

My Master 331

Chapter 331: Gao Jianli_2

But he had only just stepped out of the Three Yang Gate when he was brutally murdered by someone from the Red Refinery Demonic Sect. Incidents like this were all too common.

So, after some time passes, once the white-haired witch has died, you must be extra careful."

"There's no need to guess whether she will spread news about me. I had already killed a person from the Red Refinery Demonic Sect before, right outside the mountains near Yu Min Town." Cao Zhen said with a face of helplessness. After arriving in this world, he had only left the Hundred Peaks Sect for the first time, and had not been down the mountain for many days before he unexpectedly became entangled in the feud between the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty and the Red Refinery Demonic Sect.

I don't have the full set of Divine Armaments, and I haven't unleashed my full strength, so how can this small body of mine hold up?

Therefore, I need to receive some rewards, only with rewards can I unlock my strength faster.

However, using this incident as an excuse to ask for benefits from the other party might not work anymore.

After all, Fang Tuojie is a disciple of the Grand Preceptor. They believe it is the duty of Immortals to slay Demons, and that it is only natural to do so.

So, I can only try to approach this from another angle.

Cao Zhen looked at Fang Tuojie with a smile and asked, "So, I saved your junior sister, in such a situation, would your master, the Grand Preceptor, give me some reward?"

Fang Tuojie opened his mouth, just about to speak, when suddenly, his expression changed dramatically, and a serious look appeared on his face as he looked up towards the distant horizon.

Heavenly Dao, it has stirred...

"What's happened?" Cao Zhen looked at Fang Tuojie, whose face had suddenly changed, with curiosity. Such a big reaction couldn't possibly be because of his request for a reward.

Through the tower's window, Fang Tuojie gazed into the distance. "Nothing, it's just that Heavenly Dao has stirred."

"Heavenly Dao?" Cao Zhen abruptly turned back to look at Fang Tuojie. With his cultivation base, he hadn't detected any movement in the Heavenly Dao.

"I can feel it, Heavenly Dao is about to reach me soon. Perhaps before long, I will therefore fall into a deep sleep," Fang Tuojie said with a worried look. "Set Soil City is home to tens of thousands of the Dynasty's citizens. If I fall asleep, this land will have no one to protect it, and who knows how many will suffer as a result.

What's more serious is..."

Fang Tuojie continued, turning to look at Cao Zhen and slowly began to speak, "Up until today, your ten great Immortal Sects have been able to guard the Blood River, the Hundred Mile Graveyard, and the Yin You Mountain Range for two reasons. Firstly, it's because your ten great Immortal Sects, indeed, have a sense of responsibility.

But secondly, it's because of the presence of my master. With my master above, you wouldn't dare to act rashly.

But once Heavenly Dao changes dramatically, and if by chance my master also falls into sleep because of it, what will the ten great Immortal Sects do then?

The Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty that we have protected for countless years, I wonder what it will become then. Will it be a world in chaos where living beings suffer, or will Demons run rampant and murder?

Cao Zhen looked at Fang Tuojie somewhat dazedly. He himself was a Peak Master of the Hundred Peaks Sect, which was one of the ten great Immortal Sects, and yet Fang Tuojie had revealed all this to him directly?

Was he not afraid? Afraid that Cao Zhen would turn around and inform his Sect of everything?

Fang Tuojie seemed to know what Cao Zhen was thinking, and without waiting for Cao Zhen to speak, he continued, "I know what you're thinking; you must be wondering why I am telling you all this, whether you think I'm being too candid?"

Actually, it doesn't matter.

My master once said that in this world, as long as you have enough strength, there is no need to be evasive or ingratiate yourself with others.

Practicing the Way of the King, employing open strategies, that is what we should truly be doing. All conspiracies and schemes disappear like smoke in the face of absolute power."

The Way of the King?

Cao Zhen, listening to Fang Tuojie's words, suddenly also looked up with Fang Tuojie towards the outside.

Heavenly Dao had stirred, it had stirred once again, and this time it was even more violent than the last. He could feel the movement of Heavenly Dao.

As Heavenly Dao moved, from the tall mountain outside Set Soil City, with its immense graves, endless Demonic Qi suddenly burst forth, as if it were erupting oil from the depths of the earth, shooting straight into the sky, turning the patch of sky above the mountains pitch black.

Fang Tuojie's face suddenly showed a stern look, and in the next instant, he jumped out from the tower with Gold Light Across the Land, raising his hand in midair.

In an instant, a giant hand appeared between heaven and earth, a hand so massive it seemed to blot out the sky, with five fingers stretching to the ends of the world like five Pillars of the Sky, and the palm itself seemed as vast as the earth.

As the hand came down, it was as if the very earth lifted up into the air before crashing down heavily, pressing down on the rising Demonic Qi.

In a flash, streams of black Demonic Qi were forcefully pressed back into the mountains.

The next moment, a roar filled with endless resentment emerged from the mountains.

"Fang Tuojie, you despicable little man, dare to release me! You can confine me for a moment, but can you confine me for a lifetime?"

The Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth is approaching, Heavenly Dao will change with it, and the seals here will also alter due to the changes in Heavenly Dao.

One day I will break free, and then, all of you in this city, including you and your master, all of you will die!"

Fang Tuojie's face showed no anger, but with solemnity, he shook his head and sighed, "Do you really think I can't kill you? Do you truly believe you are that strong? If I wanted to kill you, I would have done so long ago. The reason you are imprisoned here is for you to reflect."

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"Clearly, you still haven't reflected enough. Continue your reflection."

Fang Tuojie suddenly shouted, his hands continuously gesturing in the void, and in an instant, numerous Dharma Seals flew out, landing within the mountains.

As these Dharma Seals descended, the roaring from within the mountains persisted, but the words being roared were no longer intelligible. Moreover, each time a Dharma Seal landed, the roar of the Demon Head in the distance became much weaker.

With the last Dharma Seal in place, the roaring ceased completely.

Fang Tuojie waved his hands once again, and from the sleeves on both his sides, a long, white talisman, like a couplet, flew out.

They expanded in the air and in the blink of an eye, landed on the distant mountains, forming an X-shaped seal over them.

After sealing the mountains, Fang Tuojie spun around and returned inside the tower.

Cao Zhen, full of curiosity, asked the turning Fang Tuojie, "You've sealed him back in? What kind of Demon Head is he, that even the Grand Preceptor can't kill him and can only seal him?"

Hearing this, Fang Tuojie replied with a solemn face, "Who says my master can't kill him? Not to mention my master, even I am more than capable of doing so."

