

My Master 1391

Chapter 1391:

Why does the entire cultivation world have no record of this method? Why does even the Holy Pill Sect remain unaware of such a technique!

He succeeded in refining the pill. Does that mean... I've lost?

After Cao Zhen crafted thirty-six pills, he immediately consumed one and then placed the remaining thirty-five pills into a jade bottle. Only then did he raise his head to look at Luo Zhen and called out, "I've finished refining the pills. Do you still need to verify their efficacy?"

Before Luo Zhen could respond, Wen Dan had already exclaimed, "There's absolutely no need to check! This is the highest quality of pills, and the fragrant aroma alone proves there's no problem with them!"

Wen Dan gazed at Cao Zhen with admiration and said, "I, Wen Dan, considered myself well-versed and knowledgeable, yet this is the first time I've seen such miraculous pill-refining techniques. Previously, I misunderstood Master Cao, my offenses were many. I humbly ask Master Cao for forgiveness."

As Wen Dan spoke, he even bowed deeply to Cao Zhen.

The crowd around them, hearing Wen Dan confirm that Cao Zhen's pills were flawless, instantly erupted into a chorus of astonished cries.

"Did he really succeed?"

"Can already-refined pills truly be reprocessed into new ones?"

"With such skills, perhaps he is the only one in the entire Eastern Province capable of this!"

"This is what it means to be a true top-tier alchemy master!"

"Sect Leader Cao..."

One by one, gasps of wonder and praise filled the air. Even many who harbored resentment towards Cao Zhen for deceiving Immortal Bi Yue earlier now found their attitudes toward him softening significantly.

This is a top-tier alchemy master!

In the cultivation world, there are six arts of immortal cultivation—whether it's talisman making, artifact refining, or pill refining, each is highly important. But if one were to name the most crucial, it would undoubtedly be the alchemist!

After all, every cultivator throughout their journey consumes countless pills. Pills are what they use most frequently. They require pills to practice cultivation techniques, need pills to develop certain spells, take pills to heal wounds, and at crucial moments—even when risking their lives—might rely on pills imbued with secret techniques. Even when facing heavenly tribulations, there is the Calamity Avoidance Pill.

Thus, alchemy masters, wherever they go, are universally respected.

Immortal Bi Yue gazed at the pill furnace in front of Cao Zhen, still emitting waves of heat, and felt an equal measure of shock in her heart. So it was true—what Ling Xi had told her earlier was all true. Cao Zhen genuinely excelled in the art of pill refinement, to the point of perfection.

Perhaps... perhaps he could take a look at Little Yin?

Cao Zhen carefully stored the remaining thirty-five pills and then raised his head to look into the distance, toward Luo Zhen, who was still in a dazed state. "You won't verify them, then? By default, that means you acknowledge the pills have no issues. In that case, your three treasures..."

As he spoke, Cao Zhen turned his head to look at Zhang Zirong.

Rather than immediately handing the treasures over to Cao Zhen, Zhang Zirong glanced at Luo Zhen.

Hearing Cao Zhen's words seemed to jolt Luo Zhen awake. Meeting the gaze of the Sect Hierarchy, he was visibly unwilling, but helplessly nodded his head. What was there left to examine!

The pill aroma from Cao Zhen's refined pills—Luo Zhen had smelled it too. It indeed carried the fragrances of all three original pills, and more importantly, the pills were of the highest quality. What was there to test?

He couldn't fathom that Cao Zhen had actually managed to merge all three types of pills into one.

Wen Dan, that fool, had always proclaimed that their Holy Pill Sect was the foremost alchemy sect in the Eastern Province, boasting that no pill existed that the Holy Pill Sect couldn't refine. And yet?

He had confidently claimed it was impossible to fuse multiple types of pills, only to dig his own grave.

Luo Zhen cursed himself inwardly. How had he brought himself to agree to Cao Zhen's bet? And why, earlier, when Wen Dan had been boasting, didn't he demand Wen Dan put up treasure? He should've insisted on not just one but at least two treasures from Wen Dan.

But now, everything was ruined. The two treasures that Luo Zhen had painstakingly earned and acquired through alchemy and healing work were all about to belong to Cao Zhen. He had even taken one from his clan.

When his father awakens...

Luo Zhen didn't dare continue the thought.

Cao Zhen took the six treasures from Zhang Zirong—including both his own and Luo Zhen's—and soon, his gaze fell on the pill furnace in front of Luo Zhen, where a batch of pills was still being refined.

During his prior challenge to Cao Zhen, Luo Zhen had completely forgotten to complete his own pill refinement. As a result, the batch had turned into dead pills.

Cao Zhen stepped over to the batch of dead pills and asked, "This batch of your pills seems to have failed."

Seeing Cao Zhen's smiling face, Luo Zhen felt an overwhelming sense of mockery in his expression. Already frustrated with losing three treasures, Luo Zhen's irritation deepened upon hearing the remark. Regardless of Cao Zhen's standing as a top-tier alchemy master, he retorted in annoyance, "That's right, they failed! And so what? Everyone makes mistakes sometimes."

"I'll eat the batch myself, like candied beans—does that bother you? Maybe I just enjoy crunching on this sort of thing—you care too much!"

"Ah, I see. Well, no problem. I had thought, in consideration of you providing three treasures and even footing the cost of the medicinal materials, that I might help you resurrect this batch of dead pills. But since you enjoy eating them like candied beans, have at it. I won't interrupt your enjoyment."

Saying thus, Cao Zhen turned to Immortal Bi Yue and asked, "You mentioned the Sacred Spring earlier. Its healing effects were quite remarkable. Would I be allowed to visit again for another soak?"

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"Of course, no problem at all." Immortal Bi Yue smiled radiantly and quickly led Cao Zhen away, flying towards the direction of the Holy Mountain.

Fire Dragon Pill Land.

Luo Zhen watched Cao Zhen's departing figure, wishing he could slap his own mouth. Why did he have to mention candy beans? These medicinal ingredients were extremely expensive, and the wasted ones would cost him a lot of money.

If they were refined into pills, it could offset some of the losses. He had just lost three treasures, yet he hoped to make up a little bit. The result? Now, Cao Zhen had flown away.

As for Cao Zhen's claim that he could revive his Dead Pill, Luo Zhen had no doubt in his mind about it now.

Cao Zhen could even merge three types of pills into one; reviving a batch of Dead Pills was nothing in comparison.

He felt unlucky. Of all people, he happened to encounter Cao Zhen. Honestly, if it were anyone else, no one would believe a person could merge three types of pills into one. Anyone else would have been deceived the same way. Anyone else...

As Luo Zhen pondered, a sudden idea struck him. If Cao Zhen could deceive him, why couldn't he cooperate with Cao Zhen and trick others together?

Right now, across the entire Eastern Province, apart from the disciples of the Dragon Chant Sect and the Holy Pill Sect, no one knew that Cao Zhen could merge multiple pills into one.

If he could ensure that the Dragon Chant Sect's people and the Holy Pill Sect's people kept this secret, they could definitely fool others.

