

Refining 481

Chapter 481A – Your Heart Is Too Black

The black dot at the peak of the Sealed Pagoda had vanished and Yao Bin hadn't emerged. The several people standing in the small square were well aware of what this represented.

The Chief Elder let out a long breath of relief. Then he coldly sneered inwardly. So what if you had some minor skills? In the end you just ruined your own life.

You want to leap into the skies with a single bound and become the master of the Myriad Poison Sect? Maybe you should calculate your own worth and determine whether or not you have the life to do so!

Of course, all of these thoughts had to be secretly hidden in his heart and he couldn't allow the Sect Master or anyone else to find out about them, otherwise he would be marked down for the future.

The atmosphere was dignified. Everyone was similar to the Chief Elder. No matter what actual thoughts they had in their hearts, they all had an incomparably solemn expression, as if they were contemplating the meaning of life.

After all, for these people to have been able to obtain their current status in the Black Demon Sect, none of them were idiots.

Tie Qianqiu gently sighed, feeling some regret, some loss, and also some joy. "In all these tens of thousands of years, Yao Bin was the person most likely to obtain the approval of the Sealed Pagoda."

The Chief Elder bowed. "But in the end he failed." He hesitated for a moment and said, "Sect Master, Yao Bin has died, so how do we handle the matters of the Feng Family?"

Tie Qianqiu remained expressionless. "Inform the Feng Family that the one who killed Feng Changjing has died." He turned and walked away, his steps much heavier than before. But, these heavy steps had nothing to do with Qin Yu's death. Just like the Sect Master had said, Yao Bin had died, so what could be done about the hidden dangers within his body?

The Chief Elder waited a long time after the Sect Master left before looking back up. Then, as if by prior agreement, everyone glanced towards the Sealed Pagoda. He lightly humphed. If you dare to covet my sect's most precious treasure, you deserve to die!

"I am still missing a courtyard. Hand over Yao Bin's residence to me."

"Well, I want the fourth monster hunting field."

The one who spoke was Tian Zhen. As the Sect Master's honorable master from his youth, while his cultivation wasn't amongst the peak of the Black Demon Sect, he actually had a startlingly high status. Everyone had to give face to the Sect Master, and in any case, Tian Zhen had made arrangements before to take over the fourth monster hunting field previously. It was just that he had never imagined Yao Bin would be so strong and he suffered a loss as a result. Now that Yao Bin had died, it was reasonable for him to take it back.

"Recently, a great number of people have granted Yao Bin generous gifts. Since he has been executed by the sect, his belongings should be confiscated too." The Chief Elder's words caused everyone's eyes to

shine brightly. The Chief Elder really knew what to do. With a single statement that Yao Bin had been executed by the sect, he had thoroughly nailed him with the final crime to ruin his status. With this, everything would be much easier to accomplish.

Everyone chatted amongst themselves and eventually came to a mutual understanding. Then, they all left with breezy smiles.

Now that Yao Bin had died, everyone would have meat to eat and soup to drink. He had really...died well!

...

Within the small world of the Sealed Pagoda.

Due to Qin Yu's 'reckless and wanton' actions, the small world had suffered damage. Because he was in such a great mood afterwards, he offered to help repair the small world's ruptured areas on his own initiative.

Regarding this, the Sealed Pagoda had tacitly chosen to accept this help. This was because it very much wanted to know just what methods Qin Yu had used to directly move the world rules. In the incomparably long life it had lived up until now, it had never encountered such a thing.

Qin Yu inspected the small world within the Sealed Pagoda and found that the situation was much worse than he had anticipated. This was probably because it had been suppressing the Spirit of Poison for tens of thousands of years and the only reason it had managed to maintain this current state without collapsing was because of how formidable and tough the Sealed Pagoda was.

When Qin Yu first obtained the sealed dimension ring and entered the small world that was located in the far-off nothingness, he had been helpless to do anything about its ruined state. But now that a part of him had become the Great Dao Body and because he could clearly see the rules due to other reasons, repairing this small world at least was an incomparably easy task.

This was because this small world's existence was established with the support of the rules. The foundation of the Sealed Pagoda's inner world was still intact and as long as he could bring the chaotic rules back into order, it could resume revolving. At that time, it could absorb heaven and earth spiritual energy and slowly repair itself.

There wasn't much need to describe the process. In short, the result was that the Sealed Pagoda looked at Qin Yu with an even more dignified gaze, as if wandering to itself in puzzlement: how did you suddenly become so epic?

"It should be fine now. The rest will take time to slowly repair. There are still important matters for me to attend to outside, so I won't stay for much longer."

"I will deliver master out."

Space twisted and Qin Yu's figure vanished from sight. In the next moment, he appeared in the small empty square. There was a smile on his face. The respectful attitude of the Sealed Pagoda left him satisfied. To be able to thoroughly subdue such a precious treasure, it would surely be useful in the future.

Of course, Qin Yu certainly wouldn't force the Sealed Pagoda to commit any sins that were dishonorable or evil. Otherwise, with its personality, it would rather die than live in dishonor.

Mm. He would have to pay attention to this in the future, lest a single careless mistake mess things up.

Qin Yu swept his eyes around, a look of astonishment on his face. Tie Qianqiu and the others had disappeared and hadn't waited for him to come back out. Could it be that they were really so confident he would fail?

Unfortunately, I fear the result will leave you disappointed!

He looked up at the dark night and slowly started heading back to his dwelling. Once news of his return spread out, Tie Qianqiu and the others would come over to contact him.

But tonight, the Black Demon Sect seemed a bit different than usual. The air was filled with restlessness. There were strong emotions in the air, those of tearless grief, clenched jaws, and indignation.

What happened?

Qin Yu was puzzled, but he soon obtained an answer. He found himself standing on the recently repaired and maintained grass field that had now been trampled over by others. He looked at the brightly lit palace not too far away and the crowd of cultivators from the Punishment Division that had encircled it.

And outside of that were an even greater number of Black Demon Sect cultivators hovering around the edges. Many of them had pale faces and their bodies were swaying back and forth.

"I knew it! I knew that surname Yao wouldn't have a good ending! You didn't listen to me and now look what happened! It was with great difficulty that we managed to get a little piece of meat past our lips but then we had to spit it back out and repay three times the amount just to obtain Grandmaster Yao's favor...you bastard!" From not too far away in the shadows, there were loud shouts that came from between clenched teeth.

This voice immediately aroused a sympathetic response. Many people started to bitterly recount their own grievances.

"This morning I just managed to gather enough presents and I sent them over with a smiling face, and look what happened now?"

"Bastard, give me back my gift! That is ten years of my savings!"

"Who dares to think they are more miserable than me? In order to obtain that surname Yao's favor, I borrowed spirit stones to give as a present. Before I even made it out, the people from the Punishment Division had already arrived. If it weren't for the fact that I have some good friends within the Punishment Division, they would already have considered me as one of that surname Yao's people and captured me!" A cultivator said with an expression that seemed as if he was about to burst into tears.

Needless to say, these were all Black Demon Sect cultivators who had profited from Qin Yu disappearing before, and then upon seeing that the situation was worsening when he returned, had decided to try and remedy it.

Qin Yu had a strange complexion. Something seemed to have gone wrong somewhere. Right now, shouldn't everyone within the Black Demon Sect be respectfully serving him? He glanced around and saw the clearly listless and depressed Tuba and Tutou. A cloudy color flashed in his eyes.

It seemed that his fingers would start to cramp soon. As for why his fingers would cramp, it was because he would be receiving many spirit stones.

He had just peeled off a thick layer of skin from the Black Demon Sect, but now another opportunity had presented itself. Qin Yu thought that if he didn't give it a bit more effort this time, he really would be insulting their intelligence.

It was good that things had just started. There was no need for anything to truly happen yet, because with Qin Yu's current status, as long as he could find an opening he would be able to put on an act to his heart's content. He took several steps forwards. Then, after thinking about it a little bit more, he turned back around and walked into the shadows. He patted the back of the person who was immersed in grief and sobbing uncontrollably.

"What do you want? I don't have any spirit stones anymore, I am just a poor foolish wretch!"

"Fellow daoist, there is no need to be sad. The gifts you delivered will surely be useful." These words sounded comforting, but in this current situation, it was no different from a slap in the face. It was simply unbearable!

Chapter 481B – Your Heart Is Too Black

The Black Demon Sect cultivator clenched his jaws. He spun around, wanting to see which person dared to crack such a joke and spit on him until he died. But when he looked up and saw who it was, he froze in place.

Although the light was dim, cultivators had very good eyesight. He could clearly see the face of the young man standing behind him in the shadows. It was...

Wasn't it said that Grandmaster Yao had already been sentenced to death and executed?

Holy hell, are you playing with me!?

He thought about how all of his complaints and grievances had been heard. Then, he also recalled the rumors about how this Grandmaster Yao was ruthless and cruel and took revenge for even the smallest of slights. Suddenly, his emotions violently tumbled. This Black Demon Sect cultivator couldn't even say a word in response before his eyes rolled back into his head and he fainted.

"Ahh! He was overcome with sorrow!"

"I also want to faint. If I did, I could solve a thousand worries!"

"All of my savings are gone and it caused me to want to die. This surname Yao is a harm to society!"

Qin Yu had already turned around and walked towards the bright lights up ahead. Many Black Demon Sect cultivators in front of him felt themselves being brutally shoved to the side. They staggered backwards, enraged. Then spun around, wanting to see who it was, but when they did they froze like chickens that had their necks held, no longer able to utter a single sound.

A Black Demon Sect cultivator among them clearly didn't understand the situation. He opened his mouth and wanted to shout out some curses, but before he could say anything he was kicked down by others.

Bastard, if you want to die, then go die alone and don't drag us down with you!

The Punishment Division cultivators soon realized that something was happening. Two of them walked forwards with gloomy expressions. They wanted to see just who had the courage to cause trouble right now.

But before they could even approach, a great strength blasted forwards. With two loud thumping sounds, the two cultivators were sent flying backwards where they smashed craters open in the ground.

"How dare you..." Just as the leader of the Punishment Division cultivators spoke up, he suddenly choked on his words. His face paled and a cold sweat started to drip down his forehead.

Others might not know the truth, but those of the Punishment Division did. This surname Yao hadn't been executed at all. Rather, he had died in the Sealed Pagoda during the master recognition trial...

Now, could someone tell me where this rumor came from?

"This...low...lowly one greets...Grandmaster Yao..."

In the dark of night, beneath the lights, Qin Yu's face had no expression. It was so cold that it frightened anyone who saw him.

Of course, a great portion of this was because he was putting on an act. However, in order to open his mouth even wider later to obtain more treasures, this performance was naturally necessary to set the mood.

Spirit stones, right? There was no one that disliked having too many. In particular, after experiencing the events of Four Seasons City's auction hall, his interest in spirit stones was even greater than before.

"Grandmaster!"

Tuba and Tutou were moved to excitement. Their eyes coldly swept around, glaring at everyone with arrogant expressions as if saying: You bunch of idiots, I already knew this would happen, now it's time for you all to suffer some bad luck!

How could any of you possibly imagine His Highness' methods? If he didn't scrape up at least three layers of the Black Demon Sect's wealth this time, they would change their name!

These two simple and honest-looking titans just happened to share the same idea as Qin Yu. It could be said that the servants matched the master.

Qin Yu nodded, "Were you wronged?"

Tuba's eyes turned and he quickly fell to his knees. He reared his head back and shouted in sorrow and despair, "Grandmaster, this subordinate was incompetent and useless. The billion spirit stones you gave me to hold, the million spirit plants, and even the tribe's supreme treasure, all of it was taken away by others!"

Tutou's reaction was a tad slower but he soon understood what he needed to do. "All of the spirit stones for grandmaster's daily expenses that were left with me, as well as all of the precious monster beast blood, was stolen away!"

The entire field fell deathly silent. Their eyes widened with shock and disbelief.

Could someone do this and still be considered human?

What a nonsense billion spirit stones, million spirit plants, and supreme tribal treasure...the last time they had divided things there had been nothing left behind, so where would that even come from?

This was obviously blackmail!

But even though everyone understood this, no one dared to say anything. When they looked at the palace, sorrow and grief colored their eyes. They thought, what person was blind enough to take advantage at this moment? This time they really would all be left starving!

A bit of surprise appeared in the depths of Qin Yu's eyes. When Tuba and Tutou were in the Infinite Realm, they never had such crafty thoughts. It was clear that the outside world had changed them and trained them to understand how people interacted with each other.

Not bad, not bad!

He tossed the two a secret appreciative glance. Then, with a cold and iron-clad face, every word that came from his lips was filled with a chilling cold. "Speak. Just who said you could come here?"

The Punishment Division cultivator trembled. "This...this..."

Qin Yu's eyes were cold. "I will only ask once. If you don't want to speak, then there is no need to answer!"

"It was Elder Wei!"

The Punishment Division cultivator screamed out loud. As he said this, he suddenly stiffened. While he had only been following orders, now that he had leaked this information, it would be difficult not to suffer retaliation in the future.

His entire life was done for!

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. Finally, from Yao Bin's memories, he recalled who this Elder Wei was. He was a great figure who was the fourth-ranked Elder in the sect.

Good. Only someone of a sufficiently high status could cause a large enough splash.

"Wei Changfeng, come out!" Qin Yu faced the depths of the Black Demon Sect, took a deep breath, and roared out loud. His voice was like a billowing clap of thunder that rang throughout the heavens and earth, roaring forwards. In an instant, it resonated throughout the entire Black Demon Sect. Countless cultivators were left shocked. They thought, who was it that was so disrespectful that they dared shout out the Fourth Elder's given name?

But at the same time, there were also many people who understood this was Qin Yu upon hearing his voice.

“This is impossible!” The Chief Elder violently stood up, disbelief etched across his face. “He...he should have died already!” The disappearance of the black spot on the Sealed Pagoda represented the death of the cultivator within. This was a conclusion drawn from the deaths of 137 Black Demon Sect cultivators.

But now, it was clear that this conclusion was utterly wrong.

If Yao Bin hadn't died, did this mean he had completed the master recognition process for the Sealed Pagoda? The Chief Elder's mind began to ring and buzz as if a pack of wild horses were running circles in his thoughts. However, though his thoughts were in chaos, people like him had grown wise with age and they were skilled in hiding their thoughts. He took a deep breath and quickly suppressed his shaking heart.

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He took a step out and vanished from sight.

But, there was someone who was even faster than him.

Tie Qianqiu looked at Qin Yu's expressionless face and his own face was filled with wonder, excitement, joy, surprise, consternation...it was actually hard to believe that so many emotions could appear on a person's face at once.

“Grandmaster Yao, it's wonderful that you are okay! Today, I have been worrying over you for a long time!” As Tie Qianqiu spoke, he walked over, a concerned expression on his face.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. “I thank Sect Master for worrying about me.”

Tie Qianqiu started to speak but hesitated. Qin Yu could only pretend that he didn't see it. He looked over at the Chief Elder who couldn't hide the look of shock on his face. “It seems that the Chief Elder is disappointed that I am still alive.”

The Chief Elder squeezed out a smile. “It wasn't that, I was just too happy that you came back...”

This was clearly shock!

But now, before clarifying Qin Yu's current situation, he really didn't dare to make any cold and snide comments like he did before.

If there was even the smallest possibility of that happening...this boy, he could really soar into the heavens!

One after another, experts of the Black Demon Sect started to arrive. As they saw Qin Yu, all of them without exception had their eyes pop open as if they saw a ghost.

Tian Zhen was one of them. His heart trembled and he quickly pulled out his handphone, secretly sending a message.

The fourth monster hunting field? What's that? I have absolutely no relation to that. As for why my men are over there today?

How ridiculous, I was obviously sending people over to help guard Grandmaster Yao's monster hunting field, let some people try and take advantage of it while the grandmaster is gone!

Yes, that was it!

Some other old fellows, who had eaten so much today that their mouths were still dripping oil, suddenly blanched. As they felt deep regret, they also started to handle their own affairs in a similar manner.

They hurried to separate themselves. Even if they couldn't pretend they had no involvement, they had to reduce it to the smallest amount possible. If things didn't work out, they could toss out a scapegoat and allow them to deal with it themselves.

It was better to hide than to directly come into conflict with Yao Bin. In particular, they had no idea what the current situation was right now!

It was never wrong to be careful.

Seeing more and more people arrive, the original defendant Elder Wei still hid like a turtle and blatantly refused to make an appearance.

Qin Yu was expressionless. A dangerous glint flashed in his eyes. "Does Elder Wei wish for me to send a personal invitation?"

The Chief Elder coughed. He certainly knew what the situation was and why Wei Changfeng wasn't making an appearance. "Grandmaster Yao, is there some misunderstanding today? Elder Wei is currently in seclusion. If there is any problem, you can discuss it with me."

The meaning behind this was 'tell me what you want and I will help you as much as I can.'

