

## Refining 431

### Chapter 431 - Ning Family's Miss

The speedcar came to a stop in front of the auction house entrance. Several young cultivators and a maid surrounded the vehicle. The white-browed old man spoke several words with them and then brought some people to enter the front door.

Four Seasons City was extremely large. To meet three times in one day, that could only be explained as fate. Qin Yu's eyes flashed and he looked at these people with some curiosity.

But curiosity was just curiosity. Qin Yu simply wasn't in the mood to care about other matters. Just as he was about to leave, a cultivator rushed out from the entrance.

"Fellow daoist Ning, please wait!" This person was one of the managers of the auction house. Qin Yu had already used his spirit stone card to prove his purchasing power. Thus, even though he had spent a great deal of time asking around and still didn't buy anything, the manager still had a bright smile on his face.

Qin Yu's footsteps came to a stop. "Is there some matter, Manager Li?"

Manager Li handed over an invitation letter with both hands. "Fellow daoist Ning, my auction house will be holding a large-scale auction in half a year. At that time, there may be some things that fellow daoist Ning needs. If fellow daoist Ning has time, please feel free to visit."

Qin Yu bitterly smiled. Half a year...he just didn't have time at all. But since this was another person's good intentions, he received the invitation and nodded, saying, "I will remember that. Thank you, Manager Li."

Manager Li smiled and bid his farewells. Qin Yu flipped his hand and put away the jade slip. At this time, a group of cultivators ran out from the entrance; it was the white-browed old man and the other cultivators.

At this time, he squeezed out a smile. "Brother Xu, we can be considered old friends of many years. I have already investigated and know that your auction house has some Condensed Incense Balls. How about trading some to us? Is the price insufficient?"

Qin Yu had seen this other surnamed Xu cultivator before. He was the chief manager of the auction house and was responsible for overseeing daily affairs. At this time, the chief manager forced a smile and said, "Brother Ning, why make things hard for me? Haven't you already guessed the reason yet? When it comes to Grand Expert Chu, it's not just us, but everyone else has to give him three points of face. I have already spoken too much. If Brother Ning really wants to rescue your niece, I urge you to convince your family to let go of their treasure. Otherwise...I've already said everything that I can. Brother Ning, I will excuse myself first."

He cupped his hands and turned away.

Ning Yuntao had a pale complexion. This was indeed the secret workings of that Chu Taidou. But soon, a trace of sorrow appeared in his eyes. Their family's treasure was simply far too precious. Even if the old

master spoke up he would be met with layers of resistance. Moreover, with his big brother in his current situation, the chance of taking it out to use wasn't high at all.

He took a deep breath and suppressed his pained mindset. He shouted, "Let's go!" The several Ning Family cultivators all had looks of grief and indignation as they followed close behind. Their Ning Family wasn't mediocre, but they were still being suppressed like this with nothing else they could do.

The glass window of the speedcar rolled down. Ning Yuntao squeezed out a smile. "Liangliang, it's too cold outside. Hurry and close the window. "

Behind the glass, there was a pale face without any trace of blood. She furrowed her eyebrows as if she were enduring some pain. "Little uncle, there is no need to do so much for me. Let's go home."

"Liangliang!" Ning Yuntao shouted out before immediately lowering his voice. "There will be a way, there will definitely be a way. Don't worry, your uncle will not lie to you."

Ning Liang hesitated for a moment before nodding.

"Be obedient and raise the window. Your body cannot be exposed to the cold for too long." Ning Yuntao gripped his fists, blue veins sticking out.

As the tinted window rose up, Ning Liang suddenly felt something. She looked up towards the auction house entrance, and atop the stairs she noticed a black-robed figure staring at her. The wind and snow obscured her vision, making it hard to see his form.

What was this person doing? Ning Liang immediately thought. But at this time, a pain spread out from her body. She coughed and covered her mouth so that her uncle wouldn't see her and worry even more. As she did, all of her previous thoughts were scattered.

On the stairs, Qin Yu felt his heart quake. After his bloodline had awakened and he had obtained the Spirit Eyes, his vision had become astonishingly sharp. Even through the wind and snow he could clearly see that girl's face behind the glass. Although she was incredibly beautiful, that in itself wasn't enough to shake Qin Yu's mind.

What truly shocked him was that this girl had an appearance that was 70-80% similar to Ning Ling's.

Moreover, he had heard the conversation with the chief manager just now. The white-browed old man was surnamed Ning, and since the young miss in the car called him uncle, then her surname was naturally Ning too.

To be surnamed Ning and also look so similar to Ning Ling, if this was a coincidence, it was just too much of one.

Qin Yu quickly regained his composure. The Ning Family cultivators had long since disappeared from his line of sight. But, he didn't worry. According to the white-browed old man's words, they wouldn't leave Four Seasons City for the time being. Since they were staying at the same inn, it would be easy to find them.

After hesitating for a moment, Qin Yu decided not to visit any other auction houses. He soared directly towards the inn. This is what people meant when they said that if you loved a house, that love also extended to their crows and cats. If there was a possibility that these people were related to Ning Ling,

Qin Yu could no longer regard them as outsiders. And now that they seemed to be in some difficult situation, he definitely could not sit back and do nothing.

He returned to the inn and looked for the young servant to ask some questions. The guests in the courtyard next door hadn't returned yet. Thinking about it, the Ning Family group should still be looking at some other places.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed and he took out several spirit stones. "I am curious about those guests. Can you help me inquire about them and why they came here?"

The young servant's eyes brightened. He expressed his thanks repeatedly as he accepted the spirit stones. Then, he pulled closer and lowered his voice, "Guest, you must have seen the young miss inside. She is truly like a fairy from heaven. If it were anyone else, I really wouldn't dare to violate their privacy. But since this matter has already spread far and wide, I don't mind telling you about it.

"Not long ago, a secret disciple of Grand Master Chu came to the inn and publicly announced to them that they would exchange Condensed Incense Balls for one of their family treasures..." Through the young servant, Qin Yu understood the approximate situation. The summary was like this: The Ning Family's young miss was grievously ill and needed constant Condensed Incense Balls to suppress the illness. This kind of pill was the unique creation of Grand Expert Chu. Recently, he desired a treasure of the Ning Family so he decided to use this matter to threaten them with stopping the supply of Condensed Incense Balls.

The young servant sighed. "I really feel sorry for that Ning Family's miss. She has such a weak body but she had to make the long and tiresome journey to Four Seasons City to ask for medicine. It's clear that both sides were able to come to an agreement. I guess that the Ning Family should be wandering through the city looking for Condensed Incense Balls. However, they didn't imagine that Grand Expert Chu had already spoken out, so who would dare to trade with them?"

Qin Yu sent away the young servant and ordered some food and wine. He chose a position near the window. Although there was heavy wind and snow outside, the inside of the inn was warm like spring.

The sky slowly darkened and the wind and snow grew stronger. With the sound of an opening door, the group of Ning Family cultivators came walking in, covered in snow. Perhaps because their mood wasn't good, they made a bit of noise coming in and drew many looks to them.

As they saw Ning Yuntao in the lead, their eyes shrunk and they turned away. Still, there were many people who looked towards that quiet speedcar with interest.

Several young Ning Family cultivators scowled. Ning Yuntao shouted, "Enough, don't cause trouble. Waiter, bring some wine and dishes to our room."

Soon, the people from the Ning Family vanished along the way to the accommodation area. Several youths in the restaurant revealed disappointed looks.

"I heard that the Ning Family's young miss is a genuine beauty. But what a pity, even though she entered the inn she still stayed in that speedcar."

"Beautiful women suffer unhappy fates! The Ning Family is reluctant to give up on their treasure. I fear that it won't be long before even someone as beautiful as that turns into ashes."

“Hum hum! Grand Expert Chu has already spoken up so who isn’t willing to show him face? This Ning Family is being unappreciative. Not only will they ruin that beauty’s life, but they will even anger Grand Expert Chu. It just isn’t wise at all!”

“That’s enough. The Ning Family was also prosperous in the past for a moment. If it weren’t for that person violating one of the ultimate crimes and having his cultivation crippled and also being kicked out from the Demonic Path, they would still have a bright future. I hear that person still has many old friends in the Demonic Path. Although we might not need to fear the Ning Family, there’s no need to provoke unnecessary troubles for ourselves.”

“True, true! Let’s drink!”

Qin Yu quietly listened in. His eyes flashed. He called up the waiter and paid his bill. Then, he walked toward the back courtyard. Although these youths had erratic behavior and the way they spoke was annoying, he was still able to glean some information from their words. This caused Qin Yu’s suspicion to become even heavier.

Through the wind and snow, Qin Yu arrived in front of a dwelling and hesitated for a moment before knocking on the door.

The door opened from within and an attendant with a worried expression appeared. His eyes filled with a cold intent, “Who are you?”

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. “My name is Ning Qin. I am an alchemist. I heard that your family’s miss is direly ill, so I came to volunteer my services.”

This was the best way he thought of to approach the Ning Family. With the Ning Family’s current state of mind, they shouldn’t refuse him.

As he thought, the attendant’s eyes brightened. But, he immediately became wary. “Are you really an alchemist?”

Qin Yu smiled. “I can guarantee I am the real thing. I’m not so bored that I would use you all to relieve my boredom.”

“Attendant, how come you haven’t brought over the food and wine?” Another young man walked over with a disgruntled expression.

The attendant cupped his hands together. “Young master, this person says he is an alchemist and wishes to help treat the miss’ illness.”

Zong Yingming frowned. “You idiot! Do you think just anyone is capable of treating my cousin’s situation? Hurry and send him away!”

Qin Yu lightly said, “Hold on. If I don’t try, how can I know it’s not possible?”

Hearing Qin Yu’s young voice, Zong Yingming revealed a loathing look. “Shut up! I think you are just a lecher that has come to take advantage of my cousin! Since you don’t want to leave, then don’t blame me for being impolite!”

He lifted his hand and thrust out. The aura of a fifth level Nascent Soul erupted. To have such a cultivation at his age, it wasn't too bad.

But today, Zong Yingming was the one who had eyes and couldn't see. The one he chose was Qin Yu.

Nascent Soul...he had already chopped them up like vegetables years ago!

Bang –

With a loud thumping sound, Zong Yingming was sent flying backwards, crashing into the garden in a total mess. If Qin Yu hadn't gone easy on him, at least half his bones would have been broken.

The attendant was frightened. He originally wanted to attack Qin Yu, but after being glanced at he felt as if he fell into icy lake. The blood drained from his face and he ran away.

"Stop!" With a loud shout, Ning Yuntao appeared. His eyes fell down upon Qin Yu and the pressure of a Blue Sea arrived. Wind and snow immediately began flying up all around.

Qin Yu's body was like a tall tree standing tall in the wind. His robes fluttered around him. He lightly said, "Fellow daoist Ning, there is no need to worry. I had no intention of harming them." A calm voice pierced through the wind and snow, spreading into the ears of all those present.

Ning Yuntao's complexion changed. He hesitated for a moment and then the pressure around him scattered. He said in a low voice, "Who are you and why did you attack my Ning Family juniors?"

Qin Yu said, "They can explain this themselves."

Zong Yingming screeched, "Uncle! He dared to harm me, you cannot let him off!" He had a ferocious expression. "Brat, do you know who I am? You are dead!"

Ning Yuntao's complexion changed. "Shut up!" He turned and said, "Attendant, come and explain yourself."

## **Chapter 432 - Sisters**

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Grand Expert -> Grand Authority

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The attendant didn't dare to conceal anything. He truthfully reiterated what had happened. Ning Yuntao's heart loosened; it seems that this person wasn't someone sent by Chu Taidou. He immediately cupped his hands together, "Fellow daoist, it was my Ning Family's junior who was impolite. I ask that you please excuse our behavior. May I ask for fellow daoist's name?" To disregard his pressure, this point alone proved that this person's strength wasn't below his own. If this sort of person could be turned into an ally, that would be good.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together, "My name is Ning Qin."

Ning Yuntao was startled. "Fellow daoist is also surnamed Ning..." Perhaps he might have been using an alias, but since this person knew they were the Ning Family it wouldn't be right if he used the Ning

surname. There was a high likelihood that this really was his real name. Although they were strangers, since everyone shared the same surname, Ning Yuntao's eyes still warmed up a little. "What a coincidence. Perhaps many years ago we once shared a relative somewhere."

Qin Yu didn't want to waste time. He dove straight into the subject. "The reason I came here is to diagnose Miss Ning's condition. May I ask if fellow daoist Ning agrees?"

Ning Yuntao hesitated for a moment. "Fellow daoist might not know, but we're in a bit of trouble right now." He didn't clearly state what it was, but anyone who knew anything knew what he was talking about.

This person, his mindset actually wasn't bad

Qin Yu smiled. "Since I came here I naturally don't fear provoking any trouble."

Ning Yuntao's eyes brightened. He cupped his hands together and deeply bowed. "Then I'll have to bother fellow daoist!"

Zong Yingming was anxious. "Uncle, how can you allow anyone to approach cousin? Who knows what his goal is!"

"Stop spouting nonsense!" Ning Yuntao angrily shouted, "With fellow daoist Ning's status, how can he do something so dastardly! If you dare to disrespect fellow daoist again, I will be sure to heavily punish you!"

He turned around and apologized. "My nephew has always worried about my niece. If there was any way in which you were offended, I ask you for forgiveness."

Qin Yu had a light expression, "It's fine."

He came here for the Ning Family's miss; he simply didn't care about anyone else.

This sort of disregard and indifferent demeanor was naturally revealed. It caused Zong Yingming's complexion to turn cloudier and hatred to rise in his eyes.

Qin Yu turned and suddenly said, "You do not know who I am, nor do I care who you are. The only reason I came here today was to treat an illness and save another. I don't want to create any other problems, so it would be best for you not to annoy me, otherwise you will regret it. You will deeply, deeply regret it."

Although he had come to investigate the situation here because of Ning Ling and gave up some of his previous time, that didn't mean he felt any better because of it. Thus, Qin Yu wasn't in a good mood and he finally expressed some of it. The icy cold and powerful will he released almost caused one's blood to freeze!

Zong Yingming stiffened and his complexion paled. He couldn't suppress the fear in the depths of his eyes and panic began to gush out from his heart.

Luckily, after Qin Yu finished speaking he turned his eyes and walked deeper into the courtyard.

Hu –

Letting out a deep breath, it formed fog in the wind and snow. Zong Yingming looked at Qin Yu's back, his face full of fear.

Ning Yuntao's complexion changed. Although he had guessed that Qin Yu was strong, the instant he had revealed his aura actually left him shocked.

This person's strength was far greater than what he had imagined. If he really planned on doing something evil here, then he might not be a match for him!

