

My Master 231

Chapter 231: Never Before_3

Five Evils of Hundred Peaks!

Inside the Hundred Peaks Sect, some people simply looked down on these five individuals, staying far away from them, while others didn't dare to approach because of their notoriety.

This directly resulted in them being the only five people in the area.

Beichen Ying, watching Ling Xi who had already failed, sighed softly, and whispered in a volume only the five of them could hear, "Thank goodness, Ling Xi lost. She really scared me earlier; I was genuinely afraid she'd become reckless and actually try to take first place."

Li Lingwei sneered, "What's the use of taking first place? Can first place earn us fifty times the Spirit Stones? No matter how many first places Four Treasures Peak gets, they won't reach first in the Hundred Peaks rankings. Without being first, there's no fifty-fold odds, so what's the point of taking first place!"

"Although that's true, the sacrifice Ling Xi made is really huge. Which young disciple doesn't want to make a name for themselves? She, a Talisman King, had three chances in the end and didn't produce a single Talisman. If word gets out, it would be quite embarrassing."

As Beichen Ying spoke, he glanced at Wu Jinhuan beside him and said, "Third brother, Ling Xi is Little Sixth Son's disciple, so she would also call us 'Uncle Master'. Seeing her make such a large sacrifice..."

"Old Five, when did you start beating around the bush when talking to me?" Wu Jinhuan looked toward Four Treasures Peak and said, "That Talisman isn't of much use to me anyway. As long as we make some Spirit Stones this time, you don't need to say anything; I'll give that Talisman to her myself."

From the direction of Vermilion Bird Peak, Li Ke admired Ling Xi's retreating figure, nothing but admiration. She respected Cao Zhen just as much as she respected Li Ke.

Even though Li Ke was already so powerful, already a Talisman King, Cao Zhen, for the sake of earning Spirit Stones, actually had Li Ke intentionally avoid taking even a single Peak Bamboo. Ruthless—Cao Zhen was truly ruthless!

And there was Ling Xi, a great Talisman King, not afraid of losing face, truly failing all three attempts, and what's more impressive was that she didn't let anyone see a problem. Everyone thought she failed because she pursued perfection too much; nobody suspected, not for a moment, that it was deliberate.

Tu Zhuque, watching Ling Xi not wait for the results and already leaving the Gathering Immortals Platform with a look of disappointment on her face, had her smile completely freeze over.

Ling Xi actually failed to make a Talisman all three times!

These days, some of her disciples had told her that Ling Xi was very skilled in Talisman Making, and even many disciples in her peak had received Ling Xi's guidance.

Especially today, after learning that Ling Xi was a Talisman King, she truly believed that Ling Xi could take first place. She never imagined that, out of the three Talisman Making opportunities, Ling Xi would fail all of them.

That Cao Zhen, his disciple is young and knows no better, but as a Peak Master, how can he still be so naive?

Three chances, and he had his disciple make one Talisman first, at least ensuring a fairly high ranking and then pursue perfection afterward. At least then, they could have secured some Peak Bamboo; now, they couldn't get even a single one.

With a sigh, she inadvertently turned her head, only to see, not far away, Chen Qingluan also happen to look over with a slight, mocking sneer in her eyes—as if to say without words, 'This is the partner you've chosen for your disciple? Look at his disciple; can't even get a single Peak Bamboo. Let's see how far Four Treasures Peak can go.'

"What are you laughing at!" Tu Zhuque glared hatefully at Chen Qingluan.

Chen Qingluan immediately laughed mockingly, "What am I laughing at? I'm happy to see my disciple still making Talismans, of course. Besides, how does my laughter have anything to do with your Vermilion Bird Peak?"

"You're happy too early," Tu Zhuque sneered, "after the Pill appraisal is over, I hope you can still laugh."

"Ha..." Chen Qingluan scoffed disdainfully, "What, just because someone from Four Treasures Peak taught you some Alchemy techniques, you delude yourself into thinking that your Vermilion Bird Peak can catch up with our Azure Pheasant Peak? A person from the Top Ten Peaks, being taught Alchemy by the last-ranked disciple, you're not embarrassed?"

"Chen Qingluan! You better clarify what you meant by that. When has your Azure Pheasant Peak ever surpassed our Vermilion Bird Peak in Alchemy?"

"When have we not surpassed you?"

In the midst of their argument, the first event of the Six Arts competition, the [Talisman] event, finally concluded.

The Enforcer Elder started to announce the final rankings.

"Three hundredth place, Seven Star Peak..."

Deng Qixing smiled, his wrinkled face splitting into a grin that seemed to stretch to his ears.

"Two, there are actually two from Seven Star Peak in the top three hundred, totaling five Peak Bamboos! Ancestors, do you see this? Our Seven Star Peak is about to shake off the ninety-ninth rank soon..."

Tu Zhuque also smiled, laughing while provocatively looking towards Chen Qingluan, "Why aren't you laughing now? Weren't you happy?"

I told you, my Vermilion Bird Peak is better than your Azure Pheasant Peak in everything, which of course includes Talisman Making."

Chen Qingluan's face was already a mask of frost. It would be acceptable for Qing Luanfeng to lose to anyone, except Vermilion Bird Peak, yet this time in the first item of the Six Arts competition, the [Talisman] event, Vermilion Bird Peak got exactly one more Peak Bamboo than Azure Pheasant Peak, not one more, not one less!

The Talisman Making level of her Azure Pheasant Peak had always been mediocre, but the Talisman heritage of Vermilion Bird Peak was worse. For a long time, Azure Pheasant had suppressed Vermilion Bird Peak in the field of Talismans.

This time, Azure Pheasant Peak was actually suppressed by Vermilion Bird Peak!

Thinking back to the earlier rumors, and the fact that Ling Xi was now a Talisman King, obviously, it was because of Ling Xi that Vermilion Bird Peak's Talisman Making level had suddenly increased significantly.

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Gazing at the smug expression on Tu Zhuque's face, she sneered and said, "I hope you can keep up that smugness after the alchemy competition is over."

Vermilion Bird Peak and Azure Pheasant Peak, both peaks specialize in fire cultivation. Whether it's for alchemy or artifact refining, fire is used, which is why disciples from both peaks are proficient in alchemy and artifact refining.

She had heard that people from Four Treasures Peak had taught the disciples of Vermilion Bird Peak alchemy, but she couldn't believe it. Could it be that someone from Four Treasures Peak who was a Talisman King in talisman making could also produce a Pill King?

She believed that when it came to alchemy, her Azure Pheasant Peak would definitely surpass Vermilion Bird Peak!

The Elder Protector quickly announced the top three hundred names. As expected, He Tianqi from Spirit Symbol Peak took first place, while the second place went to Shao Yijian from Flying Immortal Peak.

As the talisman competition came to an end, disciples not belonging to any peak quickly descended onto the Gathering Immortals Platform, removing tables and materials one by one before placing various pill furnaces and an assortment of materials in preparation.

The Elder Protector spoke again, "The second event of the Six Arts Competition, 'Dan,' begins now. Disciples from all peaks, please enter the Gathering Immortals Platform."

