

## **My Master 151**

### Chapter 151: Swept Away or Looted\_3

Situ Fengzhan, who was originally standing beside a ring, looked towards the situation unfolding, when suddenly, everyone's gaze fell upon him.

His heart instantly panicked, "Why are you all looking at me?"

"Since we are to follow the rules, then it should be Senior Brother Situ who takes the stage."

"Right, Senior Brother Situ is one of the former Hidden Dragon Three Sons, with Senior Brother Situ here, naturally, it's not our turn."

"Senior Brother Situ hails from the Upper Fifty Peaks."

"Only Senior Brother Situ can represent us."

As if they had planned it, everyone stepped aside, leaving Situ Fengzhan exposed under Ling Xi's gaze.

Ling Xi had already leaped onto the ring, her hands clasped in a respectful fist, she solemnly said, "Please instruct me, Senior Brother."

Situ Fengzhan felt like going insane, "This is deliberate, all of you are doing this on purpose. People from Four Treasures Peak are also doing this on purpose, always picking me to challenge because you see I'm still injured, easy to bully, huh?"

Under normal circumstances, his injuries would definitely have healed by now.

However, someone from Four Treasures Peak had come before, and that chubby kid fought with him again, causing his injuries to worsen, and they still hadn't healed up to now.

Yet even with injuries, now that it was said to be a matter of the sect, he couldn't back down.

Left with no choice, he gritted his teeth violently and flew onto the ring. The first thing he did was to make the ten Taoist platforms behind him, the nine Immortal Bridges, and the nine condensed inner cores all appear.

These people from Four Treasures Peak, each and every one is a monster. If I let people from Four Treasures Peak make the first move, I'd be at a huge disadvantage, right?

I must strike first!

"The four directions form the scenario..."

Situ Fengzhan was surrounded by strands of Taoist Qi, forming a chessboard-like pattern that immediately enveloped both him and Ling Xi.

Where the strands of Qi intersected, beams of light shot out, transforming into black and white chess pieces.

"Nine Pills."

Ling Xi's heart tightened and in an instant, the ten Perfect Fulfillment phantom Taoist platforms, the ten Perfect Fulfillment phantom Immortal Bridges, and one Phenomenon Pill all appeared behind her.

People watching saw the ancient runes and the phantom effects on the Taoist platforms, Immortal Bridges, and inner cores, and despite being used to these sights, they couldn't help but exclaim in amazement.

Indeed, each person from Four Treasures Peak was a monster. Not one of them lacked a phenomenon, and moreover, all their Taoist platforms, Immortal Bridges, and inner cores had phenomena.

Although Ling Xi was the eldest sister of Four Treasures Peak, in reality, her combat experience wasn't much better than Little Beiyan's. Before coming to Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace, Little Bei Yan hadn't officially fought anyone, but he had sparred with Xiang Ziyu.

As for her, the last time she had taken action was against her junior sister Yi Sheng, and it was the kind of fight that ended with, "Has it started? No, it's already over," leaving no chance to show any prowess.

Now, facing those nine inner cores, she didn't even take the time to observe them closely; she went full force immediately, slender arms glowing with strands of purple light, like thunderous serpents coiling and writhing, a constant thrumming of thunder reverberated in this part of the world.

Suddenly, in front of her, two Qi-strand-formed black and white chess pieces met in the sky, transforming into a beam of golden light that resembled a Sharp Sword flying in from beyond the heavens, slicing through space, leaving a clear rift as it thrust forward.

Ling Xi dared not hesitate, her whole body's strength converged, and her arm swung out vigorously.

In a flash, a purple Thunder bolt thick as a tree that three people could embrace soared into the air.

Five-thunder Righteous Method!

For a moment, the whole world seemed to turn into the land of Thunder.

Just as the golden light of Heaven Origin Strike touched the Thunder, it immediately shattered, and the Purple Thunder crashed down with an unstoppable force.

"Damn it, not this move again. Is that all you people from Four Treasures Peak know how to do?"

Situ Fengzhan was struck by the Thunder, his internal energy wildly turbulent, but his mind recalled what Ling Xi had said before—they were representing their sect, and they couldn't afford to lose face.

He fought hard against the urge to vomit blood, supporting his body, refusing to fall to the ground.

Before the exchange, his injury had healed slightly better than the last time he had fought Bei Yan, but only slightly.

As the dust raised by the crashing Thunder on the ring settled down, everyone could finally see Situ Fengzhan's condition clearly.

That charred body, those porcupine-like spike-stiff hairs... why did all this look so familiar?

Situ Fengzhan remained silent, not that he didn't want to speak, but because he genuinely couldn't talk. Only after his internal energy had somewhat stabilized did he manage to gesture slightly toward Ling Xi with a bow, "Junior Sister, you have won."

Ling Xi hurriedly returned the gesture, shaking her head, "Senior Brother, you really didn't have to go easy."

She might not have been rich in combat experience, but she later realized, this Senior Brother must have been injured. Yet even in his injured state, as a Nine Pills practitioner, how could he have lost so easily? He must have conceded.

Situ Fengzhan's insides surged with a swell of blood, he wanted to retort. Concede? I wish I could beat all of you from Four Treasures Peak into the ground. You think I conceded? I just strained myself to the limit to stay upright, you think I conceded? If I did, I'd be lying on the ground by now.

He managed a small throat movement to swallow the blood that had surged up his throat, enduring his injuries he said, "I'm no match for my junior sister, we should ask Senior Brother Zi Chen and Senior Brother Zi Xuan to come."

With so many people around, why should he be the one getting beaten up? As former members of the Hidden Dragon Three Sons, if one must take a beating, they should all share it.

It didn't take long for the still-injured Zi Chen and Zi Xuan to be called over.

Both of them felt like they were going insane. Their injuries were on the verge of healing when the Four Treasures Peak people came and gave them a beating. Now, just as their injuries had slightly recovered, people from Four Treasures Peak arrived again.

## Chapter 152: Sweep or Loot\_4

"You really don't want us to recover from our injuries, do you?"

"Yes, it must be so, you're just afraid that once we've healed, we'll challenge and take your place as the Hidden Dragon Three Sons."

"What a scheming bunch at Four Treasures Peak, truly devious."

"But with so many witnesses around and the rules of Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace in place, they have no choice but to fight."

A moment later, the former Hidden Dragon Three Sons were successively defeated on the same stage.

Ling Xi, looking at Zi Xuan who voluntarily stepped down from the stage, thanked him, "Thank you for your guidance, senior brother. Actually, I could have taken even stronger divine skill attacks, there's no need for you to go easy on me."

After fighting three consecutive battles, she felt that her combat experience had indeed grown a lot, her use of strength and her deployment of divine skills had also greatly improved.

Indeed, growth during battle was incomparable to solitary cultivation. No wonder Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace had such rules. And these senior brothers are really kind, despite having injuries themselves, they still fed her moves.

Zi Xuan almost spat out a mouthful of blood, what are you saying? Are you implying you didn't use your full strength, and I've already been beaten up like this by you saying that I'm simply not enough for you to fight against?

