

My Master 191

Chapter 191: Unexpected Focus_2

Oh, right, I forgot. You have always been alone, and never sought a cultivation partner, you might not know about the "Mandarin Duck Entangled Secret." Let me explain it to you.

Before the last Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, there was a sect named the Mandarin Duck Sword Sect. The Sect Leader was a pair of deeply in love cultivators. Their swordsmanship was unparalleled, known as the "Mandarin Duck Double Unparalleled," and they established the Mandarin Duck Sword Sect, standing proudly in the world.

However, few people know that while their swordsmanship was strong, the true foundation of their standing was the "Mandarin Duck Entangled Secret."

This cultivation technique cannot be practiced alone; it requires dual cultivation of a man and a woman, Yin and Yang, and moreover, both parties must be deeply attracted to each other.

Coincidentally, Qingqing and Little Lou were of one mind and succeeded in cultivating this technique.

After practicing this technique, they could cultivate a divine skill called "Wings Of Love." Back in the Golden Core Stage, one of the "Mandarin Duck Double Unparalleled" cultivated nine combined Golden Cores, while the other one had ten combined Golden Cores. Yet, they managed to kill two opponents who had reached Perfect Completion Golden Core with ten combined cores.

Notice it was killing, not just defeating, which shows how formidable this divine skill is. Now, Qingqing and Little Lou have begun to cultivate "Wings Of Love."

Chen Qingluan looked at Tu Zhuque with a face full of pride, "What does it matter if your disciple has reached the Perfect Completion Golden Core with ten cores? As long as my disciple masters Wings Of Love, even those with ten Golden Cores can be slain."

Tu Zhuque scoffed, pridefully stating, "Not all ten core Golden Cores are the same. Our Li Ke's ten Golden Cores, each one is a Phenomenon Pill!"

Kill ten Golden Cores? That only applies to ordinary ones with ten cores. If they had encountered someone with ten Phenomenon Golden Cores back then, let's see who would have been killed.

Chen Qingluan did not argue with Tu Zhuque. Indeed, having ten Phenomenon Golden Cores is exceptionally rare; within the Golden Core Realm, it is destined to be one of the strongest groups. But...

"Your Li Ke is strong, but her master only knows how to bury her in cultivation, not bothering to find her a partner. No matter how strong she is, she is still alone. Tell me, what if she encountered an unexpected injury? Whereas our Qingqing has a cultivation partner.

Little Lou also owns ten Golden Cores. Although not all are Phenomenon Pills, four of them are indeed Phenomenon Pills."

Today was the day for the Golden Core Club at Vermilion Bird Peak. Tu Zhuque and Li Ke were supposed to be the stars of the day, and with people from their old rival, Azure Pheasant Peak, around, most of the attendees had been paying attention to this situation.

Hearing Chen Qingluan's voice, many started to praise him.

"Truly a genius from the Four Extremes Sect to have four Phenomenon Golden Cores!"

"As the cultivation base gets higher, it becomes increasingly challenging to condense phenomena. I have a disciple who, out of ten Tao Bases, has seven Phenomenal Tao Bases and out of ten Immortal Bridges, has five Phenomenal Immortal Bridges. Even the inner cores include two Phenomenal Pills. But upon entering the Golden Core Stage, not a single Phenomenon Golden Core was formed."

"In the Golden Core Stage, having Phenomenon Golden Cores is already extremely difficult, let alone owning four Phenomenon Golden Cores!"

Chen Qingluan, hearing the praises from the crowd, became even more spirited, and pointing at Shi Xiaolou, he boasted, "Little Lou is not only strong in cultivation, but he's also unparalleled in both painting and calligraphy. In a few days, when the sects come together for the discourse, he will represent the Hundred Peaks Sect in the debate over the Way of Painting and Calligraphy.

After all, he and our Qingqing are cultivators, and he is considered a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect. With Little Lou's attainments in painting and calligraphy, to say he will greatly enhance our sect's prestige is an understatement.

Even the True Person Dan Qingzi, Sect Leader of the Four Extremes Sect, has said that at Little Lou's age, his achievements in the Calligraphy Dao were not comparable to Little Lou's."

"Sect Leader, you flatter me," said Shi Xiaolou while holding a fan, bowing humbly towards the distance, "The Sect Leader speaks so to encourage his disciple. I dare not compare to the Sect Leader's true person."

The crowd around was thoroughly shocked. Although Shi Xiaolou belonged to the Four Extremes Sect, they had heard of his name in the Hundred Peaks Sect as well. They knew he was a genius of the Four Extremes Sect, but they had not expected Shi Xiaolou to have reached such a level.

Although the Four Extremes Sect is named for being proficient in four arts, each Sect Leader's expertise differs, and from the current Sect Leader's name, it's clear that his specialty lies in the Painting Way.

However, as the Sect Leader of the Four Extremes Sect is expected to be proficient in all four arts, for him to praise Shi Xiaolou so highly showcases the depth of Xiaolou's mastery in the Calligraphy Dao.

As for Shi Xiaolou calling Chen Qingluan "Sect Leader," that was also normal.

Just as in the secular world, after a man and woman marry, they call each other's parents father and mother. In the world of immortal cultivation, if one's Tao partner is a direct disciple of the other, then after joining forces, they can call the other's master "Sect Leader." Of course, they generally wouldn't address them directly by the term "Master."

So, if someone calls another person "Sect Leader," there are two possibilities: one is that this is indeed their master, whom they highly respect, thus calling them "Sect Leader"; the other is that this is their partner's master.

However, not all cultivators who are direct disciples address their partner's master this way.

Hearing Shi Xiaolou's address as "Sect Leader," Chen Qingluan was already beaming with joy, provocatively looking at Tu Zhuque, "See that? Even though Little Lou isn't my taught disciple, he has to call me 'Sect Leader.' Tu Zhuque, can you find such an outstanding cultivation partner for your disciple?"

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Suddenly, she seemed to remember something and said with a smile, "That's right, since my nephew made a breakthrough, as his senior uncle, I cannot fail to express my congratulations.

I was even worrying about what to give my nephew as a present; gifting Spirit Stones would be too vulgar. Thankfully, Little Lou volunteered to write a piece of calligraphy. He put a great deal of effort into this work, which contains the essence of the 'Dao.' This Dao is not merely the Dao of Calligraphy but encompasses the Dao of all things growing, the Dao of Cultivation, the Dao of Life... Every character, every stroke is imbued with the insights attained from Little Lou's cultivation, allowing one to comprehend even more upon observing it...

This piece of calligraphy is likely unsurpassed by many of his peers."

Tu Zhuque's face could barely conceal her irritation, her teeth clenched tightly. How dare you, Chen Qingluan, come here and boast about your disciple-couple during my apprentice's Golden Core Club? Are you here to offer congratulations, or to cause a scene?

Calligraphy?

The Peak Masters of Wonderful Pen Peak and Immortal Pen Peak were both curious and turned to look at the revealed calligraphy, as did Xu Ruyi, who followed behind them with several other disciples.

But after only one glance, he couldn't help but let out a snort of laughter: "This, considered good calligraphy? To claim among his peers, few could match it?"

If such writing dared to be called good, then what about Peak Master Cao's calligraphy?

His remark drew the attention of everyone around.

Qu Qingqing frowned and said, "Do you even understand what calligraphy is?" It was ludicrous for this man to critique her Dao companion's writing.

Many in the crowd began to voice their praise, "Such calligraphy, at this level, is beyond anything I have seen before!"

"If this isn't good writing, what is?"

"If you don't understand calligraphy, don't spout nonsense here."

Xu Ruyi's face changed at the reproach of several people and was just about to retort when Chang Tiance's arrogant voice was already heard: "Indeed, this is not good calligraphy."

