

My Master 161

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"Is the fragrance of the medicine a sign that the efficacy is seeping out?" Yi Sheng heard this explanation for the first time, her eyebrows furrowed tightly. After a long while, she nodded slightly in agreement, "Disciple has pondered for a while, and Master's words make sense. However, haven't others realized this issue?"

"Of course they have realized it too, but suppressing the fragrance from being emitted is not that simple. Just as you said, when fire burns, naturally the fragrance will disperse. Just because you can't smell the fragrance doesn't mean the efficacy isn't dispersing; it just means that your teacher has suppressed the fragrance like this..."

While speaking, Cao Zhen suddenly employed an alchemy technique.

Suddenly, a rich fragrance burst forth from the pill furnace. Although the scent was concentrated, it wasn't pungent; within the subtle fragrance, there seemed to be brimming with vitality.

"Do you smell it? That is the fragrance of this pill's efficacy." After Cao Zhen released a portion of the fragrance, he immediately performed another alchemy technique to seal the fragrance and continued to explain, "I merely suppressed the fragrance within the pill furnace. In doing so, the efficacy wasn't lost into the air; it remained in the pill furnace, and eventually, it will enter into the pills.

Actually, many people can do this, but they don't because of the second point, which is the difficulty, namely, how to infuse the fragrance into the pills.

It involves gathering the fragrances of countless medicinal ingredients, each with different properties. Not to mention when so many ingredients come together to form a fragrance, forcefully infusing these fragrances into the pills could potentially ruin a batch that could have been successfully made, or even explode the pill furnace.

Therefore, the more ingredients and the stronger the properties of the medicine, the harder it is to suppress the fragrance. Master cannot guarantee that all pills made will have suppressed fragrances."

Yi Sheng nodded continuously in understanding. So that was it; her teacher truly was also skilled in alchemy, extremely skilled at that, with such an effortless control over the fragrance, something she had never heard of before. She even doubted her teacher just now.

"Master, Disciple was wrong. Just now, Disciple even doubted whether Master really knew alchemy!"

As Yi Sheng stepped back, her hands were about to go down when her body barely bent forward—a bit when her teacher stopped her.

"Why learn something that doesn't suit you? You learned this move from your martial sister, but with your long legs, this move doesn't fit you," Cao Zhen truly was speechless. These disciples, why do they not learn what is good and insist on learning all sorts of nonsense?

Yi Sheng, being stopped by her teacher, helplessly straightened up. But the next moment, she was suddenly startled, "Master, you left the furnace, what about the pill..."

"No matter. Master could leave this furnace of pills for a while, and even if I closed my eyes, I could still produce several best quality pills," Cao Zhen said casually while making an alchemy technique gesture towards the pill furnace.

"This..." Yi Sheng realized that watching her teacher perform alchemy today had completely overturned her understanding of alchemy. Wasn't it said that alchemists, when making pills once, experienced exhaustion like cultivators battling a powerful opponent equal to their own strength? How could Master be so at ease? To what extent had her Master's alchemy skills advanced?

Yi Sheng didn't dare to directly ask her Master if he was an Alchemy Grandmaster. She looked at the flame burning beneath the pill furnace, fell silent for a while, and then asked curiously, "Master, what pill are you making?"

"Small Nirvana Pill."

Yi Sheng immediately furrowed her brows and fell into recollection. After a long moment, she shook her head, "Disciple's knowledge is limited; I have never heard of such a pill."

"It's normal that you don't know. Although the medicinal ingredients needed to make this pill are not particularly precious and twenty thousand Spirit Stones could buy them all, it is extremely rare and not easy to make. I fear in the entire Hundred Peaks Sect, you are the second person who knows of this pill," Cao Zhen explained. "Small Nirvana Pill is useless for ordinary people; it is specifically for cultivators with Immortal Bodies like the Vermilion Bird, Azure Pheasant, Bi Fang, and the like.

When they are defeated and gravely injured, teetering on the brink of death, as long as they have not truly perished, just by taking one Small Nirvana Pill, they can achieve Nirvana Rebirth once.

Moreover, after Nirvana, their combat power will at least reach their former peak.

As for whether they can comprehend something in that near-death state, it all depends on fate."

Yi Sheng opened her mouth in amazement and said, "So, as long as they are not dead, they can recover? Doesn't that mean one could continually seek that state? After all, in near-death, people tend to unleash astonishing potential."

"You are thinking too much. The Small Nirvana Pill can only be taken once. Those who have taken it once, no matter how injured they are afterwards, even a hundred Small Nirvana Pills would be useless. However, what Master told you is about the ordinary Small Nirvana Pills. The Nirvana Pills that Master makes are unique in that people who have taken them can use them once more."

Cao Zhen said, looking at his disciple, and asked, "I feel that you've been particularly talkative today. You seem very interested in alchemy."

"As Master said, Disciple's greatest interests are doing business and alchemy," Yi Sheng said with a sigh, "It's just that the barriers to enter alchemy are so high. Disciple has also tried to collect many alchemy books but found that they only introduce some basic knowledge and really don't teach people how to perform alchemy."

Cao Zhen said with disdain, "Those books, the authors probably don't understand alchemy very well. What can they teach? Besides, with me here, why bother with the content in those books? If you wanted to learn alchemy, why didn't you say so earlier?"

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"Go buy another Pill Furnace, and then some herbs, and I will teach you Alchemy."

"Thank you, Master." Yi Sheng quickly left these words and rushed out of the room, obviously to buy a Pill Furnace and herbs.

About half an hour later, Yi Sheng had returned to Four Treasures Peak with herbs and a new Pill Furnace cradled in her arms.

Cao Zhen needed to draw forth Earth Fire to concoct pills.

But Yi Sheng did not need to draw forth Earth Fire when she concocted pills, she simply raised her hand and a Flame descended directly beneath the Pill Furnace.

Cao Zhen nodded, thinking that cultivators of the Fire system like her were quite suited for Alchemy.

He thought for a moment, then pointed to the pile of materials Yi Sheng had brought and said, "Come, I will first teach you to concoct the most basic Gathering Spirit Pill. The Gathering Spirit Pill is a pill that absorbs Spiritual Energy, and if used in conjunction with a Gathering Spirit Talisman, the effect is even better.

To concoct pills, you first need a Pill Prescription. I will now tell you the prescription, remember it well: two taels of Black Pearl Goji, four qian of Zhi Ling..."

After Cao Zhen named each herb, he emphasized, "Be sure to weigh each herb carefully, exactly how much to use."

"Yes, Master, I will carefully weigh the materials," Yi Sheng said, already prepared with all sorts of measuring tools, carefully weighing each herb before adding it into the Pill Furnace.

Cao Zhen continued to concoct his own pills while instructing Yi Sheng in every step of Alchemy.

He soon realized that although it was Yi Sheng's first time concocting pills, there was one aspect in which she was like an old hand who had concocted countless batches of pills before—that was her control of the flame.

Yi Sheng was born a True Yang body, naturally exceptionally compatible with fire, handling it as if it were an extension of her own body.

Moreover, this girl was unusually sensitive to numbers, and Alchemy required constant calculations, which was also where Yi Sheng excelled.

