

The Gate 981

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Chapter 981

A Dao Transformation Pill Sage lost to a Dao Raising Pill Sage? Ning Cheng immediately thought of Dou Jiangshi. This fellow had pretended to be a pig to eat the tiger. He already was a Dao Transformation Pill Sage. But instead of getting the qualification, he used the qualification token of a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage to participate in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

Ning Cheng then thought of himself. Didn't he use a similar tactic? He obviously had the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token. Yet, Ning Cheng still used a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage's qualification token to participate in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. The only difference between them was that he *had* passed and obtained his Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token before attending the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

Then, in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, that spirit soul ended up failing to take over him before moving to Dou Jiangshi. Could one consider it as retribution?

"If there is no one who wishes to challenge those on the stage, then these five will be representing our Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realm's Alchemy Competition. We hope that the clans and sects also show the same willingness to support these five alchemists....." Despite knowing that no one would challenge those on the stage, Holy Emperor Qing Yi still had to mention it for the sake of everyone.

Only then did Ning Cheng come to his senses. If he didn't issue a challenge now, he would have no chance at all to represent the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition. Therefore, not waiting for Holy Emperor Qing Yi to continue, Ning Cheng quickly stood up and said, "Wait, I want to issue a challenge."

Holy Emperor Qing Yi's words came to an abrupt end. Holy Emperor Qing Yi and even the crowd seated in the public square also turned their gazes towards Ning Cheng.

"Still a guy who likes to create a scene....." The woman with a veil covering her face and sitting beside Cen Ruxuan shook her head and muttered to herself.

Even Shi Yisheng and Ying Yongxuan, who knew Ning Cheng, shook their heads speechlessly. They knew that Ning Cheng loved to put up a show from the time at the Grand Essence Ruins' Item Exchange. From the looks of it, he still hadn't changed from back then.

"Who is that man?"

"You shouldn't ask who he is, but rather who does he think he is, to dare issue a challenge at this juncture? He's just someone looking for death."

Some cultivators who didn't know Ning Cheng immediately started asking questions and quickly devolved into curses. In the Grand Essence Realm, alchemists enjoyed a relatively high status, especially the top five alchemists representing the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition. Ning Cheng, on the other hand, was an unknown. It would be strange if he didn't get cursed at for daring to issue a challenge to these five people.

Challenging the five best alchemists? Was this someone unknown could even speak of, let alone do? Were three Dao Transformation Dao Fruits something that anyone could take out? What's more, saying such a thing in front of many powerhouses, and even the most powerful Dao Essence Pill Sage in the Grand Essence Realm, Sichen Qiutian. Talking nonsense in a place like this was definitely a death sentence.

In fact, even being a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor wouldn't be enough to stop others from slapping him to death in this place.

"I can only say that you're all ignorant and uneducated. How could you not know about the famous Alchemist Ning? Do you know who opened the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard? It was him. Do you know who calls Lord Sheng his brother? It's also him."

"No way, he's that Ning Cheng? The guy who offended the Dragon Emperor, along with Tong Mengzi and City Lord Le?"

"Who else if not him?"

"No wonder....."

Some faint whispers made rounds among the crowd about a person who even dared to kill Man Huishan's son and who didn't give face to Le Jiesheng. It almost felt natural for such a person to issue a challenge at the end of the Alchemist Discourse. After all, such a person clearly wasn't afraid of heaven and earth. In fact, it would feel quite abnormal for such a person to follow the standard means to reach the top five.

"You mean you want to challenge one of them?" Holy Emperor Qing Yi looked at Ning Cheng in astonishment. She then remembered that Ning Cheng had obtained many dao fruits from the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. He most likely got some Dao Transformation Dao Fruits inside, which was why he dared to issue a challenge. However, Dao Transformation Dao Fruits were genuinely precious. In fact, she didn't know anyone who would willingly 'waste' them in such a manner. *Even if Ning Cheng entered the Illusionary Fruit Orchard's thirteenth gate, he probably wouldn't have obtained many Dao Transformation Dao Fruits, right?*

In fact, Holy Emperor Qing Yi hadn't guessed wrong. Ning Cheng had indeed obtained many dao fruits from the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. However, the Dao Transformation Dao Fruits wouldn't add up to more than ten.

"That's right, I do want to challenge one of them." Ning Cheng quickly repeated his words.

Holy Emperor Qing Yi could only say, "Do you know that challenging them would require three Dao Transformation Dao Fruits? And no matter if you win or lose, those three Dao Transformation Dao Fruits wouldn't be returned to you. Moreover, of these three dao fruits, two would go to the person you want to challenge."

She knew that Ning Cheng and Sheng Houtian had a good relationship, which was why she took the initiative to remind Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng simply smiled and walked onto the stage. He then took out three jade boxes and handed them to Holy Emperor Qing Yi. "I just happen to have three Grand Amplification Spirit Fruits, and I think it's only appropriate for me to take them out now."

The crowd immediately drew in a cold breath, not expecting Ning Cheng to really take out three Dao Transformation Dao Fruits.

Grand Amplification Spirit Fruits were indeed Dao Transformation Dao Fruits. They could help Dao Transformation Holy Emperors further refine their law-related spirit techniques. For a Dao Transformation Holy Emperor to reach the Dao Essence Realm, the second step of Dao Confirmation's three stages, a crucial step was to have a deeper insight into their law-related spirit techniques. A Grand Amplification Spirit Fruit that improved one's foundation gave one a higher chance to reach the Dao Essence Realm. Although it wasn't as precious as the Violet Heaven Dao Fruit, it was still far more precious than an ordinary Dao Raising Dao Fruit.

Even Holy Emperor Qing Yi herself didn't have enough capital to purchase one of these dao fruits, let alone spend it like this. She carefully opened the jade boxes that Ning Cheng handed her and almost couldn't believe her eyes. After taking her time to confirm it, she nodded and spoke up with a cautious tone. "Yes, the jade boxes do contain a total of three Great Amplification Spirit Fruits."

After saying that, she immediately put several more restrictions on the jade boxes and quickly put them away before continuing. "Alchemist Ning, you should already know that even if you want to challenge, you can only challenge the one with the highest score. If the alchemist with the highest score does not accept your challenge, you can freely choose from the rest. Of course, the remaining four must accept the challenge, no matter who you pick."

Ning Cheng nodded, "Naturally, that's not a problem."

"In that case, you should prepare for the challenge. If the alchemist with the highest score refuses, they must state why. As for the challenge itself, the format will be up to the alchemist you challenge."

All eyes immediately turned towards Dou Jiangshi, thinking that Ning Cheng was ignorant and fearless. If it happened at the start of the discourse, even if Ning Cheng declared that he wanted to challenge Dou Jiangshi, it would have only created a minor ripple. At best, people would have thought that it would be a slightly entertaining fight, and none would have used the gaze they had right now.

But now, everyone had already experienced Dou Jiangshi's fearsome insight into his Dao of Alchemy. Even Jing Han, the most promising Dao Transformation Pill Sage of the Grand Essence Realm, was no match for him, let alone an unknown like Ning Cheng.

Let's not talk about whether Ning Cheng had really opened the thirteenth door of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard and take a step back. Even if Ning Cheng did open the thirteenth door, he had definitely not reached the fourth level of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. As long as he didn't enter the fourth level, it meant that Ning Cheng's Dao of Alchemy wasn't on the same level as Dou Jiangshi.

Besides, who could be sure that the person who opened the thirteenth door would be someone with a deep understanding of the Dao of Alchemy? *Perhaps there were other factors as well?*

Dou Jiangshi stood up and walked towards the stage. Ning Cheng had no choice but to challenge him first. But even if he wasn't willing to answer the challenge, he had to get to the stage first.

Everyone on the public square thought that Dou Jiangshi would feel infuriated. After all, being challenged by a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity like Ning Cheng would be a very humiliating thing.

But to everyone's surprise, Dou Jiangshi clasped his fists towards the audience after getting to the stage and then looked at Ning Cheng. "I will have to refuse your challenge, my reason being that I'm not your opponent."

After saying this, Dou Jiangshi didn't care about what others thought as he slowly walked down from the stage and sat down on the seats assigned for the top five. No one could see any expression on his zombie-like face, let alone embarrassment or awkwardness.

The public square turned silent. But after Dou Jiangshi sat down, the silence quickly turned into a cacophony of chatter. The best alchemist in the Alchemy Discourse, Dou Jiangshi, the super dark horse from the Immortal Corpse Sect, had refused the challenge from a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity?

If Dou Jiangshi had stated that he despised or disdained to compete against Ning Cheng, it wouldn't have mattered much. But Dou Jiangshi had publicly stated that his reason for refusal was 'not being Ning Cheng's opponent'. It just felt too weird.

Ning Cheng looked at Dou Jiangshi and simply smiled but didn't say anything. At this moment, he now felt almost entirely confident that Dou Jiangshi was the unlucky one taken over by that spirit soul. Otherwise, no one would refuse this challenge, at least not with such a reason.

If Dou Jiangshi was the victim of that spirit soul, he naturally would be aware of his alchemy methods. As such, he knew that he couldn't compete against him without giving himself away. But more importantly, Dou Jiangshi didn't hesitate to admit defeat. It showed that he did want to go to the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition as a representative of the Grand Essence Realm. Meaning he definitely had a compelling reason for doing this.

When Dou Jiangshi conceded defeat, only then did the many people in the public square look at Ning Cheng in a new light. Although some still believed that Dou Jiangshi only conceded defeat to not take unnecessary risks. After all, Dou Jiangshi had already proven his qualification to represent the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition. There wasn't any need for him to compete against Ning Cheng.

However, most believed that Dou Jiangshi might have felt that he wasn't a match for Ning Cheng. It also meant, or at least indicated, that Ning Cheng was an extremely powerful alchemist.

Since Dou Jiangshi wasn't willing to compete with Ning Cheng, Ning Cheng had to look for one among the remaining four.

Ning Cheng's gaze slowly swept over the remaining four. Apart from the Dao Raising Pill Sage from Lost Moon Valley, Mei Xiuyuan, who looked at Ning Cheng with great suspicion, the other three remain indifferent.

Jing Han didn't know how good Ning Cheng's Dao of Alchemy was, but he did have quite a big grudge against Ning Cheng. If it wasn't for preparing for the upcoming Alchemy Competition, he would have

already thought of a way to finish off Ning Cheng. But if Ning Cheng challenged him right now, he would definitely slap Ning Cheng's face. He was practically dying for Ning Cheng to come up and challenge him.

Unfortunately, Ning Cheng's gaze didn't linger on Jing Han for too long. If it wasn't for the Five-Elements Heavenly Fruits, Ning Cheng would have already challenged Jing Han. After all, the Five-elements Heavenly Fruit he exchanged from Jing Han did have some problems. Just as Jing Han didn't want to let him go, Ning Cheng also felt equally determined to not let him go. Unfortunately, he couldn't take action against him, at least not with many experts following him around. The only way to deal with him was to let him represent the Grand Essence Realm in the Alchemy Competition and take him out once they left the Grand Essence Realm. Therefore, he couldn't let Jing Han get out of the top five.

Ning Cheng had no idea that the Flaming Feather Spirit Mountain had a Dao Transformation Pill Sage. After all, this fellow didn't come to the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

However, Ning Cheng also knew Peng Shan and Peng Ruimei from the Flaming Feather Spirit Mountain. So, for the sake of those two fellows, he decided to not challenge Yan Kuaifu. As for Mei Xiuyuan from the Lost Moon Valley, she was the ideal opponent and the only Dao Raising Pill Sage among the five.

However, Ning Cheng's gaze still moved away from her. Only if he had no other choice would he pick her. After all, choosing a woman to fight and even the weakest one here would be quite a bit of embarrassment. Fortunately, he still had City Lord Mansion's Le Xichen among the line-up.

The Le Clan controlled the City Lord's Mansion in the Heaven Essence Sacred City and managed the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. It meant that it had quite an extraordinary heritage, which could be seen from having a Dao Transformation Pill Sage. After all, these people used dao fruits to make wine; it wouldn't be unusual for them to cultivate a Dao Transformation Pill Sage with their resources.

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Chapter 982: Seeing Ning Cheng's gaze finally come to rest on Le Xichen, Le Jiesheng's expressions soured. Although he had complete confidence in Xichen's alchemic talent, he still felt upset.

Everyone knew that Le Jiesheng was good at talking and making concessions for the sake of connections. However, that didn't mean he was easy to bully. *And now, a puny Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor dared to disrespect his Le Clan.* He would have to let this ant know real pain once Xichen crushed him to the point where he couldn't get up.

Without waiting for Ning Cheng to speak, Le Xichen spoke up with a faint smile. "It looks like Alchemist Ning wants to challenge me, is that right?"

Ning Cheng simply clasped his fists and said, "I hope Alchemist Le can be unsparing in his teachings."

Seeing that Ning Cheng had already issued the challenge and Le Xichen's apparent acceptance, Holy Emperor Qing Yi quickly spoke up. "Alchemist Le can propose the three main topics for the competition. These topics can be of any kind but must be within the bounds of alchemy. Alchemist Ning, as the challenger, you cannot raise any objections regardless of the topics chosen, as long as they fall within the scope of alchemy. The official challenge begins now."

Holy Emperor Qing Yi didn't want to offend Ning Cheng, nor did she wish to offend Le Xicheng. Therefore, after making the rules clear and announcing the start of the challenge, she got off the stage and handed two Great Amplification Spirit Fruits to Le Xichen.

Le Xichen casually walked onto the stage and first made an alchemist's salute to the crowd seated on the public square before walking towards Ning Cheng and sitting down. "Since Alchemist Ning wants to challenge me, please come up with a topic."

Ning Cheng lazily stretched out his hands and spoke as if he didn't care about any of it. "According to the rules, I am the challenger. So, it should be Alchemist Le who should be coming up with the topics."

Le Xichen laughed, "Good, it looks like newborns indeed are fearless. Then, let me seek out Alchemist Ning's opinion. A pill is like a path, while Dao of Alchemy is like the gate of life. It forms the foundation of all living things, manifesting as their origins and essences, making it essential to refine all things. A pill art is like the key to opening that gate; it comes from the mysterious valley and is the foundation of the Dao of Alchemy. What does Alchemist Ning think about it?"

Ning Cheng understood Le Xichen's thinking; that any and all alchemic processes started by gathering the spiritual herbs' essence. This thought wasn't an abrupt one, as many alchemists, even Ning Cheng, thought about it in the same way. However, Le Xicheng then said that the Dao of Alchemy came from the refinement of all things in heaven and earth. It implied that pill arts in Dao of Alchemy were based on the original characteristics of all things in heaven and earth and thus fixed and inherent. He wanted to see if Ning Cheng shared this 'correct' view.

In fact, no alchemist would feel this viewpoint as incorrect.

Ning Cheng, on the other hand, only smiled. "Perhaps this is the alchemic philosophy of Alchemist Le, but I disagree with it. For me, it's just as Senior Qiutian said about the Greater Dao of Alchemy and the Minor Dao of Alchemy. Every alchemist who is starting out will think that the Dao of Alchemy originates from the origins of spiritual objects and is the key to opening the door. However, once you have stepped onto the Greater Dao of Alchemy, you will realise that pill arts are nothing but external objects."

