Profound Moon Spirit Gate because he didn't want any accidents.

But Qi Shisanxing had been missing for such a long time, which meant that he would have many things to take care of after returning. On the other hand, Ning Cheng had one month left for the Grand Essence Great Meet. Taking advantage of this month, he could stay in the Heaven Essence Sacred City to rest and take care of some other things.

"Okay. I'll rush to the Heaven Essence Sacred City to meet you as soon as possible." Qi Shisanxing saw that Ning Cheng had already made up his mind and had no choice but to agree.

Heaven Essence Sacred City was the largest sacred city in the Grand Essence Domain. No one would dare to do anything there, even when it came to sneaky stuff. Therefore, as long as Ning Cheng reached Heaven Essence Sacred City, he wouldn't face any danger. Thinking of this, Qi Shisanxing also felt relieved.

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After parting ways from Qi Shisanxing, Ning Cheng found that the cultivator who owned the flame hive was no longer present. Most likely, he had already left. Ning Cheng wasn't in a hurry to find him as he assumed that there wouldn't be many people who needed the Gold Flame Hive. In any case, this item had relatively limited uses. Since this person also reached the top ten in the Divine Grass Rankings, this person would most likely also come to the Heaven Essence Sacred City. As such, Ning Cheng only needed to enter Heaven Essence Sacred City to search for this person. However, Ning Cheng did worry about this person deciding to exchange the Gold Flame Hive for other things before he found him.

Reaching this point, Ning Cheng didn't stay in this place for long and brought out a flight-type weapon and flew towards the Heaven Essence Sacred City. He decided to rush to the Heaven Essence Sacred City alone to test if Man Huishan would come after him. If Man Huishan truly came after him, Ning Cheng would immediately activate the Breaking Boundary Talisman and escape this place. Facing a Dao Essence expert, Ning Cheng knew that he wasn't qualified to resist at all.

Ning Cheng started to feel relieved after some time. Not only did Man Huishan not chase after him, but even Guo Haoqiang also didn't come looking for him.

A few days later, Ning Cheng finally arrived at Heaven Essence Sacred City without any incidents.

Ning Cheng had never seen such a lively place after entering the Grand Essence Realm. Even the Grand Essence Ruins' public square wasn't as densely packed as the Heaven Essence Sacred City. Even before entering through the city gate, he could see several dense clusters of cultivators all around the perimeter of the sacred city, coming in and out.

Looking from his vantage point, the Heaven Essence Sacred City looked like a city suspended in clouds. He also couldn't find any traces of defensive arrays at the edge of the sacred city.

However, Ning Cheng had a vague feeling that these floating clouds and hazy edges weren't what appeared on the surface. Everything here gave him the feeling of being a part of the most advanced array formations. He couldn't see any traces due to his accomplishments in the Dao of Arrays not reaching the required level.

Landing dozens of miles away from Heaven Essence Sacred City, Ning Cheng put away the flight-type weapon. He found no evidence of Forbidden Space Restrictions around this place, and only the Heaven Essence Sacred City had one. Yet, Ning Cheng did not see a single person flying. As a middle-stage Eternal cultivator, Ning Cheng naturally didn't want to make any trouble. Therefore, he quietly put away the flight-type weapon. Then, like the rest of the cultivators on the white jade road, he walked into the Heaven Essence Sacred City.

The closer Ning Cheng came to the city gates, the more he felt the rich atmosphere circulating throughout the area. Ning Cheng sighed in his heart at such a luxury. Suppose he could live in this kind

of environment for a long time. In that case, Ning Cheng could improve the cultivation efficiency by several folds. However, he also understood that living in this city wouldn't be a simple matter.

After an incense stick worth of time, Ning Cheng finally stood at Heaven Essence Sacred City's gate. Above the entrance, he also saw four prominent characters, 'Heaven Essence Sacred City'.

Ning Cheng paid 100 high-rank spirit crystals as the entrance fee before entering, which was the most expensive entrance fee he had ever seen.

Before Ning Cheng arrived here, he harboured a worry that he couldn't find a place to live. After all, he had experienced too many things like this. Whenever a big event happened, restaurants and inns were the first things to become a scarce commodity.

But after entering Heaven Essence Sacred City and moving around for a while, Ning Cheng understood that his worries had a solid base. At this moment, within Heaven Essence Sacred City, not to mention large inns, even the smaller rest stops and restaurants overflowed with people.

The sacred city covered a wide area, and every street looked like a public square stretched out to the extremes. However, no matter how wide the road, one couldn't sleep or meditate on it.

Fortunately, with Ning Cheng's cultivation, even if he wandered the streets for a few months, it would be of no consequence. But since the Grand Essence Great Meet was about a month away, and he was one of the participants, he had to find a place, at least for some proper rest. He couldn't wander the streets here for a month.

"Elder Brother Ji He, why are you here? You're not...." A surprised voice sounded out, and a female cultivator quickly appeared in front of Ning Cheng. However, this female cultivator looked surprised, and the words lasted only for a moment. After that, she seemed to have noticed something and stopped herself. She even lowered her head.

This female cultivator wore a grey robe, had a fair complexion and slightly thick eyebrows. However, her eyebrows looked frayed a little. Moreover, she gave off a tired vibe. At most, one could say that she was an eye-catching woman but far less beautiful when compared to Cen Caixuan. As for her cultivation, it wasn't high either, only at the early-stage Eternal Realm.

But these were all secondary issues. The main thing was that Ning Cheng did not know this female cultivator. Thinking that someone must have noticed this exchange, Ning Cheng suddenly turned anxious. If someone saw Ji He meeting an acquaintance but didn't recognise them, it would not look good for him.

Ning Cheng showed a quick smile and said, "It's been a long time. Let's find a place to sit down and drink some tea."

Seeing Ning Cheng's polite attitude made her feel as if they were no longer close. The female cultivator's eyes flashed with sadness, but she still spoke with her head down, "Okay, let's go to the Orchid Pond Restaurant in the front. It has some good spiritual tea."

"Okay." Ning Cheng followed the female cultivator and quickly headed into a restaurant on the side. Only then did he give out a sigh of relief. Since she was Ji He's acquaintance, he had to handle this situation with care.

After the two entered the restaurant, they found it packed to the brim. Not to mention private booths, they couldn't find a single empty table in the hall.

"Elder Brother Ji He, let's sit there." The female cultivator pointed to an empty seat in the corner of the hall.

Ning Cheng shook his head slightly, took the female cultivator, and found the restaurant's waiter. Grabbing a storage bag, he put it directly in the waiter's hand and said, "My friend and I are in a hurry. We need a booth...."

The waiter's spiritual consciousness swept into Ning Cheng's storage bag and the bag quickly disappeared with a twist of his hand. The waiter showed a warm smile and said, "Two honoured guests, please come with me."

He then brought Ning Cheng and the female cultivator into one of the more elegant-looking booths. Seeing the booth, Ning Cheng secretly sighed to himself. "This booth is not much better than a ditch, and it's always crowded in here. It seems like I'll have to go to a different inn to find a room. But I guess it would do for now."

After the waiter left, Ning Cheng activated the restrictions. But before he could speak, he heard the female cultivator's cold voice, "You're not Ji He. Who are you? Why do you pretend to be Ji He?"

Ning Cheng felt surprised. Since the moment he assumed Ji He's identity, he did not face any problems till now. Maybe this female cultivator was Ji He's partner, and he accidentally showed his feet? At this moment, Ning Cheng even thought of silencing this woman.

But this thought disappeared in a flash. He took advantage of Ji He's identity to escape. If he killed anyone with a close connection to Ji He to protect himself, he would become even worse than beasts in his own eyes. What's more, could he even kill someone in Heaven Essence Sacred City? Did he not want to live?

Ning Cheng decided to tell her about Qi Shisanxing and Ji He and how he pretended to be Ji He to escape.

After listening to Ning Cheng's story, the female cultivator sighed faintly and spoke with a trace of sadness in her eyes. "Something truly did happen to Elder Brother Ji He."

After speaking, she stood up, turned her back to Ning Cheng and said, "Don't worry. I won't tell anyone about it."

Ning Cheng truly worried that this female cultivator would say something just like this. Hearing those words, he had to speak up, "This Junior Apprentice Sister, I see that you have something heavy bothering you. Although I never met Ji He, he was friends with Shisanxing, a good friend of mine. Since I have no choice but to use Ji He's identity for now, can you tell me about your problems if you don't mind? Maybe I can help you with it."

The female cultivator heard Ning Cheng's words and hesitated for a long time. Not knowing what went on in her head, her eyes suddenly lit up, and she started talking, "Then, I'll talk about it."

After saying that, she sat down once again.

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After an hour, Ning Cheng finally understood the issues. Xin Xiu was the name of this female cultivator and was Ji He's Junior Apprentice Sister. Ji He also has a Junior Apprentice Brother named Wu Qihong. As for these three's teacher, he was called Di Shuibo, a Tier 6 Pill King.

