

My Master 1381

Chapter 1381:

Luo Zhen's eyes widened instantly, looking at Cao Zhen with a face full of shock. What Cao Zhen said was not wrong at all. He was mentioning the ingredients required for refining the Xuanmu Resurgence Pill, and if he continued, then...

Before Luo Zhen could speak, Wen Dan had already spoken up: "Alright, Sect Leader Cao, there's no need to continue. We already know you have the pill prescription for the Xuanmu Resurgence Pill."

It was a joke; if Cao Zhen continued, everyone would know the ingredients needed for the Xuanmu Resurgence Pill.

Though the pill prescription involves not just ingredients, but also the temperature and intensity of the flame and the method of pill decoction, the Xuanmu Resurgence Pill prescription is also circulated outside. However, the fewer people know even the ingredients for the Xuanmu Resurgence Pill, the better. If others learn the materials, they can experiment to figure out how to control the flame's temperature, and as for the pill decoction method, that can be further studied.

All around, the crowd, seeing the reactions of Luo Zhen and Wen Dan, immediately realized that what Cao Zhen mentioned earlier was indeed the ingredients needed for the Xuanmu Resurgence Pill.

Many people even began to silently recall the ingredients mentioned by Cao Zhen just now.

Although they were disciples of the Dragon Chant Sect and the Holy Pill Sect, they didn't know the prescription for the Xuanmu Resurgence Pill either.

Unfortunately, Cao Zhen had only said half before being interrupted.

Cao Zhen shrugged lightly, looking a bit regretful, and said: "Well, I was going to explain the pill decoction method as well. What I just mentioned was the ingredients for the Xuanmu Resurgence Pill, wasn't it? And earlier you mentioned something else, the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill, yes? The Void Spirit Replenishment Pill indeed requires many ingredients, but it's not as valuable as you made it out to be. The Void Spirit Replenishment Pill requires a total of 144 ingredients, most of which are spirit grasses, like a stalk of Hui Kui grass, two stalks of Yuan Ti flowers..."

Cao Zhen once again opened his mouth and directly stated the ingredients needed to refine the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill.

Luo Zhen's eyes widened once more, filled with incredulity as he looked at Cao Zhen. Cao Zhen had indeed gotten it right again, as what he described were the ingredients needed for the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill, and the quantities were all correct. No, they couldn't let Cao Zhen continue.

"Alright, alright, Peak Master Cao, you're not wrong. Please stop." Luo Zhen was truly anxious. For the Xuanmu Resurgence Pill, knowing the prescription wasn't the most important, but the pill decoction method actually wasn't that significant either, yet the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill was different.

The most precious part of the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill is the pill prescription!

Cao Zhen, with an indifferent face, shook his head and continued: "And the Qiankun Transformation Pill, wasn't it? Actually, the Qiankun Transformation Pill requires the fewest ingredients, just 36 types of ingredients, among which..."

Before he could speak, Luo Zhen and Wen Dan both exclaimed: "Enough, Sect Leader Cao, please don't continue."

They were genuinely frightened.

Meanwhile, the hearts of both were filled with suspicion and incredulity. They knew Cao Zhen was a reincarnated great ability, so it was normal for a reincarnated great ability to know much, and it was even understandable if Cao Zhen knew the prescription of a certain pill. After all, he was a reincarnated great ability.

But the problem was Cao Zhen knew the prescriptions for all three of these pills. Even though Cao Zhen had only spoken of the ingredients needed to refine these pills, they had no doubt that Cao Zhen possessed the complete prescriptions.

All around, the crowd from the Dragon Chant Sect and the Holy Pill Sect gazed blankly at Cao Zhen. Everyone here was almost adept at alchemy, yet even they didn't know the prescriptions for these three

pills. Some of them only knew of the existence of one or even two of these pills, and some hadn't even heard the names of these pills, yet Cao Zhen possessed these three prescriptions.

Bi Yue was also momentarily stunned. She suddenly remembered that before, Ling Xi had told her that Cao Zhen was very good at alchemy, but she had never seen Cao Zhen perform alchemy before, and she had always thought that although Ling Xi's cultivation base was high, reaching the Golden Core Period Limit, Ling Xi had previously been in the Eastern Wasteland, with limited knowledge. What Ling Xi thought constituted good alchemy might differ from her perspective.

But now it seemed that things were completely different from what she had thought before.

Cao Zhen might truly be extremely adept at alchemy.

Wen Dan looked at Cao Zhen and suddenly asked, "I've heard that Sect Leader Cao is a reincarnated great ability, and now it seems in your previous life, Sect Leader Cao, you were an alchemy master?"

"Just so-so." Cao Zhen modestly replied, "I understand a thing or two, at least I can refine the pills you mentioned. Moreover, there's no need for so much fuss, also supplementing it with acupuncture, and then having to refine another pill to neutralize the properties of these three pills."

"Not neutralize the properties?" Upon hearing this, Luo Zhen's brows furrowed upwards, unwillingly asking, "Taking different pills at the same time, some might not affect each other, but the properties of these three pills would definitely be affected. And now you're telling me there's no need for neutralization? Tell me, how do you make the properties of these three pills not conflict with each other without neutralizing?"

Cao Zhen looked at Luo Zhen with an expression suggesting the other's ignorance, saying, "It's quite simple, just directly merge these three pills into one."

"Merge three pills into one?" Luo Zhen burst into laughter, "I almost believed you earlier, thinking that you were an alchemy master in your previous life, but it seems you don't understand alchemy at all! You don't even know the most basic common sense of alchemy; how could three different pills be merged into one? Are you trying to poison yourself?"

Chapter 1382:

"Moreover, the pills have already formed. How can they be refined into a single pill again? I fear you might not even know from where you obtained the prescriptions for these three pills, don't you?"

Nearby, Wen Dan also shook his head lightly. Cao Zhen's claim was indeed too far-fetched.

All around, disciples from Dragon Chant Sect and Holy Pill Sect who overheard also began shaking their heads in succession.

"This is simply nonsense!"

"Exactly, even apprentices just learning alchemy know that once a pill is fully formed, it cannot be refined further!"

"Refining several different pills into one? This is absolutely the epitome of absurdity!"

As Cao Zhen listened to the scoffing laughter brimming with mockery all around him, a thought suddenly struck him. He looked straight at Luo Zhen and said, "You don't believe me, do you? Then what if I manage to fuse three kinds of pills into one? Why not make a bet? Didn't you covet three of my treasures? If I fail, I'll give you three treasures. However, if I succeed, then you'll lose three treasures to me. How about it? Do you dare?"

"Three treasures..." Luo Zhen's face suddenly grew solemn. His instinct was to agree to Cao Zhen's wager immediately, but the words stalled on his tongue as he sensed something wasn't quite right.