Cao Zhen was immediately confused, "If you are capable of killing him, then why go through the hassle of sealing him?" Generally speaking, one would think of sealing the other party with a formation only if they are too strong to kill.

"Because my master has said that everything should be judged by laws. This world must be bound by laws, otherwise it will descend into chaos," Fang Tuojie pointed towards the distant mountains as he explained. "This Demon Head, who calls himself Elder Yin Pan, once suppressed Blood River."

"Suppressed Blood River?" Cao Zhen's expression changed, "Was he once part of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, and then rebelled?"

"Not quite," Fang Tuojie shook his head, "The reason he suppressed that Blood River back then was because the magical technique he practiced required the Demonic Beasts within the Blood River, so he suppressed it.

Although he had violated the Dynasty's laws before, regardless of the reasons, he indeed suppressed the Blood River, and the suppression lasted for a thousand years.

It was because he stayed within the Blood River that the surrounding lands were safe for a thousand years. He can be considered as having protected the Dynasty's subjects. Therefore, according to the law, his meritorious deeds and past offenses offset each other. He doesn't deserve death, but we also can't simply release him. Hence, my master suppressed him here to let him properly reflect."

"This..." Cao Zhen found this difficult to comprehend and asked, "Then, with the Qiankun small epoch approaching, who will fall asleep first, you or him?"

Without any hesitation, Fang Tuojie responded, "Naturally, it will be me who falls asleep first."

"You'll fall asleep first? Then if nobody is suppressing him while you are asleep, and he runs out again, what happens? By then, everyone inside Set Soil City will be unfortunate. You heard how much resentment he harbors earlier, aren't you afraid that he'll come out and kill everyone?" Cao Zhen couldn't understand, "Why can't you just directly kill him?"

"Of course, I also wish to kill him, but my master said that everything should rely on the laws.

If this Demon Head does as you say, once I wake up, no matter where he flees to the ends of the earth, I will apprehend him and hand him over to the Department of Punishment for trial."

Fang Tuojie looked at Cao Zhen with certainty in his voice, "Since my master has tasked me with imprisoning him, there must be my master's considerations. I believe my master cannot be wrong, and moreover, I have even greater faith that my master will have left measures in place.

Even if I fall asleep, my master will definitely not let this Demon Head wreak havoc on the people of this land."

Hearing this, Cao Zhen sighed lightly, clearly, all the Grand Preceptor's disciples held him in extreme adoration, to the point of being thoroughly indoctrinated beyond any further persuasion.

It was futile for Cao Zhen to try to convince Fang Tuojie with any more words.

Therefore, there was no need to say more.

He raised his hand to Fang Tuojie in a gesture of farewell, "Since that's the case, I'll take my leave now. Our Hundred Peaks Sect still needs to visit the Capital City."

Fang Tuojie nodded slightly and said, "If that's the case, I won't keep you any longer. But wait a moment, I'll write you a letter. Although my master certainly already knows everything,

taking this letter to my master, however, is somewhat, well, somewhat essential."

"Then thank you, Brother Fang," Cao Zhen flashed an understanding look instantly, Fang Tuojie meant that while the Grand Preceptor might know, if he himself wrote a separate letter speaking favorable words, the Grand Preceptor might bestow more rewards, more benefits, when the time came.

This truly is a kind person.

Fang Tuojie quickly finished writing a letter, sealed it with fire mastic, handed it to Cao Zhen, and then continued, "Be extra cautious on your way, especially since you also have to take the white-haired witch from the Red Refinery Demonic Sect to the Capital City.

The people of the Red Refinery Demonic Sect will surely not let their people be easily escorted to the Capital City. It's very possible that they will take action on the way; you must be careful, exceptionally careful."

"Wait a minute..." Cao Zhen was suddenly confused, "Didn't you say when we came before that if we brought the white-haired witch to the Immortal Reception House, someone would naturally take her in? Why are we being asked to take her with us again?"

"Yes, I said someone from the Immortal Reception House would take her in, but I never said someone could judge her. As the Garrisoned Immortal of this place, I don't have the authority to judge her. No one in the city has the power to judge her; only the Department of Punishment has the right to judge people. She must naturally be escorted to the Capital City and handed over to the Department of Punishment."

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Cao Zhen's entire being was overwhelmed in an instant; escorting the white-haired witch, he didn't even need to think about it, the members of the Red Refinery Demonic Sect would definitely take action.

Now, escorting the white-haired witch was practically like carrying a bomb with them.

Under normal circumstances, there was no way they could reach the Capital City of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty like this.

But, he couldn't refuse the task.

If he refused, the other party would definitely say that it was the rule of the Dynasty.

The rules of the Dynasty were to be followed even by the Sect Master of the Hundred Peaks Sect; not to mention him, a mere Peak Master.

Special means must be used to escort the person away.

Cao Zhen quickly asked, "Then, do you have a large flying boat here that can accommodate all of us? When the time comes, we can directly control the flying boat and head for the Capital City."

"Flying boat?"

Fang Tuojie shook his head, "I rarely leave the city on normal days, and even when I leave for a short time, I use Gold Light Across the Land or Sword Flight; I don't need the flying boat you mentioned."

"This..." Cao Zhen was speechless for a moment, what Fang Tuojie said wasn't the least bit wrong; with his ability to decapitate a person thousands of miles away, a cultivator of his level didn't need a flying boat.

"Then, I see that this city is quite large, I wonder, is there a place in the city that sells crafting materials?" Without a flying boat, he would have to craft one himself.

"This city is the largest in this region, and indeed has markets. Although there are no cultivators in the markets, there are humans who sell materials needed by practitioners. You can take a look."

Cao Zhen found that the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty was different from many of the immortal cultivation dynasties and nations he had in mind.

Here, ordinary people actually engaged in trades with immortals and did so on a very large scale.

In Set Soil City, there was such a special market named Immortal Market.

Within the market, it was not just one or two shops doing business but an entire street selling materials needed by cultivators, including materials for talisman making, divine weapon crafting, and formation materials.

There were even many shops selling talismans and pills.

What surprised him more was that apart from himself, there were quite a lot of people picking out materials, or buying talismans and pills necessary for cultivation.

Cao Zhen looked towards Lan Pili, surprised, "Are there so many cultivators in this city?"

Lan Pili explained, "In addition to our ten major sects, the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty also has some smaller sects and loose cultivators. They have even fewer resources and will often come down from the mountains. I've also learned at the Immortal Reception House that this is the largest city within ten thousand miles, and all cultivators within that range who need resources will come to this Set Soil City. However, immortals from these smaller sects and loose cultivators generally don't have high cultivation bases."

