

## The Gate 971

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### Chapter 971: You win! For now

"Stop....." Feeling Ning Cheng's horrendously powerful attack, this spirit soul that had invaded Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness felt truly scared.

Ning Cheng acted as if he didn't hear the other party's words. His spirit sense rolled through his Sea of Consciousness, and a terrifying killing intent quickly coalesced within it. *Trying to take over this father's body, go to hell for me!*

*"Celestial River Flame, keep burning that bastard for this father!"*

*"Time Wheel, shovel that trash into slag for this father!"*

*"First Bridge of Coping, come out....."*

*"Second Bridge of Looking Homewards, get ready....."*

*"Sunset's Dusk, condense my spear intent....."*

*"None-to-depend-on, suppress his spirit sense...."*

*"5-coloured Star Splitting Arrow..... You don't need to shoot him, just hover above the Sea of Consciousness and keep that bastard suppressed....."*

Sneaking into Ning Cheng's Sea of Consciousness, the spirit soul initially thought it could finish off Ning Cheng and take over his body. But at this moment, it could only dumbfoundedly watch as insane killing methods popped out one after another.

He wanted to cry but couldn't. Before, when Ning Cheng used the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll to suppress him with the Spiritual Consciousness Devourer and the Celestial River Flame, that itself felt terrifying. Now, it no longer was 'just' terrifying. If crying could help him dissolve these attacks, he would have cried out a long time ago.

At this moment, it could only mutter, "What kind of person am I trying to take over? Crazy, just too crazy....."

It wasn't clear whether he used the words for Ning Cheng or himself for trying to take over such a perverted cultivator. If given another chance, even if he had to seize a Dao Perfection expert's body, he would willingly do so instead of trying to take over Ning Cheng's body.

If he could vomit blood, his spirit soul would have puked a hundred litres of blood a long time ago. This wasn't just barging in and taking over a house but rather intruding into the lair of a perverted dragon.

*How could he even hope to fight against all of this?* He hadn't even started to move yet, but the other party's methods had already scared him to the point of death. He had cultivated the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll and had crushed too many Seas of Consciousness. He had also seen all kinds of mighty Seas of Consciousness. But those Seas of Consciousness were all mere dribbles compared to this alchemist's Sea of Consciousness in front of him. This alchemist could use spirit techniques and even

change the laws at will within his Sea of Consciousness. *Could it even be called a proper attack and defence confrontation? How could one even hope to defend against all this?*

Just as Ning Cheng was about to quickly finish off this spirit soul in his Sea of Consciousness, the Spiritual Consciousness Storm locking the other party suddenly cracked open. Before Ning Cheng could react, the spirit soul in his Sea of Consciousness rushed out through the gap and escaped from his Sea of Consciousness.

Next, Ning Cheng felt a powerful repelling force sweeping away his body. A hoarse voice also arrived in the same instant, "This sage might not be able to take over you, but I can always send you out."

Ning Cheng's expressions turned ugly. He understood the problem; it was the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll.

At this moment, Ning Cheng felt sure that the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll could capture spirit souls and take over others' bodies. This spirit soul couldn't have escaped if he hadn't used the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll. It essentially opened a gap in his Spiritual Consciousness Storm to escape.

From the looks of it, his mastery over the Dark Nether Devouring Spirit Scroll was still far from perfect yet. If he wanted to use this technique in the future, he would have to devote more time to perfecting this technique.

The space outside his body belonged to that spirit soul. Since it escaped from his Sea of Consciousness, it could teleport him out without effort.

Sure enough, after that powerful push, the power of teleportation rolled in, and he disappeared. Ning Cheng then appeared next to the crystal screen in the middle of the City Lord Mansion's guest hall.

Ning Cheng secretly sighed with relief. Since he got teleported out, it's better to forget about this matter. He hadn't suffered a loss anyway. Not only did he harvest all those spirit grasses and dao fruit trees, but he also wouldn't need to bother with that spirit soul who tried to take over his body. But even if Ning Cheng didn't bother with it, that spirit soul who wanted to take over his body would have still vomited mouthfuls of blood once he realised what it lost. It was akin to losing one's wife and also losing the army.

Seeing Ning Cheng teleported out, not only Jian Sanshan, who had just come out, even Sheng Houtian also felt somewhat puzzled.

In Sheng Huotian's opinion, since Ning Cheng got teleported out right now, he shouldn't be the one who opened the thirteenth gate. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been teleported out so early. Jian Sanshan also had a good understanding of Ning Cheng's alchemic talents and felt equal, if not more, puzzled on why he got teleported out so early.

Everyone's spiritual consciousness immediately shifted their focus to Ning Cheng's storage bag. Unfortunately, none of their spiritual consciousnesses could peer into Ning Cheng's storage bag. Apparently, Ning Cheng had added a formation that shielded others' spiritual consciousness from looking at the contents.

"Looks like the person who could refine the Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill is quite powerful. Since he came out just now, it should be because he managed to break into the second level

of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, right?" Man Huishan's voice emerged slowly as if afraid that others wouldn't know that Ning Cheng had entered the second level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

Ning Cheng swept a cold glance at Man Huishan, "It's none of your business how many levels I've entered. Keep a check on your words now, and better not have any bad intentions; otherwise, hehe....."

Man Huishan's expressions changed slightly, but he no longer spoke again. The people in the guest hall couldn't help but stare back and forth between Ning Cheng and Man Huishan in confusion. Some even guessed that there seemed to be a few secrets between these two.

"Brother Ning, come here." Jian Sanshan's sound transmission came just in time.

Ning Cheng had long since noticed that Jian Sanshan no longer sat in the same seat from when he came here. Instead, he sat in a very prominent position in the middle of the guest hall, in full view of everyone. A squinty-eyed Dao Transformation Holy Emperor was also seated at the same table as Jian Sanshan. This Dao Transformation Holy Emperor also had a storage bag beside him. But unlike Ning Cheng's bag, it didn't have any restrictions. Everyone could see the spirit herbs inside it with just a sweep of their spiritual consciousness.

The spirit herbs in his pouch were the same as the ones in Jian Sanshan's bag, and all of them were relatively precious, with a few low-grade spirit grasses mixed in. However, those spirit grasses couldn't compare to the extinct spirit grasses he had obtained.

From its looks, the conspicuous seats were for the spirit herb exchange that was due after the harvest. In other words, it was a spot especially prepared for the alchemists who had entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

Ning Cheng didn't immediately head over to Jian Sanshan. Jian Sanshan and the squinty-eyed Holy Emperor were the only people sitting in the spirit herb exchange area. It meant that only two of them had come out so far among the alchemists who entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. Ning Cheng's gaze swept towards the crystal screen and found six open doors that led to the second level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard on display. He also saw two alchemists standing in front of the door to the third level.

"Alchemists entering the Illusionary Fruit Orchard aren't allowed to put restrictions on their storage bags. It looks like Alchemist Ning doesn't care about this rule." A slightly gloomy voice emerged, tinged with sarcasm.

*9-Revolution Sacred Dao Pond again, huh.* Ning Cheng's gaze swept over the few women from the 9-Revolution Sacred Dao Pond's seating area and a hint of disgust flashed across his eyes.

Jian Sanshan's sound transmission quickly reached Ning Cheng's ear. "Brother Ning, there is indeed such a rule."

"I congratulate Alchemist Ning on entering the first level of the Illusionary Fruit Garden. However, Elder Shu from 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond is correct. As long as an alchemist has entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, they are not allowed to put any kind of restriction on their storage bag." Le Jiesheng spoke up with a loud voice; it even contained a hint of righteousness.

Ning Cheng's gaze had long since swept through the rest of the crystal screen and saw that the first three most challenging to refine pills were all made by him. As such, he understood that sooner or later,

his entry into the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard would be exposed. Since Le Jiesheng asked, Ning Cheng simply cupped his fist. "Because I didn't know about the rules for entering the Illusionary Fruit Orchard before, I ended up putting a restriction on my storage bag....."

Le Jiesheng showed a slight smile, "It doesn't matter. You can just remove the restriction on your storage bag."

Although Le Jiesheng had a smile on his face, he was internally cursing at Ning Cheng's cunningness in his heart. The duo could enter the first level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, which was why he took out six Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills. Although he, Le Jiesheng, hadn't necessarily suffered a loss, he had definitely fallen for Ning Cheng's trickery.

If Ning Cheng could take out six Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills, it meant he had more of them on him. But that wasn't the most crucial point. The critical point here was that Sheng Houtian stood behind Ning Cheng, which meant he couldn't seize Ning Cheng's storage bag.

Ning Cheng showed a slight smile. "I didn't understand the rules of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard before, but now that I have read the rules, I feel that I'm fully entitled to keep the restriction."

The rules of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard were clearly engraved on the corner of the crystal screen. However, very few people would bother to look at them. But on hearing Ning Cheng's words, almost every pair of eyes landed on the corner of the crystal screen.

The third rule stated that the alchemists entering must use a spirit bag for a fair distribution of the spirit herbs harvested from the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. The bag must not have a spiritual consciousness shielding restriction to show that it was open to the public.

"City Lord Le, may I ask if this 'fair distribution' of spirit herbs harvested from the Illusionary Fruit Orchard applies to me?" Ning Cheng asked with a smile as he looked at Le Jiesheng.

Le Jiesheng was also an old and cunning bastard, so how could he not know what Ning Cheng meant. He regretted a little in his heart; he should have known to not agree to Ning Cheng's request to keep all the spirit herbs he could obtain inside. Ning Cheng would have no excuse if he held the base minimum of 10% of the harvest. But now, all the spirit herbs Ning Cheng obtained belonged to Ning Cheng. As such, there naturally was no need for a 'fair distribution'. Where was the need to let others know how many spirit herbs he obtained since it all 'rightfully' belonged to him?

Ning Cheng knew that Le Jiesheng wouldn't answer; he also didn't expect him to answer either. Therefore, he continued after a short pause. "I already negotiated a bit with City Lord Le before entering the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. I paid six top-grade spirit pills to City Lord Le to keep all the spirit herbs I obtained in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. I believe all the Daoists here had heard it clearly. Since the spirit herbs I obtained are now rightfully mine, I naturally have the option to put a restriction on it."

Tong Mengzi from River Luo Sacred Sect sneered, "The spirit herbs from the Illusionary Fruit Orchard *have* to be traded openly, even if they are yours. Otherwise, no one would be willing to take out the spirit grasses or the dao fruits for trade. If that happened, what would be the point of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard's existence?"

“That person is Tong Mengzi, an elder of River Luo Sacred Sect, and Guo Haoge’s master.” Jian Sanshan’s sound transmission fell on Ning Cheng’s ears.

Ning Cheng’s gaze then fell on Tong Mengzi and spoke up coldly. “So, according to you, as long as you come here to participate in the Illusionary Fruit Garden, you should make your stuff public?”

Tong Mengzi didn’t fall for Ning Cheng’s trickery. “When did I say that one has to make their things public? I only said that the spirit herbs are the things to be traded, so it has to be made public.”

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 972: Who entered the 13th gate**

Ning Cheng sneered, “These spirit grasses belong to me; if I don’t want to trade them with you, what are you going to do about it? Also, you say that everyone who comes out of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard *has* to trade the spirit grasses. Can you show me that specific rule among the Illusionary Fruit Garden’s rules?”

Ning Cheng’s boldness was something that Tong Mingzi had realised a long time ago. He dared to push back against someone like Man Huishan and Le Jiesheng, so he, Tong Mingzi, wasn’t worth mentioning. Plus, if Ning Cheng didn’t have the necessary courage, he wouldn’t have killed Man Jiuren, nor would he have dared to kill Guo Haoge.

Moreover, as Ning Cheng mentioned, the Illusionary Fruit Orchard’s rules certainly didn’t have a compulsory trade clause. While Tong Mingzi was still annoyed, Ning Cheng didn’t relent and followed up. “Dao Master Tong Mingzi, let me ask you, did you come here to exchange spirit grasses and dao fruits?”

Facing Ning Cheng’s rhetorical question, Tong Mingzi spoke up without any thought, “I’m naturally here for the spirit grasses and dao fruits. If every alchemist who entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard was like you, then no one would come here when the orchard opens. At least no one apart from the alchemists qualified to enter.”

Ning Cheng followed up in a calm tone. “Dao Master Tong Mingzi, you also mentioned that the things for exchange should be made public. I wonder what you want to use for the exchange? I guess it should be the treasures in your ring, right? In that case, why don’t you disclose the things in your storage ring first? It’s, in any case, also an item used in the exchange, right? I promise that after you disclose all the items inside, I will also let everyone look at my harvest for exchanging purposes.”

“You..... are twisting words out of context.” Tong Mingzhi angrily chided. Asking him to disclose the contents of his ring was nothing more than a death wish.

Ning Cheng laughed and stared at Tong Mingzhi in disdain. “There is a saying that goes ‘*do not ask others to do what you wouldn’t do*’. You don’t want to disclose what belongs to you, so why bother chirping around here and asking me to disclose the things that rightfully *and* lawfully belong to me? Oh right, I hope you’re not deliberately picking on me because I killed your useless disciple, Guo Haoge, are you? The Grand Essence Great Meet has a clear rule that no one is allowed to seek revenge for the deaths in the Great Meet. Hmm, maybe you don’t put the rules of the Grand Essence Domain in your eyes, do you?”

Since he and Tong Mingzi would never become friends anyway, Ning Cheng didn't bother to care about the other party's thoughts and spoke without any mercy.

Ning Cheng's words were reasonable and certainly made a lot of sense. However, most in the guest hall were on Tong Mingzi's side. They naturally didn't want Ning Cheng to keep all of the spirit herbs he obtained to himself.

Ning Cheng wasn't an idiot; he knew very well that he couldn't provoke the anger of everyone in this place.

Ning Cheng put the storage bag away and turned towards everyone with cupped fists. He said, "Fellow Daoists, I know that everyone has come here to buy dao fruits and spirit grasses. Apart from earning some spirit crystals to spend, I also want to contribute to my Grand Essence Realm. It's a good thing that I got the opportunity to enter the Illusionary Fruit Orchard and obtained some decent heavenly treasures."

"I have always stood upright and acted straight and have always taken the rise of the Grand Essence Realm as my mission. Naturally, I wouldn't take all these spirit grasses myself, and I will put these spirit herbs out here. The good news, my fellow Daoists, is that I have obtained some very precious spirit grasses this time, and I'm sure that they wouldn't disappoint you. As for why I haven't opened the restriction, it is mainly to maintain an air of mystery. Maybe even add some fun for the Daoists here. Once other alchemists come out of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, we will sell them together. I will also guarantee to sell these spirit grasses at a lower price than others. "

The angry Tong Mingzi turned speechless. He naturally knew that no one would support Ning Cheng even if he didn't have reason on his side. He thought that the only reason Ning Cheng put on so much air was because he must have gained a great harvest and didn't want to take it out. Unexpectedly, after Ning Cheng schooled him a bit, he then made a show of willingly taking out the spirit herbs. This made his, Tong Mingzi, slight advantage disappear without a trace. People would no longer stand up for him as long as one wasn't a fool.

Sheng Houtian also felt relieved in his heart. He was afraid that Ning Cheng was too young and didn't have a sense of proportion in his actions. If Ning Cheng truly didn't take out the spirit herbs in his bag, it would definitely create a lot of trouble for Ning Cheng. Even he couldn't help Ning Cheng in such a scenario.

