

Refining 241

Chapter 241 – Spatial Fragment

The next day, Qin Yu gathered his things. Led by the Ning Mansion steward, they arrived at a side courtyard. Of course, with the Ning Mansion's status, power, and influence, even a small and obscure courtyard was incredibly luxurious.

The steward said several words and then smiled and cupped his hands together in farewell. After taking several steps away, a look of disdain crossed his eyes. To betray a woman to further himself, what a despicable person!

Of course, he would never acknowledge these sour thoughts in his mind.

The side courtyard was temporarily sealed up and there were no guards at the entrance. When Qin Yu entered, he saw more than ten people already gathered in the small courtyard.

Standing below the trees that were in full bloom, they chatted and laughed together. Whether it was the men or women, they all had a bit more pride and excitement in their faces.

When Qin Yu appeared, the easy and lively atmosphere suddenly came to an end.

A good number of eyes showed indifference, judgment, and...disdain.

After betraying a woman, especially one he liked, such a person actually stood together with them. It was really hard to imagine.

Of course, those that could appear here were mostly intelligent; at least there weren't any idiots. They only looked around several times before turning their eyes away. Then, they continued to chat again, taking Qin Yu's existence as nothing but air.

To ignore someone like this, perhaps this was the greatest form of contempt.

Smug comfort rose in the hearts of many people.

Qin Yu certainly knew what this was all about. He laughed inwardly and then nonchalantly walked over to a corner of the courtyard and stood there by himself.

All he wanted was to enter the Gold Noble Family. It didn't matter how these people look at him.

Glancing around, many people sensed Qin Yu's calmness. After a brief moment of surprise, they sneered.

This skin, it was really too thick!

Someone from Ning Mansion arrived. They were led by a middle-aged man that Qin Yu didn't recognize. He stood with a dignified and imposing posture.

Ning Yiran and 16 other Ning Family juniors followed close behind.

"All of you can wait here. We will be leaving after an hour." After finishing speaking, the middle-aged man walked into the hall in the courtyard. Although there was no one guarding the hall, if one focused a bit, they could sense the sharp and swift aura coming from inside.

There was surely some master standing guard within.

“Greetings, Young Master Ning!”

“Is Young Master Yiran joining us? That is too wonderful!”

“Ning Le, I heard that you are only 15 years old this year. You must be an extraordinary talent highly regarded by Ning Mansion!”

It was normal for everyone to be surprised. If these outstanding Ning Mansion juniors decided to participate, then the most extreme possibility in their heart might be true. At the very least, there wouldn't be any dangers.

The Ning Mansion juniors had light expressions. If they appeared here, that meant they had already been informed that this was the greatest secret of their people. After a moment of shock, now was the time to be proud and cocky. They faintly thought: ah, so our Ning Family was so epic...

They looked at the young cultivators chosen by the mansion. These people weren't too bad, but they were unable to stand on par with them. They were doomed to be minor supporting characters.

Ning Yiran smiled warmly. He nodded towards everyone, looking like a genteel and kind youth.

Suddenly, a cold voice rose up behind him. “Is this fellow the Qin Ning that helped the mansion catch a thief, Alchemist Qin?”

To summarize someone like that, their words were filled with evil intentions.

Countless eyes gathered together. After a short surprise, they filled with joy.

They weren't willing to provoke Qin Yu. But, the Ning Family cultivators clearly didn't need to worry about this.

Hehe, to be torn down publicly, let's see if this man can continue to remain so calm and stoic!

Ning Yiran's eyes flashed. Right now, he should be preventing any breakouts from the Ning Family juniors, but after thinking about it a little, he decided to remain silent.

In the eyes of others, this was a clear signal that the Ning Mansion's young master also disliked Qin Yu.

Then no one needed to have any scruples at all!

“Alchemist Qin found the thief and was recognized by the Mansion Lord, leading to him obtaining the qualifications to come here today. What incredible methods.”

“That's right. I fear most people can't be as decisive as Alchemist Qin.”

“Alchemist Qin has such a cool disposition; you must surely have great accomplishments awaiting you in the future. Perhaps I will need you to look after me at that time.”

The cold taunts came at him like an icy wind.

Most of those speaking were the young cultivators. Some of those came from the mansion, but not many.

Ning Yiran watched for a moment. There was no rebuttal; Qin Yu's expression was light, as if he hadn't heard anything at all. This was indeed the best method to deal with this. If he spoke up and argued, he would only receive more shame.

"Enough. Alchemist Qin is loyal to my Ning Mansion, so it's natural for him to be rewarded." Ning Yiran spoke out loud. As the future ruler of Ning Mansion, once he spoke, the courtyard immediately fell silent.

The middle-aged man emerged from the hall. "Come in."

Ning Yiran took a deep breath, awe in his face. Behind him were the Ning Family juniors, and after that were the several chosen young cultivators.

Qin Yu tactfully followed from the rear so that no one would provoke him.

On the ground within the hall, a transmission array had been fully activated. Spiritual strength buzzed from the array formation, emitting a low hum.

"Follow me."

The middle-aged man was the first to step in. The numerous youths behind him were startled before they became excited, and then they started to walk into the transmission array.

A dazzling light flashed around them. Along with the twisting of space, the figures of the people entering the array formation disappeared.

They could feel space tearing around them. But luckily, not long after, it disappeared and their surroundings brightened. What appeared in front of them was a beautiful valley. Sunlight sprinkled down from above their heads and the forests all around were lush and vibrant, filled with life. But what was strange was that besides the rustling of branches and leaves from the wind, the entire area was deathly silent.

Qin Yu subconsciously frowned; this valley was not normal.

His soul was incomparably powerful. He could faintly feel an invisible binding strength covering this place.

Unsurprisingly, it must be related to the Gold Noble Family. Could they live here?

Just as this thought appeared, the middle-aged man guiding them stepped into the valley. Soon, a pool of water appeared in front of everyone.

It was around 70-80 feet in size and in the shape of an oval. The water was so clear that one could see the plants growing within, but there were no fish or shrimp below the surface.

The middle-aged man took out an ancient jade from his chest and tossed it into the pool of water. Then, something amazing occurred. The pool of water began to violently tumble, as if it were boiling.

Next, a door appeared in the water. One could see through the door to what was past it.

There was also a mountain valley and a pond of water, both looking exactly the same like some inverted image. But, there were no people standing by the pond, so it couldn't be a reflection.

Besides Ning Yiran, everyone revealed looks of shock. Even Qin Yu's eyes brightened. Before this, he hadn't discovered anything unusual with the pond. Could this be the methods of the Gold Noble Family?

How fierce!

The middle-aged man turned around. "You may enter now."

Ning Yiran respectfully bowed. He was the first to enter.

Qin Yu still followed from the rear. As he stepped in, he looked back. He could see the middle-aged man still standing by the water gate, but his image was upside down.

With a wave of his hand, the ancient jade flew into his hand and the water gate vanished along with it. The pond became as normal as it was before.

But everyone knew that hiding within this pond of water was a great secret!

Hu –

Hu –

Two figures flew forwards, landing in front of the group. They were young in appearance, but their auras were shocking.

Golden Core perfection!

Another step forwards and they would reach Nascent Soul.

Ning Yiran hurriedly bowed. "Outside Ning Mansion Ning Yiran greets both clan brothers!"

In the outside world, he was the lofty Ning Family young master, destined to inherit great status and authority.

But in the main family, he was nothing but a little outside junior with a tiny bit of skill.

His father had seriously urged him to be respectful and courteous; he couldn't have any arrogance.

Behind him, the chosen young cultivators who didn't know what was happening suddenly began to reveal looks of jubilation.

They were true! The rumors were true!

Across from them, the young cultivator on the left swept his eyes around and frowned. "These past years the people you've been sending in have been increasingly worse."

Ning Yiran attentively bowed. "The outside has managed things poorly. I am willing to accept punishment."

The young cultivator waved his hand. "This is a job for the External Affairs Elder; it's not for me to bother with. Come and bring those people with you. We have other things to do."

The two turned and left.

From beginning to end, the other person hadn't spoken at all.

Ning Yiran's heart relaxed. Those people had no intention of purposefully making things hard for them, but after thinking of his words, he couldn't help but bitterly smile.

It wasn't that the people chosen by the Ning Mansion weren't good, but that there was too much talent in the main family. Indeed, in comparison they were a lot worse.

This was fact; there was no way to dispute it.

Qin Yu bowed his head, as if he were filled with awe and dread. But, his low-hanging eyes covered up his shock.

Looking around, there was a vast rolling wilderness, sloping mountain ranges, and roaring rivers; nothing seemed different.

But, everything was no longer the same.

With a deep breath, what he drew in was an extremely pure heaven and earth spiritual strength. It was several times richer than what was found in Immortal Eclipse Valley.

And, what shocked him the most were fluctuations coming from the little blue lamp.

These fluctuations spread from his great dao base. Then, in the depths of Qin Yu's mind, an image appeared; it was a mote of light floating in the dark.

He knew that this mote of light was the place where he was.

No wonder that young man from Heavenseek Pavilion had said that the Gold Noble Family resided in the Southern Empire, but nowhere in the Southern Empire.

It was because this place was an independent spatial fragment!

This far surpassed Qin Yu's knowledge. He never thought that such a place could exist in this world, and what was even more incredible was that the Gold Noble Family lived here.

Heavenseek Pavilion had called them one of the most formidable influences. Indeed, just the sight around him was enough to convince him.

Qin Yu didn't dare to recklessly investigate. But, from looking around and making a rough estimation, he could extrapolate that this spatial fragment was around a fifth of the size of the Southern Empire.

This landmass was simply staggering.

Soon, human produced smoke appeared. They saw villages and cities, but the group didn't stop until they came upon a mountain city. The reason they called it this was because the city was built completely like a mountain. The buildings at the base were dense, becoming more and more sparse as they went up. The higher one went, the larger the dwellings and the more luxurious the area. At the top, fog started to shroud the buildings, lending an ethereal fairy-like atmosphere to it.

There was still a distance from the mountain city. The two guiding youths landed on the ground. The one who spoke before was still the one to speak up this time. He pointed at a large stone in front of them, "This is Mountain Marking Stone. All juniors at Golden Core and below are forbidden from flying. You should remember this, otherwise if you provoke trouble in the future, it will be yours to deal with."

As the leader, Ning Yiran cupped his hands together. "Thank you for the reminder, clan brothers."

After passing the Mountain Marking Stone, no one slowed down. They soon arrived at a crowded building area at the base of the mountain.

Knocking on one of the courtyard doors, the young man speaking drew back a step. "Elder, Ning Feng is here to report."

A moment later, the courtyard doors opened from the inside. A pale and baggy-eyed old man walked out. He had a listless and infirm appearance.

But many people were startled within. Awe rose in their eyes.

Nascent Soul...

Within the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty, this could be considered a peak powerhouse. But here, they lived in small courtyards, as if they weren't anything at all.

This sort of silent shock was even more impactful!

Chapter 242 – 10086

The Nascent Soul old man's expression was light. He looked around. "I understand."

Ning Feng cupped his hands together. "Elder, if there are no other matters, we will excuse ourselves first."

The Nascent Soul old man nodded. The two youths bowed again, their attitudes respectful. Then, they took several steps back and left.

"Outer branch Ning Yiran greets the Elder!"

Ning Yiran bowed.

"My name is Ning Hao; I am responsible for managing external affairs. No matter what status you all had in the outside world, you should all be more discreet after coming here. I don't like being troubled." He waved his hand. "Alright, you may all leave."

He turned and closed the door.

Ning Yiran had an awkward expression. But, he soon composed himself and took a deep breath.

This caused those people in the crowd with expectant looks to feel disappointed.

Several cultivators walked out from somewhere. They had cold expressions, "Come with us."

The group walked into a courtyard towards the corner. There was a long table within that was covered with piles of items.

"There are two sets of clothes for daily replacement. There is one status token; it will recognize its master with a drop of blood. Remember to keep it with you at all times. There is a jade slip with the rules outlined, and finally, we have also thrown in a minor supernatural skill. The lot of you are quite lucky this time; the minor supernatural skill we chose is actually quite useful if you cultivate it well." The

cultivator who spoke had a square face and his breath was calm. But as he spoke to here, there was a strange look on his face. "The Elder already reminded you, but I will do so once more. No matter who you are or where you came from, after coming here, you will start from the beginning. Of course, if you have enough potential and skill, you will quickly receive the regards of our clan's great figures. You have a day to prepare. Starting tomorrow at this time, you will be given assignments based on your status information."

This courtyard was a residence for nearly 40 people. Living here was no problem, but one could forget things like comfort. What was left to Qin Yu was a tiny hut in a dark corner of the courtyard. Walking in, there was around 10 feet of space. There was a bed, a table, a chair, and nothing else. It was quite crude to say the least.

The clothes and token were laid down. Qin Yu picked up the jade slip. After probing it and confirming that there wasn't anything wrong, he searched it with his divine sense. After a moment, he opened his eyes, a thoughtful look on his face.

This place was indeed where the Gold Noble Family lived. It was called the Blue Cloud World. The villages and cities they passed as they arrived here were all inhabited by descendants born as their bloodline multiplied over the generations.

Ning City's Ning Mansion was an outside branch of the Ning Family left in the outside world.

This could be called an important explanation. Then, there were many strict rules.

But there were still things that left one enthusiastic within. For instance, promotion tests.

The Gold Noble Family was one that placed great importance on talent. As long as one was outstanding enough, then they would obtain certain status after revealing their skills.

The promotion test was established for this reason. It occurred every other month; the winner was promoted and the losers were eliminated.

The Gold Noble Family lived in seclusion here. Even if their bloodline was powerful, if they could maintain prosperity for such a long time, it was surely related to this system.

Qin Yu didn't plan on standing out here. So, he only glanced at it to make sure he wouldn't make any mistakes, and then tossed it to the back of his mind. After that was what the Ning Family people had described as...a minor supernatural skill.

And it was indeed very simple. It was named Soul Sword [Arrow].

That's right, it was labeled exactly like that. To be more exact, it was an offensive and defensive soul skill. It had to be known that the Soul Slaughter Art could only be displayed after touching upon the Divine Soul level. Qin Yu had only seen the Whale Sovereign barely able to use it.

From this alone, one could see how precious this Soul Sword [Arrow] actually was.

If there was one thing to note, it was that the person with the highest surface cultivation in the group was Ning Yiran, at the seventh level of Golden Core. He was still thousands of miles away from ever touching upon the boundary of the soul. It could even be said that everyone here had basically no chance of ever touching upon the Divine Soul realm.

So even though this Soul Sword [Arrow] was good, for them, it was extremely weak.

It was no wonder that the Ning Family cultivator had such a strange expression.

