

## **My Master 171**

### Chapter 171: Sincerity and Business\_5

Unbeknownst to her, she had entered a mysterious and profound state.

Lv Chaoqiong and Gu Chengyu noticed Yun Qi's change right away.

"She has achieved enlightenment? What is this formation map? How did she achieve enlightenment so suddenly?" Lv Chaoqiong murmured in surprise to herself.

Cao Zhen didn't speak, merely silently collecting the six array plates he and his disciple had been using. Lv Chaoqiong was so miserly—what if she asked him for the formation map later? It was better to secure them now for peace of mind.

As for her question, she was talking to herself, and it had nothing to do with him.

Lv Chaoqiong murmured to herself, and seeing that Cao Zhen didn't reply, she wasn't angry but just frowned, seemingly pondering something.

Gradually, she noticed something was amiss—Yun Qi was still in the midst of enlightenment!

Generally speaking, if someone achieved sudden enlightenment for some reason, this moment would be extremely brief—once enlightened, they are enlightened; that's why it's called sudden enlightenment—it doesn't last long.

But why was Yun Qi still in the state of enlightenment?

One incense stick!

Yun Qi had been in a state of enlightenment for the duration of an entire incense stick before she came to.

The first thing she did was bow deeply towards Cao Zhen, "Thank you, Peak Master Cao, for your gracious gift. I, Yun Qi, will never forget this kindness."

Cao Zhen was resigned, wondering why everyone was so keen on bowing to him.

After Yun Qi stood up, Lv Chaoqiong spoke again, "Elder Yun, do you realize how long you were enlightened just now? You were in enlightenment for the time it takes an incense stick to burn... Was it because of that formation map?"

"Indeed, it was because of the formation map," Yun Qi recalled everything she experienced upon opening the formation map and looked towards Cao Zhen to ask, "Peak Master Cao, that formation map..."

"I know what you want to ask," Cao Zhen said as he pointed to the formation map in Yun Qi's hand and explained, "This formation is called the Bodhi Enlightenment Formation, meant for facilitating enlightenment. However, once someone has used this formation map, it cannot be used by others.

Furthermore, even for the person who has used it, in your case, Elder Yun, it won't bring about enlightenment as it did today. Of course, when you practice cultivation in the future, using it will lead to greater and deeper insights, but others will be unable to use it."

Upon hearing Cao Zhen's words, Gu Chengyu suddenly felt that the batch of pills that had revived the Five-Element Pill Ground seemed less appealing—the formation map was capable of enabling enlightenment.

Enlightenment is so rare, not to mention achieving it for the duration of an entire incense stick—a gain beyond imagination. Such a defiance of the heavens would surely attract a Heavenly Tribulation!

But the pills that Peak Master Cao revived had not reached the point of triggering a Heavenly Tribulation. The Five-Element Pill Ground was at a loss!

After introducing the formation map, Cao Zhen said to the three of them, "Now, I've yet to see my disciple since I arrived here, so I will take my leave to check on his well-being. Farewell."

With that, he turned to leave. Why stay if not to make a swift exit? Should he wait for the Hidden Dragon View Master to recover and inconvenience him?

He took one step forward and was about to take another when Lv Chaoqiong's voice came from behind, "Peak Master Cao, please wait a moment."

Cao Zhen trembled; his fears were realized. He was done for. The Hidden Dragon View Master was definitely going to settle scores with him.

Although all his actions were by the rules, what if the Hidden Dragon View Master forcefully blamed him?

She was the View Master, and a woman at that—weren't women the most adept at laying blame?

Lv Chaoqiong approached Cao Zhen and asked seriously, "Peak Master Cao, may I inquire about your cultivation base?"

"My cultivation base?" Cao Zhen was taken aback. She wasn't here to trouble him? What did she want with his cultivation base all of a sudden?

Lv Chaoqiong let out a long sigh, her gaze drifted into the distance as she spoke slowly, "I have stayed at Hidden Dragon Observatory for far too long, so long that I have forgotten just how many years I have spent here.

I have always tried my best to do everything I believed I should, contributing my own strength to Hidden Dragon Observatory, to Hundred Peaks Sect. But today, I suddenly realized I am not suited to be the View Master."

As Lv Chaoqiong spoke, her gaze landed on Cao Zhen: "I discovered that you are more suited to be the View Master than I am. I asked about your cultivation base to see if it was enough to form a Golden Core. If it were, I would naturally go and report to the Sect Leader True Person and yield the position of View Master of Hidden Dragon Observatory to you."

Since witnessing Cao Zhen triggering a Heavenly Tribulation while crafting a Formation Map, she had been considering this matter.

Cao Zhen gave Lv Chaoqiong a deep look, not knowing how much authority the View Master of Hidden Dragon Observatory could wield, but he knew that theoretically, everything within Hidden Dragon Observatory was subject to the View Master's say.

Such resources could be allocated by the View Master, which was an immense amount of power, yet Lv Chaoqiong was willing to proactively hand the position to him.

He found that the high-ranked individuals within Hidden Dragon Observatory, whether it was Lv Chaoqiong, Ai Yunqi, or Gu Chengyu, all possessed a rare quality; they put the interests of the Hundred Peaks Sect before their own benefits.

Of course, this quality might seem foolish to many, but perhaps it was because of these 'fools' in others' eyes that the Hundred Peaks Sect had stood unshaken for thousands of years.

He himself was far from reaching this point, but he felt a genuine respect for these individuals.

Cao Zhen, looking at Lv Chaoqiong's expectant eyes, shrugged lightly, "I'm going to disappoint you, I have yet to form a Golden Core."

"Not yet at Golden Core stage? Not yet, then you better hurry up and cultivate," Lv Chaoqiong exclaimed, "I see you rarely cultivate on regular days, you should quickly cultivate up to Golden Core. If you have any problems with cultivation, you can come to me."

Ai Yunqi nearly choked upon hearing Lv Chaoqiong's words, thinking, View Master, do you know that the person in front of you is a reincarnated being of great ability? Telling him to ask you about cultivation is like a disciple from a Taoist Institution telling you, 'Feel free to ask me any questions about cultivation.'

Yet Cao Zhen wasn't in any hurry, appearing quite nonchalant as he said, "Cultivation, well, can't be rushed, I'm not worried."

He did wish to advance, but without money to buy Pills, how could he cultivate?

"You're not in a hurry, but I am," Lv Chaoqiong looked earnestly at Cao Zhen, "Whether it comes to Alchemy or Formation Crafting, you far surpass me. The most important quality for the View Master of Hidden Dragon Observatory is not the cultivation base, but mastery in Formation Crafting and Alchemy. No one is better suited than you to be the View Master of Hidden Dragon Observatory. I truly hope you can cultivate quickly and take the position of View Master."

Gu Chengyu felt a sudden inspiration and said, "View Master, although Peak Master Cao hasn't reached the Golden Core stage and cannot become our View Master of Hidden Dragon Observatory, we could make him... become the Vice View Master of Hidden Dragon Observatory."

True, we already have two Vice View Masters, but who says there can only be two? We can discuss with the Sect Leader and add another Vice View Master, allowing Peak Master Cao to stay here."

Lv Chaoqiong nodded repeatedly, "Elder Gu's proposal is excellent, I will go to propose it to the Sect Leader immediately."

"Wait..." Cao Zhen quickly interjected, "I appreciate your kindness, but I would rather return to Four Treasures Peak."

Lv Chaoqiong was confused, "Peak Master Cao, you've been to our Hidden Dragon Observatory. You know how rich the Spiritual Energy here is, and we also have many Formations. Cultivating here would be better for you than at Four Treasures Peak."

