

## **My Master 1401**

Chapter 1401:

After the three finished their discussion, the Demonic Sect quickly dispatched their disciples to head toward the Dragon Chant Sect.

Inside the Dragon Chant Sect, after Cao Zhen finished consulting with Luo Zhen, he had just planned to find a place to cultivate when Immortal Bi Yue suddenly pulled him, leading him directly toward the Sacred Mountain.

In truth, he had already fully recovered from his injuries, so going to the Sacred Spring on the Sacred Mountain wouldn't serve much purpose.

Of course, if Bi Yue wanted to share a romantic bath with him, he wouldn't object to that.

However, after they entered the Sacred Mountain, Bi Yue didn't take him to the Sacred Spring. Instead, she led him all the way to a secluded small island in the middle of a lake.

Landing on the island, Immortal Bi Yue immediately called out, "Little Yin, where are you? I've come to see you, Little Yin..."

As her voice fell, there was a rustling sound in the distant bushes. Soon, a silver light appeared, and Cao Zhen saw a small silver dragon before him.

It truly was a small dragon. When he had previously seen that golden dragon, he had already thought it was small enough. But this silver dragon was even smaller, barely the size of his palm.

If one didn't look carefully, one might think it was just an insect.

Could dragons really be born this small?

Moreover, the other dragons he had seen before always emanated bright and radiant light. But this little silver dragon lacked much luminance, and its aura felt exceedingly weak—so weak that it didn't even

seem to have reached the Golden Core Stage. Even more, this dragon gave off an impression of extreme frailty, as if it were sick.

The silver dragon quickly sensed Cao Zhen's presence and immediately attempted to fly away. However, Immortal Bi Yue swiftly grabbed it, extending her slender hand to gently stroke its body while softly saying, "Don't be afraid. He won't harm you. This big brother is a very, very skilled Alchemist, and I invited him to help you recover."

As she spoke, Bi Yue looked toward Cao Zhen and whispered, "Can you take a look at Little Yin for me?"

While speaking, she transmitted her thoughts to Cao Zhen, saying, "Little Yin is the offspring of a rather formidable being. But Little Yin was quite unlucky; it was born during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth.

Its mother needed to enter hibernation, but if the mother hibernated, Little Yin would die. Ultimately, Little Yin's mother chose to defy the Heavenly Dao and delayed her slumber.

As a result, Heaven naturally enacted divine punishment, and its mother fought fiercely against the celestial retribution, delivering Little Yin. But its mother perished as a consequence, and Little Yin was left extraordinarily frail due to its premature birth.

We've tried to help nurture its body, but it was born during such a unique period. Those powerful Alchemists were busy preparing their own burial sites, and the ones who hadn't yet entered slumber—like Luo Zhen and Wen Dan of the Holy Pill Sect—have already examined the little dragon's condition. They couldn't find any solution.

That's why I want you to try and help Little Yin."

Cao Zhen immediately understood; the little dragon's situation was akin to that of a preterm human baby.

However, although he was an Alchemist, he wasn't a physician. He couldn't be certain whether he could successfully treat the dragon.

Looking at the little dragon lying in Bi Yue's hand, Cao Zhen tentatively asked, "Can I channel my mana into it to sense its condition?"

Bi Yue didn't immediately respond to him. Instead, she looked down at the silver dragon in her hand. The little dragon clearly understood human speech, for it nodded slightly upon hearing him and voluntarily flew onto Cao Zhen's hand.

Strange Beasts, after reaching cultivation levels equivalent to the Earth Immortal Realm for humans, can vocalize human speech. However, being unable to speak doesn't mean they can't comprehend human language.

As Cao Zhen gazed at the little dragon, his thoughts wandered to Li Ke's pet cat. When he had first arrived in this world, his understanding was limited, so he didn't think much of it then.

It was only later that he learned beings at the Earth Immortal Realm could speak. Thus, he realized the cat was actually at the Earth Immortal level. How Li Ke, at the mere Golden Core Stage, managed to possess such a high-level cat that obeyed her, remained beyond his understanding.

Of course, the cat hadn't appeared for a long time now. It was waiting for the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth to end before it could reawaken.

Pulling himself together, Cao Zhen carefully controlled his mana and allowed it to flow into the silver dragon's body. Just by looking at the dragon earlier, he had already sensed its frailty. Now, upon deeper inspection, he was astonished to find that the dragon was even weaker than he had imagined. He felt it was a miracle that it had survived this long.

"It's too fragile..."

After a moment, Cao Zhen looked toward Bi Yue, puzzled, and asked, "You said Luo Zhen and Wen Dan have checked it out, right? Why didn't they create some pills to regulate its condition?"

"They did," Bi Yue replied helplessly. "But the pills they made were more suited for humans and were not particularly beneficial for dragons. After consuming them, the little dragon actually experienced some adverse effects. After that, I didn't dare ask anyone else to make pills for it."

"Only suited for humans? Can't they adjust the prescription to tailor it for dragons? Such stubborn folks," Cao Zhen muttered, shaking his head. "The timing was critical. If pills had been made and administered right after its birth, it would've recovered by now. But now, trying to heal it will be extremely, extremely difficult."

"That may be true... Wait, what did you say? Healing it will be difficult? Then you mean—you can heal it?!" Bi Yue suddenly grabbed Cao Zhen's hand, her excitement evident.

Feeling the soft sensation from her grasp, Cao Zhen nodded lightly and said, "It's possible, but it will require a very lengthy period of nurturing, along with a tremendous amount of medicinal ingredients. Some of those ingredients are exceedingly rare, and I'm not sure if your Dragon Chant Sect has them."

"What medicinal ingredients? Just tell me." Bi Yue spoke with great determination. Medicinal ingredients? Would that be an issue? What could possibly be unavailable to the Dragon Chant Sect?

Even if the Dragon Chant Sect didn't have them, wouldn't the Sacred Mountain surely provide?

Chapter 1402:

Cao Zhen had once randomly connected to Gong Zhizhang.

Gong Zhizhang was a Level 99 Beast Tamer. In truth, Beast Taming encompassed the Six Arts of Beast Mastery.

The Six Arts of Beast Mastery not only included how to control beasts, but also how to rear various species, and even how to heal the wounds of strange beasts.

Dragons, despite their immense power, were still classified as beasts. By combining his Alchemy skills with the Six Arts of Beast Mastery, he was fully confident he could restore the silver dragon, Little Yin, to full health. However, the resources required would be astronomical.

Honestly, even if Bi Yue were to gift him this little dragon, he wasn't sure he could afford the cost. Many of the necessary resources were exceedingly rare and possibly unobtainable even if he tried to purchase them.

In Cao Zhen's hands, the silver dragon, upon hearing his words, began wildly thrashing in excitement. Its tail swung back and forth, and it even wrapped its body around Cao Zhen's finger, sticking out its tongue to lick his palm. Clearly, it was overjoyed.

Considering that it had been nearly sixty years since its birth, during which it had remained weak and frail, finally hearing the news that it could recover was something that made it impossible for it not to be thrilled and stirred.

Under the urging of Immortal Bi Yue, Cao Zhen quickly wrote down the list of materials needed on a piece of paper. Immortal Bi Yue carefully kept the paper and swiftly departed. However, instead of heading to the Dragon Chant Sect's treasury, she flew straight to the center of the Sacred Lake, landing on the largest island there.

