

My Master 401

Chapter 401: Reincarnation of Great Ability_7

"But shouldn't multiplication come first, and then division?"

It just didn't make sense, really didn't make sense.

The crowd had yet to recover from the astonishment of Cave Master Zhou Juedan's enlightenment when a burst of exclamations erupted all around.

"Cave Master Zhou's pills are about to come out of the furnace."

"Quiet down, Cave Master Zhou is decocting pills, don't disturb him."

Cao Zhen heard the commotion and glanced to the side, where Zhou Juedan had already struck an alchemy technique, then lifted his hand and pulled toward the pill furnace in front of him.

Instantly, pills flew out from the furnace.

In the blink of an eye, seventy-two pills had flown out.

"Seventy-two pills, this furnace actually produced seventy-two pills!"

"Truly worthy of being Cave Master Zhou! If it were me, I could at most pull out ten pills."

"The key isn't the number of pills, haven't you noticed? The quality of these pills..."

"Best quality, out of seventy-two pills, at least seventy are of the best quality, and the remaining two are mid-grade!"

"So close, just a little more and they all would have been best quality."

"This time, Cao Zhen can't possibly win again."

"The pills that Cao Zhen is refining, if they don't blow up the furnace, that would be good enough, not to mention actually producing them."

Zhou Juedan shook his head slightly, sighing, "This furnace is a bit unfamiliar; otherwise, I should have been able to produce a best quality pill."

"Cave Master Zhou, you don't need a best quality pill, you're already guaranteed to win."

"Being able to produce so many best quality pills is already extremely difficult!"

Cao Zhen, listening to the exclamations around him, gestured an alchemy technique with his hand. Under normal circumstances, his speed at alchemy should definitely be faster than that of Zhou Juedan. However, he had been attending to the spirit field, creating formations, and crafting flying boats, and hadn't paid much attention to the pills, allowing Zhou Juedan to refine them first.

As he continued his movements, the pills within the furnace gradually began to take shape.

This activity drew the attention of the surrounding crowd.

Zhou Juedan's face showed a look of surprise. These pills were really being perfected? Just like that, casually refined?

The next moment, in his view, Cao Zhen employed a pill decoction method he had never seen before, drawing one pill after another, each pill emitting seven-colored radiance, forming a line in the air...

Zhou Juedan's eyes widened in an instant.

From his point of view, after Cao Zhen pulled out ten best quality pills, the next ones were not best quality, but ordinary best quality ones; one after another best quality spirit pill continued to emerge.

"Ninety-nine pills!"

"He pulled out a total of ninety-nine pills!"

"Among them, ten are of the best quality, and the remaining eighty-nine are best quality pills!"

"Seven-colored radiance!"

"Best quality!"

"He... He produced best quality pills!"

"How could this be? How could he have refined a best quality pill!"

"He refined like that, it would be a feat to simply succeed, let alone produce a best quality pill!"

The surrounding crowd was completely dumbfounded; they couldn't comprehend what they were seeing.

"He didn't even weigh the ingredients, did he?"

"While he was refining, he was distracted, hardly paying attention to the pills."

"And he still produced pills like this? How did he do it?"

"The key is, his pills even include a best quality pill!"

"Isn't pill refining about controlling the flame, and the weight of the ingredients can't be off by even a hair?"

"Is the alchemy we learned before even correct?"

In that instant, quite a few people started to question the alchemy they had been taught.

"Pill King, he's definitely a Pill King!"

Zhou Juedan looked at Cao Zhen, his eyes full of a sense of loss, "I've lost. A lifetime of alchemy and I can't compare to pills refined casually by another. A Pill King has made his move; I accept my defeat wholeheartedly and without any reservations."

He stood up, his face full of dejection, and walked toward the distance.

Watching Zhou Juedan's retreating figure, Lan Pili shook his head helplessly. When others discussed Dao with Cao Zhen, many of them had enlightenment on the spot.

But Zhou Juedan was really unlucky. Not only did he not gain enlightenment, but he was also deeply affected.

Following Zhou Juedan's departure, there was no one else who wanted to discuss Daoist Pills with Cao Zhen.

What was there left to compare?

If someone could effortlessly concoct best quality pills, what could they use to compete?

Elder Huan Kong glanced at Zhou Juedan leaving, then looked around at the few people who were comparing their skills in formations and mechanical techniques with Cao Zhen, and he sighed deeply in his heart.

It seemed that they, the Thousand Caves Door, were also going to lose in the areas of formations and mechanical techniques.

He truly couldn't understand how there could be such a person in the world who knew everything.

How old was Cao Zhen, and what was Four Treasures Peak to have someone who mastered everything to such an extent, unless...

Unless Cao Zhen was a reincarnated being of great ability!

But could it really be such a coincidence that there was a reincarnated being of great ability...

He knew that there were reincarnated beings of great ability in the world, but how many could there be? There was already one reincarnated being of great ability, could there really be another reincarnated being of great ability in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty?

Moreover, Cao Zhen understood everything, not just a little bit, but almost reached the pinnacle in each field.

Even beings of great ability had their focuses and wouldn't possibly cultivate everything unrelated like calligraphy, musical rhythm, and poetry to such a high level.

He was completely at a loss.

Now, there was only one thing to do.

