

My Master 1341

Chapter 1341:

Just like the ancient Musical Rhythm relic, aside from the ultimate treasures—the Silver Light Wings and Orange Light Wings—and the thirty-two Towers of Musical Rhythm, there were also other valuable items. In contrast, this relic has nothing but the Square Cauldron. After everyone entered the relic, they immediately began slaughtering Strange Beasts everywhere.

Killing Strange Beasts inside the relic, beasts that can easily be seen outside—no one would believe such a thing if they heard it.

Moreover, in recent days, rumors have started spreading that Cao Zhen has begun selling off Square Cauldrons. Allegedly, because the Hundred Peaks Sect and Heaven Prayers Sect are mortal enemies, Cao Zhen knew the Heaven Prayers Sect wouldn't trade with them, forcing him to sell the Square Cauldrons.

And not just Cao Zhen—many others have also started purchasing Square Cauldrons.

In short, in this relic, besides hunting Strange Beasts, everyone is scrambling to find Square Cauldrons.

According to legend, there are exactly one hundred and eight Square Cauldrons in this relic. Who first spread this information is a mystery, but everyone accepts it. At this point, it's unclear how many Square Cauldrons have been found.

Some speculate that only by gathering all one hundred and eight Square Cauldrons will the relic's ultimate treasure reveal itself.

However, over time, the fragments of doubt began to surface. The number of discovered Square Cauldrons is incredibly high.

There is growing suspicion that even if all one hundred and eight Square Cauldrons were assembled, the ultimate treasure might still not appear. This implies the requirement for the treasure's manifestation must be something else entirely.

Meanwhile, yet another rumor emerged unnoticed: To make the ultimate treasure of the relic appear, the one hundred and eight Square Cauldrons must each be filled to the brim with essence blood—only then will the obscured treasure be revealed.

Although this is mere conjecture, many find the theory highly plausible.

Suddenly, everyone became more frenzied in their hunt for Strange Beasts.

Even the members of the Heaven Prayers Sect began desperately seeking to purchase Square Cauldrons.

They were truly panicked. The relic had been open for many days, and the ultimate treasure still hadn't appeared. Once the treasure does emerge, competition to claim it will undoubtedly drag on. How much longer will it take?

Their Sect Tribulation is fast approaching. If it arrives and they haven't escaped the relic...

By a crystal-clear lake within the relic, Jiu Yin whispered quietly, "It seems the people who purchased Square Cauldrons from us earlier are going to benefit greatly. After spreading the message that filling all the cauldrons with essence blood will reveal the ultimate treasure, the Heaven Prayers Sect rushed to gather Square Cauldrons like maniacs."

Bi Yue stretched out her alabaster-like jade feet, playfully stirring the lake water like a child, and softly said, "The Heaven Prayers Sect is desperate. When we first entered the relic, there were about four months left until their Sect Tribulation. We've already spent two months here.

That leaves them with only two months until their tribulation. With no sign of the ultimate treasure and no certainty about when they might leave the relic, can you imagine how frantic they must be?"

Jiu Yin's gaze lingered on Bi Yue as she spoke, and involuntarily her eyes fell upon the Immortal's delicate jade-like feet. Though herself a woman, even Jiu Yin couldn't deny that there wasn't a single imperfection on Bi Yue's entire body. Watching those pale, graceful feet inspired an urge to toy with them—and that was her. What about men?

Well, Xiang Ziyu might be an exception; he seems utterly uninterested in women.

Jiu Yin glanced toward the lakebed. Since arriving, Xiang Ziyu had been adamant that the lake's exceptionally clear waters were unnatural, pointing out how unusually dense the Strange Beasts were in the area. He insisted there must be treasure hidden deep in the lakebed and promptly dived underwater to investigate.

Suddenly, from below the lake came a fierce surge of energy. Torrents of water erupted skyward, interspersed with streaks of crimson blood. Along with that came Xiang Ziyu's voice, echoing out urgently.

"Master, hurry and help me! There are so many Strange Beasts here in the west! With this many beasts, there must be a treasure trove hidden within!"

At his shout, everyone around the lake dove into the water. Even Cao Zhen's expression betrayed a glimmer of disbelief. Could Xiang Ziyu really be the protagonist of all this? Was there truly a treasure trove below?

Cao Zhen was starting to feel Xiang Ziyu's luck bordered on the supernatural.

Xiang Ziyu's statement that there were one hundred and eight Square Cauldrons in total within the relic wasn't made lightly. Following him aimlessly in their search, their group of four alone had already unearthed thirty cauldrons.

The fact that Xiang Ziyu claimed his Mother Cauldron could sense nearby smaller Square Cauldrons when they were close enough—even if the sensing range was limited to a three-mile radius—was astonishing. After all, while three miles may seem expansive, this relic is part of a miniature world. Its vastness is unimaginable, and with so many people searching for cauldrons simultaneously, finding thirty cauldrons was nothing short of incredible luck.

The group quickly descended below the lake, assisting Xiang Ziyu in slaughtering Strange Beasts lurking in the water.

Though the beasts beneath the lake were numerous, all four of them were Golden Core Period Limit cultivators. Furthermore, the underwater beasts couldn't surface onto land. While it took some effort, the group successfully eradicated every monster beneath the lake.

At the same time, drops of essence blood from the slaughtered beasts flowed into Xiang Ziyu's Square Cauldron overhead.

Originally, his Mother Cauldron had absorbed two smaller Square Cauldrons. Once devoured, the smaller cauldrons became inseparable—had it been possible, the group would've already sold these two cauldrons.

Though their primary focus was gathering cauldrons during their journey, whenever they encountered Strange Beasts, they killed them effortlessly and poured the essence blood into the two absorbed cauldrons.

Two months into this, even without actively hunting beasts, the quantities of essence blood gathered unintentionally were nearly enough to fill those two smaller cauldrons.

As more drops of essence blood from the lake's Strange Beasts entered, the two smaller cauldrons finally brimmed full.

At that moment, an overwhelmingly dense, almost suffocating stench of blood burst forth from Xiang Ziyu's Square Cauldron. The sky within the relic instantly transformed into a vast expanse of blood-red!

Chapter 1342:

Cao Zhen and his group spread the word that filling the 108 square cauldrons with the blood essence of strange beasts would cause the ancient treasure within the relic to emerge. They did this merely to wait for Xiang Ziyu to use his Mother Cauldron to devour those smaller square cauldrons, sparing them the trouble of gathering the blood essence themselves.

But now, what's happening?

They had just filled the two small square cauldrons in their possession with blood essence, and now, an astonishing phenomenon was manifesting in the heavens and earth.

Cao Zhen suddenly realized something: the lie they fabricated had actually been believed, and since there wasn't much else for others to do in the relic, they likely turned their attention to hunting strange beasts. Most likely, all the other square cauldrons had already been filled with the beasts' blood essence—only the two cauldrons in their group's possession remained empty.