As his words concluded, disciples from Hundred Peaks flew towards the Gathering Immortals Platform below.

Cao Zhen nodded to Yi Sheng and said, "Go on, I believe in you." He believed that after Yi Sheng had seen how his senior female disciple performed, he should know how to proceed.

On one side, Seven Star Peak unexpectedly did not send any more disciples this time.

The Elder Protector waited until no other disciples were heading to the platform before he declared, "This competition will be overseen by Elder Gu Chengyu of Hidden Dragon Observatory."

Having said this, he stepped back to reveal the figure of Gu Chengyu.

"Gu Chengyu?"

Cao Zhen was momentarily stunned. When he departed from the Hidden Dragon Observatory, Gu Chengyu hadn't mentioned taking charge of the pill competition.

But upon reflection, it made sense.

The pill competition required a professional, yet for fairness, could not select someone from within Hundred Peaks, making the choice of Gu Chengyu from Hidden Dragon Observatory quite reasonable.

Gu Chengyu cleared his throat and called out to everyone, "The pill competition consists of two rounds. The first round tests your foundational skills.

Now, all disciples participating in the competition, listen carefully. From the materials before you, take three qian of Clearing Consciousness Herb, two qian of the rootstock of Ghostly Orchid Grass, three qian..."

Gu Chengyu began listing the names of various materials.

Below, the competing disciples sprang into action, swiftly using tools to gather the specified medicinal ingredients.

About the time of one stick of incense had passed.

Gu Chengyu watched as the incense went out and suddenly shouted, "Stop!"

At this command, all disciples below halted their actions.

Since the test was to examine everyone's foundational skills, time naturally had to be limited. Otherwise, with various tools for measuring ingredients at hand, these disciples could, given enough time, eventually procure all the required materials.

"Those who have not completed their measurements, depart now," said Gu Chengyu as his words fell. On the Gathering Immortals Platform, about fifty to sixty disciples left.

"Now, pay attention. Light the pill furnaces and follow my commands to control the flame..."

The pill competition differed from talisman making. Indeed, talisman making cost less and took less time, allowing for three rounds of competition focused solely on talisman making.

However, pill making was different, as alchemy took much longer. If the competition were to conduct three rounds like talisman making, this grand competition of Hundred Peaks would span countless days.

Thus, the first round of alchemy was to examine everyone's foundation, the accuracy and speed of gathering ingredients, as well as the precision of flame control.

Another stick of incense's time elapsed, and Gu Chengyu, extending his hand, pointed at numerous disciples, each one pointed out was eliminated from the competition.

After just one round, only a little over three hundred disciples remained on the Gathering Immortals Platform.

"So few people left?"

Gazing at the remaining disciples below, Cao Zhen was taken aback. What was Gu Chengyu doing? How could you eliminate so many at once? Don't eliminate until there are only three hundred left; that way, Yi Sheng would automatically win the Peak Bamboo without even having to perform.

You, old Gu, what nonsense are you up to?

Alarmed, Cao Zhen hurriedly counted the disciples still on the Gathering Immortals Platform.

"One, two, three... three hundred and nine."

Finally, he let out a sigh of relief. It was okay, there were three hundred people. If there were nine fewer, the first thing he would do after the end of the Hundred Peaks competition was to kick him out of Hidden Dragon Observatory. As for Gu Chengyu, if the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks and Li Ke didn't deal with him, he'd write his own name backward.

From the high vantage points around, the crowd looked at the groups of departing disciples with a sense of surprise.

"This... just one round, and only so few are left?"

"This is too hard."

"It feels like Elder Gu who is in charge this time is very strict."

"It seems there has never been such strictness in previous competitions."

The departing disciples, while leaving the Gathering Immortals Platform, were also full of discussions.

"I feel like my flame control was good enough, just a small mistake. In previous Hundred Peaks competitions, others have made small errors during the flame control test but were still allowed to stay for the next round."

"Yeah, I made just a small mistake too. It seems like this time, anyone who made a mistake got eliminated."

"Actually, my mistake was even smaller. I was just slightly slow in covering with the flame; it was less than a breath's time. That really shouldn't have mattered."

Gu Chengyu, hearing the murmurs around, stopped what he was about to announce for the second round of the competition, and looking displeased at the crowd below, called out, "Originally, I was only responsible for testing your fundamentals, and there was no need to say anything else. But seeing how things are, I can't help but say a few words."

Hearing Gu Chengyu's words, Cao Zhen couldn't help but picture a disheveled man with pale lips in his mind.

This talk of old Gu's, wasn't it just like those rumors of 'I was walking away, but I couldn't help turning back to scold a few more times'?

"You are all Pill Masters. You should know that the path of alchemy tolerates no mistakes; sometimes, being a hair's breadth off can lead miles astray. Don't think that a small mistake is not worth mentioning. Even the smallest mistake, like covering slightly too slowly with the flame when controlling it, could affect the final formation of the pill. Have you not considered why others didn't make the same mistakes as you?"

He was genuinely angry. These disciples were unskilled and yet blamed his strictness. Was he strict? He truly didn't feel he was being that strict.

Think about Peak Master Cao's disciple Yi Sheng, who had just left the Taoist Institution and formally joined Hundred Peaks Sect not so long ago. What level had his alchemy already reached? Aren't you all ashamed?

After he finished, many of the Peak Masters from around the area started to echo his sentiments.

"Elder Gu is right."

"Elder Gu is teaching well."

"Elder Gu, during the competition, why don't you also provide some comments?"

"Yes, yes, Elder Gu, after the disciples have finished their tasks and while not affecting the competition, could you point out where they did not do well and teach them a lesson?"

One Peak Master spoke up, and the others quickly joined in. Today, for some reason, Gu Chengyu was eager to play the teacher; if so, then he might as well teach a bit more.

Gu Chengyu's alchemy skills were definitely among the top ten in the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Why not take this free teaching?

The expression on Gu Chengyu's face changed immediately. You want me to give comments? You want me to teach?

Are you trying to slap my face? Among those present is Yi Sheng, who just taught me alchemy. You want me to give comments? You want me to teach?

Chapter 233: Wrote It and Forgot to Upload_Part 1

The reason why the Hundred Peaks Sect holds the Great Sect Competition is to motivate disciples from each peak in their cultivation. In the past Competitions, whether it was the comparison of the six arts or the final magic combat, the experts within the sect would point out various problems with the disciples on the spot, offering them guidance.

However, whether to offer guidance depended on the will of those responsible sect experts.

Gu Chengyu had no desire to give guidance. With Peak Master Cao in the distance and Yi Sheng among the disciples being assessed, what guidance could he possibly give!

"Ahem..."

He cleared his throat, just as he was about to announce the next pill to be concocted, Bai Fengzi's voice, which hadn't spoken since the start of the Great Sect Competition, came from behind.

"Since all the Peak Masters have asked Elder Gu to offer some guidance, then Elder Gu, please do so."

"Yes." Elder Gu could not refuse, if Sect Leader True Person said so, could he possibly say no?

"The second round of the alchemy competition will be the concoction of the Tiger Bone Jade Marrow Pill. Now, let the competition begin."