But...Qin Yu was an exception!

His eyes brightened as he carefully read through the cultivation method. After thinking over it, he smiled happily. It seemed it wouldn't be too difficult to cultivate this supernatural skill.

The Soul Sword was used to resist outside attacks and the Soul Arrow burst out in a sure-kill strike.

It was really not bad.

He closed his eyes and entered his soul space. Spirity woke up from her cultivation and the starlight shining down upon her head stopped.

Once Qin Yu's soul had been healed, she smoothly recovered.

Light flashed in her eyes, then she shut her eyes back in cultivation.

Partner Souls were so renowned, so how could their uses be simplistic?

For instance, the Soul Sword [Arrow] that Qin Yu cultivated could also be cultivated by her.

When fighting an enemy, whether it was Soul Sword or Soul Arrow, both could be doubled!

Two hours later, Qin Yu opened his eyes, a satisfied smile on his face.

It was indeed simple to cultivate Soul Sword [Arrow]; in just two hours he had condensed its initial form. All that was left over was to spend a bit of time and allow it to thoroughly solidify into reality. Then, this supernatural skill could be said to be thoroughly completed.

When the Gold Noble Family took out the Soul Sword [Arrow] skill to pass to others, they likely didn't expect that they would give someone such a pleasant surprise. Perhaps this was a good omen foretelling that his trip to the Blue Cloud World would be smooth.

Gathering his thoughts, Qin Yu picked up the status token. Even if he was only at the very beginning of walking down array formations and spells, for better or worse he still had some eyesight. This token was very simple. One could embed one's aura into it, and there were a few other simple array formations. Although he wasn't sure what use it had, it shouldn't be anything dangerous.

He tapped his finger. A bead of blood fell onto the token and was instantly absorbed.

Then, Qin Yu's eyebrows rose up as astonishment colored his face.

He looked at the status token in his hand in acclaim. This was indeed the Gold Noble Family. The brilliance of their cultivation civilization could actually be compared to the sea races'.

No, it could be called even more perfect than the sea races'.

It was true that the status token was used to identify oneself, but it was also used to collect information and communicate. Probing it with one's divine sense, there was also a query interface.

Within the token, there were several built-in numbers. One of them, 10086, was placed at the front, indicating the clan customer service number.

Qin Yu thought for a moment. Then, he dialed it.

There was a soothing musical tone in his ear. Then, after several breaths of time, a sweet and charming woman's voice sounded out. "Dear first-level disciple, how are you today? Currently, all lines are busy. If this call is a non-emergency or is urgent, please respond according to the following options. For contribution inquiries and exchanges, please press the first key. For mission inquiries and claims, please press the second key..."

Qin Yu hung up, admiration on his face. Just this customer service channel was far more impressive than the sea races.

In terms of listening function, there wasn't much of a difference. But, through the token, one could automatically scan through all the various broadcast stations. Still, there were some superhot programs like the Emotional World, cultivation courses, training lectures, and so forth that required certain payments to unlock.

There were a great number of fun and interesting programs. Thinking about it, the Ning Family elders were probably worried that if their juniors stayed in the Blue Cloud World without anything to do, then maybe they would feel depressed, leading to a distortion in their personalities.

This small status token didn't seem as if it were too difficult to refine. Who could have expected there would be so many interesting things within? Compared with the Gold Noble Family, the cultivation worlds of the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty were no different than the countryside.

The next day, all cultivators from the Ning Mansion gathered together, excitement and surprise on their faces. They spoke in hushed tones to those around them, mostly about the status tokens. Some of them mumbled sadly that the supernatural skill the main family gave them was too high-end, so high-end that it left them in despair trying to learn it. In the end, they couldn't complain too much. Good things were good things. If they couldn't cultivate it then they could only blame themselves for being insufficient!

"Be quiet!" The square-faced disciple shouted out. "My name is Ning Hai, I am the manager for external disciples. Before you are promoted to internal disciples, all of you are under my control. Of course, if any one of you is unhappy with this, then you only need to challenge me. As long as you can defeat me, then I shall hand my seat to you. So, is there anyone that wishes to challenge me?"

A peaceful silence followed.

What nonsense. Your perfect Golden Core aura was obvious, and with your thick and sturdy body, it's clear you aren't easy to deal with. Why would any of us new arrivals want to go looking for trouble?

Ning Hai nodded. "Since no one has any complaints, then from here on out I will announce your arrangements."

The first was Ning Yiran. He was to go to the Hidden Scripture Hall. Several Ning Family cultivators looked at him with envy. It was clear that this work was quite good. Many people eyed him covetously but there was nothing they could do. Even if they all started at the beginning, there were different levels

of beginning. As the young master of the outer branch Ning Mansion, Ning Yiran was clearly given favorable treatment.

Afterwards, more announcements were read out. Looking at the complexions of the Ning Mansion people, it seemed that the ranking at which they were called out showed how valued they were by the main family.

So, when Qin Yu's name was called somewhere in the front, the complexions of many people changed.

In particular, several Ning Mansion juniors who hadn't been called out yet had extremely ugly complexions.

"Qin Ning, go to the Alchemy Chamber, first-level."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together and received the order.

After one's name was read out, someone would immediately bring them away.

A beautiful young woman appeared in front of Qin Yu. She faintly smiled. "It's been a long time since anyone new has come to our Alchemy Chamber. Junior-apprentice brother Qin, please follow me."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together in greeting.

The two left. As for the icy cold and indignant eyes following them, they were directly ignored.

The Gold Noble Family's Alchemy Chamber was built halfway up the mountainside. It occupied a considerably large valley, and one could see swathes of fog flying up above.

The scenery here was better. The buildings were constructed in bright areas, and most importantly, the spiritual strength here was twice as rich as it was at the base of the mountain!

No wonder higher ranked cultivators lived higher up. Not only did it represent their status but there were also other benefits.

But although Qin Yu could come here, that was only during work hours. After his work was over, he needed to return to the base of the mountain.

Seeing Qin Yu's surprised expression, the young woman brushed back her hair and laughed. She smiled, "Qin Ning, I have already read through your information. With your skills, being promoted to a third-grade alchemist won't be hard. With enough time and effort, you will naturally be able to move somewhere nearby.

"Moreover, with your status of a second-grade alchemist, once you stay for a month and pass the test, you will immediately receive the treatment of a third-level disciple. Your dwelling position will rise and you will receive your own courtyard."

Qin Yu cupped his hands in thanks.

The young woman covered her mouth and smiled. Her warm watery pupils swept across his face. Even if she had no expression, she still caused one's thoughts to drift away.

"That's enough; let's go in. I'll bring you in to report first."

After keeping busy for some time and seeing some stewards, Qin Yu's status was determined. He could wander through the first floor of the Alchemy Chamber and was responsible for organizing various alchemy materials.

In simpler terms, he would be starting from selecting alchemy materials. There was no need for him to refine pills at the moment.

Cultivators from the Gold Noble Family were always full of pride and arrogance. They never placed much value in those that came from the outside world.

So, even if Alchemist Zhang gave Qin Yu an extremely high appraisal, in their eyes, if they didn't personally confirm this, it wasn't trustworthy at all.

For a second-grade alchemist to be given such work, there was bound to be a bit of agitation. The young woman helplessly smiled and gave him a few gentle words of comfort.

Qin Yu was very calm. He smiled and shook his head, showing that there was no problem.

The young woman was called Ning Yuan. She gave him a thumbs up, "Qin Ning, you're not bad. This big sister is cheering for you! Keep working hard!"

She walked away.

Qin Yu smiled and lowered his head. He really didn't care about any of this. As long as he entered the Gold Noble Family, he only needed to wait for the chance that Heavenseek Pavilion spoke of. As for how he was treated here, it didn't matter at all.

Chapter 243 – Waste Pills, it's Waste Pills Again

Qin Yu's work in the Alchemy Chamber continued smoothly. After everyone confirmed personally that he was a solid and steady second-grade alchemist, their attitudes towards him relaxed, and they seemed much friendlier.

For such a young second-grade alchemist, even if they couldn't be said to have boundless prospects, they were still an excellent talent. In the future it would be simple for them to obtain some considerable achievements.

In Blue Cloud World, this was already quite good.

"Qin Ning, today's work has ended. Hurry home and rest." The young woman Ning Yuan warmly said. A light smile lifted her cheeks, like a warm spring breeze brushing against the heart.

Qin Yu stood up and cupped his hands together. "Thank you, senior-apprentice sister."

This senior-apprentice sister Ning Yuan's husband had died at an early age, leaving her a young widow. There was often some gossip about her, but with her faint temper, she maintained a certain calm against all of this.

She was particularly kind towards Qin Yu. So, in these past several days, some loose-lipped women had begun to talk about her and Qin Yu, making up all sorts of stories about them being together. He had no idea whether to laugh or to cry.

After packing up his things and making sure to properly set aside his unfinished work, Qin Yu greeted several people and left the Alchemist Chamber. He had been in the Blue Cloud World for over half a month by now. He spent his day split between his dwelling and work, as silent and steady as stone.

Mixed up in the courtyard, Qin Yu was ignored like before. Most days, all he saw were the whites of rolled eyes and disregard, but today there was something different. Within these eyes, there was a hint of pleasure and joy.

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows and returned to his shack.

The next day, he knew what these looks represented.

When he met Ning Yuan, her eyebrows were wrinkled together and there seemed to be a bit of hesitation in her demeanor. "Qin Ning, I want to ask you something. Are the rumors about you true?"

The rumors hadn't progressed at all; it was still the same old story used at Ning Mansion. It was nothing else but Qin Yu betraying the woman he loved to obtain the qualifications to enter the Gold Noble Family. Of course, to the people in the Alchemy Chamber, these rumors couldn't stand up to any form of scrutiny. With his talent there was no need for him to do that.

But if it were true, it was more representative of his moral behavior.

Ning Yuan and Qin Yu had the closest relationship. As she asked him this question, everyone pricked up their ears to listen.

Qin Yu thought for a moment. He cupped his hands together and said, "Reporting to senior-apprentice sister, that is approximately what happened."

Ning Yuan's eyes darkened. She glanced at him, wanting to say something, but hesitated. Then she nodded and left.

After that, news spread at an astonishing speed: Qin Yu had acknowledged this in front of everyone!

This caused the rumormongers to be surprised but also overjoyed. This brat Qin Ning had smashed his own foot with a stone; it was too wonderful.

Originally, if Qin Yu stubbornly refused to admit anything, then no matter what rumors there were they couldn't do anything to him. After all, it was clear that the main family didn't care about what happened outside.

But now Qin Yu had acknowledged it. Then, things couldn't be any more perfect.

"Humph! Let's see how he can remain so arrogant in front of us again!"

"Entering the Alchemy Chamber with boundless prospects? I want to see who still dares to use him after this!"

"After this incident, while his future might not be destroyed, he can forget being given any great responsibilities for the next several years."

“Hehe, I fear it will be more than that. I hear that within the Alchemy Chamber, the manager there is someone who loves beauties and romance. He most dislikes those people who are coldhearted and betray those who love them. Perhaps there might be some more fun to see after all this.”

And sure enough, not too long after, Qin Yu was called in and severely reprimanded. The manager who looked at him had thick disdain and disgust in his eyes. After that, Qin Yu was removed from his present work and ordered to go to the Waste Pill Disposal Department.

That was right, waste pills, it was waste pills again.

These types of things were harmful substances no matter where they were placed. The Gold Noble Family might be epic and mighty, but there was still nothing they could do about them.

The Alchemy Chamber was a good place to work. The treatment was good, the scenery was good, and the benefits were good. But, the Waste Pill Disposal Department was clearly an exception.

This place was located in a distant corner with a tight sealing array formation blocking it. Generally speaking, no one wanted to go there to begin with.

If one was exiled there, that could be said to be a cruel and heavy-handed move.

Stepping out from the manager’s office, there was a trace of helplessness on Qin Yu’s lips. But he soon composed himself.

Two days ago, when he had acknowledged the rumors in front of everyone, he had already prepared himself for this.

After entering the Gold Noble Family, it was best to be unremarkable. But then, he was pushed to the top of the waves by these rumors. If he didn’t recognize them now, he would be fighting them for who knew how long.

He had no idea.

So, he decided to choose the simplest and most direct method to resolve the matter.

Before Qin Yu returned to his work table, news about his transfer had been spread around already. With the status token, sharing news like this was much faster and more efficient.

Qin Yu didn’t pay attention to the looks around him. He tidied up his things and left. He saw Ning Yuan walk towards him in a hurry, her face flushed red, as if she had raced here to see him.

“Qin Ning...” She cried out.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. “Greetings, senior-apprentice sister.”

He stepped forwards and around her.

Ning Yuan stood where she was. As she watched his back fade away, there was a complex look on her face. She opened her mouth again and again but didn’t say anything. However, a bit of guilt rose in her eyes.

Today's situation wasn't what she had wished for. But, strictly speaking, the reason Qin Yu ended up with such a 'fate' was because she had questioned him in front of everyone.

Although she didn't want to cross paths with Qin Yu much more in the depths of her heart, she believed that being sent to the Waste Pill Disposal Department was too heavy a punishment.

Aiya, she feared that Qin Ning would begin to hate her.

Ning Yuan bitterly smiled.

Qin Yu peacefully entered the Waste Pill Disposal Department. He was like a little pebble falling into a giant swamp of thick sewage, unable to create even the smallest wave.

"Qin Ning, every month on the first and the fifteenth, you will be responsible for processing waste pills. Work well!" The so-called Waste Pill Disposal Department manager reeked of alcohol and had eyes that were blurry and red. His clothes were a mess and he was completely disheveled. Before he finished speaking, there was a woman's voice sounding out from another room. Then, he waved his hand towards Qin Yu, indicating for him to leave, and darkly chuckled as he ran back into the room.

Soon, before Qin Yu even reached the courtyard doors, he could hear inappropriate sounds coming from the room. Slapping, slapping...everything after that was omitted.

He shook his head. Sometimes, he thought his five senses were good to the point of being a bother. He could subconsciously hear all sorts of things he didn't want to.

If there was a benefit to entering the Waste Pill Disposal Department, it was that he could enjoy one of the benefits of being a third-grade alchemist: he had his own courtyard here. Of course, the subtext behind it all was pill toxins. Who knew whether or not he would be contaminated? In any case, it was better to live honestly here than to run around haphazardly.

He pushed open the doors and entered. The courtyard was covered in dust; it hadn't been cleaned in a long time. Luckily, when the Gold Noble Family first constructed this place, they didn't skimp on any of the foundational basics. The dust-clearing array formations were perfectly intact here, the only thing they lacked was spirit stones.

After packing them in, with a slight buzz, the dust was rapidly whirled away and the little courtyard was cleaned up.