Previously, when Cao Zhen had arrived at the Holy Mountain, he saw many areas guarded by cultivators of the Dragon Chant Sect along the way.

But this particular island was different—there wasn't a single cultivator of the Dragon Chant Sect standing guard. Instead, the responsibility of protecting this place fell to a host of dragons!

As Immortal Bi Yue arrived, the dragons immediately surrounded her affectionately. She simply extended her hand to stroke several of their heads before briskly walking toward a grand treasury.

This was the Holy Mountain's treasury. Even the true Sect Hierarchy of the Dragon Chant Sect wasn't qualified to open it, for it didn't belong to the human cultivators of the sect but rather to the dragons within its domain.

When Bi Yue reached the treasury's entrance, the dragons did not obstruct her path.

Soon, a majestic and incomparably commanding aura surged from within her being. At that moment, she seemed to no longer be a human but a true Divine Dragon, ruling over all others.

The dragons that had previously shown such intimacy toward Bi Yue instantly lowered their heads, lying prostrate on the ground as though pledging their submission.

Bi Yue slowly extended her hand and pressed it against the immense stone door before her. In the next moment, the giant door gradually opened, and Bi Yue stepped inside.

Cao Zhen didn't know when Bi Yue would return, so he crossed his legs and sat in meditation, beginning to circulate the Prosperous Age Skills cultivation technique.

During this time, he continuously cultivated using the Prosperous Age Skills and noticed that the Chaos Seed within him had grown slightly larger compared to its original state. Even more importantly, he could now clearly sense that the Chaotic Power was no longer confined to his sea of qi or his Chaos Seed. As soon as he activated the Prosperous Age Skills, the chaotic energy began flowing through every meridian in his body.

These streams of chaotic energy were significantly stronger than the mana he had previously condensed, carrying an all-encompassing and inclusive nature.

Gradually, a misty aura emanated from within Cao Zhen's body and began to swirl around him.

The silver dragon coiled on his palm seemed to sense the misty aura. It perked up slightly, opened its mouth, and began to inhale deeply, as if trying to draw the mist into its body.

However, this misty aura was not ordinary vapor. No matter how hard it tried to absorb it, it couldn't draw the aura into its body. Yet, it persisted, its inhalations relentless.

Eventually, an imperceptible wisp of the misty aura was indeed pulled into its form. The silver dragon's body trembled subtly in response, prompting it to increase the intensity of its efforts.

Cao Zhen continued cultivating while quietly observing the silver dragon. When he realized it had absorbed part of the misty aura, a flicker of astonishment flashed across his eyes. This misty aura wasn't waste gas expelled during cultivation. Instead, it was the pure essence produced by his Prosperous Age Qi, Chaos Qi, and absorbed spiritual energy during his practice.

This aura contained spiritual energy from the surroundings, Chaos Qi, and Prosperous Age Qi.

After all, during cultivation, it's impossible for all the generated energy to be contained within the body. Some always escapes, which can be considered a form of lost energy.

Surprisingly, the silver dragon had managed to absorb a portion of this lost energy!

Thus, the man and dragon cultivated together in harmony.

It was unclear how much time had passed when Immortal Bi Yue flew back from afar. From a distance, she saw the harmonious scene of the man and dragon as well as the misty aura coiling around Cao Zhen.

Noticing Bi Yue's return, Cao Zhen ceased his cultivation and allowed the misty aura around him to dissipate gradually.

The silver dragon gently shifted its body and let out two soft calls toward Cao Zhen. While Cao Zhen was adept at communicating with birds, understanding the language of a dragon was an entirely different matter. All he could tell was that its cries seemed tinged with dissatisfaction.

Immortal Bi Yue landed and, seeing the little dragon affectionately entwined around Cao Zhen, revealed an expression of surprise. She exclaimed in astonishment, "I didn't expect it to be so close to you. Little Yin is usually very shy!"

Chapter 1403:

Cao Zhen extended another hand, gently stroking the little dragon while looking up at Bi Yue, his face full of pride. "Perhaps my disciple didn't tell you—I also happen to be a Beast Rider. For a Beast Master like me, taking care of a little dragon is no challenge at all!"

He wasn't about to reveal that the little dragon was drawn to him because it wanted to absorb the energy he had leaked during cultivation.

Immortal Bi Yue, seeing how close the little dragon was to Cao Zhen, gained even more confidence in him. She promptly handed a Qiankun Bag over to Cao Zhen and said, "Here are the materials you requested. Take a look and see if there's anything amiss."

Cao Zhen took the Qiankun Bag, examined its contents, and confirmed that the materials were indeed correct. He then pulled out an ordinary Pill Furnace and immediately began igniting flames to start the alchemy process, explaining as he worked, "What I'm going to refine now is a batch of Spiritual Flood Monster Primordial Energy Cultivation Pills. Actually, the challenge with this pill lies in gathering the materials—once you have them, the refinement process is relatively straightforward."

As he tossed one medicinal ingredient after another into the Pill Furnace, he looked at Bi Yue with curiosity and asked, "I'm quite puzzled. What pill did Luo Zhen and Wen Dan attempt to refine for the little silver dragon back then?"

Immortal Bi Yue, who had watched Cao Zhen refine pills before and knew he was the most outstanding Alchemy Master, had seen him converse with others even while simultaneously refining three different batches of pills. So refining just one pill seemed effortless for him.

She appeared deeply concerned about the little silver dragon. Without even pausing to think, she responded to Cao Zhen's question, "Back then, they refined the Divine Dragon Bone Strengthening Pill."

"What?! Are they insane?" Cao Zhen immediately exclaimed in a loud voice. "Given the little dragon's current condition, how could it possibly withstand the potency of the Divine Dragon Bone Strengthening Pill? Didn't they think to adjust the ingredients and use Flood Monster materials instead of dragon ones? Moreover, while its skeleton is indeed fragile, shouldn't they first focus on conditioning its internal organs before attempting to strengthen its bones?"

That Luo Zhen boasts of being a 'Divine Healer,' but he's nothing more than a quack!"

Immortal Bi Yue, hearing Cao Zhen's vehement critique, couldn't help but agree that Luo Zhen seemed like an inept healer. Yet, she wondered, why had everyone previously considered Luo Zhen to be one of the top alchemists and medical experts?

And furthermore...

She watched Cao Zhen refining just one batch of pills and curiously asked, "Why aren't you refining several batches of pills at once? Don't worry—there are plenty of materials."

"What, you think seeing me refine just one batch isn't satisfying? It's not that I don't want to refine more—it's just that the little dragon is too frail at the moment. It can only handle one batch for now. Once it slowly consumes this pill, I'll monitor its condition before deciding whether to refine more."

For Cao Zhen, refining the Spiritual Flood Monster Primordial Energy Cultivation Pill was incredibly simple. He even began cultivating while refining the pill.

Bi Yue was thoroughly impressed now. Cao Zhen had already amazed her by simultaneously refining three batches of pills in the past, but what was he doing now? He was actually cultivating while refining pills.

Did he not need to control the flame?

Did he not need to constantly add medicinal ingredients?

Then, Immortal Bi Yue noticed that Cao Zhen really wasn't managing the flame much. As for adding medicinal ingredients, he only did so after completing one minor circulation of his cultivation cycle.