Two and a half hours into her Alchemy, Yi Sheng's Pill Furnace finally began to shake, as if something was about to burst forth and fly out.

"The pills are congealing. Do you remember the Pill Decoction Method I taught you?" Cao Zhen saw that the pills Yi Sheng was concocting had reached the final step. He stopped paying attention to his own batch and turned to Yi Sheng, saying, "When you extract the pills, remember these three words: quick, accurate, steady."

"Yes." Yi Sheng took a deep breath, deployed the Pill Decoction mantra passed down by her Master, and quickly started the extraction process.

One... two... six...

Swiftly, ten Qi Gathering Pills were extracted from the Pill Furnace.

Cao Zhen looked at the ten pills and his gaze revealed a hint of surprise. Among these ten pills, three were Mid Grade and there was even one High Grade pill!

This was Yi Sheng's first time concocting pills. She couldn't be compared to him, as he was a Grandmaster of Theoretical Alchemy. So it was no surprise that his first attempt at concocting pills was a success.

But Yi Sheng was different. Even with his guidance, many things still needed to be done by Yi Sheng after he finished explaining. And Yi Sheng had succeeded on her first attempt, what was more terrifying was that there was a High Grade Gathering Spirit Pill among them.

A thought crossed Cao Zhen's mind: when this child first started learning Alchemy, she was clearly green as a cucumber.

This girl was previously at Zero Level, wasn't she? Should she be around Level Five now with her current skill? Given her pace of Cultivation, maybe in the future he wouldn't need to concoct pills himself at all. Just having Yi Sheng do it would suffice.

Yi Sheng, looking at the ten Gathering Spirit Pills she had concocted, displayed a trace of joy on her face, but she quickly composed herself and said to Cao Zhen, "Master, I want to continue concocting pills. Among all the Disciples of Four Treasures Peak, my strength is the weakest and I'm the most useless.

It was only after coming to Four Treasures Peak that I realized I am not a genius at all. I'm just an ordinary Disciple. I've already fallen behind my fellow brothers and sisters. To catch up to them and not embarrass you, Master, I must work even harder."

Cao Zhen really wanted to touch Yi Sheng's smooth white forehead to see if this little girl was sick. When she first arrived at the mountain, she was so clever, so why had she become so foolish now?

Xiang Ziyu wasn't on the mountain either, so how had she become infected?

She wasn't a genius?

If she wasn't a genius, then there probably weren't many geniuses in the entire Hundred Peaks Sect.

Setting aside her True Yang body, her level of skill in Alchemy was already beyond what could be described as a genius—it was monstrous.

Did she not know to go out, inquire around, and find out how many could successfully extract ten pills on their first attempt at pill concoction, let alone have a High Grade pill among them?

Wasn't she very proud? How had she become so defeated?

Had the previous sparring sessions with Ling Xi and Xiang Ziyu beaten her down? The more prideful someone like her was, the harder it was for them to recover from setbacks, and they could easily become despondent.

If this continued, the longer it went on, the harder it would be for her to recover. He would need to think of a way to give her some confidence, to help boost her strength.

And then there was Xiang Zi Yu. He too would need to descend the mountain soon. It was time for Cao Zhen to prepare some life-saving methods for him as well.

He wanted to concoct some pills for them, allowing them to boost their progression through medicines, but their current financial state did not permit it.

He could only think of other methods. If pills were out of the question, then...

An idea gradually formed in Cao Zhen's mind. Currently, the best and safest method was using Formation Maps.

There was a particular Supreme Unparalleled Formation that would be suitable. However, the required materials were so expensive that even if he sold himself, he couldn't afford them.

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Even if we sold the present Four Treasure Mountain, we might still have to add the Fourth-Grade Spirit Field to afford it. Having struggled to obtain the Spirit Field, including the seven mountain peaks where meditation is practiced at Precious Look Peak and Blue Domain Peak, and having delivered the Fourth-level Spiritual Medicine, selling the Spirit Field now would just not justify the loss.

If we don't sell the Spirit Field, then... the materials needed...

Cao Zhen suddenly realized that he actually had quite a few Divine Weapons on hand. What if he melted them and then used the molten materials to refine the Formation Maps?

With so many Divine Weapon materials, he could definitely gather enough to concoct the materials needed for the Supreme Unparalleled Formation.

As for this little Nirvana Pill that he was currently concocting, doesn't he have a disciple for that?

The challenging part of concocting the little Nirvana Pill lies at the beginning and at the end, when the pill forms and is pulled out; the interim process isn't that difficult.

He could let Yi Sheng do it. After all, with himself backing up at the end, the worst-case scenario would just be failing to produce a Best Quality Pill.

Cao Zhen waved to Yi Sheng and said, "Yi Sheng, come here. I'll teach you how to concoct this little Nirvana Pill. Later, when your master goes out for a bit, you'll take over the alchemy."

"Me?" Yi Sheng, full of self-doubt, pointed at himself and worriedly said, "Master, I've only just begun to learn alchemy. I'm afraid I might ruin your pill."

"What's there to fear? Your master believes in you." Cao Zhen beckoned Yi Sheng over to his side and began explaining.

Yi Sheng was indeed smart; in no time at all, he had memorized all the content, even the weight of each medicinal herb to the exact measure.

"It's okay. You don't need to remember the weight of the medicinal herbs so precisely. Just go ahead and be bold in your concocting. A small mistake won't matter. Everything will be fine with your master here. As long as you don't let the flame go out, even if you concoct a Dead Pill, your master can still save it." Cao Zhen patted Yi Sheng, who had already sat on the ground and started to practice alchemy, then turned and walked outside, feeling indescribably pleased with himself. This time, he finally tapped Yi Sheng's little head.

Yi Sheng blankly watched her master's retreating figure. What did her master just say? That the precise weight of the medicinal herbs is not necessary?

She recalled how casually her master had placed the medicinal herbs and a daring guess dawned on her that his earlier way of handling the medicinal herbs might not have been about precision, but rather he'd been doing it quite randomly.

Perhaps because of master's formidable alchemy skills, even if the amount of the herbs were imprecise, he could still concoct the pill.

"No, I can't just carelessly concoct, even if master said to do so as long as I keep the flame alive. Since master entrusted me with concocting the little Nirvana Pill, I must do my utmost best!"

After Cao Zhen left Four Treasures Peak, he rode the Immortal Cloud Carriage to Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace and, without seeking out his four disciples, went directly to the Immortal Soldier Workshop at the Hidden Dragon Observatory.

Inside the Immortal Soldier Workshop, Ai Yunqi held a book in both hands, reading its contents while pondering over them.

Suddenly, a faint sound of footsteps approached. She continued to maintain the motion of reading her book, but the corner of her eye was already glancing in the direction of the noise.

Cao Zhen!

Ai Yunqi sprung up from her seat, looking at Cao Zhen with an unfriendly expression, her eyes filled with enmity as she angrily said, "What are you doing here!"

Cao Zhen clasped his hands together. Just as he was about to greet her, he saw Ai Yunqi's furious expression and, baffled, said, "Elder Ai, what's gotten into you?"