Qin Yu seemed to smile. "Is Chief Elder going to burden the responsibility for Elder Wei?"

The Chief Elder wanted to say yes. After all, Wei Changfeng was one of his people and he was normally hard-working and efficient. This was just a palace, so would Grandmaster Yao still dare to open his mouth wide like a lion? But looking at Qin Yu's expression, he felt his heart begin to race. He glanced over at several nearby Black Demon Cultivators who were wildly trying to signal to him with their eyes. The Chief Elder secretly thought that he had avoided danger. This brat really liked to play tricks!

"Cough cough...perhaps Grandmaster Yao should state your requests first."

Qin Yu lightly said. "Simple. Double the losses I experienced and I will consider this over."

The Chief Elder tentatively said, "What did Grandmaster Yao lose?"

Qin Yu waved his hand. Tuba and Tutou walked over, their steps shaking the ground. They repeated exactly what they said moments ago.

Not only was the Chief Elder frozen, but Tie Qianqiu and the other high level figures of the Black Demon Sect were left bewildered. This boy's heart was far too black!

Chapter 482 – Grandmaster, There Are Very Important Things We Forgot To Mention

"What nonsense!" With an angry roar that resounded throughout the world, Wei Changfeng who had been hiding like a turtle could no longer care about trying to avoid the public eye. He suddenly appeared in front of everyone, panting breathlessly.

Ridiculous, if he didn't come out now to justify himself, everyone would simply default to what was said as being the truth. If that happened, he would be stained and there would be no way to wipe this injustice from himself; there would be no other path to take.

Surname Yao, I only took one of your palaces, so do you need to be so ruthless?

Thinking of this, the originally disturbed Wei Changfeng glowered at Qin Yu, a look of deep hatred and bitter suffering in his eyes.

Qin Yu was expressionless. "Elder Wei occupied my palace, so shouldn't it be me who is angered to the extreme?"

Wei Changfeng's face stiffened. A few words had completely punctured his attempt to occupy the advantage in this argument.

The Chief Elder said, "Grandmaster Yao, there must be some misunderstanding here. But no matter what it was, it was Elder Wei who was wrong first, so compensating you is a matter of course..."

Qin Yu nodded. "Chief Elder also believes that I should be compensated. Then, I ask Elder Wei to give back double what he took."

The interrupted Chief Elder was so vexed that his field of vision flashed black for a moment. This surname Yao simply didn't play with common sense. He originally changed the conversation because he wanted Qin Yu to state a reasonable price.

No one here was an idiot. If he really opened his mouth as wide as the skies, did he truly think he would win?

Wei Changfeng clenched his jaws. "Grandmaster Yao, I am willing to pay a million spirit stones as a means of apology, but that is all I can do!" All he had done was occupy the palace; he hadn't even lived in it yet! In the eyes of Elder Wei, compensating a million spirit stones already caused his heart, liver, kidney, and lungs to all hurt.

Qin Yu remained expressionless. "Wei Changfeng, are you wishing to swallow all my wealth and treasures?"

"Grandmaster Yao, you are just pushing things too far!"

The scene fell deathly silent. Qin Yu hesitated, as if he found it hard to speak.

The Chief Elder's eyes brightened. If Yao Bin had truly obtained the approval of the Sealed Pagoda and directly summoned it, who would dare speak out against him again?

But what if he hadn't succeeded?

As this thought appeared, it recklessly grew in his heart.

"Yes, that must be it. Although I have no idea how this surname Yao was fortunate enough to not die, he didn't manage to become the master of the Sealed Pagoda. The reason he acts so arrogantly today is just to frighten everyone within my Black Demon Sect. As long as Wei Changfeng feels dread and bows his head, no one will dare to stop him and he can join the Demon Ascension Gate!"

In order to join the Demon Ascension Gate, Qin Yu had attempted to have the Sealed Pagoda recognize him as its master. If he dared to do something so dangerous that had almost almost zero chance of survival, then what did he care about causing drama through some performance today?

Yao Bin was necessary to help the Sect Master relieve the hidden dangers in his body, and he had to do so willingly. So, even if his act was exposed it would at most be a loss of face; it wouldn't endanger his life at all.

He exchanged the possibility of losing face once for the possibility of earning a massive amount of wealth as well as joining the Demon Ascension Gate. This could be called a most wonderful business deal! Thinking of this, the Chief Elder was even more determined that Yao Bin was only putting on a play. However, he likely never imagined that Wei Changfeng would be so impossibly greedy. To make him pay such a terrifying compensation amount was a fate worse than death.

However, it was fortunate that Wei Changfeng was sufficiently greedy and willing to do anything for his spirit stones. If it were anyone else, then Yao Bin might have succeeded!

After determining that Qin Yu was only a paper tiger, the Chief Elder immediately calmed down. "Although a million spirit stones isn't much, Elder Wei hasn't harmed Grandmaster Yao's vital interests yet. You might as well accept it to prevent this matter from growing out of control."

There was a hidden meaning behind these words. Boy, you had best accept this offer and quit while you're ahead, otherwise you won't be able to get out of here unscathed!

Tie Qianqiu had a surprised expression. He never thought that the Chief Elder would have such guts.

The various powerhouses of the Black Demon Sect also looked at him with admiration.

But, everyone here had brains they could use. Their thoughts raced and they immediately smelled something suspicious; just what had the Chief Elder discovered? After looking at the situation again, their eyes began to shine. Yes, that was it, Yao Bin's current silence was his greatest flaw.

If he had enough hidden cards, would he remain silent? This wasn't consistent with a situation where he had been recognized as the master of the Sealed Pagoda. But in their minds, this was also reasonable. Over tens of thousands of years, the Black Demon Sect had buried 137 seniors within the Sealed Pagoda and hadn't managed to complete the trial. Could this trivial surname Yao have accomplished that in just a single day?

It seemed they overestimated him!

The atmosphere in the field suddenly changed. The awe in the eyes of the people dimmed a bit, replaced by cold sneers and annoyed mockery instead.

Surname Yao, you want to play with us and run us around in circles? You are truly fierce!

Wei Changfeng's spirits were revived. As he thought about how he had just pierced through the disguise of this paper tiger, he couldn't help but straighten himself.

"Yao Bin, accept the million spirit stones and I will let things go like this. Otherwise, you will be charged with recklessly stirring up trouble within the sect and harassing others. As a sect Elder, I will have no choice but to ask the Sect Master to severely punish you!"

The attacking and defending sides had been completely reversed.

All around, the dense crowd of Black Demon Sect cultivators revealed confused looks. It was clearly Grandmaster Yao who was angry and had opened his mouth like a lion to blackmail everyone, so how had the tide changed so suddenly? Where did Elder Wei's bravado come from? He was actually the one making threats now!

Qin Yu looked up. He swept his eyes over Wei Changfeng and lightly said, "Originally, because of my relations with the Black Demon Sect, I didn't want to cause too great a stir. If you obediently compensated me, then I would have pretended nothing happened. That would have been good for all parties involved. Unfortunately, it seems my good intentions have become water tossed into the river. Since everyone doesn't appreciate my kindness, why should I have to make things more awkward for myself?"

A sharp light flashed in his eyes, "Wei Changfeng, since you can't tell right from wrong, don't blame me for being cruel."

He lifted a hand and grasped forward at the void.

The scene was quiet and serene, without a single wave.

After being frightened for a moment, Elder Wei's face turned cold and cloudy. "Grandmaster Yao, it seems you are the only one here who cannot tell right from wrong!"

Qin Yu had a faint expression. "Is that so?"

Before his voice fell, the entire Black Demon Sect started to violently tremble. A loud earth-shaking rumble spread throughout the entire region.

Before everyone could recover from their shock and figure out what happened, a white light cut through the horizon and floated above Qin Yu's head.

It was a small white pagoda. It was clear and shimmering, as if carved from jade. A faint light sprinkled downwards in the dark, pure and warm.

But at this time, starting from Tie Qianqiu and the Chief Elder, everyone else who had the qualifications to know what happened today suddenly had rapidly changing complexions.

The proud and aggressive Wei Changfeng looked as if his neck had been grabbed by others. His eyes went so wide they nearly popped out of his head.

S-s-s-s-sealed Pagoda!

No one here was blind. Even if they were blind, this aura was unmistakable.

The Chief Elder felt as if his head had been struck with a stick. His ears buzzed, his mind tumbled, and his body swayed.

This...this...this was completely different from what he had determined. Was the script wrong? He clenched his teeth so hard that a little blood came out from between his lips. This surname Yao had

clearly been holding a massive trump card in his hands and as long as he took it out, no one would have tried to embarrass him. Did he find playing with them so entertaining?

Of course, whether this was because he found this amusing or not was an entirely separate matter. Right now, when the Chief Elder finally managed to gather himself, his first thought was that they had all jumped into a pit that Yao Bin had dug. And, the most aggrieved aspect of this was that they had leapt into this pit on their own initiative.

They were done for!

Originally, Qin Yu's demands had been wider than a lion's mouth. But now that their weakness was grasped by him, did he really plan on swallowing the entire heavens?

Tie Qianqiu shouted out, "Grandmaster Yao, there is always room for discussion! Don't be impulsive!"

Looking at the shining Sealed Pagoda, the Lord Sect Master had the sudden desire to choke the Chief Elder and Elder Wei to death.

You two bastards, if you want to die then don't drag my Black Demon Sect with you!

Tie Qianqiu was well aware of how terrifying the Sealed Pagoda was. It was only because of this that he felt a deep sense of fear in his heart. Although the possibility was small, if they accidentally enraged Yao Bin and he decided to open the Sealed Pagoda and release the poisons inside...then next year on this day, it would be the death anniversary of the Black Demon Sect!

Qin Yu narrowed his eyes and lightly said, "Sect Master, for all these years, I have never forgotten the life-saving graciousness that the Black Demon Sect granted me. But today there are people who don't even see me in their eyes. I can endure anything, but I cannot swallow such an insult. Do you think that I should counterattack right now?"

Tie Qianqiu cursed inside. It was clearly you that dug this pit, so why are you pretending to be a good person now? But he could only keep these words stuffed in his belly, not able to say a single one.

"Wei Changfeng, immediately apologize to Grandmaster Yao and pay back all the losses he suffered until he is satisfied. Otherwise, I cannot preserve your life!"

For the Black Demon Sect's survival, Elder Wei was tossed out without a second thought. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that he had been abandoned. If Qin Yu didn't give in, then Tie Qianqiu might take action to clean up the sect.

Wei Changfeng was startled. His complexion paled and his body shivered. The pain and despair in his eyes was so vivid that it made one burst into tears just looking at him.

For someone that felt incomparable love for spirit stones and loved even more to put them in their storage ring, handing them over was the most painful suffering that could be imagined.

In particular, Wei Changfeng not only had to hand back the piece that he had swallowed into his belly, but he feared he would also have to give away the entirety of his wealth and property! Elder Wei's heart had become completely chaotic, the pain so deep he almost fell unconscious.

Why me? Everyone divided the benefits together, but now that there has been an accident, how come it's only me who is suffering?

You can all forget about it!

Wei Changfeng cried out, "I want to expose others! I want to report them!"

The Chief Elder's heart shrank. He quietly cursed to himself that this was bad, but it was already too late to stop him.

The insane and crazed Elder Wei took a big bite from everyone. Because of his incomparably deep love for spirit stones, he clearly remembered how everything had been divided.

In the dark of night, beneath the illumination of lanterns, the Black Demon Sect experts who were called out all paled.

When Tian Zhen heard his own name being called, he fell down and almost vomited out a mouthful of blood.

The scene was so quiet that it was horrifying. All that was left over were the loud heaving gasps of Wei Changfeng. As he gave vent to his mood, the blood red color from his eyes slowly retreated and he began to compose himself.

Shit!

What did I do!?

Elder Wei paused for a moment and then looked all around. When he saw all the hate-filled glares that looked as if they wanted to skin him alive, he subconsciously trembled. But with things having come this far, there was no path to retreat. Now, it was everyone for themselves! Wei Changfeng clenched his teeth and said, "Grandmaster Yao, all of your belongings were divided up by all of us. Since you want compensation, we should all join in together!"

Qin Yu really wanted to walk over and vigorously shake his head, praising, "What a good comrade!"

As he thought, there were really many good people in this world. He originally just wanted to find someone and blackmail them so that all the people in the Black Demon Sect contributed separately.

But now there was no need to make things so troublesome. Everyone had a share so there was no need to hurry. None of them could escape.

However, since there were so many people, did the amount that he stated before seem a bit too small?

He glanced over to the side. Tuba and Tutou took a deep breath and immediately cried out in unison. "Grandmaster, there are still some very important things we forgot to mention!"

Chapter 483 – The Demon Ascension Gate Opens

A farcical night of acting passed. In the end, Tie Qianqiu had to forcefully suppress all the high-level experts of the Black Demon Sect, forcing them to swallow their teeth and pay the stated compensation. After Qin Yu obtained compensation from everyone, he received an amount equivalent to 3 billion spirit

stones. Even when placed within the entirety of the Land of Divinity and Demons, such a massive blackmail amount was rarely seen.

The brief storm soon faded from sight. Most of the Black Demon Sect's cultivators didn't know that they had made a quick round trip to death's door.

Of course, if Tie Qianqiu was 'thickheaded and relentless', Qin Yu definitely wouldn't have been willing to push things to a point where they grew out of control. He had the Sealed Pagoda and also a part of the Great Dao Body. He was much stronger than he was before, but if he wanted to rely on that to completely suppress Tie Qianqiu, it was just too optimistic of him.

In short, this could just barely be called a happy situation for the two of them.

"Grandmaster Yao, please." Tie Qianqiu gestured at an empty seat.

Sitting down across from him, Qin Yu lifted a teacup. He took a sip and voiced praise. "Sect Master's spirit tea is spectacular."

Tie Qianqiu said, "If grandmaster favors this tea, I can arrange to have some sent to you."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together, "I must thank Sect Master then."

The two of them sat across from each other in Tie Qianqiu's dwelling, drinking tea. The environment was quiet and serene. The two didn't speak much, but spending this time together already indicated that he acknowledged Qin Yu's current status.

Only like this could they discuss the following matters.

The pot of tea was refilled four times. When the color of the tea began to fade and the flavor became slightly more distant, Tie Qianqiu poured a cup of tea for Qin Yu and said, "I can act as a guarantor for Grandmaster Yao to directly join the Demon Ascension Gate. There will be no need for you to undergo any troublesome selection processes. Of course, with grandmaster's skills, passing such tests would have been easy."

Qin Yu sighed inwardly. When he entered the Black Demon Sect, what he wanted was to gain the qualifications to enter the Demon Ascension Gate, join the Demonic Path, and then gain the ability to contend with the Immortal Sect. In the process of accomplishing this goal, he had gone through several twists and turns and stirred up a great deal of trouble. Luckily, his several years of work weren't for nothing; he had finally achieved his goal.

"I thank Sect Master for being so forgiving and open-minded. I owe the Black Demon Sect a life-saving graciousness, and I will always remember that. In the future if there is need for any help, I will do my best to not decline." Of course, these were just polite opening words; the real substance was yet to come. "After obtaining the approval of the Sealed Pagoda, I obtained some harvests. Even if I am not here, I can still make an effort to help Sect Master relieve your hidden dangers."

Tie Qianqiu's eyes widened. "Mister Yao, are you speaking seriously?"

Qin Yu's thoughts turned. Space rippled and a handsome young man with a faintly evil charm appeared. However, this young man looked around, stunned, ruining his air of elegance.

“Sect Master, perhaps this person can help you.”

Tie Qianqiu furrowed his eyebrows. This youth in front of him had a strange and cold aura and gave off a feeling of ill intent. Moreover, his face was pale and he seemed extremely weak.

Qin Yu smiled. “Poison Spirit, demonstrate your abilities to the Sect Master.”

This youth was the Spirit of Poison that had been imprisoned in the Sealed Pagoda for tens of thousands of years. Now that he was thrust into the Land of Divinity and Demons, he could feel the breath of a different world. Beneath his stiff expression, he was overwhelmed with surging emotions.

This was the freedom he had yearned for even in his dreams? He never imagined that not only would he survive disaster but could even make it to the outside world. Although he was still filled with enmity towards Qin Yu, he couldn’t help but feel gratitude towards him right now.

Hearing Qin Yu’s words, the Spirit of Poison swept a faint and indifferent gaze over Tie Qianqiu. He lifted a finger and a faint shroud of light covered him. Traces of black gas immediately appeared, entering his body through his fingertip.

Tie Qianqiu stiffened. As the Sect Master of one of the Demonic Path’s branches, he possessed a formidable cultivation and could immediately see that this black gas was formed from the poisons that existed within the world.

Who was this person? They could actually easily gather these poisons and directly swallow them?

It had to be known that the poison of the world was invisible and intangible. It wouldn’t cause any harm to living beings, but once sufficient amounts gathered, it would often begin to possess terrifying poisonous effects.