He pointed at Xu Ruyi and said, "He doesn't understand calligraphy? He is a disciple of Wonderful Pen Peak, and I am a disciple of Immortal Pen Peak. Are you saying we don't understand calligraphy?"

How dare you claim this is good calligraphy, even call it calligraphy at all? I fear you have not heard the saying, 'If Heaven had not given birth to Cao Zhen, calligraphy would be in eternal darkness like the long night.'

The surrounding crowd immediately burst into laughter.

"What kind of nonsense is this? Never heard of it."

"Stop laughing at others. Cao Zhen, you're talking about? I do know a Cao Zhen from Four Treasures Peak. Don't tell me you're referring to him?"

The expressions on the faces of Xu Ruyi and Chang Tiance instantly turned ugly as they stared fiercely at the one who had spoken: "You may insult us, but what gives you the right to mock Peak Master Cao!"

"So it's really Cao Zhen?"

"Cao Zhen of Four Treasures Peak? Does he understand calligraphy too?"

People around laughed even harder.

Shi Xiaolou's own calligraphy had been publicly criticized, yet he showed no signs of anger, his face even adorned with a faint smile. He said, "Heaven not giving birth to Cao Zhen, calligraphy would be like eternal night? That is a fine saying. I, too, would like to see the calligraphy of this Cao Zhen you speak of, to see what truly is good calligraphy."

He appeared still very humble but one could sense a deep-seated pride as he looked at the two and asked with a smile, "May I ask if this Cao Zhen is here?"

Mocking my calligraphy? How amusing. People of the Hundred Peaks Sect also understand calligraphy? They can evaluate my work?

At the mention of "Peak Master Cao," Chang Tiance immediately hesitated, unsure if Cao Zhen had actually come to the Golden Core Club.

But someone nearby was already prompting, "Peak Master Cao has long since arrived at the Golden Core Club. Since you claim his calligraphy is so good, do you dare to find him?"

"Why wouldn't we dare? Just wait; we'll go find Peak Master Cao now and show you what true calligraphy is, what kind of writing can be called good!"

Before Xu Ruyi and Chang Tiance could go look for him, a hand from each side reached out and grabbed them.

The Peak Master of Wonderful Pen Peak pulled Xu Ruyi back and scolded, "What are you two doing? Don't trouble our peak for no good reason."

On the other side, the Peak Master of Immortal Pen Peak also held onto Chang Tiance and whispered, "What madness has gotten into you? Why spout such nonsense here? Does Cao Zhen know anything? If

you bring Cao Zhen over and what he writes is disgraceful, it's just his own embarrassment; if a person from Four Treasures Peak can't produce good writing, no one would find it strange.

But you, a disciple of Immortal Pen Peak, if you can't even discern whether it's good writing or not, it's our peaks that will be shamed."

He was admonishing Chang Tiance.

The Peak Master of Wonderful Pen Peak had already begun to apologize to Chen Qingluan: "Peak Master Chen, my disciple is ignorant, please don't take offense; this piece of writing is indeed a rare good work."

This writing couldn't merely be called good; it was a masterpiece.

At the very least, not one of the disciples in his Wonderful Pen Peak could match it.

He wondered why his disciple and Chang Tiance had lost their senses, claiming the writing was bad, spouting ridiculous claims like 'if Heaven had not given birth to Cao Zhen, calligraphy would be like eternal night.'"

Earlier, he saw Xu Ruyi making great strides in the Calligraphy Dao, and happily brought him to the Golden Core Club, not expecting him to make such a scene. He now truly regretted bringing Xu Ruyi with him.

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"Master, you have to believe me, when you see Peak Master Cao's writing, then you'll know what a truly good character looks like," he said.

"That's right, Master, let's go find Peak Master Cao first," she added.

Xu Ruyi and Chang Tiance left a single sentence behind and began to search for Cao Zhen around them.

Chen Qingluan watched their departing figures and sneered contemptuously. Cao Zhen? The Peak Master of the Hundredth Peak? To compare calligraphy with Shi Xiaolou was truly the most laughable matter she had heard this year.

She couldn't be bothered with those two disciples and instead turned to Li Ke, speaking with a senior's tone, "Li Ke, you're strong, but you still have problems on your own.

Your master is incompetent in finding you a suitable partner. If you have any troubles, you can tell your master-uncle, and I will find a suitable partner for you."

"Chen Qingluan!" Tu Zhuque was so irate that she was in physical pain. She couldn't play her role any longer and shouted, "My disciple's affairs are none of your concern!"

"Tu Zhuque, I'm looking out for your disciple's best interest. You're not capable enough, and you shouldn't harm your disciple because of that."

Li Ke saw that her master and Chen Qingluan were about to argue again and quickly interjected, "Thank you for your kind intentions, master-uncle, but I already have someone in my heart, and he likes me too. We have mutual feelings for each other, it's just that we have not formally acknowledged this matter."

Chen Qingluan was stunned for a moment, "You've found someone? Who is it?" She had never heard of Li Ke being close to any male disciple.

Li Ke didn't speak. Her mind was racing, trying to fabricate someone. She definitely couldn't say it was a disciple from within the sect, but if she said it was a disciple from outside, then she would need to come up with a history.

Since Cao Zhen had sat down, he hadn't paid further attention to others but instead quietly inquired about the strengths of the various peaks from BeiChen Ying and the others. As Hundred Peaks was about to be re-ranked, he needed to understand the strength of the other peaks to place his bets correctly.

He was listening intently when suddenly, a thunderous roar came from behind him.

"You've gone too far! This Peak Master left for only a moment, and you dared to take over my place and even drive away my disciple."

Cao Zhen turned his head toward the sound and saw a man dressed in Peak Master attire, his face livid with anger, looking towards his own seat.

The Peak Master of Purple Dawn Peak, Han Zixia?

He had quite an impression of Han Zixia. During the assembly of Hundred Peaks' Peak Masters, he had heard mockery directed at Han Zixia, saying that Purple Dawn Peak was in decline and might fall below the ninety-fifth rank when the Hundred Peaks were reorganized.

This was... the rightful owner of this table had arrived.

"Cao Zhen!"

Han Zixia's face, red with anger, recognized Cao Zhen. A rush of blood surged towards his head in uncontrollable anger. Purple Dawn Peak might be declining, but it wasn't so bad that Cao Zhen of the Hundredth Peak had any right to take his place. If this was known outside, how could the people of Purple Dawn Peak hold their heads up?

He couldn't provoke the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks, but did he have to fear Cao Zhen?

"Out of my way!"

Han Zixia's face suddenly flashed with purple light, and behind him emerged ten Great Perfection platforms, nine Immortal Bridges, and five inner cores.

Cao Zhen instantly understood why others had mocked Purple Dawn Peak. As the Peak Master, Han Zixia had no phenomena around his platforms, bridges, or inner cores, and even had fewer Core Formations than him.

This strength...

This strength, and he still dares to make a move?

The next moment, his eyes suddenly widened as Han Zixia actually made a move, attacking during the Golden Core Club held at Vermilion Bird Peak of the Top Ten Peaks.

Was this guy insane? He was smacking the face of Vermilion Bird Peak itself! *freewebnovel.com*

Cao Zhen watched as Han Zixia swung his palm, and in a moment of urgency, a golden light emerged from his body.

Gold Light Spell!

An endless surge of power flowed around him, a golden light like a transparent shield protecting Cao Zhen within.

Han Zixia's purple palm smashed onto the Gold Light Spell and immediately a loud boom erupted, followed by total dissipation. The Gold Light Spell merely vibrated momentarily, still shining with dazzling golden light.