As expected, Ning Cheng's words drew a burst of praise as soon as they were spoken. No matter how grand Ning Cheng's words were, no one would feel offended on hearing such words. Talking about 'grand', take the case of someone opening the thirteenth gate, which itself had drawn quite a lot of interest.

To those present, all that mattered was that Ning Cheng produced something. Even if Ning Cheng said that his wish was to become the saviour of the Grand Essence Realm, no one would bother with such nonsense.

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At the entrance leading to the third level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, Jing Han finally met Dou Jiangshi as he prepared to refine pills.

However, when Dou Jiangshi saw Jing Han coming, he didn't pay any attention to him at all. Instead, he focussed on preparing the piles of spirit grasses near him to make a batch of pills with it.

"Your Immortal Corpse Sect indeed concealed itself quite deep. You got first place in the first two levels, but from the third level onwards, you should follow me." Jing Han's gaze swept over the spirit grasses taken out by Dou Jiangshi, but his face and tone both had a chilly tinge to it.

Dou Jiangshi's zombie-like face showed no expression. Only after Jing Han finished speaking did he let out a voice that sounded as if it came from the depths of hell. "No wonder you can come up with the recipe for the fake Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill. Your Great Spirit Pill Sect's talking skills are much more powerful than my Immortal Corpse Sect."

After saying that, he completely ignored Jing Han and fired up his pill furnace to refine the pills.

Jing Han's expressions turned even more gloomy. Being cheated by Ning Cheng of two 5-Elemental Heavenly Fruits in exchange for a few waste pills had put a significant dent on his pride and face. But even if Dou Jiangshi didn't ridicule him with it, he wouldn't let Ning Cheng or Dou Jiangshi go once he went out.

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At this moment, another alchemist who had entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard got teleported out. However, everyone in the guest hall was still figuring out who had entered the thirteenth gate and didn't pay too much attention to this fellow.

Since Ning Cheng had entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, people also took the opportunity to come over and actively seek a friendship with Ning Cheng amidst the heated discussions.

"Since Pill Deity Ning could enter the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, his comprehension of Alchemy should be quite outstanding. He definitely would come out on top in the upcoming Alchemy Discourse. He will likely win the valuable spot to enter the Grand Change Realm and represent my Grand Essence Realm in the Alchemy Grand Meet." Out of Ning Cheng's expectations, Le Jiesheng spoke out such flowery words. It was as if he hadn't chided Ning Cheng a few moments ago and wanted to shower his goodwill on Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng only knew that the Alchemy Discourse had something to do with entering the Grand Change Realm. But as for the exact method through which he could enter the Grand Change Realm, he wasn't too sure about it. No, he didn't know anything about it.

"Many thanks for your kind words, City Lord Le." Ning Cheng casually cupped his fists.

A person like Le Jiesheng was connected too deeply with everyone in the city. Therefore, Ning Cheng didn't want to get into trouble with such a person unless absolutely necessary. But still, one had to know that this fellow didn't hesitate to come forward to kill him to curry favour with Man Huishan.

Fortunately, Ning Cheng understood Le Jiesheng's thoughts quite clearly. Le Jiesheng initially wanted to kill him to please Man Huishan but later changed his words to 'only' throw him out of this place. Le Jiesheng would have tried capturing him if he couldn't defend himself. There was even a possibility that he would have locked him up and tortured him after the Illusionary Fruit Orchard incident if he didn't have Sheng Houtian. All because of the Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill.

*Since they were all confident enough to capture and finish me off, why should I act politely to such people?*

However, what surprised Ning Cheng was that five alchemists had managed to enter the third level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. It was a relatively high number considering what he had heard from Shenf Houtian. One had to know that the third level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard could only allow a maximum of six people, if not counting the thirteenth door.

The third level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard *only* required top-quality Dao Transformation Spirit Pills to enter and had a few rather valuable dao fruits. In fact, a large portion of the dao fruits that appeared in this event over the ages came from the third level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

Another hour passed, and just as another alchemist got teleported out, someone opened the door to the fourth level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

“The alchemists entering the Illusionary Fruit Orchard this time are quite accomplished. All three doors to the Illusionary Fruit Orchard’s fourth level have opened.” Seeing all three doors leading to the fourth level being opened, someone exclaimed in awe.

“If I’m not wrong, the ones who entered the fourth level should be Pill Sage Jing Han and Pill Sage Lei Shamu. I wonder who the third person is?”

The crowd in the guest hall grew even more eager as all three doors leading to the fourth level had opened. This time, not only did someone open the legendary thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, but three people had even entered the fourth level.

Entering the fourth level meant higher grade dao fruits, which meant their trip here would be worth the effort.

At this time, the discussing voices in the hall turned quieter. However, the crowd grew more excited with each moment. They all wanted to see if someone could open the fifth level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

Shortly after the three alchemists entered the fourth level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, three alchemists got teleported out. Seeing the three alchemists being teleported, all eyes immediately turned towards the Immortal Corpse Sect.

It was already apparent which three people were still inside the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. Apart from Jing Han and Lei Shamu, the only person left was Immortal Corpse Sect’s Dao Sculpting Pill Sage Dou Jiangshi.

Ning Cheng’s gaze didn’t move towards the Immortal Corpse Sect. Instead, he carefully observed the alchemists who came out after him and were now sitting at the same table as him. Everyone was preparing to sell their spirit grasses and dao fruits they obtained, but Ning Cheng wanted to see if any of them had been taken over. The spirit soul from before couldn’t take his body, so there was a good chance that he chose one of the other alchemists.

He guessed that if that spirit soul decided to stay in the depths of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, it wouldn’t last for long without the support from the spirit grasses and dao fruits. The reason for this



guess was that after he had entered the core of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, he had wiped off most of the treasured spirit herbs.

Moreover, even if the spirit herbs did not affect him, that spirit soul would definitely not eat such a huge loss. Ning Cheng doubted if anyone would willingly take such a loss, let alone the spirit soul. Even the person who took away all the spirit herbs it had collected for so many years wouldn't be willing to do so either.

But more importantly, that previous experience had dialled Ning Cheng's caution to a whole new level. The experience also let him know that the spirit soul was definitely a mighty existence before its fall. It was also the reason why the spirit soul had managed to suppress him and catch him off guard the moment it barged into his Sea of Consciousness to seize his body.

If it were someone more powerful than that fellow, entering his Sea of Consciousness to seize his body would have meant a death sentence. Fortunately or unfortunately, this spirit soul failed to take over his body but also didn't die in the process. Instead, it managed to escape from his Sea of Consciousness.

The alchemists who came out after Ning Cheng behaved like usual, or at least Ning Cheng didn't see anything wrong with them.

"No wonder Dao Friend Jun spoke up for the alchemist who entered the thirteenth gate earlier. It turns out that that person might actually be an alchemist from your Immortal Corpse Sect. The Immortal Corpse Sect really likes to hide deeply, to even conceal a Dao Transformation Pill Sage without anyone else knowing." Fei Feng sneered.

Earlier, he couldn't help but wonder why the Immortal Corpse Sect wanted to defend the Great Spirit Pill Sect. He now got the answer.

The holy emperor from the Great Spirit Pill Sect had a slightly uncomfortable expression. Initially, he felt sure that Jing Han of his Great Spirit Pill Sect had opened the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. But with Immortal Corpse Sect's Dou Jiangshi appearing out of thin air, he could no longer disregard what the Immortal Corpse Sect's Chun Fei had said.

Amid everyone's speculation, two figures landed next to the crystal screen in the main hall, one after the other. Everyone understood that these two alchemists had failed to break into the fifth level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard and got teleported out.

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 973: I won't admit it**

The guests immediately shifted their gaze and identified that the two people who got teleported out were Jing Han and Dou Jiangshi. Jing Han stood in front, with Dou Jiangshi standing slightly behind him.

Everyone kept their gazes peeled at these two people, and silence took over the guest hall for quite some time. There was a good chance that one of these two had opened the thirteenth gate, but the question was, who among the two had opened it? The order of greeting took primary precedence at this moment. If they greeted the pill sage who hadn't entered the thirteenth gate, it would immediately displease the one who did enter the thirteenth gate. If that happened, it would become almost impossible to obtain the extinct spirit grasses or the dao fruits.

“Congratulations to the two for the great harvest in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. Pill Sages, please take your seats.” Le Jiesheng stood up and broke the silence.

As Le Jiesheng was the City Lord, Jing Han and Dou Jiangzhi didn’t dare show any negligence. They both politely greeted him back before sitting down.

“Pill Sage Jing is a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, so I guess he must be the first to enter the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. My Immortal Corpse Sect congratulates Pill Sage Jing Han for the achievement.” Immortal Corpse Sect’s Chun Fei stood up somewhat impishly and said, finishing it off with a heated smile.

Everyone understood what Chun Fei meant. That is, Chun Fei had already decided that his Immortal Corpse Sect’s Dou Jiangshi had entered the orchard first. It was the reason why he dared to stand out and ridicule Jing Han.

Jing Han’s expressions turned cold.

Then, in an indifferent tone, he finally spoke up. “It’s nice that your Immortal Corpse Sect was the first to enter the first and second levels of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. But it was me, Jing Han, who entered the third and fourth levels first.”

There was a good reason for his arrogance. Even an idiot knew that the first to enter the Illusionary Fruit Orchard could potentially obtain more spirit grasses and dao fruits. But it was also true that the spirit herbs at the higher levels of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard were far more valuable than those at the lower levels. Dou Jiangshi had entered the first and second levels of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard first. But he, Jing Han, had entered the third and fourth levels of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard before him.

It wasn’t the first time Jing Han had attended the opening of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. Therefore, he naturally knew why the greetings from the crowd seemed a little slow when he and Dou Jiangshi came out. He reasoned it as people trying to figure out who had obtained more precious dao fruits between him and Dou Jiangshi.

What Jing Han didn’t expect was that the people in the guest hall became even more enthusiastic after his words came out. Unlike what he imagined, almost everyone went up and clasped their fists in front of Immortal Corpse Sect’s Dou Jiangshi. The respect shown was almost on the same level as when greeting one’s father.

Dou Jiangshi’s face showed no expression. But facing so many warm greetings, he had to stand up and force some smiles on his zombie-like face.

Jing Han’s expressions turned even uglier as these people only greeted him after greeting Dou Jiangshi. The momentum of the hall clearly put him behind Dou Jiangshi.

Le Jiesheng laughed and even took the initiative to walk down and cupped his fists at Dou Jiangshi. “Congratulations to Pill Sage Dou for being the first to enter the Illusionary Fruit Orchard and opening the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.”

When Jing Han heard those words, he immediately felt shocked. He instantly understood why the crowd showed so much enthusiasm towards Dou Jiangshi. That zombie-faced bastard had opened the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. As a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, he had naturally

heard that the Illusionary Fruit Orchard had a legendary thirteenth gate. Now that Dou Jiangshi opened the thirteenth gate, it turned that rumour about it into a fact.

*Something's not right.* Eleven doors were left unopened when Jing Han opened his gate to the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. In other words, Dou Jiangshi had indeed gone in before him, but it was *only* one of the twelve gates. *When did that zombie-faced bastard open the thirteenth gate?*

Dou Jiangshi's zombie face already looked stiff, but it turned even more rigid after hearing Le Jiesheng's words. He quickly reacted and spoke up with a slightly confused voice. "I was the first to enter the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, but I opened only one of the twelve gates, right?"

Immediately, he asked in a startled voice, "Did you say someone opened the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard?"

Silence once again returned to the guest hall. If Dou Jiangshi and Jing Han didn't open the thirteenth gate, the only possibility left was Lei Shamu.

The crowd had just thought of Lei Shamu when he was teleported out and landed in the middle of the great hall.

Despite a warm greeting, Lei Shamu didn't feel special about entering the fourth level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. What was the Illusionary Fruit Orchard? It was a place where dao fruits grew abundantly. Even if he didn't count what he used up to enter the fourth level from the third level, he still had obtained nearly a hundred dao fruits.

He naturally didn't need so many dao fruits, which meant exchanging them for other resources.

However, Lei Shamu quickly felt confused about why everyone showed so much enthusiasm towards him. Asking around, he finally found the answer and asked with even more surprise and confusion, "Someone entered the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard?"

Lei Shamu's words made it clear that neither he, Jing Han, nor Dou Jiangshi opened the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. *So, who opened the thirteenth gate to the Illusionary Fruit Orchard?* The eyes of the crowd immediately fell on the eight people who came out first.

"Maybe there was a problem with the crystal screen?" A holy emperor spoke up in doubt.

Someone immediately refuted his words. "There is absolutely no way the Illusionary Fruit Orchard's crystal screen could have made a mistake. A total of eleven alchemists had entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard this time. But there are still two doors left unopened of the twelve gates leading to the first level. It shows that there is one person who didn't enter through one of the twelve gates to the first level."

Many people's eyes swept out towards Ning Cheng. Although Ning Cheng was only a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity, he was the most suspicious person. That's because Ning Cheng possessed the Emyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pill and was also brothers with the Pill Union's Sheng Houtian.

Several people's eyes also shifted to the two Dao Raising Pill Sages who had come out earlier. The two Dao Raising Pill Sages didn't even wait for anyone to ask before taking the initiative to come forward and deny entering through the thirteenth gate.

The rest of the people also quickly stood up and came forward to deny entering the Illusionary Fruit Orchard through the thirteenth gate. By now, only two people remained who didn't deny it, Jian Sanshan and Ning Cheng.

Jian Sanshan didn't stand up because he had already guessed that the one who opened the Illusionary Fruit Orchard's thirteenth gate was Ning Cheng. It wasn't surprising for a person who could help him in mid-refinement and still refine a batch of top-quality Dao Sculpting Spirit Pills to open the thirteenth gate.

Ning Cheng had long since known that there wouldn't be any way to hide this matter. Besides, him being a Dao Transformation Pill Sage would come out sooner or later. Plus, even if all the alchemists here didn't deny it, he couldn't leave. It was also why he made some preparations and announced in advance that he had obtained some precious spirit grasses. Now that all eyes focussed on him, he immediately sent out a sound transmission to Jiang Sanshan, asking him to come forward and deny it.

Jian Sanshan listened to Ning Cheng's sound transmission and quickly stood up to deny entering the thirteenth gate.

Ning Cheng laughed after Jian Sanshan denial. "It couldn't be that I entered the *legendary* thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, could it? I was in a daze when I entered and got teleported out quite quickly. But I did indeed get some rare spirit grasses."

It wasn't an outright denial, nor was it an admission. This kind of thing, even if everyone else knew that he was the one who entered the thirteenth gate, he would never come forward to claim it. Having cultivated to this day, he had seen too many people who tried to take advantage of him using force and threats. In any case, just the suspicion of him opening the thirteenth gate was more than enough for other people to form plans to grab him. But as long as he didn't admit it, these people would have to take the time to find a reasonable excuse, even if they wanted to capture him.

"Hehe, Brother Ning, is that the truth? I'm afraid it's a little difficult to open the thirteenth gate with your alchemy level. Perhaps someone else entered the thirteenth gate but didn't dare come forward to admit it." A harsh-sounding voice came out.

Ning Cheng couldn't help but feel a bit happy internally when he heard those words. Even if this person wanted to ridicule him or speak out based on logic, he didn't care; those words helped his case.

"Haha, what Brother Percy said does make sense. I may not have opened the thirteenth gate, but I did obtain some precious spirit grasses. In any case, I've already decided to trade them all." Ning Cheng laughed and cupped his fists towards Percy, who most likely wanted to help him.

