

## **My Master 321**

Chapter 321: Hundred Peaks People, Hundred Peaks Soul\_2

But his full force strike, facing a casually unleashed Blood River from the blood-colored demon, couldn't break through!

Cao Zhen saw the long river rushing toward him and crazily spurred his mana, exerting all his strength to release a Five-thunder Righteous Method; purple thunder descended, fiercely striking the surging blood light, and under the impact of the mighty power of thunderbolt, the blood light dispersed.

And with it, the power of the thunderbolt vanished.

A look of shock and doubt immediately crossed Lan Pili's face. Peak Master Cao's divine skill was emitted through the golden pill beneath them.

Its might was even far superior to his own divine skills.

Such power, that was definitely not something a Core Formation Stage cultivator could unleash!

Was it because of the golden pill beneath him?

What exactly was this pill?

Capable of growing larger, and also able to release such power?

Before he could collect his thoughts, down below, waves of blood light surged toward them again.

Run!

Cao Zhen felt the endless demonic power contained within the blood light and didn't entertain the slightest thought of engaging, crazily activating his Heretical Golden Core and leading everyone to flee toward the distance.

A single Blood River cast by the blood-colored demon required both Lan Pili and himself to attack in succession to break it, demonstrating the demon's terrifying strength.

He even felt that even if he detonated his Heretical Golden Core, he couldn't severely injure the demon!

Now, with the blood-colored demon releasing so many Blood Rivers simultaneously, how could he resist?

Cao Zhen controlled the Heretical Golden Core, carrying everyone as they desperately fled into the distance.

Above the Golden Core, the disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect and Lan Pili gathered all their strength, madly bombarding the blood-colored long rivers charging toward them.

But even with all their combined force, they still couldn't shatter the blood-colored long rivers. While controlling the Heretical Golden Core, Cao Zhen even had to use the Five-thunder Righteous Method to fend off the blood-colored long rivers.

"Wrong, why are we still within the town's range!"

Almost in the span of a breath, Cao Zhen's face drastically changed. Currently, he was controlling the Heretical Golden Core to fly outward, and his speed was incredibly fast. The area below was merely a small town, how large could it be?

Yet despite his full-powered flight, he was still trapped within the small town, which seemed infinitely vast.

"Formation! The formation below isn't just for summoning that demon; it also isolates the entire town from the outside world. We've been trapped within the formation."

Cao Zhen looked downward and in just a short span of time, the aura of the blood-colored demon below grew stronger than before, and its body also grew much larger, reaching a height of four to five Zhang, and that was just the part visible above ground.

The lower half of its body, hidden in the blood-colored long river on the ground, was still raging turbulently. Currents of bloody, violent Demonic Qi surged with the roiling river, constantly flowing in, filling its body.

"It's still getting stronger. Today, I'm afraid we're going to meet our end here," Lan Pili looked at the blood-colored demon below and with a solemn expression said, "When we left the Hundred Peaks Sect, the Sect Leader left a divine skill pearl within me, containing the Sect Leader's divine skills, the Ten Thousand Law Heavenly Light!

This divine skill is unmatched, and although my cultivation base is limited and I cannot withstand much, I will go all out, burning all my power to release the Sect Leader True Person's Ten Thousand Law Heavenly Light. It's powerful enough that not even a Perfect Completion Golden Core at its peak could withstand, to say nothing of an Earth Immortal Realm being, who would be seriously injured.

In a moment, I will rush down, burning all my power to cast the Ten Thousand Law Golden Light; that demon will be severely injured.

That demon clearly has a certain connection with the town's formation; as long as the demon is severely injured, the formation will surely loosen, or even stop for a short duration.

The demon has not pursued us, and its aura is still strengthening, which means it has not been fully summoned yet and must be temporarily unable to leave. Therefore, Peak Master Cao, while the Great Formation loosens, you must sprint with all your might; you will surely be able to lead all the disciples of Hundred Peaks Sect to escape."

"You want to rush down? And burn your mana?" As Cao Zhen launched another Five-thunder Righteous Method to scatter a streak of blood light before him, he quickly said, "There's no need for such measures; it's not yet the moment of life and death for us."

To burn one's life, the cost was death!

"If we wait until the moment of life and death, it will be too late! By then, all of us will die!" Lan Pili had always been quite polite to Cao Zhen since they had set out, and had never shown the authority of an envoy in front of Cao Zhen, but at this moment, he asserted his authority as the envoy and said solemnly, "Don't waste any more time. Its strength is growing continuously; every moment we delay, it grows stronger.

Now, listen to me! I am a Peak Master of Hundred Peaks Sect and also the envoy in charge of this mission. Since I am leading the team, I have the responsibility to ensure that everyone survives! When faced with danger, it's naturally up to me to fulfill my role!"

Cao Zhen listened to Lan Pili's resolute words, looking at the undeniable conviction on Lan Pili's face, and was deeply moved. He was not from this world, and although he had been quite comfortable within the Hundred Peaks Sect since arriving in this world,

to be honest, while he felt a bit of belonging to Hundred Peaks Sect, it wasn't that deep. He would even engage in covert fights with some of the sect's Peak Masters now and then.

He even had a verbal conflict with Lan Pili the first time they met.

But now, faced with danger, Lan Pili was actually prepared to sacrifice himself!

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If this had been a gathering of Lightning Peak disciples, he would have understood, but with only one Lightning Peak disciple, Lan Pili, present, he still felt compelled to make the ultimate sacrifice—his own life!

Lan Pili had the Divine Skills Bead bestowed by the Sect Leader. He could have chosen not to burn his life energy and simply release the divine skills to find an opportunity to escape alone.

He believed that the divine skills given by the Sect Leader could open a gap to let Lan Pili escape without burning his life energy.

Yet Lan Pili wasn't thinking about himself at this moment. His thoughts were always for the Hundred Peaks Sect!

It was for himself, whom he had once conflicted with, and for the disciples unrelated to Lightning Peak—all because they were part of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

At this moment, Cao Zhen, reborn, for the first time truly felt the unity of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

Despite the usual scheming and discord, they were all disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

In Cao Zhen's heart, a resonance as a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect instantly arose.

He, too, was a member of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

"Peak Master Lan, give me the Divine Skills Bead, and let me release its power! My strength is a bit stronger. Perhaps if I release the Divine Skills Bead, all of us could escape."

"No, that's impossible." Lan Pili, holding a round treasure bead, clasped the Divine Skills Bead tightly, his face showing a resolute expression, "To unleash the full power of the Divine Skills Bead, one must burn their own life energy. Only by offering one's life energy can its full power be exerted."

"Master!" The sole disciple from Lightning Peak among the crowd suddenly stepped forward, calling out loudly, "Master, you are the Peak Master, and I'm just an ordinary disciple. Lightning Peak still needs your leadership; we have younger disciples who need your guidance!"