If Cao Zhen wasn't confident, would he dare to propose such a bet outright? Those were three treasures! Treasures are entirely different from Divine Weapons. Even among the Earth Immortal Realm cultivators, not everyone possesses treasures.

Think about it—a cultivator who achieves the Earth Immortal Realm likely already has excellent talent, yet still might lack any treasure at all. This alone underscores how precious treasures truly are.

Cao Zhen wouldn't just give away three treasures for nothing, would he?

But the problem was, the claim Cao Zhen was making sounded utterly ridiculous and preposterous.

Luo Zhen didn't respond to Cao Zhen immediately. Instead, he secretly transmitted a message to Wen Dan: "Brother Wen Dan, you're from the Holy Pill Sect, where there's abundant documentation on pills. Have you ever heard of the method Cao Zhen described—fusing three pills into one?"

Wen Dan didn't even pause before transmitting back: "I've never heard anything like that."

When Luo Zhen heard Wen Dan's swift and confident reply, he became even more uneasy and asked again, "Brother Wen Dan, please think carefully. Are you certain you've never heard of such rumors or seen records of this kind? This involves three treasures!"

He was merely at the Golden Core Stage. Under normal circumstances, three treasures would be beyond his reach. However, as an Alchemy Master, he often refined pills for others, and naturally, he wouldn't do it for free. He charged a fee.

Furthermore, the Luo Family had both Earth Immortal and Immortality Regainment Realm cultivators among them. Luo Zhen himself might not have three treasures, but the Luo Family certainly did.

Because within the Luo Family, not only he was active—other family members were as well—and their elder predecessors who remained in slumber hadn't yet deposited all their accumulated treasures into the ancestral tombs. Presently, there were treasures still stored within the Luo Family's vault.

Right now, as the Family Head during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, Luo Zhen had acquired two treasures over the years and could easily borrow one more from the family to meet the wager's terms.

Wen Dan, sensing Luo Zhen's doubtfulness, quickly transmitted back: "Brother Luo, such an outrageous claim—if I'd ever heard of it, I'd definitely remember. I can guarantee that I've never encountered such rumors."

He paused briefly before continuing: "If Brother Luo is still uneasy, I could contribute one treasure on your behalf. Even two treasures, if needed."

However, when you win, remember to return my share to me."

Upon hearing Wen Dan's intent to join the wager, Luo Zhen burst out laughing: "Much appreciated, Brother Wen Dan, but I'm perfectly capable of providing three treasures myself."

If Wen Dan spoke in such terms, it meant he was confident that Cao Zhen's claim was impossible. This was like free money—or rather, free treasures! A chance to grab treasures without risk!

Consider those who've reached the Golden Core Period Limit, such as Bi Yue, who must risk their lives, assisting others in surviving sect tribulations, merely to earn one treasure.

Or those who enter ancient ruins, braving countless dangers and competing with countless elites, ultimately fighting tooth and nail for a single treasure or perhaps two.

At this moment, Cao Zhen was offering three treasures on a silver platter. Why would Luo Zhen let anyone else claim a share of them?

Even if that 'anyone' was his own brother, he wouldn't allow it!

Luo Zhen turned back to face Cao Zhen and said, "A bet? Why wouldn't I dare! However..."

As he spoke, a thought suddenly struck him, and he added, "We must agree beforehand that the newly refined pill must retain the medicinal effects of all three original pills after they are fused. Otherwise, simply forcing three pills to merge without maintaining their medicinal efficacy wouldn't count as success."

Luo Zhen's realization was sharp. Cao Zhen wouldn't just give away three treasures lightly, so perhaps Cao Zhen was attempting to manipulate the rules.

While speaking, Luo Zhen scrutinized Cao Zhen's face, hoping to glean some insight from his expression to validate his suspicions.

Upon hearing this, Cao Zhen couldn't help but sneer inwardly. This guy still wouldn't give up—he even wanted to set extra conditions. Forget three kinds; even ten types of pills fused together wouldn't be an issue for him. However...

If he agreed too quickly, would this guy back out of the bet?

Although Luo Zhen presented himself as an Alchemy Master, Cao Zhen increasingly saw him as nothing more than a shrewd opportunist. Opportunists were no upright scholars; reneging on agreements was par for the course.

Chapter 1383:

I must cooperate with him and put on a show.

Cao Zhen thought, deliberately showing a hesitant look on his face.

Luo Zhen kept his eyes on Cao Zhen's face and immediately noticed the change in Cao Zhen's expression. He felt very fortunate, thinking that Cao Zhen must have some special method to fuse the three pills, but it would be a forced fusion without any efficacy.

Fortunately, he was clever enough to think of this possibility on the spot. Still trying to deceive himself, but he has walked on more bridges than the roads Cao Zhen has walked...

This guy is still not speaking, perhaps he plans to back out, but those are three Treasures. I can't let Cao Zhen back out.

Seeing that Cao Zhen wasn't saying a word, Luo Zhen quickly spoke provocatively, "What, no words left? Could you truly think that way? If so, I can only say, you're unworthy of being an Alchemist, let alone a Sect Leader of a sect.

To forcefully fuse three pills without any therapeutic effect, that's just wasting precious ingredients. That's disrespecting the ingredients and disrespecting the identity of an Alchemist..."

Cao Zhen couldn't help but call him a good fellow. For Luo Zhen to make him agree, he was piling all the hats of righteousness onto him, even involving the Hundred Peaks Sect. This way, he couldn't refuse even if he wanted to...

"Don't drag my sect into this; bet! Why wouldn't I dare to bet!" Cao Zhen shouted loudly, as if compelled to agree due to the mention of the Hundred Peaks Sect, "But I have a requirement. I came to your Dragon Chant Sect without bringing alchemy materials, so you have to provide these materials!"

Anyway, it's like shearing wool; the more you shear, the better.

Luo Zhen seemed afraid of being refused, worried about Cao Zhen bringing up another issue or taking this opportunity to back out of the bet. He quickly agreed, "Alright, no problem. Whether successful or not, I'll provide these materials."

Cao Zhen was about to give him three Treasures for free, so what did these materials matter? How could these materials compare to the value of Treasures!

Fearing Cao Zhen might regret it later, Luo Zhen immediately said, "Okay, wait here, I'll go get the Treasures now. Also, those materials..."

Immortal Bi Yue immediately chimed in, "I can go to the Sect Hierarch to open the Dragon Chant Sect's treasure trove of materials, allowing you to pick what you need."

"Good, Nephew Bi Yue, tell the Sect Hierarch that all those materials are on me. I will compensate with equivalent materials later. You go to the material storehouse and wait for me."