"Junior sister jests, you truly are a rare talent," Zi Xuan responded without looking back and walked away. What else could he say after being defeated? Even being mocked, he could only pinch his nose and admit the other party's prowess.

Just wait, once his injuries were healed, he would surely knock down all these people from Four Treasures Peak one by one.

Once back, he would go into seclusion and refuse to set foot outside, come what may.

He refused to believe that Four Treasures Peak could bring in new disciples, could bring in more geniuses to challenge him.

Ling Xi shook her head lightly and said, "Senior brother, I know you're all good people. Before coming here, master said that everyone in Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace is a genius and told me to seek guidance humbly here.

I know you call me a genius to help me build confidence, but the real geniuses are you guys."

Geniuses?

What kind of genius is she?

In the eyes of others, she's nothing but an Ancient Immortal Body, now a Waste Body. If not for master, she wouldn't even have the qualifications to enter Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace.

The surrounding disciples of Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace were about to explode with rage. You've won already, why are you still mocking? Saying we are the real geniuses? Geniuses have been defeated by you? Are you deliberately trying to disgust all of us?

Indeed, there isn't a single good person from Four Treasures Peak!

Ling Xi saw that no one was setting her straight and, recalling what her teacher had said, thanked everyone and then headed toward the direction of Hidden Dragon Observatory's Immortal Soldier Workshop.

She opened the map she received after entering Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace and walked into Hidden Dragon Observatory, quickly finding the Immortal Soldier Workshop.

Looking up, she could see many furnaces for refining treasures, and the shelves around were filled with various rare refining materials.

An old woman sat in a bamboo chair, holding a book, completely engrossed.

Ling Xi stood by, not speaking out of turn, thinking it would be impolite to interrupt the old grandma's reading so suddenly.

Time ticked away, moment by moment.

She stood there, quietly waiting.

About half an incense stick's worth of time passed, and Ai Yunqi put down the book in her hands and turned to look at the unfamiliar disciple, asking, "Why aren't you speaking?"

The young disciples who came here were almost all rushing to the Divine Soldier Tomb, impatient to obtain their divine weapons. Upon seeing her, they would immediately make their intentions clear. It had been a very long time since she had encountered a disciple like this girl who, after arriving, didn't speak and just stood aside.

Ling Xi honestly replied, "Grandma was reading, and I didn't want to disturb."

"It's rare to meet a disciple who understands propriety," said Ai Yunqi as she rose to her feet. "What brings you to the Immortal Soldier Workshop?"

Ling Xi respectfully said, "Disciple Ling Xi of Four Treasures Peak, I'm here by my master's orders to go to the Divine Soldier Tomb."

A disciple of Four Treasures Peak, and on her master's orders no less!

Ai Yunqi's book suddenly dropped onto the chair as she instantly recalled the deeds of those at Four Treasures Peak—the Heavenly Poles Earthly Fiends Beads of the ancestral founder, the Grieving Anger Dragon Blade of the third Substitute Sect Leader, the Shocking Evil Tower of the eighth Substitute Sect Leader, and the various divine weapons taken by Cao Zhen...

If this disciple from Four Treasures Peak should also take a treasure belonging to one of the Substitute Sect Leaders, perhaps even the Peak Master would go mad.

Hmm? The Peak Master?

In front of Ai Yunqi, the figure of Lv Chaoqiong descended from the sky.

"Peak Master? What brings you here?" Ai Yunqi looked at Lv Chaoqiong in surprise. Although the people from Four Treasures Peak, be it Peak Master Cao Zhen or another disciple, had brought the Peak Master here with their visits to the Immortal Soldier Workshop, it was because they made too much noise. But now, with a new disciple from Four Treasures Peak who hadn't yet visited the Divine Soldier Tomb, the Peak Master had already arrived.

"I came to have a look," Lv Chaoqiong replied casually. What else could she say? She certainly couldn't reveal that the moment she heard someone from Four Treasures Peak had entered Hidden Dragon Observatory, she began to observe and, upon discovering they entered the Immortal Soldier Workshop, she hurriedly arrived.

Ai Yunqi didn't ask further and turned back to Ling Xi, pointing in the direction of the back yard, "The Divine Soldier Tomb is inside there."

If it were someone else, she might have explained how to communicate with a divine weapon, but people from Four Treasures Peak...

Forget it, she thought the people from Four Treasures Peak probably had more experience than she did.

Chapter 153: Sweeping or Looting\_5

Ling Xi bowed to the two and then headed towards the back courtyard, with Ai Yunqi and Lv Chaoqiong following closely behind.

Soon, Ling Xi came to understand why this place was called the Divine Soldier Tomb.

Various weapons such as spears, broadswords, clubs, and hammers were embedded into the earth, gathered together, looking indeed like a tomb of soldiers.

She also saw talismans scattered around, some with edges sharp enough to cut through the air, some with a hot energy, some exuding a calmness as profound as mountains...

Although these talismans had different auras, she felt there was something connecting them all.

She vaguely sensed that she was no longer standing on solid ground but amidst the void, with sixty-four trigrams appearing beneath her feet.

Hum... Within the tomb, a talisman trembled slightly. In a moment, it took flight, heading straight for Ling Xi.

"A talisman?" Lv Chaoqiong said with a surprised look, "But fortunately, it's only one."

No sooner had her words fallen than the second, third, fourth... countless talismans from within the tomb began to shine brilliantly, flying towards Ling Xi.

Ai Yunqi opened his mouth wide in shock and said with astonishment, "This, this is..."

"Not good! How can this be happening again? With so many relics, how many final wishes are there? How is she, a disciple, supposed to complete them? If this goes on, will she even continue her cultivation? Moreover, with so many insights into cultivation present, it can't go on like this." Lv Chaoqiong panicked, forming a hand gesture and chanting a calming spell.

"Eight Trigrams Lost Life, Ye Zheyuan, Wandering Souls, Divine Light Leads the Way..."

Ai Yunqi heard the calming spell and his expression changed dramatically. Without regard for the fact the other person was the leader of Hidden Dragon Observatory, he shouted, "Stop it!"

Too late.

Layers of visible ripples of qi had already begun to surge outward.

Suddenly, Ling Xi heard a series of sounds, like morning bells and evening drums, resounding deeply within her heart, snapping her back to full awareness. She was still standing on solid ground, and the sixty-four trigrams had vanished from sight.

Before her, the talismans continued to fall, landing precisely on the positions of the sixty-four trigrams.

"How can this be?" Lv Chaoqiong was completely dumbfounded. She had just awakened Ling Xi, so why were the talismans still flying towards her?

Previously, when Cao Zhen resonated with the divine soldiers, it was not like this. When she had interrupted Cao Zhen, the resonance had stopped.

Hearing Lv Chaoqiong's words, Ai Yunqi couldn't help but rebuke, "You still ask why this is happening? You almost ruined everything. It's fortunate that she wasn't affected by you!"

"What do you mean?" Lv Chaoqiong turned in astonishment. As the leader of the Hidden Dragon Observatory, she was respected by Ai Yunqi, despite his odd temper. He had never criticized her so directly before.

