

## **My Master 1361**

Chapter 1361:

What if an existence stronger than Old Man Wu Shuang were to emerge?

Wouldn't it mean being annihilated in an instant?

Choosing the middle living grave would be the best. It carried no risks, and the value of the treasures within a living grave should also not be low.

Although Cao Zhen believed that the person slumbering within the grave before him should not reach the level of Old Man Wu Shuang's strength, he had learned his lesson. Unlike before, he didn't attempt to destroy the grave at close range. Instead, from a distance, he unleashed his divine skills directly toward it.

The abnormal Golden Core behind him suddenly radiated brilliant light, followed by crackling lightning bolts surging forth, bombarding the grave mound not far in front of him layer by layer.

These tombs had once been protected by formations; however, during the Sect Tribulation, all those formations had been obliterated. Cao Zhen's lightning struck directly onto the graves that were no longer shielded by formations.

Instantly, the massive grave mound exploded with a thunderous roar.

Chunks of earth, accompanied by the deafening blasts, erupted skyward.

He didn't know if all living graves in the immortal cultivation world were designed alike. Whether it be Old Man Wu Shuang's identity, the three living graves of the Great Lai Dynasty's primary immortal sects he had previously excavated, or even the one before him now—they all seemed to share the same structure. When the colossal grave mound ruptured, it revealed a staircase leading underground, with formations lined along its steps.

Cao Zhen unleashed his divine skills once more. Bolts of lightning descended continuously. Even though the original formation might have been powerful when laid, during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven

and Earth, its strength only reached the limit of the Golden Core Stage. Under the bombardment of Cao Zhen's divine attacks, the formation shattered.

Suddenly, waves of spiritual energy and lifeforce surged up from below.

Following this, a muffled sound came from within the underground tomb, as if something had shattered. It seemed to be the coffin breaking apart, and immediately afterward, a voice filled with boundless rage echoed forth.

"Damn it! Which ungrateful disciple has opened my living grave?!"

As the voice fell, a figure suddenly shot out from the living grave.

This person's hair was exceedingly long and chaotic. For a moment, Cao Zhen could only see a cascade of white hair, unable to make out the figure's face, while torrents of demonic qi surged endlessly from the body.

The next moment, the figure surveyed the surroundings and froze in shock.

He realized that the experts of the Heaven Prayers Sect had all consolidated their identities in one location. Although these living graves were within the sect grounds and deemed secure, they had still given specific instructions before going into slumber—disciples must guard the graves' vicinity.

Yet now, no Heaven Prayers Sect disciples were in sight. To be more precise, every disciple here was either a corpse, or already unreachable.

Moreover, the numerous great formations around the area were all destroyed. The ground bore countless marks of bombardment, and a faint residual aura of Heavenly Tribulation filled the air and ground.

Sect Tribulation!

He had known, even in slumber, that the Heaven Prayers Sect would face its Sect Tribulation during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth. He had also known how fragile the sect had become. Still, when they had initially discussed it, they had unanimously believed the timing was favorable: the Sect Tribulation occurring during the Minor Era of Inversion had its advantages.

Under normal circumstances, they might have failed the tribulation miserably. But during the Minor Era of Inversion, when the strongest combat power was capped at the Golden Core Stage limit, the intensity of the Sect Tribulation would also decrease proportionally.

As long as a few geniuses arose among their disciples during this period, and the branch sects they had sent out earlier returned, they had been very hopeful of overcoming the tribulation.

They had already calculated the timing of this Sect Tribulation, as well as the moment for Eastern Wasteland to reconnect with the Eastern Province.

But now...

It was evident that the Heaven Prayers Sect had experienced the tribulation—and failed. Judging by the scene, someone had invaded their sect in the aftermath.

The Heaven Prayers Sect... was finished!

The next instant, he felt a decaying force surging within his body. This power rapidly corroded him, causing his flesh, bones, meridians, and even his internal organs and life essence to wither at an alarming rate.

The Heavenly Five Decays!

Failing the tribulation meant that surviving sect members would begin to suffer the Heavenly Five Decays. Those among the slumbering elders—the weakest of whom were in the Earth Immortal Realm—had all been part of the sect for over a millennium. Naturally, they were affected as well.

Under the Heavenly Five Decays, no one could endure. All of them were destined to die!

But before their deaths...

He gazed upon the person who had barged into their Heaven Prayers Sect. The intruder was merely a cultivator of the Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core, yet their aura was overwhelmingly terrifying.

He himself had once been at the Golden Core Stage. Even at the Perfect Completion Golden Core of Ten Different Phenomena, his aura had never matched the dread exuded by this Nine Abnormal Phenomena cultivator.

This person had reached the Golden Core Stage Limit!

To achieve the Golden Core Stage Limit with nine phenomena—

Who was this figure from a powerful great teaching?

Wait?

This attire—it bore none of the insignias of any great teaching!

Forget it. Regardless of which force this intruder belonged to, they had violated the Heaven Prayers Sect, even desecrated his own grave. They must die!

His long, white hair suddenly billowed, surges of piercing and unyielding energy bursting forth from within. He raised his palm and slammed it down in a decisive strike.

But in the next moment, overhead in the void, clusters of tribulation clouds suddenly gathered. From the vast sky, a streak of golden lightning descended abruptly.

The Heavenly Dao had sensed this power—one that surpassed the Golden Core Stage Limit.

And as his palm descended, the demonic qi he had intended to unleash failed to converge as he had expected.

Chapter 1362:

It's the force of the Five Decays of Heaven and Man at work!

Cao Zhen gathered mana throughout his body and likewise slashed forward. Instantly, towering mountains appeared before him, with steles rising skyward atop them, standing as barriers before him.

One force after another crashed down, striking the steles, but dissipated instantly. At almost the exact same moment, golden thunderbolts in the void rained down, exuding an undeniable divine majesty, and slammed heavily onto the opponent's crown.

A deafening explosion reverberated across the area, and in an instant, the mountains in this cemetery began to tremble madly.

The Earth Immortal Realm cultivator with white hair was blasted apart entirely, his body exploding with blood and flesh flying everywhere!

"Indeed, someone in the Earth Immortal Realm finds it difficult to strike effectively, and moreover, the opponent's aura has obviously weakened—it's clear they've suffered under the influence of the Five Decays of Heaven and Man."

Cao Zhen didn't dwell on it further and rushed toward the underground tomb. Earlier, he had excavated the living grave of Old Man Wu Shuang and even dismantled the formations around it to take them away.

But this time, he couldn't afford to waste time dismantling formations here. With over a thousand living graves present, every moment spent was an opportunity for someone to seize another treasure.

He didn't even have time to examine what was hidden within the living graves. Taking out his Qiankun Bag, he waved his hand from a distance, directly collecting all the treasures within into the bag.

Though he didn't inspect them closely, as he stored them, he could sense that some of these were treasures of considerable power.

After gathering the treasures, he swiftly flew toward the surface.