Luckily, it seemed this person had no ill intentions at all. If so, why did he want to help their Ning Family?

Was it the classic case of a hero seeking to help a beauty? But Ning Yuntao didn't believe that someone who had achieved this level of strength would be seduced by someone's beauty alone.

The inn sent in food and wine, but no one had the thought of enjoying it anymore. The sudden appearance of Ning Qin left the Ning Family cultivators puzzled.

Although this person had shown he didn't come here for some nefarious reason, which vicious person wrote their intentions on their face? Fortunately, the existence of Ning Yuntao still gave them some confidence.

Furthermore, this was Four Seasons City, the largest southern city in the Zhao Empire. There shouldn't be anyone who dared to casually cause trouble here.

It was easy for Qin Yu to guess that the Ning Family people were wary of him but hiding their thoughts. Still, he didn't care. He directly said, "Where is Miss Ning? I need to diagnose her."

Ning Yuntao said, "My niece's heart vein has been damaged since birth. In addition to her precelestial ice cold physique, it has caused her meridians to be blocked and atrophied. I am very clear about her situation, so there isn't a further need to investigate."

"No. If I want to heal someone, I first need to determine their situation." Qin Yu flatly refused.

Ning Yuntao hesitated for a moment. "Alright. I will lead fellow daoist over!"

He wanted to see just what medicine Ning Qin was selling in his gourd. But even more than that, there was a hint of anticipation in his heart.

Although he didn't know how Ning Qin's medical skills were, his high degree of cultivation gave him some confidence.

What if it was effective?

It was precisely this thread of hope that caused Ning Yuntao to make some concessions and agree. This was also the intelligent reasoning behind why Qin Yu had chosen to approach the Ning Family as an alchemist.

The Ning Family had rented an extremely large courtyard, one large enough to accommodate their entire group. Several maids were standing guard outside the most secluded and quiet room. They bowed as they saw Ning Yuntao approach.

"How is the miss doing?"

“Reporting to the Second Old Master, the miss said she was feeling tired today so she had some hot soup and fell asleep.” She spoke with an awkward expression.

Ning Yuntao had a pained expression. He said, “Go and wake up the miss. Tell her that I’ve brought an alchemist to treat her.”

“Yes, Second Old Master.”

A maid pushed open the door and walked in.

Ning Yuntao turned and briefly apologized. “It’s embarrassing but I must ask fellow daoist Ning to wait a moment.”

Qin Yu nodded. “It’s no problem.”

Soon, the maid came back out. She bowed and said, “The miss has awakened but she isn’t feeling too good. It would be best if Second Old Master didn’t stay for too long.” As she spoke she looked at Qin Yu with a bit of suspicion. The miss had been ill since she was born, and during these years, if they hadn’t found 100 alchemists they had found at least 80. But, all of them had been left at a loss concerning her precelestial condition. So, what could this person possibly do?

And listening to his voice, he was clearly very young!

Ning Yuntao gestured. “Fellow daoist, please.”

Qin Yu walked into the room first. The fragrance of a young girl rushed against him. The room was dim and quiet, causing the young girl lying back on the bed to look even more delicate and frail.

Her eyes were dark and exhausted, but she still smiled, “Uncle.” Then her eyes fell on Qin Yu. “This grandmaster, I’ll have to trouble you.”

Qin Yu saw her familiar appearance and paused for a moment. He warmly said, “It’s fine. I will do my best to help young miss recover from this illness.”

This wasn’t empty talk. Looking at the Ning Family’s young miss, Qin Yu could feel something touched deep within his heart that belonged to Ning Ling. He decided that even if their similar appearances were only a coincidence, he would still do his best to save her.

He would simply consider it as gathering some good karma for Ning Ling so that her days in the Immortal Sect would pass more smoothly.

Ning Liang revealed a surprised expression. This alchemist was extremely young; weren’t his words a bit too confident?

In past years she had seen many alchemy experts. But in the end they were all left helpless. In particular, in recent years no one had dared to visit her to help diagnose her condition.

Was this what they meant when they said the newborn calf didn’t fear the tiger? However, this young alchemist looked a little familiar. Had she seen him somewhere before?

As Qin Yu arrived near the window, the fragrance of a delicate woman became much richer. It was like a flower quietly blooming in the night, cold and pure.



The maid moved a chair over. Qin Yu sat down and reached out a hand. "I will first inspect young miss' condition."

Ning Liang hesitated for a moment. Then she pulled up her cuff to reveal her soft and white wrist. "I'll have to trouble grandmaster."

Qin Yu smiled. Two fingers fell down. "Don't resist." As he spoke, he carefully sent in his magic power.

At this time, the demonic bloodline that Qin Yu had absorbed from Ning Ling suddenly became lively. It started to emit a joyful feeling.

Following this, he could feel an intimate and familiar aura from this Ning Family's miss. As he thought, this young girl shared a homologous family bloodline with Ning Ling. In fact, it was even likely that the two were sisters of the same father but different mothers, otherwise it was impossible for such a close bloodline relationship to occur.

Thinking of this, Qin Yu was even more careful with his inspection. He was sure that if Ning Ling knew she still had family left in the Land of Divinity and Demons, she would definitely be happy.

Ning Liang blinked her eyes with surprise. She didn't know why, but she suddenly felt much closer to this alchemist who was diagnosing her. It was a marvelously strange feeling, as if she were facing someone she was close to. For instance, her father or her uncle.

But today was clearly the first time they had met? It was unknown what she thought of, but a faint blush appeared on Ning Liang's face.

At this time, Qin Yu lifted his fingers. He smiled and said, "Miss Ning, if I have offended you, I really must apologize." Since this person was likely Ning Ling's little sister, he believed that he should maintain a certain degree of manners and politeness towards her.

Ning Liang shook her head. "Mister speaks too seriously."

Ning Yuntao hurriedly said, "Fellow daoist Ning, how is it?"

Qin Yu said, "The blockage of Miss Ning's meridians is extremely grave, and due to the gathering of cold energy within her, it has left her body frail. The situation isn't too optimistic." He paused for a moment and then continued, "I heard that Miss Ning was relying upon Condensed Incense Balls before to suppress her condition. There should be some left. May I borrow one for examination?"

Ning Yuntao hesitated for a moment. Then, he took out a jade bottle and earnestly said, "Fellow daoist Ning, these Condensed Incense Balls are what my niece uses to maintain her life. We only have two left, so please try not to damage them."

Qin Yu nodded. He opened the jade bottle and a knuckle-sized deep blue pill rolled into his palm. Qin Yu lowered his head and sniffed a few times, and also used his nail to scrape off some powder and place it into his mouth. After several breaths of time, he frowned and revealed a cold look. "This Grand Authority Chu, he really has taken great pains to obtain your Ning Family's treasure."

Ning Yuntao's complexion changed. "Fellow daoist, what do you mean?"

Qin Yu coldly sneered. “This Condensed Incense Ball can indeed suppress the cold energy in Miss Ning’s body, but it also has a side effect – it will accelerate the gathering of cold energy in her body. May I ask fellow daoist Ning, as more and more time has passed, has Miss Ning needed to increase the frequency with which she has taken Condensed Incense Balls, taking them faster and faster? Even needing to increase the dosage?”

“That’s true. The explanation Chu Taidou gave to us is that the cold energy in Ning Liang’s body was too rich and potent, thus the dosage needed to be increased. I never thought that...” Ning Yuntao paled. He wasn’t an idiot. Even a fool could see the meaning behind Qin Yu’s words.

Chu Taidou already had the thoughts of obtaining the Ning Family’s treasure many years ago. No wonder he had approached on his own initiative to deliver them Condensed Incense Balls. He had wanted for the cold energy in Ning Liang’s body to grow stronger and stronger until she could no longer part from them, and then he would reveal his true colors!

Suddenly, Ning Yuntao’s complexion changed. “Fellow daoist Ning, are you saying that even with Condensed Incense Balls, Liangliang cannot be saved?”

On the bed, Ning Liang’s face darkened for a moment. But soon, she relaxed.

She had bitterly struggled for all these years and had grown tired of it. Death was also a means of salvation from this.

Qin Yu nodded. “That’s right. The Condensed Incense Balls can delay her condition for a period of time. But at most within three years, the cold poison in Miss Ning’s body will erupt and it will no longer be possible to save her.”

“That bastard!” Ning Yuntao roared. Chu Taidou had known of all of this to begin with, and he never planned on saving her from the start! As he thought about how Ning Liang’s life would soon be over, his eyes slowly turned red.

Ning Liang smiled. “Uncle, if anyone else had this sort of cold poison condition, I fear they would have already died. To live this long, I am already satisfied.” She looked up. “Thank you grandmaster for seeing through Chu Taidou’s plot and helping the Ning Family avoid further losses. I am truly grateful to you. However, I will soon die, so I fear I cannot repay you for what you’ve done.”

Qin Yu coughed a little. “In truth, Miss Ning’s cold poison isn’t irrecoverable.”

Shua –

The entire room fell silent.

Ning Liang’s eyes widened. She looked at this person who just seemed as if he were wildly speaking nonsense. If this was his way of comforting others, it really wasn’t the best method.

I have already accepted my death, so why give me more hope? Don’t you know that once hope appears and is shattered once more, that is psychologically damaging to others?

Thinking of this, Ning Liang couldn’t help but reveal a little bitterness.

**Chapter 433 – Grand Authority Ning**

Four Seasons City. At the eastern end of the city, there was a region filled with luxurious mansions. Most of the city's respected families and renowned characters lived here. At this time, within a mansion that could be ranked in the top three of the area, Chu Taidou emerged from his alchemy room. His silver hair and his wide white robes only served to contrast his extraordinary celestial manner, making him seem like an ethereal being untouched by the common world.

"What is the situation with the Ning Family?" He wiped his face with a hot towel and casually tossed it to a nearby serving maid. Then, he glanced at a disciple standing to the side.

Qi Cheng respectfully bowed. "Reporting to teacher, the Ning Family doesn't seem willing to agree. Right now, they are still in the city searching for Condensed Incense Balls. But because teacher has spoken up, no one has dared to trade them anything."

Chu Taidou had a light expression, not surprised by what he heard. "And how has the Ning Family responded?"

Qi Cheng said, "According to our spy, the Ning Family's old master would like to exchange the treasure for the formula of the Condensed Incense Ball, but the high level figures of the Ning Family mostly oppose this. The matter still hasn't come to a conclusion."

Chu Taidou frowned a little. "Continue to investigate. Moreover, pass down an order to have the Chu Family place more pressure on them. We will use a two-pronged method to force them to agree as soon as possible."

After he had inadvertently learned about the Ning Family's treasure, his heart had already started to burn with fire. The Ning Family had such a precious treasure and they didn't even know about it. If he hadn't been worried about bringing this to the attention of others if he used more severed methods, he would have already done everything in his power to seize it!

"Yes, this disciple will instantly go!" Qi Cheng bowed and left in a hurry.

Ning Liang that girl, she was Ning Yunhai's daughter...Chu Taidou's pupils shrank. If it weren't for that incident so many years ago, Ning Yunhai would have already been a great figure hovering above the highest heavens. Naturally, he wouldn't have any thoughts of doing anything to his family.

Ning Yunhai was crippled but his bloodline flowed within his daughter Ning Liang. Because she was highly regarded by the Ning Family's old master, she was regarded as the future hope of the Ning Family.

Due to this, Chu Taidou started moving from the aspect of Ning Liang's body. As long as the Ning Family's old master was willing to save her, he just needed to spend a bit more time to achieve his goal.

Thus, Ning Liang was the key point of this matter.

Of course, Chu Taidou never thought of curing Ning Liang. When it came to a bloodline that the Demonic Path valued so much, he couldn't underestimate it at all. Only by killing her could he rid himself of any future troubles. Because of this, he had delivered Condensed Incense Balls to the Ning Family on his own initiative. Now, with so much cold poison having precipitated in that girl's body, she would last at most two to three more years.

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Ning Yuntao's eyes widened and an excited expression crossed his face. "Fellow daoist Ning, do you really have a way to dispel this cold poison?"

Everyone else also had a pleasantly surprised expression, but they still muttered with doubt in their hearts.

They were all aware of Ning Liang's situation. During these years, countless alchemy grandmasters had tried to help her to no avail, and they were all skilled individuals. To save her was easier said than done.

Qin Yu calmly said, "Although it will be a little troublesome, and the treatment may require some time, if no accidents occur there shouldn't be a problem."

Everyone could hear the confidence contained in his serene voice. It wasn't intense, but it was exactly this faint indifferent and tranquility that made one trust him even more.

"Wonderful! This is too wonderful!" Ning Yuntao's face flushed red with joy. "Liangliang, you can be saved, you can be saved! I knew you wouldn't die!"

Ning Liang's thoughts surged and an unprecedented radiance burst out from her exhausted eyes. Although she had already accepted her inevitable death, even ants struggled to survive. So, how could she not look forward to her own future?

At this moment, it was like the thick black clouds above her had been torn open, and bright and warm sunlight sprinkled down, allowing her to feel an unprecedented state of warmth.

Tears flowed unconsciously. Ning Liang wiped them away. She was helped up from her bed by a maid and she knelt to the ground and bowed. "I will leave everything to grandmaster!"

Qin Yu tried to stop her but was blocked. Ning Yuntao's eyes were red. "Fellow daoist Ning, this bow is one you can afford, and also one that Liangliang should give you! As long as you can cure her, you will be my Ning Family's benefactor. If you have any need in the future, I will go through fire or water to help you!"

Tears dripped down Ning Liang's face. "Uncle!"

Qin Yu was a little moved. This sort of sincere affection was something he had always yearned for, but it was also something he could no longer feel. However, after cultivating for so many years, his will had been tempered to a formidable degree where he didn't reveal anything. "That's enough. If you want to thank me, thank me after you are healed. Miss Ning's body is extremely weak right now so it's best if there aren't any great changes in her mood." After a brief pause, Qin Yu passed back the Condensed Incense Ball. "Although this thing has a downside, it can still temporarily suppress the cold energy in your body, allowing you a moment of respite. Miss Ning, take this pill and rest well. Once you have recovered we will carry on the treatment."

Ning Liang obediently received the pill. But as she thought about how this pill had been in Qin Yu's hand the entire time, she couldn't help but blush a little as she ate it.

"Enough. Let's leave and let Miss Ning rest." Qin Yu turned and walked out. Ning Yuntao ordered the several maids to carefully look after the young miss and then followed hurriedly behind.