Lightning Peak cannot be without you. If a life must be sacrificed, let your disciple do it."

"No, let me do it. I have no attachments," another disciple from the Hundred Peaks Sect stepped forward.

As this disciple stepped out, one by one, disciples from the Hundred Peaks Sect began to shout, "Peak Master, let your disciple do it."

"My talents are average, continuing to cultivate won't enable me to contribute much to the Hundred Peaks Sect. Let your disciple do this."

"If it weren't for a senior brother from the Hundred Peaks Sect who brought me into the sect, I would have died long ago. I never found an opportunity to repay the Hundred Peaks Sect. This time, let your disciple do something for the sect!"

The disciples spoke one after another, and in this moment, they forgot about life and death!

Cao Zhen looked at these young faces of the Hundred Peaks Sect disciples with a moved expression, feeling a surge of blood rush to his head, a tumultuous wave of shock churning in his heart. Didn't these disciples know, sacrificing their lives meant dying?

They were cultivators; how could they not know this common sense?

Still, they were trying to grab the Divine Skills Bead; they were willing to sacrifice their lives!

This was the dedication of the disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

This was the spirit of sacrifice of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

In this moment, since crossing over, for the first time, he truly considered himself a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

Hundred Peaks Sect was his root!

He was Cao Zhen of Four Treasures Peak, a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

He took pride in being a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect!

"Enough, no need to argue anymore!" Lan Pili, seeing the young faces before him, already had tears in the corners of his eyes, "You are all disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect, and you've not dishonored these three words."

However, I may be the Peak Master, but I am also a person of the Hundred Peaks Sect. We separate into Peak Masters and disciples because that is the rule, because as a Peak Master I must teach, instruct, and solve doubts.

But now, we are all people of the Hundred Peaks Sect; there is no distinction between Peak Master and ordinary disciples!

And I, as the head of the delegation, must live up to the responsibilities of the head. That's the rule of the Hundred Peaks Sect! As the deputy head, your duty is to lead everyone safely out of here.

If danger arises again, I hope you will take care of them!"

As he spoke, mana surged around his body, preparing to sacrifice his life energy.

Suddenly, in the next moment, from the skies, a silver halberd seemed to fly from the ends of heaven, cutting across the void, streaking toward Blood River.

The motion of Lan Pili about to burn his life energy instantly halted.

Cao Zhen looked in astonishment at the great halberd falling from the sky.

Yu Tuoyu!

It was him; he had returned!

Was the Grand Preceptor so formidable that he could predict they would face danger again, that below there was a Great Formation, that a blood demon would appear?

The colossal halberd slashed across the sky, resembling a silver dragon or a crescent moon falling from the heavens, plunging into the Blood River.

In that instant, the raging Blood River exploded with a roar!

Endless blood water rose to the sky, spreading like blood mist, the whole town shaking madly at this moment, the fabric of the sky shuddering ceaselessly, and in the void, a clear crack appeared.

This single strike tore through the formation!

From beyond the town's skies, Yu Tuoyu's voice suddenly rang out, "If not now, then when?"

Cao Zhen instantly snapped back to reality, mana burning wildly in his body, propelling the Heretical Golden Core as he fled frantically into the distance.

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It only took two breaths' worth of time, and he had already flown out with everyone from the small town, which no matter how much he tried to activate his Heretical Golden Core, he couldn't escape before.

Within the town, the blood-colored Demonic Beasts that were about to feast suddenly lost their meal as it escaped, immediately flying into a rage. The Endless Blood Sea churned, and in that moment, the entire town seemed to be hit by a tsunami.

Yet it could only look on from the outside, not stepping a single pace outside the town's boundaries.

Outside the town, Yu Tuoyu rode the Silver Dragon-toothed Tiger Beast, one hand leading the white-haired witch tied up by a rope, his expression cold as he stared at the blood-colored Demonic Beast inside the town, his body's surging aura continuously undulating.

"Many thanks, brother, for your assistance," Cao Zhen, standing atop his Heretical Golden Core, cupped his fists toward Yu Tuoyu, and looking at him, whose aura was endlessly growing stronger, then at the town which had now been transformed from a Blood River into a Blood Sea, he anxiously said, "The beast's power is increasing without end. Quickly release the power the Grand Preceptor gave you and kill it; otherwise, it will grow even stronger."

"The Grand Preceptor gave me power for a single use."

Cao Zhen, upon hearing Yu Tuoyu's words, his face betrayed a look of surprise; he had presumed the Grand Preceptor had foreseen everything, but it turned out that even the Grand Preceptor couldn't foresee every outcome, that there were things beyond the Grand Preceptor's calculations.

Suddenly, a figure flew toward him.

Yu Tuoyu directly threw the tied-up white-haired witch onto the Golden Core, shouting from a distance, "Since you're all heading to the Capital City, please do me a favor, take her to the Capital City, to the Immortal Reception House. The people at the Capital City's Immortal Reception House will know who to hand her over to for judgment upon seeing her."

"We take her?" Cao Zhen grabbed the rope, a puzzled expression on his face, and asked, "What about you, then?"

"I am destined to fight a battle to the death with this Blood demon!" Yu Tuoyu said as he leaped off the Silver Dragon-toothed Tiger Beast, then with a pat on the back of the beast, the Silver Dragon-toothed Tiger Beast, although producing noises not of humans, clearly expressed reluctance through its sounds.

"You're going to kill it?" Cao Zhen shouted, his eyes wide at the beast in the distance, "Even though you are at the Peak of Perfect Completion Golden Core, with all ten Golden Cores achieving Great Perfection, the beast's aura has clearly reached the Earth Immortal Realm, and I even feel that its aura is more terrifying than that of the white-haired witch.

You're no match for it! Now that we've already left the town and it is still trapped within, we can seek help."

"Seek help, it's too late. In no time at all, its power will fully awaken, and then it will leave the town. Who knows how many innocent people will suffer at its hand!"

Within Yu Tuoyu's eyes, a bright light burst forth, his fighting will soared to the skies, and he said coldly, "As a disciple of the Grand Preceptor, it is my duty to protect this region of the heavens and the earth.

Even if I know I cannot win, even if I am to be shattered to pieces, what does it matter? I shall march forward without hesitation, not allowing it to harm even one person from the Dynasty!

Moreover, how dare this demon harm the citizens – whether those of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty are guilty or not is for the Dynasty's laws to decide, not for it to judge!"

Cao Zhen looked at Yu Tuoyu, whose entire body manifested ten platforms, ten Immortal Bridges, and ten Golden Cores all vibrating in unison, and his heart was filled with amazement!

As a disciple of the Grand Preceptor, Yu Tuoyu could go to such lengths for the people – what about the Grand Preceptor then?

All the Cultivators he had encountered, with the exception of Yu Tuoyu, nearly all regarded themselves as above mere mortals.