Cao Zhen shook his head helplessly, too weak. He had only used the Gold Light Spell for defense. If he had employed the Five-thunder Righteous Method, one wrong move could have outright killed Han Zixia.

He didn't retaliate, but Li Lingwei, who was by his side, suddenly stood up on a stone stool, pointed at Han Zixia, and shouted, "Han Zixia, you're asking to be hit!"

As she spoke, spiritual energy already began to gather around her, giving one the sense that she was ready to strike at any moment.

BeiChen Ying, who was nearby, quickly grabbed her and called out, "Fourth sister, don't start a fight, there are too many people here..."

Li Lingwei ignored him, still shouting loudly, "So what if there are many people? I'm not afraid."

"Enough, Lingwei, step back," said Ru Wenlin, who had not spoken much from the main seat, standing up and bowing sincerely to Han Zixia. "Master Han, please forgive us. We assumed the seat was unclaimed when we saw no one here and thus took the liberty to sit.

It was we who were reckless and we ask for Master Han's forgiveness. As for the matter of driving away your disciples, that was certainly not the case."

His voice, as always, was calm and soothing to the listener.

BeiChen Ying also nodded repeatedly and called out, "That's right, we didn't drive away your disciple. But your attack on... your attack on Peak Master Cao, we all saw."

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They indeed did not drive away the disciples of Purple Dawn Peak, instead it was the disciples of Purple Dawn Peak who voluntarily gave way upon seeing them approach; that could not be called expulsion.

"Alright," Ru Wenlin once again waved his hand, interrupting BeiChen Ying and said, "This place belongs to Purple Dawn Peak, and we have sat here long enough. Now that the owner has arrived, it is no longer appropriate for us to occupy this spot.

"We shall leave first. As for Master Han attacking Peak Master Cao, that is not something we should intervene in at this moment."

As he spoke, he cast a surreptitious glance at Li Lingwei.

Li Lingwei suddenly realized what was going on and shouted, "You go on ahead, I'll stay. I am an elder of the Law Enforcement Immortal Palace, and I will enforce the law right now!"

Upon hearing the words "Law Enforcement Immortal Palace," Cao Zhen remembered that this fourth sister was an elder of the Law Enforcement Immortal Palace. How did she, being one of the Hundred Peaks Five... Six Evils, manage to infiltrate the Law Enforcement Immortal Palace?

He would have to ask for some pointers someday.

Also, Elder Ru's tactics are truly cunning; by claiming there was no one here and that they were just sitting temporarily, saying they would leave upon the owner's arrival, he made sure there was nothing to fault. Additionally, was Li Lingwei deciding to carry out law enforcement as an elder of the Law Enforcement Immortal Palace also his doing?

Although Han ZiXia only used one palm strike, the sound was far from quiet, and the golden light emanating from Cao Zhen's body was so conspicuous that it was hard not to take notice.

In the entire courtyard, almost everyone turned to look towards the direction of the confrontation.

"What's going on? Is someone fighting during the Golden Core Club meeting at Vermilion Bird Peak?"

"Who is this, showing so little respect for Vermilion Bird Peak?"

"That person radiating golden light, isn't that Cao Zhen?"

The crowd quickly recognized Cao Zhen.

From afar, Li Ke watched the golden light and her mouth dropped open in surprise. The golden light, the aura, this was... the Gold Light Spell! There was no mistake, this must be the Gold Light Spell, and judging by the intensity of the light and the aura, the level of cultivation seemed no weaker than her own.

Cao Zhen, he possessed the Gold Light Spell, meaning he was another successor of the late Long Aotian!

Why him!

He...

A thought suddenly struck Li Ke. This Cao Zhen, who previously, for the sake of earning some spirit stones, went to other peaks to sell divine weapons left by others' ancestors in the Divine Soldier Tomb—is clearly someone who would do anything for money. Since that is the case, she could find him and work together.

Moreover, hadn't Long Aotian said before to help look after his successor? Besides, she needed an excuse for going easy on him in the future.

In an instant, she made a decision and quickly walked towards Cao Zhen.

Following her, Tu Zhuque also moved forward, void of any smile on her face by now. One Chen Qingluan was irritating enough, but now someone dared to cause trouble on such a day, a direct affront to her!

Cao Zhen?

Very well, she would let him know today that Vermilion Bird Peak was not a place where anyone could cause trouble.

Chen Qingluan followed closely behind. Someone was making trouble on Vermilion Bird Peak; how could she miss such excitement?

Around Cao Zhen, many people had already started to sneer.

"Cao Zhen making trouble at a Vermilion Bird Peak banquet, let's see how he deals with the aftermath."

"The Hundred Peaks Five Evils, with them around, trouble is bound to happen."

"It's now the Hundred Peaks Six Evils."

"Li Ke has arrived, the protagonist of the Golden Core Club is here. Let's see what Cao Zhen and his group will do!"

"Immortal Li Ke has come to seek an explanation!"

"Chief Tu has also come, do you think the Hundred Peaks Six Evils will be driven away?"

Liu Zhixing, while discussing Cao Zhen's numerous misdeeds with Elder Shen, smiled inwardly as he saw Li Ke and her group approaching, and quickly walked up to meet them.

Cao Zhen was puzzled. The one who had acted was not him—he was the one who got hit; why was everyone watching him as if they were enjoying a show?

And also...

Suddenly, a pleasing female voice rang in his ears.

"In a moment, say that you are my Dao companion, the kind where we've acknowledged the relationship, but haven't formally become Dao companions yet."

Secret voice transmission, this was Li Ke's voice.

Cao Zhen looked at Li Ke without giving anything away and responded with his own secret voice transmission, "Why should I agree to you?" It was obvious that Li Ke's master was pressuring her. He had heard from Zhonghua Cloud before that Tu Zhuque had been pushing Li Ke to get married, so Li Ke finding someone to pretend to be her Dao companion made perfect sense. The question was, why choose him?

"I'll give you one hundred thousand taels of spirit stones," Li Ke's voice transmitted again.

One hundred thousand!

Cao Zhen thought to himself, this woman was loaded; she casually offered one hundred thousand spirit stones, obviously in a great hurry, and now was not the time to pass up on fleeing her.

He transmitted back, "Two hundred thousand."

"Two hundred thousand?" Li Ke's voice was filled with surprise and annoyance, "Do you have any idea how many people in the Hundred Peaks Sect, even within the Guardian Immortal Dynasty, wish to become my Dao companion? And yet you're asking me for two hundred thousand taels of spirit stones to pretend to be mine!"

"What others want to do is their business, it has nothing to do with me," Cao Zhen replied privately via voice transmission, "My condition is two hundred thousand taels of spirit stones."

"Fine, you drive a hard bargain! Two hundred thousand taels of spirit stones, you'll get them after," Li Ke replied through the voice transmission, as she neared Cao Zhen. But before she could reach him, a figure had already swiftly stepped forward.

"Immortal Li Ke, you were not here just now and might not know what happened here. I have been right beside, witnessing everything. That Peak Master Cao Zhen from Four Treasures Peak, he took over Purple Dawn Peak's spot, triggering this conflict."

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He didn't care whether it was Cao Zhen who made the move; as long as Cao Zhen was involved, directing the problem towards him was without a mistake.

As for the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks, initially, the senior brothers from Little Zen Peak spoke only of Cao Zhen and didn't mention the other Five Evils. He had no need to offend the rest.

Offend Cao Zhen?

So what if he offended Cao Zhen?

This time, he had managed to please Little Zen Peak, as well as Elder Shen, who had just been left speechless by Cao Zhen, and the present Immortal Li Ke. Offending one Cao Zhen to favor so many others was worth it!

