

My Master 181

Chapter 181: Formation Map Strikes Back_4

No, I can't keep standing here.

He lifted his leg to step forward, but as he took a step, that discomfort, that sense of constraint, did not diminish in the slightest.

What's going on?

Zi Xuan's complexion changed drastically, refusing to believe in the curse, he took another step to the side, yet, there was still no change.

"I don't believe this!"

Zi Xuan quickened his pace, moving rapidly around the area, but no matter how he moved, he still felt his strength tightly bound.

Below the arena, Little Beiyan pointed at Zi Xuan with a puzzled look and shouted, "What's wrong with him, hopping up and down? Does he have lice on him? And why hasn't my senior sister made a move yet? Didn't that guy let her go first?"

His location was not far from the arena, and his voice clearly reached Zi Xuan's ears.

Upon hearing this, Zi Xuan was suddenly startled, feeling that he could only exert seventy percent of his strength. If he allowed his opponent to make a move...

I can't wait any longer, I must strike first!

As for what he had said before, about letting the opponent strike first... The opponent had already released the Formation Map; that was considered making a move, so it wouldn't be going back on his word if he made a move now!

Zi Xuan frantically urged the energy within his body, and his back's Dao platform, Immortal Bridge, and inner core shook violently. The next moment, he opened his mouth and bit down hard on his tongue.

Bright red blood flowed out, shooting towards the sky. Each drop of blood was like a blooming flower, falling from the sky and covering his entire body.

"Condensing blood into flowers! The unique secret technique of Falling Champ Peak!" Someone among the instructors in the distance exclaimed in surprise.

At first glance, the technique of condensing blood into flowers looked similar to divine skills of the Demonic Path; indeed, there were people who had remarked that Disciples of Hundred Peaks Sect shouldn't cultivate this technique.

Yet Falling Champ Peak had continued to pass down this secret technique generation after generation.

It was too powerful!

Falling Champ Peak could rank thirty-second within Hundred Peaks Sect largely due to this secret technique.

Once the technique was executed, one's combat power would soar in an instant. The extent of the enhancement depended largely on the individual's cultivation base.

Of course, this secret technique also came with a severe repercussion. If one couldn't defeat the opponent shortly after using the technique, their vitality would begin to decline continuously due to the side effects.

Therefore, nobody would use condensing blood into flowers until a critical moment. Zi Xuan had actually used it immediately.

As the blood fell, Zi Xuan's aura surged dramatically, and even his inner core, which was hard to see without looking closely, became much more solid and emitted beams of light.

"Sword River Clash!"

Zi Xuan's aura peaked, and he thrust forward with the Azure Water Cold Light Sword in his hand.

The teal blade instantly burst forth with a dazzling radiance; one thrust brought forth a sensation as if a long river, stretching across the heavens and composed of countless sharp swords, was plummeting down, with the might of a simultaneous sword discharge reminiscent of an inverted waterfall or a burst dam.

Where the river cascaded, layers of frost appeared in the air.

Even the spectators around the arena felt the temperature around them plummet.

Sword River Clash was a divine skill unique to Falling Champ Peak, and the Azure Water Cold Light Sword also contained a divine skill – Cold Breath Dominance.

The Azure Water Cold Light Sword was originally a divine weapon from Falling Champ Peak's ancestors. The divine skills within it were designed to complement the sect's other divine skills.

This strike, although unable to merge the two divine skills, harmonized them in a way that the sum was greater than its parts.

When Zi Xuan lunged with his sword, triggering a power far beyond his own in an instant, his face turned pale, his brows furrowed tightly amidst his disheveled hair.

Something was off about this sword's might!

With the power he unleashed, this strike should have been even more formidable. But as he swung his sword, he felt an endless flow of Earthen energy infiltrate, significantly diminishing the sword's might.

Outside the arena, Zi Chen frowned slightly. Something was wrong!

Zi Xuan's attack was indeed formidable, but he felt that if it were him, he could perhaps withstand the assault for a moment, even if not completely block it.

However, Zi Xuan's strike had come after using the secret technique of condensing blood into flowers and with the sect's divine weapon to execute a divine skill of Falling Champ Peak.

The compounded effects meant the attack's power should have been far more substantial.

Under normal circumstances, he wouldn't have stood a chance.

He was one of the former Hidden Dragon Three Sons, bearing the title of "Earth," while Zi Xuan was "Heaven." He knew how many times he had challenged Zi Xuan, and no one understood Zi Xuan better than he did!

Thus, there was only one possibility, Zi Xuan was indeed suppressed by that Formation Map, and severely so.

On the other end of the arena, Ling Xi looked at the descending Sword River; above her head, from within the Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman, eight talisman papers rapidly flew out, converging at one point.

Suddenly, these eight talisman papers quickly enlarged, and from below, soil rose up from the earth, covering them.

In just a breath's time, the eight talisman papers had merged into the semblance of a towering mountain.

The colossal mountain seemed to stretch straight into the heavens. The Sword River's descent was halted by this mountain, unable to advance even an inch.

Below the arena the crowd was astonished; that was Zi Xuan giving his all, employing a secret technique to unleash a divine skill, yet it was completely blocked. And Ling Xi hadn't even used her divine skills, she merely used eight small talisman papers.

Chapter 182: Formation Map Unleashes Power_5

Her gigantic talisman was composed of sixty-three small talismans!

Ling Xi casually waved her left hand, easily deflecting Zi Xuan's attack, while on her right hand, streaks of purple lightning began to emerge.

The next moment, the purple lightning thundered across the sky.

Five-thunder Righteous Method!

Zi Xuan glanced at the lightning falling from the sky, trying to dodge, but no matter how fast he was, he could not outpace the lightning.

The lightning struck, sending the smell of charred debris wafting through the air.

Zi Xuan collapsed to the ground with a thud, his hair singed and standing on end, his eyes staring blankly at the sky. Wasn't it agreed upon not to use lightning? Why use it again?

Around him, the disciples watched as Zi Xuan lay on the ground, then turned to Ling Xi, who seemingly hadn't exerted much effort to win, and they were utterly astonished.

"Is it over just like that?"

"She ... She's too strong!"

"As expected of the eldest sister from Four Treasures Peak!"

"It feels like she didn't even use her full strength."

"She only used eight talismans, but what if she used all sixty-three? What then?"

"The formation map, it's the formation map that's powerful."

"Where did Four Treasures Peak get such a formation map?"

"That formation map is too terrifying, and moreover, it seems that the map isn't one of a kind. Just now, I heard the disciples from Four Treasures Peak talk, and it seems like they have the same formation maps."

"I heard it too. Why do they have such formation maps, and why are all their disciples so fearsome? Did they stumble upon some supreme treasure left by a person of great ability?"

The surrounding disciples were so shocked they couldn't find the words to express themselves. Senior Brother Zi Xuan was at the stage of Condensing Nine Pills, and he was on the brink of condensing the tenth. Even if she had ten Phenomenon Platforms and ten Phenomenon Immortal Bridges, along with a Phenomenon Pill, that would only be enough to condense one pill.

Yet a person with one pill defeated a nine-pill existence so easily without going all out, overturning all their understanding.

They even felt that even with just one Phenomenon Pill, beneath the realm of the Golden Core, Ling Xi would likely be invincible.

