

## **My Master 101**

### Chapter 101: Zi Zai Gao Jie\_1

Om! Feng Lianxin's aura quivered, and he entered a seemingly inexplicable state of enlightenment amidst feelings of inferiority and shame.

Enlightenment? Those who had followed were envious as they watched Feng Lianxin, the man who had shown off and been taught a lesson through a poem now gained a moment of enlightenment.

That was enlightenment! A state many cultivators would never achieve in their lifetime.

Feng Lianxin felt as if mysterious characters were dancing all around him. Although he had seen these characters and knew their meanings, within his moment of enlightenment, it seemed he couldn't understand them at all.

The characters of enlightenment interwove, and from them, faintly came the clashing sounds of weapons in battle.

Those were characters, but also history! Those were characters, yet elegies! Those were characters, and also passion! Those were characters... yet not characters...

Feng Lianxin felt as though he had bathed in the river of characters for years. When he next opened his eyes, merely a few breaths had passed. He looked at Chao Zi Zai.

The man was like an iron tower, someone Feng Lianxin naturally had to look up to. Now, as he gazed up at Chao Zi Zai, he found that he couldn't quite make out the other's features—so towering was he!

"Feng Lianxin pays respects to his benefactor," Feng Lianxin said without a moment's hesitation, before kneeling in front of Chao Zi Zai and knocking his forehead to the ground nine times in rapid succession.

Chao Zi Zai was by no means a fool, just rugged in appearance. He immediately understood that he had passed a test and that his recent words had directly brought about the other's enlightenment.

"Old Cao, not bad! Maybe I should just switch to cultivating the literary arts," Chao Zi Zai transmitted to Cao Zhen through a secret voice, "Maybe..."

"No maybes, you most certainly cannot," Cao Zhen broke through Chao Zi Zai's illusion directly through their secret communication, "If I can't walk the path of literature, I can only show off by transporting poems and songs. Such piracy within piracy, you shouldn't hold out hope. Better to stick to something else."

"You're right, I'll just finish playing this role first," Chao Zi Zai replied to Cao Zhen, then turned his serene gaze onto Feng Lianxin, saying, "Little Feng, the path of literature is like the myriad stars in the sky—you must remain humble."

Feng Lianxin could only kneel and knock his head on the ground, not daring to even think of anything else. Although his cultivation base might be higher than Chao Zi Zai's, it was only because the latter had taken the wrong path.

"If Brother Chao is willing, I would like to go back and discuss it with our master," Feng Lianxin said with his forehead pressed to the ground, "He could speak on our behalf and discuss the matter of transferring peaks with the esteemed Peak Master. Although such things have almost never occurred in our Hundred Peaks Sect, with your talent and literary foundation, if you practiced the Literature Cultivation Technique..."

"No need," Chao Zi Zai interrupted Feng Lianxin directly, thinking to himself that he only knew those two poems. Transferring to their peak aside, it would also cut off his own cultivation path.

"Is it because of my earlier offense?" Feng Lianxin lifted his head, unable to believe the refusal, and quickly tried to make amends, "Just nod your head in agreement, and I would kneel at Seven Star Peak for a year, three years, five years... even ten years!"

Feng Lianxin knew well that such a literary foundation could lead to great leaps for his own peak. With the immense debt of gratitude he owed to his master, what harm would there be in kneeling for ten years if he could bring such a person into their peak? His recent enlightenment was worth far more than a decade's work.

"It has nothing to do with that. I am the senior disciple of Seven Star Peak..."

"Rest assured! Given your foundation, if our master sees it, he will surely agree to offer you the position of senior disciple! Our peak's senior disciple would also willingly step aside," Feng Lianxin hurriedly explained, knowing that the position of senior disciple was akin to being the future Peak Master.

A senior disciple of a peak was the future Peak Master! Many people would be unwilling to transfer to another peak and lose the chance at becoming Peak Master.

The adage "better to be the head of a chicken than the tail of a phoenix" holds true in both the Immortal Realm and the mortal world—it's the same principle.

"What I mean is, I am the prime disciple of Seven Star Peak and should take good care of Seven Star Peak," Chao Zi Zai said, feeling insulted. He spoke irritably, "What do you think I am?"

Feng Lianxin felt like crying at that moment. How could the person who composed such a grand and imposing verse be so narrow-minded? How could the heart of someone who wrote such moving poetry be so constricted?

"Feng, tell me, did I pass the assessment?"

"Brother Chao certainly passed," He Xiaofu interrupted before Feng Lianxin could speak, moving gracefully and swaying her hips as she approached Chao Zi Zai, revealing a soft smile, "Sister has underestimated you, Brother Chao, please forgive me..."

"So, when will I get my money?" Chao Zi Zai asked the question that concerned him the most. Seven Star Peak was not much better than Four Treasures Peak used to be. Why had he wasted so much breath before? Wasn't it all for the sake of money?

The few people from the assessment team who listened to the sounds in the air even began to doubt their own ears. Had they malfunctioned?

Even they, who were not particularly well-versed in poetry and prose, had been moved by those two poems. They could feel the boldness within the verses, the overwhelming momentum, that kind of stirring emotion. It was clear how astonishing the two poems were.

Yet the author of these two poems, he... he actually...

The delicate face of He Xiaofu froze with her flower-like smile. She stood as if rooted to the spot by a spell, questioning her life, wondering what she had just heard.

Money?

Had she heard wrong? How could Brother Chao, a man of such literary talent and capable of creating such broad and majestic works, speak of money?

Placing that word next to Brother Chao was the greatest defamation to him!

Brother Chao, he...

He Xiaofu's eyes, clear as water, looked around. They took in the weeds underfoot, the low houses in the distance, and she suddenly understood—Brother Chao was being dragged down by Seven Star Peak.

Not to mention comparing it with her Jade Upright Peak, even among the minor peaks they had selected as a mere formality, Seven Star Peak was one of the lowest ranked. Look at Brother Chao's clothing—when people from the peaks met the assessment team, which one of them wasn't dressed properly?

After all, passing the assessment meant they would have to go down the mountain. Descending the mountain, they represented the face of the Hundred Peaks Sect. If you went out dressed so shabbily, wouldn't you lose face for the Hundred Peaks Sect?

The assessment team would not have a good first impression upon meeting them.

But Brother Chao still came to meet them dressed so shabbily. He must have had no choice. Therefore, Brother Chao's eagerness for money must also be aimed at supporting his Seven Star Peak.

He Xiaofu sighed inwardly. Why, of all people, did such a dazzling talent like Brother Chao belong to Seven Star Peak? If her Jade Upright Peak didn't only recruit female disciples, she would've wanted Brother Chao to join them.

But even if Jade Upright Peak recruited male disciples, Brother Chao would probably not join.

Feng Lianxin's Final Verse Peak was ranked forty-third, over fifty places higher than Seven Star Peak. Feng Lianxin had already secured the position of Senior Disciple in the peak, yet Brother Chao still refused, because he was the foremost disciple of Seven Star Peak!