So now, with their cauldrons finally filled, all 108 square cauldrons have reached their limit, and as a result, the heavenly phenomenon appears?

Did the legend they casually fabricated actually turn out to be true?

In this moment, it seemed as if the entire world morphed into a realm of pure, vivid blood-red.

On Xiang Ziyu's body, his square cauldron suddenly became uncontrollable, rising into the void. Originally no larger than a palm, the cauldron instantly expanded to a size as immense as a mountain.

This world was bathed in blood-red, but amidst such a color, Xiang Ziyu's cauldron was overwhelmingly prominent. Compared to its aura, even the surrounding blood-red hues seemed pale, unable to compete.

At that moment, Cao Zhen felt an illusion, as though this cauldron had ascended to the apex of this small microcosmic world. A surge of boundless killing intent and bloodthirsty Evil Qi poured out from the cauldron's body.

One could feel as if this square cauldron had been forged entirely from the blood of countless beings.

And yet, faintly, Cao Zhen also sensed from this cauldron a majestic, upright energy—an aura so supreme it seemed unmatched under Heaven—a sense of inviolable dignity and authority.

Heavenly Dao!

This was the power of the Heavenly Dao!

Cao Zhen furrowed his brows. How could a single square cauldron emit two entirely contradictory energies?

He recalled Immortal Bi Yue once mentioning that the Heaven Prayers Sect was originally a righteous sect. However, for some unknown reason, the sect later fell into the Demonic Path. Initially, they borrowed the power of the Heavenly Dao, but over time, they began leveraging demonic powers instead!

Was it because the Heaven Prayers Sect had now become part of the Demonic Sect that this cauldron was filled with such a bloody aura? And yet, was the Heavenly Dao attempting to remind those in the Heaven Prayers Sect that if they wanted to survive the Sect Tribulation, they would still need to rely on the power of the Heavenly Dao? Could this be why the Heavenly Dao's aura lingered within the cauldron?

At that instant, everyone in the relic noticed the sudden appearance of the giant cauldron in the sky.

Excitement erupted among the onlookers.

"The treasure! This must be the ancient treasure of the relic appearing!"

"I knew it! There's no way this relic could exist without a treasure."

"The treasure doesn't seem far from us. Let's go take a look!"

Immediately, everyone rushed toward the direction of the massive square cauldron.

But just as they began to move, in the next moment, the entire void—and even the relic itself—started shaking violently. The blood-red world trembled as if countless rivers of blood were boiling, churning ceaselessly.

Soon after, square cauldrons began flying up one by one from every corner of the relic, heading toward the highest reaches of the void and into the colossal, blood-red cauldron towering there.

"What's happening?"

"Why is my square cauldron suddenly out of control?"

"So many square cauldrons—all of them are flying now?!"

"Are all of these cauldrons being absorbed by that ultimate treasure in the void?"

Cao Zhen and his group had considered snatching other square cauldrons. However, they had been puzzled about how to execute such a plan given their small group of only four individuals. It was impossible for them to seize all the cauldrons; at most, they had hoped to collect a few.

But now they realized that all their strategies for stealing cauldrons were completely unnecessary. The Mother Cauldron was effortlessly absorbing every single square cauldron on its own!

One by one, the smaller cauldrons were drawn into the massive square cauldron in the void. With each cauldron absorbed, the bloodthirsty and terrifying aura emanating from the giant cauldron grew more potent.

Finally, as the last small cauldron merged into the giant cauldron, a deafening roar rang out from the void—a sound so vast and overwhelming that everyone felt their hearts tremble uncontrollably. Even their very souls quaked, as though their hearts had been shattered by the reverberation of the sound.

This wasn't something that happened to just one person—it was universal across everyone present in the relic.

With that immense explosion, the entire relic disintegrated in an instant.

In the void, the giant cauldron abruptly shrank back to the size of a palm and fell into Xiang Ziyu's hand.

With the relic destroyed, everyone landed outside. Each person looked at the others with dismay, exchanging perplexed glances.

"Is that it? It's over?"

"The relic is gone just like that?"

"After all that fighting and struggle, what were we even competing for?"

"Nothing at all. At least when we were outside, hunting strange beasts, we kept the blood essence. But in the relic, all the beasts' blood we collected transferred into the square cauldrons, only for the cauldrons to be suddenly taken away?"

During the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, there were far more relics than in an ordinary era. Many among the group had entered relics before, but none had ever encountered an event like this!

Chapter 1343:

For a moment, many people even began to doubt whether they had truly left the ruins.

"Logically speaking, when a great treasure appears within the ruins, there should be a fierce struggle to claim it. But how could it vanish the moment after it appeared?"

"Indeed, this time the ruins are incredibly strange!"

"Do you think it's possible that the treasure wasn't something newly discovered?" Someone in the crowd speculated, "Do you all remember Xiang Ziyu? He was the first to rush out of the Chaos of Void. After he left, could it really be that he got nothing at all? I recall that when he escaped, he seemed to take something with him. But because we were too far away, we couldn't make it out clearly. Could it be that the treasured relic inside the ruins was taken by him?"

"It's not a question of possibility—it's certain! Xiang Ziyu was the first to escape the Chaos of Void. If anyone managed to seize the treasure, there's no one else it could have been besides him!"

"Exactly. The ruins would only disappear after someone takes the treasure. The only person capable of claiming the treasure must be Xiang Ziyu!"

"So, in the end, we were all scrambling to buy the Square Cauldrons, hunting Strange Beasts, and pouring our blood into the cauldrons... Were we all just unknowingly helping Xiang Ziyu?"

"Now that I think about it, wasn't it Xiang Ziyu and his companions who were originally selling those Square Cauldrons?"

As the man's remark fell, the surrounding crowd also began to catch on, and for a moment, a cacophony of curses erupted.

"How shameless of them! They must have known that they'd end up gathering all the Square Cauldrons in the end. Yet they still deliberately sold them to others. And in the end, the cauldrons inevitably fell back into their hands!"

"No wonder they were going everywhere selling the cauldrons—it all makes sense now!"

"Those Strange Beasts too—I spent my entire time in the ruins hunting Strange Beasts, and in the end, I was just hunting them for their benefit!"

"Consider yourself lucky. My situation was worse! We just spent a fortune buying a Square Cauldron infused with Strange Beast's blood, planning to sell it to the Heaven Prayers Sect for a profit. But then the cauldron suddenly disappeared—we took a huge loss!"

"You think you lost? We lost too! We were in the middle of a deal with someone, about to get paid, and then suddenly the Square Cauldron flew away!"

"They are utterly despicable."

Someone in the crowd, full of anger, shouted loudly: "Has anyone seen Xiang Ziyu and his people?"

