

My Master 1091

Chapter 1091:

Xiang Ziyu still shook his head, he had told his master he would only use nine Golden Pills, and that's exactly what he would do.

Seeing that the other party still refused, Xu Ying shook his head helplessly and said, "Since that's the case, I can only defeat you and throw you out of here."

As he spoke, he was about to swing his sword again.

"Wait..." Seeing that the opponent was about to make a move again, Xiang Ziyu quickly spoke up, "Just wait a moment, I just want to ask, after being thrown out of here, can I still re-enter?"

Xu Ying straightforwardly replied, "Being thrown out means failure, and after failing, naturally you cannot enter again."

After he finished speaking, he was about to make a move again, but Xiang Ziyu's voice rang out once more, "Wait a moment, wait a moment."

Xu Ying, repeatedly interrupted, seemed somewhat impatient. Just as he was about to erupt, Xiang Ziyu called out, "Just one last question. Tell me, do you need to have the same cultivation base as me? That is to say, I am at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, so the opponent I face here is of the same level? If I'm at the Golden Core Period Limit, my opponent is also at the Golden Core Period Limit. So if I have Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Pills, shouldn't you have the same?"

Xu Ying nodded and said, "Exactly."

"Then it's simple."

Behind Xiang Ziyu, ten abnormal phenomenon golden pills finally rose up all at once.

Across from him, the Xu Ying he was facing also became more solemn.

However, the next moment, one of the abnormal phenomenon golden pills among Xiang Ziyu's ten suddenly surged up and flew towards the void.

In the next instant, a vicious expression abruptly appeared on his face.

Following that, a thunderous boom sounded in the void, as if the entire world were splitting apart.

One of his Golden Pills had self-destructed!

He was at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, having reached the Golden Core Period Limit. Even just one exploding Golden Pill had an incredibly terrifying power.

The ground below violently cracked open, the void shook madly, and the entire space trembled uncontrollably.

And Xiang Ziyu spat out a large mouthful of bright red blood, his whole being instantly weakened and he fell to the ground.

Although he had self-destructed one Golden Pill, for those at the Golden Core Stage, the Golden Pills were nearly their everything. Even self-destructing one could possibly result in fainting, severe injury, or even death.

Of course, those with profound cultivation or more Golden Pills, because of their high cultivation level and numerous Golden Pills, might not die from self-destructing one, but their condition would surely be greatly impacted.

Now, Xiang Ziyu had self-destructed one Golden Pill. Though he didn't faint, the qi and blood inside his body were churning nonstop and his vital energy was extremely feeble.

On the opposite side, the Xu Ying facing the self-destructing opponent was completely dumbfounded.

Even though he was extremely weak, Xiang Ziyu still struggled to raise his head and said to the Xu Ying across from him, "Now, I truly have only nine Golden Pills, and you should do the same. You must self-destruct one Golden Pill too. Otherwise, it wouldn't be fair."

After all, he had already decided to self-destruct a Golden Pill.

Having encountered this situation here, he might as well just go along with his plan.

After self-destructing the Golden Pill, he could still continue cultivation, just not able to break through. Just as long as he won against his master this time, after his own cultivation, he could go back and ask his master to make a Pill for him to break through.

Maybe, after taking the Pill and breaking through, he could surpass the Golden Core Period Limit!

But, it might not necessarily guarantee a breakthrough, as his master had always been at the Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Pills, precisely because he reached the Golden Core Period Limit and couldn't break through.

If he himself reached the Golden Core Period Limit at Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Pills, and then took a Pill, would he also fail to break through?

Anyway, no matter what, he himself was the protagonist. He had said he would only use nine abnormal phenomenon Golden Pills and that was that. With nine abnormal phenomenon Golden Pills and wanting to defeat his own Ten Phenomena Great Perfection Xu Ying, he could only self-destruct one Golden Pill and force the opponent to do the same. Only then could they fight equally!

Xu Ying seemed to have never encountered such a situation before, or perhaps, the Great Ability who set up the Formation hadn't expected someone to self-destruct a Golden Pill during their trial.

After all, failing the trial didn't mean death, so who would blow up their Golden Pills for no reason.

Therefore, the Xu Ying formed from the mana left by the Great Ability initially didn't know how to react to such a situation, and for a moment, showed a look of confusion.

Xiang Ziyu continued saying, "I say, although you are my Xu Ying, you are still the Xu Ying condensed by the Great Ability of the Cloud Reaching Sect, representing them. You shouldn't just not self-destruct and use the cultivation of Ten Phenomena Great Perfection to defeat me.

If I lose like that, I certainly won't accept it. After I go out, I will definitely tell everyone that the people of the Cloud Reaching Sect don't follow the rules, and they bully the weak..."

Before Xiang Ziyu had finished talking, the Xu Ying opposite him suddenly gathered up one abnormal phenomenon golden pill and imitated Xiang Ziyu's action, shooting the golden pill into the void and subsequently detonating it.

It also self-destructed a Golden Pill.

With the explosion of this abnormal phenomenon golden pill, below, Xiang Ziyu's Xu Ying also violently exploded.

"What's going on? I only self-destructed one abnormal phenomenon golden pill, why did the Xu Ying explode too?"

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Xiang Ziyu was baffled. Under normal circumstances, an expert who had reached the Ten Phenomena Perfect Completion Golden Core wouldn't die immediately from detonating a Golden Core, let alone if they detonated all their Golden Cores, they could still possibly be rescued.

The Peak Master of Lightning Peak, Lan Pili, had once mentioned that the Grand Preceptor's disciple, Yu Tuoyu, in order to annihilate a Blood Demon, detonated his Golden Core. In the end, his master saved him and sent him to another disciple of the Grand Preceptor, and Yu Tuoyu even made a miraculous recovery.

Also, their Hundred Peaks Sect's Liè Yàn had detonated his Golden Core before, but after giving him a Cycle of Nirvana Pill, Liè Yàn too survived.

Not to mention the Ten Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, probably anyone with more than five Golden Cores wouldn't die from detonating a single Golden Core. His own Xu Ying had ten phenomena Golden Cores, so how could it die from just one exploding?

Could it be because it was only a Xu Ying? Its Mana had reached the limit of the Golden Core Stage, just like him, but its physical body was much weaker? That didn't seem right either.

Perhaps, it was precisely because it was an Xu Ying that it died upon the detonation of the Golden Core?