What a breadth of spirit!

And it was precisely because of such spirit that Brother Chao was able to produce such astounding poetry!

Chapter 102: On the Shelf Testimonial\_1

It's time to write a book launch statement again.

Every time I write one, my feelings are different. In the beginning, my heart was full of trepidation, worrying if the performance would be poor, worrying about this and that. On the day after the launch, I couldn't even sleep, just sitting dumbly in front of the computer, constantly refreshing the author's backend, watching the numbers grow, holding a calculator to estimate my initial orders.

Later on, my mindset gradually became more peaceful, telling myself that it's impossible for one person to be liked by everyone in the world, and the same applies to a book. All you have to do is work hard and be true to those who like you and your book.

Today is another launch day. Looking back, I find the years I've spent writing quite interesting. Initially, I just wanted to earn some VIP manuscript fees. Then, when I saw others publish traditional characters and turn their words into printed text, I thought, I want that too!

Later on, I achieved it, and did quite well. Then I saw others publishing in simplified characters, and I thought, I want that too. And I achieved that as well...

After that, authors would chat together. Tang San once said he hoped to write a hundred million words in his lifetime. After hearing that, I asked myself what I wanted.

This question troubled me for a long time until one day, while chatting with Sheng Ji, Shi San, and others, I finally understood.

In writing, I'm rather greedy; I want to accomplish several things.

The first thing, just like I said before, is to write those stories well for people who like me and like one of my books.

The second thing is to write a few books that allow me to boast. I mean those kinds of books that I can hold proudly, whether I'm entering a university or a middle school, or presenting them to people in their thirties, forties, fifties, sixties... to different classes of people, and say with utmost pride, "I wrote this."

To write a few of those kinds, regardless of whether people like me or even like the few books I wrote, they would still say, "This book is pretty badass."

I enjoy writing hot-blooded literature. I used to think that only stories of battles, military themes, and the fantasy of fists and feet, the immortals and warriors, or historical wars could be hot-blooded.

It wasn't until one day I realized that ordinary life and common people can also be very hot-blooded, that I knew my writing and my ability to discover things had improved.

Later, I wrote a published novel, "Everyone's Life Will Ignite Once," with 170,000 words. When I finished writing this book, I was incredibly proud. I did it. The life of ordinary people can be passionate and can inspire others.

Many high school students messaged me after reading this book, asking if they could do it too.

At that moment, I was incredibly happy.

This was a sublimation of my writing life. I am very grateful for this book.

After finishing that, I had a conversation in which people said that internet authors' sci-fi works were just puffed-up fantasy martial arts stories in a sci-fi disguise.

I wasn't very happy when I heard this, and got into an argument. I told them that what they wrote was merely picking up the wisdom of Western sci-fi authors, Da Liu and He Xi being the exceptions, that we internet authors could write sci-fi that fits Eastern people.

Because of that argument, I wrote another sci-fi published novel, "The Game Of Fame," which shut that person up, and that made me quite proud.

During these processes, I knew what I wanted to write. I write for those who enjoy reading, using my modest abilities to vindicate internet authors, and to write a few books that let me brag to others.

These words might seem unrelated to this launch, but they kind of are connected.

For example, there are still many people in this world who think reading internet novels isn't very nutritious, or they think that people who read internet novels aren't high-class.

If by chance you like my book, find me somewhat interesting, and someone says your taste in reading internet novels isn't high-class,

Slap "Everyone's Life Will Ignite Once" right in that person's face. Tell them that there's no such thing as high or low class in this world. The author who wrote this book also writes internet novels! And he loves them immensely.

I've been singing my own praises! The time for the launch is here! Comrades! Friends! Come on! If you like "My Master Knows It All," then please subscribe and support it.

Oh right, let me talk about the original intention of this book. I wanted to write about friendship and family, indestructible friendship, or maybe the kind of family affection that can touch people's hearts, to write about the author's own values and worldview.

## Chapter 103: Tai Chu\_1

Chao Zi Zai looked around and wondered, "Isn't my voice loud enough? Why is there no reaction from any of you?"

What?

Has everyone been struck by a deafness spell?

"I said, the money, when will you give it to me?" he could only say again.

He Xiaofu had always been very fond of various kinds of poetry and was extremely sensitive to language. She sensitively noticed that Chao Zi Zai's wording placed 'money' at the forefront.

She would also like to give Chao Zi Zai the money right now, but she simply couldn't.

"Brother Chao," He Xiaofu said with a troubled expression, "the Sect will distribute rewards uniformly to the disciples selected after the assessment, and since the assessment isn't over yet, we can't give you the money directly."

"No money now," Chao Zi Zai said, disappointed, thinking he would have been paid first.

Seeing the disappointed look in Chao Zi Zai's eyes, He Xiaofu felt even worse. The idiom "a single penny stumps a hero" crossed her mind, imagining Brother Chao's spirit being caged by money.

If it had been earlier, she could have even taken out some money herself, but the problem was that one of her senior sisters had borrowed her savings to make a quick profit.

As a result, she lost everything and was also strapped for cash. Otherwise, she wouldn't have come to do the assessment and started with the last few Peaks to try to scrape up some resources.

While thinking, she cast a glance at Cao Zhen beside her—this man was the root cause of the problem.

As she was pondering, Feng Lianxin's voice came from the side.

"I wonder if there's anyone else from Seven Star Peak who's undergoing the assessment?" His attitude had improved a great deal compared to before. Although he was only facing the second lowest ranked small Peak with a mere seven or eight promising candidates, he wanted to remember the kindness shown by the disciple who had reached enlightenment at Seven Star Peak.

Chao Zi Zai gently shook his head and said, "No more." He was dragged to the assessment by Cao Zhen, and the other disciples of their Peak had no chance of passing.

A team member from the assessment team nodded and said, "If no one else is undergoing assessment, then we'll take our leave."

Suddenly, He Xiaofu turned her head, her eyes sharply fixed on the speaker, as piercing as a sword, as if to stab right into the team member's heart. She had just wanted to discuss something with Brother Chao, and this guy interrupted them—was it his place to speak? Who is the leader here, him or me!

Leave now?

Wait, actually, leaving now doesn't seem too bad.

Visiting the other Peaks to gather some resources could possibly help Brother Chao out a bit.

With this thought, she quickly turned her head to Chao Zi Zai, her gaze softening instantly, and her voice also became much gentler, "Brother Chao, since no one from your Peak is undergoing the assessment, we will take our leave first. I too am quite fond of poetry; in the future, I hope to seek your guidance on this matter and hope you won't refuse." Her soft voice seemed somewhat bashful.

Chao Zi Zai waved his hands dismissively and said, "Sister has other matters to attend to. The assessment is a major event for the Sect and must not be delayed."

Seek advice?

Yeah right, just now those few lines, if you ask me to repeat them, I couldn't even do it. If you want to learn folk songs, I could teach you that. Poems and songs, folk songs count as songs, right?

