

The Gate 951

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Chapter 951 Ning Cheng's Killing Intent

"I have my own place in Heaven Essence Sacred City. Do you want to stay with me or in an inn?" After entering Heaven Essence Sacred City, Jian Sanshan asked Ning Cheng in a polite tone.

He felt pretty satisfied with working with Ning Cheng. The truth was, with his reputation, if he wanted to find someone to collaborate in the preliminary round, too many pill deities would willingly throw themselves at him. Almost every pill deity in the region wished for a chance to strike up a friendship with him. Therefore, one could consider his choice to work with Ning Cheng as actually helping Ning Cheng. Besides, he had a good reason for choosing Ning Cheng as his partner. It had nothing to do with Ning Cheng's No Furnace; instead, he wished to purchase a few Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills from Ning Cheng.

He didn't expect Ning Cheng to be so generous as to promise to give him the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill's recipe. This type of favour was indeed a huge deal for him, something that he couldn't refuse even if he wanted to.

Ning Cheng smiled, "I'd better stay at an inn. If you need something, Brother Jian, just send me a message."

The Alchemy Discourse was still five months away, and Ning Cheng also had a pile of spirit grasses on him. It's just that he never got the time to refine them into pills. During these five months, he could study more about alchemy and also how to awaken Yan Ji.

Although he believed that Jian Sanshan hadn't lied to him, Ning Cheng still wanted to confirm it for himself.

Jian Sanshan didn't care about the reasons for it and immediately agreed. After exchanging communication pearls with Ning Cheng, he told Ning Cheng where he lived before parting.

After Jian Sanshan left, Ning Cheng didn't choose the number one inn in Heaven Essence Sacred City, the Star Stepping Tower. Instead, he chose a relatively small inn called the Dao Seeking Inn.

The Star Stepping Tower Master, surnamed Nie, was still too frightening. Plus, Ning Cheng had too many secrets, so he didn't want to live under her nose.

Although Heaven Essence Sacred City still bustled with activity, it wasn't so bad that he couldn't even find a room like last time. Especially since there were only a few months till the Alchemy Discourse.

"This Senior. May I ask if there is anything I can help you with?" As soon as Ning Cheng entered the Dao Seeking Inn, a smart-looking Heaven Seated concierge greeted him with a respectful attitude.

"I want the best room. Also, I need you to help me with a few things." Ning Cheng said with a casual tone.

When Ning Cheng spoke about wanting the best room, several spiritual consciousnesses instantly swept over. But after noticing Ning Cheng's cultivation level, several of them immediately retracted.

Ning Cheng didn't care at all. If he was still an Eternal cultivator, those words would have immediately resulted in expulsion from this place. Or, at the very least, it would have resulted in a few chided remarks and an inflated price. But now that he was a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor, even if these fellows knew that he wasn't rich, no one would dare say anything to him. Besides, those Dao Raising and above Holy Emperors wouldn't create a scene for just a few spirit crystals.

Fortunately, the Dao Seeking Inn didn't have too many guests, so Ning Cheng managed to get the 'best' suite he wanted. The suite contained five private chambers and a large meeting hall, and the spirit aura in the room was also quite plentiful.

Ning Cheng took out a storage ring and handed it to the fellow who brought him up, "There are five million spirit crystals in the ring. Go and help me purchase all the jade strips about healing within the entire Heaven Essence Sacred City. You can take half a million out of it as payment for your services."

The fellow looked quite dazed when he heard the first half of Ning Cheng's sentence. But when he listened to the part about 'half a million spirit crystals', he didn't even say a word of nonsense. He quickly grabbed the storage ring with both hands and respectfully replied, "Yes, Senior. This junior will definitely help Senior get it done."

After the fellow left, Ning Cheng began to rearrange the suite's array formations and restrictions.

The concierge returned quickly. In just three days, he had collected all the publicly available jade strips Ning Cheng needed.

Seeing off the fellow, Ning Cheng then immediately put up the 'Do Not Disturb' sign. At the same time, he also started preparing to study the jade strips while refining pills.

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Ning Cheng finally opened the ring of the early-stage Dao Raising Holy Emperor that he had killed in the Black and White Mountains. Apart from the tens of millions of spirit crystals, it also contained many alchemy and artificing materials. As for the pills and artefacts inside, Ning Cheng only gave them a passing glance.

However, what really delighted Ning Cheng wasn't this Dao Raising Holy Emperor's ring, but No Furnace. Once Ning Cheng fully refined the furnace, the delight then turned into euphoria. His Traceless Furnace wasn't comparable to this furnace at all. Not to mention No Furnace. Even the Primal Chaos's First Furnace, the Heaven and Earth's Second Furnace, or even the Can-Only-Be-Called-Third Furnace were all far better than his Traceless Furnace.

As for the snow-white flame called Nameless, it was, even more, a surprise among surprises. Of course, Ning Cheng didn't know what Jian Sanshan obtained in No Furnace. But at least Jian Sanshan wasn't too interested in these four furnaces and the Nameless Flame, which meant that he at least got something of equivalent value from inside it. What's more, Ning Cheng had also found a bunch of alchemy jade strips inside No Furnace. These jade strips not only included alchemy insights but also quite a few precious pill recipes.

After refining the furnaces and the flame, Ning Cheng immediately studied both sets of jade strips to see if he could learn more about Yan Ji's situation.

Once Ning Cheng concentrated on one thing, he progressed very fast. Therefore, in just after three months, Ning Cheng was able to refine Dao Raising Spirit Pills.

But because he had to refine the pills and research Yan Ji's injuries simultaneously, the consumption of spirit grasses was also quite astonishing. In just over three months, he had consumed half of his stash.

Unfortunately, despite advancing to the level of Dao Raising Pill Deity and even studying tens of thousands of healing jade strips, he still couldn't find a way to heal Yan Ji.

Fortunately, the three months didn't go in vain. At the very least, Ning Cheng confirmed that Jian Sanshan hadn't lied to him. Yan Ji required the 5-Elements Heaven Fruit to wake up. However, while the 5-Elements Heaven Fruit could wake up Yan Ji, it couldn't restore Yan Ji's foundation and roots.

Despite spending five million spirit crystals to purchase these jade strips, he hadn't found a solution for it.

On this day, Ning Cheng was refining a furnace of Silent Distress Pills, a Dao Transformation-level Spirit Pill used for healing flesh wounds, with a current success rate of 40% per batch. Going by this speed, he could become a Dao Transformation Pill Deity in less than a month.

Ning Cheng had just put away the Silent Distress Pills and hadn't even cleaned the pill furnace when the communication pearl given to him by Jian Sanshan lit up.

A message then appeared in the communication pearl. "Brother Ning, the Alchemy Discourse is about a month away, and many alchemists have gathered in Heaven Essence Sacred City. Because of this, the Hundred Herb Tower is hosting a spirit herb exchange on its second floor for the next few days. If you're interested, you can come with me and take a look."

Ning Cheng knew about Heaven Essence Sacred City's Hundred Herb Tower. It was the largest place in Heaven Essence Sacred City to trade spirit herbs. This place didn't belong to any sect or clan. Rather, it was left behind by the Hundred Herb Holy Emperor. It had three floors in total, and each floor covered a vast area.

The ground floor was where people traded ordinary spirit grasses and pills. You could even set up a stall there and even host temporary auctions. However, there was one rule: you couldn't set up a permanent shop in that place.

The first floor was another trading hall, but for high-grade spirit grasses and dao fruits, you could hawk or auction stuff just like the floor below. Again no permanent shops allowed.

However, the second floor was a place to discuss alchemy and the only area within the tower that needed an admission fee. More specifically, the admission fee was for hosting alchemy discussions. As such, it was usually occupied by alchemists debating the intricacies of alchemy and other budding alchemists.

Not finding a solution to the problems Ning Cheng wanted to solve, he had already planned to go there and take a look. However, now that Jian Sanshan had sent him a message about it, he naturally didn't hesitate and picked up his things before heading towards the Hundred Herbs Tower.

The Hundred Herb Tower wasn't too far away from where Ning Cheng lived, and it took Ning Cheng less than half an incense stick worth of time to arrive there.

The outside of the Hundred Herb Tower looked a little mottled, indicating that it was pretty old. However, the doors were several feet high and wide, with people entering and leaving from time to time.

But when Ning Cheng entered the ground floor of the Hundred Herb Tower, his only impression was one of chaos. A cacophony of noises and bargaining voices filled the place, giving Ning Cheng a feeling that he had stepped into a vegetable market.

Ning Cheng shook his head. This Hundred Herb Tower didn't have any rules, which made it convenient for many rogue cultivators. But at the same time, it also made the place look unruly. As such, many cultivators who obtained precious spirit grasses wouldn't willingly come to this place. And even if they did decide to come here, they would certainly not stay on the ground floor.

Without wasting too much time on the ground floor, Ning Cheng went straight to the first floor of the Hundred Herb Tower.

The first floor looked much cleaner than the ground floor, and the noises had also disappeared. Even if one wanted to bargain, people did it in a corner and in whispers.

After all, those who came to the first floor were quite influential and would often include quite a few pill deities. If any low-levelled cultivators made any noise here, someone would immediately throw them out.

"Brother Ning, this way." Jian Sanshan saw Ning Cheng the moment he walked in. In any case, Ning Cheng carrying Yan Ji on his back made him a little too obvious.

Ning Cheng waved his hand and was about to go over when he suddenly heard someone not too far from him speak up in disdain. "I can easily get you an Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill. Although the Refining Heart Pill is precious, it can't be more precious than the Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill, right? Besides, what's so strange about my family wanting a Refining Heart Pill? If you want the pill, as long as you can produce what I want, I can guarantee to get you what you want....."

Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill? Ning Cheng's gaze immediately swept over and saw the cultivator who had spoken those words. It was a young long-haired man with a slightly pale face, slender eyes, thin lips, and a Dao Sculpting cultivation. Sensing a relatively stable dao rhythm, Ning Cheng understood that he should have reached the Dao Sculpting Realm quite some time ago.

Without waiting for the person he was dealing with to speak, Ning Cheng walked over and asked. "Did you just say that you could get the Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill?"

The long-haired Dao Sculpting cultivator swept a glance at Ning Cheng, but his gaze quickly moved over to Yan Ji on Ning Cheng's back. Even though Yan Ji was still unconscious, Yan Ji's stunning appearance had surprised him. For a moment, he even forgot about Ning Cheng's words.

Ning Cheng's face turned a bit gloomy, and he spoke up once again, but this time with a somewhat unpleasant tone. "Are you able to get an Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill or not?"

Only then did the long-haired Dao Sculpting cultivator move his gaze away from Yan Ji and look coldly at Ning Cheng. "That's right, I can get the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill. Even the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill that the Great Spirit Pill Sect bid for last time was also obtained by me. But even if you want it, it's useless as I won't sell it to you. But if you hand over the woman on your back, perhaps I can reconsider it."

"Hehe, Bei Bai, even if people gave you their cultivation furnace, you wouldn't be able to get the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill, right? You can't always be so lucky to meet two ants with Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills." A sneering voice emerged, clearly poking holes in this long-haired Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor's words.

Ning Cheng's expressions twisted when he heard this, and killing intent instantly coalesced around him. The icy cold killing intent caused the people standing around Ning Cheng to subconsciously move away from him. However, everyone felt secretly horrified; Ning Cheng's coalesced killing intent was a little too terrifying.

"Did you snatch your Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill from a man and a woman?" Ning Cheng took a step forward, and his killing intent completely enveloped the Dao Sculpting cultivator Bei Bai.

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Chapter 952 The Bei Clan

Bei Bai, who didn't even put Ning Cheng in his eyes earlier, now could even dare to move at all under Ning Cheng's suppression. He felt that just Ning Cheng's killing intent could immediately tear him into pieces as soon as he moved.

"What do you want....." Bei Bai spoke in a frightened and trembling voice; the weakness he felt showed through.

Ning Cheng suddenly took a step forward, reached out and squeezed Bei Bai's neck. Then, picking him off the ground, he said, "Did you forget what I asked already?"

Only then did he remember what Ning Cheng had asked and replied with trepidation. "It was from a male cultivator called Wu Qihong and a female cultivator named Xin Xiu who sold it to us."

Ning Cheng gave a cold laugh and squeezed his hand slightly. His killing intent had fully locked Bei Bai in place. "Where are those two? If you say you don't know, you can reincarnate; I'll even help you with it."

Ning Cheng didn't believe anything Bei Bai said. Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong were long-time rogue cultivators. If they didn't even have this much intelligence and directly put up the Empyrean Consciousness Pills for sale with their real names, the two would have died a long time ago. How could they have even reached the Eternal Realm otherwise?

As for Bei Bai's lies, Ning Cheng didn't even bother to reveal them and directly threatened to kill and destroy him.

"I'm Bei Clan's...."

Before Bei Bai could even finish his sentence, an arrow of blood spurted out from his mouth. Ning Cheng had shattered two of his meridians.

"I said, they're in my Bei Clan...." Bei Bai no longer dared to use his Bei Clan to threaten Ning Cheng and revealed Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong's whereabouts.

Ning Cheng's thoughts churned in an instant. Regardless of how Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong ended up with the Bei Clan, the fact that Bei Clan didn't kill them until now indicated an undeniable intent.

At best, Wu Qihong and Xin Xiu were ordinary Eternal cultivators. Such cultivation made them essentially useless to the clans here. However, they did have one use; that is, these two were Ji He's junior apprentice brother and sister. They had received Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills from Ji He. Since Bei Clan kept Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong, it only meant one thing. They wanted Ji He to come to their door and deliver the pills in exchange for them.

Taking a step back, even if Ji He didn't come, the Bei Clan wouldn't lose anything. It wouldn't make a difference to anyone whether they imprisoned two rogue cultivators. No one would even care if they lived or died.

"How dare you. A mere Tier 8 Pill Emperor dares to make a move in the Hundred Herb Tower....." A stern rebuke emerged, and a harsh killing intent came crashing down on Ning Cheng.

This fellow didn't even wait for Ning Cheng to make a move, and a majestic momentum raged through space. Suddenly another magnificent momentum emerged out of nowhere. When the two forces collided, it immediately caused a colossal spirit essence explosion that shook the hall.

If it weren't for the fact that the Hundred Herb Tower had powerful protective formations and restrictions, this exchange would have immediately turned the tower into dust.

A powerful spiritual consciousness suddenly swept out with an icy voice. "If you dare make a move in the Hundred Herb Building again, I will obliterate both of you."

As the powerful spiritual consciousness swept over, Ning Cheng's grip on Bei Bai loosened, and Bei Bai fell to the ground.

Everyone within the tower turned quiet. Facing the spiritual consciousness of a Dao Fusion expert, who would dare to move? Although the Hundred Herb Tower didn't belong to anyone anymore, this place still had its own experts guarding it.

"Brother Jian, what's the meaning of this?" The one who had just attacked Ning Cheng was a Dao Raising Holy Emperor. When he saw that the one who stopped him was Jian Sanshan, his expressions turned a little ugly. He had initially noticed that Ning Cheng's cultivation level wasn't as good as him. So he wanted to help out Bei Bai and give the Bei Clan a good impression. It's just that he never expected Jian Sanshan to block him.

Don't look at the fact that Bei Bai came from the Bei Clan. Jian Sanshan's reputation was at the same level as Bei Clan, perhaps even higher. People knew of Bei Clan, not because of its strength but because it had a Dao Transformation Pill Deity. It opened up a few channels to get precious spirit grasses and pills.