The disciples of the Dragon Chant Sect were easy to deal with; after all, they were from his own Great Teaching. Moreover, these disciples often consumed pills refined by him or those of his lineage. Asking them to keep a secret shouldn't be unreasonable.

The key was the people from the Holy Pill Sect. They certainly wouldn't listen to him—unless, of course, the target was the Divine Pill Sect!

Among the Great Teachings in the Eastern Province known for alchemy, aside from the Holy Pill Sect, there was also the Divine Pill Sect. Rivals in the same trade are enemies, and the Divine Pill Sect and Holy Pill Sect had always claimed to be the number one alchemy sect in the Eastern Province. The two sects were constantly competing, neither willing to accept defeat.

If they could deceive the Divine Pill Sect, the people from the Holy Pill Sect would certainly be happy to cooperate.

First, convince the people from the Holy Pill Sect, then look for an opportunity to persuade Cao Zhen.

As Luo Zhen cleaned up the batches of Dead Pills, he secretly made his calculations.

Cao Zhen, since he was with Bi Yue this time, followed her straight into the Dragon Chant Sect's Holy Land.

He noticed that with Bi Yue present, there were no special actions required to navigate through the formations of the Holy Land. She hadn't used any techniques—she simply flew inside directly.

Soon, Bi Yue brought him to the Sacred Spring. Then, before he could even remove his clothes, she turned and left...

"Actually, if you stayed behind, I wouldn't mind," Cao Zhen said, watching Bi Yue's departing figure and then jumped into the Sacred Spring, beginning to activate the Eight Nine Mysterious Art.

His Eight Nine Mysterious Art had already progressed to Level Ten thanks to Xiang Ziyu's fortuitous achievements. However, because he hadn't been able to activate the Eight Nine Mysterious Art, his body hadn't undergone any transformations. Now, as he began activating them level by level, he could clearly sense the changes in his body. As the aura of the Eight Nine Mysterious Art flowed through him, every part of his being—his skin, bones, meridians, and even his internal organs—was strengthening at an astonishing speed.

The Eight Nine Mysterious Art was truly profound. He didn't even need to actively cultivate, simply activating it sufficed. It took him three days just to activate it to Level Ten.

After three days, his eyes suddenly snapped open, revealing a faint golden gleam within them.

"So this is the Level Ten of the Eight Nine Mysterious Art."

Cao Zhen discovered that even his injuries had greatly healed thanks to the Eight Nine Mysterious Art.

The reason he had refined thirty-six pills earlier was that he only needed to consume one pill per day to completely heal his injuries.

But now, having cultivated the Eight Nine Mysterious Art to Level Ten and with his body becoming drastically stronger, he realized he might not even need thirty-six days to recover.

"Next, I'll simultaneously activate the Prosperous Age Skills to heal myself while also studying the Chaos Qi."

Cao Zhen retrieved the Chaos Beads from his Qiankun Bag, the same beads he had obtained from the grave of Ancestral Elder Wu Shuang.

The power of chaos was exceedingly rare and precious.

Even someone as mighty as Zhang Daoling had encountered only minimal traces of Chaos Qi, and Zhang Daoling himself had never cultivated it.

As his mana poured into the Chaos Beads, a boundless and overwhelming aura surged forth from within.

Cao Zhen's heart tightened with shock. His current injuries weren't yet healed—how could he endure the influx of so much chaotic power?

Could he even...

The next moment, a dazed expression spread across Cao Zhen's face. The aura that surged out, though immense, wasn't violent nor overly gentle. Instead, it gave him an exceptionally unique sensation. This power didn't resemble fire, thunder, yin-yang, or any other elemental energies.

It seemed to be purely... just an aura.

Yet this aura somehow contained traces of countless energies, encompassing the violent essence of fire, the gentle flow of water, the omnipresence of wind...

This aura made him feel strangely chaotic, as if it were a mere aggregation of impurities.

Yet simultaneously, this aura exuded an unparalleled purity, almost conveying the sense that it was the most pristine energy in the entire world!

Chapter 1393:

This surge of energy flowed in, entering his body and beginning to nourish it, even repairing the injuries he had sustained due to the explosion of the Heretical Golden Core.

"Chaos Qi can even heal wounds? Its healing properties surpass any Pill... This energy... Wait!"

Cao Zhen suddenly realized how precious Chaos Qi was. At this moment, the Chaos Qi within the Chaos Pearl was limited, and using it to heal injuries felt like an enormous waste.

He hurriedly moved the Treasure Bead away. Yet even in that brief moment, he could feel that his injuries had improved significantly.

Originally, he estimated it would take thirty-six days to recover, but thanks to activating the tenth level of the Eight Nine Mysterious Art, absorbing the aura of the Chaos Pearl, plus soaking in the Sacred Spring, this recovery time had been halved. Eighteen days later, his injuries were fully healed.

Cao Zhen stretched his body, feeling his state and strength. He had never experienced such a good condition before.

Previously, even in his Peak State, when his Mana had reached the Golden Core Period Limit, he hadn't felt this kind of thorough recovery.

"This is the Golden Core Period Limit of the physical body—no external assistance, purely solid and tangible!"

Cao Zhen glanced around before pulling out the Chaos Pearl once again. Now that his injuries were fully healed, using the Chaos Pearl again, its power shouldn't continue healing his wounds.

Before long, the Chaos Pearl's mighty energy surged forth, pouring into his body.

Cao Zhen felt the influx of power, yet for a moment, he didn't know how to guide or use it. He simply allowed the energy to roam within his body.

Feeling the Chaos Qi anew, the most defining characteristic he recognized was its vastness!

He felt that Chaos Power seemed to encompass all things, capable of influencing everything, including mountains, rivers, time, space, life, and even the mind...

Additionally, he sensed that everything in this world might have been created and transformed from Chaos Qi.

"Before Heaven and Earth were divided, everything was Chaos. Chaos Qi must be the breath of that era. At that time, there weren't even Heaven and Earth. Could it be that Chaos Qi predates the energy of Heaven? Or perhaps, the energy of Heaven was derived from Chaos Qi after its transformation? If this is true, I must be right about its essence. But... how can Chaos Power be utilized?"

Cao Zhen contemplated Zhang Daoling's various Cultivation Techniques, yet he felt that all of them could drive Chaos Power. However, he had a lingering sense that using these techniques to manipulate Chaos Power wasted its potential, unable to fully unleash its unique nature and might.

"Perhaps, I should try the Prosperous Age Skills?"

At this thought, Cao Zhen's heart stirred. The Prosperous Age Skills, including the Prosperous Age Picture Record, were designed to create a prosperous realm. At the beginning of all worlds, there was Chaos. The myriad things of Heaven and Earth could indeed be regarded as creations of Chaos Qi.

Since both were rooted in creation, the Prosperous Age Skills seemed perfectly suited.

He slowly activated the Prosperous Age Skills, and at once the Chaos Qi within his body started moving along specific lines. When the Prosperous Age Skills completed a minor cycle and Chaos Qi rotated through his body once, he was astonished to discover an unexpected resonance between Chaos Qi and the Prosperous Age Skills.