He Xiaofu took another deep look at Chao Zi Zai before turning around and leading her team away. Look, this was the magnanimity of Brother Chao; even with his Peak in such difficulty, he first and foremost thought of the Sect.

Once the assessment team left, Chao Zi Zai immediately dragged Cao Zhen towards the deeper parts of the courtyard.

Ninety-nine Peaks were still slightly better off than the Hundredth Peak—at the very least, they seemed to have a few more rooms, and the courtyard was much larger.

At the far end of the courtyard stood a house built with gray bricks.

Outside the house door, a sixteen or seventeen-year-old boy, with a food box slung over one arm, stood in front of the somewhat mottled door with a worried face. Upon seeing Chao Zi Zai, he promptly walked up with the food box and called out, "Big Brother."

Chao Zi Zai nodded slightly, his concern evident as he asked, "How is Master? "

The boy helplessly shook his head, "Still the same, refusing to eat or drink, not allowing anyone into his room, just crying alone inside."

Cao Zhen didn't even need to be told; as soon as he neared the door, he could hear wailing from inside the room, cries like, 'I have let down the ancestors of the Seven Star Peak.' 'Seven Star Peak will fall into ruin in my hands.'

"Ah..." Chao Zi Zai sighed deeply and looked earnestly at Cao Zhen, "Old Cao, it's all up to you this time. Please persuade the Peak Master."

Cao Zhen felt his scalp tingle under that gaze. Don't look at me like that, the way you're pinning all your hopes on me makes me nervous. What can I possibly say?

But under Chao Zi Zai's expectant look, he had no choice but to stiffen his resolve and push open the door.

Immediately, a regretful and pained wailing filled the air.

"I, Deng Qixing, have failed the ancestors of Seven Star Peak! I thought by offering the Wind Fire Flood Dragon Pearl, I could recruit the genius Yi Sheng and revive our Seven Star Peak, but Yi Sheng still joined another Sect. He went to our neighboring, lowest ranked Four Treasures Peak! It's my incompetence!"

There was a chair in the room, but Deng Qixing didn't sit. Instead, he lay sprawled on a cushion with his hair hanging loose, wailing at the top of his lungs.

It seemed as though he heard the door open. After a wail, he even raised his head to gaze in the direction of the door.

Almost at the same moment he looked up, Cao Zhen heard a 'squeak' from behind, and the door closed from the outside.

Chapter 104: Tai Chu\_2

Cao Zhen was completely baffled, "You just close the door on me like that? Aren't you afraid that your Peak Master and teacher would be pissed to death upon seeing me?" *freewebnovel.com*

Through his disheveled hair hanging down, Deng Qixing saw who was visiting and finally stopped weeping. He stretched out a hand and slapped it heavily next to the sitting cushion, raising a cloud of dust as he shouted, "What are you here for? I'm telling you, even if you've come, I won't give you the Wind-Fire Dragon Pearl! Although, I know that Yi Sheng is of the True Yang constitution, and I also know that after Yi Sheng becomes my disciple, he will grow to be the pride of the Hundred Peaks Sect and become its guardian!"

Indeed, we of the Hundred Peaks Sect are all from the same root! No matter which peak one belongs to, they are the pillars of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

I also acknowledge that the Wind-Fire Dragon Pearl is indeed an invaluable treasure for cultivators of the fire system like Yi Sheng, but I still won't give it to you!"

Cao Zhen blinked, this old man... he's faking it! All this show of excessive grief, the refusing to eat or drink, it's all an act, just to trick me into coming here! And it seems this old man might even want to give me the Wind-Fire Dragon Pearl.

If not, why would he bring up the Wind-Fire Dragon Pearl on his own before I even had a chance to speak after entering, and keep mentioning it again and again?

This is an old Oscar winner we have here! Cao Zhen couldn't help but give a thumbs up in his heart. Then he sat down face to face with the other party, speaking very candidly, "Senior, let's just talk about it. What conditions must be met for you to give me the Wind-Fire Dragon Pearl?"

All the evasive and roundabout talk since I entered the door clearly aims to negotiate terms!

Deng Qixing sat up straight, seemingly to get a better look at Cao Zhen. He even gathered the hair that was scattered in front of his face behind his head, sizing up Cao Zhen as if they were meeting for the first time.

This kid, he caught on so quickly?

I had planned out how to continue playing my role to make him understand my intentions for calling him here. And now, we're wrapping it up so soon?

Is this what they call being incredibly straightforward?

If anyone calls him obtuse again, they are the real blockheads, the rotten wood kind! I would spit in their face!

Since Cao Zhen had seen through the act, why keep up the pretense? Deng Qixing pointed outside the door and suggested, "I think, since you and Zi Zai get along so well, why not become sworn brothers through the ritual of the eight cycles of worship?"

Cao Zhen almost laughed upon hearing the old man's request. What a lengthy runaround... Deng Qixing was waiting for him here! Indeed, one must not underestimate any Peak Master. Although the old man's cultivation base isn't much, his intelligence is very sharp!

The sworn brotherhood in the Profound Yellow World is vastly different from the so-called brothers 'backing each other in person but stabbing each other in the back' that I knew before my transmigration.

In this world, the pledge of sworn brotherhood is taken extremely seriously by everyone.

There's even a saying that the four greatest joys in life are: to be accepted into an Immortal Sect, to experience enlightenment amidst mundane life, to find rare treasures in ancient ruins, and to form a sworn brotherhood.

Sworn brothers are those whom you can trust with your life at all times; those to whom you can entrust your wife and children without hesitation when you're facing certain death.

It is a bond like that of the Oath of the Peach Garden, where sworn brothers would face any peril together, willing to take a stab in the ribs for each other, even to the point of sacrificing their own lives!

After pausing for a breath or two, Cao Zhen nodded slightly, saying, "My relationship with Zi Zai is indeed excellent, so pledging sworn brotherhood is not a problem."

The Wind-Fire Dragon Pearl was naturally an extremely precious treasure. When Deng Qixing brought out the Wind-Fire Dragon Pearl during the assembly of the Hundred Peaks masters, it had indeed driven countless Peak Masters crazy with desire.

But his agreement came not from the Pearl's rarity, but rather because of the man, Chao Zi.

Before I transmigrated, the original owner of this body had a great relationship with Chao Zi, and after I transmigrated, Chao Zi had been consistently concerned about me. I could feel that whether Chao Zi persuaded me to give up duels or used his wife's savings to cover my losses, he had my best interests at heart.

I myself have a very good impression of Chao Zi, it's just that I've never considered pledging sworn brotherhood before.

It's not that I look down upon Chao Zi; I simply never thought about it, because as I see it, whether we take an oath or not, I would fully support old Chao with all my heart.

Even if he hadn't come running to Four Treasures Peak over my teacher's matter, I would have visited him anyway—to give old Chao a set of cultivation techniques and to talk to him about my business plan.