"Do you know where those talismans come from?" Ai Yunqi pointed at the talismans falling beside Ling Xi and spoke, "These talismans may seem unrelated, but after consulting the records, I discovered that there are eighty-eight talismans here, which together form a single talisman named the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman."

"The Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman?" Lv Chaoqiong was profoundly shocked, "You, you mean the one from the Second Generation Sect Leader, the True Person's..."

"Yes, it's the Second Generation Sect Leader, the True Person's Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman. Ordinary talismans disappear after use, but the True Person's Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman is undying and can be used continuously.

It was also the most powerful treasure of the Second Generation Sect Leader, True Person. Although it was damaged in a great battle, and the Second Generation Sect Leader was unable to repair it afterwards, no one from our Hundred Peaks Sect has been able to repair it ever since.

Yet, it remained usable and powerful, which is why it was placed in the Divine Soldier Tomb.

Now, finally, a disciple has caused the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman to resonate, and there's hope to gather the sixty-four talismans. But you were about to interrupt her. Thankfully, she wasn't affected, otherwise..."

"Otherwise, I would have been a sinner of our Hundred Peaks Sect," Lv Chaoqiong said, feeling a chill of fear. As the leader of the Hidden Dragon Observatory, of course, she wished the sect's disciples to be strong. Her interruption was due to her fear of affecting Ling Xi's future cultivation. Thankfully, it wasn't a case of good intentions paving the way to hell.

"Hm? Wait, why are there only sixty-three talismans?" Lv Chaoqiong's gaze swept beside Ling Xi, and her expression suddenly changed, "Don't tell me my interruption affected her."

"No, it has nothing to do with you; there were only sixty-three talismans left here to begin with. Another talisman has been taken by Wu Jinhuan," Ai Yunqi said, though he was speaking to Lv Chaoqiong, his gaze rested on Ling Xi.

Even if one was missing, the convergence of sixty-three talismans had formed one immense Bagua talisman, with each talisman representing a trigram.

However, a piece seemed missing from the 'Li' position, where the absent talisman should be.

Nevertheless, within this enormous Bagua talisman formed by convergence, one could faintly discern majestic mountains, rivers with rolling waves, deserts, and swamps...

Yet, the mountains appeared to have broken peaks, and the rivers seemed to have segments where the flow was interrupted...

Looking at the talisman before her, Ling Xi could feel the incompleteness even with the naked eye, and she knew very clearly how to mend the broken parts.

Chapter 154: sweeps or plunders\_6

She is the Ancient Talisman Immortal Body!

She could feel that even if the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman were gathered in full, sixty-four pieces, they would still be incomplete.

Or rather, it should be said that while the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman might be complete, the talisman itself ought to be part of a more complete treasure.

Ai Yunqi watched as Ling Xi had collected sixty-three talismans, and with a wave of her hand, a Mechanism Warrior holding a booklet came before Ling Xi.

Sixty-three talismans, but there is only one master, clearly, there can be only one final wish.

Ling Xi took the booklet and thanked the two once again before asking, "Observatory Master, Elder Ai, I remember reading in the introduction to Hidden Dragon Observatory that its resources are available for use. May I use outside resources to do some refining?"

"Oh? You also understand the art of artifact refining?" Ai Yunqi looked at Ling Xi in surprise and pointed outside, "All the materials out there are at your disposal. However, you are not allowed to take the materials out with you."

"Thank you, Elder. I will not take the materials out," Ling Xi thanked Ai Yunqi again, then stood up and walked outside. While waiting for Elder Ai, she had already examined all of the materials on the outside shelves, and those were enough to repair the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman.

After Ling Xi left, Lv Chaoqiong spoke, "You deliberately mentioned the other talisman that Wu Jinhuan took away. Are you thinking...?"

"That's right, it was intentional," Ai Yunqi admitted without any pretense, "Although we haven't witnessed the power of the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman, from our sect's records, we know how formidable a complete Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman can be. Now that one disciple has gathered sixty-three talismans, of course, I hope this disciple can assemble a complete Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman. Don't you want to see the brilliance of the second generation Sect Master True Person reemerge in the world?"

"Of course, I also want to see that. However, Ling Xi is from Four Treasures Peak, and it might not be easy for her to take away another talisman from Wu Jinhuan's hands."

"That's not something we need to worry about," Ai Yunqi suddenly smiled, "Who would have thought that a disciple from Four Treasures Peak could take away sixty-three talismans. If people from her peak keep coming, I might not need to be an elder anymore."

Lv Chaoqiong, puzzled, asked, "What do you mean?"

"If they take all the divine weapons, naturally, there's no need for me to stand guard here anymore," Ai Yunqi said, and the normally temperamental woman chuckled, showing she was in a very good mood today.

Every time someone took a divine weapon from the Divine Soldier Tomb, her mood would be extremely good.

Because that meant the strength of the Hundred Peaks Sect had increased yet again, and the divine weapons that once belonged to their sect's ancestors could shine once more.

"How could that be possible? Even that Cao Zhen, although he resonated with many divine weapons at once, there were countless divine weapons that did not resonate with him.

Generally speaking, if there was no resonance with a divine weapon the first time, unless you have undergone a great change, or your whole being has been sublimated, even if your realm has improved, you still won't be able to resonate with the divine weapons in the Divine Soldier Tomb."

Having finished speaking, Lv Chaoqiong sighed, "But this Four Treasures Peak, how many artifacts from past Peak Masters have they taken? Every time someone from their peak comes here, they take away an artifact from a past Sect Master True Person. Five people came, and five artifacts of Sect Master True Persons were taken."

"Fortunately, there are few of them from Four Treasures Peak, otherwise, wouldn't all the artifacts of past Sect Masters be taken away from my Hidden Dragon Observatory? Speaking of which, there must have been quite a few disciples adept in the Path of Talisman that entered this Divine Soldier Tomb before. Yet, they never managed to resonate with the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman of the second generation Sect Master True Person, before Ling Xi, only Wu Jinhuan single-handedly took away one talisman."

Ai Yunqi reminisced, "In the past, there were indeed many disciples skilled in the Path of Talisman who entered the Divine Soldier Tomb, but the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman is different. It is a treasure that the second Substitute Sect Leader accidentally came upon, and it bears no relation to any legacy within our Hundred Peaks Sect. Even the later generations of disciples of the second Substitute Sect Leader, upon entering this place, would find it difficult to resonate with this item. At first, I was surprised for quite some time that Wu Jinhuan was able to take one talisman away.

As for Ling Xi, I am even more puzzled as to why she was able to resonate with sixty-three talismans in one go. I have no doubt that if Wu Jinhuan hadn't already taken one talisman, she would have been able to take away all sixty-four Heaven and Earth Bagua Talismans."

"I can understand why Ling Xi was able to take away so many talismans," Lv Chaoqiong slowly began, "After Cao Zhen and his disciples came to our Hidden Dragon Observatory, I specifically looked up information about Four Treasures Peak. Ling Xi, she has the Ancient Talisman Immortal Body. The Ancient Talisman Immortal Body is naturally suited for the Path of Talisman."