The Grand Preceptor's orders left many Cultivators feeling dissatisfied, yet his disciple, who was also a Cultivator, managed to fully embody the Grand Preceptor's will, even willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of the mortals.

What sort of charismatic personality must the Grand Preceptor possess to achieve this?

As he was musing over this, beside him, powerful auras already began to stir the air around them into a frenzy.

Cao Zhen abruptly turned back, looking toward Yu Tuoyu.

Behind Yu Tuoyu, platforms, Immortal Bridges, and Golden Cores were all ablaze, no longer discernible in their original form, all merging together above the heavens to form the shape of a long halberd.

Around the long halberd, the air crackled with explosive noises. The atmosphere itself seemed unable to withstand the power emanating from the halberd, and started to burst apart at intervals.

"Today, even if I die, what of it! As long as I live, as long as there is one disciple underneath the Grand Preceptor, we will never let you demons harm a single person from the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty!"

Yu Tuoyu floated in the air, grasping the spear formed from his own power, turning into a streak of light rushing toward the demonic beast within the Blood Sea.

As a cultivator at the Peak of the Perfect Completion Golden Core and as an Immortal, he was heading toward death for the sake of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty's citizens!

And he did not hesitate for a moment, his entire being filled with an endless heroic spirit,

In the blink of an eye, he had charged into the Blood Sea, right in front of the blood-colored demonic beast.

The next moment, an explosion as if the entire world burst apart boomed out.

Instantly, the sky changed color, the earth shook, the heavens swayed, and this part of the earth seemed to explode entirely at that moment.

The town covered by the Blood Sea erupted with a deafening explosion, countless clods of earth and blood mist shot skywards.

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The earth beneath the crowd cracked inch by inch, and even the distant mountains began to shake wildly.

Self-destruction!

A master of Perfect Completion Golden Core had self-destructed his Golden Core!

Vast, boundless power swept through every inch of the town, reducing the houses to dust in an instant.

In the center of the explosion, the area around the blood-colored demonic beast halted its flow, blasted into just a puddle of blood, revealing the lower half of the beast: two thick, blood-colored, mutilated legs, and most of the Great Formation was destroyed!

As the Great Formation was destroyed, at that moment, the town seemed to reconnect with the surrounding heaven and earth.

Yu Tuoyu, amidst the explosion, was thrown far outside.

Cao Zhen's figure moved rapidly, flying out from the Heretical Golden Core, speeding towards Yu Tuoyu, who had been blasted away by the shock force of the Golden Core self-destruction.

If it weren't for Yu Tuoyu, they might be dead, or Lan Pili might have burned their life to cast the divine skills bestowed by the Sect Leader.

No matter what, Yu Tuoyu had saved them.

Even if Yu Tuoyu had self-destructed her Golden Core, he would still rescue her, even if all that was left to save was a corpse!

Cao Zhen reached Yu Tuoyu's landing spot and took her into his arms.

The next moment, his eyes suddenly widened.

Yu Tuoyu's body, whose chain armor had already turned to dust, revealed a slim figure drenched in blood, and her face was no longer masculine as before but, still full of courage, now adorned with delicate eyebrows and features.

This was clearly the face of a beautiful woman.

Yu Tuoyu was not a man but a woman!

Previously, her physique went unnoticed due to the chain armor, and her face must have been under the effect of a disguise spell.

Now, having self-destructed her Golden Core, almost all of her mana had vanished, leaving only a faint breath of life, unable to maintain the disguise spell, hence revealing her true face!

Although Cao Zhen was astonished, he did not pause even for a moment but still carried Yu Tuoyu at the fastest speed, flying back onto the Heretical Golden Core and sped away into the distance.

Suddenly, from afar, an angry roar was heard.

In the midst of the town, the blood-colored demonic beast, having lost most of its tentacles in the blast, had several holes of various sizes appear on its blood-congealed body.

By then, it was clearly enraged to the extreme, letting out a roar that seemed to fracture one's soul, charging straight towards Cao Zhen's direction.

Aboard the Heretical Golden Core, Chang Tiance exclaimed in confusion, "It's left the town, it's chasing after us, how could it leave the town?"

Lan Pili, with a solemn expression, quickly explained, "Formation? The reason it didn't leave the Formation before is that it wasn't done transferring its power.

It can only continue to gather its power within the Formation, but the self-destruction of the Grand Preceptor's disciple destroyed the Formation, severely injuring it, and the Formation can no longer aid in garnering its power.

Remaining within the Formation is futile, moreover, it absorbs blood to consolidate power, and our blood, being cultivators, is the best nourishment for it.

It wants to devour us!"

Having fully exerted his strength, with the help of the Heretical Golden Core's flight, Cao Zhen's speed was incredibly fast, yet behind him, the demonic beast, clearly heavily injured, was still faster.

This demonic beast!

Its strength was definitely above the Longevity Period!

With such strength, even if he used the Heretical Golden Core's self-destruction, it would likely be difficult to harm it!

The reason it suffered such heavy injuries was not because of the might of Yu Tuoyu's self-destructed Golden Core, which was indeed terrifying but wouldn't cause such damage to it.

It had sustained heavy injuries because the Formation was damaged by the power of Yu Tuoyu's self-destructed Golden Core.

It must have been summoned by the white-haired witch's Formation in a special way, from a distance, that is, teleported here.

Moreover, it had been in the process of teleporting all along, which is why it hadn't burst out before.

But Yu Tuoyu's destruction of the Formation also forcibly ended its teleportation; as a result, its physically teleporting body was hurt.

Terrible, too terrible.

Even the might of ten Golden Cores self-destructing could not harm it; how could one fend off this Demonic Beast?

Startled, Cao Zhen frantically stimulated the breath within his body, reaching his limit, and sent the Heretical Golden Core flying out.

But the Demonic Beast was getting closer and closer to them!

"Peak Master Cao, you take them and leave, I'll stop him!" Lan Pili shouted, once again taking out a bead of Divine Skills, ready to burn his own life.

The next moment, from the sky, a beam of Sword Qi flew over.

The entire Void seemed to be split in two under this sword, and everyone watching this Sword Qi felt only one thing in an instant.

This sword seemed to have flown from beyond the heavens!

As the sword fell, it seemed like the entire world was left with only this beam of light.

The Sword Qi arrived in a flash, landing in front of the blood-colored Demonic Beast.

The Sword Qi swept past, and the massive head of the blood-colored Demonic Beast thunderously fell!

With one sword, the head of the Beast was actually severed, following that, the Sword Qi dispersed in the air, splitting into thousands of beams of Sword Qi, forming a huge net of swords that completely enveloped the Beast, and amidst the crisscrossing Sword Qi, the entire Demonic Beast turned into a heap of blood chunks.