As these words ended, figures appeared one after another on the Gathering Immortals Platform, all from the Immortal Palace tasked with enforcement!

Making pills and making talismans were not the same. A low-grade talisman, if it fails to form, might burst but won't cause much harm; but pill-making failures could be quite dangerous. If someone failed and the pill furnace exploded, that could be hazardous.

Therefore, during the alchemy competition, there would always be people watching over to prevent any explosions that might endanger anyone or affect other disciples.

Upon hearing the name "Tiger Bone Jade Marrow Pill," many people on the surrounding peaks, knowledgeable in pill-making, nodded slightly.

"As expected, it's the Tiger Bone Jade Marrow Pill."

"When they were collecting materials just now, I guessed it. Those were indeed the ingredients needed to concoct the Tiger Bone Jade Marrow Pill."

"The time required to concoct high-quality pills is usually long, so in the Great Sect Competition, each round of pill-making competitions always involves first-grade pills which take less time to concoct."

"The Tiger Bone Jade Marrow Pill, although it is a difficult one to concoct among the first-grade pills, doesn't take long to make, which is ideal for the competition's purposes."

Upon hearing the announcement, the disciples participating in the competition were not surprised and promptly started their tasks.

Having prepared the ingredients beforehand and already lit their fires, many among them immediately began tossing the materials into their pill furnaces to start the concoction process.

Some, however, took out some more ingredients, and along with those they were already processing, threw them into the pill furnace as well.

"Look quickly, that's Dan Juezi, the head disciple of Drunken Pill Peak. He's still adding ingredients... Is he doubling the materials?!"

"That's fierce!"

"He's so confident. Isn't he afraid of blowing up the furnace?"

"Zhuang Xiayan of Five Elements Peak has also added double the ingredients!"

"And both Bian Ling from Vermilion Bird Peak and Mu Xuan from Azure Pheasant Peak have put in double the amount of materials too."

"Look over there, that female disciple from Four Treasures Peak, she's not stopping either; she added double the ingredients."

The competition rules dictate that one must concoct the Tiger Bone Jade Marrow Pill, and since everyone is making the same pill, the winners are distinguished based on the quality and quantity of the pills produced.

If you make one pill and someone else makes two, your ranking would naturally not be higher than theirs, unless your pills are of higher quality.

As everyone knows, all pills are classified into lower, middle, upper, and best quality.

For a first-grade pill like the Tiger Bone Jade Marrow Pill, they would be classified as upper first-grade, middle first-grade, or lower first-grade to differentiate quality, with the upper first-grade being of the highest within first-grade pills.

According to the rules of the Great Sect Competition, one upper first-grade pill is worth ten middle first-grade pills, and a hundred lower first-grade pills.

After everyone has concocted their pills, the rankings are determined based on the quantity and quality tallied up.

Naturally, there are special circumstances.

If you manage to concoct a single best quality pill, even if that's all you make, and none of the others concoct a best quality pill, then even if someone in their furnace made a hundred upper-grade pills, the one with the single best quality pill would rank higher.

Best quality pills are too difficult to concoct; even those alchemy masters in the sect cannot guarantee to produce a best quality pill when making first-grade pills.

In the last ten editions of the Hundred Peaks Sect's Great Sect Competition, no one has managed to concoct a best quality pill.

Therefore, no disciple tries to compete for a single best quality pill; everyone aims to make more pills instead.

After all, the rule states that the ranking is based on the number of pills concocted in a furnace. Naturally, adding more materials means being able to make more pills.

But pill-making isn't as simple as putting one dose of materials in to get one pill out, or two doses for two pills.

The difficulty is entirely different.

When more ingredients are added, the potency of the materials doubles, requiring even more precise control. A slight mishandling can cause the properties of the various materials to clash during fusion, which could directly lead to an explosion.

If the furnace exploded, there was only one outcome: elimination.

Therefore, while everyone knew that adding more materials logically resulted in more pills, in practice, very few dared to do so.

Chapter 234: Wrote It and Forgot to Upload_Part 2

Yi Sheng, taking advantage of her height, glanced over and immediately noticed several people adding medicinal ingredients. She seemed to hesitate for a moment, looking at the herbs in front of her, then took out her tools and started to measure again.

"Has she gone mad?"

"What is she trying to do? She's already put double the herbs into the pill furnace, why is she still adding more?"

"She... she's now added three portions of herbs!"

"Is she trying to kill someone?"

A few Peak Masters, seeing Yi Sheng's actions, hastily shouted, "Elder Gu, quick, go see to her."

"Make sure to watch her closely."

"Quick, send someone to stand behind her."

If Yi Sheng blows up the furnace, then so be it – it's not their disciples, but what if their disciples are affected when they're concocting pills next to Yi Sheng should her furnace explode?

A disciple from the Immortal Palace sect also noticed the situation at Yi Sheng's side and stepped forward to approach, but suddenly, Elder Gu's voice rang out in his ears.

"Let me go."

As soon as he spoke, Elder Gu had already flown down from above and landed behind Yi Sheng, looking at her as she continued to grab herbs with a relaxed expression on his face.

It was just a first-grade pill; what could go wrong with Yi Sheng?

Forget about tripling the ingredients; even if the pill furnace were larger, Yi Sheng could put in four or even five times the materials without him worrying.

What a joke, could Yi Sheng's talent make mistakes?

Previously at the Five-Element Pill Ground, Yi Sheng was teaching them alchemy methods while concocting pills.

And it wasn't just first-grade or second-grade pills, but third-grade pills.

Even among third-grade pills, those were extremely high-end ones, incredibly close to the fourth-grade. Could she make a mistake concocting such a first-grade pill? That would be a colossal joke.

Finally, Yi Sheng had put all three portions of the ingredients into the pill furnace. In the next moment, behind her rose ten perfectly complete phantasmagoric Tao Bases and ten completely realized phantasmagoric Immortal Bridges.

Each of her Tao Bases and each Immortal Bridge emitted a golden glow, and upon every Tao Base and Immortal Bridge, there was a cluster of flames burning fiercely.

The flames burning on the Tao Bases were red, while those on the Immortal Bridges were blue.

The flames surged to the heavens, as if they could ignite all the surrounding air.

On the Gathering Immortals Platform, among the disciples concocting pills, there were not a few who had reached Core Formation, and there were even genius disciples who had condensed a Golden Core.

But as Yi Sheng's Tao Bases and Immortal Bridges ascended behind her, many eyes were drawn toward her.

"Ten Tao Bases, ten Immortal Bridges!"

"Phenomena, each Tao Base and each Immortal Bridge has its own phenomena!"

"These... The disciples of Four Treasures Peak, what kind of people are they!"

"I've heard that the other four disciples of Four Treasures Peak have all condensed an inner core, and each of them has ten phenomenal Tao Bases and ten phenomenal Immortal Bridges."

"The disciples of Four Treasures Peak, how come each one that emerges has ten Tao Bases, ten Immortal Bridges Grand Completion, and all have phenomena!"

"Since when were Grand Completion Tao Bases and Immortal Bridges with full phenomena so abundant!"

"Even if they don't win any Peak Bamboo in the Six Arts competition, based on these disciples, they can still score well in the magical combat segment."