As they walked alone, Ning Yuntao began to speak but hesitated each time. As for Qin Yu, he didn't speak at all. He was currently in deep thought about a treatment plan. As he returned to the main hall he directly said, "Fellow daoist Ning, Miss Ning's body is very weak right now and it will be difficult for her to resist the destructive force of the medicinal efficacy as it dispels the cold poison within her. So, I will need to refine some accompanying pills to have Miss Ning recover her origin energy first. The step after that would be to melt away the cold poison."

He turned his hand and took out a jade slip. With his divine sense, he marked down the necessary information. "The items listed here are the materials I need to refine the pill which can dispel the cold poison. You begin collecting them right now, and I will return in three days!"

With that, Qin Yu didn't stay longer. He turned and quickly left.

The cold poison in Ning Liang's body was very troublesome. He would need to use a pill called the Blazing Sun Integration Pill in conjunction with several other kinds of supportive pills to slowly melt it away.

Refining pills wasn't a problem for Qin Yu. But, helping Ning Liang cure her cold poison would take over a month. Every day she would have to take pills and have him personally stimulate the movement of the medicinal efficacy in order to ensure she was absolutely safe.

This wouldn't leave much time for Qin Yu to gather the 36 soul treasures he needed. Several days had already passed, and saving Ning Liang would delay him for over a month.

In other words, even if everything went smoothly, Qin Yu would only have a bit more than two months to gather all the materials.

To collect 36 kinds of rare soul treasures in this period of time? The possibility of that was almost zero.

Qin Yu sighed inwardly. Although he wasn't too willing, he had no other choice. Ning Liang had to be saved.

In the blink of an eye, three days passed.

The training chamber opened and Qin Yu walked out. He stretched his waist and his bones cracked and popped as weariness filled his eyes. During these three days he had been constantly refining pills. Ning Liang had an extremely weak body and she couldn't withstand formidable medicine efficacy. Even a replenishing medicine might topple the fragile balance in her body and cause the cold poison to erupt ahead of time.

Thus, the choice of pills was extremely important. Qin Yu sifted through Grandmaster Yao's memories and finally found a pill called the Minor Marrow Nourishing Pill. This pill didn't directly improve a cultivator's physique. After taking it, the medicinal efficacy would immerse into the body and strengthen the activity of the marrow so that a cultivator's body would voluntarily restore itself. It was just that this restoring speed would be relatively slow. Her estimated treatment and recovery time would be even longer than before.

Qin Yu sighed. He decided to no longer think about it. He passed through the trail and with a flick of his sleeves opened the courtyard doors.

“Greetings, Grandmaster Ning!” An attendant said with a respectful expression, his face full of gratitude and anticipation.

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed. It seemed that this was one of Ning Liang’s admirers. All gentlemen desired beautiful women; this was normal and there wasn’t anything to say about it.

“Let’s go.” He nodded to the attendant and walked ahead first.

The attendant hurriedly sent out a message as he caught up to Qin Yu.

The Ning Family’s courtyard doors had already been opened. Several Ning Family juniors welcomed Qin Yu with respectful expressions.

“Mm, Ning Yuntao isn’t here?” Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows.

The attendant quickly explained, “Reporting to grandmaster, the Second Old Master left this morning in a hurry, saying he needed to search for one more precious material. I have already informed him that you have arrived; the Second Old Master will soon return.”

Qin Yu nodded. He flipped his hand and took out two jade bottles. “There are ten pills in each of these jade bottles. Give them to your family’s miss and tell her to swallow one of each, twice a day, in the morning and night. After using them she will be tired, but this is normal behavior. Do not disturb her and allow her to rest.”

The Minor Marrow Nourishing Pill had a common name but it was in reality a genuine seventh-grade pill. Even though Qin Yu had the little blue lamp and the Ninth Province furnace, the refinement process was still considerably difficult. Luckily, he was able to collect the materials he needed from the massive amount of spirit plants he purchased at the Black Demon Sect, otherwise he would have required even more time.

The others weren’t ordinary pills either. Sixth-grade Water Mist Spirit Pills – they were incomparably mild and temperate pills, most suited for serving to supplement the bodies of weak individuals. Moreover, their medicinal efficacy complemented the Minor Marrow Nourishing Pill so their effects were even better when used together.

A young maid received the pills and bowed in gratitude. “Thank you, Grandmaster Ning. Allow this servant to bow to you in place of my young miss.”

As she spoke she knelt down.

Qin Yu flicked his sleeves and stopped her. He rubbed the point between his eyebrows and said, “If you really want to thank me, pour me a cup of tea. My mind is a bit tired.”

“Yes. Grandmaster Ning, please wait a moment!”

Soon, steaming hot tea and several kinds of small deserts were brought into the main hall.

Qin Yu took a sip. Tea fragrance rose in his mouth and faint traces of spiritual strength radiated outwards, revitalizing his spirit.

This was actually a rare good tea!

At this time, there was the sound of footsteps from outside. Ning Yuntao hurried in. Without cupping his hands yet, he first apologized, "I really am embarrassed. I made Grandmaster Ning wait for such a long time."

Qin Yu laid down the teacup. "It's fine. But, the materials I need shouldn't be too difficult to purchase. Fellow daoist Ning should have them prepared by now, right?"

Ning Yuntao revealed an awed expression. "May I ask if Grandmaster Ning is planning to refine the long lost Blazing Sun Integration Pill?"

Qin Yu nodded, "Yes." He had passed down a list of the majority of the materials so it wasn't strange that the Ning Family knew this.

Ning Yuntao hesitated for a moment. "I am not skilled in alchemy, but in these past two days I have heard people talk about the Blazing Sun Integration Pill. This pill is divided into a major pill and minor pill. The two kinds of pills use almost the same materials with only several differences in the main ones needed. But among this, the most important material is the Deva Soul. Because of it, I have been running around Four Seasons City for the last two days, even asking for help from the family, but I simply haven't heard any news related to a Deva Soul. This is also the reason why I went out today..."

Ning Yuntao hesitated for a moment. When he first learned about the Blazing Sun Integration Pill, his spirits had been roused. But soon his happiness faded away. With the Blazing Sun Integration Pill, the major pill was known to be like the great sun floating up above; it could melt away all cold poisons in the world and could even cure Ning Liang's condition. But the minor pill's effects could only be considered average. Ning Liang had taken many of them in the past without any effect. If Ning Qin wanted to depend on the minor Blazing Sun Integration Pill, he feared he had rejoiced without reason.

And what worried him more was that there was no Deva Soul on the list of materials that Qin Yu had given him, and neither were there several other precious treasures needed for the major pill!

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. He knew what Ning Yuntao was worrying about. "Fellow daoist Ning, rest assured that I will be refining the major pill."

Ning Yuntao was pleasantly surprised, but that expression soon vanished. "For the other materials, my Ning Family can actually obtain them. But the Deva Soul..." He bitterly smiled. The Deva Soul was said to be able to instantly create a genuine Divine Soul cultivator; no matter what influence it was, they would consider it extremely precious. But, unless there was some great lucky chance, it was just impossible to purchase with spirit stones!

Qin Yu lightly said, "I have already prepared the Deva Soul and other materials. Fellow daoist Ning, you only need to give me the materials you've collected."

"What!?" Ning Yuntao shouted out loud, his eyes wide with shock and disbelief. Following that, he seemed to have lost his soul for the rest of the conversation. It was only a long time after Qin Yu left that he was barely able to regain his composure.

His eyes moved and he glanced at the other people in the room. "Grandmaster Ning, he said that he had prepared the Deva Soul, right?"

The attendant gulped, but his throat felt dry and parched. "That was indeed what Grandmaster Ning said."

"How is that possible, this is the Deva Soul, the priceless Deva Soul..." Ning Yuntao mumbled to himself, his eyes uncertain. Although he didn't believe that Qin Yu would lie to him with his status, he still couldn't believe this.

A stranger had appeared out of nowhere to treat the illness of someone and even said they would provide an incomparably precious treasure like the Deva Soul on their own initiative. No matter who looked at this, it was strange!

The maid hesitated, "Second Old Master, Grandmaster Ning left some pills for the young miss just now and told me the method for taking them."

Ning Yuntao's eyes brightened. "Where are the pills? Bring them out!"

The maid hurriedly passed them over.

Ning Yuntao opened the first jade bottle. As he saw the pills, he sucked in a deep breath.

Qin Yu had said that Ning Liang's body was too weak and she needed to rest and gather her strength before she could drive out the cold poison. Because of this, for these past two days he had also paid attention to any body replenishing pills and had thus seen the type of pill in this jade bottle.

Water Mist Spirit Pill!

Amongst sixth-grade spirit pills, it was the highest grade replenishing pill. It was especially suited for those with weak bodies and was incredibly expensive.

But this jade bottle contained a full ten Water Mist Spirit Pills. Moreover, whether it was in looks, luster, or pill fragrance, all of it indicated that the quality of these pills was far higher than what he had seen before!

Just these ten top quality Water Mist Spirit Pills were enough to purchase ten sets of the materials that the Ning Family provided.

Ning Yuntao's face turned red. He felt shame towards his previous guess.

He carefully put the jade bottle away and held up the second one. After opening it, he discovered that he didn't know what sort of pills these were. They were clear and their fragrance was fresh. Since Ning Qin had given them such extraordinary Water Mist Spirit Pills, the chances of him having some ill intent was nearly impossible. But, to prevent anything unexpected from happening, Ning Yuntao took out his handphone and took several pictures of the pill. Then, he sent the images to several alchemists he knew in Four Seasons City.

Soon, Ning Yuntao obtained a response. This person was an alchemist whose job was to appraise pills for one of the large auction houses. Not only was he skilled in alchemy but he had an extremely high level of vision. Yesterday, when Ning Yuntao was going through his connections, this alchemist had displayed a cold attitude towards him. In the end he could only give up.



But now this alchemist revealed excitement in every single word, as if he had been stimulated. “Minor Marrow Nourishing Pill? That’s right, this must be the Minor Marrow Nourishing Pill! I never thought that someone would actually refine this pill, the one known as being the most temperate and gentle of all seventh-grade pills! Fellow daoist Ning, did you want to sell it? You must come to my auction house; we will definitely give you the best possible price! Moreover, I have no idea if fellow daoist Ning is free right now? I wish to personally come and observe the pill and appreciate it. Of course, if you want to collect a fee I will also pay that.”

Following that, several more replies came. All of them were similar except with a few minor differences. Although some people had said that they couldn’t truly determine what pill it was through a picture alone, with the example of the Water Mist Spirit Pill, Ning Yuntao already believed in his heart that this was the Minor Marrow Nourishing Pill!

His brain seemed to be mixed up in a daze. All he could hear was the echoing ‘seventh-grade’ in his mind.

Seventh-grade pill...seventh-grade pill...It had to be known that throughout the entire Land of Divinity and Demons, anyone that could refine a seventh-grade pill had the qualifications to be called a Grand Authority.

The so-called Grand Authority, that was the title informally given to someone when they reached the peak of a certain domain. For instance, Chu Taidou was only called Grand Authority Chu because he could refine seventh-grade pills. This was the only reason he had his current celebrated status today and could use his status as an alchemist to suppress the entire Ning Family, even making countless influences fear trading with the Ning Family.

This was the prestige of a ‘Grand Authority’. But now, Ning Yuntao suddenly discovered that Ning Qin was also someone who could refine seventh-grade pills, a formidable existence that was politely called ‘Grand Authority’...the surprise had come too soon; he simply wasn’t able to accept it!

#### **Chapter 434 – Guess**

But soon, he was left puzzled. Why would someone like Grand Authority Ning help their Ning Family? In this world, love and hate didn’t exist without reason. If Ning Qin was helping them, then he had to have his own reason for it.

With Grand Authority Ning’s status, besides the treasure in their family, there was nothing that could move him. But Ning Qin never mentioned any reward at all from beginning to end. If so, then the chances that he came for the treasure were small.

Ning Yuntao thought long and hard about it. Then, his eyes brightened. He thought about a single possibility – Liangliang’s unparalleled beauty. If it weren’t for the fact that she had been weak since childhood and rarely went outside, she would already be a renowned beauty. He was absolutely confident in his niece’s looks!

Grand Authority Ning’s alchemy skills were unfathomable, but by listening to his voice and sensing his aura, he shouldn’t be too old. If so, then if his hypothesis was correct, that would truly be wonderful.

Thinking of this, Ning Yuntao couldn't sit still any longer. He stood up; he needed to verify this with his niece.

Ning Liang was resting against her bed, her face dignified. As she looked at her uncle who had dismissed all the maids, she couldn't help but feel anxious. "Uncle, is there some problem?"

Ning Yuntao waved his hand. "Liangliang, don't be nervous, uncle just wants to ask you a question. But before that, look at the pills in this jade bottle first."

Ning Liang relaxed a little. She took the jade bottle in her hand and opened it. "Water Mist Spirit Pills!" She shouted out loud, her face full of surprise. As the saying went, those that were ill for a long time eventually became doctors. Because of her bodily condition, Ning Liang hadn't been able to cultivate for a long time, so she spent her free time looking through texts and studying alchemy. Naturally, she had placed a great deal of effort in this aspect. Although she hadn't truly refined pills, she had an extremely high level of theoretical knowledge.

Ning Yuntao took out another jade bottle. "And look at these."

Ning Liang looked at her uncle and his almost irrepressible smile. Although she was prepared inwardly, she was still frightened.

"Uncle, this...these are...Minor Marrow Nourishing Pills?"

"Hahaha! My family's Liangliang is truly well learned!" Ning Yuntao laughed.

Ning Liang fell silent. "Uncle, I know that Grandmaster Ning wishes to make an attempt, but whether it will succeed or not, we have no idea. You must have spent a great deal purchasing these pills. I fear that once you return home you will be in trouble. In truth, with my body I'm fine with taking common pills. You didn't need to purchase anything so precious."

Ning Yuntao smiled. "I never said I was the one who bought these pills. Moreover, seventh-grade spirit pills aren't something you can casually buy anywhere." He leaned over. "Let me tell you something. These Water Mist Spirit Pills and Minor Marrow Nourishing Pills were just sent over by Ning Qin. He wants you to use them to restore your body's origin energy."

"Ah!" Ning Liang cried out in alarm, completely stunned.

Ning Yuntao's heart leapt up in his chest. "Liangliang, do you know why Ning Qin would help us?"

Ning Liang shook her head at a loss.

Ning Yuntao coughed. "Ah...then think carefully, have you ever seen him before anywhere?"

Ning Liang closed her eyes, playing back all of her recent memories.

This was an inborn talent of hers – visual memory. She remembered everything she saw in exact detail and could recall it instantly.

But sifting through these memories was tiring for her mind, so because of this, her originally pale complexion lost all shades of red. Ning Yuntao began to regret asking her this, but soon she opened her eyes. Her memories had rewinded back to three days before, just outside the auction house.