"How dare you ask me that? Don't think that your misdeeds are unknown!" Ai Yunqi didn't care about Cao Zhen's status as a Peak Master. Consumed with anger, she went on to directly point at him, shouting, "You've done something as disgraceful as BeiChen Ying, dealing in the Divine Weapons of our ancestors, selling them to their descendants. No, you are even worse than BeiChen Ying, as you've even commercialized on our ancestors' last wishes for profit!"

Cao Zhen then realized that it must be those people from the Little Zen Sect spreading rumors about him again. He had almost entirely been focusing on crafting mechanical fighters recently, rarely leaving the mountain and even then, quickly buying materials and returning to Four Treasures Peak, so he hadn't kept up much with outside news.

It seems his reputation for swindling people's money may have spread throughout the entire Hundred Peaks Sect by now.

He took a step forward, his face showing no hint of anger, and calmly said to Ai Yunqi, "Elder Ai, while I did sell them Divine Weapons, they gained Divine Weapons in return, their strength improved, and their ancestors' last wishes were fulfilled. In what way is this inappropriate?"

"Such twisted and fallacious reasoning!" Ai Yunqi slammed her hand down on the chair which she had been sitting in for who knows how many years, and it splintered in an instant. She spoke coldly, "According to your logic, why didn't all of our predecessors just give their Divine Weapons directly to their descendants instead of leaving them in the Divine Soldier Tomb? Why should they leave their Divine Weapons in the Tomb? It was for the future of our Hundred Peaks Sect. And here you are, shamelessly justifying your actions? Do you realize that because of your selling of our ancestors' Divine Weapons, many are now saying that the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks should include you as well, to be called Hundred Peaks Six Evils."

"How is that for a reputation? You, as a Peak Master, being called one of the Hundred Peaks Six Evils. How will Four Treasures Peak develop? With enemies all around, you're not only harming your own prospects but your disciples as well."

Cao Zhen did not wish to argue any longer with Ai Yunqi. He understood her anger; after all, she had spent all her time in this Immortal Soldier Workshop and probably considered it her home, even forming an attachment to every Divine Weapon in the Divine Soldier Tomb. Knowing that he sold Divine Weapons from the tomb, it wasn't surprising that Ai Yunqi was furious, and he could understand that.

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"Elder Ai. No matter what, it was you who reminded me that day. If it hadn't been for your advice in the Divine Soldier Tomb, I probably wouldn't have been able to take away those divine weapons. Regardless, I should thank you.

After all, I was really, really short of money at the time. I didn't expect that those divine weapons could sell for so much. Please accept this money. This is my thanks for your reminder that day!" Cao Zhen said, taking out a spiritual stone ticket worth ten thousand taels and handing it to Ai Yunqi.

"Take your filthy money!" Ai Yunqi slapped it away furiously, landing a heavy blow on Cao Zhen's arm, turning it red, and the spiritual stone ticket fell to the ground as she angrily said, "Do you think everyone is as shameless as you? Just like you, heart set on money!"

Cao Zhen, feeling Ai Yunqi's anger, sighed inwardly. If it were another place, another person, he would have turned around and walked away—who would want to deal with this attitude?

But Elder Ai Yunqi truly helped him, and it was thanks to her words that time that he felt obliged to remember this debt of gratitude.

He squatted down, picked up the spiritual stone ticket with a sincere face, and said, "Elder Ai, I understand why you are angry with me. Your anger comes from your affection for the Immortal Soldier Workshop and the Divine Soldier Tomb. But I must give you these spirit stones."

As he spoke, Cao Zhen took out another spiritual stone ticket worth ten thousand taels and said, "Here is a ticket worth twenty thousand taels."

No sooner had his words fallen than Ai Yunqi's entire face turned livid with rage, and she roared, "Cao Zhen! What kind of person do you think I, Ai Yunqi, am! Leave, get out of my sight!"

Cao Zhen's face still showed no displeasure, and he slowly reached into his bosom, taking out another spiritual stone ticket and saying, "Thirty thousand taels." One ten, two tens not accepted, then give more.

"Get lost!" Ai Yunqi was extremely enraged. What was Cao Zhen doing? Was he trying to hit her with spirit stones? These spirit stones were earned by selling those divine weapons. If she took them, what would she be!

Cao Zhen didn't leave, nor did he take back the spiritual stone tickets, but from his chest, he took another ticket worth twenty thousand taels and said, "Fifty thousand taels."

"You..." Ai Yunqi began, but then her voice trailed off, and she fell silent.

Indeed, she hated Cao Zhen. She had feelings for the Divine Soldier Tomb. She also had her pride.

But in this day and age, who could resist the temptation of spirit stones?

Cultivation requires money, and even if she didn't use it, what about the people close to her?

Besides, she needed spirit stones.

Cao Zhen, seeing the silent Ai Yunqi, took a step forward, directly stuffed the spiritual stone tickets into her hand, and said, "Grandma, what's done is done, and cannot be changed. With these spiritual stone tickets, you could improve the environment here or add something." Since Elder Ai Yunqi didn't scold him anymore, it was natural she was tempted but just needed a step down.

Ai Yunqi looked at the spiritual stone ticket now clenched in her hand, shook her head slightly with a self-deprecating smile, and said, "I too am a mundane person, not much better than you."

She then sighed again and muttered to herself. In the end, she had taken the spiritual stone ticket. In this regard, was there really much difference between her and Cao Zhen?

"Tell me, what are you doing back at the Immortal Soldier Workshop?" Looking at Cao Zhen before her, her expression slowly softened, and she said earnestly, "You can no longer go to the Divine Soldier Tomb. Even if I allow you to enter, if you make such a stir again, eventually, you will offend the entire Hundred Peaks Sect.

Do you still intend to cultivate in the sect? What about your five apprentices?"

Cao Zhen quickly said, "Grandma, this time I've come not to enter the Divine Soldier Tomb. I just want to refine two formation maps."

"Refine formation maps? That's no problem." Ai Yunqi sighed with relief, glanced at several furnaces in the yard, pointed to one, and said, "If it's for refining formation maps, that All-encompassing Furnace should be the most suitable."

As long as Cao Zhen wasn't entering the Divine Soldier Tomb again to take divine weapons and selling them to others, that was fine.

"Thank you for the reminder, grandma." Cao Zhen saluted Ai Yunqi with clasped hands, thanked her, and then strode to the All-encompassing Furnace, took out one divine weapon after another from the Clean Awareness Vajra Bracelet, and threw them into the furnace.

"What are you doing!" When Ai Yunqi saw what Cao Zhen was doing, her face suddenly changed, and she appeared in front of Cao Zhen in a flash, grabbed him, and shouted, "What are you doing? These are divine weapons, they will all melt if you throw them into the furnace!"

"I know they will melt," Cao Zhen said, holding a longsword in his hand. "But I need materials to refine formation maps. Without sufficient materials, how can I refine a formation map? Once these divine weapons are melted, I will naturally have the materials to refine formation maps."

"Have you gone mad!" Ai Yunqi stared at Cao Zhen as if looking at a madman and exclaimed, "These divine weapons are all left by our Hundred Peaks Sect ancestors. Once you melt them, they can never be recovered."