"Yes, I heard that Hidden Dragon Observatory only has the Hidden Dragon Three Sons, but the other four disciples of Four Treasures Peak, they've been called the Four Sons of the Hidden Dragon."

"This Yi Sheng, she truly deserves to be the genius everyone was madly vying for back then. She hasn't been in Four Treasures Peak for long, and she's already achieved Grand Completion of the Ten Immortal Bridges!"

"If she had joined a peak like Vermilion Bird Peak or Azure Pheasant Peak, I wonder how far she would have reached by now."

Tu Zhuque, listening to the buzzing discussions around, displayed a proud look on her mature and charming face. Yi Sheng's current achievements owed much to Vermilion Bird Peak's Vermilion Bird Blood Pool. After all, Yi Sheng had soaked in the Vermilion Bird Blood Pool for a whole month.

Back then, when she heard from Li Ke that Yi Sheng was continuously soaking in the Vermilion Bird Blood Pool, she was shocked and even personally went to visit the pool.

Li Ke, who had a Bi Fang Fire Body, had only soaked in the Vermilion Bird Blood Pool for twenty-five days the first time, not even reaching thirty!

At Four Treasures Peak, Yan Yourong looked at her little junior sister with astonishment and turned to ask Cao Zhen, "Master, did you let junior sister stay over in your room?"

She had been tirelessly cultivating all this time, while Yi Sheng had mostly gone to Vermilion Bird Peak. To her surprise, her little junior sister had already condensed ten Immortal Bridges.

"No, as your master, I haven't taken your junior sister over yet... No, what nonsense are you speaking? I haven't yet used pills to help your junior master increase her strength."

When Cao Zhen first discovered that Yi Sheng had broken through and condensed ten phenomenal Tao Bases and ten phantasmagoric Immortal Bridges, he finally understood why so many had fought to take Yi Sheng as a disciple. Her talent was truly astounding.

After he had imparted the Pure Yang Utmost True Solution to Yi Sheng, taught her a number of alchemy methods, and the concoction of various pills, he had barely managed Yi Sheng's cultivation, merely letting her soak in the Vermilion Bird Blood Pool for a while. Then, Yi Sheng became so strong.

Chapter 235: Wrote It and Forgot to Upload_Part 3

However, with the Vermilion Bird Blood Pool, True Yang body, and the most suitable Pure Yang Utmost True Solution for her, it is understandable how she has become so strong.

On the Gathering Immortals Platform, after Yi Sheng placed all the materials into the Pill Furnace, she suddenly threw out a fire-controlling talisman. In an instant, the intense flames beneath the Pill Furnace blazed wildly.

Many people around, who had been drawn to her because of her unusual Tao Base and Immortal Bridge, suddenly frowned.

"What is this? Shouldn't alchemy start with a gentle flame?"

"Going straight to such a big flame, can the pill even be refined?"

"Does she know how to refine pills?"

Gu Chengyu, hearing the many exclamations around, suddenly turned his head and shouted towards the direction of the noise, "What do you know! As long as the fire control level is high enough, there's no problem in using a strong flame from the start, plus, a big fire can cover the entire Pill Furnace..."

Gu Chengyu began to heap excessive praise, wasn't the Sect Leader just asking him to give commentary? Since praise was a form of commentary, he had no issues in lavishing Yi Sheng with commendation.

"Look, Yi Sheng's fire control, that is what true fire control is like, the temperature of the flame..."

In the beginning, the crowd hadn't paid much attention to Yi Sheng, but as they listened to Gu Chengyu's words, they all turned towards Yi Sheng. Many of them did not know much about alchemy, but they knew that Gu Chengyu was ranked among the top ten Alchemy Masters in the Hundred Peaks Sect. If Gu Chengyu didn't praise the disciples of Drunken Pill Peak, Five Elements Peak, or Vermilion Bird Peak, but instead praised Yi Sheng, it must be because Yi Sheng's alchemy skill was exceptional!

"So does that mean this Yi Sheng also has the potential to break into the top ten?"

"Four Treasures Peak is not only good at Talisman Making but also skilled in Alchemy?"

"There were rumors before that Cao Zhen is proficient in alchemy. Now it seems that rumor must be true."

"But, Yi Sheng has only joined Four Treasures Peak not long ago, and after she joined, Cao Zhen has been teaching her alchemy. How high can her alchemy skill level be?"

"Didn't you see Elder Gu standing behind Yi Sheng all this time, with an approving look on his face? Even if you don't believe in Yi Sheng's alchemy skill, don't you trust Elder Gu?"

"That's true."

Cao Zhen, listening to Gu Chengyu's relentless praises, was frustrated in his heart, thinking, what are you doing standing behind my disciple, old Gu?

What are you bragging about?

I don't see what's so special; how have you become so culturally adept, capable of blowing everything up without repeating yourself, turning a simple act of fire control into something so grandiose.

Could you keep your distance from my disciple? You're making such a big fuss here, if my disciple fails in pill refining later, what will people think? What if people think Four Treasures Peak is intentionally aiming for the 100th rank?

I think you, this Five Elements Peak Elder, really don't want to continue in your role!

Amid Gu Chengyu's unceasing praise, the pill Yi Sheng was refining gradually began to take shape.

Pulling the pill!

Yi Sheng, utterly focused, cast an Alchemy Technique into the Pill Furnace, then suddenly yanked with her hand inside the furnace.

Instantly, a smooth pill shot out of the Pill Furnace, exposed to the air.

"High Grade!"

"It is a High-Grade pill!"

In a flash, exclamations of surprise sounded all around.

The eyes of the crowd were all on Yi Sheng. It had been ten sessions of the Hundred Peaks Competition since anyone had managed to refine a Best Quality pill, making this High-Grade pill the highest quality available.

"The second pill, the second pill is also a High-Grade Tiger Bone Jade Marrow Pill."

"The third pill, she has pulled out the third pill."

"Unfortunately, the third pill is Mid Grade."

"Mid Grade is enough; the important thing is that the first two were High Grade. That's equivalent to two hundred Low Grade pills."

"Elder Gu is truly deserving of his reputation. No wonder he has been constantly praising Yi Sheng. It turns out her skill in alchemy is indeed so strong."

"The fourth pill, also Mid Grade!"

The crowd that had bet heavily on Four Treasures Peak's rankings to soar, began to exclaim in awe. They felt that the Spirit Stones they had wagered might just win.

"Yi Sheng is still pulling pills, and she hasn't stopped."

"Although Four Treasures Peak didn't obtain the Peak Bamboo during the Talisman Contest, it seems Yi Sheng might just turn things around with this alchemy competition."

"As long as she gets into the top ten, there is still hope!"

"Hold steady; she must hold steady."

Those who had placed wagers watched Yi Sheng pulling pills with even more nervousness than they would feel for a disciple of their own peaks.

In a separate area where the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks were, Li Lingwei widened her eyes, pointed at Yi Sheng, and exclaimed, "She's succeeded, she actually did it!"

Her voice was so loud that it drew the attention of nearby people, but upon realizing it was one of the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks, they turned away again.