Everyone else couldn't help but feel weird in their hearts. Whether Ning Cheng admitted it or not, it should be Ning Cheng who entered the thirteenth gate.

The anger in Le Jiesheng's heart was now starting to overflow. If he knew that Ning Cheng could open the thirteenth gate, he would never let Ning Cheng keep all the spirit herbs even if he received more benefits.

Le Jiesheng looked at the rest of the holy emperors in the great hall. He wanted very much for someone to stand out at this time and make Ning Cheng hand over the spirit herbs. Unfortunately, none stood up; most were even greeting Ning Cheng and trying to strike up a friendship.

Ning Cheng's words had worked, especially about him wanting to trade all the spirit herbs he obtained.

Jing Han's expressions turned increasingly ugly. He realised that he had underestimated Ning Cheng too much. *This bastard had hidden himself even deeper than Dou Jiangshi.*

"City Lord Le, the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, has now closed. Let's announce the start of the spirit herb exchange. Everyone is quite anxious about it." Seeing that Le Jiesheng was late with the announcement, Holy Emperor Extreme Void stepped forward to speak.

Le Jiesheng quickly put a smile over his face and said, "Yes, yes. I was just too happy about this development and ended up delaying things."

As he spoke, Le Jiesheng raised his hand and collected the two formation flags, and the crystal screen in the middle of the screen disappeared without a trace. The hall already occupied a significant area, so it became even more prominent when the crystal screen disappeared.

"Pill Sage Ning, I'm Cen Ruxuan from Grand Essence Sea's Profound Aquatic Palace. I saw someone refine the Harmony Bodhisattva Pill and the Nine-Orifices Heart Pill earlier. I wonder if you were the one who refined them, Pill Sage Ning?" A pretty looking female cultivator stood up, clasped her fists towards Ning Cheng and asked. She even bowed towards him and gave him a respectful salute.

The Grand Essence Sea's Profound Aquatic Palace was one of the top ten forces in the Grand Essence Domain. Therefore, when Cen Ruxuan, a Dao Essence expert, showed so much politeness to Ning Cheng, everyone understood that she wanted to ask Ning Cheng for something.

Ning Cheng smiled, "I only reached the second level before I got teleported out."

Ning Cheng's meaning was obvious. He had only reached the second level, so how could he have gone on to refine the Harmony Bodhisattva Pill or the Nine-Orifices Heart Pill?

When Cen Ruoxuan heard Ning Cheng's words, her heart sank, and she suddenly regretted it a little. She regretted that she shouldn't have asked Ning Cheng this question right now. Even if she wanted to ask Ning Cheng about it, she should have waited until no one was around. The spirit grass needed to refine the Harmony Bodhisattva Pill was the Bodhisattva Dust Lotus, an extinct spirit grass that one simply couldn't purchase. So, why would Ning Cheng admit to it? If Ning Cheng had accepted it, he wouldn't have been so vague about opening the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard earlier.

She could only blame it on her eagerness and forgot about showing patience when needed.

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 974: The Possessed One**

All the alchemists put their storage bags in full view after coming out, except for Ning Cheng's storage bag, which had a restriction on it. They quickly split the harvest with the City Lord's Mansion before setting themselves up for the upcoming exchange. In any case, as agreed before entering, they had to give a portion of their harvest to the City Lord's Mansion as 'tax'.

This time, five people had entered the third level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, and three had even entered the fourth level. As such, Le Jiesheng managed to get a significant harvest. However, everyone understood that Le Jiesheng still had suffered a stifling loss this time.

A total of eleven alchemists had entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. But two of them didn't need to hand over any spirit herbs to him. This was not to mention that one of them, Ning Cheng, had even opened the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. To be able to open the thirteenth gate, even if Ning Cheng had come out very early, he must have obtained quite a few extraordinary things.

As such, Le Jiesheng, as the City Lord, decided to sit down for the spirit herb exchange after collecting his share from the others.

After Le Jiesheng sat down, he spoke up with a smile, "Let's start with the spirit herb exchange. Since Pill Deity Ning has reaped a huge harvest this time and has even obtained some rare spirit herbs, let's open with Pill Deity Ning today."

Ning Cheng understood what Le Jiesheng wanted to do, but he didn't care about it at all. He directly took out two jade boxes and placed them on top of the table, "I have a Thunder Sound Heavenly Fruit here, as well as a Karmic Destruction Flower....."

"Surprisingly, it's a dao fruit and a rare spirit grass....." As soon as Ning Cheng brought out the two items, someone spoke up in surprise.

The Thunder Sound Heavenly Fruit was quite a precious dao fruit. Mainly because it was a law-containing dao fruit. But more importantly, it was beneficial for perceiving and comprehending lightning and thunder related spirit techniques. The Thunder Sound Heavenly Fruit also went by another name, the Lesser Thunder Sound Fruit. Although less precious than the legendary Great Thunder Sound Fruit, it was still rare.

As for the Karmic Destruction Flower, although not extinct, it was still a spirit grass almost impossible to find. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that it was on the verge of extinction. But more importantly, Karmic Destruction Flower was the main ingredient required to refine the Solemn Dust Pill. A pill that improved a cultivator's perception of the Dao Raising Realm.

The exchange had only begun, but Ning Cheng had already brought out such precious items. It indicated that he had better things prepared for the later stages of the exchange.

"Pill Deity Ning, please state your price." A Dao Raising Holy Emperor who cultivated thunder-attributed spirit techniques immediately spoke up. If he could obtain the Thunder Sound Heavenly Fruit, his spirit techniques could go one step further. He might even be able to directly reach the Dao Transformation Realm.

No one could resist this kind of temptation. Even if the chances of trading for it were meagre, this holy emperor still wanted to compete for it.

Ning Cheng clasped his fists, "My first choice for this exchange is the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf. As long as you have it, even if you don't want the other spirit herbs I take out later, you can make other requests from me."

A brief silence fell in the guest hall. Although the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf wasn't extinct, its preciousness and rarity were no less than the Karmic Destruction Flower.

Seeing that no one in the guest hall spoke even after some time, Ning Cheng's heart sank slightly. In truth, he didn't care too much about these extinct spirit herbs; instead, he cared more about the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf.

It was also the primary reason he had entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. And although he entered the thirteenth gate and found many precious and extinct spirit herbs inside, he couldn't locate the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf. As such, he hoped that some other alchemist who entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard could take it out. But the response from the hall left Ning Cheng disappointed. From the looks of it, no one here possessed the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf. Otherwise, these two items, coupled with his words, would have been more than enough for someone to come forward.

"I don't have the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf, but I've heard that Pill Deity Ning is an expert in the Dao of Spears. I have a piece of Cold Void Iron, which I believe Pill Deity Ning could definitely refine into a supreme spear. If Pill Deity Ning wants it, I can part with it for ten dao fruits that help comprehend the intricacies of the Dao Sculpting Realm. Other dao fruits can also work, but the grade must not be inferior to the Thunder Sound Heavenly Fruit. In addition to these, I also need two Reincarnation Tears."

A long-bearded man who looked elegant and refined stood up, and with a wave of his hand, brought out a piece of fine iron emitting a greenish glow. The 'piece' was actually the size of a small mountain and quickly dropped to the ground with a heavy 'clang'.

Although no one had refined this metal yet and had layers of restrictions sealing it, one could still feel an icy coldness coming from it that seeped into one's bones.

Everyone in the hall stared at Ning Cheng with wide eyes. Everyone knew the preciousness of the Cold Void Iron. However, none thought the deal would go through, especially when it involved this many supreme spirit herbs. What's more, Mo Wenshang asked for too much, as he even added two Reincarnation Tears.

Reincarnation Tears, also known as the Reincarnation Tears Flower, wasn't half as valuable as the Bodhisattva Dust Lotus. However, it was an extinct spirit grass. Even if it hasn't gone extinct, it was still much higher in value than most ordinary dao fruits.

Not waiting for Ning Cheng to speak, Jian Sanshan, who sat beside him, quickly sent Ning Cheng a sound transmission. "Brother Ning, that man is Great Bear Seven Peaks' Mo Wenshang. That chunk of Cold Void Iron is also quite famous and has often appeared in the past but is without much use. I didn't expect it to fall into Mo Wenshang's hands. But more importantly, even the best artificers in the Grand Essence Realm can't melt this Cold Void Iron. As such, no one in the entire Grand Essence Realm can refine an artefact from it."

Jian Sanshan's meant that this item wasn't worth the price because of its reputation. He sent a sound transmission to tell Ning Cheng to not exchange it.

According to logic, using so many dao fruits, plus two Reincarnation Tears, in exchange for a piece of unusable material wasn't worth it. Even if the raw material was more precious, most people wouldn't agree to the deal as no one could even refine it.

“I’ll take it.” Ning Cheng actually agreed to the exchange without hesitation outside everyone’s expectations.

The truth was, Ning Cheng had already taken a liking to this piece of iron the moment he saw it. He currently lacked a suitable spear. He obviously couldn’t refine the Good Fortune Spirit Spear with his current abilities. So, now that someone came up with the raw material to refine a proper spear, it felt like the blessing of snow in scorching summer.

He also knew about the reputation of Cold Void Iron, a raw material for refining treasures beyond spirit artefacts. Unfortunately, it was almost impossible to find it. But more importantly, he had also sensed something quite familiar from the piece of metal in front of him. More specifically, this Cold Void Iron actually contained a unique aura. An aura that he had only felt from the Bestowing Lawless Fruit.

Just like he had previously never heard of that dao fruit, he had also never heard of any raw materials with such an aura.

How could he not feel moved by such a thing, especially when Mo Wenshang took out such a huge chunk? A raw material that had something to do with the laws of heaven and earth, just how precious should it be?

After Ning Cheng finished speaking, he waved his hand, and a large and small jade box flew out of his storage bag. Ning Cheng then opened the large jade box, revealing ten Falling Scar Fruits neatly arranged inside. He then opened the small jade box, showing two Reincarnation Tear Flowers.

Under ordinary circumstances, Ning Cheng would have never taken out the extinct spirit herbs. But the Cold Void Iron wasn’t a normal circumstance. He wanted it no matter the cost. Not only did he need it for refining a spear for himself, but he also planned to refine a suitable weapon for Luofei. Luofei had a pure water-attributed primary spirit root. Thus, using the Cold Void Iron to refine an artefact would best help her.

Moreover, Ning Cheng knew that Mo Wenshang wanted him to refuse the offer or counter it. But the reason Ning Cheng didn’t do so was because he saw the excitement in Dou Jiangshi’s eyes as he stared at the Cold Void Iron.

If Dou Jiangshi was indeed the Immortal Corpse Sect’s Pill Sage, he shouldn’t care about this chunk of Cold Void Iron. Especially since he wouldn’t be able to come up with the Reincarnation Tears. However, Ning Cheng intuitively held some suspicions that Dou Jiangshi got taken over by that spirit soul from the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

Ning Cheng had paid particular attention to Dou Jiangshi and Jing Han from the moment they came out, along with the third Lei Shamu, who came out last. With what he did inside the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, it wasn’t out of bounds that the spirit soul would have the patience to wait any longer. It was very likely that he chose to take over one of those three pill sages who entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard’s fourth level.

If Dou Jiangshi indeed got taken over and wanted the Cold Void Iron, Ning Cheng would have to spend more to get it. But whether it was the truth or not, Ning Cheng didn’t want to risk it and decided to exchange the Cold Void Iron before anyone else asked for it.



Ning Cheng didn't think that the spirit soul that wanted to take over his body didn't have Reincarnation Tears. One had to know, Ning Cheng had snatched these Reincarnation Tears from that spirit soul's home.

Seeing Ning Cheng not even trying to put up a counteroffer and even taking out so many precious things, some people in the main hall stood up in shock. Some even have a fierce look in their eyes. Since Ning Cheng took out Reincarnation Tears, he must carry more extinct spirit grasses.

Just this act alone made everyone realise that Ning Cheng had obtained a lot of precious things after entering the Illusionary Fruit Garden's thirteenth gate. Otherwise, who would even think about taking out eleven supreme dao fruits at once and even using the Karmic Destruction Flower and Reincarnation Tears for the exchange? Especially without any negotiation?

In the eyes of others, this kind of wealth was already more than enough to invoke something much more profound than jealousy. Sheng Houtian sighed; he felt that Ning Cheng acted too recklessly. Even if he wanted the Cold Void Iron, he should have waited to trade for it later.

The Great Bear Seven Peak's Mo Wenshang also felt surprised. In terms of pure monetary value, the chunk of Cold Void Iron was on the same level as the combination of things Ning Cheng had taken out. But in terms of actual value, it was just as Jian Sanshan said, not even worth a thing. He honestly never expected Ning Cheng to agree. In fact, if Ning Cheng had put up a counteroffer that was just one-tenth of what he asked, he would have agreed to it immediately. As long as the counteroffer wasn't too low, he would have even added a few more things.

He never expected that Ning Cheng would not only not put up a counteroffer, he even took out what he needed.

"Okay, I agree." Before Mo Wenshan's words ended, Ning Cheng had already rushed over to take that piece away.

However, before Ning Cheng could reach it, a cold shout emerged, "Hold on, I'll offer double the price you asked in exchange for that piece of Cold Void Iron....."

Ning Cheng pretended to not hear Dou Jiangshi's words and quickly put Mo Wenshang's Cold Void Iron into his ring. In the same motion, he swept the jade boxes he had taken out towards Mo Wenshang.

Dou Jiangshi's words made him even more confident that this fellow from the Immortal Corpse Sect had been taken over. *Looks like that spirit soul's vision had grown worse, ultimately deciding to settle for a zombie for body possession. But wouldn't Jing Han or Lei Shamu be more suitable candidates than that zombie-faced Dou Jiangshi?*

"You said you were willing to pay double the price?" Mo Wenshan finally reacted, staring at Dou Jiangshi in a daze.

Dou Jiangshi gave a cold snort, "You better bring that item back, and I'll give you three times the price."

As he spoke, Dou Jiangshi raised his hand and brought out a pile of Falling Scar Dao Fruits. At the same time, six Reincarnation Tear Flowers appeared on the table. He felt a bit annoyed in his heart that he was only a breath slower than Ning Cheng's hand. If Ning Cheng hadn't put away the item, he could have easily obtained it from Mo Wenshan. But now, he couldn't do much as that idiot had already

accepted the offer publicly. He already felt disgusted with Ning Cheng, so now he wanted to draw everyone's hatred towards Ning Cheng.

### The Gate Of Good Fortune

#### **Chapter 975: Profound Aquatic Palace fancying Ning Cheng**

Ning Cheng wore a cold smile in his heart. Dou Jiangshi should have realised that he had recognised him and no longer decided to hide. As such, he had no qualms about taking out dao fruits and extinct spirit herbs. Besides, this guy, or at least the Dou Jiangshi from before, was from the Immortal Corpse Sect, putting the current Dou Jiangshi on a higher status pedestal than him.

"Elder Shi....." Chun Fei looked at Dou Jiangshi in some disbelief. He already had a hard time believing that Dou Jiangshi had obtained so many dao fruits. But now, he couldn't comprehend why Dou Jiangshi used so many precious dao fruits and even six Reincarnation Tears in exchange for the useless Cold Void Iron.

Don't look at his cultivation being a realm higher than Dou Jiangshi. He was still far below Dou Jiangshi's status in the Immortal Corpse Sect.

Dou Jiangshi simply nodded towards Chun Fei, "Elder Chun, don't worry, I can manage it."