"Resonance? So, the Prosperous Age Skills are indeed perfectly compatible with Chaos Qi."

Cao Zhen accelerated the operation of the Prosperous Age Skills. After completing a major cycle, his Qiankun Bag suddenly trembled, and the Prosperous Age Picture Record flew out of it.

Without active Mana input from its owner, the treasure within the Qiankun Bag was normally sealed. Yet now, the Prosperous Age Picture Record autonomously emerged.

As the Prosperous Age Picture Record flew out, the resonance between the Chaos Qi in his body and the Prosperous Age Skills intensified. Simultaneously, from the Chaos Pearl in his hand, torrents of Chaos Power uncontrollably surged into his body.

Cao Zhen revealed a delighted expression; the Prosperous Age Skills were incredibly compatible with Chaos Power. With this synergy, reaching the Golden Core Period Limit while cultivating the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills would be straightforward.

Moreover, it would provide immense benefits for his future cultivation endeavors.

Yet gradually, his expression turned increasingly grim.

In his hand, the Chaos Pearl continued pouring Chaos Qi into his body without pause. This energy had already filled his Qi Sea to capacity, yet Chaos Power showed no signs of stopping.

"If this continues... my Qi Sea might burst!"

Cao Zhen was alarmed, hurriedly ceasing the flow of Mana into the Chaos Pearl. Even so, the Chaos Pearl kept sending Chaos Power into his body in a frenzy.

Panic surged through him as he violently swung his arm, attempting to throw the Chaos Pearl away. But the Chaos Pearl seemed glued to his hand. No matter how hard he shook, it refused to come loose. He had to summon all his strength, aiming downward to fling it away.

Finally, with his physical power at the Golden Core Period Limit, the Chaos Pearl was successfully dislodged. But even after this, the Chaos Pearl still emitted dense streams of energy, forcing itself into his body, as though determined to unload all its energy into Cao Zhen.

Chapter 1394:

Within Cao Zhen's body, the surging Chaos Qi continued to compress, and compress again, making him feel as though the overwhelming pressure might explode at any moment.

Prosperous Age Skills, stop the operation of Prosperous Age Skills.

Cao Zhen suddenly realized this, but just as he intended to halt the technique's operation, the final trace of energy from the Chaotic Pearl infused itself into his body.

Inside, the infinitely compressed Chaos Qi condensed into the form of a seed-like existence.

At the instant this seed materialized, in the void above, layers of calamity clouds began to assemble, while an infinite oppressive force bore down!

This was the aura of the Heavenly Dao, and Cao Zhen could even feel that this aura resembled the Force of Heaven's Punishment. The person it was targeting—it was him!

Suddenly, at the next moment, in his body, the Prosperous Age Qi spun rapidly, enveloping the seed formed by the condensed Chaos Qi completely. Meanwhile, as all the chaotic power within the Chaotic Pearl poured into his body, the pearl itself violently exploded.

At the instant the pearl shattered, the boundless pressure emitted from the calamity clouds in the void also vanished without a trace. Shortly after, the layers of calamity clouds dissipated one by one.

Cao Zhen exhaled softly,

He could clearly feel the immense terror of the aura that had just emanated from the calamity clouds. That aura was even no less intimidating than the power spread by the Heavenly Dao when Old Man Wu Shuang emerged from the Grave of Rebirth.

If the Heavenly Dao had launched an attack earlier, he absolutely wouldn't have had even the slightest chance of defense.

Fortunately, in the end, the Chaos Pearl shattered, and with it, the aura of the calamity clouds also dissipated.

"So, was the Heavenly Dao targeting the Chaos Pearl earlier? Or was it targeting the Chaos Qi? My current mana hasn't even reached the Golden Core Period Limit, let alone surpassed it. The Chaos Qi within my body also could not exceed the Golden Core Stage Limit.

Yet, the Heavenly Dao insisted on unleashing the Force of Heaven's Punishment! Is it simply because of the power of the Chaos Qi, or is it because of the seed inside my body?"

Cao Zhen focused inward and inspected the seed formed by the Chaos Qi within his body.

He discovered that within him was the lingering Prosperous Age Qi left from the operation of the Prosperous Age Skills, which seemed to act like nourishment, nurturing this seed.

However, apart from the seed's uncontrollable absorption of Prosperous Age Qi, it did not exhibit any distinct qualities.

"Could it be necessary to execute the Prosperous Age Skills, and that once it absorbs enough Prosperous Age Qi, it will begin to grow?"

Behind Cao Zhen, nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills emerged as he restarted the operation of Prosperous Age Qi. Gradually, he noticed that the Chaos Seed absorbed Prosperous Age Qi and, in return, emitted streams of Chaos Qi. This Chaos Qi gently flowed out and entered his nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills.

Faintly, a sense of perpetual vitality seemed to emerge between the Prosperous Age Qi and the Chaos Qi.

Most notably, as this Chaos Qi entered the abnormal phenomenon golden pills behind him and then dispersed from his body, he further felt his own mana slowly strengthening.

In the blink of an eye, ten days passed. Cao Zhen felt that although he was still at the level of nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills, under the nourishment of the Chaos Qi emitted by the Chaos Seed, his mana had already reached the equivalent of Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion.

The next step would be the pinnacle of Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion.

But before he could continue cultivating, Bi Yue unexpectedly came to see him.

"You've recovered?" Immortal Bi Yue gazed at Cao Zhen, whose entire body was immersed in the Sacred Spring with only his head exposed. Looking at Cao Zhen's face, which bore no trace of paleness, then at the nine solidified Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills behind him, her face broke into a smile of delight and reproach, "You've recovered, and yet didn't inform me. We... no, wait, your aura!"

Immortal Bi Yue sensed Cao Zhen's emanating aura, her face displaying a sudden expression of astonishment as she exclaimed, "Your aura—it doesn't carry the Golden Core Period Limit's intensity. You restrained your aura?"

Cao Zhen gently shook his head, "Not at all. This is merely my current state of full strength."

"What? Your current aura only corresponds to the level of Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion. How could it possibly be your full state?" Immortal Bi Yue looked at Cao Zhen with disbelief, hurriedly asking, "Has your injury not fully healed yet?"

"No," Cao Zhen responded with undeniable certainty, "My injury has completely healed. This is my present ability."

"But? Why haven't you returned to the Golden Core Period Limit?" Immortal Bi Yue spoke, but suddenly noted that atop Cao Zhen's head, the previously visible Exotic Pill he would summon during every full-force battle was absent.

She instantly understood, exclaiming softly, "Is it because of that Exotic Pill?"

"Exactly," Cao Zhen admitted decisively, "Previously, my ability to reach the Golden Core Period Limit was actually a stroke of luck. If not for that Exotic Pill you mentioned, I would never have reached the Golden Core Period Limit."

Now, that Exotic Pill has shattered within the Heaven Prayers Sect. Without the Exotic Pill, I naturally cannot return to the Golden Core Period Limit."