After speaking, Luo Zhen turned and flew towards the distance, clearly to get the Treasures.

Immortal Bi Yue looked at Cao Zhen and said, "Let's go, we'll go to the material storehouse."

With that, she took off, flying into the distance, while transmitting her voice secretly to Cao Zhen who was flying alongside her, "What made you suddenly bet with Uncle Luo Zhen? You're betting three Treasures; are you confident?"

Cao Zhen, who had been cultivating for a while in the Sacred Spring, had recovered somewhat, able to fly through the air. While flying, he secretly transmitted his voice back to Immortal Bi Yue, "Of course I'm confident. I don't have the habit of giving away Treasures for nothing. But... if I win against someone from your Great Teaching, you won't be upset, right?"

"No, if he loses, that's his own issue. Actually, if you lost in the end, I wouldn't blame Uncle either, because the bet between the two of you is voluntary. Whoever loses, it's their own fault and can't blame anyone else.

Actually, Uncle isn't a bad person. He's just a bit greedy..."

Cao Zhen chuckled and shook his head, "That's not just a little greedy; three Treasures..."

"Yes, this time he was indeed a bit too greedy. Previously, he was greedy, but never to this extent."

Behind Cao Zhen, the others who had been in the hall also flew up, following them. How could they miss such excitement?

Although there were many disciples in the Dragon Chant Sect, it was rare for a situation where so many people flew in the same direction. When it happened, it must be something worth watching.

For a while, everyone followed along.

At the same time, they also noticed Immortal Bi Yue and Cao Zhen flying ahead.

"Hmm? Cao Zhen can fly now. When he first came to our Dragon Chant Sect, he even needed Sister Bi Yue's help to get off the flying boat."

"You didn't see where he's been. He entered the Sacred Spring as soon as he came to our Dragon Chant Sect. This is the fourth day, right? He recovered quickly. You can only commend the Sacred Spring's wonders!"

"But to what extent was he injured? He was at the Golden Core Period Limit before, yet the aura he emits now is the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill. I feel I could easily defeat him now."

"Don't just say you; I feel like I, with eight Golden Pills, could defeat him now."

"Don't you find it strange? Even if injured, shouldn't his aura be stronger? I even suspect whether he was truly at the Golden Core Period Limit when he was at the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill."

As he flew, Cao Zhen also felt his own weakness, not only due to his injuries but also because he no longer possessed the Heretical Golden Core.

This time, his losses were significant, and crafting a Heretical Golden Core would consume countless resources.

However, he didn't plan to craft a Heretical Golden Core now. Ideally, during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, he wouldn't need to, and perhaps even couldn't craft a Heretical Golden Core.

If he reached the Golden Core Period Limit without a Heretical Golden Core, he naturally wouldn't craft one again!

Chapter 1384: The Heretical Golden Core's True Limit

Cao Zhen was able to reach the Golden Core Period Limit with the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill largely because of the Heretical Golden Core.

However, crafting a Heretical Golden Core requires not only a vast amount of resources but also an extraordinarily close connection to oneself. Thus, when he previously considered how to lower his cultivation base, how to circulate the Eight Nine Mysterious Art, and how to reach the physical Golden Core Period Limit, all he ever contemplated was self-destructing his Golden Cores—not destroying his Heretical Golden Core.

He felt that even if he were to self-detonate two, three, or even four Golden Cores, the impact still wouldn't compare to the devastating effects of detonating his Heretical Golden Core.

Now that his Heretical Golden Core has been destroyed, he no longer needs to self-detonate his Golden Cores. Once his injuries are healed, he can cultivate the power of chaos and reach the Golden Core Period Limit without the Heretical Golden Core.

Actually, in the past, he hadn't truly achieved the Golden Core Period Limit. Without the Heretical Golden Core, achieving the limit would be the genuine Golden Core Period Limit.

Dragon Chant Sect is indeed vast. Even traveling alongside Immortal Bi Yue, they flew for about the time it takes to burn a stick of incense before stopping in front of a towering mountain.

On this mountain, numerous treasure vaults have been built. Not only are there guards stationed around the mountain, but each individual vault entrance is also guarded by sentries.

Apparently, this mountain forbids entry to outsiders. Though the group trailing them grew larger and larger, they stopped at the foot of the mountain without ascending. Only Cao Zhen and Immortal Bi Yue landed upon the mountain.

Immortal Bi Yue led Cao Zhen to the front of the smallest vault in sight.

Before she could speak, a guard at the vault stepped forward, cupped his hands toward Immortal Bi Yue, and said, "Senior Sister Bi Yue, may I ask the purpose of your visit to the vault? And the person accompanying you... Is he Cao Zhen from the Hundred Peaks Sect? You are aware of the rules of our Dragon Chant Sect, Senior Sister. Outsiders are not permitted to ascend this mountain; he..."

When Cao Zhen arrived at Dragon Chant Sect that day, many came to see what the commotion was about, eager for a glimpse of him. However, these guards were tasked with protecting the treasure vault and weren't among the crowd.

Although treasure vault guards rotate shifts, usually every month, this specific guard hadn't met Cao Zhen before. He simply guessed that this was Cao Zhen, who was accompanying Immortal Bi Yue but not wearing the sect's attire.

If Cao Zhen had ventured here on his own or followed someone else, the guard would have immediately driven him off.

Immortal Bi Yue pointed to the vault and said, "I naturally understand the rules of Dragon Chant Sect. But I brought him here so he could select treasures from the vault. Shortly, other elders will arrive to open it."

On hearing this, the guard said no more and stepped aside.

Soon, several figures flew through the void. Among them was the current Sect Hierarch of Dragon Chant Sect, Zhang Zirong.

Zhang Zirong was already informed of Cao Zhen's gamble with Luo Zhen. He did not oppose unlocking the vault for the pair. After all, it was just the sect's smallest herb vault. Given Wen Dan's identity and purpose, they had often unlocked this vault before for Luo Zhen to craft or study pills.

He was merely puzzled as to why Cao Zhen would challenge Luo Zhen to such a gamble.

Accompanying Zhang Zirong were two Dragon Chant Sect elders.

Even though Zhang Zirong was the Sect Hierarch, and this was merely the smallest herb vault, he could not unlock the vault alone. At least three elders were required to open it.

Moreover, if Zhang Zirong were absent, the vault could not be opened at all.

On the other hand, Immortal Bi Yue was an exception. Though not an elder, she held elder-level clearance.

After becoming interim Sect Hierarch, Zhang Zirong discovered a secret, one he had kept to himself until now. Apart from the well-known treasure vaults, Dragon Chant Sect also contained hidden treasure chambers.

These secret chambers could only be opened by a true Sect Hierarch.