"What's the point of seeing them?" Nearby, a disciple clad in black robes, clearly from a Demonic Sect, said disdainfully, "Do you dare go confront them and demand compensation? They've got four Golden Core Period Limit experts on their side."

"Compensation? Of course, we won't get any. But during our earlier deals with them, they asked for a hundred stalks of Grade-Two Immortal Herbs, which we couldn't provide. So, we just wrote them an IOU.

Under normal circumstances, our Great Teaching wouldn't concern itself with such a debt. But now that they've tricked us, there's no way we're giving them the herbs."

"Exactly. The debt owed to them absolutely cannot be paid now."

Amidst the crowd's heated discussions, someone suddenly let out a peculiar laugh.

"You all think you're unlucky. But in reality, the Heaven Prayers Sect is the unluckiest of all. This ruin was originally provided by the Heavenly Dao as one last chance for the Heaven Prayers Sect to survive their Sect Tribulation. Yet in the end, they got nothing from it. All the Square Cauldrons were taken by others, and the people who took them will never sell them back to the sect!"

When his words landed, the surrounding crowd also began to realize the truth.

"You're absolutely right. Not only did they gain nothing, but they also lost a large number of disciples. There's no way the Heaven Prayers Sect will survive their Sect Tribulation now!"

"Now that you mention it, I've also noticed something—the number of Heaven Prayers Sect people seems to have drastically diminished compared to when they entered the ruins."

"Indeed, far fewer remain. Aside from those who were killed, I suspect quite a few have fled." In the crowd, a sharp-faced, monkey-like man pointed towards a few individuals flying off in the distance, saying, "Those people over there—they're clearly Heaven Prayers Sect disciples. But look, they've already taken off their sect robes and are pretending to be Loose Cultivators heading in the opposite direction.

That direction doesn't lead back to the Heaven Prayers Sect. It's the opposite—it's obvious they're defecting from the sect in an attempt to survive."

"Can't blame them, really. After all, who doesn't want to stay alive? Right now, the Heaven Prayers Sect has absolutely no chance of surviving the Sect Tribulation! Any disciple who's joined the sect less than a thousand years ago is free to leave."

The disciples of the Heaven Prayers Sect themselves had also realized the current plight they faced. Their leading figures, Senior Brother Ze Tian Demon and Senior Sister Huan Tian Demon, who had entered the ruins with them, had both perished inside. Now, the remaining Heaven Prayers Sect disciples were entirely leaderless.

For a moment, even those disciples who weren't planning to leave started hesitating as they looked around at their dwindling companions and the chaotic sect members surrounding them. Should they return to the Heaven Prayers Sect at all?

Among the crowd, a man still dressed in Heaven Prayers Sect robes turned to a calm-looking figure next to him and asked, "Senior Brother, what's the plan? Should we still return to the Heaven Prayers Sect?"

Chapter 1344:

The calm-looking man had not yet spoken when another person beside him replied, "Return? Of course, we must return. My junior disciple is still in the sect, along with Senior Brother's Dao companion and child. We naturally need to return to bring all the senior and junior brothers closest to us, and take our families away."

"But after we return, it's not certain we'll be able to leave the Great Teaching." Among the group, the only female disciple spoke worriedly, "The higher-ups in the Heaven Prayers Sect will surely realize the problem. If, by then, the Praying Heaven Sect shuts its gates and forbids disciples from leaving, what will we do?"

"That shouldn't be the case, right? If they recklessly shut the gates, how many disciples inside do you think would want to leave? Don't they fear we'd directly stir up chaos from within?"

"Besides, by then, if everyone wants to leave, they wouldn't be able to control the situation. They might not even have the means to close the gates."

The calm-looking man nodded slightly and said, "Indeed. We have close junior brothers in the sect and family at home. We must return to take them away. Moreover, I fear the Praying Heaven Sect is already

in chaos. And as for our Sect Hierarchy, he's not truly a proper hierarchy. If most of the disciples want to leave, he won't be able to stop them!"

He stopped short of saying something else: their current interim hierarchy had not even been with the Heaven Prayers Sect for a thousand years. For all they knew, he might have already fled by now.

Now that the ruins had disappeared, the group began to disperse, but their departure paths were remarkably similar—they were all heading toward the Heaven Prayers Sect.

Their journey to the ruins hadn't been in vain, at least. They had gleaned one crucial truth: the Heaven Prayers Sect was doomed!

Their knowledge also meant that the factions backing them were aware as well. Across the entire Eastern Province, almost every power capable of sensing the Heaven Prayers Sect's Sect Tribulation was now dispatching people toward the sect en masse.

However, Cao Zhen and his group did not immediately hasten toward the Heaven Prayers Sect. There was still some time before the Sect Tribulation reached its climax, so heading there now would only leave them waiting. Besides, he still held quite a few promissory notes from major sects. Naturally, he opted to visit nearby sects first to collect on those debts.

It just so happened that two major sects were not particularly far from the Heaven Prayers Sect. If the debt collection went smoothly, they should still make it back in time.

And if it doesn't go smoothly?

What, did they really think the Yin Yang Sect and Dragon Chant Sect were pushovers made of paper?

Among the owed sums were portions for Immortal Bi Yue and Jiu Yin!

Zhao Xingyu was deeply frustrated. He had initially planned to default on the debt, but damn it all—Cao Zhen had actually brought people directly to his doorstep to demand repayment. Moreover, they made

it explicitly clear that Immortal Bi Yue and Jiu Yin each had a share in the debt. What else could he do? He had no choice but to pay up.

Trying to shortchange disciples from the Yin Yang Sect or Dragon Chant Sect? Their powerful sects would certainly come to their defense.

It wasn't worth offending two top-tier sects over a few Immortal Herbs.

Fortunately, he had already sold the Square Cauldron given to him by Cao Zhen to someone in the Heaven Prayers Sect. So, he had no personal qualms—at least, assuming the Heaven Prayers Sect could actually pay him.

However, that debt seemed all but destined to turn into bad debt.

At this moment, the entire Heaven Prayers Sect was already surrounded by forces from all major factions.

Heaven Prayers Sect.

Even as one terrible piece of news after another returned to the sect, under the leadership of Sect Hierarchy Swallowing Heaven Demon, the Heaven Prayers Sect was still setting up formations to confront the Sect Tribulation. But in the hearts of the people, chaos had already begun to take hold.

"Elder Feng, continue leading the disciples in setting up the formations. I'm going to retrieve more resources."

The interim hierarchy, Swallowing Heaven Demon, gave instructions to an elderly-looking cultivator beside him, then turned and flew off into the distance. Before long, he arrived in front of the Heaven Prayers Sect's treasury.

In front of the treasury stood two squads of guards, each brimming with a vitality that suggested their lives were not especially young.