Among the three, Ji He's talent in alchemy surpassed the other two. Sometime in the past, their teacher Di Shuibo found a secret divine grass garden. He entered the divine grass garden with his three disciples, but he never expected someone else to discover the location. In the fight for divine grasses, Di Shuibo and the other looting cultivators died together.

But before he died, Di Shuibo gave his ring and all the divine grasses to Ji He. He asked Ji He to continue teaching and guiding his Junior Apprentice Sister and Junior Apprentice Brother. Moreover, he also instructed Ji He to divide the divine grasses in the ring equally and urged them to become a Pill Emperor or even a Pill Deity, if possible.

However, he never expected that Ji He wouldn't listen to his words at all. Instead, Ji He left his Junior Apprentice Brother and Junior Apprentice Sister alone with a portion of the divine grasses in the ring. Only years later did Xin Xiu hear about Ji He. But by that time, Ji He had already become a Tier 8 Pill Emperor for the Grand Essence Domain's Pill Union.

After Ji He left, Wu Qihong and Xin Xiu slowly came together, and at one point, they started to depend on each other. However, Wu Qihong ended up with a severe injury, which forced Xin Xiu to look for a way to help Wu Qihong. Looking all around for information about anything that could help them, she also inquired about Ji He. It was then that she learned that Ji He had not only become a Pill Emperor for the Pill Union but had fallen in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm.

Ji He had swallowed a significant portion of the divine grasses and left his master's sect. He even abandoned the two of them. Yet, when she incidentally saw Ji He at this time, Xin Xiu instinctively hoped in her heart that Ji He could help Wu Qihong. But recalling what she had learned earlier caused her to hesitate in the beginning.

Ning Cheng was a little dumbfounded when he heard this story. Sure enough, everyone had a dark side deep within their heart. If he hadn't met Xin Xiu, how could he have thought that Ji He would have such a selfish heart? Moreover, he also detected a hint of love and hate in Xin Xiu's words as she spoke about her Eldest Senior Brother Ji He. After all, Ji He took the divine grasses and abandoned them in the time of need, leaving them to fend for themselves.

Seeing Ning Cheng sitting there with a slightly stunned look, Xin Xiu spoke up with a quiet voice. "The truth is, neither Junior Apprentice Brother Qihong nor I blamed Eldest Brother Ji He...."

Ning Cheng stood up and said, "Junior Apprentice Sister Xin Xiu, I'm also an Alchemy Master. If you don't mind, just address me as Senior Apprentice Brother Ji. Let's go. I will come with you to see if I can help heal the injuries of your Junior Apprentice Brother Qihong."

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 896: Slapping people in the sacred city

Ning Cheng initially thought that since Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong suffered through quite a few hardships, they would be living in the cheapest inn available. He never expected Xin Xiu to bring him to the largest inn in the Heaven Essence Sacred City, the Star Stepping Tower.

Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong not only took up residence in the Star Stepping Tower, but they also occupied the most luxurious suite in the Star Stepping Tower. The suite consisted of three individual cultivation chambers, an artefact-crafting chamber, a companion beast chamber and a luxuriously decorated reception hall.

As soon as he entered the room, the vibrant spirit qi in the suite enveloped his body, making him feel extremely comfortable.

Ning Cheng had a reasonably good idea about the prices within the Heaven Essence Sacred City by now. Just what would it cost him to live in such a place? Ning Cheng glanced at Xin Xiu and sighed. This person truly didn't look rich enough to rent such a suite. Perhaps it was possible to become wealthy using alchemical talent. But in a place like Heaven Essence Sacred City, how could an Alchemy Master at Xin Xiu's level earn so many spirit crystals?

Xin Xiu could see the doubt on Ning Cheng's face and showed a self-deprecating laugh. "Junior Apprentice Brother Qihong and I had worked hard and saved everything we could for cultivation. Not to mention living in this luxurious inn. We wouldn't even choose to stay in the most common and cheapest inn in this place and, even then, would think about it for a long time before leasing one. However, Junior Apprentice Brother Qihong has been severely injured for quite a long time now and is about to fall. Thinking back to how we've always been scared to live, I decided to take out all the spirit crystals we saved up to live in the Star Stepping Tower's best suite...."

Ning Cheng could hear the bitterness from Xin Xiu's words. As an early-stage Eternal cultivator, who primarily focused on Alchemy, she would not have enough strength to protect herself in this place. Let alone living while taking care of a wounded man in the Grand Essence Domain. It naturally wouldn't have been an easy task for her.

"Take me to see your Junior Apprentice Brother Qihong." Ning Cheng didn't pry into this matter and asked Xin Xiu to lead the way.

Xin Xiu brought Ning Cheng to Wu Qihong's chamber and finally saw Ji He's Junior Apprentice Brother. At this moment, Wu Qihong was on the bed with his eyes tightly closed and covered in sheets. He didn't even seem to be breathing. If it weren't for Ning Cheng's keen senses, which allowed him to feel a trace of life from him, even he would have thought that this person was nothing more than a corpse.

Wu Qihong's face looked pitch black and devoid of any flesh. He looked even thinner than Qi Shisanxing when he had just finished recreating his body.

Ning Cheng was a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity and had a mighty spiritual consciousness. Moreover, he even cultivated a spiritual consciousness cultivation method. Therefore, when he saw Wu Qihong's appearance, he understood that Wu Qihong's Sea of Consciousness had shattered. At best, it was at the brink of collapse, which meant that his life force was about to dissipate. Not only that, even his essence spirit seemed to have started to weaken.

According to Ning Cheng's estimation, if no one helped him, Wu Qihong would only last for a few days at most before truly turning into a corpse.

Xin Xiu kept a close watch at Ning Cheng's expressions and sighed when she saw Ning Cheng frown. Even if she had a slight hope in her heart, she also understood what Ning Cheng's frown represented.

"This Elder Brother, I know the extent of Qihong's injury. If you don't have....."

Ning Cheng knew what Xin Xiu wanted to say and immediately interrupted her. "Although it might look impossible to save your Junior Apprentice Brother right now, it doesn't mean that he doesn't have a chance....."

Without waiting for Ning Cheng to finish, Xin Xiu showed a delighted expression and even spoke up with a trembling tone. "Elder Brother, you you.... you have a way to save my Junior Apprentice Brother?"

Ning Cheng replied with an apologetic tone, "I only said that he might have a chance. For now, I can only help him supplement his life force for a month. If I can't figure out a way to save him within a month, you both need to prepare yourself for the worst. By the way, you should call me Senior Apprentice Brother Ji so that people won't suspect me. I have offended a lot of people after all."

The reason Ning Cheng said this was because he could refine the Extreme Purging Wood Essence Pill. The Extreme Purging Wood Essence Pill wasn't an extremely high-grade pill, only an ordinary Grade 9 Starry Sky Medicinal Pill. However, it can help increase the life force within a cultivator, which would truly help Wu Qihong.

More importantly, the main ingredient required for refining the Extreme Purging Wood Essence Pill was the Wood Origin Qi stored within the Wood Origin Crystal. An object that Ning Cheng didn't lack right now.

The pill could help Wu Qihong sustain and supplement his life force for about a month before losing effect. Ning Cheng wanted to use this time to break open Pill Sage Min Kong's bracelet. Since Pill Sage Min Kong was a top-grade Pill Sage, who can say if his bracelet contained a method to repair one's Sea of Consciousness or not?

"Elder Brother Ji, whether Qihong can survive or not, I will always remember this Elder Brother's kindness." Xin Xiu bowed so low that her head almost touched the ground. However, she still addressed Ning Cheng as Elder Brother Ji and not Senior Apprentice Brother Ji.

"I'll get on with refining the pill right away. After refining the Extreme Purging Wood Essence Pill, you should feed it to your Junior Apprentice Brother Qihong at regular intervals." Ning Cheng motioned Xin Xiu to get up and said.

Xiu Xin stared at Ning Cheng with wide eyes and said in disbelief, "Elder Brother Ji, are you a Tier 9 Pill Emperor?"

Ning Cheng smiled but didn't reply. The fact was he had become a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity while researching artefact-crafting during his retreat in the Grand Essence Ruins' public square cave.

"Ah.... no." Xin Xiu seemed to have remembered something and called out again, "The rent for this place is due in one day, but....."

Ning Cheng looked at Xin Xiu's expression and knew that Xin Xiu didn't have any spirit stones on her. After finally finding a place to stay, Ning Cheng naturally wouldn't let Xin Xiu move out. He quickly asked, "How many spirit crystals does this place charge per day?"

"Ten thousand high-rank spirit crystals...." Xin Xiu hesitated before replying. She initially went with the mindset that her Junior Apprentice Brother would have no chance to live. It was why she had chosen to live in such a luxurious place to make her Junior Apprentice Brother's last moments somewhat comfortable. Moreover, deep down in her heart, Xin Xiu also wanted to live in such an opulent and luxurious place with vibrant spirit qi. But after living here for more than half a year, the spirit crystals she accumulated over the years had all vanished.