Even though she herself didn't practice alchemy, she knew that alchemists usually had to monitor the state of the flame constantly and continuously add ingredients. Even though she was aware of Cao Zhen's masterful reputation, she couldn't help but question whether this approach could truly result in a successfully refined pill.

And then there was Cao Zhen's aura...

She discovered that while cultivating, Cao Zhen's progress was astonishingly fast.

Without realizing it, twenty days had passed. Cao Zhen had already advanced to a level nearing the Golden Core Period Limit.

She distinctly remembered how, when she reached the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection stage, even the slightest progress had been incredibly difficult to achieve. Yet for Cao Zhen, it

seemed as though he progressed effortlessly, with his mana continuously increasing through normal cultivation.

Recently, the Eastern Province's cultivation world hadn't experienced any significant events. The only notable occurrence was the Hundred Flowers Sect's visit to the Dragon Chant Sect. Back when she was at the Heaven Prayers Sect, Immortal Bi Yue had remarked that the Hundred Flowers Sect had sowed discord, and they would have to be held accountable. However, upon returning to the Dragon Chant Sect, she became occupied with various tasks—helping Cao Zhen recover from his injuries, treating the little silver dragon—and thus hadn't found time to confront them.

Surprisingly, it was the Hundred Flowers Sect that had become frightened. Before the Dragon Chant Sect could initiate anything, the Hundred Flowers Sect proactively came forward to make amends, offering their apologies and reparations. Of course, the emphasis was on the reparations.

By coming of their own accord, the Hundred Flowers Sect avoided having to pay a larger price. If they had waited for the Dragon Chant Sect to come knocking, their losses would have been far greater.

As the Hundred Flowers Sect members completed their restitution and were preparing to leave, a fleet of flying boats appeared in the distant void.

The Hundred Flowers Sect members decided to stay, looking up to watch the flying boats approaching from the skies.

After all, there was no way that anyone could be coming to attack the Dragon Chant Sect. With so many flying boats arriving, perhaps there would be something interesting to witness.

In the past, when their Sect Hierarch of the Hundred Flowers Sect was still in slumber, she had specifically instructed the younger generation of their sect. During the Reversal Mini Epoch Period, there were several Great Teachings that—even if they appeared incredibly weak, as though they might perish at any moment—should never be attacked directly at their mountain gates.

Among them, particular emphasis had been placed on the Dragon Chant Sect.

Their Sect Hierarch had further emphasized that under no circumstances should anyone provoke the Dragon Chant Sect.

Chapter 1404:

Later, they also heard from people of other Great Teachings that their predecessors had issued similar orders before entering their slumber.

Clearly, there must be some great secret within the Dragon Chant Sect's mountain gate, and attacking the Dragon Chant Sect would undoubtedly lead to significant losses.

Therefore, it was impossible that these people were here to attack the Dragon Chant Sect.

"People from the Void Breaking Sect, Soul Breaking Demonic Sect, and Weeping Blood Demon Sect!"

Among the members of the Hundred Flowers Sect, Immortal Peony stared at the three descending flying boats, a hint of confusion flashing in her eyes.

These three Great Teachings were all Demonic Sects—what were Demonic Sect members doing at the Dragon Chant Sect?

The people of the Dragon Chant Sect had clearly noticed the flying boats too. Seeing where the three flying boats were from, the members of the Dragon Chant Sect didn't even activate the Mountain Protection Array, nor did any disciples go inside the sect to inform the higher-ups. Everyone merely watched as the three flying boats descended right in front of their mountain gate and then stopped.

Three flying boats—one for each Great Teaching.

Soon after, the members of the Void Breaking Sect, Soul Breaking Demonic Sect, and Weeping Blood Demon Sect disembarked.

This time, the person assigned to greet the Hundred Flowers Sect was Yu Long.

As soon as the representatives of the three Great Teachings landed, they immediately spotted Yu Long and cupped their hands toward him, saying, "Dao Companion Yu Long."

Yu Long raised his hand slightly in return. Normally, he wouldn't bother acknowledging others, but since the three leaders were all individuals whose strength approached the Golden Core Period Limit like himself, he replied—solely out of respect for their power.

Coldly, he then said, "What's the purpose of your visit, members of the Three Demonic Teachings, to the mountain gate of our Dragon Chant Sect?"

Among the three representatives—two men and one woman—the slender woman attired in tight-fitting black clothing stepped forward and said, "We've heard that Cao Zhen, Sect Leader of the Hundred Peaks Sect, is currently at the Dragon Chant Sect. We've come to find Cao Zhen."

Yu Long's brows furrowed instantly, and he coldly responded, "Sect Leader Cao is a guest at our Dragon Chant Sect. If you have business with him, then wait until he leaves. As for when that will be, I wouldn't know."

With that, he turned to head toward the mountain gate. He had previously visited the Hundred Peaks Sect together with Immortal Bi Yue and Cao Zhen and had even stayed there for some time. Moreover, having explored the Five Sounds Sect's ruins in the past, he was well aware of the enmity between the Hundred Peaks Sect and these three Great Teachings.

He also knew that Cao Zhen had yet to recover from his injuries.

Why had these three Great Teachings come to trouble Cao Zhen now, of all times? Clearly, it was because they knew of his weakened state and were here to seek revenge.

Furthermore, his senior sister, Immortal Bi Yue, was determined to protect Cao Zhen, so there was no reason for him to say much to the trio.

After all, while the three individuals represented powerful Demonic Teachings—especially the Weeping Blood Demon Sect, famous for its treachery and ruthlessness—the Dragon Chant Sect had never feared

anyone. So what if they offended these three Great Teachings? The Dragon Chant Sect had antagonized fewer factions, perhaps?

Even if they did offend these three Great Teachings, what could they do? Would they really dare to turn on the Dragon Chant Sect?

Seeing Yu Long about to leave, the woman hastily called out, "Dao Companion Yu Long, please stay! We request that you convey a message to Cao Zhen of the Hundred Peaks Sect. Tell him that we are here to discuss the enmity between our three Great Teachings and the Hundred Peaks Sect.

We are aware that he is no longer at the Golden Core Period Limit, but the Hundred Peaks Sect still has two individuals at the Golden Core Period Limit, and our Three Demonic Teachings also have Golden Core Period Limit cultivators among us.

Considering he has killed members of our sects, as representatives of Great Teachings, we must seek an explanation. While the Hundred Peaks Sect is strong, if our Three Demonic Teachings were to unite and attack them as one, they wouldn't stand a chance.

What's more, even if we don't attack the Hundred Peaks Sect now, once the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth concludes, how will they fend off the awakening Earth Immortal Realm seniors from our factions?

For now, we are offering him an opportunity—a chance to resolve this dispute.

Each of our Three Great Teachings will send one representative to challenge him in battle. One match will settle everything. Regardless of the outcome, all past grievances will be wiped clean!

Furthermore, the individuals we select for the duel will be chosen only from the disciples you see in front of you now.

We ask Dao Companion Yu Long to relay this message to Cao Zhen.

Of course, if he is too afraid, he may choose to avoid the battle. However, should we then proceed to trouble the Hundred Peaks Sect, we ask that the Dragon Chant Sect refrain from intervening again."

Immortal Peony thought to herself that her choice to stay had indeed been wise—this was turning into an exceptionally entertaining spectacle.