Jian Sanshan, on the other hand, was also a Dao Transformation Pill Deity. However, more importantly, he was the only Dao Transformation Pill Deity who could refine the Harmonious Heavenly Pill.

Jian Sanshan stood beside Ning Cheng and spoke with a calm tone, "Ning Cheng is my friend. So if you make a move against him, it's the same as making a move against me."

Ning Cheng only nodded to Jian Sanshan before turning to Bei Bai lying on the ground and said in a cold voice, "Lead the way."

"Ah...." Despite being saved by a hidden Dao Fusion powerhouse, Bei Bai still had an innate fear of Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng's cold glare intensified. "Lead the way to your Bei Clan. Doesn't your Bei Clan want the Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill? It just so happens that I have a few of them."

This time, Bei Bai heard the words clearly. He immediately felt a burst of joy rip through his heart. This fellow thought that restraining him would sweep away his Bei Clan. Now that this fellow wanted to look for death, what else did he have to hesitate about?

Thinking of this, Bei Bai quickly stood up and started moving without even saying a word. Fortunately, this fellow had only shattered two of his meridians, not all of them. So, although it caused his strength to regress, it didn't affect his movements.

Ning Cheng immediately followed. It's not that he never thought that the Bei Clan might have a Dao Essence expert. But Ning Cheng believed that even if they had a Dao Essence expert, he could still escape without much effort.

Besides, a clan like the Bei Clan had almost no chance of having a Dao Essence expert. Just take the Barbarian Dragon Clan as an example. Apart from a rumoured Dao Perfection powerhouse, the highest cultivation level among its members was only Dao Essence.

"Brother Ning, I'll come with you." Jian Sanshan decided to tag along with Ning Cheng.

Seeing Ning Cheng's puzzled expression, Jian Sanshan showed a faint smile. "The Bei Clan only has one Dao Transformation Holy Emperor. So it's not even considered a mid-sized clan. The reason why they are somewhat famous is that they also have a Dao Transformation Pill Deity."

As soon as Ning Cheng heard Jian Sanshan's words, he understood a few things. First, Jian Sanshan wasn't necessarily coming to help him deal with the Bei Clan. Instead, it was because of Bei Clan's Dao Transformation Pill Deity. A Dao Transformation Pill Deity had the connections to call in many experts for help. But with Jian Sanshan, another Dao Transformation Pill Deity, next to him, there would be far fewer of those responding to the other Dao Transformation Pill Deity's call for help.

It was just like the Dao Raising Holy Emperor who had attacked Ning Cheng at the Hundred Herb Tower to curry favour with the Bei Clan. But seeing Jian Sanshan step forward to help, this Dao Raising Holy Emperor had immediately left without a single word of bullshit.

"Then, many thanks, Brother Jian." Ning Cheng clasped his fists and thanked him. Since this Bei Clan only had a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor, he didn't have to fear them at all. If worse came to worse, he

could use the Five-coloured Star Splitting Arrow to finish this Dao Transformation Holy Emperor. As for the rest of them, the Bridge of Coping would be more than enough.

Feeling Jian Sanshan's good intentions, Ning Cheng also didn't refuse his involvement.

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Engraved Wood Creek's Bei Clan, ten million miles away from Heaven Essence Sacred City.

An ordinary person would find it impossible to cover such a distance in their lifetime. But for Holy Emperors, travelling ten million miles was nothing more than walking to their backyard. It wouldn't take long at all.

There were no telling how many clans like the Bei Clan existed in the Grand Essence Domain. But the main reason why people considered the Bei Clan as above the rest of the similarly-sized families was their three pill deities. Moreover, the most accomplished one among them had even become a Dao Transformation Pill Deity.

A Dao Transformation Pill Deity was an existence that even the ten major forces would want to recruit.

At this moment, the Bei Clan was in the midst of celebrations. Their clan's Dao Transformation Pill Deity, Bei Laili, had just received an invitation to come to the Heaven Essence Sacred City for the Alchemy Discourse. Plus, Bei Laili had also made a breakthrough in his research on the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill's recipe.

The head of the clan, Bei Qianhai, and a group of elders from Bei Clan were still congratulating Bei Laili on the successful breakthrough. They were even preparing to send people to serve Bai Leili in Heaven Essence Sacred City.

Bei Qianhai had a white and beardless face, and just like Bei Bai, his eyes were long and thin. Most likely, it was because of the Bei Clan's cultivation method. Plus, there was also an invisible but hostile aura around him.

Just at this moment, a panicked figure rushed in.

When Bei Qianhai saw this panicked figure, he frowned slightly, and his face sank. His Bei Clan wanted to rush towards the ranks of the great clans of the Grand Essence Domain, which meant that there had to be established rules for things. Running into Bei Clan's family hall in such a panic would cause the Bei Clan to never step onto that stage.

"Deacon Meng....." A Dao Raising Holy Emperor sitting beside Bei Qianhai took the initiative to settle this matter without waiting for the clan head to speak.

The deacon who rushed in didn't wait for this person to continue before speaking up in more panic. "I just received news from Heaven Essence Sacred City that Young Lord Bai had his meridians scrapped."

"What?" Anger erupted on Bei Qianhai's face, and he suddenly stood up.

Regardless of their ambitions, Bei Clan was a decently reputable pill clan; how could someone dare scrap Bei Bai's meridians? Bei Bai was his 'nephew' to the public, but only he knew that Bei Bai was his son. So how could he, Bei Qianhai, put up with someone scraping his son's meridians?

“Elder brother, my Bei Clan has a good reputation in the Grand Essence Domain. Since this person dares to scrap Young Lord Bai’s meridians, he must have an unusual background.....” A black-faced man spoke up in a grave voice.

The black-faced man didn’t need to remind him. Bei Qianhai had also realised it and calmed down. His son’s meridians had been ruined, so he would definitely take revenge. However, before taking revenge, he had to find out the other party’s origins.

“Go and find out who that bastard is?” Bei Qianhai’s cold, stern voice seeped out of his clenched jaw.

But before Deacon Meng could answer, the people in the hall heard a series of clicks as someone opened the forbidden restrictions outside the entrance. The next instant, a voice filled with chill emerged, “No need to check, I’m coming in.”

Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong had suffered because of their connection to him. As such, Ning Cheng wouldn’t remain polite when he came to this Bei Clan. His Spiritual Consciousness Chop had already shattered Bei Clan’s forbidden restrictions and defensive formations. In fact, before the Bei Clan could even sense Ning Cheng’s arrival, Ning Cheng had already noticed the Bei Clan’s movements.

This was how powerful a spiritual consciousness attack would be when combined with the Dao of Arrays.

Once Ning Cheng’s voice emerged, all the people in the hall clearly saw the people walking in.

There were, in total, three people. Ning Cheng had walked in with Bei Bai’s neck still in his hand, and surprisingly, also carried a woman on his back. The corners of Bei Bai’s mouth also overflowed with blood, and both his breath and aura felt chaotic. It was apparent that the news of his meridians being scrapped wasn’t a lie. A moment later, Jian Sanshan walked in and stood next to Ning Cheng without any expressions.

“Jian Sanshan? What do you mean by this? My Bei Clan has nothing to do with you; how dare you.....” The first person Bei Qianhai recognised was naturally not Ning Cheng, but Jian Sanshan standing beside Ning Cheng.

Jian Sanshan showed a faint smile, “Clan Master Bei, you may have made a mistake here; I’m not involved in it and just passing by. By the way, let me introduce Clan Master Bei to this person. This is Ning Cheng.”

Hearing Jian Sanshan’s words, Bei Qianhai’s cold and stern gaze again fell on Ning Cheng. Even if this Ning Cheng had Jian Sanshan as his backing, so what? His Bei Clan didn’t fear a Jian Sanshan.

“Can you tell me what my Bei Clan had done to offend this friend? Why was this friend so ruthless to even scrap Bei Bai’s meridians?” Bei Qianhai calmed down and even spoke in a relatively respectful tone as if the person in Ning Cheng’s hand wasn’t Bei Bai.

Before learning Ning Cheng’s identity, he didn’t want to make any rash moves.

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Chapter 953 Battling Dao Transformation

"I heard that your Bei Clan is looking for the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill Recipe? I just happen to have this pill recipe; I also have the materials for this pill recipe. I even happen to know how to refine the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills." Ning Cheng said in a light tone.

Bei Qianhai instantly understood a few things. Back then, Man Huishan had said that Ji He was a fake. Now that Ning Cheng said this, if he still didn't realise that the Ning Cheng in front of him was the fake Ji He, he would indeed be worse than a pig in intelligence.

"You're....." Bei Qianhai couldn't help but point at Ning Cheng with a slightly agitated face.

If Ning Cheng were indeed Ji He, he wouldn't need to be so cautious at all. The person who had taken Ji He's identity was nothing more than a rogue cultivator without any backing. Otherwise, how could he have taken out ten bottles of Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills for Star Stepping Tower's Master? Or even request the Star Stepping Tower's Master to protect him?

A rogue cultivator without any backing had dared to come to his Bei Clan; what else was he looking for but death? As long as his Bei Clan captured him, his Bei Clan would have the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill.

With the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill Recipe, his Bei Clan would quickly become one of the most prominent clans in the Grand Essence Realm.

If he wasn't still a bit apprehensive about Ning Cheng holding his son, Bei Bai, hostage, he would have already ordered Ning Cheng's capture.

"Put down Bei Bai, and I will allow you to leave." Bei Qianhai forcefully kept his excitement at bay. What were his son's broken meridians compared to the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill Recipe?

Ning Cheng spoke up without any panic. "I heard that my Junior Apprentices Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong have been imprisoned by your Bei Clan? Send them out in exchange for Bei Bai, or else Bei Bai dies."

After Ning Cheng said the word 'dies', his spirit essence poured into Bei Bai's body, shattering several more of his meridians. Bei Bai's already pale face now showed a hint of unhealthy red as he opened his mouth and coughed out several mouthfuls of blood.

When Bei Qianhai saw Bei Bai suffering at Ning Cheng's hands, he became so angry that his hands and feet visibly trembled. It was only after a while did he manage to reign in his anger and said, "Go and bring up Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong."

In about ten breaths, someone brought up Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong.

Before seeing Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong, Ning Cheng only wanted to teach this Bei Clan a lesson. But now that he saw Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong, his anger erupted, turning into rage.

At this time, Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong no longer had any limbs. Not only that, there wasn't even a single unscarred spot on whatever skin remained on their body. Even Xin Xiu, a female cultivator, suffered so much torture that there wasn't even a scrap of clothing covering her body. If the Bei Clan hadn't actively prevented Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong's deaths, these two probably would have died many times over.

Considering how Ning Cheng only shattered two of Bei Bai's meridians, Bei Qianhai's methods were even more vicious. Flames of anger raged even more powerfully inside Ning Cheng's heart. If not for taking away Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong, Ning Cheng would have already moved to kill a long time ago.

"I've brought them up. Can this friend hand over Bei Bai to our Bei Clan now?" Bei Qianhai stared at Ning Cheng with cold eyes. As long as Ning Cheng dared to make the slightest movement, he wouldn't hesitate to attack even if he had to risk losing his son, Bei Bai.

Ning Cheng took in a deep breath and forced down the flames of anger in his chest. He took out two pieces of clothing and wrapped them around Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong before turning to Jian Sanshan. "Brother Jian, can I ask you to take these two back to Heaven Essence Sacred City? I will come over soon after I finish my business here."

Although Jian Sanshan had some doubts if Ning Cheng could hold back the wrath of the Bei Clan, he also knew that he couldn't do anything more to help Ning Cheng here. Once a fight did break out, Bei Clan wouldn't bother to give him, Jian Sanshan, any face.

"Okay. Brother Ning, take care of yourself." Jian Sanshan grabbed Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong and left Bei Clan's main hall in an instant.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness kept a close watch on Jian Sanshan before he finally left its range.

From when Ning Cheng asked Jian Sanshan for the favour to when Jian Sanshan left with Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong far away, Bei Qianhai didn't make any move.

Only after Jian Sanshan walked away did Bei Qianhao stare coldly at Ning Cheng and barked, "Are you going to hand over Bei Bai to my Bei Clan, or not?"

"Sure" After Ning Cheng said that word, he raised his hand and threw Bei Bai over.

Bei Qianhao took a step forward and raised his hand to catch Bei Bai with a joyful heart. As long as Bei Bai was alive, even if this Ning Cheng had three heads and six arms, he wouldn't be able to leave his Bei Clan.

But just when Bei Qianhai was about to catch Bei Bai, a violent fluctuation erupted from Bei Bai's body. It immediately startled Bei Qianhai. But before he could react, he heard an intense explosion.

Bei Bai, who was just inches away from him, exploded into a bloody mist. A powerful spirit essence explosion had erupted from within his son's body, soaking him, Bei Qianhai, in his son's blood and guts.

"Bastard, I will devour you alive....." Bei Qianhai let out a tearing scream and then roared with an even harsher cry, "All members of Bei Clan, listen to the order. Capture this invading man alive; my Bei Clan will skin this man and burn his soul....."

Even if this Bei Clan wanted to move against Ning Cheng, Ning Cheng had already decided to exterminate this clan when he killed Bei Bai.

"First Bridge, Bridge of Coping....." Ning Cheng roared almost the exact moment Bei Qianhai screamed. The Seven Bridges Realm Book suddenly emerged suspended over his head.

Suddenly, a pale white Bridge of Coping appeared out of thin air amidst the endless gloomy winds. This time, the yin qi swirling around the Bridge of Coping looked much more stable than before.

Rolling rivers of blood coalesced out of thin air, transforming Bei Clan's main hall into a netherworld hell in an instant.

Not a single person from Bei Clan's younger generation could resist it and rushed towards the Bridge of Coping. As long as they were within the boundary of Bei Clan's mansion, everyone got swept away by the Bridge of Coping without exception.

As more and more Bei Clan's members jumped into the rivers of blood underneath the bridge, the Bridge of Coping's blood river started to rage even more. Even the wildly swirling gloomy winds became more and more ghastly.

"No return from life, no retreat from death, once you enter Coping, you never return...." The distant call from Bridge of Coping drilled into the hearts and souls of Bei Clan's members. At this moment, everyone understood that an endless disaster had befallen the Bei Clan.

"No....." Bei Qianhai let out an anguished cry full of sorrow. He managed to forcefully stop himself from crossing the five-letter stone stele next to Bridge of Coping's bridgehead. At this moment, only four words remained in his heart, 'Bei Clan was finished'.

At this moment, his hatred could wash away the three rivers and blast the four seas dry. A few moments ago, his Bei Clan was preparing to enter the ranks of the Grand Essence Realm's great clans. So how could he accept being wiped out in just one instant?

He was a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor. If he still didn't recognise Ning Cheng's spirit technique as one of the Seven Bridges, he didn't deserve to be the head of Bei Clan.

A tiny Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor had such horrendous means. The mole he thought he could kill with ease had now exterminated his Bei Clan.

He regretted that he got caught up in his greed for the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill. At this moment, his regret could even fill up the Grand Essence Sea. What was the use of having the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill if there was no Bei Clan left? How could a man who dared kill even Man Jiuren fear his Bei Clan?

"Die for me....." Bei Qianhai brought out his weapons. Even though he hadn't stepped onto the Bridge of Coping, the Bridge of Coping's gloomy winds had still affected him.

The three Dao Raising Holy Emperors who had stepped onto the Bridge of Coping instantly came to their senses under Bei Qianhai's miserable cry of sorrow. They immediately turned around to step away from the Bridge of Coping the moment Bei Qianhai's weapon came out.