Qin Yu then lived here.

As for the waste pills that everyone worried about...was that even something he needed to consider?

Rumors of Qin Yu being exiled gradually fell silent. Occasionally, some people would talk about the young man that appeared around Ning Yuan and then vanished soon after. Most people had forgotten about him, and only mentioned him during some rounds of gossip.

Time slowly ticked on. Soon, three months passed.

Ning Yiran was indeed worthy of being the most outstanding outer disciple. He had completed all three promotion tests with outstanding results and was now a fifth-level disciple with an internal family status.

Amongst the Ning Family juniors, there were a few that performed well. One of them, a woman, blossomed in brilliant splendor. She caught the eye of a Ning Family Elder and was received as a disciple. She could be said to have flown into the heavens with a single leap.

The others were also diligently working, constantly trying to climb up. After crossing into the Blue Cloud World, as their breadth of vision expanded, that thing called 'ambition' started to grow in their hearts as well.

As for Qin Yu, he had been thoroughly forgotten.

At the Waste Pill Disposal Department, Qin Yu lived in the courtyard. He was originally concerned that there wouldn't be any way to easily 'misappropriate' the waste pills he collected, but, from beginning to end, no one placed any concern on this place at all. After trying a few times, he eventually felt relieved. He licked his lips, satisfaction on his face.

Within the Gold Noble Family, powerhouses were as bountiful as trees in a forest. He knew that there were over 10 Nascent Souls here, however, they seemed to be placed under some restriction so they couldn't leave the Blue Cloud World at all.

More powerhouses meant an increase in demand for higher level pills. But in refining high level pills, the failure rate was also very high! Thus, the ratio was like this. For every 10 completed pills that the Gold Noble Family's powerhouses received, Qin Yu could harvest 50 waste pills' worth of materials. After the little blue lamp separated and purified them, then abandoning the remains, he had enough materials for around 20 pills.

But there was a point to be made clear here. The 10 pills of the Gold Noble Family were assigned to the numerous powerhouses according to their strength and status. As for the 20 pills that Qin Yu could form, they were his alone.

Moreover, there was no comparing the quality between them.

The next three months were inconceivably wonderful for Qin Yu. A massive number of precious pills fell into his hands and he conveniently made the might of his poisonous finger much more terrifying.

Now, even if a late Nascent Soul cultivator were touched, they would still suffer a pitiful fate.

This was a comfortable life where he wasn't disturbed and where he had harvests every day. Sometimes, Qin Yu would even subconsciously forget his goal and think of living this sort of life a bit longer.

The Alchemy Chamber was located on the mountainside, within a valley full of beautiful scenery. Although the work was tough and kept one busy, it was because of the work itself. Unless one was obsessed, there was always time to rest. Beneath the warm afternoon sunlight, one could drink some milk tea and listen to the program of a broadcast station or even idly read a book; this was an extremely satisfying way to relax.

But recently, these comfortable situations had been reduced a great deal, nearly vanishing in these past two days.

Ning Yuan had a dignified expression. She carried a specially refined storage ring with her. In it, she had collected the waste pills from the various alchemists around the valley. Because no one was willing to take this job and it was difficult for anyone to accept this assignment, they always took turns doing it on a rotational basis. This month, it was Ning Yuan's turn.

And, there was a point that someone should have noticed. The Waste Pill Disposal Department manager had arranged for Qin Yu to gather the waste pills on the first and fifteenth of every month; this was the entirety of their work.

After gathering the last waste pills, Ning Yuan took out a detailed name list and carefully looked it over to make sure she hadn't missed anyone. Then, she turned towards the distant northeast corner of the Alchemy Chamber.

The area there was lower and there was a mountain peak in that direction, so the atmosphere was a bit darker and gloomier. So, while the scenery wasn't bad, the weeds were thick and there wasn't much of a sense of aesthetic beauty.

Ning Yuan hurried over. She arrived before an iron gate and knocked several times. As she waited, she lowered her head. Her eyebrows were knit together in thought.

After a moment, no one opened the iron gate. Ning Yuan looked up, a helpless look on her face. She was well aware of how lazy the atmosphere within the Waste Pill Disposal Department was. If it weren't for the rules stating that she needed to personally hand over the waste pills and bring back the storage ring, she would have already tossed it here and left.

Mm...just how was Qin Ning doing now?

Chapter 244 – The Opportunity Arrives

She thought back to when she first saw him and the favorable impression that she subconsciously felt. After coming to know him a little, she felt more and more that there was much potential in his calm and quiet demeanor. Ning Yuan quietly sighed.

Originally, she had wanted to understand him on a deeper level. But reality never gave her the chance. As she thought about how he was behind this iron gate, in some tiny courtyard, Ning Yuan's mood fell. Perhaps in this environment he had already fallen...after all, the Waste Pill Disposal Department was a place where no one could see any hope.

As her eyes were filled with disappointment, the iron gate suddenly opened and the face she was imaging appeared in front of her. Neat and clean robes, black eyes that shined brightly; after a brief moment of surprise, that face smiled.

“Senior-apprentice sister Ning Yuan, it's been a while.”

The contrast between what she saw and what she thought were completely different. Ning Yuan's heart skipped a beat. She looked up at the warm smile of the man in front of her and her heartbeat began to quicken.

“Oh...ah...it's you...” Her performance was that of a beautiful young woman. Her face flushed red and a bit of sweat came from the tip of her nose.

Luckily, Qin Yu didn't seem to care about her awkwardness. "Hm, I am the one collecting waste pills on the first and fifteenth of every month."

Ning Yuan composed herself. But when she heard these words, she immediately frowned. "It's just you? How is that allowed!"

She looked up. "Qin Ning, are those inside forcing you?"

These were waste pills! Everyone wanted to be as far away as possible; who was willing to come close to them? If someone said there wasn't some underhanded work happening within, Ning Yuan would be the first to not believe it!

Qin Yu smiled and waved his hand. "No, I know what I'm doing."

Ning Yuan furrowed her eyebrows. "Qin Ning, you..."

"Senior-apprentice sister, there is no need to worry about me. Although pill toxins are scary, I can still study many alchemy skills through analyzing waste pills." This wasn't nonsense either. Every waste pill was its own individual case, each one recording the failures and shortcomings of the alchemist.

Admiration rose in Ning Yuan and she was secretly ashamed at what he thought before. Qin Ning simply didn't fall into sorrow and despair. Instead, even in his misery he worked diligently. This caused her gaze towards him to change. She felt that this tenacious and hard-working Qin Ning shouldn't be that cold-hearted betrayer as the rumors said.

Perhaps he might have his own reasons...

But with things having come this far, there was no way to go back to how they were. Ning Yuan's lips moved, but as she hesitated, Qin Yu suddenly raised the topic.

"Senior-apprentice sister seems to have some thoughts on your mind?"

Ning Yuan sighed. She nodded, a bit wearily, and said, "That's right. Recently there have been some problems in the clan..." Originally, she wasn't planning on continuing to speak. But she was worried Qin Yu would see the guilt in her eyes, so she continued to say, "There seems to be some news being spread in the outside world that isn't good for the clan. The lords have been annoyed recently and the atmosphere has become a bit tense."

Qin Yu's eyes brightened.

To have the Gold Noble Family develop a sense of crisis, one could see that this wasn't a small matter. He thought back to the opportunity that the mysterious young man from Heavenseek Pavilion mentioned.

Could it have arrived?

But with Ning Yuan's status, it was clear she wouldn't know any more, so Qin Yu didn't ask further. He nodded, "Then senior-apprentice sister should be a bit more discreet to avoid being affected." He reached out a hand, "Please hand me the waste pills. It would be best if senior-apprentice sister returns sooner. Because of some minor matters, I have already been delayed a great deal."

Ning Yuan nodded and handed over the storage ring.

Qin Yu was already familiar with this work. He transferred the waste pills to a special storage ring from the Waste Pill Disposal Department and then checked it over to see that there were no mistakes. Then, he inputted information into the status token indicating that today's task had been completed.

"Alright, senior-apprentice sister, please take this storage ring back. Farewell."

Ning Yuan seemed to want to say something, but after a moment she just smiled and left.

Behind her, the sound of the iron gates closing rang out. A smile lifted the corners of her face. It seemed that this junior-apprentice brother Qin Ning didn't hate her at all, and he was also working diligently in the Waste Pill Disposal Department. In the future, there might be a chance for him to turn his fortune around.

Qin Yu quickly returned to his dwelling. First, he shifted all the waste pills into his own storage ring, and then a thoughtful look crossed his face.

The opportunity might have arrived. It would be nice to stay in the Waste Pill Disposal Department, but it would be difficult for him to receive news from the outside on time. Qin Yu had to admit that he hadn't initially considered this.

It seems that there was only one way left for him to leave.

He flipped his hand and a jade box appeared on his palm. Inside was a set of pill materials that Qin Yu had carefully prepared, for one called a Nascent Forming Pill.

Originally these materials were only half-ruined. After carefully treating them with the little blue lamp, he managed to save them, and now he kept them around to deal with unexpected situations. But once he left, he likely wouldn't have the chance to come back here. Being able to harvest materials for high level pills was something Qin Yu found hard to give up.

But compared to the Nascent Soul great dao, this wasn't anything at all!

The next day, Qin Yu left the Waste Pill Disposal Department. He requested to see the manager of the Alchemy Chamber and handed over the jade box to him, saying that he had found a mostly preserved set of Nascent Forming Pill materials amidst the waste pills.

A Nascent Forming Pill was incomparably precious and the value of its materials was similarly high. This was absolutely a great merit.

The manager pondered things for a long time. He called people over and asked around. He determined that Qin Yu wasn't talking nonsense and had really been diligently working at the Waste Pill Disposal Department, leading to him discovering the materials for the Nascent Forming Pill. Then, he spent half the day going over Qin Yu's file.

"Rest for a few days first and carefully observe your bodily condition. If there isn't anything strange for the next half month, then you can come back here to work."

Qin Yu respectfully excused himself.

News quickly spread out, and there was the sound of dropping jaws from within the Alchemy Chamber. No one imagined that someone from the Waste Disposal Department would be able to find a chance to return. They all sighed over Qin Yu's unexpected dog shit luck.

And after news of this spread out wide, those people that didn't like Qin Yu to begin with simply sneered and didn't try to do anything to him again. In their opinion, even if Qin Yu came back, he had already been drowning in waste pills for the last several months and the toxins had likely corroded his body and ruined his foundation. In his current state, how could he possibly compare with them?

Without any threat, no energy, and in addition to the current tense situation, they might as well let this horse go and allow him to freely self-destruct.

Perhaps Ning Yuan was the only person happy about this. She never imagined that slight hope she thought about would come true. Qin Yu had truly found a way to turn things around and smoothly return to the Alchemy Chamber. This even made her think that this was because of fate, and her cheeks blushed a light red when she thought of it.

"Junior-apprentice brother Qin Ning, congratulations!"

Feeling the joy in her words, Qin Yu quietly apologized. He cupped his hands together and said, "Senior-apprentice sister, I just returned and there are some things I need to do, so I will excuse myself first."

Ning Yuan was startled. Her face immediately flushed red. She swept her eyes around, and there were indeed many eyes glancing at her. She scolded herself for losing any sense of cautiousness. Qin Yu had just returned and this was the time when he should be keeping a low profile, so how could she approach him like this?

What a thoughtful and intelligent man.

If he was so careful and so intelligent, how could he have publicly admitted to the rumors in public view of everyone? At the very least, even if the rumors were true, there must be a deeper story behind it all.

Ning Yuan thought more and more that the Qin Ning in front of her couldn't be that kind of person. He seemed to be covered in a mysterious fog, making her want to pry it open and find out what lay within.

The truth of the matter was completely dissimilar!

Qin Yu really just didn't want to be closer to her, that was why he excused himself.

Of course, he didn't deny there were other reasons. After he made his move, he didn't want Ning Yuan to be implicated in his mess. There wasn't anything embarrassing about this. A gentle and beautiful young widow wanted to be friendly with him. Even if he didn't want to accept her feelings, giving her a bit of consideration was also normal.

Because he had worked at the Waste Pill Disposal Department for three months, his dwelling at the base of the mountain had been removed. Perhaps in order to compensate him or reward him for his merits, he was allowed to stay halfway up the mountainside.

Of course, it wasn't in some luxurious courtyard. It was located in the corner of a valley, and it was also quiet. The arrangements inside could not be compared to the Waste Pill Disposal Department; the decorations and furniture were all elegantly done.

Qin Yu sat down, a sharp light flashing in his eyes.

Perhaps he needed to obtain a way to find out some news.

Several attempts ended up in failure. In the end, he had to use the young widow Ning Yuan's favorable impression of him. After inadvertently mentioning it, Ning Yuan relaxed and spoke a great deal without any scruples at all. Qin Yu also slowly realized what the situation was like.

In the rumors, it was said that the Gold Noble Family possessed a key to a special space. There was more than one key and they were all held by different influences. The reason for the rumors this time were because it was leaked to the outside that the Gold Noble Family wanted to use some secret technique to forcefully open up this special space using a single key. Thus, they were being questioned by other influences that held keys.

Ning Yuan had a solemn expression. She reminded Qin Yu not to speak of any of these things. She had only learned of them because she had accidentally heard her elders at home mentioning it.

Qin Yu nodded.

Originally, he didn't have full certainty, but now he could determine that this was the opportunity Heavenseek Pavilion spoke of! With the Gold Noble Family's strength, if there was some influence that could control a similarly precious key without fear of provoking disaster and also have the qualifications to question them, then there were few of these in the world.

For instance, the demonic path and Immortal Eclipse Valley, these were the most likely possibilities.

Qin Yu raised an eyebrow, thinking that he might see some old acquaintances of his. If this were true, then he had to be careful lest he create any troubles on the side.

As he was thinking over things, in a great hall at the peak of the mountain city, shrouded in fog, the atmosphere was so tense and thick that it seemed as if it could drip water.

"Everyone, the corresponding accountability letters of the three factions have been placed on the record. The Old Ancestor's original idea was to push this to the side, but they are clearly suspicious and have decided not to give up. This time, I have called everyone here to come up with an idea to deal with the current situation." In the main seat, an old man with white hair and a white beard spoke. He wore long purple robes that gave him a regal and majestic appearance.

"The matter with the space is the greatest secret of my clan, how was it leaked out? I think we need to thoroughly investigate this matter first, otherwise we will continue to be schemed against in the future." An old woman on the left coldly spoke. Her old face was like dried orange peel, stiff as stone.

The old man in the main seat spoke again, an icy chill in his tone. "I have already passed down orders concerning this. There will not be a second time. At present, we must discuss the matter of the three factions requesting accountability."

