

My Master 1411

Chapter 1411:

Even if struck by the Xue Yin Demon, so what? As long as he can land a blow on the Xue Yin Demon, the one who gains will certainly be him.

Back when Xiang Ziyu defeated opponents at the Golden Core Period Limit, he was even able to endure the Sect Tribulation. Now, merely taking on the Xue Yin Demon's attacks—what's the big deal?

However, while he could withstand the Xue Yin Demon's attacks, the Xue Yin Demon could not withstand his own.

The Xue Yin Demon was evidently aware of Cao Zhen's tactics, and could only keep retreating, avoiding a direct clash. But the problem was, many times, Cao Zhen wasn't aiming for a direct clash—he was targeting mutual destruction.

Clearly, Cao Zhen intended to rely on his superior physical strength to wear him down.

"Clang!"

The two sharp swords collided again, producing another crisp sound. After repeated clashes, the entire arm of the Xue Yin Demon that held his sword began to tremble slightly.

Feeling the terrifying force traveling up his arm, a vicious glint flashed through his eyes. Cao Zhen's mana might not be as strong as his, but Cao Zhen's physical strength far exceeded his.

He had an immense wealth of combat experience. In the past, during joint missions, he had even killed opponents at the Golden Core Period Limit. But this was his first time encountering someone whose physical body had reached the Golden Core Period Limit. Now he finally realized the terror of a physical body at such a level.

Even though his opponent's mana was weaker, in combat, he couldn't see any chance of victory. In fact, the continuous draining of energy only aggravated his injuries.

If this draining continued, he would undoubtedly be the one to lose in the end!

If he lost, there was only one outcome: death!

To win, he would have to devise something unexpected.

He gripped his sharp sword tightly, ensuring it wouldn't fly out of his hands. Simultaneously, waves of Demonic Qi poured into the sword. In the next moment, the exceptionally slender longsword suddenly softened, transforming into a long, blood-colored whip. The previously sharp sword tip now resembled the head of a venomous snake.

As the Xue Yin Demon flicked his wrist, the blood whip instantly wrapped around Cao Zhen's longsword. From a distance, it looked like a Flood Dragon had coiled itself around Cao Zhen's sharp blade. The sword tip, now resembling the ferocious maw of the Flood Dragon, lunged at Cao Zhen, aiming to bite him.

Almost simultaneously, one of the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills behind Cao Zhen burst into a dazzling brilliance. Layers of Protective Divine Power materialized, surrounding and shielding his body.

At the same time, Cao Zhen fiercely swung the arm holding his sharp sword, pulling it to the side.

Instantly, the Xue Yin Demon felt an overwhelming force strike, causing his body to involuntarily shift to the side.

Cao Zhen completely ignored the blood whip's venomous maw aiming for him and thrust his sharp sword forcefully toward the Xue Yin Demon.

The venomous fangs on the blood whip, originally targeting Cao Zhen's head, were redirected and sank toward his shoulder. In the next moment, the sharp teeth collided with Cao Zhen's Protective Divine Power, causing bursts of divine light to flare up before shattering.

Although the Xue Yin Demon was an existence at the Golden Core Period Limit, and despite Cao Zhen activating ten layers of Protective Divine Power, the Xue Yin Demon's attack still managed to break

through all ten layers, ultimately landing on Cao Zhen's body. However, the destructive force of the strike diminished significantly.

The fangs bit down fiercely, but they only managed to pierce Cao Zhen's shoulder, breaking the skin but unable to penetrate deeper.

Almost simultaneously, Cao Zhen's sharp sword shattered the Xue Yin Demon's Protective Divine Power and struck heavily at the Xue Yin Demon's neck.

Blood immediately gushed out from a wound on the Xue Yin Demon's neck.

Though Cao Zhen's mana was merely close to the Golden Core Period Limit, his physical strength had already reached the same level. The combined forces allowed his sharp sword to leave a deep wound on the Xue Yin Demon's neck.

With this successful strike, Cao Zhen's internal mana surged, and he swiftly swung his longsword again.

In an instant, a hundred Xu Ying-like illusions of Cao Zhen appeared within the Void, leaving the Xue Yin Demon unable to discern which was the real Cao Zhen.

The hundred illusions all struck simultaneously—what seemed like a hundred strikes or perhaps a singular strike fell upon the Xue Yin Demon's wounded neck once more.

The Heavenly Illusion Sword Technique!

With just this strike, the Xue Yin Demon's head almost seemed to be severed entirely. His body uncontrollably flew backward, crimson blood gushing wildly from his neck.

The Xue Yin Demon, feeling his power and life force rapidly slipping away, revealed a firm and determined look in his eyes. If he was going to die, he'd make sure Cao Zhen wouldn't walk away unscathed!

He frantically poured what remained of his energy into his ten Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills behind him.

Self-detonation of the Golden Core!

Even in death, he would die by his own hand. Even in death, he would drag Cao Zhen down with him!

Cao Zhen had fought countless battles and had seen too many people resort to detonating their Golden Core. The moment he sensed the Xue Yin Demon's intent, he immediately retreated backward. At the same time, the Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills behind him erupted with waves of Divine Skills.

Each time, ten different Divine Skills blasted forth from the Golden Pills behind him. Under the overwhelming bombardment of countless Divine Skills, the Xue Yin Demon was unable to channel his mana completely into his Golden Pills to detonate them.

Taking advantage of this, Cao Zhen swiftly retreated further and further into the distance.

At the same time, the spectators around them, who had been watching the fight, scattered frantically and fled far away.

Chapter 1412:

"Damn it!"

"Self-detonating the Golden Core, again with the Golden Core self-destruction!"

"Retreat quickly!"

They knew well that during life-and-death duels involving cultivators at the Golden Core Stage, there was always a high possibility that the losing side would self-destruct their Golden Core. However, considering Xue Yin Demon was at the very limit of the Golden Core Stage, they thought even if Cao Zhen were to lose to Xue Yin Demon, he likely wouldn't have the chance to self-detonate his Golden Core.

A cultivator at the Golden Core Stage Limit, when fully unleashing their power, could indeed prevent someone close to the same level from having any opportunity to self-detonate their Golden Core.

But who would have thought that Cao Zhen's physical body had reached the Golden Core Stage Limit, and in the end, the one who self-detonated their Golden Core was Xue Yin Demon.

As Cao Zhen retreated midair, sensing Xue Yin Demon's rapidly fading aura, his heart tightened. Could this guy fail to self-detonate his Golden Core? Forget it—better ease up a little.

With a single thought, his ferocious attacks on Xue Yin Demon suddenly slowed in frequency.

If he unleashed his full power, he could indeed prevent Xue Yin Demon from self-detonating. But why would he do that?

After all, his physical body had already reached the Golden Core Stage Limit, and he still maintained a distance from Xue Yin Demon. Even if Xue Yin Demon self-detonated, it wouldn't cause him any substantial damage.

On the contrary, this was an opportunity to feign severe injury.

After all, there were people from the Three Great Demonic Sects present this time. What if, after witnessing his strength, the other two sects were too intimidated to act? What would happen then?

