

My Master 121

Chapter 121: Searching for Treasures in the Ruins_1

The Immortal Soldier Workshop is divided into two parts, one is for refining divine treasures, which is irrelevant to us. The important part is the other one.

"The treasures left behind by the predecessors of the Hundred Peaks Sect who have passed away are all kept in the Hidden Dragon Observatory. Every disciple who enters the Hidden Dragon Observatory may go there. If you resonate with a certain treasure, then it means you are fated with it, and you can take the item with you."

Upon hearing this, Xiang Ziyu's spirits immediately lifted, "Senior Sister, can we take as many treasures as we want?"

"Exactly, as long as you can resonate with them, you can take as many as you want. However, each treasure has the last wish of its previous owner..."

"Are they all well-preserved?" Xiang Ziyu was somewhat disappointed when Yan Yourong trailed off, "Isn't there somewhere with some damaged items? I remember Master mentioning a broken axe."

"I don't know about that. You can go and ask for yourself," Yan Yourong said, turning her head. This junior brother of hers had gotten quirky again.

Xiang Ziyu and Bei Yan entered the Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace, naturally receiving tokens and a booklet each. After looking at the maps of the Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace and the Hidden Dragon Observatory, they quickly left to find the Immortal Soldier Workshop.

Xiang Ziyu immediately spotted in the courtyard an old crone seated in a bamboo chair, engrossed in a book.

A woman? And so old? In a place like the Immortal Soldier Workshop? No matter how you looked at it, it felt strange! And the books always said, the stranger the person, the more extraordinary! It seemed his own opportunity had come!

He stepped forward, fists respectfully clasped, "Old Granny, this disciple is Xiang Ziyu from Four Treasures Peak, and this is my junior brother Bei Yan. The two of us wish to seek our fortunes here."

Four Treasures Peak?

Ai Yunqi, who rarely raised her head, looked towards the two people in front of her. People from Four Treasures Peak again?

To her knowledge, there weren't many people in Four Treasures Peak. Counting these two, four had come here in recent days.

She, who seldom liked to speak with others, even exceptionally pointed towards the back courtyard, "Go to the back."

"Thank you, Granny," Xiang Ziyu said with a smile, dragging Bei Yan towards the back courtyard. The material in the booklet had mentioned that this granny was very eccentric and didn't like talking to others. When others came, she ignored them.

But in the face of himself, she actually spoke.

Indeed, as the protagonist, he was definitely different from others.

After the two entered the back courtyard, Ai Yunqi even put down her book and looked in the direction of the backyard, not muttering as usual "Every person who comes here thinks they are the chosen one." Mainly because the previous two from Four Treasures Peak were too bizarre.

One would have taken all the remains here if the observatory master hadn't intervened, and the other, though she only took away one treasure, took away the Grieving Anger Dragon Blade of the third-generation Sect Leader!

Xiang Ziyu knew that upon arriving here, he only needed to sense which treasures he resonated with so he could take them away.

But when he entered the back courtyard and saw the well-preserved treasures, obviously regularly maintained, he didn't release a bit of his power.

"These treasures are too well kept; there can't be any real goodies among them. The truly good stuff is always broken. As the protagonist, how can I settle for these common items.

Little Bei, you keep searching here. Although you're not the protagonist, as someone close to the protagonist, you should also be able to get a top treasure from here. I'm going to step out for a bit; I'll check elsewhere."

Little Bei couldn't bother with his senior brother anymore. There were perfectly intact treasures to take, yet he insisted on finding broken ones? His third senior brother's brain was beyond help in this lifetime.

Forget it, never mind him, I'll secure a treasure for myself first.

Little Bei began to emit his aura to resonate with the treasures one by one.

In the front courtyard, Ai Yunqi was stunned to see Xiang Ziyu coming from the back courtyard. What was this kid doing? He had just entered the back courtyard, why had he come out so quickly?

And there was no resonance with any treasure in the back courtyard, had he just left without taking anything?

Seeing Ai Yunqi, Xiang Ziyu had a thought, and immediately asked with clasped fists, "Granny, why are all the treasures inside complete? Are there any older treasures here? Of course, if they're damaged, that would be even better." This old granny must be here to help him, the main character, find divine treasures.

"Damaged?" Ai Yunqi became even more puzzled. "There indeed is such a place here, which also holds the relics left by our predecessors of the Hundred Peaks Sect. But for various reasons, the treasures there are damaged. Some are yet to be repaired, and some are beyond repair and unusable. What do you want with that place?"

"Repair? There's no need for repair. Forget it, if I told you, you wouldn't understand," Xiang Ziyu murmured, then continued, "Yes, that's exactly what I'm looking for, especially those that look unremarkable and battered. Granny, where is that place?" That's right, this had to be it. Whoever said they were unusable didn't understand because they weren't the protagonist. Once the protagonist arrived, he would surely discover the way to use those treasures.

Ai Yunqi, who had never seen someone forsake the intact treasures for damaged ones, pointed towards a side courtyard, "What you're looking for is in there."

"Thank you, Granny," Xiang Ziyu said, running swiftly toward the side courtyard.

Though it was the side courtyard, it was not much smaller than the back courtyard, with nearly as many treasures. The only difference was that all the treasures here were damaged.

Upon entering, Xiang Ziyu was immediately attracted by those damaged treasures.

"A shattered copper mirror, a broken spear, a book missing half its pages... The road to the protagonist's rise has begun! Soon, I'll acquire treasures like me, capable of growing endlessly!"

Xiang Ziyu muttered to himself and began to search rapidly.

"This broken sword, rusted and with notches on the blade, is so special, it must be out of the ordinary. I'll keep it for now."

"This is... half a copper coin? The characters engraved on this coin are extraordinary at first glance. I have a feeling that finding the other half will awaken this treasure."

"Is this a pen? The shaft of this pen..."

In the front courtyard, Ai Yunqi packed up her book and stood up, following to the side courtyard. It had been a long while since she had seen someone who wouldn't pick the complete, usable treasures but went for the damaged ones instead, especially since this boy was here for the first time.

"Hm? What is he picking?"

Chapter 122: Searching for Treasure in the Ruins_1

Ai Yunqi watched as Xiang Ziyu, whose face couldn't help but twitch, entered what seemed to be a true treasury, selecting one broken treasure after another.

"What's with this kid's choices? They're all over the place. Is there no pattern to it?"

"That brush, not a single hair left, and he still takes it. Does he know how to repair it? Does he know how many hairs are needed?"

"That lantern, it was indeed a top-notch treasure once, the ninth generation Ancestral Elder's treasure, with astonishing power. But now it's so full of holes it looks like a beehive. How many forging masters have come to see it, only to give up after a glance. You're taking that thing?"

"That embroidered ball, it's for female cultivators. You, a man, what are you doing with an embroidered ball..."

The more Ai Yunqi watched, the more speechless he became. Looking at Xiang Ziyu, who wanted to move everything from that place, he couldn't help but shout, "You don't have to choose so many. The rule here is that each person can only select one treasure at a time."

"Ah? Only one piece?" Xiang Ziyu looked up in astonishment.

"Do you know who created this place?" Ai Yunqi didn't wait for Xiang Ziyu to reply and answered his own question, "It was the founding Ancestral Elder of our Hundred Peaks Sect. The Ancestral Elder said that anyone's treasures, once damaged, could be left here.

Any person who enters this place can also take away any piece of treasure, but with one condition, after taking a treasure, it must be restored to its original state."

"So, I can only take one treasure. I can come back for another once I've repaired it?" Xiang Ziyu looked down at the treasures he had painstakingly selected, his brows tightly furrowed. He wanted each and every piece he had carefully chosen.