Chapter 245 – Marrying Away A Daughter

Within the great hall, the rulers of the Gold Noble Family all had ugly complexions. With the honored status of their Ning Clan, they were actually forced back by influences in such a wilderness; this was a tremendous loss of face. But beneath another person's house, one could only lower their head. With all

three factions joining together, even if they were angry they could only try to peacefully resolve the situation.

"I have looked through the letters. It's clear that the three factions have found a form of real evidence through some channel. It won't be easy to satisfy them."

"Since they already know, they should also know that we failed our attempt. Why do they keep trying to make things difficult for us?"

"It's simple. The three factions don't wish for us to continue holding onto the method and keep trying. Even if we failed this time, that doesn't mean we will fail in the future."

"That wicked girl's strength wasn't enough. We've already tried our best, how could we try again?"

"The key point is that while we know this, they don't."

Everyone had a dignified appearance, their auras dreadful. They argued back and forth, trying to push the matter towards a result they wanted to say.

The key to resolving the accountability request from the three factions rested on the wicked girl.

With things having come this far, the truth was obvious. Everyone here was intelligent, otherwise it would have been impossible for them to coordinate and come to a tacit understanding.

But no one wanted to be the first to speak.

The old man in the central seat cursed inwardly. He frowned and said, "You're all saying you wish to hand over that wicked girl?"

Only he had the status and station to say such words. It was equal to bringing up everyone's respective opinions.

The atmosphere in the hall instantly relaxed.

"It wouldn't be good to hand over that wicked girl. In the end she is someone from the upper family. If someone investigates this in the future, we will be in trouble."

"The upper family once said that we can use our own discretion to make arrangements for that wicked girl. Although we cannot hand her over, we can marry her away."

"Men marry in and women marry out; these are the relationships of the human world. Even if they notice this later, they cannot censure any of us."

"I ask the Patriarch to make a decision."

The old man contemplated for a moment. "Very well, we shall do as you say. Send out a message to the three factions saying that my Ning Family is willing to marry off a daughter. Have them bring forth their most outstanding and virtuous juniors to come and propose."

The meeting came to an end.

...

A great deal of the tense atmosphere within the Gold Noble Family vanished, replaced by an excited bustling, as if they were going to receive important visitors soon.

This was confirmed from Ning Yuan's mouth. It seemed that the clan had found some way to solve their problem.

That was marrying off a daughter.

Upon mentioning this girl that would soon be married off to a family below her station, Ning Yuan's complexion became rather sad. She sighed, "Little Seven has such a bitter life!"

Qin Yu didn't care about this part. He was thinking that if people were gathering from all over because the Gold Noble Family was marrying off a daughter, then perhaps this was the best chance to find a way to reach Nascent Soul.

If so, then he needed to participate. This was so he could promptly respond when the chance revealed itself.

Qin Yu asked, "Since the clan is marrying off a daughter, there will surely be many matters to handle. Is there any way I can help?"

Ning Yuan was surprised, but immediately felt gratified. If Qin Ning said this, he clearly wanted to climb upwards. But it wasn't easy to do so.

Although she didn't know which visitors would be arriving in the coming days, looking at how the clan was responding, it was clear they would not be ordinary people. They would most likely be the most splendid and outstanding individuals amongst all the juniors. The clan would not allow themselves to lose face in front of outsiders. Although Qin Ning was skilled, he likely didn't have the qualifications to participate.

However, since it was rare to hear such words coming from him, Ning Yuan didn't want to ruin his enthusiasm. She hesitated, "I could try..."

Qin Yu could clearly feel the awkwardness in her words. He hesitated and said, "I was being too rash. Senior-apprentice sister Ning Yuan, if I became a third-grade alchemist, would I have the qualifications to help?"

Ning Yuan's eyes brightened. "Of course. A third-grade alchemist's status is even a bit higher than that of a Golden Core. With your age, that would be enough for anyone to highly regard you. Junior-apprentice brother Qin Ning, could it be that you..."

Qin Yu smiled. "Then I'll have to ask senior-apprentice sister to speak up for me in several more days." He cupped his hands and bid farewell.

Looking at his back, Ning Yuan's eyes shined.

Five days later, this month's promotion test began. Qin Yu used his status token to register to participate in the third-grade alchemy inspection. After being approved, he dialed the 10086 customer service interface and found the inspection time and location, punishment for cheating, and various other test details.

After confirming his selection, the majority of the registration was finished. Of course, before the inspection began, he needed to pay a test fee as well as three sets of materials for a third-grade pill.

The pill inspection naturally couldn't be separated from the Alchemy Chamber. Qin Yu simply needed to go to the Alchemy Chamber, pay his fee and register, and then he was allowed to go. There were many alchemists in the fee payment office. Many of them knew Qin Yu and were surprised to see him there.

Although they didn't say anything, the meaning was clear: why are you here?

It had to be known that the basic inspection didn't require additional fees.

Qin Yu had a calm look. He waited in line to pay.

"Cough cough. Fellow daoist Qin Ning, how are you today?" Finally, several alchemists couldn't help but speak up.

The others all raised their ears.

Qin Yu responded, "I've applied for this month's third-grade alchemy inspection."

"Oh..." The alchemist froze in place. The others beside him also had incomparably strange gazes. They couldn't even bother to pretend they weren't listening and directly turned their heads towards him.

They hadn't heard wrong. This brat actually wanted to apply for the third-grade alchemy inspection!

To be a third-grade alchemist, one had to be able to refine Golden Core realm pills. And, the basic standard was that their pill refining success rate was higher than 30%.

Many alchemists struggled for numerous years. They were stuck at a bottleneck, unable to advance.

Among that group were many people here.

Because between a second-grade alchemist and third-grade alchemist, although there was only a difference of a single grade, it was as vast as the heavens and earth.

Like the difference between Foundation Establishment and Golden Core.

Within the Gold Noble Family, alchemists were valued even higher. A third-grade alchemist had the chance of receiving a certain level of attention from the clan.

Moreover, Qin Yu was so young that it made one's blood boil. If he could pass the inspection and become a third-grade alchemist, then his comprehensive assessment value would be far higher.

Such a young third-grade alchemist would surely be raised by the clan, and there would even be a chance of them becoming a fourth-grade alchemist in the future. A fourth-grade alchemist was among the higher echelons of alchemists, and in terms of status within the clan, they were somewhat higher than Nascent Souls.

After paying his fee and receiving a receipt, his registration was now properly completed. All he needed to do now was wait for the inspection to begin. Qin Yu nodded at all the open-mouth alchemists staring at him and turned to leave.

The room was silent. Everyone slowly regained their composure, a complex look on their faces. Then, someone said, "Perhaps he just wants to experience how difficult a third-grade alchemy inspection is. You and I both tried this in the past."

"Mm, that's right, I also think that."

"With Qin Ning's age, having a stable second-grade alchemy boundary is already commendable. Moreover, he was punished and sent to the Waste Pill Disposal Department three months ago; how could he have improved?"

"Perhaps he wants to use this to show his age and potential so that the manager of the Alchemy Chamber notices him. He wants to try his best to erase the previous events and the fallout from that."

"What wise words!"

The next day, the inspection officially began.

A total of 49 people from the alchemy department had applied for this inspection.

"Within your status tokens, you will all receive randomly assigned information. In it you can find your own respective rooms. Every person has three sets of materials – three chances. You only need to succeed once to pass." The alchemy inspection manager had a serious look as he said, "I'm sure you're all aware of this, but I will remind you once more. The chances of you passing through cheating are zero. Once it has been confirmed, you will be forbidden from testing for three years and you will also need to pay a high fine. I hope that you all think this through clearly. Now, begin!"

Qin Yu walked down the corridor. He looked over the information he received and glanced over the numbers over the rooms. After determining that he hadn't entered the wrong one, he closed the door behind himself.

But, there was see-through glass at the top of the door. One could look at the situation within from the outside, and there were constant patrols moving around.

The room was crude and simple. There was a pill furnace and a long and narrow table.

On the table, there were three sets of materials. Qin Yu glanced over them to make sure there weren't any problems, and then checked the pill furnace to make sure it was fine too.

He flicked his fingers and a flame appeared. He used the fire igniting art to light the pill furnace. Then, with a flick of his sleeves, the materials were swept inside. After a moment there was a hollow bang, and black smoke immediately flowed out from the pill furnace.

It was obvious the refinement had failed.

Qin Yu had a calm expression. He waved his hand, extinguishing the furnace fire and pushing the waste pill materials to the side. When the pill furnace cooled down a little, he ignited it once more and attempted his second refinement.

Bang –

Defeat.

Walking through the corridor, the alchemist patrolling looked away. A bit of derision crossed his lips. Indeed, this young man was trying to boost his own reputation.

With that level of strength, he wanted to pass the third-grade alchemy inspection? What a joke.

He shook his head and walked away.

From the moment that Qin Yu had paid the fee, news of him participating in the alchemy test inspection had spread out far and wide, attracting numerous gazes.

The patroller just now was one of those curious people. As a third-grade alchemist, he was well aware of how difficult this step was.

With Qin Yu's young age, if he could achieve this all in a single step, would that mean all the years he struggled for were a waste?

Luckily, there was no hope for him at all.

It was just that this patroller didn't know that as soon as he left, Qin Yu started the third refinement.

He ignited the pill furnace, swept in the materials, formed the law formulas, and then took out the pill.

The entire process wasn't dazzling or astonishing. It was stable and plain, as if it all happened naturally.

He placed the three Purple Dawn Pills into a jade bottle. Then, he opened the door.

The patroller stopped. Although his expression was calm, there was a hidden smile. "You've already failed all attempts, so you can leave now..."

Qin Yu lightly said. "I have refined the pills. I wish to deliver them for confirmation."

The patroller's voice caught in his throat. His eyes widened and shock filled his face.

He looked down. Qin Yu was indeed carrying a jade bottle, and in it were three light purple pills.

The patroller took a deep breath and then said with a dry mouth. "Let me see."

After receiving the jade bottle, he uncapped it and looked at it. It was still wreathed in heat; the pills should have been recently refined. Smelling it, there was no problem with the medicinal fragrance either. The patroller sighed.

Third-grade Purple Dawn Pills.

He looked up towards the young man in front of him, and the patroller's fell into a brief daze. Did he really pass? As he thought about how he acted just now, his face flushed red.

"I will pass these pills to the examination manager for reconfirmation. If there is no problem with them, then you will have truly passed the inspection." The patroller held the pills and brought Qin Yu to the place where everyone had gathered initially.

The alchemy inspection manager had a stern expression. After some questions, he took the jade bottle. Then, after a brief silence, he slowly said, "Qin Ning, congratulations. You have passed the inspection."

Soon after, this news spread out at the highest speed possible.

Chapter 246 – Seventh Miss

The youngest recorded third-grade alchemist in the Gold Noble Family had appeared.

This news not only blew up everyone in the Alchemy Chamber into a raucous uproar, but it also violently shook everyone in a wide range.

When Ning Yiran heard this, he was shocked. He sighed inwardly. If he had to mention regret, there was some in his heart.

Qin Ning had now revealed his talent in alchemy. Even in the main family he was considered outstanding. In the future he would surely have great achievements.

If he could be on good terms with him, then perhaps the Ning Mansion would receive another external boost.

But now, thinking about these things was a bit too late.

And regret was just a little bit of regret. There was no need to feel any dread or fear.

Ning Yiran maintained his own self-confidence. So what if Qin Yu became a fourth-grade alchemist in the future? He believed that at that time, he would absolutely possess the strength to force Qin Ning to not act recklessly.

...

Somewhere near the peak of the mountain city, a beautiful woman emerged from her teacher's dwelling. As she heard this news, she fell silent for a moment before smiling. "I knew that you were difficult to deal with. If you fell so easily, wouldn't that make me appear incompetent?"

"Qin Ning...perhaps we will see each other soon. But at that time, will you recognize me? I'm looking forward to it."

She laughed with a charming allure, with a faint feeling that everything else was beneath her. She turned and walked back into the room, continuing to focus on her cultivation. He was rising so brilliantly and so quickly. If she didn't want to be inferior to him, she certainly had to work extra hard.

...

"Qin Ning! How could he become a third-grade alchemist!?" Ning Le shouted. He was the 15 year old talented youth from the Ning Mansion, and right now his pretty face was fiercely twisted, making him look like a savage beast.

He was one of those who had helped spread rumors. There was no other reason to it besides him looking down on Qin Ning. He couldn't accept being suppressed by others.

"There must be something happening behind the scenes! There must be!"

He was accustomed to being pampered since childhood. Now, this youth with a twisted personality roared out, alarming several people within the Alchemy Chamber. Those people had also been discussing this situation.

“He failed refining the Cloudrain Pill and Blood Energy Pill, and on the contrary, succeeded in refining the Purple Dawn Pill. Could there have been a problem behind this?” An alchemist asked.

Cloudrain Pills and Blood Energy Pills had the broadest applications and were the most commonly refined at this level. Each one had a variety of detailed refining methods and records. Relatively speaking, they were amongst the least difficult of the third-grade pills to refine.

Purple Dawn Pills had a more narrow application usage and the refinement difficulty was on a much higher level. Put together, this made things appear quite strange.

“We carefully inspected it yesterday. They were indeed newly refined pills and there was no problem with the materials. The pills themselves had no defects. When the three pills are compared together, it's clear that they were refined by the same person. There is no question there.”

“Perhaps Qin Ning managed to successfully refine the pill through luck.”

After asking the patroller, it was known that Qin Yu had failed two times before he succeeded. Finally, it was recognized by most people that he had been ‘lucky’.

“Whether it was luck or not, since Qin Yu has passed the inspection he can obtain the status of a third-grade alchemist.” Another alchemist slowly said “Of course, there is also the basic inspection next month. IF he can't pass that, then demote him and that's it.”

“Mm, next month we will naturally see what the result is.”

Through unknown channels, this discussion amongst grandmasters within the Alchemy Chamber soon spread out rapidly. Many people felt enlightened; so it had been a stroke of luck.

I know, right! How could he be so frightening!

For an alchemist, when all sorts of lucky chances coincided, it was possible to refine a higher level pill. But, the chances of this happening were quite low. After an adequate explanation was found for this, most of the attention on Qin Yu vanished, replaced by a bit of disdain and anticipation.

To become a third-grade alchemy was to fly into the heavens with a single move. But, the higher one flew, the harder they fell. Once next month's inspection test came and he failed, his face would drop to the ground.

“Junior-apprentice brother Qin Ning, congratulations!” Ning Yuan happily said. She had also heard the grandmasters discussing the matter afterwards and she also knew what many people were thinking. But in her heart, she only laughed at them.