Cao Zhen still shook his head, "Our Four Treasures Peak may seem somewhat rundown now, that's because I haven't had the time. Once I have time, I can renovate Four Treasures Peak, and it, too, can be lined with Great Formations, becoming a Mortal Fairyland rich in Spiritual Energy."

Moreover, I am the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak. Since Master entrusted Four Treasures Peak to me, I must take responsibility for it, and I cannot leave it for any length of time."

Upon hearing this, Lv Chaoqiong quickly said, "If you stay within Hidden Dragon Observatory, you can still look after Four Treasures Peak. You can arrange for the disciples of Four Treasures Peak to come and cultivate in Hidden Dragon Observatory. We can discuss all this with the Sect Leader True Person."

Other than those with enough talent or those who fought their way in, there was another way to gain entry to Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace and Hidden Dragon Observatory: by paying a certain amount of Spirit Stones.

This was common knowledge. Since those with insufficient talent could enter to cultivate by paying Spirit Stones, letting disciples from Four Treasures Peak who lacked sufficient talent enter Hidden Dragon Observatory to cultivate for a while wouldn't be too much of an infraction either.

Cao Zhen was completely defeated, he sighed and said, "Why are you going to find the Sect Leader? Haven't you heard? I have explained so much because I want to negotiate with you. Just make your terms already!"

Chapter 172: The Four Treasures Peak of the Hidden Dragon Observatory, The Hidden Dragon Observatory of the Four Treasures Peak\_1

The Immortal Soldier Workshop had suffered the onslaught of an Array Tribulation, the entire ground looking as though it had been plowed over several times, with countless mounds of earth turned up.

A gust of wind blew by, and the dust instantly swirled into the air.

Through the rising dust, Lv Chaoqiong gazed at Cao Zhen in front of her, but felt as though she could not see him clearly. Which among those Alchemy Masters, Array Masters, did not hold their own pride?

Cao Zhen, why did he not have any awareness of being a master? He was even brazenly demanding benefits! Was this something a master should do?

Yet she truly hoped that Cao Zhen would stay at Hidden Dragon Observatory, and thus she could only speak up, "Peak Master Cao, whatever conditions you have, you may propose them."

"Conditions? I won't start with an offer. Why don't you go ahead, View Master? If the price you mention is right, I might take up the position of deputy view master. If not, we can continue to negotiate." Cao Zhen was in no hurry; after all, it was the View Master who wished for him to stay, so naturally, he

would not be the first to speak. In this kind of situation, being the first to speak meant putting oneself at a disadvantage, something only a fool would do.

View Master Lv pondered over this, what should the conditions be? To state them directly, Cao Zhen's demands would surely be substantial. Therefore, it was necessary to talk about their emotional bond first, after all, Cao Zhen was a member of the Hundred Peaks Sect, and inviting him to be the view master was for the betterment of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Talking to him would remind him that his master would surely wish to see the Hundred Peaks Sect prosper, and would be pleased to see him become the master of Hidden Dragon Observatory.

Therefore, she could offer a slightly better price, but it also could not be too generous.

Lv Chaoqiong quickly formed a plan, and just as she was about to speak, Cao Zhen's voice preempted her.

"View Master Lv, I believe that when it comes to making an offer, it can be done twice. The first offer marks sincerity, the second, the business deal. I'm not very good at doing business. What I care about is sincerity," he said, while putting on an honest demeanor. Although he did not know exactly what Lv Chaoqiong was thinking, he could be sure that she did not want to give him a high price, so it was crucial to block any further words she might have in mind.

Lv Chaoqiong was speechless. You say you're not good at business? With what you just said, this is the shrewdest business.

Cao Zhen, seeing Lv Chaoqiong's troubled expression, saluted the others and said, "Gentlemen, I have not yet visited my disciples after arriving at the Hidden Dragon Observatory, and I'm not sure about their condition. I will go to see them first. View Master, feel free to find me once you have made up your mind."

With that, he turned and walked toward the entrance of the Immortal Soldier Workshop.

Lv Chaoqiong waited until Cao Zhen was far away, then let out a light sigh and turned to Ai Yunqi, saying, "Elder Ai, I will be leaving as well."

Ai Yunqi fell silent for a moment, hesitating before finally speaking up, "View Master, please wait a moment."

"What is it?" Ai Yunqi was slightly astonished, then understanding dawned upon her as she looked around at the empty shelves and spoke, "Are you suggesting that the materials have all been used up by Peak Master Cao? Since there are no materials, the Immortal Soldier Workshop can temporarily close, halting any crafting, while the Divine Soldier Tomb remains open.

I am going to consult with the True Person who leads our sect regarding Peak Master Cao's issue. The specific circumstances of the Immortal Soldier Workshop... Shall we discuss them once I return?"

After stepping forward, Ai Yunqi said, "View Master, it is about Peak Master Cao that I wish to discuss with you."

"Peak Master Cao?" Lv Chaoqiong showed a look of surprise: "What else is there to discuss concerning him?"

Gu Chengyu, who was about to leave, heard the exchange between the two and watched curiously.

Ai Yunqi glanced at Gu Chengyu and, after a brief moment of contemplation, chose not to exclude him from the conversation, asking Lv Chaoqiong, "View Master, have you never wondered? Four Treasures Peak is ranked last within our Hundred Peaks Sect, and many say that Four Treasures Peak and Seven Star Peak are in a league of their own, incomparably poor.

They hardly even seem like independent peaks. But we both know that Seven Star Peak actually has some foundation, whereas the Hundred Peaks Sect is truly lacking. Its dilapidated state is so severe that one could doubt whether Four Treasures Peak will ever continue its legacy or simply fade away.

But look at the recent events - since Peak Master Cao's contest with Starshine Peak, Four Treasures Peak has been prospering.

His first four disciples have all entered our Hidden Dragon Observatory, and each one upon arrival acted as if they were looting, with each taking away a top-grade Divine Weapon.

And as for him, he has been even more outrageous. He caused the Five-Element Pill Ground to close down, and this Immortal Soldier Workshop would also have to close if it weren't for the sustaining presence of the Divine Soldier Tomb.

All of these, all of these occurrences, don't you find them strange?"

"I certainly have considered these issues," Lv Chaoqiong replied to Ai Yunqi. "But I have not yet figured out the reason for this. If you know something, tell me directly."

Ai Yunqi looked around to ensure no one else was present besides the three of them before slowly saying, "I have been assisting Peak Master Cao in refining his Formation Maps for nearly ten days. Over these nine days, we've had many discussions. Although Peak Master Cao has never explicitly said it, he has hinted to me that he hails from the Tai Chu Era and is the reincarnation of Heavenly King Qin Haoxuan."

She originally did not wish to publicize Peak Master Cao's identity as the reincarnation of a great figure, but now, with the View Master proposing that Cao Zhen becomes the deputy view master, and possibly the future view master, she would need to consult with the sect's True Person.

Chapter 173: The Four Treasures Peak of the Hidden Dragon Observatory, The Hidden Dragon Observatory of the Four Treasures Peak\_2

This matter is no trivial thing and could even influence the entire development of the Hundred Peaks Sect in the future. She had no choice but to speak out.

Moreover, there were only the three of them present, and she had absolute trust in both the Observatory Master and Gu Chengyu.

"A reincarnation of a being of great ability? Qin Haoxuan? How come I have never heard of this Qin Haoxuan before? And a Heavenly King? And the Tai Chu Era? Never heard of it. Has he gone mad?" Lv Chaoqiong said, looking at Ai Yunqi with a strangely altered gaze.

"Mad? Where does he look like he's gone mad?" Ai Yunqi similarly looked back at Lv Chaoqiong with an odd expression, as if to silently say, 'you're the actual mad one.'