"This mirror is really nice, and the embroidered ball too, I want them all, it's so annoying..."

Ai Yunqi finally couldn't resist saying, "That embroidered ball, it's a treasure for female cultivators. Have you ever seen a male cultivator using an embroidered ball as a treasure?"

"Of course, haven't you heard? 'The sun rises in the east, and I alone am unbeatable.'" Xiang Ziyu's body suddenly shivered, it seemed like that Eastern predecessor also turned into a female cultivator later. A chill ran through him, and he quickly tossed the ball aside.

A moment ago he had cherished the embroidered ball, but now he was throwing it away as if it were a hot potato.

Ai Yunqi's expression turned unpleasant, and with a cold tone, he said, "These treasures may be damaged, but they are all left by our Hundred Peaks Sect ancestors. Many of these treasures were damaged while the ancestors fought bloody battles for our sect.

They represent the history of our Hundred Peaks Sect's battles and carry the glory of our ancestors. I hope you can respect them."

"Grandmother, I was wrong, I was just scared earlier; it wasn't intentional." Realizing his mistake, Xiang Ziyu hurriedly ran to pick up the embroidered ball.

The ball rolled on the ground a couple of times before being stopped by something, took a light bounce, and changed its rolling direction.

"Huh, there's another treasure here I didn't notice."

Xiang Ziyu approached with curiosity to check it out.

A cherry-sized semi-translucent bead came into his view. While the surface of the bead was intact, the inside was rife with crisscrossing cracks. The multitude of fractures interwove in such a way that one felt a gust of wind might crumble the bead into a heap of fine dust, or even reduce it to powder.

"This bead is remarkable! It is the most severely damaged treasure I have seen here, and if it weren't for the tossing of the embroidered ball, I wouldn't have noticed it. Indeed! There must be some predestined arrangement at work here, this bead is the one!"

"Crack..." Ai Yunqi stumbled, crushing a stone beneath her foot, and finally understood the young boy's pattern of selecting things—it was whatever looked most badly damaged, he would choose that, picking only the ruined over the unscathed, he...

No, this bead, this is...

Ai Yunqi suddenly flashed beside Xiang Ziyu, her face showing astonishment as she observed the severely damaged treasure bead.

"That's right, just like this. Granny, you don't have to say anything, I knew as soon as I saw your expression that I must have chosen the most incredible treasure here," Xiang Ziyu, seeing Ai Yunqi's shocked face, instantly imagined, "Is it that all of you knew of such a treasure, but no matter how hard you searched, you could never find it."

Yet, as soon as I arrived, I discovered it. Don't be so surprised, as the chosen one, this is all normal. You will get used to it in time."

"What muddled nonsense." Ai Yunqi, realizing that this disciple in front of her was somewhat abnormal, struggled to engage in more conversation only to meet someone who didn't know how to communicate. She paused, adjusted her mindset, and then continued to speak, "This treasure bead isn't something that nobody could find; the reason nobody took it is twofold.

Firstly, it's too severely damaged, beyond anyone's confidence to repair.

Secondly, do you know its origin?"

"I don't know," Xiang Ziyu shook his head, "but now that you mention it, I realize that its provenance must be extraordinary."

Ai Yunqi continued, "Actually, this is a prayer bead."

"A prayer bead? Prayer beads shouldn't be transparent, should they?" Xiang Ziyu muttered to himself without waiting for Ai Yunqi's response, then confidently spoke on his own, "Indeed, as a man destined to be the protagonist, the treasures I obtain are thus unique."

Ai Yunqi completely disregarded Xiang Ziyu's interjection, if it were not for the origin of the prayer bead before her, she would have left already. Ignoring Xiang Ziyu, she continued, "Such treasure beads total one hundred and eight in number, hence, their name is the Heavenly Gang Disha Beads. And the owner of them is..."

Ai Yunqi raised her hands towards the heavens with a face full of reverence and spoke, "Our Hundred Peaks Sect's Ancestral Elder!"

"A treasure left by the Ancestral Elder?" Xiang Ziyu looked at the prayer bead in his hand and solemnly said, "Indeed, this is my destiny. Among so many disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect, it was I who obtained the Ancestral Elder's prayer bead, which signifies that the Sect's revitalization is destined to be achieved through my hands. Granny..."

He suddenly thought of a concern, turning his head to look at Ai Yunqi, saying seriously, "These prayer beads total one hundred and eight, which means they are a set. I should also take the remaining one hundred and seven beads all at once, as they should count as one treasure."

"If they were one hundred and eight intact Heavenly Gang Disha Beads, they would be in the back courtyard, not here," Ai Yunqi sighed softly, "Of the original one hundred and eight prayer beads, only this one remains with our Hundred Peaks Sect. The whereabouts of the remaining one hundred and seven prayer beads are unknown."

"I understand," Xiang Ziyu nodded deeply, "Indeed, as a protagonist, I must face challenges. My next task is to find the remaining one hundred and seven prayer beads. I believe that soon, I will find the second prayer bead, and then the third, the fourth..."

As he spoke, he walked towards the exit, and soon returned to the front courtyard. Looking at the deserted yard, he said with puzzlement, "Eh? Has Little Beiyan not found a treasure that resonates with him after such a long time?"

Chapter 123: Emptying the Immortal Soldier Workshop_1

"It's completely normal not to resonate with any treasures," said Ai Yunqi as she settled back into her bamboo chair, flipping through a book she had picked up and continued, "Every year, countless disciples come here, but in the end, very few can resonate with even one treasure."

"It's different for Little Beiyan," Xiang Ziyu said as his voice fell, "As my junior brother, and the protagonist at that, he should at least choose a Level One Treasure, such as one left behind by a True Person and Peak Master." As soon as Xiang Ziyu's words ended, from the direction of the backyard, three dazzling lights—crimson, orange, and red—soared into the sky.

"Is this? Little Beiyan actually caused resonance with three treasures at once?" Xiang Ziyu nodded slightly, truly worthy of being his junior brother.

"This isn't three treasures, but one," stated Ai Yunqi as she transformed into a rainbow light and flew into the backyard, with Xiang Ziyu quickly running after her.

In the backyard, after Little Beiyan arrived, he looked at each of the treasures, promptly releasing his aura to communicate and comprehend them, however...

So many treasures and not a single one paid him any mind.

"How can there be no reaction? That won't do. Master left here with a great many treasures, and although Senior Sister only took one from here, it was a Divine Weapon from the Hundred Peaks Sect's list. If I come here once and leave empty-handed, that would be too embarrassing. Later, when I go out, who knows what kind of nonsense that abnormal-minded Third Senior Brother will say. No, I must at least get a treasure before I leave," he said to himself.

With that, the ten Great Perfection platforms, Immortal Bridge, and the phenomena of the inner core all emerged behind him.

"I don't believe it. There's no way I can't get even one!"

He suddenly unleashed all his power, sweeping across the treasures in front of him like a surging river.

Suddenly, a humming sound came from the sky, and a tall tower began to tremble violently, flying straight at Bei Yan.

This tower was not complete; it lacked a spire and had only three levels, each a different color: crimson, orange, and red. An imposing and vast suppressive aura filled the entire space.

"The One Thought Shocking Evil Tower!" Ai Yunqi exclaimed in astonishment. Suddenly, a figure flew rapidly across the sky and landed beside her.

She had been not too far away when she noticed the burst of light here and felt the aura between heaven and earth. She came immediately.

She knew that someone had caused resonance with a treasure. Although it was rare for ordinary disciples to do so, as the Observer of the Hidden Dragon Observatory, she had spent years here and had seen many disciples resonate with treasures. Gradually, she had become accustomed to it.