Luck? Why don't you all try being lucky for once? Besides cheating, she had never heard of anyone who had passed the pill inspection test and then failed the next time. Alright. Taking a step back, even if this was coincidence, if Qin Ning could make such a coincidence appear, that meant that he possessed strength infinitely close to a third-grade alchemist.

To achieve this level at his age was more than extraordinary!

They were just a group of ignorant and jealous dirt bags that only wanted to watch Qin Ning disgrace himself, yet they themselves never thought that his achievements already surpassed the overwhelming majority of them.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "Thank you, senior-apprentice sister Ning Yuan."

Before he could say anything else, Ning Yuan smiled. "Such a young third-grade alchemist definitely has the qualifications to attend the marriage event. Amongst my family's elders, there is someone that is helping manage this. Once I mention it, there shouldn't be any problem."

"Then, I'll thank senior-apprentice sister in advance."

"There's no need to be so polite with me. Just remember how good a person your senior-apprentice sister is." Ning Yuan gently said. After all, she was a beautiful lady, far more courageous than those young girls. As she spoke she looked directly at Qin Yu, her eyes winking as if they could speak.

Qin Yu shook his head inwardly. He had to think of some way to separate him from Ning Yuan. This was to prevent her from disaster once he made his move. If there was a method that could help him reach Nascent Soul, one could easily imagine that it was some incredibly valuable treasure. How could the Gold Noble Family not be angry if it were taken away?

Seeing Qin Yu not respond as if he were deep in thought, Ning Yuan blushed red. She quietly said, "Don't worry too much about this. As long as...as long as I am in your heart, I can handle everything else. Moreover, there is no forbidding rule in my family that says our women cannot marry below our station. I only need you to be a bit more outstanding."

She turned and walked away, her chuckles echoing back to him. "I will go back to my family to discuss things with the elder. Junior-apprentice brother Qin Ning, you can do it! You must work harder than ever before!"

Qin Yu was left helpless on how to respond. He bitterly smiled to himself. This young woman, the more she thought about things the more twisted everything became.

He shook his head and left.

But things clearly didn't go smoothly like Ning Yuan said. When they met again two days later, the young woman was clearly much sadder.

Qin Yu frowned. "Senior-apprentice sister, did things not go well?"

Ning Yuan sighed. "If only it weren't for that conversation between the grandmasters leaking out. It made my family not trust your strength, and they are worried that you will shame the entire clan during the marriage event." She waved her hand. "This is just their thoughts. I have absolute confidence in you."

Qin Yu's complexion darkened. He never thought that his hard work would come to nothing.

Ning Yuan saw his hapless appearance. She clenched her teeth, "Junior-apprentice brother Qin Ning, if you really want to participate then this senior-apprentice sister can help you. But, you must pass next month's inspection test. Otherwise, even if your name comes up on the list, it will still be erased. Moreover...you and I, we can't meet up together like this anymore."

Qin Yu was silent for several moments. He cupped his hands together, "Then I'll have to ask senior-apprentice sister to help."

Ning Yuan faintly smiled. What she said were the facts, but in her heart she had certain confidence in Qin Yu. But, as long as she said this then Qin Yu would owe her a favor. This sort of gratitude and guilt was advantageous to her.

She was a young woman. In this phase of her life, even if she played some little innocuous tricks to obtain the man she liked, it wouldn't affect her much even if she was seen through afterwards.

Two days later, from his status token, Qin Yu received news from the 10086 interface congratulating him for being one of the disciples selected to participate in the marriage event. It asked him to prepare himself and wait for arrangements made for him by the clan.

Hu –

Letting out a light breath, Qin Yu smiled.

In the Gold Noble Family, news gradually spread out saying that there was a young lady in the clan that was being married to the outside world. Although there were some young juniors that were unhappy about this, shouting at that a daughter of their Ning Family shouldn't have to suffer such grievances, as soon as they made a sound they would vanish after two days. After that, no matter how loud and brash a youth was, they all kept quiet.

Gradually, no one said anything anymore. Everyone tacitly agreed that this event was happening. Slowly, preparations began to gradually expand.

...

In the dim light, there was an obviously tense and constrained atmosphere in the hall. Within a gray cage, a woman sat cross-legged. Her complexion was pale and her expression was faint.

"Seventh Miss, you should be angry. Please recuperate from your wounds faster; why make things harder for yourself?" An old man sighed helplessly.

The woman looked up. "Old Cloud, are they really marrying me out?"

The old man hesitated then nodded.

The woman was silent for a moment. She didn't say anything but her eye was full of mockery. "They won't succeed."

Old Cloud's heart skipped a beat. "Seventh Miss, what do you plan on doing?"

The woman lowered her head, no longer speaking.

Old Cloud said, "Seventh Miss, you should know about the old madam's situation. Even if you don't consider yourself, please think of her." Seeing the woman remain silent, he shook his head and left.

In the dark gray cage, the woman looked up. Across her magnificently beautiful face, a flash of cold pain passed.

...

Time passed at a steady pace, not slowing or quickening for anyone. The preparations of the Gold Noble Family slowly came to a finish after a month passed.

This month's promotion tests had arrived.

From Qin Yu's status token, he received a reminder. As a new third-grade alchemist he needed to participate in the basic inspection test. During the allotted time he could refine and third-grade pill. Of course, the only advantage to this was that during the basic inspection test, there was no need to pay any extra fees.

On this day, a good number of eyes gathered onto the Alchemy Chamber's inspection hall. In particular, when Qin Yu arrived, all attention as turned to him.

Countless people waiting in anticipation.

But there was no surprise today.

Qin Yu entered the inspection hall.

Then he came out.

In the inspection manager's hands were three qualified Blood Energy Pills.

Everyone was silent.

Countless eyes were filled with stun and shock. Then, those expressions slowly turned to awe.

Now that Qin Yu had passed this inspection, he had fully confirmed his status. He was an open and honest third-grade alchemist.

Within the Gold Noble Family, he was the youngest third-grade alchemist.

This was no stroke of luck at all!

Some people secretly rejoiced, some people were envious, some people flipped over tables, some people cursed out loud....all sorts of reactions occurred.

But, none of this was related to Qin Yu.

Not long after the inspection test, he received news from his status token that he could come and receive the robes that he would wear on the marriage event day, and also additional directions.

Ning Yuan came to congratulate him and simultaneously invite Qin Yu to her family as a guest. She said some people wanted to use this chance to express their apologies. It was clear that during this past month, although his name appeared on the list, there was nothing else that happened because the elder of Ning Yuan's family didn't favor him.

Now that the situation was confirmed and Qin Yu had proven his strength and potential, he naturally had the capital now to have Ning Yuan's family place him in high regard.

Qin Yu turned down the offer. Of course, he also gave a good reason. He had found some inspiration in his alchemy dao and he needed to go into seclusion for the time being to digest it. He was extremely apologetic about this and said he would personally pay a visit afterwards.

Ning Yuan was surprised. She looked at him deeply, smiled, and then left.

Arriving back at her home, Qin Yu's reason left the elders of Ning Yuan's family with dignified expressions.

To breakthrough to the third-grade from second-grade in just several months, and also obtain inspiration now. This Qin Yu...his potential was endless!

As for whether or not he was just pushing things to the side, it wasn't that Ning Yuan's family never thought of this, but they simply pushed it down as soon as it appeared.

If a cultivator from the outside world really wanted to enter the Gold Noble Family and truly obtain their approval and support, marrying a daughter of the Ning Family would be the best choice. Ning Yuan showed graciousness to Qin Yu and she was beautiful herself. Her family wasn't weak either. If Qin Ning wanted to rise up, he had no reason to reject them.

There was only one explanation: what he said was true!

The family head said, "Yuanyuan, your judgment is quite good. From now on, the family won't manage your affairs. You can handle it yourself."

This was tacitly consenting.

Ning Yuan's face blushed red and her eyes brightened. A bit of pride glowed on her beautiful face.

The man she had chosen was indeed not bad!

Chapter 247 – Ruining His Own Future

When it came to such a young third-grade alchemist, even the Gold Noble Family would value them to a certain extent. Qin Yu was soon promoted to a sixth-grade disciple and received a series of special updates from the service interface saying he would be changed to a better dwelling and have better maids working for him.

The managers of the Alchemy Chamber called him in for a meeting. Their demeanor was warm and kind and they assigned Qin Yu his own alchemy room, stating that he had the status and qualifications now to manage his own furnace. Even the self-proclaimed romantic manager could only squeeze out a smile as he spoke to Qin Yu.

After all, with Qin Yu's age and the potential he revealed so far, breaking through to being a fourth-grade alchemist wouldn't be any problem at all. If he were lucky and managed to advance even further...then at that time, he would truly be someone of great influence within the Gold Noble Family.

No one dared to underestimate him!

Qin Yu was only interested in the method of breaking into Nascent Soul; he simply didn't care about the good intentions sent his way by the Gold Noble Family. He calmly dealt with it all.

Finally, the invited guests from outside the Blue Cloud World arrived.

On this day, Qin Yu changed his robes, putting on a new set that was embroidered with black and red edges. It lent him a calm and dignified aura, and he pushed open the courtyard doors and walked out.

Although he had no idea who today's guest was, the chances of them knowing each other was enormous. In order to prevent annoying situations, Qin Yu chose the simplest duty of all – a perimeter guard.

In Ning Yuan's family, where they almost regarded him as one of their own already, arranging such a small request was easily done. As for why Qin Yu didn't want to show off his face and expose his talent, the elders of Ning Yuan's family thought it through before sighing in exclaim. This Qin Ning wanted to hide his skills and bide his time by remaining silent.

He was already a third-grade alchemist. To be allowed to participate in such an important event was enough to prove his status. But right now, he still couldn't be counted as a genuine Ning Family member. If he were to continue showing off, then he might cross the line. Qin Ning possessed strength and potential, but above that he even possessed the wisdom to know when to retreat. This was extremely rare.

Ning Yuan smiled happily, even more satisfied with Qin Yu.

"Junior-apprentice brother Qin Ning." She intentionally waited for him at the intersection, smiling and waving.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together, "Greetings, senior-apprentice sister."

Ning Yuan rolled her eyes. She said in a hushed voice, "No one's around right now, so would it kill you to call me by a nicer name?"

Compared to a young girl, a young woman was far more daring and bold. After obtaining the approval of her family, she was much less scrupulous in her actions.

These words were almost the same as flirting.

Qin Yu sighed inwardly. He did feel some level of guilt towards Ning Yuan, but in the face of the Nascent Soul great dao, he wouldn't hesitate at all. Just as he was thinking about how to extricate himself from this situation, there was the sudden sound of thunder in the distance.

"Immortal Eclipse Valley's Eclipse Lenqing brings disciple Zheng Zhongxiu to visit the Blue Cloud World!"

"Demonic path's Heavenstar Demon brings Saint Son Deepblue to visit the Blue Cloud World!"

"Sea region Moon Praying Shrine's Xue Zheng brings Prince Deepwhite to visit the Blue Cloud World!"

Three voices sounded out one after another, sweeping through the horizon like a tide.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. He never thought that all three arriving factions today would be old acquaintances. He cupped his hands together and said, "Please excuse me, senior-apprentice sister, I must go."

Whoosh –

He soared into the skies.

Ning Yuan had a dignified expression as she didn't stop him. Worry rose up in her eyes. Immortal Eclipse Valley and the demonic path were both fine; they both existed in the mainland. But, the sea region was more than a hundred thousand miles away from the Blue Cloud World. If all three sides came to the Blue Cloud World today, it could be seen how dire the situation was.

Within the Blue Cloud World, the Gold Noble Family was already prepared. Large numbers of cultivators rose into the skies, welcoming the people from the three factions.

"Fellow daoist Eclipse Lenqing, it's been so many years but you remain as elegant as ever!"

"Heavenstar Demon, your cultivation is even more formidable than in the past. We should have a spar sometime soon!"

"Commander Xue Zheng, this is your first time coming to my Blue Cloud World. You must stay for a few more days so our Ning Family can show you what great hosts we are!"

The Ning Family powerhouses were all courteous and kind. After all, they were wrong for trying to forcefully open up the space. Luckily they had decided to marry off that wicked girl, so this fiasco would soon reach a resolution.

Heavenstar Demon said, "I am here on the order of the Saint Lord to help Saint Son Deepblue request marriage to the Seventh Miss. I ask that the Ning Family agree to this."

Xue Zheng was expressionless. "My race's Majesty and Lord Priest have both tasked me with bringing the Seventh Miss back to our sea races."

As soon as they spoke, the two sides stood in stark opposition to each other.

Black energy flashed in Heavenstar Demon's eyes before he forcefully suppressed it. The sea region was terrifyingly strong. Even if they couldn't come up onto the mainland as they pleased, it was best not to provoke them.

"Humph!" Eclipse Lenqing's complexion sank. Although he couldn't help but acknowledge that Immortal Eclipse Valley was the weakest of the three factions, he still wouldn't be completely ignored by them. "My Immortal Eclipse Valley must also obtain the Seventh Miss, no matter what!"

Heavenstar Demon sneered. "The one I brought here is a saint son of my demonic path, someone who has obtained the approval of the Lord Demon Monarch. In the future he will inherit the great legacy of my demonic path. Just who have you brought here that is capable of fighting the saint son?"

Deepblue lowered his head as the great figures argued all around him. Although he appeared respectful and obedient, he didn't conceal the tyrannical aura exuding from his body.

Golden Core perfection, half-step Nascent Soul! With such a powerful aura, he was in no way weaker than an ordinary early Nascent Soul. After his disastrous defeat in the sea region, Saint Son Deepblue hadn't given up or fallen because of it. In fact, that setback only made him that much more formidable.

Eclipse Lenqing fumed, "Zeng Zhongxiu is the sole disciple of my Immortal Eclipse Valley's master and is the one who wields the Eighth Furnace. His alchemy talent is astonishing. He has a peak third-grade

strength right now and could step onto the fourth-grade boundary at any moment. His prospects are limitless, so how does he not compare to your demonic path's saint son?"

Zeng Zhongxiu had a light expression. He studied all year long and had a calm temperament. Combined with the leather bag he kept at his side, his brilliance was no less than Deepblue's.

The complexions of the Gold Noble Family changed. They were truly worthy of being the Immortal Eclipse Valley known for being number one amongst the alchemy dao. This disciple was so young and yet nearly touched upon the fourth-grade realm.

In comparison, the Qin Ning that recently appeared was clearly far inferior.

Heavenstar Demon seemed to have thought of this earlier. A sly smile lifted up his face. He suddenly said, "I heard that an alchemy talent has recently risen up within the Ning Family. How about we have a brief competition between them so that I can broaden my horizons? After all, a competition in alchemy doesn't depend on one's cultivation. Everyone will be able to see whether your Immortal Eclipse Valley is empty bragging or not."