When he first entered the living graves, there was no one else present. But as soon as he emerged from within, a loud boom rang out—not far away, another living grave was shattered open. A figure flew out from that grave, weaker even than the white-haired Earth Immortal from earlier. This individual didn't even have time to act before the golden Force of Heaven's Punishment in the sky descended, reducing them to dust.

Cao Zhen's gaze focused on the figures not far away.

How coincidental—it was disciples of the Yao Soil Sect, with whom he'd clashed before.

The Yao Soil Sect, specializing in Invisible Earth techniques, coming to excavate living graves—it wasn't surprising.

Huang Zi'ang, having noticed commotion from afar, flew over and saw that a living grave had already been opened. Yet he couldn't tell who had entered it.

Unexpectedly, it was Cao Zhen!

He hesitated briefly, glanced elsewhere, and muttered quietly, "Keep digging the living graves!"

They had indeed had minor conflicts with Cao Zhen and Xiang Ziyu before, but right now, the treasures within these living graves were paramount. There was no necessity in escalating matters with Cao Zhen.

Cao Zhen ignored Huang Zi'ang, pinpointing another living grave. Just as he gathered mana to blast it apart, another sound of movement in the distance caught his attention.

Soon, figures began appearing—disciples from other Great Teachings. Moreover, representatives from two rival sects had come, and more silhouettes were flying in from far away.

Cao Zhen realized he'd underestimated the allure of the living graves. If he could surmise that these graves contained treasures, others surely could too. While competition over the Heaven Prayers Sect's Hidden Treasure House was fierce, this location—with its abundance of living graves—was comparatively less contested. Some Great Teachings, failing to secure resources from treasure vaults, opted to head here instead.

"Quick, open the living graves!"

"Break into the graves!"

Disciples from the two approaching Great Teachings glanced at Cao Zhen but understood that time was of the essence. Every moment delayed invited more competitors; they chose not to attack him or engage in conflict, instead focusing their efforts on blasting open a grave.

Cao Zhen, too, understood he couldn't repel them and focused on a different grave, beginning his barrage.

The cemetery was soon filled with endless explosions, one after another, as cultivators continuously arrived, each directing their efforts toward the living graves. Everyone knew that conflicts at this moment were futile—it was wisest simply to seize as many graves as quickly as possible.

Though Cao Zhen had arrived first, he was alone, whereas the others came in groups representing entire sects. While he could open one grave at a time, others could simultaneously open several. Even with the abundance of living graves, by the time he'd managed to excavate three, he was surprised to find that most of the outer graves had already been emptied.

"Boom!" A muffled roar echoed from afar. Another grave was opened, releasing a terrifying surge of Demonic Qi—denser than from any of the graves excavated earlier. Along with this, an overwhelming force erupted as a figure flew out, exuding horrifying pressure.

"Immortality Regainment Realm!"

"It's an Immortality Regainment Stage grave!"

"Did they discover an Immortality Regainment Realm grave so soon?"

Everyone nearby turned to stare at the figure emerging from the grave, as well as the one who had opened it. Even Cao Zhen cast his gaze toward them.

The cultivator from the Limitless Sect—Chang Yuanwu? He had come for these graves too?

Cao Zhen showed a hint of surprise. The Limitless Sect had significant strength, and Chang Yuanwu was at the pinnacle of the Golden Core Stage—they should be vying for the treasures in the Heaven Prayers Sect's Hidden Treasure House. Why had they come here?

No, wait—it seemed Chang Yuanwu was alone here. Other Limitless Sect members weren't present at this spot.

Chapter 1363:

Cao Zhen's eyes revealed a hint of surprise. At this moment, shouldn't Chang Yuanwu be with the people of their Great Teaching? What on earth was he doing running here by himself?

After blasting open a burial mound of the Immortality Regainment Realm, Chang Yuanwu glanced around. Suddenly, an eerie yet slightly manic smile appeared on his face. He looked at the surrounding burial mounds, and atop the massive fused core formed by ten anomalous Golden Cores, mana surged ceaselessly. Streams of immense mana gathered into his hands, and then he fiercely struck at another nearby burial mound.

He was an existence at the pinnacle of the Golden Core Stage, and the formations of the burial mounds here had already been destroyed during the earlier Sect Tribulation. Very quickly, the second burial mound was obliterated. From within the burial mound, a horrifying aura erupted—this was another tomb of the Immortality Regainment Realm!

Many people around who saw Chang Yuanwu's actions were instantly alarmed.

"Chang Yuanwu, that's an Immortality Regainment Realm burial mound—are you insane?"

"Chang Yuanwu, stop right now!"

"The Immortality Regainment Realm, awakened during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, is terrifying beyond measure even under the suppression of the Heavenly Dao!"

"Damn it!"

But Chang Yuanwu showed no intention of stopping. Instead, he continued to focus his mana, blasting toward a third burial mound. His goal was to open even more burial mounds and release more experts of the Immortality Regainment Realm.

Previously, their faction of Great Teachings had expended effort hunting down members of the Heaven Prayers Sect within the ruins, yet now those people had done nothing but come here to seize resources. How could such a thing be allowed?

Now, what he wanted was to release those Immortality Regainment Realm experts. After all, as someone at the pinnacle of Golden Core Stage, even if a group of Immortality Regainment Realm experts woke up from their burial mounds and began attacking madly, there were so many people present that their attacks wouldn't be solely focused on him. He would still be unharmed, but others? They would meet their doom.

Once everyone else was dead, the treasures within these burial mounds would naturally belong to them.

Them—not him alone.

As Chang Yuanwu made his move, a few other Golden Core Stage pinnacle existences within the crowd also began to act, blasting toward burial mounds near the center.

In a short while, many burial mounds collapsed, and one after another, experts of the Immortality Regainment Realm began awakening from their tombs.

In an instant, the mountain filled with burial mounds began to seethe with demonic qi. The horrifying auras seemed boundless, rippling outward in every direction.

The experts of the Immortality Regainment Realm, even as they endured the effects of the Five Decays of Heaven and Man and the suppression of the Heavenly Dao, radiated an overwhelming presence that formed cutting winds with merely the concentration of their auras.

"Damn it!"

"None of these people are from our Heaven Prayers Sect!"

"The Five Decays of Heaven and Man... Our Heaven Prayers Sect has fallen!"

"Even after the destruction of our Heaven Prayers Sect, they dare to desecrate our burial mounds!"

"Death! They all deserve to die!"

In their rage, the experts of the Immortality Regainment Realm unleashed their fury, launching attacks at the surrounding people.

Cao Zhen couldn't tell if it was because these Immortality Regainment Realm experts were too different compared to Old Man Wu Shuang, or because they were affected by the Five Decays of Heaven and Man. However, he distinctly felt that these experts were far weaker than Old Man Wu Shuang's attacks on that day.

Even so, when their attacks landed, he was still able to easily evade them.