Xiang Ziyu couldn't make sense of why this situation would occur.

As the Xu Ying exploded, in front of him, a bridge appeared, different from the previous ones. Before him now was a Rainbow Bridge, one end connected to him, while the other seemed to stretch into the void.

"Cough cough..." Xiang Ziyu coughed up a large mouthful of bright red blood. He didn't know how long the bridge would remain or if, after the Rainbow Bridge disappeared, he would be unable to enter the next layer. Even now, though gravely injured, he had no choice but to keep crawling forward.

At long last, he painstakingly made his way onto the bridge and then crawled along it toward what lay ahead.

Outside the Cloud Reaching Sect.

Cao Zhen, flying with the group, finally arrived outside the Cloud Reaching Sect.

Then, everyone instinctively split up.

The members of the Cloud Reaching Sect, noticing the arrival of so many people together, would certainly not activate the Formation immediately; instead, they would separate them.

They needed to enter in separate batches.

Their strategy seemed sound, but once Cao Zhen arrived with the first group, the Cloud Reaching Sect promptly signaled for them to join the others and directly enter the Great Formation.

Cao Zhen didn't care with whom he entered the Great Formation. After all, if a hundred people were to be chosen for the next round, given his current strength, even if only one out of a hundred was to be chosen, it would still likely be him.

Yet, as he approached the Great Formation, ready to step inside, the entire Formation began to shake violently.

Above the Sky-reaching Formation, a rainbow appeared.

Instantly, an uproar of exclamations erupted.

"What's going on? Someone has touched the Rainbow Bridge!"

"Now, during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, can someone actually touch the Rainbow Bridge?"

"Someone triggered the Rainbow Bridge, which means, now no one else can enter the Sky-reaching Formation! With the appearance of the Rainbow Bridge, the Formation's power will be channeled into the checkpoint beyond the bridge, so it's no longer possible for others to enter."

"Usually, in the second round of the Great Formation, one encounters an Xu Ying of the same Cultivation Realm, but that Xu Ying won't possess your Divine Skills. It will know the typical Divine Skills of the Cloud Reaching Sect and those common in our Eastern Province, and it won't possess any Divine Weapons.

So, even if the Xu Ying matches your Cultivation Realm and power, due to the difference in Divine Weapons, treasures, Divine Skills, even physical strength, it would not be a match for you.

However, to trigger the Rainbow Bridge, there is only one way – to annihilate the Xu Ying in an instant. That's extremely difficult."

"Yes, although the Xu Ying lacks Divine Weapons and perhaps isn't as physically strong, it still matches your Cultivation Realm and power.

Once the Xu Ying realizes it's outmatched, it will immediately yield, signaling that you can progress to the next round."

"Defeating an Xu Ying is not difficult, but to instantaneously annihilate it is nearly impossible."

"All the major teachings of our Eastern Province hold grand ceremonies, and every Great Teaching has checkpoints similar to the Sky-reaching Formation for us to challenge. But it's been thirty thousand years since anyone during a grand ceremony could trigger the Rainbow Bridge."

"Triggering the Rainbow Bridge, and if one could again instantly defeat the next opponent, they could go straight to the last round and step onto the Rainbow Stairway, to witness the Path of the Great Dao!"

"This person has the opportunity to witness the Path of the Great Dao, but who could it be?"

"Perhaps it's Sacred Flower Sect's Huo Fanqi!"

"Yes, it must be him! Huo Fanqi is a renowned genius of the Sacred Flower Sect! Moreover, Huo Fanqi has just entered the Great Formation. Based on the timing, it's likely that he's the one who triggered the Rainbow Bridge."

Everyone knew of the Sacred Flower Sect, but some were not aware of Huo Fanqi. Hearing the crowd mention Huo Fanqi, out of curiosity, someone asked, "Who is Huo Fanqi?"

"You don't know who Huo Fanqi is? Do you at least know of the Sacred Flower Sect's Huo Fanshu?"

"Of course, one of the renowned Three Immortal Sisters of the Sacred Flower Sect, Immortal Zi Hua, how could we not know her?"

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"Immortal Zi Hua, hasn't she been asleep for a long time?"

"Huo Fanshu, Huo Fanqi, only one character difference, could it be?"

"Yes, Huo Fanqi is indeed Huo Fanshu's younger brother."

"In that case, could it truly be Huo Fanqi who set off the Rainbow Bridge?"

"However, setting off the Rainbow Bridge doesn't necessarily mean one can ascend the Rainbow Staircase."

"Yes, the Rainbow Staircase is even harder. Reaching the second level, one will face a Xu Ying as strong as their own cultivation realm and power. But this Xu Ying is stronger, has richer combat experience, and might even possess more profound meanings.

To ascend the Rainbow Staircase, one must instantly defeat their own Xu Ying, just like in the previous challenge.

But facing a Xu Ying with stronger divine skills and more profound meanings, how could one possibly defeat it instantly?"

"At the grand assemblies held by the various Great Teachings of Eastern Province, no one has triggered the Rainbow Bridge in thirty thousand years, but if we look back over a hundred thousand years, there have indeed been five who triggered it. Yet, of those five, only one successfully ascended the Rainbow Staircase and observed the Enlightenment Path."

"Right, that was exactly forty thousand years ago."

"Specifically, thirty-nine thousand nine hundred years ago."

"At that time, the challenger seemed to have also broken through the Sky-reaching Formation of the Smoky Dust Sect!"

"After observing the Enlightenment Path, that person's cultivation increased by leaps and bounds each day, and later even became the Sect Hierarchy of the Heaven and Earth Sect!"

"If That person today also ascends the Rainbow Staircase, then..."

"Let's wait and see for now. Having the Rainbow Bridge only means there's a chance to ascend the Rainbow Staircase, but it's not guaranteed."

"Everyone, let's see how it unfolds."

"This time, it's too similar to thirty thousand years ago, where a disciple from another Great Teaching triggered the Rainbow Bridge."

Around them, one cultivator couldn't help but speak out upon hearing everyone's remarks, "Everyone, are you all certain that the person who triggered the Rainbow Bridge is someone from the Sacred Flower Sect?"

Hearing this, someone immediately retorted unconvinced, "What, is there someone even more talented than the Supreme Genius of the Sacred Flower Sect?"

"There is one, seems to be called Zi Yu, who even defeated Huo Fanqi of the Sacred Flower Sect in the previous contest, according to what Huo Fanqi himself said."