"One's Dao of Alchemy changes according to the laws of heaven and earth, the thickness of the surrounding essence qi, and state of mind of the alchemist. So, how could it be bound to a pill art? Once you start to gain deeper insights into the Dao of Alchemy, you will look back and laugh only to say, *what even is a pill art?*"

It's not that Ning Cheng didn't understand the concept of pill arts. Instead, it was because his Dao of Alchemy didn't have much in common with other alchemists' Dao of Alchemy. Ning Cheng wasn't pretending when he spoke those words, nor did he want to appear mysterious. The truth was, he rarely used any form of 'fixed' pill art. What he cultivated was the Mysterious Yellow Formless. It meant that even if he used it for cultivation, the cultivation method would change and evolve every moment depending on the circumstances. It also applied to alchemy and other areas. Plus, after coming out of the Land of Broken Laws, he had started to gain a deeper understanding of the changes in the laws of heaven and earth. It was the only reason he could say such things.

Even when he had to use pill arts from the recipes, they differed for each pill. Meaning one simply couldn't stick to one pill art. Because of this, he could easily instruct Jian Sanshan in refining a batch of top-quality Dao Sculpting Spirit Pills back then.

Le Xichen froze. He had already arranged a trap for Ning Cheng with that question. As long as Ning Cheng thought of this view as correct, he could continue to pressure him about the formations of pill arts. And why pill arts were based on the transformation of all things. He had studied the Dao of Alchemy for countless years and had become incredibly proficient in such concepts. Even more so, he could cite sources for each of them. Not to mention one Ning Cheng, even if there were ten thousand Ning Chengs, they wouldn't be his match in this regard.

But who knew that Ning Cheng wouldn't follow common sense and even dare to say that he disagreed with his point of view? No, it wasn't just his point of view; *this is* the accepted opinion among those studying the Dao of Alchemy. Even if Ning Cheng disagreed with this universally accepted view of the Dao of Alchemy, it wouldn't have mattered much. But he even dared to say that once one genuinely stepped onto the Dao of Alchemy, one could even dispense with pill arts. *This was simply shameless, no, nonsensical gibberish.*

Le Xichen's face instantly turned blue with anger. This was no longer a discussion on alchemy but a complete farce. It was a disgrace to discuss alchemy with such a person.

Not to mention Le Xichen, even the alchemists seated in the public square stared at Ning Cheng angrily. It didn't matter if one wanted to stand in the limelight, but using such shamelessness for the sake of the spotlight would definitely end up enraging all the alchemists here. *Which alchemist didn't crave to have a pill art? Who would dare to say that alchemy changed according to the changes in heaven and earth?*

"Get lost....."

"Scum of the alchemic world....."

"With just a mouth, you dare challenge the great alchemists of the Alchemy Discourse?"

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The crowd had become so enraged with Ning Cheng that the entire public square seemed to have gone out of control. Jian Sanshan, Yan Ji, and the others could only look at Ning Cheng with worried faces.

After all, if Ning Cheng committed such a big mistake on such a monumental occasion, no one would stop others from killing Ning Cheng.

Sheng Houtian also had a worried look on his face. He knew that Ning Cheng, most likely, hadn't lied, as he had personally seen Ning Cheng refining pills. His spiritual consciousness couldn't probe Ning Cheng's pill furnace, but he could feel that Ning Cheng indeed hadn't used any pill art.

He suddenly felt shocked at the very notion of it. *Didn't it mean that Ning Cheng had touched on a greater alchemic realm as he said so?* It was a pity that his strength was still a little short. If he were at the Dao Essence Realm, he might have gained a deeper understanding of Ning Cheng's words 'Alchemy changes according to the changes of heaven and earth' more quickly.

Lei Xichen suddenly stood up and cupped his fist towards Pill Union's Union Master, Sichen Qiutian. "Senior Qiutian, this person isn't here to challenge at all. He's here to stir up trouble at the Alchemy Discourse."

Without waiting for Sichen Qiutian to speak, Ning Cheng sneered and said, "So, you're implying that since you can't do it, it means others are messing around? Do you still remember what shameless means? I've heard that the Barbarian Dragon Clan still has a Dao Perfection powerhouse; it's just that no one has ever seen this 'expert'. You obviously can't reach Dao Perfection in your lifetime. So, according to your statement, doesn't it also mean that the Barbarian Dragon Clan is lying about this Dao Perfection powerhouse? It's all just fake?"

When Man Huishan heard Ning Cheng's words, he gave a cold snort, "Ning Cheng, if you don't take back what you said just now, don't blame me for being rude."

Ning Cheng wasn't only striking back at Le Xichen but also at his clan. After all, he was the Dragon Emperor of the Barbarian Dragon Clan, the figurehead of his family. So how could he not sense Ning Cheng's intent with his intelligence? He was essentially creating doubt in other people's minds about whether his Barbarian Dragon Clan indeed had a Dao Perfection powerhouse. This effectively reduced his Barbarian Dragon Clan's prestige and pressure on other sects and forces.

Ning Cheng cupped his fists and showed a warm smile, "I respect all Dao Perfection powerhouses. Since the Barbarian Dragon Emperor does not want me to mention it, then I will not mention it."

Once again, Man Huishan only gave a cold snort and ignored Ning Cheng altogether.

Le Xichen, who had long since decided that Ning Cheng was talking nonsense, didn't even look at Ning Cheng. Instead, he continued to bow while facing Pill Union's Union Master, asking him to be the judge.

Sichen Qiutian finally spoke up. "There are thousands of different branches in alchemy, and each one of them is based on what someone gained from their dao. What we don't know, maybe someone else does. What we think is impossible may seem normal to others. Thus, the Pill Union will not make a decision on this, even if it sounds outlandish to everyone here."

"In fact, I have tried not to use pill arts, but it was proven afterwards that it did not work. Because of this, I originally thought that this concept was simply unfeasible. However, moving up a level in both my cultivation and understanding of the Dao of Alchemy, touching the edge of the Greater Dao of Alchemy, I started to once again think that perhaps I was just not up to the mark when I tried it back then. So, I can at least say that those words aren't nonsense. As such, you two will be holding your own views on the Dao of Alchemy for this round."

Holding onto one's views for this round meant there would be no winner. *In other words, if you want a winner, refute this alchemic philosophy in the next round. If you can prove your point with your Dao of Alchemy, it will also change the no-winner situation in the previous round.*

Even if this didn't count as a loss for Ning Cheng, many people immediately recalled the matter of Ning Cheng and Pill Union's Sheng Houtian being brothers. From their perspective, Ning Cheng's friendship with Sheng Houtian affected the Union Master Sichen Qiutian. However, only those cultivators who knew Sichen Qiutian's personality did not think so.

Le Xichen obviously also thought that this situation resulted from Sheng Houtian. He felt so indignant in his heart that he no longer had the idea of discussing alchemy with Ning Cheng. Instead, he wanted to crush him completely. A person like Ning Cheng wasn't worthy of discussing alchemy with him. He could no longer contain his indignation and burst out with a cold voice. "Since Alchemist Ning has crossed over into the Great Dao of Alchemy, why not refine a pill for us without using any pill art?"

Ning Cheng's tone also turned cold, "Who do you think you are? You want me to teach you? Want me to refine a pill before you without using any pill arts? Who the hell do you think you are?"

"Haha...." Le Xichen laughed angrily, threw out a white Dao Sculpting Pill Sage's qualification token, and spoke up with a murderous tone. "Since I'm the one who decides the rules for the challenge, then produce a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage's qualification token. If you can't, then you lose. Get off the fucking stage."

His way of setting the rules for the competition had now turned into a full-blown bullying session. In any case, although it was a form of bullying, it didn't go against the general rules of the challenge. After all, a Pill Union's qualification token *had* something to do with alchemy. If you didn't pass the Pill Union's verification, you wouldn't get a qualification token at all.

All the people understood Le Xichen's thoughts, and they felt relieved. *Aren't you so good? I won't even bother to compete with you in alchemy now. I'm a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage, how about you? Can you take out a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage qualification token to prove that you're a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage? If you can't, then get lost.*

Ning Cheng's annoyance had also turned into anger. This fellow even started comparing qualifications. If that's the case, then you, Le Xichen, will have only one word left for you. *Lose.*

Ning Cheng didn't bother speaking and similarly took out a white Dao Sculpting Pill Sage's qualification token.

"You're a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage? Why did...." Le Xichen frowned and looked at the white Dao sculpting Pill Sage's qualification token that Ning Cheng had taken out. He couldn't help but doubt it.

Without waiting for him to finish the sentence, Ning Cheng spoke up. "Didn't you also not take one out? Besides, all one needs to enter the Illusionary Fruit Orchard is a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's qualification token. Even when I entered this place, I only had to show a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity's qualification token. Or is there a rule somewhere that I have to wear all my qualification tokens on me? Afraid that others won't know that I'm a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage?"

Le Xichen surprisingly didn't get angry; instead, he took out a silver Dao Raising Pill Sage's qualification token. He didn't say anything and just stared at Ning Cheng.

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Chapter 983: Le Xichen's Ace Card

Ning Cheng felt too lazy to talk back and took out all his qualification tokens. "Alchemist Le, if you want to compare, let's compare something real, not diplomas. I have a lot of them, from primary school to post-doctoral....."

After saying that, with a wave of his hand, all six qualification tokens appeared in front of everyone.

Le Xichen couldn't understand Ning Cheng's words. But sandwiched among the six qualification tokens, the light golden Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token was something he clearly recognised. After all, he also had such a qualification token.

The initial shock turned into a pin drop silence, not only for the crowd but also for Le Xichen. People could begrudgingly accept the other tokens, but the pale golden Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token looked particularly choking. After all, apart from a very few people, no one knew that Ning Cheng was a Dao Transformation Pill Sage.

Now that Ning Cheng took out that qualification token, it made it clear that he was undoubtedly a Dao Transformation Pill Sage. No matter the relationship between Ning Cheng and Sheng Houtian, Sheng Houtian could never give Ning Cheng a Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token. Unless Ning Cheng indeed had the necessary ability.

At this moment, no one dared to underestimate Ning Cheng anymore. Even Ning Cheng's alchemic theory, which they thought as bullshit, suddenly became a real possibility.

The few alchemists who previously cursed at Ning Cheng immediately lowered their heads, desperately wanting to turn invisible. If Ning Cheng was just a Dao Sculpting Pill Deity, it wouldn't have mattered if they cursed at him on his face. But now, Ning Cheng was a genuine Dao Transformation Pill Sage; they couldn't afford the consequences.

Even Le Jiesheng frowned. He never expected Ning Cheng to be a Dao Transformation Pill Sage. *No wonder Pill Union's Sheng Houtian was so polite towards Ning Cheng.* It would be strange if the Pill Union wasn't this courteous towards such a young Dao Transformation Pill Sage. If Ning Cheng was a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, it also almost guaranteed that Ning Cheng had opened the thirteenth gate of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

Jing Han's face turned even more gloomy. If Ning Cheng was an ordinary Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor, even if he was a pill deity, it wouldn't have mattered if he vanished.

But now that Ning Cheng turned out to be a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, he or his Great Spirit Pill Sect wouldn't dare to say that they could take out someone like him.

Just how many Dao Transformation Pill Sages were there in the Grand Essence Realm in total? But more importantly, every Dao Transformation Pill Sage was equivalent to a major force. His Great Spirit Pill Sect dared to boast of its ambition to enter the top ten only because it had him, a Dao Transformation Pill Sage.

"Ning Cheng is a rogue cultivator, yet he's actually a Dao Transformation Pill Sage?" She Tianhe stared at Ning Cheng in shock. Even her usually expressionless face lit up in surprise.

What the 9-Revolutions Sacred Sect lacked were powerful alchemists. They could disregard Ning Cheng being a rogue cultivator, but he also was a powerful Dao Transformation Pill Sage. It would be strange if she didn't feel shocked.

Sitting beside Shi Tianhe was a woman with a few wrinkles on her face. After Ning Cheng took out the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token, she turned her head somewhat suspiciously to look

at Shi Tianhe. "Tianhe, why is it that a rogue cultivator who is a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, not known to my 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond until now?"

Shi Tianhe quickly gave a respectful bow and said, "Senior Aunt Daofu, this person has always liked to conceal his skills. Not to mention us, even Le Xichen, who is fighting with him, shouldn't have known that he is a Dao Transformation Pill Sage."

The woman addressed as Senior Aunt Daofu nodded; *Shi Tianhe was right. If Le Xichen knew that Ning Cheng was a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, he definitely wouldn't have used Pill Union's qualification tokens to compete.*

"Tianhe, invite this person to my 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond, even if it has to cost something....."

Even though her Senior Aunt Daofu didn't continue, Shi Tianhe already understood what she meant and gave a respectful reply. "Yes, Senior Aunt. I understand."

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After Cen Ruxuan from the Profound Aquatic Palace saw Ning Cheng take out the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token, she took a deep breath. Ning Cheng indeed was a Dao Transformation Pill Sage.

"Aunt Xuan, I finally understand why you went to great lengths to make us meet." The woman with the veiled face sitting next to Cen Ruxuan suddenly spoke up.

Cen Ruxuan shook her head. *Whether you understood or not, it's useless to talk about it now.* This person clearly wasn't even half-interested in her beauty schemes. Besides, he even has a stunning beauty right beside him.

"Maybe I can talk to him after the Alchemy Discourse." The woman with the veiled face took the initiative to speak up when she saw that Cen Ruxuan didn't say anything.

Cen Ruxuan sighed, "Yue Shu, you don't need to force yourself. It's useless to talk to him about it again."

Although she spoke consolingly, she understood that Ning Cheng didn't care about Yue Shu's beauty, so she politely told Yue Shu not to beat herself up.

However, the woman called Yue Shu showed a faint smile. "I know people like him very well. Especially those like him with wavering stances, love of appearances, and vanity. But, even I have to admit, he does have some skills."

She thought she read Ning Cheng very well; Ning Cheng saw the wind and changed his face quickly. He also liked to be in the limelight. Such people were just too easy for her to deal with. She felt 90% sure that Ning Cheng would be submissive, work for her Profound Aquatic Palace, and still not touch be able to touch even a single finger of hers.

.....

There were also two men sitting next to Void Star Sect's Percy. One was as thin as a skeleton and gave an impression of a feeble old man. The other had a dark face and a pair of lopsided but very slender eyes hanging below his forehead that gave him an uncoordinated look.

After seeing Ning Cheng take out the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token, the dark-faced man with uncoordinated eyes spoke up in a deep voice. "Percy, you do have a pair of good eyes. This person actually is a Dao Transformation Pill Sage."

Percy quickly spoke up. "Sect Master, Ning Cheng is a very bright and open person. He agreed to help us refine that pill because he and I have a similar temperament. I only hope for one thing; even if he fails the refinement, I hope that the sect doesn't hold him accountable. Otherwise, I will be too ashamed to keep on living."

The dark-faced man showed a faint smile, "Don't worry about it; I won't *hurt* him if he failed to refine the pills."

'Hurt' wasn't the same as 'holding him accountable'. In other words, it was perfectly okay for them to kill the alchemist. The Void Star Sect had lost a Dao Essence Holy Emperor for the sake of gathering the primary ingredients for the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill. If Ning Cheng dared to fail in refining the pills, he would have to pay with his life.

Even if you, Percy, vouched for him and put your life at risk to save him, it wouldn't matter.