These days, empowerment is essential! Four Treasures Peak has already shed its poverty; we can't let Seven Star Peak continue like this!

Deng Qixing smiled, and for some reason, no matter how you looked at it, his smile seemed rather sleazy. He stood up from his cushion and, looking at Cao Zhen, chuckled, "Since we're to become sworn brothers, shouldn't you make a gesture of sincerity?"

Cao Zhen was a bit confused, "Gesture? Are you talking about giving money? Old man, I've never heard of having to give money to become sworn brothers."

"What do you mean 'giving money'? Don't frame it so crudely!" Deng Qixing's demeanor changed instantly, becoming very serious as he said, "Tell me, whether it's our Immortal Cultivation world where two individuals become dao companions, or in the mundane world where people get married, isn't there always a dowry?"

Cao Zhen nodded; that was indeed the case.

Deng Qixing continued, "To pledge sworn brotherhood is as significant as taking a dao companion, a major event in life; asking for a dowry isn't excessive, is it? The term dowry places emphasis on 'dowry.' We from Seven Star Peak aren't just after money—it's about the significance of the gesture."

Chapter 105: Tai Chu\_3

"Now that our Seven Star Peak has already offered the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl as a treasure, you from Four Treasures Peak should also make a gesture."

Cao Zhen felt that Deng Qixing really had something up his sleeve! No wonder his own master was only able to make Four Treasures Peak rank one hundredth while the other's Seven Star Peak could rank ninety-ninth!

This sequence of wailing, creating a fuss, and threatening to hang oneself, Deng Qixing had done everything but the latter! Of course, constantly kneeling and refusing to rise in front of the ancestral tablets wasn't all that different from hanging oneself.

It was a pity that he lacked exceptional immortal cultivation talent! Otherwise, this old man Deng might have been able to take Seven Star Peak to even greater heights, right?

Just this trick of pulling out the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl as a condition for forming a sworn brotherhood, and then in a turn of the head, the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl became the dowry offered by Seven Star Peak! Not just anyone could have the thick skin to do it.

However, the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl indeed was a rare treasure, and Seven Star Peak truly was in dire straits, so helping them out a bit was also like helping old Chao Zi.

"Five thousand liang." Cao Zhen stretched out five fingers and said, "I can offer five thousand liang of spirit stones as a dowry."

Deng Qixing was immediately overjoyed. For Seven Star Peak as it was now, five thousand liang of spirit stones was a huge amount of money. Since five thousand liang was already on the table, was ten thousand liang still far off? Cao Zhen had agreed so readily, it wouldn't be too much for him to ask for a bit more, right?

He put on the air of an experienced old-timer and said, "We aim for perfection..."

"Old man, I advise you to be content," Cao Zhen patted Deng Qixing's shoulder, at this moment completely devoid of the respect usually shown by a junior to a senior, more like a negotiation between gangsters, "If you get too greedy, you might end up with nothing. Whether Yi Sheng has a future or not, to tell you the truth, I'm not that concerned."

Deng Qixing reevaluated Cao Zhen once again. Although that handsome face looked so harmless to humans and animals, for some reason he felt like he was facing the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks.

Continuing the negotiation was impossible; the other party no longer called him Peak Master or senior, but had switched to 'old man,' clearly showing their true stance.

"Ah! Peak Master Cao, it's not that I don't trust you, it's just that the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl is too precious. You say I should just give it to you directly, and this..."

"Old man, you're making too much of a scene," Cao Zhen directly grabbed the bead Deng Qixing was holding and said, "Once we've sworn brotherhood, we are family. What's this about trust or no trust? Don't worry, I will definitely treat old Chao Zi well in the future, I'll be responsible for him!"

Deng Qixing, hearing Cao Zhen speak this way, finally showed a satisfied smile on his face. His own life was not much longer; before his death, he needed to find a reliable backing for his eldest disciple, and the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak was now the best option for Seven Star Peak.

Seeing the old man holding tightly to the bead and refusing to let go, Cao Zhen simply stood up and went over to the table, preparing the ink and brush and said, "I was initially planning to think of something for old Chao Zi, and today presents a good opportunity."

As he spoke, Cao Zhen began to write down the "Pure Yang Utmost Real Solution" on the paper.

Chao Zi had the Red Abyssal Flame Body, and like Yi Sheng's True Yang Body, both were of the Fire system.

The difference was that old Chao Zi's body was an Ancient Immortal Body. The advantage of his piece of Ancient Immortal Body over the ones from Four Treasures Peak, was that Chao Zi's purity of his Ancient Immortal Body was very low, a mere ten percent at most.

Hence, while those from Four Treasures Peak were completely suppressed by the Heavenly Dao and unable to progress, old Chao Zi's low purity allowed him to cultivate, not being completely suppressed! It just made his cultivation speed very slow, and progression extremely difficult.

Others would have to practice for one day, while he had to practice for ten days.

Pure Yang! It was indeed a direction sought by Daoists in their practice.

The three volumes of Zhang Daoling's Great Hollow Scripture naturally contained the complete "Pure Yang Utmost Real Solution."

In the Hundred Peaks Sect, besides old Chao Zi, the only friend left was Chen Shizhi. He couldn't just rise to power and forget his friends, could he? Moreover, they had given him a bead of incomparable value.

Deng Qixing looked on without saying anything, just watching Cao Zhen who kept writing. Suddenly, it occurred to him that this guy might be writing an IOU for a debt. He quickly called out, "Look here, this dowry for our sworn brotherhood can't be owed."

While he spoke, he also peered at the paper Cao Zhen was writing on.

Such beautiful calligraphy!

The first reaction Deng Qixing had upon seeing the writing, was that it was truly beautiful. As for what specifically made it good, he, not being from Wonderful Pen Peak or Immortal Pen Peak, couldn't articulate it, but he just felt that the calligraphy was really pleasing to the eye.

He even had the illusion that the plaques written by the calligraphy masters of Wonderful Pen Peak and Immortal Pen Peak for the top ten peaks were not as beautiful as the words right in front of him.

The next moment, he suddenly realized what was happening, and his eyes widened in shock.

"Pure Yang Utmost Real Solution!" Is this cultivation technique real or fake?

If it's real, why is he writing this? Could it be he intends to give this technique to our family's Zi Zai as a wedding gift? Tsk, what wedding gift! Is it a gift for our family's Zi Zai for becoming sworn brothers?

That can't be right, how could Cao Zhen possibly possess such a supreme cultivation technique! This guy must be bluffing.

Deng Qixing instinctively assumed Cao Zhen was tricking him, yet his gaze inadvertently fell upon the black characters on the paper.

Heaven and Earth Mysterious Sect, the root of all Qi, blazing like Danxia, devouring demons and ghosts...

"What is this nonsense? It doesn't make any sense," Deng Qixing muttered to himself, yet as he continued to read the text, his brow furrowed slightly.

This approach seemed feasible too...

Chapter 106: Tai Chu\_4

Is it even possible...