The hidden treasure chambers were located in the rear mountains behind Dragon Chant Mountain, where the Sect Hierarch resided.

Though Zhang Zirong knew the location of these chambers, even with the combined strength of all the sect elders, they lacked the authority to open them. As an interim Sect Hierarch, he wasn't considered a true Sect Hierarch. Of course, during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, someone exerting Golden Core Period Limit power might forcibly open the chambers. But breaking in would trigger the chambers' formations and draw tremendous attention.

Thus, the hidden treasure chambers remained unguarded yet inaccessible unless the sect itself were conquered.

During the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, Zhang Zirong was convinced the chambers were impenetrable. After all, no one possessed the authority to open them.

And yet, he accidentally discovered that Immortal Bi Yue had opened one of the chambers.

It was pure coincidence. He normally wouldn't venture into that area, but a rare bird happened to fly there. The bird was one he had seen mentioned in some records before. Curious, he attempted to capture it, but he never succeeded.

However, Zhang Zirong did notice that the bird consistently flew around that specific location.

Chapter 1385:

So, he found a concealed spot to hide himself, suppressing his aura as well. However, he didn't encounter the peculiar bird but instead ended up seeing Bi Yue.

The location of the Treasure Chamber was not a place ordinary disciples could access. By logic, even Bi Yue shouldn't have the credentials to climb that mountain. Yet, Bi Yue had always been pampered in the Dragon Chant Sect, and no one bothered to question her.

But then, what followed completely shocked him. His niece directly unlocked one of the Treasure Chambers.

That was a Treasure Chamber that even he, alongside the Dragon Chant Sect's elders, didn't have the privilege to open. Why could Bi Yue open it? Did Bi Yue secretly steal the key to the Treasure Chamber?

That was unlikely, as the key to the Treasure Chamber had always been in the possession of the Sect Hierarch.

Bi Yue definitely didn't have the capability to steal from the Sect Hierarch.

Moreover, what astonished him further was that after rushing into the Treasure Chamber, Bi Yue soon emerged, only to open another Treasure Chamber.

And then, Bi Yue left the second Treasure Chamber and entered a third one.

The impression he got was that Bi Yue was searching for some particular item in the Treasure Chambers. It seemed she didn't know exactly which Treasure Chamber contained it, so she was entering them one by one to search.

That night, he witnessed Bi Yue opening four Treasure Chambers!

Those were the Dragon Chant Sect's secret Treasure Chambers, meant to be opened only by the Sect Hierarch before the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth. Why could Bi Yue open them?

Was it because the Sect Hierarch favored Bi Yue so greatly that he gave her the keys?

That possibility struck him as extremely unlikely.

After considering the matter for a long time, he came up with two possible explanations.

The first was that the Sect Hierarch trusted Bi Yue more than he trusted him. Perhaps the Sect Hierarch granted Bi Yue authorization to use the Treasure Chamber's resources under certain circumstances.

Based on Bi Yue's unfamiliarity with the Treasure Chambers, her actions strongly suggested it was her first time accessing them. However, he had no clue what Bi Yue was searching for, and during that time, no major events were happening in the Dragon Chant Sect.

The second possibility was that the Sect Hierarch had already started grooming Bi Yue as the next Sect Hierarch of the Dragon Chant Sect. Yet, for some unknown reason, he hadn't made Bi Yue the interim Sect Hierarch.

Perhaps Bi Yue enjoyed venturing out and exploring. If she were made the interim Sect Hierarch, she wouldn't have the freedom to roam freely. Thus, the Sect Hierarch chose him as the interim leader instead.

Regardless of the reason, one thing had become clear to him: although he was currently the interim Sect Hierarch, Bi Yue's authority within the Dragon Chant Sect was unquestionably higher than his.

Any place he could go, Bi Yue could access as well.

Places he couldn't enter—like the Dragon Pool at the Holy Mountain or the Sect Hierarch's Treasure Chamber—Bi Yue could still enter.

However, this was a matter he chose not to make public. Moreover, Bi Yue was his niece, a member of their family. If Bi Yue ascended as Sect Hierarch in the future, it would benefit their family and the entire Great Teaching.

The group landed in front of the treasury. Shortly after, Luo Zhen returned, carrying three Treasures.

Among the three Treasures was a long halberd, a copper mirror, and a whip. All three Treasures were of Mortal Rank, classified as Common Low Grade Treasures.

Cao Zhen wasn't surprised. The opposing party had only promised to bring out three Treasures without specifying their grade or quality. Even knowing they would win, they opted for the lowest-grade Treasures.

Cao Zhen also brought out three Treasures—items he had previously retrieved from the burial grounds of dormant Earth Immortals during his time at the Heaven Prayers Sect.

Both sides handed over their respective Treasures to Zhang Zirong for safekeeping.

Subsequently, Zhang Zirong and two other elders opened the treasury and stepped inside. Cao Zhen and Luo Zhen, under the supervision of the crowd, began collecting the herbs they required.

While gathering herbs, Cao Zhen glanced at Luo Zhen, who was beside him, and asked, "Wait, why are you even collecting herbs? We only agreed to see if I could refine pills; nobody said anything about you making pills."

Luo Zhen was momentarily stunned. Cao Zhen was right—why was he collecting herbs to refine pills?

Cao Zhen might be planning to forcefully refine three types of pills into one useless pill, with no medicinal effects. If that were the case, Cao Zhen would likely succeed in refining those three pills. Even if he failed afterward, he could still manage to refine the shorter-pill types.

Then what exactly was the point of him refining these pills too?

"I just want to refine some pills. What's it to you?" Luo Zhen shot a glance at Cao Zhen, his expression oddly prideful despite his rugged, bald-headed appearance. It was almost comically contradictory, though he wasn't about to admit that he'd forgotten he didn't need to refine pills.

That said, he didn't need to gather too many herbs—just the materials for the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill. It was a relatively popular concoction that would sell well once refined.

Soon, both Cao Zhen and Luo Zhen left the treasury with the herbs they had collected.

Of course, they couldn't refine pills there in the treasury; they headed instead to the Fire Dragon Pill Land.

Cao Zhen realized something by then—many of the places in the Dragon Chant Sect seemed to have ties to dragons. The Fire Dragon Pill Land bore a resemblance to the Hundred Peaks Sect's Five-Element Pill Ground, except this place was far larger in scale.

Chapter 1386:

He discovered that disciples from the Great Teachings, sect disciples, and even ordinary mortals were all the same—they loved to watch a spectacle.

After learning about his gamble with Luo Zhen over three treasures, every single disciple of the Dragon Chant Sect decided to follow him, whether they understood alchemy or not, just to watch the drama unfold.

He simply couldn't understand it. This wasn't a duel—what was so interesting about alchemy?