"Such a person exists? Who is this Zi Yu? Which Great Teaching does he belong to?"

At the Sacred Flower Sect, people, upon hearing the ongoing discussions, began talking animatedly among themselves.

"Could it really be Huo Fanqi?"

"Or is it that Xiang Ziyu on the road?"

"It should be Senior Brother Huo Fanqi,"

Upon hearing the discussions around him, Cao Zhen was utterly bewildered; originally, he intended to enter the Cloud Reaching Sect by breaking through the Sky-reaching Formation, but now, due to someone triggering the Rainbow Bridge, one could no longer enter.

The person who triggered this Rainbow Bridge was none other than his own disciple.

He had just heard the name Xiang Ziyu, although others mentioned Huo Fanqi, but he was sure that the one who triggered the Rainbow Bridge was his disciple, Xiang Ziyu.

That rascal Xiang Ziyu had reached the realm of the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection.

Perhaps, right now, he was already facing the Xu Ying of the next challenge.

Cao Zhen was also curious about what was going on inside; what Xu Ying? Why did it sound so much like a mirror image?

With a thought, he connected instantly to Xiang Ziyu through the China Cloud.

Suddenly, he saw through the eyes of Xiang Ziyu.

Xiang Ziyu was traversing a Rainbow Bridge, moving forward with difficulty. His face was so pale that not a hint of blood could be seen, and there was blood at the corner of his mouth. He looked extremely weak, even weaker than when he had used the Secret Technique at the Great Immortal Martial Congress and forcefully activated the Heavenly Gang Disha Beads to confront Star Monarch Hao Yue.

Cao Zhen was suddenly puzzled; wasn't it said that only by instantly defeating one's own first mirror image could one trigger the Rainbow Bridge?

If it was an instant victory, Xiang Ziyu should have won easily. Why did it seem like Xiang Ziyu was almost instantly defeated instead?

Did Xiang Ziyu use a Secret Technique?

But he knew all the Secret Techniques that Xiang Ziyu knew, and Xiang Ziyu didn't seem like he was suffering backlash from using a Secret Technique.

What was this rascal's condition and how could it be like this? Could it be that in the few days he hadn't checked Xiang Ziyu's panel, Xiang Ziyu had learned some new Secret Technique?

Driven by curiosity, Cao Zhen opened Xiang Ziyu's panel, and upon seeing it, he was utterly dumbfounded.

User: Xiang Ziyu

Gender: Male

Cultivation Base: Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills...

Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills?

Wasn't Xiang Ziyu at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection? How could it be at Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills now?

Where had his one Golden Pill gone?

Startled, Cao Zhen hurriedly asked, "You rascal, what's going on with you? Where is your tenth Golden Pill? How did you revert to Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills?"

As Xiang Ziyu continued on the bridge, suddenly, his master's voice came from within his heart, shocking him momentarily, not because his master's voice abruptly sounded in his heart—although his master contacted his senior sister most often, his master had also contacted him a few times, and he was used to his master's voice suddenly appearing.

What surprised him was that his master actually knew that one of his abnormal Golden Pills was gone, yet he hadn't released his abnormal Golden Pill.

Truly, as expected of his master, the protagonist's master was not only able to see him and his surroundings but was even able to perceive his cultivation realm at a glance.

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He had previously asked Ax Crazy, and Ax Crazy surely didn't have so many special methods.

Indeed, as a reincarnated being of great ability, Master truly was an exceptionally unique existence.

Xiang Ziyu also knew that Master accessed him through special means for a limited time, so as he struggled forward, he spoke, "Master, let me correct that, my tenth Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill is still intact. It was my first Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill that I self-destructed."

"Self-destructed?" When Cao Zhen heard Xiang Ziyu's words, even though he was used to Xiang Ziyu's various naïve actions, he couldn't help but shout, "Have you gone mad? Why would you self-destruct a Golden Core for no reason?"

"Who said I self-destructed a Golden Core for no reason? I made a bet with you that I would enter the Cloud Reaching Sect with the cultivation base of the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills, but then I encountered an apparition that was a Ten Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core, and like me, its power had reached the Golden Core Period Limit. How could I fight it with only nine Golden Cores?"

But that apparition said that to fight me fairly, it would also display the same cultivation realm and power as me, so if I self-destructed one Golden Core, it should also self-destruct one."

Cao Zhen was speechless, "So, you thought that this was the case and just self-destructed one Golden Core?"

"No, it wasn't just for that reason. Even without this event, I would have still self-destructed a Golden Core," Xiang Ziyu said seriously. "I'm already at the limit of the Golden Core Stage, so I can't improve further. But Master, you reached the limit of the Golden Core Stage with only the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill. This proves even a Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill can reach the Golden Core Stage limit.

So why wouldn't I self-destruct one Golden Core and then cultivate to the Golden Core Stage limit with the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill? I now understand the Yin Yang Qi and know how to cultivate the Yin Yang power.

I am the protagonist after all, it doesn't make sense for me to be weaker than you, Master. So, while I'm at the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Pill, I should be able to reach the Golden Core Stage limit.

No, I should say, I will definitely be stronger than you, Master. Once I've reached the Golden Core Stage limit with the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill, I'll self-destruct another one. I should reach the Golden Core Stage limit at the Eight Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core."

"You really have quite the imagination." For a moment, Cao Zhen didn't know how to react to his naïve disciple. After all, he had reached the Golden Core Stage limit because of a Heretical Golden Core and his unique method of condensing the Golden Pill. Now Xiang Ziyu, this fellow, even hopes to reach the Golden Core Stage limit at the stage of Nine or even Eight Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core?

He really could think.

Cao Zhen also knew that convincing his disciple was futile.

After all, Xiang Ziyu had incredible confidence and truly believed he was the protagonist. This disciple of his could even do something as fatal as jumping off a place where he couldn't fly—what wasn't he capable of?

Let Xiang Ziyu self-destruct a Golden Core if he wishes. Let him cultivate for some time. If he can't reach the Golden Core Stage limit, he would just refine a pill for him, allowing him to breakthrough directly.

That being said, the Yin Yang power Xiang Ziyu cultivated was indeed very special—even Zhang Daoling didn't have the cultivation technique of the Yin Yang power.

Nor did he possess the divine skills to use Yin Yang power.

Or perhaps, the Yin Yang power was simply too strong, almost no divine skill could withstand it.