When they saw Swallowing Heaven Demon approach, one thin man with protruding cheekbones stepped forward, cupped his fists, and deferentially said, "Sect Hierarchy, you've come. May I ask the purpose of your visit?"

Swallowing Heaven Demon sighed and said, "Naturally, I've come to retrieve resources. The Sect Tribulation is drawing ever closer. Elder Li, you know the state of the Heaven Prayers Sect... Forget it. There's no point in saying much. We can only do our utmost to set up more formations."

At these words, Elder Li's expression dimmed. He, too, understood all too well the dire state of the Heaven Prayers Sect. Casting his gaze behind Swallowing Heaven Demon, he suddenly froze in perplexity and asked, "Sect Hierarchy, are you here alone? You know the rules of our Heaven Prayers Sect. Even though you are the current hierarchy, you cannot enter the treasury alone. There must be consensus from more elders, and at least one elder must accompany you..."

Even though this was the smallest treasury of the Heaven Prayers Sect, Swallowing Heaven Demon still lacked the authority to enter alone and withdraw treasures.

"Sigh, Elder Li, aren't you aware of the sect's current predicament? This time, we ventured into the ruins and returned empty-handed at best. Worse, we lost many of our elite cultivators, including Huan Tian and Ze Tian. Now we don't even have enough people left to properly manage the formations. How can I muster the personnel to accompany me just to retrieve resources?"

As he spoke, Swallowing Heaven Demon turned to Elder Li with a sense of urgency in his voice: "Elder Li, you're an elder as well. Accompany me into the treasury to retrieve the resources. Time is pressing, and I've already begun setting up formations. We cannot afford further delays..."

Chapter 1345:

Here is the translation:

Elder Li also understood that the situation was urgent. After briefly considering, he nodded and said, "Urgent matters require flexibility. I shall accompany the Sect Hierarchy to enter together." Turning around, he looked at the four people standing at the front of the group and said, "Everyone, let's open the vault."

Even for this smallest treasure vault, it required the group of five keepers responsible for guarding it and the temporary Sect Hierarchy of Heaven Prayers Sect to unlock it together.

As six people each took out their tokens, the vault's massive doors quickly opened. Elder Li and Swallowing Heaven Demon stepped inside the vault, and soon after, the doors naturally closed behind them.

Swallowing Heaven Demon appeared extremely anxious. Entering the vault, he quickly asked, "Elder Li, where is the Radiant Star Stone? We need a large amount of Radiant Star Stones to set up a formation."

"Radiant Star Stones? They're..." Elder Li turned and pointed.

At the moment he turned around, a savage glint suddenly flashed through Swallowing Heaven Demon's eyes. Behind him, a massive image of a fused Pill appeared. Upon the fused Pill, ten dazzling phenomena radiated brilliant light. In his hands, a sharp short sword materialized, its blade emitting a strange and sinister blue light amidst the dim vault.

The tangible and suffocating killing intent erupted from his body like waves.

An alarming sensation surged from behind Elder Li. His expression drastically changed as he instinctively attempted to dodge to the side. Yet, standing so close to Swallowing Heaven Demon and completely unprepared, he couldn't react in time. Before he could even move, intense pain had already struck him.

The poisonous blade pierced him from the back, penetrating straight through his heart and exiting from his chest. Simultaneously, a torrent of devouring demonic qi followed the blade into his body, stirring violently within.

Having pierced Elder Li with one strike, Swallowing Heaven Demon did not stop. His other palm darkened completely. Above him appeared an enormous, shadowy black beast. The monstrous figure had a goat-like body, a human-like face, tiger's teeth, human claws, and most strikingly—eyes located beneath its armpits!

The legendary beast—Taotie!

As Swallowing Heaven Demon waved his palm, endless demonic qi surged forth from his body. The Taotie phantom opened its mouth wide and lunged toward Elder Li, seemingly intent on devouring him whole. The horrifying and oppressive aura engulfed the entire vault.

"Bang!"

Swallowing Heaven Demon struck fiercely at Elder Li's injured back. Immediately, Elder Li's already impaled body suffered an even greater blow, leaving behind an open, palm-sized bloody cavity. Crimson blood gushed incessantly from the wound, and his breath weakened drastically. His face turned ashen pale, devoid of any trace of color.

Though Elder Li had reached the pinnacle of Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Core Great Perfection, Swallowing Heaven Demon was nearing the absolute limit of the Golden Core Period. Moreover, as someone approaching the Core Formation Stage's extreme boundary, Swallowing Heaven Demon was stronger than Huan Tian Demon and Ze Tian Demon, both of whom had already perished.

Under Swallowing Heaven Demon's ambush, Elder Li was instantly gravely injured.

"You... why..." Elder Li was utterly perplexed. Why would Swallowing Heaven Demon, as Heaven Prayers Sect's temporary Sect Hierarchy, suddenly attack him? He had done nothing wrong; there had been no prior conflict with Swallowing Heaven Demon, nor had he harbored any intention to defect from the sect. Unless... Swallowing Heaven Demon intended to defect!

"You... you want to defect!" Elder Li suddenly came to realization. There was only one explanation for the attack: Swallowing Heaven Demon sought betrayal. Moreover, his purpose in coming here was undoubtedly for the resources stored within.

Swallowing Heaven Demon's face twisted with a savage smile as he sneered coldly at Elder Li. "Only now do you understand? That's right—I want to defect from the sect."

Elder Li coughed a mouthful of blood and roared angrily, "As Heaven Prayers Sect's Sect Hierarchy, you dare to defect! You..."

"Why shouldn't I defect?" Swallowing Heaven Demon's face showed displeasure, his expression contorted as he said, "You still remember I'm the Sect Hierarchy? But do you think I've ever been treated like an actual hierarchy?"

Even for this smallest vault in the sect, I don't have control over it. Is this what it means to be a hierarchy? Not only that—being the hierarchy means I have to deal with endless affairs, leaving me less time for cultivation.

And what do I get in return? Nothing! Absolutely nothing! So why can't I defect?"

Swallowing Heaven Demon seemed intent on venting all his frustrations from his tenure as hierarchy. His voice grew louder and louder as he spoke.

"What about defecting? Do you know how many people have defected from Heaven Prayers Sect this time? Don't be naive enough to think those who didn't return from the ruins simply perished there. Let me tell you—probably nearly half of them fled in secret—they defected from the sect.

If they can defect, why can't I? Because I'm the hierarchy? And as for you, spare me the moral outrage about betrayal. You haven't defected not because of righteousness, but because you're one of those ten old relics, two thousand-something years old this year? After being part of Heaven Prayers Sect for over a millennium, defecting would kill you outright. Your only hope for survival is to pass the Sect Tribulation, so naturally, you wouldn't dare to defect. On the contrary, you hope everyone else stays to face the tribulation together.