Cao Zhen was completely stunned; with just one sword, the Demonic Beast was dismembered! This was a Beast that at minimum was at the Longevity Period; this sword was too terrifying!

Could it be that the current Grand Preceptor himself has come!

The next moment, a voice came from afar.

"Cease harming my Disciple!"

Disciple?

Cao Zhen was completely dumbfounded; was this the voice of the master of the Sword Qi?

Just how fast must the speed of this Sword Qi be to accomplish, after dismembering the Beast, that the sound only followed!

More importantly, what was he saying?

Disciple?

No matter if Yu Tuoyu was a woman or not, why would he be called a Disciple and not a Disciple Sister, undoubtedly this person must be Yu Tuoyu's Senior Brother!

This was not the current Grand Preceptor, but the Grand Preceptor's Disciple!

Unbelievably, apart from the four Disciples with Perfect Completion Golden Cores, there was such a strong Disciple of the Grand Preceptor!

Moreover, so powerful as to instantly kill a Demonic Beast in the Life Extension Period with one sword strike!

What level of Cultivation Realm must this Disciple of the Grand Preceptor have reached?

And what kind of existence must the Grand Preceptor be to be able to train such a disciple?

In his amazement, the voice came once again from the distance.

"Is the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty a place for you Demons to run wild!"

## Chapter 325: Pill Fusion\_1

Cao Zhen couldn't understand how fast a person's sword had to be to strike a blow and have two successive sounds follow.

If the sounds came, where was the person?

He looked around but could not see any trace of anyone.

Where was the opponent?

As he pondered in surprise, the voice of the other party came again.

"Everyone, I am stationed in the city and cannot go out. Please do me a favor and bring my disciple to Set Soil City as soon as possible."

The people all around heard this and their faces suddenly changed dramatically, exchanging looks of shock.

"This is the swordsman!"

"That person isn't nearby, they made their move directly from within the city!"

"Where is Set Soil City?"

"A thousand miles away!"

"What! From such a distance, he could actually do it, slay that demonic beast with a single sword stroke! What cultivation realm is this!"

"Such an expert is merely the disciple of the Grand Preceptor?"

One after another, the disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect were filled with shock. Their sect was one of the ten great Immortal Sects of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, and as disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect, they felt immense pride.

But now, many of them going down the mountain for the first time finally understood the saying, "There are heavens beyond the heavens, and people beyond people."

Cao Zhen finally understood why he saw the sword light first, then heard the voice with gaps between each sentence.

It turned out that the other party was a thousand miles away.

In the air, the other party's voice came once more, "However, before you head to Set Soil City, I hope you will do one thing first.

All residents and lives that have been tainted by the Blood demon will turn demonic. Such a demonization cannot be reversed, and once they are fully transformed, they will become demonic beasts harming others everywhere.

To ensure the safety of the other dynasty's citizens, they must all be eliminated."

The voice that came with it carried an undeniable authority.

"As cultivators of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, you have the duty and the responsibility to eliminate them all!"

All around, the faces of the Hundred Peaks Sect's disciples immediately turned ugly.

"He previously asked us to take his disciple away, like asking us for help. But now, ordering us to kill those who are demonized is a command!"

"We are all cultivators, yet we're supposed to do work for mortals!"

"Forget it, after all, he just saved us."

"We of the Hundred Peaks Sect are of the Righteous Path; we would have done it anyway, but his tone, it's infuriating."

"Enough," Lan Pili stopped everyone, "No matter what, since we have encountered this, we cannot ignore it. The people in the town and all life have been drained by the beast, but this does not mean that all residents live within the town itself."

Outside the small town, there are also people, and those people are probably also demonized by the beast's blood. I'll go to the town again to check, Peak Master Cao, you take people to the surroundings, to look for those living outside the town."

Most of the town's residents would live inside the town, but there is also a portion of people, for instance, those who might have orchards outside the town and guard their orchards at night.

But these people are all residents of Yu Min Town and likely all offered their blood in sacrifice before, and anyone who has offered blood would be demonized.

Cao Zhen did not take action right away but instead frowned and asked, "Is there no other way?"

As his words ended, from the river outside the small town, there came a series of eerie howling sounds.

"Go quickly!"

Everyone reacted swiftly and chased towards the direction of the sounds.

In an instant, everyone had arrived at the creek outside the village, where a row of houses was situated.

At this moment, the doors of these houses were all wide open, and villagers, including men, women, the old, and children, stepped out from the houses. However, their eyes were all exuding a demonic red glow, their faces contorting continuously, and on their bodies, odd scales emerged.

In the courtyards, the watch dogs had grown teeth as sharp as scythes. Cao Zhen even saw that a few chickens in the yard had long, curved horns growing out of their foreheads...

Swarms of Demonic Qi surged forth from these villagers, as well as from the poultry and animals...

"Demonic transformation—they have already begun to turn. They can't be spared!"

"Strike!"

Each of the Hundred Peaks Sect's disciples saw this and immediately took action. In a moment, divine skills shot forth.

These simple demonic beasts, corrupted by blood, might be formidable to ordinary people, but against the disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect, they had no power to fight back.

In just a short time, all these demonized beings that had not yet fully transformed were slain.

And the Hundred Peaks Sect's disciples did not stop; they continued to explore the surroundings with the small town as the center.

Cao Zhen looked at the corpses of the ordinary folks now lying in pools of blood, all of whom had been demonized, and sighed softly. These were all ordinary mortals, but they had already turned demonic.

What else could they do?

Not to kill them would cause more people to suffer.

It was all because of the Red Refinery Demonic Sect.

In half an hour, everyone had slain all the demonized people and creatures within Yu Min Town.

And with the death of the demonic beasts, the bright red blood continued to flow into the middle of the small town, the whole town as if soaked in a bloodbath.

Lan Pili waited for everyone to return and stood outside the small town, looking at the blood-soaked town, and said solemnly, "Such a vast amount of blood. If ordinary people pass by here or wild beasts arrive, they would likely be demonized by the blood. We must clean up this blood."

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Soon, among the crowd, those adept in Fire Techniques had summoned their Flame Divine Power and bombarded the Blood Sea with it.

In the intense heat, the Blood Sea rapidly evaporated to an extent visible to the naked eye...

As the blood disappeared, the ground beneath the town was finally revealed,

but in the center of the town, at the location of the Formation Eye where the blood-red Demonic Beast had appeared, there was still a blood pool, where the dark red blood bubbled incessantly, like boiling water.

"This blood pool hasn't burned away yet? Let us all use our Divine Skills together and scorch it once more."

Quickly, one after another, the disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect employed their Fire Techniques, and even Liu Chuhe and Lan Pili took action, yet the blood in the blood pool continued to bubble forth.

After a long time, when everyone had tried all methods, Lan Pili waved to interrupt them and said, "Enough, it seems this blood pool cannot be burned away."