"The Ancient Immortal Body, what a pity," Ai Yunqi heard this and couldn't help but sigh.

As the two conversed, they walked outside. Suddenly, a brilliant light emanated from the front courtyard, so bright that it seemed as if all the light in the world were concentrated in that single beam.

"What's happening now?" Lv Chaoqiong hurried towards the source of the commotion.

In the front courtyard, Ling Xi sat cross-legged on the ground, before her, sixty-three talismans converged into the shape of a Bagua, with piles of incredibly valuable materials stacked next to her, so many they almost formed a small mountain.

Her hands were in constant motion, with precious materials flying up and landing above the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman. As her hands quickly made one hand seal after another, those materials fused into the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talismans.

Ai Yunqi's eyes widened in shock, exclaiming, "She... she's repairing the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman! For so many generations of our Hundred Peaks Sect, countless remarkable individuals, many of whom were masters at the Path of Talisman and Path of Artifact Refining, none were able to repair the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman. Yet, she, having just obtained them, can already repair them!"

Ling Xi had just asked if the materials here could be used, and she hadn't taken that seriously at all. Now, she was utterly shocked beyond belief.

Is this the terrifying nature of the Ancient Talisman Immortal Body?

If the Ancient Talisman Immortal Body is so dreadful, what about the other Ancient Immortal Bodies?

If it were ancient times, they would all be Heaven's chosen children.

Alas, they were born in the wrong era.

Lv Chaoqiong, however, was looking at the materials being used, "The heart of Cloud Mother's Heart of a century... that one, that's the Senluo Soul Water..."

"Don't yell, she's repairing the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman." Ai Yunqi grabbed Lv Chaoqiong, giving her a strange look, "Sect Master, do you have a grudge against Four Treasures Peak? First, you

interrupted Ling Xi from gathering the talismans, and now you want to interrupt her repairing the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman."

"No, of course, I'd like to see the relics of our ancestors restored, but, but..." Lv Chaoqiong, watching the valuable materials being consumed, felt an oppressive sensation in her chest.

Your master had already used up all the materials of the Five-Element Pill Ground, and today you're here using the materials of the Immortal Soldier Workshop. It seems to me that you from Four Treasures Peak don't just want to empty out the Divine Soldier Tomb, you want to strip my Hidden Dragon Observatory bare as well.

Otherwise, why doesn't the Master of the Hidden Dragon Observatory just switch roles with Four Treasures Peak?

Chapter 155: Unexpected Joy\_1

'Talisman Level upgrade breakthrough, Administrator level up by one, random user access enabled for one, specified user access enabled for one.'

Cao Zhen, upon hearing the voice from Zhonghua Cloud, was stunned.

My Talisman Level upgraded?

He quickly opened his panel.

Zhonghua Cloud Level 7 Administrator: Cao Zhen

Gender: Male

Cultivation Base: Core Formation Stage, seven cores

Identity: Former programmer, current Peak Master of the Four Treasures Peak at Hundred Peaks Sect, Pill King.

Specializes in: Programming, Grandmaster of Theoretical Alchemy, Grandmaster of Immortal Cultivation Theories.

Possessions: Four Treasures Peak

Total Cultivation Experience: 150,000

Extra Experience: 20,000

Alchemy Level: Level 55

Talisman Level: Level 41

Array Level: 40

Sword of Dodging: Level 30

Five-thunder Righteous Method: Level 25

Yes, the Talisman Level was level forty-one now! That's why the Administrator level went up, and the extra experience gained another five thousand.

'What did Ling Xi do? How did she break through the bottleneck just like that?'

The only one who could have caused the Talisman Level to increase was Ling Xi.

Cao Zhen quickly connected with Ling Xi.

At the Immortal Soldier Workshop, Ling Xi was sitting cross-legged with a huge talisman floating in front of her, and all sorts of materials kept flying into the talisman from around her.

'What kind of talisman is this? Using so many precious materials? Is she repairing this huge talisman? Is this a divine weapon taken from the Divine Soldier Tomb? It seems her gains inside the Divine Soldier Tomb are not less than that girl Yan Yourong's.'

This talisman was unmistakably extraordinary, just by looking at the materials Ling Xi was throwing into it – have you not seen how green with envy the face of the Hidden Dragon View Master Lv Chaoqiong looked?

What kind of materials would it take for the Talisman Level to directly break through the level forty barrier?

Good job, worthy of being my disciple, upholding the fine tradition of our Four Treasures Peak. I plundered the wool from the Five-Element Pill Ground, and you're doing the same at the Immortal Soldier Workshop. At this rate, won't Master Lv blacklist Four Treasures Peak?

Having figured out what had happened, Cao Zhen immediately exited and collapsed into a relaxed recline.

'So comfortable, this feeling of winning without lifting a finger, is just so comfortable. If each disciple does this once, won't I soar to the skies?'

Cao Zhen murmured to himself, then once again, an urging voice came from within the Zhonghua Cloud.

'Administrator level increased, please specify the user to access.'

'Access my mother, Wu Xuehua,' Cao Zhen didn't hesitate and immediately chose his mother. His father had mentioned several times during their conversations that his mother wanted to talk to him.

As a son, he had not been filial before crossing over. Now, in this world, the only thing he could do was to improve his parents' living conditions through Ma Shoufu, besides passing on the cultivation techniques to them for strengthening their bodies. Other than that, his only option was to chat with them for a little while within the limited time available.

A document approximating his father's age quickly appeared within Zhonghua Cloud.

Cao Zhen opened the document, and instantly, an image streamed into his mind.

In his parents' small courtyard, his mother was holding a water hose, watering the veggies she planted in the yard.

On the side, a golden retriever happily ran back and forth.

Having likely received news that he was still alive and started practicing the cultivation technique he passed on, his mother's spirits appeared much better than the last time he saw her.

Cao Zhen felt slightly relieved. His parents' improved condition made him happier than anything else. He initiated a call through his mother's document.

'Mom...'

Wu Xuehua, who was watering, halted abruptly and looked up at the air in front of her, asking with hopeful eyes, 'Is that you, Zhen? Is it you?'

Cao Zhen hastily replied, 'Mom, it's me.'

Hearing her son's voice again, Wu Xuehua dropped the hose to the ground, tears welling up in her eyes, and she burst into tears of joy. Ever since she learned her son was still alive, after hearing from her husband that the son might find a way to talk to her, she had experienced countless auditory hallucinations.

While cooking, gardening, feeding the dog, whenever she was alone, she could always faintly hear her son calling for her.

But in the end, she realized those were all hallucinations.

And now, her son had finally returned.

'Mom, don't cry. I'm here now, aren't I?' Cao Zhen, seeing the tears in his mother's eyes, also felt a lump in his throat. People tend to cherish after losing something, and only think of the virtue of their elders after they can no longer show filial piety – but it was already too late.

Wu Xuehua, while wiping away her tears, chided, 'You rascal, glad you know to speak up. I ask you, why did you contact your father first, and not your mom?'

Cao Zhen was caught off guard. How should he pick up this thread? Should he say he was afraid she couldn't handle it? Wouldn't that be asking for discomfort?