"Grandma, I've thought about these issues," Cao Zhen said seriously. "I'm short on materials now, am I not? First, I'll use these divine weapons, and later, when I have more leeway, I can buy materials again, melt the formation maps down, and then refine these divine weapons back into existence."

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"What are you talking about!" Ai Yunqi's chest heaved with anger, and if it weren't for the fact that she had just accepted 50,000 Spiritual Stone Tickets from Cao Zhen, she would have already kicked him out.

"When you melt it down and recast it, can you guarantee that you'll be able to forge the Divine Weapon back to its original state? Exactly the same? Even if you can forge it again, can the essence, energy, and spirit within the Divine Weapon, the legacy it carries, and the significance it represents remain the same?"

As she spoke, she pointed at the longsword in Cao Zhen's hand and said, "The sword in your hand is called the Frost Sounding Sword, a Divine Weapon of Elder Chen, the eighth-generation elder of Heart Sword Peak.

Back then, when the Disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect went out to eradicate Demon Heads, they were schemed against by people from the Demonic Path, and a group of disciples was trapped in a dire situation. It was Elder Chen who fought a bloody battle alone, blocking the foes and allowing our disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect to escape safely.

Among those disciples was the ninth-generation Sect Leader True Person!

However, Elder Chen fell in the battle.

Afterwards, the masters of our Hundred Peaks Sect went out in full force and, although they killed those from the Demonic Path who plotted against us, they could not find Elder Chen's remains, only this Frost Sounding Sword.

"Let me ask you, if you melt down this Frost Sounding Sword, even if you forge it back, can the meaning be the same?"

Cao Zhen also fell silent and sighed, "Then what should I do? My Formation Map..."

"You're crafting Formation Maps, you can use the materials from the Immortal Soldier Workshop." Ai Yunqi pointed toward a shelf stacked with materials in the distance and said, "Although it's true that you're crafting Formation Maps, not forging Divine Weapons, I'm not so rigid.

The Five-Element Pill Ground has a rule that after successful Alchemy, leaving behind twenty percent of the pills of the same quality is sufficient, and the Immortal Soldier Workshop has a similar rule. You want to craft Formation Maps, right? Fortunately, our Immortal Soldier Workshop also needs Formation Maps. After you've successfully crafted two Array Plates, you just need to leave behind one Formation Map of equivalent quality."

"That will work, too. Thank you, Granny," Cao Zhen said, suddenly overjoyed, as the opportunity to score a bargain had come again. He looked towards the iron rack with materials, and as he examined them, he murmured softly, "How come there are so many fewer materials than the last time I came?"

"Why there are fewer, you should go ask your senior disciple," Ai Yunqi recalled the scene when Ling Xi crafted the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman and said, "If this happens again, I'm afraid the View Master might shut down the Immortal Soldier Workshop just like closing the Five-Element Pill Ground."

"The View Master is good at everything; she's just too petty. Not as magnanimous as you, Granny," Cao Zhen flattered Ai Yunqi at the right time, feeling it was more than mere flattery.

Ai Elder allowing him to craft Formation Maps here, if not magnanimity, what is it?

He had originally planned to craft two Formation Diagrams, but now, since Ai Elder allowed him to use materials from the Immortal Soldier Workshop, he couldn't settle for crafting just two.

He had five disciples; how could he favor some over others? Besides, even though only Xiang Ziyu needed to leave the mountain this time, he had also told his disciples to pack a full set of six divine weapons before descending. But who could predict any unforeseen circumstances?

What if another disciple needed to come down the mountain? How could he prepare life-saving items in such a hurry?

Therefore, since he had the opportunity this time, he would craft more, adding one for himself, exactly six Unparalleled Formation Diagrams.

In the future, he could even allow these six Formation Diagrams to form a new kind of Extreme Formation.

However, even though all six would be Unparalleled Formation Diagrams, they couldn't be identical.

After all, each person's Cultivation Base is different, the maximum potential they can activate from the Formation Map is different, and everyone has their own specialities. For example, Yi Sheng has a True

Yang body, so her Formation Map should be more suited to be driven by the power of fire, while Ling Xi has the Ancient Talisman Immortal Body, and her Formation Map should work in conjunction with Talismans.

Cao Zhen picked up one precious material after another from a nearby rack, materials that he couldn't afford even if he sold Four Treasures Peak, assuming that today would be his only and last chance to take advantage of the Immortal Soldier Workshop, given Hidden Dragon View Master Lv Chaoqiong's stinginess.

He picked up one material after another and began to craft the Formation Map.

Crafting a Formation Map, first and foremost, is to create the outline of the map.

Cao Zhen spent an entire two hours just to craft the outline of a Formation Map, a disc as large as a plate for serving food.

The Formation Map need not necessarily be a map due to different materials and Formation requirements; it can exist in other forms.

The best form for the Unparalleled Formation he was crafting was this disc-shaped form, which can also be referred to as an Array Plate.

Shaping the Array Plate is just the foundation; the rest is to construct the Formation on it.

Cao Zhen began to pick up more materials and, after further refinement or engraving, embedded them into the Array Plate with special techniques.

Every time a material was incorporated into the Array Plate, it would tremble slightly, and its surface would gain a new mark, either a shallow groove or a dot as small as a grain of rice.

Ai Yunqi watched as Cao Zhen handled one material after another without being too surprised; given that Cao Zhen was willing to melt down a Divine Weapon for the sake of crafting Formation Maps, it was

clear that the Formation Maps he intended to craft wouldn't be simple, and requiring precious materials was natural.

Moreover, although she didn't particularly understand the crafting of Formation Maps, as Cao Zhen began stacking up the materials, carving mysterious and intricate inscriptions on each, and embedding them into the disc, feeling the undeveloped Formation Map's changes, she could sense that this Formation Map was extremely extraordinary.

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However, her expression gradually changed as Cao Zhen kept picking up various materials, showing no sign of stopping whatsoever.

She couldn't help but speak up, "Peak Master Cao, just how many formation maps are you planning to refine?"

"Six," Cao Zhen replied, looking up with a flash of his white teeth, "Old lady, don't worry. If you feel that one more formation map is not enough, I can make another one later."

"It's not about making a few more formation maps. It's these materials you're using. What kind of formation map are you refining that requires so many materials?" Ai Yunqi said, watching Cao Zhen still constantly picking up materials, feeling that the Immortal Soldier Workshop was not far from closing down.

Is this really for refining formation maps? This is more material than what is used for refining divine weapons.

Even for an extraordinary formation map, it shouldn't require this many materials, right?

On a piece of Ebony Crystal Stone, Cao Zhen engraved the last pattern and then inserted it into the formation map before looking up and saying, "Supreme Unparalleled Formation."

"What kind of formation is that?" Ai Yunqi frowned, stepping closer to Cao Zhen as she took a step forward.

Suddenly, she felt as if she had stepped into another world. She was clearly very close to Cao Zhen, but now, she felt as if she was a hundred steps away from him.

Had she entered the formation map?

Surprise spread across Ai Yunqi's face. Cao Zhen's formation map was far from being complete; how had she entered the formation just by getting close to him?

The atmosphere around her felt so abnormal.