Her uncle had been working hard to purchase Condensed Incensed Balls to no avail. He stood by her speedcar, comforting her. Not too far away, atop the high stairs, a black-robed figure was peacefully standing there for a long time. This black-robed figure was blurry in the hectic wind and snow, but as she recalled carefully, they were actually extremely similar to Grandmaster Ning. As she further thought about this, the two figures overlapped onto each other until they became one whole.

After a brief hesitation, Ning Liang said, "Uncle, I remember where I have seen Grandmaster Ning before." She immediately described her memory.

Ning Yuntao was overjoyed. Although Ning Liang wasn't absolutely sure, he was well aware of his niece's visual memory. There was almost no chance she would make a mistake. If so, this could be explained.

On that snowy afternoon, the warm light of the speedcar had reflected against Ning Liang, adding a gentle touch to her delicate beauty. Hiding his status, a youth of mysterious origins stood on the high stair. His gaze passed through the glass and saw Ning Liang, whereupon he was immediately captivated by her rapturous beauty. Thus, the youth had inquired into the Ning Family's condition and upon finding that they were in a difficult position, he bravely stepped forward to block the wind and rain for them.

One couldn't help but acknowledge that the fantastical scenario Ning Yuntao came up with was warm and beautiful, and it was unexpectedly reasonable...in some ways, it even drew close to the truth.

Thus, Ning Yuntao completely believed in this. It wasn't a rash decision, but besides this incident, he couldn't think of any other reason why Ning Qin would help.

He thought about Ning Liang's illness and how she would soon be cured, even finding such a perfect knight in shining armor. Even the entire Ning Family would benefit from this.

His face lifted in a smile as he told Ning Liang what his guess was. Then, the girl who normally put on a strong appearance suddenly turned fiery red.

She constantly told herself that her uncle's guesses were too nonsensical. Moreover, Ning Qin had the strength to refine seventh-grade pills. With such heavenly talent, this person could chase anyone he wanted, so why would he choose a sick girl from an ordinary family like her?

But Ning Yuntao's words circled around in her heart. They seemed to contain some sort of demonic charm, one that was impossible to scatter...what if her uncle's guesses were right? What should she do?

She lowered her head back against her bed, her heart beating faster and faster. She subconsciously gripped the jade bottles in her hand.

...

Chu Taidou sat between curtains formed from black jade bamboo, a cool mat beneath him. A wooden table lay in front of him with a pot of tea boiling atop it. Whether it was the lustrous sand-fired pot or the flawless teacup, all of it showed that he was a sophisticated man who knew how to enjoy the finer things in life.

The black jade bamboo, the teapot, the teacup – any of these items could be sold outside at a sky high price. Yet, in Chu Taidou's hands, they were nothing but ordinary utensils used to boil tea. As an

alchemy Grand Authority, he had accumulated not just personal connections over the years, but his wealth was far greater than could be imagined.

Qi Cheng quietly entered the pavilion. Wrapped in the light and fresh breeze all around him, he quietly waited in a corner. He was well aware of his master's temper; he didn't like to be disturbed while brewing tea.

Chu Taidou tasted a sip of the clear blue tea and then laid down the teacup. "What is the problem?"

Qi Cheng stepped forward and bowed. "Honorable master, this disciple has already verified that the Ning Family is indeed purchasing a massive amount of materials required to refine the Blazing Sun Integration Pill."

Chu Taidou furrowed his eyebrows. "The list."

Qi Cheng handed a jade slip over with both hands.

Chu Taidou searched it with his divine sense. After several breaths of time he opened his eyes. "It's the minor pill; it has basically no use for the Ning Family miss' cold poison." He continued to furrow his eyebrows. The Ning Family didn't have any decent alchemists; he knew this from the many years he had been treating Ning Liang for. And how could he not know she had consumed a considerable number of these pills before? Was this the last attempt of the sick or was there some other hidden secret behind it?

His eyes flashed. Chu Taidou said, "Have you investigated who it is that is helping the Ning Family refine pills?"

Qi Cheng said, "Reporting to honorable master, we have already investigated and found that the one who is helping the Ning Family is a guest also staying at the Western Mountain Inn. We still haven't clarified this person's motive for helping the Ning Family."

Chi Taidou thought for a moment. "Pay attention to what the Ning Family's movements are. If there is a need, go and contact that alchemist."

"This disciple understands. I will not disturb honorable master's rest anymore." Qi Cheng turned and left. A cold light flashed in his eyes. In Four Seasons City, who didn't know that his master was intentionally suppressing the Ning Family? To help the Ning Family refine pills was already the greatest show of disrespect.

Humph, if anyone wished to disrespect honorable master, they would have to be prepared to pay the price!

...

In a secluded chamber, Qin Yu didn't know that his actions had already caused enmity with others. Even if he did, he wouldn't necessarily care. He sat down and ate some pills, restoring himself to his peak condition. Then his eyes opened and a sharp light exploded from within them.

Eating further Condensed Incense Balls was useless; he only had her take one more as a stopgap measure. At most it would suppress the cold poison in her body for another ten days. This was the reason why Qin Yu had prepared ten each of the Water Mist Spirit Pill and Minor Marrow Nourishing

Pill. To take two every day, she should finish in five days. Then, after allowing one extra day for her to absorb the medicinal efficacy, this would be the time when Ning Liang was in her best condition and also his prime opportunity to dispel the cold poison from her body.

So, this gave Qin Yu at most six days to refine the required pill.

The Blazing Sun Integration Pill. The minor pill was a fifth-grade pill and the major pill was a sixth-grade pill. However, because of the existence of the Deva Soul, the difficulty of refining the major pill was actually higher than that of most seventh-grade pills!

Qin Yu only had a single Deva Soul in his hands. Even if he had the little blue lamp, he needed to be extra, extra careful. Because if he failed the refinement process, things would become far more troublesome.

Qin Yu took a deep breath and flicked his sleeve. A pill furnace with cracks all over it and a piece missing from the lid suddenly appeared. This was the Ninth Province furnace.

“Ninth Province, I am refining pills to save someone this time. You will need to hold your greedy mouth for now. As compensation, I will give you some pills first.”

He took out several more jade bottles. As he raised his hand, Ninth Province popped open on its own. A burst of light rushed out and wrapped around the jade bottles before pulling them in.

There was a series of chewing sounds. The lid opened and closed; the clang was a response.

Alright!

Qin Yu smiled. This was a necessary step. Otherwise, if he managed to successfully refine the Blazing Sun Integration Pill and it was eaten by Ninth Province as a result, he would be left speechless.

It was time to begin!

In the blink of an eye, five days passed.

In her room, Ning Liang’s complexion was much better than before. With the Water Mist Spirit Pill and Minor Marrow Nourishing Pill coordinating together, they displayed an astonishing restorative effect. Her complexion was ruddy, her eyes were clear and bright, and her body had filled out much more than before. Of course...it had filled out in the correct areas.

“Hehe! Miss is so beautiful!”

“We are women and yet we can’t help but be moved! If it was some smelly man, I’m sure their eyes would fall out!”

“Humph! This is because our young miss is weak. Otherwise, no one could hope to match her!”

Ning Liang stood near the window, her hands propping up her chin. She mindlessly listened to the whispers of the maids behind her. They were people who had accompanied her since she was young, and with her gentle nature too, they weren’t afraid of speaking out at all.

“That’s enough, if others were to hear you, they wouldn’t know whether to laugh or not!” Ning Liang couldn’t help it anymore. She turned back and glared at them.

## Chapter 435 – Betrayal

The three maids stuck out their tongues. One of them said, “Ever since miss woke up, she has been sitting in front of the window. Is she waiting for something?”

Another maid smiled. “Have you forgotten? Today is the seventh day. The pills that Grandmaster Ning left were finished yesterday. He should be arriving soon.”

“Wah! Are you saying that the miss is waiting for Grandmaster Ning?”

Ning Liang’s face flushed hot red. “If you keep on spouting nonsense, just see if I don’t tear out your mouth!”

“Miss, nooo!”

Amidst the giggles and laughter, a sudden voice rang out from the front courtyard. “Grandmaster Ning is here!”

Ning Liang’s heart began to race. As she thought about how he would speak to her uncle before he came over, her heart stabilized a little. She couldn’t help but look at her charming appearance in the mirror. She subconsciously wondered – would Ning Qin think she was attractive when he saw her?

There was the sound of voices followed by footsteps. A black-robed figure appeared in her line of sight. As if sensing her gaze, the black-robed figure paused for a moment and looked up, their gazes colliding in the air.

Qin Yu nodded in greeting and Ning Liang nodded in response. Her heart began to speed up on its own once more.

The maid had already opened the door. Qin Yu and Yuntao walked in while the others remained outside.

“That’s fine. The rest of you can leave.” Ning Yuntao ordered.

The three maids bowed respectfully and withdrew.

Qin Yu looked around. This time, he could clearly see Ning Liang and he couldn’t help but be startled by her growing beauty. After she had regained her vigor, she was even more dazzling than before. But he recovered in an instant and smiled, saying, “Miss Ning has recovered well. In this condition, it’s much more likely that your cold poison will be successfully dispelled.”

Ning Liang didn’t dare to meet his eyes. She lowered her head and bowed. “I will have to trouble Grand Authority Ning!!”

Concerning Qin Yu’s strength, only Ning Yuntao and Ning Ling knew about it. They were afraid that if this were revealed, it would cause even more troubles. And since Ning Qin was purposefully remaining so low key, the two of them didn’t dare to casually mention it.

Qin Yu smiled. “That’s enough; there isn’t any need to speak unnecessary words. I will first inspect Miss Ning’s current condition.” He looked around and said, “Miss Ning, it will be best if you lie down on the bed. If everything is alright, I will immediately begin dispelling the cold poison.”

Ning Liang nodded obediently. She took off her shoes and lay down on the bed, then pulled back her sleeves.

Qin Yu put two fingers on her wrist. The instant he touched her, Ning Liang tensed up. However, he thought she was only anxious and casually spoke some comforting words. "Don't worry, nothing will go wrong."

A moment later, Qin Yu opened his eyes, a happy look on his face. "Everything is very good. Miss Ning's body has recovered much more than I imagined. She should be able to withstand the process of dispelling the cold poison."

Ning Yuntao was overjoyed. "That's too wonderful!" His expression filled with excitement. "Liangliang, you must recover as soon as possible. If the old master knows of this, he will surely be happy."

Ning Liang nodded. Her voice seemed sad, "Thank you, Grand Authority Ning!"

Qin Yu patted her hand. He had subconsciously considered himself Ning Ling's dao companion, so this girl should call him brother-in-law. Since Qin Yu regarded her as a junior, he didn't realize that the actions he took were a bit liberal. "Make sure there aren't any major changes in your state of mind. The process of dispelling the cold poison will be painful. You need to endure it as best as you can. It will quickly pass."

He turned and said, "Fellow daoist Ning, I will now help Miss Ning catalyze the medicinal efficacy in her body. There cannot be any disturbances during this process, so please wait on the other side of the door during the treatment."

Ning Yuntao looked at the silent Ning Liang for a moment before happily saying, "Of course, of course! I will go outside and wait. Grand Authority Ning, there is no need to worry. Just take the treatment slowly and steadily."

As these words fell into Ning Liang's ears, her face blushed red.

There was the sound of the door opening and closing.

There were only two people left inside. Qin Yu had a solemn expression. He said in a deep voice, "Miss Ning, you must remember that no matter how uncomfortable you feel within, you cannot resist."

These words instantly broke Ning Liang out from her daydream. She took a deep breath and said, "Grand Authority Ning, please rest assured. I will simply consider myself as already having died."

Qin Yu revealed an appreciative look. This girl really was smart. He took out a wax pill. With a little bit of strength from his fingers, the wax broke apart to reveal the crimson pill beneath. As soon as this pill appeared, circles of heat energy were emitted, swirling around the room. The air in the room instantly turned dry, even making one feel a bit parched.

"Eat it!"

Ning Liang swallowed the pill. She immediately coughed out loud. Her body trembled and pain crossed her face.

Qin Yu didn't dare to be careless. He grabbed onto her hands and magic power surged out like billowing water, forcing the medicinal efficacy of the Blazing Sun Integration Pill to revolve through her meridians. With his magic power as the barrier, he could control the dosage of medicine according to the situation and how much cold poison was deposited in her meridians. This was all to prevent the cold poison from erupting and causing a backlash.

Ning Liang's complexion relaxed a little but she still bit down tightly on her lips, not making a single sound.

Qin Yu untensed. Ning Liang's ability to withstand pain was much higher than he had imagined. This would allow him to concentrate on removing the cold poison in her body.

Ning Yuntao stood guard outside the room. As time passed, his thoughts began to tumble and he couldn't help but worry. But as he thought about Qin Yu's instructions, no matter how worried or restless he was, he could only endure it and wait outside.

The three maids, attendant, and other cultivators stood outside in the yard. They were all silent with dignified complexions.

Two hours, four hours, six hours...

When the sun began falling in the west and a layer of yellow covered the earth, there was a creak as the door finally opened and Qin Yu stepped out.

"Grandmaster Ning!" Ning Yuntao said with a flustered expression.

Qin Yu nodded. "Everything went smoothly. In one month at most, Miss Ning's cold poison will be completely resolved." Although his voice was calm, he couldn't conceal his exhaustion.

Ning Yuntao was wild with joy. "Thank you, grandmaster! Thank you, grandmaster!"

In the distance, the Ning Family cultivators who saw his expression all cheered in excitement!

Zong Yingming stood in a corner, his face full of shock. This Ning Qin was actually able to dispel his cousin's cold poison! But to him, this actually wasn't good news at all. He squeezed out a smile as he gripped his fists beneath his robe. His eyes flashed with a bit of gloominess but also wariness.

"The initial portion of Miss Ning's cold poison has already been melted away. However, her body is still weak right now and she has fallen asleep. In a moment have the maids go in and help her wash and tidy up. I will return again tomorrow." Qin Yu lifted a hand and rubbed his temples before turning and leaving.

Ning Yuntao was filled with gratitude. "Grandmaster must be exhausted! Men, hurry and help grandmaster return. Stand guard at grandmaster's entrance. If he has a need for anything, act accordingly!"

Qin Yu waved his hand. "You can stay here and take care of Miss Ning."

"Yes." After Qin Yu left, Ning Yuntao hurried into the room. There was a cloying stench in the air. Ning Liang was unconscious on the bed and her skin was covered with a layer of black filth.



Too occupied to care about the smell, Ning Yuntao hurried forward to inspect her and found that Ning Liang's inner cold poison had reduced by a great deal. He could no longer suppress himself.

"Hurry, hurry! Immediately help the miss wash. Make sure your movements are light and gentle; do not disturb her rest!"