Eclipse Lenqing coldly humphed, "When it comes to alchemy, my Immortal Eclipse Valley is number one, and I dare say this even in the Blue Cloud World." He glanced over, "Heavenstar Demon, I know what sort of sinister thoughts you have, but the alchemy honor of my Immortal Eclipse Valley cannot be sullied. Zeng Zhongxiu, compete with this Ning Family talent and prove your strength to everyone as a way of expressing just how sincere you are in marrying the Seventh Miss."

Zeng Zhongxiu's eyes flashed with a trace of helplessness. In truth, he didn't really want to accept this mysterious Seventh Miss that no one had seen before. But, his teacher had told him that even if he didn't succeed, he had to blow up this marriage event so that the demonic path didn't win. He took a deep breath and cupped his hands together, "Yes, martial uncle."

The complexions of everyone from the Gold Noble Family darkened. Originally, they wanted to sit peacefully on the sidelines and watch as the three sides fought it out, so how had they been dragged into the fray? And, the key problem here was that they couldn't refuse, otherwise that would be the same as admitting that their Gold Noble Family's younger generation couldn't compare to those from Immortal Eclipse Valley.

After a brief hesitation, a Nascent Soul powerhouse from the Gold Noble Family turned and said, "Find Qin Ning and bring him here."

The clan juniors quickly rushed away.

"Everyone, let us go to the reception hall first. This alchemy competition will take some time to prepare."

Heavenstar Demon faintly smiled, "I'll be waiting!"

Eclipse Lenqing had no reaction. He certainly knew that he had fallen for Heavenstar Demon's tricks. Whether Zeng Zhongxiu won the alchemy competition against the Ning Family's talented new junior or not, it would just make it more difficult for him to marry the Seventh Miss. But, if Zeng Zhongxiu's performance was dazzling enough, that was also a chance for him to display his prowess. He knew that this apprentice nephew of his had recently made a breakthrough in his alchemy skills.

Immortal Eclipse Valley was the weakest of the three sides. It was not possible to directly compete, but taking alternate routes might open up an opportunity. Otherwise, with Eclipse Lenqing being a Nascent Soul powerhouse for better or worse, how could he knowingly fall for such an obvious trap?

Xue Zheng had a tranquil look, as if he didn't care about the battle between Immortal Eclipse Valley and the demonic path. By his side was a pale Prince Hai Deepwhite, the same one that Qin Yu had met once when he first captured Princess Lushy. His robes and hair were still white as before, but he lacked the heroic vigor of the past; it seemed as if he had suffered a great blow recently.

When Qin Yu learned of the alchemy competition that Immortal Eclipse Valley proposed, he was startled for a moment before he bitterly smiled. Indeed, people could never predict the path that would open up to them. He had acted ahead of time to avoid the arriving guests, but he never imagined that such an incident would occur. It was certainly impossible for him to join the alchemy competition, otherwise his identity would be exposed. He was a formidable cultivator capable of fighting a Nascent Soul powerhouse and he had sneaked his way into the Gold Noble Family. If he said he wasn't up to something bad, would anyone believe him?

As this thought appeared, Qin Yu coughed out loud and grabbed his belly. "Senior-apprentice brother, my stomach hurts too much; I must excuse myself first!" He turned and ran away. Before the Ning Family cultivator messenger could regain his composure, Qin Yu had already vanished from sight.

Not only was the messenger stunned, but those around him were also left in a daze. This...could this be the legendary 'using a stomach illness to escape' method? But, was this really the right thing to do at such a critical time? If he ran away at such a moment, what would happen to the honor of the Gold Noble Family?

After a brief moment of shock, the messenger cultivator shook his head and stomped his feet. "That bastard! What the hell are you all doing? Hurry up and find him! Bring him directly to the reception hall!"

He turned and rushed away. He needed to immediately inform the higher ups of the clan about this.

At this time, there were two high-grade pill furnaces and several sets of materials placed in the reception hall. A light medicinal fragrance hung in the air. Several Ning Family Nascent Souls were entertaining their visiting guests.

"Everyone, please try this. This is some old tea produced in my family, and there are only a few pounds produced every 30 years. The flavor is quite nice." Ning Wanqian smiled at everyone around him. Since he was greeting everyone here in place of the Patriarch, he certainly had to do his best.

Just as his voice fell, a disciple arrived by his side and bowed before hurriedly whispering some words. Ning Wanqian's face stiffened and fury poured out from his eyes. But in the end, he was one of the more controlled people of his generation. He took a deep breath and composed himself, but one could still sense a slight change with him.

What nonsense. How could he remain natural?

The solemn Gold Noble Family, the clan with the most majestic bloodline in the world, actually had a subordinate cultivator who not only ran away from a fight, but even used the shameless stomach ache

excuse to do so. If that bastard Qin Ning didn't immediately arrive, then Elder Ning Wanqian would definitely make him understand what it meant to wish for death!

Around the hall, the other Ning Family Elders began to slowly learn of this. Although they all maintained their calm demeanors, the atmosphere began to stiffen a little.

Heavenstar Demon's eyes flashed. He said, "Where is that new alchemy talent of your clan? How come he hasn't appeared yet?"

The smiles of the Ning Family Elders became a bit more forced.

Ning Wanqian pulled over a disciple. After asking some questions, he smiled and said, "Unfortunately, it just so happens that my clan's disciple has suddenly gone into seclusion. It appears he has gained some recent alchemy insights. We will have to postpone today's alchemy competition to a later time."

It wasn't that he hadn't thought about switching to get someone else to compete against Zeng Zhongxiu instead, but if these three factions said they didn't have spies in their clan, he would be the first to not believe them. Moreover, their clan had already detected some saboteurs in their midst, but hadn't yet truly grasped their identities, so they were currently letting them be and pretending they didn't see anything. Perhaps they knew about Qin Ning and perhaps they didn't, but if they took the risk and were seen through, they couldn't afford the loss of face that would follow.

Heavenstar Demon smiled. "Is that so? It seems there are some people that can act freely for a bit longer!"

Eclipse Lenqing coldly shouted, "Heavenstar Demon, you can stop with the shady remarks. How can the reputation of my Immortal Eclipse Valley be ruined by the likes of you? If you dare spout such nonsense again then I won't spare you!"

Heavenstar Demon laughed. "How ridiculous! Just who is it that has been so frightened by my demonic path that they haven't dared step out of their valley for years! Eclipse Lenqing, if you are so indignant about this matter, then once this event ends you can I can both fight it out!"

Eclipse Lenqing's complexion darkened. "Good, then I'll be waiting for you!"

The Ning Family took this chance to end today's meeting. They ordered the disciples to lead the guests to their various accommodations. After the cultivators from the three factions left, the Ning Family cultivators all paled and left in a huff!

The Gold Noble Family was marrying off a daughter and the three sides were competing for her. They should have been sitting on a high platform and chatting as the three sides struggled, but they were actually the first ones pulled into a difficult situation, leaving their Elders enraged. Finally, they had been forced to lie to withdraw. To the incomparably proud Gold Noble Family, this was a tremendous shame on their name.

But Qin Yu was also left in a helpless position. Ah, he simply couldn't tell others about his difficulties and how he couldn't expose his identity here. So, when facing questions, he could only remain silent.

Ning Yuan had a worried expression. "Qin Ning, the alchemy competition today was not the critical issue. It would have been best if you won, but losing wouldn't be anything against you. As long as you

displayed your strength as a third-grade alchemist, the clan would not punish you. But, no matter what you did, you should not have chosen to avoid the battle. The lords of the clan value their honor above all. What you did was the same as a slap against their face. They will surely punish you.”

Qin Ning bitterly smiled. He knew that the key point was how much the Ning Family valued their honor. In this mysterious clan, everyone was arrogant to their bones. Avoiding this battle was the greatest possible taboo he could have done, but he had no other choice.

Seeing his silence, Ning Yuan’s eyes dimmed. But, she didn’t give up. “Qin Ning, is there some problem that you can’t say out loud? If you tell me, I can help you try and find a way.”

Suddenly, the courtyard doors were pushed open and several black-clothed Ning Family cultivators rushed in, gloomy expressions on their faces. “Qin Ning, follow us!”

Qin Yu had already expected this. He nodded towards Ning Yuan and left.

Ning Yuan blanched. Those were people from the Disciplinary Hall. Qin Ning had committed a great mistake this time, and if he went he would surely suffer a loss. She clenched her teeth and returned home. But just as she mentioned this matter, she was interrupted by the elder.

“Ning Yuan, do not interfere in this matter. Even my honor was damaged by him! And to think I valued him so much! To avoid the battle is a disgrace upon my clan’s prestige. What he did was ruin his own future. Now, the clan will not give Qin Ning a single chance to rise again. You should stay as far away from him as possible in the future and leave him to his own devices!” He left with a cold cough.

Ning Yuan was filled with bitter distress. Qin Ning, you were always so smart and determined, how could you make such a wrong decision? Even I have no way of saving you now.

Chapter 248 – When Are You Going To?

Ning Family, Disciplinary Hall.

The atmosphere was cold and unfriendly. There was a long and narrow table in the dim hall. Five Ning Family cultivators sat behind it, their gazes so dark that it seemed they could drip water.

“Qin Ning, what gall you have, you still won’t admit to your guilt after all this time!” Second from the left, a middle-aged man with a short beard roared out, his voice shaking with anger.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. “May I ask exactly what mistake I made?”

“In the alchemy competition with Immortal Eclipse Valley, you avoided the battle, greatly damaging the prestige of my clan. This is simply an inexcusable crime, and you still want to argue?” Another Ning Family cultivator bellowed.

A different person spoke up, the expression on his face seeming to ask how this shameless boy could continue showing up in this world, “My clan valued you so much and even had the intent of cultivating you, yet who could imagine you would be so underwhelming and ruin the trust of my clan!”

Qin Yu had an innocent expression. “It’s not that I didn’t want to avoid the battle, but my stomach really hurt at the time. Everyone has the three urges, no one can avoid them.”

“There is no need to argue! No matter how glib your tongue is, do you still think you can fool us all!?”

“This disciple doesn’t dare. But, all of this was an accident; I am also suffering...”

“You still want to shift the responsibility...”

No matter what aggressive the threats and scolding was, Qin Yu strongly shouted out about the injustice of the matter, clearly not willing to accept the situation. This was so that the Ning Family wouldn’t be able to decide on his punishment and so he could drag out the situation for as long as he could.

Sea region, demonic path, Immortal Eclipse Valley, all three sides had arrived here and Qin Yu believed that the turning point he had waited all this time for would arrive soon. It wasn’t a problem for him to act like a rogue for a while.

After arguing for a long time and not being able to get Qin Yu to acknowledge his guilt, the five Ning Family cultivators were beginning to run out of breath, and even their shouts seemed a bit hoarse. The bearded middle-aged cultivator waved his hand. “Qin Ning, don’t think that just because you stubbornly deny the truth, we don’t have any way to punish you! Men! Lock him up! As long as he doesn’t acknowledge his guilt, he cannot come out! Let’s see just how long he lasts!”

Two ferocious men walked forwards. They swept their eyes over Qin Yu, contempt in their gazes. If Qin Yu remained so obstinate, it would only further enrage the Disciplinary Hall. This brat was in for serious punishment.

The Gold Noble Family had extremely strict rules and regulations. When it involved foreign disciples, they had to be even more careful. These were rules that were established in the early years to stabilize the foundation of the family, and they had indeed proven very useful in drawing extremely talented cultivators from the outside world.

There was a special point to be made here. The reason that the Gold Noble Family wanted to bring in outside cultivators was similar to the reason why Qin Yu was asked to be the Emperor’s son-in-law during his adventure at the sea races’ capital city.

The reason the Gold Noble Family was powerful was that they had inherited an extremely formidable bloodline. They brought in outstanding cultivators from the outside world and added in their bloodlines to ensure that the Gold Noble Family’s bloodline didn’t fade.

Because of this reason, it was unavoidable that some foreign cultivators would be dissatisfied with the Gold Noble Family. Thus, as long as it was something involving them, it needed to be done justly and transparently.

Qin Yu was taking advantage of this system. Otherwise, as a mere third-grade alchemist, a tiny thought would be enough to crush him to pieces. Of course, if the Gold Noble Family really tried this, they would discover that the harmless little white rabbit would instantly transform into a human-eating dragon.

“This brat Qin Ning has a firm will. We have tried for a long time but nothing has worked. I fear it will be difficult to punish him.”

“Mm. Having him admit guilt on his own initiative won’t be simple.”

“This junior Qin Ning is too sly and crafty. If he stubbornly holds onto the fact that all people have three urges, any punishment will appear too severe for such a reason.”

“Maybe we can bring in an outside cultivator to exert a bit of pressure. He might be able to feign stupidity in front of us, but this might not work with other people.”

“That might be a good plan!”

Thus, beginning from Ning Yiran, all other Ning Mansion cultivators that entered the Blue Cloud World with him received a message in their status tokens, requesting assistance in the investigation.

On the next day, there were visitors to Qin Yu’s prison cell.

Ning Yiran furrowed his eyebrows together. He slowly said, “Qin Ning, you really disappoint me!” He had once regarded Qin Yu as his rival and even a goal to strive towards. But, who knew he would end up in such a pitiful state?

A beautiful woman calmly stared at Qin Yu, her gaze steady and unwavering. But, there was a bit of confusion deep in her eyes. She didn’t believe that someone as cautious and intelligent as him would make such a crude and basic mistake. But, the scene before her proved that this was the reality of the situation.

The next to speak was Ning Le. There was a hint of suppressed joy beneath his serious expression. “Qin Ning, you are someone recommended by the Ning Mansion. It's fine if you are lacking in talent, but you keep trying to evade responsibility! Let me give you some advice. Acknowledge your guilt now or you will suffer more in the future. The main family has numerous methods that will make you speak up.”

Qin Yu glanced at him. He shook his head. “I’ve already explained everything. This matter was beyond my control. It was just a coincidence.”

“Humph! What ridiculous nonsense. Do you really think we are all idiots here? Us cultivators all have healthy bodies resistant to injuries and poisons, so how could you have sudden unbearable abdominal pain completely unprovoked?” Ning Le laughed. In his eyes, this sort of weak and paltry excuse was just laughable.

Qin Yu closed his eyes. “I already explained myself. If you don’t believe me then there’s nothing I can do.”

Ning Yiran shook his head. “Qin Ning, Ning Le is right about one thing. If the main family wants someone to admit their guilt, they will always have a method to do so. You don’t have much time left to consider this. I hope you make the right choice.”

He turned and left.

A trace of disappointment flashed in the woman’s eyes. She thought that Qin Ning might have some reason behind his actions, but besides a flimsy excuse that he was stubbornly holding on to, there was nothing else.