Little Beiyan felt his head buzzing. He suddenly realized how foolish he had been: he had previously thought the eldest sister was easy to bully and had actively sought her out for a spar. With the eldest sister's strength today, neither the second sister nor the third brother was her match.

He had to persuade his master to bring the younger apprentice sister over soon, or who knew when his days would get any better.

"Worthy of being our senior sister," Xiang Ziyu suddenly spoke, his voice filled with emotion. "The formation maps our master gave us suit senior sister so well. Combined with her divine weapon, even I would be no match for her."

Cao Zhen looked at Xiang Ziyu with surprise, finding it rare for his disciple to admit being inferior to others. It seemed his disciple's mind wasn't completely lost, and the influence of novels wasn't all that bad.

Just as these thoughts appeared in his mind, Xiang Ziyu spoke again.

"Indeed, all protagonists are like this; at the beginning, they are not the strongest among those around them, just like that Luo Feng, who also ranked only second in the genius battles.

Indeed, the path of a protagonist is such arduous, constantly surpassing others and oneself; my journey is still long."

Cao Zhen...

Forget it, let's pretend I didn't have that thought just now.

But today, Ling Xi was indeed strong; excluding himself, her title as the number one in the Alchemy Realm was assured.

Soon, Zi Xuan was carried down from the stage and taken away for treatment.

Cao Zhen was about to leave with his disciples when another acquaintance stopped them in their tracks.

Zi Chen stood in front of Four Treasures Peak's people and pointed towards the arena, "Do you wish to leave so soon? Are you interested in having a match with me?"

He knew he was not as strong as the recently defeated Zi Xuan, but he still wanted to fight.

He understood a lot just now. Although Senior Brother Zi Xuan lost, everyone could see his improvement; his defeat was only because the opponent was too strong.

Why could Senior Brother Zi Xuan improve so much? It was probably because of these defeats, one after another.

As for himself, although he had not experienced breakthroughs like Senior Brother Zi Xuan during his time healing, he had also achieved Great Perfection in the first layer of Divine Skills, and he had improved.

So, since there was an opportunity, he would fight again today, even if it meant defeat, especially because if the other party agreed to his conditions, the one who lost would definitely not be him.

Just as those who were about to leave stopped upon hearing that one of the Hidden Dragon Three Sons, Zi Chen, was issuing a challenge, onlookers paused their departure.

Upon hearing the challenge, Xiang Ziyu didn't wait for others to speak and quickly stood up, saying eagerly, "Interested? How could we not be? As expected, the path of the protagonist must be embarked upon." With that, he moved toward the stage.

He had come to Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace and entered the Hidden Dragon Observatory but hadn't had a proper battle. Today, when a good opportunity finally presented itself, it had been snatched away by the eldest sister. Now, with a chance approaching, he wouldn't let anyone else take it away.

However, Zi Chen did not move towards the stage and instead looked slowly at Xiang Ziyu and began speaking, "I admit, you are strong now, but your strength..."

He paused for a moment, giving Cao Zhen a complex look, and continued, "You have a good master who can provide you with formation maps. Your strength comes from having more powerful divine weapons. You are strong now, but I believe that in the future, I will surpass you because I have never relied on external forces or divine weapons; all that I have comes from myself."

Chapter 183: The Formation Map Displays Its Power_6

Initially, when he first lost to the person from Four Treasures Peak, it was because of the Grieving Anger Dragon Blade in Yan Yourong's hands. He was certain that if Yan Yourong hadn't had that Divine Weapon that day, the victor would surely have been him!

Xiang Ziyu rubbed his nose somewhat helplessly and said, "As expected, all villains start by saying a lot of words. After so much talk, what exactly do you want to say? Just get to the point." He didn't normally have the habit of rubbing his nose, but he noticed that those protagonists had this habit, and unconsciously, he picked it up too.

Zi Chen gestured at the arena behind him and challenged, "Do you dare to fight me without the aid of Formation Maps or Divine Weapons? Just the two of us, relying solely on our Cultivation Base and Divine Skills, and with our own strength, have a true and fair contest!"

He did want another battle, but not just to be thrashed senselessly. Considering how terrifying that Formation had been earlier, even Senior Brother Zi Xuan had been defeated. If he himself went up without a Divine Weapon, his defeat would be even more miserable, and he probably wouldn't gain any improvement that way either.

Only by fighting with one's own Cultivation Base can one improve regardless of winning or losing.

Besides, how could the people of Four Treasures Peak possibly defeat him without the aid of Divine Weapons and Formation Maps? He was, after all, an entity who had condensed Nine Pills.

Later, after defeating Xiang Ziyu, he wouldn't rest and would challenge Yan Yourong instead, for only through such trials could he sharpen himself.

Xiang Ziyu immediately became excited, "Indeed, a protagonist's battle is always so extraordinary. Fine, we shall rely solely on our Divine Skills to fight."

Cao Zhen listened to their conversation and secretly laughed. So this was Zi Chen's scheme. However, among his four disciples, Xiang Ziyu truly lacked a Divine Weapon. Before, Ai Yunqi had informed him that the prayer beads Xiang Ziyu obtained were so damaged that they couldn't unleash much power, making them as good as nonexistent.

Soon, the two climbed up to the arena.

They agreed not to use Divine Weapons, and didn't even use any weapons at all.

Zi Chen remained as elegant and detached as ever, with ten Dao platforms, nine Immortal Bridges, and nine inner cores all emerging behind him, among them two were Phenomenon Dao Platforms and one Phenomenon Bridge.

Across him, Xiang Ziyu released his ten Dao Platforms, Immortal Bridges, and one Phenomenon Pill.

Zi Chen looked up at Xiang Ziyu's Dao Platforms, Immortal Bridges, and the Xu Ying of the Phenomenon Pill, took a deep breath, and steadied his mind. Among the four disciples of Four Treasures Peak, he found Xiang Ziyu the most enigmatic. Without having exchanged a single blow, the latter's Phenomenal Xu Ying already gave him a sense of superiority, even evoking in him an impulse to kneel in reverence.

"Junior brother, make your move," Zi Chen roared, and in an instant, his body seemed to grow larger, and behind him, the Xu Ying of a Giant Ape slowly overlapped with his figure. From a distance, he appeared not as a man but as a Giant Ape, with a primordial fierceness and wildness filling the entire arena.

Below the arena, someone exclaimed softly, "From the Forty-one Peaks, Moon Picking Peak's strongest Divine Skill, 'Grey Ape Transformation's' first layer, has been achieved!"

"When Senior Brother Zi Chen previously performed the Grey Ape Transformation, the Xu Ying of the Grey Ape was clearly visible behind him. But now, the Xu Ying has completely overlapped with his body, as if it had merged into him."

"When a man becomes a Grey Ape, Senior Brother Zi Chen's Grey Ape Transformation has reached Great Perfection!"

"The strongest aspect of Grey Ape Transformation lies in the physical body. After reaching Great Perfection, it's just like the ancient Grey Apes, possessing immense strength, capable of shattering mountains and breaking cliffs!"

"Look at Xiang Ziyu, what kind of Divine Skills does he have around his body?"

Around Xiang Ziyu, a faint golden glow appeared, within which a Dragon and a Tiger Xu Ying intertwined, with distant sounds of dragon roars and tiger howls echoing.

Dragon and Tiger Golden Body!