A disciple quickly asked, "Cannot be burned away? Then what happens if this blood pool is left behind?"

"If the blood pool is left, it will continuously produce Demonic Qi. If enough Demonic Qi gathers, it will eventually form Demonic Beasts that go out to hunt living creatures.

Moreover, any creature passing by this place, whether human or various wild animals, even the birds flying in the sky, any creature that comes into contact with the Demonic Qi here will be corrupted by it. Although, these demonized beasts might not be strong, their sheer numbers will still be troublesome."

Lan Pili looked at the crowd and pointed towards the blood pool to explain, "The blood-red Demonic Beast that appeared earlier came from here. It is probably connected to that other world, known as the Boundless Bloody Hell, which is the most terrifying."

A disciple asked in confusion, "Boundless Bloody Hell? What place is that?"

Lan Pili explained, "No one knows what the Boundless Bloody Hell looks like as nobody has seen it, but there are those who have theorized that it is a world filled with countless Demonic Beasts that feed on blood. Among them are even top-tier powerhouses; they all feed on living creatures, hence every beast within the Boundless Bloody Hell yearns to enter our world."

"Then is there no way to destroy this blood pool? If not, won't powerful Demonic Beasts from the Boundless Bloody Hell continue to enter? Can we only watch helplessly as this blood pool continues to corrupt nearby creatures?"

"No, there is a way to deal with it. However, it requires a Sect to set up a branch here and then send people to suppress the blood pool."

Cao Zhen, listening to Lan Pili's words, realized he knew too little about this world, never expecting there to be a place called Boundless Bloody Hell.

"A Sect?" Many disciples chimed in upon hearing this.

"On our way here, we didn't see any other Sects."

"It took us three days to get here, and probably the closest one is our Hundred Peaks Sect."

Lan Pili nodded and said, "The closest one is indeed our Hundred Peaks Sect. According to the rules of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, before the Dynasty issues a decree, the Sect closest to the incident must clean up the aftermath. Besides, now that our Hundred Peaks Sect has encountered it, even if the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty says nothing, we cannot ignore it."

As he spoke, he took a yellow talisman paper from his pocket, swiftly sliced his finger, and quickly began writing on the paper with his blood.

Moments later, he ignited a flame and burned the paper.

In the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, there is a Sect's chart that allows officials to send emergency summons to the Dynasty when encountering urgent situations.

And the great Sects within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty have something similar, not called the Dynasty's chart, but the Sect's chart.

Hundred Peaks Sect, Ascension Peak.

Bai Fengzi, looking down at the several Peak Masters below, said gravely, "Lan Peak Master and Cao Peak Master's mission group, in a place called Yu Min Town under the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, encountered people from the Red Refinery Demonic Sect. A woman from the Red Refinery Demonic Sect summoned Demonic Beasts from the Boundless Bloody Hell... there is still a blood pool left in Yu Min Town, and according to the Imperial Dynasty's rules, the clean-up should be handled by the Sect nearest to the incident, which is us, the Hundred Peaks Sect."

The Peak Masters below all frowned deeply.

"Those bastards from the Red Refinery Demonic Sect actually set up a Formation to summon from the Boundless Bloody Hell!"

"That bunch of madmen, nothing they do is surprising!"

"Sect Leader, whom do you plan to send?"

Bai Fengzi's gaze swept across the surrounding Peak Masters and finally settled on a slightly overweight, rosy-cheeked elderly man, "Peak Master Zhen Yue, you are adept at forging Formations. Please would you descend the mountain this time and construct a Great Suppression Formation over the blood pool to suppress it.

Also, I remember that your Zhen Yue Peak can create the Mountain Illusion Formation. Take your disciples and go there, and use the Formation as a base, envelop the blood pool and the town within it. That way, ordinary outsiders will be unable to find the blood pool and unable to enter."

Turning her head, she looked down at a middle-aged man whose face was cold and filled with a murderous aura, "Master of Thousand Kills Peak, I ask that you accompany Peak Master Zhen Yue. If any Demonic Beasts emerge from the Blood River, slay them all."

"Yes!"

The two Peak Masters departed one after another.

After Lan Pili finished burning the Sect's chart, Yu Tuoyu, whom he'd been cradling in his arms, suddenly opened his mouth and spat out a mouthful of fresh blood. His face was utterly devoid of color, his breath thin as a thread, as though he could die at any moment.

Not good. She seemed to be unable to hold on any longer.

Chapter 327: Pill Fusion\_3

Cao Zhen could clearly sense that Yu Tuoyu's life was slipping away at a rapid pace. If this continued, there was no need to take her to Set Soil City; she would likely die within less than a quarter of an hour.

Self-detonating one's Golden Core was truly a suicidal act.

If one slowly ruined their Golden Core bit by bit, it's called destroying one's Cultivation Base, which turns someone into an ordinary mortal. With slow cultivation, there is a chance to regain the lost powers.

But self-detonating the Golden Core, especially detonating all of one's cores at once, is too powerful. It completely destroys a person's meridians.

This was different from what Xiang Ziyu had done, which involved slowly tearing his meridians and then gradually healing them with the power of Pills.

Yu Tuoyu's entire meridian system was instantly shattered by the explosion!

Generally speaking, after self-detonating a Golden Core, one could only survive with the help of an unparalleled expert or top-level Pills.

He had no such experts here. As for making Pills, he could do that, but he had neither the medicinal herbs nor the time.

The only method was...

Cao Zhen quickly released his Heretical Golden Core and pried open Yu Tuoyu's mouth, stuffing it directly into her mouth.

Yu Tuoyu had saved them all, and he couldn't just leave her to die.

Now, there was no other way but to use the Heretical Golden Core.

He quickly stimulated the Heretical Golden Core to rotate rapidly within Yu Tuoyu's body. In no time, pure energies gushed forth from the Heretical Golden Core, swiftly replenishing the fading life force within Yu Tuoyu.

Yu Tuoyu had self-detonated all ten of her Golden Cores and naturally couldn't survive.

But now it was as if he had loaned his faux Golden Core to Yu Tuoyu. The Heretical Golden Core wasn't a true Golden Core, but it had similarities.

Moreover, a true Golden Core couldn't be given to someone else to consume in this way.

In this situation, his Heretical Golden Core was immensely useful.

"Let's leave quickly and head to Set Soil City."

Cao Zhen glanced around, and with a thought, wrapped Yu Tuoyu entirely in his wide robe, concealing even a strand of her hair.

Yu Tuoyu's senior had always called her Disciple Brother, which he found puzzling.

However, he later realized that Yu Tuoyu's senior probably only had a general understanding of the situation and didn't know that his junior sister had revealed her identity. That's why he kept calling her Disciple Brother.

Although he didn't know why Yu Tuoyu insisted on pretending to be a man, he thought it best to keep her secret for now.