At that time, within Zhang Daoling's knowledge of immortal cultivation, there was indeed a spell that could utilize the Yin Yang power!

However, the spell couldn't be cast during the Golden Core Stage, only in the Earth Immortal Realm could one release the spell.

After the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth ended, he would then teach Xiang Ziyu the spell, but that would be later.

Cao Zhen no longer pondered these issues, but instead told Xiang Ziyu about what he had heard outside concerning the Rainbow Bridge and the rainbow staircase.

Upon hearing this, Xiang Ziyu became extremely excited, even quickening his pace up the Rainbow Bridge.

"That easy? The rainbow staircase is practically a giveaway. Master, do you know how the apparition I faced in the first challenge died? It self-destructed a Golden Core and then just blew itself up. Later on, I'll have the next challenge's apparition do the same and self-destruct a Golden Core. It's just too simple."

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Xiang Ziyu descended from the Rainbow Bridge at his fastest speed, but he felt that his feet did not land on the ground but on a cloud.

This Rainbow Bridge seemed to truly connect to the horizon, not the earth.

And in front of him, on the cloud-like path, an Illusionary Shadow had already appeared.

He looked at the Illusionary Shadow in front of him and was momentarily stunned.

"Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills? Shouldn't you be Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection?"

When he entered the Sky-splitting Formation, he had been at the stage of Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection!

The Illusionary Shadow opposite him shook its head gently and asked in return, "Why should I be at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection? I'm based on your Cultivation Base. Since you are at the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills stage, naturally I am too."

Xiang Ziyu felt completely overwhelmed. So, this Illusionary Shadow, which is the Mirror Image his master spoke of, is not based on his state when he first entered the Sky-reaching Formation, but on his state at each checkpoint he enters?

But if you're based on my strength, why aren't you based on my current injured state, but instead on the full strength of my Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills era?

As soon as I stepped into the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills stage, I was seriously injured. I didn't even know how strong I should be at that stage. How did you know?

Are you guessing, or is there some other way?

And in my current state, how can I fight you?

Xiang Ziyu had previously planned everything perfectly; he would use his verbal evasion skill to make the Illusionary Shadow self-explode a Golden Core, then naturally, he would win and be able to ascend the Rainbow Stairs—a feat no one had achieved in tens of thousands of years.

Now, what do I do? The Illusionary Shadow is also at the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills stage, how can I fight?

The Illusionary Shadow opposite saw the weakened state of Xiang Ziyu, yet it did not strike immediately. Instead, it spoke in a low voice to Xiang Ziyu, "You are injured, and after so many years, you finally made it here. I won't take advantage of you.

I'll wait for you to heal before we duel."

Upon hearing this, Xiang Ziyu was taken aback. Was this Illusionary Shadow really so honorable, even allowing him time to recover from his injuries?

Under normal circumstances, facing his own Mirror Image at full strength, although confident in winning, he hadn't been sure of instantly defeating his opponent.

But now, the Mirror Image was giving him time to heal, providing him with an opportunity.

He could take his time to recover. After all, the Mirror Image said it would only act when he was fully healed.

When would he be fully healed? That was for him to decide.

He could take this time to continue cultivating the Yin Yang Qi, to practice the Eight Nine Mysterious Art.

Before, when Xiang Ziyu had tried to cultivate the Eight Nine Mysterious Art and found he couldn't progress, he realized the problem himself—it was likely due to the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth. If he continued to advance in the Eight Nine Mysterious Art, it would entirely breach the limits of the Golden Core Period, so the Heavenly Dao did not permit him to continue.

But now, having self-destructed a Golden Core, he was no longer at the Golden Core Period Limit, and thus he could naturally practice the Eight Nine Mysterious Art.

After all, his master had said that since he had entered the Rainbow Bridge, others could no longer enter the Sky-reaching Formation. His master was also unable to enter this Sky-splitting Formation, and he was already guaranteed victory, so what was the rush? He could just take his time to cultivate.

Xiang Ziyu settled down and even gave a thumbs up to his Mirror Image across from him, "Fair play, don't worry, I won't make you wait too long. I'll definitely recover from my injuries as fast as I can."

Having said this, Xiang Ziyu began to operate his Cultivation Technique. It was not to heal his injuries, but to start cultivating the Eight Nine Mysterious Art.

Cao Zhen watched Xiang Ziyu and didn't believe for a second that his Disciple would recover quickly. Moreover, even if Xiang Ziyu did heal fast, he had entered the Rainbow Bridge, which for three thousand years no one had been able to trigger. Even if he ultimately failed, he would certainly be able to join the Cloud Reaching Sect.

But now, because of Xiang Ziyu, he himself couldn't enter the Sky-reaching Formation, which was most troublesome.

Cao Zhen left the China Cloud and started to think, how could he join the Cloud Reaching Sect? As the Master, he couldn't just lose to his Disciple like this.

It seemed the official channels were already closed to him, so he needed to find another way, or should he just scale the wall and get in?

Cao Zhen looked around. Although he was extremely knowledgeable about Formations, the Mountain Protection Array in front of him belonged to a Sect and had existed for at least a million years. Any weaknesses or problems with this Great Formation would have been discovered and fixed long ago.

How could he break in then?

Cao Zhen walked around with a headache.

Inside the Cloud Reaching Sect, disciples from various Great Teachings and Immortal Sects in the Eastern Province had gathered.

In the Reversal Mini Epoch Period, like the Immortal Sects in the Eastern Wasteland, those in the Eastern Province also arranged for temporary upper echelons.

As the Rainbow Bridge arose, the temporary leaders within the Cloud Reaching Sect were immediately informed of the news.

"The Rainbow Bridge? Who has triggered the Rainbow Bridge?"

"Someone triggered the Rainbow Bridge, and that's good news for our Cloud Reaching Sect."

"Elder Li, please go to the Sky-splitting Formation and wait. Even if the other party cannot trigger the Rainbow Stairs, anyone who can trigger the Rainbow Bridge is an honored guest of our Cloud Reaching Sect. After that person leaves the Sky-splitting Formation, our Cloud Reaching Sect's grand meeting will surely not have started yet. Then, Elder Li, we will trouble you to arrange a place for that honored guest."

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"Fine, I'll go now," said a handsome man clad in a sumptuous robe of ice silk as he swiftly took flight, heading towards the Sky-splitting Formation outside of the Cloud Reaching Sect.