If he appeared heavily injured, it might tempt the other two Demonic Sects to make a move.

As Cao Zhen's attacks slowed, Xue Yin Demon finally unleashed all ten of his anomalous Golden Cores.

The next moment, a deafening explosion erupted, as though the entire world shattered in an instant.

A tremendous, boundless force radiated outward from Xue Yin Demon, sweeping in all directions with wild intensity!

The force was terrifying, seemingly capable of obliterating everything in its path. Wherever it spread, the Void appeared to be completely torn, revealing countless cracks.

In the sky, clusters of white clouds were obliterated entirely under the impact of this power.

On the ground below, the earth split open with an endless network of cracks resembling a spider's web. Moreover, vast quantities of soil were blasted into the air under this force.

Amid the flying soil, countless blades of grass and trees were also pulverized into dust under the destructive power.

Even though Xue Yin Demon had already been injured, he was still an existence at the Golden Core Stage Limit. The power of his Golden Core self-detonation was incomparably shocking!

In the distance, many disciples from the Void Breaking Sect, the Soul Breaking Demonic Sect, and the Weeping Blood Demon Sect—being slower in their retreat—were caught in the aftermath and blown to pieces.

Even some disciples from the Hundred Flowers Sect, who weren't far away, were affected. One by one, they suffered severe injuries in an instant.

The members of the Dragon Chant Sect, however, were farther away and had Immortal Bi Yue, Zhang Zirong, and other experts in front. By the time the terrifying energy of the Golden Core self-destruction reached them, it had diminished considerably, making it easy for Bi Yue and the others to block the remaining force with their intervention.

Cao Zhen, who was closest to Xue Yin Demon, bore the brunt of the Golden Core self-destruction's terrifying power. His body was blasted backward through the air, and in an instant, his entire form became a blood-soaked figure. His face turned visibly pale.

"Pfft..."

Circulating his mana, Cao Zhen forcibly spat out a large mouthful of bright-red blood. He couldn't help but sigh internally—this was the strength of a physical body at the Golden Core Stage Limit. Though Xue Yin Demon's self-destruction had indeed injured him, the injuries were not serious, consisting merely of superficial flesh wounds.

Though he now appeared like a blood-drenched figure of devastation, the reality was that these injuries were insignificant to him.

Still, he needed to maintain the act.

The members of the Dragon Chant Sect watched silently from a distance in Cao Zhen's direction, murmuring among themselves.

"Cao Zhen's injured!"

"Indeed, even with his physical body at the Golden Core Stage Limit, he still gets hurt facing a self-destruction from another at the Golden Core Stage Limit!"

"Which means Xue Yin Demon's self-destruction wasn't entirely in vain. Remember, there are still people from the other two sects. If they choose someone to strike right now..."

Everyone fixed their gazes in the direction of the Three Great Demonic Sects.

Due to Xue Yin Demon's recent self-destruction, the Three Great Demonic Sects had lost many disciples. At the moment, chaos reigned among their ranks, and it took them a while to regain order.

The leaders of the Three Great Demonic Sects wore complicated expressions as they glanced in Cao Zhen's direction.

Boiling Blood Demon suddenly raised his head, turning to the other two responsible leaders of the Demonic Sects. In a hushed voice, he said, "Cao Zhen is injured. Quick, make your move now! He definitely won't be your match. This is the perfect opportunity."

However, the leaders of the other two sects merely exchanged glances.

"Senior Brother, you should make the move."

"Senior Sister, if you act, you'll definitely be able to take down Cao Zhen."

With that, the two exchanged looks again, but neither said anything more. Clearly, despite Cao Zhen appearing to be gravely injured, neither dared to act directly.

After all, Cao Zhen was someone whose physical body had reached the Golden Core Stage Limit. Who knew how severe his injuries actually were?

Xue Yin Demon, a Golden Core Stage Limit cultivator, had been killed by him. What about them?

Among their sects, no other cultivators at the Golden Core Stage Limit had come on this occasion. Among those present, they were the strongest. If anything needed to be done, it would fall to them. But neither of them wanted to risk their lives to probe the extent of Cao Zhen's wounds or strength.

As for not acting at all, they could justify their decision upon returning. Cao Zhen's strength was simply undeniable. Moreover, as close confidants of their respective Sect Hierarchs, they wouldn't face any severe punishments, either.

Chapter 1413:

Boiling Blood Demon Eye glanced at the two and, seeing that neither made a move, erupted in fury: "You two! The three Great Teachings agreed to come together to resolve all grudges with Cao Zhen. Now, we from the Weeping Blood Demon Sect have already made a move, and Cao Zhen has been injured to this extent. Yet, you refuse to act! What exactly are you planning? Are you intending for Blood Drink Demon to sacrifice himself for nothing?"

"We came here because of your Weeping Blood Demon Sect, and it was your Sect Hierarch who actively sought out our Sect Hierarchs. Moreover, this time, you have deceived us. You didn't assess Cao Zhen's strength properly, yet you involved us in this. If there's an account to settle, it's you we'll settle with."

"Exactly. Earlier, your Blood Drink Demon self-detonated his Golden Core, killing quite a few disciples of our Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect. We haven't even demanded an account from you for that."

The representatives of Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect displayed no intention of making a move. The two exchanged glances, and one of them raised their voice toward Cao Zhen, saying: "Cao Zhen, both our Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect are renowned Great Teachings of the Eastern Province. We disdain taking advantage of others."

Now that you're injured, we will not fight with you. Another day, we will come to resolve our grudges with you through combat."

Cao Zhen heard the other party shouting from afar, and his mood worsened. Could they stop being so cowardly? He was injured to this extent—how could they still not have the courage to act?

They call themselves renowned Great Teachings of the Eastern Province? When did people from the demonic sect gain such a sense of propriety?

Yet, Cao Zhen was helpless. He couldn't utter other words to provoke these forces into action, or they might start suspecting that he wasn't injured at all—and would be even less willing to fight.

Cao Zhen glanced at the leaders of Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect. No matter how he looked, it seemed neither of them intended to make a move.

Could it be that this injury would be for nothing?

No. Even if there was no fight, the injury couldn't be in vain.

Gazing at Luo Zhen standing amidst the observing crowd nearby, Cao Zhen recalled Luo Zhen's plan. His heart stirred as he secretly transmitted a sound to Luo Zhen, and after finishing, he provocatively addressed the Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect members:

"Oh? You won't fight because of my injuries? My wounds aren't as serious as they seem—I can still fight. Come at me, and let us resolve all of our grudges today.

Moreover, you say you're Great Teachings. Earlier, you claimed you would duel me to settle grievances, but now you refuse to act. If word spreads, won't you fear your Great Teachings will lose face?

Should news of this circulate, everyone else will say: Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect are unworthy of being Great Teachings. They don't even dare challenge an injured Cao Zhen. They're all talk, without credibility, without honor. They..."

Before Cao Zhen finished speaking, a loud voice erupted from the direction of Dragon Chant Sect.

"Don't listen to him! Don't engage him in battle!" Luo Zhen suddenly spoke up, instantly drawing everyone's attention toward him.