Normally, she wouldn't have come, but this time, the aura of the treasure was too strong. Besides, only one treasure would emit crimson, orange, and red lights simultaneously—the One Thought Shocking Evil Tower of the Eighth Generation Sect Leader and True Person!

"He... the Bei Yan from Four Treasures Peak!" Lv Chaoqiong, who recognized the person resonating with the treasure, felt numb, "Again with someone from Four Treasures Peak. How come each of them, upon arriving, takes away a treasure left by a True Person and Peak Master? Four of them have come and three treasures of the True Persons and Peak Masters have been taken."

As Observer of the Hidden Dragon Observatory and a member of the Hundred Peaks Sect, she was immediately informed whenever a disciple was qualified to enter the Observatory. Naturally, she recognized all the disciples who could enter.

Xiang Ziyu, who had followed suit and run over, heard their conversation and couldn't help but say, "What did I tell you? I said that Little Beiyan, as my junior brother, would at least take a treasure left by a True Person and Peak Master."

When Ai Yunqi heard this, she also remembered what Xiang Ziyu had said earlier and looked over with a strange expression on her face.

And Xiang Ziyu had already turned his head to look at Lv Chaoqiong and said, "Observatory Master, as people by my side, it's not surprising that they could get the Sect Leader True Person's treasure. After all, I am the true protagonist, and the people around me are naturally not too shabby."

Lv Chaoqiong's eyes widened in surprise as she looked at Xiang Ziyu. What was all this about? Had this disciple become delirious? Why did it seem like his brain wasn't quite right?

Xiang Ziyu had already turned his head to look at Ai Yunqi, full of curiosity, "Why do I feel like this treasure is incomplete? It's clearly a tower, but why is there no spire? It feels as if only the lower half of the tower is there?"

"It is indeed incomplete," Ai Yunqi explained. "However, according to records, when the eighth generation Sect Leader True Person used it, it was already like this. We also don't know where the other part of the treasure is."

As she was speaking, Lv Chaoqiong's exclamation came from the side, "He...he is, is this due to his own strength?"

"Observatory Master," Ai Yunqi nodded gently and said, "Yes, he is causing the resonance of the treasure with his own strength. I have never seen such a situation before, and I have never heard of anyone causing the resonance of a treasure with their strength."

Lv Chaoqiong was speechless. Everyone else induced resonance with their treasures through their aura, but the people from Four Treasures Peak went straight for using strength. It felt as if, while others are seeking a companion through discussing feelings, and once agreed, they could become companions. But the people from Four Treasures Peak didn't bother discussing feelings, they just forcefully took what they wanted by might.

Thinking this, Lv Chaoqiong vigorously shook her head. What's wrong with me? Why am I having such bizarre thoughts, and why am I becoming as abnormal as the people from Four Treasures Peak?

Suddenly, a buzzing sound arose in the air, and among the many treasures, a golden hammer flew up and fell towards Bei Yan.

Lv Chaoqiong's heart tightened, and the scene of Cao Zhen resonating with countless treasures flashed through her mind. This disciple from Four Treasures Peak wouldn't be like his master, would he?

His master induced resonance with his aura, which I could still influence, but how could I influence resonance caused by strength? Am I supposed to directly exert mana to cut off his strength?

Fortunately, there did not seem to be a third treasure that resonated.

As she watched the two treasures fall into Bei Yan's possession, Lv Chaoqiong finally saw Bei Yan retract his released strength.

Bei Yan also acquired treasures, and the two brothers quickly left.

Lv Chaoqiong watched as the two of them walked away, sighing softly, "Fortunately, they only took away two relics. By the way, that hammer just now, which ancestor's was it? It feels somewhat familiar."

"That is the Flowing Cloud Fire Thunder Hammer of the fifth-generation Grand Elder, who came from the eleventh peak, Thunderfire Peak. The current Peak Master of Thunderfire Peak has come here several times, wishing to take the hammer back to Thunderfire Peak, but has never succeeded in awakening it. Unexpectedly, it has now been taken by a disciple from Four Treasures Peak," Ai Yunqi said, well-versed in the treasures here.

"A treasure of the eighth-generation Sect Leader True Person, a treasure of the fifth-generation Grand Elder..." Lv Chaoqiong couldn't help but exclaim, "The people from Four Treasures Peak, four of them have come here one after another, and they have taken three of the Sect Leader True Person's treasures. If they come a few more times, I fear that the strongest treasures in the Divine Soldier Tomb will all be taken by them."

"Thank goodness Cao Zhen has left, and luckily there are only a few people from Four Treasures Peak. Moreover, it is not certain that every disciple is so extraordinary. That Xiang Ziyu just now didn't get a treasure, right?"

"Not three," Ai Yunqi looked firmly at the current steward of the Hidden Dragon Observatory and corrected, "Four, that disciple called Xiang Ziyu took away the Heavenly Gang Disha Beads of the founding Ancestral Elder."

Chapter 124: Scouring Everywhere_1

After Bei Yan walked out of the Immortal Soldier Workshop, the smile on his face never faded; he didn't know whether the two treasures he got were the strongest in the Divine Soldier Tomb, but he felt they were indeed the most suitable for him.

As he walked, he even turned back to tease his senior brother, "By the way, senior brother, what treasures did you dig up over there? A broken axe, or some sort of snapped sword?"

He genuinely thought there was something wrong with his senior brother's brain. Clearly, one could choose directly usable treasures from the Divine Soldier Tomb, yet his senior brother didn't, preferring instead to look for damaged goods. Who in their right mind would do such a thing?

Xiang Ziyu immediately broke into a smug smile, "Neither a snapped sword nor a broken axe, what I got is a prayer bead, the Ancestral Elder's prayer bead."

"Pfft..." Bei Yan choked on his own spit, coughing while staring at his senior brother with a face full of shock. His senior brother got something from the Ancestral Elder? Was this what they call 'a fool's luck'?

The two chatted all the way back to the secret chamber belonging to the Hidden Dragon Three Sons.

Yan Yourong had been cultivating in the secret chamber without leaving. Upon seeing the two, she immediately asked about their finds.

"So, you got a relic from the Ancestral Elder?" Yan Yourong looked at Xiang Ziyu as if she was looking at someone who had stumbled upon a Spirit Stone by mere luck. She, her master, and Bei Yan had all obtained relics from the Substitute Sect Leaders of the True Person, but there were so many Substitute

Sect Leaders of the True Person in the Hundred Peaks Sect, and there were quite a few relics left by the True Person in the Divine Soldier Tomb.

But there was only one Ancestral Elder!

Xiang Ziyu flicked his hair in an extremely cocky manner, "Senior sister, don't look at me with that kind of admiration. There will be more and more such occurrences in the future. As the main character, senior sister, you'll have to slowly get used to it."

Yan Yourong completely ignored the latter part of Xiang Ziyu's statement and said seriously to both of them, "Next, I recommend you visit the Divine Skills Secret Record Pavilion, which houses secret techniques left behind by our ancestors of the Hundred Peaks Sect. You might find a Divine Skill that suits you."

"Divine Skills are, of course, necessary, but I think that senior sister is wrong. We should first visit the Five-Element Pill Ground. Perhaps there is an Ancient God Pill left by a predecessor there, or maybe the Ancestral Elder left some Pills for me as well."

On the way to the Divine Skills Secret Record Pavilion, Xiang Ziyu pointed to another path and asked Bei Yan beside him, "Little Beiyan, are you going to the Five-Element Pill Ground?"

"Nope," Little Beiyan shook his head like a rattle-drum, "I don't know how to do Alchemy, I'm not going."