Meanwhile, bolts of Sky Punishment Thunder descended ceaselessly from the void. Each time a bolt struck, another expert of the Immortality Regainment Realm was reduced to ashes.

As Chang Yuanwu watched these Immortality Regainment Realm experts fall one after another, his eyes filled with disappointment. He muttered angrily under his breath, "Trash! To think experts of the Immortality Regainment Realm could be so weak!"

Yet his hands did not pause as he turned and hurled an attack at yet another burial mound.

At the same time, the other Golden Core Stage pinnacle cultivators with him also took action, blasting apart burial mounds indiscriminately.

In an instant, another five burial mounds exploded!

Among these five burial mounds, one was particularly close to the largest burial mound at the center of this graveyard.

As this burial mound exploded, the entire mountain began to shake violently. Though it was just this one mound that had collapsed, all the burial mounds around it, close to the central one, caved in as well. Subsequently, across the mountain, apart from the largest central burial mound, every single tomb was obliterated. Waves of life energy and demonic qi surged from the shattered burial mounds, streaming toward the massive central tomb. Even under the suppression of the Heavenly Dao, this demonic qi took on a near-physical form.

In the next moment, the largest central burial mound exploded with a deafening roar.

Instantly, the entire mountain shattered, and a suffocatingly terrifying demonic qi surged from the heart of the mountain, its presence seemingly infinite and boundless.

Then, a shadowy figure shot out from the depths beneath the mountain.

His hair was jet black, his face deathly pale, and his frame emaciated as though devoid of any flesh—merely skin stretched tightly over bones.

Yet this frail old man radiated a fearsome, boundless aura so overwhelming that no one dared to even glance directly at him!

At his appearance, the demonic qi emanating from the many awakened Heaven Prayers Sect experts began to converge uncontrollably toward him.

In that instant, the entire Heaven Prayers Sect was plunged into darkness.

Chapter 1364:

Cao Zhen had never felt such a terrifying aura from anyone before, not even the Old Man Wu Shuang back then had given him such overwhelming pressure—this was an entirely incomparable level of power!

In the instant this figure appeared, it seemed as though the entire world turned pitch black because all light had been drawn to him.

In that moment, Cao Zhen realized one thing: the colossal mountain where they had been earlier had actually been a living grave. This man... this man was emerging from the massive tomb beneath that mountain.

This man is...

As the giant mountain shattered, the cultivators flying through the air noticed the figure ascending from its depths. For a moment, terror gripped everyone's hearts.

Elsewhere within the Heaven Prayers Sect, other cultivators also saw the figure in the void above.

"The Sect Master of the Heaven Prayers Sect!"

"The Sect Master of Heaven Prayers Sect!"

"He's actually awakened!"

"Which fool dared to unearth the living grave of the Sect Master of the Heaven Prayers Sect?!"

"Though the Heaven Prayers Sect may be in decline, their Sect Master is still a being of the True Immortal Realm!"

At the rear mountain of the Heaven Prayers Sect, Xiang Ziyu placed the last damaged treasure into his Qiankun Bag and looked toward the distant figure ascending into the sky, a glint of excitement flashing in his eyes.

He turned around and flew toward the figure's location. After all, the vast mountain containing the living grave of the Heaven Prayers Sect Master was situated in the rear part of the mountain range, not too far from where he stood.

Although the Heaven Prayers Sect Master had been in deep slumber, he seemed aware of everything that had unfolded within the sect. Or perhaps, in the very moment he emerged from his living grave, he immediately understood it all!

As the Sect Master ascended, the Heaven Prayers Sect—which by now was little more than a smoldering wasteland—began to shake furiously. High above, countless clouds of tribulation gathered in the sky.

At the same time, an overwhelming pressure, as though it would crush the entire world, descended upon them.

Cao Zhen had once assisted the Five Sounds Sect in enduring their Sect Tribulation, but the pressure emanating from that event paled in comparison to the terrifying might exuding from the tribulation clouds before him now.

He even felt as though the Heavenly Dao itself was consumed by boundless rage. He could sense that Heaven was not merely intent on obliterating the Heaven Prayers Sect Master who had suddenly flown out—it intended to wipe every living being in this place from existence, to annihilate everything within the Heaven Prayers Sect.

In this area, there were several cultivators who had reached the very limits of the Golden Core Period. They had long become accustomed to considering themselves the strongest in all the land, and faintly, an aura of peerless arrogance had settled over them.

But at this moment, they felt smaller and more insignificant than ever before.

The Heaven Prayers Sect Master, sensing the crushing weight of the Heavenly Dao and the effects of the Five Decays of Heaven and Man within his own body, raised his head to gaze toward the heavens. On his pale, emaciated face, a strange smile appeared. It was as if he were muttering to himself—or perhaps posing a challenge—as he began to speak in a low voice.

"Once, our Heaven Prayers Sect followed the Heavenly Dao. We prayed to the Heavenly Dao, harnessed its power, and carried out its bidding. But what was the result? The Heaven Prayers Sect still had to endure the Sect Tribulation, suffering the same trials faced by every other Great Teaching.

Even worse, when we reached a certain point in our cultivation, we could no longer borrow power from the Heavenly Dao!

This kind of Heavenly Dao—why should we continue to follow it? That's why we stopped praying to Heaven. Even though the Heaven Prayers Sect has been destroyed today, we prefer destruction to living on in subservience. Because you—traitorous Heaven!—when we reached a certain level of power, we were confined, unable to advance further and denied the power of the Heavenly Dao. In the end, we were doomed to defeat beneath the Sect Tribulation, just like the Heaven Prayers Sect of the previous era!"

The Sect Master's voice was not loud, but his steady tone echoed throughout the entire Heaven Prayers Sect, reaching the ears of everyone who remained.

Cao Zhen froze, stunned. What did the Sect Master's words mean? Did it mean that the Heaven Prayers Sect once helped the Heavenly Dao in some way? And that, after reaching a certain level of cultivation, they could no longer borrow its power?

Was that what he meant?

Before Cao Zhen could fully process this, the Sect Master's voice resounded once again.

"You want to kill me with the Five Decays of Heaven and Man? If I am to die, it won't be at your hands!"

In the next instant, a surge of energy erupted from within the Sect Master's body. Endless Demonic Qi poured forth, shrouding the entire Heaven Prayers Sect in darkness. The blackness was so profound that one could not see their own hand before their face. The heavens themselves were entirely blotted out, and even with his current cultivation base, Cao Zhen could barely see three meters in front of him.

He could feel that, in this moment, the pressure from the Heavenly Dao within the void had grown even more terrifying. It seemed as if the Heavenly Dao had been pushed to the brink of fury!

Suddenly, within the all-encompassing darkness, a deafening explosion rang out, so loud it seemed as if the entire Heaven Prayers Sect had been utterly obliterated. Along with the sound came a boundless and unparalleled surge of power that rippled outward in all directions.