"Consider what Peak Master Cao has done; does any of it resemble the act of a madman? Do you think, a madman could cultivate four disciples in such a way that three of them become the Hidden Dragon Three Sons?"

It's only because there are the Hidden Dragon Three Sons that if there were four, I have no doubt that his four disciples would still dominate as the Hidden Dragon Four Sons.

Moreover, these four disciples are Ancient Immortal Bodies, now regarded as Waste Bodies. Do you think a madman is capable of that?

And his alchemy at the Five-Element Pill Ground is able to bring forth the Alchemy Tribulation; now his Formation refinement has brought about an Array Tribulation. Do you think this is something a madman could do?

Do you think if Peak Master Cao wasn't a reincarnation of a great ability, how could he have managed this? Is it possible with the foundation of Four Treasures Peak? If Four Treasures Peak had a heritage, why would it have remained at the very bottom of the Hundred Peaks Sect for so many years?

As for not knowing about Qin Haoxuan or the Tai Chu Era.

The history of the world of immortal cultivation is so ancient; with the long river of history, there are eras and predecessors we don't know about. What's so strange about that?"

Lv Chaoqiong fell silent for a moment. Indeed, the great changes in Four Treasures Peak were too abnormal. If Cao Zhen was truly a reincarnation of a being of great ability, then everything made sense.

"Could it be, Peak Master Cao, is really a reincarnation of a great ability? The Tai Chu Era? I've read many ancient texts and have never come across this era. Tai Chu, the beginning of all? It must be a very, very ancient era. If so, then Peak Master Cao should be one of our predecessors' predecessors."

Without realizing, Ai Yunqi began to analyze, "The era in which Peak Master Cao lived, who knows how many years ago it was? With the endless passage of years, his era's kin and enemies are probably no longer. So, Peak Master Cao and his era no longer have any ties; in fact, we can say that Peak Master Cao is now all alone."

"No, Peak Master Cao is not alone," Ai Yunqi interrupted, "Peak Master Cao still has Four Treasures Peak, his disciples, and our Hundred Peaks Sect. During the days I've interacted with Peak Master Cao, I could feel that he has a strong sense of belonging to our Hundred Peaks Sect. He already sees himself as a member of the Hundred Peaks, and our Sect is his concern."

Lv Chaoqiong interjected in time, "Unless, he wants to establish his own sect."

"That won't happen," Ai Yunqi confidently said. "If Peak Master Cao wanted to establish his own sect, he would have done so already. He is a Peak Master and has every reason to leave the Hundred Peaks Sect and then go out to gain experience and improve his cultivation before founding his own sect."

But he didn't do that. Not only has he not rushed to improve his cultivation, he also spent a large amount of time on his disciples, carefully nurturing his four disciples into beings like the Hidden Dragon Three Sons.

Moreover, he did not just cultivate the disciples of Four Treasures Peak; he also took the initiative to recruit new disciples, including Yi Sheng. That is the most talented disciple of this generation's Taoist Institution. Every Peak in Hundred Peaks Sect wanted to take her as a disciple, yet in the end, Yi Sheng entered Four Treasures Peak. I imagine Peak Master Cao also put in a lot of effort.

Otherwise, with the reputation of Four Treasures Peak as the last in the Hundred Peaks Sect rankings, no matter how unpleasant it is to say this, even begging wouldn't have been enough to recruit Yi Sheng."

At the beginning, many people laughed, saying that Yi Sheng's joining Four Treasures Peak was the worst choice. But who would have thought, that was the best choice.

Peak Master Cao must have known of Yi Sheng's talent. Thinking of the Hundred Peaks Sect's future, wanting to nurture a pivotal figure for the Sect, that's why he personally cultivated Yi Sheng."

As she spoke, she paused for a while, then continued, "I'm telling you this to remind you to make it clear to the Sect Leader when you see him. This is a reincarnation of a being with great ability; he cannot be overlooked."

Lv Chaoqiong nodded vigorously: "Of course, I must make it clear, especially now at this special time. The minor era is approaching soon; when it comes, the cosmos will be reversed, and all the higher-ups and powerful experts of our Hundred Peaks Sect will have to go into slumber.

Peak Master Cao is not yet a Golden Core, but he has already condensed his inner core. When the minor era arrives and the cosmos reverses, his strength will surely grow even stronger. Among those who do not sleep, he will certainly be among the upper echelons, and by then we can let Peak Master Cao take good care of Hidden Dragon Observatory and the Hundred Peaks Sect."

Gu Chengyu, who had been standing by the side silently, suddenly spoke, "Actually, we should feel fortunate that Peak Master Cao is only at the Core Formation stage. Otherwise, if he were stronger, I fear that he would also have to sleep when the time comes. So, his current low cultivation realm is actually a good thing."

Lv Chaoqiong nodded and said, "Indeed, it can be seen that way. It's just that it's a bit too low, and he's not fond of cultivation."

Chapter 174: The Four Treasures Peak of the Hidden Dragon Observatory, The Hidden Dragon Observatory of the Four Treasures Peak\_3

Ai Yunqi was unfazed as he said, "Peak Master Cao is a reincarnation of a person with great ability. If he wishes to cultivate, wouldn't he excel quickly?"

Lv Chaoqiong pondered for a moment and nodded slightly, "There is some truth to that. I am aware of the matter. I will go and discuss it with the Substitute Sect Leader."

Before she could leave, Gu Chengyu spoke up again, "Observatory Master, have you decided what you're going to promise Peak Master Cao?"

Lv Chaoqiong shook her head: "I haven't come up with anything yet."

"I do have an idea," Gu Chengyu said, pointing to the empty shelves around them. "As you can see, Peak Master Cao's crafting consumes a lot of materials, and Four Treasures Peak doesn't have many. With his skills in alchemy and formations, Peak Master Cao can't accomplish much — even a skilled cook can't prepare a meal without rice.

Therefore, I think we can give Peak Master Cao more materials, such as allowing him free use of Hidden Dragon Observatory's supplies?"

"No," Lv Chaoqiong instinctively rejected the idea upon hearing 'materials'. Realizing that she had perhaps been too hasty, she added, "As the Observatory Master, although I can manage the materials of Hidden Dragon Observatory, I still only manage them. Any usage of supplies must still be reported to the sect. As for letting him use materials freely, I don't have the authority to allow that. This matter still needs to be discussed with the Substitute Sect Leader.

Alright, I'm going to find the Substitute Sect Leader now."

Lv Chaoqiong soon left.

After Cao Zhen left the Immortal Soldier Workshop, he headed towards the residence of the Hidden Dragon Three Sons. He had been crafting Formation Maps here for many days, and Ai Yunqi had often spoken to him about his four disciples, revealing that three had become the Hidden Dragon Three Sons.

After some time, Cao Zhen returned to Hidden Dragon Observatory. This visit was different from the previous ones; now, upon seeing him, many of the Observatory's disciples hurriedly avoided him.

Everyone in Hidden Dragon Observatory knew the people from Four Treasures Peak were fearsome, each more formidable and wicked than the last, always looking for an opportunity to spar with others, beating them senseless and then morally condemning them with all sorts of insults.

All of this was surely led by the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak, Cao Zhen. Seeing him and not keeping a safe distance was simply asking for trouble, wasn't it?

Cao Zhen quickly arrived outside the houses of the Hidden Dragon Three Sons and knocked on the door.

It didn't take long for the door to open, revealing the sight of Little Beiyan's small head.

"Master, you've finally come," Bei Yan said, feeling an urge to cry. His master was finally here; his hard days were coming to an end.

"What's with that look?" Cao Zhen touched Little Beiyan's head, feeling that in the time he hadn't seen him, Little Beiyan seemed to have grown a bit taller, and had also become somewhat thinner.