Within the main hall of the Cloud Reaching Sect, the person who had just spoken—who appeared very young but bore a composed and steady countenance—turned back to the others and inquired, "Now, how have the people from the various Great Teachings arrived?"

"Sect Hierarch, the people from the Great Teachings have all arrived except for those from the Sacred Flower Sect and the End of The World Sect. However, the Sacred Flower Sect has already reached the foot of the mountain, and Deputy Sect Leader Chang is currently receiving them."

The Sect Hierarch of the Cloud Reaching Sect nodded slightly and said, "The End of The World Sect has traveled from afar, but I suspect they should be arriving soon. How about the preparations for the other matters? Are there any problems?"

From below, a woman with an ordinary appearance but an exceptional aura, as if a solitary orchid in an empty valley, softly responded, "Sect Hierarch, there is a problem with the Five Sounds Sect."

"What is it?" The Sect Hierarch of the Cloud Reaching Sect asked with a slight frown, "What's the problem?"

"It's like this: we invited Immortal Bi Yue from the Dragon Chant Sect to perform a dance at the grand event, and the accompanying musicians we invited are from the Five Sounds Sect. Although the Five Sounds Sect is also a Great Teaching with musical rhythm as their path, Immortal Bi Yue's immortal dance requires someone to play the zhu, which is a very obscure musical instrument. Even though the Five Sounds Sect has members who can play the zhu, the only one considered top-tier has long been in deep slumber. Nowadays, there is no one among the disciples of the Five Sounds Sect who is considered top-tier in playing the zhu.

However, in our Eastern Province, among the Four Snow Mountain Friends from Snow Mountain, there happens to be one who is exceptionally skilled at the zhu. Therefore, the Five Sounds Sect eventually invited the Four Snow Mountain Friends. Among the Four Snow Mountain Friends, all four are connoisseurs of musical rhythm, and when they play music, it's always together. Hence, the Five Sounds Sect gave up four spots to the Four Snow Mountain Friends. Yet, the Four Snow Mountain Friends were killed on their way to our Cloud Reaching Sect.

Moreover, even the four disciples of the Four Snow Mountain Friends, the Four Sons of Snow Mountain, were killed."

"What?" The Sect Hierarch of the Cloud Reaching Sect abruptly furrowed his brows upon hearing this.

Around him, as others caught wind of the conversation, their expressions changed one after another.

"How could it be such a coincidence? The Four Snow Mountain Friends were killed right as they were about to arrive at our Cloud Reaching Sect?"

"Clearly, the adversary did this deliberately. They must have known that the Four Snow Mountain Friends were to perform for Immortal Bi Yue, so they purposely annihilated them."

"As for the members of the Five Sounds Sect, since they invited someone, why didn't they have them come earlier? Or provide an escort to protect the Four Snow Mountain Friends on their way here?"

"I've heard of the Four Snow Mountain Friends; those four are quite capable."

"Capable or not, they're dead now."

"It's unclear whether the enemy is targeting our Cloud Reaching Sect, the Dragon Chant Sect—to embarrass us—or the Five Sounds Sect, aiming to make both of our sects resent the Five Sounds Sect. Or could it be that they are attempting to kill three birds with one stone?"

"Targeting our Cloud Reaching Sect? They'd need the guts for that. As for the Dragon Chant Sect, that's even less likely. The Dragon Chant Sect has been around even longer than our Cloud Reaching Sect. The likely target is the Five Sounds Sect, especially since they have only recently become a Great Teaching, not even seventy thousand years ago. They haven't even experienced their first Sect Tribulation after becoming a Great Teaching."

As the Sect Hierarchy of the Cloud Reaching Sect listened to the various voices around him, he slightly raised his hand. With just one gesture, and without uttering a word, everyone abruptly halted their conversations, and the hall fell silent instantly.

The Sect Hierarchy of the Cloud Reaching Sect looked around at the crowd and slowly began to speak, "No matter who they are targeting—even if it's the Five Sounds Sect—since they have accepted an invitation from our Cloud Reaching Sect and are to perform at our grand event, regardless of their reason for targeting the Five Sounds Sect, they have provoked me. This is an affront to our Cloud Reaching Sect!

This matter cannot be left unresolved."

With these words, a chilly look crossed the Sect Hierarchy's face as he coldly commanded, "Elder Peach, you will take charge of the investigation. Find out now who killed the Four Snow Mountain Friends."

"Yes!" As the command was issued, a slender shadow flashed and vanished from the hall.

Only then did the Sect Hierarch turn back to address the woman who had replied earlier, "What about the Five Sounds Sect? What are their plans?"

"It is said that the Five Sounds Sect is searching everywhere for someone who can replace the Four Snow Mountain Friends."

"Replace them?" A rugged man with a face full of beard from the crowd immediately shook his head and said, "Finding someone who understands musical rhythm is not easy. If they could have found someone earlier, why would they have invited the Four Snow Mountain Friends?"

Hearing this, the Sect Hierarch's eyes flashed with a fierce light, "Elder Blue, from now on, concentrate solely on one thing—monitor the Five Sounds Sect's search for a replacement. If a replacement emerges, make sure to investigate their background immediately and also keep a close watch on them."

"A replacement?"

Upon hearing this, the people below also began to realize the implications.

"Does it mean that someone intends to use the opportunity to perform music for some other purpose?"

"What could they do? Even if all four replacements are indeed ill-intentioned, they are just four people. Inside our Cloud Reaching Sect, what waves could they possibly cause?"

Chapter 1097:

"Interesting, someone dares to target our Cloud Reaching Sect?"

The Cloud Reaching Sect, among the Great Teachings of the Eastern Province, was also a very ancient and extremely powerful existence, yet the Five Sounds Sect was different.

A million years after the establishment of an Immortal Sect, a Heavenly Tribulation known as Sect Tribulation would descend upon it.

Sect Tribulation was different from the individual Heavenly Tribulation that targeted a single person; Sect Tribulation was the Heavenly Dao's catastrophe aimed at the entire Immortal Sect!

If the Sect could successfully pass through the Sect Tribulation, the Immortal Qi of the entire sect would become purer and more abundant. Moreover, the Heavenly Dao would bestow various treasures, resources, and magical Treasures, even the pathways to Immortal Cultivation. For an Immortal Sect, there were tremendous benefits to overcoming the Sect Tribulation.

And after passing through the Sect Tribulation, an Immortal Sect could also be referred to as a Great Teaching.