But, was this really useful? She wanted to say something, but after looking at him, there was no need to speak anymore. She gently sighed and turned around, a bit of inexplicable sorrow in her heart.

The other Ning Mansion cultivators all coldly sneered, following behind the two. Right now, they were all supposed to be working hard to rise higher, so how could they waste their time here? Hehe, the Gold Noble Family's youngest third-grade alchemist, a youth with boundless prospects...but as they thought of him now, all that came to their minds were taunts.

Ning Le squatted down across from the array formation that stabilized the prison cell. He chuckled, "Qin Ning, I really, really don't like you. So, whether it was the Ning Mansion or Blue Cloud World, I helped in spreading rumors about you. No, to be more exact, in the Blue Cloud World, I was the one who deliberately started the rumors and urged everyone on. You are just a lowly foreign cultivator, so on what basis can you be more splendid than me? After today, you are destined to be locked in here as you fall into the abyss. As for me, I will rise step by step, becoming a brilliant existence that you cannot even look at.

"Aren't you asking me why? Don't you want an explanation? Hating someone and then finding a way to ruin them is an incredibly simple thing to do. Unfortunately, the one who ultimately ruined you was yourself, and it had nothing to do with me. In the future when I think of this, perhaps I might be a bit disappointed."

Ning Le stood up, a bright smile on his face. To speak the words in his heart without any scruples at all, this was the right of the victor.

And it was obvious he was the victor!

However, what surprised Ning Le was that Qin Yu remained completely calm as he heard these words, without even a change in his complexion. He didn't even open his eyes and glance over. Could it be that he didn't want to lose face in front of him? Perhaps he was already raging with anger deep in his heart.

Ning Le brushed off the nonexistent dust on his body as if he didn't want to be contaminated with the bad luck here. Then, he turned and walked away. He had already said what he wanted to say. It was unlikely the two of them would ever cross paths again in the future, so there was naturally no need for him to waste any more time here.

And at this time, in the prison cell, Qin Yu's eyes opened, divine light flashing within them!

An old voice echoed out deep in his mind. "Little Friend Qin Yu, if you don't make a move now, when are you going to?"

In the next moment there was a heaven-shaking rumble. The entire prison trembled with it. And, this place was deep underground, far from the surface. From this alone, one could imagine how much horrifying strength was contained in it!

Ning Le paled and his mind buzzed. His face paled with panic. He had no idea what was happening. Before he could regain his composure, he heard another thunderous rumble from behind him. Blinding light erupted all around. He swiveled around and his jaw dropped open, as if he was seeing something completely inconceivable.

Qin Yu gripped the prison cell bars with both hands and pulled outwards. The array formation runes on the cell began to crazily swirl around and terrifying bolts of thunder crashed onto his body. But, the array formation runes and the terrifying thunder weren't able to hinder him at all. The prison cell was

torn open wider and wider. The ground shook and cracks appeared, rapidly spreading out like a spiderweb.

Ning Le watched with wide eyes filled with panic. Endless fear submerged his mind. He knew what he should be doing right now; he should be running away as far as possible. But, his legs were locked in place and he couldn't move at all, as if his entire body had taken root to the ground.

So, he could only watch with despair and horror as the prison cell spit open with a deafening bang and the underground prison blew apart.

Pa –

Qin Yu stepped outside.

He walked out, not even glancing to the side. Ning Le's heart leaped into his throat before he relaxed a little. Perhaps he had been too busy to think about what was happening, but his heart raced with the joy of someone who survived a calamity. Slowly, the confusion that flooded his thoughts began to fade away. How could Qin Ning possess such terrifying strength?

His twisted mind immediately took the upper hand. Hate rose in his face. No matter how strong you think you are, breaking out from prison is a capital crime! The masters up above will surely kill you!

As he was ecstatic with anticipation, Ning Le suddenly felt his field of vision flip on its side. He could see the body of someone right in front of him, spurting blood from their severed neck.

Eh? Those clothes are so familiar. Where is his head?

Qin Yu rose upwards. The prison doors weren't closed. The guards outside were looking towards the distant skies with shock on their faces, so they didn't notice Qin Yu emerge.

Looking up, that place seemed to be the entrance to the Blue Cloud World. The vault of heaven seemed to be collapsing and giant canyon-like cracks spread through the skies.

An extremely terrifying aura pulsed outwards. Even from this distance, Qin Yu could clearly feel it. His expression turned dignified. He had thought that the Sea Sovereign was the most formidable existence in the world. He never imagined that he would see someone that could compare to the Sea Sovereign in strength, and even two of them at once!

The one who spoke to him must have been one of these two people. But, why help him? They were even willing to disregard any price and make the Gold Noble Family an enemy. If this other party was willing to pay such a great price, one didn't need to be a genius to tell that they were scheming something.

Qin Yu suddenly discovered that everything occurring had surpassed his expectations. Dread began to appear deep in his heart. But with things having gotten to this point and the method to Nascent Soul right in front of him, even if he knew something was wrong he couldn't back away.

"Qin Ning! Why are you here!?" Ning Yiran shouted out. This future leader of the outside Ning Mansion was the first to discover him.

Shua –

The gazes of the prison guards locked onto him, killing intent thick in their eyes.

Chapter 249 – Stepping Into the Skies

Qin Yu looked away. He glanced at Ning Yiran once and then started walking forwards.

“Where are you going!”

“You’re staying behind!”

With loud roars, the guards attacked. Bolts of white supernatural power surged out with incomparably dazzling light, condensing into encircling chains.

Bang –

With a loud explosion, all of the chains disintegrated. The attacking guards shouted pitifully as they were sent soaring backwards.

Blood wildly spurted out from their heads.

The entire scene fell deathly silent!

Everyone stared with wide eyes, watching that tall and straight figure walking away, not even stopping for a single moment. That exchange just now had instantly revealed just how formidable he was.

Nascent Soul!

Ning Yiran suddenly discovered that he had mistaken the situation from the very beginning. Qin Ning had never been his rival, because the two of them were not on the same level to begin with.

The eyes of the woman beside him shook like waves in a storm. The person who originally disappointed everyone was now emitting hundreds of millions of rays of light. Her mind shook and she lost the ability to think.

Suddenly, she thought back to the terrifying powerhouse that blatantly broke into the Blue Cloud World. Then, she thought of Qin Yu suddenly breaking out of prison. There was definitely some sort of connection between them.

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

The sound of howling air filled the skies!

A guard with a fierce bloodstained face viciously said, “In the Blue Cloud World, no one dares to disobey my Ning Family. You are going to die here!”

Shua –

Beams of light scattered to reveal two figures, one man and one woman, both of them middle-aged. They emanated boundless power and prestige, their auras as deep as a pool. And, what was more astonishing was that their auras were faintly linked together, with the effect of their total power being

greater than the sum of the two added together. This made the aura of the two early Nascent Soul cultivators even more dreadful than that of a middle Nascent Soul cultivator.

“Disciplinary Elders, Qin Ning has broken out from the prison. He must be a spy from the outside, please capture him for interrogation!” A wounded guard shouted out.

Ning Yiran turned around and fled. The cultivators beside him were stunned for a brief moment before they hurried to follow him. They thought that if there was a reason they deserved to die, it was because their reaction time was slower than others’. In a battle between Nascent Souls, if these minor characters were to approach, what was the difference between that and seeking death?

Ning Yiran’s gaze fell on Qin Yu and a dignified look crossed his face. It was unknown just what he was thinking. But, as for that woman with beautiful eyes who was even more outstanding, she simply frowned and sighed inwardly. Nascent Souls were strong, but this was the Blue Cloud World, the land where the main family lived. Powerhouses existed here like trees in a forest, so what could a single Nascent Soul do?

As for the other outer Ning Mansion cultivators, after they were shocked, looks of joy crossed their faces. Qin Ning, no matter how fierce you are, aren’t you just going to die here?

The middle-aged man and woman were husband and wife. Right now, their eyes were icy cold as they looked at Qin Yu. “No matter who you are, concealing your identity and trespassing in the Blue Cloud World is a crime worthy of death!”

The two people lifted their hands and thrust them forwards.

In that instant, winds and close rose up. Heaven and earth spiritual strength started to surge within the void. A massive hand appeared, its surface covered with the markings of time, as if it were some divine hand that had been summoned across the river of time and space to arrive in this world. Before it descended, the space all around tightened up and the air became so thick that it seemed it would become solid.

Qin Yu looked up and praise flashed in his eyes. They were truly worthy of being part of the Gold Noble Family. With this supernatural skill, they could even suppress a middle Nascent Soul master. But even so, his expression was calm. He stood steady where he was and lifted a hand, pointing a finger into the skies.

Wind and clouds whipped up once more. A finger pierced into the heavens, and after a brief silence, there was a heaven-shaking rumble as shockwaves spread outwards, curling up heads of black hair.

Ning Yiran decisively raised his hands and pushed them outwards. The beautiful woman beside him followed suit, her hands dancing in the air. The complexions of the two suddenly paled as they were forced backwards. After the blinding light faded, they could see a figure standing tall in the distance. The depths of their eyes began to shiver.

Qin Yu’s strength had surpassed their expectations!

The complexions of the middle-aged man and woman sank. Although their strike just now had seemed simple, it was actually their full strength. They never thought that they wouldn’t even be able to shake this young man with their all-out strike.

But in the next moment, they calmed down. They both raised their hands up into the void and forced several signs with their fingers.

As their fingers fell, what was the world and not the world seemed to change. It became heavy and cruel, filled with a savage and intangible killing aura that struck straight at one's heart.

Qin Yu looked up to see countless array formation runes shimmer above his head. Black clouds immediately gushed out into the empty skies and dazzling bolts of lightning arched through them. Its aura was even more terrifying than Nascent Soul heavenly tribulation.

Bang –

Thunder roared and fell.

Qin Yu glanced up and then looked at the middle-aged man and woman. He lightly said, "I don't want to kill you. Move aside."

With the thunder of the killing array up ahead and two great Nascent Souls around him, to speak such words at this moment was wildly arrogant to the extreme.

But soon after, there was no longer any sound in this world. Everyone's eyes widened as they stared on in a dumbfounded daze.

Even the middle-aged man and woman couldn't help but be shaken, panic and horror etched on their faces!

They saw the horrifying thunder directly strike Qin Yu. But, his body was like a black hole. The thunder suddenly twisted and was completely swallowed up into his stomach.

Then, continuous bolts of thunder rained down, each one containing endlessly cruel killing intent. Yet, none of them could change the result.

Beneath the black clouds, the thunder was like a cage, the dazzling lightning so blinding that one couldn't look straight at it. In the midst of it all, Qin Yu calmly walked out.

This sight was like a miracle!

He left the black clouds and avoided the bolts of thunder. He looked up, towards the summit of the mountain city that was entirely covered by fog.

An intuition, an impulse, gradually rose in his heart. The method to reach Nascent Soul might be there!

Pa –

The ground shattered. Qin Yu was like a bolt of lightning as he exploded forwards.

Ning Yiran and the woman beside him both revealed complicated expressions. Was this his true strength?

The middle-aged man and woman paled, hate and shame thick in their eyes. But at this moment, they really didn't dare to try stopping Qin Yu again.

That miracle-like scene had created a psychological impact that had completely crushed their pride and self-confidence.

However, if this person wanted to rely on this alone to wreak havoc in the Blue Cloud World, it was far from enough. Even if they didn't dare to do something, there was inevitably someone else who would!

Bang –

Above the mountain summit, sharp sword intents blazed through the horizon, their terrifying auras reaching a state of unparalleled sharpness. It seemed as if even the world would be torn asunder.

In the blink of an eye, a sword phantom appeared. Its blade cut through the void, causing its surroundings to distort as it chopped down on Qin Yu's head.

Qin Yu looked up. His black hair was whipped into the wind and his face slightly stung. Because he couldn't help it, he narrowed his eyes a little.

He lifted one hand and pointed outwards.

Clang –

Like a divine sword leaving its sheath, there was a resonant sword cry. A white sword appeared, bearing a tyrannical momentum.

It soared towards the sword phantom. Then, with a loud ring, the two swords collided.

Hu –

The shattered sword intent fell down like a rain of blades. In the surrounding one hundred miles of the mountain peak, all of the ancient trees were ripped apart by the sword intent, torn into powder that sprinkled to the ground.

Suddenly, the top of the mountain was exposed. Sitting there was an old man in sword robes, his face pale white without the smallest hint of red. The area ten feet around him was crisscrossed with deep slashes, not a single half-inch area untouched.

Puff –

He spat out a mouthful of blood. Countless cracks appeared on the surface of his body and tiny beads of blood seeped out, immediately drowning his body in blood.

Sword cultivators possessed terrifying offensive capabilities, but their weakness was that they were one with their sword. To break the sword was to break their body. Even if the old man sword cultivator didn't die today, his cultivation would drastically fall.

Qin Yu didn't stop. He continued stepping towards the mountain peak where the fog swirled about.

The Blue Cloud World had suddenly been attacked by a powerful enemy. At this time, the space of the entrance was still collapsing, and terrifying auras were continuing to collide, causing the cracks in space to widen. This shocking scene immediately drew in countless eyes. Not only was everyone from the Gold Noble Family watching this now, but even the honored guests from the three factions were observing.

Deepblue clenched his fists, hatred thick in his eyes. But, there was a trace of horror that he didn't want to acknowledge.

Qin Yu...it was Qin Yu...

He would never mistake that face. Several years since their meeting at the sea region, Qin Yu had actually become this powerful.

In the past, although he wasn't a match, Qin Yu had won using the power of a treasure. If they had truly fallen into a melee battle, he wouldn't necessarily have lost.

But now...his eyes locked onto the figure that stepped into the skies. Deepblue's nails dug into his palms, but he didn't feel it at all.

He didn't want to acknowledge this, yet he had no choice but to do so. If they were to fight today, he feared it would only take a brief instant for him to perish where he stood!

Heavenstar Demon had a dignified expression. His thoughts rapidly raced. In the past, he had discovered Qin Yu's great secret. Unfortunately, before he could grab hold of him, Qin Yu had used the Blood Escape Art to flee.

Today, Qin Yu revealed an even greater strength, and this made Heavenstar Demon's greed towards his Demon Body even stronger. If he helped the Gold Noble Family, then he might have a chance to take him away and then find an opportunity to seize his Demon Body!

However, who was the one fighting the Ning Family Old Ancestor? That terrifying demon energy was no worse than the Demon Monarch's!

"Brother Qin!" Zeng Zhongxiu was surprised. His eyes flashed as he quickly looked over.

Eclipse Lenqing sucked in a deep breath and said, "I don't like him, but Qin Yu is in the end a person of my Immortal Eclipse Valley. I won't do anything to him."