Unfortunately, Percy had no idea about the hidden implications of those words. In his opinion, the Sect Master was a man of his word. After all, the Sect Master had never lied or deceived anyone, at least not in Percy's memory.

Ning Cheng didn't know this either. But with Ning Cheng's temperament, if someone dared to threaten him with his life to refine pills, he would have spat at their faces. *So what if you were the Sect Master of the Void Star Sect? If I don't want to refine, I won't refine no matter what. The universe is vast; I don't believe you can find me.*

Even if he got caught and forced to refine the pills, he would still think of every way to tamper with any pills he had to refine.

.....

"You're also a Dao Transformation Pill Sage?" Sometimes people were like this, only wanting to look at superficial titles, not caring whether they faced immortals or ordinary people. It was just an ingrained disposition. Lei Xichen no longer held any half-hearted intention of looking down on Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng casually put away the qualification tokens. "The Alchemy Discourse will become meaningless if you want to go with these. Since I came here to challenge you, I thought you might come up with some practical questions. After all, you could pick three topics of your choosing, and as long as I lose one, you win. You've already used up two chances, but you still have one more. Do you want to continue?"

Le Xichen took a deep breath, put his qualification tokens away and spoke to Ning Cheng cautiously. "This last round, we will compete in refining pills, and I will go first. If anything is missing, I hope Pill Sage Ning can help me correct it."

Le Xichen raised his hand and brought out a dark red pill furnace as he spoke. Then with a wave of the same hand, a spirit herb suddenly materialised in front of him suspended above it. Since Le Xichen chose to refine a pill, he naturally had to let other people's spiritual consciousness view precisely which spirit

herbs he wanted to use. It also gave people the chance to guess which pill he would refine. After all, refining pills was another form of refutation.

“Dragon Soul Fruit? Will he refine a pill with this Dao Transformation Dao Fruit?” The alchemists below the stage immediately recognised the conspicuous dao fruit Le Xichen had taken out.

“This dao fruit contains a hint of the true dragon soul intent. But it’s unclear and breaks at the slightest touch, making it even more difficult to refine it into a pill. Pill Sage Le truly is bold to use such a dao fruit to refine a pill in public.”

As soon as Le Xichen took out the Dragon Soul Fruit, not only did people recognise it, some even stated its characteristics.

Jing Han also frowned slightly. *Le Xichen didn’t use his full strength during the previous alchemic refutation round.* After all, even he couldn’t use the Dragon Soul Fruit to refine a pill. *Wait, using the Dragon Soul Fruit to create a pill? Le Xichen couldn’t possibly be trying to refine the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill, is he? Does he really have that ability?*

Broken Sky Spirit Flower? Jing Han’s face turned gloomy when he saw the spirit flower. At this moment, he felt sure that Le Xichen wanted to refine the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill. Since Le Xichen dared to refine the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill, it meant that he had enough confidence to see it through.

Jing Han had always thought of himself as the strongest Dao Transformation Pill Sage. But then Dou Jiangshi crushed him without any effort, which made him feel a bubbling rage within his heart. Now it seemed that even Le Xichen’s alchemic attainments had surpassed him. It would genuinely be a strange event if he felt happy after receiving so many blows to his pride.

“Broken Sky Spirit Flower? Pill Sage Le wants to refine the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill.....” The alchemists in the public square immediately identified what pill Le Xichen wanted to refine. It was none other than *the* Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill.

Listing out the ten most challenging-to-refine Dao Transformation Dao Pills, the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill would definitely be listed among them. This pill required two types of law-infused spirit herbs. A Dao Transformation Dao Fruit, the Dragon Soul Fruit, and a law-infused spirit grass, Broken Sky Spirit Flower.

Purple Heaven Pills were the most popular and well-known Dao Transformation Dao Pills. But the Purple Heaven Pill was barely even a tenth as challenging as refining the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill.

After all, the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pills was the only dao pill that helped Dao Transformation and below Holy Emperors to further enhance their meridians. This pill can remove the dao intent impurities clogging the meridians, fortify the meridian’s carrying capacity, and even strengthen their dao foundation.

As long as a pill could strengthen a Holy Emperor’s dao foundation, they all would have sky-high prices. But even more importantly, besides the listed effects and uses, it also gave Holy Emperors a better shot at reaching the Dao Essence Realm.

When Ning Cheng looked at the spirit herbs that Le Xichen took out, he also understood that Le Xichen wanted to refine the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill. It caused Ning Cheng to frown. It wasn't that he couldn't match up to Le Xichen, but that he didn't have any spirit herbs of equal or better value than the ones Le Xichen took out. *Looks like the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill was Le Xichen's trump card.* He hadn't used it before because he had no opponents that could force him to use it.

Ning Cheng had a few other Dao Transformation Dao Fruits and could refine quite a few dao pills. Unfortunately, they couldn't compare to the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pills.

Thinking of other Dao Transformation Dao Pills at the same level or more difficult to refine, Ning Cheng suddenly recalled his conversation with Percy. Percy had asked him to refine a Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill batch, a pill even more challenging to refine than the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill. After all, the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill could easily rank among the top three most difficult to refine dao pills.

But the problem was, he hadn't received the ingredients for the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill yet. *What should he do?*

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 984: Shocking the audience

Everyone shifted their focus to Le Xichen's way of performing alchemy in just a few moments. More specifically, everyone took a closer look at Le Xichen's flame. It looked strange with a black and white line running through it like a black and white silk strand through a yellow fabric.

Once Ning Cheng took a look at this flame, he understood that Le Xichen's flame had likewise evolved into a spirit flame. However, this flame didn't seem to be as high ranked as his Nameless flame. It couldn't even be compared to the Celestial River Flame.

A few moments later, Le Xichen carefully placed one spirit herb after another into his pill furnace once it grew hot enough. In the beginning, people could still follow and see some of his hand movements. But in just a few moments, every motion of Le Xichen's hand started to carry a hint of dao rhythm. Even those who didn't know how to make pills could tell that Le Xichen's refining technique had reached an innately natural level. At the very least, it surpassed the style displayed by Dou Jiangshi, the one who took the first spot.

Ning Cheng couldn't help but secretly admire what he saw. After all, it showed how City Lord's Mansion benefited from controlling the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. It brought their alchemists enough dao fruits for practice.

As long as they had enough Dao Essence Dao Fruits to practice with, Le Xichen could even become a Dao Essence Pill Sage. Yet, even in that case, Le Xichen had reached the threshold of becoming a Dao Essence Pill Sage.

No wonder he didn't bother to participate in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. Besides, Ning Cheng had not seen or heard of any Dao Essence Dao Fruit coming out of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. It also showed that Le Xichen didn't care much about dao fruits under the Dao Essence level. Of course, there was one other reason; that is, Le Jiesheng didn't want to look too ugly by sending in his clansmen.

After all, every time the Illusionary Fruit Orchard opened, the City Lord's Mansion would always be the biggest winner. Even though it got backstabbed by Ning Cheng this time, Le Jiesheng still managed to obtain nearly a hundred dao fruits from Dou Jiangshi. If Le Xichen had participated in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, Le Jiesheng would have made many influential people irate.

.....

"So strong....." The dark-faced man sitting beside Percy in the Alchemy Listening Section stared at Le Xichen's alchemic movements and exclaimed rather loudly. Even his eyes glowed brightly.

He then turned his gaze to Percy and asked in an incomparably low tone, "Percy, how do you think Ning Cheng's Dao of Alchemy compares to that of Le Xichen?"

Percy hesitated a bit before replying, "I'm not sure. Le Xichen never participated in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard. I didn't even know about his alchemic attainments before today....."

The man with the dark face and slender eyes already understood what Percy meant. Percy, most likely, felt in his heart that Ning Cheng was inferior to Le Xichen; he just didn't put it out in words. Moreover, with this level of attainment in the Dao of Alchemy, Le Xichen proved that he was the best out of everyone and probably just below Sichen Qiutian.

The dark-faced man with slender eyes didn't ask Percy again. Instead, he transmitted a message to the skeletal man beside him. "Ancestor Kang, with Le Xichen's alchemy skills, he should be able to make the pills we want with a higher chance of success. I had some dealings with the Le Clan in the past, so I believe I can ask him to do it."

The skeletal man only nodded but didn't say anything.

.....

Even if Le Xichen wanted to be low-key, his attainments in the Dao of Alchemy caused many people's eyes to flicker. Some even felt their hearts stir with many racing thoughts.

Looks like the Illusionary Fruit Orchard has been controlled by the Le Clan for far too long. Winds and water will always turn. It's time for someone else to take control of the Illusionary Fruit Orchard.

Feeling a few spiritual consciousnesses reaching his side, Le Jiesheng couldn't help but feel helpless. Plus, it also made him angrier with Ning Cheng. If it wasn't for Ning Cheng, Le Xichen would have followed his wishes, kept a low profile, and remained an 'ordinary' Dao Transformation Pill Sage. Although it would still arouse the jealousy of others, it wouldn't have been as bad as it is now.

.....

Time slowly passed, and the crowd had gotten so captivated by Le Xichen's alchemy that they completely forgot about the passage of time.

One hour, half a day, just when the day was about to end, Le Xichen's gestures suddenly went from traceable to traceless. One after another, mysterious symbols generated by the now-traceless motions seeped into the furnace.

Before the pill even finished, the fragrant aroma had already started to diffuse into the air. Moreover, the scent grew more substantial and aromatic with each passing moment. It indicated that the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pills forming inside were top-grade Dao Transformation Dao Pills, at the very least. *Even an idiot could tell the difference at this point.*

“Incredible, this kind of pill fragrance indicates that the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill is not only about to coalesce into a pill, but also form into a top-grade pill.”

“Pill Sage Le should have deliberately held himself back before, right? I’m afraid he should be close to the Dao Essence Pill Sage-level, right?”

“That goes without saying. If there were enough Dao Essence Dao Fruits, I reckon Pill Sage Le would have become a Dao Essence Pill Sage long ago.....”

As Le Xichen’s Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill was about to form, alchemists immersed in his alchemic dao rhythms sobered up and let out some exclamations. This place included most of the best alchemists found in Grand Essence Realm. So even if they couldn’t refine the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill themselves, it didn’t affect their vision.

Even Sheng Huotian sighed internally when he saw Le Xichen’s refining techniques and alchemic dao rhythm. Ning Cheng definitely had a strong refining technique, but it might not be as strong as Le Xichen. From his perspective, the only hope for Ning Cheng was to refine an equivalent ranked pill in less time than Le Xichen.

Unfortunately, this Alchemic Discourse had nothing to do with the time it took to refine a pill but instead with the grade of the finished pills and the difficulty in refining the pills. Only when the two people’s pills were the same would refining time be considered.

“Ding-Ding-Ding-Ding....”

While the crowd still contemplated the mysteries within the pill fragrance and Le Xichen’s refining technique, streaks of white shadows suddenly shot out of Le Xichen’s pill furnace. These shadows then fell onto a jade plate prepared by Le Xichen, with a clear tinkling sound, like pearls falling down.

Twelve milky white pills now lay scattered on the jade plate. The faint dao rhythms matched the unique fragrance of the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pills, giving them an unearthly beauty.

The pills had not been fed into jade bottles, so everyone could see the twelve Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pills on the jade tray. Seven top-grade, five high-grade, and no medium or inferior-grade pills.

“Good pills!” Even Sichen Qiutian couldn’t help but praise it. Even he couldn’t refine such a high-grade batch of Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pills when he was at Le Xichen’s level.

With these words from Sichen Qiutian, the Alchemy Discourse’s public square immediately erupted as if someone threw water into a pot of boiling oil. The twelve Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pills had fully won over the hearts of everyone in the audience.

Le Xichen then carefully put a few pill preservation restrictions on the jade tray and placed it in front of everyone. He then looked at Ning Cheng and slowly said, “Alchemist Ning, I have finished refining my pills. I hope you can show us your alchemy techniques that don’t use any pill arts.”

Le Xichen also felt very satisfied with the results. In fact, he thought that he had outdone himself with this batch of pills. Even if he got another chance to refine a furnace of these pills, he wasn't confident enough to refine such a near-perfect batch.

One had to know, he wasn't a person who would willingly give up without a fierce fight. The more pressure he was under, the more he could bring out his abilities. As for what he said to Ning Cheng, it wasn't because he underestimated Ning Cheng. After all, Ning Cheng could produce the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification token. It meant that he naturally couldn't dismiss Ning Cheng's attainments in alchemy.

Le Xichen also knew that apart from his natural sensitivity to the Dao of Alchemy, being born in the Le Clan was also a factor that couldn't be ignored. Without a clan or a major force that could take out all kinds of dao fruits for him to practice, he couldn't have reached this point even if he had spent tens of thousands of years pursuing alchemy. He understood it more clearly than others that he could not underestimate Ning Cheng, a rogue cultivator. For this reason, he even respected and admired Ning Cheng for becoming a Dao Transformation Pill Sage despite a lack of background.

Ning Cheng cupped his fists to Le Xichen and spoke up in a deep voice, "Alchemist Le indeed is an expert in the Dao of Alchemy. This Ning Cheng can't help but admire it."

Le Xichen's skills had similarly earned Ning Cheng's respect. As for the fact that Le Xichen had many dao fruits to practice with, he treated it as a secondary matter. Without a deep understanding of the Dao of Alchemy, no amount of dao fruits could produce an alchemic master like Le Xichen.

The sounds of eager chatter gradually died down, and all eyes fell on Ning Cheng. *With such a massive success of Le Xichen's pills, everyone wanted to know if Ning Cheng's Dao of Alchemy was as great as his mouth. Or was Ning Cheng merely a vain fellow who could only speak, not do?*

Ning Cheng took a deep breath and dropped his gaze on Percy, who he had long since noticed along with the two men beside him. One of them, the man with a dark face and slender eyes, felt like the void personified. Most likely, this person was a Dao Fusion powerhouse.

As for the other man, he looked like a skeleton and quite sick. Ning Cheng couldn't tell if the man who was as thin as a skeleton was the one who was poisoned, but he guessed that he should be.

Since these two people had come here with Perc, they most likely wanted to look at this proficiency in the Dao of Alchemy. But at the same time, they also wanted to see if there were other powerful alchemists.

"Brother Percy, I would like to ask you for the ingredients for the pills I will make here today. As for anything else, just follow what we discussed before." Ning Cheng said to Percy while standing on the stage.

Ning Cheng believed that Percy could understand what he meant. This way, he could fulfil Percy's request and use the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill to defeat Le Xichen.

Before he participated in the Illusionary Fruit Orchard, Ning Cheng would have really not dared to say this. But now, even if Le Xichen refined the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pills, Ning Cheng felt sure to defeat him with it.

To refine this dao pill, he spent ten days in seclusion at the rest inn, refining dao pills with various dao fruits every day. Even Sheng Houtian didn't know about Ning Cheng's current attainments in the Dao of Alchemy. In fact, Ning Cheng's current level in alchemy had advanced by at least two grades since the assessment.

Percy felt overjoyed and hurriedly stood up and said, "Of course, you can, we'll bring the ingredients"

"Wait...." The dark-faced man with long slender eyes sitting beside Percy spoke out and interrupted Percy's words.

While Percy had still not recovered from his surprise, he spoke to Ning Cheng. "Alchemist Ning, the materials Percy spoke to you about are on their way and should arrive soon at Heaven Essence Sacred City. When they arrive, I will have to trouble Alchemist Ning."