After becoming a Great Teaching, every hundred thousand years, the Heavenly Dao would still bring about a Sect Tribulation. Of course, these Sect Tribulations would be relatively simpler than the million-year Sect Tribulation.

Simpler, only because an Immortal Sect, after becoming a Great Teaching, received various Heavenly Dao rewards and experienced a surge in power, making the subsequent Tribulations relatively easier.

Later, on the two hundred thousandth year, the three hundred thousandth year, every ten thousand years, the strength of the Sect Tribulation would increase, and by the tenth time, another million years later, the power of the Sect Tribulation would intensify again!

Similarly, whether it was the ten-thousand-year Sect Tribulation or the million-year Sect Tribulation, as long as one survived to the end of each Tribulation, the Heavenly Dao would bestow rewards.

After receiving the rewards, each Great Teaching would hold a celebration to commemorate surviving the Sect Tribulation.

Of course, generally speaking, the Great Teachings wouldn't immediately hold a celebration at the end of the Sect Tribulation; after all, even if they could survive through it, the disciples within the sect would still suffer losses, and moreover, they needed to assimilate the gained rewards.

Thus, after the end of the Sect Tribulation, each Great Teaching needed time to assimilate the rewards and to recover and replenish their vitality.

As for how long the recovery would take, that was not certain.

Some Great Teachings might take decades to recover, others a hundred years, and some may only need ten years to suffice.

The Cloud Reaching Sect was lucky; their Sect Tribulation arrived before the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth had come, none of their experts were asleep yet, the sect had not been affected by the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, and their experts were present, so they successfully passed through the Sect Tribulation.

Afterward, as the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth arrived, because of the particularity of this period, many years passed before they finally held a celebration.

If not for the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, they would have already held their celebration.

In fact, the unlucky ones were those Great Teachings that needed to undergo the Sect Tribulation during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth. Although, it is said that during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, the Sect Tribulation would not be as potent as usual.

The way of Immortal Cultivation is perilous, but the Heavenly Dao always leaves a sliver of hope for Cultivators. If the Sect Tribulation of the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth were as terrifying as usual, it would leave no hope at all, resulting in the entire sect's annihilation.

Even so, the Sect Tribulation during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth is still more dangerous, because, in a normal period, a Great Teaching could use various treasures and the resources accumulated over a million years.

But during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, those treasures could either only be used above the Earth Immortal Realm, which they could not use, or would only unleash the power of the Golden Core Stage, greatly diminishing their strength.

And their strongest could only reach the Golden Core Period Limit, but how many can actually reach the Golden Core Period Limit?

Thus, for a Great Teaching, if the Sect Tribulation coincidentally occurred during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, that was extremely, extremely unfortunate, even presenting a risk of sect annihilation, and more unfortunate were those where the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth had not yet come but was imminent.

Because at that time, it was not yet the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, the Sect Tribulation's power wouldn't just be at the Golden Core Period Limit. However, by then, many experts had already begun to fall into deep slumber.

Yet, the Sect Tribulation wouldn't take so much into consideration and would still descend; even as some experts were combating the Tribulation, they couldn't hold on and were forced to enter a deep sleep in their burial mounds.

Especially, in those cases where the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth was only a few days away, but then the Sect Tribulation descended—that was the most unlucky of all.

In their Eastern Province, there was a Great Teaching that, on the three days before the arrival of the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, faced the Sect Tribulation and ultimately failed to survive it. The entire Great Teaching was destroyed in one fell swoop, with only a portion of the disciples escaping. What was once a Great Teaching, now became an ordinary Immortal Sect.

And for the Five Sounds Sect, it belonged to that second kind of misfortune; they had to undergo the Sect Tribulation during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, and it was also their first Sect Tribulation since becoming a Great Teaching.

Even those long-established Great Teachings were extremely cautious about undergoing the Sect Tribulation during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, and some would even invite experts from other Great Teachings to help. Naturally, the Five Sounds Sect had to be all the more careful.

After all, their initial rise to a Great Teaching was due to their incredibly strong Sect Hierarchy, but compared to other Great Teachings, they lacked a vast amount of foundational strength.

Furthermore, their Sect Hierarch was still in slumber, so now they had to rely solely on themselves.

It was for this reason that they agreed to participate in the Cloud Reaching Sect's grand celebration, to help play music at the celebration, and even to accompany Immortal Bi Yue of the Dragon Chant Sect with their performance.

Chapter 1098:

They, like the Dragon Chant Sect, are a Great Teaching, and by accompanying Immortal Bi Yue, are in fact somewhat lowering their own status.

The reason they did this was that they hoped to invite Immortal Bi Yue from Dragon Chant Sect and the experts from Cloud Reaching Sect to help them when they faced their Sect Tribulation.

Sect Tribulation is not something that only disciples of the sect themselves must confront. As long as it occurs within the sect, anyone in the sect can help.

However, there is a limit to the number of people who can do so.

Generally speaking, the Heavenly Dao does not allow more than ten people from outside the sect to aid in overcoming the Sect Tribulation. The main strength must still come from the sect itself.

But if you could invite ten experts, it would be of great help.

Especially Immortal Bi Yue, she is an existence at the limit of the Golden Core Period!

Generally, when facing a Sect Tribulation, inviting experts to help is something they would gladly accept since they can assist without belonging to that sect, and if danger arises, they can withdraw at any time.

The Sect Tribulation targets a sect as a whole.

For example, during the Sect Tribulation of the Five Sounds Sect, their experts, within the tribulation, would find it nearly impossible to leave the sect for they have been part of it for too long and are deeply bound to it.

But those who have joined the sect for less than a thousand years can leave.

And those experts who come to help, not being from the sect, can leave at any moment, so the danger for them is much reduced.

However, there is still risk involved, no matter how small, so promising rewards is essential to entice others to assist.

According to the rules of the Eastern Province, if the Sect Tribulation is successfully overcome, the assisting individuals can choose one treasure from the rewards and resources bestowed by the Heavenly Dao afterward.

Of course, the choice of treasure isn't entirely free and is to be agreed upon in advance, such as letting the sect facing the tribulation pick ten items or twenty resources given by the Heavenly Dao before allowing the helpers to choose.

In addition to this, they must collect a deposit beforehand.

After all, if the tribulation is failed, wouldn't the helpers end up with nothing?