"If you're not going, then I'll go by myself."

"Go by yourself then, I'm heading to the Divine Skills Secret Record Pavilion." Little Beiyan walked forward without turning his head, What a joke, he thought, you hit the jackpot in the Immortal Soldier Workshop, getting the Ancestral Elder's relic, and now you actually think you're the main character?

None of us know how to do Alchemy. Why would we go to the Five-Element Pill Ground to waste time?

"You'll regret it, are you really going?" Xiang Ziyu looked at Little Beiyan's departing back with an expression of pity, "Little Beiyan, you've missed the chance to follow the main character. When you see me again, you'll find that you've been far left behind."

While speaking, Xiang Ziyu arrived at the Five-Element Pill Ground, only to stand there dumbfounded at the desolate space in front of him.

He had read in a book that though the Five-Element Pill Ground lacked buildings like houses, there should be many Pill Furnaces and countless valuable medicinal herbs. But now, this Five-Element Pill Ground was barren—without herbs or Pill Furnaces, not a single person in sight.

"Could I have come to the wrong place? No, this is the Five-Element Pill Ground, why is it different from the description? Is anyone there? Hello?"

Xiang Ziyu called out for a long time without anyone appearing, and could only let out a resigned sigh before turning to leave. This bare place had nothing at all; how could he find an Ancient God Pill?

He decided to find someone to ask what exactly was going on with the Five-Element Pill Ground.

With no other choice, he turned his steps towards the Divine Skills Secret Record Pavilion.

The Divine Skill Secret Records Pavilion is a five-story tower, and standing in front of the tower at this moment are two people, one old and one young.

"Little Beiyan, are you standing here waiting to go in with your senior brother?" Xiang Ziyu's heart was slightly moved. Although his junior brother said he had come to the Divine Skill Secret Records Pavilion on his own, in the end, he was still waiting at the entrance for him.

Little Beiyan shook his head, "I am waiting for senior brother, but not to go in with him. I am waiting to go back with him. I have already obtained a Divine Skill."

"That quickly? You didn't just randomly pick a Divine Skill secret manual, did you?" Xiang Ziyu was very puzzled. He had only taken a detour to the Five-Element Pill Ground and had not stayed long before

arriving here. There wasn't much time difference between them, so how could Little Beiyan have already chosen a secret manual within such a short span?

Little Beiyan rolled his eyes, Randomly pick? Do you think I'm as foolish as you, to just randomly grab a secret manual?

"The Divine Skill I got is called the Earth Fire Thunder Light Circle, and it's ranked among the top ten Divine Skills within the Hidden Dragon Observatory. More importantly, it is a fire thunder Divine Skill, which perfectly complements the Flowing Cloud Fire Thunder Hammer I just obtained.

Oh yes, senior brother, this is Pavilion Master Lin of the Divine Skill Secret Records Pavilion. If you want to know what kind of Divine Skill you're looking for, you can ask Pavilion Master Lin, and he will tell you the approximate location."

Otherwise, the Divine Skill Secret Records Pavilion is so vast, if you try to find it on your own, you might not even find the Divine Skill secret technique you want in an entire day."

Xiang Ziyu didn't immediately greet Pavilion Master Lin but took two more steps forward and asked in a voice only the two of them could hear, "Little Beiyan, did you see the cleaning old man when you arrived here?"

"No, the place with the sweeping monk is the Scripture Pavilion, this is the Divine Skill Secret Records Pavilion." As Little Beiyan spoke, he widened the gap between himself and Xiang Ziyu. It's really the master's fault, why tell so many stories? Look, senior brother is taking them seriously.

"That makes sense. It seems I'll have to wait until I go down the mountain and visit a temple." Xiang Ziyu mumbled to himself before running over to Pavilion Master Lin, smiling and asking, "Pavilion Master, do we have any of those incomplete or unnamed Divine Skill secret manuals here?"

Pavilion Master Lin nodded in surprise, "The secret techniques and Divine Skills kept here are all provided by the predecessors of our sect. Many of them are Divine Skills cultivated by the predecessors themselves, while others were obtained by them through serendipitous circumstances. Some of these Divine Skill secret manuals were already incomplete when they were acquired, and others are missing parts for various reasons. Why do you ask about these secret manuals?"

"So, can I choose from these Divine Skill secret manuals?" Xiang Ziyu's eyes lit up, it sounded like there were quite a few incomplete manuals.

"You can, but are you sure?" Pavilion Master Lin advised, "The rules of the Divine Skill Secret Records Pavilion allow you to take only one Divine Skill at a time. After obtaining the Divine Skill, you need to master it before you can re-enter the Pavilion to choose other secret manuals. If you take an incomplete Divine Skill and are unable to cultivate the Divine Skill, you will never be able to enter the Divine Skill Secret Records Pavilion again."

Xiang Ziyu confidently replied, "No worries, I'm sure. I am the main character, just because others can't cultivate it doesn't mean I can't. Pavilion Master, where are those Divine Skill secret manuals you mentioned?"

"Underground."

The Divine Skill Secret Records Pavilion has five floors above ground, but there is also one underground level, which houses various incomplete secret manuals.

Xiang Ziyu quickly began to search underground,

"This one is too new, the age is not old enough, I don't want it."

"This one... the title is too complete, no need for it."

"This one can do, it's old enough, let me see... What, Slayer Sword? No good by the name alone, let's change..."

"This one... this one looks like it's been burned."

Finally, Xiang Ziyu flipped through and found a book to his satisfaction. The cover was entirely blackened, with a large part missing; he could make out a faint "demon" character and it seemed there was another character "below," but none of the pages inside were intact.

"I'll keep this one for now, let's see if there's anything better." Xiang Ziyu tucked the book with the "demon" character into his chest and continued his search.

Chapter 125: Target financial freedom_1

Outside the Divine Skills Secret Manual Pavilion, Little Beiyan initially stood outside the door. Gradually, he had made his way under the eaves and lay down.

The sun above had moved from directly overhead to one side of the sky.

Little Beiyan stretched leisurely. His senior brother had been in the Divine Skills Secret Manual Pavilion for over two hours now. He'd grown so tired of waiting that Xiang Ziyu hadn't even come out. He wondered, picking out a Divine Skills secret manual shouldn't be this troublesome, should it?

Finally, just as he was about to leave on his own, Xiang Ziyu came out holding two tattered books.

One of the books was clearly burnt, charred black all over, and the other had obviously been soaked in water for a long time, with the entire book so wrinkly it barely resembled a book.

"Two books?" Pavilion Master Lin furrowed his brows, flashed in front of Xiang Ziyu, and said sternly, "The rules of the Divine Skills Secret Manual Pavilion stipulate that you can only take one Divine Skill secret manual at a time."

"That's correct, I did take only one Divine Skill secret manual," Xiang Ziyu earnestly took out the book that had been water-damaged and pointed to the text, "Pavilion Master, look, this is undoubtedly a 'Divine' character, right?"

Pavilion Master Lin nodded, "Though the character is incomplete, it's certainly a 'Divine' character."

Xiang Ziyu continued to point and ask, "Pavilion Master, take a look at this. Doesn't this resemble a 'Heaven' character?"

Pavilion Master Lin continued to nod.

Xiang Ziyu quickly took out the other book that had been burned and said, "Pavilion Master, look at this book. Below this 'Demon' character, is there not a 'Below' character?"

While speaking, he brought the two books together and said, "Pavilion Master, look again. The positions of the 'Divine' and 'Demon' characters, don't they align perfectly when put together? And isn't the writing style and font of these two characters exactly the same?"