Immortal Bi Yue asked anxiously, "If that Exotic Pill has been lost, can't you craft another one?"

Cao Zhen nodded slightly, "Crafting it is certainly still possible."

Upon hearing this, Immortal Bi Yue let out a light sigh of relief and said, "Then that's fine. Crafting the Exotic Pill requires rare materials. Our Dragon Chant Sect might not have much else, but we do possess abundant resources."

Chapter 1395:

Cao Zhen had already witnessed the vast resources of the Dragon Chant Sect, and he firmly believed that Bi Yue could provide the materials necessary for refining the Heretical Golden Core.

After all, Bi Yue was the sacred maiden of the Dragon Chant Sect. However...

"No need." Cao Zhen chuckled as he declined, "I don't plan to refine that Exotic Pill for now. I intend to try something else—to reach the Golden Core Stage Limit while still at the Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Pill level without its aid. Actually, it's not really an attempt, as I'm fairly confident about succeeding."

In just ten days of cultivation, he had already achieved the level equivalent to the Perfect Completion of a Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core. Given enough time, he was certain he could reach the same level as his disciple Xiang Ziyu—achieving the Golden Core Stage Limit in both mana and physical body using only his Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Pill.

Immortal Bi Yue felt the overwhelming confidence emanating from Cao Zhen and chose not to persuade him further.

There was no doubt that Cao Zhen was a prodigy, and prodigies often had their own convictions, even to the point of obstinacy. She knew that since Cao Zhen had already made up his mind, any advice from her would be futile.

Besides, if Cao Zhen spoke so assuredly, he must possess immense confidence!

After sharing his thoughts, Cao Zhen looked at Bi Yue and asked, "By the way, why did you come looking for me? Is there something you needed?"

"There is," Bi Yue said, pointing outside. "Uncle Luo Zhen asked me to fetch you—he has something important to discuss with you."

If it had been anyone else, she honestly wouldn't have bothered. However, Luo Zhen was someone she had to address as "Uncle." Moreover, his ancestor was once saved by the elders of her own family and later brought into the Dragon Chant Sect.

The relationship between Luo Zhen's lineage and her family was quite close, so she couldn't outright refuse his request.

"Luo Zhen?" Cao Zhen frowned slightly and said, "What could he want from me? Could it be that he's trying to renege on his debt after losing? But the fact is, there's nothing he can do about it—I've already taken his treasure."

"That's unlikely. While Uncle Luo Zhen is indeed greedy, his character is not questionable. A loss is a loss; he wouldn't come to demand back the treasure. He said he has a great business deal that could make you rich and wanted to discuss it with you."

"A great business deal?" Cao Zhen expressed skepticism. "How great could it be? Greater than the three treasures I took?"

He made a casual joke, but Immortal Bi Yue nodded seriously with a solemn expression and said, "Uncle Luo Zhen did claim so."

"Oh?" Cao Zhen's interest was piqued. He had always thought of Luo Zhen as a cunning merchant. Now, however, Luo Zhen was claiming to have a business deal bigger than three treasures?

"Let's go. Since he mentioned a 'great business deal,' I might as well take a look."

He had already found a clear path for his cultivation. Next, he just needed to operate the Prosperous Age Techniques to steadily advance—achieving the Golden Core Stage Limit wouldn't happen overnight anyway. Checking out Luo Zhen's offer might even prove interesting.

Cao Zhen stood up directly from within the Sacred Spring.

The next moment, a loud shriek pierced the air.

Immortal Bi Yue immediately turned her back to him and shouted, "Why didn't you say something before standing up!?"

"I... I forgot. We got so engrossed in our conversation that I forgot I wasn't wearing clothes." Cao Zhen truly forgot. Besides, didn't Immortal Bi Yue always want to become his Dao Companion? Why did she scream now after catching a glimpse anyway?

Very quickly, Cao Zhen dressed himself and began flying out of the Holy Mountain under Immortal Bi Yue's lead, heading toward Luo Zhen's cave mansion.

Along the way, he noticed how populated the Dragon Chant Sect was—on their journey, they encountered countless disciples of the sect.

Each disciple who saw Cao Zhen flying alongside Immortal Bi Yue displayed a look of astonishment.

"Look at Cao Zhen's complexion—isn't it clear that his injuries have healed?"

"It must be. Look at his Phenomena Golden Core—it's so solid! A complexion can deceive, but a Golden Core cannot."

"It's only been so many days, and Cao Zhen has already made a full recovery!"

"Hmm... do you all notice something unusual?"

Amid the group below, someone whispered, "Take a closer look—Cao Zhen's aura. Doesn't it feel like it's no longer at the Golden Core Stage Limit?"

"That aura is equivalent to the Perfect Completion of a Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core. How do I know? Because I've reached the Perfect Completion of a Profound-Level Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core myself, and Cao Zhen's aura feels stronger than mine but hasn't reached the pinnacle of a top-tier Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core."

"From the appearance of Cao Zhen's Phenomena Golden Core, his injuries seem fully healed. But why does his aura feel weaker?"

"It's because of his Exotic Pill."

The crowd wasn't foolish and quickly pieced things together.

In the whole Eastern Wasteland, only Cao Zhen and Xiang Ziyu had reached the Golden Core Stage Limit with a Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core. It was impossible for others not to study the two of them closely.

After extensive speculation, many discovered that a significant portion of Cao Zhen's power came from a peculiar Exotic Pill.

When the Heaven Prayers Sect was annihilated, more information came to light—Cao Zhen's Exotic Pill reportedly exploded.

"So while Cao Zhen's injuries have healed, it's now impossible for him to return to the Golden Core Stage Limit."

As the crowd murmured among themselves, suddenly, a radiant purple light shot up into the sky from a distance. The light gathered, forming what seemed like a vast Purple Divine Dragon, which soared through the heavens, tore through the clouds, and ascended directly beyond the Nine Heavens.

In that instant, the entire world seemed to change.

Cao Zhen distinctly felt that above his head, the very void over the Dragon Chant Sect was trembling violently.

The blazing sun hanging in the sky instantly dimmed, as if all the light in the world had concentrated on that purplish radiance.

Behind the purple light, a Rainbow Bridge took shape, seemingly formed by seven Divine Dragons standing side-by-side.

Within the void, a figure could be glimpsed walking upon the Rainbow Bridge.

In that moment, above the Dragon Chant Sect, day and night coexisted as both the sun and the moon appeared simultaneously.

Day and night together!

Behind the figure on the Rainbow Bridge, ten gargantuan Phenomena Golden Cores appeared, each core manifesting the image of a Divine Dragon.

Such a magnificent display immediately drew the gaze of everyone in the Dragon Chant Sect toward the heavens.

"Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core at Great Perfection."

"Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Cores aren't rare in our Dragon Chant Sect, but to create such a sweeping phenomenon upon achieving it—this is no ordinary feat!"

"Ten Divine Dragon Phenomena... and the purple radiance—this must be Zi Xianchen!"