Li Ke acted as though she hadn't heard Liu Zhixing's words, as if she hadn't seen him at all, and completely ignored him. She walked up to Cao Zhen's side and pointed at him, saying, "Didn't you just ask me who that person is? It's him, Cao Zhen."

As Li Ke spoke, she glared fiercely at Cao Zhen. This guy had caused trouble on her peak, and now she had to handle his mess, all the while she had just forcefully given him two hundred thousand Spirit Stones!

I shouldn't have given him even a single Spirit Stone. If he didn't agree, I simply wouldn't have helped him out.

But now, it was all too late.

The crowd around was confused upon hearing Li Ke's words. What's going on? Who is he talking about? What trouble has Cao Zhen stirred up now?

Tu Zhuque had just been eager to demand justice but suddenly froze at Li Ke's words, his demeanor instantly turning sour. Li Ke, she couldn't possibly mean...

Chen Qingluan looked incredulously at Li Ke and then at Cao Zhen, somewhat unable to believe what she had just heard. Li Ke and Cao Zhen? These two were worlds apart; how could that be possible?

Yet, Li Ke had said it herself... If this were true, it would be very interesting indeed.

In a rush, Chen Qingluan asked, "Niece Li Ke, when you say 'he', which 'he' are you talking about?"

Without any hint of coyness, Li Ke answered directly, "The companion I have been seeking is none other than him."

As her words fell, an uproar ensued all around.

Throughout the entire banquet, almost everyone couldn't believe their own ears and suspected they were under some illusion technique.

Li Ke was the prodigy of the Top Ten Peaks and a divine presence on the favored rankings of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, a pride of the heavens with ten Perfect Completion Golden Cores, each accompanied by its own anomaly.

What about Cao Zhen? A Peak Master from the lowest-ranked peak within the Hundred Peaks Sect. Although in recent days the sect showed signs of rising, compared to Li Ke, it was like heaven and earth apart.

Not to mention, Cao Zhen's reputation had been increasingly tarnished. How could Immortal Li Ke take an interest in him? What was there to like about him?

Tu Zhuque felt darkness encroaching and his chest tightening, his heart aching and his lungs seemed ready to burst. Li Ke had actually picked Cao Zhen, of all people—him!

Could Cao Zhen be worthy of her? Was he fit for her?

Beichen Ying, however, was the first to react. He called out to the other three Evils, "How about that? I told you Little Sixth Son would cut it, right? The man who silently makes a fortune and works diligently is someone who could win the day's protagonist without anyone noticing."

"Just now you might not have seen it, but I did, Li Ke even glared at Little Sixth Son, which must mean the couple were flirting with each other, annoyed that Little Sixth Son was causing a fuss at her Golden Core Club celebration."

As he spoke, he turned his head to Li Ke and said, "Junior sister, let me tell you, it wasn't us who started it—it was Han ZiXia who first attacked Little Sixth Son. We can all vouch for that. Because it was your Golden Core Club, Little Sixth Son didn't even fight back.

As for that guy, he's talking nonsense!"

While speaking, BeiChen Ying even pointed at Liu Zhixing with a fierce look.

Liu Zhixing was stunned. How had Cao Zhen become Immortal Li Ke's partner? How could the two of them possibly be together?

No, that's not right—the expression on Chief Tu's face is very ugly, which means Chief Tu doesn't know about this. There might still be hope for himself. If he exposes Cao Zhen, he might even attract Chief Tu's favorable impression.

Liu Zhixing saw the light again, calling out to Li Ke, "Immortal Li Ke, you... you might have been deceived by him. With your heart set on cultivation, you might not know what kind of person Cao Zhen is.

Cao Zhen has been deceiving our fellow disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect with a Divine Weapon, tricking them out of their Spirit Stones. Furthermore, he has been constantly with the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks just now, and they have accepted him, calling him Little Sixth Brother. He is now one of the Hundred Peaks Six Evils! Such a person is simply not worthy of you."

"Are you done?" Li Ke just looked at Liu Zhixing quietly and pointed towards the outside with her hand, "Once you're done, please leave on your own. Vermilion Bird Peak does not welcome you."

"Ah?" Liu Zhixing was completely dumbfounded. Didn't you hear what I've just said? Cao Zhen is now one of the Hundred Peaks Six Evils—how can you choose him as your partner!

"Can't understand? Do you really want me to take action myself?" Li Ke's eyebrows tightly furrowed. She had finally found someone to cooperate with her in this play, and here Liu Zhixing jumps out, saying all kinds of bad things about Cao Zhen. Wasn't he just stirring up trouble for her?

"Junior niece Li Ke, on such a joyous day, we shouldn't be talking about getting physical," Chen Qingluan timely stepped forward to shield Liu Zhixing, finding it interesting—truly interesting—that Li Ke's chosen partner was actually Cao Zhen.

Chief Tu, aren't you always striving to be strong, never to be outdone by others?

Quickly look at the partner I've found for my disciple—who else but Shi Xiaolou, the up-and-coming talent of the Four Extremes Sect.

And look at Li Ke's partner—the latest of the Hundred Peaks Six Evils.

What does Cao Zhen have to compare with Shi Xiaolou?

Chief Tu, I hope you don't burst from rage.

Suddenly, it struck her, and she raised her voice deliberately, "I remember now, the day when the Sect Leader summoned us Peak Masters of Hundred Peaks to discuss matters, Chief Tu, you said that the partner Li Ke found was extremely outstanding.

I even said back then, 'As long as the person isn't as 'outstanding' as Peak Master Cao, it would be good.' I never thought I would have this ability to predict the future, that I really hit the nail on the head."

Chief Tu was about to explode with anger. Of course, she remembered what Chen Qingluan had said back then. Who would have thought that the person Li Ke brought out would really be 'as outstanding' as Cao Zhen!

Could it be any different? That was the very same person!

On the side, Shi Xiaolou, who had been listening to the conversation, laughed, "It seems we're quite fated with Peak Master Cao. Just now, someone said that Peak Master Cao's calligraphy is unmatched in this world.

Unexpectedly, Peak Master Cao is right here, and he is Immortal Li Ke's partner. I wonder if I might have the honor of seeing that calligraphy, which makes the Dao of Calligraphy last through the eternal night?"

Chapter 196: A Well-Intentioned Plan_1

The Golden Core Club of the Vermilion Bird Peak was supposed to focus on Li Ke, who had accomplished the Great Perfection of ten fantastical Golden Cores, and yet people found that, unknowingly, Cao Zhen had become the center of attention instead.

"You want to see my calligraphy?" In the gaze of the crowd, Cao Zhen shook his head slightly and said, "My writing is very expensive. Without money, I won't write."

They expect him to write without paying? They must be dreaming.

Laughter immediately erupted from the crowd.

"Asking for money?"

"Although I am not proficient in the Dao of Calligraphy, I know that calligraphy is art. How can it be measured by money, such a vulgar object? True masters of calligraphy would never measure their writing in terms of money; that would be an insult to them."

"Probably Cao Zhen knows his writing is not up to par and he's just making excuses not to write."

Hearing the voices that kept rising around him, Shi Xiaolou still looked at Cao Zhen with a humble face and said, "In ancient times, one would offer a thousand catties of silver for a single word, today I, Shi Xiaolou, am also willing to follow the ancient practice and seek this one word. I don't carry much in the way of Spiritual Stone Tickets, only ten thousand taels, but I am willing to offer all my monthly stipend for the next hundred years for a word from Peak Master Cao."

It's not that he looked down upon the Hundred Peaks Sect. Indeed, there were some geniuses within the Hundred Peaks Sect, and it was a sect that shared fame with their Four Extremes Sect, but when it came to the Calligraphy Dao, he really didn't think much of it.