Disciples of Dragon Chant Sect exchanged puzzled glances, their expressions filled with confusion as they looked at Luo Zhen.

"Uncle Luo Zhen?"

"What is Uncle Luo Zhen trying to do?"

"Why did Uncle suddenly speak up? This matter is between Cao Zhen and Void Breaking Sect, Soul Breaking Demonic Sect, and Weeping Blood Demon Sect—it has nothing to do with our Dragon Chant Sect."

Luo Zhen ignored the crowd and followed the instructions Cao Zhen had just transmitted to him. He shouted at the Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect members: "I am Luo Zhen, a top-tier alchemist and a top-tier physician. Don't let Cao Zhen deceive you—he isn't seriously injured at all; he's merely tricking you.

Look at his pale complexion and the blood he spat. It's all caused by him deliberately circulating his mana and forcing these symptoms to appear."

Once his words fell, the leaders of Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect looked toward Cao Zhen with doubt. They had heard of Luo Zhen from Dragon Chant Sect.

Wasn't Cao Zhen aligned with Immortal Bi Yue of Dragon Chant Sect? Shouldn't the sect members be supporting Cao Zhen? Why would Luo Zhen reveal Cao Zhen's trickery?

Before they could decipher the situation, Immortal Bi Yue coldly spoke from the direction of Dragon Chant Sect: "Uncle Luo Zhen, what nonsense are you spouting? This matter doesn't concern you. Return!"

Luo Zhen, however, stood motionless, his gaze brimming with hatred as he stared at Cao Zhen. After a long pause, he shifted his glare toward Immortal Bi Yue, his expression sour as he said: "Bi Yue, this matter may not concern me with them, but it does concern me with Cao Zhen. I was previously with the Holy Pill Sect, yet you let the Sect Hierarch summon me back here to assist Cao Zhen in alchemy and healing his injuries.

And what was the result? Cao Zhen swindled three treasures out of me. I sought you afterward, but you continued to favor Cao Zhen, refusing to compel him to return the three treasures.

At this point, I must ask: Is Cao Zhen considered part of Dragon Chant Sect, or am I? Since you've chosen to protect an outsider like Cao Zhen, why can't I assist these three demonic sects? Why can't I reveal the truth to them?"

As his words concluded, disciples of the Hundred Flowers Sect widened their eyes one by one and looked over. So, Cao Zhen had fallen into conflict with members of Dragon Chant Sect due to favoritism from Bi Yue, sparking Luo Zhen's dissatisfaction.

No one expected so much drama to unfold today.

Zhang Zirong's brows furrowed tightly upon hearing Luo Zhen's words. He said in a deep voice: "Uncle Luo Zhen, stop this unreasonable behavior. That day, you clearly lost to Cao Zhen. All of us witnessed it. A wager is binding—why should Cao Zhen return the three treasures to you?"

"Lost? What do you mean I lost? Cao Zhen merely used deception to fool us. If his injuries had genuinely recovered, would his mana now barely approach the Golden Core Period Limit? He hasn't fully recuperated, proving that the pills he crafted that day were flawed. The outcome should have been his loss, not mine.

Therefore, it's he who owes me three treasures, not me owing him!"

Chapter 1414:

Zhang Zirong was feeling deeply troubled. He truly couldn't understand what madness had struck Uncle Luo Zhen. It had been so long since Luo Zhen had lost to Cao Zhen, and yet Luo Zhen brought it up again—and in front of so many people! Worse still, he accused the Dragon Chant Sect of favoring Cao Zhen. Wasn't this just giving outsiders a good laugh at the Dragon Chant Sect's expense?

"Get inside now!" Zhang Zirong exuded a commanding aura, fixing Luo Zhen with a cold stare. "This matter will be investigated by our Dragon Chant Sect when we return!"

Luo Zhen, however, wasn't satisfied and shouted, "What's left to investigate? If the pills he refined back then weren't flawed, his mana would have long since recovered to the Golden Core Period Limit, not merely approaching it as he is now."

"I said, we'll investigate after returning!" Zhang Zirong's face turned completely frozen, and he turned to his side with a frosty tone. "Escort Uncle Luo Zhen back."

As soon as his words fell, two figures instantly flew forward, landing beside Luo Zhen.

Luo Zhen looked at the two individuals, anger immediately flashing across his face. He roared furiously, "And you say there's no favoritism for Cao Zhen?! Now you're forcibly trying to send me back—if this isn't favoritism, what is? No need for any of you to act; I'll leave on my own!"

With a dramatic sweep of his sleeves, Luo Zhen stormed off toward the Dragon Chant Sect, wrath plastered across his face.

While flying, he secretly transmitted a voice message to Cao Zhen: "I have made a huge sacrifice this time. When we return, the Sect Hierarch is bound to punish me severely. Would you consider giving me an extra share?"

Cao Zhen didn't respond to Luo Zhen but glared at him with fury and said, "Unbelievable. You lost fair and square that day—accept the loss! And now you're tangled in this again?"

As he spoke, the aura around him completely recovered, his face returning to a healthy flush instead of the pale complexion he had before.

In the distance, the members of Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect immediately noticed the change in Cao Zhen.

"Look at him—does this look like someone who's injured?"

"So it was all an act; he wanted to fool us!"

"Now that Luo Zhen exposed him, he's simply stopped pretending!"

Cao Zhen ignored Luo Zhen and turned his gaze toward the crowd from Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect, loudly provoking them: "Didn't you say you wouldn't take advantage of my injuries and wouldn't fight me? There's no need for that courtesy—I'm entirely unharmed. You two factions can send someone over to face me."

"Or perhaps if you can't decide who should go first, it doesn't matter—just come at me together."

As his words echoed, the members of Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect remained silent. Fight? What was there to fight? Cao Zhen, with a physical body already at the Golden Core Period Limit and mana near that level, wouldn't be an opponent anyone from the Golden Core Stage could contend with—much less them.

Two of their members? Even three wouldn't be enough to face him.

Seeing the opponents still hesitant to strike, Cao Zhen continued to taunt, "Didn't you promise to settle the score here today? Since none of you act, I'll assume you're surrendering."

The members of Void Breaking Sect and Soul Breaking Demonic Sect grew instantly frantic and shouted, "We haven't fought yet—why would we surrender?"

"Just now, our Sect Hierarchy sent word through the sect. This matter concerns the face of our great faction—it cannot be decided by him alone. When the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth ends, experts from the Earth Immortal Realm will visit your Hundred Peaks Sect to properly settle this dispute. We're leaving!"

With those words, the two factions turned and departed.

Watching them retreat, Cao Zhen couldn't help sneering, "So this is the so-called great faction? You make promises for today, but when you see my physical body has reached the Golden Core Period Limit, you lack the courage to act.

Why? In the Reversal Mini Epoch Period, you dare not provoke our Hundred Peaks Sect, so now you're trying to intimidate me with the experts asleep in your grand faction? You think we don't have powerful figures of our own? We—"

Cao Zhen suddenly paused mid-sentence, realizing he might have spoken too much in his excitement. In truth, the Hundred Peaks Sect didn't seem to have any truly exceptional geniuses. If they had someone of that caliber, the Eastern Wasteland would have long been suppressed, and instead, all the Immortal Sects here were under the thumb of the Grand Preceptor.