"So that's how it is." Cao Zhen looked around as he walked, and soon discovered that within the market, the best-selling items weren't any materials but Gathering Spirit Talismans.

After all, every practitioner needed Gathering Spirit Talismans.

Gathering Spirit Talismans, if there's a chance later, could indeed be another market to tap into.

As Cao Zhen thought this, he stepped into a nearby shop and began to list the names of various materials.

Lan Pili took out a Spiritual Stone Ticket from his chest.

Cao Zhen looked down at the ten-thousand-spirit-stone ticket Lan Pili held and placed his hand on it, "Peak Master Lan, what are you doing?"

"Peak Master Cao, I already know that we're escorting the white-haired witch to the Capital City. To ensure everyone's safety, you're going to craft a flying boat. Given this, I cannot let you bear the cost alone."

As he spoke, Lan Pili's face showed a hint of shame, "However, I didn't bring much money this time."

"There's no need, Peak Master Lan. Once the flying boat is crafted, it will belong to Four Treasures Peak. Therefore, I should be the one to pay for it." Cao Zhen shook his head firmly in refusal. If it were before, regardless of Lan Pili's offer, he would've called all his disciples together, each contributing a little to raise funds, shearing everyone's wool in turn.

But now, after witnessing Lan Pili's willingness to sacrifice his life to save others and the other disciples scrambling for the Divine Skills bead, wishing to sacrifice their own lives, Cao Zhen truly considered himself a disciple of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

There was no need to fleece these disciples anymore.

Besides, although Lan Pili was a Peak Master, he was one of the ninety-something Peak Masters, and most of his disciples belonged to the Lower Fifty Peaks. What wealth could they have?

If they were from the Upper Fifty Peaks, he might consider it, but for those from the Lower Fifty Peaks, forget it.

They'd better save their little money for cultivation.

Following behind Cao Zhen, Lan Pili watched as Cao Zhen continuously took out Spiritual Stone Tickets, feeling a rush of emotions.

Before, many had spoken ill of Peak Master Cao, accusing him of being shameless for scamming his fellow disciples out of spirit stones. But now, Peak Master Cao didn't need anyone else's spirit stones; he was crafting a flying boat for everyone and was paying for it himself.

Was this shamelessness, selfishness?

This was... materials worth four hundred thousand spiritual stones!

Cao Zhen spent a total of four hundred thousand spiritual stones before he could gather all the necessary materials. If it were just an ordinary flying boat, he wouldn't have needed to spend so much.

The main reason was that his flying boat, aside from being fast, also needed some special features.

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The flying boat, no matter how fast it flew, couldn't outpace the pursuit of a master from the Earth Immortal Realm.

Therefore, it was best for the flying boat to be equipped with invisibility features, which of course required much more money.

Plus, what if the white-haired witch had something on her that could be tracked?

The flying boat he'd refine himself would also need anti-tracking features.

All these additions meant the cost of the flying boat was truly terrifying.

After buying all the materials needed to refine the flying boat, Cao Zhen didn't go to the Immortal Reception House; instead, he returned to the seven-story tower to see Fang Tuojie once again.

"Brother Fang, can you help me out? I need to refine a flying boat, but my mana isn't sufficient. With your help, I could refine the flying boat faster, and the result would be much stronger," he said.

He had thought about how to address the other party; calling him the guardian sounded too distant, so he simply went with Brother Fang.

"Alright, I will help," Fang Tuojie agreed without hesitation. This time they needed Cao Zhen to bring the white-haired witch to the Capital City, and he realized that the journey was fraught with danger. If Cao Zhen had a flying boat, the chances of delivering the white-haired witch to the Imperial City safely would be greater.

Once Fang Tuojie agreed to help, Cao Zhen immediately began setting up the formation for refining the flying boat. The process of refinement certainly required a formation, which was instrumental in the speed of the refining process.

Actually, flying boats were quite a special case.

If it was an offensive or defensive type of flying boat, or one with special effects designed for combat, those fell into the category of artifact refining.

However, flying boats that were designed for actual flight fell under the category of mechanical techniques.

Luckily, he had experience in refining mechanical constructs, or else, even with Fang Tuojie's help, he'd have no idea when the flying boat would be finished.

Three days.

Fang Tuojie truly was formidable. With his assistance, it only took three days for Cao Zhen to finish refining the flying boat.

Otherwise, Cao Zhen felt that even a week might not be enough time for him to complete the flying boat.

Looking at the refined flying boat, Fang Tuojie regarded Cao Zhen with full surprise and finally asked the question that had been on his mind.

"Are you really the Peak Master of the Hundred Peaks Sect's Hundredth Peak, Four Treasures Peak, and not a disciple from another peak?"

Cao Zhen replied puzzledly, "Why would I lie to you about that? What purpose would it serve to deceive you with that? Moreover, we are an envoy delegation. Our identities are all verifiable and cannot be hidden from you."

Fang Tuojie explained, "I'm not saying you're deceiving me. It's just that I'm so surprised. When did the Hundred Peaks Sect become so strong? A Peak Master from the Hundred Peaks has so many skills?"

He looked at Cao Zhen admiringly and said, "Aside from my master, you are the strongest person I've seen in the fields of the Alchemy Dao, formations, and mechanical techniques!"

Cao Zhen looked at Fang Tuojie in astonishment; although his own alchemy and formation levels hadn't reached the highest echelons, they were not low. Moreover, his alchemy techniques and formations were inherited from Zhang Daoling, and his mechanical techniques were Mozi's.

These were indeed profound skills, yet Fang Tuojie said he was not a match for his master!

Just who was this Grand Preceptor, to be not only highly skilled in cultivation but also extremely strong in alchemy, formations, and mechanical techniques? How could he be so powerful? What was his background?

What kind of fortuitous encounter did he have in the past?

Cao Zhen couldn't figure it out and decided not to ponder over it anymore.

Soon, the members of the Hundred Peaks Sect left Set Soil City, and Cao Zhen released his newly refined flying boat. The flying boat was more than twenty zhang long and over seven zhang wide, with two levels, enough to accommodate everyone.

As everyone boarded the flying boat, Cao Zhen immediately propelled the vessel forward, under Lan Pili's guidance, flying towards their destination.

He didn't choose the nearest route to the Capital City.

After all, if the Red Refinery Demonic Sect had really sent people, they would surely guess that their destination was the Capital City. What if they were ambushed en route?

Since they were flying, they could reach the Capital City by any route.

The flying boat sped through the sky, but even though it was powered by Spirit Stones, it still required mana input from people.

The disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect who came down the mountain this time were not few, but among them, there wasn't a single Golden Core, and their collective mana was limited.

During the flight, Cao Zhen finally had time to check the person he had randomly connected with.