Evidently, the members of the Three Great Teachings had come knowing full well that Cao Zhen had yet to recover to the Golden Core Period Limit, and they were here looking for trouble.

But whether or not Cao Zhen would dare to accept the challenge remained to be seen—this was turning out to be a must-watch event.

A nearby disciple of the Hundred Flowers Sect whispered to Immortal Peony, "The timing chosen by the Three Great Teachings is quite savvy. If Cao Zhen refuses to accept the duel, and the Three Great Teachings then go on to attack the Hundred Peaks Sect, should the Dragon Chant Sect intervene, they would have grounds to protest. At that point, it's likely the Dragon Chant Sect wouldn't support the Hundred Peaks Sect anymore.

After all, the Dragon Chant Sect aiding the Hundred Peaks Sect earlier was purely out of respect for Immortal Bi Yue. While Immortal Bi Yue's status may be important, there's no way the entire Dragon Chant Sect would recklessly fight to safeguard the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Moreover, the Three Great Teachings have already proposed a solution to settle the matter, which could be considered a gesture of goodwill to the Dragon Chant Sect.

Chapter 1405:

If Cao Zhen agrees to act, he is no longer at the Golden Core Period Limit. The fact that the people of the Three Great Demonic Sects are arriving must mean they are confident in being able to kill Cao Zhen.

When the time comes and Cao Zhen is killed, the Three Great Demonic Sects will undoubtedly save face in the process."

"Indeed so. The key question is whether Cao Zhen dares to accept the challenge."

Yu Long originally didn't want to engage with the matter, yet the opposition explicitly named Cao Zhen, demanding him to resolve their grievances. Thus, Yu Long had no choice but to report it.

However, both Cao Zhen and Immortal Bi Yue had been inside the Holy Mountain. Let alone Yu Long himself, even Zhang Zirong, their interim sect hierarch, couldn't directly enter the Holy Mountain. With no alternative, Yu Long could only use a transmission jade talisman to contact Immortal Bi Yue and inform her about the situation.

On the island in the Sacred Lake, Cao Zhen continued refining pills while cultivating.

He had discovered that as he approached the Golden Core Period Limit, progressing further had become significantly slower compared to before.

Suddenly, Immortal Bi Yue cast a strange glance toward him.

After a brief silence, Bi Yue commented, "Just now, people from the Void Breaking Sect, Soul Breaking Demonic Sect, and Weeping Blood Demon Sect came forward, saying they wish to settle the grievances between you. They suggested that you face their representatives in combat one by one. Regardless of victory or defeat, as long as you engage with them individually, the enmity will be considered resolved."

"Yu Long also observed earlier, noting that among the representatives they sent, none were their respective sect hierarchs. This means there were no individuals at the Golden Core Period Limit."

"However..."

Immortal Bi Yue paused briefly and continued, "The fact that they dared propose fighting you must mean they are confident. Perhaps one of them possesses some kind of secret technique allowing temporary attainment of the Golden Core Period Limit, or perhaps one of them has already reached the Golden Core Period Limit, but the outside world remains unaware."

"Therefore, my suggestion is to simply ignore them. Right now, you are refining pills for Little Dragon, and our Dragon Chant Sect naturally has an obligation to protect you, just as we must safeguard your sect as well."

"Rest assured, Little Dragon's lineage is certainly extraordinary. Although its mother passed away long ago due to the Heavenly Dao, its father remains alive and merely in slumber. If I disclose that you are treating Little Dragon, even Zhang Zirong himself would take personal action to protect you and the Hundred Peaks Sect."

Cao Zhen knew that Little Yin Dragon's mother must have been incredibly strong—after all, anyone who could forcibly resist the Heavenly Dao to give birth to it had to be mighty. Otherwise, how could such resistance occur?

If its mother was already so formidable, its father must certainly not be weak either.

Yet, from Bi Yue's words, it seemed Little Yin Dragon's father was even more terrifyingly powerful than he had imagined. The implication was clear: for Little Yin Dragon's sake, the entire Dragon Chant Sect would go to war.

How monstrously strong must Little Yin Dragon's father be?

If he could somehow persuade Little Yin Dragon to come to the Hundred Peaks Sect, then in the future, who would dare attack the Hundred Peaks Sect?

As for fighting those demonic sect members?

Even if they possessed the Golden Core Period Limit, so what?

Cao Zhen immediately laughed aloud. "Fight? If they come knocking seeking death, why wouldn't I oblige?"

He then looked at Immortal Bi Yue with an odd expression and said, "You wouldn't seriously think I'm weak right now, would you?"

After pausing briefly, his face revealed an unmistakable hint of teasing as he continued, "Have you ever considered, just maybe, you yourself are no longer my equal now?"

"Impossible!" Immortal Bi Yue instantly shook her head at his words, "I know you've cultivated Chaotic Power, but the Golden Core Period Limit is still the Golden Core Period Limit. You're currently merely approaching the limit, and unless you break through to it immediately, you can't possibly defeat someone already there."

"Who says I'm not already at the Golden Core Period Limit?" Cao Zhen waved his arm in front of Immortal Bi Yue, saying, "Don't forget, reaching the Golden Core Period Limit doesn't only apply to mana—it also includes the physical body."

"My disciple Xiang Ziyu achieved physical strength at the Golden Core Period Limit, so why couldn't I do the same? He reached the Golden Core Period Limit by cultivating the Eight Nine Mysterious Art, and that cultivation technique was taught by me."

"What? You've also reached the Golden Core Period Limit!" Immortal Bi Yue's eyes widened. She was well-aware of the wonders of the Eight Nine Mysterious Art, having herself been practicing it for some time. She could distinctly feel the conspicuous improvements in physical strength brought by the technique.

She was certain that cultivating the Eight Nine Mysterious Art could indeed lead to the Golden Core Period Limit.

"But your physical body had not previously reached the Golden Core Period Limit." Immortal Bi Yue would often engage in battles alongside Cao Zhen, and she clearly felt that while his physical strength was impressive, it fell short compared to Xiang Ziyu's—far from the level of the physical Golden Core Period Limit.

Cao Zhen explained, "That's because the cultivation technique I practiced in this lifetime differs greatly from what I cultivated in my previous life. My chosen path has also changed significantly, and because this new path is unfamiliar to me, my mana inadvertently reached the Golden Core Period Limit long before my physical body could.

The Eight Nine Mysterious Art isn't merely a divine skill for tempering the body—it also enhances mana. But since my mana has already reached the Golden Core Period Limit, I naturally can't use the Eight Nine Mysterious Art to its fullest potential. That's why my physical body couldn't previously reach the Golden Core Period Limit."

Chapter 1406:

Immortal Bi Yue was momentarily speechless. Just listen to Cao Zhen's words—he accidentally reached the Golden Core Period Limit.

Others struggle untold hardships to reach the Golden Core Period Limit. Yet Cao Zhen acted as though achieving it prematurely was a nuisance—and oddly enough, it seemed he wasn't wrong.

Moreover, her own cultivation progress in the Eight Nine Mysterious Art had slowed down. On one hand, the difficulty increased markedly as it advanced into the later stages. On the other, she felt a peculiar resistance while cultivating the method, as if it was a hindrance sent by Heaven's Will.

Now, she could confirm that the obstruction indeed came from the Heavenly Dao. Her mana, too, had reached the Golden Core Period Limit.