The Black Demon Sect had the Sealed Pagoda, and the Sealed Pagoda was the inheritance treasure of the Myriad Poison Sect. As the Sect Master, Tie Qianqiu had a certain knowledge of the path of poisons.

Qin Yu smiled. “The Poison Spirit is a puppet from the Sealed Pagoda and has a portion of the Sealed Pagoda’s strength. It has the ability to restrain the vast majority of poison and poisoning things in this world.”

The Myriad Poison Sect had been destroyed tens of thousands of years ago. As for what was inside the Sealed Pagoda, only Qin Yu knew. Even if he randomly concocted some lies about it, he didn’t fear anyone seeing through him.

Tie Qianqiu smiled brightly. “Then, I must thank Mister Yao for the help!”

Qin Yu coldly sneered inwardly. If I didn’t give you a recovery plan, would you have really let me go so easily? This is merely an exchange of mutual benefits.

Of course, it was fine as long as he understood these thoughts; there was no need to speak them out loud. In any case, Qin Yu would still be requiring Tie Qianqiu’s help.

“Sect Master, the Sealed Pagoda involves significant events. For the time being, I wouldn’t like anyone to know that I have obtained its approval.”

Tie Qianqiu revealed an awkward expression. "I would be glad to help you, but the matter of the Sealed Pagoda is not an absolute secret within the Demonic Path. Once it disappears others will soon discover this. It will be difficult to conceal."

Qin Yu said, "I know. That's why I have decided to not take away the Sealed Pagoda for the time being."

Tie Qianqiu was startled. Qin Yu had imperiled his life and used up a tremendous amount of effort to obtain this treasure, but he decided not to take it away with him? Are you feeling sick right now? Looking at Qin Yu's calm expression, he soon composed himself. The Sealed Pagoda had been kept in the Black Demon Sect for tens of thousands of years and no one had been able to subdue it. And now that it had now recognized someone as its master, it was clear Yao Bin was fearless!

A bit of melancholy appeared in Tie Qianqiu's heart, but there was even more restlessness. When the Sealed Pagoda hadn't yet recognized someone as master, even though it was a deeply slumbering volcano that could go off at any time, no one had cared too much about this because they had become accustomed to it. But now, it was Qin Yu's treasure. Who knew if the Sealed Pagoda would be sleeping and sleeping and then decide to erupt someday?

But he had already spoken words just now. If he wanted to refuse, he really had no idea how to go about it. A hesitant look crossed his face.

Qin Yu smiled. "Sect Master, please rest assured. When I participate in the Demon Ascension Gate I will definitely join the Demonic Path. I will have no reason to be enemies with the Black Demon Sect. Stepping back 10,000 steps, even if I really were to do something, does Sect Master believe that I could take care of myself?"

These words were extremely sensible. In addition, Tie Qianqiu also required Qin Yu's help right now. So, he took a deep breath and said, "Very well! I guarantee that I will not reveal any information related to matters of the Sealed Pagoda."

Speaking with intelligent people was always this simple.

Qin Yu knew that the Sealed Pagoda was a good treasure and that keeping it by his side would be useful. But, he didn't want to create too many enemies for himself before he established himself in the Demonic Path.

The Myriad Poison Sect had been destroyed tens of thousands of years ago and all of the sect's benefits had been clearly carved up by the other branches of the Demonic Path. Once it was revealed to others that Qin Yu had obtained the approval of the Sealed Pagoda, then regardless of whether he planned to reconstruct the Myriad Poison Sect, he would become a thorn in the side of all the other Demonic Path branch sects.

A piece of meat that just passed through a person's lips could be spit back out. But, what if that piece of meat was already swallowed down and had been digested, becoming a part of that person? Would that person cut off their own flesh as repayment? This was clearly impossible.

The Sealed Pagoda was a hidden card. After Qin Yu obtained a certain status within the Demonic Path, taking this card out might have an unexpected effect. But to expose himself now was something that could only bring a hundred harms and zero advantages.

Tie Qianqiu also guessed Qin Yu's scruples. Although he was a bit reluctant to make this promise, the truth was that he felt relieved. Since Qin Yu needed him to keep a secret, then this puppet called the Poison Spirit could be trusted.

In this exchange, both sides had their own harvests. Soon after, Tie Qianqiu cupped his hands together and left, his figure vanishing in the pitch black night just before the dawn. Qin Yu remained seated and drank another cup of tea. "You know the situation. Help Tie Qianqiu relieve his hidden dangers, but don't allow him to immediately recover. Can you do that?"

The Spirit of Poison bowed. "Master, rest assured that I will do everything appropriately."

There was confidence in his calm and indifferent words.

Qin Yu didn't doubt him. Following the Spirit of Poison's eyes, he looked towards the horizon where a faint trace of white began to appear.

Thinking for a moment, Qin Yu decided not to say anything else. He sat quietly, waiting together for dawn to arrive.

The heavens grew increasingly bright. The eastern skies were like a sea of burning fire. Crimson color dyed half the sky.

Suddenly, a great sun rose up from the ground. It was like a sovereign king of the world, emitting endless heat and light, looking down upon the countless trillions of lives below it.

The Spirit of Poison gently trembled. He stared at the rising sun with a look of pure obsession and infatuation. At this moment, the only things Qin Yu could see on his face were joy and touched affection.

Indeed, all life in this world loved the light. Even something like the Spirit of Poison, an existence whose sole purpose from birth was to destroy and slaughter everything, couldn't rid himself of this desire.

Qin Yu suddenly thought back to the little blue lamp that could only emit light at night. Although it had become the incarnation of a great sun now, in essence it still seemed diametrically opposed to the light.

What did this mean?

As he fell into contemplation, time quickly passed. When he was roused by the Spirit of Poison, Qin Yu could clearly see the gratitude in his eyes.

"Thank you, master, for giving me the opportunity to bathe in the sunlight. I have no more regrets. I can return now."

Qin Yu waved his hand. "I'm not ready to put you back in the Sealed Pagoda's small world."

The Spirit of Poison's head fiercely lifted up, his eyes shaking.

Qin Yu chuckled. "What, is that so hard to believe?" He stood up and lightly said, "To others, you might be the representation of terror and destruction. But to me, you represent no threat at all. My words might seem harsh and direct, but you should know I am only stating facts. Since I do not fear you, why should I imprison you?"

The Spirit of Poison's face darkened but he had no energy to argue back. Moreover, he didn't have any reason to reject this at all.

A life where he could bathe beneath the sunlight every day...he really looked forward to it!

...

Ten days later, the magnificent ceremony of the Demonic Path's once in a century Demon Ascension Gate finally opened. Qin Yu and some other chosen young elites from the Black Demon Sect gathered together in a great hall.

The one managing today's transmission was the Chief Elder. But, he was clearly in low spirits and he obviously didn't want to see a certain person's face which he felt deep loathing towards. So, after giving a few simple reminders, he announced the beginning of the transmission.

Within the great hall, the array formation began to activate. Black runes were marked on the black ground. As they revolved, they gave off a mysterious feeling.

Qin Yu followed everyone into the transmission array. With a loud hum, the black runes that formed the transmission array suddenly lit up. Space twisted and everyone vanished from sight.

The Chief Elder let out a long breath of relief. He suddenly felt that this was something extremely shameful for him, but he also had to admit that right now, Yao Bin wasn't someone he had the qualifications to shake.

"You bastard, if you are going to leave then never return! I hope you fall into a pit and run out of luck!"

Chapter 484A – Paying Respects to the Demon Statue

The once in a century Demon Ascension Gate was a grand ceremony for the Demonic Path to absorb some fresh new blood. It was their way of attracting the most talented individuals in the world, thus this event attracted attention from everyone who followed the demonic path. Heavenly Demon City was responsible for hosting it. Because of this, the entire city was placed under martial law. Without permission, no one could leave or enter. This was to prevent any possible incidents from occurring at the grand ceremony.

12 transmission arrays were scattered around a square. Outside of each transmission array, there were Demonic Path cultivators standing and waiting in silence. They did not speak a single word and the atmosphere around them was cold and sharp. It made them seem as if they were beasts in human form, ready to devour anyone that approached them.

Suddenly, in the southeast corner of the square, a transmission array began to light up. The runes shimmered and space violently shook as ripples appeared.

A group of cultivators slowly emerged from the spatial ripples.

Shua –

Qin Yu opened his eyes. When he felt the spatial fluctuations around him rapidly fading, he knew that the transmission was about to come to an end.

As expected, after several breaths of time the kaleidoscope of colors around him began to fade away and the surrounding environment became increasingly clear.

“The Black Demon Sect has 257 participants joining the Demon Ascension Gate. Count them!”

A loud shout entered Qin Yu’s ears, causing his heart to skip a beat. This voice was a little hoarse but it wasn’t too difficult to hear. There wasn’t any excess strength within it, but it actually gave off a horrifying feeling.

Just listening to this voice, one felt as if they fell into an asura hell. A rich smell of blood flooded the senses, causing several people to almost vomit.

At the side, the Black Demon Sect cultivators chosen to enter the Demon Ascension Gate all had pallid complexions. Shock and fear was written in their faces.

This Demonic Path cultivator was terrifyingly strong!

In particular, there was a dense slaughter energy to this voice, one so rich that it almost substantialized. It was unknown just how many people this person had killed to accomplish this.

“Senior-apprentice brother, the count is correct.”

“Bring them away.”

The Black Demon Sect people walked out of the transmission array. It was only then that Qin Yu saw the Demonic Path cultivator who had an incredible amount of slaughter energy around him. This person was slender and his complexion was especially pale, as if he had a loss of blood energy. He gave off a weak and feeble feeling, completely different from what everyone had imagined.

What was particularly strange was that this person’s aura was volatile and uncertain. He clearly seemed as if he had just entered the Blue Sea realm, but he actually gave off an unfathomable feeling.

Several breaths of relief came from the Black Demon Sect cultivators who emerged from the array formation. When they discovered that he only had an initial Blue Sea realm cultivation, they relaxed a bit and became much calmer.

Qin Yu secretly shook his head. These Black Demon Sect cultivators underestimated this person far too much. If they were to fight, even if all of them gathered together, they wouldn’t be this person’s match.

This was truly worthy of the Demonic Path. In the Land of Divinity and Demons, it was the only super influence that was capable of standing on par with the Immortal Sect. There were formidable geniuses everywhere.

“Bring them to pay their respects to the demon statue.” After giving an order, this person turned and left. This seemingly irresponsible behavior didn’t stir up any annoyance. Instead, the other Demonic Path cultivators bowed and looked towards the person as he walked away with worship in their eyes.

Straightening themselves and turning towards the Black Demon Sect cultivators, one of the Demonic Path cultivators said, “Follow us. Don’t lag behind on the road, otherwise you will lose your little lives. Don’t blame us for not reminding you of this.”

The Black Demon Sect people had indignant expressions. If they were chosen to attend the grand ceremony of the Demon Ascension Gate, they could all be considered talented elites of their time. It was natural for them to be proud and arrogant.

“What, you aren’t convinced? If you can enter the Demonic Path, you can come look for us at any time. But right now, it would be best if you are all a bit more obedient!” With a cold sneer, the several Demonic Path cultivators dispersed, surrounding the 257 people and leading them out of the square.

Another group came from the southwest side of the square, both of them going the same direction. They inevitably bumped into each other at the square’s exit. A Demonic Path cultivator bowed, “Greetings, senior-apprentice brother Zhou.”

Zhou Ruhai had a cold gaze. “Black Demon Sect disciples?”

The other person had an anxious expression. “Yes.”

Zhou Ruhai didn’t say much. Another Demonic Path cultivator standing beside him swept his eyes across the Black Demon Sect group and sneered. “They really get worse and worse with each generation. The Black Demon Sect is sending you worthless losers this time? Are they trying to disgrace themselves?”

Behind him, a group of young cultivators laughed.

In any large-scale influence, it was impossible for there to be a monolithic pillar of opinion; there were bound to be various factions within. Where there were people, there was the wild martial world. These words might seem a bit vulgar, but they were fact.

For instance, of the 12 branch sects, the Black Demon Sect and Soul Burial Sect had a long and horrid entangled history with each other, one filled with grudges and grievances that could be traced back for tens of thousands of years, perhaps even longer. On the outside, they were suppressed by the Demonic Path and forced to maintain an appearance of peace. But in reality, the secret competition between them had never stopped. It could be said that the hatred they shared with each other was as deep as a sea.

Zhou Ruhai had originated from the Soul Burial Sect, and the cultivator next to him who spoke up was also from the Soul Burial Sect. The young cultivators behind them were the chosen disciples recommended by the Soul Burial Sect to participate in the Demon Ascension Gate this time.

Thus, both sides could be called enemies.

Roughly counting, the Soul Burial Sect had at least 400-500 people participating, almost double that of the Black Demon Sect. And, those of the demonic path always believed in strength first and foremost. From this point, one could see that the current Soul Burial Sect was considerably stronger than the Black Demon Sect.

But even so, the Black Demon Sect cultivators weren’t willing to lower their heads and endure these insults. In addition to the insults they received from the other Demonic Path cultivators, their warm blood began to boil over.

With neither side willing to back off, the atmosphere suddenly turned tense. A conflict was about to burst out at any moment.

“Senior-apprentice brother Zhou, please don’t make things difficult for us!” One of the Demonic Path cultivators who was guiding the Black Demon Sect cultivators rushed in between the two sides. There was a worried look on his face. He was already in trouble as it was, and if he messed up this assignment today, then even if both sides were at fault, the final nail would land on him.

But what did it matter if he wasn’t willing to deal with this? No one could reach the current Zhou Ruhai’s limelight!

A Demonic Path cultivator who originated from the Soul Burial Sect sneered and said, “What do you mean making things difficult? Hey, you little beasts from the Black Demon Sect, if any of you aren’t convinced then you can step up and compete with the Soul Burial Sect juniors behind me! If you just yap then you’re no different from a group of old women. All of you really are pathetic!”

As soon as these words were said, the complexions of those from Black Demon Sect suddenly darkened. Their eyes flushed red and it seemed as if the situation would soon spin out of control.

“What are you all standing around here for? Are you putting on a monkey show or something?” A light voice sounded out, and with it a bitter chill pierced through the air. Everyone shuddered and the scene immediately quieted down.

The cultivator to the side of Zhou Ruhai suddenly changed his complexion. He clenched his teeth and said, “So it was senior-apprentice brother Shang. This is just a minor conflict between juniors of competing branch sects. There is no need for you to worry about it!”

Shang Yuntai had a faint expression. “Lead them away. Don’t be late.”

He actually completely ignored that person.

The cultivator paled. But before he could speak, Shang Yuntai’s eyes fell on him. His body stiffened and he tried to move his mouth to speak, but he couldn’t utter a single syllable.

Zhou Ruhai was expressionless. “Senior-apprentice brother Shang has such great momentum.”

Shang Yuntai lightly said. “Junior-apprentice brother Zhou, you should do well to remember what day it is today. If anything goes wrong, even Elder Li might not be able to fix the situation.”

He waved his hand, “Let’s leave.”

The Black Demon Sect cultivators were silent. Although they glared at the Soul Burial Sect people, no one said anything further.

Chapter 484B – Paying Respects to the Demon Statue

When anger rose to the head, it was inevitable that one would lose control of their emotions. But after composing themselves, they realized that if they stirred up a mess, they would surely suffer a loss. Perhaps they might even lose their chance to participate in the Demon Ascension Gate because of it. Thinking of this possibility, everyone thoroughly calmed down.

“Senior-apprentice brother Zhou, why are we making way for them? The Elder ordered us to figure out some means to thoroughly smash Shang Yuntai into the ground so that he can never stand back up from the failure!”

“Shut up!” Zhou Ruhai’s eyes were dark and gloomy. “Bring everyone away and don’t cause any more trouble.” He really did want to thrust Shang Yuntai into some hopeless situation, but the most basic premise behind that was that he didn’t fall into some pit with him.

There would be many chances later. It was completely unnecessary to cause trouble during the opening of the Demon Ascension Gate.

...

After leaving the square, the group quickly walked forward. The grumbles coming from up front could be faintly heard.

“Senior-apprentice brother, Zhou Ruhai was definitely doing all of that intentionally! That bastard!”

“In the past he used to be as docile as a dog. Now that he has some momentum behind him, he’s gone wild!”

“We cannot consider things over like this. Once senior-apprentice brother recovers, he must teach that person a lesson!”

Shang Yuntai had a calm expression. “That’s enough. Hurry up and complete your assignments. Keep a low profile and don’t stir up any trouble.” He turned around and left, clenching his fists beneath his robe. There was a look of unwillingness on his face, but it eventually dissolved into bitterness.

He was well aware of his current condition. If he couldn’t dispel the poison in his body, everything would be for nothing.

But all of his efforts recently had left him feeling despair. Perhaps this was his fate, one that he could not change.