"Let's see who I've connected with. He doesn't have to be very powerful, just a Daluo Golden Immortal would do. Let's see... Gao Jianli?"

Cao Zhen was dumbstruck.

"What does connecting with Gao Jianli mean? That's way too random, isn't it? Gao Jianli attempted to assassinate the King of Qin. Even though he failed, he should at least be an assassin. How did he end up a mere mortal?"

In resignation, Cao Zhen uttered a complaint and continued to read.

Skills: Playing the zhu, musical rhythm, rallying others.

Musical rhythm level: Ninety-nine.

Playing the zhu level: MAX.

Rallying others level: Ninety-nine.

Rallying others? What was that?

Cao Zhen was somewhat perplexed; was it something to enhance buffs?

He remembered from history that before Jing Ke attempted to assassinate the King of Qin, Gao Jianli indeed played the zhu for Jing Ke, leading to the phrase 'The wind howls and the waters of Yi River grow colder...'

So, was that the rallying he was talking about?

The issue was, even after being rallied, Jing Ke still failed.

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As for Musical Rhythm, if I were still in the Hundred Peaks Sect, it would certainly be useful. If there were any disciples skilled in Musical Rhythm challenging the Hundred Peaks Sect, I could still pretend to be one too, and earn some rewards. The problem now is that I have already left the Hundred Peaks Sect, so what use is Musical Rhythm to me!

After half a month of flying on the Flying Boat, Cao Zhen finally put it away and walked towards a distant city.

During this journey, everyone had used up almost all their resources and needed a place to rest.

According to the map given by the Sect Leader True Person before Lan Pili left the Hundred Peaks Sect, the city up ahead was the largest in the vicinity.

The larger the city, the more powerful the Immortals guarding it.

Moreover, the bigger the city, the more resources it possessed. Having consumed much along the way, not only their personal reserves but also the Spirit Stones they carried, they needed to use Spiritual Stone Tickets to exchange for more Spirit Stones as supplies.

"Yong Feng City, the largest city within ten thousand li and also the capital of Feng State."

As Lan Pili spoke, he led the group straight towards the Immortal Reception House.

As Cao Zhen walked, he marveled inwardly at how much more vast the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty was than he had previously imagined. Traveling with the others from the Hundred Peaks Sect, they had controlled the Flying Boat without rest for fifteen days.

And yet, they had still not reached the Capital City of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. And that was not even a direct flight from the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Furthermore, the Hundred Peaks Sect wasn't even at the edge of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. Starting from the Dynasty's border, one could only wonder how long it would take to reach the Capital City.

It is said that the Capital City of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty is located at the central position of the Dynasty.

If that's so, how long would it take to fly from one edge of the Dynasty to the opposite edge?

We are Immortals, what about mortals?

Even if they were to ride horses and could go without eating, drinking, or sleeping, they still couldn't cross the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty in their lifetime.

The Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty must have been constantly expanding its territory over the years, who knows by how many times!

While Cao Zhen pondered, he followed the crowd into the city. He had never been to the Immortal Reception House in Set Soil City; he had only entered the one in Yu Min Town. Now, he found that the Immortal Reception House in Yong Feng City was more than ten times larger than the one in Yu Min Town.

Outside the Immortal Reception House, there were two rows of soldiers who looked very elite, guarding the place. Each of them stood as straight as a javelin, none of them slack or shirking their duties.

As the group arrived, and Lan Pili presented the document for visiting the Capital City to pay respects, an official from inside the Immortal Reception House quickly brought them inside. Not long after, a man with a majestic appearance, wearing official robes, accompanied by numerous officials, arrived inside the Immortal Reception House.

The leading official introduced himself to Cao Zhen and the others with a salute, "This official is the Governor of Feng State, Kuang Yongmao."

Lan Pili immediately returned the salute, "Head envoy of the mission, Peak Master of Lightning Peak from the Hundred Peaks Sect, Lan Pili."

Cao Zhen also stepped forward and said, "Deputy envoy of the mission, Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak from the Hundred Peaks Sect, Cao Zhen."

While speaking, he extended a hand towards Kuang Yongmao, intending to grab him. Previously, in Yu Min Town, it turned out that the town leader had been compromised, and now, carrying the white-haired witch from the Red Refinery Demonic Sect with them, he had to be extremely cautious.

He wanted to test whether there was something amiss with the Governor.

Just as his hand was about to touch the Governor, suddenly, a slightly emaciated palm shot out from behind the Governor. Instantly, a powerful surge of mana rushed forward.

Taken by surprise, Cao Zhen was pushed back, staggering and channeling his mana, he retreated two steps before he could steady himself.

Across from him, an old man with a wispy goatee, dressed in white silk finery, stepped forward, shielding Kuang Yongmao and staring coldly at Cao Zhen as he rebuked, "How dare you."

Cao Zhen steadied himself and upon seeing the elder, immediately understood that this person must be the Garrisoned Immortal of this place.

He looked around and then back at the elder, saying, "I didn't mean to do anything to him, but I need to check him."

The elder scoffed with a sneer, "I am well aware that you're investigating. Otherwise, you wouldn't have simply pushed him away. You are not qualified to investigate. Governor Kuang is an official bestowed by the imperial court and is not someone you can simply touch."

"I know he is an official appointed by the imperial court," Cao Zhen said without any sign of backing down. Advancing a step, he said, "On our way here, we encountered an imperial-appointed official from a small town called Yu Min Town. That small town had already been infiltrated by the Red Refinery Demonic Sect. The Demonic Sect even set up a Formation there that drew in the Blood River..."

Cao Zhen briefly recounted what had happened in Yu Min Town before continuing, "I don't mean any disrespect to him, but for safety's sake, I would like to investigate whether there is any Demonic Qi on him."

"Demonic Qi? What a joke," the elder gazed at Cao Zhen disparagingly and laughed coldly, "I am with Governor Kuang every day. If there were Demonic Qi on him, wouldn't I, an Elder, be able to detect it?"

With that, he paused slightly, looked at Cao Zhen with a mocking expression, and said, "Do you know who I am? I am an Elder of the Shadowless Pavilion from the Bright Heart Sect, one of the top ten

Immortal Sects in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. Moreover, I have reached the peak of the Golden Core Stage and possess the cultivation of the Wind Fire Tribulation."

"If he had any issues, and I as an Elder could not detect them, do you, a mere Peak Master from the Hundred Peaks Sect of the Hundredth Peak, think you could?"

The Wind Fire Tribulation!

Upon reaching the pinnacle of Golden Core Cultivation, one faces the Wind Fire Tribulation. Once the Tribulation is passed, a step forward would lead to becoming an Earth Immortal.