But open your eyes wide—what kind of state is Heaven Prayers Sect in now? Even if everyone stayed, the sect couldn't survive the tribulation. All of us are doomed!"

Chapter 1346:

"I haven't even lived a thousand years yet. I don't plan on dying with you old fools. Well then, all these resources are now mine. Let's just call it my hard-earned pay for being the temporary Sect Hierarchy for the past fifty-plus years!"

"You... you still think you can take the resources with you?" Elder Li, sensing his own weakening state, spoke with difficulty, "Even if you kill me and take these resources, you won't be able to leave Heaven Prayers Sect. The people outside won't let you go."

"Won't let me leave? I'm the Sect Hierarchy—who's going to stop me? By the time they realize it, I'll already be long gone." The Swallowing Heaven Demon sneered, his eyes and aura surging with murderous intent.

"Still thinking of detonating your Golden Core? Keep it to die with honor for your sect." With one palm, the Swallowing Heaven Demon smashed Elder Li's head into pieces. This was their Heaven Prayers Sect's treasury, and its soundproofing was so thorough that no matter how loud the commotion inside, no one outside would hear a thing.

The Swallowing Heaven Demon didn't hesitate any longer. He immediately took out a Qiankun Bag and began looting the resources here. Rather than taking the resources at the entrance, he delved deeper into the treasury to plunder the inner vault.

In any case, the Heaven Prayers Sect was destined for annihilation. Once it was destroyed, these resources would inevitably be divided up by members of other Great Teachings. If that were the case, he might as well take them for himself instead of letting others benefit from them.

Although the Qiankun Bag wasn't infinitely large, it wasn't as if he could only take one Qiankun Bag with him.

True, this was the smallest treasury of Heaven Prayers Sect and held only the lowest-grade resources, but Heaven Prayers Sect was still a Great Teaching. Even among minor treasuries like this, there was no way it lacked valuable resources.

Even after using mana to remotely draw items into the Qiankun Bag, it still took him a full two hours to finish packing everything.

Once everything was settled, he stuffed Elder Li's corpse into the Qiankun Bag as well. At the same time, he wiped away the bloodstains in the treasury. Satisfied, he took a final glance at the outer section of the treasury. The resources in the outermost area remained untouched. From the doorway, nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

After thoroughly confirming that everything was in order, he walked to the door and pushed it open from the inside.

Outside the treasury, the disciples of the Heaven Prayers Sect standing guard immediately turned their heads to look inside.

The Swallowing Heaven Demon put on an anxious face and pretended to be arranging a formation as he walked out of the treasury. Before anyone could ask questions, he began shouting directly, "Elder Li, you keep organizing those resources. I'll first go deliver these to Elder Feng and the others—they've been waiting impatiently. I'll come back later for the rest of the resources."

After saying this, he didn't give anyone a chance to speak further. He immediately took flight and sped toward the distance.

The disciples behind him let out faint sighs. Their Heaven Prayers Sect had reached such a tragic point that even the Sect Hierarch was this busy.

"The Sect Hierarch is in such a hurry. Having Elder Li manage the resources alone inside doesn't seem to follow protocol. Junior Brother Liu, let's go inside and take a look."

Among the guards, a round-faced disciple let out a sigh and stepped into the treasury. As he walked, he called out, "Elder Li, where are you? Junior Brother Liu and I will help you organize the resources—"

His voice echoed within the treasury, but no one replied.

"Elder Li?" He called out again, stepping further in. The next moment, his eyes widened in shock. From the outside, the treasury appeared untouched, and the outer resources remained undisturbed. However, the inner section... it was completely empty, not a single resource left!

It was no wonder his voice had echoed so loudly just now.

Beside him, Junior Brother Liu's eyes also widened in disbelief as he stared at the desolate inner vault of the treasury.

"The resources? Where are the resources from our treasury? And where is Elder Li?"

"Something's wrong—it's the Sect Hierarch! The Sect Hierarch has defected from the sect!"

After leaving the treasury, the Swallowing Heaven Demon flew as fast as he could toward the distant horizon. He knew that once he left, the disciples guarding the treasury would enter and discover the problem. He also knew they would quickly realize he had defected from the sect.

He was aware he didn't have much time, but it didn't matter. It was enough.

Having spent so many years in Heaven Prayers Sect, he was intimately familiar with everything about it.

After gaining enough distance, he swiftly descended from the sky and entered a dense forest. There, he reached down and tore off his outer robe. At the same time, a human skin mask appeared in his hands, which he quickly placed on his face.

In the world of Immortal Cultivation, hardly anyone used human skin masks. They were more commonly found in mortal realms. In the Immortal Cultivation world, even if you altered your appearance with a mask, those who had reached the Earth Immortal Realm could easily see through such disguises with a single glance.

Though no Earth Immortal Realm cultivators were present during this Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, wearing a human skin mask wouldn't alter one's aura. Familiar individuals would still be able to recognize him.

The reason he used the mask, however, was because he possessed another magical artifact that could change his aura.

After altering his aura and wearing the human skin mask, the Swallowing Heaven Demon refrained from releasing the cultivation base of his Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection. Instead, he concealed it, revealing only eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores, and sped toward the sect's outer boundary.

Among the disciples of Heaven Prayers Sect, those who had reached Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection weren't uncommon, but they were all well-known individuals. The sudden appearance of an unfamiliar Ten Different Phenomena cultivator would immediately raise suspicion.

Even those with Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Cores would attract attention.

However, cultivators with Eight Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Cores were far more numerous and much less remarked upon.

Chapter 1347:

At this moment, the Heaven Prayers Sect was in utter chaos. Some disciples who held deep affection for the sect, as well as those who had been part of the sect for more than a thousand years, were busy setting up formations in preparation for the arrival of the Sect Tribulation.

However, many disciples who had joined the Heaven Prayers Sect for less than a thousand years felt no strong sense of belonging or emotional attachment to the sect. Some were simply afraid of death, unwilling to stay behind and perish with the sect. They gathered in small groups to discuss plans for fleeing the sect together.

After the Swallowing Heaven Demon emerged, he didn't immediately leave the mountain gate. Instead, he hid not far from the mountain gate.

With the Human Skin Mask disguising him and his aura altered, no one could recognize him.

Earlier, some elders in the sect had approached him with a proposal, urging him to order the closure of the mountain gate. That way, the disciples who had been in the sect for less than a thousand years wouldn't be able to leave even if they wanted to.

But he had refused, ensuring that he could leave the sect whenever he desired.

He glanced at those who were currently leaving the sect, lightly shook his head. Too few people were abandoning the sect. Outside the Heaven Prayers Sect, various forces must have already surrounded the area, waiting to attack anyone who left.