After stepping onto the Bridge of Coping, how could Ning Cheng allow these three Dao Raising Holy Emperors to walk out? He didn't hesitate to cast Law Break and also blasted out with a dozen Time Wheels.

Under Law Break's effects, these three Dao Raising Holy Emperors suddenly came to a stop. But before they could even reflect on what had happened, Time Wheels blasted onto them one after another.

“Boom.....” A bright and dazzling light blasted onto Ning Cheng’s chest. However, Ning Cheng didn’t care and continued to cast Time Wheels one after another.

Even if he ended up facing Bei Qianhai alone, he couldn’t let these Dao Raising Holy Emperors come out to help.

“Pfft.....” By the time another ray of light pierced through his chest, the three Dao Raising Holy Emperors still on the Bridge of Coping got swept away into the river of blood under the bombardment of Time Wheels. Not a single trace of them remained.

The Bridge of Coping then issued a clicking sound and also disappeared without a trace.

Ning Cheng spat out a mouthful of blood, swallowed a few pills, and coldly looked at Bei Qianhai in front of him.

At this moment, in the entire Bei Clan’s main hall and mansion, only Bei Qianhai remained alive. The rest had turned into nutrition for the river of blood under the Bridge of Coping.

Bei Qianhai remained uninjured because Ning Cheng didn’t have the strength to deal with Bei Qianhai and the rest simultaneously.

Bei Qianhai’s body visibly trembled, and his eyes turned red as if made out of blood. At this moment, he didn’t need to say anything at all. Ning Cheng had massacred countless disciples of his Bei Clan with the Bridge of Coping. How could he willingly stop without drawing out Ning Cheng’s soul and lighting him up?

A colossal red tower filled with killing intent had started to coalesce above Bei Qianhai’s head. As the power within it grew stronger, it felt as if everything around him seemed to have come under Bei Qianhai’s control. No, not seemingly, but truly under Bai Qianhai’s control.

He understood that Ning Cheng was a powerful body-forging expert. Otherwise, those two light rays would have turned Ning Cheng into nothingness. Now that he was the only one alive of his Bei Clan, he would definitely not kill Ning Cheng so simply. He wanted to suppress Ning Cheng and skin him alive and then refine his soul in the soul refining lamp.

“Realm Suppressing Tower..... Suppress him.....” With a guttural roar, Bei Qianhai erupted. The ghastly pressure from the red tower above his head suddenly increased a hundredfold. Even Ning Cheng found it hard to breathe under such intense pressure.

Ning Cheng’s domain had already wrapped around Yan Ji, protecting her from any harm. He also understood that those two light rays would have smashed him into dust if he wasn’t a body refining expert.

Bei Qianhai was a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor, and now it seemed that Bei Qianhai was stronger than him. Plus, his Second Bridge of Looking Homewards hadn’t solidified yet. Therefore, even if he brought it out, he might not be able to kill Bei Qianhai. Maybe if he was a late-stage Dao Sculpting cultivator, he could fight against Bei Qianhai, but not right now. In any case, Ning Cheng didn’t want to waste too much time in Bei Clan’s territory.

What's more, there was another reason he couldn't stay here for long. That is, that previous clash had also severely injured him.

Seeing Bei Qianhai's red tower crashing down, Ning Cheng, who appeared bound, suddenly made a bizarre but soft gesture, Law Break.

At this moment, the solidified space around him suddenly started to move freely. In the same instant, a long black arrow emerged, and a five-coloured longbow coalesced around it. Although two different objects, the bow felt as if it was a natural part of the arrow.

As soon as the long arrow emerged, the killing intent permeating the area increased exponentially, quickly turning the space into something resembling a killing field. At the same instant, the body of the arrow started to glow with five colours.

An unknown chill ran down Bei Qianhai's back. To his horror, he found that this long arrow had already locked him in place, and he couldn't even move a muscle. A moment later, a terrifying aura of death filled the air, completely enveloping his mind and soul.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 954 Extermination

The aura of death started to seep into his body and affect his mind. At the same time, as the aura of death grew heavier, the five-coloured arrow grew fainter.

The longbow also grew rounder and rounder, and it seemed to Bei Qianhai that he had stepped onto the edge of a precipice. One step in any direction would mean death. This was the Five-coloured Star Splitting Arrow, definitely the Five-coloured Star Splitting Arrow. Other than the Five-coloured Star Splitting Arrow, he couldn't think of any other arrow that could lock someone with Dao Transformation cultivation in place. Or even make him watch his own death.

"No....." Bei Qianhai once again screamed out in alarm. He didn't want to die, much less watch himself walk towards his death like this.

"Please, please don't shoot that arrow. Everything in my Bei Clan is yours; I'll even become your dog....." Facing death, Bei Qianhai couldn't help but tremble; he didn't want to die and would give up anything to live.

He would have even killed Bei Bai himself than mess with such a terrifying Dao Sculpting powerhouse like Ning Cheng if he could go back in time.

Ning Cheng's face showed no expression. However, the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow continuously drained his spirit essence like water from a broken dam. He finally had started to understand the terrifying nature of the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. He now understood that having higher cultivation didn't necessarily mean that he would have an easier time shooting the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow. Despite reaching the Dao Sculpting Realm, although still injured, his current strength reserves had far exceeded when he was in the Eternal Realm.

He could still shoot the Five-coloured Star Splitting Arrow despite lacking enough spirit essence and spiritual consciousness back then. It's just that he also needed to burn his essence blood, and longevity to shoot this arrow.

But even then, he could only take on half-step Dao Sculpting experts with the Five-coloured Star Splitting Arrow while in the Eternal Realm.

But now, despite the increase in strength, the arrow had once again sucked up almost all his spirit essence. If anything, the suction power was now even faster and much fiercer than before. Yet, even then, it wasn't enough to shoot the five-coloured Star Splitting Arrow at full strength.

Ning Cheng sucked in a deep breath. He honestly didn't want to burn his essence blood as he wanted to attend the Alchemy Discourse in Heaven Essence Sacred City. If he burned his essence blood and longevity at this time, he wouldn't be able to recover in time; at the very least, it would take him at least a few months to heal.

Looking at Bei Qianhai, who kept begging him with a teary face, Ning Cheng's spirit sense suddenly moved, and a pill landed in his mouth.

Burst Spirit Pill. Back then, this same pill had put Ning Cheng into a three-year coma. Now at this time, Ning Cheng took another Burst Spirit Pill without any hesitation. However, he wasn't too worried.

The Burst Spirit Pill was a pill originally meant for Dao Sculpting and above cultivators. He was only at the Eternal Realm when he took the Burst Spirit Pill a few years ago. As such, he naturally couldn't fully control the horrific stimulating power contained within it.

But now, he had already stepped into the Dao Sculpting Realm. Therefore, taking the Burst Spirit Pill wouldn't put him in the same situation as back then. Besides, with the rate at which the Five-coloured Star Splitting Arrow sucked up his spirit essence, he should be able to swallow several such pills without any consequence.

Sure enough, as the terrifying power exploded out of the Burst Spirit Pill, the Five-coloured Star Splitting Arrow instantly sucked it away. The killing aura around it grew even more intense, and even space started giving out clicking-like sounds.

"If you kill me, the Desolate Spirit Palace will not spare you....." Seeing that Ning Cheng simply ignored his pleas for mercy, Bei Qianhai returned to threats.

Ning Cheng, by this time, no longer cared about threats. He had been threatened too many times by now. Yet, he was still alive and well, while those who threatened him had all turned into flying ashes.

"Rip..." The arrow shot off the bow, and the tip visibly tore through the fabric of space, creating an almost pitch-black gash in its wake.

A terrifying killing intent completely enveloped Bei Qianhai, and his face and expressions filled up with despair. He could only watch the Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow pass through his brow.

His flesh then disintegrated into a bloody mist as Ning Cheng reached out and grabbed a ring. The next moment, Bei Qianhai's skeleton and what remained of his organs disintegrated and turned into bone ash and more blood mist before scattering into the air. The Five-coloured Star Splitter Arrow is simply too powerful.

Ning Cheng slowly exhaled. The anger and flames of rage in his chest also gradually calmed down. A Burst Spirit Pill had spared him from burning his essence blood and life span.

Since he exterminated the Bei Clan, he naturally wouldn't let go of Bei Clan's spiritual grass gardens.

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It was already the fifth day since Ning Cheng went to the Bei Clan. Even though Ning Cheng hadn't returned yet, there were already various rumours and pieces of news circulating in the Heaven Essence Sacred City.

Most notably among them was a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor named Ning Cheng exterminating the Bei Clan. According to the rumours, this Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor called Ning Cheng was remarkably ruthless in his ways. Not only did he eliminate the Bei Clan, but he had even reduced the Bei Clan's territories to ashes, leaving no survivors.

Although the Bei Clan wasn't considered a great clan, it still had a considerable reputation in the Grand Essence Domain. It was not just an alchemy clan; it even had a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor apart from a Dao Transformation Pill Deity.

For a while, numerous cultivators in Heaven Essence Sacred City kept talking about Ning Cheng. Apart from his rumoured strength, the only news about Ning Cheng was that he carried a stunning woman on his back, supposedly his cultivation furnace. And that he was friends with the Dao Transformation Pill Deity, Three Mountains.

Within a suite with a dense spirit aura in Heaven Essence Sacred City, Jian Sanshan sat with two Eternal cultivators drinking spirit tea.

If it was before, only those at or above Dao Transformation Realm could make Jian Sanshan accompany them. In fact, only the second-step Dao Confirming Holy Emperors could make Jian Sanshan sit with them for a round of spirit tea. For such a person to accompany Eternal cultivators for tea? No one would believe it even if they saw it in person.

However, at this moment, Jian Sanshan wasn't in the mood to relax. He simply sat there, shocked beyond belief. He knew that Ning Cheng was a formidable opponent to fight against. Otherwise, he couldn't have killed a Dao Raising Holy Emperor and scared away another Dao Raising Holy Emperor back in the Black and White Mountains.

But now, Ning Cheng had wiped off the Bei Clan. He had initially thought that Ning Cheng would only stay around to teach the Bei Clan a lesson. But even Jian Sanshan couldn't have imagined that Ning Cheng's strength would surpass his wildest imagination. He never expected Ning Cheng to show such decisiveness as to completely eradicate that clan. Despite being an alchemic clan, one had to know that Bei Clan wasn't a slouch or a pushover when it came to strength.

Thinking of this, Jian Sanshan couldn't help but secretly rejoice that he hadn't made a mistake in his judgement. How could a Holy Emperor who could escape from Man Huishan's hands be ordinary? In fact, if Ning Cheng was an ordinary cultivator, he would never dare to openly show himself in Heaven Essence Sacred City with him.

Fortunately, when he guessed Ning Cheng's identity, he didn't use any strong-arm tactics to pressure Ning Cheng. Instead, he now felt lucky that he chose the cooperation route. If he had used strong-arm tactics back then, perhaps there would have been no more Jian Sanshan in this world right now.

Ning Cheng was definitely one of the most terrifying Dao Sculpting Holy Emperors that he, Jian Sanshan, had ever seen.

Although Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong sat with Jian Sanshan drinking tea, they couldn't calm down just like Jian Sanshan. But unlike Jian Sanshan, they felt highly nervous internally. As rogue cultivators, they had naturally heard of Jian Sanshan's great name. A powerful and influential expert whose status was a hundred thousand miles away from theirs. How many Dao Transformation Holy Emperors wanted to ask Jian Sanshan to refine pills but couldn't?

Yet, this same Jian Sanshan had saved them. He had even used precious pills to regenerate their limbs without affecting their cultivations in the slightest bit. But even so, Xin Xiu still felt a bit apprehensive. Why would an influential man of Jian Sanshan's reputation heal their injuries and even treat them so kindly? The only thing she could connect this behaviour to was that Jian Sanshan was Ning Cheng's friend. On the other hand, Ning Cheng was the one who impersonated her Elder Brother Ji He in the first place. Plus, he was also the one who had given her the Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills.

After hesitating for an incense stick, Xin Xiu asked in a worried and somewhat humble manner. "Senior Jian, my Senior Apprentice Brother won't be in trouble, right?"

Jian Sanshan snapped out of his daze and quickly replied. "Nah, everything's fine. I forgot to tell you that your Senior Apprentice Brother has already wiped out the Bei Clan and had made it out unharmed. Since he hasn't come over till now, it might be because he is preoccupied with something else."

Many people have already visited Jian Sanshan to uncover Ning Cheng's origins in the past few days. However, Jian Sanshan maintained that Ning Cheng was just a friend and said nothing else. As for the fact that Ning Cheng hadn't returned to Heaven Essence Sacred City by now, Jian Sanshan had already guessed a thing or two about it. Most likely, Ning Cheng suffered some injuries and had to search for a place to heal.

Jian Sanshan had just finished answering Xin Xiu's words when his communication pearl lit up. Jian Sanshan laughed and stood up. "Your Senior Apprentice Brother has returned."

Ning Cheng had indeed returned. It was just like Jian Sanshan had predicted. Since he carried the still-unconscious Yan Ji with him, he absolutely couldn't return to Heaven Essence Sacred City with serious injuries. So he had to find a secluded place to heal.

Jian Sanshan opened the restrictions, and before Ning Cheng could enter, his voice came in, "Brother Jian, you have quite the nice place."

"Many thanks to Big Brother Ning for saving our lives." Without waiting for Jian Sanshan to speak, Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong quickly came forward and bowed in gratitude. Ning Cheng was the one who had actually saved their lives. Without Ning Cheng, the two would have continued to remain in a situation much worse than death.

Wu Qihong had already learned from Xin Xiu that Ning Cheng wasn't his real Elder Brother Ji He. But even though Ning Cheng wasn't even related to them, he had saved their lives so many times. Because of this, he felt even more grateful towards Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng spoke up with some guilt in his voice. "This happened because of me. If it wasn't for me, the Bei Clan wouldn't have captured you guys."

Xin Xiu hurriedly shook her head, "No, it was Deacon Huang from the Star Stepping Tower. He knew that we knew you."

Without Xin Xiu having to speak up further, Ning Cheng immediately understood what had happened. He and Xin Xiu knew each other, but there weren't too many people who knew about it. After he left Heaven Essence Sacred City, others naturally started coveting the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill. When they couldn't find him, they naturally would go after those who knew him, which turned out to be Xin Xiu's duo.

Ning Cheng gave a cold snort. Looks like this Star Stepping Tower indeed didn't have any good people. Moreover, the Star Stepping Tower Master, surnamed Nie, had taken the initiative to open the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills he had given her in front of everyone. It immediately let other people learn about the existence of such pills. This act itself showed that she didn't care about Ning Cheng's little life at all. Although it hadn't harmed him at that time, it definitely brought a disaster on Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong's lives. It also put a massive target on his back.

"You don't have to worry about that guy surnamed Huang. I will take care of him sooner or later." Ning Cheng held back the dissatisfaction he felt in his heart towards that woman surnamed Nie. He couldn't fight the Star Stepping Tower Master right now, but he had no qualms in taking out one of Star Stepping Tower's deacons.

Wu Qihong wasn't as good with words as Xin Xiu, but he still made a quick effort. "It's already a great fortune that we can survive. But Big Brother Ning, please don't take unnecessary risks on our behalf as the Star Stepping Tower is a mighty behemoth."

Ning Cheng smiled, "You don't have to worry. I naturally wouldn't fight my way to the Star Stepping Tower. In any case, I don't have the strength to do so yet. As for you two, what are your plans for the future?"

When Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong heard Ning Cheng's inquiry, they both fell silent. The two didn't even have any storage rings on them now and were essentially worthless to anyone.

When Ning Cheng saw the two not speaking, he quickly understood their thoughts. He took out two storage rings and handed them to the two, and said, "There are some things in there that you can use as you please. Besides, those things belonged to the Bei Clan anyway, so consider it as their compensation for your sufferings."

Xin Xiu took the rings and suddenly fell to her knees, "Big Brother Ning. Junior Apprentice Brother Wu and I have nowhere to go. If Big Brother Ning needs an errand runner or even a slave, we will willingly follow Big Brother Ning's side till death...."

When Wu Qihong saw Xin Xiu kneel, he hurriedly knelt as well. He understood his Senior Apprentice Sister's thoughts. Ning Cheng and a Dao Transformation Pill Deity like Jian Sanshan knew each other. Plus, Ning Cheng could destroy a behemoth like the Bei Clan by himself. Just those two facts alone indicated that Ning Cheng would have a bright future. In other words, if they could follow Ning Cheng's side, they wouldn't be half as weak as the disciples from those great clans and sects.

Ning Cheng quickly pulled them up. "Since I've been using Ji He's identity till now, let's keep it that way. From now on, you two are truly my Junior Apprentices. To be honest, I don't have anything to teach you. So I put some cultivation methods and spirit techniques that I obtained in your rings. It also contains some cultivation pills that shouldn't put too much pressure on you."

"Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong greet Senior Apprentice Brother Ning." Seeing that Ning Cheng had truly accepted them, both Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong felt overjoyed. Although they were curious about what Ning Cheng put in the rings, the two were even more content to follow Ning Cheng's side.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 955 The Oddball Examinee

"Congratulations on gaining new Junior Apprentices, Brother Ning." Jian Sanshan knew how to spot an opportunity and quickly congratulated Ning Cheng with cupped fists.

Ning Cheng also turned to Jian Sanshan and returned the gesture. "I would also like to thank Brother Jian for helping me out. If it wasn't for Brother Jian, I'm afraid it wouldn't have gone so smoothly."

Ning Cheng wasn't lying. Without Jian Sanshan's help, he might not have managed to exterminate the Bei Clan this easily or even escape.

Jian Sanshan laughed, "Brother Ning, to say that would be out of place. Truth be told, I didn't do anything at all. Even after returning with them, I just waited here for you to return while sipping tea. Besides, I wanted to speak to you about a different matter, but it's not urgent; we can sit and talk about it later when you're free."

Seeing that Ning Cheng and Jian Sanshan had something to talk about, Xin Xiu quickly spoke up. "Brother Ning, this Senior Apprentice Sister seems injured. Why don't you let us take care of her?"

Ning Cheng immediately thought about his intention to trade with the Great Spirit Pill Sect in a few days. It wouldn't bode well if he went there with Yan Ji on his back. Not only would it give others an excuse to ask for higher prices, but it would also make things complicated if something unexpected happened.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng gently took Yan Ji from his back and said, "Then, thank you, Junior Apprentice Sister Xin Xiu. She's my Junior Apprentice Sister Yan Ji; she got attacked by someone and is now seriously injured."

"Big Brother Ning can rest assured. I will definitely take care of Senior Apprentice Sister Yan." Xin Xiu quickly came up and carefully wrapped her hands around the still-unconscious Yan Ji and spoke up with a solemn tone.

At the same time, she couldn't help but secretly praise Ning Cheng's carefulness in her heart. She didn't see even a speck of dust on Yan Ji's body. It meant that Big Brother Ning often used the Dust Removal Technique and the Water Cleansing Technique to clean Yan Ji regularly.

After Xin Xiu left the room with Yan Ji and Wu Qihong, Jian Sanshan then poured a cup of spirit tea for Ning Cheng. "Heaven Essence Sacred City's City Lord Le Jiesheng has invited various powerhouses for a banquet at the City Lord's mansion. He has also extended the invitation to all the alchemists who came to Heaven Essence Sacred City to participate in the Alchemy Discourse. Would Brother Ning be interested in attending it?"

Ning Cheng shook his head and said bluntly, "Not interested."

Jian Sanshan had spent only a little time with Ning Cheng. However, he understood a few things about Ning Cheng's temperament. So hearing the blunt refusal, he had to explain it to Ning Cheng. "Le Jiesheng is a Dao Essence powerhouse and also the head of the Le Clan. Before every Alchemy Discourse, he invites many powerhouses and alchemists to a banquet. Moreover, he's also extremely generous and even gives out precious gifts like dao fruits for others to partake in."

"For this reason, many alchemists would specifically seek him out to ask for his help, and he would also try his best to help them. Even if he couldn't help them, he would try to assist them in every possible manner. But that's just public knowledge. More importantly, the banquet serves as a platform for people to befriend alchemists, especially pill deities and above. At the same time, the banquet also serves as a means for alchemists to form relations with other powerful experts. As such, pretty much everyone, alchemists and other experts included, consider the banquet as an important event."

Jian Sanshan's words spoke volumes that there was no telling how many people couldn't attend Le Jiesheng's banquet even if they wanted to. Even for alchemists, who knew when they would have to call in others for help? After all, knowing more powerful experts would always serve as an extra ace card when seeking help from others.

When Ning Cheng heard Jian Sanshan's words, he did indeed feel a bit moved. He might not be interested in Le Jiesheng's banquet, but he still needed help with Yan Ji's situation. The majority of people attending Le Jiesheng's banquet would be either influential experts or accomplished alchemists. One person's knowledge might fall short, but the combined knowledge of so many experts might actually help him find a solution. Someone might even know the correct diagnosis and cure for Yan Ji's condition.

"Brother Jian, I have decided to go to City Lord Le's banquet with you." Ning Cheng made up his mind and immediately replied.

Jian Sanshan smiled, "It's quite simple to attend City Lord Le's banquet. You just need to go to the Pill Union and apply for a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's identity token."

After saying that, Jian Sanshan looked at Ning Cheng with an eager gaze. He guessed that Ning Cheng most likely was a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity. It's just that he had never seen Ning Cheng refine pills or use his refined pills, so he wasn't entirely confident in his guess.

Ning Cheng immediately stood up. "Brother Jian, let's go get a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's identity token."

He wanted to participate in Heaven Essence Sacred City's Alchemy Discourse and also Le Jiesheng's banquet. Thus, having a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's identity token would definitely be helpful.

Seeing that Ning Cheng was willing to apply for a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's identity token, Jian Sanshan felt overjoyed. It meant that Ning Cheng definitely was a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity, or at least had the confidence to be one.

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There was a reason why Heaven Essence Sacred City could become the premier city in the Grand Essence Domain. Mainly because, apart from the local forces, the headquarters of Pill Union, Weapon

Association, Talisman Alliance, and the Array Dao Alliance were all located in the Heaven Essence Sacred City.

The Pill Union's headquarters was in the shape of a colossal pill furnace, with white pill mist perpetually swirling at the top. It looked like a permanently lit pill furnace from a distance and served as the Pill Union's symbol. If it weren't for the fact that the Pill Union didn't allow people to gather around its headquarters to cultivate, the area would have been packed with cultivators. All because of the decadent aura of pills around it.

As soon as Jian Sanshan arrived at the Pill Union's entrance, the guards immediately recognised him and bowed to greet him before stepping to the side. It showed that Jian Sanshan had an extraordinarily high status in this place.

Although there weren't many Dao Transformation Pill Deities in the Pill Union, that didn't mean it didn't have any. However, Jian Sanshan wasn't like the other Dao Transformation Pill Deities. He was the only person who could refine the Harmonious Heaven Pill. This fact alone was enough to make many sects and forces respect Jian Sanshan immensely. Even within the Pill Union, Jian Sanshan enjoyed a high status because of it.

"May I ask what help this junior could provide to the seniors?" Jian Sanshan and Ning Cheng had just walked into the Pill Union when a pretty female cultivator walked over and bowed in salute.

Ning Cheng took the initiative and said, "I want to take the Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's exam. May I ask what formalities I have to complete?"

Hearing that Ning Cheng wanted to apply for the Dao Sculpting Pill Deity certification, the female cultivator froze. A moment later, she spoke up in an even more respectful tone, "Two seniors, please follow me."

Jian Sanshan always felt that Ning Cheng wasn't an ordinary Dao Sculpting Pill Deity. So when he heard Ning Cheng's words, he quickly spoke up. "Brother Ning, you need to refine a batch of Dao Sculpting Spirit Pills to apply for the Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's identity token."

Ning Cheng smiled, "Doesn't matter. I just want to use the least amount of effort to do the most."

In fact, Ning Cheng never really put a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's identity token to heart. If it wasn't for Yan Ji's condition, he wouldn't even bother to enter the Pill Union.

The Pill Union's recognition had no effect on whether he could refine pills or how good he was at alchemy. Refining suitable pills were all that mattered to him; as for brand or recognition, he didn't care about it at all.

As for why he decided on the Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's identity token, Ning Cheng did it because he had heard one of the rules regarding the Pill Deity exams. That is, the pills refined by the examinee during the examination would go to the Pill Union. Plus, the cultivators taking the exam also had to purchase the ingredients from the Pill Union using spirit crystals. One simply couldn't use the spirit grasses in their possession. Fortunately, the ingredients for Dao Sculpting Spirit Pills were much cheaper than those required for Dao Transformation Spirit Pills. In other words, he chose the lowest required qualification to minimise the cost.

Therefore, even though Ning Cheng could refine Dao Transformation Spirit Pills, he still decided on a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's identity token.

During the small talk, the three of them eventually arrived in front of a large door.

Seeing the female cultivator come to a stop in front of the door, they didn't wait for the female cultivator to speak. Jian Sanshan took the initiative and said, "Brother Ning, the hall past this door is the Pill Union's examination hall. Since I'm not taking the test, I'll wait for you outside."

The female cultivator spoke up, feeling grateful, "Many thanks, Senior Jian."

She wasn't sure if Jian Sanshan would follow her in only to not participate in an examination. If that happened, as a small cultivator leading the way, she couldn't or rather didn't have the power to persuade such a person.

Ning Cheng smiled. "Then, I'll trouble Brother Jian to wait for me here. I don't think it would take too much time. Two hours at most."

The female cultivator leading the way stole a glance at Ning Cheng and couldn't help but mutter in her heart. This Holy Emperor taking the exam sure has a big mouth. Usually, the Dao Sculpting examination took at least a day. Plus, cultivators who took part in these examinations would make ample preparations. Not only would they meditate for a few hours before refining pills, but they would also take their time to carefully choose the best materials. That's because, once they failed the test, they would have to wait a hundred years before they could apply for another re-test.

Jian Sanshan hurriedly spoke up, "Brother Ning doesn't need to worry about me. Two hours is a bit of a rush. Just take your time; I'm not in a hurry."

A cold snort resounded, "What a big mouth. Do you think you can finish the examination in two hours? I guess similar people do tend to make friends with other similar people."

The one who spoke was a man in a red cultivator's robe. He was also following a female cultivator who led the way for him. Obviously, this fellow had also come to take a test.

Jian Sanshan's voice transmission arrived in Ning Cheng's ear. "Brother Ning, this person is Suo Ye. He comes from the Immortal Corpse Sect. He must have recognised me and is deliberately looking for a fight as I'm not on good terms with his sect. You don't need to bother with such trash."

Ning Cheng gave a slight nod and turned to this red-robed cultivator. "Since when was it your business if I refined pills in a few hours or not? Are you a chicken butt? Want to learn how a chicken lays eggs?"

Jian Sanshan couldn't help but snigger internally. Ning Cheng truly knew how to run his mouth. Even so, he deliberately asked. "Brother Ning Cheng, why would one be interested in learning how a chicken lay eggs if they were a chicken butt?"

Ning Cheng laughed, "Don't you know. When a chicken lays eggs, they hum for no reason. Didn't we hear someone humming just now?"

The red-robed male cultivator gave a cold snort, seemingly knowing that he couldn't put up a retort against Ning Cheng's words. He quickly turned around and entered the examination hall first. If they

were outside, he wouldn't mind giving Ning Cheng a lesson. But at the Pill Union, even if he gained a thousand times more courage, he would never dare to make a move.

Ning Cheng smiled at Jian Sanshan before turning around and also entering the examination hall.

Initially, Ning Cheng believed that there wouldn't be too many cultivators taking the Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's qualification exam. However, when he entered the hall, he realised that he had made a colossal mistake. More than twenty cultivators in the main hall were waiting to take the Dao Sculpting Pill Deity exam.

Ning Cheng looked at the female cultivator leading the way beside him and asked with some surprise. "With so many people taking the test, even if I consider half a day for each one, wouldn't my turn come after ten days?"

The female cultivator hurriedly replied, "That's not correct, senior. At most, senior's turn would come by tomorrow. But looking at the situation, I'm afraid that it would be tough for senior to take the examination today."

Ning Cheng frowned when he heard those words. In all honesty, if his turn came tomorrow, it wouldn't affect his participation in the City Lord's banquet. However, he just didn't want to wait here for a full day. He anyways guessed the reason so many people came to take the test today. Most likely, they all also wanted to attend the banquet with the Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's identity token.

The red-robed cultivator who had come before Ning Cheng sneered. "Heh, there are still people who think that they can finish the examination in two hours. Ptooe!"

Hearing the red-robed cultivator's sneering words, people in the hall started to ask questions. Soon, numerous gazes fell on Ning Cheng, and even though no one came forward to say anything, the sneer on their faces made it abundantly clear.

Ning Cheng ignored them and spoke to the female cultivator beside him. "Take me to the place for Dao Raising Pill Deity's assessment. Looks like someone in the Pill Union is a bit too small-minded; just to assess a rank, the alchemist has to shell out their own spirit crystals."

"Ah....." The female cultivator thought she heard it wrong. After hearing that he would have to wait for a day for the Dao Sculpting Pill's qualification exam, this person decided to switch to take the Dao Raising Pill Deity's assessment. This person was the oddest examinee she had ever seen.

She quickly reacted and carefully spoke up, "Senior, please follow me." Even if she thought that Ning Cheng was an oddball, she didn't dare to express it. After all, the Pill Union didn't restrict people from choosing what exam at the pill deity level they wanted to take.

After saying that, she seemed to have recalled Ning Cheng's last words about the Pill Union having a small mind. She tried to explain it to Ning Cheng, "Actually, you might not need to pay spirit crystals to the Pill Union for the pill deity examinations. However, the prerequisite for that to happen is to pass the assessment with a certain success rate. If one achieves that, not only would they not have to pay for the ingredients with spirit crystals, but the Pill Union would also return 50% of the pills refined. Of course, if one fails the test, not only would one have to pay the spirit crystals, one would be fined double the spirit crystals for the ingredients."

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 956 A Dao Transformation Pill Sage-level exam?

The Pill Union's female cultivator brought Ning Cheng to a large blue gate before stopping. She then bowed to Ning Cheng and spoke with a respectful tone, "Senior, going through this gate will take you to the Dao Raising Pill Deity's assessment area."

Ning Cheng, however, didn't enter the blue gate. Instead, he looked at the female cultivator with a smile and said, "I've changed my mind again. Take me to the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment area."

"Ah....." When Ning Cheng had changed his mind the first time, this female cultivator had only thought that Ning Cheng might be an oddball. But now that Ning Cheng said he wanted to take the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment area, she no longer considered Ning Cheng an oddball. Instead, she believed that Ning Cheng was looking for death.