Percy's expressions instantly soured. Every ingredient for the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill was on the sect master. Yet, he actually said that they were on their way. *Was this not a sign that he didn't want to take out the materials for Ning Cheng to compete?* Percy instantly understood that the sect master wanted Le Xichen to refine the pills, so he resorted to a delaying tactic to reject Ning Cheng.

He immediately glanced at the Void Star Sect's old ancestor. Unfortunately, even though the ancestor opened his mouth, he didn't say anything in the end.

Ning Cheng sneered; *how could he not understand what this dark-faced, slender eyed man meant?* Seeing that Le Xichen seemed to be more accomplished than him, this fellow wanted to let Le Xichen refine the pills. In other words, this was tantamount to unilaterally breaking the contract. Ning Cheng wouldn't feel any anger at such a development any other time. But at this moment, when it was a matter of winning or losing this challenge, for the Void Star Sect to pull such a reversal on him made him feel very upset.

This senior, I'm already at my best state. If you can't take out the alchemy materials, I'm afraid I wouldn't be confident enough to refine them later." Ning Cheng spoke with cupped fists.

However, the other party clearly understood the meaning behind those words. *If you want me to refine the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill, then produce the materials now; otherwise, don't come looking for me later. Not even willing to help me with this favour, and you want me to help you refine the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill?*

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 985: I'm afraid you wouldn't dare to refine

The dark-faced man addressed as 'Sect Master' by Percy replied in a cold tone, "Is that a threat, Alchemist Ning?"

Ning Cheng remained unfazed, "I dare not. What I said just now was my fault; I apologise to senior. After all, senior is known for his generosity, so just pretend that I didn't say anything."

After saying that, Ning Cheng no longer looked at this dark-faced man again. He had already blacklisted the Void Star Sect when they refused to take out the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill materials. He believed that Percy could understand the meaning of his words. *The matter of me refining the Renewing*

Heaven Ripple Bone Pill for your Void Star Sect would be the same as having not said anything at all. Better not mention it again.

The dark-faced man gave a cold snort. If this wasn't the Pill Union's home ground, and Ning Cheng dared to speak to him like that, he would have turned Ning Cheng into dust with a slap.

Percy, on the other hand, sighed. He didn't have a deep relationship with Ning Cheng, yet he felt that Ning Cheng was a friend he could talk with openly.

He understood Ning Cheng's temperament. As such, he never approached him with the attitude of taking advantage of him. In fact, he was even willing to take a loss. After all, only if one was ready to take some losses would one gain more later. In other words, Ning Cheng wasn't the kind of person who treated his friends poorly.

Ning Cheng didn't even give a damn about Man Huishan or Le Jiesheng, so he naturally wouldn't kneel down and beg in front of the Void Star Sect. What's more, his Void Star Sect was the one who had to beg him for his alchemic services, not the other way around.

Everyone in the square understood that Ning Cheng was asking the Void Star Sect to borrow the materials to challenge Le Xichen in refining pills. Listening to Ning Cheng's tone, this matter had already been agreed upon previously. But for some unknown reason, the Void Star Sect had suddenly backtracked and wasn't willing to take them out.

"Pill Sage Le has already finished refining a furnace of Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill long ago. So why hasn't Alchemist Ning responded to the challenge? Why hasn't he started refining pills?" A man sitting beside Sheng Huotian suddenly spoke out and asked; his tone even carried a hint of disdain. He even called Le Xichen a 'Pill Sage' while addressing Ning Cheng with the generic 'alchemist'. It clearly indicated that Ning Cheng became a 'pill sage' under suspicious circumstances.

As soon as Ning Cheng saw Sheng Huotian frown, he knew that this person, who clearly was from the Pill Union, didn't have a good relationship with Sheng Huotian. There was probably some bad blood between the two.

"This fellow daoist, is there a time limit to refine pills during such a competition?" Ning Cheng asked, pretending to be puzzled.

"There naturally is no time limit. But is Alchemist Ning planning to stay standing on the stage like this for eternity? Alchemist Ning might have the time to do this, but we don't have the time to stay here like you. After all, Alchemist Ning can refine pills without a pill art, while we all have to stick with our respective pill arts to refine pills. And to do that, we have to go back and study the pill arts, you see." When this man heard Ning Cheng's retort, his tone became even more disdainful.

Ning Cheng cupped his fists toward Sichen Qiutian and then cupped his fists towards the rest of the people in the public square. "Just now, Pill Sage Le took one day to refine his pills. If I do not refine a pill within a day, I will declare myself the loser."

Hearing those words from Ning Cheng, the man could only shut up and not say anything. If he didn't refine his pills in one day, he would voluntarily admit defeat. *If Le Xichen took one day, why couldn't*

Ning Cheng take one day? Not to mention that Ning Cheng had deliberately added the extra conditions himself.

Even if someone waited for eleven hours and succeeded in refining a pill in the last hour, it would still not be a foul.

“Fellow Daoists in pursuit of the Dao of Alchemy and all seniors who came to witness this Alchemy Discourse. Although I also have a few dao fruits, none can be refined into a Dao Pill of higher value than the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill. Even if I were to refine the most difficult pill from the materials that I have, at best, it would only result in a tie with Pill Sage Le.....”

Ning Cheng didn’t even get to finish his words before a cold laughing voice interrupted him. “A tie? Although Pill Sage Ning has a Dao Transformation Pill Sage’s qualification token, you can’t speak nonsense. Even if one is a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, there are still several grades. The Dao of Alchemy is a path of caution, and there is no room for dust or meaningless chatter. Pill Sage Ning is also someone who pursues the Dao of Alchemy. So I hope that Pill Sage Ning will wait until you refine an evenly matched pill before saying this.”

Ning Cheng didn’t bother to argue with this person and continued. “Fellow Daoists, today I’m here to make a promise. If someone can provide me materials for a pill more difficult to refine than the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill and is willing enough to let me refine it, I will refine it for you. Moreover, it would be completely free without any strings attached from my end.”

The Alchemy Discourse’s public square turned silent, and no one spoke or even whispered. If Ning Cheng had talked about an ordinary Dao Transformation Dao Pill, someone would have taken it out and asked Ning Cheng to help refine it.

But a pill more complex than the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill, except for a few that still had non-extinct ingredients, would mean a Dao Essence Dao Pill. Let’s not talk about a Dao Essence Dao Pill. Even if they looked at the other dao pills, which pill didn’t require at least one extraordinarily rare and precious spirit herb? How hard was it to collect such materials for these dao pills?

Taking out such incredibly precious materials for you to squander in a competition with no guarantee of a return, even an idiot wouldn’t agree to it.

Percy then turned his gaze towards his Sect Master. Don’t look at the fact that he had promised Ning Cheng. Just the fact that he and Ning Cheng had become friends should have been enough for them to take out the materials for the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pills for Ning Cheng to refine. Now that the sect master didn’t take out the ingredients, it left Ning Cheng in the awkward position of having no pills to refine on stage. It made him lose all face to see Ning Cheng in the future.

Yan Ji clenched her fists. She hated herself for not having precious ingredients for Ning Cheng to refine his pills. It left Ning Cheng alone on the stage and made people look at him funny.

Sheng Huotian also felt quite helpless. He did have spirit herbs for such pills on him. However, he was one of the presiding judges for the Alchemy Discourse. There were already people whispering that he faked things for Ning Cheng. If he took out such precious materials to help Ning Cheng, the crowd would essentially turn the whispers into loud words. It wouldn’t die down even if Ning Cheng won fair and square in that situation.

Ning Cheng secretly sighed internally. He didn't believe that none in this public square could take out the materials for a pill more difficult to refine than the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill. After all, this place gathered almost all the alchemic geniuses and the heads of all the major forces. Since such people came here to either spectate or participate in the Alchemy Discourse, what kind of ingredients couldn't they come up with?

The only reason why they hadn't brought them out was not that they didn't have such ingredients but because no one here trusted Ning Cheng. In any case, such materials had an immeasurable value even if one looked at them individually.

After waiting for another half an incense stick of time, Ning Cheng decided to refine the Silent Dust Reincarnation Pill. The main spirit herbs for the Silent Dust Reincarnation Pill were the Dao Transformation Dao Fruits, Silent Dust Dao Fruit and the Reincarnation Tears. It was definitely one of the more challenging dao pills to refine. In fact, it could even be regarded as one of the top ten most difficult to refine Dao Transformation Dao Pills. But it still wasn't on the same level as the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill. Unfortunately, Ning Cheng had no other choice but to choose the Silent Dust Reincarnation Pill. After all, it was the most complex pill he could refine with the ingredients at hand.

Sometimes during an alchemic discussion, even if your attainment in alchemy was higher than others, you would still have to admit defeat. Not for any other reason, but only because you didn't have the required ingredients. After all, procuring ingredients could also be considered a part of alchemy.

"Alchemist Ning, I have a batch of ingredients. But I'm afraid you wouldn't dare to refine it." Ning Cheng had just turned around when a voice abruptly emerged from the public square.

Ning Cheng immediately turned around and zeroed in on the person who had just spoken. It was a silver-haired young man who looked a little demonic. However, Ning Cheng quickly understood why this silver-haired man came forward to help him with the alchemy materials. It most likely was because of the silver-haired woman sitting beside this man, a woman who Ning Cheng knew.

She was the same woman coerced by Man Jiuren to come to the Mysterious Yellow Starland. However, Man Jiuren trapped her in the Nine Emperor's Peak in the Sacred Light City. He had freed her back then, and it could be regarded as him saving her life. Since this silver-haired man spoke about coming up with the alchemy materials, it must have been because of this silver-haired woman.

Sure enough, when she saw Ning Cheng look over, the silver-haired woman showed a faint smile and nodded to Ning Cheng but didn't say anything.

Ning Cheng also nodded to her before turning to the silver-haired man. "As long as you can take out the ingredients, I will dare to refine it. However, if it ends up in failure, I'm afraid I won't be able to pay you back for the ingredients, at least not for a short while."

"Haha....." The silver-haired man laughed. "Since you dare to refine it, I will take it out for you to refine. As for compensation, you can just forget about it. I'm afraid you won't be able to pay it back in your lifetime. If the refining *does* end up in a failure, I'll regard it as this Gong Huayu's failure. You don't need to worry about it."

All eyes immediately focussed on this silver-haired man. Ning Cheng was at the very least a Dao Transformation Pill Sage. Not to mention the wealth that he might have, just by his performance in the

Illusionary Fruit Orchard, he was already richer than a majority of the alchemists here. Yet, this silver-haired man called Gong Huayu had such a big mouth that he said that Ning Cheng couldn't afford to compensate for it in case of failure.

At this moment, all of them wanted to know what kind of pill Gong Huayu wanted Ning Cheng to refine.

"What I want you to refine is the Six Yin Soul Pill....."

The words 'Six Yin Soul Pill' almost immediately choked every person in the audience. Even the top-tier alchemists found it hard to breathe after hearing those words. For a brief period, the entire venue turned silent. Even Ning Cheng felt a little incredulous. He did know about the Six Yin Soul Pill. In fact, he had explicitly looked up this pill and even knew a majority of the different recipes in circulation. In fact, this pill recipe wasn't actually a secret at all, and every alchemist had a copy of it.

Later, he found another variation of the Six Yin Soul Pill recipe in the No Furnace. But there were slight differences between the Six Yin Soul Pill's recipe from No Furnace and those in circulation outside. But despite the variations, Ning Cheng could tell that the Six Yin Soul Pill recipe left behind in the No Furnace was more accurate.

But whether it was the Six Yin Soul Pill's recipe in circulation outside or the recipe from No Furnace, they all required the same three primary spirit herbs. The recipe also called for nearly two hundred auxiliary spirit herbs, but the quantity varied among the different recipes.

However, the most important among the three primary spirit herbs was the Six Yin Fruit, a dao fruit that contained a higher concentration of worldly laws. If one had to categorise it, it would be classified as a Dao Essence Law-infused Spirit Fruit.

In other words, the Six Yin Soul Pill was a Dao Essence Dao Pill. But the minimum requirement for refining a Dao Essence Dao Pill was a Dao Essence Pill Sage. On the other hand, Ning Cheng was 'just' a Dao Transformation Pill Sage.

In addition to this, the Six Yin Soul Pill had two other law-related spirit herbs. One being the Nine Curves Soul Grass, and the other being the Forgetfulness Flower. Both these law-related spirit grasses were conflicting Dao Transformation-grade law-infused spirit grasses. Because of this, the Six Yin Soul Pill was even more difficult to refine.

In fact, even among the Dao Essence Dao Pills, the Six Yin Soul Pill was one of the more challenging to refine pills. Truthfully, even the most ordinary Dao Essence Dao Pill wasn't something the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill could compare to, let alone the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill.

Suppose one *had* to compare the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill to the Six Yin Soul Pill. In that case, it was like comparing a child to an adult.

Moreover, the Six Yin Soul Pill also had another characteristic: a perfect furnace would result in six pills, not twelve.

Ning Cheng had looked up the Six Yin Soul Pill because it could bring the dead back to life.

Whether in the true cultivation world, the starry skies or the grand realms, bringing the dead back to life was almost impossible. In fact, the only way currently available to bring the dead back to life is if the

person's essence spirit still remains intact, which wasn't exactly being dead. However, once the essence spirit collapses, the spirit soul inside it would eventually dissipate, marking a 'true' death of a being. Coming back to life from this state was pretty much impossible.

However, the Six Yin Soul Pill gave a Dao Essence cultivator, with a broken essence spirit and dissipating spirit soul, a 40% chance of reuniting the spirit soul with the body. Of course, the prerequisite is that the corporeal body must exist; otherwise, it would be meaningless.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 986: With my Returning-to-one Dao

Ning Cheng had looked around for something like the Six Yin Soul Pill was for Xun Hanrui. After all, Xun Hanrui was one of his oldest friends in the cultivation world. Moreover, it was also because of him that she 'fell'. Therefore, after Xun Hanrui's fall, Ning Cheng carried her still alive but unresponsive body with him, vowing to bring her back to life. It's just that he couldn't find any feasible way to accomplish it.

He once again tried to research ways to find Xun Hanrui's soul on reaching the starry skies. But despite searching everywhere, the only way he found was to search for her soul in the underworld.

Unfortunately, his strength wasn't high enough to open the door to the underworld. As for the Six Yin Soul Pill, a Dao Essence Dao Pill, Ning Cheng had only learned about it after coming to the Grand Essence Realm.

"You want me to refine the Six Yin Soul Pill?" Ning Cheng stared hard at Gong Huayu with excitement in his eyes. He knew that he couldn't obtain the Six Yin Soul Pill's ingredients by himself, not with his present strength. Besides, he didn't think of refining the pill until now because a few crucial ingredients had already gone extinct.

However, he didn't expect that Gong Huayu would be so generous to take out the Six Yin Soul Pill's materials for him to refine. Even though Ning Cheng knew that Gong Huayu might have done this because he saved the silver-haired woman's life, Ning Cheng still felt grateful in his heart.

"Did I hear that right? Six Yin Soul Pill? A Dao Essence Dao Pill?"

"There must be a mistake. How precious are the ingredients for the Six Yin Soul Pill? Even the ten major forces wouldn't take them out, right?"

"That Gong Huayu is the young master of the Grand Essence Sea's Silver Dragon Clan. Isn't it also one of the ten major forces?"