The Heaven Prayers Sect was doomed, and so was he!

Even though he was a being of the True Immortal Realm, if he were to die, he would die by his own hand!

The people before him had no grievances or grudges against him, but the moment they intruded upon the Heaven Prayers Sect, they became its mortal enemies!

Since they dared to intrude, they would pay the price. And that price was—death!

The Sect Master of the Heaven Prayers Sect, this True Immortal, chose to self-destruct!

In the moment of his self-destruction, the once pitch-black world suddenly erupted into a blinding radiance.

Chapter 1365:

Under the clash of darkness and brilliance, the piercing light caused sharp pain in everyone's eyes, with some even momentarily blinded!

Cao Zhen realized, to his horror, that the entire world was shaking violently, the heavens and earth flipping over entirely. Even the blazing sun in the void seemed to have been shattered by the dreadful aura in that instant!

Terrifying Demonic Qi surged in all directions, destroying everything in its path, leaving nothing behind.

At the same time, an inviolable pressure—the kind that seemed like the very embodiment of supremacy in the world—descended from the void, forming radiant, multicolored light that enveloped the entire realm.

The Power of Heavenly Dao!

But even this power, upon contact with the horrifying Demonic Qi unleashed by the Heaven Prayers Sect Hierarch's self-destruction, shattered instantly. Although the Sect Hierarch's self-detonation's potency diminished as a result, its remaining force was still unspeakably terrifying, utterly surpassing the Golden Core Period Limit.

"Not good!"

"Run quickly!"

"Damn it!"

Cultivators who were too close were swept up by the Demonic Qi, their bodies instantly dissolving into blood mist!

This was a True Immortal self-detonating!

In that moment, the entire realm was filled with blood mist.

Screams of agony echoed ceaselessly as countless cultivators fell one by one in rapid succession.

Cao Zhen even sensed the aura of a cultivator at the Golden Core Period Limit vanish in an instant!

He remembered how, in the past, he had excavated the living grave of Old Man Wu Shuang. Those slumbering Great Abilities who awakened were unimaginably terrifying, and even then, he had tread cautiously. Yet, he never anticipated encountering a self-destructing True Immortal Realm figure this time!

Within his body, his aura had already surged to its peak. Before him, the Prosperous Age Picture Record now floated clearly into view.

This was a force even more terrifying than Old Man Wu Shuang. Even with the Prosperous Age Picture Record, he wasn't confident he could withstand such a blow!

As waves upon waves of Mana poured in, the Prosperous Age Picture Record fully unfolded.

In an instant, from the distant Eastern Wasteland, within the Hundred Peaks Sect—mountains, disciples, and even Qiao Jingyao inside the sect—streams of radiant energy rose from their bodies, converging into the distance.

Even though the Eastern Wasteland was unimaginably far from the Eastern Province, it seemed as if only a single breath passed before all these energies fully entered the Prosperous Age Picture Record.

In the next moment, within the Prosperous Age Picture Record, a vision of the Hundred Peaks Sect emerged.

A force completely beyond the Golden Core Stage enveloped Cao Zhen entirely.

Surrounding cultivators immediately noticed this extraordinary power.

"This is..."

"A power beyond the Golden Core Stage!"

"What a strange power... Who is it... Who has unleashed such a power beyond the Golden Core Stage?!"

Chang Yuanwu frantically activated his Mana, layers of rough, black, lizard-like skin forming across his body. In that instant, his aura surpassed the Golden Core Period Limit as well.

Indeed, it was the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth times now, but with his myriad of methods, he could temporarily push his strength beyond the Golden Core Period Limit.

However, his achievement lasted only briefly, and at best barely surpassed the limit.

Yet the force coming from not far away shocked him entirely. Though both exceeded the Golden Core Period Limit, the other's strength far outstripped his own!

Who could have accomplished this?

A figure suddenly appeared in his mind!

Cao Zhen!

Among the cultivators at the Golden Core Period Limit present, he knew them all—except for Cao Zhen.

Moreover, Cao Zhen was rumored to be a reincarnated Great Ability, capable of training two disciples who both reached the Golden Core Period Limit, with Xiang Ziyu among them, achieving both physical body and Mana at the pinnacle of the Golden Core Stage. Chang Yuanwu believed it was impossible for Cao Zhen not to have held back some hidden trump card.

Thus, it must be Cao Zhen!

Only Cao Zhen...

He had no time to dwell further—an apocalyptic force capable of obliterating the entire realm descended upon them.

Never before had he encountered such a horrifying power. Even with his strength now beyond the Golden Core Period Limit, in that instant, the hardened skin he had manifested through all his abilities shattered instantly.

Next, that unstoppable, devastating force surged forward, obliterating his body—ripping apart his muscles, crushing his bones. One by one, his meridians and internal organs shattered completely at that moment!

He lasted only two breaths of time before succumbing entirely!

Cao Zhen had only just managed to gather the power of the Prosperous Age Picture Record when the vast and endless devastating force struck it head-on.

In a flash, it felt as if the entire void had exploded—the entire Heaven Prayers Sect was obliterated in a deafening explosion. In that moment, his ears filled with a numbing hum as the detonation overwhelmed even them.

The pervasive Demonic Qi obscured everything, making it impossible to see his surroundings clearly. He could only sense the entire realm trembling violently as if enraged—air around him rising like tsunamis, flinging his body across space.

In but a moment, over half the power of the Prosperous Age Picture Record was annihilated, and the colossal destructive force continued its relentless advance. The Era Prosperity Power derived from the Hundred Peaks Sect that imbued the Picture Record was utterly obliterated.

In the next instant, the Prosperous Age Picture Record reverted to its original form, retreating back to his body.

Yet the boundless, world-ending force pressed on, enveloping Cao Zhen entirely in an instant.

In just the span of one breath, the ten Protective Divine Skills that surrounded Cao Zhen detonated explosively. He felt the terrifying force hit him directly.

At the first contact, his clothes disintegrated, and his skin, muscles, and bones were shattered in the blink of an eye!

The devastating force charged through his body, sending him flying violently through the air!

Cao Zhen had never before felt death so close. In that instant, dizziness overwhelmed him as the assault sent his Mana spiraling out of control—leaving his body bereft of power, utterly helpless.

In that moment, he finally understood why many Golden Core masters, once gravely injured, were unable to self-destruct their Golden Cores.

Because their Mana was entirely beyond their control, unable to manifest their own power!

Chapter 1366:

Cao Zhen felt the terrifying force surging toward him, his weakened body trembling. Above his head, the spinning Heretical Golden Core suddenly descended, expanding rapidly as it fell.

In the next moment, the Heretical Golden Core encompassed all of Cao Zhen.

At present, he had no other method of self-preservation. Even though his unique Golden Core possessed extraordinary abilities, in his current state, he was unable to unleash its powers.

The only weapon he could rely on now was the Heretical Golden Core.