Ning Cheng knew that this place was expensive, and now he finally had a price, ten thousand high-rank spirit crystals a day. If he hadn't robbed Ninth Prince's helper, the spirit crystals on him would have only lasted him for a few days.

"Don't worry about it." Ning Cheng took out a storage bag, "You go down and renew the lease for two more months and tell them to keep the extra spirit crystals."

Ning Cheng had slightly over 10 million high-rank spirit crystals. He put 1 million high-rank spirit crystals in the storage bag and gave it to Xin Xiu. It meant that apart from the two months of rent, the bag contained an extra 400,000 spirit crystals.

Xin Xiu didn't remain polite about it. At this moment, politeness wouldn't help her or her Junior Apprentice Brother. Besides, for her right now, the life of her Junior Apprentice Brother took utmost priority.

While Xin Xiu took care of renewing the lease, Ning Cheng immediately started refining pills in Wu Qihong's room. Ning Cheng finished refining a batch of Extreme Purging Wood Essence Pills an incense stick worth of time later. Putting away the pill furnace, Ning Cheng took out an Extreme Purging Wood Essence Pill and put it into Wu Qihong's mouth. A moment later, a rich life force erupted from Wu Qihong's body, and his body started to glow faintly.

Although Wu Qihong hadn't opened his eyes yet, his life force, which initially consisted of a heavy death aura, had lightened up considerably.

Ning Cheng felt delighted with the result. This one Extreme Purging Wood Essence Pill could easily sustain and nourish Wu Qihong's life force for one to two months. But if he couldn't find a way to save Wu Qihong during this time, Wu Qihong would have no choice but to accept his fate.

Walking out of Wu Qihong's room, Ning Cheng felt something wrong. Xin Xiu had gone down to renew the lease; why was it taking so long to come up?

The thought had just popped in his mind when Xin Xiu came up. However, there was a red mark on her face, indicating that someone had slapped her.

"What's the matter?" Ning Cheng asked.

Xin Xiu shook her head and handed the storage bag back to Ning Cheng. "They're not willing to renew the lease, saying that someone has already rented it out. We will have to move out in a day."

Ning Cheng sneered and didn't take the storage bag Xin Xiu tried to hand him back, and instead, said to Xin Xiu, "You should come down with me."

Ning Cheng wasn't a newbie when it came to staying in inns, which meant that he also had a good idea about the rules. As long as the guests haven't moved out or taken the initiative to leave early and did not cause any loss to the rest, the inn would have no right to drive away guests. It was something that everyone in the business of running inns knew.

Besides, it was one thing if someone wanted to drive away Xin Xiu, but someone also wanted to bully Xin Xiu from its looks. When the inns were in the highest demand, the purpose of throwing Xin Xiu out was quite evident.

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There were plenty of people in the inn's lobby. But two particularly striking cultivators kept laughing at each other in front of the leasing counter.

"What, checking out so early?" The concierge behind the counter saw Xin Xiu coming and spoke up with a disdainful voice.

Xin Xiu didn't speak, but Ning Cheng walked over and asked with a kind voice, "Excuse me, are there any rules regarding the lease of the inn's rooms?"

"Are you blind? Isn't that it?" The concierge saw Ning Cheng and Xin Xiu coming together and thought Ning Cheng wanted to fight for Xin Xiu's injustice. But since Ning Cheng spoke with such a polite tone, why would he care to show politeness in return. He had quite a rich experience dealing with these kinds of rogue cultivators who had no confidence in themselves. One had to project strength and confidence in this city. Not only one must project strength and confidence; one must also let the other party know that they couldn't offend them in this part of the world.

Ning Cheng's gaze fell on the rules hanging on the wall behind the concierge. After a few breaths, he put the hundreds of words aside and then smiled again while looking at the concierge. "Was it you who slapped my Junior Apprentice Sister?"

"Yes, it was this Grandpa who slapped....."

Before the concierge could finish speaking, he felt a wave of cold wash over him. It felt as if everything around him had become stagnant; even his body had become stiff. Only after a moment did he realise that Ning Cheng's domain had already wrapped around him. But by that time, Ning Cheng had already grabbed his neck and lifted him like a chicken up for slaughter.

But before the concierge could even beg for mercy, Ning Cheng's illusory celestial essence palm print fell on the concierge's face.

"PaPaPaPa...." After a dozen slaps, the concierge's face had deformed to such an extent that it no longer resembled his original face. The blows did not tear skin or even loosen any teeth, yet blood kept dripping down the concierge's chin like a leaky faucet.

"Stop...." An angry voice emerged, and then a more powerful domain suppressed Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng flicked his hand and threw the concierge directly to the corner of the counter before calmly turning his back to him.

The one who came over was a middle-aged male cultivator with tall stature and long slender eyes. He hadn't reached Ning Cheng yet, but his domain's powerful aura had already started to pressure Ning Cheng.

However, he didn't take any action. Instead, he stared at Ning Cheng and said, "Who is this dao friend? Why did you beat my Star Stepping Tower's concierge?"

Don't look at how this middle-aged male cultivator hadn't taken any action. His murderous aura had already spread out, forcing the surrounding cultivators to back away. Everyone understood what this middle-aged male cultivator meant. That is, once Ning Cheng answers, he would immediately take action. But this middle-aged male cultivator first wanted to know about Ning Cheng's background before taking action. After all, only those with significant background would dare to slap people in this place.

Heaven Essence Sacred City didn't allow killing people unless under certain conditions. Only if Ning Cheng attacked the concierge of Heaven Essence City's premier inn without reason could he kill Ning Cheng on the spot without any problems. Or, at the very least, he had to make up a convincing reason.

Ning Cheng cupped his fists towards the middle-aged male cultivator and said, "That concierge let me hit him, so I did."

"Bullshit, so many people saw what happened. When did I let you hit me?" The concierge's face at this point looked like a heavily used rag. However, he wasn't injured too much. Therefore, he immediately stood up and shouted at Ning Cheng.

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Chapter 897: A woman surnamed Nie

Ning Cheng pointed to the rules behind him and said, "Article 61 of the Star Stepping Tower's lease. The guest can use the room in any way they like before the guest checks out or defaults on the rent. No matter the circumstance, the guest has the first right to renew the lease. Article 75, if the inn is in any way rude to the guests, the guests can register their protest in their own way."

"The concierge broke both rules in a row, so I'm just registering my complaint in my own way. My way is quite simple, you see, just slapping his face. By the way, these rules are what the concierge told me to read. Otherwise, I really wouldn't have known about it. I guess since he knowingly committed the crime, he should at least volunteer to be a punching bag."

The middle-aged male cultivator frowned when he heard Ning Cheng's words and stared at the concierge with an ice-cold gaze before asking, "What the hell is going on?"

Xin Xiu had seen this middle-aged male cultivator before and knew that this person was a deacon of the Star Stepping Tower. She already felt quite anxious, so before the concierge could answer, she took the initiative to speak. "I wanted to renew the lease for my suite, but he didn't allow me to renew it, and it all led to this."

This concierge was just a mid-level Eternal cultivator. However, he knew that Xin Xiu lived here with a wounded person for over half a year. He quickly understood that Xin Xiu was a rogue cultivator he could

bully around. But he didn't expect that Ning Cheng and Xin Xiu would come out together and dare to slap him and make matters worse.

Seeing the concierge hesitate, the middle-aged male cultivator quickly understood the crux of the matter. From the looks of it, what this cultivator couple spoke was the truth. But even if it was the truth, as long as they dared to attack the Star Stepping Tower's concierge, he had to take some action.

"My Star Stepping Tower has been in Heaven Essence Sacred City for tens of thousands of years. It had always prided itself on its credibility. As long as you do not owe us the rent, there would be no problems renewing the lease. However, although the guests can use their own methods to settle complaints, it does not mean that they can beat people from my Star Stepping Tower." The middle-aged male cultivator suddenly spoke out sharply and directed his intense killing desire towards Ning Cheng and Xin Xiu.

Xin Xiu didn't have a high enough cultivation. Therefore, the moment this killing desire surrounded her, she felt as if she had plunged head-first into a bucket of ice-cold water.

On the other hand, Ning Cheng simply lifted his hand and flicked, dissipated the killing desire in just an instant and replied with an equally cold tone. "So, only your Star Stepping Tower's concierge can slap us around while we're not even allowed to fight back?"

"My Star Stepping Tower's concierge slap you?" The middle-aged male cultivator frowned. He had a foreboding that this matter didn't seem as simple as he predicted.

Xin Xiu quickly said, "Yes, I had come down to renew the lease. But this concierge not only did not allow me to renew the lease but also cursed at me and then slapped me in the face."

Seeing the middle-aged male cultivator's sharp gaze sweeping towards him, the concierge trembled. If he wanted to deny this thing, he could deny it. But with too many people in the hall who witnessed it, it wouldn't be much of a problem to find witnesses.

"Deacon Huang, yes, yes....." The concierge hesitated for a long time before finally sputtering out a response, but one without any reason.