Of course, there was one point he wouldn't admit to, and that was the tinge of fear that was slowly spreading in his heart.

Zeng Zhongxiu calmed down even as his thoughts raced. It was definitely not a coincidence that Qin Yu appeared at this time. Looking towards the distance where the skies were being destroyed, a thoughtful look came over his face.

Perhaps there was something he needed in the Gold Noble Family.

Xue Zheng stood straight, his eyes dark and gloomy. He was like a heavy sword slowly emerging from its chest.

Hai Deepwhite had a complex look, but in the next moment, his face turned icy cold.

If it weren't for Qin Yu then the Whale Sovereign wouldn't have died, and he wouldn't have been placed under house arrest by his father.

Now, all of his schemes and plots had become nothing. That supreme throne no longer had any relation to him.

If one had to vote for the most hated person in the world, Hai Deepwhite would surely vote for Qin Yu.

However, he didn't have much to say. He glanced over at Xue Zheng and covered the chill that flashed in his eyes.

Bang –

Terrifying explosions rang out once more. Qin Yu had heard them once when he was in prison, but now that he was stepping into the skies, he could hear them much more clearly.

Shockwaves rippled out at a speed visible to the naked eye. It was like a strong wind that flattened the earth. The ancient trees on the mountain bent where they were, and some were unable to withstand it and were directly broken apart. Then, they were all sucked into the skies and shredded into dust.

Qin Yu's feet moved. He turned and saw a beam of light shoot forth from the thick fog. Countless array formations and spells lit up in front of it, but they weren't able to stop it at all. It easily pierced through every one and then landed atop the summit in a common-looking palace hall.

Weng –

The entire mountain trembled. The palace hall possessed inconceivably tough defensive capabilities. When that terrifying beam of light crashed into it from above, it caused cracks to appear, but it didn't collapse at all.

This was already more than amazing.

Rays of golden light emerged from the cracks in the palace hall, lighting up the skies like blazing flames. Qin Yu could feel the powerful aura contained within that golden light. He had a sudden intuition that whatever it was that could help him break through to Nascent Soul was in that palace hall.

It was so clear, so strong, that it was like a fire really lit up in his chest, making his eyes burn hot!

Chapter 250 – Seeing Ning Ling Again

The rich golden light contained an incomparably formidable aura. It clearly demonstrated the power it possessed. Every cultivator that saw the golden light immediately had a clear thought flash in their mind – this was an extremely powerful treasure!

They had no idea what it was or what use it had. But even so, all of them were tempted. They all felt a bottomless sense of greed in their hearts, an almost desperate sense of urgency.

If one could obtain it, control it, then one could have everything!

The hate in Deepblue's eyes had already transformed to greed. He stubbornly stared at the golden light, his throat gulping repeatedly.

Heavenstar Demon was slightly better as Nascent Soul cultivators normally possessed a steady will. Even so, the skin of his cheeks shivered and it was clear he was restless.

“It is rumored that the Gold Noble Family possesses a supreme treasure, and it is by depending on this treasure that they control the Blue Cloud World. The master of this treasure is the master of the Blue

Cloud World. In this world fragment, it possesses an inconceivable strength. If I'm not guessing wrong, this golden light is related to that treasure."

Deepblue licked his lips. "Seventh Slaughter Sect Master's meaning is?"

Heavenstar Demon said in a soft voice. "The Gold Noble Family has encountered great enemies today. You and I are both guests and we also wish to be tied together with them through marriage, so how can we stand idly by and allow thieves to wreak havoc?"

Deepblue nodded. "Seventh Slaughter Sect Master is indeed reasonable!"

Whoosh –

The two of them shot into the skies.

Hai Deepwhite shivered. He could feel a powerful summons originating from his golden light, as if it were something that belonged to him all along. A strong intuition rose in his mind. If he could obtain the main form of this gold light, he could reverse the difficult position he was in and try struggling one more time.

This was a treasure that could change his destiny.

It's mine. That thing is mine!

Xue Zheng frowned. He turned and said, "Prince Deepwhite, the reason you and I came today is to request the hand of the Ning Family lady in marriage. I hope you do not cause unnecessary complications."

Hai Deepwhite coldly sneered. "You're right that we are here to request marriage, but I ask that Commander Xue Zheng widen your eyes for a moment. The demonic path has already made their move. Do we just sit by and do nothing?"

Shua –

He flew out from the courtyard. Black water vapors gushed out from all around his body, condensing into the phantom of a flood dragon. With a roar, he soared straight to the top of the mountain.

Eclipse Lenqing's eyes were tightly locked onto the golden light atop the mountain summit. He coldly said, "No matter what that is, we cannot allow it to fall into the hands of the demonic path! Follow me, we're going to go and take a look!"

With a step forward, he howled into the skies.

At the same time, when the golden light cracked apart the palace hall, the incomparably large Blue Cloud World seemed as if its very foundation had been shaken. Thus, the cracks in the vault of heaven began to rapidly expand and collapse. As the giant cracks spread outwards, countless small new cracks appeared. In just a moment, the Blue Cloud World seemed as if it would disintegrate!

"Heavenseek Old Demon, you have gone too far!"

There was an enraged roar. Then, with a loud rumble two figures flew out from the darkness. One person was shrouded in darkness and the other person burned with blazing golden flames. Terrifying

auras surged out from them, causing the surrounding space to distort. It was impossible to clearly see their appearance, and because the spatial distortions caused their figures to seem dozens of times larger, it was like immortal fairies were fighting in the skies.

“The river goes 30 years east and then 30 years west. When you tried to kill me in the past, you should have already expected that this situation would occur today.”

“My Ning Family has already paid a sufficient price for what happened in the past. You promised to consider it over with, so why go back on your word?”

“Demonic path cultivators are shameless and wretched. What makes you think we can’t do something like betraying our word? If you can’t accept this, then you can come looking for me in the future.”

“Despicable!”

The voices echoed out far. Qin Yu paused.

Heavenseek Old Demon...Heavenseek Pavilion...

Really, this new situation was related to them.

Qin Yu looked up. His eyes swept over that mass of black demonic energy and he stiffened.

He had no reason for it, but he knew that there was a pair of eyes within that demonic energy looking at him.

Had it rushed here for him?

But what did he have that was enough for Heavenseek Old Demon to betray a promise and recklessly attack the Gold Noble Family?

Qin Yu’s thoughts raced. Then, he heard Heavenseek Old Demon lightly say, “You and I should change location to fight. Otherwise, if we collide a few more times, I fear that your Blue Cloud World will really be destroyed.”

“Good!” The golden light shouted out with a voice overflowing with anger.

The black and gold spheres of light sank into the shattered skies, disappearing from sight.

“Hurry and activate the great array! Stabilize the space!”

“We cannot allow the Blue Cloud World to suffer any accidents!”

“Use all of your strength!”

Bang –

Bang –

From all around the Blue Cloud World, beams of light rose up, shooting into the heavens. They were like giant stone columns, supporting the collapsing skies. These maintenance array formations diverted the attention of most powerhouses of the Gold Noble Family, keeping them too busy to care about anything else. Thus, when Qin Yu arrived at the palace hall, there was no one there that stopped him.

Shua –

Demonic light dispersed. The next ones who arrived right behind were Heavenstar Demon and Deepblue. The two of them glared at Qin Yu, naked hostility in their eyes.

“Fellow daoist Qin Yu, we meet again!” Heavenstar Demon slowly said.

Whoosh –

Xue Zheng and Hai Deepwhite arrived.

The latter’s eyes twitched. He roared out loud, “Qin Yu!”

Hate was thick in his voice.

Xue Zheng cupped his hands together. “Greetings, Priest Qin Yu.”

As if he didn’t see Hai Deepwhite’s hate-filled glare at all.

Eclipse Lenqing and Zeng Zhongxiu arrived last.

“Brother Qin!”

Heavenstar Demon’s eyes flashed. “Who would have thought that everyone here would be acquaintances. Then, that makes things easier for us all.” He swept his eyes around. “Currently, the Gold Noble Family has no time to attend to us, giving us this opportunity. How about we all enter the palace hall first and then compete for the treasure with our own respective skills?”

Xue Zheng frowned. “This is the Gold Noble Family!”

Heavenstar Demon sneered. “And so what? The Ning Family Old Ancestor has been led away by a mysterious powerhouse of my demonic path and the other masters are busy stabilizing this world fragment. This is a heaven-sent chance. Anyone that misses out on this opportunity will regret it for the rest of their lives. You should all know that riches and danger go hand in hand.” He paused for a moment and then said with cold contempt, “And, don’t the two of you hope to cause some losses to the Gold Noble Family? This world is too small; it cannot accommodate too many people.”

Hai Deepwhite shouted out, “Good, we agree!”

“Then let’s hurry up and start so we don’t cause further complications.” Heavenstar Demon flicked his sleeves and demonic energy tumbled around him. A giant diamond demon puppet appeared, its body over 100 feet tall. It was like a giant human as it wielded its fists and smashed at the palace hall.

Bang –

The demon puppet was sent flying backwards. A deep gash marred its thick armor, ripping a terrifying opening. But, its defensive powers were clearly amazing. It didn’t sustain any heavy damage and crawled up to its feet.

From where its fist smashed, the cracks in the palace hall were clearly much larger. More golden light gushed out, but after that previous strike, the protective strength of the palace hall was clearly diminished.

Heavenstar Demon shouted, "Attack together! We must save time!"

Qin Yu lifted his hands and thrust out his palm.

Eclipse Lenqing slightly frowned. He raised his hands and also punched out.

Xue Zheng didn't move, but the sounds of great crashing waves echoed around him. A giant sea beast phantom appeared and rushed at the palace hall.

The diamond demon puppet roared and howled back in.

Rumble rumble –

A corner of the palace hall collapsed. Then, the entire palace was directly broken by the violent flows of energy within. After losing its fetters, that golden light wildly erupted like a volcano.

At the same time, the temptation it emitted rose at an exponential rate. Everyone rushed over, burning, naked greed in their eyes.

Qin Yu frowned. He looked at the golden light. It was indeed a peerless treasure that possessed strength beyond imagination. But, it wasn't what he wanted.

Whoosh –

He raced towards the palace hall.

Heavenstar Demon sneered. "Qin Yu, aren't you too impatient?"

He lifted his hand and a pitch black demon hand appeared, grabbing for Qin Yu's chest.

Qin Yu didn't turn. He flicked his sleeves and shook the demon hand away. He coldly said, "I have no desire for that thing. If you want it, then take it yourself!"

His figure didn't stop. In the blink of an eye he rushed towards a corner of the palace hall. There was a tunnel here which led to some unknown place.

Heavenstar Demon frowned. Could there be other important treasures in this palace hall? But after a short period of hesitation, he suppressed these thoughts and a cold smile lit up his face. As long as he could take away the main form of this golden light, he would be the ruler of the Blue Cloud World. At that time, he would be an invincible existence in this world fragment.

Even if the Ning Family Old Ancestor came back, he still wouldn't be his match. So, who cared if Qin Yu was strong? No matter what treasure he obtained, he would still be easily crushed to pieces.

Demonic energy surged. Heavenstar Demon howled towards the golden light.

Eclipse Lenqing roared, "The battle between you and I, let us settle it here today!"

Bang –

Two great Nascent Soul masters entangled themselves in a brutal battle.

Deepblue turned around, dread in his eyes as he stared at the quiet Xue Zheng and Deepwhite. He took several steps back.

He wasn't a Nascent Soul. But, if he really risked his life and went all out, he might have the strength to fight a Nascent Soul.

Winds brushed past Qin Yu's face. He rushed forwards through the tunnel.

The golden light was indeed a powerful treasure, but it would be incredibly difficult to subdue it. In fact, when Qin Yu approached it, he could feel a faint trembling in the instincts of his soul.

But it was the little blue lamp that shined with light, as if it were eager to try. Qin Yu didn't want to create more issues. Right now, all he wanted was the method to break into Nascent Soul.

As long as he could reach Nascent Soul, then in this great world he would have the qualifications to walk wherever he wished. Although having a treasure would be nice, compared to that prospect of freedom, it wasn't anything at all.

The beating of his heart quickened and he knew he was getting closer and closer. But, his eyes were calm, like water beneath an ice lake, without any waves at all.

Nearing his final goal, he knew he should be more careful. So how come inexplicably hot emotions were pouring out from the depths of his heart, as if his heart was burning?

He reached the end of the tunnel. Qin Yu flew out. This was a not-too-large underground palace. It was empty and quiet and barren. There were only endless runes that marked the floor.

These runes looked as if they had been scattered around without any design at all, but it was clear that it was a great array formation. But with Qin Yu's current vision, he still couldn't distinguish what it was for. From this alone he could understand how mystical it was.

He saw all of this in a sweep of his eyes. Then, his gaze was attracted towards a gray cage in the middle of the underground palace. There was a woman inside. Her body was thin and slender, and with just a single glance, one would immediately feel pity for her. At this time, she was sitting with her back to him, as if she were thinking about something. One couldn't see her appearance, but from that fair earlobe of hers that peeked out from the side, one wished they could turn her around to see what sort of beautiful appearance she had.

The dim light wasn't enough to illuminate the underground palace. But, Qin Yu's five senses had always far surpassed common sense. The darkness here was no different from daytime to him. He looked at the cage with shock, his eyes wide, as if he was seeing some unbelievable image.

As if hearing something behind her, the woman lifted her hand and brushed aside her hair. She said in a soft voice. "Old Cloud, tell them that they need not waste their time. I will not agree."

Qin Yu froze where he was, a raging stream of emotions coursing through his heart and soul, breaking apart any sense of calm or stability he had. All of his moderation and self-control shattered and his eyes began to tear up.

This voice...this voice...

It was her!

She was alive! She was still alive!

Qin Yu couldn't describe his own feelings with words right now. At this time, the dim hall suddenly became beautiful, and the dark and dreary torches now seemed warm and kind.

He opened his mouth as if he wanted to say something, but he found himself unable to speak.

The woman waited for a moment. When she didn't obtain a response, she turned around. Even though her face was pale, it was still so beautiful that it left one feeling shame.

Then, their gazes met. Her wondrous eyes widened into moons and she immediately stood up. Her body shivered and she stared at Qin Yu.

A moment of silence and peace. The only sound was the breathing of the two.

The woman suddenly smiled, as if the most gorgeous flowers in the world were all blooming together. "Since you're breathing, that means you aren't an illusion. Junior-apprentice brother Qin Yu, I knew you wouldn't die."

Qin Yu regained his senses. His stiff face warmed and softened. He took a deep breath, "I...I also never thought that I would see senior-apprentice sister Ning again."

His voice cracked.

The two people stared at each other for several breaths of time, smiling all the while.