The crowd from the Hundred Peaks Sect nodded and rushed towards Set Soil City at top speed. After all, Yu Tuoyu had saved them, and the Hundred Peaks Sect always repaid its debts!

Cao Zhen remained silent, rushing through the sky with Yu Tuoyu. He couldn't understand one thing; Yu Tuoyu had been gravely injured, and her senior brother was clearly very strong, yet he hadn't come to her aid, insisting instead that they take her to Set Soil City.

It seemed that the relationship between Yu Tuoyu and her senior brother was somewhat distant.

Gradually, his vision revealed a massive city, and beyond its walls ran a blood-colored river.

There was also a mountain nearby, and at the base of the mountain, there seemed to be a massive tomb, even larger than the whole of Yu Min Town.

Chilling and terrifying demonic Qi emanated from the Blood River and the tomb.

"This... Blood River feels even more terrifying than the one in Yu Min Town's Formation!"

"Such thick Demonic Qi, and that distant tomb?"

"What is this place? Why is it so sinister?"

The others from the Hundred Peaks Sect also felt the waves of Demonic Qi and were astounded.

"How can people live in such a place?"

"This city, such a bustling metropolis."

"Do you feel it? The Demonic Qi is thick, but it's concentrated around the Blood River and that distant tomb."

"The Demonic Qi has been suppressed."

"To suppress the Demonic Qi from the Blood River and the tomb requires a tremendous effort. Why would they do it here and then build a city?"

The Disciples couldn't understand at all.

As Lan Pili flew, he looked around and pointed towards the distance, "Because the soil here is remarkably fertile. Look at this soil; it's obviously different from the soil in other places we've passed. Besides the Blood River, there are two other rivers flowing through."

The land is fertile with abundant water sources, so the grain yield here must be extremely high. The local residents probably can't leave this place."

"Thus, they built a city here and even stationed a powerful expert to suppress this area. That senior brother of Yu Tuoyu must be the one suppressing it."

Cao Zhen finally understood why Yu Tuoyu's senior brother hadn't left; the person suppressing this place must indeed be Yu Tuoyu's senior brother.

The group descended far outside the city walls and landed.

According to the rules of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, so many Cultivators could not directly fly over the city.

The residents of Set Soil City, who had evidently seen many Cultivators before, cast curious glances when the group landed but did not otherwise act unusually.

As they stepped into the city, they heard a voice that had reached them earlier.

"Kind visitors, please come to the Immortal Reception House. Only one person is needed to bring the Disciple Brother to the city's Tower."

Chapter 328: Pill Fusion\_4

Cao Zhen had been holding Yu Tuoyu and naturally made his way toward the tower in the center of the city upon hearing the call.

This was an incredibly bustling city, with streets teeming with carriages and horses, and a constant flow of people. Its area was much larger than Yu Min Town, which they had passed through earlier. There were many buildings within the city, but the tallest structure was the seven-story tower at the city's center.

The tower mentioned by the other party must be that one.

As Cao Zhen walked along, he noticed that the citizens within the city had very healthy complexions, showing no signs of being affected by Demonic Qi, indicating that any Demonic Qi here had been completely suppressed.

Although he didn't fly, his pace was much faster than that of an ordinary person.

In no time, he arrived outside the tower.

The tower was grey, and though there were no guards stationed around it, no citizens approached it either.

At the entrance of the tower, a stern-looking, handsome middle-aged man in a black robe was already waiting. Spotting Cao Zhen walking over, he nodded and introduced himself, "Under the Grand Preceptor, I am Fang Tuojie."

Cao Zhen, still cradling Yu Tuoyu, couldn't perform the traditional clasped-hand salute and could only say by mouth, "Hundred Peaks Sect, Hundredth Peak, Four Treasures Peak's Peak Master, Cao Zhen."

Fang Tuojie nodded slightly again and took Yu Tuoyu from Cao Zhen's arms.

As they moved, the large overcoat that had been wrapped around Yu Tuoyu slipped a little, revealing Yu Tuoyu's face, which had lost all its color.

Instantly, Fang Tuojie's face changed drastically, and he looked up sharply at Cao Zhen, demanding in a stern voice, "Did you see my junior sister's true face? Besides you, who else has seen her true appearance?"

An expression of embarrassment appeared on Cao Zhen's face. The girl had been disguised as a man, yet he had seen her true face and carried her all this way. Now that her senior brother had learned of it, he felt somewhat ashamed.

"Only I have seen her," he pointed at the overcoat and said, "After I realized her true appearance, I immediately wrapped her in this overcoat. No one else has seen."

He recalled countless novels and TV dramas he had seen and asked with some curiosity, "Are you going to kill me because I saw her true face? Or are you going to make me marry her?"

Upon hearing this, Fang Tuojie was visibly taken aback, obviously not expecting Cao Zhen to say such a thing. But quickly, his face regained its sternness as he said, "We will discuss your matter later. Right now, I need to save my junior sister first."

Saying this, he turned and entered the tower, quickly reaching the sixth floor.

The entire sixth floor was a Formation.

He swiftly placed Yu Tuoyu at the center of the Formation, and immediately, the surrounding jade stones emitted dazzling light, converging from piece to piece, with rich Mana gathering and shooting towards Yu Tuoyu.

A vortex of endless Mana swirled around Fang Tuojie.

He placed his hand on the back of Yu Tuoyu, and a visibly silver light surged forth, flowing into Yu Tuoyu's body.

His junior sister had actually self-destructed her Golden Core, and in her current state, all he could do was to inject his own power into her to help stabilize her vital energy.

"No, something's wrong!"

Suddenly, he frowned slightly. Inside his junior sister's body was still another force.

What is this? A Golden Core?

No, not a Golden Core, but something similar, a very special Strange Core. What could this be?

Outside the tower, sensing that the Heretical Golden Core had been detected by Fang Tuojie, Cao Zhen initiated a mental command, allowing the Heretical Golden Core to transmit a message.

"I am Four Treasures Peak's Cao Zhen. Your junior sister was extremely weak earlier, and to save her life, I had no choice but to do this. Do I need to take the Exotic Pill back now?"

"You..."

Fang Tuojie, sensing the special aura of the Exotic Pill, had his expression change yet again. It was a very special Exotic Pill, not a Golden Core, but it possessed the effects of a Golden Core and seemed to nourish his junior sister's body.

This was something even a real Golden Core could not accomplish.

After all, each person's Golden Core is unique. Whether or not one could implant their own Golden Core into his junior sister's body, even if it was placed inside her, it wouldn't be able to replace her own Golden Core.

But now, this person's Exotic Pill possessed such unique effects.

The effects of the Exotic Pill were even stronger than the power he intended to inject into his junior sister's body!

What kind of Exotic Pill had this man released?