"Master, you don't know, ever since the four of us got together, Senior Sister and Senior Brother have done nothing but cultivate and spar with each other. I...I'm young and can't beat them," Little Beiyan explained as he continuously looked over Cao Zhen's shoulder: "By the way, Master, where is Junior Sister? Why didn't she come?"

He really had been terribly bullied during this period.

Initially, he was with his second Senior Sister and his third Senior Brother here.

The second Senior Sister was always a cultivation fanatic, and after the third Senior Brother learned that he had to leave the mountain, he became even more seriously ill and stopped reading novels. To Cao Zhen's surprise, the third Senior Brother started cultivating with an intensity that even surpassed the second Senior Sister.

Well, the second Senior Sister couldn't let herself be outdone by the third Senior Brother, so she also began cultivating like mad.

The two of them were insane in their cultivation, which was fine, but they dragged him into it too. Poor child that he was, not only was he made to cultivate every day, but later on, the second Senior Sister and the third Senior Brother, not satisfied with just cultivating, decided they wanted to spar and dragged him into it as well.

In the beginning, he held onto the fantasy that he might be able to surpass his second Senior Sister and third Senior Brother. After all, both of them had only retrieved one Divine Weapon each from the Divine Soldier Tomb, while he had managed to obtain two.

But when they started sparring, he realized just how wrong he was. His mistake couldn't be more egregious.

The second Senior Sister, true to her reputation for relentlessly chasing after Master all over the mountains, was an opponent he thought he could match. But when it came to the actual fight, he could not win.

While sparring with him, the second Senior Sister's blows felt like they carried a killing intent. He even began to suspect that she wanted to kill him.

As for second Senior Sister's view, she believed she was already being quite restrained.

Unable to defeat the second Senior Sister, it came to sparring with the third Senior Brother, and he found that he couldn't win against him either. The third Senior Brother's Divine Skills were outrageously powerful. Moreover, the rapid improvement in his cultivation made him wonder whether being a bit mad was the best state of mind for Cultivation.

He was beaten to the brink of death day after day.

Latterly, his first Senior Sister finally arrived, and his face lit up with joy, eagerly inviting his first Senior Sister to a spar.

He had arrived much earlier than she had and had obtained two Divine Weapons from the Divine Soldier Tomb. After so many sparring sessions with his second and third Senior Brothers, he felt sure he would win this time.

His second Senior Sister was fierce, and his third Senior Brother was ill — he could accept losing to them. But first Senior Sister was just a normal person, could he still lose to her?

The outcome was that he got beaten once again.

His Senior Sister's set of Talismans nearly brought him to tears.

He only learned afterward that it was the strongest Divine Weapon once held by the second Substitute Sect Leader.

Now, at long last his Master had arrived, and with the Master's presence, the Junior Sister should also come, shouldn't she? Him being younger, sparring with the Junior Sister seemed quite reasonable, right?

He was waiting for his Junior Sister to come to his rescue, yet he saw only his Master and no sign of his Junior Sister.

Chapter 175: The Four Treasures Peak of the Hidden Dragon Observatory, The Hidden Dragon Observatory of the Four Treasures Peak\_4

"Your little martial sister? She's at home helping me with alchemy,"

"Little martial sister didn't come?" Little Beiyan suddenly felt his life was shrouded in darkness.

This was Cao Zhen's first time entering the Hidden Dragon Three Sons' residence. He glanced around the room but didn't see the other three disciples. Curious, he asked, "Where are the other three?"

"Senior brother and senior sister are cultivating in the back," Little Beiyan said with a look of utter desolation, gesturing towards the backyard.

The cultivation area for the Hidden Dragon Three Sons wasn't just this one room; this was merely where they meditated and practiced on regular days. Beyond this room, there was a vast backyard and the place where they resided.

Guided by Little Beiyan, Cao Zhen walked towards the backyard. After only a few steps, he could hear Xiang Ziyu's voice.

"Senior sister, I'm telling you, my Record of Deities and Demons is the top-tier Divine Skill. Forget about the Scroll of Deities and Demons, I think Record of Deities and Demons sounds much more domineering.

You just cultivate according to my instructions. That part you're worried about? Just charge through it. What? The meridians are damaged? Deviating from the path? No, no, that won't happen. I, the main character, am watching over you. You won't have any accidents."

Looking back at Beiyan with a curious face, Cao Zhen asked, "What's going on here? Your third senior brother is teaching your two senior sisters Divine Skills? It sounds like your two senior sisters haven't

mastered them yet. And can the name of a Divine Skill be changed? One moment it's the Scroll of Deities and Demons and the next it's the Record of Deities and Demons?"

Little Beiyan quickly replied, "Master, why don't you take third senior brother out for a check-up? I feel his condition is getting more and more serious.

Disciple has been obeying Master's teaching; after coming to Hidden Dragon Observatory, I went with senior brother to the Immortal Soldier Workshop to choose Divine Weapons, but third senior brother chose some damaged Divine Weapons that were beyond repair."

Cao Zhen said in a complex tone, "That, I know. He took away Ancestral Elder's Heavenly Gang Disha Beads. Then what?" He had been informed of all this by Ai Yunqi when refining formation, and when he heard it, he had nothing to say but was speechless.

So what if Xiang Ziyu's head doesn't work well on normal days? Why did he have to break down when it's time to snatch up good deals?

As it turned out, the fool got lucky and actually managed to take a Divine Weapon belonging to the Ancestral Elder. Although it was damaged, it was still the Ancestral Elder's Divine Weapon.

Little Beiyan continued, "It's the severity of senior brother's condition that lies ahead. We went to the Divine Skills Secret Archives to choose Divine Skills, and senior brother again chose those incomplete ones. In the end, he even took away two Divine Skills."

"Two?" Cao Zhen said in surprise, "Isn't it only possible to take away one type of Divine Skill?"

Little Beiyan emphasized, "Two books, not two types. Actually, I can't really understand whether it's two types of Divine Skills or just one.

The Divine Skills senior brother got, one book had a 'Upper' character, and the other had a 'Lower' character on it. He said they were two volumes of one Divine Skill. Then he brought them back to practice and he even managed to master them.

We thought that senior brother was indeed lucky and had truly obtained the two volumes of a Divine Skill, but as we tried to cultivate them, we couldn't learn them at all. Then we thought that they must be two different Divine Skills."

"There's such a thing?" Cao Zhen, growing curious, quickly walked into the courtyard.

In the yard, the three disciples of Ling Xi heard footsteps and turned their heads to look.

"Master!"

Seeing Cao Zhen, the three of them quickly greeted him.

A happy smile appeared on Yan Yourong's face; she felt like it had been a long time since she last saw Master.

Ling Xi even ran to Cao Zhen's side and asked, "Master, what brings you here? Where's little martial sister?"

"Yi Sheng is alchemizing at home," Cao Zhen said as he patted big-chested Ling Xi's head. Indeed, the eldest disciple was always the most well-behaved.

"She's on her own at Four Treasures Peak?" Ling Xi said with concern. "Little martial sister has only joined the Hundred Peaks Sect for a short time. Is it okay for her to be there alone?"

Cao Zhen smiled, "No worries, I'll be going back soon. By the way, I heard you discussing Divine Skills just now. What Divine Skills are you unable to cultivate?"

"It's the Divine Skills I got," Xiang Ziyu said proudly, "Master, I told you, I'm the main character. If you had listened to me and looked for more damaged items, but you didn't believe me. You see, I ended up with quite a few treasures."

Cao Zhen's face darkened instantly. Listen to you and collect those scraps? If I truly picked up those scraps, when would I be able to gather enough materials for your alchemy!