The pill furnaces inside the Fire Dragon Pill Land were indeed far more numerous than the ones in the Five-Element Pill Ground.

Cao Zhen swept his gaze across them, quickly focusing on three particular pill furnaces.

Behind him, the nine abnormal phenomenon golden pills materialized. Compared to usual, their glow had dimmed significantly. One of the golden pills shone faintly for a brief moment, and three clusters of flames shot out from it, falling separately into the three furnaces, igniting them simultaneously.

The crowd was instantly dumbfounded.

"He lit three furnaces?"

"What's he trying to do?"

"Does he just want to see which furnace suits him better?"

Very quickly, however, they realized they were entirely mistaken.

After the flames in the furnaces reached a certain temperature, Cao Zhen immediately took out medicinal ingredients and threw them into the three furnaces respectively.

"What's going on?"

"Wasn't he supposed to pick one furnace? Why is he throwing ingredients into all three of them?"

"Wait, what is he trying to do? Does he intend to simultaneously refine pills in all three furnaces?"

"Three furnaces of pills? He couldn't refine a single batch successfully! Look at how he's throwing the ingredients—he didn't even measure their weight! The weight of each ingredient must be precisely measured, even the slightest discrepancy would completely alter the outcome."

"How could anyone multitask and simultaneously refine pills in three furnaces? Unless it's the most basic and low-level pills, but those three pills are undoubtedly top-tier!"

"This is nothing but a waste of ingredients!"

The crowd, upon witnessing Cao Zhen's actions, began shouting loudly, their voices full of indignation.

These ingredients belonged to their Dragon Chant Sect!

When they thought about how Cao Zhen would soon fail at alchemy and lose three treasures to Luo Zhen, their moods lightened a little.

Seeing Cao Zhen's actions, Luo Zhen's face immediately showed dissatisfaction. After all, he had provided these ingredients. For Cao Zhen to refine pills in such a reckless manner—it was practically a waste of his ingredients. He...

Actually, maybe not. Cao Zhen had made such a mess already. Forget about merging the three types of pills—Cao Zhen wouldn't even successfully refine a single batch. Cao Zhen was bound to lose. If he lost, those three treasures would be his. That would be a good thing!

Thinking this way, Luo Zhen suddenly felt much better. He took out his own pill furnace, happily igniting the flame to begin refining pills. He now felt that his earlier thoughts had been completely unnecessary.

Looking at Cao Zhen's current actions, how could he resemble an alchemy master at all? He didn't even have his own pill furnace and had to rely on the Dragon Chant Sect's furnaces. Not only that, he lit three furnaces at once! Although his fire-starting technique looked fairly skilled, the way he threw in ingredients was completely random. If Cao Zhen could actually refine pills this way, Luo Zhen swore he'd swallow all three furnaces!

Cao Zhen paid no attention to the jeering from the crowd as he swiftly tossed ingredient after ingredient into the three furnaces.

To be honest, refining these three types of pills simultaneously would have been fine if he were at his peak condition. However, given his current physical state, it was undeniably exhausting. Especially since one of the pills, the Heaven and Earth Transformation Pill, demanded extremely precise flame control and constant adjustments to the temperature of the flames—truly a tedious task. Meanwhile, the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill required many ingredients, which was also troublesome.

But he didn't have any other choice—he couldn't refine one batch of pills at a time, that would waste far too much time.

He needed to recover from his injuries quickly so that he could resume cultivation and strive to reach the Golden Core Period Limit as soon as possible.

At the moment, without having reached the Golden Core Period Limit, he felt uneasy. Everyone knew he wasn't in the Hundred Peaks Sect, and the sect only had two cultivators at the Golden Core Period Limit. Their sect had made many enemies in the past, and if anyone decided to target the Hundred Peaks Sect, what would happen?

He couldn't feel secure until he restored himself to the Golden Core Period Limit.

In fact, to speed up the pill refining process, he even took some volatile ingredients from the Dragon Chant Sect's treasury to accelerate the pills' formation.

Several ingredients were thrown into the furnaces, instantly catching Wen Dan's attention as he stood to the side. When he saw Cao Zhen simultaneously tossing ingredients into three furnaces earlier, Wen Dan had already concluded that Cao Zhen was doomed to fail in alchemy.

Nonetheless, he hadn't immediately left, since Cao Zhen wouldn't take long to fail anyway—waiting for a bit wouldn't hurt.

But now, what was Cao Zhen throwing in? What kind of ingredients were these?

"Fire Fury Grass? Earth Burst Fruit, and Raging Sun Flower? Those ingredients aren't required for refining any of the three pills. Why is he throwing them in?"

Wen Dan couldn't help exclaiming, "Those are all volatile ingredients! Using ingredients like that, forget about refining pills—those furnaces will explode in no time!"

Hearing Wen Dan's words, Luo Zhen also raised his head in surprise to glance at Cao Zhen. Didn't Cao Zhen know which ingredients were necessary for alchemy? Why were even those unnecessary ingredients being thrown in?

Next to Wen Dan, a curious disciple from the Holy Pill Sect asked, "Master Wen, do those ingredients serve no purpose at all? If the furnaces are going to explode, should we step back a bit?"

"Indeed, they are meaningless. As for the furnace explosion... within approximately the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, the first furnace will explode. Regarding the blast's power, there's no need to worry—it's not very strong..."

Chapter 1387:

Wen Dan was speaking, but his eyes widened once again in shock as he stared at the medicinal ingredients Cao Zhen threw in and exclaimed, "No good! He just tossed in Water Cloud Flame Grass and Flying Smoke Grass, and in such a large amount. With these two herbs combined, within less than half a stick of incense's time, that Pill Furnace will explode, and the power will undoubtedly be terrifying."

As Wen Dan's words fell, many disciples around began retreating toward the back. However, after taking a few steps back, they stopped moving further.

Zhang Zirong and several elites from the Dragon Chant Sect stepped forward, positioning themselves in front of Cao Zhen's Pill Furnace. Clearly, after hearing Wen Dan's words, they were prepared to contain the explosive power of the furnace within a certain range should it detonate, in order to protect the weaker cultivation-base disciples present.

The group of disciples closest to Cao Zhen and Luo Zhen were mostly alchemy-focused disciples. Many of them had rather low cultivation bases, with some not even reaching the Golden Core Stage.

Immortal Bi Yue took immediate action, flying to Cao Zhen's side. Behind her, a massive Pill Fusion appeared, radiating dazzling brilliance from the ten phenomenally unique Golden Cores mounted upon it. Her aura surged rapidly upward, instantly reaching peak condition, so she could protect Cao Zhen in case of a furnace explosion.