Cao Zhen slightly frowned. The Dragon and Tiger Golden Body came from the Great Hollow Scripture, and it was even stronger than the Five-thunder Righteous Method. Although to cultivate the Dragon and Tiger Golden Body to a high level required Samadhi True Fire, it wasn't impossible to train without it, just slower.

However, Xiang Ziyu enjoyed a small advantage in everything, so his cultivation speed should not be slow. Why did it seem like his Dragon and Tiger Golden Body wasn't very strong?

After releasing the Dragon and Tiger Golden Body, Xiang Ziyu didn't use the Five-thunder Righteous Method. Instead, he stomped on the ground forcefully and charged straight toward Zi Chen.

On the western side of the arena, many had already started shaking their heads and sighing.

"Isn't Four Treasures Peak skilled in Thunder Law Divine Skills? Why isn't he using Thunder Law?"

"Is he trying to rush in for close combat?"

"Isn't this playing to the enemy's strength with his own weakness?"

"The Grey Ape Transformation is best suited for this kind of close-range battle."

Amidst the sighs of the crowd, the two had already met in the center of the arena. Zi Chen unleashed a fierce palm strike, and in an instant, gusts and energies rampaged across the arena. Although it was a human palm, the strike gave the impression of blotting out the sun, and from the air, there came sounds like mountains shattering—crackling sonic booms—as if the air itself was being crushed.

From a distance, the onlookers even felt the illusion that with this palm strike, mountains would be flattened.

Facing this astonishing palm strike, Xiang Ziyu didn't show the slightest intention to dodge.

Thump!

The giant palm struck heavily on Xiang Ziyu's chest, emitting a thunderous noise that caused everyone's ears to ache.

The Dragon and Tiger Golden Body on Xiang Ziyu's body shattered.

Cao Zhen frowned, Xiang Ziyu's Dragon and Tiger Golden Body was too weak, too weak!

After returning, he must remind these disciples to properly cultivate the Dragon and Tiger Golden Body and tell them to build up their defense before thinking of attacking.

The next moment, his eyes suddenly widened. The instant Xiang Ziyu's Dragon and Tiger Golden Body shattered, two beams of light, one black and one white, emerged around him. On these beams, there were strange characters that even he, a calligraphy expert and Immortal Cultivation theoretical Grandmaster, couldn't understand.

The two beams of light encircled his body, enveloping him completely. Zi Chen's palm smashed onto the beams of light, which only wavered slightly before the force of the palm seemed to be either devoured or completely purified, disappearing without a trace.

"What is this?"

Cao Zhen was instantly taken aback. What Divine Skill was this? Was it some chaotic demon Divine Skill that Xiang Ziyu had cultivated? Was that Divine Skill really that powerful?

Suddenly, a thought struck him.

He wouldn't be able to learn this Divine Skill if he practiced it himself, but since he was already connected to Xiang Ziyu, naturally he would know this Divine Skill as well. I want to see what this Divine Skill is called.

He instantly opened his panel to check.

Sword of Dodging: Level 30.

Five-thunder Righteous Method: Level 25.

*@&~##: Level 20.

Cao Zhen was stunned—what did this *@&~## mean? Could China Cloud not identify the Divine Skill that Xiang Ziyu was cultivating? What on earth had this kid cultivated?

Chapter 184: The Gathering of the Six Evils_1

In the realm of immortal cultivation, it was well known that the more core formations one achieved within the Alchemy Realm, the stronger one naturally became.

Perhaps, for some heavenly prides, with more Phenomenon Tao Bases, Phenomenon Immortal Bridges, and Phenomenon Pills at their disposal, they could overcome their opponents despite having fewer inner cores, bridging the gap of one or even two core formations.

If one had even more Phenomenon Tao Bases, Immortal Bridges, and inner cores, maybe they could bridge the gap of three or four core formations.

Even those heavenly prides, with stronger Divine Weapons and Divine Skills, could, remarkably, bridge the gap of five or six core formations.

If someone asked how to defeat an opponent with nine inner cores when possessing only one,

Situ Fengzhan felt he would only have one answer, in dreams.

Yet who could have imagined that a bunch like those shameless guys from Four Treasures Peak would emerge?

If someone were to ask him the same question again, he would answer, "In the case that the master of Nine Pills is injured, someone with only one pill could defeat them."

And now, after witnessing a battle today, he had yet another answer, with sufficiently powerful Divine Weapons and treasures, like a Formation Map, someone with merely one inner core could also overcome a master of Nine Pills.

As for doing so without any external assistance?

That could only happen in dreams.

Now, he felt as if he might be dreaming.

What was going on with Xiang Ziyu? Zi Chen's brother had displayed the Great Perfection version of Grey Ape Transformation, yet it couldn't break through Xiang Ziyu's defenses?

All around, one disciple after another stared blankly at the two on the stage, unable to believe what they were witnessing.

"How is Xiang Ziyu so strong?"

"Grey Ape Transformation, that's the Great Perfection level of Grey Ape Transformation. Although the Moon Picking Sun Catching's first layer, the Grey Ape Transformation, doesn't make the top ten among all Divine Skills in the Hundred Peaks Sect,

if we're talking about close-combat Divine Skills, the Grey Ape Transformation definitely ranks in the top ten. And yet, it's no match for Xiang Ziyu!"

"What Divine Skill is Xiang Ziyu using?"

"What are those black and white rays of light? Why have I never seen such Divine Skills before?"

"What are those characters above? Does anyone recognize them?"

"Zi Chen's brother can't even injure Xiang Ziyu, how is this fight supposed to go on?"

Little Beiyang listened to everyone's exclamations with a face full of disdain. What's there to be surprised about? Do you know how I've spent these days? He's only fought one battle, I spar with that third brother every day.

When I hit him, he doesn't feel it, but when he hits me, it could be deadly.

Moreover, do you think it's over?

His Divine Skill is not just about having black and white light surrounding him for protection, his physical body itself is also terrifyingly powerful. I've broken through his exterior black and white glow many times, and yet, when I finally hit him, it still doesn't affect him at all.

Cao Zhen looked at Xiang Ziyu on the stage, watching the constantly flashing black and white rays of light, gazing at the ancient characters jumping around, and the more he watched, the more astonished he became. That kid, casually practicing two Divine Skills as if they're one, could he really be that strong?

On the stage, the battle between the two continued.

Neither had resorted to any external force, and although Xiang Ziyu held the advantage, it wasn't like Ling Xi, who could defeat the opponent with just one move.

In a prolonged battle like this, normally the person with more core formations should have the upper hand. Yet this kid, Xiang Ziyu, had ten Phenomenon Tao Bases, ten Phenomenon Immortal Bridges, and even his pills were Phenomenon Pills, making his foundation incredibly solid. Moreover, his own body was that of an Ancient Immortal Body, with incredibly long and strong breath.

More importantly, Zi Chen's brother simply couldn't break through his defense.

On the stage, Xiang Ziyu had completely taken the upper hand, and the advantage was growing greater and greater.

Below the stage, the crowd understood even more clearly that there wasn't any suspense left in the battle, and that Xiang Ziyu's victory was just a matter of time.

"So strong, it feels like Xiang Ziyu's defense has reached the limit of the Foundation Establishment Realm."

"Yeah, probably only the strongest geniuses within the same realm could break through his defenses."

"Have you guys noticed that Four Treasures Peak is a bit terrifying?"