Therefore, many cultivators at the pinnacle of Golden Core and on the verge of facing the Wind Fire Tribulation often proclaim themselves as having the Cultivation Base of the Wind Fire Tribulation.

Cao Zhen glanced at Elder Shadowless, nodded slightly, and turned to walk away. Let the other boast if he wanted; Cao Zhen had no desire to argue with him.

If this person was a Golden Core cultivator of the Wind Fire Tribulation, always in the Governor's company, then the Governor likely had no issues either.

In fact, the stronger the cultivating power of the Garrisoned Immortal here, the better for his own safety.

Chapter 336: Hundred Coffins_1

Unlike the Immortal Reception House in Yu Min Town, the one in Yong Feng City resembled a small estate, subdivided into several separate courtyards.

The group from Hundred Peaks Sect had all taken residence within one of these courtyards.

Inside this particular courtyard, there was even a guest hall.

Once Cao Zhen and Lan Pili had seen to the arrangements for their people, they entered the guest hall.

"Peak Master Lan, how much longer is the journey from here to the Capital City of Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty?" Cao Zhen, on his first trip away from the mountain, did not have a map on him; it was with Lan Pili, and he had no idea how far they were from the Capital City.

After taking out the map and making a few gestures with his hands, Lan Pili pondered for a moment and then estimated, "About half a month's journey."

"Half a month?" Cao Zhen exclaimed in surprise, "Just how vast is the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty? We used the Flying Boat for half a month before, and those three days when we didn't need the Flying Boat can pretty much be ignored, which means we've only covered half the distance."

"Roughly so," Lan Pili said as he looked at Cao Zhen. "That's if we don't take any detours."

Remember, we are carrying a female demon head from the Red Refinery Demonic Sect, and now we're stopping here; who knows if the people from the Red Refinery Demonic Sect will catch up or predict our next move. To be on the safe side, it might be best to take another detour, which would mean an even later arrival at the Capital City."

"If we take a detour..."

Cao Zhen looked towards the map in Lan Pili's hands, contemplating their route, when a knock sounded at the door followed by Chang Tiance's voice. "Peak Master Lan, there is someone at the door requesting an audience."

"Does Peak Master Lan have acquaintances in this city?" Cao Zhen looked at Lan Pili with astonishment.

Lan Pili appeared equally confused, "I don't know anyone in this city." As he spoke, he looked towards the door and asked, "Who seeks an audience with me?"

Outside, Chang Tiance quickly replied, "It's a Zhao-surnamed constable from the city; he has presented his card."

"A constable? What does a constable want with me? And to seek us out so soon after we've arrived?" Lan Pili grew even more perplexed. After a moment of thought, he decided and spoke to the outside, "Since we're in their city, and they wish to see us, let them come in."

Peak Master Cao, you should also stay; let's see together what this matter is."

Cao Zhen nodded slightly and remained in the room.

Shortly, a constable who appeared to be in his thirties, dressed in the official attire of his office and looking very astute, entered the room. He was holding a damaged black armor which he placed on the table beside Cao Zhen and Lan Pili, saying, "Gentlemen, please examine this armor."

Cao Zhen looked at the armor, noticing traces of weapon strikes and several complete fractures, obviously rendering it unusable.

At first glance, there seemed to be nothing special about the armor, so why...?

Hmm?

Cao Zhen leaned forward slightly, reaching out to touch the armor.

"Demonic Qi... There is a kind of demonic energy on this armor, but this energy is odd; it's different from the demonic qi I've encountered before. It's more akin to the aura of a corpse, and this presence is very faint. If one does not examine it closely, they will be unable to detect it."

"There's demonic qi?" Upon hearing Cao Zhen's words, Lan Pili placed his hand on the armor. After a moment, he nodded and said, "Indeed, it has the aura of a corpse,"

Continuing, he looked up at the constable and asked, "Constable Zhao, why did you bring us this armor to look at?"

Constable Zhao spoke gravely, "Recently, many Zombie Soldiers have been discovered around Yong Feng City. Hearing that cultivators had arrived, I thought it best to come."

Zombie Soldiers.

Cao Zhen had heard of Zombie Soldiers; they were a type of zombie, essentially the most basic form of undead.

Lan Pili, however, seemed unperturbed and said, "Zombie Soldiers are common, especially since the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty has many Blood Rivers. Although the rivers are controlled, some demonic qi still seeps out.

Once some corpses come into contact with demonic qi, they may undergo a change and become zombies, so it's not unusual to encounter Zombie Soldiers. As long as there are no particularly powerful Zombie Soldiers, there's no need to pay them much attention."

Constable Zhao nodded slightly, "The reason I came is actually to ask for your assistance in inspecting these armors."

"These armors? Is there something special about them?"

Lan Pili inspected the armor but could not see anything particular about it; he then turned to Cao Zhen asking, "Peak Master Cao, do you notice anything strange about this armor?"

He was not an expert in forging, whereas Peak Master Cao could build Flying Boats and might have a talent for smithing.

"I truly haven't noticed anything special about this armor," Cao Zhen shook his head and said, "It seems like an ordinary armor from a few thousand years ago."

Hearing the two men's responses, Constable Zhao suddenly realized that they were both very young and hadn't lived for a thousand years.

Neither had experienced the era the armor came from, and even within the Immortal Cultivation world, knowledge of the armor had likely faded, and the events of those years were probably unknown to them.

Constable Zhao glanced at the now closed door behind him, then looked back at the two men and inquired, "I wonder if either of you have heard of a being known as the 'Martial Immortal', Helian Baitian?"

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"Martial Immortal?" Cao Zhen was completely bewildered. If someone could be called a Martial Immortal, they must be an incredibly terrifying and powerful being, yet he had no memory of such a person.

However, Lan Pili spoke up directly, "The person you're talking about is that disaster caused by the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty back then, isn't it?"

Head Catcher Zhao nodded, "Indeed, what I'm referring to is exactly that disaster from the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty."

Cao Zhen asked curiously, "Disaster? Do you mean to say that this Martial Immortal, Helian Baitian, caused a disaster? What's his background? The Grand Preceptor was already around at that time, wasn't he? How could he still cause a disaster?"

Lan Pili picked up a teacup from the side, took a sip of tea to moisten his throat, and then began to explain, "Helian Baitian, although called a Martial Immortal and associated with an Immortal, was not actually a practitioner of Immortal Cultivation. He was merely a mortal."

"A mortal? A mortal could cause such chaos?" Cao Zhen became even more puzzled.