To think that it could be done this way...

This cultivation technique is extraordinary!

The more Deng Qixing examined it, the more astonished he became. With his limited understanding, he could not directly see through the intricacies of the cultivation technique before him, yet he could feel its vastness and profundity, sensing the mysterious and arcane secrets within it.

Though he had never cultivated, nor had he seen the true Pure Yang Utmost True Solution, just by the profound mysteries within this cultivation technique, he could affirm that it was indeed of the highest caliber; this technique was more mysterious and profound than any other technique he had ever encountered!

Could it be that this is the true Pure Yang Utmost True Solution?

This is, after all, the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution!

Even Vermilion Bird Peak and Azure Pheasant Peak of the Hundred Peaks Sect, which dominate the sect with their Fire Techniques, do not possess the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution, and both of those peaks are among the Top Ten Peaks!

As far as he knew, within the entire Hundred Peaks Sect, no one possessed the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution. How could Cao Zhen have the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution? It couldn't possibly have been passed down from Four Treasures Peak. If Four Treasures Peak had the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution, wouldn't they trade it for anything they desired? They would not have found themselves ranked last among the Hundred Peaks.

He couldn't understand how Cao Zhen might possess such a supreme cultivation technique and decided not to ponder it any further.

Considering his own circumstance, why couldn't he possess the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl if Cao Zhen could have the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution? Doesn't everyone have a bout of immense good fortune at some point?

Deng Qixing looked back at the cultivation technique, and before he knew it, he found himself completely immersed in it.

"Smoke is born of fire, fire descends, and the mist dissipates... Hmm? Why is there nothing more?"

Immersed as he was, Deng Qixing suddenly realized that the text that followed was missing. He abruptly lifted his head, looking annoyed at Cao Zhen, "Is this an incomplete version? Where's the rest of the cultivation technique?"

Cao Zhen placed down his brush and spoke softly, "After we form a sworn brotherhood, I will complete the rest of the cultivation technique. Giving it all to Elder Chao, can he really memorize it? Moreover, if he had the entire secret manual and his mindset became unstable, rushing for quick success, what then?"

"You're right, you're right..." Deng Qixing nodded quickly and then, with a flick of his sleeve towards the rice paper, a hot blast of wind blew across it, instantly drying the ink without damaging the paper in the slightest.

Watching Deng Qixing start to pack up the sheets of paper, Cao Zhen felt a quiet sigh within his heart. This old fellow had some tricks up his sleeve; drying the ink was no great feat, but doing so without causing the slightest damage to the rice paper reflected a rare precision of control.

This precision was the result of years of cultivation. Although his combat strength was strong now, he hadn't been cultivating for long, and it was precisely this control he lacked.

"How did you come by this?" Deng Qixing secured the secret manual and voiced the doubt in his heart.

It's, of course, a good thing to acquire such an item! But there are things that still need to be made clear! If the Master of Four Treasures Peak has accepted some benefit from the Demonic Path and is using it to tempt him...

"I am Qin Haoxuan, a great figure from the Tai Chu Era who, due to a cultivation mishap, had no choice but to reincarnate... I only awakened my memories a few months ago," Cao Zhen looked at Deng Qixing, whose face was a mix of confusion and caution, and soberly made up a story, "Don't worry, this life I am simply Cao Zhen, the Master of Four Treasures Peak."

Deng Qixing was puzzled about which era the Tai Chu Era was, then quickly figured that the world of immortal cultivation is vast, with countless eras, and it wasn't unusual for him to be unaware of it.

Very soon! Deng Qixing wholeheartedly believed Cao Zhen's nonsense because, in theory, a blockhead and pedantic Master of Four Treasures Peak with little capability couldn't possibly rise swiftly to prominence! But if it were an eminent individual from some era, then everything would make sense.

Seeing trust return to Deng Qixing's expression, Cao Zhen continued, "Once we leave this room, I will not acknowledge writing this cultivation technique, and how you obtained it, I won't have any idea." Although, the Hundred Peaks Sect is considered upright, and the peaks are like branches of the same tree, not allowing in-fighting.

But who knows if within the sect, there might be one or two who are tempted by greed? Moreover, the Master of Starshine Peak who opposed him that day was possessed by a demonic being; who's to say there aren't others within the sect possessed by such entities? Without having unleashed his full potential or fully equipped his six divine pieces of equipment, he naturally couldn't reveal himself as possessing the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution, such a cultivation technique.

"What did you say? Pure Yang Utmost True Solution? What does the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution have to do with you?" Deng Qixing acted as if he had no idea what Cao Zhen was talking about, having lived for so many years, how could he not understand the principle of the danger of possessing valuables? He clearly understood Cao Zhen's implications.

"Like the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl, the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution also came into my possession by chance," Deng Qixing said as he took out the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl and handed it over to Cao Zhen, "Take it."

Cao Zhen looked at Deng Qixing with slight surprise and asked, "You're just giving me the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl like that? Aren't you afraid that after I take the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl, I'll go back on my word, not give you the rest of the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution, and not form a brotherhood with Elder Chao Zi?"

"If that happens, I can only blame myself for being old and blind," Deng Qixing showed no intention of taking back the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl.

Cao Zhen took the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl, secretly amused, knowing that if that were the case, by the next day news that he possessed the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution might very well spread throughout the Hundred Peaks Sect.

"By the way, there is one more matter I'd like to discuss with Peak Master Deng," Cao Zhen remembered the business plan he had made for "Making No Talisman Too Difficult to Create," and halted his intention to leave, "Peak Master Deng, please find a disciple of yours who has no talent for Talisman Making."

Chapter 107: Tai Chu\_5

Deng Qixing's face instantly turned green, "My disciple on the peak has no talent for talisman-making." If there were disciples with the talent for talisman-making on his Seven Star Peak, he would do whatever it took, even if it meant selling everything, to find connections and send the person to the Talisman Maker Workshop to improve their talisman-making skills.

"Then find the disciple with the lowest level of cultivation to come here," Cao Zhen was now completely certain that the past ranking of the Hundred Peaks Sect was not at fault. Deservedly ranked ninety-nine, this peak truly was in a dire state.

Although Deng Qixing did not understand why Cao Zhen would want to see his weakest disciple, he still called out to the door, "Let Huo Shuzhou come here."

Shortly after, accompanied by a knock on the door, a muscular, dark-skinned man walked in.

Cao Zhen looked at the man somewhat curiously. On his way here, he clearly saw two disciples around thirteen or fourteen years old on Seven Star Peak and thought the one with the lowest level of cultivation would be one of those two children. To his surprise, it turned out to be this man, who looked at least twice as old as those children.

This...

As soon as Huo Shuzhou entered the room, he first greeted Deng Qixing, then turned his head to address Cao Zhen with respect, calling out 'Peak Master Cao.' Afterward, he looked back at Deng Qixing and asked, "Master, what are your orders for your disciple?"