Qin Yu glanced at Shang Yuntai’s back. His eyes flashed for a moment before quieting down. Right now, his most important task was to smoothly pass the Demon Ascension Gate and join the Demonic Path. Everyone else could wait for later.

The Demonic Path cultivators that led them forward had ill expressions and the group atmosphere was poor. Luckily, soon after leaving the square, they arrived at their destination. What lay in front of them was an extremely vast and broad temple. It was built from stone and seemed as if it had experienced long years of erosion. It emitted the aura of the years.

Outside the temple, there were many Demonic Path cultivators standing guard; it had an extremely strict defense. The group stopped a thousand feet away, waiting to be handed over to other Demonic Path cultivators to escort them inside.

“Go and pay respects to the demon statue.”

Qin Yu looked up at the large pitch black entrance of the temple. It seemed like the maw of some great creature. A dignified look crossed his face.

The great hall in front actually gave off an expected feeling of suppression, as if there were some extremely terrifying existence within.

But he had already arrived here so he had no reason to withdraw. He followed the crowd and walked into the main hall of the temple.

After taking a step in, everything instantly quieted down. Besides the light sound of footsteps, there was nothing else, as if they had been completely isolated from the outside world.

And now, in this hall, there were already many people sitting down cross-legged. In front of them was a giant demon statue that supported the entire temple.

Eerily lit torches flickering with green flames burned on both sides of the hall. Even so, they couldn't fully illuminate the demon statue. Most of it was hidden in the shadows, making one instinctively feel a sense of awe.

And standing in front of the demon statue was a person who was as thin as a piece of withered wood and who seemed as if they would fall over at any moment. This person was a Demonic Path priest. He wore voluminous black robes and a strange light shined in his deep and hollow eyes.

"Choose a round cushion and sit down."

His voice was sharp like needles. It was hard to hear and caused the mind to ache. However, no one dared to react to this; they all chose a round cushion and sat down.

Qin Yu kept his eyes lowered, concealing his shaking heart. This seemingly weak and frail Demonic Path priest actually had soul fluctuations that were as vast as the sea.

If he wanted to, then perhaps just a single sweep of his divine sense would turn half the cultivators in this hall into drooling idiots!

The moment that Qin Yu lowered his head, the Demonic Path priest seemed to notice something. He swept his gaze around and gently furrowed his eyebrows when he didn't detect anything.

"How interesting. During this Demon Ascension Gate, an incredible little fellow seems to have appeared..." He mumbled to himself. Then, the Demonic Path priest looked around and ordered, "Close the door."

A giant boulder at the entrance of the temple slowly fell down. As it did, all of the lights within the hall began to gradually extinguish themselves. In the end, all that remained were two giant green torches in front of the demon statue.

The Demonic Path priest turned around. He lifted his hand up high towards the demon statue, loud undulating chants coming from between his lips. The strange and ghostly words cut at the ears, constantly reverberating in the hall.

It was extremely sharp at first, but soon everyone adapted to it. In fact, it even caused a warm feeling to rise within the hearts of those listening. Qin Yu's head fell into a trance. His eyes subconsciously closed and weariness submerged him like a tide, drowning out his consciousness.

At this time, from within his soul space, the Soul Summoning Bell began to tremble, emitting the clear sounds of a bell. Qin Yu's hazy consciousness immediately woke up and a cold sweat covered him.

With his soul cultivation and in a state where he was wary and on guard, he had actually been hypnotized. This was simply unimaginable. But on the surface, Qin Yu maintained his initial appearance, not revealing anything unusual.

The bizarre chanting continued, becoming increasingly fast-paced. All of the cultivators in the hall began to shiver, as if they were experiencing some horrifying nightmare.

Suddenly, a cultivator screamed out loud. Before he could make any other response, black flames gushed out from every orifice of his head.

In the blink of an eye, that person was reduced to ashes.

Soon after, two more cultivators were also burnt to death by black flames.

The Demonic Path cultivator stopped his chanting. His gaze was filled with ice-cold hatred and contempt. "You heretics that dare to invade my Demonic Path, I curse you all so that your souls fall into hell forever, never to be freed!"

Strong winds were whipped up. The ashes from the black flames suddenly rose up into the air, outlining human figures that seemed to be screeching in pain.

In the next moment, low roars resounded throughout the great hall. The demon statue opened its mouth, as if it were connected to an infinite pitch-black abyss. The three ash-shaped figures struggled before they were immediately swallowed within.

The Demonic Path priest turned towards the demonic statue. On his face that had wrinkles stacked up in piles, a pious expression filled with reverence appeared. "Unsurpassed demon, your lowliest servant offers the souls of these heretics. Please grant me your demonic seed so that the soldiers you rule over can forever bathe beneath your transcendent dignity."

The demon statue's eyes suddenly opened. What spun within those eyes were black vortexes. Purple spots of light flew out from these vortexes. Then, as if they had a mind of their own, they followed the aura of life, falling atop the head of every cultivator in the hall.

The Demonic Path priest turned around. He swept his eyes about, looking at the faces that were illuminated by the weak purple lights. Then, he suddenly flicked his sleeves and four masses of demonic energy shot out, each one entering into the body of a young cultivator.

These four people trembled and woke up at the same time. They looked around and when they saw the purple light above their head, fear and dread appeared in their eyes.

The Demonic Path priest's voice was icy cold. "If you have awoken then fall to the side!"

The four cultivators didn't dare to say anything. They crawled up to their feet and respectfully bowed. Then, they hurried to a corner of the hall and used various methods to lock in their auras. Only when they saw the purple light above their heads fly away did they relax a little. Then, when they looked around the hall and at the people sitting all around, pity flashed in their eyes.

Although Qin Yu hadn't opened his eyes, he still sensed everything that happened in the great hall. Out of the four people that were awoken by the priest, he unexpectedly knew one of them.

At Four Seasons City's auction house, when the precelestial wood was being auctioned, four profligate young masters had started to brutally compete for it at the start. This person was the one who had yelled loudly that he would double the bid no matter what and said that he had never been defeated.

Sun Zifu...yes, that was his name. This person seemed to come from some tyrannical Demonic Path noble family. As for the three people near him, from their bearing and attitude, it was clear they also came from some uncommon background. The Demonic Path priest had only awoken those four people...it seemed that the purple light above their heads wasn't anything good.

Qin Yu's heart tightened. At this time, the Demonic Path priest flicked his finger and the purple lights above everyone's heads fell down, fusing into their bodies.

Hum –

The purple moon trembled. Faint traces of purple moonlight fell down like endless snowflakes.

When the purple mote of light appeared in Qin Yu's soul space, before it could do anything it was wrapped up in the snowflakes of purple moonlight.

The purple mote of light shook and trembled. It emitted traces of a cruel and brutal aura, smashing left and right within the cage of purple moonlight.

Qin Yu cursed inwardly. This wasn't good. Although the purple moonlight had surrounded the mote of light, looking at its response, it might be sensed by the Demonic Path priest. If that were to happen there would be nothing but trouble ahead of him.

As he thought, standing below the demon statue, the Demonic Path priest's eyes fell down like a bolt of ice-cold lightning. Qin Yu's complexion didn't change but his entire body had tensed.

Then, the deeply slumbering Soul Summoning Bell flew up of its own volition. The purple moonlight scattered. At this time, the mote of purple light had already quieted back down, and it submissively flew into the Soul Summoning Bell.

Outside, a flash of hesitation appeared in the Demonic Path priest's eyes. After carefully sensing for a long time and determining that the demonic seed fluctuations had returned to normal, he slowly turned his gaze.

A cold sweat drenched Qin Yu's back. Fortunately for him, the Soul Summoning Bell had used some unknown method to stabilize the purple mote of light, otherwise he would have already been exposed.

Chapter 485A – The Young Master Sun Who Loves to Double

An hour later, the doors to the temple opened and everyone woke up. Their complexions were all changed, but no matter how they investigated, they couldn't find anything unusual.

Sin Zifu and the other three had returned to their original positions. There were no flaws in their demeanor, but when they occasionally turned their eyes, there was a flash of ridicule in them.

The Demonic Path priest sat down cross-legged. His originally thin and stick-like body was even more withered than before, as if presiding over this ceremony had drained a considerable amount of strength from him.

He didn't say anything else. The Demonic Path cultivators from outside the temple respectfully walked into the temple and brought everyone away.

When Qin Yu came out, he saw another batch of young demonic cultivators waiting outside the temple. Within their perturbed expressions, there was also a hint of anticipation.

Unfortunately, they had no idea what their fate would be after they entered the temple.

Together with Qin Yu, there were around 600 other people who had passed the test of the demon statue. They were all gathered up together at this moment.

"Everyone, congratulations for passing the test. You have gained the most basic qualifications for joining the Demonic Path. Tomorrow, the Demon Ascension Gate will open, but until then, you may freely wander around the public areas of Heavenly Demon City. Remember, from this point on, fighting among you is not allowed. If you violate this rule, you will be severely punished and you will lose your rights to enter the Demon Ascension Gate."

After arranging everyone's dwellings, the Demonic Path cultivators left on their own. It seemed that after passing the test of the demon statue, they had gained some sort of tacit approval and were no longer restricted to a certain degree.

The Black Demon Sect were concentrated in a massive courtyard. Qin Yu casually chose a room and the other Black Demon Sect cultivators moved away from him, feeling as if they were in a hurry to do so.

Qin Yu closed the door. He didn't care how these people acted. His divine sense swept out and when he didn't sense anything wrong, he sat down and began meditating, entering his soul space.

The Soul Summoning Bell was in a slumbering state right now and didn't respond to Qin Yu's probing. He could feel that the purple mote of light was in a sealed condition. This caused Qin Yu to relax a little. The Soul Summoning Bell had recognized him as its master, so even though its actions seemed a little strange right now, it shouldn't be trying to actively harm him. As for how to remove this purple mote of light, he would wait until the Soul Summoning Bell woke back up before finding a solution.

When Qin Yu opened his eyes again, it had already turned dark outside. Thinking about it a little, he pushed open the door and stepped out. The entire courtyard was silent and peaceful. All of the other rooms were dark, as if everyone had gone out.

At this time, several people walked across the courtyard. Faint sounds of their conversation drifted over. "Hurry up, I heard that in the western part of the city there is a shop selling Mind Awakening Water. This is a treasure that can help the soul maintain consciousness at all times. If we can obtain it, it will give us an advantage once we enter the Demon Ascension Gate!"

"When the Demon Ascension Gate opened in the past, in order to help increase the number of disciples that passed, all sorts of precious treasures would appear at Heavenly Demon City's night market. We cannot miss out on this chance!"

"Hurry! Hurry! If we are late I fear we'll end up empty-handed!"

The several people left in a hurry.

Qin Yu had a thoughtful look on his face. No wonder everyone in the courtyard had left...it seemed that the Black Demon Sect disciples had run out in hopes of purchasing useful treasures.

As for why no one called him...

The Demon Ascension Gate had extremely strict rules. For those that were over a hundred years old, the difficulty of the test rose several times over. Unless one possessed heaven-defying strength, there was almost no way for them to pass.

Thus, even if Qin Yu had exposed an extremely potent cultivation, the Black Demon Sect disciples still kept as great a distance away from him as they could. They were afraid of getting involved with him and then being implicated once they entered the Demon Ascension Gate.

And why did the Black Demon Sect cultivators think that Qin Yu was over a hundred years of age? The greatest reason was naturally because he borrowed the identity of Yao Bin. Everyone knew that Grandmaster Yao had lain dormant in the Black Demon Sect for dozens of years already, so anyone with a mind could tell that he was absolutely some old geezer.

Further, if he wasn't that old, would this surname Yao have such a tyrannical cultivation? Subconsciously, none of them believed that someone of their own generation could possess strength that completely overwhelmed them!

Qin Yu naturally wouldn't explain this to them. He closed the door behind him and walked out of the courtyard.

Because the grand ceremony of the Demon Ascension Gate was tomorrow, tonight's Heavenly Demon City was much more lively than usual. There were so many lights all around that the entire city was illuminated just like daytime. Throngs of people crowded the streets. Qin Yu randomly chose a direction and followed the flow of people.

Many of these people were young cultivators who would be participating in the Demon Ascension Gate tomorrow. They had looks of anticipation on their faces and their hearts were pumped full of confidence.

When the Demonic Path recruited disciples, the elimination rate was always mind-boggling. It was normal for only 1-2% of people to pass.

Thus, there was also an incredible number of demonic cultivators who participated in the Demon Ascension Gate. Besides the Demonic Path's 12 branch sects, there were the various noble families of the Demonic Path, and the countless demonic sects under their control. There was even a certain number of recommendations allowed for rogue demonic cultivators.

Roughly counting, there were at least 10,000 demonic cultivators that would be entering the Demon Ascension Gate this time. Of course, in the end, only around 200 or so people would pass and join the Demonic Path.

Qin Yu was confident that with his current strength he would be able to pass the Demon Ascension Gate. However, didn't he know that there were no absolutes in this world? So, if he could find some treasures that could increase his chances of success, he definitely wouldn't mind it.

Unfortunately, as he walked around, while he did see many demonic treasures that were decent and caused many demonic cultivators to compete for them, they didn't hold much attraction to Qin Yu.

On the long street, whether it was the shops on both sides or the stalls nearby, everything was crowded. From time to time he could hear the sounds of bargaining.

Suddenly, he heard a familiar voice. "Humph! If you increase the price little by little, how long will it take before you're done? If you want to play then just double it up! 100,000 spirit stones, I want that thing!"

Qin Yu subconsciously lifted an eyebrow. He turned towards the voice. Within a group of demonic cultivators, he could see that the one speaking out from amid them was exactly that Sun Zifu. At this moment, this direct descendant young master of a Demonic Path noble family was coldly sneering. A tall female cultivator stood next to him, a transparent veil covering her face, drawing everyone's eyes to her.

This woman was actually one of the two beautiful female cultivators from the auction house at Four Seasons City who had caused those four profligate young masters to compete against each other. He knew that even if those people hadn't been fooling around, Qi Cheng would never have allowed him to purchase the precelestial wood to begin with. Still, he had no good impression of these people.

Just as he turned to leave, his steps came to a stop. Within his soul space, the deeply slumbering Soul Summoning Bell began to shake and call out. It transmitted an intense desire towards Qin Yu. And, the item that it wanted was actually the black stone in the hands of the surprised stall owner.

"Humph! Fellow daoist Sun, you want to take away this marvelous stone for a mere 100,000 spirit stones? I will offer 150,000." Across from Sun Zifu, a cultivator with a gloomy expression sneered.

"300,000!" Sun Zifu said without a care in the world.

"350,000."

"700,000."

The surrounding crowd was shocked. To the vast majority of them, 700,000 spirit stones wasn't a big deal. But, the key point here was Sun Zifu's attitude, tossing away money without a care.

Hey, take a look, this was a true spender!

Many demonic female cultivators in the crowd winked their eyes, as if they were sending secret messages.

Sun Zifu's heart lifted. To harvest the attention of so many beautiful women for some spare change, this was completely worth it.

Fortunately, he knew what his main purpose was today. He suppressed his itching heart and smiled brightly at Zhou Fenghuang.

"Stall owner, can you let me see that stone?" A cultivator suddenly walked out from the crowd. Black robes covered his entire body. But looking at his tall and sturdy figure, he emanated clear power and influence.

The stall owner hesitated for a moment. After learning how valuable this stone was, he clearly wasn't at ease.

The black-robed cultivator lightly, "Do you think I would rob you in full view of the public?"

The stall owner thought for a moment and then nodded, handing over the black stone. The black-robed cultivator expressed his thanks and carefully investigated it.

Sun Zifu had a calm expression, not stopping this. In his opinion, this stone was already his. And the more someone looked at it, the more disappointed they would be in the end.

"One million spirit stones." The black-robed cultivator quoted a price and passed the stone back to the stall owner. Everyone around revealed looks of surprise. They didn't expect that someone so low key would play such a big hand.

The gloomy cultivator frowned, ill intent in his eyes. "This wonder stone is good, but not just anyone has the qualifications to compete for it...1.1 million!"

His tone was threatening and aggressive.

The black-robed cultivator was silent. One could take this as either fear or indifference. From his calm demeanor, everyone assumed it was the latter.

The gloomy cultivator paled. If it weren't for Heavenly Demon City being under strict martial law tonight, he would have already attacked.

Chapter 485B – The Young Master Sun Who Loves to Double

Sun Zifu laughed out loud. "Great! Only when there are more people is it fun. If I were to purchase this stone so easily, how could it show how precious this treasure is? 2.2 million spirit stones...two fellow cultivators, please do as you please."

The black-robed cultivator lightly said, "2.5 million."

The gloomy cultivator followed up close behind, "2.6 million!"

He was the one who had noticed this stone first. He should have been able to purchase it for several thousand spirit stones originally, but Sun Zifu unexpectedly butted his way in, causing the current situation.