Xiang Ziyu was already fully immersed in his own world and hadn't noticed the change in Cao Zhen's expression. He proudly presented two books and called out, "Master, look at these two Secret Manuals. I'm telling you, the Divine Skills in these are so powerful. Divine Demon Dual-cultivation, terrifyingly boundless. Unfortunately, senior sister and junior brother just can't learn them."

"Give them to me, I'll take a look." Full of curiosity, Cao Zhen took the two books and looked at the covers. Indeed, one book had a character that looked like 'Upper,' and the other had a character that looked like 'Lower'.

Yet the handwriting was noticeably different in the two books.

Perhaps to others, the handwriting seemed similar, but with his level-99 calligraphy skills, he could instantly spot the differences.

If the handwriting is different, how can they be the upper and lower parts of one Divine Skill?

Cao Zhen continued to flip through the books, and immediately, his frown deepened. From the first page itself, there were missing characters, and quite a lot of them. He quickly turned to the back and found the situation wasn't much better there; some pages had almost the entire text destroyed, leaving only a few characters.

Chapter 176: The Four Treasures Peak of the Hidden Dragon Observatory, The Hidden Dragon Observatory of the Four Treasures Peak\_5

Is that even possible to cultivate? How do you cultivate? Guessing your way through cultivation?

Completely unable to comprehend, Cao Zhen flipped back to the first page of both books and read slowly. Although the texts on the pages were incomplete, he could still make out that these two books contained two different Divine Skills. These Divine Skills were completely contradictory; one should be a kind of Righteous Path Divine Skill, full of divine aura, while the other was about being strange, changeable, and even gloomy and dark.

These two types of Divine Skills were the complete extremes; how could one possibly cultivate them successfully? Not to mention going insane from cultivation deviation, it would be a miracle not to cultivate to death. And yet, Xiang Ziyu had managed it.

He couldn't fathom how it was done. If he didn't have the China Cloud, he would even start to doubt whether Xiang Ziyu really was the main character.

"How did you cultivate?" Cao Zhen turned around and looked at Xiang Ziyu with complete puzzlement.

Xiang Ziyu nonchalantly replied, "Just kept cultivating and it worked out."

Cao Zhen didn't believe him, "Didn't you feel the conflict of energies, the damage to your meridians during cultivation?"

Xiang Ziyu retorted with pride, "Yes, but what's that? Just a little energy conflict, isn't it normal? They conflict, and I just forcefully suppress them. I'm the main character; how could I not suppress them? They must all obey me."

Cao Zhen fell silent. What Xiang Ziyu said sounded simple, but to force two opposing Divine Skills into one, and the kind of energy conflict that would entail, was surely not that simple.

Forcibly suppressing two opposing energies surely required withstanding great pain and facing immense danger. Xiang Ziyu had done it, which apart from luck, required an exceptionally strong heart and an incredibly tenacious will.

Seeing his disciple paying no attention to the Secret Manuals of Divine Skills, Xiang Ziyu couldn't resist prompting, "Master, what do you think? Are you amazed by the miraculous changes of these Divine Skills? If you want to cultivate them, I can teach you directly."

"No need, I wouldn't be able to learn these Divine Skills," replied Cao Zhen, shaking his head. He could tell just by looking at them that he would never be able to learn them.

He thought for a moment and said to Xiang Ziyu, "Don't teach these Divine Skills to your senior sister and junior brothers either. They cannot cultivate them because I've realized that only someone with the Original Yin-Yang Immortal Demon King Physique can cultivate them, and you, you are exactly that."

This was something he absolutely couldn't reveal to Xiang Ziyu. Xiang Ziyu had always believed it was the same Divine Skill, which is why he could use his strong willpower to overcome various situations.

If he were to tell him the truth, and he began to doubt that these were two different Divine Skills, problems would surely arise later on. Even if he stopped cultivating, there would still be issues.

So, the best course of action was to keep deceiving him. Of course, he also couldn't let Xiang Ziyu teach his senior sister and junior brothers anymore. It was fortunate that Ling Xi and the others hadn't followed suit and forced their own cultivation; if Xiang Ziyu had no issues, that didn't mean they would be as lucky.

Forcing the cultivation of two Divine Skills into one, other than the chaos caused by conflicting energies, the more serious problem would be all kinds of inner demons. One misstep and it would result in cultivation deviation.

However, Xiang Ziyu, this guy with a somewhat useless brain, always believing that he is the main character, actually helped him in this case.

It's likely because he firmly believed he was the main character; that's why he managed to avoid cultivation deviation.

As for the success of his cultivation because of the Original Yin-Yang Immortal Demon King Physique, that was purely fabricated.

Of course, it might also be somewhat possible.

These two Divine Skills, indeed one had the aura of an immortal, and the other, the aura of a demon.

"So that's the reason." Xiang Ziyu nodded in agreement, saying, "I was wondering why my senior sister and junior brother never managed to cultivate it. Indeed, such Divine Skills can only be cultivated by the main character. Just like the Lotus that Xiao Yan nurtured, only the main character can cultivate such conflicting Divine Skills!"

Cao Zhen despaired. There really was no hope for his third disciple.

He turned to the others and asked, "By the way, what are you doing, learning from the third brother's Divine Skills when you're fine as you are?"

Ling Xi, as the eldest senior sister, quickly explained, "Master, each of us received a Divine Skill from the Secret Manual Chamber, so we thought we could certify each other's cultivation to complement our strengths and weaknesses."

Cao Zhen felt as if the sky had darkened, "So, excluding Xiang Ziyu, all three of you have learned the same three Divine Skills?"

"Yes."

Ling Xi and the others nodded their heads in affirmation, and Xiang Ziyu proudly stated, "I've learned four; they don't know my Record of Deities and Demons."

"This is utter nonsense!" exclaimed Cao Zhen, looking at his four disciples in exasperation. "Why would you all learn the same Divine Skills? If you were to go out and fight others, wouldn't they be able to easily read your tactics if you all use the same Divine Skills?"

More importantly, each of you has different talents and specializes in different skills. If you forcibly cultivate the same Divine Skills that don't suit you, wouldn't that be counterproductive?"

Cao Zhen had enough. What were these disciples thinking? They're all cultivating the same Divine Skills; how could he win without effort?

The fewer skills you know, the fewer I have.

Chapter 177: The Four Treasures Peak of the Hidden Dragon Observatory, The Hidden Dragon Observatory of the Four Treasures Peak\_6

"With such an arrangement, I could master four divine skills." freewebnovel.com

"But if each of you cultivated four different divine skills, wouldn't I have already mastered sixteen divine skills?"

"Even excluding Xiang Ziyu, if the three of you each learned three divine skills, I would have effectively mastered ten more divine skills."

"To condense a Golden Core, I inevitably need ten Phenomenon Pills, which require ten top-tier divine skills. With this setup, how am I to condense my Golden Core!"

"Master, your disciple has erred." Ling Xi immediately knelt to the ground.

"Alright, get up. Go back and write 'I was wrong' a thousand times," Cao Zhen signaled Ling Xi to stand up. This habit of kneeling at every turn needed to be changed, especially when outsiders were present; otherwise, wouldn't others take advantage of us?

Little Beiyang heard this and felt puzzled, he asked, "Master, shouldn't I add 'Master is the greatest'?"

"Add that." Cao Zhen nodded, "You go back and write 'Master is the greatest' a thousand times; You Rong, you supervise him."

"Yes." Yan Yourong's eyes fixed on Little Beiyang with the sharpness of a sword.

Little Beiyang really wanted to cry. Why did I have to say that extra sentence?