So, although these are two books, they are actually the upper and lower volumes of one Divine Skill. This Divine Skill should be called 'Scroll of Deities and Demons' or something similar..."

"Let me see..." Pavilion Master Lin quickly took the two books together to compare. The more he compared, the more convinced he became, realizing that, following Xiang Ziyu's reasoning, these two really seemed to be the upper and lower volumes of one Divine Skill. He had never considered this perspective before!

If these two could be upper and lower volumes, then perhaps among the secret manuals in the lower levels, there might be other sets of such paired volumes?

With this thought, he was somewhat impatient. Looking at Xiang Ziyu, he nodded and said, "Since they are upper and lower volumes, you may take both. When you have cultivated the Divine Skill, you can bring the manuals back to exchange for a different Divine Skill."

After speaking, he quickly took out a piece of paper, wrote down Xiang Ziyu's name, and noted the 'Record of Deities and Demons' upper and lower volumes. Then he swiftly entered the Divine Skills Secret Manual Pavilion.

Little Beiyan curiously looked at the upper volume of the secret manual that Xiang Ziyu had taken and couldn't help asking, "Senior brother, have you really discovered the upper and lower volumes of a Divine Skill?"

Hearing the question, Xiang Ziyu raised his head proudly and said, "Naturally, Little Beiyan, rest assured, your senior brother is not the type to hog such a find. Once I have studied and completed the Scroll of Deities and Demons, I will teach it to you. A Divine Skill named with the words 'Divine' and 'Demon' must surely be a top-tier, best quality Divine Skill!"

Upon hearing this, Bei Yan quickly stepped aside, surprised, and asked, "Senior brother, are you planning to cultivate the Divine Skill right now?"

No matter if these two books really were the two volumes of a Divine Skill, judging by the ruined condition of the books, probably not a single page was complete. How could one cultivate? Would one have to cultivate based on guessing?

Senior brother's intelligence wasn't great to begin with. If he cultivated haphazardly, even if he were truly taken to see a doctor, it's feared he might not be cured.

If these two books were not one Divine Skill but two, and if senior brother stubbornly cultivated them as one, wouldn't he actually become a fool?

The thought alone was frightening to Little Beiyan.

"Now? I'm not planning to cultivate now. I can cultivate the Divine Skill anywhere else, but cultivating now would be wasteful. I've read the introduction, and there's a free Lock Immortal Formation here. Of course, I'll go cultivate, starting with ten times the effect."

Bei Yan breathed a sigh of relief. As long as senior brother didn't recklessly cultivate that Divine Skill, everything would be fine. He didn't know when their master would return, so he had to hurry and inform their master of this matter, hoping senior brother wouldn't end up a fool.

Cao Zhen was currently very busy.

He had planned to let Yi Sheng negotiate with the various peaks and Taoist Institutions about talisman making. However, after returning, he discovered that he had nothing to do himself.

Still, there was the problem of lack of funds. The Five-Element Pill Ground at Hidden Dragon Observatory wasn't open, and without a place to take advantage, there was no way to practice alchemy. Without pills, how could he improve his strength?

There was no choice. He decided on the spot that Yi Sheng and he would split up, each going to different Taoist Institutions to negotiate business.

As for Ling Xi, it was better for her to stay behind and watch the house. With her intelligence, if she were the one to negotiate, she might actually agree to an even split.

Heart-Asking Taoist Academy.

An average institution among the many of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Even Liu Yubei, the head of Heart-Asking Taoist Academy, believed there was nothing special about his institution. The disciples of his institution weren't exceptionally good or bad, and none of their alumni were genius disciples known throughout the sect.

He didn't know why this disciple from Hundred Peaks Sect had come to find him for cooperation. But ultimately, it was a good thing.

The only problem was that their cut was too small.

Chapter 126: Target Financial Freedom_2

Liu Yubei gently sipped his tea and sighed longingly, "One and a half percent is too little."

He had only spoken half a sentence when he was interrupted by Yi Sheng.

"No, one and a half percent is not at all insignificant, in fact, if it weren't for the sake of the children at the Taoist Institution, I would only give you one percent."

Yi Sheng had been sitting elegantly on the long bench, her slender, beautiful legs crossed. Hearing Liu Yubei's words, she immediately stood up commandingly and said, "It doesn't matter, if Director Liu does not agree, I will not force it. Business has always been about mutual consent. I am sure there are other Taoist Institutions that will agree."

With that, she strode out.

Liu Yubei was instantly dumbfounded. No, you keep talking about business, and although I have never been in business, I know that negotiation always involves bargaining. Who do you think you are, not giving any chance to negotiate and just walking away? Is this how you do business? Do you even know how to do business?

Yi Sheng took a couple of steps and then paused slightly. "Of course, Director Liu, if you change your mind later, you can still come to me, but by then, I can't guarantee there will still be any quota available.

After all, with so many Taoist Institutions in the Hundred Peaks Sect, there are bound to be some that will agree to our conditions, but the number of disciples in the Hundred Peaks Sect is limited, as is the demand for Gathering Spirit Talismans.

Moreover, even if there are quotas available by then, if you come to us afterwards, you will earn much less than the other Taoist Institutions."

Director Liu couldn't help but ask, "How so?"

Yi Sheng smiled inwardly. Director Liu was now completely following her lead. This time, she had won for sure. She slowly turned her head, looked down at Director Liu from a lofty position, and asked, "Director Liu, tell me, what do you think of the Talisman Making Technique I have imparted?"

"It is, of course, exceedingly sophisticated. Even the children of the academy are able to make talismans," Liu Yubei kept praising, which was also why he had agreed to cooperate—the Talisman Making Technique they demonstrated was too ingenious.

"Given that, Director Liu must understand that with this Talisman Making Technique, no matter which Taoist Institution I collaborate with, they will make money. Once other Taoist Institutions start mass-producing Gathering Spirit Talismans, they will quickly build a reputation, and customers will get used to buying their talismans.

Director Liu, you also buy a lot of materials; tell me, do you not always buy from the same supplier?"

"Correct," agreed Director Liu with a nod.

"That's the way it is. People have such habits. You see, when others have grown accustomed to buying talismans from a certain Taoist Institution, if you start selling the same talismans at that point, will they buy from you or will they stick to the one they're used to?"

This time, Director Liu was quick to grasp the concept. "Alright, one and a half percent it is."

"A wise choice," said Yi Sheng, the corners of her mouth curving slightly into a smug smile. When her master negotiated with Seven Star Peak, he only managed to get three percent, whereas she had secured one and a half percent.

Her master did have a commercial eye, but when it really came down to doing business, negotiating in person, he was still somewhat lacking.

Jixia Taoist Institution.

Cao Zhen took a delicate sip of fragrant tea and sighed, "Director Huang, in truth, I also wanted to give you more, as I was once a disciple of a Taoist Institution myself and understand the difficulties faced by disciples. However, it's not feasible, as we at Four Treasures Peak also have our own considerable consumption.

This Talisman Making Technique, after all, was developed after innumerable efforts and countless research, failing numerous times, and the amount of materials wasted is unimaginable.

We cannot only focus on making Gathering Spirit Talismans; we have to craft other Spirit Talismans, which will require more research and further material consumption.

Let me share my heartfelt thoughts with you today. I am not fond of money, and I have little concept of it. The reason I did all this is because I was once a disciple of a Taoist Institution and wanted to do something for the other disciples. We know that within a Taoist Institution, there are few disciples with innate talent. So, what about the rest of the disciples? We have to think about them, too."