Mo Wenshang's expressions turned even uglier. He thought he had finally won the lottery but never expected that Dou Jiangshi would offer three times the price he quoted to Ning Cheng.

Unfortunately, he agreed to Ning Cheng's offer a breath earlier. If Dou Jiangshi had made the offer before he agreed, he definitely wouldn't have let Ning Cheng put away the chunk of Cold Void Iron.

Now that Ning Cheng had already put away the item into his ring, he knew that it would be almost impossible to get it back from Ning Cheng. *No wonder even Man Huishan couldn't do anything to Ning Cheng; this fellow knew how to take perfect advantage of the situation.*

The people in the guest hall became even more frenzied. *Just how many extinct spirit herbs had appeared in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard this time?* Ning Cheng obtained some, but Dou Jiangshi obtained even more.

There were already quite a few amongst the crowd who wondered if Ning Cheng was the alchemist who opened the thirteenth gate. But now, everyone's suspicions turned towards Dou Jiangshi.

Jing Han also couldn't help but stare at Dou Jiangshi and started to suspect that Dou Jiangshi hadn't spoken the truth. Most likely, Dou Jiangshi was the one who had entered the thirteenth gate, all because of the number of extinct Reincarnation Tear Flowers on him. One had to know that he, Jing Han, hadn't obtained a single extinct spirit grass.

"Pill Deity Ning, someone is now offering three times what you offered." Mo Wenshang took a deep breath and cupped his fists towards Ning Cheng.

The truth was, he was the one who had asked for it, and Ning Cheng simply didn't bother to put up a counteroffer and agreed to the price right away. Plus, he had also agreed to the deal publicly and only then did Ning Cheng take the item away. Without Dou Jiangshi today, everyone would have been happy about this deal. Unfortunately, Dou Jiangshi's offer immediately created an imbalance.

Ning Cheng already understood that Dou Jiangshi wanted to pull the crowd's hatred onto him. He even knew that Dou Jiangshi wanted to goad Mo Wenshang into starting a fight with him. Therefore, he simply smiled and cupped his fists at Mo Wenshang and said, "Looks like Holy Emperor Mo has an ear planted on the ground. Unfortunately, I do not intend to sell my chunk of Cold Void Iron to that zombie-face."

Mo Wenshang's face turned gloomy, but he couldn't find any words to refute Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng's words clearly indicated that since he purchased the item, he was the sole person who decided what to do with it. Now, even if Ning Cheng wanted to sell it, only Ning Cheng could do it, and it had nothing to do with him.

Seeing that Mo Wenshang couldn't put aside his face to make trouble with Ning Cheng, Dou Jiangshi simply raised his hands and collected his things.

"Pill Sage Dou really knows how to carry himself. Not having entered the thirteenth gate, yet still managing to get the Reincarnation Tears that none of us could even see." Jing Han spoke with a sneer.

"What's so surprising about it. I also dug up a Reincarnation Tears Flower inside." A Dao Raising Pill Sage also took out a Reincarnation Tear before looking at Jing Han and speaking lightly.

Jing Han's face immediately turned grotesque when he saw three people take out Reincarnation Tears. One had to know that he was publicly acclaimed as the most promising pill sage in the Grand Essence Realm. Yet, he couldn't obtain what everyone else had.

"What's his name?" Ning Cheng immediately sent a message to Jian Sanshan when he saw that a third person had taken out the extinct spirit herb, Reincarnation Tears.

Jian Sanshan couldn't help but admire Ning Cheng in his heart. Only now did he understand why Ning Cheng didn't put up a counteroffer at all. Now that Ning Cheng asked about it, he quickly collected his thoughts and sent Ning Cheng a sound transmission. "That's Sang Zizhao from Desolate Spirit Palace, and he's a Dao Raising Pill Sage. I heard that he had entered the fourth level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard in the past."

*Desolate Spirit Palace?* Ning Cheng immediately recalled Ji Pingzhong, who had died under his hands. Unexpectedly, he had once again met someone from the Desolate Spirit Palace. According to conventional logic, even if this fellow had obtained the Reincarnation Tears Flower, he wouldn't take it out and present it at this time without reason. Knowing this, Ning Cheng began paying particular attention to Sang Zizhao.

If not for Ning Cheng's unshakable feeling in Dou Jiangshi being taken over by that spirit soul, he would have suspected Sang Zizhao. But more importantly, both Sang Zizhao and Dou Jiangshi had taken out Reincarnation Tears, unloading quite a bit of pressure from himself.

Upon learning that both Dou Jiangshi and Sang Zizhao had extinct spirit grasses on them, the two people, along with Ning Cheng, became everyone's targets of flattery. No one followed Jing Han in holding Dou Jiangshi accountable. Not only did no one hold him responsible, but Dou Jiangshi even received a much warmer welcome. With that small stint, everything proceeded relatively more smoothly.

Although not as big as the one between Ning Cheng and Mo Wenshang, the following transactions were still quite lively. Ning Cheng traded out thirty-two dao fruits and 160 rare spirit herbs. Apart from the first batch of Reincarnation Tears, Ning Cheng didn't take out a second extinct spirit herb.

But it also reduced the pressure on Ning Cheng and started to focus more and more on Dou Jiangshi. Mainly since he traded out 221 dao fruits and even several piles of spirit herbs. Anyone who was anyone and came to the City Lord's mansion did at least one trade with Dou Jiangshi. One could even say that he had become the most popular Pill Sage and the most sought-after person in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard's spirit herb exchange.

Unfortunately, apart from the Reincarnation Tears earlier, he had not taken out any other extinct spirit herb.

Ning Cheng also didn't reveal that Dou Jiangshi might have been taken over, as he couldn't prove it despite being absolutely sure of it. But regardless of if he could prove it or not, it would still give everyone here an excuse to come to cause trouble with him later. Plus, with Dou Jiangshi's current popularity, people here wouldn't hesitate to turn him into mincemeat if he dared to say that Dou Jiangshi had been taken over.

By the time the Illusionary Fruit Orchard's spirit herb exchange concluded, Ning Cheng had gained an extra 160 million spirit crystals and other materials he needed.

Because so many dao fruits had come out of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard this time, along with even more spirit grasses, almost no one had to return empty-handed.

However, no Bodhisattva Dust Lotus or the Nine Aperture Spirit Glaze appeared from the start of the exchange to its end. As for the incident of someone using these two extinct spirit herbs to refine the Bodhisattva Heavenly Pill and the Nine Aperture Heart Pill. It had become a headless public case that no one admitted.

Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness never left Dou Jiangshi during the entire exchange. However, he couldn't figure out what this fellow said to the Immortal Corpse Sect's Elder Chun Fei. At first, Chun Fei showed a clear and very resultant expression. But by the end of the exchange, he actually came forward to help him with the transactions.

Ning Cheng wasn't afraid of Dou Jiangshi; this fellow was only an early-stage Dao Transformation cultivator. Even if the spirit soul who took over Dou Jiangshi was even stronger, he still had a few ways to deal with it. The only thing Ning Cheng was afraid of was that this fellow wouldn't come after him and instead hide in the Immortal Corpse Sect. As long as his fellow dared to mess with him alone, he would definitely snatch that wood-attributed origin spirit vein. After all, he'd been coveting this spirit vein since the moment he knew about its existence.

Once the spirit herb exchange ended, the crowd said their farewells and left. Except for some holy emperors close to Le Jiesheng, everyone walked through the exit.

"Brother Ning Cheng, if you don't have anything to do, make sure to come to look for me at the Pill Union." Sheng Houtian purposely called out to Ning Cheng in a voice everyone could hear.

Ning Cheng understood Sheng Huotian's intention. That is, he had Sheng Houtian and the Pill Union to back him up if anything happened. Ning Cheng quickly said his thanks and rushed out of the City Lord's mansion with Jian Sanshan. He wanted to promptly help Yan Ji wake up.

However, several gazes kept a close eye on Ning Cheng. They knew that even if they wanted to deal with Ning Cheng, they couldn't do it here. Not to mention that Ning Cheng has Sheng Houtian backing him up; even Ning Cheng himself wasn't someone easy to deal with. *If he was easy to mess with, would Man Huishan be so helpless in front of him?*

"Yuxiu, you and Ning Cheng grabbed the stone doors at the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring together. What kind of person do you think he is?" Once her group was far away from the Heaven Essence Sacred City's City Lord Mansion, a beautiful woman asked.

This woman was none other than Cen Ruoxuan, who had asked Ning Cheng about the Bodhisattva Dust Lotus in the guest hall of the City Master's mansion. She was someone from one of the ten great forces, the Grand Essence Sea's Profound Aquatic Palace.

Standing beside her was an equally beautiful young woman with an extremely fair complexion, a woman Ning Cheng knew, Zhongming Yuxiu. But although she held her head high and had a heart full of arrogance, her strength was just slightly above average among her peers.

When she first fought for one of the ten stone gates at the Extraterritorial Spirit Spring, she ended up swept away from the second stone gate and all the way to the eighth stone gate. One could say that it was because of her arrogance and overestimating her abilities. But it was mainly due to Ning Cheng killing Guo Haoge and suppressing Ji Pingzhong into submission. Otherwise, she most likely would have been the one to occupy the tenth stone gate.

"He is strong. Strong enough to sweep through anyone in the same realm. But he isn't civilised enough to be even called a human being. His eyes are always on his head." Zhongmeng Yuxiu spoke up with a calm tone.

*"Yan Xishuang is my friend, and if you dare make a move to grab her door, you better not blame me for not showing mercy."* She clearly 'remembered' what Ning Cheng had said to her when she was about to snatch Yan Xishuang's stone door. Because of this incident, she felt no kindness towards Ning Cheng.

"If I were to promise you to Ning Cheng, would you be willing?" Cen Ruoxuan suddenly asked.

"Ah....." Zhongmeng Yuxiu's heart thumped wildly when she heard Cen Ruoxuan's words.

It was true that she didn't have any good feelings towards Ning Cheng. But it was because Ning Cheng didn't give her any face and directly swept her from the fourth stone gate to the eighth stone gate. But that didn't mean that she didn't care about a strong person like Ning Cheng, an equally exceptional pill deity.

Previously, she never even thought she could become Ning Cheng's dao partner. But now that Aunt Xuan mentioned it, she suddenly became fascinated by that thought. *If she became the dao partner of an expert like Ning Cheng, what would happen then?* In any case, Ning Cheng looked much more pleasing to the eye than Ji He. But what was even more important was that he was also an alchemist and brother to the Pill Union's Sheng Houtian.

Once this thought appeared, she no longer cared about her last impression of Ning Cheng. Instead, this thought was like wild grass seeds that quickly sprouted and filled up her heart. But then she thought of Yan Xishuang, who even she admitted was much more pretty than her and friends with Ning Cheng. Therefore, if Ning Cheng was to find a dao partner, he would definitely choose Yan Xishuang over her.

“It wouldn’t work.....” Without waiting for Yuxiu to answer, Cen Ruoxuan spoke up while shaking her head. “That Ning Cheng might look reckless on the surface, but he is, in fact, very calculating and knows how to play all sides. I don’t know what kind of a deal he made with Man Huishan, but it’s a fact that he could pick on Man Huishan publicly. He doesn’t even care about City Lord Le, and even became brothers with Pill Union’s Dao Transformation Pill Sage Sheng Houtian.....”

Speaking till here, Cen Ruxuan paused, frowned slightly as if contemplating something and finally continued. “Maybe Yue Shu can make him stay in my Profound Aquatic Palace.....”

What she meant was that Zhongmeng Yuxiu’s womanly charm wasn’t enough to captivate Ning Cheng. Let alone make him stay back at the Profound Aquatic Palace.

“Aunt Xuan, Senior Apprentice Sister Yue Shu is our Profound Aquatic Palace’s number one.....” Even though Zhongmeng Yuxiu had a heart filled with arrogance, she knew very well that she couldn’t match Yue Shu.

Cen Ruxuan reached out and stopped Zhongmeng Yuxiu’s following words. After another pause, she spoke up in a whisper. “It’s not that we need him to help us refine a Bodhisattva Heavenly Pill. But more importantly, my Profound Aquatic Palace needs an alchemist like him. If I’m not wrong, he’s at least a Dao Raising Pill Sage. Ever since the Grand Essence Realm shattered, there has never been any peace or quiet. It will get chaotic once again, especially since the major powers of the Grand Essence Domain are starting to move. Our Profound Aquatic Palace is simply too weak.”

“How’s that possible? How could he be a Dao Raising Pill Sage?” Zhongmeng Yuxiu’s eyes widened in surprise. She simply couldn’t believe Cen Ruoxuan’s words.

Cen Ruxuan sighed, “I don’t believe my guess either. But my intuition tells me that I’m not wrong. He should be staying in Jian Sanshan’s abode, but it’s inappropriate to see him today. We’ll pay him a visit tomorrow.”

## **The Gate Of Good Fortune**

### **Chapter 976: Yan Ji**

Ning Cheng carried Yan Ji on his back and took Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong with him as he left Jiang Sanshan’s abode and returned to the Dao Seeking Inn.

Ning Cheng wanted to wake up Yan Ji as soon as possible.

Fortunately, he obtained the 5-Elements Heavenly Fruit. The only thing that could help awaken a cultivator with a severely injured foundation without damaging the body.

But to prevent others from disturbing Yan Ji’s awakening, Ning Cheng deliberately added several restrictions to the room. He even instructed Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong to refuse any visitors.

Ning Cheng carefully opened the restrictions on the jade box and took out one of the 5-Elements Heavenly Fruits from inside. The fruit was milky white in colour and gave off a faint sweet fragrance. He then raised his hand and used a simple water cleaning technique to clean the fruit out of habit.

Ning Cheng probably was the only person who would use a water cleaning technique to clean dao fruits. No one else in the entire cultivation world would even think of using such a simple technique to clean dao fruits.

But when the water cleaning technique touched the 5-Elements Heavenly Fruit's skin, Ning Cheng's spirit sense sensed a faint, almost indiscernible, fluctuation of a spirit sense imprint from it. Ning Cheng quickly took back his hand in surprise as he had only cleaned the dao fruit out of habit, expecting nothing out of the ordinary. It wouldn't have mattered if he was the one to eat it, but this dao fruit was for Yan Ji.

Ning Cheng's expressions turned a little ugly. He had never expected that this dao fruit would have a concealed spirit sense imprint on it. He wouldn't have noticed the mark if he hadn't used the water cleansing technique to clean the dao fruit. It didn't matter if the spirit sense imprint on this dao fruit came from Jing Han or not; it definitely had something to do with him.

If not for his strong spiritual consciousness and the fact that he unconsciously used the water cleaning technique on the dao fruit, he would have overlooked it. *No*, he might not have even noticed it.

Ning Cheng quickly composed himself and carefully peeled away the faint spirit sense imprint before transferring it to a piece of scrap and sealing it in a jade box. Immediately afterwards, he took out the other dao fruit. Sure enough, Ning Cheng noticed another extremely faint spirit sense imprint on it.

After sealing away the two faint spirit sense imprints into two separate jade boxes, Ning Cheng thoroughly checked the two 5-Elements Heavenly Fruits for another half a day. Only when he felt sure there was nothing wrong with them did he select one and carefully feed it to Yan Ji.

The dao fruit melted into a fragrant fruity liquid when it touched Yan Ji's mouth and smoothly flowed down her throat.

Yan Ji's body quickly absorbed the 5-Elements Heavenly Fruit, but she still showed no signs of waking up. However, Ning Cheng didn't use the second dao fruit and quietly sat beside her.