In the whole Hundred Peaks Sect, who didn't know that the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks had fallen out with Cao Zhen of Four Treasures Peak? Seeing a person from Four Treasures Peak successfully pull a pill, naturally, the Five Evils wouldn't be pleased, which was completely normal.

After shouting, Li Lingwei seemed to realize that her voice was too loud and quickly lowered it, "What to do now? She has already pulled out so many pills, including two High Grade ones. Her performance surely won't be poor. With the Peak Bamboo she gained this time, it will be enough to ensure a significant rise in Four Treasures Peak's ranking. Our wagered Spirit Stones..."

Next to her, a few people didn't respond but furrowed their brows deeply and simultaneously looked toward Ru Wenlin.

Ru Wenlin slowly said, "Wait and see, don't jump to conclusions before the final results are in."

With a displeased look, Li Lingwei muttered, "What final results do we need? The pills she's pulled out are already sufficient."

Chapter 236: Wrote It and Forgot to Upload_Part 4

At the Gathering Immortals Platform, Yi Sheng was still drawing pills, but gradually, she slowed down. Dense beads of sweat had appeared on her forehead, indicating she seemed to have reached her limit, yet she was still desperately holding on.

The Pill Furnace before her began to wobble, and as it moved more violently, a furious energy surged out from within the furnace.

Gu Chengyu, who had been standing behind, smiling, suddenly showed a look of panic on his face.

"Not good!"

Gu Chengyu's vast energy within his body burst forth instantaneously, and with a fierce motion of his hand, a dome of transparent light fell like an umbrella, enveloping Yi Sheng's Pill Furnace.

The next moment, there was a muffled bang as the Pill Furnace exploded, sending shards of metal flying in all directions. They hit the barrier of light and then fell to the ground, as if they had struck an invisible wall.

Everyone around was stunned.

"The furnace exploded?"

"What's happening?"

"Why did the furnace suddenly explode?"

"Didn't she already start drawing pills? And she had even successfully drawn out some pills, how could it still explode?"

No one could understand what had happened; they had never heard of a furnace exploding after the successful creation of pills.

"I... I've failed..." Yi Sheng painfully extended her hands, covering her face.

"Sigh..." Gu Chengyu sighed deeply, but at that moment he did not know how to comfort Yi Sheng. Besides, as the person responsible for this competition, he could not directly console her. He could only explain to the crowd, "Inside the Pill Furnace, when many pills are refined, there is still a possibility of an explosion even after successful pill drawing.

After all, after the pills have condensed, there are residual medicinal qualities left in the furnace... Never mind, explaining too much to you won't make sense.

Actually, there was a chance to remedy the situation, but regrettably, the materials here did not include the necessary herbs for that. Therefore, the explosion was unavoidable.

Yi Sheng was too eager to claim first place. If not for that, by using just a little less material, the explosion wouldn't have happened."

That was all he could do; the only thing left was to make an explanation for Yi Sheng. In fact, he also found it odd why Yi Sheng had caused the furnace to explode. During the time she spent at the Five-Element Pill Ground, he felt that even though she was young, she was still very stable when it came to Alchemy. So why did it happen this time?

It could only be said that Yi Sheng was too eager, desperate to take first place without Peak Master Cao by her side, she lacked confidence, hence the explosion.

"What were they thinking over at Four Treasures Peak? Why does everybody want to rush for first place?"

"So that's how it is. I understand now. It must be because Ling Xi didn't get the Peak Bamboo, disrupting the original plan of Four Treasures Peak, making Yi Sheng feel compelled to fight for first place to make up for Ling Xi's loss but..."

"But now, she doesn't get even a single Peak Bamboo. According to the rules, an explosion means failure, and the pills Yi Sheng had drawn out are all invalidated!"

"Four Treasures Peak is completely done for."

"Whether Four Treasures Peak is finished doesn't matter. What's key is my wagered Spirit Stones; I bet three hundred thousand of them."

"Three hundred thousand? I bet six hundred thousand!"

"I wagered more than both of you combined—I put down a million!"

At the location of the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks, Li Lingwei stared blankly at the exploded Pill Furnace of Yi Sheng, feeling nothing but admiration.

"So this can happen too. Interesting."

"Good, very good!"

The five of them, except for Ru Wenlin, burst out laughing, and even Ru Wenlin had a smile on his face.

Seeing them laugh, the crowd did not think much of it; the Five Evils of Hundred Peaks had already had a falling out with Cao Zhen. Now, seeing someone from Four Treasures Peak fail, it was natural for them to be pleased.

At the position of Vermilion Bird Peak, Tu Zhuque was completely speechless. What's going on with these two disciples of Four Treasures Peak? If they had performed steadily, they clearly had the strength to compete for first. Even if they didn't go for the top spot, they could have secured a spot within the top three without much trouble. Now, both of them ended up without even a single Peak Bamboo!

And Cao Zhen, what on earth was he doing? Now, great, the two strongest competitors of Four Treasures Peak in the Six Arts had both failed. How was he going to secure Peak Bamboos in the remaining Arts?

Without winning Peak Bamboos in the Six Arts, how high could Four Treasures Peak go?

Tu Zhuque frowned deeply. Even though her Vermilion Bird Peak had again outperformed Azure Pheasant Peak in the Alchemy competition, she had no mood to provoke Chen Qingluan. She was considering how many ranks Four Treasures Peak would achieve during the spell battles.

What rank would Four Treasures Peak end up with, and how could they be worthy of her family's Li Ke?

As the Alchemy competition came to a close, the Pill Furnaces on the Gathering Immortals Platform were quickly removed, replaced with a series of furnaces for Artifact Refining.

The Protecting Elder appeared once again and announced, "The third round of the Six Arts competition, the [Artifact] contest, begins. Disciples participating in the competition, please step onto the Gathering Immortals Platform."

At the sound of the announcement, disciples from all the peaks participating in the competition flew out and landed on the Gathering Immortals Platform.

From the direction of Four Treasures Peak, Cao Zhen stopped Xiang Ziyu, wanting to give a few instructions, but then he simply said, "Just have a good time."

Xiang Ziyu was different from both Ling Xi and Yi Sheng.

Ling Xi and Yi Sheng truly had the capability to take first place.

However, Xiang Ziyu had only been studying Artifact Refining for half a month. What was more important was that this fellow always had various odd ideas. During assessments, he didn't even need to deliberately hold back; he could fail on his own just by refining.

Chapter 237:

Xiang Ziyu quickly descended with the crowd.

Unlike when Ling Xi and Yi Sheng had appeared before, as soon as he showed up, he was the focus of countless people. Almost everyone's attention was on him.

"Four Treasures Peak has sent out another disciple."

"Although the last two disciples from Four Treasures Peak both failed and didn't acquire even a single Peak Bamboo, they were indeed strong. If they hadn't been too eager, I even believe they might have claimed first place! Especially Ling Xi!"

"Even if they hadn't taken the first, they would have been secure in the top three!"

"This disciple from Four Treasures Peak, participating in artifact refining, couldn't possibly be as strong as the previous two, could he?"

As Xiang Ziyu listened to the various discussions around him, he couldn't help but shake his head slightly. Being the protagonist came with such treatment, attracting countless people's attention the moment you appear.