As such, it wouldn't be long before she would no longer be able to cultivate the Eight Nine Mysterious Art.

Meanwhile, Cao Zhen—after previously sustaining injuries that kept his mana from reaching the Golden Core Period Limit—seemingly regained the ability to cultivate the Eight Nine Mysterious Art.

Yet, in such a short span of time, Cao Zhen had already cultivated the Eight Nine Mysterious Art up to the Golden Core Period Limit—an accomplishment that was undeniably terrifying.

Having cultivated the Eight Nine Mysterious Art herself, she knew just how arduous the process was.

Even if Cao Zhen had practiced the Eight Nine Mysterious Art in his previous life and was merely retracing his cultivation path, the speed at which he achieved this was still enough to make one shudder.

Summarizing, Cao Zhen declared, "So now, my physical strength has reached the Golden Core Period Limit, and my mana is close to hitting that same limit. I'm even stronger than I was before my injury. Who dares to take me on in combat?"

Even if someone has achieved the Golden Core Period Limit, they're bound to perish—unless the opponent turns out to be someone like Xiang Ziyu, whose physical strength and mana both reached the Golden Core Period Limit."

"That's impossible. Physical strength reaching the Golden Core Limit? Even the All-encompassing Sect, renowned across the Eastern Wasteland as the foremost teaching in body refinement, has failed to produce anyone with a perfected physical strength at the Golden Core Limit—let alone others."

"Currently, throughout the entire Eastern Province, it seems only you and Xiang Ziyu have managed to achieve the Golden Core Period Limit."

Immortal Bi Yue eyed Cao Zhen and asked with a questioning look, "At what level of cultivation in the Eight Nine Mysterious Art can physical strength reach the Golden Core limit?"

She, too, practiced the Eight Nine Mysterious Art. If both Cao Zhen and Xiang Ziyu could refine their physical strength to the Golden Core Period Limit, then it stood to reason she could achieve this as well.

If worse came to worst, she could always self-detonate one of her Golden Cores to make it happen.

Though detonating a Golden Core causes substantial harm and leaves one extremely weak for a time—

She was a member of Dragon Chant Sect, so losing a Golden Core was no big deal. Within the sect, who would dare harm her?

As for the damage self-detonation inflicted—well, consuming pills would resolve that. Dragon Chant Sect had an abundance of miraculous Spirit Pills, and besides, wasn't Cao Zhen right here?

After some thought, Cao Zhen replied, "That depends on the individual's circumstances. Both Xiang Ziyu and I reached the Golden Core Period Limit after cultivating the Eight Nine Mysterious Art to Level Ten.

However, our physical strength was already quite strong prior to cultivating the Eight Nine Mysterious Art. As for you, even if you cultivate the Eight Nine Mysterious Art to Level Ten, it might not be sufficient to refine your physical strength to the Golden Core Period Limit. You would likely need Level Eleven

Eight Nine Mysterious Art for that. But Level Eleven marks the transition to the second cycle, and during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, that cycle may no longer be cultivatable."

"My physical strength?" Immortal Bi Yue burst into laughter. "How are you so sure my physical strength isn't strong enough? After all, I've had glimpses of fortune as well."

She paused momentarily, then her expression turned serious as she asked, "What if I self-detonate a Golden Core and focus solely on cultivating the Eight Nine Mysterious Art?"

Cao Zhen was instantly thunderstruck. "You've already reached the Golden Core Period Limit. Why would you self-detonate a Golden Core?" What was wrong with all these people? Each one seemed to harbor some kind of madness—all bent on playing around with Golden Core self-detonation.

"Naturally, it would be so I could refine my physical strength to the Golden Core Period Limit. I have complete confidence that even if I self-detonate a Golden Core, I'd be able to re-cultivate it back to completion and once again reach the Golden Core Period Limit in mana.

By that time, I would be the third individual in the Eastern Province whose physical strength and mana simultaneously reached the Golden Core Period Limit."

Cao Zhen sighed, "I just worry that by then, the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth may have already concluded."

"Even so, it would be worth it." Immortal Bi Yue suddenly glanced at Cao Zhen with gentle affection. "But I'll depend on you for help, you know? If I self-detonate a Golden Core, could you refine a Spirit Pill to assist me in recovery?"

Immortal Bi Yue's coquettish tone, calling herself "your lady," made Cao Zhen momentarily numb, and he instinctively nodded without even processing her words.

Meanwhile, Little Yin Dragon—perhaps disgruntled at being ignored by the two—leapt from Cao Zhen's palm onto Immortal Bi Yue's hand. Its face full of dissatisfaction, it let out a series of cries, though whether aimed at Cao Zhen or Immortal Bi Yue was anyone's guess.

Immortal Bi Yue suddenly snapped back to attention upon hearing Little Yin Dragon's cries. She asked, "Oh right, how many more days will it take for the pill to be completed?" Cao Zhen knew that even if he wanted to accept challenges, he would first need to finish crafting the pill for Little Yin Dragon.

Without even glancing at the Pill Furnace, Cao Zhen replied, "Three days should be more than sufficient. Though, if you want it quicker, that's possible too—it would just require adding more ingredients. But I don't think that should be necessary, do you?"

Immortal Bi Yue stared at him in stunned disbelief. Cao Zhen's pill refinement had already reached its final stages; the pill was about to take form. Could ingredients still be added now to hasten the process?

To her, it felt like Cao Zhen was treating alchemy as little more than child's play.

Soon, Immortal Bi Yue used the Sound Transmission Jade Pendant to respond to Yu Long.

Chapter 1407:

After receiving the voice transmission, Yu Long's face revealed a peculiar expression. Then, he looked at the members of the three Demonic Sects and said, "Sect Leader Cao has spoken. He is currently busy and requires three days' time. After three days, he will naturally face you in battle."

His senior sister Bi Yue had conveyed this clearly—they were busy. They—plural!

Two people had entered the Holy Land and stayed holed up inside without coming out. What could they possibly be busy with?

He truly couldn't fathom it. As he spoke, he deliberately left out a word.

"Three days, is it? Very well." The members of the three Demonic Sects, upon hearing this, nodded one after the other. Three days—what could Cao Zhen possibly achieve in that amount of time?

Could he miraculously break through to the Golden Core Period Limit in just three days?

It seemed more likely that Cao Zhen was planning to spend these three days cultivating some divine skill or activating a secret technique.

But even with cultivation, it would be useless. What he was about to face would undoubtedly be an opponent who had already reached the Golden Core Period Limit.

In the blink of an eye, the three days passed.

Having refined a batch of best-quality pills and left them for the silver dragon, Cao Zhen, along with Immortal Bi Yue, flew out of the Holy Land and arrived at the outskirts of the Dragon Chant Sect.

The Dragon Chant Sect might have permitted the members of the three Demonic Sects to come inside and fight, but would those three sects dare to step inside?

Thus, the battle location had to be set outside the Dragon Chant Sect.

The Hundred Flowers Sect's members also didn't leave. Spending three days waiting was worth it if they could witness such a grand spectacle—why would they leave?

Upon learning that Cao Zhen was going to resolve grudges by battling the members of the three Demonic Sects, the disciples of the Dragon Chant Sect also gathered outside their sect gates to witness the showdown.

Even Zi Xianchen stepped out from his cultivation chamber, flying outward.