If one 5-Elements Heavenly Fruit couldn't wake Yan Ji up, giving her a second or more wouldn't be of any use.

As time passed in silent waiting, Ning Cheng gazed at Yan Ji's clear but slightly pale face. Unknowingly, the first meeting between him and Yan Ji surfaced in his mind.

.....

On the Law's Way, Que Penghai, a Profound Core cultivator, wanted to finish him off to curry favour with Nalan Ruxue. At that time, Yan Ji, who he didn't even know, stood up and stopped Que Penghai.

Nalan Ruxue felt confused about why Yan Ji stood up to help him and even told Yan Ji to mind her own business. However, he could still recall Yan Ji's words from back then. "..... Everyone's eyes will only see

what their hearts want to show, although all of us has seen the same thing, it's just that we all see things in a different perspective."

After that, she invited him, a cultivator with an Essence Building 4th Level cultivation, to join her team. No one in her group could understand her choice, but she still did so without hesitation.

What's more, on learning that he had supposedly 'fallen' in the Blood River Mountain, Yan Ji didn't hesitate to re-enter the blood river to try and rescue him. Unfortunately, she couldn't and ended up falling to the bottom of the blood river. Even at that time, the two barely knew each other.

Back then, he had only saved her and Xiang Zhilan from the blood river out of convenience but ended up washed away to the depths due to his own carelessness. Yet, Yan Ji still jumped down into the blood river to try and save him; unfortunately, she couldn't and ended up lost in the depths of the blood river.

Ning Cheng had seen many ungrateful people and even those who didn't take things like kindness to heart. Yet, a woman like Yan Ji, who only received a drop of kindness, never forgot to repay it. She even unhesitatingly jumped into the blood river, where she was sure to die several times over. That was the first time he, Ning Cheng, had met such a person.

After walking out of Law's Way, the Le Continent's three major forces chased him around for so-called 'righteous' reasons. Yet, even when her sister, Yan Yue, tried to kill him, Yan Ji quickly sprung up to defend him and said, "Touch him, and I'll kill you."

At that time, she still hadn't regained her sanity. As such, those words were more like an obsession in her heart.

Yet, even after she regained her sanity, she immediately went to find him. She travelled from the Le Continent to the Tian Continent. Then from the Tian Continent to the starry sky, and from the starry sky to the five grand realms.....

She cultivated with a sense of frantic desperation and devoured pills and other resources. Quality, after effects, disadvantages, none of it mattered to her as long as it could help her raise her cultivation. If Ning Cheng hadn't met Nalan Ruxue, Ning Cheng wouldn't have known that Yan Ji did all this, cultivated so recklessly, all so that she could have the strength to find him.

Yan Ji had even agreed to spirit grafting and left behind a message. Although Shui Yueke was the one to tell him and didn't know who the message was for, Ning Cheng immediately understood that the message had something to do with him.

Ning Cheng looked at Yan Ji and suddenly felt that he owed this woman too much. All he had done for her was take care of her in the Law's Way for some time.

Ning Cheng's thoughts grew farther and farther away as he gently picked up Yan Ji and lowered his head, just to look at her face more closely.....

.....

With darkness all around the eyes could see, Yan Ji hid in a corner feeling a little cold. She couldn't see any indication of light; no, she couldn't see *anything*, only darkness. Moreover, this darkness felt cold and filled with death.



She didn't know how long she hid in this corner of darkness. She tried forcing her way out, but her body felt like it had been placed inside a block of ice. She couldn't move no matter how much she struggled.

Gradually, the darkness around her grew darker and darker, to the point that it even started to suppress her soul. Her breathing started to grow more laboured, and only a single thought kept repeating in her mind. *Was she going to die?*

As death approached nearer and nearer, she tried hard to remember something good, tried hard to think of something, anything apart from her impending death. Unfortunately, she couldn't recall anything at all, except for one name that kept lingering in her already fading consciousness. She couldn't remember anything, but she couldn't forget that name.

*Ning Cheng*, that's right. Ning Cheng felt very important to her. *But why was that name important?* She couldn't recall at all. But she clung on to those two words as if her life depended on it.

As she kept thinking about those two words, the two words suddenly started to fade away from in front of her eyes. Her memory also began to blur even more. Her heart grew anxious, and she began to struggle desperately, trying to hold on to the only thing she could remember. Those two words were the only thing she could remember, and if those two words disappeared from her memory, her consciousness and soul would eventually disappear.

Just then, a bright light suddenly erupted from the two words that were about to fade away. The light quickly dispersed the darkness, and she could finally see.

The bright light from the two words quickly grew in scope and intensity. Her fading memory started to grow clear and even seemed to bring back other memories.

The dissipating world around her also started to recondense, and a glimmer of life suddenly returned.

She struggled to open her eyes; she knew she must not let this chance disappear.

As memories became clearer and more apparent. Ning Cheng's image started to manifest from the two words and grew more precise with each passing moment. Her strong perseverance to survive and the light from Ning Cheng's name made her finally open her eyes, and she finally recalled what Ning Cheng looked like.

"I finally saw you..... I vowed that when I saw you again, I would marry you....." Yan Ji's voice had a tinge of hoarseness to it as she stared into Ning Cheng's eyes. Her head unconsciously rose up and kissed Ning Cheng's lips.

Just as Yan Ji's lips touched Ning Cheng's lips, her eyes once again closed, and she fell into a deep sleep.

.....

"Yan Ji, are you awake?" Ning Cheng couldn't help but ask in surprise. He had just lowered his head for a closer look when Yan Ji suddenly opened her eyes. *Looks like the 5-Elements Heavenly Fruit truly worked and allowed Yan Ji to wake up.*

Seeing Yan Ji slump back into sleep after kissing him, Ning Cheng couldn't help but feel a wave of relief wash over him. Yan Ji's recession into sleep wasn't the same as in the past, but genuine sleep. She would wake up again in some time.

"Thank you, Yan Ji." Ning Cheng once again lowered his head and kissed Yan Ji on the lips. He understood that Yan Ji wasn't truly aware of his presence right now. Her actions from a moment ago was most likely a subconscious act or thought that she had seen him in a dream.

Ning Cheng wasn't wrong in guessing that Yan Ji had indeed thought she had seen him in a dream. After she fell asleep again, her consciousness clearly showed Ning Cheng's appearance.

*I heard that before dying, one would see the person one wanted to see the most.*

*That's not right; that feeling was so real. Did I actually kiss Ning Cheng? Was it not a dream?*

Yan Ji struggled to open her eyes again, finally seeing Ning Cheng in the flesh. This time, she felt sure that her consciousness wasn't playing tricks on her.

"Ning Cheng, is that really you? It's really....." Yan Ji's tone was still a little hoarse, with a hint of trembling. Before she could even finish her sentence, more mist appeared in the corners of her eyes, and Ning Cheng's figure instantly blurred. Yan Ji's heart immediately turned anxious. She wanted to reach out her hand and wipe away the blurring at the corner of her eyes. But she couldn't move her hand at all.

Ning Cheng lifted his hand and gently wiped the tears away from the corners of Yan Ji's eyes. "Junior Apprentice Sister Ji, no one will ever dare to use you for spirit grafting....."

"Wooo...." Yan Ji finally affirmed that the one in front of her was the real Ning Cheng and that she really was in Ning Cheng's arms. No longer able to contain the loneliness in her heart, tears started to pour down her face.

She never thought that she would cry so much one day. She had an extremely independent character and always bore everything by herself. She had encountered too many dangers and faced them by herself, including many life and death situations. It had shaped her heart to the point that it would remain calm even if she faced certain death.

But now, she couldn't hold back the sadness and loneliness in her heart. Perhaps it wasn't sadness or loneliness, but happiness tucked away in the depths of her heart, a joy that couldn't be expressed in words.

Ning Cheng gently wiped away the tears dripping down from Yan Ji's eyes. "When this is over, I will take you back to see Luofei....."

Yan Ji opened her eyes wide and took in every detail of Ning Cheng. Everything she had experienced had finally found the answer. Her body also gradually gained more and more strength, at least enough for her to subconsciously raise her hand.

Feeling Yan Ji's body getting softer and softer, Ning Cheng knew that Yan Ji had started to gradually recover. Although she couldn't cultivate, he believed he would be able to find the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf for her.

Yan Ji finally raised her arms and tightly hugged Ning Cheng, feeling a strong and powerful heartbeat. Her face turned a little warm, as this was the first time she had ever embraced a man consciously. But for some inexplicable reason, it gave her a sense of stability and peace.

## [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

### **Chapter 977: The most difficult Dao Transformation Dao Pill to refine**

“Did Senior Apprentice Sister Yan Ji fully recover?” Xin Xiu looked at Yan Ji, who walked out with Ning Cheng with a surprised and joyful tone.

Even Wu Qihong, who wasn’t good with words, congratulated Ning Cheng. He and Xin Xiu clearly understood that Ning Cheng cared a lot about Yan Ji.

“Many thanks, Senior Apprentice Sister Xin Xiu, Senior Apprentice Brother Wu.” Ning Cheng had already informed her about Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong, so she hurriedly came forward to greet them.

Ning Cheng, however, shook his head. “Junior Apprentice Sister Ji has only woken up; her foundation still remains shattered and can’t cultivate yet. I have to find the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf to help her restore her foundation.”

“Exquisite Star Golden Hidden Leaf!?” Wu Qihong repeated the name in shock. He and Xin Xiu were alchemists, so they naturally knew about the item in question and its rarity.

If someone told them to go find it, they could easily spend their entire life searching for it but not find even the tiniest clue about it. Moreover, even knowing about Ning Cheng’s abilities and connections, they didn’t think Ning Cheng could find the leaf.

Ning Cheng understood their thoughts and could only sigh. “No matter what, I have to find that leaf.”

*Fortunately, Yan Ji’s spiritual soul hadn’t suffered any apparent damage.* Barring the issue of not cultivating, there wasn’t anything wrong with her. Therefore, when she heard Ning Cheng’s words, she spoke up with a soft voice, “Even if it’s not found, it’s not a big deal. I’m already content.”

“Big Brother Ning, a man called Percy came for a visit a few days ago. I requested him to wait till you came out.” Xin Xiu immediately recalled something and reported it to Ning Cheng.

“Percy?” Ning Cheng immediately recalled the bearded and rough-looking fellow, ranked second among the Grand Essence 12 Sacred Children. From what Jian Sanshan said, Percy came from the mysterious Void Star Sect. This fellow had approached him several times and had even helped him at the City Lord’s mansion.

Ning Cheng’s spiritual consciousness immediately swept out and found Percy still waiting patiently outside his suit. He quickly stepped forward, opened the restrictions, and spoke up with cupped fists, “Dao Friend Percy, please come inside. I had some urgent business to attend to and ended up making you wait unnecessarily. I hope you can forgive me.”

Percy laughed and returned the greetings with cupped fists. “Pill Sage Ning. It’s already a great joy for me that you took the time to meet me.”

Ning Cheng smiled and invited Percy into the living room and sat down. It wasn’t unusual for Percy to know that he was a pill sage. But then again, since Percy knew about his identity as a pill sage, it also meant that he wasn’t the only one who knew about it.

He poured Percy a cup of spiritual tea and asked, “Fellow Daoist Percy has tried approaching me several times. I assume you came looking for me for something?”

Percy gave an awkward nod before proceeding in a gruff voice. “That is true; I wanted to ask Dao Friend Ning’s help in refining a batch of Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pills.”

Ning Cheng’s hand pouring the spiritual tea paused. After a moment, Ning Cheng asked once again to confirm he had heard it right. “You want me to refine *the* Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill?”

Ning Cheng had read about this particular pill and knew that it was *the* most difficult to refine Dao Transformation Dao Pill. Even an accomplished Dao Transformation Pill Sage would have an abysmal success rate in refining it.

Putting aside the success rate in refining this pill, this pill only had one function. That is, to detoxify a particular poison, the Ripple Bone Poison. One of the ten most potent poisons existing in the world and ranked tenth among them. Once struck by this poison, that person’s bones would slowly corrode into slag in a ripple-like pattern. The ripple-like patterns also served as a cage that imprisoned and tortured the essence spirit of that person, making it so that it could not leave the physical body.

Some holy emperors with extremely powerful cultivation could forcibly abandon their physical bodies once struck by the poison. But once the essence spirit found a new body or tried to rebuild one, the poison would continue to corrode the bones of the new body like maggots attached to dead flesh. There simply was no escape from this poison once struck as it affected the essence spirit directly. There simply was no way to resolve it even in the present day.

However, someone in the relatively recent past had found a method that could potentially help remove this poison after researching the historical texts about this poison. Then, that person distilled that method into a medicinal pill, the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill, a Dao Transformation Dao Pill with three primary spirit herbs.

One was a dao fruit called Golden Cicada Heart Fruit, and the other two were the Cloudy Sky Zoysia and the Green Frost Underworld Branch. Both were precious spirit grasses that contained the laws of heaven and earth.

But more importantly, all three of the primary ingredients required to refine a single furnace of Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill were beyond priceless. Plus, it was almost impossible to collect these ingredients as they had already gone extinct.

Disregarding the difficulty in finding the ingredients for the pill, even the refinement process wasn’t on the same level as other dao pills of the same grade. Even if one had luck on their side and managed to gather the required ingredients, almost no one would be able to refine this pill. Let alone Dao Transformation Pill Sages, even Dao Essence Pill Sages might not be able to refine it.

It was mainly because the three primary ingredients contained conflicting laws of heaven and earth. It made it almost impossible to fuse their medicinal essences, let alone condense them into pills. This fact alone proved how difficult it was to turn the ingredients into a dao pill.

“That’s right, we have already collected the materials for one batch. We want to ask Pill Sage Ning to use the materials and help us refine a batch of Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pills.” Percy spoke up in a highly cautious tone; the man even stood up and looked around before replying.

Ning Cheng shook his head, "I'm sorry. I'm afraid my alchemy skills are still lacking to refine a batch of Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pills. The Alchemy Discourse is about to start soon. When that time comes, the strongest alchemists from all over the Grand Essence Realm will gather. Dao Friend Percy would have a better chance in searching for a suitable alchemist at the discourse rather than come here looking for a half-decent alchemist like me."

*Jokes aside, just how precious were the ingredients for a single furnace of Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pills?* Ning Cheng didn't hesitate to refuse it. If he failed in refining it, he wouldn't be able to afford to pay it back, not even with the Pill Union's backing. He might have considered it if Percy said they had enough ingredients for a few batches. But with only enough for a single furnace, he had no choice but to refuse it right away.

After hearing Ning Cheng's words, Percy sighed and bowed to Ning Cheng. "Pill Sage Ning, I know that if there is someone in the Grand Essence Realm who can refine the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill, it's only you, Pill Sage Ning."

Ning Cheng finally showed a frown. "Fellow Daoist Percy, I'm afraid you misunderstood something. Even if we make an assumption that I refined the Heavenly Bodhisattva Pill and the Nine-aperture Heart Pill in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, it wouldn't be possible for me to refine something as difficult and as complex as the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill."

Percy spoke up with an even more earnest tone. "I know that Pill Sage Ning is at least a Dao Transformation Pill Sage. After all, there aren't many Dao Transformation Pill Sages who can refine top-grade Amethyst Heaven Pills in the Grand Essence Realm. Even Pill Union's Union Master, Dao Essence Pill Sage Sichen Qiutian is only at this level, I'm afraid."