Before approaching Immortal Bi Yue, the Five Sounds Sect was told that in addition to one ancient zither, they must cooperate fully with her dance and music performance.

Just then, they found that Cloud Reaching Sect was holding a grand event and agreed to regard their music and dance performance during the event as part of the deposit.

Afterward, they could send two top experts at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection to help the Five Sounds Sect!

To assist with the music and dance at the grand event of Cloud Reaching Sect was considered a deposit of capabilities from both parties, which was the best outcome for the Five Sounds Sect.

However, the dance that Immortal Bi Yue wished to perform required someone to play the ancient zither, and their Five Sounds Sect did not currently have an expert zither player. They even had to request the assistance of the Four Snow Mountain Friends.

But who could have expected that the Four Snow Mountain Friends would be killed en route!

"What do we do now? The Four Snow Mountain Friends are dead, and the event is set to take place tomorrow!"

"The Four Snow Mountain Friends occupied four spots!"

A pale-faced man among the Five Sounds Sect members spoke softly, "The Four Snow Mountain Friends were responsible for the zither, flute, guqin, and erhu. Our Brother Wu Se can play the erhu, and Sister Qian Yu is also here, so she could play the guqin. But we don't have anyone from the Five Sounds Sect who is skilled at playing the flute on this trip. More importantly, where do we find someone to play the zither?"

If we cannot gather enough people, Immortal Bi Yue might not perform, and we risk offending both Dragon Chant Sect and Cloud Reaching Sect in one go, not to mention inviting their experts to help us later."

"Now, we have only one option: to broadly issue Immortal invitations, calling for those skilled at playing the zither and flute."

"Seek? There are many in the Eastern Province skilled in musical rhythm, but how many can meet Immortal Bi Yue's requirements? Moreover, even if some are able, for various reasons, they may not participate. For instance, the people from Immortal Melody Sect don't get along well with Cloud Reaching Sect; they definitely won't come."

"We have no other choice but to try this."

"Yes, that's all we can do, we can't just sit back and await our fate."

With no other option, the Five Sounds Sect members had to try their luck and issue Immortal invitations, but they knew very well that the chances of finding suitable individuals were incredibly slim.

After circling around Cloud Reaching Sect, Cao Zhen realized that their Mountain Protection Array really had no weaknesses that would allow someone to sneak in unnoticed. Without any other options, he could only return again.

Suddenly, he noticed a crowd gathered ahead, discussing something loudly.

"The Five Sounds Sect is issuing Immortal invitations in search of someone proficient at playing the zither and flute. To perform alongside Immortal Bi Yue at the grand event of Cloud Reaching Sect?"

"If selected, the Five Sounds Sect is offering a thousand Immortal Stones as a reward!"

"A thousand Immortal Stones is a hefty reward. Beyond the Earth Immortal Realm, cultivating with Spirit Stones and Spirit Crystals becomes ineffective; you must use Immortal Stones instead. One Immortal Stone is equivalent to ten thousand Spirit Crystals. A thousand Immortal Stones—that's ten million Spirit Crystals!"

Chapter 1099:

"However, the Five Sounds Sect is a Great Teaching where Musical Rhythm enters the path. I don't know how high their requirements are."

"This flute, I know what it is, but what about this 'playing the zhichu'?"

"The key point is being able to perform with Immortal Bi Yue!"

"Yes, that's Immortal Bi Yue who has reached the Golden Core Period Limit."

"And Immortal Bi Yue's cultivation time is very short, only a hundred years."

"The crucial point is that Immortal Bi Yue is a first-class beauty..."

"Vulgar. Is Immortal Bi Yue just to be described by her beauty? Moreover, the key point is Bi Yue's dance. Initially, our Eastern Province's poets and music and dance masters, even the Wine Immortal said that Bi Yue's Dance Under the Moon is unrivaled in our Eastern Province!"

Cao Zhen, listening to the discussions around him, almost doubted whether he had heard wrong.

He was just worrying about how to go to the Cloud Reaching Sect, and suddenly, here was an opportunity knocking on his door, and there was money to be made.

A thousand Immortal Stones equal ten million Spirit Crystals; isn't this like picking up money? What a good deal.

He quickly stepped forward and randomly asked someone, "Dao Companion, where are the people from the Five Sounds Sect?"

The person turned back and gave Cao Zhen a glance, didn't recognize him, but didn't think much of it. There were so many people coming to the Cloud Reaching Sect festival that it was normal not to recognize everyone.

He casually pointed in one direction and said, "Over there, the people from the Five Sounds Sect are all over there. Dao Companion, do you also want to give it a try? However, what the Five Sounds Sect calls proficient might not be the same as what we mean by proficient, you..."

He hadn't finished speaking when Cao Zhen had already walked in the direction of the Five Sounds Sect.

The people from the Five Sounds Sect were located not too far from the entrance of the Cloud Reaching Sect, responsible for finding those proficient in playing the zhichu and the flute. Although they had issued an invitation for immortals, in their hearts, they weren't very confident about finding the right person.

Moreover, it seemed that everyone was quite aware of their limitations, knowing that the requirements of the Five Sounds Sect must be extremely high. So, not many people went to try.

Among the crowd, two men not walking together exchanged glances; one of them nodded slightly and then walked forward to where the people of the Five Sounds Sect were and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, are you looking for someone proficient in playing the flute? I am not very talented, but I have done some research on playing the flute."

"Oh?" Several members of the Five Sounds Sect looked up at the man in front of them; their first gaze was at his hands—a pair of very pale and well-maintained hands.

Wu Se looked at the man in front of him. Although he didn't think that this person had the skills to match the level of him and his junior sister, he still nodded and said, "Dao Companion, since you're interested, why not give it a try?"

"Very well."

The man smiled slightly, took out a bamboo flute, and immediately, the members of the Five Sounds Sect nodded. This bamboo flute was clearly not an ordinary musical instrument, but rather, a Divine Weapon.

This was a person who took Musical Rhythm as his path to cultivation.

The man took out the bamboo flute, pondered for a moment, and asked, "May I know, ladies and gentlemen, what kind of melody you would like to hear? Do you have any requirements?"

Wu Se whispered, "Night, moonlight, gentle beauty, we are to accompany Immortal Bi Yue's Dance Under the Moon."

"In that case, I'll play 'Moonlight Solo Dance.'"

The man elegantly flicked his sleeve, took the bamboo flute to his lips, and immediately, a melodious, lingering flute sound rose.