Cao Zhen swept his gaze over the members of the three Demonic Sects in front of him before finally fixating on the three leaders among them. He addressed them loudly, "You previously claimed that you wished to settle grievances by having me fight against all of your three sects' members, and that once the battle concludes, regardless of the outcome, all grudges will be resolved—correct?"

"Indeed." As soon as they saw Cao Zhen appear, their faces momentarily flashed with a barely perceptible trace of excitement. The female cultivator who had spoken earlier now added, "Additionally,

since this is a duel meant to resolve grudges, it naturally must lead to life and death. Until one side falls, the battle continues. Do you dare?"

They had been specifically instructed by their Sect Hierarchy before coming: this battle must end in death. Their ultimate goal was to kill Cao Zhen, and under no circumstances were they allowed to admit defeat.

"Why would I be afraid?" Cao Zhen flew out abruptly, and behind him appeared a glowing phenomenon—a single abnormal Golden Pill. His expression turned resolute as he stared at everyone and said, "Among the three Demonic Sects, who will step forth first?"

Instantly, the surrounding crowd's gaze fell on Cao Zhen, staring at the nine abnormal Golden Pills floating behind him.

"This aura... It's approaching the Golden Core Period Limit! The earlier information suggested that Cao Zhen had only recovered to the pinnacle level of Ten Phenomena Golden Elixir Great Perfection. Has he made another breakthrough now?"

"It seems Cao Zhen spent the past three days breaking through!"

"These abnormal Golden Pills radiate an incredibly strong aura!"

Among the Hundred Flowers Sect crowd were those who had witnessed Cao Zhen's peak state in the ruined site. They couldn't help but whisper among themselves.

"These Golden Pills of Cao Zhen's—how do they seem even stronger than before?"

"Indeed, stronger than before! However, his Exotic Pill is missing. So, even though the Golden Pills feel much more formidable, Cao Zhen still hasn't reached the Golden Core Period Limit."

"It appears the rumors were true."

"What rumors?"

"The rumors about Cao Zhen's alchemy—you know, when Dragon Chant Sect's Luo Zhen attempted to help Cao Zhen refine pills to recover from his injuries but ended up being tricked out of three treasures by Cao Zhen."

"I heard about that too. Apparently, Luo Zhen later offered to refine pills again for Cao Zhen if Cao Zhen returned the three treasures. Yet Cao Zhen refused, stating he would only pay with one treasure. Consequently, Luo Zhen never refined pills for him again."

"Is Cao Zhen mad? His injuries, if healed, could have allowed him to reach the Golden Core Period Limit once more! But for the sake of two treasures, he'd rather remain unrecovered? Surely this rumor is fake!"

"I doubt it's fake. It was reportedly said by Luo Zhen himself."

"Two treasures—bear in mind, these aren't just ordinary treasures but Divine Weapons. It's likely that Cao Zhen and Luo Zhen were caught in a standoff, each trying to wear the other down for better bargaining power."

"That seems plausible. In the end, Cao Zhen will still need to heal his injuries; he's just trying to minimize the cost."

"But... if Cao Zhen loses today and gets killed, wouldn't that prove this negotiation strategy naive and foolish?"

Amid the chatter, a stocky man from the three Demonic Sects suddenly stepped forward and said, "This is unresolved enmity between us and the Hundred Peaks Sect. Although we are currently fighting at the gates of the Dragon Chant Sect, this matter has nothing to do with the Dragon Chant Sect. When the battle begins, we hope the members of the Dragon Chant Sect will not intervene."

As he spoke, his glance shifted toward Immortal Bi Yue. Clearly, he was referring to her specifically, though he seemed cautious enough not to mention her name directly.

For a moment, all eyes turned to Immortal Bi Yue.

Immortal Bi Yue merely stared coldly ahead without speaking. While she wanted to readily agree, she knew that doing so too quickly might raise suspicions—that Cao Zhen had something up his sleeve and would win decisively. If the three Demonic Sects grew wary and decided not to fight, that would complicate matters.

The three Demonic Sects had already stated, in front of so many witnesses, that the battle's conclusion would erase all grievances. For the sake of their sect's reputation, even if they sought trouble with the Hundred Peaks Sect in the future, they would do so covertly rather than openly. This would ultimately benefit the Hundred Peaks Sect. Cao Zhen was certainly determined to fight them, but her eagerness to agree could potentially undermine the entire plan.

Realizing this, Cao Zhen, as if sensing Immortal Bi Yue's dilemma, spoke abruptly with an air of dominance and bravado: "Bi Yue, agree with them. I, Cao Zhen, have no need to hide behind a woman."

Upon hearing this, Bi Yue purposefully showed a helpless expression. She even sighed under Cao Zhen's burning gaze, nodded slightly, and addressed the crowd, "Rest assured, I, Bi Yue, will not interfere in your battle."

The other side, hearing Immortal Bi Yue's statement, still seemed uneasy and asked again, "What about the Dragon Chant Sect?"

"We of the Dragon Chant Sect will not interfere in this matter!" Zhang Zirong's figure materialized from the void.

Chapter 1408:

Cao Zhen resolved his grudges with the people of the Three Great Demon Sects. Zhang Zirong initially didn't want to show up, as he was the Sect Hierarchy of the Dragon Chant Sect, and with the Sect Hierarchs of the Three Great Demon Sects absent, his presence would only degrade his status.

However, Immortal Bi Yue sent him a voice transmission, urging him to appear and also persuading him to agree that the Dragon Chant Sect would not act on its own. Only then did he reluctantly appear.

It was clear that Bi Yue had great confidence in Cao Zhen, believing that he was bound to win.

The source of Bi Yue's confidence, however, remained a mystery to him.

Once the people from the Three Great Demon Sects heard Zhang Zirong personally announce that the Dragon Chant Sect would not interfere in this matter, they immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

No matter how exceptional Bi Yue's status may currently be within the Dragon Chant Sect, Zhang Zirong was still the Sect Hierarch. Since the Hierarch himself had spoken, all members of the Dragon Chant Sect were bound to heed his words.

Defying those words would not merely insult the Sect Hierarch but tarnish the reputation of their entire sect.

For a prestigious sect like the Dragon Chant Sect, its disciples wouldn't dare disgrace their sect lightly—not even Bi Yue was exempt from this.

As Zhang Zirong's words fell, a voice rang out from behind the Three Great Demon Sects.

"I'll go first." With those words, a youthful figure leapt forward. His expression was icy, his gaze sharp. In his hand appeared a slender, gleaming sword that he pointed at Cao Zhen from afar, speaking coldly: "Weeping Blood Demon Sect—Blood Drink."

"Blood Yin Demon?"

"Who's that?"

"Someone from the Weeping Blood Demon Sect? Isn't the Boiling Blood Demon already here? He's supposed to be at the border of the Golden Core Period Limit, and he's been at that threshold for over twenty years. Why isn't the Boiling Blood Demon stepping forward but instead this unknown Blood Yin Demon?"

"If this person is taking action, he must be even stronger than the Boiling Blood Demon."

The disciples of the Dragon Chant Sect and the Hundred Flowers Sect still lingering in the area stared at the unfamiliar man in astonishment. They realized with shock that none of them had ever heard of the Blood Yin Demon before.