And, the ground beneath her feet hadn't moved, but for some reason, she could feel that the ground was moving, and so was her body.

What in the world was going on?

With a slight furrow of her brows, she took another step forward, only for her frown to deepen. Just now, according to the positions within the formation, she should have been in the Xun position. After stepping forward, she should have entered the Kan position, but she found herself still in Xun.

How could this be?

Refusing to believe this, she took another step, only to be surprised to find she was still in the Xun position.

"I haven't moved? No, that's not right; I've clearly moved, but the position within the Bagua has not changed," Ai Yunqi muttered, puzzled, quickly moving several steps forward.

This time, she was no longer in the Xun position, and Cao Zhen was no longer a hundred steps away but standing beside her.

Not far away, there was the All-encompassing Furnace.

Ai Yunqi's brows were almost twisted together. She hadn't broken through the formation, but had instead walked out of the formation map herself.

Obviously, the reason she was able to walk out was that the formation map was not yet perfected.

Full of astonishment, she looked at Cao Zhen and asked again, "What kind of formation map is this? How could it be like this?"

"Old lady, as you've seen, my formation map is unlike the ordinary ones; it's like a round disk. I prefer to call it an Array Plate. For now, it's just an Array Plate, but in the end, it has the potential to become a divine weapon," Cao Zhen responded. He knew that Ai Yunqi wasn't asking about the name of the formation, but rather why the formation was so peculiar. After a brief explanation, he paused slightly before continuing, "The greatest feature of my Supreme Unparalleled Formation is that as long as the Array Plate is deployed, no matter where I am, I will always be at the Formation Eye.

And for the opponent, no matter what spell they cast, I can change heaven and earth.

To put it simply, for example, if the opponent excels at the fire system, then as long as I stand on the Array Plate, regardless of where they stand, where they appear, the position they're in will always be the water position."

Water conquers fire.

"He is naturally restrained by me, and if the adversary were to be wood, then I would be metal!"

In any case, as long as I am on this array plate, he will forever be at a disadvantage.

Of course, if one's mana were to reach the heavens, it might be possible to forcibly break this array plate. However, under the same cultivation realm, this array plate is... it's an insurmountable existence," he almost said it was a 'bug-like existence', but upon reflection, understanding that Ai Yunqi wouldn't comprehend, he changed it to 'unsolvable'.

Ai Yunqi exclaimed in shock, "This is akin to the Immortal Path Domain, which is rumored to exist after entering the Earth Immortal realm!" She had just stepped onto the array plate and no matter how she moved, she remained on the Xun position, indeed just as Cao Zhen had said.

Cao Zhen shook his head slightly and said, "Indeed, it's similar to the Immortal Path Domain, but not the same. The Immortal Path Domain is not so simple and is far stronger than my array plate. This array plate can at best be considered a foundation."

"But that's also incredibly powerful," Ai Yunqi recalled her experience after entering the array plate and sighed, "At the same cultivation realm, you can make your opponent perpetually vulnerable, which could even be said to put you in an invincible position. This formation is considered unbeatable within the same cultivation realm. However, such a powerful formation, why have I never heard of it before?"

"How do you refine such a formation? I saw you use Ebony Crystal Stones and Maple Wind Cliff Wood..."

Cao Zhen's complexion changed immediately. He realized he might have boasted too much. Plus, there was the alchemy he had done before. If he started selling talismans after a while, it would indeed be easy to raise suspicions about his identity. He shouldn't let others suspect that he was possessed by demonic beasts.

Right, hadn't Yan Yourong misunderstood him as a Great Ability reincarnated before?

A thought struck him, and he intentionally put on a serious face, sternly saying, "Ai Yunqi, having lived for so many years, have you forgotten the rules of the cultivation world?"

Ai Yunqi was stunned. Cao Zhen, in both instances he had seen her, had addressed her either as grandma or as elder, for although he was a Peak Master, in terms of age and generation, she was his senior.

Why was he suddenly addressing her by name? Only peers or those of a higher standing would directly use one's name.

Someone of higher standing than oneself...

Ai Yunqi trembled all over, suddenly thinking of many things. The sect leader had said that Cao Zhen had used up all the resources of the Five-Element Pill Grounds to refine an extremely terrifying pill.

Although she had not seen the pill and did not know what was terrifying about it, she had witnessed an Alchemy Tribulation above the Five-Element Pill Grounds. Such an event had never occurred in the history of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

If Cao Zhen could refine a pill that would draw forth an Alchemy Tribulation, he had to be at least a Grandmaster of the Alchemy Dao!

Now, showing such terrifying strength in the domain of formations is one thing.

And what about the four disciples of Four Treasures Peak? They were all Ancient Immortal Bodies turned into Waste Bodies, so why had they all suddenly broken through to Core Formation? Moreover, why did each of their Tao Bases, Immortal Bridges, and inner cores display anomalies?

Why did these four disciples manage to obtain Divine Weapons left by previous True Persons and Sect Leaders upon entering the Divine Soldier Tomb?

Why could Cao Zhen awaken so many Divine Weapons at once?

All of this only had one explanation!

Ai Yunqi suddenly came to a realization, looking at Cao Zhen with a face full of surprise.

Cao Zhen, feeling Ai Yunqi's gaze, slowly spoke, "Now, I am the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak, a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect. In the future, I will also be the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak, a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect. This fact will not change."

Ai Yunqi let out a sigh of relief. Her conjecture was not wrong; Cao Zhen in front of her was indeed a reincarnation of a Great Ability. Otherwise, he had no need to put it that way. In saying so, he was declaring his stance: he was now with the Hundred Peaks Sect and bore no ill will towards it.

Cao Zhen looked at Ai Yunqi's ever-changing expression and thought to himself, "I'm just stating the truth. I am the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak, a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect. How you interpret that is your own problem and has nothing to do with me."

Chapter 167: Sincerity and Business_1

There are no shortage of rumors about the reincarnation of beings with great ability in this world, but how many have truly seen one?

Ai Yunqi had heard some of these rumors, yet she had never seen a reincarnated being of great ability.

Unexpectedly, today, under such circumstances, she actually met one—and moreover, this being of great ability had proactively admitted to their identity!

A being of great ability is called so because, before reincarnation, they can choose to reincarnate. But once reincarnated and before they have fully grown, they are exceedingly dangerous.

A being capable of reincarnation—who knows how many treasures they could retain, how many secrets they could possess? If their identity were exposed, who knows how many would harbor thoughts of malice?

Yet the one before her, Cao Zhen, no, he could no longer be called Cao Zhen, this senior, had straightforwardly revealed his identity to her!

The other party had been in the Hundred Peaks Sect for so many years without revealing his identity, yet today, he took it upon himself to tell her. What did this imply?

It implied that he trusted her, and it could even be said that he had confided in her completely.

As Ai Yunqi thought about this, her whole body became excited, trembling lightly and uncontrollably. She was a high-ranking practitioner of the Earth Immortal Realm, but the one before her was capable of reincarnation—a being of great ability!

To have a reincarnated great ability confide in her, the benefits were simply too great, too immense!