He knew about the Hundred Peaks Sect having the Immortal Pen Peak and Ultimate Pen Peak, but could the heritage of these academically miscellaneous peaks compare with their revered Four Extremes Peaks?

That they dared to say his writing was not good! Today, he wanted to make sure that this so-called Peak Master Cao wrote in front of everyone, letting all know that among the younger generation, no one's writing could compare with his!

Only through comparison would it become more apparent how precious his writing was! It would highlight just how brilliant Shi Xiaolou was!

The crowd around him gasped in surprise at his words.

"Monthly stipends for a hundred years!"

"Young Master Shi is a genius disciple of the Four Extremes Sect, and his monthly stipend is by no means small."

Several people eager to please Azure Pheasant Peak chimed in with praise: "Young Master Shi is not just asking with a thousand catties of silver, he's asking with ten thousand gold, a hundred thousand gold!"

"Young Master Shi, a hundred years' monthly stipends amount to at least a hundred thousand taels, perhaps even two hundred thousand."

"Young Master Shi, what you are saying is fine, but there should be a condition. If it were someone else whose writing is not good, they wouldn't have the face to ask for the money. But this Cao Zhen, he's one of the latest Hundred Peaks Six Evils; even if his writing is no good, he'd still ask you for money."

Qu Qingqing, hearing the crowd's words, also came to her senses and quickly looked at Cao Zhen and called out, "My husband is seeking fine writing; everyone here can witness that if Peak Master Cao's writing is not better than my husband's, we will not give any Spirit Stones."

Cao Zhen did not even glance at Qu Qingqing; instead, he looked up and down at Shi Xiaolou, who wore a cloud-pattern brocade robe with eight treasures, a white jade belt, and boots embroidered with patterns.

Dressed like that, one could tell at a glance he was a man of means.

Moreover, he had just heard from others that this was a genius disciple of the Four Extremes Sect, so he should have some money, right? Otherwise, Chen Qingluan wouldn't have let her direct disciple marry over there.

For such a person, a hundred years' monthly stipends were at least a hundred thousand or two hundred thousand taels of Spirit Stones, which was enough.

"Alright, since you all want to see, today I shall show you what real fine writing is." Cao Zhen looked around and asked, "Is there any ink and brush?"

"Peak Master Cao, we have it."

"Peak Master Cao, I'll grind the ink for you."

Chang Tiance and Xu Ruyi hurriedly took out the Four Treasures of the Study, cleared the objects from the stone table of Purple Dawn Peak, and began to grind the ink.

As people from Ultimate Pen Peak and Immortal Pen Peak, they naturally carried the Four Treasures of the Study with them.

The ink was ready.

Cao Zhen rolled up the sleeve with his left hand and lifted the writing brush with his right hand.

Many people around could not contain their snickering at the sight.

"Is he really going to write?"

"Isn't he afraid of making a fool of himself?"

"He's not just making a fool of himself; he's making a fool of us, the people of the Hundred Peaks Sect. Thankfully, Young Master Shi is one of our own. If this happened outside, the embarrassment would be much greater."

"Peak Master Cao, with Young Master Shi's outstanding pearls incoming, you should refrain from embarrassing yourself."

As the crowd watched, Cao Zhen raised the brush and began to write on the rice paper held before him. Given the situation, he felt that cursive script would be most fitting. Zhao Ji was not only skilled in the thin gold style—his cursive was also peerless.

Off to the side, Liu Zhixing watched Cao Zhen make two strokes and couldn't help but snicker. This writing couldn't possibly compare to his own, and yet Cao Zhen dared to display it shamelessly. "Pfft, what is this... is this even writing? He was asked to write, not to paint; this writing... this..."

Liu Zhixing's eyes suddenly widened as he stared blankly at the first character Cao Zhen wrote, unable to utter a sound. This character... this...

He may not have understood calligraphy, but upon seeing this one character, he realized for the first time just how attractive writing could be.

Cao Zhen wrote rapidly; in just a moment, several characters were complete.

[Without Cao Zhen, calligraphy would be in eternal night]

Looking at the words in front of them, everyone had only one thought: it was good. They couldn't articulate why the writing was good, but they felt that it was truly good!

Chen Qingluan stared at the characters dancing like dragons and phoenixes before her, her mind filled with nothing but shock. Though she had not entered the path through calligraphy, she was extremely fond of it; otherwise, she would not have sought the dual excellence in painting and calligraphy of Shi Xiaolou as a match for her direct disciple.

Chapter 197: Devoted Efforts_2

As she gazed at the few characters before her, her fascination grew; they were just a few simple strokes, yet they gave her a sense of overwhelming momentum, clearing away the sands and spanning thousands of miles, grand and sweeping. These simple characters evoked the sensation of listening to a magnificent symphony— unrestrained, serene, stirring, peaceful...

Suddenly, beside her, three powerful surges of spiritual energy erupted violently, soaring into the sky, causing the air around them to tremble.

Enlightenment!

The crowd looked on in shock toward one side.

"Young Master Shi, the Ultimate Pen Peak Master, the Immortal Pen Peak Master—they have all achieved enlightenment!"

"All three gained enlightenment at the same time, just because of these few characters!"

Around them, the onlookers burst into an uproar.

Enlightenment was a rare and sought-after breakthrough. That a single piece of calligraphy by Cao Zhen could enlighten three people who followed the Calligraphy Dao at the scene was a testament to its extraordinary quality!

They knew the writing was good, but they couldn't have imagined it would be so profound as to induce enlightenment!

Chang Tiance and Xu Ruyi stood dumbfounded looking at the four large characters before them. It took a long time for them to regain their composure, their eyes brimming with shock.

They had seen Peak Master Cao's calligraphy before, and knew full well how astonishing it was. But last time, Peak Master Cao's writing was meticulous and neat, stroke by stroke, while the characters before them now were so wildly unrestrained and bold!

Peak Master Cao was also a master of cursive script.

This was the second time they witnessed Peak Master Cao's calligraphy. Though they hadn't experienced enlightenment, they still felt they had gained much.

After a while, Chang Tiance was the first to snap back to reality. Looking around at the dazed crowd, he called out with great pride, "What did I tell you? Without Cao Zhen, the Calligraphy Path would be eternally plunged in darkness. Do you believe it now?"

Around him, there were no objections, and not a single voice spoke.

Who could argue against him now? Even those who had no understanding of calligraphy could see how extraordinary these few characters were, leading them to wonder how anyone in the world could produce such beautiful writing.

Just look at the three individuals who had entered a state of enlightenment next to them. From their reaction alone, one could tell how astounding the calligraphy was.

Cao Zhen had yet another trick up his sleeve.

Tu Zhuque's finely made-up face finally showed a trace of satisfaction. Thankfully, this Cao Zhen was not entirely useless—at least in the art of calligraphy, he could outclass Shi Xiaolou.

She turned and asked Chen Qingluan challengingly, "Peak Master Chen, what do you think of these characters?" At last, she had regained some ground.

"In comparison to these characters, Little Lou falls short." Recovered from his enlightenment, Shi Xiaolou gave a fist and palm salute to Cao Zhen, expressing his gratitude, "Thank you, Peak Master Cao, for bestowing upon me your calligraphy."

He truly hadn't expected that within the Hundred Peaks Sect, there would be someone capable of writing at such a level.

Not even his master's cursive script could reach such heights!

How could Cao Zhen, a man from the lowest-ranked peak within the Hundred Peaks Sect, produce such a cursive script?

Thankfully, this man was not one who pursued the Calligraphy Dao.