As soon as he entered the Heretical Golden Core, an overwhelming and horrifying power ripped through the air toward him. A crisp "crack" resounded, and the Heretical Golden Core began to show visible cracks—but it did not completely shatter!

The multicolored rays of Heavenly Dao continued to resist the catastrophic forces of the Heaven Prayers Hierarchy's self-destruction. Each moment of delay further weakened the explosive might.

If the full force of the Heaven Prayers Hierarch's self-destruction had struck initially, the Heretical Golden Core would have shattered instantly. But now, after holding off the first assault, it finally broke apart as the second wave of power descended.

The terrifying energy launched Cao Zhen's body uncontrollably outward, sending him flying. This blow nearly knocked him unconscious.

Yet the aftermath of the Heaven Prayers Hierarch's self-destruction had not fully dissipated; residual waves of power continued crashing toward him.

As the remaining force gradually diminished under the suppression of Heavenly Dao, the dark, eerie sky began to brighten little by little.

Just as the residual shockwaves were about to strike him, suddenly, a figure appeared from behind, directly shielding him. At the same time, a black and a white Protective Divine Power enveloped him.

Record of Deities and Demons!

Xiang Ziyu, having spotted the transforming chaos in the heavens, rushed over. He arrived just in time to see Cao Zhen being blown away. Without hesitation, he activated the Record of Deities and Demons to shield his master, placing himself as a barrier in front of him.

The residual waves of the Heaven Prayers Hierarch's self-destruction struck Xiang Ziyu directly, causing the front of his robe to burst apart. The overwhelming energy collided with his body, forcing him to retreat several steps. His chest turned crimson, and cracks began to appear, with trickles of fresh blood seeping out.

This marked the final surge of the Heaven Prayers Hierarch's self-destructive power. With this wave blocked, the remaining force was entirely stopped by Heavenly Dao.

Xiang Ziyu turned to fly back toward Cao Zhen, who was now a bloody mess. Glancing at his battered master, he said, his face caught between humor and frustration, "Master, have you been spending too much time around me? Did you start thinking that you're the protagonist? Let me tell you, I am the

protagonist here. Dangerous events like these—only protagonists like me can manage to escape unscathed by sheer luck."

"Master, if I hadn't rushed over—using your own words—you'd truly be finished this time."

Cao Zhen didn't object. At this moment, he barely had the strength to speak. Watching Xiang Ziyu walk away nearly unscathed with his robust physical strength, Cao Zhen couldn't help but lament. If only he had the same level of physical resilience as Xiang Ziyu; he wouldn't have ended up in such a miserable condition, forced to rely on the Heretical Golden Core to fend off the catastrophic forces of the self-destruction.

Now, in order to stay alive, his Heretical Golden Core had been shattered. If this endeavor didn't result in some significant gains, his losses would be immense.

Using every ounce of his remaining strength, Cao Zhen slowly raised his hand, pointed toward the ground, and managed to utter two words, "Life Tomb."

The Heaven Prayers Hierarch had flown out to self-destruct; naturally, his Life Tomb had already split open. After the self-destruction, everyone on the Tomb Mountain had perished, except for Cao Zhen and Xiang Ziyu.

Even those who had flown in upon hearing the commotion were annihilated by the residual forces.

At this moment, only he and Xiang Ziyu remained alive in this place. If they didn't proceed to investigate the Heaven Prayers Hierarch's Life Tomb now, what were they waiting for?

This was the Heaven Prayers Hierarch, a sect leader of a Great Teaching. Who knew how many treasures might be hidden inside his Life Tomb!

Hearing the word, Xiang Ziyu was about to take flight when his gaze fell upon Cao Zhen. Frowning, he said, "Master, if I go, what will happen to you? If I retrieve the treasures from the Life Tomb and others see me, there's no doubt they'll attack me."

"I can handle myself, but the problem is, in your current state, I fear even the residual shockwaves might be enough to take you out. Unless... we hide you first."

"Yes, that's a good idea! Master, you've cultivated the Eight Nine Mysterious Art, haven't you? That technique doesn't just disguise your aura; it can also hide your presence entirely."

Suddenly, Xiang Ziyu's face lit up with excitement as he exclaimed, "Master, I have it—pretend to be dead! No one's going to bother collecting bodies—not here, anyway. But Master, you have to stay perfectly still. Also, make sure your face is pressed against the ground; that way, no one will recognize you."

"Oh, and another thing, Master—you should be farther away. Too close to the area, and with everything around here being reduced to scattered remains, anyone who sees your intact corpse will immediately realize something's off!"

Without waiting for Cao Zhen's agreement, Xiang Ziyu grabbed him and threw him toward the distance.

Cao Zhen's body was enveloped in a layer of protective energy as he hurtled through the air. But in the moment his face slammed into the ground, he still felt a stinging pain spread across his skin.

Chapter 1367:

As the ground around him suddenly erupted, chunks of soil soared into the air, burying him completely.

"Perfect!"

Xiang Ziyu glanced at his master's 'corpse,' now fully buried, then swiftly descended into the massive burial ground below.

Cao Zhen, now entirely covered by dirt, found it incredibly difficult to breathe. He even began to suspect that before anyone could discover him, he might suffocate to death under the soil.

Face down and completely buried, he was unable to see what was happening outside. All he could hear were the sounds of something cutting through the air and the startled exclamations of the surrounding cultivators.

"This... the entire mountain has utterly exploded!"

"The burial ground! This whole area is the Praying Heaven Sect Hierarch's burial ground!"

"Quick, enter the burial ground! That's the tomb of a True Immortal!"

Hearing the voices of the crowd above, Cao Zhen's heart surged with anticipation. Previously, he had never imagined that the Praying Heaven Sect Hierarch could be a True Immortal.

Among those he knew, the Golden Light Sage was a True Immortal.

Moreover, when Bi Yue had introduced Mandarin Duck Island to him, it was explicitly noted that the island's founders were a pair of Daoist companions who were True Immortals.

A True Immortal—such an existence was terrifying beyond measure, standing above the Immortality Regainment Realm!

In the Eastern Wasteland, there might not even be a single cultivator in the Immortality Regainment Realm. If there were, it would only be the Grand Preceptor alone.

He had always heard others say that the Praying Heaven Sect had fallen into decline, that it was exceedingly weak. He himself thought so as well. Yet it turned out the sect harbored a True Immortal-level figure!

The burial ground of a True Immortal—what kind of heaven-defying treasures could it contain?!

But in his current state, he had no means of vying for the treasures. He could only hope that Xiang Ziyu would successfully seize them. Yet even if Xiang Ziyu obtained the treasures, he would face unimaginable danger afterward.

After all, this was the burial ground of a Guardian Immortal. If others saw Xiang Ziyu emerging from it, how could they not attack him?

Before long, he heard exclamations from outside!

"It's Xiang Ziyu! He's emptied the burial ground of the Praying Heaven Sect Hierarch!"

"Quick! Don't let him escape!"