It was only after a while that she stammered and asked, "Senior, you said..... You said you want to take the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment?"

It was no wonder that she felt surprised and shocked at Ning Cheng's words. One had to know that the Grand Essence Realm only had a handful of Dao Transformation Pill Deities. As for Dao Transformation Pill Sages in the Grand Essence Realm, one could count them on the palm of one's hand. Although there was only a word of difference between a Dao Transformation Pill Deity and a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, the difference in abilities of the two were as wide as the distance between heaven and earth.

Who was a Pill Sage? Only someone who could refine a dao pill could take on the title 'Pill Sage'. As such, a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage was much more sought after and more valuable than a Dao Transformation Pill Deity. What's more, Ning Cheng wanted to take the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment. Did he have something wrong with his head?

One generally refines dao pills from dao fruits or spirit grasses similar to the dao fruits. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that only herbs containing the laws of heaven and earth can be used to produce dao pills. Because of this, pills not refined from dao fruits but containing the laws of heaven and earth were also classified on the same level as those refined from dao fruits. In any case, everyone knew that dao pills were much more effective than dao fruits.

Moreover, refining a dao pill with spirit grasses that contained the laws of heaven and earth was ten times harder than refining dao pills with dao fruits. Those who could make a dao pill without using dao fruits were at least Dao Essence Pill Sages, with minimum cultivation at second-step Dao Confirming Realm.

How many dao fruits existed in the world? And how precious were they? Who could afford the luxury of practising with countless dao fruits to learn how to refine dao pills? Since there was already a scarcity of dao fruits, spirit grasses with laws of heaven and earth were even rarer. As a result, only a few pill sages could emerge from the masses. And they were the only ones who could refine dao pills.

Ning Cheng's desire to take the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment wasn't a casual remark. The fact that he could refine Dao Transformation Spirit Pills meant that he had the strength to refine Dao Transformation Dao Pills.

The reason why his talent in alchemy was this high wasn't due to his intelligence. Instead, it was primarily because he cultivated the Mysterious Yellow Formless. A cultivation method that constantly improved on itself. More importantly, it had even brought his original mixed spiritual roots into a balance. In other words, he had no primary spiritual root leaning towards a particular attribute. All of his eight spiritual roots had become equally outstanding.

This balance in spiritual roots made learning alchemy, artefact-crafting and other things much more straightforward than others. But it also resulted in needing tens, if not hundreds or thousands, of times more cultivation resources than others.

There was an even more important reason. That is, Ning Cheng's cultivation method was origin-related. The Mysterious Yellow Bead contained the five elemental origins and the Mysterious Yellow Origin. The origins that opened up heaven and earth.

The first step of alchemy was to extract the essence of various spiritual objects and then coalesce them together. While the next step was to extricate the essence of origins from the spiritual objects and aggregate them together. Taking it a step further, one could extract the essence of sources of the spiritual object and the laws of heaven and earth contained in it and coalesce them together.

Ning Cheng cultivated the Mysterious Yellow Formless and studied Alchemy almost as soon as he began cultivation. As such, his understanding of Alchemy was much better than that of ordinary alchemists.

What's more, to him, there was no difference between dao fruits and ordinary spirit grasses. In any case, he could use common spirit grasses to refine a Dao Transformation Spirit Pill. It also meant that he could theoretically use dao fruits to refine a Dao Transformation Dao Pill.

And it all came down to the Mysterious Yellow Formless, which simply didn't focus on the form, whether it was a blade of grass or fruit from a tree. He also understood the surface of the Law-breaking Spirit Technique, which he derived from the laws within a dao fruit. Therefore, even if his application wasn't as strong as the laws of heaven and earth, he believed that he could exert some control over the refinement process.

But the primary thing was that once the refinement succeeded, he could obtain 50% of the dao pills produced. Taking a step back, even if he failed, he could always use the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill as collateral, right? On the surface, the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill wasn't as precious as a dao pill. However, people can still purchase or exchange dao pills from others. As for the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills, he was the only one who could produce it.

"What, is there a problem? Are there other restrictions to take pill sage-level examinations?" Seeing the female cultivator hesitating to speak, Ning Cheng took the initiative to ask.

Only then did the female cultivator leading the way respond and quickly speak up. "Senior. The Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment isn't something that anyone can take. Before the assessment, one must pledge many spirit crystals or treasures equivalent to the dao fruits you wish to use for the refinement. If you fail, not only would these things not return to you, the Pill Union would also impose severe penalties on you."

Feeling that she spoke out of line, the female cultivator hurriedly tried to explain. "I didn't mean to belittle senior because, because....."

The female cultivator felt afraid that Ning Cheng would become angry, and her tone turned even warier.

Ning Cheng showed a faint smile. "I know, if everyone wanted to take the Pill Sage's assessment, wouldn't the Pill Union have to come up with countless dao fruits? Just feel free to lead the way, and you don't need to worry about anything else."

When she saw that Ning Cheng still wanted to take the Pill Sage's assessment even after she had said those words, she had no choice but to respond. "Then, please follow me, Senior....."

In fact, if Ning Cheng really passed the assessment, her status as the one leading the way would soar through the roof. However, she knew very well that he wouldn't pass the exam despite what Ning Cheng thought of his abilities. Ning Cheng didn't look very old and wasn't even a certified Dao Sculpting Pill Deity. As such, for him to attempt the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment was nothing short of a joke.

The distance between the Dao Raising Pill Deity's assessment area and the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's was only a few hundred meters. But walking these few hundred meters felt as difficult as millions of miles for this female cultivator leading the way.

It was with great difficulty and internal struggle that she brought Ning Cheng to a pale golden door. "Senior, stepping through this pale golden door will lead you to the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment area."

Ning Cheng looked around and then at the door before him and understood the pale golden colour's meaning. A couple of hundred meters away was another golden gate, but much brighter. It must be the Dao Essence Pill Sage's assessment area. However, there were no doors beyond that bright golden one. In other words, in the Heaven Essence Sacred City's Pill Union, one could only take up to Dao Essence Pill Sage's assessment.

"It's been hard on you." Ning Cheng nodded.

"This junior will wait for senior." Some fine sweat seeped out of the female cultivator's forehead, clearly not from heat but from nervousness. She had never brought anyone for a Pill Sage's assessment, let alone a Dao Transformation Pill Sage's one.

"Good." Ning Cheng responded and stepped into the pale golden gate.

A powerful spiritual consciousness pressure came down. Only then did Ning Cheng understand that it wasn't a simple matter to enter the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment area. No wonder this female cultivator didn't dare come up. This level of spiritual consciousness pressure wasn't something that even an ordinary Holy Emperor could resist, let alone someone who hadn't even reached the Eternal Realm.

Fortunately, Ning Cheng wasn't an ordinary Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor. In fact, his most powerful possession wasn't the purity of his spirit essence but rather his spiritual consciousness.

His spiritual consciousness emerged and easily repelled the powerful spiritual consciousness pressure. But even without it, this pressure would have had no effect on Ning Cheng. A moment later, he stepped through the gate and arrived in a hall.

The pale golden gate disappeared behind him without a trace. It felt as if he had appeared in the room out of nowhere. Looking around, he found no way into this hall, nor did he find any exits.

"Huh. Just shaped your Dao, yet your spiritual consciousness is already this powerful." A short, fat old man stared at Ning Cheng and muttered in some confusion.

Ning Cheng stepped forward and cupped his fists, and said, "Rogue Cultivator Ning Cheng, here to take the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment."

He vaguely felt that this short, fat old man's cultivation was at least that of a Dao Essence powerhouse.

The short, fat old man wasn't impressed and spoke up in a bland tone. "As long as you have something equivalent to pledge. As long as you can take out the equivalent pledge, I wouldn't care even if you came to take the examination every hundred years."

As soon as Ning Cheng heard those words, he understood that the other party had no optimism about him passing the assessment. All this short, fat old man cared about was whether Ning Cheng could take out the collateral for taking the examination.

"May I ask senior what things can be accepted as collateral?" Ning Cheng politely asked once again.

The short, fat old man stood up, walked to Ning Cheng's side and walked around Ning Cheng in circles. He was only as tall as Ning Cheng's chest, so his actions looked quite comical.

After circling Ning Cheng a dozen times, the short, fat old man shook his head and spoke. "Looking at you, I reckon you don't have anything good on you. The materials needed for the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment is a dao fruit of the same level. But even if I consider giving you the worst kind of Dao Transformation Dao Fruit, I'm afraid you can't afford it either. How about this, you give me your ring, and I'll see if you can refine a Dao Transformation Dao Pill from your materials."

Ning Cheng showed a faint smile. Want to see my ring? Don't even dream about it. Instead, he directly took out a jade bottle and placed it in the old man's hand. "With this thing, I should be able to refine a few dozen Dao Transformation Dao Pills, don't you think?"

The short, fat old man's face sank. Just a small jade bottle. Even if it contained something precious, it wouldn't be enough to even refine a furnace of dao pills.

"Young man. You can refine as many dao pills as you like here, as long as you can come up with something as collateral. If you can't come up with something and try to play games with this sage, don't blame me for having a bad fate."

Ning Cheng simply didn't care about the old man's threat. Instead, he calmly spoke up, "Senior, why don't you take a look inside first before committing to anything?"

The truth was that Ning Cheng had no idea about the worth of that dragon's eye sized pill marrow. The only reason he said 'dozens of furnaces' was because he was afraid that this short, fat old man would try to fool him.

The old man snorted coldly and opened the jade bottle. But the next moment, his eyes widened in shock. "That, is that pill marrow?"

Pill marrows were priceless treasures. Moreover, it only formed in the top pill furnaces and only after several million batches of pill refinements over several thousand years. It wasn't just a coagulation of the essences of spiritual objects, but rather the essence of those essences refined over countless years. One could even consider it as the essence of a top alchemist's dao.

This dragon's eye sized lump was far more valuable than a dao fruit. No wonder this Dao Sculpting kid dared to say such a thing.

"How did you get such a large ball of pill marrow?" The old man could no longer remain calm.

Ning Cheng's expressions changed a bit as he said, "Senior, I came here for the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment, not to be questioned."

He had obtained a fist-sized clump of pill marrow, but he had only taken out a small part of it.

"Yes, yes. You can take the examination; you can take it." The old man rubbed his hands excitedly. He had actually obtained a lump of pill marrow today.

Ning Cheng asked without panic. "I know that I can take the exam. I want to know, if I failed in refining, how many dozens of furnaces of dao pills do I get for that lump of pill marrow?"

"Dozens of furnaces? No way, no?" The old man hurriedly waved his hand. "The Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment only requires three furnaces. I will give you the materials to refine those three furnaces, no more..... The success rate of a pill sage must be at least 60% in total, but you must successfully refine two out of those three batches. If you fail, come back again a hundred years later."

Ning Cheng initially thought that he would only get to refine one or a maximum of two furnaces. He never expected the old man to actually give him three chances, which made his heart overjoyed. Ning Cheng then realised that it was not that this pill marrow was only worth three furnaces but that the Pill Sage's assessment required a success rate of at least 60%. It meant that three furnaces were the maximum attempts given for one Dao Transformation Pill Sage's exam.

Ning Cheng didn't raise any objections. "In that case, let's go with three furnaces. Please bring out the materials, Senior. For the first furnace, I will refine the Violet Heaven Pill."

He could take back this pill marrow as long as he obtained the Dao Transformation Pill Sage qualification. He was only mortgaging it, not giving it away as compensation.

"Ah...." This time, the old man froze up in shock. A Violet Heaven Pill was a Dao Transformation Dao Pill that Dao Transformation Holy Emperors could use. But the primary dao fruit, the Violet Heaven Dao Fruit, wasn't cheap. He truly felt heartbroken just at the thought of taking out the Violet Heaven Dao Fruit for Ning Cheng, knowing full well that Ning Cheng couldn't refine it.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 957 Where did this demon come from

"Senior, is there anything wrong?" Ning Cheng, on seeing this short, fat old man not speaking, asked once again.

The short, fat old man hesitated for a moment before speaking, "You are taking the pill sage assessment; why not just refine ordinary dao pills?"

Ning Cheng understood what this short, fat old man thought of him. This old man only wanted him to refine a few random dao pills and that he didn't care whether he succeeded or not. The more common the dao pill the examinee refined, the less the Pill Union would lose. In the end, if he failed, the pill marrow would also go to the Pill Union.

"I've heard that in a Pill Sage's assessment, half the dao pills refined would be returned to the examinee. Besides, are the materials for Violet Heaven Pills very precious? It's the most ordinary one that I can refine." Ning Cheng showed a warm smile.

The short, fat old man almost choked on Ning Cheng's words and spat out a mouthful of blood. The Violet Heaven Pill was the most ordinary one? Wouldn't that mean the following pills would require even more heaven-defying materials?

Ning Cheng had put up the pill marrow as collateral; as such, the short, fat old man couldn't say it bluntly that he didn't believe that Ning Cheng had the skills to refine such a dao pill. I let you refine ordinary dao pills because I wanted to give you a chance to succeed. Plus, I also wouldn't lose too much if it resulted in a failure. After hesitating for a long time, he finally took out a few jade boxes and put them in front of Ning Cheng. "Alright, since you insist on refining the Violet Heaven Pill, then it's all on you."

As long as the Violet Heaven Pill's refinement failed, he would come up with an excuse to not take out higher-grade dao pill materials.

Ning Cheng raised his hand and waved, bringing out a pill furnace with the words 'First Furnace of Chaos' engraved on it.

When the old man saw Ning Cheng's pill furnace, he almost laughed out loud. How dare someone call a pill furnace 'the First Furnace of Chaos'? It felt too shameless, even to him. No wonder this Dao Sculpting kid dared to come here to take the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment. This brat lived in his own little world.

The short, old man suddenly spoke up, seeing that Ning Cheng was about to reach out to grab the alchemy materials. "Wait. Show me your Dao Transformation Pill Deity qualification token first."

Ning Cheng looked at the old man suspiciously and asked. "Do you even need a Dao Transformation Pill Deity's qualification for taking the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment? If I had such a qualification, would I even need to come here for the examination?"

Although the short, fat old man looked stung by Ning Cheng's words, he felt delighted internally and spoke up. "Without a Dao Transformation Pill Deity's qualification token, you can only take the exam for a Dao Raising Pill Sage. Take out your Dao Raising Pill Deity's qualification token, hehe....."

Ning Cheng couldn't help but give an awkward reply. "I only have a Rank 8 Pill Emperor's qualification token. Didn't you say that I only needed 'a' qualification to take the exam?"

This time, the short, fat old man truly felt speechless. He stared at Ning Cheng for a long time before he sighed and said, "I, Sheng Huotian, lived for quite a long time. But today's the day I finally saw what it is to dare to think big and then do big. A Tier 8 Pill Emperor actually came to me and said he wanted to

take the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment. Whether in terms of boldness or thickness of one's skin, if you said you were the second, no one else in the whole world would dare to claim the first."

Ning Cheng replied in a calm voice, "So you don't want to let me take the test, huh? Does it also mean that Senior Sheng wants me to forfeit my pill marrow?"

"Forfeit your pill marrow? As if. The pill marrow is an incredibly precious material for an alchemist. Still, even if I needed it, I, Sheng Huotian, am not so despicable as to snatch your pill marrow. Besides, even if I, Sheng Huotian, wanted to do so, the Pill Union wouldn't allow it. You should go and first take the Dao Transformation Pill Deity's assessment, and then come back to me when you're done with it." Sheng Huotian replied with an emotionless tone.