But the Sun Family had always been ranked near the top of the Demonic Path noble families. The influence that stood behind him was no less than his own. So, no matter how angry or enraged he was, he could only patiently endure it.

So when this black-robed cultivator suddenly interfered, that person bore the brunt of all his ire and suppressed anger. His eyes blazed with flames. However, it was clear that his glare was useless against the black-robed cultivator. This caused the gloomy cultivator to become even more angered.

You bastard! Once today is over, I will make sure you suffer a fate worse than death!

Sun Zifu stoked the flames. "5.2 million."

The crowd began to gasp.

Double, it was double again! Those that recognized Sun Zifu looked at him with several more points of awe in their eyes.

No wonder this person was straightforward and carefree with his actions. From the four great Demonic Path noble families of Zhao, Qian, Sun, and Li, this person came from the Sun Family. The Sun Family was a mysterious family whose wealth was said to be second to none. Only such a top-class young master could have such a great show of hand.

The gloomy cultivator looked at the wonder stone in the stall owner's hand. He cultivated an ability many years ago, and with this ability he could sense a vague yet strange fluctuation coming from within it. The stone was ordinary, but the contents inside were absolutely extraordinary.

"6 million!"

The black-robed cultivator said, "6.1 million."

From beginning to end, the black-robed figure's expression had not changed. This caused Sun Zifu's eyes to brighten, as if he met an opponent worthy of crushing.

Thinking about it, ever since he was a child, he had never lost when it came to doubling the price...uh, well, to be more accurate, he had tasted defeat once...

Sun Zifu thought back to Four Seasons City and the two lunatics who crazily raised the bidding price, and his lips twitched. Luckily he was able to use the excuse of not wanting to be involved in the Immortal Sect's affairs to serve as a cover up for his honor. Otherwise, because of the arrogant words he had said before, he really would have suffered a loss of face!

Suddenly in a poor mood, young master Sun coldly sneered and said, "12.2 million!" He swept his eyes around. "Fellow cultivators, that wonder stone is already mine. If you don't believe me you are welcome to try!"

The gloomy cultivator clenched his teeth. In terms of the strength of their backgrounds, he didn't fear the Sun Family at all. But if they had to compare financial resources, the difference between them was more than one or two levels. Over 10 million spirit stones was already past his limit. Who would have imagined that this surname Sun would lay down such a massive price for a completely unknown stone!

But to give up like this was too disgraceful. As he was panting from anger, the black-robed cultivator suddenly said, "12.3 million."

The gloomy cultivator stiffened and an apoplectic rage burst out from within him. I might not compare to Sun Zifu, but who the hell are you that you think you can stomp on me too!?

"You brat, if you open your mouth and casually quote a random number, that can lead to certain death...if you cannot take out 10 million spirits, I guarantee that you will regret it!"

The black-robed cultivator maintained his initial indifference, not even glancing at the gloomy cultivator. He flipped his hand and took out a crystal spirit stone card. The lifelike image of a demon's head was carved upon it.

“Top spirit stone card!”

“That is worth 100 million!”

“Who is this person, what an incredible move!”

The gloomy cultivator paled. He felt as if he had tried to slap someone but ended up slapping himself. But at this time, he didn't dare to say anything else. It had to be known that one couldn't possess a top spirit stone card with wealth alone. It was also a representation of a person's status.

To pull out a top spirit stone card, this was sufficient proof of this black-robed cultivator's status.

For those with status, no matter where they were, they would be respected.

Sun Zifu's heart skipped a beat. He quietly thought about how dangerous the situation was and how he almost fell into a pit of his own making. Luckily, after what happened at the Four Seasons City auction house, when he returned back home he had begged and moaned to his father and also obtained a top spirit stone card.

With a light cough, Young Master Sun maintained a calm and haughty demeanor as he took out a crystal spirit stone card. “Fellow daoist, I am the Sun Family's Sun Zifu, and today I am competing with you. This is just a happy hobby of mine, so I hope you aren't offended.” He paused for a moment and then said, “24.6 million.”

The black-robed cultivator lightly said, “24.7 million.”

It was only adding 100,000, but this wasn't because he didn't have enough spirit stones. This was what everyone watching believed.

The gloomy cultivator could only stand to the side with his gloomy face. He no longer had the means to intervene between the two.

Sun Zifu's heart quickened. He smiled and said, “May I ask if this wonder stone is important to fellow daoist?”

The black-robed cultivator nodded. This honesty was sometimes also a form of confidence.

Sun Zifu put away his spirit stone card. “I have no idea what this wonder stone is; I only found it a bit interesting. Since fellow daoist holds it in such high regards...well, a gentleman will not take advantage of others. I only ask that fellow daoist doesn't mind that I had you spend a few more spirit stones.”

With these words, everyone was stunned. They couldn't help but give him a thousand praises in their hearts!

This Young Master Sun had incredible skills. With a few words he was able to breezily walk away with his face and honor intact. Not only could the other side not form any resentment with him, but they even had to take this as a favor given.

What amazing skills!

At his side, Zhou Fenghuang also had a bit more appreciation in her eyes. This caused Sun Zifu's heart to flutter.

The black-robed cultivator hesitated for a moment. He cupped his hands together and said, "Thank you fellow daoist Sun for giving up on this treasure." He turned towards the stall owner. "Now, we can continue the trade."

The stall owner was overjoyed. He didn't dare to ask for anything more. He nodded his head repeatedly, but unfortunately for him, before he could open his mouth and say something he was interrupted.

"I'm sorry, but I also have some interest in that stone."

The crowd fell deathly silent, as if time had stopped for a second. Then, there was the sound of rustling wind as the crowd parted to reveal a tall and straight figure.

Under countless shocked gazes, Qin Yu had a light expression as if he hadn't been the one to say those words just now.

But everyone knew that it was him. It was him! Him! Definitely him!

The black-robed cultivator's eyes fell on Qin Yu. His pupils shrank before he composed himself. "Then, please state your bid."

Qin Yu said, "30 million."

The black-robed cultivator added another 100,000.

Qin Yu said, "40 million."

The black robed cultivator added another 100,000.

Qin Yu was silent for several breaths of time. He flipped his hand and took out a crystal spirit stone card. "100 million."

The entire scene fell silent!

Although everyone had experienced Young Master Sun's heroic and brave doubling method, they were still left shocked speechless by this show of wealth, so much that their ears buzzed and their field of vision wavered.

100 million...this was 100 million spirit stones...old heavens, are you sure you aren't joking with me right now?

Sun Zifu's eyes almost rolled back into his head. Although he didn't want to admit it, this sort of bidding was much more epic than his doubling could ever be. It wasn't that this proud young master from the Sun Family couldn't pull out so many spirit stones, but that unlike the time at Four Seasons City's auction house, he couldn't find a reason to.

At that time, the four great Demonic Path noble families of Zhao, Qian, Sun, and Li, were all competing to pursue the proud young daughters of the Zhou and Mu Families. In order to do that, Sun Zifu received special approval from his family to spend all of his money. But, if he were to do the same today for a stone with completely unknown properties, he would most surely be castigated and punished by his family.

It had to be known that the Sun Family was like a tree with endless flourishing branches and there was more than just one direct descendant young master or young miss. It was just that he was the most outstanding amongst them, so he controlled more authority.

Sun Zifu didn't want to fall into trouble because of this matter. So, no matter how sad he was within, he could only remain sad. Luckily he had already expressed that he would give up, so there wasn't much shame or loss of face involved. The only problem here was that he found it hard to overcome this in his heart.

Qin Yu remained expressionless. He flipped his hand and took out a second crystal spirit stone card. "200 million."

If it was said that the crowd fell deathly silent before, then this time it was so quiet that one couldn't even hear the sounds of breathing.

Double! It was double the bid again!

Sun Zifu's complexion darkened. He felt as if his face had been ruthlessly stepped on by others. The sorrow flowing in his heart had become a river.

This was the second time...the last time was at Four Seasons City's auction house...

Young Master Sun never expected that not much longer afterwards, he would suffer a similar defeat.

This was his life's second defeat. His despair and sorrow could not be described with 'painful' alone!

The black-robed cultivator pulled off his hood, revealing a firm and decisive face. His deep purple eyes exuded endless dignity.

"Purple pupils!"

"Blood Battle Demon God!"

"Heavens, it's actually him!"

Chapter 486A - Cosmic Seacross Bell

Throughout every opening of the Demon Ascension Gate, countless proud elites of heaven would bloom in full splendor and become the focus of attention from all sides, the most dazzling existences. The Blood Battle Demon God was a young super master who was chosen to enter the Demon Ascension Gate this time. This person's exact origins were unknown, but it was rumored that some formidable rogue demonic cultivator had recommended him. His mortal body was extremely tyrannical. On the martial field, he had once been besieged by four young masters of the same cultivation level, but in the end slayed them all.

That battle was also the battle that gave the Blood Battle Demon God his name and fame. According to trusted sources, this person had awakened some demonic bloodline that had a slaughter-attribute and his Demon Body cultivation had reached a high level. He was a rarely seen demonic path genius!

"Greetings. I am Zuo Lanyue." The Blood Battle Demon God cupped his hands together.

Qin Yu responded in kind. "Yao Bin."

Zuo Lanyue said, "This wonder stone is highly important to me. If you are willing to give up on it, I would be deeply grateful. If fellow daoist Yao has need for anything in the future, I will try my best to help you."

This was a promise. Moreover, it was a promise that came from the Blood Battle Demon God, someone who had been recognized by the entire younger generation as being a super expert. His future achievements were bound to be limitless. So, this promise could be called incredibly precious. It could even prove to be unimaginably useful in the future.

And in any case, there was no deep and profound meaning behind these words. In short, it was: I have already stated clearly that this wonder stone is greatly important to me. If you yield to me, then I will owe you a favor. If you don't...hum hum, I fear we can only be enemies!

To be targeted by someone like the Blood Battle Demon God wasn't an easy burden to bear. No matter how arrogant a person was, when facing this possible threat, they would have to carefully consider the situation.

Zuo Lanyue's expression was calm, no embarrassment on his face. In his life, what he chased after was the summit of the Great Dao. As long as there was something that could make him stronger, the method to obtain it didn't matter.

Countless eyes fell on Qin Yu. They thought that as a mere first or second level Blue Sea, how could he dare be enemies with the Blood Battle Demon God? No matter how many spirit stones he had, he would probably have to bow his head in defeat.

Sin Zifu's eyes brightened, his heart full of excitement. Luckily he had been smart enough and stopped ahead of time. If he continued his act, the one finding it difficult to escape this dilemma might have been him instead.

Surname Yao, aren't you epic? Aren't you amazing? How about you become enemies with the Blood Battle Demon God! If you dare to do so, I will submit to you!

The gloomy-faced cultivator stiffened, a cold sweat beginning to form on his forehead. Who would have imagined that the person he repeatedly provoked was the ruthless Blood Battle Demon God?

Fortunately, this person didn't seem to be willing to lower themselves to his level, otherwise his fate would surely be miserable.

Qin Yu had a calm expression. He stared at Zuo Lanyue's purple eyes and said, "I don't know you, so there is no need to care about face between you and me. Since we are competing publicly, if fellow daoist Zuo feels unwilling, then you may continue to increase the price."

This was refusal, refusal without any room for debate.

Zuo Lanyue frowned. "Fellow daoist Yao, must things be this way?"

Qin Yu lightly said, "It's not what I want, but it is the reality of the situation."

Zuo Lanyue's purple eyes turned sharp. "Today, no matter who can give me that wonder stone, they can obtain 100 million spirit stones and my promise of a favor!"

The entire crowd was blown into an uproar!

This was the same as placing a bounty on Qin Yu's head.

No one imagined that the Blood Battle Demon God would be so cruel and overbearing in his actions.

If you don't agree with me, then you are my enemy! Things will never be over between us until one of us dies!

That's right, this was a life or death blood grudge. From the moment he spoke, he was doomed to become Qin Yu's arch nemesis.

Zuo Lanyue turned and walked away. The crowd parted ways, fearing that he would vent his anger on them.

A killing intent flashed in Qin Yu's eyes before he coldly sneered and composed himself. Who cared about a ridiculous Blood Demon blah blah God. Since this was something the Soul Summoning Bell desired so earnestly, how could it be useless? Qin Yu could clearly sense the cold and covetous gazes on him, but he didn't fear them at all.

If someone wanted to obtain this reward, they could come and try. As for what the result would be, they would find out for themselves.

After paying with a spirit stone card, Qin Yu obtained the wonder stone. This stone was the size of an adult's fist, but its weight was incredible. No wonder the stone had caused people to compete for it. However, perhaps besides Zuo Lanyue, it was likely no one knew what secret was hidden in it.

When Qin Yu held this stone in his hand, he couldn't sense anything unusual about it at all. He turned and walked out of the crowd. Although his steps didn't seem fast, he soon vanished from the billowing streams of people in a few blinks of the eye.

Sun Zifu's complexion was cloudy and uncertain.

Zhou Fenghuang looked into the distance crowd, a trace of hesitation on her charming face. She always felt that she had seen this cultivator before. Yao Bin...no matter how much she wracked her memories she couldn't think where she had encountered this name before. Then, she shook her head inwardly, suppressing the thought.

She glanced towards Sun Zifu. When she saw his current expression, her eyes flashed and she chuckled, "Young sir Sun, could it be that you have thoughts of pulling the Blood Battle Demon God to your side?"

Sun Zifu shook his head. "If I seize that wonder stone, I might be able to obtain a favorable impression from Zuo Lanyue and draw him to be my subordinate. But, with that person's talent and strength, he will almost assuredly pass the Demon Ascension Gate. His future achievements will be unimaginable. Although the Sun Family is strong, we won't necessarily be able to control him." After a short pause he continued, "Moreover, that Yao Bin isn't a common person either. If I were to try and take that wonder stone from his hands, I might meet with disaster instead."

Zhou Fenghuang covered her mouth and giggled. "Young sir Sun's words are indeed logical!" A strange color flashed in the depths of her eyes.

Qin Yu returned to his dwelling. He directly summoned Ninth Province and borrowed its strength to isolate the inside from outside. Then, he turned his hand and took out the wonder stone. Without any need for stimulation, the deeply slumbering Soul Summoning Bell flew out from his soul space. With a flash of light, the figure of a little girl appeared.

Her eyes widened. Then, with a pleasantly surprised expression, she cheered and threw herself forward. She held the wonder stone in her arms, looked down...and then...

Kacha –

Kacha –

The crisp sounds of biting rang out. Qin Yu watched her clear and small teeth moving and black lines suddenly formed on his forehead. He had inspected the wonder stone just before and also experimented with it a little. This wonder stone was bewilderingly hard, so hard that even with his current strength it would be difficult to leave a mark on it.

But what was he seeing now? A five or six year old little girl was holding this stone and taking great flavorful bites of it...those teeth must be amazing!

But then, he thought about how this little girl's main body was the supreme treasure Soul Summoning Bell and how her consciousness was from the golden soul of nothingness from that terrifying different world. With these thoughts in mind, Qin Yu was able to accept this no matter how abnormal it was.

But when he looked at this little girl taking big bites without any appearance of weariness or exhaustion, it was hard not to suspect that her previous 'deep sleep' was only an act.

"What is this stone?"

"Mm...mm...it's delicious!"

"I'm asking you a question."

"Delicious...so delicious..."

Qin Yu's eyebrow arched up. He looked at this silly little girl that was obviously putting on an act and ignoring him.

Did you really think there was nothing I could do to you?

He reached out and plucked the wonder stone from her hand.

"What are you doing!" The little girl panicked. She opened her mouth and forcefully bit down on the stone. She hung in mid-air, making threatening gestures with her hands.

Qin Yu was expressionless. "The Soul Summoning Bell is mine, and I was the one who rescued you from a different world. This stone was also purchased by me...but right now, I still don't know what you are. Don't you think that's a bit too excessive? Answer my question, otherwise I promise you that not only will you not be able to eat this stone, but you can give up any idea of me helping you again in the future."

The little girl's glare was fierce and brutal. If looks could kill, Qin Yu would already have been torn to tatters. Unfortunately, to Qin Yu, her glare was completely useless.

"I'll give you ten breaths of time to consider it. I won't repeat myself."

The little girl bitterly stared at Qin Yu.

"Six breaths of time.

"Three breaths.

"One."

Kacha –

The little girl bit off the piece of stone in her mouth and fell to the ground. "You bastard, consider yourself ruthless enough!"

Chapter 486B - Cosmic Seacross Bell

Qin Yu remained indifferent. "Answer my question."

Seeing his stoic and unchanging expression, the little girl seemed a bit discouraged. "Hum hum, you don't even have this level of eyesight, you really are a fool! This stone is called a heaven mending stone. It is a type of extremely precious and extremely rare stone. It was formed when the world was born. Because of certain reasons, the strength of the rules entangled together with the origin energy of the heavens and earth, and this stone was bred after a long passing of years. The Soul Summoning Bell's main body is severely injured and the heaven mending stone can help it repair itself. This is the reason; do you understand?"