"Among all those in our Dragon Chant Sect who haven't yet reached Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection, only Zi Xianchen possesses such talent to cause such an uproar upon breaking through!"

"This aura—this is absolutely the aura of the Perfect Completion of a Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core!"

"To have such an aura right after achieving Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection—what an extraordinary talent!"

"I remember the last person to radiate an aura like this upon achieving Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection was Senior Sister Bi Yue!"

"Junior Brother Zi has the makings of reaching the Golden Core Stage Limit!"

Chapter 1396:

The disciples of Dragon Chant Sect had always believed the number of Golden Core Period Limit cultivators in their Great Teaching was rather small.

Compared to the Yin Yang Sect, which had three Golden Core Period Limits, now finally, they saw the hope of having a third Golden Core Period Limit emerge in their sect.

Zi Xianchen, ever since the Immortal Bridge Period, had always been one of the most outstanding talents among his peers. The reason he was merely "one of" the most outstanding was that, though younger than Immortal Bi Yue, he could still be counted among the same generation.

The Dragon Chant Sect disciples gazed at the figure in the void, each one full of praises.

"Actually, though Zi Xianchen has grown steadily, among the same batch of disciples, he was always just slightly overshadowed by Immortal Bi Yue."

"But the reason he was overshadowed by Immortal Bi Yue is simply because Immortal Bi Yue is older than him."

"That's right, Senior Sister Bi Yue started cultivating more than twenty years earlier than Zi Xianchen."

"Moreover, the resources Senior Sister Bi Yue could access were incomparable to what Zi Xianchen had."

"I believe Zi Xianchen will definitely reach the Golden Core Period Limit, and it shouldn't take too long. Ten years—I feel he'll need just ten years to achieve it."

"Ten years? Are you looking down on him or what? I think it won't take that long. With his talent, five years would be sufficient."

As everyone cheered, in the void, the man with flowing purple hair and a refined appearance exuded an untamed and towering confidence. Though he was merely at the Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion, the aura of self-assurance emanating from him made him seem as though he were the world's number one expert.

He lowered his gaze to the west and declared boldly, "Cao Zhen, I know of your existence! I know you are a Golden Core Period Limit expert. Previously, I was merely at Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Pills, so I didn't challenge you.

But now I am at Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion. Soon, I will also step into the Golden Core Period Limit.

You had better wait for me at Dragon Chant Sect so I can challenge you. I will prove that even within the Golden Core Period Limit, there can be differences. Even as a fellow Golden Core Period Limit cultivator, you will not be my match.

And you are certainly unworthy of Senior Sister Bi Yue!"

Zi Xianchen radiated intense confidence. From the beginning of his immortal cultivation journey until now, wherever he stood within any cultivation realm, in Dragon Chant Sect—the pinnacle of the Great Teaching—he was an unrivaled presence.

Moreover, he firmly believed that even within the Golden Core Period Limit realm, he would be the strongest.

Far away, Cao Zhen listened to Zi Xianchen's proclamations. He glanced over at Bi Yue, who was standing nearby. Since arriving at Dragon Chant Sect, no one had caused trouble for him specifically because of Bi Yue.

Luo Zhen didn't even count as trouble; he merely tried to trick him.

This Zi Xianchen seemed to be the first person to actually challenge him because of Bi Yue. Only, why did Zi Xianchen give off a slightly childish vibe?

Below the place where Zi Xianchen broke through, the disciples of Dragon Chant Sect overheard his words and couldn't help but call out loudly: "Junior Brother Zi Xianchen, I'm afraid your wish may not come true."

"Exactly. You ought to know, Sect Leader Cao Zhen was injured once before. But you've always been in closed-door training, so you might not be aware. He has since recovered, but he is no longer at the Golden Core Period Limit."

"Indeed, his current aura feels to be at the level of Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion."

Overhearing this, Zi Xianchen was visibly shaken. He descended rapidly from the void and addressed the crowd: "What did you just say? Cao Zhen is currently only at Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion?"

The few people being questioned were momentarily surprised by Zi Xianchen's quick reaction. Then one of them spoke up: "That's correct. Cao Zhen and Senior Sister Bi Yue just flew past here. I can confirm that Cao Zhen's aura is indeed at Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion."

"Senior Sister just flew past?" Zi Xianchen, hearing this, did not say another word to them. With a leap, he hurriedly pursued them.

Cao Zhen had originally planned to look for Luo Zhen to discuss money-making opportunities. Yet before he could even see Luo Zhen, he encountered Zi Xianchen instead.

His gaze immediately fell on Zi Xianchen's striking purple hair. In the world of immortal cultivation, hair colors typically fell into two categories: black or white. On rare occasions, other colors might appear, such as light blue or red. Purple-haired individuals were exceedingly uncommon and conspicuous wherever they went.

Silently, Cao Zhen mocked to himself: Your name is Zi Xianchen, and your hair is purple. If your name was Lu Xianchen, would you have to dye your hair green?

This was the first time Zi Xianchen had seen Cao Zhen. He had heard of him when Cao Zhen first arrived, but he had been in closed-door training, striving for Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion, and thus hadn't gone to see Cao Zhen.

Now that he finally saw Cao Zhen, everything about him felt displeasing.

This kind of person—how could he ever be worthy of his Senior Sister Bi Yue?

Not to mention, this guy was currently only at the level of Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion—making him even less worthy of his Senior Sister!

Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion...*freewebnovel.com*

Coincidentally, he himself was now also at Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Perfect Completion.

Pointing at Cao Zhen, Zi Xianchen suddenly blurted out, "Do you dare accept my challenge?"

"Challenge?" Cao Zhen looked at him with amusement and asked, "Wait, why are you issuing a challenge to me out of nowhere? Also, why should I accept your challenge? What's in it for me?"

He thought of the three treasures he had won from Luo Zhen. If Zi Xianchen included treasures in his challenge, then he'd certainly be willing to accept.

Chapter 1397:

"A benefit? There's none. It's just that I think you are unworthy of Senior Sister Bi Yue, so I want to challenge you. Do you dare to accept?" Zi Xianchen's eyes burned as he stared at Cao Zhen, but a sly glance occasionally flitted toward the Immortal Bi Yue standing to the side. He liked Immortal Bi Yue—or rather, he deeply admired her.

Because Senior Sister Bi Yue was older than him and had started cultivation earlier, his cultivation path had always been overshadowed by hers.

For a long time, every time he was utterly crushed by Immortal Bi Yue, it was her figure that heavily occupied his thoughts upon returning. He was determined to defeat her.

Yet, at some unknown point, he discovered that his initial desire to defeat his Senior Sister had transformed into feelings of affection for her. He wanted her to become his Dao companion.

Originally, he had planned to approach Senior Sister Bi Yue only after he had reached the pinnacle of the Golden Core Stage. However, before he even achieved the Great Perfection of the Ten Different Phenomena Golden Core, rumors spread in the sect that Senior Sister Bi Yue had already found a Dao companion.