Cao Zhen felt slightly dazzled by the radiant light emitted from the Golden Cores behind Immortal Bi Yue. Helplessly, he said, "Bi Yue, don't be so uptight, it's fine. It won't explode. Try to restrain your aura a little..."

As he spoke, he took out three more volatile medicinal herbs and tossed them into three separate Pill Furnaces. Simultaneously, he increased the flames for each of the furnaces.

Adding such volatile herbs to the furnaces naturally required adjustments to the flames.

Especially for the Heaven and Earth Transforming Pill, which demanded constant changes in flame temperature—it was truly troublesome.

As everyone around watched Cao Zhen refining pills while simultaneously chatting leisurely with Immortal Bi Yue, one after another shook their heads. From the moment they began learning alchemy, they were taught that refining pills required absolute focus, without the slightest carelessness. Yet seeing Cao Zhen act like this, did he think he was one of those top-tier Alchemy Masters, capable of multitasking and even instructing disciples while refining pills?

With this sort of alchemy method, it would be a miracle if he could actually produce any pills!

Take a look at how many mistakes Cao Zhen made in this short time since he began refining. And they weren't just ordinary mistakes—they were the most basic, most amateur errors!

This time, Cao Zhen's bet was bound to be lost!

At this moment, their hearts were filled with regret. If they had known it would turn out like this, they would have provoked Cao Zhen a little earlier. Even if they didn't have treasures to wager against him, they could've bet on something else.

Uncle Luo Zhen's earnings from those three treasures were just too easy.

Half a stick of incense's time wasn't long. Soon, the moment arrived as half the stick of incense burned down.

Even though the crowd knew there were elites standing guard upfront, they instinctively retreated a few steps back and then stared at the Pill Furnace in front of Cao Zhen. They could sense the raging energy emanating from the furnace—as if the three furnaces could explode at any moment.

Yet, one breath passed, two breaths passed. Time trickled by, and in the blink of an eye, another half a stick of incense burned down. Cao Zhen's Pill Furnace remained intact.

A disciple muttered in bewilderment, "This... wasn't it said that after half a stick of incense's time, his Pill Furnace would explode? It's been a whole stick of incense now—why hasn't it exploded?"

"Maybe we need to wait a little longer. Look at his Pill Furnace; it's getting even more unstable. It feels like it could blow up any moment now."

Wen Dan listened to the murmurs around him, his old face turning beet red in frustration. Just moments ago, he had guaranteed that within half a stick of incense's time, Cao Zhen's Pill Furnace would explode. Now, with an entire stick of incense gone and the furnace still unbroken, where was he supposed to put his face?

He was a Pill Master of the Holy Pill Sect, and he made such assurances in front of a crowd of people. If word got out, he'd be utterly humiliated.

Suddenly, a cry of alarm came from nearby: "That's it! Look quickly—he just threw in Blue Ghost Grass! That herb isn't just volatile; it's one of the most explosive! Considering how unstable his furnaces already are, tossing in such a thing..."

"His Pill Furnace is going to explode!"

Around them, Dragon Chant Sect elites—even those unfamiliar with alchemy—could hear the cries of alarm and see the condition of Cao Zhen's furnaces. One by one, they rapidly unleashed their auras to shield against the impending explosion.

But in the next moment, all of them froze in place.

The three furnaces in front of Cao Zhen, which had seemed ready to burst at any second, suddenly stabilized noticeably after the Blue Ghost Grass was added. While they continued to tremble slightly, they were now far steadier than before.

"What's going on?"

"This..."

One after another, disciples skilled in alchemy from both the Holy Pill Sect and the Dragon Chant Sect couldn't make sense of the situation.

"Blue Ghost Grass is undeniably one of the most volatile herbs. Among all Spirit Grass beneath Immortal Herbs, its properties might be the most explosive. Adding Blue Ghost Grass should've made the furnaces instantly explode!"

"Right! He's already thrown in so many ingredients—why haven't the furnaces exploded yet?"

The crowd was filled with bewilderment. Some disciples from the Holy Pill Sect even turned directly toward Wen Dan, asking, "Master Wen Dan, why haven't the furnaces exploded yet?"

Chapter 1388:

Wen Dan was also curious why the three pill furnaces had not exploded. Under normal circumstances, they should have already detonated, especially with the kinds of ingredients Cao Zhen had thrown in...

Recalling the herbs that Cao Zhen had added earlier, a sudden realization struck him. He exclaimed with newfound clarity, "I understand now! The Blue Ghost Grass he added is indeed violent, but before that, he had already thrown in Earth Burst Fruit and Raging Sun Flower. These two spirit herbs usually remain inert when encountering Blue Ghost Grass. However, among the ingredients he is refining, there is another herb—Water-moving Lotus. When these four herbs come together, Water-moving Lotus can absorb the violent properties of the other three. That's why the pill furnace stabilized."

"Ah, so that's how it is."

"These three herbs... can actually be used this way?"

"Does this mean Cao Zhen planned for this from the start? That he deliberately added those herbs?"

"So, does this mean... Cao Zhen really understands alchemy?"

The crowd began to feel puzzled once again. Slowly, they realized they couldn't figure out Cao Zhen at all.

Not only them, but even Wen Dan and Luo Zhen, who was still actively refining pills, found themselves baffled. From the very beginning of the alchemy process, Cao Zhen had committed countless mistakes—basic, common knowledge errors at that.

By logic, Cao Zhen's pill furnace should have exploded long ago, yet strangely, it remained intact.

Some of the reasons could be explained; herbs had neutralized each other. But there were other factors they couldn't comprehend. How exactly were some of the violent herbs being absorbed or neutralized?

Moreover, calling Cao Zhen inexperienced in alchemy didn't entirely fit. His fire control techniques were exceptionally refined. And as for the alchemy techniques he used—they couldn't understand them, yet they couldn't deny the mysterious profundity they felt in each.

The problem was, if Cao Zhen truly knew how to refine pills, then who on earth refined pills like this?

Cao Zhen ignored the onlookers, focusing entirely on his alchemy.

In the blink of an eye, three days passed.

Initially, the crowd stayed just to watch the inevitable chaos, expecting Cao Zhen's complete failure at any moment. Many assumed his pill furnaces could explode at any time. But time and again, after Cao Zhen adjusted the flame's temperature, added specific herbs, or cast profound alchemy techniques, the pill furnaces stabilized just before appearing on the verge of explosion.

By the end of the third day, the pill furnace before Cao Zhen had begun to gradually stabilize.

Bored onlookers, finding no excitement, started to leave.

Why stick around when there was no more spectacle? Most weren't dedicated to alchemy anyway. Watching Cao Zhen control flames and toss herbs into a pill furnace was simply too dull.