Three maids entered the room and helped Ning Liang wash herself. Ning Yuntao walked out and closed the door, a bright smile on his face.

The attendant cupped his hands together. "Second Old Master, should I immediately inform the family?"

Ning Yuntao hesitated for a moment. "Not for the time being. We need to avoid any unnecessary complications." He looked around. "Remember, no one can reveal anything concerning the miss' condition, otherwise you will be severely punished!"

"Yes, Second Old Master!" Everyone bowed.

Zong Yingming's gaze grew heavier. He left with everyone else. When he returned to his room he paced back and forth, his expression uncertain as he slowly came to a decision.

Worried and distraught in his heart, Zong Yingming pushed open the door and stood beside the pond in the courtyard. He looked at the fish swimming in it and allowed the darkness to submerge him. His clothes gradually grew wet with dew and he let out a long breath. He muttered, "Whatever. In the end I cannot harm my cousin. As long as she recovers, there will always be a chance for me to move her heart."

He turned and walked back to his room. The faint sounds of conversation were audible from behind. His thoughts stirred and he moved to the side, hiding in the shadows along the path.

Two women walked in from the same direction, shoulder to shoulder. They chatted to each other in a quiet voice, clearly in a good mood.

"The miss has awoken just now. Her condition is clearly much better than before. That Grandmaster Ning really seems to have some skills!"

"He definitely has skill. They have only met several times and he hasn't even revealed his true appearance yet, but the miss has already lost herself around him."

"Hehe, I can also see that. When I mentioned to the miss about her distressed and horrid appearance just then, she was clearly worried. The miss clearly was afraid that Grandmaster Ning wouldn't like her."

"How is that related? It was just the poison dispelled from her body. Once the miss recovers, she will surely be more beautiful than she is now! Grandmaster Ning will surely be entranced to the point where he prostrates himself below her dress!"

The voices of the two gradually passed far away. In the shadows, Zong Yingming clenched his jaws, his body shaking with anger.

That slut!

I pursued you diligently all these years and I have never shown you any disdain or contempt because of your illness! But, you don't even spare a glance at my feelings. I can only consider you as a pure snow white flower that has yet to open, but in a short few days you actually mingled together with Ning Qin!

Hate, anger, violence, resentment...all sorts of negative emotions wildly swelled up in Zong Yingming's heart, causing his handsome face to become completely distorted.

"Ning Liang! It was you who betrayed me, so don't blame me for betraying you!" Zong Yingming roared out in his heart. "Ning Qin, do you really think you are some savior that can change everything!? I will let you know what fear and despair are!"

He rushed back to his room. Without delay, he took out a jade slip and recorded a message before crushing it to pieces. He let out a breath, his expression cold and callous. "Ning Liang, you are mine, you can only be mine...no one can take you away from me! No one!"

Almost at the same time, at the east end of Four Seasons City, in Grand Authority Chu's courtyard.

Qi Cheng woke up from his sleep. He turned his hand and took out a jade slip. As he probed it with his divine sense, his eyes flew open with shock.

Pa –

He crushed the jade slip and rose up from his bed. Then, he pushed open the door and walked out.

Soon, passing through layers of security, he was allowed to enter.

Within the hall, Chu Taidou wore a silken undergarment. A beautiful concubine with seductive curves was serving him some tea. His expression was faint, "What is the matter that you would rush here in such a hurry?"

Qi Cheng started to speak but hesitated.

Chu Taidou raised a hand. "You can leave."

The concubine turned and left.

"Now you can speak."

Qi Cheng lifted up his head and said, "Master, disciple just obtained news that today an alchemist named Ning Qin refined the Blazing Sun Integration Pill and helped the Ning Family's miss dispel a portion of her cold poison!"

Pa –

The teacup was smashed to bits and boiling hot tea dripped down his fingertips. However, Chu Taidou seemed to not have sensed this at all.

### **Chapter 436 – Threat**

The morning light sprinkled upon the ground, lending a hazy atmosphere to the rising mist. A group of young men who had been drinking and partying all night wandered through the streets with debauched

laughter, their attitudes arrogant and insolent. Pedestrians avoided the group, not daring to provoke them, causing these young men to laugh even louder and become even more unbridled.

Qi Cheng smiled. Many years ago he had been one of these people; it was really a time of his life that he looked back on with lingering emotions. But now, he finally understood that in order to truly live a happy life, one needed sufficient strength. Next, one needed a large enough backer.

Thus he had bid farewell to his previous life and became one of his honorable master's disciples. His talent wasn't the highest, but he was actually the most highly regarded by his teacher and was given the job of handling most tasks.

For instance, today.

He looked up at the signboard of the Western Mountain Inn. After appreciating it for a moment, he stepped inside and casually chose a table to sit at. Then, he called over a young waiter and ordered some small dishes. He slowly chewed, and as he ate the last steamed bun, he patted his belly in satisfaction. By this time, the sun had risen up high. The bright sunlight shined against him, warming his body.

"I've eaten my fill so it's about time to get to work." Qi Cheng stood up and casually walked towards the back courtyard path. He hadn't registered for accommodation at the inn, and so according to its rules, he shouldn't have been allowed back in the accommodation area. But, the several servants who stood at the intersection of the street seemed as if they didn't see him at all and allowed him to freely stroll past.

The Western Mountain Inn couldn't be considered too large, but in terms of garden scenery, they were amongst the best in Four Seasons City. Though the city was covered in a world of ice and snow, they had repaired and maintained this region enough that it gave off a wondrous aesthetic sense. Passing over the thick snow, passing through a bamboo grove, and then making his way around a small lake that wasn't frozen and still emitted steam, Qi Cheng finally came to the corner of the lake where mist separated two different courtyards.

"Who are you! Halt!" The attendant shouted with a wary expression.

Qi Cheng stopped and smiled. "Are you a Ning Family cultivator? You aren't defending your miss, so why are you out here?"

The attendant's pupils shrank. "Who are you?"

Qi Cheng's happy expression became richer. "My name is Qi Cheng. I am Grand Authority Ning's disciple. I am here to visit Grandmaster Ning Qin." He swept his eyes over the several surrounding people. "You should all know that with my status, I have no reason to speak nonsense with you people, so I don't want to speak much more. Otherwise I will be unhappy, and even if I were to kill all of you here, no one would say anything."

The attendant stiffened and the several other Ning Family cultivators also revealed looks of fear. Although Qi Cheng was still smiling, they could feel the piercing cold in his eyes.

He wasn't just joking around. If he wanted to kill them...he would really kill them!

A light flashed in the attendant's palm and a jade slip appeared. He crushed it and then clenched his teeth and moved forward. "I am here on the orders of Grandmaster Ning to defend this area. No one can disturb..."

Qi Cheng moved, his actions interrupting the attendant. He thrust his hands forward and the pressure of a peak Divine Soul erupted. The attendant froze in place, simply unable to move.

Creak –

The courtyard doors opened from within and a black-robed figure stepped out. As his foot touched the ground, the terrifying pressure that trapped the attendant instantly shattered. Qi Cheng stuffily humphed and drew back several steps, anger flashing in his eyes. But soon, he smiled and said, "You must be Grandmaster Ning Qin. My name is Qi Cheng. I am here under orders from my honorable master to visit grandmaster."

The attendant was saved from the precipice of death. He had a gratified expression, "Thank you for saving me, grandmaster!"

Qin Yu lightly said, "Leave." He didn't even glance at Qi Cheng and instead brought the several Ning Family people to leave.

This sort of disregard was the greatest form of contempt. Qi Cheng's smile froze, turning into cold indifference. "Grandmaster Ning, my honorable master is Chu Taidou, otherwise known as Grand Authority Chu! I came here to visit on behalf of him and your manners are simply too disrespectful!"

Qin Yu paused for a moment. The eyes beneath his hood were frigid. "In my dwelling, you dare to harm my people. If it weren't for consideration of Grand Authority Chu, do you think you could leave here intact? Leave before I change my mind."

Qi Cheng was enraged. But, he had always been called a cunning and tricky individual. Although he was angry, he didn't reveal it. Instead, his voice became increasingly cold, "Grandmaster Ning Qin, you shouldn't be so confident in yourself!"

"Leave, or I will make you leave." Qin Yu calmly replied.

Qi Cheng took a deep breath. "Good. Then I will truthfully pass on grandmaster's attitude to my honorable master. I hope that grandmaster's stay in Four Seasons City will be smooth from now on."

He turned and walked away, soon vanishing from sight.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed with a dense light. To threaten him here? If it weren't for the fact that he didn't want to cause trouble right now, he would have taught that person a lesson.

"Let's go."

The attendant and others all revealed looks of worship. Grandmaster Ning Qin was so strong and valiant! He didn't even fear not giving Chu Taidou any face.

Ning Yuntao soon rushed over. He worriedly asked, "Grandmaster Ning, are you alright?"

Qin Yu said, "I'm fine. Go, we shouldn't delay today's treatment."

Ning Yuntao relaxed a little. It seemed that Ning Qin didn't have any intention of retreating. But as he thought about the news he received today and how the treatment had happened just yesterday, his complexion suddenly paled.

It was clear there was a spy in their Ning Family!

"Damn it!" Ning Yuntao roared inwardly. As soon as Qin Yu entered Ning Liang's room, he turned and howled out, "Call everyone here!"

Soon, all cultivators from the Ning Family had gathered in the courtyard. They already knew what had happened; anger and nausea were interwoven on their faces.

Zong Yingming stood in the midst of the crowd, his heart restless. But, he displayed an extremely angry expression outwardly.

Ning Yuntao's icy cold eyes swept over the crowd. "That's right, I may not know who it was that revealed this matter, but I know it was one of you. Today, unless I give permission, everyone must stay in their rooms and no one can take half a step out! I guarantee you all that I will find this traitor!"

Within the silence, Ning Yuntao quietly said, "Yingming, stay behind and help me handle some things."

Zong Yingming's heart loosened. He respectfully bowed. "Yes, uncle!" He took a step forward and said, "After cousin's daily treatments, she still needs maids to care for her. The three maids have cared for her since childhood and they don't have much relation with the outside world. They should be trustworthy. It would be better to allow them to stay."

Ning Yuntao nodded. "That's a good idea. It was me who didn't fully consider things. The three of you can stay and look after the miss. Everyone else go back to your rooms." He turned and looked at Ning Liang's room. The inside was peaceful; it was clear that treatment had already begun. But for some reason, he frowned, unable to rid himself of the restless feeling in his heart.

Although Ning Qin hadn't changed his thoughts now, since Chu Taidou knew about this, he would never give up.

Could Ning Qin persist through this?

Ning Yuntao quietly said, "Yingming, immediately send a message to the family and inform the old master of this matter. Have him dispatch masters from the family here."

This matter had already been exposed so there was no need to try to keep concealing it. He hoped that the Ning Family could block the suppression of Chu Taidou!

At this time, there was a great thunderous sound from the front of the dwelling. Ning Yuntao's complexion changed, "What is happening?"

Bang –

Bang –

Roaring sounds continued to surge in. Two cultivators fled from the front entrance, chased after by four people.

The courtyard did have array formations but they were mostly for warning and isolating purposes. They didn't have much in terms of defensive capabilities.

As several people fought, shockwaves spread out. The ground cracked and buildings collapsed, the chaos arriving right where they were!

Ning Yuntao stepped forward, blocking the two fleeing people behind him. "Draw back!"

He thrust out a hand. The aura of the Blue Sea realm erupted and the two cultivators revealed looks of fear. But soon, their eyes filled with a manic expression. They screamed and their bodies suddenly inflated like balloons. Countless tiny blood vessels burst open on their skin. It was like countless cracks had appeared on the surface of their bodies; it was a strange and macabre sight.

Ning Yuntao's complexion changed. At this time, one of the cultivators suddenly surged in speed and shot towards him like a thrown boulder.

Bang –

There was a heaven-shaking bang. As the cultivator approached he instantly exploded, his flesh and blood reduced to ashes from the terrifying strength. Ning Yuntao cried out loud. A layer of black light appeared on his body just before he was submerged in the explosive force.

And at this time, another fleeing cultivator reached the courtyard. His blood red eyes had already locked onto Ning Liang's room and he was wildly running towards it.

Zong Yingming's eyes widened with anger. He had only wanted to stop the treatment and have Ning Qin pay the price; he had never thought of putting Ning Liang in a deathtrap. His feet started to move but he wavered. It was clear that this cultivator had decided to die. If he recklessly rushed in, there was a possibility he would be dragged in with the dead.

Hum –

A giant furnace phantom suddenly appeared, protecting Ning Liang's room. The rushing cultivator slammed straight into the barrier.

Bang –

The giant furnace phantom trembled and waves rippled along its surface. But no matter how violent or destructive that explosive strength was, it wasn't able to pass through at all.

Ning Yuntao rushed out from the smoke, his clothing torn and his entire appearance distressed. As he saw what had happened at Ning Liang's room, he immediately relaxed. But soon, anger surged from the depths of his heart. He turned towards those people that had been chasing after the two cultivators and shouted, "You bastards, just what are you doing!?"

The four cultivators came to a stop. One of them coldly sneered, "The army was arresting criminals and you were inadvertently affected. The Logistics Department will naturally contact you later to compensate you for damages caused. It's best if you remain calm and retract the insults you just directed at the army, otherwise, I guarantee you will regret it."

As he spoke, he took out a token. The sunlight reflected upon its cold surface.

Ning Yuntao's expression froze. This was indeed a military token, and this person was even a commander. Although he couldn't be considered a senior official in the army, he still wouldn't fear the Ning Family.

"The criminals have committed suicide and our hunting mission has come to an end. Let's go!" The commander put away the token and led his three subordinates to fly away, soon vanishing from sight.

"It's rare to see the army try to capture criminals, but it actually happened here. It's clear that the Ning Family has encountered some bad luck recently." It was unknown just when Qi Cheng had arrived, but he suddenly appeared amongst the chaos and confusion. His smile was cold, "I think this is just a minor accident. Perhaps next time there will be something even more severe. What does senior Ning think?"

He cupped his hands and turned to leave.

The attendant's face was covered with blood. He had an enraged expression. "Second Old Master, the one who threatened Grandmaster Ning Qin just then was him!"

Ning Yuntao clenched his fists, rage tumbling in his heart. But, he didn't dare to attack, because doing so would provoke a dreadful calamity for the Ning Family.

It was clear that this act of the army trying to capture criminals was the work of Chu Taidou. It was to warn the Ning Family and also to warn Grandmaster Ning Qin.

Bastard!

Despicable!

But Ning Yuntao knew that this was the result of Chu Taidou being cautious and giving them some face. If he tore apart all pretenses of cordiality and attacked them directly, they would have no means to resist.