The Ultimate Pen Peak Master, having recovered from his enlightenment, quickly thanked Cao Zhen, "Thank you, Peak Master Cao, for your guidance. I didn't expect you to have such mastery in the Calligraphy Dao. I hope you will visit us at the Ultimate Pen Peak when you find time."

Hearing this, the Immortal Pen Peak Master quickly added, "Yes, whenever Peak Master Cao is available, please visit us at Immortal Pen Peak. I hope we can have the chance to exchange thoughts and appreciate your calligraphy."

They now understood why their disciples had praised Cao Zhen so highly before. If they had seen Cao Zhen's calligraphy earlier, they would have done the same.

Cao Zhen sighed lightly at the two eagerly welcoming Peak Masters, "I would indeed like to exchange ideas with you, but the problem is, you are too poor. If you had enough money, I could teach you the calligraphy of Wang Xizhi, Yan Zhenqing, Liu Gongquan, and Huai Su next time."

He was willing to teach, but the problem was that both Ultimate Pen Peak and Immortal Pen Peak were among the bottom fifty peaks—too poor. If these two peaks were as wealthy as Little Zen Peak, he wouldn't have waited for them to ask; he would have approached them himself.

The two were astonished, "Wang Xizhi? Yan Zhenqing? Liu Gongquan? Huai Su? Who are they? Why have we never heard of them?"

Cao Zhen looked at them with contempt, "You don't know them? These are the venerated forebears of historical calligraphy. Wang Xizhi is an existence revered as the 'Sage of Calligraphy'."

They exclaimed in awe, "The Sage of Calligraphy? That powerful? What kind of realm must one reach in calligraphy to be called such?"

"Naturally, it is a very high, very high level," Cao Zhen felt that his own calligraphy was at level ninety-nine, and if he had made a connection with Wang Xizhi back then, his calligraphy would definitely be MAX.

They inquired further, "What about Yan Zhenqing then?"

"Yan Zhenqing, along with Liu Gongquan, are known as 'Yan's muscle and Liu's bone.' Their brushwork is forceful..."

Watching the two Peak Masters incessantly praising Cao Zhen, a hint of dissatisfaction flashed in Shi Xiaolou's eyes. He had written a pair of characters as a congratulatory gift, which was unconventional, considerate, and would show the people of the Hundred Peaks Sect how exquisite his calligraphy was.

But Cao Zhen had also written a pair of characters, overshadowing his own.

Where did that leave his own dignity?

Now, with the characters from the two peaks' masters being praised in front of him, what did that make of him?

Indeed, he had thanked Cao Zhen in front of everyone for his calligraphy, which had enlightened him. That was just for the sake of appearances, to avoid being criticized for lack of upbringing.

He had no real need to be grateful to him, because he had bought those characters!

In fact, it was the masters of those two peaks who should be grateful to him.

Chapter 198: Good Intentions Part 3

If I hadn't bought that calligraphy, how could they have experienced enlightenment? Instead of thanking me, they thank Cao Zhen!

That Cao Zhen is even more despicable. With his calligraphy presented, what does my gift amount to? What will others say then?

The Four Extremes Sect's Shi Xiaolou, making his first gift offering to his partner's sect, is overshadowed by another? If word spreads, my Four Extremes Sect will be dishonored.

There seems to be only one way now.

Shi Xiaolou straightened his clothes, ignoring Cao Zhen's side, and spoke towards Tu Zhuque and Li Ke, "Peak Master, Immortal Li Ke, the earlier calligraphy was just a spontaneous act to enhance the fun. In fact, the gift I have brought this time is a pill."

As soon as these words fell, many around turned their gazes over.

Shi Xiaolou slowly took out a transparent calabash-shaped jade bottle, within which a crystal-clear pill gently swayed.

"This pill is known as the Jade Pure Returning Origin Pill."

No sooner had Shi Xiaolou named the pill than a flurry of astonished exclamations erupted all around.

"The legendary Jade Pure Returning Origin Pill?"

"It is said that even the gravest injuries can be healed with the Jade Pure Returning Origin Pill."

"Exactly, apart from healing severe injuries, a major feature of the Jade Pure Returning Origin Pill is the speed of recovery. Injuries that would take a half-year's healing with spiritual medicine can recover in just over a month after taking this pill."

"The key is its remarkable healing effect. Even near-fatal wounds, upon taking this pill, can gradually heal. Even if it cannot return a person to their peak condition, it can still preserve about fifty or sixty percent of their strength."

"Within the entire Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, no more than five people can concoct such a pill."

"This is a life-saving spirit pill. I didn't expect Young Master Shi to bring out such a spirit pill."

Listening to the crowd's exclamations, Shi Xiaolou's lips curled up with a touch of pride. This pill was also something his master had worked hard to obtain from a close friend. There were only three pills in total, all of which were given to him for life-saving purposes. Fortunately, he was carrying one with him.

"Young Master Shi is indeed sincere."

"Young Master Shi has put in a lot of effort."

Amidst the praises, Liu Zhixing's gaze shifted to Cao Zhen, deliberately saying, "Young Master Shi has presented such a congratulatory gift. I wonder what kind of congratulatory gift Peak Master Cao has brought? As Immortal Li Ke's partner, whatever Peak Master Cao presents must be extraordinary."

Upon hearing this, the Ultimate Pen Peak Master immediately called out in dissatisfaction, "How could Peak Master Cao not have a gift? Does this calligraphy not count? Is there a better gift than this? Do you know the level of achievement that this calligraphy represents?"

"Calligraphy? That wasn't given by Peak Master Cao, it was bought by Young Master Shi."

"Right, that calligraphy doesn't count as a congratulatory gift."

One by one, those previously duped by the Six Evils, those who spent spirit stones from their peaks to purchase Cao Zhen's divine weapons, all began to speak up.

"Alright, let's not make things difficult for Peak Master Cao. Are we not clear about the state of Four Treasures Peak? They are so poor they don't even have a decent gate, can we expect a gift from them?"

"Even if they are poor, not presenting any gift for one's own partner's Golden Core Club isn't reasonable, right?"

"What if Peak Master Cao did not prepare anything? Aren't you all just putting Peak Master Cao on the spot?"

One after another spoke in a mocking tone, as many of them simply disliked Cao Zhen. Why would someone like Immortal Li Ke fancy you?

Cao Zhen didn't understand. Did I desecrate your ancestors' graves, or what? Why are you all so sarcastic here?

As for the gift, well, he really did have one prepared.

"Oh, speaking of gifts, I actually did prepare one, and coincidentally, I am also giving a pill."

All around, many began to mock once again.

"Since you have a gift, why not bring it out quickly?"

"Let's all see what kind of pill Peak Master Cao has prepared."

"I hope it isn't something like a Gathering Spirit Pill or a Poison Pill."

Everyone was well aware of the predicament of Cao Zhen's Four Treasures Peak. What kind of fine pill could Cao Zhen possibly offer? Poor Cao Zhen – others give pills, and he does too, but others give high-grade pills like the Jade Pure Returning Origin Pill.

Cao Zhen turned back to his disciple and said, "Yi Sheng, take out the pill."

"Yes." Yi Sheng promptly took out a jade bottle that, in comparison with the one Shi Xiaolou used to store his pill, was clearly of lesser quality.

Many laughed upon seeing this bottle.

"Why does this jade bottle look so familiar?"

"Isn't this the jade bottle used in the Hidden Dragon Observatory's Five-Element Pill Ground for holding pills?"

"This pill was concocted within the Hidden Dragon Observatory then?"

"You may not have been to the Five-Element Pill Ground, but those jade bottles there aren't restricted; anyone can take them. After all, they're not valuable, so no one cares about them."