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. Although this little girl was a bit impatient, she succinctly stated the key point – this stone would help restore the Soul Summoning Bell.

"What relationship do you have with the Soul Summoning Bell? Or, why can a soul of nothingness fuse into the Soul Summoning Bell?"

The little girl seemed annoyed. "I've already answered your question!"

Qin Yu waved the heaven mending stone in his hand.

The little girl's face darkened. "Humph! The Soul Summoning Bell is the holy object of my race!" She coldly looked at him. "As for you, you are just a thief!"

This explanation was too impactful. Qin Yu couldn't help but be stunned for a moment. But soon, his thoughts began to race. His intuition told him that this little girl wasn't lying. Right now, this was clearly the best opportunity to uncover the truth. But, he kept a cold sneer on his face, as if he didn't believe her words at all. "The Soul Summoning Bell has existed in the Land of Divinity and Demons for countless years, and now it has fallen into my hands through a lucky chance. How could this be the holy object of your race? Little child, there is no need to make up stories!"

The little girl was angered. "You are the little child! You are the one making up stories! What Soul Summoning Bell are you talking about? Its true name is the Cosmic Seacross Bell..." She suddenly

paused, a wary expression on her face. "Wait, that's not right, why do I have to explain anything to you?"

Qin Yu's heart skipped a beat but there was no change in his expression. He intentionally twisted his lips in a jeer and said, "It's fine if you don't want to tell me. I'm not in the mood to listen to such ridiculous made up stories."

The little girl puffed her mouth in anger.

Qin Yu suddenly said, "During this time, have you spent a great deal of energy thinking about how to dissolve the master-servant relation?"

The little girl's face became like that of a startled little animal. Her eyes widened as if wondering how Qin Yu knew.

He had been right!

Qin Yu's face darkened. He had only been casually tossing out a possibility, but he never expected for it to be true. "You have really disappointed the trust I had in you."

The little girl bit her lips. "You...you...what are you being so scary for...I...I never found a way to dissolve the master-servant relation..."

Qin Yu coldly sneered. "You might not be able to find it now, but what about in the future? I cannot keep a hidden danger by my side. Perhaps I should find a way to erase your consciousness."

The little girl had a panicked expression, "You can give up any idea of that!"

Qin Yu's gaze was icy cold. "It might be troublesome, but in the end I am the master of the Soul Summoning Bell. If I don't hesitate to pay any price, I will be able to find the means to do so eventually."

"If my consciousness dissipates, the Soul Summoning Bell will also vanish. Everything you've done will have been for nothing!"

"Even so, it's better than not knowing if there will be a day when I'll suddenly suffer some backlash."

When it came to threats and bluffing, although this little girl was intelligent, how could she compare to the much more experienced Qin Yu?

Her eyes were wet with tears. She looked at him with horrified panic. "No, don't kill Meimei...I...I can sign a contract with you. As long as it's established, I can never harm you again..."

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows. "Your name is Meimei? Are you speaking the truth?"

The little girl nodded. "Meimei is not lying to you!"

"Bring out the contract. If I find out that you've done anything to it...hum hum!" At this moment, Qin Yu had the expression of a great and dastardly villain.

The frightened little girl trembled and spat out a sphere of light. Through his connection with the Soul Summoning Bell, Qin Yu could clearly sense the contents within; it really was a contract. The general idea was like this: Qin Yu and the little girl would join together in equal cooperation, sharing glory and

losses and so forth in the future. However, because Qin Yu controlled the Soul Summoning Bell, this contract was based on an uneven standing to begin with.

He lifted a hand and the sphere of light sank in between his eyebrows. Within his soul space, Qin Yu's soul opened its mouth and swallowed the sphere of light.

The contract had been signed.

Qin Yu smiled. "Alright. Now we can have an open and honest discussion."

Seeing his hostility disappear like flipping the page of a book, Meimei suddenly screamed, "You tricked me!"

Qin Yu nodded. "You might believe that I did, and that in reality I wouldn't be willing to destroy you along with the Soul Summoning Bell. But believe me, if you truly chose not to cooperate with me, that is what I would have done."

Meimei continued to bite her lips, fear still in her heart. Her intuition told her that this was really what Qin Yu was thinking.

"Humph!"

Although she appeared proud and arrogant, the truth was that she had already admitted defeat. Qin Yu smiled. Since he had already gotten what he wanted, there was no need to haggle over surface things like honor.

"You can now tell me what relation your tribe has with the Cosmic Seacross Bell." His eyes flashed, "If you wish to obtain help, I should be the only person who you can possibly trust. So, it's best if you don't lie to me."

Meimei had a suspicious look. "You will help me?"

Qin Yu smiled. "Of course. From here on out, you and I are contract partners, so it's natural for us to help each other. Moreover, the stronger you become, the greater a boost you will be to me."

Meimei wavered for a moment; it was clear her heart had already been moved. She clenched her teeth, "Alright, I will believe you!"

The little girl was silent for a long time. Then, with a look of sadness and anguish on her face, she slowly reiterated her inherited memories.

Every million years, a great change would occur in that terrifying different world. Within this change, an inherently powerful tribe would perish and a new one would be born and take their place.

Souls of nothingness were of a tribe that was newly born while the great change was occurring in that different world. But because of some unknown reason, the holy object of the tribe had been lost, leading to the failure of the tribe to advance to the next step and causing their entire tribe to suffer a cruel and brutal backlash.

The powerful tribes all knew that each one of them had the possibility of becoming the replaced one. So, they worked together to suppress the souls of nothingness.

After that, every million years after, a king would be born amongst the tribe of the souls of nothingness and attempt to complete the final step. But because the tribe was lacking their holy object, the process of advancing to the next level would be incomparably slow. The kings of the other powerful tribes would rush over in the shortest time possible and ruin the advancement process.

Qin Yu had a pensive expression. It seemed that when he entered the different world, what he saw was exactly the process of the tribe of the souls of nothingness trying to advance to the next level. And, the terrifying life forms that caught up to them were the kings of other powerful tribes.

His thoughts turned and a strange light entered his eyes. "So you are the king of the tribe born in this million year period?"

The little girl sneered, "Now that you know, you should understand how great a crime it is to be disrespectful to me!"

Qin Yu completely ignored her prideful complaint. "Hold on. The Cosmic Seacross Bell has been inherited down through the Land of Divinity and Demons for countless years. During this time, there has to have been some people who managed to accomplish the master recognition process. If they were recognized as master, that means they also brought back a soul of nothingness from that world. If so...how does your tribe not know of this?"

The little girl had a sorrowful expression. "Because of the backlash suffered from failing to advance, the entire tribe of the souls of nothingness, besides the king, has no self-awareness." She looked up, "Qin Yu, would you be willing to become one of my riders and help me return to my world and rescue my subjects?"

Qin Yu dismissively waved his hand. "No. At most we are contract companions; I am not one of your riders. Moreover, the Cosmic Seacross Bell is my treasure. You haven't even asked if I am willing to give it away."

The little girl was enraged. "The Cosmic Seacross Bell is the holy object of the tribe of the souls of nothingness!"

Qin Yu slowly said, "Maybe, but now it is mine." His eyes flashed. "However, like I said before, if there are enough benefits for me, it's not impossible for me to help you."

The little girl was too busy to care about how angry she was. "Are you speaking the truth?"

Qin Yu said, "Of course I am speaking the truth. But, this is all based upon the premise that I have sufficient strength. Otherwise, even if I were to bring the Cosmic Seacross Bell and return to your world, there would be nothing but death awaiting us. In fact, there might not even be a way for us to travel to your world."

The little girl earnestly considered the situation for a long time. She earnestly said, "You're right." She glared at him and frowned, "You really are weak!"

Qin Yu nearly choked on himself. He said humorlessly, "Since you've thought it through, you should know what to do from now on, right?"

The little girl said, "I will help you to become stronger as much as I can. But, you also need to help me repair the damage suffered by the Cosmic Seacross Bell."

"Deal!" Qin Yu said, his smile blindingly bright. "Then, you can begin with dispelling that purple mote of light you swallowed. I don't feel safe keeping it in my body the entire time."

The little girl coldly sneered, "I really am questioning how you managed to live this long with the intelligence you've shown me so far. The existence of the demon seed is proof that one is a Demonic Path cultivator. Ignoring the possibility that others might sense if it is dispelled, even if you were to smoothly accomplish that, if you don't have the aura of the demon seed in your body, do you think you can still enter the Demonic Path? You would be lucky just not being killed off by others!"

Qin Yu frowned, ignoring her taunting. "Is there really nothing that can be done?"

The little girl said without expression, "Only if you want to die."

Chapter 487 – Soulguard Stone

Qin Yu rubbed his temples. "Alright. We can put this matter to the side for the time being. Tomorrow I will enter the Demon Ascension Gate. You should be able to play some role as the Cosmic Seacross Bell."

"Since I made a vow to help, I will naturally assist you; there is no need to remind me. If there is nothing else, give me the heaven mending stone."

Qin Yu handed over the stone. He watched as the little girl ate it up in several moments and then lightly humphed before vanishing from sight.

Qin Yu didn't care about her rudeness. On the other hand, his lips curled up in a happy smile.

At the very least, the hidden danger of the Cosmic Seacross Bell had been relieved. And, this little girl would even help him out as much as she could in the future.

While her attitude wasn't good, there was plenty of time in the future. There was no need to worry about it now.

Qin Yu sat down in place and closed his eyes, calmly waiting for tomorrow to arrive.

...

Zuo Lanyue's complexion was pale. Within his deep purple eyes, killing intent surged like a tide and his entire body emitted an aura of destruction and cruelty that was so thick it nearly condensed into essence.

Heaven mending stone, that was definitely a heaven mending stone!

If he could obtain it, then he could use a secret art to plunder the power from within the stone. His supernatural arts would advance to the large success stage and his strength would rise drastically.

"Yao Bin!" A deep roar constantly reverberated through the air. The ground beneath Zuo Lanyue shattered into powder.

At this time, a strange laugh sounded out. The shadow beneath his feet suddenly separated from his body. "Don't worry. The heaven mending stone is incomparably hard. Without a special method, there is no way to refine it. Even if that boy obtained it, he cannot use it any time soon."

The shadow unfolded his arms and stretched his body. "I have memorised his taste. After entering the Demon Ascension Gate, as long as he is within a certain distance I will be able to lock onto him. And once we kill him, the heaven mending stone will naturally return to our hands."

Zuo Lanyue's purple eyes were cold. "I have my own plans for this matter; there is no need for you to remind me!" He coldly snorted, "This is Heavenly Demon City and the opening of the Demon Ascension Gate is imminent. Countless Demonic Path powerhouses have gathered here, so it's best if you screw back to where you came from and don't provoke any trouble!"

The shadow coldly sneered and then returned to the floor beneath Zuo Lanyue's feet once more, as if nothing had transpired at all.

...

Zhou Fenghuang waved her hand, sending her family's cultivator away. Then, she picked up the jade slip and probed it with her divine sense.

Inside it was information about Qin Yu, who she had asked others to inquire into. It was unexpectedly broad and detailed.

"Black Demon Sect...Yao Bin..." Zhou Fenghuang put down the jade slip. Though she had been charming and seductive outside, her cold expression now revealed a contemplative look.

The Blood Battle Demon God was one of the most favored powerhouses of the younger generation during this opening of the Demon Ascension Gate. Her family had given her instructions that even if she couldn't recruit him, being on good terms with him was also a great merit.

But this Yao Bin wasn't easy to deal with.

After a long period of silence, Zhou Fenghuang's eyes brightened. She used a bit of strength and crushed the jade slip to dust.

Because his age was over a hundred, it was extremely likely that Yao Bin would perish in the Demon Ascension Gate. As long as she could find his corpse at that time, she would be able to retrieve the wonder stone.

Within the Demon Ascension Gate, although it was impossible to completely predict or control what would happen, there were still some rules that could be followed. As the daughter of a peak noble family within the Demonic Path, Zhou Fenghuang had the qualifications to make use of these rules.

She would simply consider this as a minor side quest. If there were harvests then that would be for the best, but even if there weren't it didn't matter.

...

“Young master, it’s just as you expected. Zhou Fenghuang has sent someone in secret to investigate information concerning Yao Bin. Your predictions are truly accurate!” An old servant said with a flattering expression.

Sun Zifu’s eyebrows rose in joy. “Of course. Who do you think I am? That little girl Zhou Fenghuang’s thoughts can’t escape my discerning eye!”

He thought for a moment and then sneered, “This bratty little girl, she played all cute and bashful as if she could play around with me, but I was just letting her do that. If she has her mind set on Yao Bin, then let her do as she wishes. Hehe, once she falls on her face and suffers a little, that will be the moment when I take the stage. By that time, she will likely submit herself to me!”

The old servant cheered out loud, “Young master is wise!”

Sun Zifu stamped his foot. “Stop needlessly flattering me and go. There are still other things you need to check up on. Tomorrow I will be entering the Demon Ascension Gate. I have decided that I will be the one to conquer the mountain; I can’t allow my boat to sink in this tiny ditch.”

“Yes, this old servant will immediately go and check. Young master’s great matters will absolutely not be harmed!”

...

The skies were clear and endless and the sunlight shimmered like the sea. It was a rare day of wonderful weather!

Outside every courtyard, there were Demonic Path cultivators standing ready. They escorted all the participants entering the Demon Ascension Gate to a great square within the city.

Qin Yu and the people from the Black Demon Sect followed the streams of people forward. He could faintly feel several cultivators around him looking at him with a twinkle in their eyes. When he turned to look at them they quickly lowered their heads, as if they were afraid they would be in trouble.

He naturally didn’t know that several cultivators inquired into his identity of ‘Yao Bin’ last night. These people had thoroughly sold him out, spilling everything they knew about him, so of course they felt weak at heart.

Soon, the streams of people passing through the city converged in a great square. There were 16 furnaces here, each one with burning black flames flickering atop it.

These flames possessed no heat. In fact, they even emitted a bone-piercing cold. Just looking at them made one feel a deep sense of fear.

Atop a massive altar, three Demonic Path priests sat down cross-legged. They were all incomparably old but the auras of their souls were terrifyingly strong.

Around them were six giant iron boxes. They were sealed tight and it was unknown what lay within.

Around the square were the 16 furnaces as well as an immense number of Demonic Path cultivator guards. Their auras were formidable and a cold light shined in their eyes.

But, the most terrifying things were two black-clothed old men standing at the base of the altar, no expression on their faces. They didn't release any aura, but they gave off a feeling as if they were unfathomably deep abysses, capable of swallowing all.

Calamity Immortal realm!

Qin Yu's eyes flew open and his heart shook. Although he knew that the Demonic Path would place a great deal of importance on the Demon Ascension Gate, it was still beyond his expectations that two Calamity Immortal realm existences would appear here. Moreover, this was only the strength revealed on the surface. If it was said that the Demonic Path hadn't planned for further contingencies, he wouldn't believe that at all. Conservatively estimating, there would be at least one more Calamity Immortal in Heavenly Demon City right now.

"Silence!" The black-clothed old man on the left suddenly spoke up. An invisible sense of dignity descended, as if a great mountain peak was pressing down on everyone, making them feel an endless sense of awe.

The great square immediately fell quiet.

"Today, the Demonic Path opens the Demon Ascension Gate to receive talented individuals as disciples. Now, we will be passing out soulguard stones." The black-clothed old man flicked his sleeves and countless similar-looking stones flew out in all directions. Every cultivator that was entering the Demon Ascension Gate had one peacefully floating in front of them.

"For this thing, you can complete the master recognition process by marking it with your soul aura. After entering the Demon Ascension Gate, it will record all the points you receive. The top 150 participants with the highest number of points will be accepted into the Demonic Path. And besides that, the Demon Ascension Gate is a land filled with perilous dangers. If you encounter a hopeless situation that you cannot defend against, you can simply crush the soulguard stone and you will be transmitted outside.

"If there are no objections, you can complete the master recognition process now. The entrance to the Demon Ascension Gate will open immediately."

Qin Yu held the soulguard stone in his hands. After a brief moment of thought, he carefully probed it with his divine sense. There was a light hum in his ears. At this moment, the Cosmic Seacross Bell from his soul space suddenly emitted a ringing sound. The demon seed flew out and all of its fluctuations were released and caught by the soulguard stone. The soulguard stone flashed with light, indicating that it had recognized Qin Yu as its master.

Within his soul space, the Cosmic Seacross Bell shook and the demon seed flew back into it.

Qin Yu secretly thought he was lucky. Fortunately he hadn't insisted on having the Soul Summoning Bell dispel the demon seed, otherwise there would definitely have been a problem with the soulguard stone.