What to do? What to do?

Ning Yuntao was left at a loss.

"Uncle, the inn's manager wishes to see you." Zong Yingming quietly said.

Ning Yuntao took a deep breath. "Let him in." Once the manager's round body appeared, he directly said, "We will shoulder all losses from what happened today. You have no need to worry!"

The manager bowed. He bitterly smiled, "Senior Ning, why must you make things difficult for me? The inn shall return the fee you paid for these past days. I ask senior to bring your people away."

Zong Yingming was happy but he put on an angry expression. "We paid money so by what rights do you think you can kick us out? Do you think we are easy to bully?"

The manager grit his teeth. "Fellow guests, it is our Western Mountain Inn that was disrespectful to you today, but no matter what, you can no longer stay. I ask you to leave as soon as possible!"

Zong Yingming opened his mouth to speak again but he was blocked by Ning Yuntao. "Enough. He shouldn't be blamed. We'll just move to a different inn." He swept his eyes around and looked at the

completely ruined courtyard. The only building left intact was Ning Liang's room. It stood alone in the chaotic ruins.

Compared to the inn chasing them out, Ning Yuntao was more worried about Ning Qin's attitude. Chu Taidou had already revealed just how low he was willing to go. Anyone who thought about this logically wouldn't be willing to make him an enemy.

If Ning Qin decided to leave...Ning Yuntao heaved a deep sigh. To think about this anymore was useless. He could only wait for the result.

### **Chapter 437 – Share With You Revered Glory**

Today's treatment was a bit faster than yesterday's. When Qin Yu pushed open the door and walked out, there was still some distance before the sun fell down past the horizon.

Ning Yuntao stepped forward. He seemed to want to say something but finally forced out a smile.

Qin Yu said, "I already know. Fellow daoist, don't worry. Since I helped, I will certainly cure Miss Ning."

Ning Yuntao was overjoyed but immediately revealed a trace of guilt. "This matter will definitely offend Chu Taidou. Grandmaster Ning, you..."

Qin Yu smiled. "I know what I'm doing." He glanced around and said, "Since we can't live here any longer, we should find new accommodation as soon as possible."

They quickly tidied up their things. Then, the three maids carefully lifted Ning Liang into the speedcar. The group walked out of the Western Mountain Inn together. When they left, many eyes gathered on them. Some were filled with pity and some were filled with contempt.

To offend Grand Authority Chu and still want to find a foothold in Four Seasons City? Keep on dreaming!

And this was indeed the truth.

The Ning Family visited several inns but no one was willing to admit them. Ning Yuntao even ordered someone to purchase a place, but the seller didn't even reveal their face before flat out refusing. This happened several times.

Ning Yuntao's face was dark and dreary. As a solemn Blue Sea cultivator and one of the leaders of the Ning Family, since when had he received such great humiliation? But the other person was Chu Taidou. In front of them, the entire Ning Family had to lower their heads. No matter how angry or unwilling he was, he could only endure it.

Chi Taidou wanted to force the Ning Family to have no place to stay, but they still couldn't leave the city. Because if they did, Chu Taidou would lose all scruples. At that time, their fate could be imagined.

At this moment, every cultivator within Four Seasons City received a message on their handphone. Because the city was repairing their array formation, from this day forth there would be a curfew put in place. From two hours before sunrise until the sun set again, no one could stay outside. Otherwise, they would be punished for destroying the city's array formation and would be executed for the crime!

This information was sent out by the garrison.



The Ning Family cultivators all revealed looks of despair. Against their enemy's endless methods, they simply had no way of resisting him.

If they didn't leave the city they would die, but if they left the city...the result likely wouldn't change.

At this time, in a second speedcar behind the group, Qin Yu slowly opened his eyes. He yawned and released a foul breath. The losses in his body were almost completely restored. The tinted window fell and he looked at the dark night. His eyes flashed and he said, "I know a place where Chu Taidou definitely cannot interfere."

Two hours later, in the south region of Four Seasons City, the Ning Family stopped in front of a magnificent building. A massive signboard shined bright with seven-colored radiance even in the dark, emitting a boundless pressure – Dao Arena.

Ning Yuntao suddenly realized what was happening. The Dao Arena was present throughout the entire Land of Divinity and Demons and had a massive force hidden behind it. Chu Taidou indeed didn't have the qualifications to influence it. However, just as happiness appeared in his eyes, it turned to helplessness. The Dao Arena charged an exorbitant price and each training room was restricted in the number of people it could hold. When Ning Qin was included, the Ning Family had a total of 16 people. They would need to rent at least eight training rooms to stay; this was a terrifying expense.

But no matter how much they spent, it was better than being backed into a corner with no way out. Ning Yuntao clenched his teeth and turned around, saying, "You may all wait here. I will go in and handle things."

He hurried into the Dao Arena. After a long time passed without Ning Yuntao reappearing, everyone's complexions began to turn restless. After another period of time, Ning Yuntao finally appeared in their line of sight, and his expression was incomparably ugly.

They could rent training rooms in the Dao Arena, and there were also enough of them. But, the Dao Arena didn't allow for short stays. One needed to rent out a training room for at least one month and they also needed to pay the total price ahead of time; there was no credit allowed. This was far beyond Ning Yuntao's expectations. He had stayed a bit longer to argue, but the Dao Arena cultivator was simply unmoved.

Qin Yu's window lowered. Ning Yuntao walked over and wryly smiled as he explained the situation.

He clenched his teeth and said, "This just won't work. Let's rent two training rooms first and allow grandmaster and Liangliang to stay there. I will lead the others to leave Four Seasons City. Thinking about it, if Chu Taidou can't obtain what he wants, he might not have the heart to bother with us. Let's get past today and think about it again!"

"Second Old Master, we can leave through transmission arrays. I don't believe that Chu Taidou will be able to chase after us!" The attendant bitterly said. His head was wrapped up in a thick gauze.

Ning Yuntao shook his head. "It's useless. If he does something to the transmission array, we will die even quicker."

Everyone fell silent.

Qin Yu pushed open the car door. "I'll go in."

Ning Yuntao bitterly smiled. "It's useless. The Dao Arena's background is unfathomably deep. They won't give face to anyone."

Qin Yu lightly said, "I never intended for them to give me face to begin with. Since we can rent rooms, we will rent them, and that's it."

Ning Yuntao's jaw dropped open. As he thought about how Qin Yu had casually given them the Water Mist Spirit Pills and Minor Marrow Nourishing Pills, he couldn't find the words to say. He was likely an alchemy grand authority, so saving spirit stones or anything was naturally incomparably simple. Spending this amount of spirit stones might be normal in his eyes, but it was the equivalent of saving them all, a great benevolence.

Ning Yuntao revealed a gratified look. The window of the nearby car dropped open and Ning Liang's exhausted face appeared. "Uncle, how is it?"

"It's fine. Grandmaster Ning will help us solve this problem. Liangliang, our Ning Family owes grandmaster another great favor. You must work hard!" Ning Yuntao had an encouraging look on his face. If Ning Liang and Ning Qin became dao companions, they would be one family. As one family, there was no need to divide things so clearly between them.

He became even more earnest towards this marriage.

Ning Liang huffed and puffed. "Uncle, just what are you saying? I'm angry now!" The window rose back up. But, she couldn't help but glance at Qin Yu's back, her cheeks flushing red as she did.

All sorts of rumors concerning the miss and Grandmaster Ning Qin had begun to quietly spread. At this time, the Ning Family had already started to smile a little.

As for the attendant, even though he felt a bit bitter in his heart, as he thought about how Ning Liang could be saved and how he would have a backer in the future, his heart filled with hope.

Zong Yingming smiled. But, he hung his head low, concealing the anger and cruelty in his eyes.

Ning Liang, you are mine! You can only be mine! No one can obtain you!

Chu Residence.

Qi Cheng smiled with admiration. "Honorable master has truly considered every aspect of the situation. Master even thought that the Ning Family would seek asylum at the Dao Arena and completed arrangements ahead of time, leaving them no road to flee to."

Chu Taidou had a light expression. "With your intelligence, there is no need to tell me this. You haven't thought of this before, so your flattery is too sloppy and low-level right now."

Qi Cheng had an embarrassed expression. "Teacher may have taught disciple this, but even if I thought of the same thing, I would still be left helpless. Looking at the entire Four Seasons City, only teacher can have the Dao Arena change their attitude."

Chu Taidou revealed a happy expression. He held Qi Cheng in high regard, and while his efficiency in managing and completing tasks was one reason, his smooth talk was also a substantial reason. "That's enough. Don't celebrate too soon. Although Arena Steward Kang has agreed to help, he can only do so within the rules. It is impossible for him to lend us his full strength."

Qi Cheng said, "Honorable master, there is no need to worry. This disciple has already investigated and verified that with Ning Yuntao's wealth, there is no way for him to rent eight training chambers in one breath."

"Mm. When you handle matters, I can rest in peace. For the following arrangements, you can deal with them. Remember, Ning Liang must live." Chu Taidou calmly said. But, there was another profound meaning behind his words that left one's heart chilled. Ning Liang had to live...but everyone else didn't matter.

Qi Cheng smiled. "Yes, honorable master."

His eyes flashed with a cold light. He thought about Grandmaster Ning's imposing attitude and how he didn't even place him in his eyes.

Qi Cheng didn't lose his composure at the scene because he was skilled at hiding his emotions. But, that didn't mean he wasn't angry.

On the other hand, what was hidden beneath so well was a soul and personality which thirsted for revenge. During these past years, anyone who had offended him had suffered horrible fates.

Today, the first one to experience bad luck would be that Grandmaster Ning Qin!

As for that Grandmaster Ning Qin who was already judged to suffer bad luck soon, he had actually walked up to the front doors of the Dao Arena.

In front of the Dao Arena was a massive square. It seemed to be formed from some kind of blue stone. The gaps were perfectly even and aligned, and the stones were as flat as a mirror.

Qin Yu looked down at the blue stones. His thoughts suddenly flew far away, back to the years when he was at the Eastern Mountain Sect.

At that time, he had been responsible for cleaning up the blue stone path near the medicine garden. The blue stones in front of him were actually quite similar.

His steps weren't slow or hurried. When Qin Yu arrived at the Dao Arena's square, without warning, the Dao Arena that was bathed in darkness suddenly burst out with a radiant light.

The light tore apart the darkness. The pure white Dao Arena entered his eyes. It was broad and boundless, like the dwelling of some dignified god.

Taken aback by the sudden change, Qin Yu was instantly awakened. He looked up, vigilance on his face. But besides the bright light, there were no other changes. As Qin Yu was secretly frowning, the light that tore apart the darkness began to gather in the skies above.

Several breaths of time later, a massive tablet formed from countless motes of light appeared. A boundless aura swept out, like the descent of an ancient divine mountain!

Hu –

A beam of light arrived from the tablet's phantom, covering Qin Yu's figure. A broad and resonant sound immediately echoed out, ringing through the highest heavens and deepest earth.

"Ancient Perishment Decree, shares with you revered glory!"

At this time, Four Seasons City was shaken.

Countless cultivators looked up, amazement and shock in their eyes.

In the east region, in a luxurious residence, a training chamber was loudly slammed open. A silver-haired old man stepped out. He looked up at the tablet phantom in the skies and his complexion changed.

"A cultivator from the Ancient Perishment Decree!"

Hu –

His figure flickered and he directly teleported far away.

Garrison.

In a round tent, a middle-aged officer in heavy armor suddenly opened his eyes and a sharp light exploded from them. He stood up, his armor clinking around him as an invisible ferocious energy filled the air!

He stepped out from the tent and looked up at the distant Four Seasons City. His pupils shrank, "Ancient Perishment Decree!"

His figure flickered and he disappeared.

Chu Residence.

Chu Taidou shoved off the half-naked concubine on top of him. He flicked his sleeves and opened the window. He could see the massive tablet phantom hanging high in the skies, emitting endless momentum and prestige.

"Ancient Perishment Decree, shares with you revered glory!"

A billowing voice spread through all directions. Chu Taidou didn't know why, but there was suddenly a restless feeling in his heart...the Ning Family was outside the Dao Arena right now. Could this be related to them? But as soon as this thought appeared he pushed it back down.

Those that had the qualifications to appear on the Ancient Perishment Decree were the most peak peerless existences within the Land of Divinity and Demons. When one appeared, they would quickly be fought over and taken away by the various major influences. How could this be related to the trivial Ning Family?

Taking a deep breath, Chu Taidou waved his hand and ripped open space. He stepped in.

At the edge of the Dao Arena's great square, the Ning Family cultivators were all deeply shocked. Even Ning Yuntao subconsciously dropped his jaw. Although he had already guessed that Ning Qin's origins

weren't mediocre and he likely had an honored status, he never guessed that he would be someone listed on the Ancient Perishment Decree.

It had to be known that this was the Dao Arena's Ancient Perishment Decree. It was said that only those who could destroy themselves and emerge from the ashes of perishment had the qualifications to be listed. What this represented was endless hope in the future!

It was rumored that only those proud children of heaven who stood at the peak of battlefields, slaughtering all their enemies, had the possibility of being included on the Ancient Perishment Decree. Ning Qin was an alchemy grand authority but was also listed on the Ancient Perishment Decree...if he didn't see it with his own eyes he wouldn't have believed it himself. This was simply the legendary omnipotent talent!

After lowering the window, Ning Liang's beautiful face was revealed. Now that most of her cold poison had been dispelled, she was even more beautiful and moving than before. She subconsciously covered her mouth with her hands. As she looked at the black-robed figure beneath the light who seemed to be the center of the world, her eyes filled with shock.

Grand Authority Ning, he was unexpectedly a cultivator on the Ancient Perishment Decree!

Her mind tumbled endlessly. She couldn't help but be puzzled once more. That formidable and dazzling Grand Authority Ning Qin, why would he choose to help her Ning Family?

Could it be as her uncle said, that he had fallen for her? But, Ning Liang had no confidence that her beauty alone was enough to capture one of the most radiant stars in the endless sky.

Bang –

The main doors to the Dao Arena burst open. With a middle-aged cultivator in the lead, a large number of cultivators dressed in the clothing of the Dao Arena stepped out. Their eyes fell on Qin Yu, awe apparent in them.

The middle-aged cultivator didn't recklessly step forward. For this kind of phenomenon to appear, this meant it was the first time he had entered the Dao Arena since appearing on the Ancient Perishment Decree. At this time, he was basking in all the glorious attention from the world. There was no need to destroy this moment for him. He simply needed to quietly wait for him to emerge.

Kang Mingqiao already knew that this person in front of him was the alchemist that was helping the Ning Family. He bitterly smiled at his own actions before this. Who could have imagined that such a minor matter would actually involve such an important existence?