This struck him like a heavy blow. Turning his grief into motivation, he cultivated frantically and ended up reaching the Ten Different Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection far earlier than he had ever anticipated.

And now, his opponent was even someone who, like him, possessed strength equivalent to the Transcendent Ten Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection. How could he possibly not challenge Cao Zhen?

"No benefit? Who would fight you for no benefit?"

Cao Zhen couldn't even muster the patience to deal with Zi Xianchen. This guy looked so much like his third disciple Xiang Ziyu—equally impulsive, equally dim-witted.

"What? You don't dare? Are you scared?" Seeing that Cao Zhen didn't even bother to reply, Zi Xianchen's expression grew increasingly disdainful. "Aren't we both at the Transcendent Ten Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection? You won't even accept my challenge? It seems your reputation is nothing more than empty bravado."

"Hold on. Are you... mentally deficient?" Cao Zhen looked at Zi Xianchen as if he were some kind of fool. "And you genuinely think your logic makes sense? Forget it—you probably don't even know what the word 'logic' means. I won't waste my time explaining it to you."

"You believe that challenging me now is a fair fight, so I'm obligated to accept your challenge, huh? But let me get this straight: you're a Ten Different Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection cultivator, and here I am, just a mere Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core cultivator—how on earth is that a fair fight?"

Zi Xianchen froze. He had been so focused on the fact that Cao Zhen's strength was equivalent to the Transcendent Ten Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection, just like his own, that he had completely overlooked the crucial detail—Cao Zhen was merely a Nine Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core cultivator.

For a moment, he was rendered speechless, fuming yet unable to form a coherent reply.

After a while, inspiration suddenly struck as he recalled Cao Zhen's previous words. With a flash of determination, he said, "You mentioned earlier that benefits are required, right? A wager needs to be made, correct? Fine, I'm willing to bet."

"Bet what? What could you possibly offer?" Hearing this, Cao Zhen's interest immediately piqued. If you had said this earlier, I would've agreed already, he thought.

"We'll bet..." Zi Xianchen's face suddenly took on a resolute expression as he declared, "If I lose to you, I will agree to one request of yours. Anything at all. Is that a big enough stake?"

Zi Xianchen prided himself as the prodigy of the Dragon Chant Sect. Although he had not yet reached the pinnacle of the Golden Core Stage, he was certain that he would achieve it eventually. Moreover, once the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth ended, he was confident he would ascend to become an Earth Immortal, step into the realm of Immortality Regainment, or even achieve the status of a True Immortal.

At that point, his promise would be worth an unfathomable amount!

Surely Cao Zhen wouldn't be able to resist such a wager.

Cao Zhen was completely dumbfounded. There really must be something wrong with this guy's brain—he had only mentioned what he'd do if he lost, but hadn't even considered the terms if he won. This was essentially Zi Xianchen betting that, if he won, he'd get nothing at all. Even Xiang Ziyu wouldn't do something this idiotic!

Afraid the fool might take back his words, Cao Zhen quickly pressed him, "Anything at all? Are you certain you can fulfill that promise?"

"Are you insulting me?" Zi Xianchen said heatedly, his face twisting with indignation. "I, Zi Xianchen, have never gone back on my word!"

"Anything at all, huh? I don't quite believe it!" Cao Zhen gestured at their surroundings. "Then, if I win, and I demand that you defect from the Dragon Chant Sect, could you do that?"

"This..." Zi Xianchen immediately faltered. Defect from the sect? That was impossible. But then again, the words had come out of his own mouth.

"Not defecting, huh? Alright, I'll make it simpler." Cao Zhen smirked faintly before delivering another requirement with a bluntness that shocked everyone. "If I win, I'll tell you to eat shit. Could you do that?"

At the mention of "eat shit," everyone present was utterly stunned.

Here they were, in the Great Sect Dragon Chant Sect, surrounded primarily by cultivators at the Ten Different Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection. Even Immortal Bi Yue, one of the mightiest figures during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, was present. And here came Cao Zhen, brazen enough to utter such crude words!

Was this truly the same reincarnated Great Ability, the Sect Leader of a renowned sect, someone who had once reached the pinnacle of the Golden Core Stage?

Forget cultivators—even in the mortal world, it was rare to hear someone speak with such vulgarity!

Everyone's collective thought: *This Cao Zhen...*

Zi Xianchen's face flushed beet-red. Moments later, his eyes widened as realization hit, his fury crystal clear. He glared venomously at Cao Zhen, shouting, "You're insulting me!"

"Insulting you?" Cao Zhen shook his head lightly. "There's no need for that. Didn't you claim you could do anything? Yet you've failed to fulfill even the simplest of my requests. Or, how about this...?"

Chapter 1398:

Cao Zhen looked into the distance at Luo Zhen, who was already flying over, pointed at him, and said, "Or, you can do the same as him—take out three treasures and compete with me. That would work too."

"Three treasures!" Zi Xianchen's eyes widened instantly as he exclaimed, "I'm still at the Golden Core Stage. How am I supposed to have treasures?"

At the Golden Core Stage, what he naturally used were divine weapons. Of course, once he reached the Earth Immortal Realm, his master or elders would surely provide him with treasures. But as of now, he truly didn't have a single treasure to his name.

"So after all this fuss, you're just a broke fool? Challenging me for a one-on-one duel? Trying to freeload off me? If you're broke, don't even think about fighting me. Come back when you've got the resources."

Cao Zhen turned his face away in disappointment, not even bothering to spare Zi Xianchen another glance. He had originally thought he could make some profit, but it turned out to be just a broke fool. As for losing?

That thought had never even crossed his mind.

Although his current mana hadn't reached the Golden Core Period Limit, his physical body had already surpassed it. And with the constant nourishment from the Chaos Qi emitted by the Seed of Chaos, his mana was still growing stronger.

Comparing his current self to his previous state, when he had wielded the Heretical Golden Core with mana already at the Golden Core Period Limit, he couldn't definitively say which was more powerful. In fact, he leaned toward his current self being stronger. Only after his physical body had reached the Golden Core Period Limit did he realize how terrifying such a body could be.

Now, he finally understood the joy that Xiang Ziyu had experienced before.

Zi Xianchen saw Cao Zhen turn and leave, and for a moment, he just stood there dumbfounded.

Luo Zhen flew in from the distance, his gaze glittering with a peculiar light as he looked at Cao Zhen. Watching this scene, it was clear—no benefits, not even a fight. This Cao Zhen was definitely the same type of person as him.

This realization significantly increased the likelihood that he could collaborate with Cao Zhen.

Luo Zhen's lineage had been part of the Dragon Chant Sect for ages, and their branch was immensely powerful. Luo Zhen, as a representative of this lineage, was currently responsible for the affairs during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth.

Thus, Luo Zhen's cave mansion was naturally quite extravagant.

Upon entering the cave mansion with Luo Zhen, Cao Zhen quickly figured out why Luo Zhen wanted to collaborate with him.

Simply put, Luo Zhen wanted to take advantage of the fact that others didn't yet know of Cao Zhen's existence. He planned to use this opportunity to place bets against members of other Great Teachings, win their treasures, and then split the loot between the two.