She also heard rumors that among those reincarnated beings of great ability, there were those who were ruthless, ready to annihilate entire sects at a word of disagreement. There were those with strange tempers, both righteous and evil, and there were also those with gentle dispositions who even brought benefits to those around them.

From the senior's behavior, it could be seen that he was not one of those who delighted in slaughter, even though many currently accused him of being the Sixth Evildoer of the Hundred Peaks.

But the senior had not committed actions so heinous as to defy the heavens or injure reason. He had simply tricked some money—and it could not even be called trickery. In the senior's own words, the disciples from Little Zen Peak and others had indeed obtained the divine weapons belonging to their peaks, so it could not be called deceit.

Furthermore, the senior's four disciples had all been trained to excel by him. Clearly, he not only bore no malice toward the Hundred Peaks Sect, but he had even developed a sense of identity with it.

Now, he trusted her and confided in her.

Ai Yunqi suppressed the excitement in her heart and, with the courtesy due from a junior, respectfully bowed towards Cao Zhen and said, "Senio..."

Before she could finish the second word, Cao Zhen interrupted her with a wave of his hand, "No need for that. I will always be a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect, and you will always be my senior."

Ai Yunqi stood in solemn respect. Such was the magnanimity and spirit of a being of great ability—to look only at this life and not the previous one? Did this senior not mention the past because he aimed to surpass his former self, to break and then to establish anew?

Since the senior trusted her so and did not wish to mention the past, she, too, had no need to spread the word that he was a reincarnated great ability, after all, the senior bore no ill will toward the Hundred Peaks Sect.

In that moment, many thoughts flashed through her mind.

Cao Zhen, watching Ai Yunqi lost in thought, mused to himself that she could think all she wanted; no matter what her thoughts were, that was her concern. He had always said he was a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect and had not deceived her.

However, crafting three more formations here would no longer be possible. The materials at this location were insufficient.

Cao Zhen pondered for a while before speaking again, "Elder, take a look. I've crafted six Array Plates here. What kind of Formation Map should I craft for Hidden Dragon Observatory to hold up?"

As soon as Ai Yunqi heard Cao Zhen's voice, she snapped back to reality. Previously, she might have suggested something, but now, before her was a reincarnated being of great ability; it wasn't her place to make requests here.

With a bow of both hands, she said, "This old woman is short-sighted and not very proficient in formations. I must ask, please, for Peak Master Cao to decide."

"In that case..." Cao Zhen glanced around and then looked back at Ai Yunqi, "I'll just craft a random Formation Map. By the way, is it right that the Formation Maps crafted here need to be suitable for the Hundred Peaks Sect, like for one person, perhaps?"

"That's correct, as long as the person suited for it is from our Hundred Peaks Sect. Then the crafted formation can provide enhancement, which elevates our Hundred Peaks Sect in turn. And besides, it allows the individual to spend money to purchase it, or even to have them..."

As Ai Yunqi was explaining, Cao Zhen interrupted, "If that's the case, then I'll craft a Formation Map that suits one person."

Speaking, his gaze shifted and he noticed a large tree trunk on the shelf next to him, his face showing a trace of surprise, "There's actually a branch of a dead Bodhi tree here; with this, I know what Formation Map to craft now."

Cao Zhen took a large segment of the Bodhi tree branch, using it as the main material to quickly begin crafting. The Formation Map he needed to make was still to be crafted into the shape of an Array Plate.

For crafting the Array Plate, a furnace was necessary, as the materials must be melted into the shape of a plate.

Initially, making a single Array Plate was manageable, but now he intended to craft six Array Plates.

After all, to create so many Formation Maps, if he were to craft each one individually, it was unpredictable how much time it would take. He still was pressed for time as he needed to take Yi Sheng to Vermilion Bird Peak for the banquet and naturally wanted to craft them all together.

But he was alone, and crafting so many Array Plates at once was proving a bit too much to handle—fortunately, Ai Yunqi was here.

"Senior, help me out, please—assist me in crafting the Array Plates."

When Ai Yunqi heard Cao Zhen's call, she was slightly astonished, but quickly realized what he meant. The senior intended to craft many Array Plates at once, and although she was not an expert in formations, she was proficient in forging and adept at using the furnace.

Chapter 168: Sincerity and Business_2

She soon began to help with the refining, but gradually, as Cao Zhen continuously imparted secret techniques to her, her surprise grew greater. Eventually, she couldn't help but ask, "Previ... Peak Master Cao, you are teaching me these techniques, aren't you afraid I might steal your formation secrets?"

Such formations should be highly confidential secrets. It was only because of her inquiries that the elder revealed his identity as the reincarnation of a being with great ability. And now, he was letting her assist in the refining, which was akin to teaching her how to craft formations.

Cao Zhen said indifferently, "It doesn't matter. This refining is only to create the most basic aspects of the formation map. Even if you learn it, you will only grasp the superficial parts. The real core cannot be learned by you, and there's no need for you to steal it. If you wish to learn, just learn.

Furthermore, I trust the elder very much. I believe that as a senior member within our Hundred Peaks Sect and someone who controls such an important place as the Immortal Weapon Control Pavilion, you are surely a person of great fairness and justice.

Even if you were to learn the most basic parts, I trust you would not disclose them to others."

Ai Yunqi listened to Cao Zhen's calm words, deeply moved in her heart. The elder had such trust in her, while she had previously regarded him in such a different light.

No, she couldn't be distracted any longer. She must concentrate on helping the elder refine the formation.

Ai Yunqi gathered her focus and began to refine with complete concentration.

The two individuals, working on the seven array plates, lost track of time, and nine days had passed before they knew it.

Out of the seven array plates, six had been completed. Now only the last one remained, the one assigned to Ai Yunqi for refining.

Since he could refine an array plate for anyone, he naturally chose to make one directly for Ai Yunqi.

He had also thought before about possibly making one for Elder Copper Plate or for Chao Zi Zai to refine a formation map. However, the materials here were not especially suited for creating formation maps for the two of them.

On the tenth day, above the Immortal Soldier Workshop, black tribulation clouds emerged in the sky.

Layers of dark clouds gathered from all directions, almost completely obscuring the sky above the Immortal Soldier Workshop. The whole world darkened, and looking at it through the faint light, it seemed as though the tribulation clouds would press down. The air around them also seemed to grow heavier.

Inside Hidden Dragon Observatory, various masters and disciples noticed the gathering tribulation clouds almost immediately.

"Tribulation clouds? Why are there tribulation clouds appearing?"

"What kind of tribulation clouds are these?"

"At the location of the Immortal Soldier Workshop, could it be that a senior is refining a Divine Weapon?"

"What kind of Divine Weapon could trigger such tribulation clouds?"

Above a five-story tower within the Hidden Dragon Observatory, Lv Chaoqiong looked at the distant tribulation clouds, and a glimmer of joy appeared on her face.

A Divine Weapon capable of triggering tribulation clouds meant that the Hundred Peaks Sect had gained another extremely powerful Divine Weapon.

More importantly, who was the one who refined this Divine Weapon?

Ai Yunqi?

Hadn't she said it would be who knows how long before she could make a breakthrough? If not her, then who else could it be?