"Haha, Deacon Huang, long time no see." A young brown-robed man suddenly walked over and greeted the middle-aged male cultivator with cupped fists and a smile.

When the middle-aged male cultivator addressed as Deacon Huang saw the young man in brown robes, the frost on his face melted instantly and turned into a wide smile. "It turned out to be Sacred Child Ji who graced us with his presence. Welcome."

Sacred Child Ji glanced at Ning Cheng and Xin Xiu before speaking to Deacon Huang. "Deacon Huang, if you are looking to blame someone, then you can blame me for this mess. This concierge only wanted to help me out, that's it. I lived in the premier suite on the top floor for some time in the past and fell in love with it. This time around, when I came to Heaven Essence Sacred City, I wanted to stay there once again for some time."

Deacon Huang realised in an instant that this man and woman who created all this trouble must have come from the premier suite on the sixth floor. Since the concierge did not allow this female cultivator to renew the lease, it should be because her lease term had expired. The concierge, most likely, wanted

to withdraw it from them and give it to Ji Pingzhong, the fourth-strongest among the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children. Not only was he powerful by himself, but he also had a powerful force supporting him. As just a Deacon, he truly couldn't afford to offend such a person.

Thinking of this, Deacon Huang turned his attention to Ning Cheng. "This guest, if you're willing to move out of the Premier Suite on the sixth floor, I will refund you double of what you paid for your room previously."

Ning Cheng sighed internally. He understood that it would be an impossible matter for him to live here in peace. He could put up an act and play around with a concierge, but if he picked a fight with the deacon here, he wouldn't even get the option to leave. Besides, this Deacon Huang most likely didn't know that Xin Xiu had lived there for more than half a year. If he had to pay back double the rate, I wonder what kind of face he would make.

Ning Cheng didn't continue to talk about renewing the lease and directly said, "Yes, we can withdraw, but we can only move out tomorrow."

"Give them back double the spirit crystals they paid. Don't let me count it by myself, or I'll have your head." Deacon Huang shouted to the concierge.

The concierge trembled and said, "She has lived here for more than half a year, and double the spirit crystals would mean more than five million...."

"What?" Deacon Huang almost vomited blood. More than five million spirit crystals! Even he couldn't take it out if he sold everything on him right now. What's more, the Grand Essence Great Meet was also about to start, which meant that all kinds of good things would be pouring into the sacred city. He needed many spirit crystals to purchase the necessary items, so how could he take out so much at once.

Deacon Huang felt quite desperate and wanted Ji Pingzhong to come forward and say that he could take care of the spirit crystals. However, Ji Pingzhong didn't even bother to move. Rather, he pretended otherwise. Either that, or he didn't put him, Deacon Huang, in his eyes at all.

"This dao friend, you've lived here for too long. I can only refund you ten days' worth of rent. What do you think?" Deacon Huang wouldn't agree to shell out five million spirit crystals to Ning Cheng even if Ning Cheng slapped him publicly.

Ning Cheng sneered, "It seems that Star Stepping Tower likes to act only as a bully. Not only do they bully their guests, they even make promises like clouds of farts. Stop with all this pretend acting; if you can't back your words, then state it openly. Don't make things on the spot only to disgust people."

Although he technically didn't suffer any loss right now, Ning Cheng had already decided to leave this place with Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong. One day, he will come back to get some old fashioned revenge.

Deacon Huang already felt disgruntled with Ning Cheng. Now that Ning Cheng retorted with such rude words, he immediately made up his mind to teach Ning Cheng a lesson.

But before he could even speak a word against Ning Cheng, a cold voice suddenly appeared in the hall. "My Star Stepping Tower has always put the customer first, aiming to make them feel at home. We never indulge in bullying customers or make random promises. Since the Star Stepping Tower has laid

down its rules, it's the same as a country's laws. As long as the guests fulfil the rent obligations, any and every customer will enjoy the laid down rules."

Ning Cheng felt distracted for a while. Why did those words feel so familiar? He even felt as if these words came from a person from Earth. Except for Earth, every place he had visited used the word 'law' instead of 'law'. Not only that, but even the words 'customers', 'obligations', 'rights', and others also sounded familiar yet unfamiliar.

But these thoughts quickly disappeared from Ning Cheng's mind. He saw a black-robed woman with a veil on her face suddenly appear in the hall. To Ning Cheng's surprise, he couldn't see this black-robed woman's cultivation at all. However, this woman's aura felt more powerful and terrifying than Man Jiuren. Only the words 'vast as a sea of smoke' could describe it.

An inn with such a terrifying master, Ning Cheng felt sure that this woman could kill him with just a finger.

"Pardon me, but who is this senior?" Ning Cheng couldn't afford to offend such an expert but also felt a bit curious and used Earth's way of speaking with respect.

The black-robed woman replied with a quiet voice, "My surname is Nei. I opened this inn, and you're going to explain to me about this conflict."

Ning Cheng didn't exaggerate or take back his words and said what had happened just now.

After listening to Ning Cheng's words, the black-robed woman coldly glanced at Deacon Huang and the concierge. She said with an ice-cold tone, "Both of you, get out of my Star Stepping Tower. Don't even dare to step into my Star Stepping Tower from now on or ever in the future."

After speaking, she turned to another concierge and said, "Help these two customers with the lease renewal procedures. Make sure it's per the rules."

Ning Cheng never thought that things would be that simple. Deacon Huang and the injured concierge didn't dare say a word and left the inn's hall with their heads held down.

Sacred Child Ji frowned slightly. He cupped his fists and stepped forward, "Desolate Spirit Palace's Ji Pingzhong greets Senior Nei."

"What do you want?" The black-robed woman's tone didn't ease even a bit.

Ji Pingzhong felt a little unhappy. Facing one of the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children, an inn master would never use such a tone. Let alone after hearing that he came from the Desolate Spirit Palace.

"I want to stay in the premier suite of Star Stepping Tower's sixth floor...."

Without waiting for Ji Pingzhong to finish speaking, the black-robed woman spoke up with a cold voice, "If you want to check-in, then go to the counter and check-in like everybody else. You don't need to tell me about this kind of thing."

Ji Pingzhong took in a deep breath then looked at Ning Cheng before speaking up with a slightly stiff tone, "The premier suite is what they want to renew...."

Ning Cheng didn't drag Ji Pingzhong into the issue when he explained things. He knew that the smaller the forces involved in such a situation, the more beneficial it would be. Now that Ji Pingzhong spoke those words, the black-robed woman instantly understood why Deacon Huang wanted Ning Cheng to check out.

She looked at Ji Pingzhong, and the chillness in her eyes intensified even more. Her tone turned even colder, and she said, "Get lost. No one can drive the guests of my Star Stepping Tower away."

Ji Pingzhong's face changed. No one had ever dared to tell him to get lost. His face turned pale, but he still managed to pass on some words to the black-robed woman, "I will bring the senior's words back to my Desolate Spirit Palace without any changes."

The black-robed woman stared at Ji Pingzhong and spoke with the same ice-cold tone, "If you don't get the hell out right now, I will make sure that you no longer have any legs to return to your Desolate Spirit Palace."

Ji Pingzhong didn't dare to continue spouting nonsense and ran out of the Star Stepping Tower with a cold face.

Ning Cheng was just about to thank the black-robed woman but found that she had already disappeared without a trace. It was in the same manner as when she had first appeared. Ning Cheng couldn't figure out how this veiled black-robed woman appeared and disappeared from the start to the end. Moreover, he could even sense the slightest disturbance in the surrounding space, as if she melted away into the air.

At this point, Ning Cheng no longer wanted to live here anymore. The black-robed woman was just too terrifying. If he did something in the room, could he even hide from this woman? But by the time he looked back, he saw that Xin Xiu had already renewed the lease for two more months. It meant that he had no choice but to stay. "Let's go back up. Unless something happens, try not to come out."

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After returning to the room, Ning Cheng sat quietly for a long time. He started to wonder if this woman surnamed Nei had come from Earth just like him. However, the terrifying power of that female cultivator forcibly erased such thoughts.

But just in case, Ning Cheng cast dozens of restrictions all around the suite and even arranged a dozen array formations. Only after doing all this did he feel a bit calmer.

Nevertheless, he didn't intend to expose any information about the Mysterious Yellow Bead in the room. With the great meet only a month away from now, he still had many things to do. In addition to cracking Pill Sage Min Kong's bracelet, there was that strand of foreign spiritual consciousness in his Sea of Consciousness. He wanted to eliminate that strand of spiritual consciousness as quickly as possible to avoid any further complications.

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Chapter 898: Emphyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill

"Clink-clang." A slight but crisp sound rang out, which made Ning Cheng happy. He had finally opened Pill Sage Min Kong's bracelet.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness immediately swept in, but he felt dumbfounded when he saw the contents inside. He had initially thought that as Min Kong was a top-grade Dao Essence Pill Deity, he would have spirit crystals piled up inside as high as a mountain. It might even contain several patches of divine grass gardens, perhaps even rows of dao fruit trees filled with dao fruits.