"Winning treasures isn't an issue. But how should we divide the winnings?" Cao Zhen turned to look at Luo Zhen and said, "In the end, I'm the one who has to compete with others. I'm the one who will offend people after winning. Yet you haven't contributed anything, and you want half? That's too much."

Luo Zhen immediately retorted indignantly, "But the idea was mine. Without my coordination, others wouldn't agree to compete with you."

Cao Zhen responded with an air of inevitability, "That's not necessarily true. Now that I understand how your plan works, I could just cut you out and do it myself."

Luo Zhen sneered coldly, "Then we'll both walk away empty-handed. Neither of us will profit. I had anticipated this issue long ago. If I dared to propose the plan, I also planned for contingencies."

Cao Zhen shrugged nonchalantly and replied, "Whatever. I've already earned enough treasures. But there are others who've lost three treasures already. Some of those treasures may belong to their elders. Who knows what will happen when those elders wake up and realize you've squandered their treasures? Maybe they'll beat you half to death."

"You!"

Luo Zhen found himself cornered once again by Cao Zhen. Part of the reason he was eager to team up with Cao Zhen to scam others was to recover the treasures he had lost—a family heirloom he had already gambled away to Cao Zhen.

"Well..." Luo Zhen glanced at Immortal Bi Yue, who was standing nearby, and quickly changed gears, saying, "Look, both Bi Yue and I are members of the Dragon Chant Sect. We're practically family here. We can figure this out peacefully."

You see, I need to ensure that people from the Holy Pill Sect and our Dragon Chant Sect don't spread any information. Accomplishing this would require a significant amount of effort and a lot of resources. I'm telling you, splitting the loot fifty-fifty isn't unreasonable."

"Can you guarantee that everyone will keep quiet?" Cao Zhen suddenly asked as he looked at Luo Zhen. "Your previous plan has serious flaws."

Within the Dragon Chant Sect, so many people saw me combine three pills into one. Do you think you can get everyone to keep their mouths shut? Your main aim is to trick people from the Divine Pill Sect, but can you ensure that none of the Dragon Chant Sect disciples are friendly with those from the Divine Pill Sect?

If word leaks out, who will fall for the trap? If you want this to work, you need a different approach."

Luo Zhen immediately asked curiously, "What approach?"

"Twenty percent." Cao Zhen didn't answer directly but held up two fingers instead. "Look, I'll be the one doing the heavy lifting. I'll also be the one coming up with the schemes. At most, all you'll do is coordinate with me. So I'll give you twenty percent of the loot. Agree to this, and we'll partner up. Otherwise, we'll both go our separate ways."

"Twenty percent is too little. Can't you raise it a bit?" Luo Zhen was clearly distressed; twenty percent was just too small of a share.

Cao Zhen nodded and conceded, "Sure, I can raise it a bit. You've got a batch of Dead Pills lying around, haven't you? I'll help you refine them."

"Wait, no, we're talking about the treasure we scam from others. This has nothing to do with the Dead Pills. You... Wait, don't leave! Fine, fine, I agree—I'll take twenty percent!"

Chapter 1399:

Cao Zhen quickly left Luo Zhen's cave mansion. Not long after he left, loud smashing sounds were heard from within Luo Zhen's abode. Soon, news spread that Luo Zhen wanted to negotiate with Cao Zhen, offering alternative treasures or items to compensate him, in hopes that Cao Zhen would return one of the three treasures he lost. One of those treasures was a family heirloom.

However, Cao Zhen outright refused, which sent Luo Zhen into a furious rage.

Later, when the members of the Dragon Chant Sect saw Luo Zhen, they all noticed that he wore an icy expression, as if everyone owed him three treasures.

Furthermore, rumors began circulating that both Luo Zhen and Wen Dan had been completely deceived.

The pills Cao Zhen crafted were allegedly flawed.

The pills only carried the scent of potent medicine, but in truth, their efficacy was nowhere near as extraordinary as claimed. Otherwise, Cao Zhen's injuries should have been fully healed by now.

Luo Zhen even spread word that if Cao Zhen had truly recovered from his injuries, he would have already refined his exotic pill. The only reason Cao Zhen had not yet refined it was because his injuries had not fully healed.

He further expressed suspicion that all three types of pills Cao Zhen initially refined, including the Heaven-Earth Transformation Pill, were problematic. If Cao Zhen were truly capable of producing them, he should have already used them to recover from his injuries.

Yet, Cao Zhen's injuries had remained unhealed, and he had failed to reach the peak of the Golden Core Stage, which was clearly suspicious.

Many members of the Dragon Chant Sect began to harbor doubts upon hearing this. After all, Cao Zhen's alchemical prowess had seemed terrifyingly extraordinary at the time—refining pills in a single month that would normally take a year, and each one was of the best quality. Such capabilities were indeed unsettling.

If it was all a deception, then everything made sense.

Moreover, Cao Zhen still hadn't refined his exotic pill, nor had he fully restored his cultivation to the peak of the Golden Core Stage.

Later, it was even reported that Luo Zhen personally sought out Cao Zhen, offering to craft three types of pills to help Cao Zhen recover, on the sole condition that Cao Zhen return the three treasures he had lost.

However, Cao Zhen refused once more, firmly denying any failure in his alchemical abilities.

Weeping Blood Demon Sect!

In the deepest part of the forbidden zone that could be accessed during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, within a lake seemingly formed of boundless blood, a young figure shot into the sky. Waves of demonic qi erupted from his body, surging in all directions and causing the entire space to tremble uncontrollably.

"The Golden Core Stage limit! Junior Brother Blood Drink has finally reached the peak of the Golden Core Stage," someone exclaimed.

The interim sect leader of the Weeping Blood Demon Sect let out a smile of relief. He had been under considerable pressure lately. Among the great teachings, the Weeping Blood Demon Sect was a formidable force.

Yet, under his leadership, the Weeping Blood Demon Sect had suffered repeated setbacks recently. During Heaven Prayers Sect's failed tribulation, the Weeping Blood Demon Sect had also participated, but the resources they seized were far fewer than anticipated. Prior to that, their sect had two Golden Core Stage limit cultivators: himself and the Bloodbath Demon.

However, in the ruins of musical rhythms, the Bloodbath Demon was slain by Cao Zhen, leaving the Weeping Blood Demon Sect with only one cultivator at the peak of the Golden Core Stage.

While the loss of the Bloodbath Demon was significant, it wasn't entirely disadvantageous for him.

After all, the Bloodbath Demon was also at the Golden Core Stage limit, and like him, had cultivated for an equivalent amount of time, garnering many followers and supporters within the sect.

With the Bloodbath Demon around, his authority within the Weeping Blood Demon Sect was frequently challenged, and there were several matters he couldn't act upon freely.

Without the Bloodbath Demon, he no longer faced such restraints.