Nothing else needed to be said about Huo Shuzhou; he was impeccable in terms of etiquette.

Deng Qixing pointed at Cao Zhen and said, "Ask him."

With a beaming smile, Cao Zhen asked, "Can you make talismans?"

Huo Shuzhou's face immediately showed a shade of shame as he nervously said, "Disciple is foolish and has shamed Master. I have not yet learned the art of talisman-making."

Cao Zhen's smile grew even brighter; it was better that he didn't know. When a novice succeeded later, it would be even more convincing, "It doesn't matter if you don't know, come, I'll teach you a Talisman Technique. Listen carefully."

Huo Shuzhou did not immediately thank him, but instead turned his head with a questioning look at his master, Deng Qixing.

"Aren't you going to thank Peak Master Cao?" Deng Qixing was frustrated internally. You blockhead, someone is offering to teach you Talisman Technique and you're looking at me? Hurry up and learn.

But just how powerful was Cao Zhen before his reincarnation? Could his greatest expertise actually be The Path of Talisman?

After receiving his master's command, Huo Shuzhou bowed to Cao Zhen and said, "Disciple Huo Shuzhou thanks Peak Master Cao."

"Alright, alright, let's start with the talisman-making technique." Cao Zhen began to recite from memory the method to create a Gathering Spirit Talisman from the third volume of Zhang Daoling's Great Hollow Scripture, the Great Dragon Tiger Real Spirit Talisman Technique.

The Gathering Spirit Talisman, as its name implies, is used to gather spiritual energy. It's the most basic talisman but is also widely needed by everyone.

For a moment, the room was unusually quiet. Only Cao Zhen's voice could be continuously heard.

Deng Qixing was completely dumbfounded; Cao Zhen actually possessed the knowledge of talisman-making, and it was extremely, extremely advanced at that!

This Talisman Technique was far more sophisticated than the one he knew.

If the Talisman Technique he had learned was just a grain of sand, the method Cao Zhen was teaching for making the Gathering Spirit Talisman was like a towering mountain; the two simply were not on the same level.

He had learned talisman-making too, but his teacher had told him that he had no talent for it, so he did not put much effort into it.

Mainly because, at the beginning of talisman-making, one is bound to fail often and waste a lot of money.

But now, listening to Cao Zhen's method for talisman-making, he even felt the urge to try making talismans himself.

Just how splendid was that era of the Tai Chu? He had never heard of such a talisman-making technique!

Cao Zhen quickly finished explaining how to make a Gathering Spirit Talisman. After all, it was the basic method for making a Gathering Spirit Talisman and was not difficult. He looked at Huo Shuzhou and asked, "Did you understand?"

"I... I..." Huo Shuzhou had a distressed look. After stammering for a while, he blamed himself, "Disciple is dumb and has not... not remembered."

"Didn't? Didn't remember..." Even Cao Zhen was taken aback. He had asked if he had learned, yet the reply was that he hadn't remembered. Well, if he hadn't remembered, he hadn't remembered. It was no big deal; he could explain it again.

"It's alright, I'll go over it with you one more time." Cao Zhen began again, repeating the instructions before looking at Huo Shuzhou.

Huo Shuzhou's head sunk even lower, and before Cao Zhen could ask, Deng Qixing by his side had already spoken up, "Peak Master Cao, take a rest. I will repeat it again."

There is a truth: no one understands a disciple better than his master. Deng Qixing began to recite in place of Cao Zhen. Since Cao Zhen had already recited it twice, he had memorized all the content.

Cao Zhen was certain of one thing, he had asked Deng Qixing to find the weakest disciple on the peak, and Deng Qixing had definitely not deceived him. As for this level of talent, he did not even know what to say.

Previously, he had taught the complete Great Dragon Tiger Real Spirit Talisman Technique to Ling Xi, and with just one attempt, Ling Xi had learned it. Not just remembered it, but truly learned it.

However, with Huo Shuzhou, it took explaining the method for just the Gathering Spirit Talisman twice, and Deng Qixing repeating it twice more, before Huo Shuzhou nodded, acknowledging he had learned it. Now, Cao Zhen was curious how Huo Shuzhou had even been accepted into the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Cao Zhen looked at Deng Qixing and said, "Since he's learned it now, then Peak Master Deng, why don't you bring three sets of materials for making the Gathering Spirit Talisman, and let Huo Shuzhou try making the talisman himself?"

"To make it directly?" Deng Qixing's brow slightly furrowed, but he still nodded slightly and instructed Huo Shuzhou to retrieve the materials for making ten sets of Gathering Spirit Talismans.

#### Chapter 108: Tai Chu\_6

He knew that with Huo Shuzhou's cultivation base, even if it were crafting Gathering Spirit Talismans, succeeding once out of ten times would be an impressive feat, and even though the crafting method taught by Cao Zhen was exquisite, it was feared it would not increase the success rate by much.

To make talismans, one must have at least a fifty percent success rate to break even.

Letting Huo Shuzhou make talismans was bound to result in a loss, but he was also aware that although Huo Shuzhou hadn't mentioned it, this disciple, having just learnt a talisman making technique and studying so earnestly, surely wanted to try. It was only the fear of wasting materials that kept him silent.

If he were to disagree with Cao Zhen's proposal to let Huo Shuzhou make talismans, that child would probably feel even more inferior, even more useless.

So, even knowing full well that it would lead to a loss, he still had to let Huo Shuzhou go ahead and craft the talismans.

Shortly, if Huo Shuzhou were to succeed in crafting, whether after ten attempts or just a few, he would be sure to praise Huo Shuzhou.

Not long later, Huo Shuzhou had already returned with ten sets of materials. Under the watchful eyes of the two Peak Masters, he did not start crafting immediately. Instead, he quietly recited the talisman making technique to himself and went through the process again in his mind before carefully beginning to craft with the materials.

And then...

"I failed, disciple..." Huo Shuzhou extended his hand and started remorsefully smacking his own head.

Deng Qixing quickly stopped him and said, "It's very normal to fail once in talisman making. I have already seen your progress, and in fact, you are very close to success. Come on, try again."

Encouraged by his master's supportive gaze, Huo Shuzhou nodded vigorously and then picked up the materials to start crafting again. This time, he was even more careful than before, and his pace was even slower.

Gradually, Deng Qixing's eyes started to widen with astonishment... Could it be that he's about to...

Succeed!

Huo Shuzhou clenched his fist tightly and immediately turned to his master, declaring, "Master, I..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Deng Qixing shouted, "It's a success! It actually worked! Shuzhou, come on, try one more time!"

Huo Shuzhou, very obediently, picked up the crafting materials once again and continued to craft.

Cao Zhen watched Huo Shuzhou's calm movements, his face showing a trace of surprise. While it seemed that Huo Shuzhou's aptitude was indeed not that great, even a bit dull, making one wonder how such a person could have entered the Hundred Peaks Sect, Cao Zhen nevertheless noticed Huo Shuzhou's merits.