"You just realized? Although Four Treasures Peak has few disciples, each of their four disciples is more terrifying than the last."

"We won't even mention how strong their eldest disciple is. Before this, we universally thought that their Second Disciple was the strongest. And now, this Third Disciple is equally formidable, able to defeat Zi Chen's brother without relying on outside forces."

"When the Hundred Peaks rankings are remade, I wonder how much Four Treasures Peak's ranking will rise."

In the midst of everyone's sighs, on the stage, the two finally concluded their battle. This time, Zi Chen didn't need to be carried off the stage, but his bruised and swollen appearance made him look extremely wretched.

Xiang Ziyu won the battle but looked distinctly displeased as he shook his head and walked off the stage, "Why's the cheering so quiet? Guess it makes sense; this stage lacks the high-level presence of the Sect Leader True Person to watch the battle, so this fight doesn't count as my first real battle."

When will my first battle on the path to rise even begin?"

"With your intelligence, you're the main character?" Cao Zhen, upon hearing Xiang Ziyu's monologue, immediately retorted irritably, "Are you stupid? They say no treasures, and you just go along with it? What's wrong with using treasures? Aren't treasures a part of your own strength?"

Next time, don't be so brainless. Use whatever you have, go all out with your combat power, got it?"

Chapter 185: The Six Villains Gather_2

"This is not..." Xiang Ziyu was about to argue back when he felt two sharp gazes from both sides.

The eldest senior sister and the second senior sister...

Especially Yan Yourong, who had already made a move to draw her sword.

Xiang Ziyu wisely nodded his head.

Only then did Cao Zhen satisfactorily pat Xiang Ziyu's shoulder and said, "Let's go back first, and I'll give you something else."

From the battle just now, he too realized a problem: Zi Chen didn't have a Divine Weapon, and what if Zi Chen had been fighting against Zi Xuan, who wielded a Divine Weapon?

If others had it and his disciple did not, it would be a great disadvantage.

Luckily, among the Divine Weapons he had previously, there were some that he hadn't sold yet, which he could now give to Xiang Ziyu.

Inside the residence of the Four Sons of the Hidden Dragon, Xiang Ziyu looked at the spear before him and shook his head vigorously, "Master, give me a different Divine Weapon, I don't want this one."

"You don't want it?" Cao Zhen frowned and said, "This is the Wind Overlord Spear of the sixth-generation Peak Master from Sky Overriding Peak, ranked eleventh. Among the Divine Weapons in my possession, it is one of the strongest. You still don't want it? What do you want then?"

He had also fulfilled the spear's last wish, which belonged to a passionate calligraphy enthusiast. That predecessor's dying wish was to obtain a top-tier piece of calligraphy.

Cao Zhen casually wrote a few characters and burned them in front of the spear to fulfill its last wish, making it the simplest last wish he ever completed.

"A sword or a knife is fine, or even some particularly strange Divine Weapon," Xiang Ziyu said with disdain, pointing at the spear: "Look, what kind of protagonist's Divine Weapon is a spear?"

"Haven't you heard the saying: 'The stranger the weapon, the quicker the death!'" Cao Zhen, not wanting to deal with Xiang Ziyu any longer, turned back to the rest and said, "You four, cultivate your Divine Skills well here. Each person must cultivate at least ten kinds of Divine Skills, all to the utmost limit."

How could he win effortlessly if these disciples did not diligently cultivate their Divine Skills?

"Alright, I still have some matters to attend to, so I will leave first. You all practice well." Cao Zhen checked, and all four disciples had become the authorities in this place. With nothing for him to do here, he simply left. Today he still had to attend the banquet at Vermilion Bird Peak.

"Master, hurry and bring little junior sister here." Little Beiyan was still eagerly looking forward to his little junior sister, but his master had left without looking back.

Cao Zhen rode the Immortal Cloud Carriage, quickly returning to Four Treasures Peak, to the alchemy area.

Pushing open the door, a waft of fragrance hit his nose immediately.

"Master, you're back." Yi Sheng, seeing Cao Zhen return, spoke with self-reproach, "This disciple is useless, unable to suppress the fragrance of this pill."

"You've done very well," Cao Zhen glanced into the Pill Furnace and a look of surprise flashed in his eyes. He had entrusted the Pill Furnace to Yi Sheng because even if he made a mistake, Cao Zhen could rectify it. But now, the pill had taken shape. Yi Sheng's first attempt at creating a Nirvana Pill had been flawless.

His disciple's talent for alchemy was indeed exceptional.

"Disciple, trust your master, you're a natural-born alchemy prodigy. Your master originally thought to make adjustments after coming back to fix the issues you encountered these days. But unexpectedly, you did so well, the pill has already formed. Now, only the final pill drawing remains."

Different from other disciples like Xiang Ziyu, who needed to be kept in check from time to time to prevent them from becoming too arrogant, little Yi Sheng, who had been so proud, had become extremely insecure after coming to Four Treasures Peak. What she needed was not to be knocked down a peg, but to be praised.

Cao Zhen squatted down by the Pill Furnace and said, "Come, let your master teach you how to draw the pill. Watch carefully, when drawing the pill..."

This time, the materials costing twelve thousand Spirit Stones could only produce one Nirvana Pill. Pill drawing was extremely critical; on a normal day, he would have let Yi Sheng draw the pill. But if she failed this time, the pill would be lost, so he had to draw it himself.

Soon, a pill flew out from the Pill Furnace.

The pill was white all over, with hints of red lines running through it, vaguely resembling a phoenix spreading its wings to soar. A rich life essence emanated from the pill.

"Master, this is?"

"Top-grade. To be able to craft a top-grade pill on the first attempt surpasses what even your master imagined. Yi Sheng, after we attend the Golden Core Club, I will prepare more materials for you and teach you more alchemy techniques."

Vermilion Bird Peak was hosting the banquet because Li Ke had achieved Great Perfection with her Golden Core, hence the banquet was dubbed the Golden Core Club.

This was Cao Zhen's first visit to the Top Ten Peaks. He had considered Little Zen Peak quite impressive when he visited before, but now, compared to Vermilion Bird Peak, it fell far short.

Vermilion Bird Peak seemed like a gigantic divine bird from afar. At the bottom of the mountain, two fiery-red pillars on either side of the gate each showcased a vividly carved Vermilion Bird.

After entering Vermilion Bird Peak, Cao Zhen discovered that everywhere were buildings related to the Vermilion Bird. Even the Spirit Fields were cultivated into the shape of a Vermilion Bird.

Perhaps it was because the Peak Master of Vermilion Bird Peak was a woman, but most of the disciples he saw within Vermilion Bird Peak were female, with very few male disciples.

Under the guidance of a fair-faced female disciple, Cao Zhen and Yi Sheng soon arrived at an incredibly immense courtyard.

As soon as he stepped into the courtyard, another female disciple announced loudly, "From Four Treasures Peak, Peak Master Cao arrives with his disciples to offer congratulations."

Chapter 186: The Six Villains Gather_3

As the words were spoken, Cao Zhen's eyes brightened immediately, mainly because he saw two red clouds approaching from the opposite side—the fiery hue was so bright it was impossible to ignore.