Lv Chaoqiong stood up and flew toward the Immortal Soldier Workshop at high speed.

In the Five-Element Pill Ground, Gu Chengyu looked at the distant tribulation clouds and couldn't help but recall the scene of Cao Zhen refining pills here, which had caused an Alchemy Tribulation. He swiftly rose to his feet and sped towards the Immortal Soldier Workshop.

Such tribulation clouds were impossible to withstand alone; he had to lend a helping hand.

In the Immortal Soldier Workshop, Ai Yunqi looked up at the tribulation clouds in the sky, inwardly shaken. This... was this the senior's strength? Simply agreeing to help refine a formation map was enough to bring about the descent of tribulation clouds.

In her many years of life, she had never heard of anyone within the Hundred Peaks Sect whose formation map refining led to Array Tribulation.

"Elder Ai, should the Array Tribulation descend, please help me block it," Cao Zhen said, trying to make his voice as calm as possible. After all, in the eyes of others, he was a reincarnation of a being with Great Ability, who had seen all sorts of grand scenes. But in his heart, he was already cursing fervently.

I was just casually refining a formation, and moreover, one that was meant as a gift. How could this possibly trigger an Array Tribulation?

"Boom!"

Suddenly, a thunderous roar echoed as a bolt of purple thunder, over a zhang in radius, plummeted from the sky toward Cao Zhen. As it passed through the sky, it appeared as if the heavens were instantly torn asunder, and there was even the sound of something shattering.

Ai Yunqi's body immediately burst into brilliant light, her Earth Immortal Realm cultivation base fully activated. She crossed her arms, and a longsword appeared in her hands. In the next moment, she thrust her sword forth.

With just a single strike, numerous sword lights emerged in the sky, piercing toward the descending thunder. The formidable thunder, which seemed so terrifying, dissipated at a visible rate under the impact of the sword light, vanishing without a trace in a mere instant.

Cao Zhen looked at Ai Yunqi in astonishment. Was she always this strong?

She had once inquired whether the Supreme Unparalleled Formation he had created was similar to the Immortal Path Domain that was rumored to come with entering the Earth Immortal Realm.

At that time, he thought she hadn't entered the Earth Immortal Realm, only to discover now that she had indeed reached it, but had been continuously brushing against the threshold of the Immortal Path Domain.

No sooner had Ai Yunqi dispersed one bolt of thunder when the next moment, more bolts began to fall from the sky, each stronger than the last.

Ai Yunqi, with her full combat power unleashed and not daring to delay, swung her longsword once again. For a time, countless sword lights shot across the sky, so numerous that they seemed to fill the entire heavens.

Despite the abundance of sword lights, the thunder in the sky was also relentless. Moreover, the power of the thunder was astonishingly great. Numerous sword lights had to fall before a single bolt of thunder could be shattered.

Chapter 169: Sincerity and Business_3

In the sky above, the speed of the thunder falling was becoming faster and faster.

Even after being struck by several sword lights, a bolt of thunder still did not dissipate, and it heavily smashed down toward Cao Zhen's head.

Cao Zhen injected the last spell into the array plate before him, and suddenly, the array plate emitted a brilliant radiance.

The final array plate was finally refined.

At the same time, the voice of China Cloud sounded.

'Array Level upgraded, breaking through the checkpoint, manager level increased by one, random user access granted for one, designated user access granted for one.'

He couldn't afford to check how much the Array Level had improved, nor could he afford to assign a user. He was about to be bombarded by thunder; what was there to assign?

Gazing at the thunder plummeting down, behind him, the silhouettes of ten Dao platforms of phenomenon, ten Immortal Bridges of phenomenon, and seven Phenomenon Pills all emerged.

Dragon-Elephant Stele!

A massive stele engraved with a giant elephant and a Golden Dragon appeared, shielding the area above his head.

The thunder heavily struck the stele, creating a sound akin to that of mountains exploding. The newly appeared Dragon-Elephant Stele shattered instantly.

And with it, the bolt of thunder also dissipated. However, even though the thunder was gone, its residual force still rushed at him, causing Cao Zhen to take a step back.

Cao Zhen was greatly alarmed; this was after the golden light from Ai Yunqi had weakened the thunder. If it hadn't been weakened, wouldn't a single strike have heavily injured him?

The power of this Array Tribulation was even more terrifying than the last Alchemy Tribulation!

"Pah..." Cao Zhen spat out a mouthful, ejecting the dust that had settled in his mouth from the impact of the remaining force. He was always the one using thunder to strike others, but now he was being struck by it.

'Manager level increased by one, please assign a user.'

China Cloud's voice came again, perplexing Cao Zhen. What's the rush? Thunder is falling from the sky, and I might not even survive. Don't you know that you're rushing me to my death?

"Assign my disciple, Yi Sheng."

Cao Zhen didn't have time to think too much. He quickly assigned Yi Sheng, who had been staying with him at Four Treasures Peak. As another thunderbolt fell from the sky, he waved his arm, and a bolt of thunder shot out.

You think you're the only one who can unleash thunder?

The Five-thunder Righteous Method shot out, landing on a descending bolt of tribulation thunder, only to be instantly swallowed up and dissipated, while the speed of the tribulation thunder showed no signs of slowing as it forcefully smashed down towards his head.

"Dragon-Elephant Stele!"

Above the sky appeared a massive stele carved with a giant elephant and a Golden Dragon, ten times larger than the one he had conjured. On the stele, silhouettes of dragons and elephants wound around one another, blocking the falling thunder high above.

Gu Chengyu looked at the glowing array plate below Cao Zhen, then at the continuously falling tribulation thunder overhead, and was dumbfounded.

Did you just refine a Formation Map? And this Heavenly Tribulation came because of your Formation Map?

So, this is not any Divine Weapon Tribulation, but an Array Tribulation!

The problem is, aren't you an Alchemy Master? How can you also refine formations, and even bring about an Array Tribulation?

This...

"Elder Gu?"

Cao Zhen, surprised to see Gu Chengyu appear abruptly, thought, shouldn't you be in your Five-Element Pill Ground? Why did you come here?

That's right, the Five-Element Pill Grounds were closed, and you happened to have nothing to do, so you came here after seeing tribulation clouds appear.

So, I should thank Sect Leader Lv for closing the Five-Element Pill Grounds; otherwise, you wouldn't have been able to come save me.

"Cao Zhen?"

Lv Chaoqiong arrived almost at the same time, staring blankly at Cao Zhen, who was the target of each thunderbolt. Cao Zhen? Is this an Array Tribulation caused by his refining of a Formation Map?

Why is it always Cao Zhen?

Recently, Hidden Dragon Observatory had faced Heavenly Tribulations twice, both on account of Cao Zhen!

Wasn't Cao Zhen known for his Alchemy skills? How can he also refine formations, and be so proficient at both!

He could even be considered the most skilled in both alchemy and formation refinement within the Hundred Peaks Sect, after all, besides Cao Zhen, whether it's alchemy or formation refinement, both have brought forth Heavenly Tribulations; aside from him, nobody within Hundred Peaks Sect could achieve this!

How is it possible for one person to be proficient in both alchemy and formation refinement, and Cao Zhen is still so young.