He steered the conversation onto another topic, 'By the way, where's Dad?'

'He's gone fishing,' Wu Xuehua's attention was not diverted in the slightest; after a brief mention of Cao Zhen's father, she turned back to inquire with concern, 'Zhen, how are things with you there? Is your living situation good?'

Cao Zhen boasted, 'It's great, really great. An entire mountain peak belongs to your son.'

Wu Xuehua showed concern, 'It must be cold on the mountain at night, make sure to wear more.'

'Yes, yes, I'll definitely wear more,' Cao Zhen knew his mother couldn't see him, yet he insisted on nodding repeatedly.

'And the food? Are you getting used to the food there? Is it like in ancient times with not many seasonings?' Wu Xuehua inquired, following up about food after asking about his living conditions.

'It's fantastic here, there are so many kinds of fish, and they are delicious beyond words. Plus, my eldest disciple's cooking is on par with yours, Mom.'

Chapter 156: Unexpected Joy\_2

"With that little bit of knowledge you have, you're going to teach others? Just don't lead them astray. And son, over there you might not have anyone watching over you, but you still need to keep a count of yourself. Don't get into fights trying to outdo others. If you can avoid fighting, then don't fight."

"Don't worry, your son is quite popular here. Why would I get into a fight?" Cao Zhen boasted, patting his chest, "I've just helped a lot of people retrieve their treasures."

"That's good, that's good. Also, son, you're not getting any younger. Although mom can't see her grandson, she still wants to hear him call her 'grandma'. Find a wife over there... Son, is your wife going to be a fairy? They say you're a bachelor, so let's find a fairy wife! Son, do you have any suitable targets over there?"

"Mom... I'm running out of time. I'll chat with you another day." Cao Zhen tried to excuse himself repeatedly. Even across these two worlds, the pressure to marry was the same, which was something he found quite remarkable.

But this time, he really was running out of time.

Cao Zhen logged out of his mother's file, and the voice of China Cloud swiftly followed.

'Random access to user "Mozi" completed.'

"Mozi? What's the use in that? Even if you can't randomly connect me with Hong Jun or Tongtian, at least give me Taiyi or Monkey. If all else fails, I'll even take Bajie, but what's the use of Mozi? Can he set off firecrackers or control people?"

While grumbling, Cao Zhen looked towards the sea of clouds.

In his sea of clouds, there appeared two huge documents radiating golden light.

"Why are there two documents? And they're so big, they're almost as large as Zhang Daoling's document! Right, I have Sun Zi's document as well that I haven't checked yet.

Such large documents seem to indicate that I'm rather lucky this time?"

Cao Zhen felt a surge of anticipation. After all, bigger was generally better; who didn't like bigger things? He opened the documents that appeared in the sea of clouds.

Name: Mozi.

Cultivation Base: Mortal.

Identity: Founder of the Mohist school, inventor, philosopher, thinker, educator, and military strategist.

Proficient in: Mechanical techniques, philosophy, teaching, and military law.

Mechanical Techniques: Full Level.

Philosophy: Full Level.

Teaching: Level 99.

Military Law: Level 90.

Cao Zhen looked at Mozi's introductory document with surprise. Philosophy and mechanical techniques were both full level? He knew Mozi was a great sage from ancient times, but he had not expected him to be so formidable.

However, these things didn't seem very useful.

Others were cultivating towards immortality, and was he supposed to lecture them on philosophy? Wouldn't they think he was crazy?

Mechanical Techniques?

Those weren't useful either. This was a world of immortal cultivation. What could mere mortal mechanical techniques accomplish? Build a trebuchet? Haul a huge stone and throw it? Wouldn't it be better to use divine skills directly?

Military Law?

Military law was useless too; he wasn't commanding any troops.

"Well, with a teaching level of 99, I should be able to teach students. Download it, download."

As he spoke, an ocean of knowledge from various philosophies, military laws, mechanical manufacturing techniques... flooded his mind like an overwhelming sea.

He finally understood why Mozi's document was so large.

In just an instant, he had acquired all of Mozi's knowledge.

"Incredible, incredible. So the military law level 90 is all about defense, not a single tactic for offense.

And this mechanical technique... is this ancient mechanical technique?"

Cao Zhen, recalling Mozi's knowledge on mechanical techniques, was dumbfounded. Mozi, in his era, had actually invented mechanical humanoids, and more importantly, even Earth at that time possessed Spirit Stones.

But those Spirit Stones were incredibly tiny, at best called spirit sand, the size of grains of sand, with limited spiritual energy.

"Actually, his mechanical humanoids were successful, but due to the resources available on Earth, there were no large Spirit Stones, thus they couldn't be powered perfectly. I just need to create them and power them with Spirit Stones. Worthy of a document almost as substantial as Zhang Daoling's, truly a preeminent sage of ancient times, remarkable indeed."

Cao Zhen marveled twice and looked forward with anticipation at Sun Zi's document. Mozi's document had already brought a huge surprise; what about Sun Zi's document?

Name: Sun Wu.

Cultivation Base: Mortal.

Identity: Military strategist, politician, the supreme sage of military families!

Proficient in: Military Law.

Military Law: Full Level.

"As expected of the military sage, his military law is maxed out. But the problem is, I don't lead troops into battle, so this full-level military law is unnecessary."

Cao Zhen then checked his own document, sure enough, his own military law had also shot up to a full-level MAX, but his mechanical techniques were just Zero Level.

"Just as with the Alchemy Dao levels, the mechanical techniques must be practiced and increased through actual creation. Good, the disciples at Four Treasures Peak are few. Other peaks have disciples guarding the foot of their mountains, but Four Treasures Peak doesn't even have a single disciple to watch the gate. Someone could sneak up and steal without anyone noticing.

With these mechanical techniques, I can make some mechanical humanoids to guard the mountain gate and help with odd jobs... or perhaps have these mechanical humanoids make some talismans, solving the problem of being short-handed."

Cao Zhen began to research how to create mechanical humanoids. Although his level in mechanical techniques was currently at Zero Level, his theoretical knowledge was full-level. The more he researched, the more he admired Mozi.

It was only Mozi's environment and materials that held him back. Had he lived in a world of Immortal Cultivation, his accomplishments would surely have been even greater.

Restrictions?

Soon, a new idea popped into his head.

Chapter 157: Unexpected Joy\_3

If I set up a formation to stimulate the spiritual energy and then craft on top of it... this seems doable.

Cao Zhen quickly left, purchased a batch of the lowest grade formation materials, and after finding an open space in the backyard, began to set up the formation.

The Four Treasures Peak lacked many things but not open spaces.

"If I add some Miao Tian rare earth to this soil and introduce a bit of spiritual energy, I should be able to craft the simplest mechanical beings."

Cao Zhen started to shape the stone man, but...

"Why is this so hard? I have no experience in shaping things." Cao Zhen was at his wit's end, though he had full theoretical knowledge, his technical skills weren't at the same level, and at times his hands seemed uncontrollable.

Shaping a head took forever, and he ended up with a triangular head.