But the good times didn't last. When the Eastern Wasteland was reconnected with the Eastern Province, the branch of the Weeping Blood Demon Sect stationed in the Eastern Wasteland returned. Initially, it didn't seem like a major issue, but to his astonishment, someone in their branch from such a remote area had also cultivated to the peak of the Golden Core Stage.

The sect master of the branch from the Weeping Blood Demon Sect was unexpectedly a Golden Core Stage limit cultivator as well. Even more outrageous, this woman was not originally at the Golden Core Stage—she had repeatedly slashed her cultivation level down to the Golden Core Stage in the period leading up to the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth.

Though this woman belonged to the branch sect, she was still a member of the Weeping Blood Demon Sect, and her methods were exceedingly cunning.

Not long after arriving in the Eastern Province, she garnered considerable support within the demonic sects. Numerous elders, impressed by her abilities, even jointly recommended her to become the Grand Elder!

The Weeping Blood Demon Sect had not appointed a Grand Elder during the Reversal Mini Epoch Period.

He found this woman even more troublesome than the Bloodbath Demon.

The Bloodbath Demon lacked her political acumen and schemes. Furthermore, despite both being at the Golden Core Stage limit, he felt he wasn't her match in combat.

As the interim sect leader of the Weeping Blood Demon Sect, he wielded limited authority and was subject to oversight by the elders. Even so, he had still managed to secure substantial resources by leveraging his role.

But ever since this woman became the Grand Elder, her growing influence made it increasingly difficult for him to acquire resources.

At last, now that his junior brother had also reached the peak of the Golden Core Stage, he could recover some of his standing. Ideally, his junior brother could replace that woman and become the Grand Elder.

Chapter 1400:

However, if Junior Brother wishes to become the Grand Elder, he must accomplish significant deeds.

Previously, news arrived at just the right time—Junior Brother achieving the Golden Core Period Limit now seems almost as though Heaven itself is aiding him.

Not long after, the Bleeding Tears Sect Leader contacted two rival sects of the Hundred Peaks Sect, the Void Breaking Sect and the Soul Breaking Sect.

Within the Sect Leader's great hall, the Bleeding Tears Sect Leader gazed at the massive Water Mirror Light Curtain, where the figures of the Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Sect Hierarchs appeared. With a deliberate tone, he began: "Both of your sects harbor grudges against the Hundred Peaks Sect and Cao Zhen. One of you saw your branch destroyed, and the other lost a Golden Core Period Limit expert to Cao Zhen's hand.

And yet, you've done nothing until now. Where is the dignity of your sects? Of course, I understand your hesitations—you're waiting for the end of the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, for the awakening of your Earth Immortal Realm experts before acting against Cao Zhen.

I have no doubt that once your formidable predecessors awaken, you can vanquish the Hundred Peaks Sect.

But so what? Those predecessors of yours will only remark on your unworthiness as Hierarchs, for being toyed with by the Sect Leader of a small Eastern Wasteland sect!

Do you think the elders of your great sects will not view you as incompetent?"

From within the Water Mirror Light Curtain, the Soul Breaking Sect Leader sneered coldly: "Don't point fingers at us. Didn't your Bleeding Tears Sect's Xue Miu die at Cao Zhen's hands? And yet, your sect hasn't acted until now either."

The Bleeding Tears Sect Leader did not lose his composure in response but displayed a sinister grin. "That is precisely why we are preparing to take action."

The Soul Breaking Sect Leader burst out laughing derisively: "Action? Against whom? Are you planning to invade the Hundred Peaks Sect with its two cultivators at Golden Core Period Limit? Or is it Cao Zhen at the Dragon Chant Sect you're targeting?"

The Bleeding Tears Sect Leader seemed oblivious to the mocking undertone and replied confidently, "It's naturally Cao Zhen we're after. He killed one of ours. I'll take the fight to him."

"Going to the Dragon Chant Sect? Do you truly not fear offending their people?"

Beside him, the Void Breaking Sect Leader shook his head disapprovingly. "Cao Zhen is currently a guest of the Dragon Chant Sect. If we approach the Dragon Chant Sect, it's certain they won't surrender him. We cannot afford direct conflict with the Dragon Chant Sect over this matter."

"But what if Cao Zhen willingly agrees to engage with our people?" The Bleeding Tears Sect Leader's tone grew mysterious. "Surely you've heard the rumors. Cao Zhen has reached the Golden Core Period Limit, but his injuries likely haven't fully healed yet. If we... Well, what do you suppose? Will Cao Zhen agree or not?"

"Moreover, Cao Zhen now surpasses the realm of ordinary Transcendent Ten Abnormal Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection cultivators. He's already akin to a peak-level Ten Phenomena Golden Core Great Perfection expert, and his strength continues to grow. Some speculate that soon, he may approach the Golden Core Period Limit.

But advancing further than that will require fully recovering from his injuries or refining another Exotic Pill. Otherwise, at his peak, he will remain no more than someone close to the Golden Core Period Limit."

Turning to the two figures in the Water Mirror, his lips curled. "What if we tell Cao Zhen that only our elite cultivators will confront him, while the sect leaders won't intervene? Do you think he'll accept?"

The Soul Breaking Sect Leader, growing serious, said in a deep voice: "If we confront him while his injuries remain unresolved and he only stands as a peak-level Golden Core Great Perfection expert, then he definitely won't agree to fight."

"That's an easy obstacle to overcome." The Bleeding Tears Sect Leader, who had clearly anticipated this scenario, replied matter-of-factly, "It will take time for us to reach him. If by then he hasn't reached the threshold of Golden Core Period Limit, we'll wait. But if he has already approached the Golden Core Period Limit level, I believe he will certainly make his move. When that happens, we will kill him. At that point, as the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth concludes and our sect's Earth Immortal Realm experts awaken, we'll have settled our enmity and silenced any potential dissent."

"Killing Cao Zhen is obviously the ideal outcome. But even if Cao Zhen agrees, he only reached Golden Core Period Limit recently. The moment we confront him, as someone newly ascended to that tier, how can you guarantee victory against him?"

"Victory is inevitable." The Bleeding Tears Sect Leader's lips curled into a confident smirk. "If Cao Zhen agrees to the fight, his death is assured. My Junior Brother, the Blood-drinking Demon, has now achieved Golden Core Period Limit. Cao Zhen is completely unaware of this fact."

The real intention behind involving the other two sects was the worry that the weight of just one great sect, the Bleeding Tears Demonic Sect, might not suffice alone. But if three sects collectively move upon the Dragon Chant Sect, even the Dragon Chant Sect would have no choice but to tread carefully.

"What!"

"Your Bleeding Tears Demonic Sect has another cultivator at Golden Core Period Limit!"

The two Hierarchs of Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Sect, startled, exchanged looks of surprise. Moments later, their expressions hardened as they nodded in agreement. "Very well, we're in."

The Bleeding Tears Sect Leader's reasoning struck a chord. If they failed to deal with Cao Zhen during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, the eventual awakening of their sect's experts would only bring harsher scrutiny upon their leadership.

Killing Cao Zhen would undoubtedly be the most satisfying resolution.