Tu Zhuque had clearly dressed up for the occasion today, her hair coiled into a bun with delicate, cloud-like wisps adorned with fiery red specks, and she even applied a subtle makeup to her face. Yet, her outfit from head to toe, accessories like hairpins, earrings, and bracelets, were all of the same fiery red color.

Li Ke, standing by her side, wasn't donning any ornaments, but was likewise clad in red from head to toe. Together, the pair appeared as two flames drifting over.

Cao Zhen had to admit it, "You really do love the color red."

Tu Zhuque was in an exceptionally good mood today. Upon seeing Cao Zhen approaching, she even revealed a smile on her delicately made-up face, "I thank Peak Master Cao for gracing us with your presence."

She had indeed heard that Cao Zhen had been quite notorious these past days, yet today was the day they at Vermilion Bird Peak hosted a banquet. His presence was an honor, and she could not afford to greet him with a cold countenance. Besides, it wasn't their Spirit Stones at Vermilion Bird Peak that Cao Zhen had swindled.

Cao Zhen bowed slightly with a sincere congratulation, "Congratulations, Chief Tu." He felt that among all those offering congratulations, none could match the genuineness of his own.

The one who had made a breakthrough was Li Ke. The higher Li Ke's cultivation, the more experience he gained. How could he not be delighted?

With that, he turned his head to look toward Li Ke.

Li Ke didn't seem as happy as her master. When she saw Cao Zhen arrive, she even paused for a moment. His reputation hadn't been so good lately, and she thought he might hide away from the public. Yet here he was.

Tu Zhuque exchanged mere pleasantries with Cao Zhen, her gaze naturally falling upon Yi Sheng who followed behind him. She couldn't help but puff up her chest a bit, "Little girl, did you see that? My disciple is now at Perfect Completion Golden Core, and moreover, all ten Golden Cores are of exceptional manifestation!"

The fact that many from Hundred Peaks came to celebrate was a testament to their glory.

If you had joined Vermilion Bird Peak, perhaps one day in the future, you'd have your moment of splendor as well.

But you chose Four Treasures Peak instead—what could they offer you? Are you regretting your decision now?

If you have regrets, it's... not too late yet.

Tu Zhuque was already pondering in her heart. It wasn't unheard of for disciples within the Hundred Peaks Sect to change allegiances. Seeing Li Ke's glory and achievements today, how could Yi Sheng not be moved?

Later, she would just need to display the strength of Vermilion Bird Peak, and wouldn't she then leave Four Treasures Peak?

If Yi Sheng were to join Vermilion Bird Peak, she would simply compensate Four Treasures Peak afterwards.

This was something worth planning carefully.

As she mused, another voice came from the entrance.

"Floating Snow Peak, Snow Peak Master arrives with the disciples to offer congratulations."

Tu Zhuque's heart stirred, and she looked at Cao Zhen with an apologetic face, "Peak Master Cao, please excuse me..."

Cao Zhen understood immediately, "Chief Tu, please go about your business, don't mind me."

"Qian Ru, lead Peak Master Cao to his seat," Tu Zhuque commanded a female disciple on the side, apologetically gestured toward Cao Zhen, and turned to walk away. She let Cao Zhen sit by himself first;

given the rank of Four Treasures Peak and Cao Zhen's reputation, it seemed no one would pay him much attention. This way, Yi Sheng could better feel the decline of Four Treasures Peak.

Comparing that to the Vermilion Bird Peak, she would certainly understand how to choose.

Cao Zhen and Yi Sheng were soon led by the female disciple to an empty stone table at the edge of the area. The table, made of stone, had a jade placard inscribed with the words "Four Treasures Peak." Similarly arranged on the table were fine wines and a variety of exquisite foods; such tables could be found throughout the courtyard, most of which were already filled with guests.

Clearly, the people of Hundred Peaks Sect held great respect for Vermilion Bird Peak.

Then, from the direction of the door, another loud voice sounded, and by its tone, it was much more significant than when Cao Zhen and the master of Floating Snow Peak had arrived.

"Sect Leader, the True Person, arrives with felicitations!"

With those words, all around, guests rose to their feet, looking towards the direction of the doorway.

At the entrance, Tu Zhuque's smile could no longer be contained as it spread across her face. Even the Sect Leader was attending their Golden Core Club, such honor it brought to Vermilion Bird Peak!

Where was Chen Qingluan? Why hadn't she arrived yet?

Watch closely! The Sect Leader himself has come. Does your disciple compare?

In the vast courtyard, many looked on as the Sect Leader approached, filled with admiration.

"The Sect Leader himself has arrived; this honor is truly vast!"

"The key is that Li Ke has really impressed. She's achieved Perfect Completion Golden Core and each of the ten Golden Cores shows exceptional manifestation, which is so rare."

"Indeed, there's no shortage of individuals with ten Tao Bases. However, those with ten Immortal Bridges are much fewer, and those who achieved Core Formation with ten Golden Cores are even scarcer. After all, as the Cultivation Base continues to rise, reaching Great Perfection becomes increasingly difficult.

Ten Golden Cores are a rarity, very rare indeed. As for those who hold ten Golden Cores, each with exceptional manifestation, they can only be a genius among geniuses, a true Heavenly Pride."

At a stone table, three individuals dressed in Peak Master attire sat together. One of them, who appeared a bit older, spoke slowly, "The Sect Leader's attendance might also be linked to the approaching Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth."

Chapter 187: The Six Villains Gather_4

One of the Peak Masters nearby nodded slightly and said, "Indeed, when the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth arrives, all those above the Golden Core Stage will slumber.

And those at the Great Perfection of the Golden Core Stage will naturally become the strongest fighters during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, especially since Li Ke has a full set of ten extraordinary Golden Cores.

By the time the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth arrives, she will undoubtedly be one of the strongest. By then, we will need to rely on her to protect our Hundred Peaks Sect."

"Yes, and it's not just the Sect Master - many Peak Masters who came here share the same idea. They want to get close to Li Ke, hoping that she will protect their younger generations when the time comes.

After all, when the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth comes, all those above the Golden Core Stage will be asleep, and all major Sects will be no exception. That will be a time when even the strongest Sect might face unexpected events, and our Hundred Peaks Sect is no exception."

The slightly older Peak Master continued with a sigh, "Take the Cloud Sea Sect, for example. It was once so glorious, not any less prominent than our Hundred Peaks Sect. But because of an accident in the last

Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, their Sect was invaded, and they suffered heavy losses, from which they have not recovered to this day."

"And the Cloud Sea Sect isn't even the worst case. White Maple Sect, which is on par with our Hundred Peaks Sect, was wiped out during the last Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth!

When the experts are asleep, anything can happen, so geniuses like Li Ke with extraordinary Golden Cores at Great Perfection are increasingly valued."

This time, the Golden Core Club at Vermilion Bird Peak attracted so many people, with one Peak Master after another arriving. Besides offering their congratulations, those well-acquainted would gather to chat.

Yet, not a single person visited Cao Zhen's spot, nor had he seen anyone from the Seven Star Peak - he guessed that Deng Qixing had the same idea as him, not wanting to spend money, hence he didn't come.

He was happy to enjoy the quiet on his own, picking up a grape and popping it into his mouth: "Disciple, don't just watch, eat first. We can always ask for more after finishing. This meal costs ten thousand two Spirit Stones, we should at least eat our way to recouping the cost."

Not far away, people from other peaks watching Cao Zhen, who had been eating non-stop since he arrived, showed disdain on their faces.