Ning Cheng's tone suddenly turned cold. "You want me, a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, to stand in line with those ordinary examinees? If the treatment is the same for everyone, why the hell would I come here for the assessment of a Dao Transformation Pill Sage?"

Sheng Houtian laughed, "I don't care if you were the number one Dao Sculpting cowhide in the entire Grand Essence Realm; you're still not a Dao Transformation Pill Sage yet. If you were a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, I'm afraid your nose would be pointing at the sky. Well, it doesn't matter. If you don't want to stand in line, that's okay with me too, but you'll have to take the assessment from me. But if you want to take the assessment from me, you will need to take it step-by-step from the ranks of Dao Sculpting Pill Deity. Otherwise, go and stand in line with the others. As for the pill marrow, whether you take the test or not, the Pill Union has its rules. As long as you don't pass the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment, it won't be returned to you. If you don't take the test, it will be returned to you."

What Ning Cheng wanted to hear were precisely those words from Sheng Houtian. Now that Sheng Houtian said it aloud, Ning Cheng's tone immediately softened. "Senior Sheng, it's not impossible for me to take the assessment under you. It's just that there is no clarity about who owns those spirit grasses and to whom do the refined pills belong?"

Sheng Houtian spoke up angrily, "The spirit grasses obviously will come from this sage, but the refined pills would all be considered yours. Satisfied?"

After hearing Sheng Huotian's words, Ning Cheng's expressions warmed up, "Then, many thanks for the offer, Senior Sheng."

Sheng Houtian sneered and didn't say anything as he raised his hand and waved, bringing out two medicinal ingredients. "The first assessment is for Dao Sculpting Pill Deity. Use these materials to refine the Burst Spirit Pill."

Ning Cheng looked at the two ingredients speechlessly and hesitated for a moment before saying, "Can you change the pill to be refined?"

Ning Cheng still hadn't used up the Burst Spirit Pills he had previously refined, and he also didn't plan on continuing to use Burst Spirit Pills. What would he do with so many Burst Spirit Pills?

Sheng Houtian simply ignored Ning Cheng's request and continued. "There are enough spirit grasses for three furnaces, and you need a success rate of 60% or more for passing. That means you must successfully refine at least two furnaces before you can become a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity."

Seeing that this old man, Sheng Houtian, had little intention of compromising, Ning Cheng took the Burst Spirit Pill materials and threw them into the pill furnace.

When Sheng Houtian saw Ning Cheng's actions, his face turned red with rage. How was this a Dao Sculpting Spirit Pill refinement? However, his anger disappeared a moment later.

What was there to be angry about? The faster this kid failed, the better it would be, right? At that moment, he wouldn't have to take out any other spirit grasses at all.

A white flame suddenly manifested over Ning Cheng's palm, and Sheng Huotian's face immediately twisted in shock. The more he looked at it, the wider his pupils grew, and then he suddenly shouted in surprise. "That's the Nameless Flame....."

The Nameless Flame wasn't truly nameless; it was the sixth-ranked flame in the Grand Essence Realm. Sheng Houtian never expected that Ning Cheng, a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor, could take out such a precious flame.

Ning Cheng didn't bother to pay attention to Sheng Houtian. The flame quickly enveloped the pill furnace, and a moment later, the furnace filled up with green gas.

In just a few moments, Sheng Huotian's expressions changed once again. He was a Dao Transformation Pill Sage himself, so he naturally understood that Ning Cheng wasn't fooling around.

Ning Cheng had almost instantly refined and purified the spirit grasses. Moreover, in less than a third of an incense stick, a unique fragrance belonging to the Burst Spirit Pill emerged from the furnace.

Between ten to twelve breaths later, twelve pills emitting a powerful aura emerged and entered the jade bottles Ning Cheng had previously prepared.

Sheng Houtian could no longer sit still and immediately stood up with eyes wide open. Twelve Burst Spirit Pills, all of them top-quality Dao Sculpting Spirit Pills. Even he couldn't do any better than this.

It meant that Ning Cheng had indeed come for the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment and not to fool around.

Sheng Houtian immediately put away the materials that Ning Cheng hadn't yet refined. Instead, he took out fresh materials. "There's no need to refine the second furnace. Looking at your proficiency, you've clearly passed the Dao Sculpting Pill Deity assessment. Next is the Dao Raising Pill Deity assessment."

Although he looked calm on the surface right now, his heart had long since turned upside down. When did such a heaven-defying alchemic powerhouse come out of the Grand Essence Realm? If this person hadn't come to the Pill Union for the assessment, he would have never known that there was still such a powerful Pill Deity in the Grand Essence Realm. Maybe he was already at the Pill Sage level.

Ning Cheng internally cursed Sheng Houtian for such pettiness. However, he also didn't care too much about it. In any case, Ning Cheng didn't put the Burst Spirit Pill in his eyes in the first place. The second

pill he had to refine was the Immortal Rain Pill, which belonged to the Dao Raising Spirit Pill category. It was essentially a healing pill and a relatively precious one at that.

As Sheng Houtian expected, Ning Cheng only used a third of an incense stick in refining a furnace of top-quality Immortal Rain Pills.

Seeing this result, Sheng Houtian decided to take out a furnace full of materials for the Green Leaves Red Flame Pills without saying a word. The Green Leaves Red Flame Pill was a Dao Transformation Spirit Pill that assisted flame-attuned cultivators to cultivate their spirit techniques. It was even more valuable than the Immortal Rain Pills.

Sheng Houtian watched Ning Cheng skilfully refine, gather and fuse the medicinal extracts, and then form the pills without a half-a-moment of pause. He couldn't fathom just how many Dao Transformation Spirit Pills had Ning Cheng refined till now to reach such proficiency. However, the more he watched, the more shocked he became. Sheng Houtian was, at the very least, the second in command within the Pill Union. Even in terms of refining proficiency, he was only second to the Pill Union's Union Master.

Yet, even with his vast experience and knowledge, he couldn't determine what pill art Ning Cheng used during his refinement process. He couldn't see any form or structure, whether he looked at the initiation, condensation, or medicinal essence collection. Truth be told, he could only watch the process at the surface level and couldn't see or even sense the minute transformations at all. Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness screened the pill furnace from outside influence. Therefore, unless Ning Cheng gave him permission, he couldn't forcibly probe the furnace with his spiritual consciousness.

"Ding-Ding-Ding." Sounds of pills rumbling in the jade bottle rang out. Listening to those sounds, Sheng Houtian gave out a long sigh. This wasn't a Pill Deity who had come to take the alchemy assessment but a demon. Twelve fiery-red Green Leaves Red Flame Pills, all of them of the highest grade without exception. Where on earth did this kid come from? Better yet, who in the heavens even taught such a demon?

Even if Ning Cheng took his time refining the Dao Transformation Spirit Pill. It took him only two incense sticks to pass the Dao Sculpting, Dao Raising and Dao Transformation Pill Deity assessments since the start of the evaluation. The Dao Transformation Pill Deity assessment required only a success rate of at least 30% to pass. Therefore, even without Ning Cheng refining a second furnace, Sheng Houtian knew that Ning Cheng most likely had a 100% success rate. Not only did Ning Cheng have a 100% success rate, but even the pills would be of top quality.

Sheng Houtian sighed. "Fellow Daoist Ning Cheng, I retract my previous underestimation of you. You are indeed qualified to take the assessment for Dao Transformation Pill Sages. You also have the qualifications to despise those pill deities outside."

Sheng Houtian directly admitted that he had underestimated Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng also, in turn, felt somewhat better about the old man. Many experts, regardless of their professions, wouldn't readily admit to their mistakes.

"Fellow Daoist Ning Cheng, these ingredients are for the Falling Scar Dao Pill, which also includes a Falling Scar Dao Fruit." Sheng Houtian took out a furnace of materials and placed it in front of Ning Cheng. "I understand that you're qualified to take the assessment for the Dao Transformation Pill Sage.

However, I still have to ask you to take the assessments for the Dao Sculpting and Dao Raising Pill Sages according to the Pill Union's rules."

Ning Cheng nodded. It didn't matter to him; the pills were his anyway. This time, since he was to refine a Dao Sculpting Dao Pill, he became even more careful with his actions. He even separated and refined the spirit grasses carefully. After all, it was the first time that he was refining a dao pill. Even if the Mysterious Yellow Formless provided him with powerful means, he still had to adapt to the process first.

Ning Cheng had seen the Falling Scar Fruit before. In fact, a Falling Scar Fruit had appeared in the Grand Essence Ruins' exchange and was bought by Kong Ning. Kong Ning had even asked him to borrow points to purchase that Falling Scar Fruit, to which he agreed.

The most precious material for the Falling Scar Dao Pill was naturally the Falling Scar Fruit. After Ning Cheng placed the Falling Scar Fruit into the furnace, the dao flame immediately covered it. At that exact moment, Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness sensed a faint aura of the laws of heaven and earth from it.

Ning Cheng hadn't misjudged it previously. The heaven and earth laws in the Falling Scar Fruit were indeed not strong. One could even say that they were weak to the point of non-existence. However, although it contained a clear law, it felt that it could break and dissipate at the first touch. As if on cue, and before Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness could even begin refining the Falling Scar Fruit, the laws within the Falling Scar Fruit started to collapse.

Sensing the laws collapsing within the Falling Scar Fruit, Ning Cheng's heart turned anxious. What was the defining feature of refining a Dao Pill? It was the law. Once the laws of the dao fruit collapsed, even if he finished the refinement of the dao pill, it would be tantamount to a failure.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 958 Alchemic Epiphany

Ning Cheng finally understood why there were so few pill sages and why dao pills were challenging to refine. With such faint laws, as long as one didn't understand the laws well enough, one simply wouldn't be able to refine them. Likewise, it didn't matter if your understanding of the laws was strong. If you couldn't skillfully handle the difference in the properties in the essences of the spirit grasses that you want to fuse and the laws of the dao fruit, the refinement would still fail.

Suppose you had a thorough understanding of the laws and a deep understanding of the properties and the way the essences of the spirit grasses interacted. In that case, you could manage to fuse them. However, if your spiritual consciousness wasn't good enough, you would find it impossible to condense the fused essences into a dao pill.

When saying that the spiritual consciousness is 'good enough', it doesn't mean having a weaker or a strong one. Instead, it had nothing to do with the strength of your spiritual consciousness but rather your proficiency in controlling it. As such, you could still refine a dao pill without having a strong spiritual consciousness.

Only after optimising all these factors would it be possible for you to refine a dao pill. Especially as different dao fruit had different laws, even if they had similar medicinal essences. In other words, you might be able to refine one type of dao pill but not another.

Grasping the medicinal nature of spirit grasses, controlling the law aura within the dao fruits, and having your spiritual consciousness move it at will.....

Ning Cheng quickly understood what was going on the moment the laws of the dao fruit started to disintegrate. However, at this moment, his entire mind had already merged into the furnace, looking at the failed Falling Scar Dao Pill still forming in it.

On the side, Sheng Houtian looked at Ning Cheng's focussed demeanour and sighed before shaking his head. He had long since sensed that the laws within the Falling Scar Fruit had dissipated, which meant that this batch had failed. Even if Ning Cheng didn't admit his failure and still concentrated on finishing the refinement, he wouldn't be able to refine the Falling Scar Dao Pill.

But even though he knew that Ning Cheng had failed, he still didn't disturb Ning Cheng's concentration.

Sure enough, half an incense stick later, a burnt stench emerged from the furnace. A puff of green smoke rose from Ning Cheng's Chaos First Furnace, accompanied by the smells of burnt spirit grasses.

Anyone could tell that the dao pill refinement had utterly failed. Yet, Ning Cheng still continued to concentrate on the furnace and hadn't come to his senses.

If this dao pill had been Ning Cheng's first pill refined before him, Sheng Houtian would have already had a seizure by now and chided Ning Cheng. But he had personally seen the several pills that Ning Cheng had refined earlier. Therefore, even if this furnace of Dao Sculpting Dao Pill had failed, Sheng Houtian didn't throw a fit. Instead, he waited patiently and quietly at the side.

Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness had imperceptibly started to change when he controlled his spiritual consciousness to fuse the remaining strands of laws with the pills in the pill furnace. In the beginning, he still needed to control the movement of his spiritual consciousness. But gradually, all it took was an expression of his intention, and his spiritual consciousness would start to move independently but according to his will. It was as if his spiritual consciousness had transformed into a world where he could do whatever he wanted.

It allowed him to focus his mind and energy elsewhere. At the same time, it also resulted in having much greater control over his spiritual consciousness.

Just when the failed pills in the pill furnace turned into flying ashes, Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness gave out a slight, imperceptible click. It immediately made Ning Cheng feel ecstatic. Although he had failed to refine the dao pill, this experience allowed his Sea of Consciousness to advance again. His Sea of Consciousness instantly turned invisible and could no longer be pounced upon by ordinary cultivators.

As Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness advanced even further, Sheng Houtian, watching from the side, clearly felt the increase in Ning Cheng's strength. This made him even more amazed at Ning Cheng. A Holy Emperor who could advance their strength while in the middle of alchemy was something he had never seen or even heard before.

However, Ning Cheng still didn't wake up as his Sea of Consciousness once again tried to replicate the process of completing the dao pill.

The instant this process ended, Ning Cheng's body shook once again, and his entire body got shrouded in smoke.

Shen Houtian could no longer hold back his surprise and stood up in shock. He didn't expect Ning Cheng to advance yet again. Ning Cheng's previous advancement in cultivation had already left him shaken. But this time, the improvement wasn't in his cultivation level but in his alchemy level.

As a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, Sheng Houtian knew that Ning Cheng had an alchemic epiphany. In other words, after this epiphany, Ning Cheng's understanding of the Dao of Alchemy would improve even further.

The faint smoke enveloping Ning Cheng's body also gave off a seemingly vast dao rhythm, one unique to the Dao of Alchemy. It felt pleasant like a morning bell and an evening drum.

How deep must one's understanding of the Dao of Alchemy have to be, to be surrounded by such profound and dense dao rhythms? But no matter how deep Ning Cheng's realisation was, Sheng Houtian couldn't care about anything else. He immediately sat down and started to sense the dao rhythm that Ning Cheng had comprehended beside him.

An incense stick of time quickly passed, and the dao rhythm around Ning Cheng slowly started to dissipate. A few moments later, the dao rhythm and smoke surrounding his body completely disappeared.

Ning Cheng opened his eyes, and one could clearly feel the joy radiating out of it.

Sheng Houtian also opened his eyes simultaneously, but the joy in his eyes was even more exaggerated than Ning Cheng. He had vaguely caught the shadow of a path that led straight towards becoming a second-step pill sage. He knew very well that even though he had been a Dao Transformation Pill Sage for several tens of thousands of years, he was still just a first-step pill sage.

"Senior....." Ning Cheng cupped his fists towards Sheng Houtian with some embarrassment. He had failed in the refinement and wasn't sure if Sheng Houtian would let him take the second attempt.

If Sheng Houtian really didn't let him refine a second furnace, then today's assessment would end in a complete failure.

Sheng Houtian hurriedly jumped up and waved his hands. "Don't call me 'senior', Brother Ning Cheng. If you truly look up to this Sheng Houtian, let's be brothers. You can call me Brother Sheng from now on. Even if you call me Houtian, I would be fully comfortable with it. I even want to thank you. If it weren't for your epiphany in the Dao of Alchemy and the proliferation of your alchemic dao rhythms, I wouldn't have grabbed onto a little something. I don't know how many years it would have taken for me to understand that without your help."