After all, what if the Heaven Prayers Sect foresaw its inability to survive the Sect Tribulation and secretly sent people out to transfer resources?

The chaos wasn't sufficient yet, so he needed to wait longer. He would make his move only when the sect descended into greater upheaval.

Before long, multiple figures rushed in from afar, landing near the mountain gate. They anxiously questioned the nearby crowd, "Did anyone leave the mountain gate just now?"

A gatekeeper pointed to the surrounding area and gestured at several figures flying outward, saying, "Senior Brother Qi, whether or not someone left the mountain gate, you can see for yourself."

Senior Brother Qi flew into a rage, "Ridiculous! Chu Lian, this is how you guard the mountain gate? Why didn't you stop them?"

"Stop them? Why should I stop them? Our fellow disciples go out to gather resources or deal with urgent matters—why would I block them?" Chu Lian was equally furious. He knew very well why those disciples were leaving, but he hadn't stopped them.

If he tried to prevent them from leaving, wouldn't they fight him to the death? They were all disciples of the same sect, and among those departing, some were his close friends or senior brothers who shared the same master. How could he stop them?

Senior Brother Qi's eyes widened in disbelief, and a chilling aura surged from his body, as though he was about to lash out and discipline Chu Lian. But recalling the purpose of his visit, he suppressed his anger and told them, "You! I'll deal with you later. For now, immediately close the main gate. From this point onward, no one is allowed to leave the sect!"

"That's impossible. Unless the Sect Hierarch issues the order, we won't close the gate!"

Angrily, Senior Brother Qi retorted, "The Sect Hierarch's order? The Swallowing Heaven Demon has already defected from the sect, and you're still waiting for the Sect Hierarch's command!"

His voice rose in fury, drawing the attention of many in the vicinity. Immediately, exclamations filled the space around the mountain gate.

"What did you say? The Sect Hierarch defected from the sect?"

"How is that possible? He's the Sect Hierarch. The Sect Hierarch defected?"

"Who told you the Sect Hierarch defected?"

The crowd refused to believe his words.

"Who said it? Elder Li, who was in charge of guarding the treasure vault, was killed by the Swallowing Heaven Demon! I came here to check if he has left the sect. And look at you—you've let so many people leave the sect! Now, I'm asking you—did any of you see the Swallowing Heaven Demon leave the mountain gate?"

Chu Lian seemed stunned by the news of the Sect Hierarch's betrayal. Almost instinctively, he shook his head and replied, "No, we didn't see the Sect Hierarch leave."

"Then hurry and close the mountain gate! He has taken resources from the treasure vault. He must not leave the sect—quick, close the gate!"

Just as the words left his lips, several figures rushed past from behind, shouting as they went, "The Sect Hierarch has defected! Quick, leave the mountain gate!"

"Hurry, they're about to close the gate! Leave now!"

In an instant, some disciples who were still hesitating about whether to defect and leave the Heaven Prayers Sect heard that even the Sect Hierarch had betrayed the sect. Their hesitation vanished as they flew toward the mountain gate.

"Damned fools!" Senior Brother Qi roared in rage, turning to activate the formation and close the gate. But in the next moment, streams of Divine Skills rained down before him. Even behind Chu Lian, ten Golden Core illusions appeared, surging with Demonic Qi and pounding toward Senior Brother Qi.

The Sect Hierarchy himself had defected—what hope did the Heaven Prayers Sect have left?

Senior Brother Qi had been part of the sect for more than a thousand years; leaving now meant death. But for those who had been in the sect for less than a thousand years, why should they stay behind and die alongside the older generation?

"Come on, leave the sect!"

"Wait! My wife and children are still in the sect. I'll go get them and leave together. Watch over the gate until I return!"

"Alright, my younger brother is in the sect too. Go get him out for me. We'll guard the gate and won't let them close it!"

At that moment, many disciples who had joined the sect for less than a thousand years chose to retrieve their loved ones or resources before fleeing the sect. Others turned and flew straight out immediately.

Those who had been part of the sect for over a thousand years, however, hoped everyone would stay and face the Sect Tribulation together. The conflicting desires soon led to violent clashes, plunging the already turbulent Heaven Prayers Sect into greater disorder.

To make matters worse, their temporary leader was nowhere to be found, leaving no one capable of quelling the chaos.

As the turmoil within the Heaven Prayers Sect spiraled out of control, even some who hadn't planned to escape began fleeing toward the outside.

Hidden in an inconspicuous spot, the Swallowing Heaven Demon watched as more and more people flew out of the sect. With a cold chuckle, he blended into the crowd and flew out as well.

He merely unleashed eight Golden Core illusions, making himself indistinguishable in the crowd. No one noticed his presence, and he easily slipped out of the Heaven Prayers Sect.

Now, the challenge lay in breaking through the blockade set up by external forces.

Chapter 1348:

Cao Zhen and his companions collected a few promissory notes and then flew toward the Heaven Prayers Sect, waiting for its sect tribulation to fail so they could invade and seize some treasures.

From afar, before they even reached the Heaven Prayers Sect, the void surrounding its location was already packed with people from various major sects.

All the while, some individuals were leaving the encirclement.

"You're just a mere sect, and you think you can claim a share here? Leave immediately!"

"This entire area belongs to our Tianmen Sect now. Anyone leaving from here will be handled by us."

Cao Zhen realized that the Heaven Prayers Sect hadn't even begun its tribulation yet, yet people were already dividing the spoils among themselves as if it had fallen.

Those present were all members of the major sects from the Eastern Province. Sect disciples who dared approach were driven away and forced to remain at the outer perimeter.

Meanwhile, each major sect took responsibility for a designated zone.

As the four of them arrived, many people's gazes converged on their group.

"Immortal Bi Yue!"

"And Jiu Yin of the Yin Yang Sect."

"The remaining two must be Cao Zhen and Xiang Ziyu of the Hundred Peaks Sect."

Although only major sect members were permitted here, while sect members were routinely expelled, no one moved to chase away Cao Zhen and Xiang Ziyu despite the Hundred Peaks Sect being just a sect.

After all, these were two Golden Core Stage Limit experts. Furthermore, the Hundred Peaks Sect had another Golden Core Stage Limit expert who hadn't arrived yet. Who would risk provoking such a power? Let them stay; in the end, it's only two people.

Jiu Yin scanned her surroundings and quickly fixed her gaze on a specific area. Turning to the three, she said, "Members of my Yin Yang Sect are over there. I'll go join them first and reconvene with you all after we've plundered the Heaven Prayers Sect."

With that, she tossed Xiang Ziyu a seductive look.

After all, she was a disciple of the Yin Yang Sect, known for her carefree ways when roaming the world, indulging in desires whenever she pleased. However, this time, plundering the Heaven Prayers Sect was no trivial matter.