The moment the experts who had just entered the burial ground saw a figure preparing to leave with all the treasures inside, they immediately took action.

There was no need for verbal confirmation. Everyone tacitly unleashed their Divine Skills, launching attacks at Xiang Ziyu.

When the Praying Heaven Sect Hierarch burst forth, the Formation within the burial ground had been nearly destroyed. Those who had been able to enter first were mostly individuals at the peak of the Golden Core Period, or those near that level. The Divine Skills they unleashed were shockingly powerful. In an instant, the entire burial ground erupted in chaos, sending Xiang Ziyu flying out from the ruins.

Even though his physical body and mana had both reached the peak of the Golden Core Period, his body was now a mangled, bloodied mess.

Hovering mid-air, he showed no intention of fleeing. Glaring arrogantly at the cultivators who had just attacked him, he said, "Escape? I, Xiang Ziyu, am the protagonist. I don't know the meaning of 'escape.' If it's a fight you want, then come at me."

As he spoke, a terrifying fighting spirit erupted from his back, soaring into the sky. The aura of this fighting intent seemed almost tangible.

All around, the onlookers were momentarily stunned by his fighting spirit. Was this man insane? Indeed, he was immensely strong, his physical body and mana having reached the absolute peak of the Golden

Core Period. None in the Eastern Province could rival his level; Xiang Ziyu was undoubtedly the number one cultivator of the region.

But even so, he was a man carrying treasures for which others would kill.

This was the burial ground of a True Immortal. There was no way anyone would allow him to walk away with the spoils unchallenged. Even if he were invincible on his own, under the combined assault of everyone present, he would perish. Yet, he chose battle over escape!

"Everyone, together! Kill him first!" Perhaps the earlier high death tolls had thinned out the peak Golden Core cultivators. Of them, only three remained on the mountainside alongside Xiang Ziyu. From these three, the closest female cultivator coldly spoke, her mana surging furiously as she prepared to make a move.

At that moment, a voice rang out from behind, "Whoever dares strike will become an enemy of the Cloud Reaching Sect! Elder Xiang is a member of our sect!"

Elder Blue arrived with reinforcements from the Cloud Reaching Sect after dividing the spoils from their earlier pursuit of the treasure hoards.

As she observed Xiang Ziyu, who showed not the slightest trace of fear even when surrounded by enemies, a glimmer of admiration flashed through her eyes. Truly, this was someone worthy of ascending the Rainbow Stairs of their Cloud Reaching Sect.

This kind of bravery was extraordinary. Not even the temporary Sect Hierarch of the Cloud Reaching Sect could compare!

Moreover, she became even more certain now—Xiang Ziyu was a man of great destiny.

Many had reached the peak of the Golden Core Period. Xiang Ziyu's own master, Cao Zhen, had attained the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills and reached the same peak. Cao Zhen had joined the Cloud Reaching Sect once too, but he never dared challenge the Transcending Array.

Why was it that among all the Golden Core peak cultivators, only Xiang Ziyu had ascended the Rainbow Stairs and comprehended the Cloud Reaching Sect's grand truths?

Because Xiang Ziyu was a man of great destiny.

Moreover, when so many surrounded the Praying Heaven Sect, its temporary hierarch, the Swallowing Heaven Demon, had fled with a treasure hoard's worth of resources. And who else but Xiang Ziyu ultimately captured the Swallowing Heaven Demon and obtained those resources?

And now, it was Xiang Ziyu who had acquired the treasures within the burial ground of the Praying Heaven Sect Hierarch.

Chapter 1368:

All of this proves that Xiang Ziyu is a man of great destiny!

With exceptional talent and immense fortune, Xiang Ziyu is destined to rise to incredibly high heights.

Xiang Ziyu is an Honorary Elder of the Cloud Reaching Sect. The stronger Xiang Ziyu becomes, the greater the benefit he brings to the Cloud Reaching Sect!

Everyone had already heard about Xiang Ziyu ascending the Rainbow Stairway of the Cloud Reaching Sect to become their Honorary Elder. Now, seeing Elder Blue stepping forward to protect Xiang Ziyu, no one was too surprised. Yet, they still did not retreat.

"Cloud Reaching Sect, you may be a great sect, but does that mean we are not? Do you truly think your Cloud Reaching Sect alone can protect him?"

"If the Cloud Reaching Sect is not enough, then perhaps adding our Dragon Chant Sect will suffice?"

Suddenly, an elegant voice echoed from the distance. Immortal Bi Yue arrived with the disciples of the Dragon Chant Sect. After fighting over the treasure vault, they rushed over to the scene. At the same time, they came alongside the Yin Yang Sect, who had temporarily allied themselves with the Dragon Chant Sect.

Jiu Yin gazed at Xiang Ziyu, who stood proudly between Heaven and Earth. She stared at Xiang Ziyu's handsome face and felt the surge of battle intent emanating from him. Involuntarily, a trace of infatuation flickered across her face.

Previously, she had heard Xiang Ziyu refer to himself as the protagonist so many times, spouting claims of what it meant to be the protagonist. She used to wonder if Xiang Ziyu was a little delusional.

But now, she realized Xiang Ziyu wasn't wrong at all.

Why was it that amidst so many people, it was Xiang Ziyu who obtained the treasure buried in the sect hierarch's tomb of the Heaven Prayers Sect? It was precisely because Xiang Ziyu was a man of great destiny. Xiang Ziyu truly is the genuine protagonist!

Upon hearing Immortal Bi Yue's declaration, Jiu Yin immediately shouted, "And us of the Yin Yang Sect as well!"

The Cloud Reaching Sect was indeed a strong great sect, but compared to the Dragon Chant Sect and the Yin Yang Sect, they still fell short. At this moment, seeing the Dragon Chant Sect and the Yin Yang Sect stepping forward to shield Xiang Ziyu, the crowd grew silent one by one.

Suddenly, the female cultivator who had spoken earlier looked at Jiu Yin with a peculiar expression and said, "It's not strange for Immortal Bi Yue to represent the Dragon Chant Sect. After all, as everyone knows, though Immortal Bi Yue isn't the hierarch of the Dragon Chant Sect, her authority within the sect surpasses even that of the current hierarch.

Immortal Bi Yue representing the Dragon Chant Sect is not surprising at all. But Jiu Yin, can you truly represent the Yin Yang Sect? You're not the hierarch of the Yin Yang Sect during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth.

Moreover, even if you were the temporary hierarch of the Yin Yang Sect, it's unlikely you'd have the sole authority to command so many disciples to assist an outsider."

As her words landed, Jiu Yin's face immediately turned grim. The other party was right; she couldn't truly represent the Yin Yang Sect. Just now, upon hearing Immortal Bi Yue's declaration, she had acted impulsively in response.

Just as she felt a headache coming on, Thousand Kills' voice suddenly rang from the side.