Of course, now that he knew Qin Yu was a person on the Ancient Perishment Decree, Chu Taidou's greetings were no longer meaningful.

If he dared to create obstacles for a cultivator on the Ancient Perishment Decree, then he feared his position as Hall Steward would come to an end.

A trace of envy and yearning appeared in his eyes. As an Arena Steward, he naturally knew much more than others. The Ancient Perishment Decree wasn't just an empty title. It also represented a lucky chance that countless people could only dream of. To a certain degree, it could even be said that those

on the Ancient Perishment Decree were more important than he was in the overall system of the Dao Arena!

### **Chapter 438A – Give Up**

Qin Yu frowned and bitterly smiled inside. Who knew that he would stir up such an accident just by coming to the Dao Arena? He looked up at the giant tablet phantom. Although he wasn't too sure what this so-called Ancient Perishment Decree was, he faintly realized that it was caused by the name he left behind in the Dao Arena last time.

With such great momentum, it was hard for no one to not know about it. This completely defeated his purpose for changing his appearance to come here and secretly collect the 36 soul treasures.

Moreover, what Qin Yu worried about the most was that his identity being exposed today would draw the Immortal Sect's attention. It had to be known that when he was first here, he left behind his real name!

Thinking of this, Qin Yu no longer felt any satisfaction in 'sharing this revered glory'. But with things having come to this point, there was no way he could turn back. Regardless of whether he wanted to or not, he could only face this sudden situation.

Hu –

Hu –

Figures teleported into the skies above the Dao Arena's great square. As they appeared, the first thing they looked at was Qin Yu. In the dark night, the stone tablet phantom formed by light and the light that enveloped the figure below was a truly eye-catching sight!

Cultivator of the Ancient Perishment Decree...this title in itself was able to shock all sides! Among the arriving cultivators, whether their auras were strong or weak, envy and awe filled their eyes.

The first great figure who appeared was a silver-haired old man. His wide purple robes and deep aura were like an invisible mountain pressing against everyone's minds.

"Master of the Annan Trade Association!"

"Such a great figure actually appeared here!"

"This is the Ancient Perishment Decree. Even throughout the entire Land of Divinity and Demons, there are only ten people on it. This is enough for President Annan to take this matter seriously!"

With a turn of his purple robes and a flash of his eyes, the silver-haired old man landed on the ground. He laughed and said, "Fellow daoist Ning Qin, I am Annan Taiyue. I didn't know of fellow daoist's status before, so if there was any place in which I was disrespectful, I ask you to excuse me." He flipped his hand and a purple card appeared in his palm. "This is the most honored status membership card of my Annan Trade Association. I hope that fellow daoist Ning Qin can accept this and consider it an apology from me."

This was a truly heavy hand. Many people sighed inwardly. Indeed, old ginger was hotter than young ginger; experience still counted for something. This old man could draw their relation close with a single move, moreover, this membership card would give him more opportunities to associate with Qin Yu.

“Humph!” A light cough sounded out, echoing through the world. Although it was only one person, it made one feel as if 10,000 soldiers were rushing towards them, making their heart tremble. An armored military official appeared. “President Annan, even I don’t have such a membership card. Don’t you think your move here is too generous?”

Annan Taiyue laughed. “There are too many factors involved in the garrison. I don’t dare to shoulder the charge of trying to bribe the military. If General Sha isn’t worried about accountability from military headquarters, then I will immediately order people to send you a card with both hands.”

Sha Chenghe sneered. “Don’t worry about headquarters trying to suppress me. With a top membership card from the Annan Trade Association, I will be able to save a massive amount of resources on military supplies. Those old fogies from headquarters wouldn’t even have time to be overjoyed! President Annan, I hope you remember your words and don’t go back on them.”

Annan Taiyue shook his head. “I can give you a membership card but I will have to issue an order to only allow you to purchase supplies for your own troop. Otherwise, my losses will be too great!”

“Then it's settled. A promise is a promise!” Sha Chenghe grinned, but even as he did he gave off a sense of ferocity. He swept his eyes around, his gaze containing his spiritual will. When a common cultivator met his eyes, they felt as if their will would collapse at any moment. But, the figure beneath the light in the center of the square didn’t seem affected at all. He remained calm and peaceful.

A look of appreciation filled his eyes. Sha Chenghe loudly said, “I am a rough and humble man. Since this is my first time seeing someone from the Ancient Perishment Decree, I was itching to test you a little. I ask fellow daoist Ning Qin to not mind my actions. If you were unhappy in any way, then I apologize to you!” He cupped his hands together and bowed.

Annan Taiyue smiled. “General Sha, don’t worry. Fellow daoist Ning Qin is an open-minded person, so he wouldn’t care about such minor matters. However, your apology seems to lack sincerity.”

Sha Chenghe thought for a moment and then took out a jade box. “I heard that fellow daoist Ning Qin excels at alchemy. Inside this is a spirit plant seed that some of my subordinate soldiers accidentally obtained. I heard the quality is quite good, but since it fell into the hands of someone as rough as me it was just wasted. Today, allow me to gift this to fellow daoist Ning Qin.”

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed. He cupped his hands together and said, “If so, then I must respectfully accept President Annan and General Sha’s gifts.”

Annan Taiyue and Sha Chenghe both passed over their gifts, their smiles wide and bright. Although these two seemed to be trying to undermine each other, the truth was that their private relationship was extremely good. This so-called undermining was not only to reflect on the value of the membership card but also to give General Sha a reason to give a gift, pulling their relations with Qin Yu closer.

All sides benefited!

The third great figure appeared. It was a genial middle-aged man in blue robes. His waist was subconsciously bent over, as if he were a person accustomed to serving.

“The City Lord is in seclusion. When he learned that Lord Ning Qin arrived, he ordered this old servant to come in his place and offer an explanation. If there is any area of disrespect, I ask for your forgiveness.” Sun San’s words were extremely polite. He took out a jade book with both hands. “This is a gift that the City Lord would like to give you. Please accept it.”

A giant transport speedcar came to a stop at the edge of the square. Although the speedcar was covered with a thick cloth, one could see at a glance that there were many rich gifts contained inside. Everyone sighed. This person was truly worthy of being the City Lord’s right-hand man. In such a short period of time he had prepared a large speedcar full of gifts. This was pure efficiency!

Qin Yu hesitated for a moment and cupped his hands together. “I ask fellow daoist Sun to thank the City Lord on my behalf.”

He already realized that since his status would be exposed no matter what, it didn’t matter whether he received these gifts or not.

And why should he decline?

It just seemed that the importance of this Ancient Perishment Decree was far higher than he expected!

Sun San smiled. “This old servant will remember and will surely convey the message truthfully.” He turned and said, “President Annan, General Sha, this old servant greets fellow daoists.”

Annan Taiyue smiled and cupped his hands, “Fellow daoist Sun is too polite.”

Sha Chenghe was even more respectful. “Greetings, Steward Sun.”

This person who substituted for the City Lord was a servant called Sun San. Although he had an ordinary name, there wasn’t anything ordinary about him at all.

Chu Taidou had already arrived. But at this time he would have preferred not to appear instead. Ning Qin...he had heard this name many times in the past two days but he never imagined they would meet under such circumstances. Turning around and leaving was also an option, but it clearly wasn’t a smart one. When it came to cultivators on the Ancient Perishment Decree, as long as they didn’t perish midway on their road, they would become terrifying, extremely terrifying existences in the future.

Concerning this, history was already the best proof!

Chu Taidou took a deep breath and plastered a smile on his face. He was like a good friend of many years, someone that a person had been close to for a long time, with no awkwardness at all. He took several steps forward and said, “Steward Sun, General Sha, President Annan, it’s been a long time since I’ve last seen you three.” He greeted them and then continued to say, “Fellow daoist Ning Qin, I didn’t know of your status before so if I offended you anywhere I ask for your forgiveness. Tomorrow, I will arrange a banquet and ask fellow daoist to pay a visit. I will personally apologize again.”

One could only say that Chu Taidou was a truly fierce and ambitious person. If he could pick something up, he could afford to set it down. For someone to accomplish this at his level was already extremely



rare. This was because he knew that no matter how unwilling he was, now that Qin Yu had revealed his status, all the plans he had put in place were worth nothing.

That's right, the Ning Family's treasure indeed caused his heart to blaze. If he could obtain it, it was extremely likely he would obtain a great harvest. But, to thoroughly offend a cultivator from the Ancient Perishment Decree because of this, the gains simply weren't worth the losses.

Because if he didn't draw back today, even if he managed to obtain some great return, it was likely that he would be directly erased from existence some day in the future!

Since he had to draw back, he would do so simply and thoroughly, with no room for misinterpretation...as for honor, Chu Taidou didn't believe that lowering his head in front of a cultivator on the Ancient Perishment Decree was disgraceful. Taking a step back, what did it matter if he lost face? Could he eat this face as food? Could this face save his life?

In essence, this sophisticated Grand Authority Chu was an extremely practical person.

### **Chapter 439 B – Spread Throughout the World**

In essence, this sophisticated Grand Authority Chu was an extremely practical person.

Sun San, Annan Taiyue, Sha Chenghe, the three of them had light expressions. They weren't surprised by Chu Taidou's choice. If he couldn't control his emotions, then he didn't deserve to have such a massive influence in Four Seasons City.

Chu Taidou admitted defeat, so Qin Yu had no intention of bothering with him further. He just wanted to have this matter subside as soon as possible. Otherwise, if the Immortal Sect learned that he was still alive, there would be no end of trouble in his future. In order to prevent Ning Ling from learning the truth and causing fractures in the Immortal Sect, Qin Yu was positive that they would use some unconventional means to make him disappear forever.

"Grand Authority Chu speaks too seriously. Since everything is a misunderstanding, then let us consider everything that happened before as water beneath the bridge."

Chu Taidou's heart relaxed and his smile brightened. "Fellow daoist Ning Qin is a truly broadminded individual; I feel nothing but deep admiration. Since I was the one in the wrong first, I must express myself." He turned his hand and took out a jade box. "There is a root cutting in here. Long ago, I accidentally obtained a cutting of a spirit root. It contained a boundless spiritual strength within, so I was positive it must be some great treasure of the heavens and earth! Unfortunately, this thing suffered some disastrous tribulation and its vitality was weakened to the extreme. I used many methods but I failed to successfully replant it. Today, allow me to gift this to fellow daoist Ning Qin. With fellow daoist's skills, you might be able to give it a new life."

A spirit root cutting that couldn't be cultivated. If Chu Taidou was gifting this to him, it had to be uncommon in some way. Qin Yu received the jade box and opened it. A rush of boundless spiritual strength immediately erupted.

Annan Taiyu's eyes brightened. "What a great treasure. If it can survive the planting process, it will definitely become an unsurpassed precious object!"

Sun San nodded. "It is indeed not mediocre. Grand Authority Chu put thought into this."

Qin Yu's flashed with a bit of happiness. He calmly put the lid back on the jade box. "Grand Authority Chu's gift is too precious. I would be too ashamed to accept it."

Chi Taidou smiled. "It's useless if I keep it. All treasures have their own fate. Since it has been slumbering for so many years, perhaps it was waiting for fellow daoist Ning Qin to appear."

These were beautifully spoken words.

Qin Yu smiled and put the jade box away. "Then I will be disrespectful!" With the little blue lamp in hand, there was probably no spirit plant in this world that he couldn't cultivate. Thus, the final words of this old fellow Chu Taidou were actually correct. This spirit root cutting was destined to belong to him.

Kang Mingqiao had been peacefully waiting up until now. He walked forward and smiled, saying, "I am the Dao Arena's Four Seasons City Branch Division Arena Steward, Kang Mingqiao. I am extremely honored by fellow daoist Ning Qin's presence. Is there anything I can do for fellow daoist?"

His attitude was warm and intimate. He needed to repair the impression that Ning Qin had of him as soon as possible. This was the highest priority to him at the moment.

Qin Yu had already noticed this silently waiting cultivator from the Dao Arena. He never expected that this person had such an honored status. The master of this Dao Arena branch had a status that might not be any lower than the Four Seasons City Lord's. It was possibly even a little bit higher. He seemed a bit too polite, even respectful.

He didn't know whether this was his own misunderstanding but he cupped his hands together and bowed, "Greetings, Arena Steward Kang. I came today to rent some Dao Arena training rooms, so I must ask Arena Steward Kang to make the arrangements for me."

Kang Mingqiao discovered that Ning Qin seemed to not have many negative emotions towards him and his smile warmed, becoming even gentler. "Fellow daoist Ning Qin is listed on the Ancient Perishment Decree, thus you are one of the most important visitors of my Dao Arena. You have the qualifications to freely use our Dao Arena's top training room at any moment." He glanced at the Ning Family people waiting at the edge of the square and continued to say, "Fellow daoist Ning Qin can also bring no more than ten followers with you to use our services."

Qin Yu was startled. He immediately said, "Then I will have to trouble Arena Steward Kang."

"This is my duty; there is no need to be so polite." Kang Mingqiao smiled. "Our top training room has been prepared. After fellow daoist Ning Qin chooses your followers, you may freely use it."

This was clearly preferential treatment.

Ning Yuntao learned of the situation from the Dao Arena. As he looked at these Dao Arena cultivators who had been looking at him with cold disdain only moments before, he sighed inwardly. This was the Ancient Perishment Decree. Even a force as powerful as the Dao Arena had to give those listed on it their due respect.

Soon, he chose the people. There was Ning Liang, her three maids, the attendant, and some youths from the Ning Family.

“Greetings, Arena Steward Kang, Grand Authority Ning.” Ning Yuntao respectfully bowed.

Qin Yu said, “I will bring ten people in. For the remaining five people we can rent two training rooms. If there aren't enough spirit stones I will pay the rest.”

Ning Yuntao hurriedly said, “I dare not bother Grand Authority Ning. The crisis has already been resolved so I will lead some juniors to wait for you in Four Seasons City. Ning Liang, the three maids, the attendant, and another youth can enter the Dao Arena with you.”

He thought about how the troubled Ning Family who had been pushed into a dead end suddenly had their situation reversed. Even a formidable figure like Chu Taidou had been forced to lower his head in defeat. He couldn't help but feel a burst of awe towards Qin Yu's great strength. As he obtained a greater understanding of it, he felt increasingly grateful in his heart.

Although the Dao Arena had given them ten spots, this was all due to their respect towards Qin Yu. Since the crisis had been solved, the Ning Family couldn't continue to try and lick up profits.

As for allowing the attendant and the other junior to enter, that came from consideration of their reputations. Ning Yuntao had been very thoughtful in his decisions.

Qin Yu nodded. “That's also fine.”