"Has Four Treasures Peak never seen food before? Look, who else eats the moment they arrive?"

"A peak ranked at one hundred, perhaps they really haven't seen such delicacies."

"Stop laughing, haven't you heard about Cao Zhen's disciple causing a huge commotion at Hidden Dragon Immortal Palace? The Hidden Dragon Three Sons are now his disciples; we need to be careful with Four Treasures Peak when the Hundred Peaks are re-ranked soon."

At these words, those around fell into silence. The seating arrangement at Vermilion Bird Peak was essentially based on the rankings of the Hundred Peaks, and those seated nearby were from peaks ranked in the nineties and eighties.

Cao Zhen didn't care about what others thought of him; he just quietly ate. While he was eating, a voice came from behind him.

BeiChen Ying grasped Cao Zhen's arm and started walking towards the distance, "Little brother Cao, you're here too. Why are you alone? Come on, come with me. I'll introduce some friends to you."

"Friends?"

Cao Zhen followed behind BeiChen Ying with skepticism, inwardly disdainful. It's not that I look down on you, but do you actually have friends in the Hundred Peaks Sect?

Well, maybe I count as one, but who else could there be?

After a few steps, BeiChen Ying stopped in front of a table where three people were seated.

He really has friends?

Cao Zhen glanced at the nameplate on the stone table.

Purple Dawn Peak?

His friends are from Purple Dawn Peak? Purple Dawn Peak, ranked eighty-eight in the Hundred Peaks Sect, is also considered one of the weaker peaks.

While he was pondering, BeiChen Ying pulled him over like showcasing a treasured item, proudly introduced him to the trio, "This is the little brother Cao Zhen I mentioned. Little brother, let me introduce them to you one by one."

BeiChen Ying pointed to a man seated in the place of honor, slightly thin, dressed in a white robe, and exuding an air of a celestial being. "This is Elder Ru Wenlin from Law Transmission Immortal Palace."

Cao Zhen hurriedly clasped his hands and greeted, "Greetings to Elder Ru."

Law Transmission Immortal Palace is extremely important in the whole of the Hundred Peaks Sect, as it directly impacts the inheritance of the Sect!

While each of the hundred peaks in the Hundred Peaks Sect has its own tradition, these are only taught to disciples within the peak and are strictly forbidden from being disclosed. However, some traditions within the Hundred Peaks Sect can be taught to every disciple, and these are managed by the Law Transmission Immortal Palace.

Ru Wenlin looked very refined, and upon hearing Cao Zhen's greeting, he waved his hand and said, "There's no need to call me Elder; just address me casually."

In his manner of speaking and acting, he exuded so much elegance it made one wonder how he could become friends with BeiChen Ying.

BeiChen Ying continued and pointed to one of the three, a woman, "This is my second sister, Elder Zhong Xinyi from the Protector Immortal Palace."

"Hello, Elder Zhong," Cao Zhen said, casting a glance at Zhong Xinyi. He couldn't help but inwardly praise her for her size, which was probably comparable to Ling Xi's, and her dressing style was indeed very bold.

Zhong Xinyi slightly lifted her head to look at Cao Zhen, her beautiful eyes rolling slightly. Her eyebrows lifted gently, and she said with a coy laugh, "Hasn't big brother already said, there is no need for formality? Little brother, why do you call her Elder again? You make her sound old. Isn't it better to call her sister?"

Chapter 188: Gathering of the Six Villains_5

Cao Zhen couldn't help but clasp his fists again and shouted, "Elder Sister Zhong."

Zhong Xinyi pouted in dissatisfaction, her bright red lips parting slightly, "Didn't you say 'sister'? How did it change back to 'Elder Sister'?"

Her voice was enchanting, seemingly softening one's very bones, prompting Cao Zhen to hurriedly look towards BeiChen Ying at his side, silently seeking help. This Elder Zhong seemed to charm souls with just a frown or smile—unbearable, truly unbearable.

BeiChen Ying caught Cao Zhen's glance, laughed with a strange heh-heh, and then said, "Second Sister already said so, aren't you going to call her that?"

Damn!

Cao Zhen really wanted to slap BeiChen Ying out of there—all just to make me call her sister, I...

"Good day, Sister Zhong." For the third time, Cao Zhen changed his form of address for Zhong Xinyi. Was calling a beautiful woman 'sister' a loss? You're just not giving Spirit Stones, if I call you 'sister,' will you believe that if you offer a hundred taels of Spirit Stones, I could make you kneel and cry out begging me to stop?

"That's better," laughed Zhong Xinyi with a tinkling bell-like sound.

BeiChen Ying then turned to introduce the petite woman sitting at the end of the table, "This is Fourth Sister, Elder Li Lingwei of the Law Enforcement Immortal Palace."

"Elder Li." Cao Zhen greeted her promptly, knowing well that the most troubling encounter for everyone at the Hundred Peaks Sect was meeting with someone from the Law Enforcement Immortal Palace.

"What 'Elder'?" Li Lingwei frowned, stood up abruptly, stepping on a stone stool with one foot, and standing on the ground with the other, hands on her hips, holding a wine cup in one hand, looking up at the much taller Cao Zhen and shouted, "Do I look that old to you?"

Cao Zhen was at a loss for words—you yourself just called yourself old, can you blame me?

And, is this really a person from the Law Enforcement Immortal Palace? Don't people from there always have a cold expression, a face of rigidity?

Is BeiChen Ying just fooling me?

And that Elder Zhong, I now have my doubts if she is really from the Protective Immortal Palace. This is clearly Purple Dawn Peak's place, why aren't there any Purple Dawn Peak's people here?

But then, I've never heard of Purple Dawn Peak having such odd folks either.

Among these few people, only Elder Ru seems normal; the rest don't seem normal at all.

Having said that, BeiChen Ying then pulled Cao Zhen to sit down, and while sitting, said with sympathy, "What a pity that Third Brother Wu Jinhuan isn't here; otherwise, you would have met all the brothers and sisters of the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks."

The Five Evils of Hundred Peaks...

Cao Zhen immediately looked at Ru Wenlin—the one who seemed even more scholarly than a teacher from the Taoist Institution was also one of the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks, the leader of the Five Evils?

The Five Evils of Hundred Peaks had a notorious reputation, but Cao Zhen indeed had no impression of them. When he first met BeiChen Ying, even after knowing his name, he had no idea that BeiChen Ying was one of the Five Evils.

If they were the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks, then hogging a table like this was quite normal after all.

And then...

Wu Jinhuan... Why does that name sound familiar? It seems I've heard it somewhere... Oh, I remember now; didn't Ling Xi say that one of her Heaven and Earth Bagua Talismans was taken by someone named Wu Jinhuan?

The last Talisman is in his hands? If I want to get hold of it, I wonder how easy it will be.

Although I have a good relationship with BeiChen Ying, I don't know Wu Jinhuan.

However, it seems that the Five Evils all get along quite well; with this in mind, it seems there might be an opportunity.

After thinking about it, Cao Zhen tentatively asked, "I wonder why I have not seen Elder Wu?" Since everyone else is an elder, it seems this Wu Jinhuan is also an elder.

BeiChen Ying answered offhandedly, "Who knows what that guy is up to, always so secretive." After saying this, he suddenly came to a realization and looked at Cao Zhen with a strange expression, asking, "Are you looking for him for something?"