The public square immediately erupted as if someone had thrown watery tofu into a pan of boiling oil.

Just as others doubted Gong Huayu's words, Gong Huayu once again confirmed it. "That's right. What I want you to refine is the Six Yin Soul Pill. The ingredients have been sitting in my Grand Essence Sea's Silver Dragon Clan for countless years, and no one could turn them into pills. Even if I left it there for many more years, I'm afraid no one would be able to turn it into pills. Better to take it out and let you refine it today."

All of them were clear that Gong Huayu spoke out of politeness. Even if one couldn't turn the ingredients into a pill, just the individual spirit herbs would still be of inestimable value. After all, some of them no longer existed in the Grand Essence Realm. Even if they put up just one of the primary

ingredients for auction, crowds of people would immediately fight over it. In fact, there was even a potential for a bloodbath.

Those who knew Gong Huayu knew that Gong Huayu wasn't an idiot. So why did he take out such precious pill-making materials? There was only one explanation. That is, he wanted to draw in Ning Cheng. After all, Ning Cheng was a certified Dao Transformation Pill Sage. But if that was the case, he could have used Dao Transformation Dao Pill-level ingredients to win Ning Cheng over without losing much. Yet, he used Dao Essence Dao Pill-level ingredients, which simply didn't justify it.

Some people here who had ingredients for ordinary Dao Essence Dao Pills started to feel some regrets. After all, even the easiest-to-refine Dao Essence Dao Pill was harder to refine than the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill. Moreover, even if Ning Cheng couldn't refine the pill, so what? At least it would have made a Dao Transformation Pill Sage indebted to them.

Cen Ruxuan, who also came from the Grand Essence Sea, sighed. "The Silver Dragon Clan's young master is bold enough to even dare to take out materials for the Six Yin Soul Pills. Looks like my views are quite a bit worse than his."

She had only thought of using beautiful women to woo Ning Cheng and never even considered using alchemy materials for the same. If she had known that this Alchemy Discourse would take such an unexpected turn, she would have done everything to come up with spirit herbs for a Dao Transformation Dao Pill. She could have even produced ingredients for something better than the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill. That way, she might have pulled Ning Cheng to their side.

"Looking at how Gong Qianyu and Ning Cheng are making eyes at each other, Gong Huayu truly is an idiot. Maybe these two have already cuckolded him, turning him complacent enough to take out the Six Yin Soul Pill's ingredients to give to Ning Cheng." The woman with a veiled face sitting beside Cen Ruxuan gave a cold snort and said in a light whisper.

Cen Ruxuan frowned and immediately rebuked her sternly, "You're not allowed to say such things."

Although she rebuked Yue Shu, she sighed internally. Yue Shu, without a doubt, was a cultivation genius. However, she stayed in seclusion for many years, not even interacting with her fellow disciples. It made her dao heart exceedingly fragile. In fact, it had twisted her thinking so much that it had even warped her sense of reality. It couldn't match up with Zhongmeng Yuxiu or other disciples, whose cultivation was far below hers.

Ning Cheng bowed to Gong Huayu, clasped his fists and said, "Many thanks, Brother Gong. Regardless of the outcome, I, Ning Cheng, owe you a favour."

Guan Huayu walked out and purposely handed a ring to Ning Cheng and said with a smile, "Then, let me wish you success first."

Ning Cheng put away the ring and said, "Brother Gong, I also have one small request. If I can successfully refine the Six Yin Soul Pills, I would like to ask Brother Gong for one."

Gong Huayu laughed loudly, "Let's just follow the original rules. If you can refine the pills, we will each have a half. If it doesn't, then forget about it."

Ning Cheng nodded and didn't pretend to refuse. As a Dao Transformation Pill Sage, Gong Huayu definitely would have something to ask him for in the future. Since Gong Huayu had already mentioned it publicly, there wasn't any need for him to reject it either.

Seeing Ning Cheng take Gong Huayu's ring and walk back, Le Xichen looked at Ning Cheng in disbelief. "Alchemist Ning, are you really refining the Six Yin Soul Pill?"

Gong Huayu giving the Six Yin Soul Pill's ingredients to Ning Cheng to refine, in a certain sense, indicated that he didn't want these materials anymore. Rather, he wanted to pull in Ning Cheng. But whether Ning Cheng could really refine the Six Yin Soul Pills from the ingredients was an entirely different thing. Not to mention Le Xichen, everyone, including Sichen Qiutian, couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"No way? He really dares to refine it?"

"That's only natural. Didn't you see how he took out his alchemy qualifications? If it weren't because the Second Union Master could only issue Dao Transformation Pill Sage's qualification tokens, maybe he would've even taken out a Dao Essence Pill Sage's qualification token."

"Stop spouting nonsense. Better take care of what you say with that mouth."

Regardless of the chatter in the public square, Ning Cheng flicked his hand and brought out No Furnace. He purposely decided to go with No Furnace instead of Primal Chaos's First Furnace. Plus, as he had already refined No Furnace, it had now turned into the size of an ordinary pill furnace.

After bringing out No Furnace, Ning Cheng looked at Le Xichen, "That's right, I will refine the Six Yin Soul Pill."

"No Furnace?" Sichen Qiutian looked at Ning Cheng's pill furnace in amazement. There was hardly anyone here who could recognise Ning Cheng's furnace, but he just happened to know it.

Initially, No Furnace wasn't called No Furnace, but Black and White Pill Furnace. It was the pill furnace used by Old Man Black and White. Because of this pill furnace, Old Man Black and White's pills were always unparalleled. In fact, as long as he took out the Black and White Furnace, no one in the world could match him. Because of this, people later said that once Black and White came out, no furnace could reach it in the entire world. In the end, Old Man Black and White simply changed the name of his furnace to No Furnace.

After Old Man Black and White disappeared, this pill furnace got passed down to his disciple, Min. After Min's death, this pill furnace then vanished from the world. Unexpectedly, this pill furnace had fallen into Ning Cheng's hands. A hint of longing flashed in Sichen Qiutian's eyes, but it quickly dissipated.

All spiritual objects under the heavens would recognise their masters. Since the furnace had fallen into Ning Cheng, it meant that it recognised Ning Cheng as its master. Therefore, even if he took it by force, it would no longer be the No Furnace. Besides, he wasn't willing to fight with a junior over a furnace.

Ning Cheng carefully sat down within the pill refinement restrictions and raised his hand to bring out hundreds of spirit herbs. The Six Yin Fruits, the Nine Curved Soul Grass, and the Forgetfulness Flower were all carefully wrapped in Ning Cheng's spiritual consciousness but were clearly visible to everyone.

At this moment, the eyes of every single person in the public square focused on Ning Cheng's movements. Whether Ning Cheng could successfully refine the Six Yin Soul Pill, it was definitely a one-in-a-million opportunity to see an alchemist attempt to refine it.

Unlike his previous refinements, Ning Cheng didn't throw any spirit herbs into the pill furnace. Instead, he used his Starry Sky Sea of Consciousness to wrap around and analyse the spirit herbs individually. After all, he dared to refine the Six Yin Soul Pill not because his understanding of laws went far beyond that of ordinary pill sages. But primarily because of his desire to help his friend, Xun Hanrui.

Previously, he consistently failed to refine the first batch during the pill sage's assessments. But this time, when attempting to refine a Dao Essence Dao Pill, he absolutely couldn't fail.

Failing in the pill sage's assessments didn't significantly impact Ning Cheng. After all, he had successfully refined the required grade of pills in the subsequent batches. Moreover, regardless of the outcome, he finished the refinement quite fast for each level. But he couldn't replicate the same speed right now. What's more, he currently had just enough ingredients for one batch of Six Yin Soul Pills. If he failed, who knows how long he would have to wait to help Xun Hanrui.

Ning Cheng wasn't any weaker than Le Xichen as a Dao Transformation Pill Sage. It also meant that advancing to the Dao Essence Pill Sage for both was only a step away. However, this step was even more difficult for Ning Cheng than for Le Xichen.

This was because Le Xichen was already at the peak of the Dao Transformation Realm in cultivation and had already become aware of the door to the Dao Essence Realm. The only thing that Le Xichen lacked right now was a bit more comprehension. On the other hand, Ning Cheng was only at the Dao Sculpting Realm, still a far cry from the Dao Essence Realm.

After all, refining a Dao Essence Dao Pill wasn't only related to one's attainments in the Dao of Alchemy but also to one's comprehension of the Grand Daos of heaven and earth. To put it simply, it had a high relation to one's cultivation level.

Pushing the Mysterious Yellow Formless to its limit, Ning Cheng had long since forgotten that he was in the process of refining pills and competing in alchemy.

When Bei Hanyuan discussed his alchemic philosophy, it gave Ning Cheng an epiphany about his own Returning-to-one Dao. But because he still wanted to participate in this Alchemy Discourse, he didn't have the opportunity to immediately go into seclusion to solidify his dao enlightenment.

Therefore, now that he started to refine the Six Yin Soul Pill, the dao rhythms of his alchemic dao and the dao rhythms of his grand dao gradually began to fuse with the three law-infused spirit herbs.

As the worldly dao rhythms grew thicker around Ning Cheng, even though Ning Cheng didn't move a muscle, the manifested phenomenon had long since surpassed Le Xichen.

At this moment, everyone felt as if they had suddenly appeared within a vast green world. This world had endless plants and countless living beings. These living creatures and plants continually experienced sorrow, joy, rain, lightning and thunder, as well as shade and sunshine.....

Eventually, they began to wither, and the green world started to turn desolate. Slowly, all life within this world dissipated, and the world itself began to collapse and finally turned into fragments. These

fragments and the countless similar fragments in space gradually came together and became one. This seemed to demonstrate the world's origin and the slow reversing back to the primal chaos universe.

Whether powerful experts or alchemists, everyone in the public square found themselves immersed in Ning Cheng's Returning-to-one dao rhythm, whether they wanted it or not. Even the Holy Emperors who had reached the second step of Dao Confirming felt shaken by Ning Cheng's majestic and thick dao rhythm. It had even started to affect their dao hearts.

Unfortunately, the place where Ning Cheng refined pills had been sealed off by many restrictions. One could only try to see and feel it but couldn't use their spiritual consciousness to investigate. Otherwise, there was no telling how many spiritual consciousnesses would have gone in to check out Ning Cheng's grand dao and dao rhythm.

As time slowly passed, the deadline Ning Cheng set had also passed. Without noticing, ten days passed quietly, yet not a single person raised any objections. Even Yan Ji, who couldn't cultivate, got engrossed in Ning Cheng's Returning-to-one Dao.

The Returning-to-one's dao rhythm continued to flow through Ning Cheng's consciousness. "My dao, filled with hundredfold worries, entails unity under the heaven. Various branches lead to the same end, but without roots and stems, leaves or blooming flowers. As all things come into being, and all things reach their end, it is when my dao forms....."

This particular dao rhythm kept reverberating in Ning Cheng's mind, like a morning bell and evening drums. Ning Cheng had a feeling that once this world created by dao rhythms once again blossomed from that resolute rootlessness and leaflessness, his Dao would genuinely reach grand completion.

The Dao of Alchemy, like all other daos, was just one of the daos; major or minor, it didn't matter. No matter how powerful it was, it couldn't surpass his dao. And although the Six Yin Fruit's dao rhythm far exceeded his current understanding, in the end, it boiled down to just one of the laws of heaven and earth. It meant that it was also a law of heaven and earth that existed within his Returning-to-one Dao.

The Nine Curved Soul Grass and the Forgetfulness Flower..... Although law-infused spirit herbs, he still found their laws in his dao rhythm.

With my Returning-to-one Dao, I refine the Six Yin Fruits! Six Yin Fruits into the furnace!

With my Returning-to-one Dao, I refine the Nine Curved Soul Grass! Nine Curved Soul Grass into the furnace!

With my Returning-to-one Dao, I refine the Forgetfulness Flower! Forgetfulness Flower into the furnace!

.....

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 987: Pill Forms, Tribulation Begins

As one spirit herb after another entered the pill furnace, the dao rhythm around Ning Cheng's body also began to gather. It then slowly fused with the pills forming within the pill furnace.

"What a powerful dao....." Cultivators who returned to senses from Ning Cheng's Returning-to-one dao rhythms felt horrified. Ning Cheng was condensing a Dao Essence Dao Pill. Yet, the tip of his grand dao

had caused Holy Emperors to fall into enlightenment. From this, everyone could tell that Ning Cheng's dao was extraordinary.

As Le Xichen watched Ning Cheng's pill refining techniques, he felt increasingly appalled. Ning Cheng indeed didn't have a fixed pill art. He occasionally used hand seals similar to pill arts, but Le Xichen could tell they weren't part of any pill art. Rather.....

He didn't dare to think about it any further. Plus, because he stood much closer to Ning Cheng on the stage, he felt it much deeper than the others in the audience. He could also sense that Ning Cheng's hand gestures carried a unique kind of law aura with them.

Even Sichen Qiutian didn't dare to say that he could inject the law auras of heaven and earth into the pill furnace, right? Yet, Ning Cheng actually incorporated the law aura into the pill furnace?

Were these his own laws, or were the laws of heaven and earth that he had sensed? Or was it the law aura from the Six Yin Fruits?

Le Xichen couldn't guess it correctly, but he did obtain some clues. Ning Cheng had indeed grasped the faint law aura of the Six Yin Fruits, but those laws were far higher than his current comprehension of the Returning-to-one Dao. If he were to rely solely on his current Dao of Alchemy, he would not be able to incorporate the laws within the Six Yin Fruit into the Six Yin Soul Pill.

Because of this, Ning Cheng had to use his own Grand Dao to grab the laws within the Six Yin Fruits. Ten days allowed him to further his comprehension of the Returning-to-one Dao and use his Returning-to-one Dao to grasp the law aura of the Six Yin Fruit from the overarching Returning-to-one Dao.

The alchemists who had wanted to pick at Ning Cheng's faults earlier weren't wrong in their words. At least about Alchemy being a path of caution that didn't allow even a speck of dust to enter the process.

After ten days and ten nights of epiphany, Ning Cheng had put all the spirit herbs, including the Six Yin Fruit, into his pill furnace. It was followed by ten days and ten nights of grand dao epiphany and ten days and ten nights of capturing the law-related dao charms. Since Ning Cheng grasped the Six Yin Fruit's laws from within the Returning-to-one Dao, he thought that he should be able to incorporate it into the Six Yin Soul Pill.

Unfortunately, the Dao of Alchemy had no 'should', much less other possibilities. You either succeeded, or you failed.

Despite grasping the Six Yin Fruit's laws, he couldn't control this dao fruit's laws. It wasn't because his understanding wasn't enough. It also wasn't because his proficiency in alchemy wasn't high enough. Instead, it was simply because his cultivation wasn't strong enough.

Maybe if he refined a few dozen more Dao Essence Dao Pills, he would be able to refine the Six Yin Soul Pills. Perhaps if his cultivation level advanced a little more, he could also refine the Six Yin Soul Pill. But right now, he understood that he couldn't.

Feeling that the law aura from the Six Yin Fruit was about to disperse, a wave of sadness welled up in Ning Cheng's heart. He had tried his best, even pushed himself to the very limits. For Xun Hanrui's sake, he had spent ten days and ten nights in a dao epiphany to search for the Six Yin Fruit's law aura from

within his Returning-to-one Dao. He even went so far as to let others glimpse at the tip of his Returning-to-one Dao. Even going as far as to accept defeat in this alchemy competition.