The Grand Preceptor...

Right, he could brag about the Grand Preceptor.

Cao Zhen quickly adjusted and said in a loud voice, "You all believe that the strongest figure of the current Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth is Xiang Ziyu, claiming him to be the invincible existence beneath the Earth Immortal. But what you don't understand is that, here in the Eastern Wasteland, within the Hundred Peaks Sect's Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, there exists another: the Grand Preceptor.

The Grand Preceptor—he is the truly invincible existence beneath the Earth Immortal. And let me tell you, the Grand Preceptor has long since fallen into slumber. Even at realms above the Earth Immortal, the Grand Preceptor still reigns supreme. When the Grand Preceptor awakens, there'll be no need for you to trouble our Hundred Peaks Sect—he'll come to find you first."

In truth, he had no idea what cultivation the Grand Preceptor had achieved. Regardless, in moments like this, it was better to boast than face reality.

Consider this: the Grand Preceptor alone could suppress the entire Eastern Wasteland, where even the branch divisions of Void Breaking Sect and Weeping Blood Demon Sect failed to challenge him. Surely, the Grand Preceptor must be an extraordinarily powerful being.

"Invincible above the Earth Immortal? Truly laughable."

As Cao Zhen's voice fell, laughter burst out from the crowd nearby.

"Invincible above the Earth Immortal? Do you even know how many realms exist above the Earth Immortal? Do you know how vast the Eastern Province truly is? Do you understand how many experts lie dormant within it?"

"You're arrogant now simply because it's the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth. When this era comes to an end, do you think the people of the Eastern Wasteland can continue their arrogance? Such narrow views—living in a well and merely gazing at..."

Chapter 1415:

The crowd was laughing and mocking, but suddenly realized that Cao Zhen was a reincarnated Great Ability!

Although they didn't know what cultivation realm Cao Zhen had achieved in his past life, it was certainly not weak. At the very least, it wouldn't be possible for an Earth Immortal to complete reincarnation.

They hadn't heard much about Earth Immortal completing reincarnation, let alone the rarely heard rumors of Immortality Regainment Realm beings achieving it, as these were truly invincible existences within their realm. Such rumors were exceedingly rare, and they only heard of two beings completing reincarnation within the Immortality Regainment Realm.

Of course, these rumors were brought from the Central Continent; before Eastern Province was connected to the Eastern Wasteland, they didn't have reincarnated Great Abilities.

Besides them, only the powerful ones at the True Immortal Realm could reincarnate.

In the True Immortal Realm, in their Great Teaching, the slumbering Sect Hierarch was already a True Immortal.

Therefore, Cao Zhen, this reincarnated Great Ability, even before completing his reincarnation, was a terrifying existence comparable to their Sect Hierarch. Cao Zhen couldn't possibly not know how terrifying experts above the Earth Immortal were.

So...

Could it be that Cao Zhen wasn't just talking nonsense?

The crowd realized this, each one was shocked.

"Is there such a terrifying existence in the Eastern Wasteland?"

"He says he's invincible above the Earth Immortal Realm, but he probably means just within the Earth Immortal Realm, right?"

"That should be what he means!"

"But how could the Eastern Wasteland have such a powerful being?"

"We must take seriously the words of a reincarnated Great Ability."

For a time, everyone began speculating.

The people from the three Demonic Sects quickly left, thinking there was no point in staying if they couldn't fight. Were they staying to disgrace themselves?

The people from the Hundred Flowers Sect also left after seeing nothing interesting was left to watch.

Soon, the news that the three Demonic Sects came to settle scores with Cao Zhen and how Cao Zhen killed a Golden Core Period Limit expert spread across the Eastern Province.

In the Eastern Province, two flying boats flew through the void.

The people on these two flying boats clearly knew each other. After encountering each other, they straightforwardly flew out of the flying boats and started chatting, naturally talking about the recent big events in the Eastern Wasteland, and they spoke of Cao Zhen.

"That Cao Zhen's physical body has even reached the Golden Core Period Limit!"

"A Golden Core Period Limit expert was forced by Cao Zhen to self-destruct the Golden Core, and even when self-destructing, he couldn't truly hurt Cao Zhen!"

"During the Reversal Mini Epoch Period, the Golden Core Period Limit was an invincible existence, but since Cao Zhen appeared, how many Golden Core Period Limits have died at his hands!"

"Speaking of which, recently, quite a few Golden Core Period Limits have died."

"Yes, many Golden Core Period Limits have died at the hands of Cao Zhen, plus when the Heaven Prayers Sect failed its Sect Tribulation, a group entered to seize treasures, and the Sect Hierarch of Heaven Prayers Sect emerged from the tomb and self-destructed. Who knows how many people were killed!"

"To speak of it, Cao Zhen was there for that event too."

"That guy, wherever he goes, people die!"

Among the crowd, a man in a spotless white robe suddenly spoke, "By the way, I heard Cao Zhen is also an Alchemy Master. I wonder if he'll attend this alchemy event."

"Well... isn't it said that Cao Zhen has issues with alchemy?" A handsome man in a blue long robe shook his head and said, "I heard when Cao Zhen was at the Dragon Chant Sect, he anticipated the alchemical works of Wen Dan from the Holy Pill Sect and Luo Zhen from the Dragon Chant Sect, actually there were serious issues with the pills he refined."

"Right, I also heard about this. Thinking back, Wen Dan and Luo Zhen, how could they believe Cao Zhen? Refining three kinds of pills simultaneously and completing them within a month, just that point alone is impossible."

"Yes, I've seen quite a few Alchemy Masters, and they wouldn't refine pills like that. Logically, Wen Dan and Luo Zhen are knowledgeable people; how could they have been deceived?"

"True, not to mention the outrageous act of forcibly merging three different types of pills into one!"

"I heard Cao Zhen even won three treasures from Luo Zhen, and when Luo Zhen realized it and wanted the treasures back, he was refused."

"Hence, I heard Luo Zhen was very dissatisfied and even had a bad relation with the Dragon Chant Sect! As for him and Cao Zhen, they're almost mortal enemies now!"

"Those were three treasures. Coming and going would tally up to six treasures; who wouldn't be upset!"

"Yet, I still wonder what deception Cao Zhen used to fool even Luo Zhen and Wen Dan, and it's said all the pills he produced were thirty-six in total, all of the best quality!"

"Yes, I'm also curious what method he used. I heard even the scent of the medicine was present."

"However, you say that Cao Zhen, in order to cheat three treasures, couldn't fully heal his injuries in the end, so he might have suffered some loss."

"He probably wants to find someone else to help him refine pills."

"So, for this alchemy event, Cao Zhen will certainly attend."

"But the alchemy event requires an invitation to enter."

"With Immortal Bi Yue around, is Cao Zhen worried about not getting an invitation?"

The crowd kept talking as they flew forward.

Alchemy Event!