Unfortunately, this time, for his master and for Four Treasures Peak, he had to hide his own edge.

After the law enforcement Elder and everyone else were in place, the announcement continued, "This competition will be presided over by Elder Ai Yunqi of the Immortal Soldier Workshop at Hidden Dragon Observatory."

Upon hearing this on the Gathering Immortals Platform, the faces of the disciples participating in the competition changed dramatically. Elder Ai Yunqi, why would she be presiding over the competition?

While both are Elders of Hidden Dragon Observatory, some may not know about Gu Chengyu of the Five-Element Pill Ground, after all, not everyone practices alchemy or frequents the Five-Element Pill Ground.

But Ai Yunqi of the Immortal Soldier Workshop, anyone who's been to Hidden Dragon Observatory knows her, after all, who wouldn't try their luck to see if they could acquire a Divine Weapon left behind by an ancestor!

Moreover, Ai Yunqi, who manages the Immortal Soldier Workshop, is notorious for her terrible temper. She's presiding over the competition this time? I heard that when the last Hundred Peaks competition was held, the Sect Leader True Person had invited Elder Ai Yunqi to preside, but she refused. So why did she agree this time?

Having her in charge, you don't have to think about it, it's definitely going to be strict.

Ai Yunqi appeared before everyone with a cold expression and announced directly, "The first round, forging a Sword Prototype, whatever the type, as long as it reaches fifty hammerings and has sufficient strength, it will be considered up to standard. Begin now."

As her voice fell, everyone quickly got busy.

If you asked the spectators to pick the least desirable event to watch from the Hundred Peaks competition, artifact refining would be the last choice. In other processes, such as talisman or alchemy crafting, there's not much noise, and even if they're hard to understand and can't bother you, you can still chat with others.

But once artifact refining started, with the clanging of the iron hammering, it was enough to make one's heart flutter - that was the sound of thousands forging simultaneously...

Amid the sounds of hammering, the gaze of the vast majority, however, fell on Xiang Ziyu.

"What kind of phenomenon is that? Such a strange phenomenon!"

"I feel as if it's two shadows, one black and one white?"

"What are these shadows?"

"Isn't he an Ancient Immortal Body? I know that Ling Xi seems to have the Ancient Talisman Immortal Body, but does anyone know what Xiang Ziyu's Immortal Body is?"

"I don't know, the type of his Immortal Body is not important. The key is, how good is his artifact refining ability?"

"I don't know, but look at the way he's forging the Sword Prototype, his technique seems quite unique."

"Right, if he's as strong as the other two disciples from Four Treasures Peak and can maintain that, then there's still a chance."

"Look, while everyone else is purely forging, the way he forges seems to cause both the Iron Hammer and the Sword Prototype to resonate."

"It feels very impressive."

"Someone remind him quickly!"

Despite the incessant clanging of iron, many who had placed their bets on Four Treasures Peak still made an effort to shout at the top of their lungs.

"Xiang Ziyu, you have to hold steady."

"Right, don't make the same mistake as your senior sisters."

"You must first ensure you get a piece of Peak Bamboo, then aim for a higher rank."

The scene was too chaotic for Xiang Ziyu to hear the crowd clearly. He was just forging the iron prototype before him, striking it repeatedly, and each blow added a vibration, which, as he continued, made him embarrassed to realize he could no longer cause any vibration.

"The quality of this material is too poor; if I continue to vibrate it, the Sword Prototype will break before reaching fifty hammerings. I need to think of a way..."

Xiang Ziyu muttered to himself, surveying the Sword Prototype he had forged, thought for a moment, and then changed direction in his forging, also increasing the strength of the vibrations. If the entire Sword Prototype couldn't uniformly withstand the force, then he would change the point of impact.

Sweat continuously dripped to the floor beneath him, and he became immersed in his forging.

Artifact refining is not easily accomplished, even if it's just a prototype, it still requires a lot of time.

Ai Yunqi waited for four hours before she finally spoke up, "Time's up, everyone, cease your work!"

As soon as her voice fell, everyone stopped what they were doing, except for one person, who continued to strike with the hammer in his hand.

"Clang..."

The sound of metal striking metal was unusually clear at that moment.

Ai Yunqi took flight, heading straight for the only figure who hadn't stopped his work.

"Xiang Ziyu!" Ai Yunqi looked at Xiang Ziyu with a cold expression and said harshly, "The Elder has ordered you to stop, didn't you hear? Why are you still forging?"

That's right, Xiang Ziyu was indeed a disciple of Peak Master Cao, but a competition is a competition, rules are rules, and breaking the rules is not allowed for anyone!

Chapter 238: Wrote It and Forgot to Upload_Part 6

"I stopped right away," Xiang Ziyu said innocently. "I stopped the moment you said to stop."

From a distance, those who had placed their bets on Four Treasures Peak's higher-ranked individuals also hurriedly shouted, "That's right, that disciple did stop at the same time."

"That's true, I also feel it was at the same time."

"It always takes time for the word 'stop' to reach a disciple's ears, so it might seem like that disciple was slow, but in fact, he really did stop at the same time."

"Yeah, that disciple was farther away, so it makes sense that he heard the command a little later."

"With so many disciples, it's impossible for them all to stop at once; there's always one who stops last, and that's completely normal."

"Elder Ai, we are not from Four Treasures Peak. We are simply speaking a word of fairness; that disciple from Four Treasures Peak truly stopped at the same time."

It was only the first round, and if they allowed Xiang Ziyu to be directly eliminated now, then Four Treasures Peak wouldn't receive a single Peak Bamboo, and their Spirit Stones would be completely wasted. No matter what, they couldn't allow the disciple from Four Treasures Peak to be eliminated just like that.

"Fine, let's say you did stop at the very last moment, at the same time as my command. Now tell me, what on earth have you refined here?" Ai Yunqi pointed at the artifact prototype that Xiang Ziyu had forged.

With a smug look, Xiang Ziyu said, "This is a Sword Prototype."

"Sword Prototype?" Ai Yunqi skeptically picked up the spiral-shaped object that looked like a spear but was obviously much thinner and shorter and taunted, "Without you telling me, I would have thought this is a prototype for some exotic weapon. Tell me, how does this resemble a Sword Prototype?"

"This," Xiang Ziyu stubbornly explained, "is a Sword Prototype that I have specifically created. This sword, I plan to forge into a spiral shape. Once the precious sword is forged, the Mana channeled through it will naturally form a spiral, increasing its penetrating power..."

As he spoke, he even began to boast, "Elder, look. When I was forging it, I used an Oscillating Force so that once the prototype is forged, during further forging, the weapon will have greater resilience, the opponent..."

"Enough," Ai Yunqi interrupted Xiang Ziyu bluntly and discontentedly said, "You, get out, you're eliminated."

"Eliminated? Why? I've already completed fifty forgings," Xiang Ziyu was stunned. He was eliminated just like that? My senior sister and junior sister at least were eliminated at the end. Being eliminated right off the bat is such an embarrassment.

"Fifty forgings? Yes, you did complete fifty forgings, but, I asked you to complete them to make the prototype stronger, and I also said it needed to reach sufficient strength. Do you yourself think this prototype is strong? Can it possess any strength?"