"At this moment, Junior Sister Jiu Yin is fully capable of representing our Yin Yang Sect. Besides, now that our Yin Yang Sect and the Dragon Chant Sect are allies, if the Dragon Chant Sect intends to support Xiang Ziyu, naturally we will support him as well."

Hearing this, Jiu Yin's face revealed a visible expression of surprise. Her gaze toward Thousand Kills was filled with gratitude.

Thousand Kills solemnly stared into the opposing direction but quietly transmitted his voice to Jiu Yin, saying, "Junior Sister, don't think too much into this. This time, it's because of you that our Yin Yang Sect was able to dispatch so many experts and achieve this unexpected alliance with the Dragon Chant Sect. We've gained much more than we anticipated due to you. This time, you've rendered great service for the Yin Yang Sect. Even if the hierarch were here, he would defend you to the fullest.

Moreover..."

Thousand Kills paused briefly, his secret transmission growing sharper with an undeniable pride. "Junior Sister, what are you worried about? You no longer wear the arrogance of someone who has just left the Yin Yang Sect.

We are disciples of the Yin Yang Sect. People always consider our opinions and heed our concerns. When have we ever had to worry about others?

If we wish to protect someone, so be it! Who would dare make a move? Who would dare challenge the Yin Yang Sect?!"

At the side, Immortal Bi Yue said nothing, her gaze icy cold as she stared at the female cultivator who had spoken. Beside Bi Yue, Yu Long radiated killing intent and stared at the woman sharply, speaking,

"Peony, your attempts to sow discord are embarrassingly low. Do you think you can provoke discord among the Dragon Chant Sect's disciples? You Hundred Flowers Sect..."

Before Yu Long could finish, Immortal Bi Yue shattered his words with a simple wave of her hand and coolly turned to Peony, saying, "When you return, tell your hierarch that our Dragon Chant Sect will visit you soon."

As her words fell, Peony's face immediately showed a look of terror. Why had she been so foolish to provoke Immortal Bi Yue just now?

Now that Immortal Bi Yue had explicitly stated her sect's intent to visit the Hundred Flowers Sect, there was no question about it; it was bound to be trouble. And given that her declaration was made in front of such a large crowd, the Dragon Chant Sect would undoubtedly follow through.

Compared to the Dragon Chant Sect, the Hundred Flowers Sect was far inferior.

This time, trouble had certainly come.

Now, three great sects had openly declared their intent to defend Xiang Ziyu, including the Dragon Chant Sect and the Yin Yang Sect, two top-tier sects. It was clear no one dared to act rashly. To strike now would mean offending three great sects all at once.

"As for the Dragon Chant Sect, Yin Yang Sect, and Cloud Reaching Sect, we must show them respect. Let's go."

Chapter 1369:

"Let's go, into the other burial mounds!"

The members of the Great Teachings who had been prepared to act earlier suddenly turned around and flew toward the other burial mounds. Although Xiang Ziyu had taken all the treasures from the burial mound of the Heaven Prayers Sect Hierarch, there were still other burial mounds here.

Watching the others move, Xiang Ziyu naturally followed suit, flying toward one of the burial mounds. Mid-flight, he heard Immortal Bi Yue's voice transmitting directly to his mind.

"Where is your master?" Immortal Bi Yue was filled with confusion, wondering why Cao Zhen had not appeared.

"My master... My master is hiding not far away right now," Xiang Ziyu hastily replied, already plunging into one of the burial mounds.

Immortal Bi Yue grew even more baffled. Cao Zhen is hiding? Why would he hide?

Although puzzled, she couldn't afford to ask further questions at the moment, as she also needed to compete for the treasures within the burial mounds.

Previously, when everyone fought over the resources of the various treasure vaults, the battles were fierce. But now, during the contest over the burial mounds, direct physical clashes were not as frequent. After all, there were far more burial mounds than treasure vaults, and besides, the resources within the burial mounds couldn't compare to those inside the treasure vaults.

Of course, the burial mound of the Heaven Prayers Sect Hierarch might be an exception, but no one knew how many treasures were hidden there. Being cultivators at the Golden Core Stage, none of them had personally set up a burial mound like those experts did. They simply speculated that treasures in burial mounds belonging to the True Immortal Realm could be extraordinarily precious, but there was no way to determine just how valuable they might be.

Moreover, no matter how precious those treasures were, they could never compare to the Heaven Prayers Sect's greatest treasure vault, which housed the accumulation of 1.4 million years of history!

Xiang Ziyu quickly departed from the burial mound. Just as he was about to head into another one, a disciple of the Cloud Reaching Sect hurriedly reminded him, "Elder Xiang, all the burial mounds have already been excavated. At this point, unless you're ready to face someone directly in combat and snatch the treasures they've already taken, you won't gain anything."

So many burial mounds had already been looted?

Xiang Ziyu was momentarily stunned, but seeing the actions of the crowd around him, he quickly realized what was happening. No matter how many burial mounds there were, they couldn't outnumber the cultivators present here. Earlier, when the commotion broke out, the vast majority of cultivators—especially disciples from various Great Teachings—had rushed over.

He was only one person, but others operated in packs. While he could seize one burial mound at a time, a single Great Teaching might have taken five, six, or even as many as ten burial mounds in one swoop!

"If the treasures have already been taken, there's no point in going back." Xiang Ziyu quickly returned to the burial mound, dismantled its formations, and placed the remaining useful resources into his Qiankun Bag before leaving.

Outside the burial mound, Immortal Bi Yue saw Xiang Ziyu emerge and immediately asked, "What's going on with your master? Why is he hiding?"

Xiang Ziyu had no intention of withholding anything from Immortal Bi Yue and immediately transmitted his voice directly, "My master is injured. He was previously on the Burial Mound Mountain, where everyone else died; only my master survived. But my master is severely weakened, so I hid him away.

"I plan to dig him out once others leave..."

"What? Your master is injured? Where is he?" Immortal Bi Yue's urgency spiked upon hearing about Cao Zhen's injuries. She even forgot to transmit her voice discreetly and shouted directly, "He's injured, and instead of helping him heal, you hide him? Bring him here immediately!"

Immortal Bi Yue understood that hiding Cao Zhen was, under the circumstances, the wisest choice Xiang Ziyu could have made.

But now the situation had changed. She was present, and she wanted to see who would dare to touch her people.

Immortal Bi Yue's voice was loud, and she made no attempt to conceal her words. Everyone nearby clearly heard what she said, and instantly, their gazes turned toward Xiang Ziyu.

Hearing Immortal Bi Yue's anxious tone, Xiang Ziyu ceased hiding and immediately flew toward the spot where Cao Zhen was concealed, with Immortal Bi Yue following closely behind.

In the next moment, Xiang Ziyu struck the ground, causing clouds of dust to rise and revealing a figure lying there. His body was covered in blood, and his wounds were smeared with dirt.

Before Xiang Ziyu could take any further action, Immortal Bi Yue had already rushed forward, scooped Cao Zhen into her arms, and pulled out a bottle of pills, quickly feeding him two pills.