Chapter 1416:

In the Immortal Cultivation world of the Eastern Province, every thousand years, the various Great Teachings and sects hold grand events, such as alchemy conferences, talisman-making conventions, formation refining gatherings, artifact refining exhibitions, and so on...

The locations for these events, however, are not hosted by the Great Teachings themselves but by the Rare Treasures Commerce Association.

Among the Great Teachings in the Eastern Province specializing in alchemy are the Holy Pill Sect and the Divine Pill Sect. Besides these, there are many sects proficient in alchemy, and others excel in artifact refining, talisman-making, or other specialties.

These sects and Great Teachings also sell their refined pills, talismans, and other items.

However, this is the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth period, where locating their mountain gates is relatively easy. Once the era ends, it becomes much harder to find the mountain gates of various Great Teachings.

If these Great Teachings wish to sell their refined pills and talismans, they need to do so in various cities.

But the Eastern Province is so vast that they cannot possibly establish a store solely for selling their pills, talismans, or other treasures in every single city.

Yet, the Rare Treasures Commerce Association has managed to achieve this. Indeed, they have opened Rare Treasures Pavilions in every city of the Eastern Province.

The Rare Treasures Pavilion doesn't just sell pills, talismans, or Divine Weapons—they sell anything related to Immortal Cultivation.

Moreover, the Rare Treasures Commerce Association isn't limited to the Eastern Province; they have a presence in every province within the Central Five Provinces, and regardless of the province, the Rare Treasures Commerce Association remains the largest commerce entity.

Thus, various Great Teachings and sects sell their refined pills, talismans, and other items to the Rare Treasures Commerce Association.

In Cao Zhen's view, the Rare Treasures Commerce Association is essentially a colossal Immortal Cultivation supermarket, sourcing pills, Immortal Herbs, Divine Weapons, talismans, and more at wholesale prices and then reselling them at marked-up rates, pocketing the profit in between.

As for how much the markup or middleman profit is? That remains unknown.

Yet, the Rare Treasures Commerce Association produces nothing itself; it merely acts as a transporter. Nevertheless, it manages to establish shops in every city of the Central Five Provinces, and the potential profit is obvious.

If there were an internet, Cao Zhen joked he would post an ad saying "No Middleman Profits" to draw business away.

This year happens to be the time for the Rare Treasures Commerce Association's alchemy conference.

Cao Zhen and Luo Zhen's scheme centers around this alchemy conference.

"Anyway, I'll be leading our people from the Dragon Chant Sect and heading out with Brother Wen Dan from the Holy Pill Sect to Wansheng City. You and Bi Yue should set out as soon as possible. Don't delay."

Before departing, Luo Zhen reminded Cao Zhen once again.

Wansheng City, located at the heart of the Eastern Province, is the most prosperous city in the province. The Rare Treasures Commerce Association's headquarters in the Eastern Province is situated here, and naturally, any grand event they hold takes place here. Moreover, with Wansheng City being centrally located, it's convenient for all sects and Great Teachings to travel there.

Cao Zhen intended to delay his departure for a while to refine some pills for Little Yin the silver dragon. Additionally, he was waiting for Yi Sheng.

His disciple Yi Sheng, who was exceptionally skilled in alchemy, had been immersed in refining pills in the Hundred Peaks Sect while Cao Zhen wandered outside these past days.

Yi Sheng's alchemy proficiency now even rivaled Cao Zhen's.

Of course, this comparison was only in terms of alchemy proficiency.

There were many pills Yi Sheng couldn't refine, and Cao Zhen had Zhang Daoling's alchemy theories to guide him, making the pills he refined far superior to those Yi Sheng produced. Furthermore, because Yi Sheng lacked sufficient theoretical knowledge of the Alchemy Dao, he couldn't refine pills as effortlessly and pioneeringly as Cao Zhen.

Nonetheless, Cao Zhen felt that, apart from himself, no one else in the Eastern Province during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth could surpass his disciple Yi Sheng in alchemy.

With the Sacred Pill Conference coming up, Cao Zhen naturally wanted Yi Sheng to attend.

He calculated the timing of Yi Sheng's arrival and the pills he needed to prepare for the silver dragon. However, after completing the pills and telling Little Yin he was leaving, the silver dragon suddenly coiled itself around him, shaking its body frantically.

Every day when Cao Zhen cultivated, Little Yin would perch nearby, inhaling the mist-like Qi flowing from Cao Zhen's cultivation. Lately, the silver dragon's appetite for this Qi had been increasing, consuming more and more each time.

To the silver dragon, Cao Zhen's mist-like Qi was a supreme tonic. Upon hearing Cao Zhen's departure, which meant it would lose its Qi source, the silver dragon naturally protested vehemently.

"What do you mean by this?" Cao Zhen, in front of Immortal Bi Yue, looked at the agitated Little Yin and said helplessly, "I'm not a member of the Dragon Chant Sect. I can't stay here forever. I have to leave eventually—you can't follow me out of the Dragon Chant Sect, can you?"

He wondered if he could coax the silver dragon into following him back, turning the Hundred Peaks Sect into a sect with a dragon.

He believed there was a significant chance the silver dragon might follow him.

The mist-like Qi Cao Zhen cultivated contained Chaos Qi, which was universally absorbable, making it beneficial for everyone.

In its current state, Little Yin couldn't absorb other types of Qi without suffering severe consequences, but absorbing Chaos Qi posed no issues at all.

In fact, Chaos Qi and dragon Qi were the only two types of Qi the silver dragon could absorb—the former being universally adaptable, and the latter inherently compatible due to its dragon nature.

Chapter 1417:

But the Silverdim Dragon's body is currently far too fragile, and dragon energy is tyrannical and destructive. Little Yin can't endure much dragon energy right now, so the only energy it can absorb is Chaos Qi.

Sure enough, when Little Yin heard this, it immediately started nodding vigorously.

Cao Zhen's heart surged with joy, and he quickly asked, "What does your nodding mean? You want me to take you to Gen He?"

Little Yin continued to nod.

Cao Zhen suppressed his excitement and turned to look at Immortal Bi Yue.

He also wanted to take Little Yin away, but his decision wasn't final—this Holy Mountain seemed to operate under Immortal Bi Yue's authority.

Feeling Cao Zhen's gaze, Bi Yue's beautiful brows furrowed slightly.

Cao Zhen's heart skipped a beat, and he asked softly, "What's wrong? Are there rules on the Holy Mountain that forbid dragons from leaving?" He recalled how he'd roamed outside for so long and never seen anyone from the Dragon Chant Sect leading a dragon out—not even a Flood Dragon. He hadn't even seen any disciples of the Dragon Chant Sect with Flood Dragons in tow.

Immortal Bi Yue gently shook her head and said, "It's not that there are such rules. However, dragons on the Holy Mountain don't venture out before reaching the Earth Immortal Realm."

"Oh, so it's an unspoken rule, huh?" Cao Zhen immediately understood. As long as there wasn't a clear regulation, unspoken rules could be bent—just a little give-and-take, and that rule might as well not exist.