A surprised thought crossed Fang Tuojie's mind, and he quickly shook his head and said, "There's no need. I can feel the effects of your Exotic Pill. Thank you for your help on the way. Let this pill temporarily remain inside my junior sister's body."

As he spoke, he quickly reached out and grabbed a bottle of Pills from a wooden shelf in the Void, flipped open Yu Tuoyu's mouth, and stuffed the Pills into his junior sister's mouth.

Although the Exotic Pill did seem to nourish his junior sister's body, after all, it was not her own Golden Core. It merely sustained her life, preventing her from dying. To truly save her, he needed to use Pills.

#### Chapter 329: Pill Fusion\_5

The round pill quickly entered her body through Yu Tuoyu's mouth.

Suddenly, in the next moment, a force transmitted from Yu Tuoyu's mouth, and the pill he had just placed surged out aggressively.

Fang Tuojie pointed in the void, and the ejected pill stood still in mid-air, while his expression abruptly changed as he looked at his junior sister and coldly said, "Cao Zhen, what do you think you're doing!"

Now, his junior sister was in a coma. The only power that could push out the pill was that of Cao Zhen's exotic pill.

Through his Golden Core, Cao Zhen transmitted his voice, "Do you want to harm your junior sister? The pill you gave her could indeed save her life, but the consequence of your actions is that she will never be able to practice cultivation again, she'll just be an ordinary mortal!"

"How could I be unaware of that? By doing this, my junior sister will only be a mortal," Fang Tuojie sighed lightly, "However, being a mortal is still better than being dead. By doing this, she can still continue to live."

"No, there's still a chance. As long as she takes another kind of pill, she can continue her cultivation."

"Another kind of pill? What pill!" Fang Tuojie was stunned for a moment before speaking somewhat discontentedly in a lecturing tone, "I know, your exotic pill is special, and I can see you have some methods, but do you have any idea how profound the path of alchemy is? Do you know what true alchemy is? And do you know who crafted the pill you're about to give her? What do you know!"

Cao Zhen, feeling dissatisfied with Fang Tuojie's haughty attitude, retorted, "I don't know who crafted this pill, and I'm aware that your cultivation base is indeed high. However, if we're speaking about the path of alchemy, to put it bluntly, I could even be your father with ease."

"Nonsense!" Fang Tuojie's body surged with boundless rage, making the air on this level of the tower shake wildly.

"Enough, don't speak anymore," Cao Zhen interrupted before the other could respond, activating his Heretical Golden Core to transmit his voice, "I know, besides administering that pill to your junior sister, you also intend to give her the Three-turns Soul Condensing Pill."

Fang Tuojie's expression remained unchanged as anyone with a bit of knowledge would know that reviving someone after self-detonating their Golden Core definitely required the Three-turns Soul Condensing Pill.

Cao Zhen continued, "In addition to this, you also have the Nine Cauldron Prolonging Pill, the Qianyuan Vein Moving Pill, and the Five Elements Blood Coagulation Pill."

Fang Tuojie's face suddenly changed. He indeed possessed these pills, and they were all stored within jade bottles. How did this man know?

No one knew which pills he had.

Could it be that he was simply able to discern what pills they were based on the faint medicinal fragrance wafting from the openings of the jade bottles?

What level of understanding of alchemy was required to achieve this?

After a brief pause, Cao Zhen continued, "You need to combine these pills together and refine them anew. Remember to use Green Glass Red Fire for the process... Refine them for three days, then neutralize with the cold Lian Xuan Yin Ice. Finally, you'll be able to craft a new pill, the Steal-Yang Replacement Soul Pill.

After she takes this pill, there's a great chance she can recover and continue her cultivation."

When he said there was a great chance, the odds were indeed vast.

Just like many doctors who, despite being confident of success with 99.99% certainty, would never declare a full guarantee.

It wasn't as if there was no chance of failure; for instance, if Yu Tuoyu had a unique constitution or practiced an unusual cultivation technique, there could still be a minute chance of failure that would necessitate the crafting of another pill.

But the likelihood of such failure was perhaps less than one in ten thousand.

Fang Tuojie, listening to Cao Zhen's words, was utterly dumbfounded.

Cao Zhen went on, "Do you know what the highest realm of alchemy is? The greatest heights of alchemy do not lie in merely placing a pile of herbs together and crafting a pill. The highest realm is taking some already refined pills and crafting them into a new pill. That is the true essence."

Fang Tuojie, an Alchemy Master himself, recalled Cao Zhen's method and could distinctly feel that it was an extremely sophisticated technique, with all the theories making perfect sense.

Moreover, since Cao Zhen could accurately name all the pills he had, he believed that this Cao Zhen might also be an Alchemy Master.

However...

A look of embarrassment appeared on Fang Tuojie's face as he admitted, "I... I can't produce such a pill." The other side had already told him how to craft that kind of pill, having described all methods and steps, yet he realized that he was incapable of producing the so-called Steal-Yang Replacement Soul Pill.

"You can't do it... Fine, let me handle it," Cao Zhen sighed deeply. The wooden door of the tower, which had been closed ever since Fang Tuojie entered, suddenly opened.

Clearly, Fang Tuojie agreed to let him do the refining.

As soon as Cao Zhen entered the tower, before he even had a chance to look around, Fang Tuojie's voice already reached him.

"Sixth floor."

Hearing this, Cao Zhen stepped towards the sixth floor, contemplating along the way. He had spoken the pill crafting method without thinking and had directly said he would do the refining.

But now, upon reviewing the theoretical knowledge for crafting the Steal-Yang Replacement Soul Pill, he felt embarrassed to find that with his current level of mastery in the Alchemy Dao, he couldn't actually produce the pill.

This wouldn't do... It seemed he needed to increase his alchemy experience.

Anyway, he had so many disciples, and he could gain some extra experience from a few of them.

He decided to start with Yi Sheng's.

He quickly looked into Yi Sheng's file.

User: Yi Sheng

Gender: Female

Cultivation Base: Core Formation Stage, one Golden Core

Identity: Hundred Peaks Sect, Four Treasures Peak, the fifth disciple.

Aptitude: True Yang physique.

Specialty: Alchemy.

Alchemy Level: 40.

Total Experience Points: 60900

Additional Available Experience Points: 27000

Yi Sheng had actually reached Level 40 in alchemy!

This girl, she truly excels in alchemy!

To be Level 40 in such a short time, then after a while, wouldn't she surpass me!

I really picked up a treasure.

And to have so many additional experience points!

Indeed, unlike her senior brothers and sisters, she can cultivate on her own, so she especially has a lot of extra experience.

This is the sum of her alchemy experience and her cultivation experience, reaching twenty-seven thousand. With so much experience,

Cao Zhen directly piled all of Yi Sheng's experience on top of his own alchemy experience.

In an instant, his Alchemy Dao experience shot up to Level 61.