Sheng Houtian had a look of excitement on his face, just like a child who found a long lost yet still precious toy. At his level, if he wanted to advance, heavenly treasures or external objects wouldn't be of any use to him. He had to rely entirely on his own comprehension of the Dao of Alchemy. The truth was, his understanding of alchemy had already come so far that it had reached an extreme point. As such, Ning Cheng's epiphany had pushed him over the tipping threshold, making it possible for him to actually become a second-step pill sage.

Ning Cheng already knew that Sheng Houtian had tried to sense his epiphany while he underwent it. However, he didn't care about it. Ning Cheng possessed the Mysterious Yellow Origin and cultivated the

Mysterious Yellow Formless, which meant that such epiphanies were regular. He also didn't mind if Sheng Houtian followed him around to bask in it.

Now that Sheng Houtian had become so appreciative of him, Ning Cheng naturally wouldn't remain pretentious and quickly spoke up. "Then, many thanks, Brother Houtian....."

"Good, good....." Sheng Houtian rubbed his hands excitedly. Even before Ning Cheng had started his alchemic epiphany, he felt confident that Ning Cheng's future achievements would far surpass his. Initially, he wanted to wait for Ning Cheng to finish his assessments. Then, he could use the opportunity to form a friendship with Ning Cheng.

Unexpectedly, before he could even form a friendship, Ning Cheng had once again demonstrated his terrifying qualifications that far surpassed those of a demon. If he could befriend such a person, he might gain far more in the future.

Seeing that Sheng Houtian didn't say anything about letting him continue with the examination, Ning Cheng had to take the initiative to mention. "Brother Houtian, I want to continue with the Dao Sculpting Pill Sage assessment. I wonder if I can refine another Falling Scar Dao Pill....."

Sheng Houtian waved his big hand, "According to the rules, you have two more chances to refine a furnace. Out of a total of three chances, you only need to refine two successful batches, and you can pass without any problems."

After saying that, Sheng Houtian felt that this didn't show how helpful he was to Ning Cheng and whispered to Ning Cheng. "Brother Ning, you can go ahead and refine more batches if you like. If you fail, I will give you a few more refining chances. However, you need to promise to not mention this to anyone, not even to those close to you."

After saying that, Sheng Houtian waved his hand and took out enough materials for five furnaces of Falling Scar Dao Pills. Apparently, Sheng Houtian also understood that one would have a higher chance of success when refining the same dao pill in subsequent rounds.

Ning Cheng smiled. He knew that even if Sheng Houtian didn't say anything, the Pill Union would still know about it. The piles of monitoring formations around here weren't just for show. The only reason why Sheng Houtian said those words was because he was afraid to put a psychological burden on him.

However, Ning Cheng didn't think that he would fail once again. With his epiphany and Sea of Consciousness's advancement, he would be too embarrassed to refine the third furnace if he failed the second refinement.

This time, Ning Cheng didn't carefully separate the spirit grasses or even carefully extract the essence of the spirit grasses. He moved as swiftly as he did before when he refined those spirit pills.

When Sheng Houtian saw Ning Cheng's movements returning to the previous speed, no, even swifter than before, he started to have some doubts. He doubted in his heart if that last attempt with the Falling Scar Dao Pill was the first time Ning Cheng had refined a dao pill in his life.

However, he quickly dispelled those thoughts. The Falling Scar Dao Pill can't be the first dao pill that Ning Cheng had refined. That's because Ning Cheng's movements had once again regained the calmness

and fluidity as when he refined those spirit pills. He still couldn't see Ning Cheng's pill art, but he could experience a pleasant feeling of springiness from Ning Cheng's technique.

Half an incense stick later, the pill dregs got thrown out, and an incense stick later, pill rhythms started to circle above the furnace. Half an hour later, the pill rhythms began to coalesce, and one could even feel the laws of heaven and earth converging in the furnace. Immediately afterwards, a burst of pill fragrance erupted from inside it.

Just when Ning Cheng's pill-making skills emotionally shocked Sheng Houtian once again, Ning Cheng's hand moved like a blurred shadow. A moment later, tinkling sounds of pills falling into a jade bottle rang out within the hall.

Sheng Houtian felt genuinely thrilled to see that Ning Cheng's refinement had succeeded. He didn't dare release his spiritual consciousness to check for fear of affecting Ning Cheng's refinement. But he could still feel that this batch of dao pills was of high quality.

"Brother Houtian, please help me look at it." Ning Cheng smiled and placed the jade bottle containing the twelve Falling Scar Dao Pills in Sheng Huotian's hands.

Sheng Houtian couldn't wait to open the jade bottle, and a moment later, he couldn't help but speak up in a slightly exaggerated voice. "Indeed, twelve dao pills of exceptional quality. I'm afraid that it would be difficult even for me to achieve such a result."

Ning Cheng also felt satisfied with the result. After experiencing the epiphany, he now could refine pills with even more ease and more freehand than before.

While Sheng Houtian kept looking over the pills, Ning Cheng started to refine the second batch of Falling Scar Dao Pills. Half an hour later, Ning Cheng finished refining another batch of twelve top-quality Falling Scar Dao Pills.

Sheng Houtian promptly took out the ingredients for two more dao pills and placed them in front of Ning Cheng. At the same time, he couldn't help but sigh. "It won't be long before your Dao of Alchemy surpasses mine, and it might even happen today."

This time, he took out the ingredients for the Violet Heart Congealing Pills. The primary dao fruit for the Violet Heart Congealing Pill was the Heavenly Jade Dao Fruit. It was a dao pill used by Dao Raising Holy Emperors and below but primarily by those with broken dao hearts. It gave such people a better chance to re-condense their dao hearts. As such, it was a rather precious Dao Raising Dao Pill despite the relative price of its ingredients.

It wasn't unusual for a Holy Emperor's dao heart to break. It could happen when one's dao heart gets unusually stirred up during a cultivation session or during dao condensation, or even against an enemy. The only restriction was that the Violet Heart Condensation Pill could only be used by Holy Emperors at the Dao Raising level or below. If someone of a higher level takes it, it would not have any effect. In some cases, it could even bring harm to that cultivator's dao heart.

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Chapter 959: Six Qualification Tokens

Compared to the Fallen Scar Dao Pill, the laws in the primary dao fruit for the Violet Heart Congealing Pill, the Heavenly Jade Dao Fruit, were even more arcane and complicated. Moreover, coalescing the pill was even more complex than the Falling Scar Pill due to the fragility of its laws.

Despite Ning Cheng's epiphany, his first attempt in refining the Violet Heart Condensation Pill still resulted in the collapse of some of the laws within the Heaven Jade Dao Fruit. As a result, he only formed five Violet Heart Congealing Pills, three middle grade and two lower grade pills. Ning Cheng rarely refined such inferior pills, but he had refined some this time, mainly because of the collapse of the dao fruit's laws.

Sheng Huotian didn't say anything. But before Ning Cheng could ask for the second batch of ingredients, he quickly took out enough for two sets and placed them in front of Ning Cheng.

Seeing that Ning Cheng's second attempt at refining the Violet Heart Congealing Pills went even smoother, he couldn't help but start doubting again. It seemed that every time Ning Cheng moved up a level, he would always stumble a little, especially during the first refinement. But as long as Ning Cheng refined the first furnace, the subsequent attempts would come much closer to perfection.

Was this really Ning Cheng's first time refining dao pills? And that he only had to learn once?

This time, Sheng Huotian didn't even think. When Ning Cheng finished refining the third and final batch of Violet Heart Congealing Pills, he immediately took out materials for three batches of Violet Heaven Pills.

This was the same Dao Transformation Dao Pill that Ning Cheng had wanted to refine when he first came for the assessment. The primary dao fruit for the Violet Heaven Pill was the Violet Heaven Dao Fruit. It was an incredibly precious pill, even among the various Dao Transformation Dao Pills. For a Dao Raising Holy Emperor, obtaining a Violet Heaven Pill was practically a dream come true, as it gave them a better chance of a breakthrough.

While Ning Cheng concentrated on refining the Violet Heaven Pills, Sheng Huotian intensely stared at Ning Cheng's movements without blinking his eyes. Even his spiritual consciousness kept a close watch on the outside of Ning Cheng's pill furnace.

Sure enough, it was just as he had guessed. Ning Cheng had once again missed the mark with his first refinement. As evidenced by the fact that he only produced three inferior Violet Heaven Pills, which basically was no different from a failure. But for the second and third batches of Violet Heaven Pills, Ning Cheng succeeded in refining them. Moreover, they were also all at least top-grade or even perfect grade pills.

Sheng Huotian picked up the Violet Heaven Pill from the latest batch that Ning Cheng had refined. He looked at it for almost half an incense stick before speaking up in an emotion-filled voice. "Brother Ning Cheng, your attainment in refining pills is something that even I cannot reach."

"I still have to thank Brother Huotian for his support. If it were anyone else, maybe I wouldn't even be able to take the Dao Sculpting Pill Sage's assessment." Ning Cheng genuinely thanked him.

Sheng Huotian also thought about it. If he had disallowed Ning Cheng from refining the second batch of Falling Scar Pills, going anywhere else would have been useless to Ning Cheng.

“Brother Ning, I have a few questions that I really want to ask you. Have you ever refined a dao pill before coming here or not? Why is it that every time you refine higher level dao pills, you always stumble during the first batch?” Sheng Huotian finally couldn’t help himself and asked the doubt plaguing his heart.

Embarrassment appeared on Ning Cheng’s face. “I couldn’t get any dao fruits, so I came here to refine dao pills. It’s truly my first time.”

Ning Cheng understood by now that he had overestimated his abilities in coming to take the Dao Transformation Dao Sage’s assessment today. He had initially thought that refining a dao pill wasn’t any different than refining a spirit pill. Since he could refine Dao Transformation Spirit Pills, he felt that he could also refine Dao Transformation Dao Pills. But after he failed in refining the first batch of Falling Scar Dao Pills, he understood that he had made a colossal mistake.

In other words, if his Sea of Consciousness hadn’t advanced, and he didn’t experience that epiphany, he couldn’t have passed the Dao Sculpting Pill Sage’s assessment. Even if he somehow passed the exam, he would have definitely failed the Dao Raising Pill Sage’s examination.

Now, with his current and improved understanding of alchemy, it wouldn’t be difficult for him to research the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill, unlike before. With the experience of Pill Sage Min Kong, Ning Cheng would have only needed a few hours at most to research the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill. At least that’s what he currently felt.

Sheng Huotian stared at Ning Cheng with his mouth wide open. Ning Cheng’s words had utterly shocked him. He was a Dao Transformation Pill Sage and also a Dao Essence powerhouse. What things he hadn’t seen in his life till now. However, he had never seen or even heard of such a heaven-defying alchemist as Ning Cheng. Even though he had doubts after seeing Ning Cheng stumble at every first batch of pills, it was still, in the end, only a suspicion. In fact, he even felt amused by those suspicions. But now that Ning Cheng had admitted it himself, he found that he couldn’t believe it.

“Brother Huotian, can you help me with the Dao Transformation Pill Sage’s qualification token?” Seeing Sheng Huotian standing in stunned silence, Ning Cheng could only remind him once again.

Sheng Huotian finally came to his senses and gave out a long sigh. “The universe truly is vast, containing geniuses beyond my imagination. I guess it’s my, Sheng Huotian’s, luck to meet such a demonic genius like you. Brother Ning, I’ll go get you the Pill Union’s qualification tokens.”

In just under half an incense stick’s worth of time, he placed six qualification tokens in front of Ning Cheng.

Arranged neatly in front of him, three of them ranged from light blue to blue to dark blue. The other three were white, silver, and pale gold, respectively.

“Brother Huotian, why are you giving me six of them? I only need the Dao Transformation Pill Sage’s qualification token.” Ning Cheng said as he looked at the six Pill Union’s identification tokens lined up in front of him.

Sheng Huotian showed a warm smile. “You participated in six different assessments and passed, so naturally, all six of these qualification tokens belong to you. Light blue is for Dao Sculpting Pill Deity, blue

is for Dao Raising Pill Deity, and dark blue is for Dao Transformation Pill Deity. White is for Dao Sculpting Pill Sage, and silver is for Dao Raising Pill Sage. As for the pale gold one, it's the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token. Plus, there are these spirit pills that you refined. You can keep all of them as agreed to previously. As for the dao pills, you can keep half of them according to the Pill Union's rules."

After listening to Sheng Huotian's words, Ning Cheng didn't refuse and put away half the dao pills and all the spirit pills he had refined. He guessed that if he took away the spirit pills, Sheng Huotian might have to compensate the Pill Union for it. Still, it was something they had agreed on before the start of the assessment. Plus, if he didn't take them, and with Sheng Huotian's nature, Sheng Huotian might take it as looking down on him. Besides, Sheng Huotian could easily take out all the ingredients for the three spirit pills, so he obviously faced no pressure.

Seeing Ning Cheng collect the six qualification tokens and the pills, Sheng Huotian felt very satisfied. He also handed the pill marrow that Ning Cheng had put in as security. "Brother Ning, since you passed the assessment, the Pill Union cannot keep this pledged item."

Ning Cheng could see the reluctance in Sheng Huotian's eyes. He took the pill marrow and smiled before shoving the pill marrow back into Sheng Huotian's hands. "Brother Huotian, I accept the pill marrow, but I'm giving it back to you as a personal gift."

Sheng Huotian didn't stand on ceremony and immediately put away the pill marrow before giving a loud laugh. "Then, many thanks, Brother Ning. I just happened to lack such an item."

He also understood why Ning Cheng took away the three spirit pills without saying any nonsense. It turned out that he was just waiting for an excuse to give him the pill marrow. This brother of his indeed knew how to make friends. Not only was his ability unbelievable, but he was also unbelievably generous.

"Brother Huotian, I would like to ask you one more question." Ning Cheng said after waiting for Sheng Huotian to put away the pill marrow.

Sheng Huotian raised his hand and patted Ning Cheng's shoulder. "We're already friends, Brother Ning. If you have any problems, please feel free to state them. As long as this old brother of yours can do it, he will definitely help you out."

Ning Cheng nodded and said, "I have a junior apprentice sister who wasn't careful when she was cultivating, and her spirit roots got damaged. Later on, under the guise of spiritual enhancement, 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Sect coaxed her into willingly grafting away her spiritual roots. Fortunately, someone saved her and also helped her restore her foundation. However, because of me, she couldn't stabilise her restored foundation and injured her foundation once again....."

Ning Cheng told Yan Ji's story in its original form, with some superficial coverups. After he finished, Sheng Huotian almost turned ballistic. "Those witches from 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond are simply too much. This old brother will definitely help you get back at them, even if it costs his life."

"Many thanks, Brother Huotian. But I will seek revenge for it on my own. What I'm worried about currently is my junior apprentice sister's injury. I wonder if Brother Huotian has any solutions to it?" Sheng Huotian was an old demon who lived for countless years. Regardless of his alchemy knowledge, Sheng Huotian had experienced much more than him. It was because of this that Ning Cheng wanted to ask for Sheng Huotian's advice.

Sheng Huotian nodded. "Good. When you go to the 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Sect for revenge, remember to call me. As for your junior apprentice sister's injury, it is indeed severe. However, it's not like there is no way to fix it."

Hearing those words, Ning Cheng grabbed Sheng Huotian's shoulder with joy. "Brother Huotian, do you really have a way to save my senior apprentice sister?"