Among those in the Weeping Blood Demon Sect, the Boiling Blood Demon, hearing the waves of surprise around him, smirked coldly to himself—of course they didn't know of Blood Drink's existence.

Blood Yin Demon—a figure within the Weeping Blood Demon Sect known for his exceedingly peculiar personality, his loneliness, and his unparalleled thirst for bloodshed!

Even within their great sect, fewer than ten people knew of Blood Yin Demon's existence.

Blood Yin Demon had always cultivated in isolation, occasionally receiving direction from their current Sect Hierarchy. When he needed someone to spar with, he would single out a disciple to duel with from the sect.

Without exception, all his sparring partners died by his sword.

In Blood Yin Demon's own words, his sword existed solely for the purpose of killing!

There was even a time when he went on a frenzied spree of challenges, killing so many skilled experts from the Weeping Blood Demon Sect that he attracted the attention of many elders.

Initially, the deaths didn't attract much notice as Blood Drink's cultivation base was still low, and the disciples killed were similarly unremarkable. But when Blood Yin Demon reached the Golden Core Stage, he began slaughtering high-level disciples—even those at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection—making it impossible to ignore.

Eventually, Blood Yin Demon left the Weeping Blood Demon Sect and joined the foremost assassin sect in Eastern Province—Kill Society.

It wasn't until recently, when Blood Drink sensed he was close to breaking through to the Golden Core Period Limit, that he returned to the Weeping Blood Demon Sect.

Even within their sect, few were aware of Blood Yin Demon's existence, let alone outsiders.

Blood Drink soared into the high heavens, unleashing a massive Pill Fusion formed from his ten Different Phenomena Golden Cores. These cores did not radiate golden brilliance, nor did they glow with the black hues typical of other demonic sects. Instead, they gleamed blood red, as though forged from fresh blood.

The terrifying aura surged outward from him in waves, enveloping the surroundings.

"Golden Core Period Limit!"

"Another cultivator at the Golden Core Period Limit!"

"The Weeping Blood Demon Sect has yet another expert at the Golden Core Period Limit!"

The realization hit like a thunderous quake. The crowd finally understood the reasoning behind the Three Great Demon Sects proposing this method to resolve their grudges. Cao Zhen had already surpassed the Golden Core Period Limit. Against a Golden Core Period Limit opponent, Cao Zhen had no chance of victory.

Moreover, the stipulation that this was a life-and-death duel prohibited interference from the Dragon Chant Sect. It was clear this arrangement was intended to send Cao Zhen to his death.

"The Weeping Blood Demon Sect is truly terrifying."

"Indeed! I heard that a woman from one of their sub-branches has recently returned and is now their Grand Elder. She, too, is at the Golden Core Period Limit."

"Adding their Sect Hierarch and this Blood Yin Demon, they now have three cultivators at the Golden Core Period Limit."

"Think about it—if the Bloodbath Demon hadn't died back then, they would have had four at the Golden Core Period Limit."

Even the members of the Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demon Sect, witnessing Blood Yin Demon's manifestation of Golden Core Period Limit power, displayed shocked expressions. They had merely come under orders from their Sect Hierarch. Not even they were aware that the Weeping Blood Demon Sect had sent forth a cultivator at the Golden Core Period Limit.

No wonder their Sect Hierarch had such unwavering confidence—it turned out they had an elite like Blood Yin Demon on their side!

The difference between being at the border of the Golden Core Period Limit and fully achieving it might seem negligible, but only in true combat would one realize the vast disparity in strength.

Blood Yin Demon cast a distant gaze at Cao Zhen, as if looking at a corpse. From his ten Different Phenomena Golden Cores surged an overwhelming aura of blood, swelling outward, making it feel as though the world had plunged into a boundless sea of blood.

Chapter 1409:

The terrifying evil aura surged out from Blood Drink, so dense it seemed almost tangible, as if it could freeze the entire space around him solid.

All around, the crowd felt the aura and instinctively stepped back, their hearts trembling with shock. The intensity of this bloodthirsty aura was astounding. Among them, there were none below the Golden Core Stage, and a great many Perfect Completion Golden Core cultivators. These individuals had survived countless battles to reach their current level of cultivation, yet even they struggled to withstand the oppressive stench of blood.

How many people must this Blood Drink have killed to accumulate such a concentrated aura of bloodshed!

Suddenly, the ten abnormal phenomenon Golden Pills behind him began to tremble violently. Streams of blood-red energy shot forth, resembling fresh blood spurting out from the Golden Pills. In an instant, the entire world seemed to transform into a crimson realm of blood.

Every other energy in the atmosphere vanished entirely in that moment; the only sensation left in this world was blood energy.

The crowd even felt an overwhelming pressure weighing down on them.

"This blood aura!"

"That absolutely cannot be typical blood aura. No one could possess such an overpowering blood aura!"

"Divine Skills! He's unleashing some kind of Divine Skill!"

The crowd quickly realized this.

Cao Zhen felt the dense blood aura emanating from the void, but his face remained completely unchanged. For anyone else, even someone at the Golden Core Period Limit like Immortal Bi Yue or Jiu Yin, this aura might have exerted some influence. Yet, to Cao Zhen, the blood aura seemed meaningless.

No matter how thick Blood Drink's blood aura was, it was still just one person's aura. How could it possibly compare to the stench of blood he endured traversing the Boundless Bloody Hell?

Back then, he and his disciples had to navigate their way from the Eastern Wasteland through the Boundless Bloody Hell to the Eastern Province. There was no way he could be fazed by this aura now.

In the distance, Blood Drink Demon summoned streams of blood energy behind him, which coalesced into a long, crimson river, carrying an endless aura of bloodlust and savagery, rushing down toward Cao Zhen.

Behind Cao Zhen, one of his nine abnormal phenomenon Golden Pills, the Fire Golden Pill, suddenly erupted with a dazzling radiance. Instantly, torrents of flame burst forth, causing the temperature in the area to skyrocket. The scorching flames streaked across the heavens, as if draining all the oxygen from the air, creating a suffocating sensation in the space around them.

Outside the gates of the Dragon Chant Sect, where battles rarely occurred and the spiritual energy was excessively abundant, wild grass had grown wildly. Though untouched by the flames, the intense heat caused the grass to spontaneously ignite.

The ten different Flame Divine Skills converged, forming a vast sea of fire in the void. Within the fire sea, there came the crisp, resonant calls of sacred beasts, their voices noble and filled with regal prestige.

Faintly, in the flames, one could make out the spectral forms of the Sacred Beast Vermilion Bird and the Sacred Beast Phoenix.

The sea of fire descended, colliding with the blood river. Immediately, sounds like water sizzling on flames rang out—a cacophony of hisses. Both the blood sea and fire sea began to dissolve rapidly, yet the flames of Cao Zhen dissipated more quickly in comparison.

As he watched his Divine Skill slowly fade away, Cao Zhen gently shook his head. Although one of his Golden Pills was forged from ten Divine Skills, his mana was still only nearing the Golden Core Period Limit. The opponent, on the other hand, had already reached the Golden Core Period Limit. When their Divine Powers clashed, it was unsurprising that he fell short.

In just a brief moment, the Flame Divine Skill he unleashed had entirely faded, leaving from the blood river only a thin strand of light. It resembled a long spear as it shot toward him.

All around, the crowd displayed astonished expressions.