Immortal Bi Yue was already accustomed to Cao Zhen occasionally coming up with fresh terms. She paused to think for a moment and understood what he meant by "unspoken rule," nodding slightly and saying, "Yes, it's just as you said. Besides, Little Yin is still too young..."

"So, we can't take it outside to wander, but we can take it away to raise it—that's what you're saying, right?" Cao Zhen interrupted before she could finish, quickly adding, "For example, we can take it to the Hundred Peaks Sect and raise it there."

As soon as Cao Zhen spoke, he felt an exceedingly odd look cast his way. He raised his head to see Bi Yue, whose gaze seemed full of wariness—like a mother wary of someone trying to abduct her child.

"You want to take it to the Hundred Peaks Sect?" Bi Yue's brows knitted deeply.

"I don't have much of a choice," Cao Zhen said helplessly, spreading his hands. "It's already been delayed for too long. If, from the moment it was born, I'd been able to help condition it, it would have only taken about ten years to restore its health. But now, given Little Yin's current state, it will take an extended time to properly nurture it—at least a hundred, perhaps even three hundred years to fully recover its body.

And this type of conditioning isn't just simple alchemy. I need to monitor its condition constantly, adjust its intake of pills according to its needs, and determine precisely what kinds of pills to refine—and their efficacy—for optimal results.

But ultimately, I belong to the Hundred Peaks Sect and can't stay with your Dragon Chant Sect indefinitely. So, the only option is to bring it to the Hundred Peaks Sect."

He wasn't exaggerating—this little Silverdim Dragon indeed required a lengthy recovery period. However, three hundred years was certainly unnecessary.

According to his calculations, he'd likely be able to restore Little Yin by the time the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth ended.

The problem was, once the Silverdim Dragon was healed, the Dragon Chant Sect would undoubtedly come to reclaim it. He wouldn't have much choice but to return it, which meant he'd have to come up with a compelling excuse. For now, he'd just take the little dragon to the Hundred Peaks Sect and figure the rest out later.

As for what he could accomplish during that period... Well, time would tell. Regardless, once the dragon was in the Hundred Peaks Sect, its fate would lie entirely in his hands—not to mention using it for breeding purposes.

After all, dragons have nine offspring...

The key was—first, abduct the dragon.

Immortal Bi Yue listened to Cao Zhen's words and began to ponder. Ever since Cao Zhen had administered a pill to Little Yin, its condition had indeed improved noticeably. Moreover, she could sense Little Yin's dependence—perhaps on Cao Zhen's cultivation aura.

Cao Zhen had told her about the Chaotic Pearl, and she knew he cultivated Chaos Qi. For Little Yin, consuming the chaotic energy Cao Zhen cultivated also brought immense benefits.

In light of this, letting Little Yin leave with Cao Zhen for the Hundred Peaks Sect did seem advantageous.

However...

Immortal Bi Yue thought for a moment, looked at Cao Zhen, and said, "But if you heal Little Yin, you'll have to return it someday. Isn't that too much of a loss for you?"

After all, in that case, Cao Zhen wouldn't gain anything.

Cao Zhen wasn't surprised upon hearing this. It was just as he'd expected—she wouldn't simply give him the dragon. He quickly shook his head and replied, "Loss? Not at all... Uh, by the way, regarding the materials for refining pills..."

"Of course, we at the Dragon Chant Sect will provide the materials. After all, it wouldn't be right for an alchemist to bear the losses alone. Just tell me what you need, and I'll make sure it's prepared for you... By the way, you'll need to consider Little Yin's condition before deciding on the specific pills, correct?"

"In that case, you can inform me whenever the time comes. Or, you can tell me roughly what materials you need now, and I'll have them prepared in advance so you can take them all with you." Immortal Bi Yue was unconcerned about the issue of resources. Using the materials would be for Little Yin's benefit, after all. And Little Yin was a dragon—she could directly requisition whatever was needed from the Holy Mountain.

"Oh, okay, then. I'll tell you what materials I'll need first."

Chapter 1418:

Cao Zhen quickly jotted down a long list of materials; the number of items was astonishing, including a considerable amount of Spirit Grass.

After Immortal Bi Yue departed, it wasn't until a full day later that she returned with the Qiankun Bag in hand. She had spent an entire day searching for these materials; if it weren't for the restrictive nature of the Holy Mountain's treasury, which couldn't be openly accessed or excessively exposed, she truly would have preferred to take Cao Zhen to the treasury directly to collect the materials.

As Cao Zhen accepted the Qiankun Bag, he asked, "By the way, since we're taking Little Yin, should we keep this a secret as well?"

"That's not necessary. After all, you're helping with its treatment. Moreover, the dragons within our Holy Mountain are relatively independent. I don't have to report this to the Sect Hierarchy; we simply need to wait for the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth to end. Once the Earth Immortal realm dragons awaken, we can inform them of this matter then."

Following their decision, Cao Zhen and Immortal Bi Yue waited only three days before Yi Sheng arrived at the Dragon Chant Sect alone.

With Little Yin Dragon in tow, the three quickly set off, heading toward Wansheng City.

Immortal Bi Yue had visited the Hundred Peaks Sect before and had met Yi Sheng during that time. The interval hadn't been long, yet seeing Yi Sheng again, she couldn't help but notice that Yi Sheng had now reached the brink of the Golden Core Period Limit.

"You've reached the brink of the Golden Core Period Limit?"

Immortal Bi Yue looked at Yi Sheng, unable to conceal the deep surprise in her heart. The cultivators of the Hundred Peaks Sect were progressing at an almost inconceivably rapid pace, particularly considering Cao Zhen wasn't even stationed at the Hundred Peaks Sect currently.

"My cultivation speed isn't fast," Yi Sheng shook his head gravely and said, "Within Four Treasures Peak, my senior brothers, senior sisters, junior brothers, and junior sisters are all stronger than me. In fact, I'm the weakest disciple at Four Treasures Peak."

Saying this, she let out a deep sigh. While it was understandable that her senior brothers and sisters, having entered the sect earlier, were stronger, it bothered her immensely that her junior brothers and sisters, who entered much later, had now surpassed her as well.

Though she had reached the brink of the Golden Core Period Limit, every time she sparred with Junior Brother Zhu Peng or Junior Sister Duo Duo, she was invariably the one who lost—and by a wide margin, with no realistic chance of victory. Not to mention her second senior sister, who was leagues ahead in skill.

Reflecting on this, she now fully realized how arrogant she had been in the past.

Cao Zhen observed Yi Sheng's demeanor with a sigh in his heart. The once-proud Yi Sheng had truly been humbled by her time at Four Treasures Peak, leaving her so lacking in self-confidence. He quickly offered words of encouragement: "Yi Sheng, cultivation base is just one part of cultivation. In the art of alchemy, not a single one of your senior brothers, senior sisters, junior brothers, or junior sisters can hold a candle to you. Furthermore, your currently slower progress in cultivation compared to your fellow disciples is only temporary—it's because you haven't yet found the path most suited for your cultivation.

Once you reach the Earth Immortal Realm, your master will teach you a unique method of using alchemy to attain enlightenment. At that point, you'll surely shine with brilliance that belongs to you alone."