Yet, even after all that, he still had to fail.

All because the things he wanted to do went beyond his ability. He wasn't yet capable enough to refine a Dao Essence Dao Pill.

The dao rhythms continued to roll around within the pill furnace, while the white flames underneath the furnace looked like snow in June. However, the dao rhythm around Ning Cheng continued to grow even thinner. Although he still pushed himself to succeed, his heart had already turned decadent.

No one could feel the changes in Ning Cheng's pill furnace. Except for Sichen Qiutian.

Sichen Qiutian let out a long sigh in his heart. Ning Cheng definitely was the best alchemic genius that he had ever seen. In fact, Ning Cheng was even better than him in many respects. But he also understood that it was Ning Cheng's first time refining a Dao Essence Dao Pill. Yet, as a first-time alchemist, he had almost grasped the law-infused dao rhythm of the Six Yin Fruit and incorporated it into the pill. This fact proved that no one in the Grand Essence Realm could match him. Even he was far behind in this aspect.

It's a pity.....

If he had known about this, Sichen Qiutian would have definitely taken out a few Dao Essence Dao Pills and handed them to Ning Cheng to study.

The Dao of Alchemy was just one of the many daos. But if Ning Cheng failed in today's alchemy, it would most likely result in significant changes to his dao heart. His dao heart would be affected, and it might even cause the decline of his grand dao.

"For alchemists, success or failure in refining pills is common. Alchemist Ning does not need to worry....." Sichen Qiutian finally couldn't help but transmit a message to Ning Cheng.

If there was anyone here who could transmit a message to Ning Cheng, who sat within the pill refining restrictions, he would be the only one. He didn't want Ning Cheng to fall because of this furnace. He honestly didn't want to see an alchemy genius like Ning Cheng fall into obscurity. Even without mentioning Ning Cheng's Dao of Alchemy, Ning Cheng's Grand Dao alone was more powerful than his grand dao.

Ning Cheng's heart shook as he immediately sobered up from his decadence. He wouldn't have cared much if it was any other pill, even if it resulted in a failure. But this was the Six Yin Soul Pill. In the future, once he becomes a Dao Essence Pill Sage, he could definitely obtain the ingredients for the Six Yin Soul Pill. *But even if he could get the ingredients, how many years would it take?*

It didn't matter if he already lost; he could do without that top-grade Wood Origin Spirit Vein. *But what about Xin Hanrui?* Even with the Six Yin Soul Pill, he couldn't delay things too long. In any case, it has already been too long since Xun Hanrui's fall.

Laws, what could make him gather the laws once again and condense the Six Yin Soul Pill? His understanding of the laws of heaven and earth? But it was already too late for that. He couldn't go and cultivate for several hundred years and then refine this furnace of pills.

Yes, he still had the remaining half of the Bestowing Lawless Fruit. This dao fruit devoured the laws of heaven and earth but had no law. The Bestowing Lawless Fruit did not have a law, but that didn't mean it had nothing to do with laws. He couldn't have comprehended the Law Break Spirit Technique through the Bestowing Lawless Fruit if it had nothing to do with laws.

Because Ning Cheng had used half of the Bestowing Lawless Fruit to comprehend Law Break, he knew that it could not only absorb and devour laws but also bind all laws. Not to mention the laws within a mere Six Yin Fruit.

However, even a hundred pairs of Six Yin Soul Pill's ingredients combined wouldn't be as precious as a single Bestowing Lawless Fruit. But after Ning Cheng thought of the Bestowing Lawless Fruit, he didn't even think about its value and directly took it out and threw it into the pill furnace.

No one knew what spirit herb Ning Cheng had thrown into the pill furnace, so they could only stare at Ning Cheng in amazement.

Even those who didn't understand alchemy felt puzzled. What was the meaning of adding more spirit herbs at this time when all the spirit herbs had already fused and the impurities extracted?

However, a dense aura of heaven and earth laws once again surrounded the pill furnace in just a few moments.

This time, Ning Cheng didn't need to exert too much effort. With a swiping motion, he directly bound the Six Yin Fruit's laws and integrated them into the already-formed Six Yin Soul Pill. From this, Ning Cheng suspected that even an ordinary Dao Sculpting Pill Deity could refine this pill as long as they had a Bestowing Lawless Fruit.

But Ning Cheng didn't overthink it and got immersed in these laws. He immediately caught on to the different laws of heaven and earth and also sensed another aura that suppressed and devoured these heaven and earth laws a moment later. It was also a law; to be precise, it was an anti-law, as its existence suppressed the heaven and earth law auras of everything in existence.

This was the real Law Break's dao rhythm.....

If Ning Cheng had not thought of the fact that he was still refining the Six Yin Soul Pill, he would have almost fallen into a second Law Break's epiphany.

While Ning Cheng didn't fall into another epiphany, the many Holy Emperors watching Ning Cheng refine the pills felt stunned by this clarity of the heaven and earth laws. They even felt a hint of a dao rhythm aura that suppressed the laws of heaven and earth. Was it.....

Unfortunately, their spiritual consciousness couldn't penetrate Ning Cheng's alchemy restrictions. They could tell that this aura was terrific, but they couldn't perceive it.

Naturally, the ability to break or even suppress laws was a remarkable feat. If everyone could achieve this capability, there wouldn't be so many experts wanting to go to the Land of Broken Laws to comprehend a law-breaking spirit technique.

As the aura of laws within the furnace grew thinner and thinner, the pill rhythm within the furnace grew clearer and more apparent.

Another two days passed, and an unmistakable fragrance came out of the pill furnace; one could even sense a faint smell of blood in the aroma. Everyone immediately shifted their shocked gazes to Ning Cheng's No Furnace.

"The fragrance of Six Yin Soul Pill had come out, containing the pill rhythm and the blood scent. Isn't this the sign of the Six Yin Soul Pill coming to fruition?"

"I still feel the aura of the world returning to one from the pill rhythm. Did Ning Cheng really successfully refine the Dao Essence Dao Pill? And even incorporated his own dao rhythm into it?"

Even though Ning Cheng used more than half a month to reach this point, all the people were utterly shocked by Ning Cheng's display. As long as one lived in the Grand Essence Realm, they would know that Sichen Qiutian was the only Dao Essence Pill Sage here. However, no one had ever seen Sichen Qiutian refine dao pills, and he had also never refined pills for anyone.

But now, Ning Cheng has refined a Dao Essence Dao Pill, the Six Yin Soul Pill, right under everyone's noses. At this moment, no one cared whether Ning Cheng won or lost the challenge; they all stared at Ning Cheng. Ning Cheng had suddenly become much more attractive than the Six Yin Soul Pil. After all, Ning Cheng had just proven himself to be a Dao Essence Pill Sage.

A crisp explosion rang out from the pill furnace; simultaneously, sounds of rolling thunder came from above the Alchemy Discourse's public square.

"Is that a Pill Tribulation?" A Dao Sculpting Pill Sage looked up in disbelief over the public square. However, because this public square was an indoor one, he couldn't see the situation outside.

"A Dao Essence Dao Pill of this level shouldn't cause a pill tribulation. What's more, even if it *could* cause a pill tribulation, the laws of the Grand Essence Realm are broken. So, no lightning strikes would come down."

"Then, what about the rolling thunder outside....."

Some alchemists murmured to themselves, looking at the pills in Ning Cheng's pill furnace in complete disbelief.

Sichen Qiutian stood up in amazement. *A Dao Essence Dao Pill formed without a pill art?* Let's not even talk about that for now. The current Grand Essence Realm wasn't complete, and even if it was intact, a mere Six Yin Soul Pill wasn't enough to call down a pill tribulation. Even when advancing to the Dao Sculpting Realm, the first step of Dao Confirming, Eternal cultivators wouldn't face thunder tribulation because of the broken laws. *So how could it be for a mere pill?*

The only possibility was that it had something to do with the spirit herb Ning Cheng had thrown into the pill furnace later. *Just what was that thing?*

Ning Cheng also looked up in shock. He knew that because of the broken laws of the Grand Essence Realm, there would be no lightning tribulation even when breaking through to become a Holy Emperor. *How could he accept for a pill tribulation to come down right when he was about to finish refining the Six Yin Soul Pills?*

Most likely, it wasn't because of his Six Yin Soul Pill but because of the Bestowing Lawless Fruit.

“Boom-Boom-Boom.....” Six powerful lightning arcs blasted through the public square’s restrictions, aiming at the pill furnace.

The Gate Of Good Fortune

Chapter 988: Strength earns respect

“A pill tribulation?” Everyone in the public square stood up and stared at the six lightning arcs rushing down.

Don’t look at these six arcs as something simple and easy to overcome. The aura of these lightning arcs showed that they were even more potent than the tribulation lightning faced by Dao Sculpting Holy Emperors. Even though these six arcs had nothing to do with them, they all thought that Ning Cheng wouldn’t be able to withstand them.

Ning Cheng suddenly stood up, and without even bringing out a weapon, he flew up and blasted out several punches one after another.

On the public square, everyone who came to listen to the alchemic discussions and the alchemists couldn’t help but look at Ning Cheng incredulously. Has he gone insane? No matter how important or valuable the pills were, you can’t just use your flesh and blood to resist a thunder tribulation, right? What’s more, these six arcs had law-infused dao rhythms circulating within them. Just a glance would be enough to tell that they weren’t something an ordinary Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor could resist.

“Boom-Boom.....” While the crowd reeled in shock, Ning Cheng’s fists made contact with the falling arcs.

The tribulation that contained the aura of laws blasted against Ning Cheng’s fist, giving out explosive sounds. However, instead of loud ear-piercing explosions, they sounded akin to something heavy striking a cotton cloth. Yet, no blood and flesh splattered or bones shattered as people expected.

“Bang!” Ning Cheng fell from the air and onto the stage. The sound his feet made as it struck the stage felt like a hammer pounding everyone’s heart and mind, causing everyone to sober up.

Apart from Ning Cheng’s sleeves burned away by the lightning, no one could see even an inkling of a scar on his body. Not a single scratch or a drop of blood could be seen. As for the thunder tribulation, it had also disappeared without a trace. In other words, it was just one wave of six pill tribulation arcs that disappeared after getting blocked.

Was Ning Cheng really a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor? Seeing Ning Cheng easily parrying those tribulation arcs, no one could believe that Ning Cheng was a Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor. After all, no Dao Sculpting Holy Emperor could block six pill tribulation arcs containing the laws of heaven and earth as easily as Ning Cheng.

Six dark red fragrant pills suddenly flew out and entered the two jade bottles Ning Cheng had prepared beforehand. With tribulation arcs blasting apart the restriction on Ning Cheng’s pill refining area, everyone could finally see the six pills with much more clarity.

That’s right, six ‘Six Yin Soul Pills’. But not just six ‘Six Yin Soul Pills’, six top-quality Six Yin Soul Pills; there wasn’t even one high-grade pill among them.

The public square turned utterly silent. No one thought Ning Cheng had lost the competition. To refine six top-quality Dao Essence Dao Pills, no Six Yin Soul Pills, just how high was Ning Cheng's alchemic dao? Several pairs of greedy eyes fell on Ning Cheng, each person's mind having different thoughts.

Ning Cheng had essentially established himself as a Dao Essence Pill Sage who was even better than Sichen Qiutian. However, Ning Cheng was different from Sichen Qiutian; Ning Cheng was a rogue cultivator without any background.

Ning Cheng took a deep breath. He knew about his affairs much better than anyone else. Ning Cheng wasn't a Dao Essence Pill Sage; he couldn't refine a Dao Essence Dao Pill even at his peak. The only reason he could complete this batch of Six Yin Soul Pills wasn't because of his deep understanding of his Dao of Alchemy but because of the Bestowing Lawless Fruit.

Without the Bestowing Lawless Fruit, this furnace of Six Yin Soul Pills would have ended in an absolute failure. In other words, even if he found another set of ingredients to refine a new batch of Six Yin Soul Pills, he wouldn't be able to do it at all.

If he wanted to refine the Six Yin Soul Pill, he would have to first go into secluded cultivation to better understand the epiphany he experienced during this event. Then, he would have to somehow incorporate his Returning-to-on Grand Dao in his Dao of Alchemy, which would take who knows how long.

Moreover, when those pill tribulation arcs descended, Ning Cheng vaguely felt that those tribulation arcs weren't the heavenly dao tribulation of the Grand Essence Realm. But the feeling was so vague and out of the world that he couldn't be entirely sure of it.

Ning Cheng cupped his fists towards Le Xichen, who stood at the side in stunned silence. Then he cupped his fists, bowed toward Holy Emperor Qing Yi, and spoke up calmly, "This junior spoke out of turn previously. I've failed the challenge and lost to Pill Sage Le."

Ning Cheng didn't feel even half a shred of regret despite losing. He had managed to refine the Six Yin Soul Pills, which was good enough. As for the wood-attributed spirit vein, even if it was even more precious, it couldn't compare to a friend's life. In the eyes of other cultivators, giving up on a top-quality spirit vein and even throwing in half of a Bestowing Lawless Fruit in exchange for defeat might construe as foolish and idiotic. After all, how could an insignificant Essence Building cultivator be worth so much?

But Ning Cheng didn't think so. He only did what he thought he should do.

Besides, even if he went to the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition, he might still be far away from that top-quality spirit vein. It would remain a distant dream unless he somehow obtained a large pile of Dao Essence-level and above spirit herbs to practice.

Le Xichen opened his mouth but couldn't utter a single word. He knew that the one who truly lost was himself, not Ning Cheng. But as Ning Cheng said, Ning Cheng only 'lost' because of the conditions he put forth himself; he didn't refine the Six Yin Soul Pills within one day. After all, everyone needs to be responsible for their own words.

In fact, not to mention Ning Cheng, no Dao Transformation Pill Sage with a Dao Sculpting cultivation could refine the Six Yin Soul Pill within one year, let alone one day.

On the other hand, Gong Huayu let out a wild laugh and rushed straight up. It was a wonderful surprise. He never expected Ning Cheng to successfully refine the pill, let alone a batch of six top-quality pills. As for whether Ning Cheng won or lost the challenge, he genuinely didn't care. After all, he primarily did this to repay a favour.

He had converted the batch-worth of Six Yin Soul Pill's ingredients into three top-quality Six Yin Soul Pills for each side. This also meant that he returned Ning Cheng's favour and gained the friendship of a Dao Essence Pill Sage. Apart from Gong Huayu, who else could show such boldness? Who else could enjoy such a great fortune?

Ning Cheng placed one of the jade bottles into Gong Huayu's hands after seeing him rush up. "Many thanks, Brother Gong, for generously taking out the Six Yin Soul Pill ingredients. If Brother Gong needs anything from me in the future, just ask."

Gong Huayu tightly grabbed the jade bottle, curbed his widening smile and said to Ning Cheng with cupped fists, "Brother Ning, it should be me who needs to say this. If Brother Ning needs anything from me in the future, all you need to do is just ask."

Since this was still the Alchemy Discourse's public square, Gong Huayu didn't say much to Ning Cheng. After taking those pills and saying those words, he immediately returned to his seat. He hoped for Ning Cheng's friendship, and he got it.