"It's precisely because he was a mortal that he caused the disaster, and although he was a mortal, he was completely different from any other mortal, which makes this a long story," Lan Pili said as he gazed at Cao Zhen and explained, "It's been so many years since then that I've forgotten how many, but at the time, the Grand Preceptor had indeed emerged and became the Grand Preceptor of the imperial court.

The Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty was growing stronger and stronger, and indeed there were some Immortals who began to help the mortals of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty—commanding the clouds and the rain to help mortals ward off disasters.

However, the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty was too vast, and there were still some remote areas that the Immortals couldn't reach in time to assist the mortals.

There were also many places where natural disasters struck with such ferocity that even ordinary Immortals found them impossible to fend off, leading to some citizens of the Dynasty living in hardship.

Furthermore, what was even more worrisome was the issue with people.

While it's true that the presence of the Grand Preceptor had made the Dynasty's bureaucracy much cleaner, even he wasn't able to guarantee that every official would be fair and devoted entirely to the people," Lan Pili noted.

Cao Zhen nodded slightly in agreement, "You can't expect every official to be fair and honest; even if the majority were, it would already be quite an achievement."

He had experienced the era of the information explosion in his previous life and knew all too well how severe corruption among ancient officials could be.

Throughout the ages, no ruler had ever ensured that all officials were incorruptible during their reign.

"That's right, even the Grand Preceptor could only ensure fair weather; he couldn't eliminate all the corrupt officials, despite him being very serious about governing the country. After all, human nature is the hardest thing to grasp in this world. Where there are people, there is greed, which is something that can never be overcome or satisfied," Lan Pili remarked and continued, "If the officials' oppression is light, the commoners might bear it, but if the officials' tyranny is too harsh and unbearable, and if natural disasters occur in the area simultaneously, it can easily lead to an uprising.

At the time, the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty was at war with another Dynasty, and there were frequent natural disasters within the Dynasty during those years, so many uprisings erupted.

Martial Immortal Helian Baitian also launched an uprising during that time.

In reality, he was just an ordinary person, someone who couldn't survive due to the oppression by the officials. At that time, he organized hundreds of people just like him, who were being oppressed by local officials to the point of not being able to survive, and they launched a rebellion, attacking the county town they lived in.

Although it was just an ordinary county town, the town also had guards, and even the local county magistrate kept a private group of guards for protection.

Under normal circumstances, those hundred people wouldn't be able to take down a county town.

But Helian Baitian possessed Innate Divine Strength, an enormous power; although he was just a mortal, he could lift the stone lions within the town and swing them around at will.

That day, he took the lead, using a Great Stone to smash open the city gates with his bare hands, leading hundreds into the town, tearing the county magistrate to pieces alive.

Although he killed the county magistrate, he also knew that he couldn't hold the town. Once the Dynasty's troops arrived, he was certain to die.

So he opened the granaries and, after looting the county magistrate's house, he took countless commoners with him to Lake Mountain, living as a Mountain Bandit king.

At the time of his attack on the town, he had only a hundred people, but when he left, his numbers had nearly reached a thousand.

He even found a perfect location at Lake Mountain, surrounded by a lake on all sides. To attack the mountain, one had to cross the river, and the mountain itself was vast; once they hid inside, it was extremely difficult to find them.

So the Dynasty sent troops to attack, but after several attempts, they couldn't take him down, while he himself grew even stronger.

They say that initially, he only relied on his brute strength; he didn't know anything about the art of combat among mortals let alone the abilities of Immortal Cultivation.

However, as he fought the Dynasty's troops over and over, his battle experience grew richer and richer, making him seem like a veteran General.

It seemed that with each encounter with the military, he learned all the combat techniques from his opponents. And his own forces continued to grow more reckoned. Even some of the military's Generals and soldiers defected to him.

As time went on, many mortals actively sought to join him.

Although mortals don't practice Immortal Cultivation, they do have martial arts and techniques. As more and more people skilled in martial arts joined him, his personal strength improved by leaps and bounds. He no longer stayed in the mountains but led his army to take over cities one after another."

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As his strength grew stronger, the imperial army had even less of a chance against him."

Cao Zhen nodded in understanding; this was a martial arts prodigy, but he still had some doubts.

"What about the Grand Preceptor, then? Would the Grand Preceptor not make a move?"

Lan Pili explained, "The Grand Preceptor will not take action because he once said that his power would only be used against Immortals, and he would not strike against mortals.

Of course, the Grand Preceptor would not use the power of Immortals, but other people could not guarantee they would refrain from using it.

Especially the officials in the cities near Helian Baitian, they were even more panicked, fearing the moment Helian Baitian might strike them.

After realizing that the power of the law was insufficient to contend with Helian Baitian, they thought of the Immortals, seeking to borrow their power.

They believed that Helian Baitian, a mortal, no matter how strong, could not possibly withstand the Immortals. Although they said they could not move our Ten Great Immortal Sects' Immortals, there were still many Loose Cultivators within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, so they asked some Loose Cultivators to deal with Helian Baitian.

Helian Baitian was indeed mortal and certainly struggled against Loose Cultivators; therefore, he was defeated the first time he faced a Loose Cultivator.

Although defeated, he did not die.

When he returned again, everyone was amazed to discover that his strength had surged again, and the Loose Cultivator who had severely injured him was beaten to death by him."

"What? A mortal killed a Cultivator?" Cao Zhen was suddenly baffled, a Cultivator, even the weakest, possessed mana, how could a mortal kill one.

"I know you are astonished, Peak Master Cao, I was just as surprised as you when I first heard this, and I couldn't believe it either, but it is true.

That Helian Baitian truly has an extraordinary talent. After he killed a Loose Cultivator, the nearby officials sought out even more Loose Cultivators. He might be defeated, but each time he returned from recovering from defeat, he became incredibly strong, much stronger than before.

Even without defeat, after experiencing a great battle, if he emerged victorious, his power would improve significantly when he next appeared.

His talent is indeed astonishing.

In his words, after every battle, he comes to many realizations."

Listening to Lan Pili's words, Cao Zhen couldn't help but feel that Helian Baitian's realizations after each battle resembled the enlightenment experienced by those in cultivation.

Lan Pili did not look at Cao Zhen but continued, "In the entire history of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, there has never been anyone like him. He became stronger with each battle, and later on, those officials even appealed to the disciples from the smaller sects within the Dynasty, but it was useless. The disciples from the Immortal Cultivation sects were equally powerless against Helian Baitian, and they lost many disciples.

And the trouble he caused grew increasingly severe until, eventually, even the disciples from the Ten Great Immortal Sects were called out.