His words were not mere platitudes; there truly existed such a cultivation path—one where the body serves as a metaphorical pill, forging a path through alchemy. However, this method couldn't be practiced during the Golden Core Stage; it was only applicable after advancing to the Earth Immortal Realm.

Regarding Yi Sheng's current achievement of nearing the Golden Core Period Limit, it wasn't all that surprising.

Even though he was in the Dragon Chant Sect, Cao Zhen often maintained contact with his disciples via the China Cloud. Through this, he was well aware that ever since the Eastern Wasteland's connection to the Eastern Province was established, the spiritual energy across the Eastern Wasteland had become significantly more abundant and refined.

In particular, the Hundred Peaks Sect seemed to benefit extraordinarily from this; whether it was due to the foresight of its founder choosing the sect's location or for some other reason, the spiritual energy at Hundred Peaks Sect was markedly richer and purer compared to other Immortal Sects in the Eastern Wasteland.

His disciples had even remarked that the spiritual energy at Hundred Peaks Sect now seemed on par with the spiritual energy of the Cloud Reaching Sect.

With increasingly abundant spiritual energy, the disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect were cultivating at a much faster rate, with nearly every disciple showing significant improvement.

The disciples of other Immortal Sects in the Eastern Wasteland also experienced notable cultivation advancements owing to the heightened spiritual energy.

Additionally, it had reached Cao Zhen's ears that Star Lord Hao Yue and Crazy Axe Immortal—a pair of reincarnated Great Abilities—had already broken through to achieve the Golden Core Period Limit.

Upon hearing his master's words, Yi Sheng nodded earnestly. "Thank you, Master. Your disciple vows to live up to your expectations when the time comes." Yi Sheng's expression was filled with steadfast determination as she nodded.

The Dragon Chant Sect, though not particularly remote within the Eastern Province, still required significant travel. The three of them piloted the flying boat and spent three months before finally arriving at Wansheng City.

Though Cao Zhen had been in the Eastern Province for quite some time, he had remained occupied and hadn't had the chance to visit its larger cities.

Previously, he had visited the Capital City of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, where he marveled at the grandeur of the city. However, compared to Wansheng City, the Capital City of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty paled in comparison.

From afar, Wansheng City appeared to be at least ten times the size of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty's Capital City!

Similar to the Eastern Wasteland, the Eastern Province was home not only to cultivators but also to ordinary mortals, who formed various dynasties.

The difference, however, lay in the nature of the Eastern Province's dynasties. Unlike the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, which was capable of suppressing numerous Immortal Sects, none of the dynasties in the Eastern Province wielded such power.

In the Eastern Province, the major sects generally had little regard for these mortal dynasties. Nonetheless, they typically assigned an Immortal to act as a Garrisoned Immortal for each dynasty.

The Garrisoned Immortal held an esteemed position within the dynasty, to the extent that even the appointment of emperors required the approval of the Garrisoned Immortal. Typically, a major sect governed one dynasty, or sometimes even several dynasties.

Chapter 1419:

But Wansheng City is completely different.

"Wansheng City does not belong to any dynasty, nor to any Great Teaching. Wansheng City itself is an independent Immortal Cultivation force."

Immortal Bi Yue gazed at the grand city in the distance and started introducing it to Cao Zhen: "The City Lord of Wansheng City is immensely powerful, a True Immortal Realm expert. Moreover, among the Great Teachings in Eastern Province, especially between the Demonic Sect and our Righteous Path sects, there needs to be a neutral ground to ease conflicts, which led to the existence of Wansheng City.

Furthermore, Wansheng City is a neutral force, and within it, combat is prohibited—or at the very least, openly prohibited."

While piloting the flying boat forward, Cao Zhen asked, "Oh? What happens if someone violates that rule?"

"If violated, punishment naturally follows, but the specific punishment depends on whether you can appease the offended party's faction." Immortal Bi Yue pondered for a moment and gave an example: "For instance, if I kill a disciple of the Void Breaking Sect, and I can provide conditions that satisfy the people around that disciple, then Wansheng City's punishment of me would be minimal—perhaps confinement for a few days and a fine paid with Spirit Stones or Immortal Stones."

If I cannot satisfy the other party, the punishment becomes severe, ranging from a thousand years of imprisonment to outright execution."

Yi Sheng immediately inquired, "A thousand years of imprisonment and execution—such a wide range. Is the disparity in punishment due to the varying strength of the victim?"

"No!" Bi Yue laughed in direct response, "It is due to the identity of the killer. For instance, if I kill someone here, the punishment Wansheng City would impose on me would only be one—imprisoning me for a thousand years.

In fact, even imprisonment wouldn't mean locking me in a death cell. Of course, the more likely scenario is that they would find ways to exonerate me or turn a blind eye, allowing me to escape from Wansheng City. After leaving the city's jurisdiction, Wansheng authorities naturally don't concern themselves anymore."

"This..." Yi Sheng again felt the contrast between Eastern Province and the Eastern Wasteland. In the Eastern Wasteland—or under the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty—the Grand Preceptor's rules dictated that punishments for crimes were equal for everyone.

But in Wansheng City, there is blatant preferential treatment. In her view, if she were the City Lord or sovereign, she would choose the Grand Preceptor's approach to governance.

"Do you find it unfair?" Immortal Bi Yue noticed the shift in Yi Sheng's expression and chuckled: "I have visited your Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty and understand its laws, but Eastern Province is different.

For instance, if I genuinely killed someone and Wansheng's authorities truly captured me and imprisoned me for a thousand years, have you ever considered how our Dragon Chant Sect would react? When the True Immortal experts from our sect come to Wansheng City to demand my release, what choice will they have?

If they agree, they lose face; if they refuse and a conflict erupts—though the City Lord of Wansheng City is strong—apart from him, Wansheng City's true power relies solely on its City Lord. Can he withstand the might of the multiple True Immortal experts from our Dragon Chant Sect?

If mere imprisonment sparks such a controversy, do you think they would dare to truly kill me?

It's not just me—take other sect geniuses, such as the famous Jiu Yin. If Wansheng City captured Jiu Yin and sentenced her to a thousand years of imprisonment, perhaps Yin Yang Sect wouldn't initiate a major conflict over it. But they might still come to demand her release—of course, I can't be certain, as I'm not a member of Yin Yang Sect.

However, I am confident that if Wansheng deliberately killed Jiu Yin, Yin Yang Sect would never let such a matter rest, because Jiu Yin is one of their geniuses."

Yi Sheng heard this and began to understand, muttering, "What about disciples from other large sects? And how would sect geniuses be treated if they committed murder?"

"Ordinary disciples from large sects, if they commit murder, naturally receive appropriate punishments—stronger sects like ours, the Dragon Chant Sect, or Yin Yang Sect might see their disciples merely imprisoned. Weaker sects' disciples, however, could face direct execution.

After all, the larger sects won't risk a major conflict with Wansheng City over the death of an ordinary disciple. As for sect disciples—even the most brilliant geniuses—Wansheng City would undoubtedly imprison them for any crimes.