Pausing for a moment, as if recalling some past experience, Cao Zhen slowly continued, "Back when I was a Taoist Institution disciple, my talent was really quite ordinary. I knew that I wasn't going to make

much progress in cultivation, so I used to fantasize about some white-bearded old man appearing before me one day to teach me alchemy and talisman making.

It's because of those experiences that I finally came up with this plan. I call it the 'Taoist Institution Disciple Support Plan.'

The reason why I didn't keep the Talisman Making Technique to myself but chose to share it is that I wanted to help more disciples, so that everyone could have access to talismans and each disciple could master a craft."

Director Huang was moved, "Peak Master Cao's nobility is commendable. I am impressed, and we will distribute according to what Peak Master Cao has proposed, letting Liu also contribute to the tomorrow of the Taoist Institution disciples."

Throughout the entire day, both Cao Zhen and Yi Sheng went to various Taoist Institutions to talk about the business of talisman making. As for other peaks, aside from Seven Star Peak, the rest did not engage in negotiations.

Cao Zhen had initially planned to approach the other peaks directly, but Yi Sheng's words reminded him.

He should first win over all the Taoist Institutions and then slowly surround the peaks.

In the evening, Cao Zhen returned to Four Treasures Peak.

Usually, when he came back to Four Treasures Peak, a group of disciples would gather around, making it quite lively. But now, the whole place was much quieter with only him and Ling Xi, who was cooking.

Chapter 127: Target Financial Freedom_3

Cao Zhen discovered that he didn't even have anyone to talk to.

Luckily, it didn't take long before a pair of long legs came into his view.

Yi Sheng looked at Cao Zhen who was sitting in the room, a hint of obvious surprise flashed across her bright eyes on her valiant face, "Master, you're already back? You... have visited all the Taoist Institutions?"

How could her master have returned faster than herself?

She had gone directly to each Taoist Institution's head, and during the negotiations, she was always in a position of strength, not wasting much time. In view of her own speed, it was impossible for her master to be quicker, unless he had not visited all the Taoist Institutions.

"I visited them all," Cao Zhen said as he lifted his teacup, took a gentle sip, and a smile appeared on his face. Having one more disciple back made Four Treasures Peak seem a bit livelier. He still preferred when everyone was gathered together on the mountain.

"All of them?" Yi Sheng was full of amazement, "Master, how could you be so fast?"

After saying this, she suddenly realized something. If her master was that fast, the terms he negotiated must not have been high. With this thought, a proud look appeared on her face as she boasted, "Master, what price did you negotiate with those Taoist Institutions? The price I pressed them down to was very low; for each one, I pressed them down to fifteen or twenty percent, and I wouldn't negotiate with those who wouldn't agree. If the price you pressed for is much different than mine, that would not be good."

"Fifteen percent?" Cao Zhen was confused for a moment, "You even went for half a percent? Wouldn't that complicate things when we settle the accounts? I was thinking of pressing them down to five percent, but then I thought it was too troublesome, so I casually offered them ten percent."

"What? Ten percent?" Yi Sheng, hearing her master's calm tone, immediately rushed in front of Cao Zhen, her face full of shock, "Master, how did you manage that? How could they agree to it?"

"As a teacher, I was there to do good deeds, for the benefit of their Taoist Institutions. Forget ten percent, even if it had been free, I reckon quite a few of them would have agreed," Cao Zhen waved his hand, "Don't be like this. It's routine, sit down, sit down. You should know, we are saving them, supporting them..."

What a joke, I have the title of Master Ma's Enchanter with a MAX level, Master of Heartwarming Soup and Sophistry. If it weren't for the sake of our fellow disciples, would you believe I could have charmed them into paying me instead?

Listening to her master's tale, and the plan to support the fellow disciples of the Taoist Institutions, Yi Sheng, who was always incredibly confident and proud, nearly knelt in admiration like a little fangirl meeting her idol.

Genius, her teacher's ideas were sheer genius! How did her teacher come up with them?

She was born into a family of merchants, immersed in business from a young age, and coupled with her intelligence, she had a natural talent for it, far beyond ordinary people's. Even her father said that if she didn't pursue immortal cultivation and focused solely on business, she would surpass his own achievements.

However, now that she compared herself with her master, she felt that all she had learned from her childhood on wasn't even worthy of being called business acumen.

"Little Yi Sheng, it's okay, you are still young, it's normal to have a smaller vision. Just wait until I teach you for some more time, and your horizons will broaden," Cao Zhen said, looking at Yi Sheng who was adoringly staring at him like an idol-struck little sister, "First, let's eat. After we eat, I will give you another lesson."

Ling Xi discovered, just by preparing a meal, it seemed like her little junior sister had turned into a different person.

She could feel Yi Sheng's pride, even though she hadn't beaten anyone in the contests, that inherent pride was still visible in her bones.

But now, in the span of a meal, Yi Sheng hadn't really done anything except serve food to her master.

Indeed, the little junior sister had also discovered the greatness of their master!

After dinner, Yi Sheng, now full of admiration for the master she currently revered the most, started brewing tea and then began speaking somewhat worriedly, "Master, actually, there are some problems with doing things this way. Although we said we have other Talisman Making Techniques that we would gradually teach them to keep them cooperating with us,

we can't guarantee that some short-sighted people won't just think about the present, ignoring other Talisman Making Techniques. What if they decide to break away and work on their own? After all, we already taught them our Talisman Making Technique."

Cao Zhen stretched out a hand and gently tapped on the tabletop. He had considered this issue when he first thought about making talismans. After all, in this world, there was nothing like copyright, and once others learned the Talisman Making Technique, they could freely make talismans. He considered many methods, and in the end, he thought threats would work best.

"Actually, solving this problem is simple," Cao Zhen countered, "What is their purpose in making talismans?"

Ling Xi had been listening quietly to their conversation, unable to interject, but upon hearing this simple question, she didn't wait for Yi Sheng to answer and blurted out herself, "For making money."

"Exactly, for making money. If they go solo, not only will they not make money, they will lose money. Naturally, they won't separate from us and go it alone," Cao Zhen pointed a finger at Ling Xi and said, "This matter, we will need you to step in. Do you still remember those higher-level talismans I taught you among the Talisman Making Techniques?"

Those talismans can perfectly replace basic talismans like the Gathering Spirit Talisman. Once we start using them for crafting and release them into the market, no one will buy the talismans they make anymore."

Chapter 128: Wealth freedom target_4

"Tomorrow, call all of them to our Four Treasures Peak," Cao Zhen announced. "Ling Xi will give them a demonstration, telling them that if they want to act alone, then we will release those talismans into the market, and no one will have the chance to make money."

Those talismans were capable of directly disrupting the current talisman market!

Had it not been for the Hundred Peaks Sect's emphasis on unity and prohibition of internal strife, he wouldn't have dared to reveal those talismans with his present strength.

"Master, after Senior Sister has demonstrated the talismans, let me handle the negotiations with them. I'm good at this kind of thing," Yi Sheng's eyes lit up. She had just learned some business negotiation skills from her master, and she would be able to put them into practice tomorrow. As for the new talismans, although she was not familiar with them, she believed that since her master had said so, he must have full confidence.

How could his master possibly be wrong!

Cao Zhen readily nodded his head in agreement.

Meanwhile, Yi Sheng took out an abacus from nowhere and began quickly calculating, "In this way, we should be able to earn quite a bit. Master, let me help you do the math."

"What's there to calculate? This bit of money is not enough. Making talismans can indeed be profitable, but it's a steady business that amasses wealth gradually; we cannot earn that much in a short period. As the saying goes, 'A horse doesn't get fat without grazing, and a person doesn't get rich without windfall profits.' To earn more, we have to think of other methods."