Sheng Huotian replied with a slightly grim tone. "There is indeed a way to save her. However, it's not going to be easy. First of all, you have to wake up your junior apprentice sister as soon as possible. For this, you can use any method. But the best method is to use the Five Elemental Heavenly Fruit. However, the Five Elemental Heavenly Fruit is almost extinct. In fact, only the Great Spirit Pill Sect has a Five Elemental Heavenly Fruit Tree. You don't have to worry; I can help you get this Five Elemental Heavenly Fruit from Great Spirit Pill Sect."

Sheng Huotian's method was exactly the same as Jian Sanshan's, so Ning Cheng hurriedly spoke up. "Brother Huotian, I'll go and trade with them myself for the Five Elemental Heavenly Fruit. You just tell me what I have to do."

Ning Cheng believed that he could definitely exchange the Five Elemental Heavenly Fruit with the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill's recipe. Since he could trade for it, why bother Sheng Huotian? Sheng Huotian himself didn't have such a dao fruit, so even if he went to get it, he would have to come up with something in exchange as well.

"Alright, but I have to warn you, those fellows are very petty. If you can't get it, come talk to me again." Sheng Huotian also didn't object and continued. "After your junior apprentice sister wakes up, she will have to take the True Extreme Restoration Spirit Pill."

"True Extreme Restoration Spirit Pill?" Ning Cheng repeated. He had never heard of this pill.

Sheng Huotian's tone turned grave. "That's right. It's the True Extreme Restoration Spirit Pill. Although it has 'spirit' in its name, it's an extraordinary kind of dao pill. Although it's classified as a Dao Sculpting Dao Pill, its value far exceeds ordinary Dao Transformation Dao Pills. Primarily because the three main ingredients required for this dao pill are simply too precious. Those three ingredients are the True Extreme Dao Fruit, the Exquisite Star Golden Hidden Leaf, and a drop of pill marrow."

Apart from pill marrow, Ning Cheng hadn't heard of the two other ingredients.

Sheng Huotian took out the pill marrow that Ning Cheng had given him and said, "I'll return this pill marrow to you. It's important to save your junior apprentice sister. Of the other two main ingredients, there is a way to get the True Extreme Dao Fruit. As for the Exquisite Star Golden Hidden Leaf, it would be quite challenging to obtain it. It's one of those rare spirit grasses that contain the laws of heaven and earth and is even more valuable than dao fruits....."

Ning Cheng pushed the pill marrow back to Sheng Huotian, "Brother Huotian, I still have some pill marrow. Just tell me if you know where to get the True Extreme Dao Fruit? As well as any clues to where I could find the Exquisite Star Golden Hidden Leaf?"

"You should know about Le Jiesheng, the City Master of Heaven Essence Sacred City, right? Before every Alchemy Discourse, he hosts a banquet in the City Lord's mansion for all the sect masters, experts, and

influential alchemists attending the Alchemy Discourse. The reason he can do that is that he controls a source of dao fruits. And the True Extreme Dao Fruit is one of the dao fruits that he can take out.” Sheng Huotian replied.

Ning Cheng hurriedly asked again, “Then, how can I obtain the True Extreme Dao Fruit from him?”

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 960: The City Lord’s Banquet

“You don’t have to worry too much about that; with your alchemy skills, it’s not difficult to get the True Extreme Dao Fruit from Le Jiesheng’s hands.” Sheng Huotian said with a smile.

Without waiting for Ning Cheng to ask the reason, he carefully explained. “Every time before the Alchemy Discourse, influential experts from all sides come to Heaven Essence Sacred City after accepting Le Jiesheng’s invitation. It’s not because of his influence or power, but primarily because of his dao fruits. It’s all because Le Jiesheng’s clan oversees the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. A place that contains countless dao fruits, with the True Extreme Dao Fruit being one of them. That’s why I said that you don’t need to worry about the True Extreme Dao Fruit.”

Ning Cheng became even more puzzled. “Brother Huotian, dao fruits are already extremely precious commodities, even the most common ones. Yet, Heaven Essence Sacred City’s City Lord can still own such an orchard?”

The Grand Essence Domain had plenty of experts and powerful forces. So even if Le Jiesheng was an exceptionally powerful cultivator, he was still just one person. Not to mention other sects, even the Pill Union wouldn’t let go of the Illusory Fruit Orchard, right?

Sheng Huotian showed a sly smile. “Don’t underestimate Le Jiesheng. He’s an absolute monster at the peak of the Dao Essence Realm, just one step away from reaching the Dao Fusion Realm. Besides, that Illusionary Fruit Orchard would be the same in anyone’s hands. Even if it falls in your hands, you might not be able to get in. After all, one simply can’t go inside and pick the dao fruits at whim.”

Ning Cheng had only heard about Le Jiesheng’s banquet and the many experts and alchemists participating in it through Jian Sanshan. It’s just that he wasn’t clear about why he did such a thing.

“The Illusionary Fruit Orchard can’t be opened using force. Rather, to open it, one must be at the Dao Sculpting Pill Deity or above level. Moreover, the Illusionary Fruit Orchard is divided into multiple levels with different gardens on each level. But to open the gates to those levels, you need to refine pills of corresponding grades.”

“Can’t you use an already refined pill to enter the levels?” This was the first time Ning Cheng had heard of such a thing.

Sheng Huotian shook his head. “The gardens at the first level contain Dao Sculpting-level spirit grasses and only have twelve entrances, each with twelve pill recesses on them. Only the alchemist who refines twelve exceptional Dao Sculpting Spirit Pills and places them in the recesses can open that gate.”

“So, once the gate is opened, can’t everyone enter?” Ning Cheng asked.

“Of course not. Only the alchemist who made those pills can enter; no second person can enter through that gate. Once you enter the first level, you can proceed to the next level containing Dao Raising-level spirit herbs using the same method. However, you need to refine a batch of Dao Raising Spirit Pills to open the gate to that level. Again, all of them have to be top-quality spirit pills.” Sheng Huotian explained.

Ning Cheng finally understood why Jian Sanshan hadn’t told him this. Most likely, Jian Sanshan felt that neither of them had a chance, so why bother talking about it. A Dao Transformation Pill Deity would find it almost impossible to refine a furnace of top-quality Dao Raising Spirit Pills. Much less within a specific time frame.

Sheng Huotian continued, “I heard that the Illusionary Fruit Orchard has a total of six levels, each with its own specific number of entrances. The first level has twelve, the second level has nine, the third level has six, the fourth level has three, the fifth level has two, and the sixth level should have only one gate.”

Ning Cheng immediately grasped onto something Sheng Huotian said. “Brother Huotian, what do you mean when you say that the sixth level should have only one entrance?”

Sheng Huotian sighed before speaking. “By logical progression, the sixth level should contain Dao Transformation Dao Fruits. However, ever since the Illusionary Fruit Orchard appeared, no one had ever been able to enter the sixth level. Plus, a single door means that only one person can enter. The prerequisite, this person refining twelve top-quality Dao Transformation Dao Pills. However, in the entire Grand Essence Realm, no one has ever been able to refine a batch of top-quality Dao Transformation Dao Pills, at least not in recorded history.”

“Doesn’t this mean that even for the first level, only twelve people can enter?” Ning Cheng immediately thought back to the many alchemists who had come to Heaven Essence Sacred City. Didn’t it mean that only the twelve fastest alchemists can enter the first level?

Hearing Ning Cheng’s concern, Sheng Huotian laughed. “Brother Ning, you can rest assured about that. These twelve gates are more than enough. Besides, how could it be simple to find twelve alchemists who could refine twelve top-quality Dao Sculpting Spirit Pills in the first furnace? I can confidently say that you, Brother Ning, not only can enter the first level, you even have a good chance of entering the fifth level. Just don’t forget about me when you enter.”

“You should now understand why those experts and sect masters eagerly wait for the City Lord’s invitation, right? It’s not to give some face to Le Jiesheng. In fact, most don’t even give a damn about him or his clan. However, everyone does care about the rare spirit grasses and dao fruits coming out of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. If you find high-grade spirit herbs inside, it would be an unimaginable harvest even if you chose not to exchange them.”

Ning Cheng understood what Sheng Huotian meant. The fifth level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard contained Dao Raising-level Dao Fruits. Whether it was the Dao Sculpting, Dao Raising or the Dao Transformation Dao Pills he refined, all were top-grade dao pills. At least if you didn’t look at the first batches. In other words, as long as he had the required materials, he even had a chance to enter the sixth level.

After explaining all this to Ning Cheng, Sheng Huotian showed a warm smile. "In any case, the Le Clan doesn't own the Illusionary Fruit Orchard but rather acts as its guardian. As such, it doesn't have any control over the entry restrictions. However, as the orchard's guardians, they do have some rules that everyone has to follow. Besides, even in that case, with your alchemy attainments, you will definitely reap great rewards. If you enter the fourth level, you might even have a good chance of finding the Exquisite Star Golden Hidden Leaf."

Ning Cheng felt overjoyed on hearing those words. As long as no unexpected things happened, he felt confident about entering the fourth level. However, Ning Cheng still wondered why the Illusionary Fruit Garden only had six levels, with Dao Transformation Dao Fruits being the highest level. Regardless, he didn't bother to ask Sheng Huotian about it. Sheng Huotian was a first-step pill sage, so he most likely couldn't refine a second-step dao pill. So, asking him would be pointless.

"Many thanks, Brother Huotian, for telling me this. I will take my leave now and will see you the day after tomorrow at the City Lord's mansion." Ning Cheng stood up and said his goodbyes. He believed that Sheng Huotian would definitely come to the City Lord's mansion.

"Good, see you the day after tomorrow then." Sheng Huotian laughed and raised his hand, and a golden staircase suddenly appeared in front of Ning Cheng.

When Ning Cheng walked down the staircase, he saw the female cultivator who led her here still waiting at the side.

"Senior, are you done already?" When the female cultivator who led the way saw Ning Cheng come out, she hurriedly went forward and bowed in greeting. Truth be told, she had never brought anyone to take the pill sage's assessment before. Plus, Ning Cheng didn't even have a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's qualification token. In other words, Ning Cheng technically wasn't qualified to take any of the pill sage's assessments.

No one had told her about this because one, she was a relatively new recruit and second, she wasn't qualified to bring people to the pill sage's assessment. After all, those coming for the pill sage's evaluation were all at least Dao Transformation Pill Deities. A newcomer like her simply wasn't qualified to lead a Dao Transformation Pill Deity at all. Plus, the prospective candidates for the evaluation would all enter through the VIP hall instead of using the common entrance. But despite the confusion, and because of the lack of knowledge, she had unintentionally brought such a person here.

Ning Cheng took out a bottle of pills and handed it to this female cultivator. "Thank you for leading the way. The two pills inside are for you. I'm going to find my friend now, so you don't need to stay with me."

The female cultivator leading the way didn't dare say no and hurriedly bowed in respect and fear. "Many thanks, senior."

Seeing Ning Cheng walk down the corridor, she couldn't help but feel a bit of contempt. Generally, alchemists were the wealthiest group of people. Don't look at her as someone who just led the way for him; even average alchemists gave her at least a storage bag. Typically, the storage bags contained at least a few bottles of good pills, and some even had a bunch of spirit crystals. As such, she had never seen a cheapskate like Ning Cheng, who only gave her two pills.

However, even if Ning Cheng didn't give her anything, she wouldn't dare say a single word. Nor would she dare to even show it on her face.

Besides, it was also a good thing this alchemist didn't keep her waiting for long. A few hours weren't much of a loss for her.

Nonetheless, she opened the jade bottle to have a look at the pills. But when the jade bottle opened and the dao rhythm of the two pills flowed out, it almost shocked the female cultivator to death.

She was an Eternal cultivator, but that didn't mean that she didn't have insight. Working at the Pill Union, she naturally had a good idea about the different grades of pills. As such, she recognised that these two pills were, in fact, two dao pills. Two dao pills. Just one dao pill was much more valuable than the corresponding dao fruit, and here she was, holding two of them.

The female cultivator's heart thumped wildly. She quickly returned to her senses and closed the lid on the jade bottle. She even looked all around her to see if anyone noticed.

With these two dao pills, she could definitely exchange them for a large batch of cultivation resources, even if she didn't use them herself. These two dao pills had greatly improved the chances of becoming a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor.

What a generous alchemist. She had never seen or even heard of an alchemist who gave away two dao pills at once. This alchemist was definitely not stingy as she previously thought. In fact, he was generous beyond generous. Would an alchemist who failed the examination take out such precious dao pills and give them away casually?

Thinking that Ning Cheng might have succeeded in his Dao Transformation Pill Sage assessment, the female cultivator leading the way started to tremble with excitement. Not all alchemists who came for the examination were as indifferent as Ning Cheng. Plus, all the female cultivators leading such alchemists had much higher and better achievements than her.

What would happen if word got out that she led the way for such a highly accomplished alchemist? If word got out that she had led the way for a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, her fame within the Pill Union would simply shoot through the roof. If that indeed happened, would she still have to worry about cultivation resources?

The truth was, Ning Cheng had far too many Burst Spirit Pills on him and simply had no use for so many. Plus, Ning Cheng also appreciated the female cultivator who patiently led the way for him. As such, he decided to casually give two of them to her.

As soon as Ning Cheng walked out to where Jian Sanshan waited for him, Jian Sanshan quickly stepped up and looked at Ning Cheng with a smile. "Brother Ning, out so soon? You should have passed the examination, right?"

Ning Cheng nodded, "With a bit of luck, I did manage to pass. Let's go, let's head to the City Lord's mansion the day after tomorrow."

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Two days passed in a flash. On the banquet day, Ning Cheng entrusted Yan Ji to Xin Xiu and went with Jian Sanshan to the Heaven Essence Sacred City's City Lord's mansion.

Seeing the defensive formation outside Lord's mansion, Ning Cheng understood that Le Jiesheng wasn't an ordinary City Lord.

Regardless of Le Jiesheng's cultivation level, Ning Cheng wouldn't be able to break open this defensive formation. He was an Array Dao Master, but according to the Grand Essence Realm's classification, he was still only a Basic Grade Spirit Array Master. However, because of his dao enlightenment, his mastery over array formations far exceeded that of an ordinary Basic Grade Spirit Array Master. Unfortunately, it still wouldn't be enough to break or bypass this defensive formation.

When Jian Sanshan saw Ning Cheng frowning, he understood that Ning Cheng was using his spiritual consciousness to probe around. Understanding this, he quickly spoke up from the side, "Brother Ning, don't try to probe using your spiritual consciousness. Else, we both might end up dead."

Ning Cheng smiled, "I understand. Don't worry about it."

If it was before the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment, Ning Cheng definitely wouldn't dare to probe around like this. Jian Sanshan's words were indeed correct in that scenario. If the City Lord became angry, the two would be nothing more than ants in front of him. But now, it was different. Not to mention that he was a Dao Transformation Pill Sage himself, Le Jiesheng wouldn't dare mess with Sheng Huotian's 'brother', no matter his power.

By the time Ning Cheng followed Jian Sanshan and entered the guest hall, led by an attendant from the City Lord's mansion, over a hundred people had long since come here. Not only that, but people still kept pouring in from the outside. From this, Ning Cheng understood that the City Lord had invited quite a few people this time.

As soon as Jian Sanshan entered, many cultivators stood up to greet him, showing that Jian Sanshan had a relatively high status. Yet, even in that case, Jian Sanshan didn't dare be negligent and greeted everyone personally.

It didn't take long after the two sat down when another hundred or so people to walk into the guest hall.

When he saw Shi Tianhe of the 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond and a few other women walk in amongst the crowd, Ning Cheng's expressions sank, and he even gave out a cold snort.