From what he knew about Cao Zhen, if Cao Zhen had nothing specific in mind, he would certainly not inquire about Wu Jinhuan, especially if Wu Jinhuan hadn't come.

"I do have a little matter," Cao Zhen said with a smile. "I heard that Elder Wu has a Talisman that is one of the True Person Former Sect Leader's Heaven and Earth Bagua Talismans?"

"He does have such a Talisman in his hands," chimed in Zhong Xinyi. "That Talisman does indeed seem to belong to the second generation Sect Leader True Person, but he said that it's not very useful. It can't be used to fight nor to trap people; instead, it can serve as a small Qiankun Bag, and so he just uses it to hold trash."

As she spoke, she casually picked up a strawberry that was about the size of four or five cherries, popping it into her mouth. Perhaps the strawberry was too large, as some of its edges stained her lips. She then extended her tongue, gently licked her lips, and her movements were indescribably seductive.

Zhong Xinyi gently licked her lips once, then a second time, and chuckled, "Does it look good?"

Cao Zhen choked up momentarily; how am I supposed to answer this—should I say it looks good or not? Are the buns really that big? Are the strawberries really that white? You can't blame me; I'm just having a normal conversation with you, looking at you normally.

If someone else—any normal man—were here, they'd also look, just like everyone else at this table...

Ru Wenlin didn't look, which is normal; a character akin to a great scholar isn't like ordinary people.

As for BeiChen Ying... he certainly...

Cao Zhen glanced at BeiChen Ying who, ever since sitting down, had been seriously gazing at the stone table, and suddenly realized that this guy BeiChen Ying had not taken a careful look towards Zhong Xinyi since sitting down.

This...

Cao Zhen also didn't answer and, bracing himself, counter-asked, "Trash?"

Chapter 189: The Gathering of the Six Evils_6

"It's not trash," Ru Wenlin spoke up to clear Cao Zhen's confusion, saying, "Like surplus materials from brewing or refining—why do you ask about such things?"

His voice was unrushed and unhurried, carrying with it a feeling like a breath of spring air that made Cao Zhen wonder how Ru Wenlin could possibly be one of the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks.

"It's like this—I have a disciple who has some use for it. So, I was thinking if there's a chance to use something else to exchange with Fourth Brother for that talisman."

"Exchange what exchange," Li Lingwei slammed the table, her voice full of boldness, "That talisman is useless in the hands of Third Brother too. You team up with us to earn a big score, and I'll get it for you."

"You're right," Zhong Xinyi nodded with a smile, "The magic contest you played with Fifth Brother previously was quite good. You made quite a sum, didn't you?"

Fifth Brother got his hands on such a good deal and didn't even tell us, hogging it all to himself. This time, you can't keep it all to yourself.

Tell us your bottom line. When it's time for Hundred Peaks to reshuffle the rankings, how high can Four Treasures Peak surge? Several of us will join forces, place a hefty bet, and also rake in some spirit stones.

As long as we make a profit, I guarantee that Third Brother will obediently hand the talisman over to me."

Beichen Ying's eyes sparkled with excitement as he shouted, "Yes, let's call on Third Brother and strike a big one together. Speaking of which, it's been a long time since the few of us have joined forces to... to... uh... perform the righteous deed of exorcising demons and defending the path."

"Exorcising demons and defending the path? You guys?" A mocking voice chimed in from the side.

Cao Zhen looked up at the sound, only to find an elderly man with graying hair walking over from the side, dressed not in any garments that signified status, but in an unremarkably common gray robe. Cao Zhen had never seen this old man before.

Beichen Ying immediately protested, "What? Can't we exorcise demons and defend the path?"

The elder ignored Beichen Ying completely, clearly not taking him seriously, adopting an air of someone who had seen it all before. He said to Cao Zhen with grave sincerity, "You're a Peak Master of the Hundred Peaks Sect, aren't you? Why would you mix with these people?"

Is there a single one among them who is a good egg? Besides, each of them has no strings attached, but you are a Peak Master. Getting involved with them, you will be the only one to suffer in the end. Who knows, one day, they might even deceive you."

Cao Zhen regarded the old man curiously. The old man was clearly looking down on the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks, yet the Five Evils had only said a word and did not act out at once, which surely meant that this old man's background was not insignificant—at the very least, it proved that he was not afraid of the Evils.

A man nearby caught the attention of the conversation and said, "Elder Shen, you might have been in seclusion for a while and are unaware of certain matters. This Cao Zhen, Peak Master Cao, has a reputation now that's hardly better than that of the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks."

Cao Zhen turned to look at the one who spoke; he did not recognize him.

Walking with him and having kept silent until now, Yi Sheng gently nudged Cao Zhen and whispered, "This person is called Liu Zhixing, the chief disciple from Ninety Peaks' Revolving Thought Peak, Revolving Platform Peak. He has always been exclusively loyal to Little Zen Peak."

Cao Zhen immediately understood—it's Little Zen Peak's lackey. His jumping out was too typical; aren't all those big monks like that? Letting others speak for them while they act like the good guys.

Elder Shen looked at Liu Zhixing with a puzzled expression and asked, "What has happened?"

"Elder Shen, you don't know, but previously Cao Zhen obtained some divine weapons from the Divine Soldier Tomb..."

"Yes, he is shameless. I have never seen a Peak Master like that..."

"What he... what he has done, there's no difference from the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks."

All around, disciples one after another started talking, revealing everything they knew about Cao Zhen selling divine weapons and deceiving others with claims of fulfilling last wishes to acquire spirit fields.

Cao Zhen looked at the people chattering from all sides and couldn't understand, I haven't offended you, have I? Haven't swindled your money, have I? Why are all of you coming out and shouting?

Do I really look that disagreeable to others?

Elder Shen's face grew uglier the more he listened, and when he heard everything, he stretched out a hand, pointing at Cao Zhen and shouting, "You... how could you do such things? Those were our predecessors, do you know how much they have contributed to our Hundred Peaks Sect?"

You fulfilled their last wishes, which is a good thing, but why would you use their wishes as a pretext to deceive? And you sold their divine weapons? You... you infuriate me!

Not to mention that fulfilling the predecessors' last wishes was because you were able to obtain their divine weapons. Even if you couldn't have obtained the divine weapons, as a junior, shouldn't you fulfill the wishes of your seniors?

Don't tell me they weren't seniors of Four Treasures Peak. In our Hundred Peaks Sect, from peak to peak we share one common root, and every peak's seniors are our seniors; between peaks, we should all be assisting each other, not acting like you do.

If I were you and discovered I couldn't use the divine weapons I found, I would personally deliver the divine weapons to those in need, not for a spirit stone or two!"

"Right, what you said is too correct, no fault at all. We of the Hundred Peaks Sect share one common root and indeed should help each other," Cao Zhen looked earnestly at Elder Shen and said, "You mentioned you would give the divine weapons to those in need. It just so happens you've spoken to my heart. In Four Treasures Peak, let alone divine weapons, we barely have any spirit stones now. I wonder if you could give some spirit stones to me? Our Four Treasures Peak really is in dire need of spirit stones."

"You..." Elder Shen opened his mouth, intending to speak, but he didn't know what to say for a moment. Cao Zhen looked very, very sincere in asking him this question, not at all like someone causing trouble. What could he say in response?