Cao Zhen felt life was tough for himself. He needed to take pills to enhance his strength, and so did all his disciples.

The money earned from the talismans wouldn't be enough for even one disciple to take pills in the early stages.

"Windfall profits?" Yi Sheng's slender fingers, which had been deftly moving over the abacus, suddenly stopped. She looked up and said, "If you want a windfall, the gambling house is the best place. Haven't they said that the Hundred Peaks Sect will soon reshuffle the rankings of each peak? I remember the gambling house has also laid out various odds for the rankings. We could bet on Four Treasures Peak moving up in rank."

"That's actually a good idea," Cao Zhen's eyes shone. He remembered how his first windfall came about—it was from betting on himself during a competition of strength. "Unfortunately, the spirit stones I earned last time are almost all spent. The capital is still a bit too little. It would be great if we could find someone to loan us a sum. Borrow... right, why didn't I think of that before? I should go and seek financing."

"Financing? What's that?" Yi Sheng once again heard an unfamiliar term from her master and immediately inquired with curiosity.

"Financing means we clearly have the skills and the potential for development, but we lack funds. So, we could look for someone to lend us money, giving them a portion of our shares in return for their investment, depending on how much they give.

As for whom to approach for financing, Master has already thought of the perfect candidate—that would be the current Sect Leader of the Hundred Peaks Sect. Is there anyone wealthier than the Sect Leader?

Moreover, getting the Sect Leader to invest and own a stake in our talisman making business would mean that it becomes the Sect Leader's own venture. We would gain a free and powerful backer—it's killing two birds with one stone."

The more Cao Zhen thought about it, the more he felt that seeking financing from the Sect Leader was the best choice. Just looking at the rewards the Sect Leader handed out during the last Hundred Peaks Call-to-Order made it clear that the Sect Leader was definitely not short of money.

"Approaching the Sect Leader?" Yi Sheng suddenly thought of something and said, "If Master steps in, success is certain. Master, the reshuffling of the Hundred Peaks rankings is a major event; it won't be something that's announced today and starts tomorrow. Such big events require advance notice and preparation.

Therefore, the various betting opportunities related to the Hundred Peaks rankings will continue for a while. We just need to bet on Four Treasures Peak's rank rising before the actual rankings begin.

During this time, if we have more spirit stones on hand, we can also buy the materials for making Gathering Spirit Talismans. Master, think about it—if everyone starts making Gathering Spirit Talismans, the price of the materials will surely rise. We can stock up on these materials in advance."

"That's a good idea. The more spirit stones we accumulate before placing bets, the better," Cao Zhen laughed heartily. "Yi Sheng, I'm entrusting this task to you."

"Rest assured, Master. Just wait for your disciple's good news," Yi Sheng assured him.

As master and disciple were planning their path to wealth, Ling Xi frowned and interjected, "Master, I think it would be better not to let Junior Sister Yi Sheng handle this matter."

Cao Zhen looked at his eldest disciple in surprise, as his disciple had just openly challenged his idea, which was out of character for her.

Ling Xi slowly stated her point, "Master, I believe that as Junior Sister is also a disciple of Four Treasures Peak, her focus should primarily be on cultivation. She shouldn't always waste her energy on other affairs."

Yi Sheng turned to look at her eldest Senior Sister and realized that she had noticed the difference between Four Treasures Peak and many other peaks. She also knew that her main priority should indeed be cultivation. It was just that she had an interest in business, which is why she had volunteered to take on those tasks.

But now, her Senior Sister was actively encouraging her to cultivate.

In any other place, how would the other senior brothers and sisters react?

She was born in a merchant family and had seen all kinds of deception. Even within the same family, when it came to interests, they would plot against each other, wishing for others to do worse than themselves.

Even during her previous time at the Taoist Institution.

Although because of the rules of the Hundred Peaks Sect, they would not kill each other, they certainly wouldn't persuade someone else to stop indulging in leisure and start cultivating.

Chapter 129: The goal of financial freedom_5

After all, we are all in competition, if you perform poorly, naturally my performance will seem better by comparison, and my chances of being assessed for entry into a more favored peak will increase.

Yet at Four Treasures Peak, what the eldest apprentice sister thought about was her latest business endeavor, which delayed her cultivation.

Even though her current strength was at the bottom among those at Four Treasures Peak, she was, after all, a True Yang constitution. Her senior apprentice sister couldn't be unaware that surpassing her was just a matter of time, as long as she devoted herself to cultivation.

But still, her senior apprentice sister took it upon herself to remind her!

Even though she hadn't been at Four Treasures Peak for long, she could feel that even though there weren't many people, the master and all the disciples were like one big family.

Cao Zhen turned to look at Yi Sheng beside him and suddenly realized something. Yi Sheng was of the True Yang constitution; it seemed somewhat wasteful to have someone with the True Yang constitution doing business every day. If the masters of other peaks found out, he wondered if they would go insane.

And, as Ling Xi said, the most important thing for a disciple should be cultivation.

Besides, as long as it was someone under his guidance in cultivation, he could "win lying down."

Even now, though he hadn't taken Yi Sheng as an inducted disciple and therefore couldn't share in Yi Sheng's cultivation, as soon as he upgraded his administrator level, he could immediately share it.

So, in the end, this matter still fell onto his own shoulders.

"Ling Xi makes sense," Cao Zhen said, "Yi Sheng, what you need to do now is to focus on cultivation. As for business matters, you write down the specifics of what materials to buy and how to buy them, and let your master take care of it. You write it first; your master will now go to discuss financing with the Sect Leader."

After all, Ma Da's strongest suit was essentially motivational speeches, sophistry, and the like—he really had no experience or skill in practical, detailed work.

Cao Zhen had just mentioned wanting to leave when he suddenly stopped, "Never mind, it's too late. I'll go first thing tomorrow morning."

If the Sect Leader had been a man, it would have been another matter, but she was a woman, and crucially, a very beautiful woman. Him turning up late at night... It's better to go first thing tomorrow morning.

"All right, Master, please wait a moment," said Yi Sheng, who felt there was no problem. Master had a business eye, that was his talent, but after all, he wasn't a real businessman. Struggling with the specifics was only normal.

She began writing down the detailed business operations while saying, "Master, if you're going to see the Sect Leader tomorrow, then leave notifying the various academies to come to Four Treasures Peak to your disciple. It won't take much time, and we shouldn't delay any longer in case of unforeseen developments. Half a day won't make much difference to my cultivation."

"Good, after this matter is settled, you must focus on your cultivation. Lay a solid foundation, and in a few days, your master will give you thorough guidance," said Cao Zhen, glancing at Yi Sheng's long legs before heading to his room. Such long legs would be wasted without cultivating some leg-based Divine Skill. What suitable Divine Skill could there be?

Watching Cao Zhen walk away, Ling Xi couldn't help but pull Yi Sheng aside to congratulate her, "Junior apprentice sister, congratulations, Master will be asking you to stay over in a few days. Junior sister, let me tell you, once you spend a night there, you'll realize just how amazing Master is. He's particularly good at... teaching..."

The next day, Cao Zhen left early to seek an audience with the Sect Master, while Ling Xi and Yi Sheng separately notified the grand Taoist Institutions to convene at Four Treasures Peak.

Suddenly, the Immortal Cloud Carriages on their way to Four Treasures Peak were filled with heads of various Taoist Institutions.

"President Li, you're not teaching disciples at the Taoist Institution today. Where are you planning to go?"

"President Liu, it's rare for you to leave your premises, what breeze has blown you out of your Taoist Institution today?"