Major sects typically boast histories spanning over a million years and are incredibly difficult to destroy. Opportunities to partition the spoils of a major sect rarely come along. As an expert at the Golden Core Stage Limit, Jiu Yin had to join her sect's ranks to help secure greater benefits for them.

As Jiu Yin departed, Immortal Bi Yue also separated from Cao Zhen—a first since meeting him. The Yin Yang Sect had three Golden Core Stage Limit experts and could afford to send one to lead this operation.

By contrast, the Dragon Chant Sect only had two Golden Core Stage Limit experts, one of whom served as their temporary Sect Hierarch and was required to guard the sect. Thus, Bi Yue had to join her own sect's ranks.

Without her presence, the Dragon Chant Sect would lack a Golden Core Stage Limit expert to assert control.

Previously, when exploring the ruins, Bi Yue had been expected to join her sect's team but acted willfully without anyone reprimanding her.

However, partitioning a major sect's assets was another matter entirely. Even she couldn't be capricious during such an important moment.

With the two women gone, Cao Zhen and Xiang Ziyu remained where they stood.

Cao Zhen appeared indifferent to staying or moving, but Xiang Ziyu glanced around constantly before making a suggestion. "Master, why don't we split up? Think about it—for the two of us together, we can only raid one area. But if we separate, we can raid two areas. I'll scout around and pick a suitable location for myself."

Before Cao Zhen could even voice his opinion, Xiang Ziyu took off, flying into the distance.

Near the Heaven Prayers Sect's mountain gate, the Swallowing Heaven Demon blended among the sect's disciples rushing outward at full speed. Though unfamiliar to everyone, no one paid him much attention under such circumstances.

After all, even in its decline, the Heaven Prayers Sect was still a major sect. With countless disciples in its ranks, it would be impossible for anyone to know all of them personally. Seeing an unfamiliar face was hardly surprising.

What's more, during this chaotic escape, few were curious about their surroundings, let alone questioning their companions' identities.

Though they had managed to leave the mountain gate, it didn't mean they had escaped the Heaven Prayers Sect completely. The perimeter of the sect was still surrounded by forces from various major sects.

After flying a short distance, they realized that the number of people encircling them was far greater than expected.

Already, many Heaven Prayers Sect disciples had been caught within the encirclement.

The Swallowing Heaven Demon scanned the void, observing the forces surrounding them. His heart settled slightly—these were members of the Yao Soil Sect, a sect not particularly strong or formidable, with no Golden Core Stage Limit experts among them.

Given such circumstances, he felt confident that if chaos erupted here, he would have a chance to break through and escape.

Among the Heaven Prayers Sect disciples detained within the encirclement, anger surged with every passing moment.

"What are you Yao Soil Sect people planning by stopping us? Move aside!"

"We're trying to leave here right now."

"What's the meaning of this? Do you have a grudge against the Heaven Prayers Sect? Trying to create trouble for it? We're no longer disciples of the Heaven Prayers Sect and have nothing to do with it anymore!"

From among the Yao Soil Sect's members, a man wearing a tight green combat robe, his bare arms bulging with muscles, sneered coldly and pointed at the group. "Well, if you want to leave, it's possible. But first, all of you need to let us inspect your Qiankun Bags."

Chapter 1349:

The members of the Heaven Prayers Sect erupted in rage upon hearing the words.

"Inspect our Qiankun Bags?"

"What right do you have to inspect our Qiankun Bags?"

"What kind of rule is this? Whose rule is it anyway?"

"You Yao Soil Sect claim to be a prestigious sect too, but now tell me—what's the difference between you and thieves? Is this daylight robbery?"

Their Qiankun Bags contained every resource they had accumulated through cultivation. Some items were crucial to their own progress, including secrets of their cultivation; how could they possibly show it to someone else casually? Moreover, once taken out for inspection, how likely was it that their Qiankun Bags would remain intact?

But the disciples from Yao Soil Sect shook their heads lightly and said, "Robbery? How could it be robbery? We simply said we want to inspect your Qiankun Bags. As for the reason, it's very simple: our disciples from Yao Soil Sect were robbed by your Heaven and Earth Sect's disciples, and a large amount of resources were stolen. Now, we suspect that some of you intend to abscond with the stolen resources, so we need to inspect your Qiankun Bags.

We don't want to kill anyone. As long as you obediently surrender your Qiankun Bags, we'll let you leave."

As they spoke, Golden Cores floated behind each Yao Soil Sect disciple surrounding them. What a joke—how could they let these people leave so easily?

Although these individuals seemed weak, merely ordinary disciples, and the attackers didn't think any one among them carried significant resources from the Heaven Prayers Sect, collectively, the resources within all their Qiankun Bags were likely substantial.

Having come this far, how could they let such people escape scot-free?

Moreover, if by chance one among them did carry a large amount of Heaven Prayers Sect's resources and was trying to flee, letting them go would mean a huge loss.

"One of us robbed your Yao Soil Sect disciples' Qiankun Bags? We're too busy worrying about ourselves to have the time to rob you!"

"If you want to rob us outright, just say it. Stop fabricating excuses!"

"Today, we will force our way through!"

Suddenly, a disciple of Heaven Prayers Sect shouted. Inspired, one by one, the disciples began charging toward the exit.

What is cultivation without resources? Without them, how could they continue their path of immortal cultivation?

Now that they were escaping from the Heaven Prayers Sect, every disciple carried with them all their personal resources. If the Yao Soil Sect robbed them, it would sever their path of cultivation. There was no way they would not fight with their lives!

Sect members could surround them, but completely sealing every escape route was impossible—particularly since cultivators could fly. To seal all possible gaps would require an enormous number of people!

They were certain: desperate individuals would surely break through, and those who succeeded might just be them!

"Still trying to flee?"

"Do you think you can escape?"

Disciples of Yao Soil Sect acted instantly. Divine Skills rained down, causing the earth beneath their feet to surge wildly. Heavy earth-elemental energy shot skyward, as the ground fractured continuously. Clumps of dirt amassed themselves into towering soil walls; elsewhere, the earth transformed into sharp spears of stone that stabbed towards the disciples of Heaven Prayers Sect. In some places, earth-elemental energy condensed and morphed into fierce beasts' phantoms...

Meanwhile, the disciples of Heaven Prayers Sect erupted with demonic qi, countering sparks of divine skills while frantically attempting to break through.

Swallowing Heaven Demon blended into the chaos, simultaneously blocking incoming divine skills while stealthily flying toward a weak point in the opposing sect's encirclement.

Suddenly, a figure materialized before him—a stout, large-headed man barred his way, sneering viciously. "What's this? You still hope to escape through here? Didn't our senior brother say, if you want to leave, surrender your Qiankun Bag."

As the man spoke, behind him ten different phenomena of Golden Core appeared.