"As long as Pill Sage Ning is willing to take action, even if it fails in the end, I can promise that my Void Star Sect will not hold Pill Sage Ning responsible for the loss in any way. If the refinement succeeds, we will only need half of the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pills. The other half will be given to Pill Sage Ning as a reward. Besides that, Pill Sage Ning can choose anything from my Void Star Sect; everything in the sect will be at your disposal. We also promise that all of Pill Sage Ning's enemies in the Grand Essence Realm will be treated as my Void Star Sect's personal and mortal enemies."

Ning Cheng felt quite moved when he heard about the offer. He had never been to a 'mysterious sect'. But he understood that in the Grand Essence Realm, every mysterious sect was no weaker than the ten great forces. For such a sect to let him pick anything at will, it showed the importance of the person afflicted by the Ripple Bone Poison to the Void Star Sect.

Moreover, Ning Cheng had a good idea of the people he had offended. Barbarian Dragon Clan's Dragon Emperor Man Huishan, River Luo Sacred Sect's Tong Mengzi, and Heaven Essence Sacred City's City Lord Le. At the very least, these three wanted to get rid of him actively. Yet, Void Star Sect still promised to protect and go against these powerful forces. However, it also meant that the situation with Void Star Sect's poisoned person wasn't a simple one at all.

Ning Cheng took in a deep breath and went over the offer once again in his head but ultimately shook his head in nonacceptance. "I'm sorry, my strength is limited. Even if I want to help you, I'm unable to refine such a pill."

He'd be lying if he didn't covet such a favour, but he had to think about the worst-case scenario. The Void Star Sect would definitely go crazy if he failed in refining such an essential and priceless pill. He couldn't afford to add Void Star Sect to the list with his current strength.

Don't look at the number of people he had offended till now. Ning Cheng knew that they wouldn't create any problems, at least not without creating a justifiable cause. Man Huishan wouldn't dare to make any moves against him because of the oath, and Tong Mengzi wouldn't dare to come after him openly either. As for the deep-rooted Le Jiesheng, he was even less likely to move against him in the open. He also has Sheng Houtian as his 'brother', making his situation in the Heaven Essence Sacred City stable as a mountain.

Plus, even someone like Man Huishan couldn't catch him if he decided to leave Heaven Essence Sacred City. As such, it would be even more impossible for Tong Mengzi.

He had thought over this matter for a long time, but it would immediately change the narrative once he offended the Void Star Sect. The current balance would immediately break, and at that time, pretty much every force would come after his life. After all, those he offended weren't in any life-or-death situation and were only after his secrets. The same couldn't be said for the person in the Void Star Sect. The success or failure in refining the pill could mean the life and death of that person from the Void Star Sect.

"Since that's the case, I won't bother Brother Ning anymore." A hint of disappointment flashed across Percy's eyes, and he turned dejected. He understood Ning Cheng's dilemma, but he also understood that he couldn't do anything if Ning Cheng wasn't willing to refine the pill.

Ning Cheng also felt a little apologetic. He honestly couldn't guarantee a successful refinement of Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill. If he could, he would have definitely agreed to Percy's proposal without any hesitation.

Percy walked to the door but suddenly turned back and said, "I almost forgot. If you want the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf, you should head to the Grand Essence Ruin's Burial Shadow Blue Sands. One of the elders from my Void Star Sect had reported seeing the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf while searching for the Green Frost Underworld Branch. Unfortunately, the elder couldn't recall the exact location due to circumstances; otherwise, I would have engraved it on a jade slip for you....."

"Don't ever go there." Yan Ji suddenly interrupted Percy's words in panic. She survived in the Grand Essence Ruins for many years and was just too familiar with the Burial Shadow Blue Sands. Dao Transformation Holy Emperor was the lowest cultivation required to enter the Burial Shadow Blue Sands. But even among them, there were very, very few who could come out alive. Even if it meant death for her, she didn't want Ning Cheng to enter the Grand Essence Ruins' Burial Shadow Blue Sands.

"Why didn't you use that to trade with me? As long as you told me that you knew where the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf might exist, I might have agreed to help you with the request right away." Ning Cheng looked at Percy and asked calmly.

Percy showed a calm smile. "Pill Sage Ning, I admired your persona very much at the City Lord's mansion. Whether you consider me a friend or not, I, Percy, consider you as a friend worth making. This Percy never 'trades' with my friends, nor do things that constitute blackmail to my friends."

The way Percy said it revealed a powerful pride.

Ning Cheng had dealt with the Grand Essence's 12 Sacred Children too many times and knew that each and every one of them was very proud. However, unlike others, Ning Cheng kinda appreciated Percy's pride. It was a type of pride that came from one's bones, not the arrogant pride for the sake of face and fame.

Ning Cheng took a few steps forward and patted Percy on the shoulder. "Percy, thank you for treating me as a friend. Your furnace of Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pills, I will refine it."

"Pill Sage Ning....." Percy looked at Ning Cheng with some disbelief. How could he not feel baffled by it? No one could have refused the conditions he had stated before. Yet, Ning Cheng had decidedly rejected helping his Void Star Sect for the refinement. But now, when he told Ning Cheng about a place that 'might' have the Exquisite Star Golden Concealed Leaf, Ning Cheng agreed almost immediately.

He quickly reacted and bowed deeply to Ning Cheng before making a vow. "Many thanks, Pill Sage Ning. Even if you fail in the refinement, this Percy vows to not let you suffer any harm even if I have to die for it."

Ning Cheng smiled, "I trust you; that's why I agreed to help you refine your pills. From now on, don't call me Pill Sage Ning. Just call me by my name directly, Ning Cheng. You're my friend."

Percy laughed, "Everyone who knows me calls me 'Western Bandit'. Brother Ning should also call me Western Bandit from now on."

Ning Cheng looked at the bearded Percy and couldn't help but muse to himself, "The nickname seems quite appropriate."

### **The Gate Of Good Fortune**

#### **Chapter 978: The Opening of the Alchemy Discourse**

"Brother Ning, I will immediately send a message back to the sect and ask the elders to bring the ingredients to Heaven Essence Sacred City." Having obtained Ning Cheng's support, Percy couldn't help but feel elated and quickly said his goodbyes.

Ning Cheng thought that he would have to make a trip to the Void Star Sect. But now, Percy said they would bring the ingredients to Heaven Essence Sacred City. It indicated that they, or at least Percy, trusted him enough to not run away.

To be honest, he didn't want to go to these mysterious sects. Plus, after learning about the possible whereabouts of the Exquisite Star Golden Hidden Leaf, he immediately wanted to head to the Grand Essence Ruins.

But more importantly, although he did agree to help with the refinement, he had to first think about a possible escape route. He knew that Percy was a trustworthy character, but unfortunately, Percy was only an early-stage Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor. It meant that, even if he happened to be the young master of the Void Star Sect, he wouldn't have much authority in such crucial matters. One had to know that if he stayed in Heaven Essence Sacred City, he at least had Sheng Houtian to help him.

After sending Percy away, Ning Cheng looked at the worried Yan Ji and said, “Junior Apprentice Sister Ji, you don’t have to worry about it. I won’t put myself in danger. Since others can come out of the Burial Shadow Blue Sands, so can I.”

Yan Ji nodded but didn’t continue to advise Ning Cheng. She had already decided to stay with Ning Cheng, no matter what happened. Even if she had to die, she’d rather die at Ning Cheng’s side.

.....

Time passed by, neither fast nor slow. But in what seemed like a blink of an eye, ten days passed by. Everyone busied themselves in their daily routine, and Ning Cheng also didn’t come out of his suite during these ten days.

Inside his suite, Ning Cheng carefully took out and transplanted all the spirit grasses and dao fruit trees into the Mysterious Yellow Bead. At the same time, he used every scrap of spare time to refine as many dao pills as possible.

In any case, no one except Ning Cheng knew how many spirit herbs he had obtained from the Illusionary Fruit Garden. Moreover, he had to prepare for the upcoming Alchemy Discourse and make sure that he had no problems refining the Renewing Heavenly Ripple Bone Pill.

With such ingredients at his disposal, Ning Cheng had already refined a significant chunk into all kinds of dao pills. But more importantly, to have deeper control over the laws within the dao fruits, Ning Cheng deliberately refined dao pills that needed several different kinds of dao fruits. He even experimented with dao pills needing dao fruits and law-infused spirit grasses.

As Ning Cheng refined furnace after furnace of dao pills, he became fully immersed in trying to fuse the laws contained in the various dao fruits with his perception of the Dao of Alchemy.

After realising that the Alchemy Discourse was about to start, Ning Cheng put away his pill furnace and opened the restrictions to walk out of his room. He decided to bring Yan Ji, Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong to the Alchemy Discourse.

Although Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong weren’t qualified to participate in an event like the Alchemy Discourse, as alchemists, they would definitely gain many benefits in attending such events. Since both Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong suffered because of him, Ning Cheng couldn’t help but feel a bit guilty and wanted to help them reach a higher level in alchemy. As for Yan Ji, she couldn’t cultivate because of her damaged foundation. But she still had a sharp mind with exceptional senses, which meant she could also learn about spirit herbs while following Ning Cheng.

“Big Brother Ning, there is someone called Cen Ruxuan who asked to see you. She said that she came from the Profound Aquatic Palace.” Xin Xiu hurriedly came over and spoke up after noticing that Ning Cheng had finally come out of his room.

*Profound Aquatic Palace’s Cen Ruxuan?* Ning Cheng’s spiritual consciousness quickly swept out of the suite and immediately saw the woman who had questioned him about the Heavenly Bodhisattva Pill at the City Lord’s mansion. To be honest, Ning Cheng wasn’t too keen about meeting this woman. After all, Percy had also guessed that he was the one who had refined the Amethyst Heaven Pill, but he knew that he shouldn’t speak about it in the City Lord’s mansion.



It was one thing to know about it, but it was a completely separate thing to try and confirm it in front of everyone. This woman had no qualms about asking him about the Heavenly Bodhisattva Pill in public and obviously held no regard for him at all, which irked him.

With Cen Ruxuan were two other women; the one on the left was one Ning Cheng knew, Zhongmeng Yuxiu. This woman had eyes upon her forehead, and he had even chided her once before. The other one on the right of Cen Ruxuan had a veil covering her face. Just looking at her figure, even Ning Cheng had to agree that this woman was three points more beautiful than the True Hope Tribe's Lan Bing.

"Invite them in." This time, Ning Cheng didn't take the initiative to open the restriction and just asked Xin Xiu to bring them inside.

If not because Cen Ruxuan was already a Dao Essence expert and came from the Profound Aquatic Palace, Ning Cheng wouldn't even be bothered to see them. Let alone meet them.

"Profound Aquatic Palace's Cen Ruxuan greets Pill Sage Ning." Cen Ruxuan already understood that she had acted a bit too presumptuous at the City Lord's mansion. So, she chose not to act as a Dao Essence powerhouse when meeting Ning Cheng this time.

However, she still addressed Ning Cheng as a Pill Sage when she spoke.

"Senior Cen, please have a seat." Ning Cheng gestured to the three to sit down. He poured out a few cups of spiritual tea in the same motion.

Whether he liked to meet them or not, they were still guests at his place. As such, he still had to show some superficial politeness.

"I don't dare accept you addressing me as a 'senior'. If Pill Sage Ning really wants to look up to me, then just address me as Senior Apprentice Sister Ruxuan." As Cen Ruxuan spoke, her eyes swept towards Yan Ji sitting beside Ning Cheng.

Yan Ji looked weak, but her beauty clearly surpassed Zhongmeng Yuxiu. Even Yue Shu barely could compare to her. If it weren't for her leaving to bring Yue Shu to Heaven Essence Sacred City, she would have come to visit Ning Cheng ten days ago. Now, it seemed that Ning Cheng already had a dao companion.

Ning Cheng showed a faint smile. "There's quite a considerable difference in cultivation between us to be addressing each other as junior and senior apprentices. It's only appropriate that I address you as 'senior.'"

Cen Ruxuan sighed; she clearly understood what Ning Cheng meant. *I'm not worthy of associating with someone like you, so it's better for everyone to stick to their own paths than try to create unnecessary bridges between them.* She understood that it must have been her words at the City Lord's mansion that caused her to not make much of a good impression on Ning Cheng.

Zhongmeng Yuxiu knew a bit about Ning Cheng's temperament, so she wasn't too surprised. The woman with a veil covering her face sitting next to Cen Ruxuan, on the other hand, felt quite surprised. She even took a closer look at Ning Cheng. She naturally knew that Ning Cheng was a rogue cultivator. Yet, a rogue cultivator actually refused the goodwill of one of the ten major sects. After all, even an idiot could

tell that her Profound Aquatic Palace wanted to ally with him. Such occurrences rarely happened in the Grand Essence Domain.

Aunt Xuan's actions couldn't be more explicit; that is, *my Profound Aquatic Palace wants to befriend you*. To be honest, she felt somewhat reluctant in her heart when Aunt Xuan brought her to Heaven Essence Sacred City to meet an alchemist. However, she didn't reveal this to her Profound Aquatic Palace.

But now, Ning Cheng's behaviour caused her to feel some slight displeasure. *What kind of a place was her Profound Aquatic Palace?* It was full of beautiful women and one of the ten great forces of the Grand Essence Domain. *What kind of strength did Ning Cheng, a rogue alchemist, have to refuse such kindness?*

Cen Ruoxuan sighed in her heart, but she spoke up with a faint smile on the surface. "I would like to seek two Harmony Bodhisattva Pills from Pill Sage Ning. Pill Sage Ning, please name a price....."

After saying those words, she immediately felt that her words lacked warmth and immediately added. "My Profound Aquatic Palace has a Profound Aquatic Ice Pond, which is especially suitable for women of water attribute to cultivate. Cultivating in it for a day is more effective than cultivating outside for a month. Even a non-water-attributed woman would get ten times better effect from cultivating in it. In addition to that, the Profound Aquatic Ice Pond also has the effect of cleaning one's spiritual roots. Even if Pill Sage Ning doesn't want anything else, you can still take your dao companion to the Profound Aquatic Ice Pond to cultivate."

One of these additions was to show a continued gesture of goodwill towards Ning Cheng, and the other was an indirect inquiry as to whether Ning Cheng had a dao companion.

When Ning Cheng heard that this Profound Aquatic Ice Pond was suitable for a woman with water attributes to cultivate, he immediately thought of Luofei. Luofei had a water-attributed spiritual root as her primary spiritual root. *Wouldn't it be better for Luofei if she could cultivate in the Profound Aquatic Ice Pond?*

He had several bottles of Harmony Bodhisattva Pills, which he refined during these ten days. He had enough spirit crystals for now and wasn't short on spirit herbs either.

Thinking of this, Ning Cheng directly took out a jade bottle containing two Harmony Bodhisattva Pills and sent it to Cen Ruoxuan. "Senior Apprentice Sister Ruxuan, the bottle contains two Harmony Bodhisattva Pills. As for spirit crystals, I don't want any. However, I might have to borrow your Profound Aquatic Palace's Profound Aquatic Ice Pond for a while in the future."

Cen Ruxuan once again sighed in her heart. *This Ning Cheng really knew how to play around with people's words*. Earlier, he still addressed her as 'Senior Cen', saying it was only proper for him to call her 'senior'. It clearly meant that Ning Cheng didn't want to have any dealings with the Profound Aquatic Palace. But now, after hearing about the Profound Aquatic Ice Pond, he immediately changed the form of address to 'Senior Apprentice Sister Ruxuan'.