Others' prototypes can still be forged after fifty times, but yours would break at the slightest touch. Do you call that 'complete'?"

Ai Yunqi spoke, then stretched out her hand towards one side and drew in a breath. Immediately, a disciple's knife-shaped artifact prototype flew into her hand.

"This disciple's prototype has been forged only forty-five times but is still stronger than your so-called fifty-forge prototype."

She held Xiang Ziyu's forged prototype in one hand and the forty-five-times-forged knife in the other and slammed them together abruptly.

Instantly, a clang of colliding weapons rang out, followed by a clear sound of shattering.

Xiang Ziyu's forged prototype broke into two pieces from the middle, while the other prototype seemed unscathed, not even a crack appearing on it.

"You tell me, is this a fifty-forge prototype? Worse than a forty-five-forge prototype? Now, get out!" Ai Yunqi commanded and, without giving Xiang Ziyu another glance, turned back to the disciple who had forged forty-five times and said, "You too, out."

No sooner had her words fallen than Xiang Ziyu, who was still standing there, seemingly pondering over how to argue back, turned and walked away.

"As the protagonist, even if I am eliminated, I must be the first to do so; I cannot let someone else take my first place."

From the high spots all around, everyone who had bet on Four Treasures Peak fetching a high rank was dumbfounded.

"The situation seems a bit off."

"This Xiang Ziyu is different from his senior sister and junior sister."

"Is this guy really incompetent?"

"Indeed, we might have overthought it. Think about it, if the other six arts in Four Treasures Peak were strong enough, would Ling Xi and Yi Sheng have needed to fight so hard to rank first?"

They must know the situation at Four Treasures Peak and understand that only they could secure Peak Bamboos. That's why they were overly striving for perfection during the competition, insisting on taking first place."

"Now that you mention it, that does seem reasonable."

"We should have thought of this earlier."

"So, our bets are going to fail."

"Yes, half of the examination for the six arts has passed, and Four Treasures Peak hasn't secured a single Peak Bamboo."

"Not necessarily; Four Treasures Peak can still compete in the last challenge of magical combat. Haven't you noticed? In this Hundred Peaks Competition, the Upper Fifty Peaks are even stronger than in previous years, and the Lower Fifty Peaks have hardly secured any Peak Bamboos."

Cao Zhen, listening to the crowd's discussion, was already laughing inwardly. I was wondering how to explain that my eldest and youngest disciples, despite having the strength to rank first, ended up without any Peak Bamboos.

You've done a good job, filling in the gaps for me. I don't even need to come up with an excuse now, and you've even bet your money on Four Treasures Peak, ensuring that the betting houses will have Spirit Stones to pay me later, without going bankrupt. You really are good folks!

The first day of the Hundred Peaks Competition concluded with just three of the six arts contests completed.

The remaining three of the six arts, Formation, Agriculture, and Beast, were contested on the second day of the Hundred Peaks Competition, and Four Treasures Peak did not send any disciples to participate.

After the six arts contests, the one who took first place was not Flying Immortal Peak, but Five Elements Peak.

Five Elements Peak could be said to be the only peak among the Hundred Peaks that was proficient in all six arts. And it was due to their mastery over these arts that they maintained their position in the top three of the Hundred Peaks rankings, never once falling from grace.

The one ranked second was the perennial first-ranked among the Hundred Peaks, Flying Immortal Peak.

Spectators weren't too surprised, after all, although Flying Immortal Peak was strong in the six arts, it wasn't their strongest point. Their true strength lay in combat, far surpassing that of other peaks.

On the third day, the real highlights of the Hundred Peaks Competition began with the magical combat, starting on Immortal Gathering Peak.

The site of the combat, the Gathering Immortals Platform, had already been set with ten fighting stages.

All the peaks would participate in the Hundred Peaks Competition. However, just one stage for bout after bout would be too slow. Hence, the Hundred Peaks Competition has always concurrently commenced ten bouts at ten stages.

Chapter 239: Fierce Battle_1

The Hundred Peaks Tournament's trials in the six arts wrapped up in just two days, yet the upcoming magical combat would stretch over seven days.

Although the Hundred Peaks Tournament included six arts, the climax was always the final magical combat; in the end, the six arts served as a prelude to this battle.

During the trials in the six arts, only the top three hundred were able to obtain Peak Bamboo, but in magical combat, the top two thousand would be eligible.

If the same rule applied as with the six arts, where only the top three hundred could obtain Peak Bamboo, then the last fifty peaks would stand no chance. Those ranks at the very end would have no way of obtaining a rank if they failed to secure Peak Bamboo in the six arts.

Even with two thousand ranks available, some peaks would still fail to secure Peak Bamboo.

For example, why did Four Treasures Peak previously rank one hundredth?

It was because Four Treasures Peak hadn't secured a single piece of Peak Bamboo in either the six arts or magical combat during the last tournament, thus ending up at the hundredth position.

Seven Star Peak, however, managed to secure one piece of Peak Bamboo in magical combat, so it ranked ninety-ninth.

On the side of Gathering Immortals Platform, upon the mountain, two thousand bamboo placards now hung, each corresponding to the top two thousand ranks.

On many of these placards, names had already been inscribed.

Within the span of seven days, if they could defend their platforms and defeat all challengers, those ranks would naturally belong to them.

As for their current ranks, they were chosen by the disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect themselves.

Before the start of the magical combat, any disciple could choose a rank at will, then assume the position of that rank's platform lord.

Even if you were a disciple from the Hundredth Peak, you could declare that you choose to be the platform lord of the first rank. Temporarily, you would be number one, and if you could maintain that rank, you would be the final number one.

If you look at it this way, it seems that those who choose their ranks first are at a great disadvantage. After selecting a rank, you don't know how many will challenge you, nor how many bouts you'll have to fight.

Although, after the battle, the sect will provide various healing pills to treat your injuries, if the injuries are too severe, it's not guaranteed you'll recover quickly. Such cases are rare, but not unheard of.

The rules of the Hundred Peaks Tournament state that if you are severely injured, you can receive three days of recovery time. Once the recovery time is up, regardless of the state of your injuries, you must accept challenges again, after all, everyone can't wait for you indefinitely.

This creates a result where everyone feels that choosing to be a platform lord first is a serious disadvantage.

Therefore, the rules of the Hundred Peaks Tournament grant those who first choose their rank to defend a platform one additional opportunity to challenge.

If your defense fails, you are of course knocked down and must start from scratch with a new challenge.

If you're challenged again after and lose the battle, then I'm sorry, no matter your previous rank, even if you were first but got knocked down to third, and then you challenge the second and lose, you can no longer challenge anyone else.

A single challenge, and a failure means you lose the opportunity for another attempt.

Of course, if you already had a rank before the challenge and you fail, you can still maintain your original rank.

But at this point, others can challenge you.

If the challenger already has a rank and defeats you, that's manageable, as you'll at least acquire the challenger's rank.

However, if an unranked person challenges and defeats you, then you effectively have no rank at all.

And because you've already failed a previous challenge, you can no longer issue new ones, leaving no chance of redemption.