Even the most talented shouldn't be like this; what exactly is going on with him?

Lv Chaoqiong's mind was filled with doubts, as she resisted the falling thunderbolts from the sky while constantly observing Cao Zhen and the surroundings.

Gradually, she felt a darkness before her eyes, and a pain in her heart...

Materials, where are the materials?

Although Ling Xi had previously used up many materials repairing talismans at the Immortal Soldier Workshop, the material reserves of the workshop were still more plentiful than the Five-Element Pill Ground; the Immortal Soldier Workshop still had plenty of materials left.

Ten days ago, when she passed by the Immortal Soldier Workshop, she had seen that their supplies were still considered ample.

But now, the shelves for materials at the workshop were almost completely empty.

Cao Zhen, he had used up all the materials of the Immortal Soldier Workshop!

First, he exhausted the materials from the Five-Element Pill Ground, and now he's done the same with the Immortal Soldier Workshop!

Is he... raised on eating materials?

The current Array Tribulation was much more fierce than the previous Alchemy Tribulation, and its power also far more terrifying. However, with Lv Chaoqiong, Ai Yunqi, and Gu Chengyu - three Earth Immortal realm masters - present, not a single one of the thunderbolts falling from the sky could harm Cao Zhen in the slightest.

Cao Zhen even had time to start paying attention to China Cloud.

'Random user access complete, accessing Zhang Defu.'

Chapter 170: Sincerity and Business_4

Cao Zhen was completely dumbfounded. Zhang Defu? Who was that? He had never heard of him! The name sounded so unsophisticated that it was likely not someone of significance—could it be that he had connected with a mere mortal?

He quickly looked towards his Sea of Clouds.

Within his Sea of Clouds, a new document had appeared. Though it was not as huge as the document of Zhang Daoling, nor did it emit a golden radiance, this document was nonetheless many times larger than that of his parents.

"The size of this document definitely does not belong to an ordinary person," Cao Zhen breathed a sigh of relief and opened the document.

Name: Zhang Defu.

Cultivation Base: Earth Immortal Realm, Longevity Period.

Identity: Earth God.

Skilled in: Earth of Five Elements.

Land Transformation: MAX.

Geological Survey: MAX.

Burrow Technique: Level 99.

Bring Harmonious Weather: Level 99.

Isn't this the Earth God? That the Earth God was at the Earth Immortal Realm was no issue. As for his specializations...

The Burrow Technique, that's a valuable skill!

His disciples each gave him their own set of worries, especially Xiang Ziyu, who was always acting like a protagonist. He genuinely feared that one day Zi Yu would get himself into trouble, so it was just right to teach him the Burrow Technique to save his skin.

And what about the Geological Survey?

Was this for mining work?

What about the Land Transformation then?

Cao Zhen quickly clicked to download, and instantly, a flood of knowledge related to the land filled his mind.

"I see, 'Bring Harmonious Weather' is just like its name suggests, ensuring peace and no disasters for a region of land. Land Transformation, however, is more complex; it can alter the soil structure to make crops more fertile and change the landscape.

My Four Treasures Peak happens to have two Spirit Fields; when I have time, I should modify the Spirit Fields."

While thinking, Cao Zhen opened up the newly connected disciple Yi Sheng's file.

Name: Yi Sheng.

Gender: Female.

Cultivation Base: Foundation Establishment Stage, five Immortal Bridges.

Identity: Fifth disciple of Four Treasures Peak.

Skilled in: Flames.

Aptitude: True Yang Immortal Body.

Total cultivation experience: 15,000.

Extra experience: 1,000.

Alchemy Level: Level 10.

Talisman Level: Level 3.

Formation Level: Level 0.

"This True Yang Immortal Body is indeed extraordinary; Yi Sheng had not even a single Immortal Bridge when she first joined Four Treasures Peak. In just a short time, she has already reached five Immortal Bridges, and what's more terrifying is that her Alchemy Level has already reached Level 10!

She had no knowledge of alchemy before, and from the time I left until now, it's only been ten days, yet she's already at Level 10!

With such talent, I must nurture her alchemy skills when I return; my dream of success just got a step closer."

Cao Zhen quickly exited his Sea of Clouds.

Although the Array Tribulation was fierce, it did not last as long as expected; within half an hour, the Array Tribulation had ended.

Cao Zhen was unharmed, thanks to the protection of three others, but those who protected him were all covered in dust, and even the corner of Ai Yunqi's mouth bore a faint trace of blood.

"Thank you all for your help," Cao Zhen first bowed to the three as a show of gratitude, and then handed the last refined Array Plate to Ai Yunqi, "Elder, this Array Plate was crafted using materials from the Immortal Soldier Workshop. It's to compensate for the Formation Map I promised to craft; this is also an Array Plate."

"Is this for me?" Ai Yunqi's hands trembled slightly as she received the Array Plate, which was capable of summoning clouds for a tribulation. She had never seen anyone in the Hundred Peaks Sect who could craft a Formation Map that would trigger such a phenomenon!

Even the six Array Plates given to her by Peak Master Cao hadn't triggered any tribulation clouds.

And now, the elder had given her an Array Plate.

How could she be deserving of such a gift?

Surprise flashed across Lv Chaoqiong's face. This time, she thought that the Formation Map crafted by Cao Zhen was like the pills he had previously crafted at the Five-Star Pill Emperor's place, intended for his own consumption.

However, Cao Zhen had actually given the tribulation-triggering Formation Map to Ai Yunqi!

Gu Chengyu stood aside, nodding slightly to Cao Zhen. As expected, Peak Master Cao was just as honorable as he was before; previously, he had used materials from the Five-Star Pill Ground to craft a pill that revived a Dead Pill, and now in the Immortal Soldier Workshop, he had given away a Formation Map that could provoke an Array Tribulation to Ai Yunqi.

Such a gallant Peak Master Cao, and yet there are still those who call him shameless, greedy for wealth—I'd say it's those slanderous monks who are truly brazen!

After stuffing the Formation Map into Ai Yunqi's hands just as he had previously done with the Spiritual Stone Ticket, Cao Zhen said, "It is indeed for you, Elder Ai. Input your spiritual energy into the Formation Map, open it up, and you'll see its wonderful use."

"Thank you, Peak Master Cao," Ai Yunqi was eager to find out the amazing use of the Formation Map, but she first bowed to Cao Zhen before infusing her spiritual energy into the Array Plate.

With the influx of spiritual energy, the previously modest-sized Array Plate suddenly expanded, seemingly covering the entire yard, spread out on the ground.

In an instant, Ai Yunqi realized she was no longer in the Hidden Dragon Observatory, but standing above the heavens, looking down at the world below.

It was a small mountain village, with a gently flowing river outside. Along the riverbank, there was a thatched cottage. Outside the cottage, a brawny man was pacing back and forth, seemingly anxious.

Before long, the cry of a baby echoed from the house.

"That is one's own father, one's own mother, the day of one's own birth."

The baby quickly grew... Soon she was sent to the Hundred Peaks Taoist Institution...

It was as if Ai Yunqi were another person entirely, 'seeing' her own life in fleeting glances—her joy, her disappointments, her regrets...