However, she also felt secretly amazed at Ning Cheng's ability to produce a precious spirit pill like the Harmony Bodhisattva Pill after only a few words. He didn't even put up a counter-offer at all and proved that she hadn't found the wrong person.

Zhongmeng Yuxiu's expressions remained calm. She had been roaming out in the outside world for a long time and felt Ning Cheng's reaction to being quite normal. However, a hint of contempt flashed across the eyes of the woman with the veil covering her face. *How could a person who changed decisions at the drop of a hat be worthy of her favour?* She wanted a dao partner, who not only was a powerhouse with a steadfast temperament but also had an unyielding mind. Not this kind of fickle person who would change for a *mere* ice pond.

Ning Cheng naturally didn't know what this woman thought of him and his actions. In fact, he honestly had no idea why Cen Ruxuan brought these two women with her.

He only knew and cared about bringing Luofei to the Profound Aquatic Palace to cultivate, which meant that he had to pull some strings with Cen Ruxuan. Even if he knew that the other party despised his actions, it wouldn't matter to him. It was only a deal, something he paid for, not asked for. One could even say that it was just paying in advance for a service he would cash in later. He naturally wouldn't care about what others thought of it.

Cen Caixuan opened the jade bottle and found two Harmony Bodhisattva Pills inside. Moreover, both were top-quality spirit pills. She hurriedly stood up and thanked Ning Cheng. "Many thanks to Pill Sage Ning for the Harmony Bodhisattva Pills. If there is anything that I, Cen Caixuan, can help with, Pill Sage Ning can directly come to me."

She didn't mention the matter of marriage with Ning Cheng again. Ning Cheng obviously didn't intend to draw a relationship with the Profound Aquatic Palace. Forcing the issue of marriage any further would only be asking for trouble.

.....

The Alchemy Discourse took place at the headquarters of the Pill Union, right in the middle of the Heaven Essence Sacred City. By the time Ning Cheng brought Yan Ji, Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong to the Pill Union, thousands had already gathered above the Alchemy Discussion public square.

The Pill Union's Alchemy Discussion public square wasn't an open-air public square but a public square within the Pill Union's headquarters. This public square had inscriptions and alchemic dao rhythm imprints from the various alchemy powerhouses from the past to the present. As such, almost everyone who had anything to do with alchemy would eventually come here to have a look at it. Even if they couldn't listen to the alchemy discourse, they could still perceive many things from these alchemic dao rhythms.

The public square was in the shape of a folding fan. Those with lower alchemic attainments usually stayed at the back, while the front was the alchemy demonstration stage. It was also where the most accomplished alchemists discussed and compared their understanding of alchemy.

Alchemists taking the stage to discuss the dao of alchemy wasn't the only thing they did. They would also have to face criticisms and even defend their dao if necessary if other alchemy masters found any inconsistencies in their dao. It gave rise to fierce competition among the alchemists. Only those who successfully defend their alchemic dao and win over others would gain qualifications to represent the Grand Essence Realm in alchemic discussions with other realms. They also would gain the qualifications to compete for a spot to go to the Grand Change Realm.

A Dao Sculpting Pill Deity could only bring one person apart from themselves to the Alchemy Discourse. But since Ning Cheng had decided to bring along three people with him, he had to take out the Dao Transformation Pill Deity's token.

"Brother Ning, I've been waiting for you for a while." Jian Sanshan's voice arrived. He had gone looking for Ning Cheng several times but found that he had still not emerged from secluded cultivation. Since he couldn't meet Ning Cheng, he simply decided to wait outside the Alchemy Discussion public square.

With Jian Sanshan, a Dao Transformation Pill Deity, Ning Cheng no longer had to take out his Dao Transformation Pill Deity's token. Since he was accompanied by Jian Sanshan, he took his trio towards the Dao Transformation Pill Deity's seating section on the Alchemy Discussion public square.

"Pill Deity Ning...." Ning Cheng had just sat down when Cen Caixuan, sitting with two women not far in the Alchemy Listening Seats, took the initiative to greet Ning Cheng.

The seats in the Alchemy Discussion public square were divided into two sections. One for the participating alchemists and one for the guests who came specifically to listen to the discussions. Cen Caixuan, as someone from one of the ten great forces, was qualified to sit near the front of the Alchemy Listening section.

"Ning Cheng, I'm here too." As soon as Percy arrived, he greeted Ning Cheng from afar and sat down a few seats away from Cen Caixuan.

Ning Cheng had just greeted him when he saw several people with powerful auras walk in from the other end of the Alchemy Discussion Public Square. Sheng Houtian walked a step behind another person. This person was a beardless man dressed in a pitch-black pill sage robe. Ning Cheng's heart shook the moment he saw this man. He could sense a dao rhythm aura that seemed to blend into the surrounding space. An aura that seemed like a natural alchemic aura, yet also seemed nothing to do with alchemy.

*So strong!* Ning Cheng sucked in a deep breath. He guessed that this person should be the Union Master of the Pill Union, Sichen Qitian.

### [The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

#### **Chapter 979: The reward that caught Ning Cheng's eye**

The newly-arrived group sat down in the most conspicuous place at the front of the public square, right next to the alchemy platform. Sheng Huotian's gaze quickly zeroed in on Ning Cheng; he then smiled at him and gave him an encouraging nod.

At this moment, the public square had already filled up with nearly three thousand people seated in an orderly manner. Yet, it was so spacious that it also felt empty at the same time. Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness carefully swept out and detected more powerful people seated quietly within the crowd. Even the bigwigs from the major forces such as Man Huishan, Shi Tianhe, Le Jiesheng and Fei Feng had come here and were seated quietly. Ning Cheng also saw the Star Stepping Tower's Tower Master sitting in the crowd, still dressed in black.

*Looks like this Alchemy Discourse holds great significance for everyone here.*

Sounds of drums suddenly emerged out of nowhere and seeped into everyone's mind. At the same time, the restrictions on the Pill Union's public square also activated, which meant that no one else could enter or leave this place.

Once the drum sounds stopped, the man wearing the pitch-black pill sage's robe stood up and slowly walked onto the stage.

He first gave a respectful bow to the work of the alchemy sages from the past before turning towards the crowd and speaking up in a slow but clearly audible voice. "It's time for another bi-centennial Alchemy Discourse. I, Sichen Qiutian, as the Union Master of the Pill Union, will preside over it. Welcome to all the fellow Daoists who came here to discuss their Daos of Alchemy and the daoists and sect masters who have come to listen to the alchemy discussions. I heard that the opening of Illusionary Fruit Orchard this time brought to light many alchemy masters, which makes me very happy. I hope that this times' Grand Essence Alchemy Discourse can surpass all the previous ones."

Everyone here knew that every time, just before the start of the Alchemy Discourse, Sichen Qiutian would discuss his understanding of the Dao of Alchemy. In fact, it had become a tradition within the Grand Essence Realm. As such, everyone seated in the public square turned unusually quiet to the point that one couldn't even hear anyone breathing. For an alchemist legend like Sichen Qiutian, no one could tell when he would return to seclusion or even leave the Grand Essence Realm. As a result, all the alchemists here considered it the most supreme of all opportunities.

"Pills, for alchemists, is the same as the truth. The Dao of Pills is also the Dao of Man and Heavens. It's also an Eternal Dao. The alchemist uses the jade cauldron to extract the essence by using the cauldron's fire and forming it into a mysterious bead. But to do this correctly, one must understand yin and yang and understand creation. They must chase after the two streams of the yellow road, the three natures of the essence, and gather the five elements to harmonise the four images....

"This is the path of lesser pills and the path of greater pills. Gather the yin and yang, gather the five elements. Ditch the heaven and earth, and question the laws..... Can the dao of greater pills surpass the daos of man and heaven? Can it surpass the Eternal Daos? I don't know. But I do know that the Dao of Pills has no end. Put your hands behind your back and peer into the depths of the cosmos, and you'll find it anything but ordinary....."

Sichen Qiutian didn't speak in a loud voice, but his voice reverberated in everyone's ears. It even seemed to contain an indescribably pure dao rhythm, which caused everyone to listen to his words as if mesmerised. Even those who didn't walk the Dao of Alchemy found their insights into their respective daos growing substantially. Some alchemists even gained enlightenment through those words, and many things that confused them became simplified.

Even for Ning Cheng, whose Dao of Alchemy was utterly different from Sichen Qiutian's philosophy, those words still benefitted him greatly.

The day passed as if it had trickled away in an instant. Even after Sichen Qiutian stopped talking, many people remained immersed in his philosophy and his Dao of Alchemy. Some even found themselves unable to extricate themselves from it willingly.

Only when Sichuan Qiutian left the stage and the voice of Pill Union's Deputy Union Master, Holy Emperor Qing Yi, rang out that the people finally woke up.

"Since the fall of Pill Sage Min Kong, my Grand Essence Realm's alchemic pursuits have grown increasingly weak. At the last Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition, no one from my Grand Essence Realm could alleviate their Dao of Alchemy high enough to win entry quotas for the Grand Change Realm....."

Ning Cheng felt somewhat puzzled by Holy Emperor Qing Yi's words and immediately sent a confused voice transmission to Jian Sanshan sitting beside him. "Brother Jian, what do Holy Emperor Qing Yi's words mean?"

Jian Sanshan gave a solemn reply. "The laws of our Grand Essence Realm are broken to such an extent that the Daos of Alchemy, Artificing, Talismans and Arrays have grown far inferior to the other interfaces. Even if you look at the second step Dao Confirmation Holy Emperors from other paths, they are pretty much at the back of the list among the five grand realms. In fact, during the last several Five Grand Realms' Competitions, our Grand Essence Realm ranked dead last in almost every field. Because of this, we couldn't win any Grand Change Realm's entry quotas."

*Jing Han and Lei Shamu entering the fourth level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, indicated they could refine top-quality Dao Transformation Spirit Pills. Yet they couldn't secure a Grand Change Realm's entry quota?* Ning Cheng felt secretly shocked on hearing this.

"Just as our Grand Essence Realm's only Dao Essence Pill Sage Union Master Qiutian mentioned. Several alchemy prodigies have emerged from our Grand Essence Realm this time. So, we believe that our Grand Essence Realm would definitely obtain better results in this time's Five Realm Alchemy Competition. But unfortunately, because of the poor results in the past several competitions, we can only send five people to represent our Grand Essence Realm in the Alchemy Competition this time....."

Holy Emperor Qing Yi's words immediately caused people to whisper among themselves. Despite the low volume, Ning Cheng could still hear them clearly. He learned that they had ten people representing the Grand Essence Realm in the Alchemy Competition last time. *So why did they only have five spots this time?* Ning Cheng couldn't figure it out and had no choice but to ask Jian Sanshan again.

Jian Sanshan obviously knew more than the average person and explained it. "The Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition, Artificing Competition, Combat Competition and all the other competitions have the same basic rules. One of them is that if a realm consistently ranks at the bottom, the number of entry spots gets reduced for that particular realm after every competition. Five participation spots are the lowest for any grand realm till now. On the contrary, the Grand Change Realm ends up with the most because of their consistently best results ....."

Ning Cheng asked with even more confusion. "Brother Jian, the Grand Change Realm obviously don't require them, so why do they need so many?"

Jian Sanshan smiled. "Every spot is precious. I don't know all the uses of those participation spots. But I know that the Grand Change Realm will sell the spots they don't need. They usually sell them to other interfaces in exchange for ridiculously high prices. But even if one of the ten major forces here wanted to purchase one of those spots, they would have to break their backs."

“Then, can’t one sneak into the Grand Change Realm?” Ning Cheng asked again.

Jian Sanshan shook his head. “It’s impossible. The laws of the Grand Change Realm are perfect, the interface itself is unbelievably solid, and the boundary protection restrictions are beyond heavenly. Even a Dao Perfection expert cannot sneak into the Grand Change Realm without getting noticed by the Grand Change Realm’s controller. In fact, there are only two ways to enter the Grand Change Realm, one is through the Great Realm Competitions, and the second is through ascension.”

Ning Cheng sucked in a cold breath, *a realm controller?* He quickly asked, “Brother Jian, you said something about a controller and Grand Change Realm? Can someone actually control an entire grand realm? Does it mean that our Grand Essence Realm also has a controller? Is everything we do under the watchful eye of the controller?”

Ning Cheng had good reason to feel so nervous. However, he also knew that such a thing might not be impossible. It felt just like his Mysterious Yellow Bead. Once it formed a world of its own, he automatically became the controller of that world.

Jian Sanshan smiled, “It’s not a bad thing to have a controller. However, even such a being cannot control the entire Grand Change Realm. If that wasn’t the case, who would willingly go to the Grand Change Realm? As for our Grand Essence Realm, originally, we did have a controller. However, our realm controller disappeared after the interface shattered. Currently, the sect alliance and the other major forces work together to manage the affairs of the Grand Essence Realm.”

Ning Cheng finally felt relieved. Even if someone was in control of the Grand Essence Realm, he wouldn’t need to rush to find a way out of this place. From what he understood, a controller of a grand realm was the same as an executive within a company, which he could still begrudgingly accept.

“Brother Ning, you have a good chance to capture a spot in the Alchemy Discourse and compete in the Five Grand Realms’ Alchemy Competition. You shouldn’t miss it.” After Jian Sanshan finished speaking, he admonished Ning Cheng in a supportive way.

Ning Cheng was just about to ask a few more questions when he heard Holy Emperor Qing Yi’s following words. “In this Alchemy Discourse, our Grand Essence Realm will select five alchemists to represent our Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms’ Alchemy Competition. The alchemists representing our Grand Essence Realm in the Five Great Realms Alchemist Competition will each receive a Heaven Essence Fruit, apart from the support of all the major sects and clans.....”

When the crowd heard the words ‘Heaven Essence Fruit’, the entire venue erupted in a silent uproar. It was a priceless dao fruit. Taking out five of them at once as rewards was indeed an unimaginable gesture to anyone in the crowd. In fact, it wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that no one could put a price on this dao fruit.

Although the Illusionary Fruit Orchard produced many dao fruits, even a hundred of them wouldn’t be as valuable as one Heaven Essence Fruit. Even if Jing Han and others entered the fourth level, they could only, at best, obtain a tiny number of Dao Transformation Dao Fruits. But even those dao fruits combined wouldn’t compare to one Heaven Essence Dao Fruit in value.

After all, the Heaven Essence Fruit was a genuine Dao Essence Dao Fruit. But more importantly, it was one of the best Dao Essence Dao Fruit, a law-infused dao fruit that could help a first-step Dao

Confirming Holy Emperor comprehend the second step. One could even say that obtaining a Heaven Essence Fruit almost guaranteed becoming a second-step Dao Essence Holy Emperor.

Even Ning Cheng felt moved by such a reward. He had harvested dozens of dao fruit trees from the Illusionary Fruit Garden. Yet, never saw anything on the same level as the Heaven Essence Fruit. In fact, the most valuable dao fruit he obtained from the orchard was still a lot short compared to the Heaven Essence Fruit.

“..... As far as we know, one of the rewards for the first place in the Five Great Realms’ Alchemy Competition is a top-quality wood-attributed spirit vein. Apart from the first place, the rewards for the second and third are also just as precious.....”

Hearing those words, Ning Cheng had long since tossed aside the part about the Heaven Essence Fruit. Instead, his head immediately filled up with thoughts about the top-quality wood-attributed spirit vein.

Because of their scarcity, elemental-attributed spirit veins were much more valuable than attribute-less spirit veins. And the most useful of them all was naturally the wood-attributed spirit veins, especially a top-quality wood-attributed spirit vein.