He turned his hand and put the soulguard stone away. At this time, within the large square, everyone else had also completed the master recognition process.

The black-clothed old man turned around. "Priests, the preparations have been completed. Please open the entrance!"

Chapter 488 – Demon Beast, Demon Blood, Points

Atop the altar, the three incomparably old and decrepit Demonic Path priests opened their eyes, a light flashing within them.

The three of them stood up and simultaneously raised their arms. From all 16 furnaces that surrounded the great square, the black flames immediately surged upwards.

The flames continued to rise, forming 16 black pillars of flame. When they rose to a thousand feet high, they began to converge upon the center of the square.

The 16 black pillars of flame fused together, forming an incredibly huge black fireball. Runes began to appear on the surface of the fireball. They constantly shifted and connected together, as if they were a chain of seals.

The three Demonic Path priests took out silver daggers and slashed their palms without hesitation. At the same time, undulating chants began to emerge from their lips. The ancient and boundless syllables reverberated through the world. The blood that spilled out seemed lifted by an invisible strength, rising towards the heavens and pouring into the black fireball.

The chain of runes across the surface of the fireball rapidly started to be soaked in blood. They gradually turned transparent before finally vanishing...as if the sealed strength had been released!

Bang –

The black fireball exploded, bounded by the 16 pillars of flame. Space violently shook, as if it were a great lake of water and some colossal and unknown being was slowly rising from the depths below.

A spatial crack appeared. Then a second, a third...more and more were formed. But, there was no disorder to them at all. The cracks slowly began to combine together, forming an incomparably massive gate.

The thick cracks melded together, forming the frame of the gate. The smaller cracks created decorations that embellished the gate. The cracks on the two doors joined together to form the lifelike visage of a demon.

Qin Yu's eyes widened. As he watched the astonishing scene unfolding before him, he suddenly felt a burning heat on his back. Because he had obtained a demonic bloodline, the demon face on his back began to slowly appear. If others saw this, they would definitely be stunned. This was because the demon head on Qin Yu's back was almost identical to the demon head in the skies formed by the spatial cracks.

Quietly, the cracks that spread through space began to peel and fall off, as if it really were a shattered mirror. Each spatial fragment was the color of the sky, but as they fell off, what they revealed behind was pitch black darkness. They continued to pour down and decompose before disappearing.

Then, a great bronze gate appeared in the shattered space. It was exactly the same as the gate formed by the spatial cracks. Then, at this time, the massive demon head opened its eyes.

Shua –

Within its eyes...was a blood prison as vast as a sea!

At this moment, besides the three Demonic Path priests and the two Calamity Immortals, everyone in the great square and the entire Heavenly Demon City was shaking.

The only reason Qin Yu didn't cry out in pain was because he resisted the urge to do so with all of his strength. The burning heat on his back was so hot that it was like he had been lit on fire and was in the process of burning away! His body shivered and sweat streamed down him, nearly drenched his robes wet.

Luckily, everyone seemed to have been stunned and suppressed by the aura of this demon face. Their minds were filled with terror and awe and none of them noticed what was happening with Qin Yu.

In the great skies above, the demon head on the bronze gate opened its eyes. Qin Yu stuffily coughed and his body wavered.

Fortunately, the bronze gate slowly opened in the next moment. The terrifying oppression he felt and the burning feeling on his back immediately vanished. He gasped for breath in great heaving gulps, sweat dripping down the hem of his robes. His hair was matted to his forehead and he looked distressed.

The surrounding Black Demon Sect cultivators all let out a long breath and regained their senses. They soon discovered Qin Yu's current rough condition.

After some surprise, they revealed looks of understanding. Then, they humphed, their eyes full of disdain.

As they thought, cultivators who were over a hundred years old would find entering the Demon Ascension gate ten times or even a hundred times more difficult. This sight in front of them was the best evidence.

This person hadn't even entered and he was already like a half-dead dog. Once he entered, he was sure to die, with no chances of survival!

Hum hum! This surname Yao was unparalleled when it came to being vicious and ruthless. It was one thing if he abused his power against them in the Black Demon Sect, but then he decided to recklessly enter the Demon Ascension Gate with no idea of death or danger. If he felt regret it was already too late!

Luckily for them, they had maintained a sufficient distance from him this entire time, otherwise they would have been implicated by him.

No, that's not good enough, I need to stay further away! If I was stained by his aura, that would truly be miserable!

As if they all came to a tacit understanding, the space around Qin Yu was suddenly emptied of people. They all turned their heads away from him, fearing that even taking a breath in his direction would draw them into his mess.

This attracted even more attention.

Zuo Lanyue was expressionless. His purple eyes swept over Qin Yu. There was a brief cold flash before he returned to serenity once more.

Sun Zifu shook his head. "This fellow is really bringing about his own destruction! After entering, I need to widen my eyes and make sure I avoid him. If I meet him I need to turn around and run, otherwise if I'm not careful I might even die without knowing the reason."

Everyone around him nodded in agreement.

Zhou Fenghuang smiled with her eyes. She glanced at Qin Yu before looking away. The arrangements had already been made. As for whether or not there would be harvests, only time would tell.

As for Qin Yu himself, he was an expert over a hundred years of age. He might be extraordinary in the outside world, but once he entered the Demon Ascension Gate, he was a dead man walking.

And it was worthless for her to waste any of her time and energy on the dead.

Qin Yu gasped for breath before barely managing to compose himself. He lowered his head, covering up the shock and surprise in his eyes.

Just what was happening? How could the Demonic Path's illustrious and renowned Demon Ascension Gate have some sort of connection to his demonic bloodline?

Although he had felt agonizing pain just now, he had an intuition that the Demon Ascension Gate's strength didn't hold any ill intent towards him.

Rather, this pain seemed more like a side-effect of the resonance between them.

Before Qin Yu could think further, a great suction force came from above, pouring out from the opened bronze gate. Without resisting, he allowed this strength to wrap around him. All around him, he could also see other cultivators who were being pulled up into the air.

"Enter the Demon Ascension Gate and unleash all of your abilities. Only the most outstanding amongst you can join the Demonic Path! I will be waiting here for the final victors to return!"

All around, numerous cultivators were stimulated by these words. Their eyes flushed red and they roared out together. Fervent ambition and earnest hopes filled their eyes. After reaching this step, no one was willing to be defeated here. This was because only by entering the Demonic Path would they have more opportunities to touch upon a greater strength in this world.

Qin Yu remained silent. He looked at the approaching bronze gate and the demon face that was split in two. There was an eyeball on each door. He didn't know why, but he felt as if they were watching him. Luckily he wasn't frightened by this feeling. Rather, there was a sense of warmth to it.

Looking at the two eyes, Qin Yu's field of vision gradually turned black. He took a deep breath, tossing away all extraneous thoughts. He muttered to himself, "Demon Ascension Gate, I'm here..."

Then, like a tiny rock falling into water, ripples appeared in the darkness in front of Qin Yu and it swallowed him in.

His consciousness fell into a brief trance. Then, as if only a single breath of time passed, Qin Yu's vision was restored. He looked around and only after determining that there was no danger did he feel a bit more relieved.

"Ahh! Why are you here!?" Within the sad and shrill screams, there was a heavy dose of panic.

Qin Yu had already discovered that not too far away was Sun Zifu and three other cultivators. They were all staring at him.

Young master Sun looked as if he had been bitten by a poisonous snake. "Don't look at me! Don't look at me! We haven't seen you, we've never seen you!" He shoved a foot on a person behind him and a bright light surrounded his body before he shot away. "What are you all still doing there? Do you plan on waiting for death!?"

"Young master, wait for us!" The three cultivators anxiously chased after him, soon vanishing from sight.

Qin Yu rubbed his nose, an awkward expression on his face. Did that bastard really need to be frightened to such a degree? He shook his head and walked forward, his figure soon submerging into the dense forest.

The so-called Demon Ascension Gate was not just a giant bronze gate, it was a key that connected space. This small world around him was where the true test was.

Qin Yu had resolved himself to pass through the Demon Ascension Gate and enter the Demonic Path. So, he had done research and had a certain understanding of it.

What the Demon Ascension Gate connected to was a small world filled with demonic energy. A massive number of demon beasts existed here and by killing them, one could obtain points depending on their strength.

These points were the key to entering the Demonic Path. The higher one was ranked, the higher one's chances of passing. Moreover, once a person obtained points, they couldn't be reduced or traded away. As a result, at the start, most people either tried to get as great a lead as they could, or they tried to force other cultivators ranked above them to retreat and increase their own ranking.

The reason they could force others to retreat was due to the soulguard stones. As long as a cultivator met a danger they couldn't overcome, they could directly transmit themselves out.

Of course, hunting and killing powerful demon beasts within the Demon Ascension Gate's small world provided more benefits than just points. After all, during all other instances of the Demon Ascension Gate, at most a hundred some people would advance. The vast majority of cultivators were doomed to fail.

If this was the extent of the benefits, there likely wouldn't be so many people competing for qualifications to enter the Demon Ascension Gate with all their strength.

Hunting down demon beasts provided another benefit. By killing them, one could obtain their demon blood which was infused with potent demonic energy. Refining and absorbing this demon blood could help strengthen a cultivator's mortal body and even activate their demonic bloodline.

As for those people that had already activated their demonic bloodline, refining and absorbing demon blood could enhance a person's demonic bloodline. If one absorbed enough they could even allow their bloodline to rise to the next step. It was because of this reason that through all the previous openings of the Demon Ascension Gate, it had become an unsurpassed grand ceremony of all who walked the demonic path!

"Demon beasts, is it?" Qin Yu whispered to himself, a look of anticipation in his eyes.

Before waiting too long, Qin Yu's curiosity was satisfied. A ferocious wolf-like creature appeared in front of him. Its body was covered in black scales. It was the first demon beast he had encountered since arriving here.

Disregarding all else, just this demon wolf's ability to conceal its aura was incredible. If it weren't for the Cosmic Seacross Bell reminding him, he likely wouldn't have sensed it.

But as long as he knew where this demon wolf was, its strength proved no threat against Qin Yu.

With a flick of his sleeves, the void twisted and wrapped around the demon wolf. Before it could even howl in fear, it was torn and twisted into a pile of flesh and broken bones.

A fluctuation spread out from the soulguard stone. Qin Yu sensed it and discovered he had gained two points. It was clear this was from killing the demon wolf.

Moreover, there was also a leaderboard within the soulguard stone. Qin Yu was ranked past 1000 and it didn't display his specific ranking.

The one ranked first was a cultivator named Gu Sansi; he had reached 90 points. After that were the other top ten ranked cultivators. They had points in the dozens.

Near the top, Qin Yu could see a familiar name – Zuo Lanyue, 67 points, ranked fifth.

His eyes narrowed with a cold intent. Qin Yu looked down and found another familiar name – Sun Zifu, 21 points, ranked 47th.

After taking back his divine sense, a dignified look appeared on Qin Yu's face. Was everyone planning to crazily sprint to the top of the rankings from the very start? But, he didn't feel hurried. Killing this demon wolf had contributed two points. If he hunted down and killed even more powerful demon beasts at the commander level or higher, he could obtain ten times the points if not more.

With Qin Yu's current strength, as long as his luck wasn't too bad, obtaining points wouldn't be difficult at all. He was confident he would storm into the top of the leaderboard rankings.

He lifted a hand and grasped forward. The demon wolf's flesh and blood withered and dried, as if countless years had passed in the blink of an eye. In the end, all that remained was a fist-sized amount of blood essence. At this time, the demon head on Qin Yu's back opened its eyes. Its mouth widened and the blood essence flew in, fusing into his body.

Qin Yu closed his eyes and sensed the changes happening to his body. After several breaths of time, he opened his eyes again, a happy look on his face.

He clearly felt his demonic bloodline becoming stronger. Although it was only an extremely small amount, it still left Qin Yu overjoyed.

It had to be known that what Qin Yu refined now was only the blood essence of a small and weak demon wolf; the demonic energy it contained was thin and bare.

If he could kill a commander level demon beast, his demonic bloodline would undergo a considerable promotion.

And one's demonic bloodline provided an incredibly strong auxiliary function in cultivating the Demon Body. If Qin Yu wanted to bloom within the Demonic Path, even obtaining a crucial status, then cultivating the Demon Body was a shortcut to doing so.

"It looks like I will need to use all my strength in hunting..." Qin Yu licked his lips. Then, he stepped forward and his body dashed away like a bolt of lightning.

Within his soul space, the cold voice of a little girl rang out. "To the front left, a hundred miles."

A moment later, Qin Yu stood in front of the corpse of a giant demon beast a hundred feet long. Ignoring the 15 points it contributed, he kneeled down and reached out towards its head.

Chapter 489 – WhereAreYouGoing

Within a giant and empty cave, there were rough signs of chiseling everywhere. Torches were inserted in grooved channels in the wall. Thick globs of burning fat constantly dripped down, but before they were by the bone-chilling air.

More than ten figures were standing silently. Whether they were men or women, they were tall and their faces were etched with the color of passing wind and frost. They wore thick fur coats and fur hats. It wasn't because they weren't strong enough to resist the cold of the seasons, but that the cold air in this snowy northern region had a terrifying ability to pierce through and ignore one's cultivation.

Sitting in the center of these people was a silver-haired old man. He was different from the others in that all he wore was a thin white robe, making him seem even more thin and withered. But, the tall and calm men and women around him all looked at him with deep respect in their eyes.

Suddenly, a weak voice rose up. It was like an ice-bound stream in the mountains had finally thawed and was now beginning to flow. The silver-haired old man opened his eyes. His pupils were clear and bright, filled with a light that seemed as if it could see through all things.

"It's time." His voice was warm and temperate, a bit of anticipation in it. "After this, I must trouble you to block the cave and not allow anyone to detect it."

A particularly tall and sturdy man bowed. "Lord Sage, do not worry, I will not allow a single mistake to happen." He turned and walked back, standing beneath a burning torch.

The other tall men and women bowed towards the silver-haired old man and took their respective positions.

Hu –

Hu –

Deep roars burst out from deep within the cave. The animal fur-wearing men and women erupted with an extraordinary aura. At this time, the torches above their heads began to quietly change. Their color deepened, becoming a burning crimson, as if they were made of burning blood.

Slight fluctuations were released from these flames. Like a silent spring rain, it covered the entire cave. Then, an invisible membrane formed, completely isolating the cave from the outside world.

The silver-haired old man faintly smiled, satisfaction on his face. He fell backwards, and with a popping sound as if he were entering water, he was submerged in dark red blood.

After waiting for countless years, it was finally time to begin. The environment was becoming increasingly poor and his people could not afford to wait any longer. So, this time they had to succeed.

Even if he died, he would use this body to open up a road for the continuation of their tribe!

...

In the far off depths of the Demon Ascension Gate's small world, there was a land filled with numerous ancient trees that rose up into the heavens. Each one was thick to the point that it would take dozens of people to wrap their arms around it. The luxurious leaves and branches blocked out the skies and a thick layer of fallen debris formed over the ground. In this dark and humid environment, there was a revolting stench that made one wish to vomit. Interwoven within this was multicolored gas; the toxicity was astonishing.

This place was peaceful and serene. Besides these thick ancient trees, there were no other life forms that existed here. There were no demon beasts, vines, weeds, thorns...it seemed that this was a nation ruled by ancient trees!

But if someone climbed up to the crown of one of these ancient trees and looked towards the depths of the forest, they would find that there really did seem to be a great tree that could support the heavens. Its size surpassed common understanding. In front of it, these thick and ancient trees seemed like small saplings that had just germinated.

The ancient blue leaves were so thick and crowded that they blocked out this part of the skies. Thus, it formed a pitch black darkness as if this ancient tree created a hole in the world.

But at this moment, within this terrifying darkness, there were several flashes of red. It was like the mouth of a giant monster had opened, ready to swallow countless lives.

If one approached this terrifying great tree, they would discover that the veins of all its leaves were gradually transforming into a crimson color. It was like its system of roots had drilled into a blood sea in the depths of hell and was absorbing it, thus causing this destruction and ferociousness.

Cracks began to appear in the ground. Bright red blood gushed out, constantly flowing out from the cracks and surrounding the ancient trees nearby.

...

Qin Yu was expressionless. He looked at the four cultivators in front of him who seemed pleasantly surprised, as if someone had just thrown a pouch of gold at their heads, and his eyes remained calmly indifferent.

Perhaps his calmness caused these four people to not underestimate him. They hesitated repeatedly before one of them said, "Yao Bin, if you know what's good for you then hand over the wonder stone and we won't make things hard for you. Otherwise, your journey through the Demon Ascension Gate ends here!"

As he thought, it was the bounty announced by Zuo Lanyue that was causing him trouble. His eyebrows furrowed together and a cold light flashed in his eyes. He didn't know the reason why, but those people at the top of the ranking list were gaining points at an incredible speed. Even if Qin Yu had the Cosmic Seacross Bell warning him of enemies, he had only managed to reach the 64th spot.