"So, could this be a bottle that Peak Master Cao casually picked up from the Five-Element Pill Ground?"

Cao Zhen nodded seriously and said, "That's right, it's from the Five-Element Pill Ground. We at Four Treasures Peak are poor and can't afford jade bottles to hold our pills. Didn't you all say that the peaks of the sect are branches of the same tree? Have you all helped Four Treasures Peak?"

"Help? We would help anyone but you."

"You, one of the Hundred Peaks Six Evils – who would help you?"

All around, people voiced their opinions. With so many talking, how could the Six Evils possibly keep track of everyone?

Cao Zhen, too tired to bother with these people, took the jade bottle from Yi Sheng and said, "This is a Nirvana Pill, a minor one."

Chapter 199: Diligent Efforts_4

"A minor Nirvana Pill? What's that?"

"I've never heard of that name."

"Nirvana, huh? Quite an impressive name for it, isn't it just some kind of mighty pill?"

"Have you guys ever heard of the minor Nirvana Pill?"

"No, we've never heard of such a pill."

"A bunch of ignorant folks." In the hall, an old man with graying hair, wearing a white robe embroidered with a pill furnace, stood up and walked towards this area.

"Elder Dan Chi from Drunken Pill Peak."

Around him, everyone stepped aside to give way when they saw the elder.

Within the Hundred Peaks Sect, Drunken Pill Peak held a very special position. Although its rank wasn't particularly high—only thirty-fifth—even those from the Top Ten Peaks gave Drunken Pill Peak respect.

Drunken Pill Peak was dedicated solely to the art of alchemy, with its name signifying the intoxication for the Alchemy Dao. Its ranking wasn't high simply because its disciples were solely focused on alchemy.

But who didn't need pills for cultivation? Who didn't find themselves needing Drunken Pill Peak's help at some point? Everyone showed respect to those from Drunken Pill Peak.

As Elder Dan Chi walked forward, he slowly spoke, "The minor Nirvana Pill is made specifically for cultivators with Immortal Bodies like the Vermilion Bird, the Azure Pheasant, and the Bi Fang.

Even if they are critically injured and on the verge of death—so long as they are not truly dead—a single minor Nirvana Pill would allow them to experience a Nirvana Rebirth.

What's more important is that after Nirvana, their combat power can at least return to their former peak state.

Even more so, in the brink of death, they might gain enlightenment and ascend to a higher level. This pill, though unknown to you all, should certainly be known to both Chief Tu and Peak Master Chen."

Chen Qingluan's expression revealed surprise when she heard Cao Zhen mention possessing the minor Nirvana Pill, yet she nodded and acknowledged, "That's right, I do indeed know of this pill."

"There really is such a pill!"

The crowd around them exclaimed in shock upon hearing this.

"It can recover from a near-death state?"

"And return to their peak condition—that's just too defying!"

"People can recover from serious injuries through taking medicinal pills, but often they might leave behind hidden issues, impeding any further progress for life, whereas this pill apparently can restore one completely."

"You can recover even from near death? It is said that one can achieve insights on the verge of death, gaining enlightenment over things that you couldn't understand before. By that logic, if you kept taking this pill..."

"There's actually such a pill in the world!"

Shi Xiaolou's face soured as he listened to the crowd. That Cao Zhen—he did whatever Xiaolou did, matching his every move. And now he offered a pill that far surpassed Xiaolou's own!

The pill Xiaolou had offered, the Jade Clear Return to Origin Pill—there was no guarantee it could bring someone back from a near-death state, and even if it could, the person was likely to be left with internal injuries. In contrast, the minor Nirvana Pill was a guaranteed revival and even ensured the restoration of one's peak state. Compared to his, Xiaolou's pill was utterly overshadowed!

Was Cao Zhen deliberately making Xiaolou look bad?

As Chen Qingluan listened to the murmurs around her, she spoke again, "Not only am I aware of this pill, but we also have a few minor Nirvana Pills on my peak. However, it's not like what you all might think, because the minor Nirvana Pill can only be taken once. The second time it's taken, it won't have any effect at all."

With that, she looked towards Tu Zhuque and said, "Not just my peak has the minor Nirvana Pill, Vermilion Bird Peak has it too."

"So that's how it is."

"Indeed, if such a pill could be taken endlessly, it would be too heaven-defying."

"So Vermilion Bird Peak also has the minor Nirvana Pill."

"The pill that Peak Master Cao offered is something they already possess."

Upon hearing this, the crowd burst into chatter again. Cao Zhen's generosity was undeniable, and they couldn't criticize the pill's quality any longer. Instead, they focused on him giving a pill that the recipient already had.

Shi Xiaolou's expression eased slightly. In this way, he wasn't as embarrassed, but it still wasn't enough.

Suddenly, he had an idea and secretly communicated to Qu Qingqing, "It seems the Immortal Li Ke from the Hundred Peaks Sect is very caring towards her Dao partner."

"What do you mean?" As Qu Qingqing communicated back secretly, she looked bewilderedly at her own Dao partner.

Shi Xiaolou explained secretly, "The minor Nirvana Pill exists on Azure Pheasant Peak and on Vermilion Bird Peak. And anyone could get their hands on that ordinary-looking jade bottle."

"I understand now." Qu Qingqing suddenly realized, "Li Ke must have given the pill to Cao Zhen in advance; their Vermilion Bird Peak is really interesting."

Qu Qingqing, who had been silent since entering Vermilion Bird Peak, sneered inwardly and feigned confusion as she said, "Actually, I also know that we have the minor Nirvana Pill on Azure Pheasant Peak, and to my knowledge, within the entire Hundred Peaks Sect, only our Azure Pheasant Peak and Vermilion Bird Peak possess it. I wonder, from which eminent figure did Peak Master Cao obtain this minor Nirvana Pill?"

"Only Azure Pheasant Peak and Vermilion Bird Peak have it?"

The people around began to put two and two together after hearing this.

"This... Could it be that Immortal Li Ke gave one of the minor Nirvana Pills to Cao Zhen ahead of time, and then he turned around and offered it?"

"What do you mean 'could it be'? It surely is so. Otherwise, how could Four Treasures Peak get their hands on such a pill?"

"He's not just claiming to own the minor Nirvana Pill—he probably hadn't even heard of it before Immortal Li Ke gave it to him."

"It makes sense now why such a pill was in such an ordinary jade bottle. If it's indeed from Immortal Li Ke, everything makes sense now."

Chapter 200: Diligent Efforts_5

"If Cao Zhen uses the jade bottle from Vermilion Bird Peak, he's bound to be recognized, but he has no other bottle, so he could only use the one from the Five-Element Pill Ground,"

"I heard Cao Zhen seems to have just come back from Hidden Dragon Observatory today."

"Immortal Li Ke really has nothing but praise for Cao Zhen."

Li Ke, hearing everyone's words, herself was somewhat flabbergasted. Giving Cao Zhen a Cycle of Nirvana Pill—she didn't even know of its existence before, so what was there to give?

Yi Sheng, listening to the mocking tones of the crowd, grew increasingly upset. As a disciple who had come here with her master, because her master was present, she didn't want to speak too much originally. However, these people kept insulting her master again and again. She finally couldn't bear it and shouted, "Which of your eyes saw that this pill was given to master by Immortal Li Ke... by Mistress Li Ke!"

"Both Vermilion Bird Peak and Azure Pheasant Peak possess the Cycle of Nirvana Pills, but theirs can only be used once. The one my master gave can, after having taken an ordinary Cycle of Nirvana Pill once before, be used again with the same effect. Could these pills be the same? How could this pill possibly be given by the mistress to the master!"

"Useful on the second intake?" Qu Qingqing immediately broke into laughter, "Such a Cycle of Nirvana Pill doesn't exist in the world."