No one thought much about Gong Huayu's wild laughter. But in the future, if they couldn't ask for Ning Cheng's help, they might have to turn to Gong Huayu to help them out. Especially since Gong Huayu had become Ning Cheng's 'friend'.

It wasn't until Gong Huayu went down the stage that the public square boiled over again. As for the giant gaping hole in the ceiling created by the tribulation, no one cared about it.

Instead, everyone cared more about the 'Dao Essence Pill Sage' Ning Cheng. Even if they talked among themselves excitedly, they deliberately suppressed their voices.

As for Le Xichen, the 'winner' of the challenge, he had long since been ignored.

Holy Emperor Qing Yi, who stood by the stage, didn't know what she should do. Should she announce that Ning Cheng had won, or should she announce that Le Xichen had won?

According to the Alchemy Discourse's rules, Ning Cheng was the one who won the challenge. But Ning Cheng himself had announced that it would be his defeat if he didn't refine the pill in one day. Would people even agree to it?

At this moment, apart from Gong Huayu, no one went up to speak with Ning Cheng.

Sichen Qiutian's voice finally broke the whispering silence. "Ning Cheng, can you show me a Six Yin Soul Pill you refined?"

"Of course." Ning Cheng didn't hesitate to take a pill and place it on the jade tray before handing it over to Holy Emperor Qing Yi.

From the start of the Alchemy Discourse to this point, Sichen Qiutian had been very fair. Even during his alchemy sermon, he didn't hide any of the insights he learned. Plus, this person had even taken the

initiative to remind him when his dao heart had almost reached the point of breakage. As such, Ning Cheng respected him very much.

Sichen Qiutian carefully looked at the Six Yin Soul Pill on the jade tray for a long while before he finally sighed. "What a perfect and flawless dao pill. It not only has a thick pill rhythm, but even the law aura also shows a high degree of purity. Even I can't refine such a dao pill. Perhaps in the entire Grand Essence Realm, only Pill Sage Ning alone can do so. Isn't this more than a good pill?"

While Sichen Qiutian observed the pill, other people also looked at it with their spiritual consciousness. The Six Yin Soul Pill that Ning Cheng had refined had a clear and distinct pill rhythm and law aura. It even contained a hint of the dao rhythm of Ning Cheng's grand dao. As Sichen Qiutian had said, this pill was more than a 'good' pill.

Before, Sichen Qiutian had said that the Supreme Essence Arterial Pulse Pill refined by Le Xichen was a 'good pill'. But now, he said that the pill refined by Ning Cheng was more than a good pill. The meaning was self-explanatory; Ning Cheng's Dao of Alchemy surpassed Le Xichen.

Without waiting for Holy Emperor Qing Yi to speak, Le Xichen took the initiative to say, "Alchemist Ning, this pill discussion is my failure. My Dao of Alchemy is far from a match against Alchemist Ning."

Ning Cheng showed only a faint smile. He would be lying to say that he was uninterested in the Five Great Realms' Alchemy Competition. But he didn't want to use this way to reach it; at the very least, it meant going back on his words, which made him uncomfortable. Ning Cheng took the initiative to speak up without waiting for Le Xichen to continue. "Alchemist Le doesn't need to say anything else. I'm satisfied with my loss. As for representing the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition, I won't be going."

"Alchemist Ning, I think you should represent my Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition. Perhaps you will become the pride of my Grand Essence Realm." Sichen Qiutian suddenly spoke up.

If Sichen Qiutian hadn't spoken up, no one else in the Alchemy Discourse's public square would have said anything. But now that he said that Ning Cheng should represent the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition, Sheng Huotian immediately stepped forward. "I already understood that Ning Cheng had the qualifications to represent the Grand Essence Realm as he went through the Dao Transformation Pill Sage's assessment. I agree with the Union Master's words fully."

"I also agree with allowing Pill Sage Ning to represent my Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition." This time, the one who spoke was Cen Ruxuan from the Alchemy Listening Seats.

It was then immediately echoed by an elderly man from the Silver Dragon Clan sitting next to Gong Huayu. He even stood up to support Ning Cheng.

7-Star Sacred Shrine, 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond, Flaming Feather Spirit Mountain, Heaven Extreme Island, Violet Mist Immortal Valley, Heavenly Medicine Sect, Lost Moon Valley, Grand Essence Realm's Chi Clan.....

A host of other large and small sects and clans who came to listen to the alchemy discussions quickly stood up. They all expressed their approval for Ning Cheng to represent the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition. By the end, even River Luo Sacred Sect and Desolate Spirit Palace also endorsed Ning Cheng's participation in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition.

"I also agree with Pill Sage Ning taking my spot; my Dao of Alchemy is not as good as Ning....."

This time, Le Xichen's words were interrupted by Sichen Qiutian. "Pill Sage Le also has to represent my Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition. I will personally lead the group there this time. I believe that with this old face of mine, I can still seek an extra spot for my Grand Essence Realm."

No matter how much of it was false, Ning Cheng understood that he had finally gained a foothold in the Grand Essence Realm after this Alchemy Discourse. Ning Cheng had won the respect of the crowd with his own strength. In the future, no matter who wanted to come after him, they would have to consider the consequences carefully.

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At this moment, if there was still a quiet area in the public square, it would be the Void Star Sect's seating area at the Alchemy Listening Seats.

Percy sat in his seat with his head bowed, while the Void Star Sect's Sect Master, who sat beside Percy, had an even more gloomy and unsightly face. He had publicly rejected Ning Cheng from refining the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill for his Void Star Sect. But now, Ning Cheng had slapped him in the face, and his face had snapped quite loudly.

Ning Cheng had refined a pill many times more difficult to refine than the Renewing Heaven Bone Ripple Pill. None other than a Dao Essence Dao Pill, the Six Yin Soul Pill.

What's more, he had even witnessed Ning Cheng's refining process. He could tell that Ning Cheng would have the best chance of success in refining the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill. In fact, he gave Ning Cheng a 99% chance of successfully refining the Renewing Heaven Ripple Bone Pill.

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 989: Fellow villagers meeting fellow villagers

Since Sichen Qiutian requested it, Ning Cheng naturally wouldn't remain pretentious. With the Six Yin Soul Pill in hand and representing the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition without taking Le Xichen's spot, why would Ning Cheng refuse?

"Many thanks, Senior Qiutian. This Ning Cheng will definitely give it his best." Ning Cheng hurriedly thanked him.

Sichen Qiutian nodded and took out a golden token before handing it to Ning Cheng. "This is the Dao Essence Pill Sage's qualification token. It's the highest grade token that my Grand Essence Realm's Pill Union can issue. Since you refined six top-quality Six Yin Soul Pills, this qualification token should rightfully belong to you."

Ning Cheng wanted to refuse because he knew he wasn't yet a Dao Essence Pill Sage. More precisely, he was a few furnaces away from becoming a Dao Essence Pill Sage. It did not mean that he was one currently. However, he quickly thought of the value of this qualification token. In the entire Grand Essence Realm, apart from Dao Perfection powerhouses, even a Dao Fusion expert would need to think things through if they wanted to move against him.

Therefore, Ning Cheng thanked him once again before accepting the Dao Essence Pill Sage's qualification token with both hands. He knew that he couldn't refine Dao Essence Dao Pills. Yet, he was the second alchemist in the Grand Essence Realm to possess the Dao Essence Pill Sage's qualification token.

Not a single person at the Alchemy Discourse's public square raised any objections to Ning Cheng receiving this qualification token. In their eyes, Ning Cheng wasn't only a Dao Essence Pill Sage but a Dao Essence Pill Sage who could refine top-quality Six Yin Soul Pills.

After Ning Cheng put away the Dao Essence Pill Sage's qualification token, Holy Emperor Qing Yi walked onto the stage. "Congratulations to Pill Sage Ning and our Grand Essence Realm for gaining another Dao Essence Pill Sage. This time, there would be six pill sages representing the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition."

"This time, there is one more person for the coming competition. Therefore, unlike the usual way we did things, the support from each clan and sect for the participating alchemists will be sent to them through the Pill Union. Each participating alchemist will then select the clan or sect that will support them. This marks the end of this Alchemy Discourse, and I thank all the alchemists and fellow daoists of my Grand Essence Realm for coming to attend it."

Every time someone got selected to participate in the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition, every clan and sect would come out to support their favoured alchemists. It naturally was for allocating quotas.

Moreover, this support wasn't just empty words but something substantial. That's what Holy Emperor Qing Yi's last words meant. That is, the supporting sects or clans had to take out things to share the burden and also entice the alchemists. The Pill Union would then take the list of things handed in and hand it over to the participating alchemists. The alchemist can then choose their 'sponsor' from the list provided.

"Ning Cheng, if you have time, feel free to come to my abode to discuss the Dao of Alchemy." As Ning Cheng walked off the stage, Sichen Qiutian extended an invitation to Ning Cheng.

Sichen Qiutian's status in the Grand Essence Realm wasn't just that of a Union Master. In fact, his status was much higher than that of a sect master or clan leader of a major faction. Now Sichen Qiutian had personally invited Ning Cheng to come to his abode at any time. From this, everyone understood just how much Sichen Qiutian valued Ning Cheng. It genuinely was the highest honour anyone could get.

"Once I'm free, this junior and Brother Huotian will definitely come to senior's abode to listen to the teachings." Ning Cheng hurriedly responded while also pulling in Sheng Huotian with him. Although he genuinely thanked Sichen Qiutian for the offer, Ning Cheng had no intention of wasting time discussing alchemy. He still had many things to do, so how could he waste time on words?

Sichen Qiutian laughed, "Since you call Junior Apprentice Brother Huotian your brother, I naturally can't be overbearing. From now on, you can call me Brother Qiutian as well."

To other alchemists, addressing Sichen Qiutian in this manner was something they couldn't get to do even if they burned incense. But then again, Ning Cheng was a Dao Essence Pill Sage, with his Dao of Alchemy seemingly even higher than Sichen Qiutian.

Sichen Qiutian walked away and let other people come to meet Ning Cheng. Everyone seemed to feel that it was a supreme honour to even exchange a few words with Ning Cheng.

"Pill Sage Ning, I have just received news that the spirit herbs you wanted have arrived in the Heaven Essence Sacred City." An abrupt voice interrupted Ning Cheng and everyone's greeting.

Some people immediately recognised who the speaker was. With a dark face and incongruous slender eyes, the Void Star Sect's Sect Master, Wu Bufeng.

After Wu Bufeng spoke up, the people surrounding Ning Cheng immediately quieted down. None of them could figure out what had gone wrong between Ning Cheng and the Void Star Sect's Wu Bufeng. But they could guess that it had to do something with Wu Bufeng's refusal to let Ning Cheng borrow pill ingredients. From how it looked, he now wanted to give Ning Cheng the materials after seeing Ning Cheng's powerful Dao of Alchemy.

But then again, although many felt that Wu Bufeng had misjudged Ning Cheng's proficiency in alchemy, they didn't think it was out of place either.

But those who knew Ning Cheng's personality knew that Wu Bufeng was barking up the wrong tree. If not for the Silver Dragon Clan's Gong Huayu, Ning Cheng wouldn't have received the Dao Essence Pill Sage's qualification token. Nor would he have received the chance to go to the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition. In fact, without Gong Huayu's help, Ning Cheng wouldn't be currently receiving so many warm greetings but rather intense ridicule.

Ning Cheng looked at this dark-faced man and spoke up calmly, "I'm afraid you are mistaken. I have never met you, nor have I ever asked you for spirit herbs. If I have said anything wrong, I have already apologised."

The dark-faced man instantly frowned. Ning Cheng had become a Dao Essence Pill Sage, and his status had indeed risen sharply. However, he was the Void Star Sect's sect master and had personally said those words to request Ning Cheng to refine pills. But not only did Ning Cheng refuse, but Ning Cheng also refused it in such a tone, which made him extremely upset. So what if he was a Dao Essence Pill Sage? Any other time, his Void Star Sect could have easily crushed Ning Cheng to death, just like crushing an ant to death.

But right now, he was the one who wanted to ask for Ning Cheng's help. As such, he had no choice but to hold back. He looked back at Percy, hoping that Percy would come forward and speak. However, Percy simply stood there with his head lowered, not daring to lift it up. He didn't have the face to look at Ning Cheng. How could he ask Ning Cheng to help refine their pills after what had happened?

Previously, when Ning Cheng needed the Void Star Sect's help, the Void Star Sect pretended to act dead. But now, when Ning Cheng had weathered the difficulties without their help, the Void Star Sect could

only slap their faces after learning about his abilities. Why would he need to care about you when you now pretend that your previous 'act' wasn't true?

Ning Cheng didn't even give Wu Bufeng a chance to talk again and directly said to Yan Ji, Jian Sanshan, and the others, "Let's go."

It was still very early for the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition, so Ning Cheng intended to take care of his affairs here. He wanted to go to the Grand Essence Ruins to look for the Exquisite Star Golden Hidden Leaf for Yan Ji before finding a way to return to the four great starry skies.

Ning Cheng was now a popular figure who everyone wanted to befriend. Therefore, once Ning Cheng stated his intention to leave, everyone immediately gave way to Ning Cheng.

"Pill Sage Ning, please wait a moment." Another voice called out to Ning Cheng.

"So it's the Star Stepping Tower Master." Ning Cheng saw a woman in black walking over and immediately recognised her. This woman was both powerful and influential, so Ning Cheng didn't want to deal with her, nor did he want to offend her.

The woman in black nodded to Ning Cheng. "Congratulations to Pill Sage Ning for qualifying as a Dao Essence Pill Sage and representing the Grand Essence Realm at the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition."

"Many thanks." Ning Cheng only said two words and nothing more. His intent was clear, if you don't have anything to do with me, I will leave.

The Star Stepping Tower Master didn't care about Ning Cheng's intent. She continued, "I wonder if Pill Sage Ning Cheng would be free to come to my Star Stepping Tower for a little chat? Last time, I received a bottle of Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills from you, but I couldn't help you much, which made me feel sorry."

Ning Cheng laughed coldly in his heart, 'Have you ever felt sorry? Don't even dare to show teeth while laughing before this father. You wouldn't feel bad about it even if I were to give you a hundred bottles of Empyrean Consciousness Transmutation Pills.'

"Many thanks for inviting me, but I have too many things to do. I'm afraid I won't have time to sit down with you. After all, I don't even have the time to respond to Lord Qiutian's invitation." Ning Cheng spoke in a respectful tone.

Ning Cheng's tone might have been respectful, but the intent behind his words wasn't respectful at all. I'm not even taking up Sichen Qiutian's invitation, so even if you invite me, I naturally wouldn't go. Everyone understands that not all people walk the same path.

The Star Stepping Tower Master frowned slightly and suddenly said, "I just want to discuss the matter of diplomas with you. I didn't have a high degree of education as a child because my family was poor....."

Ning Cheng's heart thumped. He instantly understood a few things. This Star Stepping Tower Master might have something to do with Earth even if she wasn't from Earth. He thought back to some of the words he heard from the Star Stepping Tower Master's mouth and started to feel more and more certain about this conjecture.

If this woman in black was a kind-hearted person, Ning Cheng might have felt excited at such recognition. He would have immediately gone up to get to know each other. After all, when fellow villagers see fellow villagers after a long time, tears are bound to line their eyes.