Although this result was sufficient to join the Demonic Path, Qin Yu believed there was a great gap from where he should be.

If he wanted to rise as fast as he could within the Demonic Path, he needed enough resources and attention from them. Thus, Qin Yu didn't plan on hiding his skills but instead planned on erupting with all his strength so that the Demonic Path would notice him.

This being the case, then within the Demon Ascension Gate he would need to gather as many points as he could to rank as high as possible. Of course, taking first place would be the best outcome.

Thus, he didn't have any time to waste on these people.

"Leave, or I will make you leave." These two 'leaves' had clearly different meanings.

The four cultivators were stunned. Their complexions immediately darkened. They never expected that Qin Yu would still be so arrogant at this moment. One of them sneered, "You would rather do things the hard way..."

Before he finished speaking, there was a loud explosion. The ground seemed to shake. The cultivator who spoke widened his eyes, disbelief on his face.

You attacked...you attacked...you dare to attack!?

But soon, this shock turned into fear. The rapidly approaching figure released an incredibly cruel and brutal aura, as if he were a vicious beast in human form.

Horror surged forth from his heart. In fact, he had no means to block this collision and could only raise his arms to barely block it in time.

Bang –

The deep sound caused the hearts of the three others to skip a beat. Their scalps tingled. In the next moment, they saw their previously lively companion go flying away. The arms he used to block with were now bent at an extremely bizarre angle and one could even see bits of white bone fly past him. A cold chill overtook them.

It was only now that they heard a sad and shrill scream of pain. The cultivator plummeted to the floor, his body plowing a deep gash in the ground and scattering blood all along the path.

When the cultivator finally came to a stop, the other three finally saw the appearance of their companion. They sucked in a cold breath and their faces paled.

They saw that the man's arms had turned as limp as noodles. His chest had collapsed inwards and blood gushed out from every orifice of his head. It was clear his internal organs had suffered severe damage.

A punch...it was just one punch...

The three paled even further.

Kacha –

With a light sound, the cultivator at the bottom of the ditch was suddenly wrapped up in a halo of black light. Then, he vanished from sight.

Soulguard stone...

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. This was the first time he had seen a cultivator make use of the soulguard stone; it really did allow someone to leave whenever they wanted. This was also normal when he thought about it. Those that had the qualifications to participate in the Demon Ascension Gate were the most talented and outstanding juniors of their generation. The Demonic Path would not allow massive swathes of them to perish here.

Qin Yu's eyes swept over and the three cultivators rapidly retreated. One of them shouted. "You...what do you want to do!? Let me tell you something, my uncle is a manager within the Demonic Path! If you dare to harm me, you will suffer retaliation!"

His voice and expression were threatening and aggressive, but his heart was actually weak and fading.

Qin Yu said without expression. "Give me your demon blood."

The three of them relaxed but revealed a pained expression in the next moment. Then, they each took out a jade bottle.

Qin Yu took them all and inspected them. With the cultivations of these three people, it was probably all they could gather so far.

"Screw off!"

The three turned and fled without any hesitation.

If they gave up their demon blood they could still continue to hunt down demon beasts and gather more. But if they were forced to leave, that really would be miserable for them.

Moreover, the sight of what happened to their companion just now was still fresh in their minds and filled their hearts with fear.

Compared to him, they were much luckier!

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. With a bit of strength, the seals on the outside of the three jade bottles shattered and all the demon blood that the three cultivators used up so much effort to gather suddenly floated in front of him.

Demon blood could help a cultivator strengthen their mortal body and awaken their demonic bloodline. But, if one saved up enough to a certain extent and then swallowed it down again, there was a much higher chance of activating and promoting one's bloodline. At the very least, even if a person didn't have any bloodline talent, they could still bring this demon blood out and sell it at a sky-high price.

Of course, Qin Yu didn't care for the reason why these three people had saved up their demon blood. He grasped out a hand and the three globs of demon blood fused together. Then, it snaked along his fingers and fused into his body.

After a moment Qin Yu opened his eyes, disappointment on his face.

As he thought, low-level demon blood was of almost no use to him. If he wished to continue strengthening his demonic bloodline he would need to find a way to hunt down higher level demon beasts and obtain more formidable demon blood.

Unfortunately, even up until now, Qin Yu hadn't met any higher level demon beasts. It seemed that there weren't many of them in this small world.

He shook his head and suppressed these helpless thoughts. Taking a step forward, he howled ahead.

However, only a brief moment passed before he came to a sudden stop. With a gloomy expression, he looked at a large tree in front of him.

A corpse was slumped beneath the tree. The body was torn in two parts from the waist. Blood still seeped out from the wound, proving that this person hadn't died too long ago.

And surprisingly, this corpse was one of those three people who had just fled from Qin Yu. His eyes were still wide and filled with fear.

Everyone who entered this small world had a soulguard stone. Qin Yu had also seen that item's powers just now.

If someone wanted to run away, even he couldn't stop them.

So, if this person died such a tragic death here, then they had either been ambushed and didn't have enough time to use the soulguard stone...or the demon beast or whatever else that killed him had been so strong that he couldn't escape...

Qin Yu raised his guard and vigilantly looked around. Suddenly, his pupils shrank and he rapidly drew backwards.

At this moment, the split-in-half corpse tilted its head up and looked straight at Qin Yu.

"Where...are...you...going..."

Even if Qin Yu had a firm will, he still felt a cold chill instinctually drill out from the depths of his heart.

The ground beneath him suddenly caved in. His body was like a great stone as he howled backwards.

The moment Qin Yu dodged backwards, the caved in ground where he had been suddenly exploded. Countless terrifying tree roots drilled out, blotting out the skies as they came crashing back down.

If he hadn't decisively retreated just now, he feared he would have already been entangled by these roots!

Bang –

Bang –

With loud explosions, the ancient tree behind the corpse suddenly pulled its roots out from the earth. The network of countless roots wove together, forming six giant feet of roots that pushed the massive tree forward.

At some time, a branch came out from the tree, lifting up the upper half of the corpse. As the tree shook and raced forward, the two blood-filled eyes of the corpse still stared straight at Qin Yu.

Chapter 490 – Ancient Monster Tree

When Qin Yu had been examining his surroundings, he noticed that the blood flowing out from the corpse had strangely disappeared into the ground without spreading out at all. It was like a large invisible mouth was beneath the corpse, slurping up all the blood. Still, he never imagined the killer would be this giant tree.

A loud rumbling sounded out from behind him. The speed of this tree monster was astonishingly fast. Countless roots swung around, like the arms of malevolent ghosts.

“Stay...here...join...me...” The corpse's mouth flapped open and close, the voice incomparably strange. With loud cracking noises, dozens of branches suddenly fell off from the tree and the sound of whistling arrows filled the air.

Qin Yu's heart skipped a beat. He thrust his feet into the ground and came to a halting stop. He could hear piercing sounds ring out from above his head, causing his hair to flutter up. A thick and dense array of branches pierced deep into the earth in front of him, forming a mountain of wood that blocked his way.

The tree monster rapidly approached. The upper-half of the pierced through corpse suddenly revealed a strange smile as it opened its mouth and emitted an ear-piercing scream.

Qin Yu stiffened. At this moment, he felt as if countless iron needles had ruthlessly pierced into his mind, nailing his soul tightly in place.

At this time, the Cosmic Seacross Bell within his soul space began to ring. The sonic waves were like surging tides, crushing all the invading power.

Qin Yu's movement was instantly restored. A trace of killing intent flashed in his eyes. However, he kept still, maintaining an appearance as if he was still being suppressed.

A ghastly cackle came from the corpse's mouth. The branches of the tree monster wove into two large hands that grasped at Qin Yu.

Following that, only a bit of strength needed to be applied and he would end up just like the corpse before him.

But at this moment, a blinding silver white light erupted, ruthlessly crashing into the tree monster like a bolt of lightning falling from the skies. The corpse emitted a pained roar and countless blocking branches were cut apart. On top of the massive body of the tree monster, a long wound appeared with green goo wildly gushing out.

Qin Yu swiftly lifted his right hand and his index finger thrust into the tree monster's wound. Then, he landed on the ground and howled away once more.

The corpse roared in anger. The wound on the tree monster's surface began to regenerate at a speed visible to the naked eye. Even the severed branches began to grow back.

Its six giant feet formed of roots continued to move forward, chasing after Qin Yu. But at this moment, its immense body staggered and it almost fell down in place. The corpse's eyes widened and it stubbornly stared at Qin Yu. Its mouth moved as if it wanted to say something but all that came out was black blood.

Then, like a wax figure rapidly melting beneath an inferno, the upper half of the corpse dissolved into yellow and red goo. The massive body of the tree monster trembled. It tried to straighten itself, but its network of tree roots began to turn black and rot away at an incredible speed.

Bang –

The tree monster crashed into the ground.

Qin Yu stopped and turned around. He watched the tree monster on the ground fiercely struggle until its twitching movements gradually came to a stop. He furrowed his eyebrows, a dignified expression on his face.

Earlier, he had discovered that this tree monster possessed a mind-boggling self-healing ability. If he really wanted to directly face it and kill it, he would surely need to pay a great price.

Thus, he used the finger of his right hand. Because it had absorbed enough poison and transformed into a part of the Great Dao Body, its toxicity had become even more terrifying than before. Just a touch was able to poison this tree monster to death.

However, in Qin Yu's understanding, there were no records of this tree monster in the information he received about the Demon Ascension Gate. Moreover, the dead cultivator left a shadow that hovered over his heart.

This opening of the Demon Ascension Gate seemed different from before!

After reminding himself to raise his guard, Qin Yu turned and quickly vanished from sight.

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Two cultivators were slumped on the ground near a mountain stream. Their hearts had been pierced through by tree roots, but because one of them had a tyrannical cultivation, he had yet to die.

The cultivator lifted a trembling hand and took out the soulguard stone. Then, with his final strength, he crushed it.

Hum –

A black halo of light appeared around him, wrapping about his body. His darkened eyes began to shine a little, hope rising within them. But at this moment, an unknown change occurred. The black halo of light violently shook and then shattered.

The cultivator's eyes widened, his face pale with shock and fear. "No!"

His scream was full of despair!

The tree roots that pierced through the hearts of the two cultivators suddenly turned transparent. At this time, one could see red blood flowing through them, pouring deep into the depths of the earth.

Several breaths of time later, the roots released themselves and drilled into the ground, leaving behind the corpses of the two cultivators. But, because all the moisture from their bodies had been taken away, all that was left were two withered corpses. Their mouths were still wide open in pained screams. Their heads faced the heavens in a silent roar, as if asking why they would perish here. But what a pity, they were doomed to never receive an answer.

...

On a gravel beach, a female cultivator fled in distress. There were countless rips in her robes, revealing her clear and fair skin. As she ran away, traces of a spring scene could be seen.

She constantly looked behind her. Although there was nothing there, she didn't relax at all. Instead, her eyes became even more panicked.

This was because just moments before, she had witnessed several of her companions being dragged into the ground without warning. After that, none of them came back up.

Just what is that...why isn't the soulguard stone working...I don't want to die...I don't want to die...I don't want to die...!

Her expression became even more flustered. She suddenly staggered. Although she didn't fall to the ground, her speed inevitably slowed. She paled, infinite despair pouring out from her eyes.

Bang –

Countless crushed stones shot up into the skies. The roots that drilled up were like an open mouth, swallowing the female cultivator and then returning belowground as fast as lightning.

The gravel beach became quiet once more, as if nothing had happened. It was just that several pieces of gravel were stained with drops of blood, silent proof of what had occurred here.

...

Bang –

There was a loud crash on the ground as a deep pit was formed. The cultivator at the bottom of the pit was in a distressed state as he spat out a mouthful of blood. He looked at the demon ape crazily hurtling towards him and he bitterly cursed out loud. He never thought that because he was being greedy and killed two little demon apes, he would actually attract such a terrifying fellow.

This demon ape should be the commander of the demon ape pack. Perhaps amongst the little demon apes he had killed was one of this demon ape's direct bloodline descendants.

Hum hum! No wonder it had kept chasing him without end. He had fled for such a long time but had finally been forced into this hopeless situation.

But even so, what can you do to me? You damned demon ape, if you want to take revenge, try again in your next life!

The cultivator flipped his hand and took out the soulguard stone, a sigh in his eyes. His trip through the Demon Ascension Gate was over with this, and he still felt a bit of unwillingness.

Kacha –

The soulguard stone shattered and a black halo of light spread out. The demon ape roared in rage, but helplessness rose in its cruel and blood-filled eyes.

It recognized this stone. As long as these damned intruders destroyed it, they would be able to escape without losing a single hair.

Through the endless years, demon beasts of various tribes had been hunted down and killed generation after generation. But, they were rarely able to kill these intruders.

Today was also the same.

The demon ape came to a stop. It knew that it had already lost its chance to kill its enemy. Its blood-red eyes seemed to see through that black halo of light and see the mocking look in the intruder's eyes.

Pa –

Like a popping air bubble and also like a layer of ice bursting apart, the black halo of light broke down and faded away.

But, the intruder was still in the pit.

Both sides were stunned at the same time. After a short period of time, the sighing expression in the cultivator's eyes became one of inexhaustible fear. He struggled to stand up.

The helplessness in the demon ape's eyes instantly disappeared. All that was left behind was cruelty and rage.

Bang –

The ground was torn apart by sharp claws. It took several steps forward and leapt into the air. Then, like a heavy stone, it crashed into the pit, smashing into the cultivator's chest. As the sound of breaking bones filled the air, the demon ape opened its jaws wide and placed the cultivator's entire head between its teeth.

Crunch –

Crunch –

This was the sound of hard skull bone being chewed upon. Fresh blood and brain fluids dripped down the sides of the demon ape's mouth. It puffed up its chest and beat down like a drum, its head rearing back and roaring towards the sky in excitement.

These damned intruders, they seemed to have lost whatever it was they relied upon to escape...their end had arrived!

...

When Qin Yu killed the tree monster and escaped, the small world of the Demon Ascension Gate had already started to fall into chaos.

There were tree monsters killing people, but there were even more wild and enraged demon beasts rampaging about. Many of them had even taken the initiative to hunt down human cultivators.

In this world, there were no living beings willing to be fat sheep reared in a cage, their only destiny to wait in despair for the day they were butchered.

This was particularly true for demon beasts that had developed wisdom, who possessed tyrannical strength, and were naturally cruel and bloodthirsty.

And, what was even stranger was that everything that occurred in this small world was isolated from the outside world, not alarming any of the powerful Demonic Path powerhouses standing guard outside.

Thus, this great catastrophe arrived, sweeping through the entire small world. It was destined to cause countless deaths and serious losses to the future elites of the Demonic Path.

..

Two figures stood atop a large tree, staring towards the depths of the small world with a dignified look in their eyes. At the same time, there was a bit of happiness.

“Ancient tree monsters!”

The figure on the left slowly spoke. His body was tall and straight like a spear and his elegant eyebrows were like swords. He emitted an endlessly heroic spirit just by standing.

To the right was a familiar person; it was the one known as the Blood Battle Demon God, Zuo Lanyue. He took a deep breath, suppressing his tumbling emotions. There was a burning heat deep in his eyes.

“Brother Xu, I never imagined that entering the small world this time, we would actually have such a marvelous opportunity.”

The two youths glanced at each other. There wasn't anything that needed to be said; they understood each other.

To others, these ancient tree monsters awakening might be a disaster. But in their eyes, this was a monumental spell of good fortune.

If they could hunt down these legendary ancient tree monsters...

Xu Guzi lightly said, "With just you and I, we cannot accomplish this."

Zuo Lanyue smiled. "Then I must bother Brother Xu to call upon our colleagues. I imagine that our other fellow daoists must be interested in this."

...

Beneath the ancient tree monster that towered higher than the heavens, the blood that flooded out from the cracks in the ground began to stir and tumble about. Like boiling water, faint traces of blood fog rose up, slowly condensing into a figure.

This figure resembled a thin and emaciated old man. His eyes were calm and tranquil, with a bit of pity and compassion within them. This was unexpectedly the old man respectfully referred to as the Sage in the cave within the northern snowy regions.

What was different now was that he wore a thin blood red robe. He gazed into the distance, and after several breaths of time, revealed a happy expression.

"Juniors of the demonic path, please offer your life and warm blood to my people, to establish the foundation of our new life!"

The Sage flicked his sleeves. A giant mottled furnace of an unknown material appeared, settling right below the ancient tree monster.

Pa –

Pa –

The ground broke open and countless tiny tree roots drilled up. They crawled up the furnace. Then, the ends of the roots broke open and beads of dark red blood dripped into the furnace.

It was a tremendous amount. Even though the beads of blood dripped out from the tree roots slowly, once they reached a certain number, it was like raining blood!

The Sage looked at this and his eyes became even warmer, as if he saw the light of hope.