"So strong!"

"Cao Zhen might not have reached the Golden Core Period Limit yet, but even so, his fire was only barely weaker in comparison!"

"His abnormal phenomenon Golden Pill is incredibly powerful, releasing ten Divine Skills in one strike!"

"Under the Golden Core Period Limit, Cao Zhen might very well be an invincible force!"

"It's a pity. This time his opponent is a Golden Core Period Limit powerhouse!"

Amidst the crowd's astonished gazes, the blood-red spear shot rapidly toward Cao Zhen.

Instead of retreating, Cao Zhen rushed forward headlong. He didn't deploy his Protective Divine Powers or use the Silver Light Wings; he simply charged straight ahead.

For a moment, the crowd was taken aback.

"What's going on?"

"Charging directly into the attack? Sure, the opponent is at the Golden Core Period Limit, and his only chance to win might be to engage in close combat. But why isn't he using his Silver Light Wings? Moreover, the rumors say he possesses ten kinds of Protective Divine Powers! Why isn't he employing them either?"

As the blood-red spear approached, poised to impale him entirely, Cao Zhen's figure abruptly sidestepped, causing the spear to miss its target entirely.

"He dodged it?"

"That was a Divine Skill unleashed by a Golden Core Period Limit cultivator. Even though its power was greatly diminished after colliding with Cao Zhen's skill, its speed remained incredibly fast. How did he manage to evade it?"

The crowd looked on in amazement as Cao Zhen sped closer to Blood Drink, their expressions showing intense disbelief.

In the distance, Blood Drink's face flickered with surprise. Then, with a swift motion of his fingers, he pointed directly at Cao Zhen. Crimson blood and black demonic energy began to gather at his fingertip, forming a single dark dot that seemed to drag the entire world into shadow.

Chapter 1410:

In the next moment, a cluster of black light shot out from his fingertips. Though it was black, it gave a visceral impression of blood spurting through the air.

Wherever the black light passed, the space shuddered violently, its fabric fracturing piece by piece, leaving behind a stark, visible trace.

The speed of this black light seemed even faster than thunder and lightning. As it traveled, afterimages appeared belatedly in the air behind it.

But in the next moment, Cao Zhen's figure flickered again, narrowly evading the black light that streaked toward him.

All around, the spectators widened their eyes in shock. All they saw in the distance was a flash of movement, and Cao Zhen had already reappeared somewhere else.

"What is this?"

"He dodged again!"

"How can he be so fast?"

"This time, the Divine Skill released by Blood Drink Demon wasn't impeded!"

"How is this possible? Even Divine Skills at the Golden Core Stage limit can be evaded?"

"Rumor has it that Cao Zhen doesn't possess such speed!"

None of the observers could comprehend how someone at the Golden Core Stage could move so fast!

Cao Zhen finally understood the joy Xiang Ziyu must feel—this was the transformation brought about by reaching the Golden Core Stage limit in physical strength. However, that didn't mean he could dodge every Divine Skill unleashed by his opponent.

After all, there was still a substantial gap between Blood Drink Demon and him. If the distance closed further, even he couldn't guarantee evading Blood Drink Demon's assaults.

Blood Drink Demon's expression turned to one of visible astonishment as he watched Cao Zhen dodge his attack again and rush toward him at high speed. Mana surged from within his body, pouring into the blood-colored longsword in his hand.

As he faced the approaching Cao Zhen, he thrust out his sword with a sudden lunge.

Though the move appeared simple, it seemed incomparably ruthless to the onlookers. The angle of the strike was so cunning that it seemed impossible to imagine a more ingenious trajectory.

In Cao Zhen's hand, the Thunder Sword gifted to him by Immortal Bi Yue materialized, striking out to parry the blood-colored longsword.

Blood Drink Demon's face instantly twisted into a snarl. Was this an attempt to clash head-on? He was someone who had reached the Golden Core Stage limit, with his longsword infused with enchanted mana—what could Cao Zhen use to compete with him?

His aura surged to its peak in an instant, and the longsword in his grasp became surrounded by dense, pulsating strands of black demonic qi.

In the next instant, his sword collided with Cao Zhen's blue sharp sword.

The clash of the two swords rang out with a resounding and piercing "clang," so loud it felt as if the void itself had shattered. At the point of impact between their blades, a massive burst of sparks exploded, sharp and dazzling like wildfire.

As the collision unfolded, Blood Drink Demon felt an unparalleled force surge forward. The power was so overwhelming that his wrist trembled involuntarily, a sharp pain radiating from the base of his hand. The sensation spread, numbing his entire arm and forcing his body to stagger backward uncontrollably.

His gaze at Cao Zhen was full of amazement!

"What's happening?"

"Blood Drink Demon was forced back?"

"How could this be possible? Blood Drink Demon is at the Golden Core Stage limit, and his mana strength surpasses that of Cao Zhen. A direct clash should assuredly end in his victory!"

"Cao Zhen has recovered completely?"

"No, Cao Zhen's aura is still only near the Golden Core Stage limit."

"It's his flesh—it's the physical strength of Cao Zhen's body!"

Among the spectators, someone suddenly exclaimed, "Only if Cao Zhen's physical strength far surpasses Blood Drink Demon's can such a reversal occur, forcing Blood Drink Demon back!"

While retreating, Blood Drink Demon eyed Cao Zhen warily, his voice low as he muttered, "Your body... has reached the Golden Core Stage limit!"

"Correct!" Cao Zhen laughed aloud as he raised his sword and charged at Blood Drink Demon once more.

Below them, the spectators could clearly hear their exchange, prompting a collective gasp.

"Cao Zhen's physical body has actually reached the Golden Core Stage limit!"

"That means, now, there are two people in the Eastern Province whose bodies have reached the Golden Core Stage limit!"

"Previously, Cao Zhen's physique was far from the Golden Core Stage limit. After being injured, how has he instead reached it now?"

"His physical body is at the Golden Core Stage limit, while his mana is close to it. Which means, he's probably stronger now than he was before being injured!"

"Although we don't know the extent of Blood Drink Demon's physical strength, it's certain that he's far from approaching the Golden Core Stage limit!"

"In this comparison, Cao Zhen is undoubtedly stronger!"

"Blood Drink Demon is doomed!"

The members of the Three Great Demonic Sects looked increasingly grave, especially Boiling Blood Demon of the Weeping Blood Demon Sect. Initially, he thought that bringing Blood Drink along would make it easy to crush Cao Zhen.

This would enhance Blood Drink Demon's reputation, paving the way to unseat that woman from the Grand Elder position. But who would have thought that Cao Zhen's body had reached the Golden Core Stage limit?

Achieving the Golden Core Stage limit physically is far harder than reaching it through mana—a hundredfold harder!

Among the many individuals in the Eastern Province who have attained the Golden Core Stage limit through mana, there had previously been only one with a body at the Golden Core Stage limit: Xiang Ziyu!

Originally, Boiling Blood Demon believed their calculations to be flawless, forcing Cao Zhen into an obligatory fight. But now, it seemed that Cao Zhen had outmaneuvered them instead.

At this moment, Cao Zhen fully understood the exhilaration of Xiang Ziyu when battling others. He didn't bother with any elaborate sword moves, nor did he defend. He simply slashed at Blood Drink Demon with his sword relentlessly, attacking in a mad frenzy.