Shaping an arm, after much effort, turned out to be the same length top to bottom.

After much difficulty shaping a leg that nearly looked right, he accidentally applied too much force and snapped it off. He still had to work on the hands, two hands with a total of ten fingers, and accidentally ended up creating a nine-fingered thief.

All these were relatively easy. The key was to design the meridians, and if that went wrong, the carefully shaped stone man would be ruined.

Cao Zhen looked at his hands with a helpless sigh, "These hands of mine... I should have played with more mud when I was younger."

"Master? What are you doing?"

Suddenly, an exclamation sounded, and Cao Zhen, who was squatting on the ground, looked up to see a pair of long, white, straight, and slender beautiful legs entering his sight.

Looking at those legs that scored full points with just a skirt, no stockings needed, and then at the deformed legs of the clay figure he had shaped, he suddenly lost even the desire to speak.

Yi Sheng looked on with a puzzled face at the messy shaped clay before her and then at her master's face also covered in clay, she even began to doubt whether the master in front of her was someone transformed through divine skills...

"Master, are you playing with mud?"

"What do you mean playing with mud. This is mechanical techniques, do you understand?" Cao Zhen's face instantly darkened as he still squatted there, taking on the authoritative tone of a master to instruct, "Why aren't you cultivating properly, running around instead?"

Yi Sheng responded grievously, "Disciple has just collected talismans from the mountain.

"Oh, after collecting the talismans, you should go back to cultivation," Cao Zhen hastily waved his hands, wanting to get his disciple out of there as quickly as possible. It was too embarrassing for a master theoretically at full level in mechanical techniques to be seen creating such things.

As for talisman making, he initially thought about learning from Boss Ma's something-bao; those Taoist Institutions were like different shops, letting them sell while he took a bigger share.

But later he realized this wasn't right; without a system like something-bao, who would know how many talismans those Taoist Institution folks actually sold?

If they sold a thousand talismans and told him they sold a hundred, wouldn't he be at a huge loss?

He had no choice but to change his original idea to taking the talismans from the Taoist Institutions and selling them himself.

Yi Sheng didn't immediately leave but frowned and said, "Master, disciple knows the number of disciples in these Taoist Institutions and has also calculated their talisman-making speed, and I've found that the quantity of talismans they turn in is incorrect. They must be hiding talismans. But disciple is powerless and can't think of a perfect solution."

"Such things can't be completely prevented. Fortunately, we take the lion's share, let's leave it at that for now. After a while, your master will look for other solutions. For now, go back and cultivate," Cao Zhen's gaze fell back on the mud mechanical beings still in the making.

If this had been before, he really wouldn't have had any better solutions, other than threatening to sell the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talismans to make those Taoist Institutions restrain themselves.

After all, he couldn't really develop a system like something-bao in a world without even electricity, could he?

But now, he could just create more mechanical beings and have them make talismans.

The people of the Hundred Peaks Sect suddenly found that the normally very active Cao Zhen had disappeared.

Cao Zhen finally realized that his hands were indeed clumsy — it was just that he had never done this before. As he continued crafting, he gradually became more proficient.

Within three days, he had crafted the first batch of mud mechanical beings.

These mechanical beings, almost entirely made of mud, had the great advantage of being very cheap; they could be activated simply by placing a spirit stone inside them, functioning like real people.

Since Ling Xi had gone to the Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace and the task of taking care of Cao Zhen's daily life fell on Yi Sheng, cooking duties had also become Yi Sheng's responsibility.

According to the rules of Four Treasures Peak, unless one was in long-term seclusion, meals were still to be had, following the master's words, it gave a sense of home. Even though there were only two of them, meals needed to be cooked.

At noon, Yi Sheng continued to cook and prepare meals as usual and headed towards the open space where her master had been busy lately.

But even before reaching the open space, she was surprised to hear a series of noises from afar, as if something was being built.

"Strange? What is he up to now? It seems like there are quite a few people too?"

Yi Sheng quickened her pace.

In no time, she saw a group of busily working mud people.

There were five or six mud people moving stones, carrying straw, all bustling about fervently, and her master was not far away, directing them.

Chapter 158: An Unexpected Joy\_4

"Master... you, you actually made these?"

Yi Sheng exclaimed in surprise, quickly running to her master's side, her face full of amazement as she looked at these clay figures.

These clay figures were about as tall as the average person, only a bit stronger, and due to being made of clay, they appeared quite rough. They moved somewhat heavily, but their actions when building a house seemed no different from those of real people.

"Master, you, you really know Mechanical Techniques!" Yi Sheng looked up at Cao Zhen with admiration, her eyes seemingly about to light up. She believed in geniuses, but she had never believed that a single person could be proficient in everything. Yet now, she was beginning to realize that her master might truly be such a person.

Her master's vision and perspective in business exceeded even her own, though she had been proclaimed a business prodigy since childhood.

Her master also knew Talisman Making, and his methods were unheard of.

And now, to her amazement, she discovered that her master also knew Mechanical Techniques.

Cao Zhen feigned a casual air, "It's nothing significant, just some of the simplest automaton men. Oh, from tomorrow on, you won't need to cook anymore. Later, find one of the automaton men and teach it how to cook."

Yi Sheng hadn't known how to cook before; she was the daughter of the wealthiest family. It was Ling Xi who had taught her to cook before leaving, saying that with disciples around, the master should no longer have to cook.

He had assumed that Yi Sheng's cooking would surely be a disaster, but to his surprise, it was unexpectedly delicious, and it just kept getting better. In just a few days, she was even trending toward surpassing Ling Xi.

Yi Sheng was skeptical, "Will they be able to cook? Master, cooking requires mastering heat control and the flame's intensity changes—they are, after all, just automaton men. It might be better for your disciple to continue cooking."

Besides, when I cook, I can also control the flame; it's a form of training for me."

"Alright, then you will continue to cook." Cao Zhen's smile grew more evident on his face. Very good, even cooking could be a form of cultivation for her. A genius truly is a genius; the more talented the disciple, the more he could relax.

"Thank you, Master. Let's eat first," Yi Sheng said, once impossibly proud but now without a trace of arrogance. She opened the food box and asked curiously, "Master, are you going to build a house? Why all of a sudden do you want to build a house?"

"These clay figures, they're quite alright in every aspect, but they have one flaw—they're afraid of rain. If they get wet, they're done for. So, I've found a place with higher ground to build a huge house for these clay figures," Cao Zhen pointed to a simple house that was nearly completed and said, "As long as the house keeps out the rain, that's enough. Once they've finished building the house, I'll have them start Talisman Making. They'll make Supreme Gathering Spirit Talismans and Revival Talismans."

"They can make Talismans as well?" Yi Sheng was utterly astonished. Talisman Making was no simple task. Suddenly, she had another thought and cried out, "Master, what are the costs for these automaton men?"

Cao Zhen pointed towards a pile of clay not far away, "The cost is almost negligible."

"Then in that case, Master, we can sell these automaton men," Yi Sheng proposed, then shook her head, "No, that's not right; these automaton men are created by you. With your multitude of talents, if we sell the automaton men, you would have to keep making them yourself."