Wu Se raised his head in surprise the instant he heard the flute. The level of this flute playing was high, although it was slightly inferior to that of him and his junior sister, the difference was minimal.

Moreover, the man played under these circumstances. If one were to change his environment and after he saw Immortal Bi Yue's dance, he might be influenced and perform even better. This level was already sufficient.

Wu Se was instantly overjoyed. He exchanged glances with his junior sister Qian Yu, and both nodded, saying, "Dao Companion, from which Immortal Sect do you come, and how are you addressed? Your skill in playing the flute deserves the title of master.

Do you have an interest in performing with us accompanying Immortal Bi Yue?"

"I am merely a Loose Cultivator known as Flute Guest. As for cooperating with you, it would be my honor," Flute Guest quickly agreed.

Cao Zhen saw that someone had already succeeded and there was only one spot left. He quickened his pace but before he could reach the Five Sounds Sect,

a man with unkempt hair and an exceptionally pale face also approached and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I just heard this Dao Companion's flute playing and felt a bit of an itch to try. I happen to be proficient in playing the zhichu. How about letting me give it a try?"

Wu Se, who didn't originally have much hope in posting the invitation for immortals, which was more of a last resort, but just now, there was a man who played the flute to his expectations.

And now someone came forward, still wanting to play the zhichu, and he suddenly became interested.

After all, the zhichu is a very uncommon musical instrument, even in the Five Sounds Sect, not many can play it. If someone claims to play the zhichu well, it's not all that simple.

As long as the person's skills were not too poor, as long as they were about adequate, he would at least keep the person for now, as it was really quite rare to find someone who could play the zhichu.

Cao Zhen, seeing someone getting ahead of him, immediately quickened his pace and walked up to his own people in the Five Sounds Sect and exclaimed, "Playing the zhichu? What a coincidence! As for playing the zhichu, I know a bit too."

Chapter 1100:

"Hmm?"

Including the man who had played the flute earlier and the people of the Five Sounds Sect, all of them turned around in surprise to look at the man who had suddenly approached.

The zhu was a rare musical instrument, and it was already strange enough that someone appeared claiming to know how to play it. Now, yet another person had appeared claiming the same, which was too surprising.

Wu Se had not expected this situation either. Looking at the two men, he briefly paused before saying, "Since both of you are skilled in playing the zhu, why not perform a piece together? How about the 'Moonlight Solo Dance' we just heard?"

Both claimed to be skilled, so naturally, a competition was in order.

"No problem," Cao Zhen slightly nodded, took out his zhu from the Qiankun Bag. He had spent fifty years among the mortals and had been a musician for a while. He now carried various brushes and musical instruments with him.

However, his zhu was just an ordinary one.

When his zhu appeared, Wu Se immediately shook his head slightly; it was just an ordinary zhu, indicating that this man was not a true master of Musical Rhythm. Probably, he had just learned how to play.

His gaze then shifted to the other person.

That other person, seeing the ordinary zhu, felt inwardly relieved and calmly took out his zhu from the Qiankun Bag. Unlike Cao Zhen's, this zhu was a Divine Weapon.

Wu Se nodded slightly, appreciating the Divine Weapon. Clearly, this person was a master of Musical Rhythm.

He naturally had greater expectations for the first person to play.

After both were prepared, he quickly spoke up, "Since both of you are ready, let us begin."

As he finished speaking, Cao Zhen and the other man struck their instruments simultaneously.

Cao Zhen had only heard 'Moonlight Solo Dance' once, and Gao Jianli's level of Musical Rhythm was incredibly high. They were competing using the zhu.

Had it been another instrument, like the pipa or a flute, his start might have been hesitant, but playing the zhu was different.

Gao Jianli's level was MAX!

Because both were competing in playing the zhu, many people gathered around the front of the Cloud Reaching Sect, curiously crowding in.

Though they didn't understand Musical Rhythm, as the two began playing, they immediately noticed the difference. The man playing the ordinary zhu was significantly better—so much better that ten people listening could easily tell.

Wu Se's eyes widened, his mouth gaping open, staring dumbfounded at the person playing the ordinary, non-Divine Weapon zhu.

The level of this zhu playing was astonishingly high, far surpassing both him and his sect.

In fact, he felt that even the master of Five Sounds Sect, who had been in slumber, could not match the young man before him.

What level had this man's zhu playing reached? Who was he?

Both had begun their performance without issue, but as the performance went on, the opponent's forehead soon showed beads of sweat, which grew larger over time.

"Ting—"

Suddenly, a jarring sound erupted, and the opponent's rhythm completely broke down, hitting a wrong note. He abruptly stopped, looking bewildered and puzzled toward the unknown man still playing the zhu.

After the opponent stopped, Cao Zhen also ceased playing. Under normal circumstances, he might not have been interested in playing the zhu, but now, he was in a bet with his disciple, Zi Yu, to see who could enter the Cloud Reaching Sect first.

He was the master; how could he lose to his disciple?

Now that an opportunity had arisen to enter the Cloud Reaching Sect, he had no choice but to display his skill.

He was sorry for the other player.

Wu Se was completely captivated by the zhu playing. When the music suddenly stopped, a look of regret flashed across his face. Then he looked at this unfamiliar young man, and bowing slightly, said, "It is an honor to have the opportunity to collaborate with a master like you. May I ask which Immortal Sect you are from and how you prefer to be addressed?"

The level of the opponent's zhu playing fully deserved the title of 'master', and he was not merely flattering; with the skill just demonstrated, it truly was an honor to collaborate.

Unexpectedly, so simply, he had found two masters—one skilled at playing the flute, and the other the zhu!

"Sure, my name is Cao Zhen, from the Hundred Peaks Sect," answered Cao Zhen honestly, since there currently was no connection between Eastern Wasteland and the Eastern Province, it didn't matter if the other party heard his name or knew of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

"Hundred Peaks Sect?"

Wu Se frowned at the sound, pondering for a long time but realizing that he didn't recognize the existence of the Hundred Peaks Sect. He then looked doubtfully at his junior sister and asked, "Junior sister, you..."

Qian Yu also shook her head; she, too, had never heard of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Both were deeply puzzled. There were too many Immortal Sects in the Eastern Province, and it was normal for them not to have heard of some, but the issue was that the opponent's zhu playing skill was so high that it should belong to an extremely famous sect specialized in Musical Rhythm—a sect they definitely should have heard of.