However, Pill Sage Min Kong's bracelet contained no dao fruits at all. Let alone a dao fruit tree, it didn't have even a single strand of the lowest-grade divine grasses. Even the number of spirit crystals inside felt pitiful, not even comparable to him. Ning Cheng estimated that the total wouldn't even exceed 10 million at best. He did, however, find many medicinal pills inside. But all of them were waste or unfinished pills. As for weapons or any other material, Ning Cheng didn't see even a single one.

Apart from the spirit crystals and piles of waste pills, Ning Cheng only found a pile of jade strips scattered to one side.

No, Ning Cheng grasped the bracelet in his hand and understood what might have happened. No matter how poor Pill Sage Min Kong was, it would never be to such an extent. The only conclusion he could come up with was that this bracelet wasn't where Pill Sage Min Kong stored his treasures. Pill Sage Min Kong most likely had another storage-type artefact, like a True Spirit World. Or something similar to the Mysterious Yellow Bead, which one can keep in their Sea of Consciousness.

Pill Sage Min Kong must have hidden his treasury in the deepest part of his Sea of Consciousness. However, Ning Cheng genuinely respected Pill Sage Min Kong and decided not to desecrate Pill Sage Min Kong's remains back then.

Ning Cheng sighed; it seemed that fate didn't want him to have this opportunity. Perhaps Pill Sage Min Kong used the bracelet as a disguise; after all, carrying a ring would have been a much more convenient option than the bracelet. Apart from some female cultivators who liked to wear decorative bracelets, very few people would willingly use a bracelet-type storage artefact.

These old demons who lived for countless years truly had a more competent head compared to the others. They all made sure that other people wouldn't get their stuff so easily if one of them died. Perhaps Pill Sage Min Kong hadn't truly died yet; maybe his essence spirit had already escaped with his actual storage artefact.

Throwing all the spirit crystals in the storage bracelet into his ring, Ning Cheng took out all the jade strips.

Picking up the first jade strip, Ning Cheng found that it recorded the steps of a pill recipe and the pill refining experience. Although Ning Cheng admired Pill Sage Min Kong's thorough approach towards learning, Ning Cheng wasn't even half-interested in these kinds of things. After scanning it once, he put the jade strip aside and picked up the second one. The second jade strip wasn't any different from the first jade strip, containing step-by-step instructions and a detailed description of a pill refining experience.

The third, the fourth....

Initially, Ning Cheng would simply put aside the jade strips after confirming the same thing over and over again. But when he got to the 60th jade strip, he started to feel something was wrong. Pill Sage Min

Kong's pill refining experience and understanding pointed towards refining and honing a particular pill recipe. A pill recipe for improving one's Sea of Consciousness and even strengthening it.

Although these jade strips did not mention Divine Chalcedony, Ning Cheng had a vague feeling that these pill recipes were all connected to Divine Chalcedony. But suppose these pill recipes were truly related to Divine Chalcedony. In that case, it should be for a pill similar to the Spirit Essence Pill. Ning Cheng had heard Qi Shisanxing say that the pill recipe for the Spirit Essence Pill had long since disappeared in the annals of times. Therefore, after Ning Cheng obtained some Divine Chalcedony, he planned to deduce the Spirit Essence Pill's pill recipe in the future. He had never expected that Pill Sage Min Kong would have already started the process of figuring the pill recipe.

Facing such a pill that he urgently needed, Ning Cheng immediately immersed himself in the knowledge. He even lowered his guard against the black-robed woman. But in truth, he didn't need to be so careful as the black-haired woman didn't put Ning Cheng in her eyes at all, let alone spy on him in secret.

Time quickly passed by, and Ning Cheng's closed room remained in dead silence and without any moment.

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It had already been 21 days since Ning Cheng went into retreat, but Xin Xiu had started to grow more and more anxious. Ning Cheng had given Wu Qihong an Extreme Purging Wood Essence Pill before, which improved Wu Qihong's life force a lot. But after 21 days, Wu Qihong's life force started to decline once again.

Xin Xiu understood the consequences if Ning Cheng couldn't help gather and condense Wu Qihong's dissipating Essence Spirit and repair his Sea of Consciousness. If it went on for too long, her Junior Apprentice Brother would eventually die even if she kept feeding him many more pills. It's just that after Ning Cheng moved in, he didn't come out at all, nor could Xin Xiu hear a single sound from his room. But no matter how anxious she felt, she did not dare to touch the restrictions outside Ning Cheng's door to alarm Ning Cheng.

On the other side of the door, Ning Cheng grew more and more surprised with each passing moment. The Divine Chalcedony recipe that Pill Sage Min Kong came up with wasn't perfect. He found several key points within the formula that had no ideal solution. However, Ning Cheng finally started to hone in on a solution in Pill Sage Min Kong's conclusion.

Divine Chalcedony was naturally the principal ingredient. But it also required additional primary divine grasses like the Cloud Vine, Meteor Phantasm Fruit, Devil Cloth Grass and Ten Thousand Flame Petals. Apart from these main ingredients, it also required 163 other auxiliary divine grasses. Although each divine grass's quantity can vary, refining this medicinal pill had strict requirements on the pill flame used and spiritual consciousness.

Except for the more precious Divine Chalcedony, only the high-grade divine grass, Ten-thousand Flame Petal, could pose some problems. The rest were just ordinary divine grasses, which one could purchase from any merchant houses.

Ning Cheng had a lot of Divine Chalcedony and obtained more than 200 stalks of Ten Thousand Flame Petals from Pill Sage Min Kong's divine grass garden.

However, the Ten Thousand Flame Petal was the most crucial part of the pill recipe's deduction. The Ten Thousand Flame Petal was a divine grass with a flame and light attribute. Spiritual consciousness, on the other hand, generally had an invisible and formless quality. Rather, it shared a close resemblance with intent and thought. But the most crucial point was that Ten Thousand Flame Petal had no effect on the Sea of Consciousness and spiritual consciousness.

Divine Chalcedony, on the other hand, contained a powerful yin attribute within it. At the same time, it was the primary ingredient in the pill that affected spiritual consciousness. Suppose one didn't use the Ten Thousand Flame Petal to balance it. At that point, not only would it not have any effect, it might even burn or freeze one's Sea of Consciousness, depending on which side the balance tilted.

But there was still a slight difference between the recorded deductions and the actual conclusions. Even if Ning Cheng had the Mysterious Yellow Bead and cultivated using the Mysterious Yellow Formless Cultivation Method, he couldn't use the deductions directly.

As Ning Cheng continued to take out furnace-full of waste pills, he didn't feel distressed at all. Rather, after every failed batch of pills, the subsequent batches came closer and closer to perfection. In any case, Ning Cheng had a lot of divine grasses on him, apart from more than a hundred pieces of Divine Chalcedony. If he could fix this spiritual consciousness pill recipe that could increase one's spiritual consciousness and Sea of Consciousness, its value would reach incalculable heights.

After wasting the eleventh batch of medicinal pills, Ning Cheng finally succeeded. The twelfth batch of pills hadn't yet formed, but the faint fragrance coming from the furnace had already given his Sea of Consciousness a massive jolt. Even the trace of foreign spiritual consciousness integrated into Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness had started to show signs of separation.

Ning Cheng felt overjoyed. He didn't expect that this medicinal pill, which he wasn't even fully confident in, would produce such an effect. The surprise and shock were so intense that Ning Cheng almost lost control of the still-forming twelfth batch of pills. Fortunately, his powerful spiritual consciousness helped him persevere and finally finished refining eight pills out of the batch.

Ning Cheng formed twelve non-usable pills in each batch, but the twelfth batch produced only eight pills. Although none of them were top-quality pills, Ning Cheng still felt quite satisfied. Once he got rid of the foreign spiritual consciousness in his Sea of Consciousness, his Sea of Consciousness would once again turn pure. At that time, the effect it would have on refining this pill would also improve several-fold.

Eight white, almost transparent pills lay on Ning Cheng's palm. As a hint of fragrance emerged from it, Ning Cheng involuntarily took in a deep breath.

He carefully put away the pills except for one and threw it into his mouth. The pill didn't turn into a liquid like other pills on entering his mouth. Instead, it turned into a formless gas that penetrated his Sea of Consciousness.

Ning Cheng wasn't actively cultivating at this moment. However, he could feel that his spiritual consciousness kept improving while his Sea of Consciousness also showed signs of expansion.

Ning Cheng had still hadn't recovered from the initial surprise due to the power of the medicinal pill when the foreign strand of spiritual consciousness in his Sea of Consciousness trembled. Suddenly, it separated from his original spiritual consciousness.

Ning Cheng couldn't help but feel overjoyed that his initial speculation had indeed been correct. The next moment, he grabbed the foreign spiritual consciousness and threw it towards the Celestial River Flame. The foreign strand of spiritual consciousness made a slight 'click' before it disappeared without a trace.