However, if a sect genius were to kill a genius from a large teaching, there's no question: the penalty would be immediate execution."

Yi Sheng thought of another factor and asked, "What about killing ordinary mortals?"

"Ordinary mortals?" Immortal Bi Yue froze momentarily, then shook her head and said, "No one cares whether or not ordinary mortals die; Wansheng City wouldn't bother to intervene."

Immediately, both Cao Zhen and Yi Sheng fell into silence.

After a brief pause, Cao Zhen looked at Immortal Bi Yue and asked, "So, after everything you've said, what is your point?"

Bi Yue pointed to herself and replied, "My point is, after entering the city, if anyone provokes you, hold back. Let me handle it."

Cao Zhen chuckled softly, saying, "I doubt anyone would be foolish enough to provoke two Golden Core Period Limit cultivators like us."

"I mean in the future..." Immortal Bi Yue's face lit with an enchanting smile.

Cao Zhen listened to Bi Yue's implication but didn't respond directly. Instead, he leapt from the flying boat and landed at the gate of Wansheng City.

Where he landed, there were three gates: the central one was a large main gate, while the two sides had smaller gates.

At that moment, merchants pushing carts, riders on horse-drawn carriages, and ordinary pedestrians were queuing at the smaller gates, waiting to pass through.

The central main gate was wide open but saw relatively little use, with almost no one flying through it.

Immortal Bi Yue retracted the flying boat and descended behind Cao Zhen. She began walking toward the main gate while saying, "The main gate of Wansheng City is only for cultivators to use; mortals must use the smaller side gates."

Yi Sheng heard this and promptly asked, "Oh? So, is flying permitted within Wansheng City?"

"Of course, you can even fly directly into Wansheng City without issue. However, since you've never been here, I assumed you'd want to see the city's surroundings—that's why we're entering through the main gate." Immortal Bi Yue explained this while giving Cao Zhen a deliberate glance. During their interaction, she had discovered that Cao Zhen was particularly curious about the lives of ordinary mortals.

Cao Zhen entered Wansheng City, observing the bustling crowds on the ground as well as cultivators flying through the air. Suddenly, a thought struck him: the Grand Preceptor was truly great.

If not for the Grand Preceptor, the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty likely would resemble this scene. Actually, this is what the true Immortal Cultivation world should look like, but it wasn't the kind of world he preferred.

Chapter 1420:

Cao Zhen couldn't tell whether it was because the alchemy event was being held or if Wansheng City naturally had many cultivators, but upon entering the city, he found cultivators everywhere.

However, even though he heard Immortal Bi Yue say that cultivators in Wansheng City could kill ordinary residents without anyone caring, he did not see any cases where cultivators were wantonly slaughtering mortals.

Perhaps cultivators generally paid little attention to mortals, or perhaps mortals instinctively kept their distance from cultivators.

He found it somewhat odd. Cultivators could easily sense the aura of mortals and fellow cultivators, distinguishing between them. But how did these ordinary mortals differentiate between cultivators and their own kind?

Just as he was puzzling over this, a dirty little boy suddenly ran toward him.

The boy looked about eight or nine years old, with a flower basket strapped to his back. He rushed to stand in front of Cao Zhen, held out two bouquets of flowers, and exclaimed, "Honorable Immortal gentleman, Honorable Immortal gentleman, you're so handsome. The two Immortal ladies by your side are even more beautiful.

I've never seen such gorgeous Immortal sisters before! Honorable Immortal gentleman, please gift these two bouquets to the two stunning Immortal ladies."

Cao Zhen looked down at the boy, who was wearing clothes several sizes too big, riddled with holes and tears. For a moment, he was stunned—he had run into a young flower seller.

Almost instinctively, he glanced around, wanting to see if anyone was orchestrating the boy's actions, but a quick sweep of the surroundings revealed no suspicious figures.

Instead, Immortal Bi Yue laughed softly and accepted the flowers from the boy's hands. She chuckled and asked, "Little brother, are you giving these flowers to us for free? You don't want any money?"

"I don't want money," the boy shook his head vehemently.

"No money?" Surprise flickered briefly in Bi Yue's eyes, and she gestured toward the flower basket on his back. "These flowers must be painstakingly picked by you, and you hope to sell them, right? If you're giving them to us, how will you earn money?"

"I don't want money," the boy repeated firmly, flushing slightly with bashfulness. "I just think the two Immortal sisters are so beautiful. Only these Immortal sisters deserve these flowers."

Bi Yue's face blossomed with a radiant smile upon hearing this, and for a moment, the flowers in the boy's hands seemed to pale in comparison to her glowing expression.

Cao Zhen shook his head amusedly. Indeed, it seemed that regardless of a woman's age or beauty, they all loved hearing compliments, especially when they came from an innocent and endearing child.

He crouched slightly out of curiosity, looking intently at the boy and asking, "How do you know we're cultivators? Additionally, it seems that the people around here can all distinguish who the cultivators are. How is that done?"

The boy appeared slightly caught off guard by Cao Zhen's question. He raised his hand and pointed toward a cultivator flying in the distance. "The symbols on your clothes give it away. We citizens of Wansheng City know the insignias of every Great Teaching and Sect. The moment we see them, it's obvious who's an Immortal and who's not."

In the distance, the cultivator being pointed at seemed to notice the gesture and immediately turned to look. Almost as soon as the cultivator's gaze landed, the boy keenly sensed it and began to flee.

Yet in the next moment, another cultivator nearby grabbed the first one's clothes and hissed, "Don't stir up trouble! That female Immortal is wearing Dragon Chant Sect robes."

Such a breathtaking Dragon Chant Sect Immortal, and with no other Dragon Chant Sect members visible nearby—do you even need to guess who she is?"

"Immortal Bi Yue!" The cultivator who had been glancing at the boy froze in sudden realization and quickly flew afar!

Cao Zhen threw the little boy an intrigued look. What remarkable observation skills this child had—he could even sense when a cultivator noticed him. Such sensitivity was truly rare.

Still, whether the boy possessed special insight or not had little to do with him. After all, he already had more than enough disciples, and he lacked the bandwidth to take on more.

Cao Zhen nodded slightly and remarked, "So it's all thanks to He Yang. However, this is my first time here, and my clothes bear no insignia. How did you know I was a cultivator?"

"Because you have a very peculiar aura," the boy replied, seemingly emboldened. He had realized that the cultivators in front of him were exceptionally powerful. When he had pointed out a cultivator earlier, the man had not seemed pleased but had flown away after noticing these three. Clearly, he feared them much more.

Emboldened, the boy pointed toward three figures in the distance.

These three walked with pride on the street, their confident strides causing nearby mortals to instinctively avoid them.

"Look at them. See how they walk with such commanding presence, their heads held high? This type of demeanor screams 'Immortal.' Us mortals in Wansheng City would never dare walk like that. Even without the insignias on your clothes, we can tell you're Immortals at a glance."

Bi Yue chuckled at this insight, turning to Cao Zhen as she laughed and said, "What he described is exactly what you mentioned earlier—that some people walk as if their noses are reaching for Heaven."