Kang Mingqiao smiled. “You can lead Miss Ning and the others in first. I will personally deliver fellow daoist Ning Qin in a bit.”

The Dao Arena sent people who respectfully brought Ning Liang and the others inside.

Why would someone listed on the Ancient Perishment Decree help the trivial Ning Family? It was rumored that the unparalleled young beauty from the Ning Family was the key.

At this moment, many cultivators revealed looks of envy. The Ning Family was actually extremely lucky. If someone could climb up using Ning Qin, their future prospects would be endless.

After declining the cordial invitations of Annan Taiyue and Chu Taidou, then chatting with Sun San and the others for a moment, all of these shrewd old fellows bid their farewells and left.

As Chu Taidou left, he had a warm and congenial smile and his eyes were full of a close friendliness. If one didn't know how this person often acted, they might have been deceived by his expression.

He was absolutely a movie star level actor!

Of course, once he returned to his residence, whether or not Grand Authority Chu was so saddened that he vomited blood was unknown...

Kang Mingqiao introduced several important figures of the Dao Arena to Qin Yu. After everyone left to deal with their own business, he brought Qin Yu to the training room.

As they walked, this person began a charming conversation and often made many wonderfully witty remarks. He was like a spring breeze, his communication methods beyond top class.

Qin Yu couldn't help but feel a good impression towards this Arena Steward Kang. At the same time, he decided he needed to ascertain just what the Ancient Perishment Decree was. This level of treatment seemed a bit too high.

"Fellow daoist Ning Qin, your room is right ahead. Your aura has already been marked. After approaching, the entrance will open." Kang Mingqiao hesitated for a moment and then said, "Although the Ancient Perishment Decree only has ten people, the test to join is extremely severe. Throughout history, anyone that joins the decree will attract attention from all sides, thus this list isn't a secret."

As he finished speaking he smiled and cupped his hands. "If fellow daoist Ning Qin has need of anything, feel free to tell me. Then, I will bid my goodbyes here first."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. He watched Kang Mingqiao leave, a heavy look flashing in his eyes. With Kang Mingqiao's status he naturally wouldn't speak nonsense about this. It was clear he was giving him a reminder about how important the Ancient Perishment Decree was.

The Ancient Perishment Decree wasn't a secret. In other words, anyone paying attention to this would find out Ning Qin was just an alias. Then, following the clues, they would likely discover his real identity.

The Immortal Sect was one of the two largest super influences in the Land of Divinity and Demons. They had countless information networks. Once they found out about this...

Qin Yu's complexion turned even cloudier. He originally just wanted to help Ning Ling's family, but who would have thought that things would keep developing all the way until this point. If one were to mention regrets, he would have some. But if he had the chance to make the choice again, he would still have chosen the same path.

If he could watch Ning Ling's family be insulted, bullied, and even killed off right in front of him and not care, he simply didn't deserve to win Ning Ling's heart.

Whatever. Different situations called for different actions. If he took one step forward at a time, then maybe this matter would soon subside and the Immortal Sect wouldn't notice anything.

Unfortunately, Qin Yu didn't know how great a stir he had caused today. Each cultivator on the Ancient Perishment Decree was doomed to have an illustrious reputation and arouse attention from all directions.

"The Ancient Perishment Decree doesn't have anyone named Ning Qin. Unless he used an alias to enter the decree to begin with, this name Ning Qin is a fake."

"Just what kind of honor is it to join the Ancient Perishment Decree? I don't think anyone would use a fake name to join. This name of Ning Qin must be fake."

"On the decree, there is no one surnamed Ning, but there is someone surnamed Qin. He appeared several years ago and is ranked ninth."

"When Qin Yu joined the decree in the past, he shocked all of the various large sects. They each dispatched cultivators to look for him but in the end they didn't find anything. It's said this person has a mysterious origin."

“Only the first time entering the Dao Arena after joining the decree would this sort of phenomenon occur. Combined with all the other clues, I have a deep suspicion that this Ning Qin is the decree’s ninth-ranked Qin Yu!”

In an extremely short period of time, news that the suspected ninth-placed Qin Yu from the Ancient Perishment Decree had appeared at Four Seasons City began to spread throughout the world at an astonishing speed.

#### **Chapter 440 – All Parties Invited**

Qin Yu’s heart skipped a beat. After several seconds of contemplation, he slowly said, “Who is it that came?”

“Sect of the South End, North Sea Palace, Dark Purgatory, Great Thunder Pagoda...” It was a long list of names. Placed within the Land of Divinity and Demons, they were all great influences. Finally, Kang Mingqiao stopped and said, “The most important is the Immortal Sect and Demonic Path.”

They really came!

Even if he had expected it, Qin Yu still felt his heart quicken. But, he didn’t reveal any of this on his face. He deeply sighed and said, “I didn’t think I would cause such a disturbance this time.”

Kang Mingqiao revealed an astonished look. “Fellow daoist Ning Qin doesn’t seem to be happy?”

Qin Yu shook his head. “If I said that I like to live a life free from chains like a wild crane flying through the clouds, would Arena Steward Kang think that my explanation is too superficial?”

Kang Mingqiao thought for a moment. “A little.” He smiled. “But the decision-making power is in fellow daoist’s hands. As someone on the Ancient Perishment Decree, no one can force you.” He said this with full confidence. “But, I think that even if fellow daoist doesn’t want to accept any invitations, it’s best if you explain this yourself in order to avoid appearing too disrespectful. Of course, this is only my suggestion. Everything will depend on what fellow daoist decides.”

Qin Yu let out a breath. “Since they made the trip, I might as well see them. I’ll have to ask Arena Steward Kang to make the arrangements for me.” Beneath his black robe, a sharp light flashed in his eyes. If he could pass this hurdle then he could wash off his suspicions as the ‘ninth-ranked on the Ancient Perishment Decree’. Later, he wouldn’t have to worry about the Immortal Sect targeting him anymore.

“Then how about a banquet tomorrow evening? I can hold a banquet at the Dao Arena’s banquet hall and invite the guests that visited from all over. Fellow daoist Ning Qin only needs to make a timely appearance.”

“Alright.”

Kang Mingqiao bid his goodbyes and left. As he took two steps out, he hesitated for a moment and then said, “Fellow daoist Ning Qin, since you have already accepted my first suggestion, allow me to give you another suggestion. If you really don’t wish to accept any invitations, then it’s best not to accept any of the gifts they present to you. To speak so openly while being relative strangers, if I have offended you anywhere, I ask you not to blame me.”

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "Arena Steward Kang is thoughtful. I will remember this."

He watched Kang Mingqiao leave. Although he knew that his words and actions were done deliberately to form a better relationship between them, he still had a more favorable impression of the man. If he accepted the gifts and chose a side, then with a great background behind him, the other parties could only assume that their conditions weren't good enough and they wouldn't say anything. But, if he accepted the gifts and didn't choose anyone in the end, wasn't that the same as playing them?

To develop a grudge with so many powerful influences was an extremely dangerous thing. Thus, Kang Mingqiao's reminder could be said to stem from good intentions. He wanted to prevent Qin Yu from being blinded by the dazzling gifts and then regretting what happened afterwards.

With Qin Yu's understanding of the situation, cultivators of the Ancient Perishment Decree might be some of the most important guests of the Dao Arena, but the people who made it on the decree in recent years didn't seem to develop any connections to the Dao Arena in the end. It seemed as if they were only creators of the list and didn't care too much about the people on it.

If so, then why was Kang Mingqiao so thoughtful towards him? Maybe he was just a good person...that was right, this possibility did exist, but the chances of it being true were almost zero.

Perhaps the Ancient Perishment Decree had another function that outsiders didn't know of.

Qin Yu shook his head, no longer thinking about it. A sharp light flashed in his eyes. Since he dared to agree to the banquet and respond to the invitations from all the various factions, he naturally had some confidence that he could conceal the truth from the probing of the Immortal Sect.

Everything would depend on tomorrow.

...

The weather grew increasingly cold. Heavy snow had fallen for five continuous days. If it weren't for troops often clearing out the snow, then the giant Four Seasons City would have already been submerged. At this time, dark clouds covered the skies. It was only dusk, but the weather had already fallen completely dark. The vault of heaven was like a deep black cloth, shrouding the world.

In the wind and snow, an old man with a hunched back carried a bundle of firewood with a hatchet in his hands, arriving through the snow. The curve of his back was steep, as if he couldn't withstand the heavy weight of the firewood. He lumbered on slowly in the gloomy weather.

But this slowness was only a trick of the eye. In one blink of the eye the old man was far away, in the second blink of the eye he was even further away, in the third blink of an eye...he had already entered the city.

Several guards at the gate shrank back. Their complexions changed and fear colored their eyes.

"This person..."

The young guard captain turned and shouted, "Shut up! No one speak a single word about what happened today. Just pretend you never saw anything!"

When Woodchopper Fu entered Four Seasons City, his steps still seemed slow. He brushed past many pedestrians, but no one seemed to have noticed him. As he crossed through several lively streets and entered a small alley, Woodchopper Fu turned and helplessly said, "I only came today to choose a mortal body. That isn't going against your rules, right?"

Light appeared, enlarging into the outline of a human figure. An ice cold voice sounded out, "If you act recklessly, I will suppress you!"

Woodchopper Fu curled his lips, disdain in his eyes. He clearly didn't want to argue with an ice-cold array formation which couldn't change at all. "Alright, alright, I promise I won't cause trouble. You can rest assured!"

The human figure didn't respond. The light instantly converged into a single mote of light that disappeared.

Woodchopper Fu sighed. "A mere array formation actually dares to warn me...hah, I'm tired of living!" He turned around, and although he didn't speed up, his pace clearly changed. After several steps he vanished deep into the alley.

A moment later, Woodchopper Fu appeared in the great square outside the Dao Arena. He looked up at the giant tablet radiating light in the night and his pupils shrank with a hint of fear.

"Dao Arena..." He muttered to himself, sighing. "I can't mess with them! I can only wait outside. That boy can't hide in there forever...hah, I'm really tired of living!"

With a slight movement, he used the old hatchet in his hands and slashed out once. A crack appeared in space and Woodchopper Fu stepped inside.

...

Qin Yu woke up early in the morning. After a night of cultivation, numerous sparks flashed in his eyes. His understanding of the path of metal was reaching its final crescendo. There was a trace of awareness in his heart and he knew that he could only rely on himself for what followed. If he could gain further insight then he could enter large success of the metal path, but if he didn't he could be stuck there for ten years or even 100 years.

He let out a light breath and left the training chamber, headed straight to Ning Liang's room. The banquet would begin tonight and he would need to deal with the investigation from the Immortal Sect. He had to maintain his vigilance and couldn't underestimate them at all.

So after he sent Kang Mingqiao off yesterday, he had told the attendant to inform Ning Liang that the treatment would begin two hours earlier today. This was so he would have extra time to recover.

"Greetings, Grand Authority Ning!" The three maids respectfully bowed, their voices full of awe.

Qin Yu waved his hand. "There is no need to be so courteous. Is Miss Ning prepared?"

A maid said, "The miss has been waiting for Grand Authority Ning's arrival."

Qin Yu nodded and then pushed open the door and entered. Ning Liang stood not too far away. She bowed, "Greetings, Grand Authority Ning!"

Ninth-ranked on the Ancient Perishment Decree...whenever she thought of this, she felt that this man in front of her was like a passing cloud in the sky; someone she could only look at but never reach. But, Ning Qin always treated her warmly. Even after his honored status was revealed, his attitude towards her hadn't changed and he had even worked harder on her treatment.

This caused her to feel some hope and anticipation in the depths of her heart.

Qin Yu smiled. "Miss Ning, in perhaps another ten days, your body's cold poison will be fully dispelled. You might even be able to turn misfortune into a blessing and use this cold poison to your advantage." He waved a hand. "Alright, let's begin today's treatment."

Every time the poison was dispelled, it would be discharged from her body through her sweat, causing her clothes to paste closely to her skin. So during treatment, Ning Liang would lie down on the bed with a quilt covering her body.

She took off her shoes and lay down on the bed. Qin Yu sat down near the front. After examining her situation as usual and determining that there was nothing wrong, he proceeded.

The sun began to set. When it hung near the horizon, Qin Yu opened his eyes and let out a breath. "It's done."

Ning Liang untensed. Her complexion was pale as she gasped deeply for breath. "I've exhausted Grand Authority Ning." She could feel that as the cold poison in her body was reduced, it became even more difficult to remove. Doing so required one to consume more of their mind and strength.

Qin Yu stood up. "Rest well. I will return tomorrow."

Ning Liang suddenly said, "Grand Authority Ning, I hear that you are inviting all sides to come today. I hope everything goes well for you!"

Qin Yu smiled, nodded, and left.

He returned to his room first. He meditated and started to restore his losses. Once he reached his peak condition, he washed himself, constantly thinking about what was to come and making sure that he wouldn't make a careless mistake.

Standing in front of the mirror surface, Qin Yu's thoughts moved. He restrained his aura, but soon it was sent back out. On the surface it didn't seem that his aura had changed, but if one looked carefully, they would discover that the contents were completely different. After fusing with Grandmaster Yao's soul, changing his aura wasn't difficult at all.

Some people from the Dao Arena had already been waiting for Qin Yu to appear. When he did, they bowed and said, "Greetings, Lord Ning Qin." Even if they all knew that the name Ning Qin was fake, as long as Qin Yu didn't toss it away on his own initiative, they would pretend that they didn't know.

"Let's go." Qin Yu lightly said.

The several Dao Arena cultivators guided the way. Each of them had a solemn expression, but they were puzzled inwardly. Although they knew that the Ancient Perishment Decree was a remarkable achievement, with the Arena Steward's status, he could stand as an equal to any nearby overlords. Did he need to be so cautious?



Of course, although they were puzzled, they wouldn't reveal this nor would they speak about it. Because if one couldn't accomplish these two simple things, they simply would never have had the chance to become Arena Steward Kang's close subordinate.

Soon, the banquet hall appeared in sight. From far away it was brilliantly illuminated, a wondrous sight of beauty. Although the many powerful auras within were restrained, when they interwove together it was still a terrifying might that soared into the heavens.

There was a substance to this invisible aura. All of the wind, snow, and clouds were shaken apart and scattered!

While heavy snow still fluttered down in the Four Seasons City outside, the skies above the banquet hall were clear, with the visible moon hanging high in the night. The bright moonlight fell to the world, gently sprinkling across the earth.

Qin Yu took a deep breath. He composed himself one last time and then stepped into the moonlight.

Kang Mingqiao's eyes flashed with surprise but he immediately restrained himself. He said in a loud voice, "Everyone, the main star of tonight has arrived!"

Shua –

Countless looks gathered towards the entrance to the hall!