Yet, a smaller group remained. Some were alchemy disciples, while others were ordinary disciples who stayed out of curiosity or spare time. They reasoned that if they'd already waited this long, they might as well see Cao Zhen fail—surely, it would happen any moment now.

But three days later, as they sensed the growing stability of the three pill furnaces before Cao Zhen, they began to question their own instincts.

It seemed Cao Zhen's pill furnaces wouldn't explode anytime soon.

Luo Zhen even started doubting whether he could win this competition.

With the ingredients Cao Zhen had thrown into the furnaces, Luo Zhen himself couldn't guarantee preventing explosions to this point. For Cao Zhen to manage this feat, he would have to be an exceptional alchemy master.

"Wait, something's wrong. Why is the aura from Cao Zhen's pill furnace becoming weaker?"

Suddenly, several voices interrupted. Luo Zhen, in the middle of his pill refining process, even glanced toward Cao Zhen. Previously, the pill furnace before Cao Zhen had constantly trembled, with violent auras surging forth and the fragrances of various herbs wafting out. Yet now, as the furnace steadied and the violent aura dissipated, even the herbal fragrance had vanished completely.

"The fragrance is gone?"

"When there was aroma before, it proved the pill was still being refined. Now that there's no fragrance, does that mean the ingredients have completely failed?"

Just as the speculation began, Cao Zhen tossed another herb into the pill furnace. As the furnace opened, a rich herbal aroma instantly wafted out.

"So... the fragrance remains?"

"There's a fragrance. But is it from those three specific pills?"

The remaining crowd consisted of specialized alchemy disciples, yet they had only heard about the three types of pills being refined. None had ever seen—or smelled—them, so they had no way of confirming the aroma's origin.

Meanwhile, as Luo Zhen continued refining his pills, none dared disturb him. Instead, all eyes turned to Wen Dan.

Over the past three days, Wen Dan had gone from confidently predicting Cao Zhen's furnace would explode in half an incense stick's worth of time to getting repeatedly humiliated by reality.

Under the scrutiny of the crowd, Wen Dan hesitated for a moment before finally nodding. "Yes, that aroma indeed belongs to those three kinds of pills. As for why the fragrance isn't escaping, I don't know."

In the distance, Cao Zhen, now fully in sync with the current rhythm of refinement, overheard Wen Dan's comment and sneered disdainfully. "You don't even know this? The absence of aroma means that all medicinal properties are being retained within the pill furnace. Only then can the medicinal effects be maximized."

Chapter 1389:

The crowd around fell silent immediately. You're in the middle of refining pills, yet you're refining three types of pills simultaneously, and you even have time to listen to us speak? Furthermore, you have the composure to explain things to us?

As for the claim that keeping the medicinal aroma entirely within the pill furnace guarantees the greatest efficacy, they had heard of it before, but such a feat was only possible for the most top-tier Alchemy Grandmasters. Even Wen Dan and Luo Zhen couldn't achieve this. Could Cao Zhen, who was refining three types of pills simultaneously, possibly accomplish it? Impossible!

Cao Zhen couldn't be bothered to explain and continued refining pills.

Day by day, time passed, and the surrounding spectators dwindled drastically. Only the disciples of the Holy Pill Sect and Dragon Chant Sect remained, and even Immortal Bi Yue had left.

After all, alchemy seems truly boring to outsiders.

Those disciples didn't remain idle either. Some took out their pill furnaces and began refining pills during this time. After all, as Wen Dan had mentioned, refining those three kinds of pills required a considerable amount of time.

Refining all three pills to completion takes a year, and for just one of them, the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill takes up to five months by itself.

A month passed in the blink of an eye. For those practicing alchemy, a month barely felt long at all, as refining even a single pill might take about a month.

While many were deeply focused on their own pill refinement, movement suddenly stirred in the pill furnace before Cao Zhen. One of the furnaces began to tremble violently. Cao Zhen instantly focused all his attention on it, furiously executing a series of Alchemy Techniques before lifting a hand and reaching toward the furnace.

The disciples who were still watching immediately noticed Cao Zhen's movements.

"Pill Decoction?"

"What's happening? Why is Cao Zhen starting to decoct pills now?"

"It's only been a month. Did Cao Zhen already finish refining the pills?"

"Impossible. Didn't Senior Wen Dan say that of the three types of pills, the shortest refinement time for the Qiankun Transformation Pill is at least three months?"

"But now he's already decocting pills!"

All eyes immediately turned toward Cao Zhen. Even Wen Dan raised his head and stared at Cao Zhen in shock.

Even Luo Zhen, who had been refining pills himself, paused to cast an Alchemy Technique toward his furnace before glancing toward Cao Zhen.

The next moment, in the sight of everyone, Cao Zhen abruptly pulled his hand back, and from his pill furnace, one pill after another flew out.

In an instant, a total of 36 pills formed a chain and fell perfectly into the jade bottle that Cao Zhen had prepared beforehand. Every single pill was perfectly rounded and radiated a Seven-Colored Radiance.

"Seven-Colored Radiance!"

"Those are Best Quality Pills, with only Best Quality Pills capable of emitting that rainbow light!"

"And the medicinal aroma that spread just as the pills emerged—just smelling it was enough to make one feel refreshed and serene!"

"He actually refined Best Quality Pills!"

"Each pill is Best Quality!"

"This... And it only took a month! He managed to refine pills that should take three months in such a short time!"

"Don't forget, he was refining three types of pills at the same time!"

The crowd could hardly believe their eyes. Best Quality Pills—most of them had never even refined a single Best Quality Pill, no matter how basic the pill.

Wen Dan was completely dumbfounded. Both he and Luo Zhen could refine Qiankun Transformation Pills, but with optimal conditions, their best performance would yield one or two High Quality pills from a single furnace, and Best Quality Qiankun Transformation Pills were utterly beyond their reach.

Moreover, when they decocted pills, the maximum number produced from a batch was merely ten at best. Yet, Cao Zhen had just decocted a total of thirty-six pills from a single batch!

On top of that, Cao Zhen wasn't even using larger quantities of medicinal materials than them; Wen Dan had seen his proportions beforehand.

Using the same batch of materials, Cao Zhen refined in less time, produced pills of higher quality, and created a greater quantity. Compared to him, their works were utterly crushed!

Master!

Cao Zhen was without a doubt an Alchemy Master of the highest caliber!

Luo Zhen's face turned unspeakably grim. It was abundantly clear that Cao Zhen's alchemy skills surpassed him by a long shot—even outclassing his father, who was also his mentor.

The method to refine Qiankun Transformation Pills had been taught to him by his father, but even his father couldn't decoct more than twenty or so pills per batch. And although they might occasionally yield a few Best Quality pills by sheer luck, this result—having all pills be of Best Quality—was entirely unheard of.