Although Huo Shuzhou had already succeeded once, where most people would inevitably speed up when crafting the same Gathering Spirit Talismans again, Huo Shuzhou did not speed up at all. His crafting was still incredibly careful.

Even when he had just succeeded in crafting, his demeanor remained exceptionally calm.

Calmness, this is a rare quality.

"Success again!"

Deng Qixing exclaimed, as if he were the one making the talisman, seeming even more excited than Huo Shuzhou. If the first success could be put down to luck, two consecutive successes simply couldn't be. Regardless of whether it was the lowest Level One Gathering Spirit Talisman, success was still success, after all!

He knew his disciple's talents all too well; it certainly wasn't genius—it was practically like dealing with a block of wood. But Huo Shuzhou had succeeded twice in three attempts, which could only mean that the talisman making methods taught by Cao Zhen were exceedingly brilliant!

He would bet that even the grandmasters in the talisman workshops did not possess such advanced talisman making techniques!

Where on earth had Cao Zhen acquired such a brilliant talisman making method?

He found that he could no longer understand Cao Zhen at all. This guy hadn't shown anything special before, and even the ranking of Four Treasures Peak was lower than his own Seven Star Peak.

However, since the magical duel, Cao Zhen had increasingly shown signs of a dark horse. First, he recruited Yi Sheng into Four Treasures Peak, a disciple everybody in Hundred Peaks wanted, and now today, he produced the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution and such an exquisite talisman making technique.

Could it be that Cao Zhen had been concealing his abilities all along and now that his accumulation was sufficient, he was no longer hiding? Or was it because the Little Ice Age was approaching, and feeling he couldn't hide anymore, he started to reveal his true strength?

At the same moment, Cao Zhen turned to look at Deng Qixing and asked with a smile, "Peak Master Deng, how do you find this talisman making method?"

"It's exquisitely matchless!" Deng Qixing gave a bow towards Cao Zhen and said, "Many thanks, Peak Master Cao, for the teaching. Rest assured, the moment you walk out the door, I will certainly not reveal to anyone that this talisman making technique came from you. This method of making talismans, I will claim it as something I found alongside the Wind Fire Flood Dragon Pearl, and it has nothing to do with you!"

No matter why Cao Zhen wanted to pass on this talisman making technique, the benefits were his for the taking. In the future, his Seven Star Peak could even rely entirely on this technique to make money.

With enough money, they could buy more resources. With more resources, the disciples of Seven Star Peak could cultivate faster. With the disciples becoming stronger, the ranking of Seven Star Peak could rise a little more, allowing them to recruit more disciples. With more disciples, there would be more people to make talismans.

Cao Zhen nearly cursed out loud, "Damn it, who said I was just going to give this talisman making technique away for free? You're hoping for a free ride, old man!"

"Peak Master Deng, wait a moment. This talisman making technique, no matter if it's said to come from me, doesn't matter. Also, you've seen for yourself how profound this technique is. Now, let's talk business.

As you know, we at Four Treasures Peak have few disciples, so here's the deal: I represent Four Treasures Peak and provide the talisman making technique to you, and your people from Seven Star Peak will be responsible for crafting the talismans.

Chapter 109: Tai Chu\_7

"Let's start with the most commonly used and simplest Gathering Spirit Talisman. I don't care how many talismans you can make or sell in a day. Anyway, the money from the sales, we'll split that later."

Deng Qixing sensitively noticed Cao Zhen's choice of words. Starting with the Gathering Spirit Talisman meant he could also create other types! Moreover, his skills were very advanced; this business was a must-have!

"Exactly, you provide the Talisman Making Technique, and we at Seven Star Peak supply the manpower. No problem. Although it's a bit more tiring for us at Seven Star Peak to provide the people and the effort, who made you soon to be the sworn brother of Zi Zai? I won't take advantage of you. How about we split the profits fifty-fifty?"

"Hehe..." Cao Zhen just let out a cold laugh while looking at the other party, thinking to himself that he really wanted to give old Deng a new hairstyle with a strike of the Five-thunder Righteous Method. You're just a foundry, and I'm providing the core technology. I can have anyone do the foundry work. And here you are, wanting to split the profits fifty-fifty, acting as if you're getting shortchanged. This is not just treating me as a fool; this is an insult to my intelligence!

"How about... forty-six?" Deng Qixing also felt he was asking for too much and voluntarily lowered his price to probe.

"Twenty percent, your share is twenty percent!" Cao Zhen said, extending two fingers, "I'll also provide other Talisman Making Techniques later on."

"Twenty percent? How can twenty percent work? The talismans are made by the disciples of Seven Star Peak. You've seen my disciples, so young, this and that... They work hard at making talismans and only get twenty percent? I can't explain this to them, and they won't be motivated to make talismans. Forty-five percent, Seven Star Peak takes forty-five percent, and you, Four Treasures Peak, take an extra ten percent."

Cao Zhen was speechless; this was really haggling down to halves of a percent!

"Thirty percent, you get thirty percent! Old man, if you keep haggling with me, believe it or not, I'll walk out this minute and find the ninety-eighth peak to partner with?"

"Alright, then thirty percent it is," Deng Qixing, hearing his title shift from 'Peak Master Deng' back to 'old man,' knew that the negotiation had reached the other's bottom line. He quickly switched his expression and said with a sly smile, "Peak Master Cao, when will you pass on the other Talisman Making Techniques?"

Looking at him, it was clear that he wanted Cao Zhen to pass on another talisman-making method before leaving.

"We'll see about that once the sales channel for the Gathering Spirit Talisman is fully open. No rush, no rush." Cao Zhen turned and walked away. What a joke! If I pass on a few more techniques to you, what if you learn them and go solo?

Outside the room, Chao Zi greeted Cao Zhen as he walked out, asking with concern, "Old Cao, how is Master doing?"

"Your master? He's doing great, his teeth are good, and so is his appetite. I feel like he could eat a cow raw," Cao Zhen's mouth twitched. This honest guy still had no idea that his master was faking it.

"Really? Is Master better? I knew it, Master's heart devil is Yi Sheng. As long as Old Cao shows up, I was sure there would be a change in him." Chao Zi was excitedly pulling at Cao Zhen, "Old Cao, we're lucky to have you this time. Are you leaving already? Don't be in such a hurry. Wait for your senior brother to cook you a couple dishes, let's eat something..."

Cao Zhen gently shook his head, "Old Chao, I'm in a rush to get back! The assessment team just came to your place, and they might reach our peak soon. I need to go and stop them from taking part in the examination. If they do take part and succeed, that would be problematic."

"This examination is quite a tough one; they won't pass so easily," Chao Zi comforted Cao Zhen while also trying to get him to stay for a meal.

Chapter 110: Master, You Are Too Late\_1

"Ah? Master called me?" Chao Zi Zai looked up at Cao Zhen.