After finally getting rid of the foreign strand of spiritual consciousness in his Sea of Consciousness, Ning Cheng took in a deep breath. When he cast the Dark Nether Scripture's Spirit Devourer, Ning Cheng had devoured a trace of the opponent's spiritual consciousness. Because of it, Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness never calmed down; it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that it now felt even calmer than before.

According to the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scripture, after he swallowed the opponent's spiritual consciousness, he had to refine the opponent's spiritual consciousness quickly. However, he didn't do this. As such, his Sea of Consciousness always felt a little uncomfortable. But now, his newly-deduced pill had directly stripped away the strands of foreign spiritual consciousness and returned his Sea of Consciousness to its previous state.

Ning Cheng then looked at the remaining pills in the jade bottle and felt quite proud of himself. If the person who created the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scripture had such a pill, just how scary of a height would he have reached?

Nevertheless, Ning Cheng still had no plans to devour other people's spiritual consciousness to cultivate the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scripture. He believed that he could enhance his spiritual consciousness with this pill without consuming others' spiritual consciousness.

Besides, with the aid of such a pill, if he couldn't beat his opponent, he could still use the scripture's devouring ability. In other words, it could become one of his trump cards.

Ning Cheng verified that the pill that he and Pill Sage 'jointly' deduced wasn't the Spirit Essence Pill, but a new type of spirit pill. Perhaps this pill was at most just a Soul Sculpting Spirit Pill. But this kind of spirit pill would even have a considerable effect on Dao Fusion Holy Emperors.

It was time to give this pill a name. Ning Cheng picked up the jade bottle and looked at it for a long time before muttering to himself, "Let's call it Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill."

Ning Cheng and Pill Sage Min Kong worked hard to deduce and refine this pill, making this name feel appropriate. Maybe Pill Sage Min Kong came to the mystic realm with the sole purpose of finding Divine Chalcedony to refine something similar to the Spirit Essence Pill.

Putting the jade bottle aside, Ning Cheng once again refined a batch of Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills. This time, he quickly refined a furnace of twelve top-quality pills.

Putting away the pills and the pill furnace, Ning Cheng stood up and cleaned everything up. He had stayed behind closed doors for over 20 days and should go out.

Ning Cheng had just walked out of the room when he saw Xin Xiu sitting right outside. Seeing her, he could help but speak with an apologetic tone, “Xin Xiu, have you been sitting here for the entire time?”

Xin Xiu saw Ning Cheng coming out and stood up in surprise, “Elder Brother Ji, are you planning to go out?”

Ning Cheng understood that Xin Xiu indirectly asked if he found a way. He simply took out a bottle of Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills and handed it to Xin Xiu. “This bottle of pills can save your Junior Apprentice Brother Qihong. There are seven pills inside. If I’m not mistaken, as long as you give him three of those pills, Junior Apprentice Brother Qihong will wake up. You can keep the other four for your use and used them to cultivate your spiritual consciousness.”

Xin Xiu felt surprised as she grabbed the jade bottle. Without even asking the name of the pill, she bowed to Ning Cheng and quickly said, “Many thanks, Elder Brother Ji.” After that, she turned and hurriedly left.

Wu Qihong’s aura had started to grow unstable and might fall at any time, which had already made her distraught.

Ning Cheng didn’t know about their past, nor did he want to learn about it. But he believed that this bottle of Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills could repair Wu Qihong’s spiritual consciousness. Besides, Ning Cheng also had to get ready for the great meet. With the Grand Essence Great Meet about to start in three days, he wanted to go out and look around the place.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 899: Flame Hive

Not long after Ning Cheng stepped out of the Star Stepping Tower, the Grand Essence Great Meet’s entry card, which he had hung around his waist, shook a little. Ning Cheng grabbed the entry card and saw a row of words abruptly appear on it. “Great Meet’s Time and Place: Grand Essence Epoch 38,602, Year 619, October 23rd. Heaven Essence Sacred City Public Square. Upon receipt of the message, head to the Grand Essence Sect Alliance to register yourself immediately.”

Ning Cheng understood that the ‘Grand Essence Epoch and Year’ was the date format used here. According to this date, the Great Meet would take place exactly three days later.

The Grand Essence Sect Alliance wasn’t too far from the Star Stepping Tower. As such, Ning Cheng only had to walk for a few minutes before reaching the Sect Alliance’s headquarters.

The Sect Alliance was an organisation jointly established by the large and small sects within the Grand Essence Domain. Generally, this organisation looked over and organised domain-wide events like the Grand Essence Great Meet, the Grand Essence Mystic Realm Competition and other things alike. If anyone wanted to set an event on such a scale, they would have to go through the Sect Alliance.

When Ning Cheng arrived at the Grand Essence Sect Alliance’s headquarters, many people had already gathered inside and outside. Ning Cheng immediately noticed a few familiar faces, including the cultivator with the Flame Hive. Ning Cheng had specifically memorised that person’s name, Aiden, a western-sounding name.

Aiden, who also managed to get a spot on the Grand Essence Great Meet's list this time, came for the same purpose as himself. Since Ning Cheng wanted to trade the flame hive with him, he quickly went to the Great Meet's registration counter and handed over his entry card.

The registration completed quickly. Ning Cheng then received the registration qualification card in less than a minute and then promptly walked towards Aiden.

Aiden's cultivation had reached the full circle of the Eternal Realm. He had a tall stature and, in fact, towered over 2 meters in height.

At this moment, he was talking with another cultivator when Ning Cheng appeared abruptly, forcing the two to stop talking. Both of them looked at Ning Cheng at the same time and understood that Ning Cheng had explicitly come here for one of them.

Ning Cheng cupped his fists before showing a smile. "Nice to meet you, Dao Friend Aiden. My name is Ji He. I'm an Alchemy Master and wanted to talk to this dao friend about something. I wonder if Dao Friend Aiden can spare some time for me?"

Aiden realised that Ning Cheng came explicitly for him. Therefore, he nodded and returned a kind smile, "I know you, Pill Emperor Ji He, right? You gained a great deal in the mystic realm, and I've admired you for it. It's just that I have no clue why Dao Friend Ji came to look for me? The truth is, I have a few other matters to attend to, so I can't stay for long."

Any cultivator that came out of the mystic realm and took out enough divine grasses to make it to the top ten would have considerable strength. If such a cultivator didn't obtain that kind of harvest by robbing others, they most likely had overwhelming luck. That is, they found a source with many divine grasses. Even if Ji He remained trapped in the mystic realm for tens of thousands of years, it wouldn't have been an easy thing to achieve.

But even though Aiden spoke with a smile and a polite tone, he didn't truly put Ning Cheng in his eyes. Whether or not he had the time to chat, and even without reporting his name, he would have known why this person came to him.

But Ning Cheng didn't care about any of it and put it out in the open. "I want to exchange the flame hive with this dao friend. If dao friend feels willing enough, please state the price you need for it."

Aiden showed a slight smile, "Many thanks for taking a fancy to my flame hive. Truthfully, the only reason I took out the flame hive was to exchange it for something else. This friend here also came to exchange the flame hive. As for the price, of course, it will go to the one with the highest one. The one who bids the highest will get it."

The cultivator, who initially spoke to Aiden, frowned when he heard that Ning Cheng had also come for the flame hive. If Ning Cheng had come a little later, he might have already completed the transaction.

Ning Cheng noted internally that it was no wonder that this fellow took out the flame hive when indexing the harvest from the mystic realm. This fellow had quite a scheming mind. Let alone talk about price. He even asked others to out-quote each other to get the most benefit.

Ning Cheng took out a jade box with a restriction covering it and handed it to Aiden, "I'll exchange this thing with you, what do you think?"

After understanding that others also wanted Aiden's flame hive, Ning Cheng decided to cut things short and leave immediately. Since he could track down Aiden to this place, it would also mean that other cultivators would also come looking for him. After all, the flame hive was an item that many wanted, even if one couldn't use it.

Aiden reached out and grabbed Ning Cheng's jade box but didn't open it. Instead, he let his spiritual consciousness randomly scan it. When he saw a space crystal inside, his eyes immediately lit up. A space crystal truly was a treasure and almost impossible to buy using spirit crystals.

"Although it's good, it's quite lower than the hive's price," Aiden spoke up; however, he didn't return the jade box to Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng secretly ridiculed Aiden's greed. The price of the flame hive would never exceed that of a space crystal. A space crystal was a treasure that one couldn't find even if one searched for many years. The flame hive might be a rare treasure, but it had severely limited uses. Moreover, looking at how Aiden held onto the jade box and didn't hand it to him, Ning Cheng understood that this fellow wanted this space crystal.

Ning Cheng simply reached out and grabbed the jade box from Aiden, put it away and said, "That's all I can offer for it. If dao friend is unwilling, then let's forget about it."

After speaking, Ning Cheng turned around and started to walk away. Even without the flame hive, he could still look for other ways to help the Exploding Golden Wasps. The only thing was, he might have to waste a lot of time and energy. But Ning Cheng also had ample bargaining experience and knew that Aiden would try to stop him.