The officials could not move the disciples from the Ten Great Immortal Sects, but the Loose Cultivators and disciples from other Immortal Cultivation sects had connections with some of the disciples from the Ten Great Immortal Sects.

After all, people from the Ten Great Immortal Sects would also descend the mountain and move about outside. Some would become good friends with Loose Cultivators with whom they shared a temperamental kinship.

Even, some disciples from the Ten Great Immortal Sects had sworn brotherhood with Loose Cultivators and disciples from other sects.

When Helian Baitian killed their sworn brothers, even the disciples from the Ten Great Immortal Sects could not stop themselves from descending the mountain to seek revenge against Helian Baitian, and the Grand Preceptor could not object.

When the disciples from the Ten Great Immortal Sects came down the mountain, Helian Baitian did suffer some losses at first, and once he even came close to death.

But that time, he managed to escape, and precisely because of the severe injuries from that encounter, when he returned, his strength exploded again, and it was a tremendous increase.

The disciples who had almost killed him were slain within a few exchanges.

The disciples from the Ten Great Immortal Sects began to die, and slowly, all Ten Great Immortal Sects were drawn into the conflict."

Having reached this point, Lan Pili sighed and said, "That Helian Baitian appears to have broken through his limitations, surpassing the bounds of martial arts. Later on, despite several assassination attempts by people from the Ten Great Immortal Sects, they could not kill him, and instead, they were slain by him.

Indeed, because the disciples from the Ten Great Immortal Sects were stronger, he learned even more from his encounters with them."

Cao Zhen's expression changed as he asked, "Our disciples from the Ten Great Immortal Sects were killed by him? Are there disciples from our Hundred Peaks Sect among the dead?"

Lan Pili nodded, "Yes, within every sect of the Ten Great Immortal Sects, there are disciples who have been killed by Helian Baitian."

Cao Zhen puzzled, "Then how could the Ten Great Immortal Sects let him go? Has our Hundred Peaks Sect not dispatched stronger experts, have no Elders or Peak Masters taken action?"

Lan Pili explained, "It is said that the Sect Leader True Person had already agreed to let a Peak Master take action. It is true that the rule of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty is such that Immortals are forbidden to act against mortals, but Helian Baitian had killed our disciples from the Hundred Peaks Sect.

With disciples slain, it was right for a Peak Master, who is also their mentor, to seek vengeance for their disciples, and even the Grand Preceptor could not interfere.

The rest of the Ten Great Immortal Sects naturally prepared to act as well. However, before the Ten Great Immortal Sects could act, the Grand Preceptor himself had already taken action."

"The Grand Preceptor?" Cao Zhen's eyes widened in surprise, "Didn't he say that everything should follow the rules? His own established rules, not to strike at mortals, did he break his own rules?"

"No, it's not exactly breaking the rules," Lan Pili shook his head, "The Grand Preceptor once said that he would not take action against mortals. The Grand Preceptor has said that Helian Baitian, although not a cultivator, possesses strength that no mortal can, therefore Helian Baitian is neither an Immortal nor a mortal."

"Since the Grand Preceptor said that he wouldn't strike at mortals, and Helian Baitian is not a mortal, it's natural for the Grand Preceptor to act. And this time, the Grand Preceptor directly deployed his four Earth Immortal Realm disciples from his seat!"

As Cao Zhen listened to Lan Pili's narration, his heart was nothing but shaken. The Grand Preceptor had only four Earth Immortal Realm disciples under his tutelage, yet for someone who was not a cultivator, he had dispatched all four disciples at once!

After a short pause, Lan Pili continued, "The Grand Preceptor's four disciples soon found Helian Baitian, surrounded him, and began their siege."

But facing the encirclement of the four, Helian Baitian managed to escape three times consecutively. Each time he fled, he was injured, but he still broke free."

"Then, during his fourth encounter with the siege, something happened that stunned the entire Immortal Cultivation world."

Lan Pili looked at Cao Zhen, emphasizing each word, "Helian Baitian, he defeated the Senior Disciple under the Grand Preceptor, Pei Zhenjiang! Of course, this Senior Disciple was only the first to join the Grand Preceptor and not necessarily the strongest disciple under him."

"What!" Cao Zhen stood up abruptly from his chair, his face full of disbelief, "You're telling me, a mortal has defeated a master of the Earth Immortal Realm? That's the Earth Immortal Realm!"

Cao Zhen couldn't imagine how a mortal could defeat someone from the Earth Immortal Realm!

Let alone a mortal, even he himself, with knowledge of Immortal Cultivation from Zhang Daoling, could not possibly defeat one from the Earth Immortal Realm!

That's the Earth Immortal Realm, where with a mere wave of a hand, divine skills unfold in all their might. A common mortal probably wouldn't even see an Earth Immortal before being slain.

How could a mortal possibly defeat an Earth Immortal?

"I know you're shocked, but that is the truth. This event has indeed shaken the entire Immortal Cultivation world!"

Lan Pili spoke with a sense of wonder, "Moreover, at that time, it was Helian Baitian alone, facing Pei Zhenjiang, defeating him one-on-one.

Even according to Pei Zhenjiang's own account, had his three junior brothers and sisters not arrived in time, he would likely have perished. It was also then that Helian Baitian earned the title of 'Martial Immortal'.

Unfortunately, not long after he was called the Martial Immortal, the Grand Preceptor personally took action. Although the Grand Preceptor slayed him, he did not destroy his corpse.

After all, a person who could defeat a master of the Earth Immortal Realm without pursuing Immortal Cultivation could indeed be considered a rare talent of his generation."

Cao Zhen's mind was already reeling with shock. A mortal had nearly killed a master of the Earth Immortal Realm, how did he do that?

If Helian Baitian didn't practice Immortal Cultivation, what would he have been like if he had?

At this point, Lan Pili raised a hand to point at Zhao the Headhunter and said, "Next, I will speak about the possible reason why Zhao the Headhunter mentioned Helian Baitian.

After burying Helian Baitian, the Grand Preceptor said that before his death, Helian Baitian held tremendous resentment, unwillingness, and pride. He predicted that burying Helian Baitian would eventually lead to a corpse transformation.

Once Helian Baitian resurrected as an undead, if he lost his memories, his instincts would surely turn him into a Demon Head wreaking havoc. However, if he retained his memories, perhaps due to his humanity and his past experiences, he would not harm ordinary civilians.

But he would certainly seek revenge against the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, and possibly overturn the imperial court. There were those who asked the Grand Preceptor why he did not annihilate Helian Baitian completely, to prevent future troubles.

But the Grand Preceptor said that Helian Baitian wasn't an Immortal, and personally killing him was already a violation of his own rules. Since he had already broken the rules, he couldn't further pulverize his bones and scatter his ashes."