As Cao Zhen picked up food, he replied, "Who said I'm going to make them all myself? I can create some higher-level automaton men and let those make the lower-level ones."

"Can the automaton men really create more automaton men?" Yi Sheng couldn't believe her ears as she looked at Cao Zhen.

"What's so difficult about that? Later, when you go down the mountain, bring some materials back for me. These clay figures aren't very smart. Once I create new automaton men, you won't have to go down the mountain to collect Talismans anymore; the automaton men can do it."

Without the new automaton men ready, Yi Sheng still needed to go down the mountain herself to collect Talismans. In an instant, she had brought Cao Zhen a large amount of materials, among which the most expensive was a material known as Birch Wood.

The Birch Tree was an extremely tough tree, not something ordinary people could cut down without the aid of proper tools, even those disciples who had just started their Cultivation.

Moreover, these Birch Trees weren't plentiful and mostly grew on cliffs and precipices, which made Birch Wood quite expensive.

There were simple as well as high-level Talismans, and naturally, there were both simple and high-level automaton men.

The clay figures could only do the simplest tasks, such as Talisman Making, watering the Spirit Field, cleaning the yard, and building a house.

But more complex tasks were beyond their capability. To make higher-level automaton men, one must use higher-quality materials and more complex techniques.

Having had the experience of creating the clay figures, Cao Zhen still spent ten days to produce the first Paulownia Puppet Man.

Compared to the clay automaton men, the Paulownia Puppet Men were much finer and had no fear of water. Most importantly, they could be taught how to make clay automaton men!

After creating the first Paulownia Puppet Man, with gained experience, the process of making more became much faster. Eventually, he could even produce a batch of five Paulownia Puppet Men at a time.

Chapter 159: Unexpected Joy\_5

Before they knew it, a month had passed.

Cao Zhen looked at the ten Paulownia Puppet Men that were making mud figurines and then glanced at the mud figurines that were making talismans. He said to Yi Sheng beside him, "The Paulownia Puppet Men are good in every way, they're just expensive. On average, each puppet man costs a thousand liang of spirit stones without wasting materials. However, those mud figurines really do save money."

"Master, these mud figurines are inexpensive. If we create a large number of them and release them later, they will surely impact the entire market. But for now, we need to consider the sale of talismans. We've been holding back for quite some time, and people from the Taoist institutions are starting to have complaints," Yi Sheng said. After following his master for so long, though he may not have learned much else, the way he spoke was becoming increasingly modernized.

"Then get ready..." Just as Cao Zhen began to speak, a pillar of light burst into the sky in the distance, breaking through the clouds and soaring straight into the heavens.

In an instant, it seemed as though the whole world changed color in response— the horizon trembled, the earth shook, and even the blazing sun overhead seemed to lose its luster.

The next moment, an immensely large Golden Core emerged from within the pillar of light. Even from a great distance, one could clearly see a giant bird resembling an Immortal Crane, with only one leg and its body covered in azure feathers, emerge within the Golden Core. Its feathers bore red patterns, like undying flames burning fiercely.

From afar, Cao Zhen felt the temperature around him seemed to have risen quite a bit.

The Bi Fang, a divine bird!

The Bi Fang cried out, its call resonating throughout the Hundred Peaks Sect, causing even the distant clouds to tumble and roll.

"Perfect Completion Golden Core! Anomalous Golden Cores, all ten are anomalous Golden Cores! Someone has made a breakthrough!" Yi Sheng exclaimed. "That direction, that's Vermilion Bird Peak's direction, who has made the breakthrough!"

Cao Zhen, sensing the aura emanating from afar, could picture a figure in his mind.

Li Ke.

The person who made the breakthrough must be Li Ke!

Suddenly, a fluctuation transmitted through his room.

"Thousands Miles Voice Transmission Water Mirror? Who is transmitting a message to me?" Cao Zhen was startled for a moment and walked towards the location in the room. He had only taken a few steps when the voice from the water mirror was already transmitted.

"Today, my Vermilion Bird Peak disciple Li Ke has made a small achievement in immortal cultivation and completed her Perfect Golden Core."

"The voice of Tu Zhuque, the Peak Master of Vermilion Bird Peak," Cao Zhen had heard Tu Zhuque's voice long ago; it was very distinctive.

Tu Zhuque first spoke in a rather formal manner, but the pride was unmistakable in her tone as she continued, seemingly addressing someone specific.

"Coincidentally, all ten of these Golden Cores are anomalous. My Vermilion Bird Peak will host a celebration banquet in ten days. I invite all the Peak Masters of Hundred Peaks Sect to grace us with their presence."

As her voice fell, there was a brief pause, but then it picked up again.

"Chen Qingluan, do not say that you are in seclusion and do not have time. Of course, if you are jealous, you can find an excuse not to come."

"Tu Zhuque, don't think everyone is like you. In ten days' time, Azure Pheasant Peak will surely attend!"

Cao Zhen was speechless. It was now certain that Tu Zhuque's latter words were meant for Chen Qingluan alone. Could you two possibly have a private chat? Please don't spam the public channel.

"This Tu Zhuque, I don't know if she is so happy because her disciple has broken through, or because she has a chance to one-up Chen Qingluan."

Cao Zhen complained to Yi Sheng, who was beside him, "I'm beginning to wonder if the only reason she's holding that banquet is just to show off to Chen Qingluan."

"Let them go if they want; I won't be attending. Wouldn't it be better to refine some puppet men at home with that time?"

"But..." Yi Sheng looked at Cao Zhen with hopeful eyes and said, "Master, your disciple wants to go."

"My disciple, you're still too young." Cao Zhen sighed and analyzed, "If we were to attend their banquet, we can't possibly go empty-handed; we need to bring a ceremonial gift. And as the Peak Master, I can't offer too little. After all, indulging in a bit of food there would cost us quite a sum in gifts. It's not worth it."

"But, Master, there's a blood pool on Vermilion Bird Peak. It's rumored that the blood of the Sacred Beast Vermilion Bird resides within, which is why it's also known as the Vermilion Bird Blood Pool."

"My cultivation base is too low right now. If only I could enter that Blood Pool for a soak, I could reap immense benefits." Yi Sheng's voice was filled with self-reproach; among the five disciples from Four Treasures Peak, the other four, her senior brothers and sisters, had already entered the Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace, leaving only her outside.

If something were to happen, she couldn't expect the Master to step forward every time; but with her current cultivation base, she feared her involvement would only bring shame to Four Treasures Peak, and she didn't want to disgrace her sect.

"Oh, there's such a place at Vermilion Bird Peak?" Cao Zhen patted Yi Sheng on the shoulder and said, "Then we must go. Absolutely have to!"

His disciple was of the True Yang constitution, belonging to the same fire system as the Vermilion Bird. Immersing herself in the Vermilion Bird Blood Pool would indeed bring her tremendous benefits. It was just that Yi Sheng was too young. She had been in the Taoist Institution previously, and her time in Hundred Peaks Sect was limited, lacking connections and relationships. If she were to go alone, there was no chance of entering the Vermilion Bird Blood Pool. However, if she went with him, there might be an opportunity.