Swallowing Heaven Demon scanned the surroundings, a faint glimmer of joy flashing in his heart. The opponent seemingly mistook him as someone possessing merely an Eight Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core and paid little mind to him, dispatching an ordinary disciple with Perfect Completion Golden Core to block his path.

If he wished, he could severely injure the person and then make his escape.

The only wrinkle was that unleashing his full power would immediately attract undue attention, so the best option remained slipping away without exposing his true strength.

His mind raced, and he deliberately adopted an angered expression, shouting sternly, "So this is how a so-called prestigious sect behaves? The treasures in my Qiankun Bag are the result of hundreds of years of cultivation, painstakingly gathered through dangerous expeditions and struggles over ancient ruins. Why should I hand them over to you?"

As he spoke, his eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores surged with demonic qi, pooling into a set of black armor encasing his body. His aura soared dramatically, and his previously unremarkable hands now coiled with black energy. From a distance, they resembled the claws of an unparalleled feral beast. He charged toward the opponent at breakneck speed.

On the opposing side, the Yao Soil Sect disciple smirked scornfully upon seeing the incoming attack. "An Eight Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core—far from Pill Fusion—dares to challenge me with no divine skills? Trying to rely on sheer physical prowess? Utterly suicidal!"

He let out a cold laugh as the ten different phenomena of Golden Core behind him spun rapidly. Though floating mid-air, beneath him the ground seemed to rotate in tandem with the Golden Cores' motion. Heavy earth-elemental energy surged upwards, rapidly coalescing into a suit of earth armor over his

body. Originally stout in figure, the added earth layers made his appearance even bulkier and cumbersome.

Chapter 1350:

In the blink of an eye, the cultivator with eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores had already arrived directly in front of him. He sneered cruelly and raised his hand, launching a devastating palm strike.

In that instant, his palm seemed to swell significantly, and a fierce gust of wind suddenly surged around them. The sound of its howl echoed like a storm raging through an empty mountain valley.

As the palm descended, its power was so overwhelming that even the surrounding air seemed to tremble faintly.

Just before the strike landed, the cultivator with eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores suddenly erupted with a burst of incredibly intense demonic qi, his entire body moving in a bizarre dodge to the side.

The palm strike hit nothing but air!

As the Swallowing Heaven Demon narrowly avoided the incoming strike, his aura surged explosively within him. Although he had only unleashed the power of his eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores, his cultivation base was far superior to that of the other, who was merely a standard cultivator at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection. With all his might, he barely evaded the strike. At the same time, he forcefully expelled a mouthful of crimson blood which burst from his lips. Then, feigning injury, he darted off and flew toward the distance.

The disciple from Yao Soil Sect watched as the opponent maneuvered past him and flew away. A trace of astonishment crossed his face. After all, he belonged to the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection realm. How could someone like the other—a mere cultivator with eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores who hadn't even fused his cores—evade his attack?

This person... this person coughed up blood. That's it. He must have used a secret technique.

He let out a sneer, turned, and pursued the fleeing opponent.

"Using a secret technique? After using it, how much strength could you possibly have left? Let's see how you dodge this strike!"

With those words, he closed the distance from behind and unleashed another crushing palm strike.

Though it was merely a palm, when it fell, it seemed as if an entire mountain were plummeting from the heavens, intent on crushing the opponent to dust.

The Swallowing Heaven Demon sensed the overwhelming force closing in from behind. A cold smile flickered across his face as he deliberately raised his own palm to meet the incoming strike head-on.

The next moment, their palms collided in the void, creating an earth-shattering explosion. From the point of impact, a shockwave erupted visibly, rippling outward. The Swallowing Heaven Demon's figure was sent backward, flying off from the collision.

While being propelled through the air, he continually activated his internal aura. He had only tapped into the power of his eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores. Without the power of pill fusion, he was no match for his opponent when facing them head-to-head. Yet, despite this, the strike didn't send him flying as far as one might expect.

He had deliberately dodged the first strike to redirect his trajectory. With his opponent sending him hurtling away, he seized the opportunity to propel himself farther outward. Even amidst his retreat, he subtly manipulated his mana to accelerate his flight further.

"Facing off against our Yao Soil Sect directly? That's as good as asking for death."

The Yao Soil Sect disciple sneered coldly, flashing forward to catch up to him.

Surrounding them, a few other Yao Soil Sect disciples who had been watching the battle showed no concern. After all, their opponent was just a petty disciple of the Heaven Prayers Sect with eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores. What's more, he had already been gravely injured by Senior Brother Lei Bin.

Lei Bin darted in front of his opponent and launched yet another palm strike.

This strike carried even greater ferocity than his previous one, as if the entire earth had been flipped upside down and was now hurtling down to smash into the Swallowing Heaven Demon.

The Swallowing Heaven Demon raised his palms again to block. Following a deafening blast, the black demonic qi shrouding his arms shattered entirely. His hands, or rather his arms, blurred into a bloody mess, and his whole body was sent flying backward.

This time, he was truly injured.

After all, he had only wielded the power of eight Golden Cores. Even though his opponent was merely an ordinary Ten Different Phenomena Golden Core cultivator at Great Perfection, that represented ten fused cores—an advantage far beyond his current strength.

After landing two successive blows, Lei Bin's face revealed a puzzled expression. With his strength, a mere cultivator wielding eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores ought to have been killed outright, yet this person was only lightly injured compared to his expectations!

This guy... he doesn't seem to be just any ordinary eight abnormal phenomenon Golden Core cultivator.

Lei Bin's brief amazement didn't linger for long. He accelerated forward, raising his palm once more. Behind him, his ten abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores spun furiously, unleashing cold and violent waves of energy from within.

He was not the only one present—his fellow sect members were numerous. If he couldn't kill an eight-core cultivator in three strikes, he'd undoubtedly become the laughingstock among his peers.

The Swallowing Heaven Demon glanced around as he retreated. This area was already a significant distance from the territory guarded by the Yao Soil Sect, and while there were a few scattered cultivators behind him, they were merely disciples of various sects and posed no real threat.

If he unleashed his full power to flee, none of those sect disciples would manage to stop him.

Now was the time to escape with everything he had!

As he locked eyes with the incoming Yao Soil Sect disciple, who was launching another palm strike, what appeared behind the Swallowing Heaven Demon's eight spinning abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores shocked everyone—his ninth and tenth abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores fully materialized.

In the next moment, his ten cores fused completely, unleashing a torrent of demonic qi that surged like a raging river. Behind him, the massive phantom image of the Taotie beast took shape.

Lei Bin's eyes widened in shock. Ten abnormal phenomenon Golden Cores at Great Perfection! What's more, the aura emanating from this opponent far exceeded his own—it was approaching the very limits of the Golden Core Stage!