"Since your master is looking for you, you should go now, and we'll drink together later. Those pieces from my Four Treasures Peak are not to be taken lightly. If they really were to participate in the Dao debate assessment, it's not certain they wouldn't pass."

"If that's the case, then we shall drink another day." Chao Zi Zai, seeing that Cao Zhen seemed to really have something to do and his master had called for him, did not insist further and quickly turned to enter his master's room.

As soon as he entered the room, before he could speak, Deng Qixing preemptively said, "Zi Zai, go and prepare the incense burner, wine, incense... and other offerings later on."

"Master, why are we preparing these things?" Chao Zi Zai frowned. Today didn't seem to be a day for offerings, did it?

Deng Qixing waved his hand in the air, closing the door behind them, and then said, "I'm asking you to prepare those things not to keep them, but for you and Cao Zhen to use for your sworn brotherhood ceremony."

A look of surprise crossed Chao Zi Zai's face. "Me and Cao Zhen becoming sworn brothers? Master, why do you suddenly bring this up? Could it be that this was what you were discussing earlier in the room?"

"That's right." Deng Qixing lifted his hand and pointed to a chair in the room, signaling Chao Zi Zai to sit down before he spoke in a deep voice, "Zi Zai, to be honest, the crying and howling I did earlier was all deliberate. The purpose was to get you to bring Cao Zhen over to discuss the matter of becoming sworn brothers."

Chao Zi Zai then realized that he had been fooled by his master, but there was not a trace of dissatisfaction on his face. Instead, he said, "Master, with my relationship with Old Cao, whether we become sworn brothers or not makes no difference.

Even if we are not sworn brothers, if he encounters any trouble, I will not hesitate to help him. Likewise, I believe that if I'm in trouble, Old Cao will also help me without reservation."

"It's not the same..." Deng Qixing let out a long sigh and said, "I don't have much time left..."

"What! Master, you..." Chao Zi Zai suddenly stood up in shock.

"Why the rush? Everyone has to die once!" Deng Qixing waved his hand to stop Chao Zi Zai from interrupting him and continued, "I'm useless and unable to leave anything behind for Seven Star Peak, except for one Wind Fire Dragon Pearl. Although it is precious, what can you do with it?"

You are all my disciples; I know you well. Even if you get the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl, you would probably not trade it for other resources. Instead, you would keep it, as the treasure safeguarding our Seven Star Peak.

Keeping it is useless! The finest of treasures are dead objects if not used, worth nothing at all!

So, I thought about maximizing its value. At first, I considered gambling on it, hoping to attract Yi Sheng to join Seven Star Peak, so I could rest easy. But Yi Sheng unexpectedly joined Four Treasures Peak.

Yi Sheng didn't come, and the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl got exposed. Although it's true that our Hundred Peaks Sect is generally united and the peaks don't fight each other over treasures,

nobody knows if there might be accidents, or if anyone has been possessed by demonic beasts. Therefore, the Wind Fire Dragon Pearl can no longer stay with us.

I've considered trading it for some resources, but even if turned into resources, after I'm gone, I fear it won't be long before you can't improve much. And besides, resources will eventually run out one day."

Chao Zi Zai hung his head in shame; he knew his master was being euphemistic for the sake of his pride. What his master meant by "not much improvement with resources in a short time" was that with his and his fellow disciples' talent, even with resources, they wouldn't improve much with more time and would simply squander the master's legacy.

He hated himself for his uselessness; if only he had been a bit more brilliant, his master wouldn't have to worry so much.

Deng Qixing continued, "Later, I still thought of Yi Sheng. Although he joined Four Treasures Peak, don't forget he has a True Yang body! In our Hundred Peaks Sect, that's considered a peerless genius! The sect will not neglect him.

She is destined to grow and become a pillar of our Hundred Peaks Sect in the future.

With her True Yang body, it was predetermined that merely by her presence, Four Treasures Peak would rise and prosper for a very long time.

"As your master, I know you have a good relationship with Cao Zhen, the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak, and since you are also my Senior Disciple at Seven Star Peak, after I'm gone, Seven Star Peak will be in your hands to lead."

Therefore, using the Wind Fire Flood Dragon Pearl as a bargaining chip, I made Cao Zhen agree to become sworn brothers with you. With this relationship in place, as long as Four Treasures Peak thrives, Seven Star Peak won't fare too badly either.

The result was better than I had anticipated. Four Treasures Peak was stronger than I imagined, and moreover, Cao Zhen even mentioned a long-term business deal.

Resources will gradually be depleted, but business is different, it can last for a long time."

As Deng Qixing spoke, he paused for a moment, then recounted everything that had happened in the room to Chao Zi Zai and took out the paper inscribed with Pure Yang Utmost True Solution, handing it to Chao Zi Zai and commanding, "Take note of it."

"Yes!" Chao Zi Zai immediately focused his mind, looking intently at the white paper before him.

Gradually, the incense in the room had mostly burned away, and Chao Zi Zai closed the paper, looking up at Deng Qixing whose face clearly showed signs of aging, and said, "Master, I have fully memorized it."

"Very good." Deng Qixing took the paper and suddenly a flame burst forth from his hand, igniting the paper.

Within moments, the paper containing the Pure Yang Utmost Real Solution had burned to ashes.

Cao Zhen quickly returned to Four Treasures Peak on the Immortal Cloud Carriage.

Upon his return, he felt that something was amiss.

He had just taken another disciple, but upon coming back, he saw even fewer people than usual, encountering only his Senior Disciple, Ling Xi.

Cao Zhen, full of curiosity, inquired, "Where are they?"

Ling Xi replied respectfully, "Master, they have gone to cultivate."

"Cultivate?" Cao Zhen showed a gratified smile like that of a father proud of his children's achievements, "The children have finally come to their senses and know to diligently cultivate. And they're all doing so together, even Little Bei Yan has gone to cultivate."

"Master, Little Bei Yan was dragged off to cultivate by the third junior brother," Ling Xi honestly answered, "The third junior brother said something about the protagonist soon descending the mountain, marking the beginning of the protagonist's rise.

At this time, those around the protagonist must enhance their strength to protect themselves, so he dragged Little Bei Yan off to cultivate. He also told me to wait here for you, Master, so that you too can properly cultivate once you return."

"What? Descend the mountain? Descend what mountain?" Cao Zhen felt an uneasy premonition, "When did I allow him to go down the mountain? Without the Six Divine Armors, he's not stepping out the door!"

Ling Xi answered truthfully, "The people from the assessment team came earlier, and then the third junior brother took part in the assessment and passed it. He will descend the mountain when the appointed day arrives."

"Assessment? Who allowed him to undergo the assessment!" Cao Zhen raised his voice a notch, he had hurried back without even stopping for a drink just to tell his disciples not to participate in the assessment and not to rush down the mountain; to lie low and develop first, but it seemed he was too late.

"Thump..."

Upon hearing the sternness in his master's voice, Ling Xi immediately dropped to his knees and, burying his head, cried out, "Master, your disciple is at fault..."