The Hundred Peaks Tournament rules within the Hundred Peaks Sect were established by the Ancestral Elder at the founding of the sect. Some rules have changed over time, even the number of ranks eligible for Peak Bamboo has varied, initially being only the top thousand.

But no matter the changes, the rules of magical combat have remained the same.

There have been suggestions to the Ancestral Elder, saying that the rule that one failure disallows further challenges is unreasonable, as it may deter some highly skilled disciples from challenging. A single defeat leading to a loss of rank doesn't reflect the true abilities of the various peaks and disciples.

The Ancestral Elder countered, "Within the Sect, you can live after a defeat, but outside, if you miscalculate your opponent's strength and are defeated, will you be lucky enough to survive?" As a cultivator, you must recognize your own strength.

So, the rules of the Hundred Peaks Tournament have remained unchanged; a failed challenge means losing the chance to challenge again.

If a challenge fails, you cannot challenge again. If you succeed, of course, you may challenge once more.

But that one more opportunity to challenge is also your last.

Each person is limited to two challenges, and the ranks of those two challenges cannot be more than one hundred apart. For instance, if you challenge the eight hundredth rank and succeed, you can then only challenge from the seven hundred ninety-ninth to the seven hundredth rank. *freewebnovel.com*

The reason for this rule is once again to test everyone's self-assessment of their strength.

As for those defending the platforms, they are granted one more chance to challenge, bringing their total to three opportunities.

An extra opportunity to challenge allows for many more options, which is why many vie to hold the position of platform lord once the magical combat commences.

If the same rank, say the tenth platform, is targeted by three people at once, the decision will be based on the ranking of their respective peaks.

Chapter 240: Fierce Battle_2

Other peaks, having fought so hard to achieve such high rankings in the last Great Hundred Peaks Tournament, surely deserve some special consideration.

Indeed, for this reason, the ones in charge of defending the platforms after the start of the combat competitions are usually disciples from the Upper Fifty Peaks.

One by one, the disciples from the Lower Fifty Peaks look towards the names on each bamboo tablet.

"The first defender, Nie Jie from Flying Immortal Peak, a Perfect Completion Golden Core!"

"As expected of Flying Immortal Peak, directly guarding the first platform!"

"Apart from Flying Immortal Peak, no other peak dares to defend this first platform!"

"The position of first belongs to Flying Immortal Peak, fundamentally unshakable, even Five Elements Peak isn't able to compete."

"The second defender is a senior brother from Five Elements Peak, also a Perfect Completion Golden Core."

"Look at the third defender, Li Ke! It's Immortal Li Ke!"

"Although Vermilion Bird Peak is also among the top ten peaks, their ranking doesn't make it into the top five. This time, they've directly seized the third spot!"

"Did you forget the Heavenly Phenomenon when Immortal Li Ke broke through to the Perfect Completion Golden Core not long ago?"

"Right, it seems the other peaks' disciples, upon seeing Li Ke taking up the third platform, stepped back one after another. After all, even if they relied on their peak's higher ranking to take the third place, Li Ke would definitely challenge them.

That is a battle at the level of Perfect Completion Golden Core and if not careful, one could be seriously injured, affecting the subsequent rankings. No one would want to start the competition by clashing head-on with a master of Great Perfection Golden Core Heavenly Phenomenon."

From the direction of Vermilion Bird Peak, Tu Zhuque looked at Chen Qingluan nearby, pointed to the position of the bamboo tablet, and provocatively said, "Chen Qingluan, our Li Ke has started defending. You don't agree, do you? If not, you can have your disciples challenge our Li Ke at any time."

What was she most looking forward to in the Great Hundred Peaks Tournament? It wasn't that Vermilion Bird Peak emerged on top in Talisman Making and Alchemy, two of the Six Arts, over Azure Pheasant Peak, but now, it was the combat competition!

Her Vermilion Bird Peak had Li Ke, who could completely suppress all disciples from Azure Pheasant Peak!

With just Li Ke alone, Azure Pheasant Peak had no counter.

She's asking, does Chen Qingluan dare to let her disciples challenge Li Ke?

Chen Qingluan coldly smiled and said, "Challenge your Li Ke? Let your Li Ke secure the third-place first."

"Oh? I want to see who has the guts to challenge our Li Ke," Tu Zhuque, full of dominance, looked around, unafraid of attracting hatred for her disciple while provocatively declaring, "I welcome everyone to challenge our Li Ke."

Around her, no one responded.

They were not blind; they had not failed to see the Heavenly Phenomenon during Li Ke's breakthrough, a Perfect Completion Golden Core with all ten cores exhibiting phenomena. Unless they were mad, no one would let their disciples challenge Li Ke.

Seeing no one respond, Tu Zhuque's expression grew even more triumphant as she looked at Chen Qingluan and pretended to be disappointed, "What a pity, no one is challenging our Li Ke. So we'll just have to wait for Azure Pheasant Peak to make a challenge.

If I'd known it would be like this, I would've had our Li Ke choose to defend a later platform, like the tenth, where she could just challenge the ninth peak."

Chen Qingluan simply turned her head away, choosing not to look at Tu Zhuque anymore. Currently, the ninth-place defender was a disciple from her Azure Pheasant Peak.

As for actually challenging Li Ke?

She wasn't foolish; she wouldn't let her disciples challenge Li Ke.

How did Tu Zhuque end up with such a disciple!

Although she didn't want to admit it, nor would she verbally concede, she understood that, unless something unexpected happened, Azure Pheasant Peak's ranking would probably not surpass Vermilion Bird Peak in this Great Hundred Peaks Tournament.

Cao Zhen didn't focus on who was leading the rankings; he even refrained from looking at the specific standings and instead, he swept his gaze over each of his five disciples' faces and slowly said, "Don't restrain yourselves, this time, your master hopes you can go all out, fully showcasing yourselves."

"Master!"

"You..."

The five disciples were taken aback. Master had said to aim for the hundredth place, so why was he now telling them to go all out?

Little Beiyan even asked, "Master, did I hear wrong? Did you say to 'defend against a wave'?"

Cao Zhen's defenses were instantly breached; he should not have taught his disciples all that modern vernacular. He managed to compose himself and, looking towards the platforms below, slowly corrected, "You heard wrong; what your master said is to go all out in this battle!

Disciples of the Hundred Peaks will fight fiercely for their rankings, giving it their all, which is a rare opportunity to train. I don't want you to miss out on this chance.

Of course, if you give it your all, whoever you choose to challenge is up to you."

"Up to us to decide?" Yi Sheng, always quick-witted, immediately understood and whispered, "I get it now."

"What do you get?"

"What do you mean?"

Her fellow senior brothers and sisters all turned their gaze towards her.

Yi Sheng explained in a low voice under the scrutiny of her senior brothers and sisters, "The master doesn't want us to miss out on the opportunity to train, but remember, the master has bet three million spirit stones that Four Treasures Peak's ranking won't rise. Now that we're reaching the end of the competition, we can't let master's three million spirit stones go down the drain.

So, we still have to lose, but now, it's up to us to decide how to lose. For example, we could challenge those whose strength is clearly superior to ours."