"Wait-wait....." Sure enough, as soon as Ning Cheng turned around, Aiden called from behind.

What Aiden lacked the most were space crystals, so how could he let Ning Cheng go away. He immediately shouted and had already rushed past others and stopped in front of Ning Cheng.

The other cultivator who spoke to Aiden earlier understood that the situation had gone south for him. When he had talked to Aiden about the exchange, he naturally understood Aiden's scheming nature and greed. Moreover, Aiden hadn't shown any interest in the item he had put up for the deal. Yet, when Ning Cheng showed up, Aiden almost immediately chased after him. It meant that Aiden truly wanted the things inside that jade box.

He understood that once he lost the advantage in such transactions, it would become almost impossible to swing the situation in his favour. Therefore, instead of chasing after Aiden, he sent out a message.

Noticing Aiden chase after him, Ning Cheng understood that he could close the deal quickly. He also saw the other cultivator send a message, seemingly wanting to complete the transaction as soon as possible.

After realising this, Ning Cheng decided to not hold out and stopped, "Dao friend Aiden, do you want to trade?"

Aiden nodded, "I'll trade with you. Your jade box plus fifty thousand spirit crystals."

"Deal." Ning Cheng didn't put up a counter-offer. He handed the jade box and a storage bag containing fifty thousand spirit crystals to Aiden without hesitation.

Aiden also quickly handed over a storage bag containing the flame hive to Ning Cheng. The flame hive had a large volume and had to be put into a storage bag for the trade.

The two verified the traded items and felt satisfied.

“Hold on.” Before Ning Cheng put away the storage bag containing the flame hive, two daoist shadows rushed over. They landed in front of him and Aiden.

“It’s you again?” When the visitor saw Ning Cheng, his face sank, and he snorted coldly.

Ning Cheng saw that the cultivator who just arrived was none other than Ji Pingzhong. The same Ji Pingzhong who wanted to forcibly take over his suit in the Star Stepping Tower. This fellow seemed to love wearing brown robes and was still wearing a brown robe, albeit of a different design. Just behind this fellow was the cultivator who spoke to Aiden before Ning Cheng arrived. From the looks of it, this cultivator had called Ji Pingzhong with that message.

“Take out the flame hive. I will give you twice the number of spirit crystals.” Ji Pingzhong gave a cold stare and spoke with a condescending tone. He didn’t put Ning Cheng in his eyes as Ning Cheng had agreed to compromise when facing a mere Deacon Huang in the Star Stepping Tower. He was Ji Pingzhong, one of the 12 Grand Essence Sacred Sons. How could others not compromise in front of him?

Ning Cheng had compromised in the Star Stepping Tower only because Deacon Huang had publicly stated that he would repay double the spirit crystals. Moreover, he also knew that even if he didn’t compromise, he couldn’t do much in that situation. However, Ji Pingzhong thought that Ning Cheng had compromised because of his identity. If that was the case, then this Ji Pingzhong truly thought too highly of himself.

Putting away the flame hive calmly, Ning Cheng spoke with a calm voice, “Oh, by the way, if I don’t want to, will you bring this matter back to the Desolate Spirit Palace too?”

When Ji Pingzhong heard what Ning Cheng said, how could he not know that Ning Cheng had ridiculed him. Didn’t he use the threat of his Desolate Spirit Palace against the Star Stepping Tower’s master? He had indeed reported the incident, but his Desolate Spirit Palace didn’t send any expert to help him get revenge. Moreover, instead of helping him, the elders of Desolate Spirit Palace had chided him and also taken away some of his privileges. They even sent him with the elders to apologise to the Star Stepping Tower’s master.

Therefore, Ning Cheng saying those words now felt like a naked slap to his face.

In fact, Ning Cheng had truly intentionally ‘slapped’ Ji Pingzhong’s face. Ning Cheng lived in the Star Stepping Tower for nearly a month; yet, the Star Stepping Tower remained calm and without any noise. From this, he understood that the Desolate Spirit Palace didn’t dare to deal with the Star Stepping Tower. It’s just that Ning Cheng had no idea that the Desolate Spirit Palace had come to the Star Stepping Tower to express their apology. If he knew about it, he might have ridiculed Ji Pingzhong even more.

Ji Pingzhong would have already brought out his weapon to kill Ning Cheng if he could fight here. But he couldn’t do anything here and could only spew out some unkind words, “So you don’t want to hand over the flame hive?”

Ning Cheng's tone remained very calm, "Why should I give you my things? Is everyone in your Desolate Spirit Palace as shameless as you? Do you all go forcibly demanding other people to hand over their things?"

Although calm, Ning Cheng's voice was by no means low. As such, all the cultivators around them heard it and started to gather around. Whether a mortal or a cultivator, everyone had the same mentality of wanting to watch exciting and controversial things unfold before them.

Ji Pingzhong seemed to have understood that Ning Cheng wouldn't compromise, so he turned his attention to Aiden. He didn't speak, but his gaze had already started to pressure Aiden.

Aiden showed a faint smile and also ignored Ji Pingzhong. He simply turned around and left.

Ji Pingzhong didn't stop Aiden but stared at Ning Cheng and said, "I know you will also participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet. I hope you can live a long life in the Grand Essence Great Meet."

Ning Cheng didn't even bother to care about Ji Pingzhong and, just like Aiden, walked straight out of the Sect Alliance's headquarters. This fellow had grown accustomed to people catering to his every whim and thought that rogue cultivators would never dare to talk back to him.

Ignored by Aiden and Ning Cheng, Ji Pingzhong felt so angry that he visibly trembled. He understood that staying here would only make him a bigger laughing stock.

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Out of the Grand Essence Sect Alliance's headquarters, Ning Cheng didn't feel too happy about obtaining the flame hive. He also didn't think much about offending Ji Pingzhong. What he cared about more was the Star Stepping Tower's black-robed woman.

The Desolate Spirit Palace was one of the top ten sects within the Grand Essence Domain, which meant that it must have at least one Dao Fusion expert. Yet, the black-robed woman did not feel intimidated by such a sect. Moreover, such a sect didn't even retaliate against her. With the Mysterious Yellow Bead on him, should he continue to live in the Star Stepping Tower?

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 900: The Grand Essence Great Meet Begins

What made Ning Cheng a little relieved was that the Star Stepping Tower's black-robed woman seemed to have not noticed him.

"Elder Brother Ji....." As soon as Ning Cheng walked to his room's door, Xin Xiu opened her room's restrictions and spoke up with a cheery voice after walking out.

"Many thanks for Senior Apprentice Brother Ji's help." Standing behind Xin Xiu was Wu Qihong, the same person who couldn't even open his eyes a few hours ago.

Although Wu Qihong's life force still felt weak, Ning Cheng could feel his slowly gathering life force. Even his essence spirit had started to show signs of coalescing once again.

Ning Cheng knew that the Consciousness Transmutation Pill had no way of coalescing one's essence spirit. Yet, Wu Qihong's essence spirit indeed showed such signs. From this, Ning Cheng understood that

Wu Qihong's essence spirit had started to crumble apart after his Sea of Consciousness started to break down. Therefore, once Wu Qihong's Sea of Consciousness began to repair itself, his essence spirit also started to coalesce.

In any case, Wu Qihong's recovery speed still made Ning Cheng very satisfied. The newly-developed Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill did not let him down. In fact, its effects far exceeded his expectations.

Seeing the look in Xin Xiu's eyes, Ning Cheng also understood that Xin Xiu hadn't said anything about him being a fake Ji He.

With this, he felt pretty satisfied with Xin Xiu's caution and discretion. After all, Wu Qihong was still far from recovering fully, which also meant that he could easily leak it out under pressure or external influence. He smiled and spoke to Wu Qihong, "Let yourself rest. Don't worry about anything else for now."

Wu Qihong gave a polite reply, "Qihong will follow the instructions of Senior Apprentice Brother Ji closely."

After speaking, he took the initiative to enter his room to continue healing.

After Wu Qihong left, Xin Xiu said, "I didn't tell Qihong about you. In fact, Qihong comforted me after Elder Brother Ji left. He told me that Elder Brother Ji had taken the divine grasses to fulfil our master's last wish. That is, to become a Pill Emperor as quickly as possible. Truthfully, he never hated Elder Brother Ji."

Ning Cheng sighed. The characters of these two were much better than Ji He or even him, for that matter.

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After returning to his room, Ning Cheng didn't go out again. He immediately took out the flame hive and gave it to the Exploding Golden Wasp King in the True Spirit World. After sensing the flame hive, the few idle Exploding Golden Wasps in the True Spirit World immediately rushed over and quickly disappeared into the flame hive.

Ning Cheng didn't continue observing the Exploding Golden Wasps and came out of the True Spirit World to refine pills. He promised to send some Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills to Qi Shisanxing. Although Qi Shisanxing hadn't come here yet, he still planned to refine some for him.