Xiang Ziyu, on the other hand, expressed agreement, saying, "It's correct for each person to cultivate different divine skills. That's what I had in mind long ago. Those disciples from other peaks all cultivate the same divine skills, what's the fun in that? It's necessary for all disciples to cultivate different divine skills. You are indeed worthy of being the master of the protagonist, always so unique."

Cao Zhen was too lazy to discuss this issue with Xiang Ziyu any further. He waved his hand, producing four array plates, and said to everyone, "Actually, I arrived several days ago. I've been at the Immortal Soldier Workshop crafting a few formation maps, and it just happens that there is one for each of you."

Little Beiyan was surprised and asked, "Formation maps? Master, you can craft formation maps too? Why do these formation maps look like plates?"

As Cao Zhen handed the four array plates to the four, he explained, "Hence, they can also be called array plates. This formation is named the Supreme Unparalleled Formation. Give it a try. Once the Supreme Unparalleled Formation is activated, no matter where you are, you will always be at the position of the formation eye. And for the opponent, no matter what spell they cast, you will be able to switch heaven and earth. As long as they are on this array plate, they will always be suppressed."

"Is it that powerful? Little Bei, come and give it a try," Xiang Ziyu immediately activated the array plate, and suddenly, a huge formation map appeared beneath his feet, enveloping Little Beiyan within that space.

Little Beiyan was about to go insane. Why me again? Why don't you find Senior Sister, or Second Senior Sister to try it out!

When will these days end? Little Junior Sister, when will you come to Hidden Dragon Observatory to rescue your Fourth Senior Brother.

Thankfully, Xiang Ziyu was only testing the power of the formation and didn't truly spar with Little Beiyan. Soon after, he withdrew the formation and looked at his master with admiration, saying, "It's strong, really strong. I can clearly feel that within this formation map, I can completely suppress my junior brother."

Little Beiyan also nodded vigorously and exclaimed, "That's right, within this formation map, I feel that I can at most exert a little over eighty percent, not even ninety percent of my strength. But what's truly unbearable is being constantly suppressed. Master, you said that you've been at the Immortal Soldier Workshop crafting formation maps, that Heavenly Tribulation, it wasn't caused by you, was it?"

This formation map was truly terrifying. He felt that if he initiated the formation map alone and Second Senior Brother didn't, he would definitely win against Second Senior Brother.

With such a formation map, he couldn't help questioning the previous Heavenly Tribulation.

"That's right, it was indeed a Formation Map that I refined which triggered the Heavenly Tribulation, but the tribulation wasn't because of this Formation Map, but rather another one that I created." Cao Zhen gave a brief explanation about the Formation Map he had crafted for Ai Yunqi and then added, "Rest assured, the Formation Map meant for you is actually far more terrifying, and it can be further improved in the future. For now, the materials are insufficient, so you'll just have to make do with it temporarily."

"Master, the Heavenly Tribulation was really caused by you, you're so powerful!" Little Beiyang finally learned to speak properly.

Xiang Ziyu showed no surprise on his face, stating matter-of-factly, "As expected, this is what it's like to be the protagonist's master."

On a mountain peak ranked last, a master looked down upon by others actually hides various supporting abilities, aiding the protagonist in ascending to the pinnacle step by step."

Yan Yourong, however, stood on the side, looking at the Array Plate in her hand without saying a word. As a master who is the reincarnation of someone with great abilities, what's so odd about being able to refine Array Plates?

After Little Beiyang finished speaking, he turned his gaze to Xiang Ziyu and provocatively said, "Senior Brother, haven't you always claimed to be the protagonist? The protagonist must face trials and tribulations, do you dare to fight me without using a Formation Map?" With this Formation, he felt he could do it, of course, provided that his Senior Brother didn't use a Formation Map.

"Junior Brother, your thinking is dangerous. Provoking the protagonist never ends well," Xiang Ziyu cracked his knuckles and said, "Today, your Senior Brother will let you witness the consequences of provoking the protagonist."

"Come on, come on, we can't unfold it here, let's go to the arena to fight, and we've agreed, Senior Brother, you can't use a Formation Map, but I can," Little Beiyan said excitedly, pulling Xiang Ziyu to head outside.

"Thud, thud, thud..."

No sooner had Little Beiyan's words fallen silent than suddenly, a series of heavy knocking sounds came through, followed by a voice.

"Falling Champ Peak disciple Zi Xuan challenges the Hidden Dragon Three Sons!" The voice was so loud that it could be heard clearly in the backyard.

"Zi Xuan?" Cao Zhen recalled, "Isn't he the former 'Heaven' of the Hidden Dragon Three Sons? I heard he was injured by you guys again later on. Now, he sounds quite confident. Has he fully recovered already? He's bounced back quickly."

"Daring to challenge us, Senior Brothers and Senior Sisters, you don't need to lift a finger, let your Junior Brother take care of it!" Little Beiyan was the first to rush out. If I can't beat my Senior Brothers and Sisters, can I not defeat you? Believe it or not, with the Unparalleled Formation Plate, I'll make you cry!

"Let's go, let's see the results of your Cultivation these past few days." He called out to the disciples and walked outside, knowing that Zi Xuan had already Condensed Nine Pills. If it were before, he really wasn't sure if Little Beiyan could defeat the opponent.

But now, he had given the Unparalleled Formation Plate to Little Beiyan.

Outside the door, Hidden Dragon Observatory disciples had already gathered by now. After so many days, someone was finally challenging the Hidden Dragon Three Sons again, and it was none other than Zi Xuan, the strongest among the former Hidden Dragon Three Sons; how could they not come to watch the excitement?

Directly across the entrance, Zi Xuan stood proudly alone, exuding an extraordinary presence, but his long hair was dry, split, and disheveled, particularly striking to the eye.

It was deliberate. His hair had been blasted by the Five-thunder Righteous Method several times before, and he had intentionally not trimmed it since then.

This was his way of reminding himself, to remember the humiliation of that day.

Only when he defeats the disciples of Four Treasures Peak and reclaims his own honor will he trim his hair.

And that day is today!

Chapter 178: Formation Map Exerts Power\_1

Outside the Hidden Dragon Three Sons' cultivation grounds, Zi Xuan's eyes stared fixedly at the entrance.

The door hadn't opened, no one had arrived, but the will to fight already soared to the heavens.

His injuries had healed, completely healed! In order to recover, he had even left the Hidden Dragon Observatory intentionally and returned to Falling Champ Peak to ask his master for a superior pill, which finally healed his wounds.

It was precisely because of the time spent recuperating that he understood so many things. He had faced defeat before, but never had he experienced such continuous and unrelenting failure—whether he was injured or not, defeat was defeat.

All of a sudden, he realized he was wrong. Before this, in the Hidden Dragon Observatory, he had become one of the Hidden Dragon Three Sons, the one known as "Heaven," and he really started to believe he was Heaven itself, capable of overwhelming his generation.

He was too self-inflated, too arrogant.

Then, ten days ago, Vermilion Bird Peak's Li Ke achieved the Perfect Completion Golden Core, and that beam of light shooting to the sky, along with the long cry of Bi Fang from the Hundred Peaks Sect, enlightened him thoroughly. Though he had not experienced sudden enlightenment, it had significantly transformed his mindset. After his wounds healed, he made even more progress.

Now, even though he had not broken through yet, he could clearly feel that he was not far from his breakthrough.

He even had this feeling that the opportunity for his breakthrough would be defeating these disciples from the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Conveniently, he heard that Cao Zhen had returned to the Hidden Dragon Observatory, and he immediately came here to issue a challenge. Cao Zhen was the first to defeat him that day and caused his injuries!

"Squeak..."

The door he had opened countless times before was pushed open from the inside.