Lan Pili, after taking a sip of his tea, continued, "Of course, the Grand Preceptor didn't just bury him and leave it at that.

In the burial site of Helian Baitian, the Grand Preceptor set up a Great Formation and even hung a hundred coffins, named 'A Hundred Coffins Suppressing the Corpse'!

Helian Baitian was sealed within one of those coffins, making it the Formation Eye, and the other ninety-nine coffins contained the bodies of his former troops and defeated generals, all sealed within."

Cao Zhen hearing this was completely unable to comprehend it.

"What was the Grand Preceptor thinking? Is there something wrong with his mind? He clearly knew that Helian Baitian would definitely become an undead, yet he didn't annihilate him completely! Now, the two of you are telling me that this city is built upon the very site where Helian Baitian is suppressed? And that Helian Baitian has already awakened as an undead!"

"How dare you!"

At Cao Zhen's words, Zhao the Headhunter drew his side-sword with a clang and pointed it straight at Cao Zhen, his voice cold, "How dare you insult the Grand Preceptor!"

Cao Zhen retorted unhappily, "Insult the Grand Preceptor? Then you tell me, why didn't the Grand Preceptor eradicate the future threat when he knew there was a problem?"

Zhao the Headhunter replied solemnly, "The Grand Preceptor had his reasons for his actions. Besides, the Grand Preceptor also mentioned that if Helian Baitian became a threat to the world after his resurrection, the Grand Preceptor would personally extinguish him."

"Oh, since the Grand Preceptor said that, then it's simple," Cao Zhen pointed at Zhao the Headhunter and said, "Then you just need to set fire to an imperial missive, inform the Grand Preceptor that Helian Baitian has become an undead, and have him send someone over, or deal with it personally."

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"No, things are not as you imagine," Constable Zhao shook his head and said, "Those one hundred coffins are still within the formation, and each coffin is sealed without any issues."

However, for some unknown reason, the death aura from within the coffins can seep out and disperse, even affecting many corpses buried around Yong Feng City, causing them to become contaminated with its death aura and thus undergo corpse transformation.

Furthermore, after transforming, they pick up weapons and wreak havoc in all directions. Every night, our constables in the city must go and slay these zombie soldiers."

"Wait a moment," Cao Zhen sensitively caught onto a problem. "You said that common corpses buried in the ground have transformed, right? Then where did their weapons, their armor come from?"

Constable Zhao pointed to the armor on the table and said, "We don't know either. We have no idea where their weapons come from, and after investigating, we found that these weapons are the same ones used during the catastrophe of that year."

Lan Pili looked down at the armor and said, "Weapons and armor from thousands of years ago and still not decayed after so much time? That is indeed rare."

Constable Zhao sighed and said, "We have asked around, and it turns out that these weapons and armor have been through that great war, and are soaked with the blood of countless battles; they are by no means ordinary weapons now."

Nowadays, whenever we fight with them, we even have to prepare boy's urine and chicken blood to coat our weapons, otherwise it's difficult to penetrate those armors."

Cao Zhen, puzzled, said, "The seals on the coffins haven't been broken? Then you should have reported it, why come to us instead?"

Constable Zhao replied helplessly, "We don't have the imperial mandate to report directly to the court."

Cao Zhen suddenly understood. In other words, Constable Zhao did not have the authority to report, and he pointed outside, saying, "But don't you have a Governor here? Let your Governor report it."

Constable Zhao replied helplessly, "The Governor said there's no need to report it."

"Oh?" Cao Zhen was surprised for a moment and continued asking, "Don't you have a Garrisoned Immortal here? Tell your Garrisoned Immortal."

"We have already informed the Garrisoned Immortal, and the Garrisoned Immortal also said there's no need to report."

As Constable Zhao spoke, a look of dissatisfaction appeared on his face, and he said coldly, "If they did report to the Grand Preceptor, upon his arrival, he might reinforce the seals or check the coffins.

But regardless of what the Grand Preceptor does, once he arrives, the first ones to suffer will be the Governor and the Garrison Commander, as the leaking of the death aura would be a sign of their dereliction of duty, and both would be found guilty.

That's why they're keeping it under wraps, claiming the formation is fine, that all the coffin seals are intact, and there's no need to report it."

Cao Zhen finally understood why they sought out Lan Pili, "So, you thought of us."

"Exactly," Constable Zhao nodded firmly in admission, "You are immortal cultivators from the Immortal Sects, and you are also about to visit the Capital City to pay homage, so you need not fear the Garrisoned Immortal here. If the Garrisoned Immortal here is punished, it won't affect you at all.

Therefore, I wanted to meet with your leader, hoping that you could help us out, to see if there's actually a problem with the formation.

If there is a problem, it would be best if you two could repair the formation with your abilities, but if not, I hope that you could report it and inform the court of the situation here, so they can send someone."

Cao Zhen nodded slightly and looked at Lan Pili, whispering, "Peak Master Lan, shall we have a look?"

If things were as Lan Pili and Constable Zhao described, and the ferocious and terrifying Helian Baitian really was to resurrect and break out of the formation, then this land would surely be devastated, and what's more important—

The Grand Preceptor's way of thinking was very peculiar.

With the Grand Preceptor's way of thinking, if there were indeed problems here and Helian Baitian's corpse really broke out of the formation, then the Grand Preceptor might very likely implicate them.

At that time, the Grand Preceptor might say that they were here, knew there might be problems, but as people of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, they did nothing.

What would happen if they were all implicated in the crime?

And the possibility of this was quite high.

To avoid punishment and prevent the entire Hundred Peaks Sect from being convicted, they had no choice but to take a look.

Lan Pili seemed to understand as well, knowing that if they didn't go and something unexpected happened here, their Hundred Peaks Sect might be wrongly accused and penalized. He quickly nodded in agreement, saying, "Then let's go have a look together."

The two did not alarm the other disciples from the Hundred Peaks Sect, nor did Constable Zhao disturb other constables, and the three quickly left the city, led by Constable Zhao, towards a mountain range in the distance.

When Cao Zhen and the others arrived at the site, it was high noon, and although there was some delay, the sun was still shining brightly.

Yet upon entering the mountain range, it felt as though they had suddenly entered another world entirely.

A chilling air spread from the heart of the mountain range.

After walking for a while, Cao Zhen's expression suddenly changed, and he said in a low voice, looking around, "Such a cold place, we've been here for quite a while, but I have not seen a single beast."

As they continued to advance, the chilling air around them grew denser, and not only were animals absent, but even wild grass and trees were nowhere to be seen up ahead.