Cao Zhen's level of mastery—if he claimed he were about to merge all three pills into a new one, could it actually be true?

Luo Zhen couldn't help but grow anxious, realizing that his three treasures were likely to be lost.

Losing composure, Luo Zhen even forgot to continue refining his own pills, instead standing dumbfounded and staring at Cao Zhen. Meanwhile, Cao Zhen, after finishing decocting one furnace, didn't pause but turned decisively to the second batch of pills.

Before long, Cao Zhen executed another series of Alchemy Techniques.

The pills in this batch appeared to be Void Spirit Replenishment Pills.

Luo Zhen's face changed once more—could Cao Zhen be decocting Void Spirit Replenishment Pills? Under normal circumstances, refining those pills would take five months, yet Cao Zhen completed them in just one?

As Luo Zhen stared in astonishment and growing dread, Cao Zhen had already started decocting pills.

He too could refine Void Spirit Replenishment Pills, but he noticed that the materials Cao Zhen was using—except for certain aggressive ingredients—were identical to what he used. However, Cao Zhen's Pill Decoction Method was entirely different from his own.

It was a method that Luo Zhen had never heard of before.

With Cao Zhen's hand movements, one pill after another emitting Seven-Colored Radiance flew out of the pill furnace, forming a chain in midair before landing neatly in a nearby jade bottle.

This batch was also thirty-six pills, every single one a Best Quality Pill once again!

At that moment, the surrounding crowd felt as if they were about to lose their minds, and cries of amazement rang out continuously.

"Best Quality, again Best Quality Pills!"

"Each one is Best Quality!"

"How did he do it!"

Chapter 1390:

Cao Zhen simultaneously refined three types of pills. Now, two of these pills have been completed successively, and moreover, the Dan drawing process is finished. The most astonishing part is that both furnaces yielded thirty-six pills, each one being of supreme quality.

As everyone marveled, their gazes turned toward the third pill furnace.

Even though they found it improbable, they couldn't help but wonder: Could Cao Zhen truly refine all three types of pills within a single month? Could the last furnace also yield pills of supreme quality?

Even Wen Dan and Luo Zhen tightened their focus on Cao Zhen, with only the final furnace containing the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill remaining. Among the three types of pills Cao Zhen was refining, the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill was undoubtedly the most challenging to produce.

Because the hardest step in alchemy lies in the final Dan drawing process, and while shaping the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill itself isn't particularly arduous, the true difficulty lies precisely in that final Dan drawing.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Cao Zhen slowly raised his hand, sending out one alchemy technique after another toward the third pill furnace. Raising his hand again, he made a sudden pull toward the furnace. In an instant, a perfectly round pill flew out of the furnace, and under the sunlight, it gleamed with flowing rainbow hues.

In a split second, cries of astonishment erupted.

"Supreme quality—another supreme-quality pill!"

"The second pill has flown out—it's also of supreme quality!"

"They're all supreme quality! Each and every pill is of supreme quality!"

"Just like the first two furnaces, all thirty-six pills are of supreme quality!"

"He really did it! He simultaneously refined three furnaces of pills, and not only did he complete them all, but they're all supreme-quality pills!"

"Those are supreme-quality pills! Has anyone among us ever succeeded in refining such pills before?"

"How could such a master alchemist exist in this world?"

Everyone stared at the calm and composed Cao Zhen, each overwhelmed with indescribable shock.

Luo Zhen, already one of the top-tier alchemy masters, had been considered among the top five alchemists in Eastern Province during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth. Even he had once proclaimed that refining these three types of pills would require an entire year.

Yet Cao Zhen accomplished it in just one short month. Moreover, not only were the three furnaces completed, but all the pills were of supreme quality, with thirty-six pills per furnace.

How could it be mere coincidence that all three furnaces produced exactly thirty-six pills? It had to be intentional—it was a testament to Cao Zhen's exceptional control.

Cao Zhen had far surpassed Master Luo Zhen. This meant that, at present, during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, Cao Zhen was undisputedly the foremost alchemist in Eastern Province!

Luo Zhen looked at Cao Zhen, utterly dumbfounded. Images of his three treasured artifacts flashed suddenly in his mind.

Given Cao Zhen's unparalleled mastery of alchemy, could it be that he was truly going to lose?

Though neither he nor Wen Dan had ever heard of combining three types of pills into one, Cao Zhen's current display defied all expectations—it was utterly extraordinary.

A master alchemist of this caliber could not possibly be bluffing.

He...

He was really starting another round of refining.

Cao Zhen placed the combined total of 108 pills from the three furnaces into a single pill furnace, then added various medicinal herbs, beginning a new refinement process.

Around him, the crowd fell silent. This was a form of reverence for a master alchemist—they dared not disturb Cao Zhen during his craft.

At this moment, everyone watched Cao Zhen's every move intently, striving to glean whatever insights they could from his techniques. Many felt a pang of regret within—such a rare opportunity to witness a

top-tier master alchemist refine pills for an entire month, wasted on doing their own refining instead of observing him closely!

Although Cao Zhen had been refining pills for a month now, many others in the Dragon Chant Sect had already lost interest and stopped paying attention. Occasionally, a passerby might glance in his direction.

Soon, news spread through the Dragon Chant Sect that Cao Zhen had refined three types of pills requiring a year to produce in merely one month, with each pill being of supreme quality.

Instantly, disciples, experts, high-ranking members, and even the interim Sect Hierarch, Zhang Zirong, flocked to the scene to watch Cao Zhen refine pills.

Though they didn't fully understand the intricacies of alchemy, they were somewhat familiar with the six arts of immortal cultivation. Yet they had never heard of refining pre-made pills into entirely new ones.

They wanted to witness for themselves whether Cao Zhen could truly achieve the fusion of three different types of pills.

Half a month passed in the blink of an eye. Finally, with a soft *puff* sound, Cao Zhen drew thirty-six supreme-quality pills out of the pill furnace.

As the pills flew out one by one, a fragrance that brought instant comfort and relaxation enveloped the entire surroundings.

Wen Dan sniffed deeply, his face brimming with amazement as he exclaimed, "This aroma... there's no mistake! Within the scent, I can distinctly detect the essences of the Void Spirit Replenishment Pill, the Heaven and Earth Exchange Soul Pill, and the Mind Restoration Pill, along with traces of other unfamiliar aromas... These pills are flawless. He truly did it—he fused three types of pills into a completely new one!"

Luo Zhen stood utterly frozen, his mind nearing a complete halt. Cao Zhen had truly accomplished this? How was it possible? How could three distinct types of pills be melted and combined into an entirely new type? It defied all logic!