Especially when he had just stated he would give divine weapons to those in need, and Cao Zhen bluntly declared that Four Treasures Peak was in need of spirit stones.

To give or not to give?

Elder Shen was left feeling quite vexed.

On the side, those who had just spoken hastily said, "Elder Shen, don't take it seriously. Peak Master Cao here is somewhat dull-witted. Moreover, he's been led astray by the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks. As someone so obtuse and stubbornly principled, once corrupted, even when doing wrong, he believes he's in the right."

"Indeed, Elder Shen, you need not bother with him," they said, quickly leading Elder Shen away.

Watching Elder Shen leave somewhat discomfited, Beichen Ying burst into laughter. Turning to the rest of the Evils with a smug look, he said, "I told you this kid was not bad, right? What do you think? Should we bring this kid into the fold?"

Turning to Cao Zhen, he asked, "From today onward, how about we call you Little Sixth Son?"

Chapter 190: Accidental Focus_1

The "Five Evils of the Hundred Peaks Sect" had existed for many years, and everyone had grown accustomed to the term "Five Evils of Hundred Peaks."

All of a sudden, the "Five Evils of Hundred Peaks" became the "Six Evils of Hundred Peaks," and to everyone's surprise, they didn't feel the slightest bit uncomfortable; it seemed as if it was only natural.

"I've always said that Cao Zhen was close to Beichen Ying. His becoming the sixth evil is nothing surprising," someone said.

"A Peak Master becoming one of the Six Evils, truly a disgrace to his ancestors," another remarked disdainfully.

"Our Hundred Peaks Sect has actually produced such six individuals."

"Alas, times have changed..."

Cao Zhen, hearing the mocking voices around him, didn't care at all and sat down beside Beichen Ying. What did the terms "Five Evils" or "Six Evils" of Hundred Peaks matter? In this day and age, what use was reputation? As long as there were benefits, what did it matter if people called him one of the "Six Evils of Hundred Peaks"?

By becoming one of the "Six Evils," he at least had an easier time obtaining the last of the sixty-four Ling Xi Talismans from Wu Jinhuan.

"Azure Pheasant Peak's Peak Master Chen, bringing her Disciple Qu Qingqing and the Four Extremes Sect's Disciple Shi Xiaolou, has arrived to give congratulations," announced a voice.

Suddenly, a loud shout came from the direction of the entrance, second only to the volume of the arrival of the Sect Leader himself.

In the courtyard, everyone's gaze turned towards the entrance.

Within the entire Hundred Peaks Sect, who didn't know that Vermilion Bird Peak and Azure Pheasant Peak, these two peaks among the top ten, were always in competition? The Peak Masters of the two peaks had been rivals for a lifetime. Initially, when they were both disciples, they competed in who had the higher cultivation base. Later, when they both became the Peak Masters of their respective peaks, they began to compete through their disciples.

Even many said that Chief Tu Zhuque organized the Golden Core Club just to provoke Peak Master Chen Qingluan—the main guest has finally arrived, and the drama begins.

At the entrance, the Peak Masters of Wonderful Pen Peak and Immortal Pen Peak were busy congratulating Chief Tu Zhuque and Li Ke, attempting to ingratiate themselves. Upon hearing the words "Azure Pheasant Peak," they hesitated for not even a moment, and quickly spoke up.

"Chief Tu, please go ahead with your business first," they said.

"Chief Tu, we'll head inside first."

Chief Tu Zhuque's eyes had already fixed on the three individuals who were approaching from the door.

Chen Qingluan's makeup was immaculate, wearing a long, green dress, she seemed like a fairy stepped out of a painting, with a gentle smile on her face as she moved in an unusually composed and elegant manner.

From afar, many were already whispering among themselves.

"Peak Master Chen also has this side to her?"

"You're fussing over nothing. The last time, during her Disciple Qu Qingqing's Taoist companionship ceremony, Peak Master Chen was just as elegant."

"It's not just Peak Master Chen. When Chief Tu attended the ceremony, she dressed to the nines and stole quite a bit of the spotlight from Peak Master Chen. Now, it seems Peak Master Chen has come to steal the show from Chief Tu," someone else commented.

"They're not trying to outshine each other just for the sake of it. You probably don't know the Peak Masters' favorite phrase.

'I, Tu Zhuque (Chen Qingluan), have never been inferior to anyone in my life!' This statement is merely a pointed reference to each other," explained another voice.

"Is that the one behind Peak Master Chen, Qu Qingqing's Taoist companion, Shi Xiaolou?" someone asked.

"That's right. Among the Four Extremes of the Four Extremes Sect—Calligraphy, Painting, Poetry, and Music—Shi Xiaolou is known for both Calligraphy and Painting, earning him the nickname 'Little Dual Extremes.' He is quite famous among the younger generation."

"Qu Qingqing is also outstanding among the younger generation of our Hundred Peaks Sect. The two of them making Taoist companions is truly a good match," said another.

"A fine match indeed, this is what true fate looks like."

"Shi Xiaolou truly has an impressive appearance."

Hearing the praises of the crowd not far away, Chen Qingluan's smile became even more radiant. She congratulated Chief Tu Zhuque, saying, "Congratulations are in order for Li Ke's breakthrough to the Perfect Completion Golden Core Stage."

Chief Tu Zhuque's eyebrows rose slightly. What did she mean, 'congratulations are in order'? If you're going to congratulate, then congratulate properly. Chen Qingluan must be jealous—that's for certain.

Feeling delighted, she replied, "Indeed, congratulations are due, but not just for Vermilion Bird Peak, but for our entire Hundred Peaks Sect. After all, our Li Ke has fully dedicated himself to cultivation and has finally achieved Perfect Completion Golden Core Stage. When the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth arrives and the darkest moments that follow our slumber begin, those few decades of utmost chaos will rely on our Li Ke."

As she spoke, Chief Tu looked over her shoulder at Qu Qingqing and Shi Xiaolou standing together, her tone carrying a hint of sarcasm, "It's just a pity that your Azure Pheasant Peak's Qu Qingqing also had potential. But you people from Azure Pheasant Peak are only ever concerned with love affairs and neglect cultivation. I heard that Qu Qingqing has simply fused her nine Golden Cores and completed the final Pill Fusion, right?"

Ah, what a waste. With her talent, she should have completed the Pill Fusion with a complete set of ten Golden Cores to reach Great Perfection. Instead, she has a master who's inept at teaching, and the disciple suffers as a result."

After forming nine Golden Cores, the last step of the Golden Core Stage is to fuse the nine cores into a larger, singular Golden Core.

However, the perfect achievement is to form ten Golden Cores and then to undergo Pill Fusion. That is the true Perfect Completion Golden Core. But for most people, it's impossible to take that step and create ten Golden Cores—they can only undergo Pill Fusion at nine Golden Cores.

Listening to Chief Tu Zhuque's mocking words, Chen Qingluan was not angered at all. She even nodded and said, "That's right, our Qingqing did not do Pill Fusion with ten Golden Cores. But she has found an excellent Taoist companion."

Looking proudly at Shi Xiaolou standing behind Qu Qingqing, she boasted, "Now that the two of them are Taoist companions, as their master, I should give them something special. Fortunately, I came across a dual cultivation technique many years ago called the 'Mandarin Duck Entangled Secret.'