Bei Yan pushed open the door and immediately saw Zi Xuan facing the entrance, and above Zi Xuan's head, the wild and untamed hair like dry firewood.

He curiously said, "Eh, your complexion looks pretty good. Are your injuries healed? But why is your hair still like this? Is your hair damaged beyond repair?"

All of a sudden, he felt genuine pity for Zi Xuan, who had been injured, beaten, and then injured and beaten again... going through such a vicious cycle. Thinking about his own miserable experiences these past days, he sighed and said, "Forget it, I won't blast you with the Five-thunder Righteous Method this time. You should take some time to look after your hair."

Underneath that messy hair, Zi Xuan's face, filled with the will to fight, grew increasingly solemn. The people from Four Treasures Peak were becoming more and more shameless, insulting him before the fight even started. What did "not using the Five-thunder Righteous Method" mean? It clearly indicated they looked down on him, that they would hold back against him.

"You, go back. Call your senior brother and sister," Zi Xuan waved his hand dismissively, not wanting to fight Little Bei Yan. Although this chubby boy was from the Four Treasures Peak, he was the weakest among them, and still a child at that, winning over him would bring no honor.

"The way you talk has a problem. People like you are usually the villains, and moreover, the kind that don't live past three episodes," Xiang Zi Yu walked out from inside, pointing at Zi Xuan and saying, "However, it is because of villains like you that protagonists like me appear so strong. You want to fight? Seek me out."

Previously, when the three of them fought the Hidden Dragon Three Sons, he was the only one who had not had his fill. He fought against people who were already injured and hurt further, which left no room for him to exert himself fully.

Even though he had been sparring with his senior sister and junior brother these days, they were fellow disciples, and he held back, never once feeling satisfied with a fight. Now that someone had finally come forward to challenge them, how could he miss out?

Today was destined to be the day he, the protagonist, would astound everyone.

Beating the Hidden Dragon Three Sons before didn't make an impactful statement, as they were already injured. But now, Zi Xuan, fully recovered and brimming with fighting spirit, came to challenge them. Defeating him would be the perfect portrayal of a protagonist's journey of growth, wouldn't it?

"Do you people from Four Treasures Peak only know how to talk big? Words are useless. Now, do you dare to step into the ring and accept my challenge?" Zi Xuan looked at Xiang Zi Yu defiantly. Although this third disciple from Four Treasures Peak wasn't the brightest, he was the most arrogant one. He would start by defeating him.

In truth, the person he most wanted to challenge was Yan You Rong, for he knew she possessed the Grieving Anger Dragon Blade of the third generation Sect Leader True Person. But now, he also possessed a divine weapon.

After witnessing Li Ke's breakthrough and gaining insight ten days prior, he visited the Divine Soldier Tomb. There, he too resonated with a divine weapon and obtained one for himself.

Although his divine weapon was not one of a Sect Leader True Person, it belonged to a senior from Falling Champ Peak and matched him exceptionally well.

Xiang Zi Yu immediately laughed, "Since you're so eager to have me step on you and embark on my path as the protagonist, then I shall oblige."

As he was about to stride towards the ring, the voice of Ling Xi rang out from behind.

"Wait..." Ling Xi walked up from behind and stood in front of Xiang Zi Yu, staring coldly at him, "If you want to bully our Four Treasures Peak's disciples, you'll have to get past me first." Her demeanor was unwavering, stronger than she had ever been before.

Zi Xuan looked at the Senior Disciple from Four Treasures Peak and instantly recalled the humiliating scene from that day. It was her, she was the worst offender, who mocked him after her victory, saying he let her win, and that his power was insufficient, urging him to exert greater strength.

Exert greater strength, huh?

Now that his injuries had fully healed, and he was even stronger than on that day, he would soon show her just how formidable he was!

Chapter 179: Formation Map Strikes Back\_2

"If that's the case, then today, Senior Brother shall experience once more the extent of Junior Sister's Divine Skills. I'll see you on the platform," Zi Xuan said as he turned and headed toward the direction of the platform.

He had been injured that day, and the injuries were severe. During his fight with Ling Xi, he couldn't fully gauge her strength.

However, since Ling Xi was the eldest apprentice sister of Four Treasures Peak and seeing that the others from Four Treasures Peak seemed to respect her a great deal, it suggested that her abilities were likely the strongest.

It couldn't be better. Defeating the strongest opponent directly would mean overcoming all the disciples of Four Treasures Peak.

Xiang Ziyu, watching the eldest apprentice sister brimming with a fighting spirit, took a step back and said, "It's rare for the eldest apprentice sister to take the initiative to fight; as her Junior Brother, I won't compete for that opportunity. Let the eldest apprentice sister fight then. Ah, I wonder when it will be my turn, the main character, to take real action. Must our Four Treasures Peak face danger before I can turn the tides?"

After finishing his words, he sighed but found that no one around reacted to him. Looking up, he saw that everyone had already followed Ling Xi toward the platform.

"You... You people really don't understand the troubles of a main character."

As the strongest among the former Hidden Dragon Three Sons, the news that Zi Xuan was challenging the eldest apprentice sister of Four Treasures Peak spread quickly throughout the Hidden Dragon Observatory.

Even Zi Chen and Situ Fengzhan, who had not shown up for a long time, appeared one after another to head to the platform.

Almost all disciples in the Hidden Dragon Observatory were heading toward the platform.

Even the instructors and experts of the Hidden Dragon Observatory went in the direction of the platform.

For a time, the area around the Hidden Dragon Observatory's platform became busy with the gathered crowd.

"Who do you think will win this time?"

"It should be Senior Brother Zi Xuan. The people from Four Treasures Peak previously won against Senior Brother Zi Xuan because he was injured. After that, Senior Brother Zi Xuan's injuries did not heal, and they took the opportunity to challenge him, which led to his defeat.

So although they won before, it does not mean they are stronger than Senior Brother Zi Xuan. Now that Senior Brother Zi Xuan has returned to challenge, he must have fully recovered from his injuries, and the victor is bound to be Senior Brother Zi Xuan."

"Senior Brother Zi Xuan is an existence that has condensed Nine Pills!"

"It's time for the Hidden Dragon Three Sons to change as well."

Each disciple from the Hidden Dragon Observatory, when mentioning the people from Four Treasures Peak, grimaced with annoyance. They didn't have much involvement with the previous Hidden Dragon Three Sons, and frankly, it didn't matter to them who became the Hidden Dragon Three Sons.

The problem was that the people from Four Treasures Peak were shameless. Clearly, those four were already so strong, but upon arriving at the Hidden Dragon Observatory, they took advantage of the opportunity to enforce the rules and beat each of them in turn.

Such shameless people shouldn't be the Hidden Dragon Three Sons.

They hoped that everyone from Four Treasures Peak would step down from the position of the Hidden Dragon Three Sons.

On the platform, Zi Xuan and Ling Xi stood opposite each other.

"Junior Sister..." Zi Xuan was the first to speak, "this time, your Senior Brother will give it his all, and I ask that you do the same."

He deliberately emphasized the words 'give it his all,' since Ling Xi had previously mocked him, claiming he hadn't exerted his full strength. This time, he would show Ling Xi just how powerful he was when he truly gave it his all.

Ling Xi responded by taking out the Supreme Unparalleled Formation Plate that her master had just given her. She hadn't intended to use this Formation Plate, but since Senior Brother Zi Xuan said he

would give it his all, then she, too, must do the same. Otherwise, it would be a disrespect to Senior Brother Zi Xuan.

Behind her, ten Perfect Fulfillment Phenomenon Platforms, ten Perfect Fulfillment Immortal Bridges, and a Phenomenon Pill all emerged simultaneously.