"Master!" Yi Sheng looked at her Master, feeling so moved that all she could say were these two words. She knew Four Treasures Peak was poor; her Master had already expressed that he didn't wish to spend money. Yet now, for her slight chance, he changed his mind to go to Vermilion Bird Peak.

She must become stronger!

Indeed, she had to become stronger!

Once she was powerful enough, she definitely couldn't let her Master waste resources on her or experience difficulty. She had to bring back more resources in return for her Master, for Four Treasures Peak!

Cao Zhen began to ponder, "Actually, the people of Vermilion Bird Peak aren't foolish either. Why would Tu Zhuque specifically say it's ten days later, instead of today? Firstly, Vermilion Bird Peak needs to prepare, and secondly, they're giving everyone time to prepare gifts for the banquet.

"So what should we bring as a gift?"

"Just offering spirit stones as a gift is too common, and Upper Fifty Peaks' Vermilion Bird Peak is unlikely to be short of them. We need to bring a special gift... Pills, let's gift pills."

"Gift pills?" Yi Sheng's face showed a hint of struggle, and after a moment of silence, she finally said, "Maybe we shouldn't, Master. Pills are too expensive."

She was acutely aware of Four Treasures Peak's situation and how precious those pills could be. As Master had just mentioned the gift should not be too casual, the pills they would bring could not be ordinary ones.

Although she wished to improve herself in the Vermilion Bird Blood Pool, she didn't want the Master and Four Treasures Peak to pay too steep a price.

Since she had joined Four Treasures Peak, the Master had given her more than enough.

"Expensive? It won't be too costly; a matter of one or two thousand Liang of spirit stones will suffice," Cao Zhen estimated the cost of alchemy materials and gestured for Yi Sheng to sit down before saying, "Let's have a meal first. As for the gift, your Master has already decided on which pill to give. I will go down the mountain to buy some materials later, and then come back to refine the pill."

"Refining pills?" Yi Sheng had just sat down when she suddenly straightened up, looking incredulously at her Master, "Master, you know how to perform alchemy?" Alchemy was much more difficult than talisman making.

Cao Zhen smiled proudly, "Your Master knows far more than just a little."

Chapter 160: Array Plate\_1

Human energy is always limited.

Yi Sheng always believed that a person should devote more energy to what they are best at. If one excels at talisman making, focus on making talismans; if one is skilled at alchemy, concentrate on alchemy.

If one tries to learn everything, they will end up mastering none.

But now, she discovered that her understanding needed to be changed.

What about her master? Was he a master of all trades?

She knew her master was good at talisman making, and a few days ago, found out that he excelled in mechanical techniques, which in her view, were even more magical than his talisman making technique.

Those mechanical techniques were more wondrous than the various warriors made by Puppet Peak, at least, she had never heard of any other place that could create mechanical beings like those.

Not long ago, her master said he wanted to do alchemy. Although she had never seen her master perform alchemy, she believed that her most admired master must be skilled at it, otherwise, he would not confidently purchase various spiritual medicines to personally concoct pills as a congratulatory gift.

But once her master bought the alchemy materials and came here, he hadn't even started alchemizing yet, and he showed her another ability.

Her master could also set up formations.

Formations, something cultivators more or less all knew a little about.

However, the skilled movements of her master setting up the formation, and the power emitted after the formation was activated, unequivocally told her that her master was a formation expert.

"Hiss hiss..."

The sound of flames burning interrupted Yi Sheng's musings.

Her master was about to start alchemy.

She turned her head to look and saw her master open the pill furnace, take out a bunch of medicinal materials, and directly throw them into the pill furnace. Behind her master, ten Taoist platforms and Immortal Bridges emerged.

Phenomenal Taoist platforms, Phenomenal Immortal Bridges! All with phenomena!

A look of astonishment appeared on Yi Sheng's beautiful face. She had sparred with the senior sister and with the third senior brother; she knew that each of their Taoist platforms, Immortal Bridges, and inner cores had their own phenomena.

But she also knew that whether it was the senior sister or the third senior brother, they both were Ancient Immortal Bodies.

Though difficult to cultivate and break through, once they did, they were nearly invincible at the same cultivation realm, their Taoist platforms, Immortal Bridges, and inner cores all had phenomena, so she was surprised yet thought it reasonable.

But her master's Taoist platforms and Immortal Bridges also all had phenomena.

What about her master's inner core?

She did not believe that her master lacked an inner core.

She looked towards her master's back, waiting for his inner core to emerge, but soon, her master was casting spell after spell, sorting out the medicinal qi in the pill furnace, and his inner core still hadn't appeared.

This?

She completely failed to understand. Although she didn't know alchemy, she knew that pill masters had to be fully engaged when concocting pills, unleashing all their power to ensure they were in the best state for alchemy.

With alchemy, any slight mistake could ruin a batch of pills.

Her master couldn't possibly be without an inner core, but why hadn't he revealed it?

And what was her master doing? He just threw in the materials like that?

Not all pills require all the medicinal materials to be put in at once; after all, each material has different effects and properties and must be added at different times, with extremely precise measurements.

She remembered a teacher at the Taoist institution mentioning that sometimes a mere difference of a single coin in the weight of a herb could prevent the fusion of certain ingredients' medicinal qi, leading to failure in alchemy.

Many pill masters are extremely cautious in weighing ingredients when alchemizing.

But her master just threw in the materials outright.

Also, why was there no fragrance of medicine? Isn't there always a scent during alchemy?

Even though she trusted her master, at this moment, she started to doubt whether he really knew how to do alchemy.

Cao Zhen , while concocting the pills, glanced over at Yi Sheng. Making these pills didn't require his full attention; he hadn't even released all his power, naturally giving him spare energy to focus on other things.

His disciple had been following him ever since she learned he was going to do alchemy, from buying the materials through to their return, all the way here.

Hmm? Was she frowning?

Cao Zhen threw another herb into the pill furnace, then turned back to Yi Sheng and asked, "Disciple, is there something puzzling you?" He now possessed level 99 teaching skills—solving a student's puzzle was just a piece of cake.

"That pill... Master, why is there no scent coming from the pills?" Yi Sheng pointed at the pill furnace before Cao Zhen, voicing her doubts. She knew as a disciple she shouldn't doubt her master, but his method of alchemy was too peculiar.

Cao Zhen did not answer Yi Sheng but instead asked back, "Scent of medicine? Why would there be a fragrance?"

Yi Sheng replied as if it were self-evident, "Different medicinal materials, when put together and burned, naturally emit a fragrance. Moreover, every book and everyone knows that alchemy naturally produces a scent."

"Oh? Have you read books on alchemy?" Cao Zhen asked with surprise and then laughed, "Have you ever considered that what everyone says and what's written in books might not be correct?"

Have you ever thought about what the fragrance of medicine is? It is the aroma of the medicine.

What produces this aroma? It is the medicinal effect of the herbs. If there is a fragrance, it actually indicates that some of the medicinal effect is dissipating, which is not a good thing."