"No, such a Cycle of Nirvana Pill doesn't exist in the world, but there is another type of pill called the Cycle of Nirvana Pill that indeed has an effect upon second intake," Elder Dan Chi sighed deeply, "But the Cycle of Nirvana Pill... As far as I know, nobody in the entire Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty can make it."

"I also only heard of the Cycle of Nirvana Pill occasionally from my master, who described it with a body of the pill showing faint red patterns, as if there were a phoenix spreading its wings to soar. Your Nirvana Pill..."

Mid-speak, Elder Dan Chi had already approached Yi Sheng and looked into the jade bottle. In the next moment, he abruptly opened his eyes wide, snatched the bottle, and peered inside.

"Red patterns... a phoenix spreading its wings in flight... this..."

Then, in the following moment, he abruptly uncorked the bottle, and a rich scent of life burst forth from the bottle's mouth, spreading out around.

"Cycle of Nirvana Pill, this is indeed the Cycle of Nirvana Pill!" said Elder Dan Chi, but he seemed as if he had done something wrong and suddenly realized it. Hurriedly he closed the bottle, apologizing profusely, "Peak Master Cao, please forgive my impudence. The moment I saw this Cycle of Nirvana Pill, I got too excited and opened the bottle myself."

"You're taking it too seriously, Elder." Cao Zhen waved his hand nonchalantly, suggesting, "I should be thanking you instead, Elder. Otherwise, someone might just cook up a story and label me a thief."

While saying this, he also ridiculed in his mind, 'What Cycle of Nirvana Pill, Zhang Daoling's records, it's just called a small Nirvana Pill.'

Qu Qingqing clenched her teeth and glared at him. Cao Zhen's words were almost directly pointing at her.

Chen Qingluan couldn't care less to look at Qu Qingqing and instead stared passionately at the plain-looking jade bottle, exclaiming, "Elder Dan Chi, does this pill truly exist?"

She had taken a Cycle of Nirvana Pill once before. If there were indeed another Cycle of Nirvana Pill, then it would be another lifesaver for her, and perhaps, undergoing nirvana once more could propel her even further in her progress.

Having taken a Cycle of Nirvana Pill, she knew all too well the amazing benefits that come after nirvana!

Elder Dan Chi frowned deeply, discontentedly retorted, "Would I lie to you? Or do you think my master lied to me?"

"Please don't be offended, Elder. Azure Pheasant meant no such thing," Chen Qingluan quickly apologized. Elder Dan Chi's master was the previous peak master of Drunken Pill Peak, of the same generation as her master, and even she would have to call him 'Elder Uncle'; questioning Elder Dan Chi's master was disrespectful to the elder.

Tu Zhuque was equally stunned; she had never heard of the Cycle of Nirvana Pill, and she had also taken a small Nirvana Pill before. If she could get another Cycle of Nirvana Pill...

She suddenly came to her senses and urged Li Ke who was beside her, "Disciple, since it's Peak Master Cao's kind gesture, why don't you accept it quickly?"

"Yes," Li Ke said, her expression peculiar as she looked at Cao Zhen, accepting the jade bottle from Yi Sheng's hands. Why would Cao Zhen have this kind of pill? Could it be...

Yes, he seemed to have obtained part of the inheritance from Senior Long Aotian, so perhaps, this pill also came from the senior?

That must be it, otherwise, how could Cao Zhen possibly have this kind of pill which nobody in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty can make!

And the initial demand for two hundred thousand Spirit Stones, could she have misunderstood him?

Back then, could he have been thinking of giving her this Cycle of Nirvana Pill and that's why he asked for so much?

The crowd was so shocked that not a single word could be spoken, who could have thought that the situation could have turned so many times, Cao Zhen actually produced a pill that no one in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty could refine!

Seeing that Li Ke had safely stored the pill, Elder Dan Chi withdrew his gaze that had been fixed on the pill and turned to ask Cao Zhen, "Peak Master Cao, could you tell where this pill came from?"

After saying this, he added, for fear of being misunderstood, "I mean no other implication, I'm merely curious."

Cao Zhen remembered what he had said when he taught Li Ke the Gold Light Spell under the identity of Long Aotian, "By chance, I encountered some inheritance left by a predecessor, and this pill was found at the same time."

Elder Dan Chi continued asking, "May I know who that predecessor is?"

Cao Zhen shook his head slightly and said, "The inheritance left by the predecessor contained instructions not to reveal anything about him."

Li Ke quietly exhaled a breath of relief, it was good that Cao Zhen had not mentioned the name of the senior Long Aotian; otherwise, he would have been in danger, for Senior Long Aotian had said he had many enemies.

Yi Sheng listened to the conversation between Cao Zhen and Elder Dan Chi and quietly sent a voice transmission to Cao Zhen, "Master, why did you say that the pill came from an inheritance?"

Actually, today, with so many people here, by tomorrow, the existence of the Cycle of Nirvana Pill will spread throughout the Hundred Peaks Sect. To use your words, it's the best advertisement.

We could totally take this opportunity to hold an auction, where we auction off the Cycle of Nirvana Pill. Other peaks might not need it, but Vermilion Bird Peak and Azure Pheasant Peak will surely fight over it."

"I know you and Immortal Li Ke are dao companions, but Immortal Li Ke is Immortal Li Ke, and Vermilion Bird Peak is Vermilion Bird Peak. There's a saying in the mundane world, even blood brothers settle accounts clearly."

"It's not the same," Cao Zhen had no time to explain the issue with Li Ke, and simply replied through the voice transmission, "I have no plans to auction this pill."

Just like our Gathering Spirit Talismans, when more people make them, the price can be cheaper. Then more people can afford them, and that's how our strength at Hundred Peaks Sect can grow stronger.

The same goes for the small Nirvana Pill; in the future, I will find a way to mass-produce the small Nirvana Pills. Then take these pills to sell in other sects for some Spirit Stones.

With these Spirit Stones, we will refine even more pills, not just the small Nirvana Pill but many others as well, and we will only take a very small portion of the profit, then sell the pills to the Hundred Peaks Sect,

Only then will most people of the Hundred Peaks Sect be able to afford the pills, ensuring there's no pill our people cannot afford. Only this will ensure the strength of our Hundred Peaks Sect grows stronger.

Do not forget, you are a disciple of Four Treasures Peak, but also a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect. I am the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak, and also a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Four Treasures Peak belongs to the Hundred Peaks Sect; if the Hundred Peaks Sect is destroyed, Four Treasures Peak cannot exist either. Only if our Hundred Peaks Sect flourishes more, can Four Treasures Peak prosper even more.

I hope, our Hundred Peaks Sect continues to flourish!"

Let there be no pill in the Hundred Peaks Sect that our people cannot afford!

Bai Fengzi listened to the secret voice transmission between Cao Zhen and Yi Sheng from not far away, and his heart was filled with countless emotions. What an expansive heart he has, what a noble spirit!

Normally, others would not hear a secret voice transmission, unless, the person sending the voice transmission has too weak a cultivation base and someone nearby possesses a cultivation base far surpassing the sender's.

And Yi Sheng's cultivation base was indeed too weak, plus she was close enough to eavesdrop on the voice transmission between Yi Sheng and Cao Zhen.

Cao Zhen was misunderstood by others too much!

These people even said that Cao Zhen was one of the Hundred Peaks Six Evils, and came to complain to him about Cao Zhen's wrongdoings, claiming he was the disgrace of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

The disgrace of the Hundred Peaks Sect? This is clearly, the fortune of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

Having such a selflessly devoted individual is a blessing for the Hundred Peaks Sect!