In the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, Ning Cheng already wanted to get his hands on the wood-attributed spirit vein. Now that a top-quality wood-attributed spirit vein appeared as an actual reward, he immediately decided to do everything in his power to go to this competition. Whether he could get the first place or not, he had already made up his mind to fight for this top-quality wood-attributed spirit vein.

As long as he obtained this spirit vein, the various medicinal gardens in his Mysterious Yellow Bead, as well as the dao fruit trees, would take on a new life.

“Brother Ning, don’t think that the Heaven Essence Fruit is the only reward. In fact, reaching the top five and representing the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms’ Alchemy Competition means a harvest no lesser than the Heaven Essence Fruit.” When Jian Sanshan saw the golden glint in Ning Cheng’s eyes, he thought Ning Cheng was moved by the Heaven Essence Fruit.

He never even considered that Ning Cheng had set his eyes on the wood-attributed spirit vein. Although he didn’t question Ning Cheng’s alchemic talent, reaching first place in the Five Grand Realms’ Alchemy Competition would be impossible.

Don’t look at the fact that only five people from the Grand Essence Realm would participate in the Five Grand Realms’ Alchemy Competition. The pill sages from other interfaces participating in the competition would easily be in the dozens. There would even be a few Dao Fusion Pill Sages among them, a class of experts that the Grand Essence Realm couldn’t even hope to fight against.

“You mean the support of the major sects and clans that Holy Emperor Qing Yi mentioned?” Ning Cheng asked.

Jian Sanshan nodded. “That’s right. It happens every time someone appears to represent the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms’ Great Competition. It also doesn’t matter if it’s in alchemy, artificing, or any other major path. All the major forces will fawn over you. However, there is a caveat; if you manage to secure entry quotas, you must assign a part to them. They will also throw all kinds of



cultivating resources into your lap to compensate for this. In fact, if you want to, you can even sell your participation spot to them for an astronomical price.”

“Then, how many quotas will the first place in the Five Grand Realms’ Alchemy Competition bring in?”

Jian Sanshan gave an honest reply. “I don’t know. I only know that no matter which competition it is, only the top ten would be rewarded with the entry spots.”

Ning Cheng, however, already understood a few things about the competition from Jian Sanshan’s words. No wonder it was difficult for the Grand Essence Realm to obtain a decent ranking. Right now, only five people could compete for the top ten ranks against hundreds of mighty pill sages. It also meant that there would be at least a few Dao Fusion Pill Sages among them. With such odds, let alone taking the top spot, even taking the tenth spot might prove challenging.

### The Gate Of Good Fortune

#### **Chapter 980: Epiphany due to pill theory**

“I now declare the official start of the Alchemy Discourse.” Holy Emperor Qing Yi finally declared and walked down the stage.

Ning Cheng had never seen how people discussed alchemy, but he chose not to ask Jian Sanshan about it. He wanted to wait and see how others conducted their discussions and then follow.

Just as Holy Emperor Qing Yi walked off, a short square-faced man flew up and landed on top of the stage. The man gave an alchemist’s salute and spoke up in a loud voice. “Heavenly Medicine Sect’s Dao Raising Pill Sage Bei Hanyuan humbly greets all seniors and patriarchs, and everyone interested in the Dao of Alchemy.”

“This grand event is a day that every alchemist like me eagerly awaits. Senior Qiutian’s inspiring words about his alchemic dao have given me a deep and profound dao insight. It makes me feel obliged to speak out what I have on my mind. I, Bei Hanyuan, am here to offer my humble opinion, all in the hope to hear your valued thoughts. I ask the seniors here for guidance if you find any mistakes in my alchemic theory.”

Jian Sanshan’s voice transmission immediately arrived. “Brother Ning, although Bei Hanyuan is a Dao Raising Pill Sage, do not take him lightly. He is the best pill sage from the Heavenly Medicine Sect. He even represented the Grand Essence Realm once in the Five Grand Realms’ Alchemy Competition.”

Ning Cheng only nodded. He had seen Bei Hanyuan once before, during the Illusionary Fruit Orchard’s opening. Although they never met, this fellow had entered the third level based on the orchard’s final results. Seeing Bei Hanyuan about to start, Ning Cheng sent Jian Sanshan a voice transmission. “Brother Jian, will you be going up too?”

Jian Sanshan showed an awkward expression. “I usually go up to discuss my view when there are fewer people. That way, the seniors here would be more open to giving me pointers that would help improve my alchemic dao. But if there are a lot of alchemists queueing up to share their theories, I wouldn’t go and join in the fun. In any case, those who seriously want to compete for the spots are at least Dao Sculpting Pill Sages. I’m just a pill deity; it wouldn’t even be much of a competition if I decided to join.”

“How does the Alchemy Discourse select the top five people?” Ning Cheng followed up with another question.

Jian Sanshan carefully explained. “As long as one has a minimum qualification of Dao Sculpting Pill Deity, one can go on the stage to discuss alchemy and compete with others. As for the Alchemy Discourse itself, it has three rounds. The first round is for discussing one’s alchemic theories and dao for a total of thirty points. This round is scored personally by the Pill Union’s Union Master. He gives a score based on the alchemist’s understanding of their alchemic dao. The top twenty alchemists from the first round then enter the second round based on their first round’s score. The second and third round is all about refuting your opponent’s alchemic dao and using your alchemic dao to refine a better pill than your opponent, respectively. But only those with higher scores can refute those with lower scores.”

“Moreover, you only get one chance to select an alchemist to refute and then refute that alchemist’s dao using your alchemic dao. In case of a successful refutation, the loser’s score from the first round would be added to the winner’s score, and the loser’s score would be reduced to zero. Because of this, when choosing to refute someone’s alchemic dao and to avoid losing, everyone would try to pick the weakest member first.”

“Once the twenty go through the refuting round, they immediately proceed to the third round, which is a straight contest of refining pills. Here, the competition is to see who could refine the best pill. You will have to use your own materials for refining the pills, and the pills refined would also belong to you. In fact, it’s one of the main reasons why the Alchemy Discourse is always placed after the opening of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. It’s all for the sake of gathering materials for this round. This round has a total of seventy points, awarded based on the difficulty and the quality of the pills refined.”

“What if one doesn’t make it to the top twenty in the Alchemy Discourse but has a high understanding of alchemy?”

“If one really has a high understanding of alchemy but couldn’t make it to the top twenty, they can still put up a challenge. However, it can only be done once the top five are decided. But the challenge requires the challenger to put up three Dao Transformation Dao Fruits. As long as you can beat one of those five, you can take their spot to represent the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Great Realm’s Alchemy Competition. However, regardless of whether you win or lose, the dao fruits you put up for the challenge wouldn’t be returned. As such, people never choose this option, or at least, I haven’t heard of anyone using this option.”

As Jian Sanshan explained, he felt afraid that Ning Cheng wouldn’t understand what he said and added one more thing. “In fact, even if someone wants to challenge one of the top five, they would still have to start with refuting the other party’s alchemic dao.”

Ning Cheng nodded. Anyone would feel reluctant to take out three Dao Transformation Dao Fruits and use them for a challenge. Besides, the top five wouldn’t be nobodies. So even if the challenger won, he would offend a major power.

Therefore, if he wanted to represent the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms’ Alchemy Competition, he might as well start participating from the first round.

By the time Ning Cheng learned how Alchemy Discourse worked, Bei Hanyuan had already immersed himself in his alchemic dao. “..... Therefore, I think the pill is ‘unity’, and ‘unity’ is also ‘one’. The person who knows ‘one’ would know everything. There’s not a thing they wouldn’t know for those who know ‘one’. But if one does not know ‘one’, there’s not a thing they could know..... Pill Sage Qiutian has said that the Dao of Alchemy is also the Dao of Heavens, the Dao of Man, and the Dao of Eternal Life..... Dao comes from nothingness and gives birth to unity. From unity comes yin and yang, and yin and yang distil into three forms. The three forms form all living things.....”

Ning Cheng initially didn’t pay much attention to the alchemic discussion. But when he heard Bei Hanyuan say, *‘Those who know one, there’s not a thing they wouldn’t know. But if one does not know one, there’s not a thing they could know..... Dao comes from nothingness and gives birth to unity. From unity comes yin and yang, and yin and yang distil into three forms. The three forms form all living things.....’*, his heart actually resonated with it.

*Didn’t this have something in common with his Returning-to-one Dao?* He didn’t think much about Bei Hanyuan’s alchemic dao, but he felt pretty strongly about his statement about unity. Dao came from nothingness and gave birth to Unity. Unity, in turn, produced yin and yang, while yin and yang condensed into three forms, and these three forms gave rise to all things....

*Everything begins with one, and everything returns to one.*

At this moment, he suddenly found himself in an epiphany about his Returning-to-one Dao.

Sichen Qiutian’s gaze suddenly shifted and landed on Ning Cheng. A hint of astonishment flashed across his eyes. He had already noticed Ning Cheng a long time ago, mainly because of the information he had received. After all, Ning Cheng was the alchemist who had most likely opened the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. He naturally couldn’t overlook such a talented alchemist.

But in all honesty, the fact that Ning Cheng had fallen into an epiphany because of Bei Hanyuan’s alchemic theory still made him a little disappointed in his heart. Although Bei Hanyuan’s alchemic approach drew on his Dao of Alchemy, it was full of errors, making it impossible to transform it into a system of its own. In other words, it was a dao of minor pills.

It also meant that Ning Cheng’s future achievements would remain limited as he had an epiphany in the dao of minor pills.

Sichen Qiutian sighed and was about to move his gaze away from Ning Cheng when he suddenly sensed something wrong. An instant later, his gaze towards Ning Cheng filled up with both surprise and shock. He could feel that Ning Cheng’s epiphany wasn’t about the Dao of Alchemy but his own dao.

Instead of sensing the Dao of Alchemy during someone else’s discussion on the Dao of Alchemy, Ning Cheng had an epiphany of his own dao. *Was it because of the sentiments imbued in the alchemist’s alchemic theory, or was it because of his own heaven-defying belief?* Regardless, it just went beyond common sense.

The one who felt Ning Cheng’s epiphany the most was Jian Sanshan, who sat right next to him. Ning Cheng had fallen into an epiphany, and his aura continued to rise, which obviously was related to a gradual deepening of Ning Cheng’s dao intent. Seeing and feeling this gradual change thoroughly

shocked Jian Sanshan to the core, mainly because of Ning Cheng's ability to fall into an epiphany even under such circumstances.

Unfortunately, Jian Sanshan wasn't Sichen Qiutian, so he could only sense that Ning Cheng had fallen into an epiphany. He had no idea that Ning Cheng didn't gain an epiphany regarding Bei Hanyuan's alchemic dao, but his own Returning-to-one Dao. One could say that Ning Cheng's epiphany had nothing to do with Bei Hanyuan. If there was a relationship, it would be that Bei Hanyuan's words had just given Ning Cheng a reminder.

Bei Hanyuan's alchemy theory didn't last for long before ending. But Sichen Qiutian gave Bei Hanyuan 21 points for some unknown reasons, which was a pretty high score in the eyes of everyone here.

Having received 21 points, Bei Hanyuan's face was all smiles as he came down from the stage.

Jian Sanshan soon felt something was wrong. It stood to reason that once Bei Hanyuan came down and the second alchemist came up to put forth his alchemic theory, Ning Cheng should have already woken up. But not only did Ning Cheng not wake up, but his momentum also continued to climb.

One by one, alchemists continued to step onto the stage to discuss their theories. Even when Jing Han, Dou Jiangshi, Lei Shamu and other Dao Transformation Pill Sages came up to discuss their views, Ning Cheng still did not wake up.

As he saw the first round of Alchemy Discourse about to end, Jian Sanshan started to grow anxious for Ning Cheng. It didn't matter if he went up or not; Ning Cheng was a Dao Transformation Pill Sage and had an absolute chance of reaching the top five. If he missed this opportunity, Ning Cheng would find it almost impossible to get to the top five.

As fewer and fewer pill sages came up the stage to discuss their views, Jian Sanshan understood that it was too late now. Ning Cheng had fallen into an epiphany; he couldn't just wake him up, could he? Some cultivators never have the opportunity to experience an epiphany even once in their lives. Once you disturb a person's epiphany, it would definitely result in a life and death feud.

After all, no matter how important it was to participate in the Alchemy Discourse, it wasn't as crucial as an epiphany.

Not to mention Jian Sanshan, even Sheng Houtian, Cen Ruxuan and Percy, who were familiar with Ning Cheng, all looked over at Ning Cheng's side in confusion. They also wondered why Ning Cheng didn't go up to discuss his theory.

Even some of the alchemists who guessed that Ning Cheng had entered the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard kept a close eye on Ning Cheng. But after seeing Ning Cheng showing no intention to go up the stage, they all started to have doubts about whether Ning Cheng was the one or not.

After the first round ended, the second round of refuting alchemic theories began. Yet, Ning Cheng still didn't wake up from his epiphany. At this point, Jian Sanshan could only sigh and stop dwelling on this matter. Instead, he concentrated on listening to the alchemic dao refutations and sensing the alchemic dao rhythms of the many alchemy experts on the stage.

This time, Jing Han was the first to take the stage, and as soon as he did, he said directly, “The Dao of Alchemy has nothing to do with one. One can be a dao fruit or a spiritual object, but not a pill. The one I want to refute is the Heavenly Medicine Sect’s Dao Raising Pill Sage Bei Hanyuan.....”

Only then did it dawn on others that Bei Hanyuan had scored a little too high in the first round. Even if Jing Han didn’t refute him, others were ready to refute his alchemic theory. After all, who didn’t want his 21 points?

Bei Hanyuan also felt a bit helpless in this regard, and his joy at scoring high marks in the first round vanished without a trace. He knew full well that he couldn’t compare to Jing Han when it came to the Dao of Alchemy or alchemic theories. But even though he knew that he would lose, he had no choice but to go up the stage and at least try to defend his approach.

.....

When Ning Cheng finally woke up, the first thing he saw was Holy Emperor Qing Yi on the stage, who spoke with a broad smile on her face. “.... After looking at the results from the three rounds of the Alchemy Discourse, the top five finalists are, Immortal Corpse Sect’s Dao Transformation Pill Sage Dou Jiangshi, Great Spirit Pill Sect’s Dao Transformation Pill Sage Jing Han, City Master Mansion’s Dao Transformation Pill Sage Le Xichen, Flaming Feather Spirit Mountain’s Dao Transformation Pill Sage Yan Kuaifu, and Lost Moon Valley’s Dao Raising Pill Sage Mei Xiuwan.....”

*Did it end already?* Ning Cheng looked at Holy Emperor Qing Yi on the stage with shock and daze. Ning Cheng had received plenty of benefits from this epiphany. He believed that he would soon advance to the middle stage of the Dao Sculpting Realm based on what he reaped from the epiphany. This type of understanding of one’s dao wasn’t something that could be explained in words. Rather, one could only understand it or not.

“Brother Ning, you actually had an epiphany for ten days and ten nights.” Jian Sanshan’s regretful voice arrived in his ears. Apparently, he thought that Ning Cheng’s enlightenment had taken too long.

Ning Cheng suddenly asked, feeling puzzled, “Brother Jian, wasn’t there still a Dao Transformation Pill Sage by the name of Lei Shamu?”

“Pill Sage Lei Shamu lost during the refutation round to Lost Moon Valley’s Dao Raising Pill Sage Mei Xiuyuan.” Jian Sanshan replied.