Zi Xuan glanced at the plate in Ling Xi's hand and a look of surprise crossed his face. What was that? He had never seen the people from Four Treasures Peak use it before. Nonetheless, it didn't matter what it was, for today, he was certain to win.

Behind him, ten Perfectly Completed Dao Platforms, nine Immortal Bridges, and Nine Pills appeared, each one solid and well-defined. Among them, there were also three Phenomenon Dao Platforms and one Phenomenon Immortal Bridge.

Without even moving, the terrifying power he commanded caused the air around him to pulsate.

Just one look, and those in attendance began to discuss among themselves.

"With this level of solidity, Senior Brother Zi Xuan has indeed recovered."

"Look behind Senior Brother Zi Xuan, at the nine inner cores..."

"Inner cores, it seems like Senior Brother Zi Xuan doesn't have nine inner cores, he has ten!"

"That inner core, it appears somewhat illusory and has yet to solidify."

"As expected of Senior Brother Zi Xuan, the phantom of the tenth inner core is already manifesting, and it's only a matter of time before he truly condenses the tenth core."

"Senior Brother Zi Xuan has grown even stronger. Ling Xi from Four Treasures Peak has no chance of victory!"

The crowd exclaimed as they saw the faintly emerging tenth inner core behind Zi Xuan.

Amidst the exclamations from the crowd, Zi Xuan drew his hand across his waist, pulling out his belt, which in the next moment transformed into a crystal-clear longsword. Under the sunlight, it reflected starlike cold brilliance.

He gently stroked the blade and introduced it to Ling Xi across from him, "This sword is called the Azure Water Cold Light Sword, a legacy of the Thirteenth Peak Master of Falling Champ Peak. Once unsheathed, it brings intense cold across thousands of miles, freezing one's very soul with its chill."

He was unafraid to disclose the details of his Divine Weapon. He intended to openly and absolutely crush his opponent.

"Divine Weapon!"

Chapter 180: The Formation Map Shows Its Power\_3

"Senior Brother Zi Xuan has obtained another Divine Weapon."

"With this, Senior Brother Zi Xuan's strength has increased yet again."

"Speaking of which, doesn't Senior Brother Zi Xuan also have the Micro Dust Star Light Mirror? Why haven't we seen him use it for a long time?"

Upon hearing the words "Micro Dust Star Light Mirror," Zi Xuan looked resentfully at Cao Zhen. His Micro Dust Star Light Mirror was damaged during his battle with Cao Zhen and had not yet been repaired.

When Ling Xi heard Zi Xuan's words, she also raised the Array Plate in her hand and said, "This is the Unparalleled Formation Plate, bestowed by our master. Once activated, those trapped within will be eternally restrained by the Formation."

Now that Zi Xuan had introduced his Divine Weapon, naturally, she also wanted to introduce her own Array Plate. She had intended to say it was forged by her master, but remembering her master's words

about being low-key, she merely said it was bestowed by the master, without mentioning that it was forged by him.

Zi Xuan immediately laughed. Given by Cao Zhen? What kind of items could Four Treasures Peak possibly have for Ling Xi?

Array Plates, never even heard of the thing, all fancy and senseless.

Seeing that no more people were arriving, he gestured towards Ling Xi and said, "Disciple Sister, please proceed." He had already condensed nine inner cores, and the tenth was almost formed. It wouldn't make sense for him to make the first move; otherwise, if the word spread, even a victory would not be glorious.

"Senior Brother, be careful."

Ling Xi's spiritual energy circulated within her body and suddenly surged into the Unparalleled Disk she held. Instantly, the seemingly small Array Plate abruptly expanded, covering the entire arena with a vast Formation Diagram.

Zi Xuan's eyes suddenly narrowed in concentration. How... how could it feel like the entire ground had changed with the expansion of this Array Plate, as if he was standing in the middle of an Eight Trigrams Array Map? What kind of Formation was this?

A grave look appeared in his eyes.

As Ling Xi activated the Supreme Unparalleled Formation, a series of Talismans also emerged before her.

With 63 Talismans converging, though one was missing, they still formed the shape of the Eight Trigrams. The Talismans had not yet moved, but the immense pressure they exuded was like the continuously descending clouds of doom from the heavens, pressing down on the opposite side.

Ling Xi's voice followed.

"This is the Heaven and Earth Eight Trigrams Map of the second-generation Sect Leader True Person, containing the infinite variations of heaven and earth."

Around the arena, the disciples who came to watch instantly erupted in a chorus of astonished exclamations.

"The Divine Weapon of the second-generation Sect Leader True Person?"

"Crazy, just crazy! How does she have the Divine Weapon of the second-generation Sect Leader True Person!"

"These Four Treasures Peak people, who are they? Someone said before that the Second Disciple of Four Treasures Peak possesses the Divine Weapon of the third-generation Sect Leader True Person. And now, this Senior Disciple is even more ruthless, having the Divine Weapon of the second-generation Sect Leader True Person!"

"What's going on with the people of Four Treasures Peak? Why have the Divine Weapons of two Sect Leader True Persons both fallen into their hands?"

Standing among the crowd, Xiang Ziyu listened to everyone's exclamations with a disdainful expression on his face. Is that all it takes to impress them? They'll probably go mad with shock when I bring out the Divine Weapon of the Ancestral Elder of our sect.

Huh?

Something's not right.

Xiang Ziyu was taken aback and said, "The Formation Diagram released by the Senior Sister feels different from ours?"

Above the arena, as the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman emerged, below, atop the Supreme Unparalleled Formation, a brilliant light burst forth from the position of each Trigram, ascending into the sky.

Above the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman, similar rays of light shot out.

The beams of light converged and merged, the Formation Diagram and Talisman echoing each other from afar, as if they were a part of heaven and earth.

Faintly, even celestial music seemed to emanate from the skies, while the air around the arena vibrated wildly.

In the next moment, beams of light shot forth from the Formation Diagram and Talisman, landing upon Ling Xi.

Suddenly, all around Ling Xi, dazzling rays of light burst forth. From afar, she seemed like an Immortal descending into the world, even eliciting a feeling that in this realm of space, she was heaven, and she was earth!

Resonance!

Ling Xi and the entire Formation, along with the Talisman, and even heaven and earth, resonated together!

Cao Zhen, sensing the changes in the Supreme Unparalleled Formation and Ling Xi's transformation, even showed a trace of surprise on his face. He had crafted this Formation merely to enhance his disciples' combat power a bit, but in Ling Xi's hands, it had undergone such a transformation.

His Formation Diagram, although named Unparalleled, also followed the principles of the Eight Trigrams. As far as he knew, all the Formation Diagrams could not stray from the domain of the Eight Trigrams.

And the 64 Talismans of Ling Xi's Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman also evolved from the Eight Trigrams.

What was more crucial was that both the Unparalleled Formation Diagram and the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman were wielded by Ling Xi.

Ling Xi, being the Ancient Talisman Immortal Body, resonated with her body as well as the Formation Diagram and Talisman, and thus with heaven and earth.

This was akin to her combining the Formation Diagram given to her and her Talisman into a heaven and earth set, greatly enhancing the power of the Formation Diagram!

Above the arena, Zi Xuan's gaze grew increasingly serious. Just moments before, he had only sensed a change in the ground under his feet, but as Ling Xi released the Heaven and Earth Eight Trigrams Map, everything had changed, whether in the heavens or beneath the earth.

He even had an illusion that the entire world was under the control of the other party.

This...

How could this be?

Furthermore, without her even making a move, he felt that an invisible force was tightly binding him, constraining his power. He sensed that he could only exert at most about seventy percent of his usual power.

Moreover, standing there, he had an extremely unpleasant feeling, an illusion that without even engaging in combat, he was already being restrained by the opponent.