"Tell me, gentlemen, let's drop the act. We're all headed to Four Treasures Peak, aren't we?" Among the presidents, Liu Yubei of Heart-Asking Taoist Academy suddenly spoke up, interrupting the thinly veiled probe by his fellow presidents, "We've all received notices to go to Four Treasures Peak to discuss Talisman Making."

As soon as his words fell, the surrounding presidents all looked over; those who were probing stopped pretending.

"All of us are going to Four Treasures Peak?"

"You, you have all received an invitation from Four Treasures Peak too?"

"Four Treasures Peak, what are they trying to do, gathering so many of us!"

"What does everyone think about this?"

"What does President Liu think?"

Heart-Asking Taoist Academy was just one among the many ordinary Taoist Institutions, but at this moment, on the Immortal Cloud Carriage, everyone's eyes were on President Liu.

As the president of Heart-Asking Taoist Academy, he had interacted with other presidents before but had never been the center of attention like this. He cleared his throat and said, "Gentlemen, Four Treasures Peak wants us all for the same thing, I won't waste everyone's time repeating it."

The carriage driver grumbled internally, what is this matter, I don't even know. Go ahead and say it.

He was responsible for the route to Four Treasures Peak, and usually, there were not many passengers heading to Four Treasures Peak. With so many now, he was genuinely curious.

He drove while listening to the conversation of the presidents.

President Liu said to the others, "After the representative from Four Treasures Peak left yesterday, I contacted one president; coincidentally, that president had also been approached by Four Treasures Peak.

And, interestingly, the person who approached him was different from the one who approached me, and even more outrageous, the conditions they offered were different. They offered us a fifteen percent share, but that president was only offered ten percent."

Chapter 130: Target financial freedom_6

As soon as Head Liu's voice fell, someone immediately exclaimed, "What? There's also a fifteen percent share?"

"You only gave a ten percent share? I gave the same, they're looking down on our Taoist Institution!"

"I say, you can't seriously be thinking about sharing with them." Among the Heads, one who was short and sported a goatee chuckled, "I don't understand, they've already taught us the technique, why should I share with them? Let alone them taking the lion's share, even if I took the lion's share, I wouldn't share with them. Isn't it better to do it myself and keep all the profits?"

"That's true, but they said they have other techniques, right? I was thinking that we could learn the other techniques first."

"Didn't they say they were going to demonstrate something else to us this time?"

"Let's go and see first, ditch them once we've learned it."

While chatting, the group of Heads made their way to Four Treasures Peak.

The driver, who had been waiting until the group of Heads from the Taoist Institutions had left, was still utterly confused. No, what exactly are you talking about? Speak up!

Head Liu and the others walked towards Four Treasures Peak, growing more and more surprised along the way, as they had spotted even more Heads of Taoist Academies.

"Has Four Treasures Peak pulled in all the Taoist Academies?"

"They have big dreams, thinking they can get all the academies to make money for them. What a fanciful idea. When we get back, we'll see how many institutions will share with them."

"Four Treasures Peak must be scared of being poor. Just look at this peak, aside from that Spirit Field which is barely passable, what else do they have?"

"Not to mention, other peaks, even those ranked in the nineties, have their own Conference Hall. Four Treasures Peak doesn't even have a Conference Hall, not to mention, with so many of us here, the courtyard can't fit everyone, and we can only gather on this open ground."

"Where is the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak? Why hasn't he shown up, and instead left two women here?"

As Yi Sheng and Ling Xi walked into the midst of the open space among the people, the chattering Heads slowly stopped their conversations and looked towards the center.

Yi Sheng scanned the surroundings with a look that resembled a master inspecting their disciples, then finally spoke up, "The reason I've asked everyone to come today is to show you two types of Spirit Talismans. The first one is called the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman."

Having said that, she stepped aside and looked towards Ling Xi, "Senior Sister, please begin."

Although the Heads were displeased with Yi Sheng's attitude, their interest in the promised talisman techniques prompted them all to raise their heads and look on. Because there were so many Heads who had come, some who were standing at the back even had to stand on their tiptoes to get a better view, afraid of missing a single step.

"Hm? The materials used this time are somewhat different."

"These materials, Xuan Mist Flame Sand? Xiao Sulfur? These materials are much more expensive than the previous ones."

"Stop talking, she's starting to forge it."

In the sight of the crowd, they saw Ling Xi's hands move rapidly, so quickly that they hardly caught some of the motions. After a short while, the talisman was completed.

As soon as the talisman was made, they all felt a massive influx of spiritual energy from the atmosphere crazily rushing towards the talisman's direction.

If the influx of spiritual energy in the Gathering Spirit Talismans they had made before was like the flow of water in a ditch, the speed of spiritual energy pouring into this Spirit Talisman was like a torrential river, a huge difference.

Moreover, they were not even close to the talisman. If one were nearer, just carrying this Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman on their person, how terrifying would the effect be?

If they could get the technique to forge this Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman, then...

The Heads looked towards Ling Xi and Yi Sheng with burning gazes.

Yi Sheng spoke up at that moment, "You must all have felt the gathering power of this Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman, but that's not its strongest feature. Its true strength lies in the fact that, as long as you carry it on your person and stimulate it with a special method, even when you're sleeping, spiritual energy will continuously flow into your body, nourishing your physique."

"That strong!"

"How do you forge this talisman?"

Hearing this, everyone was almost frantic, eyeing the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman in Ling Xi's hands as if they were looking at chunks of Spirit Stones.

Gathering Spirit Talismans are normally only useful during Cultivation sessions, but a Spirit Talisman that works even while sleeping was unheard of. Once they produced these kinds of Gathering Spirit Talismans and sold them, wouldn't it be the same as looting Spirit Stones?

Listening to the clamor from many Heads, Yi Sheng's lips curled down to form a proud smile and said, "The technique for forging the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman will not be taught to you." They still want to learn how to forge the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman? Using Master's words, they are simply daydreaming.

"What? You won't teach us?"

"By what right do you refuse to teach?"

"Hurry up and teach us, and if you won't, what did you ask us to come for!"

"If you don't teach this technique, then we won't cooperate with you!"

"Right, if you won't pass down this technique, we'll just do it ourselves, and you won't get a dime from us."

The crowd erupted in protest.

Yi Sheng, full of disdain, looked at the noisy crowd and said contemptuously, "If you don't want to cooperate, then leave. Today, I only wanted to tell you that we at Four Treasures Peak are capable of forging Supreme Gathering Spirit Talismans.

If you're not interested in cooperating, we at Four Treasures Peak can always sell the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talismans ourselves. Then, you won't earn a penny. If you want to make money, then work with Four Treasures Peak.

Now that you've been informed, you may leave."

Having finished speaking, Yi Sheng didn't bother with the various expressions on their faces, turned around, and walked away.

The Heads of the various Taoist Academies were completely dumbfounded. They hadn't anticipated that Four Treasures Peak had such a hidden card up its sleeve.

"This... what do we do now?"

"What do we do? Obviously, we obey. Going back, are you still thinking of going solo? That Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman we just saw, though it seems costlier to produce than ordinary ones, everyone witnessed its effects. Once Four Treasures Peak starts selling Supreme Gathering Spirit Talismans on their own, who would buy the ordinary ones!"

"There's one thing I want to say to those who wish to go solo: think it through on your own. If you don't want to make money, we still want to make money.

The intentions of Four Treasures Peak are clear. They don't care who goes solo. As long as one does, they'll buy the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talismans, and none of us will make any money."

"Right, whoever wants to go solo is the enemy of us all!"

"Let's all go back and get ready to cooperate in earnest."

"I knew it. The people of Four Treasures Peak aren't fools. If they taught us the technique for the Gathering Spirit Talisman, they would have a fallback plan."