China Cloud Level 7 Administrator: Cao Zhen

Gender: Male

Cultivation Base: Core Formation Stage, seven Golden Cores

Identity: Former programmer, current Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak at Hundred Peaks Sect, Pill King.

Specialty: Programming, Grandmaster of Theoretical Alchemy, Grandmaster of Immortal Cultivation Theory.

Owner of: Four Treasures Peak

Total Cultivation Experience Points: 152000

Additional Experience Points: 20100

Alchemy Level: 61

Almost the next moment, the voice of China Cloud came through.

'Alchemy level breakthrough, administrator level increased by one, random user access granted to one person, designated user access granted to one person.'

Hearing the voice coming through from China Cloud, Cao Zhen didn't think twice and immediately responded, "Designate access to my disciple, Bei Yan!"

Of all his disciples, only Little Bei Yan had not gained access. He could not show favoritism, giving access to others and not to Little Bei Yan.

Once the access was complete, he quickly made his way to the sixth floor.

Within the sixth floor, besides formations and pills, there were also many medicinal herbs and cultivators' Pill Furnaces; clearly, Fang Tuojie was also a person capable of alchemy.

Cao Zhen did not stand on ceremony with Fang Tuojie, walking straight up to the furnace, he began to refine pills.

This alchemy session lasted three days, during which he was completely immersed in the process of alchemy.

Now, the difficulty of the pills he wanted to refine was greater than that of any pill he had ever made before. He couldn't afford to be distracted; he didn't even pay attention to who the randomly accessed user was.

After three days, he finally succeeded in refining the Steal-Yang Replacement Soul Pill.

As Yu Tuoyu took the pill, the originally chaotic aura inside her body instantly stabilized, and her completely severed veins and arteries slowly began to heal.

Just after Cao Zhen retracted the Heretical Golden Core, the voice of Fang Tuojie was already coming through.

"Now, let's talk about the matter of you seeing my junior sister's true face," he said.

Chapter 330: Gao Jianli\_1

Set Soil City, which was encircled by a long, blood-colored river, was a bustling metropolis, and within its tallest building—a seven-story tower—

Cao Zhen looked at Fang Tuojie, who, without showing even a hint of battle prowess and merely standing there without speaking or moving, gave Cao Zhen the illusion as though the air in this layer of the tower and everything else was under Fang Tuojie's influence.

Fang Tuojie glanced at Yu Tuoyu, whose breath had calmed down, and with a complicated expression, he slowly said, "My fellow disciple... she's very sensitive about being a woman.

She actually comes from a military family and has been surrounded by rough men in the military since she was a child, never having studied feminine crafts or makeup.

Her father always said that daughters were not as good as sons, that sons could fight on the battlefield to protect the peace of the Dynasty's citizens and expand the territory.

But a woman's place was only at home...

Presumably influenced by her father, my fellow disciple is very concerned about her female identity, and hence, she has always presented herself as a male."

Although we, her fellow brothers, all know that she's a girl, we're all part of the same sect, the same family, and she once said that it didn't matter if her brothers knew her true gender. But if someone else found out she was a woman, she said, there would only be two possible outcomes for that person."

Fang Tuojie gave Cao Zhen another look and paused for a moment before continuing, "One outcome is, she would marry the person.

Because this would mean that her daoist companion had seen her true face, naturally becoming one of her own, and thus there would be no harm done in them seeing it.

But..."

Cao Zhen perked up, waiting for the rest of the statement, knowing well that whatever preceded 'but' could be disregarded and that the most important point was about to follow.

"But, my fellow disciple also said that she cannot just accept anyone. If she feels the person is not worthy of marrying her, she will take action herself and kill the person."

Cao Zhen was completely dumbstruck, "I just knew it would be like this, such a clichéd plot, and it had to happen to me. What is this even about?"

Fang Tuojie sized up Cao Zhen from head to toe before suddenly saying, "By the way, I can let you in on my fellow disciple's weaknesses and preferences... Although, normally, I shouldn't disclose such things, every rule has its exceptions, right?"

Cao Zhen was utterly baffled, was this person really Fang Tuojie? Was he truly the same Grand Preceptor's disciple who could slay Demonic Beasts with a single sword strike from a thousand miles away?

Although Cao Zhen hadn't interacted much with Fang Tuojie, he could feel that Fang Tuojie was a proud, cold person, especially since his cultivation base was strong enough that even without demonstrating it in front of him, the terrifying strength was palpable.

And yet, this man was about to reveal his fellow disciple's weaknesses to him.

Was he really scheming against his sister?

Full of confusion, Cao Zhen pointed at himself and asked, "Are you that certain you want me to take your fellow disciple?"

"Sell?"

Surprised for a moment, Fang Tuojie soon realized what was implied and said, "How can this be considered selling her out? I think quite highly of you. Even though your cultivation is a bit weak, your alchemy skills are impressive. While my fellow disciple isn't particularly interested in alchemy and the six arts, the only thing she likes is a high cultivation base and pursuing those with such strength.

But your proficiency in alchemy is a strength too, and what's more important is that when my fellow disciple was in danger, you didn't just run for your own safety. Instead, you saved her.

Just for this reason alone, I think very highly of you."

Cao Zhen noticed that this Fang Tuojie was completely different from the image of a powerful Grand Preceptor disciple he had initially imagined, and he even thought that this guy was quite interesting.

Fang Tuojie continued, offering reassurance, "Moreover, even if my fellow disciple doesn't think much of you, I believe you needn't worry too much. After all, you saved her life. If you hadn't brought her all the way back and used your Exotic Pill to save her life, she'd probably be dead by now.

Not to mention, without the Pills you made, she would have been crippled.

So, no matter how you look at it, I think that logically, she shouldn't want to kill you."

Cao Zhen retorted without words, "You're making great use of the word 'logically'."

Logically, what's the difference between saying this and saying nothing at all?

Fang Tuojie wasn't annoyed but chuckled instead, "After all, I am me, my fellow disciple is her, and I can only conjecture about her thoughts, not make decisions for her. Another thing,

those from Red Refinery Demonic Sect cultivate a special secret technique. If they die, they will convey a message back to the Demon Sect before their passing, informing them who it was that killed them.

Although that white-haired witch isn't dead yet, being captured by us means she will surely report back to the Red Refinery Demonic Sect.

I am aware it was my fellow disciple that captured her, but when the message is sent back, your name is likely to be mentioned as well.

People from Red Refinery Demonic Sect are known for their strong sense of revenge.

There was once a disciple of the Sunlight Sect who only reported the presence of a member of the Red Refinery Demonic Sect, without laying a finger on them. Nevertheless, that Sunlight Sect disciple was hunted for ten thousand miles.

In the end, having no other choice, he sought refuge in his sect and dared not to leave the mountain ever again, not until a hundred years passed and everyone had forgotten about the whole affair. Thinking it was safe, he left Sunlight Sect only—