On the third day, Wu Qihong's cultivation seemed to have recovered by more than half. Seeing this, Ning Cheng gave some medicinal pills and spirit crystals to Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong. At the same time, he also informed Xin Xiu that he would be leaving and wouldn't return to the Star Stepping Tower.

Xin Xiu vaguely understood that Ning Cheng wanted to participate in the Grand Essence Great Meet. Now that Ning Cheng mentioned that he wouldn't be returning, she didn't ask much. Instead, she just said that once Wu Qihong recovers physically, they would also leave the Heaven Essence Sacred City.

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By the time Ning Cheng arrived at the Heaven Essence Sacred City's public square, the public square already looked crowded. The Grand Essence Great Meet represented the highest combat level under Dao Confirming within the entire Grand Essence Domain. As long as one could come here to watch the fights, one would still gain a lot.

There was only a single battle stage in the middle of the public square. At the same time, several influential experts sat on the primary platform, responsible for judging the fights. It's just that Ning Cheng couldn't see the extent of their cultivation.

Ning Cheng's gaze swept over and quickly found a disciple from the Profound Moon Spirit Gate. He hurriedly walked to this disciple and spoke with cupped fists, "This Senior Apprentice Brother, may I ask if Shisanxing is here?"

This disciple had also recognised Ning Cheng. Since Ning Cheng asked about Qi Shisanxing, he also quickly spoke up, "It turned out to be Pill Emperor Ji. Senior Apprentice Brother Shisanxing should still be in close door cultivation. As to the specific situation, I'm not very clear about it."

Ning Cheng didn't continue to ask about it. Qi Shisanxing had remained trapped in the mystic realm for many years. It was only expected that he would have to go into secluded cultivation for some time to fully recover. As for the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill, Ning Cheng didn't want others to bring them to Qi Shisanxing. This kind of item was just too precious. As such, he had decided to give it to Qi Shisanxing personally.

A red-faced old man flew out from the main judging stage, the same old man who had presided over the Grand Essence Mystic Realm's divine grass counting.

He stood in the air right over the centre of the battle stage on the public square.

"To all the disciples participating in the Grand Essence Great Meet. The Grand Essence Great Meet is about to start. We will be using it to decide the top ten in the shortest time. Reaching the top ten will also mean getting a spot for the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring. Deciding the eleventh rank and onwards will also involve Grand Essence Mystic Realm's performance. Sect resource allocations will also be decided based on the combined performances. However, we will decide on it slowly after the top ten enters the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring."

"All the contestants should take note of their entry cards, which will display your entry numbers and your opponents at the required time. I, with this, declare the rules of the Grand Essence Great Meet. Simply put, the battles have no restrictions; you can fight till one of you concedes or dies. Once you or your opponent concede, the other party must stop fighting immediately, or you will face the consequences, which might even include death. If a disciple does die on the battle stage during the fight. In that case, no sect or individual can seek out revenge or retaliate against the fallen disciple's opponent."

After the red-faced old man spoke out the few rules, he turned back and returned to his seat.

Ning Cheng shook his head internally. The second part of the so-called rules was nothing but farts blowing in the air. He had simply stated that no one can take revenge because of the results on the battle stage. Not just that, he didn't mention even a light punishment if someone tried to do it. From this, anyone could see that if someone wanted revenge, they could still get it.

Most likely, it was a reminder to the disciples from small sects to not dare make any moves against the core disciples of the big sects. But at the same time, Ning Cheng also learned a new thing from this old man. From its looks, the Grand Essence Great Meet seemed to be a lot more than just the spot for the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring.

After the red-faced old man announced the start of the great meet, the public square immediately turned silent. A moment later, Ning Cheng's entry card vibrated. Sensing the vibration, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness swept into the entry card and saw a row of characters appearing in it, "Ji He, 95, Opponent 41, Round 16."

Ning Cheng had just seen the message when a purple-robed man fell on the battle stage.

Ning Cheng had never met or seen this purple-robed man. But when this purple-robed man appeared on the stage, he could feel the aura coming from the purple-robed man. From it, Ning Cheng understood that this person was an expert. In terms of strength, this fellow didn't seem too much weaker than Ji Pingzhong.

"So the first match is of Kekei Luoxi, huh. It would be interesting to watch. Kekei Luoxi is ranked seventh among the 12 Grand Essence Sacred Children. I wonder who's the unlucky fellow fighting against Kekei Luoxi."

Some cultivator not far from Ning Cheng whispered, and Ning Cheng heard it. Ning Cheng only then learned that this purple-robed fellow on the stage was Kekei Luoxi. One of the twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children and ranked seventh among the twelve. By now, he had seen five of the twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children. Qu Baiyi, Huo Erqi, Guo Haoge, Ji Pingzhong and Kekei Luoxi.

Kekei Luoxi spoke with a rough tone, but he still clasped his fists on the fighting stage and said, "Heaven Extreme Island's Kekei Luoxi, here to learn."

As Kekei Luoxi's voice fell, another man of medium build descended on the battle stage. After the man came up, he didn't speak; instead, he directly brought out his weapon and attacked Kekei Luoxi.

Unfortunately, this fellow's strength couldn't compare to Kekei Luoxi. In just a few moments since the fight started, Kekei Luoxi quickly suppressed his opponent.

In less than half an incense stick worth of time, the man got hit by several blue lights on his chest. Sprays of bloody mists erupted from his chest's wounds, and the man also spat out several mouthfuls of blood. In such a condition, even if he wanted to admit defeat, he couldn't say it.

Fortunately, Kekei Luoxi didn't seem to be a cruel person. When he saw that his opponent couldn't even speak after taking his attack, he immediately stopped.

It wasn't until Kekei Luoxi stopped attacking did his opponent finally manage to utter a few words to admit defeat. If Kekei Luoxi hadn't taken the initiative to stop, this cultivator would have died under Kekei Luoxi's hands.

After the two went down, two more came up to the stage.

Ning Cheng understood that this great meet followed the knockout rules. A hundred people competed against each other, but only fifty could advance to the next round.

The fights proceeded very quickly, and Ning Cheng took the chance to learn about the history of some of the people participating through the crowd's whisperings. In general, the cultivators from the big sects won more fights and hardly suffered any losses.

The people who came to participate in this Grand Essence Great Meet had higher strength than ordinary cultivators. But in Ning Cheng's view, if they were only at this level, he wouldn't have any problems reaching the top ten.

When it reached the fourteenth round, a female cultivator appeared on the stage. Ning Cheng heard from the surrounding crowd that this female cultivator was Ye Luoping, another of the twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children, ranked tenth.

But this female cultivator faced Aiden, the same person from whom Ning Cheng had traded the flame hive.

Ye Luoping didn't say anything after stepping onto the battle stage. Instead, she took out a lotus flower-shaped sword platform. From previous experience, Ning Cheng understood that a lotus-flower-shaped sword platform was a considerably powerful weapon. It usually was a lotus seat composed of many sword formations. Once trapped within the lotus flower sword enclosure, even if the opponent had strength one level higher than you, they would still find it challenging to get out. The swords would eventually pierce through any defences you put up before ultimately stabbing through your heart.

Aiden gave Ning Cheng a very ordinary feeling. But Ning Cheng didn't think that Aiden would lose against an opponent like Ye Luoping.

But when Aiden and Ye Luoping finally started fighting, Ning Cheng understood that he had grossly underestimated him. Aiden turned out far more powerful than he showed on the surface. Moreover, Aiden also used a bizarre weapon, just a plume of black smoke.

This black smoke didn't look like it had any defensive or offensive properties. But after Aiden brought it out, it turned into a powerful smoke shield that shot out plums of black smoke, filled with killing lights.

Even though the intangible smoke clashed with Ye Luoping's sword arrays, they did not suffer even the slightest damage. However, the powerful celestial essence in the attacks exploded with copious amounts of smoke that quickly covered the two fighting figures. The battle stage already had restrictions to shield against spiritual consciousness. Therefore, as the fight between the two grew intense, Ning Cheng and the others could no longer see who had the upper hand.

A whimpering sound suddenly emerged from the battle stage. It was as clear as daylight, but this kind of sound gave people a cold feeling.

"Boom-Boom-Boom-Boom...." Celestial essence kept exploding. Since the two people stepped onto the stage to fight each other, these explosions hadn't stopped.

After a whole incense stick worth of time, a beautiful figure flew out from the centre of the explosions and hit the restrictions on the battle stage. She spat out a few mouthfuls of blood before sliding down to the ground. Ning Cheng and others finally realised that this person was Ye Luoping.

"I lost." Ye Luoping, who slipped to the ground, immediately conceded without waiting for Aiden to continue. Ning Cheng understood that Ye Luoping had suffered severe injuries. She couldn't get up from the ground even after a long time.

The public square immediately erupted with exclamations. A rogue cultivator had defeated Ye Luoping, tenth among the twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children. Didn't this mean that this rogue cultivator also had the strength to contend against the twelve Grand Essence Sacred Children?

Aiden showed a calm smile, cupped his fists towards the audience, and calmly walked off the stage.