However, Ning Cheng knew that this woman in black was a thick-skinned person who definitely didn't put other people's lives at heart. He definitely wouldn't dare to recognise such a 'fellow villager'. It would be equivalent to stabbing a 'fellow villager' in the back when old villagers meet after a long time.

"Senior, what do you mean by 'high degree of education'? What does it have to do with a diploma?" Ning Cheng asked as he looked at the Star Stepping Tower Master in bewilderment.

The Star Stepping Tower Master stared closely at Ning Cheng. It was just that Ning Cheng's eyes were pure, with not even half a bit of fluctuation.

"Then, let me ask you, you mentioned 'more than one diploma'. What does that statement mean?"

Ning Cheng's tone turned to nostalgia, "It was from a friend I met long ago. He taught me a lot of things. He said that a diploma was a credential, a status of some sort."

"A degree was a low-level credential, a PhD was a top-level credential, and whatever else in between was a lot of nonsense. That's why I referred to the Pill Union's qualification tokens as a diploma. What's wrong with that?"

"What's that person's name?" The Star Stepping Tower Master clenched her fists. She couldn't tell if Ning Cheng was serious or lying. But no matter what Ning Cheng said, she didn't dare do anything to Ning Cheng right now.

"His name is Cang Wei. He was already a mighty Holy Emperor back then. I reckon he must have already surpassed the Dao Fusion Realm. But ultimately got besieged by others, causing him to fall to a lower-levelled interface where he met me." Although Ning Cheng's words were the truth, the pretext was false. Cang Wei most likely didn't know anything about a diploma.

After saying this, Ning Cheng secretly said in his heart. "Senior Apprentice Brother Cang Wei, you can't blame me; this woman is too powerful for me to handle. In the future, if you happen to meet her, please take care of it for your little brother."

The Star Stepping Tower Master didn't ask any more questions but stared at Ning Cheng for a while before speaking up with a light smile. "Pill Sage Ning, come to my Star Stepping Tower when you have the time; I'll be waiting for you."

Looking at the retreating back of the Star Stepping Tower Master, Ning Cheng finally sighed with relief. Go to the Star Stepping Tower? Let's wait until he reaches the second step of Dao Confirmation. Even if you don't come to question me then, I will still come to question you. As for now, you can forget about it.

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"Tianhe, you go and talk with Ning Cheng. Also, on behalf of my 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pong, extend an invitation to him." A woman with a few wrinkles on her face said as she looked at Ning Cheng walking out of the Alchemy Discourse Public Square.

“Yes, Uncle Master.” Shi Tianhe hurriedly answered, and after she finished speaking, she immediately turned toward Ning Cheng.

“Master, don’t go to him right now.” Shi Yisheng called out to Shi Tianhe, who was about to go and greet Ning Cheng.

Shi Tianhe asked in confusion, “Why?”

“That woman following Ning Cheng is Yan Ji, from our 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond.....” Shi Yisheng spoke up in shocked disbelief.

“Yan Ji?” Shi Tianhe naturally wouldn’t keep a nameless woman like Yan Ji in her mind. So when Shi Yisheng mentioned it, she couldn’t recall such a person at all.

Shi Yisheng hurriedly reminded her, “It’s that Yan Ji who was about to undergo spirit grafting; she was put in spirit cleansing.....”

Without waiting for Shi Yisheng to finish, Shi Tianhe fully understood, and a chilling look appeared in her eyes. “Wasn’t she taken away by that witch together with Shui Yueke? How come she’s beside Ning Cheng?”

[The Gate Of Good Fortune](#)

Chapter 990: Heading to the Grand Essence Ruins again

“That woman called Yan Ji, it doesn’t look like her spirit roots have recovered. Tianhe, go and ask a few questions, and don’t invite Ning Cheng to 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond for the time being. Just ask how she came to be by his side. If he really has something to do with that witch who killed my 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond’s Holy Emperors, I will never let it go. However, we cannot touch him right now. After all, even though he’s a rogue cultivator, he’s fearless enough to jump to the sky.” The woman with a wrinkled face from 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond sent a voice transmission to Shi Tianhe.

Shi Tianhe nodded, understanding what her senior aunt meant.

“Congratulations to Pill Sage Ning for obtaining the Dao Essence Pill Sage’s qualification token and representing the Grand Essence Realm in the Five Grand Realms’ Alchemy Competition.” Shi Tianhe brought Shi Yishuang to Ning Cheng and congratulated him with a smile on her face.

Even if Ning Cheng didn’t like Shi Tianhe much, Shi Tianhe was still the Vice Sect Master of the 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond. Moreover, her cultivation level also far exceeded his. Now that Shi Tianhe had personally come over, Ning Cheng could only return the greetings with cupped fists, “Many thanks, Vice Sect Master Shi.”

He still had one more thing on his mind: searching for the woman who looked like Shi Qionghua. However, Ning Cheng also was well aware of his current abilities. As such, he decided to not pursue it for now.

Moreover, even if the 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond invited him, he couldn’t just go. Who could say if they would imprison him and force him to refine pills specifically for the 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond? After all, this sect was one thing in the open but the complete opposite in the dark.

“Huh, Junior Apprentice Sister Yan Ji? How did you end up here, and with Pill Sage Ning no less.” Shi Yishuang looked at Yan Ji in astonishment, as if she had just discovered her existence.

Ning Cheng sneered coldly in secret. Go ahead and pretend. He knew Shi Tianhe and others had noticed Yan Ji a long time ago. They just need an excuse to find out how she got to her side. But, no matter how they put it, he would never admit the truth. After all, even as a Dao Essence Pill Sage, it might become troublesome if he accepted it.

Therefore, Ning Cheng acted with even more surprise and asked, “You know Yan Ji?”

Shi Yishuang nodded hastily, “Yes, Junior Apprentice Sister Yan Ji originally was an outer disciple of my 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond. However, a traitor whisked her away. I wonder how Pill Sage Ning ended up with Junior Apprentice Sister Yan Ji?”

Ning Cheng suddenly showed a confused expression, “If I recall it correctly, back then, Yan Ji was with Shui Yueke. It’s just that she seemed to be unconscious. But when I saw Yan Ji’s beauty, I immediately took a liking to her. Shui Yueke is also a nice person. Unfortunately, she had something urgent to attend to, so she handed Yan Ji over to me. Fortunately, Pill Sage Jing Han decided to exchange some dao fruits with me, so I obtained two 5-Elements Heavenly Fruits to wake up Yan Ji.”

After saying this, Ning Cheng even fondly took Yan Ji’s hand, his eyes full of joy. It immediately made his intent clear. I care about Yan Ji, so don’t ask about something if you don’t want others to know what happened at your 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond. If you’re going to ask, better be prepared to tear all face.

Most of what Ning Cheng said was the truth anyway. Everyone from this sect ‘already knew’ that she and Shui Yueke knew each other. Plus, from what he heard from Yan Ji, Ruo Xi was the one who had actually saved the three of them.

“You..... used the 5-Elemental Heavenly Fruit just to wake her up?” In Shi Yishuang’s eyes, Yan Ji, a puny outer disciple, had no other redeeming qualities apart from her beauty. Yet, Ning Cheng had actually used a 5-Elemental Heavenly Fruit to wake her up, not even fully heal her. Only because he fancied Yan Ji’s beauty, this kind of luxury felt simply too.....

After all, no cultivator would be so extravagant as to spend this much to save a woman. Because of this, Shi Yishuang couldn’t believe it despite knowing that it was the truth.

Ning Cheng’s face sank, and his tone also turned somewhat unhappy. “Oh, does Fairy Yishuang think that what I did was inappropriate?”

“I didn’t mean that.....” Shi Yishuang hurriedly replied. Ning Cheng was no longer the same person she could openly disdain.

On the other hand, after hearing Ning Cheng’s explanation, Shi Tianhe felt slightly relieved. As long as Ning Cheng wasn’t involved with that witch, she could use Ning Cheng for her 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond.

“Pill Sage Ning, please don’t blame her for her surprise. Yishuang felt that the 5-Elemental Heavenly Fruit is somewhat precious and spoke out without careful consideration.” Shi Tianhe immediately cut in

to ease the tension. “Yan Ji is an unparalleled beauty, and it’s her good fortune to be able to follow Pill Sage Ning.”

After saying this, Shi Tianhe then turned to Yan Ji and spoke gently. “Yan Ji, you are also a disciple of my 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond. It’s your fortune that Pill Sage Ning has taken a fancy to you. In the future, you should continue following Pill Sage Ning and serve him well.”

Yan Ji hurriedly bowed in response. Shi Tianhe was at least right about one thing. She was still currently a disciple of the 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond in the eyes of the public, even if she didn’t consider herself as one.

On the other hand, when Shi Tianhe spoke to Yan Ji in an instructional tone, Ning Cheng felt upset in his heart. However, he couldn’t say anything right now. Instead, he showed a warm smile, “You can consider it a hobby of mine. I always get an itch when I see a beautiful woman. Last time I saw a woman from the 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond in the Grand Essence Mystic Realm. I simply couldn’t stop thinking about her in my heart.....”

When Shi Tianhe heard Ning Cheng’s words, she immediately felt overjoyed. She thought he wouldn’t like her 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond’s female disciples. After all, she could easily arrange for it as long as he fancied any of them. Moreover, even though Yan Ji was a disciple of her 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond, she didn’t have any sense of belonging to the sect. Plus, with the 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond trying to graft away her spirit roots, it would be strange if she felt anything good about the sect.

“Yishuang, who is it that Pill Sage Ning took a fancy to?” Shi Tianhe couldn’t wait to immediately bring Ning Cheng to her 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond.

Shi Yishuang hurriedly transmitted a message to Shi Tianhe, “It’s our Sacred Lady, who has reincarnated nine times.....”

Shi Yishuang no longer had to say anything else. Shi Tianhe understood that such a thing would never come to fruition. If Ning Cheng had fancied Shi Yishuang, she could have still agreed to it. But even if Ning Cheng was a Dao Essence Pill Sage, he wouldn’t be able to take away their 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond’s Sacred Lady. Especially one who had already reincarnated nine times.

“This junior will take his leave.” Ning Cheng didn’t get the answer he wanted, so he went with simple parting words and quickly left with Yan Ji and others.

The people from Profound Aquatic Palace weren’t too far from Ning Cheng and had heard the conversation between Ning Cheng and Shi Tianhe and Shi Yishuang.

“Aunt Xuan, this Ning Cheng is capable, but he’s too..... human.” Yue Shu, who stood beside Cen Ruxuan, shook her head.

Cen Ruxuan looked at Ning Cheng’s disappearing back and pondered for a moment before speaking. “Yue Shu, maybe you might succeed with your method. If you’re willing, you can go and test him out. If my Profound Aquatic Palace has a Dao Essence Pill Sage to help, then.....”

Cen Ruxuan didn’t say anything further; the two disciples around her immediately understood what she meant.

Yue Shu nodded, "Aunt Xuan, I already planned to do it this way. Don't worry; I'm even more certain of succeeding now."

She hadn't seen the woman from 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond that Ning Cheng had fancied, but she had seen Yan Ji, who she already regarded as inferior to her.

"If he wants your virginity, you can give it to him as well....." Seeing Yue Shu nod, Cen Ruxuan suddenly added another sentence.

Yue Shu's face changed, and she quickly replied, "That I can't do. But you can rest assured, Aunt Xuan. Even if I don't give him anything, he will still obediently work for my Profound Aquatic Palace."

Zhongmeng Yuxiu, who hadn't spoken till now, suddenly interjected. "Senior Apprentice Sister Yue Shu, I'm afraid you still have no idea how he deals with things."

.....

"Junior Apprentice Sister Ji, I said that to Shi Tianhe because I suspect Qionghua is at 9-Revolutions Sacred Dao Pond." After returning to the inn, Ning Cheng explained it to Yan Ji.

Shi Qionghua and Ji Luofei were Ning Cheng's dao companions. Yan Ji had known about it for a long time. Now that Ning Cheng explained it, she showed a serene smile and said, "Big Brother, you should go and save Junior Apprentice Sister Hanrui."

What she meant was that there was no need to explain these matters to her. If she needed explanations for such issues from Ning Cheng, she wouldn't have risked her life so many times to find Ning Cheng.

Ning Cheng nodded his head and directly entered the True Spirit World.

Ning Cheng had put Xun Hanrui's body behind several protective formations. So apart from her pale face and lack of flowing blood, she looked as if she was just asleep.

Ning Cheng took out a Six Yin Soul Pill and put it into Xun Hanrui's mouth. It transformed into a gas and seeped into Xun Hanrui's body.

However, even after an hour, Ning Cheng found no signs of Xun Hanrui's soul returning to her body. Fortunately, Ning Cheng also understood that he couldn't rush this matter. The Six Yin Soul Pill did give people a chance to reunite their departed soul and the body, but it could sometimes take several years. Moreover, taking the Six Yin Soul Pill where the person fell would be even more effective. It would quicken the gathering of the dissipating soul without the need for a complete soul rebirth.

Ning Cheng decided to take Xun Hanrui to Rainbowfall Sword Sect in Graceful Star Mainland and put her back in her original grave when he had the chance.

When Ning Cheng came out of the True Spirit World, he found Jian Sanshan waiting outside. Jian Sanshan knew that Ning Cheng was about to leave Heaven Essence Sacred City and had come over on purpose.

"Brother Jian, I have an urgent matter to take care of in the Grand Essence Ruins. Therefore, Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong will have to follow you to learn alchemy. Don't worry though, I will return to Heaven Essence

City before leaving for the Five Grand Realms' Alchemy Competition." Even though he had already discussed this matter with Jian Sanshan, he still decided to probe Jian Sanshan again.

In fact, with his current status, even if they didn't follow Jian Sanshan, Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong's status had reached the point where everyone wanted to fawn over them. They no longer were the same inconspicuous duo that anyone could step over unless they didn't want to live anymore.

Without waiting for Jian Sanshan to speak, Xin Xiu, who stood at the side, spoke up. "Big Brother Ning, Senior Apprentice Brother Jian has already asked Junior Apprentice Brother Qihong and me to follow him and learn alchemy. Moreover, Senior Apprentice Brother has also helped us establish a pill house in Heaven Essence Sacred City."

Jian Sanshan grinned, "Brother Ning, I got the pill house in Heaven Essence Sacred City registered in your name, but I will also be making a living in that pill house from now on."

"Then, many thanks, Brother Jian." Ning Cheng hurriedly stood up to thank him. He naturally understood Jian Sanshan's intent behind those actions. One was for reputation, and the second was for the sake of Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong. As for Jian Sanshan's comment about making a living, it was purely to help them out.

After all, Xin Xiu and Wu Qihong's alchemy level was still too low. If they wanted to open a pill house in Heaven Essence Sacred City by themselves, at least one of them had to be a Dao Sculpting Pill Sage.

Ning Cheng immediately recalled the dao pills he had refined from the dao fruits during his previous retreat. If he put these dao pills in the pill house, the pill house's business would definitely shoot up like a rocket.

However, Ning Cheng quickly dismissed this thought. Dao pills were still a precious commodity. It would immediately paint a massive target on Jian Sanshan and the others if he dared to do so in his absence.

Therefore, Ning Cheng decided to only take out some Dao Raising and under spirit pills before giving them to Xin Xiu. Then, after leaving behind more instructions on their uses, he took Yan Ji and said goodbye to Jian Sanshan and the others before leaving Heaven Essence Sacred City.