The surrounding cultivators looked at Immortal Bi Yue cradling the blood-drenched Cao Zhen in her arms, their expressions growing increasingly strange.

That Cao Zhen had sustained such severe injuries was shockingly evident. And to think that Cao Zhen had been lying underground not far from them all this time! Xiang Ziyu... he truly had nerves of steel. What if someone had discovered Cao Zhen earlier? Didn't he fear that someone might strike and kill Cao Zhen outright?

Furthermore, what if they'd found Cao Zhen and used him to threaten Xiang Ziyu? Could Xiang Ziyu have been forced to hand over all the treasures he'd acquired?

Unfortunately, it was too late now. Cao Zhen was already in Immortal Bi Yue's arms. Seeing how protective she was, anyone bold enough to harm Cao Zhen now would certainly face her wrath.

Cao Zhen, having been buried in dirt for so long, even had sand coating his eyelids, obscuring his vision slightly as he opened his eyes. Yet he could distinguish that he was being held in Immortal Bi Yue's arms.

Chapter 1370:

Soon after, a stream of clear water came rushing in—it was a disciple from the Dragon Chant Sect who employed Divine Skills to wash away the dust and blood on his body. Following that, a clean robe was draped over him. The robe even carried a faint fragrance, though the only downside was its size; it was a bit too small. Even as a loose outer garment, it fit him tightly.

All around him, despite the crowd having already divided the treasures found within the Grave of Life, they still hadn't dispersed.

"That commotion earlier—it was definitely the Heaven Prayers Sect's Hierarch self-destructing."

"I remember seeing Chang Yuanwu and a few other Golden Core Period Limit experts flying into this area earlier. But now, none of them can be seen. They're likely all dead, consumed in the Heaven Prayers Sect's Hierarch's self-destruction!"

"As terrifying as the Heaven Prayers Sect's Hierarch's self-destructive power is—being in the True Immortal Realm—it would be enough to overwhelm everything! Even with the Heavenly Dao intervening, anyone below the Earth Immortal Realm likely stood no chance of survival. Chang Yuanwu and the others must be dead by now!"

"Quick, search for their bodies!"

"Chang Yuanwu and the others were Golden Core Period Limit experts. Their Qiankun Bags are sure to contain an abundance of treasures!"

In an instant, the crowd moved feverishly, scattering to search among the corpses!

These individuals belonged to Great Teachings—under normal circumstances, they'd scoff at scouring through corpses. But this time was different. Chang Yuanwu and the others were Golden Core Period Limit experts.

By this calculation, they were beginning to realize that perhaps Cao Zhen was even more fearsome than they'd initially estimated. Cao Zhen's injuries must have been acquired earlier on this mountain.

Despite also being in the Golden Core Period Limit, while Chang Yuanwu and the others perished in the Heaven Prayers Sect's Hierarch's self-destruction, Cao Zhen miraculously survived. This alone proved that Cao Zhen's abilities surpassed those of Chang Yuanwu and the others—his methods were also far more refined.

They even felt that Cao Zhen's sheer survival was nothing short of a miracle.

Watching the crowd, Xiang Ziyu listened to their chatter. Without delay, he too started searching among the bodies—his master was already taken care of.

The sheer number of people present worked to his disadvantage. Xiang Ziyu managed to check two corpses but quickly discovered that nearly all the bodies and their accompanying Qiankun Bags had already been claimed by others. Still, some gazes turned oddly toward Xiang Ziyu.

"That corpse just now—that must have been Chang Yuanwu's!"

"Xiang Ziyu took Chang Yuanwu's Qiankun Bag!"

"It's him again!"

"Out of all the corpses here, why is it that only Chang Yuanwu's Qiankun Bag ended up in Xiang Ziyu's hands?"

"And that other corpse—that should have been Xu Derong's, another Golden Core Period Limit expert!"

"To think both corpses Xiang Ziyu searched ended up being Golden Core Period Limit experts!"

"What kind of luck is this?"

Everyone was certain: during the Heaven Prayers Sect's Hierarch's self-destruction, Xiang Ziyu was definitely not present. Otherwise, even if his physical body allowed him to reach the Golden Core Period Limit, he might have survived but would certainly have been gravely wounded—far from the combat prowess he now displayed.

Thus, it became clear: Xiang Ziyu had no idea whose bodies he'd been searching. He was simply outrageously lucky!

"What kind of luck is this?"

"This is like luck that defies the heavens!"

"Xiang Ziyu alone snatched the treasures from the Heaven Prayers Sect Hierarch's Grave of Life and grabbed two Golden Core Period Limit treasures!"

"And we still don't know what else Xiang Ziyu might have gained—what other fortunes he may have uncovered before this."

"Earlier, I saw Xiang Ziyu flying into the Abandoned Treasure House. It seems all the broken treasures from the Heaven Prayers Sect were taken by him."

"Even if they were discarded treasures, individually, they may not seem very valuable. But when combined, their worth can't be underestimated."

"Let's not forget: Xiang Ziyu also claimed the Qiankun Bag from the Swallowing Heaven Demon, who had emptied the smallest treasure house of the Heaven Prayers Sect!"

"For one person to acquire so much—unbelievable!"

"It feels like Xiang Ziyu's haul alone might even surpass that of some Great Teachings!"

Gradually, numerous individuals started eyeing Xiang Ziyu with reddened gazes.

Immortal Bi Yue noticed there wasn't much left of value and turned to Jiu Yin, cradling Cao Zhen in her arms as she said, "Jiu Yin, we should leave."

While it was true the Heaven Prayers Sect might still conceal a few treasures in some hidden areas or among the dead, such resources wouldn't likely amount to much. She already deemed this venture's gains worthwhile—especially for the Dragon Chant Sect—and most pressing was Cao Zhen's injuries. Her priority now was to return promptly to the Dragon Chant Sect.

Jiu Yin nodded lightly and replied, "Alright, we're preparing to leave as well."

With that, she turned her gaze to Xiang Ziyu and extended an invitation: "Zi Yu, would you like to visit our Yin Yang Sect?"

"I need to tend to my master first. Once his injuries heal, I'll consider it," Xiang Ziyu replied hastily, waving his hands nervously. What kind of joke was this? If he went to the Yin Yang Sect and Jiu Yin forcibly initiated dual cultivation, what then?

While Xiang Ziyu held no interest in women—believing they'd hinder his sword-drawing speed—it didn't mean he was a eunuch!

If Jiu Yin tried to seduce him and he couldn't resist, what would happen then?

Disappointment flickered across Jiu Yin's face briefly. She understood, though, that with Cao Zhen's injury, Xiang Ziyu had to accompany him. Sighing inwardly, she spoke again: "Since that's the case, once Sect Leader Cao recovers, do come visit the Yin Yang Sect."

With that, she and the members of the Yin Yang Sect flew off toward the distance.