They could only ask that one person for help.

Cao Zhen might be a reincarnated being of great ability in his speculation, but that person was truly, genuinely a reincarnated being of great ability.

Such a being, even though they were now part of the Thousand Caves Door, was, after all, a reincarnated entity focused on cultivation. If possible, he would not want to disturb them, but now, his Thousand Caves Door kept losing, never winning a single challenge in so many discussions.

Once word of these challenges spread, where would the Thousand Caves Door put their face!

Didn't Cao Zhen say he was also proficient in talismans?

That person, by coincidence, is also skilled in the Path of Talisman!

Elder Huan Kong made up his mind and bowed toward Cao Zhen, "Peak Master Cao, you earlier mentioned being proficient in the Path of Talisman. I will find someone else to discuss talismans with you. Please wait here for a moment, Peak Master Cao."

Cao Zhen was momentarily stunned. Previously, Elder Huan Kong had always sent his disciples to invite people. Why was he personally inviting someone this time? Who warranted his personal invitation? Would it be another elder of the Thousand Caves Door, like himself?

The surrounding disciples were also surprised upon hearing this.

"Elder Huan Kong is personally inviting someone?"

"Didn't the sect leader make it clear that Elder Huan Kong is in charge of all matters pertaining to debates and that everyone should cooperate with him? Yet, now the elder is going to personally invite someone."

"Could it be... is the elder going to invite that person?"

"Star Lord Hao Yue!"

"It must be him!"

"Star Lord?" Lan Pili, upon hearing the disciples of the Thousand Caves Door, was greatly surprised and inquired, "Who is this Star Lord Hao Yue you speak of, to be addressed with such a title?"

The title of Star Lord is not something just anyone can use!

A nearby group of disciples from the Thousand Caves Door proudly responded, "Star Lord Hao Yue is truly worthy of that title because he is a reincarnated being of great ability!"

"A reincarnated being of great ability?" Lan Pili was as if struck by a thunderbolt from the clear sky, instantly standing there dumbfounded. He, of course, knew that there were reincarnated beings of great ability in the world, but he had never encountered one; all he had heard were legends. And now, he was about to meet a reincarnated being of great ability!

And furthermore, this reincarnated being of great ability was from the Thousand Caves Door!

The Thousand Caves Door, they've kept their secret so well!

His own sect, the Hundred Peaks Sect, had never known that the Thousand Caves Door possessed a reincarnated being of great ability!

With the approaching of this Qiankun small epoch, a single Immortal Sect with a reincarnated being of great ability implied too much!

What was the cultivation level of this reincarnated being of great ability from the Thousand Caves Door now?

An Earth Immortal? Or a Golden Core?

Cao Zhen was also taken aback; he, his disciple Yan Yourong, the Sect Leader True Person, Elder Lü, and others had claimed he was a reincarnated being of great ability, but that was all bluffing; he was not truly a reincarnated being of great ability.

Now, was he about to meet a real one?

Chapter 402: Great Ability Is Inferior to Great Luo_1

At the Thousand Caves Door, Cao Zhen had gathered with the crowd to discuss Dao, surrounded by countless disciples as far as the eye could see, giving one the feeling of a limitless horizon.

However, as a figure arrived, everyone's gaze unconsciously drifted towards him.

Clothed in white that fluttered in the wind, with a handsome face and eyes like twinkling stars, the man exuded an extraordinarily strong sense of confidence as he walked.

Star Lord Hao Yue!

Upon seeing him for the first time, Cao Zhen was certain that this was the reincarnated Great Ability, Star Lord Hao Yue.

Since his reincarnation into this world, he had seen many confident geniuses, but none possessed the self-assurance of the Star Lord before him; it was an intense conviction that shone from within, radiating from his very bones.

Even in a place with over ten thousand disciples, everyone's eyes were drawn involuntarily to Star Lord Hao Yue.

The center of attention!

The disciples were all the more proud as they moved toward him.

"Star Lord Hao Yue."

"With Star Lord Hao Yue taking action, Cao Zhen is undoubtedly doomed."

"Previously, when disciples of the God Talisman Sect came down the mountain to discuss Dao, one sect after another fell before them. But when he came to our Thousand Caves Door for a debate, didn't he also fall to the Star Lord?"

"The Star Lord is a reincarnated Great Ability; who can compare to him!"

With a faint smile on his face, Star Lord Hao Yue listened to the crowd's praise and gently shook his head, "There's no need to address me as Star Lord. Star Lord was my previous life; now, just call me Hao Yue."

As his words fell, the surrounding people praised him even more fervently.

"Truly worthy of being a Great Ability!"

"Such magnanimity!"

"What he means is, we should call him Hao Yue now, and only when he regains the sky-reaching cultivation base of his previous life, can we address him as Star Monarch."

Under the gaze of the crowd, Star Lord Hao Yue slowly approached Cao Zhen, and upon seeing him busy with Formation and Mechanical Techniques, a look of pity crossed his handsome face. It was as if a teacher was looking at his disciple, and he said, "You do have some talent, but alas, you fail to recognize your own limits."

Pointing at the iron plate Cao Zhen was inscribing, he continued, "To simultaneously work on Formation and Mechanical Techniques is to divide one's focus. With a divided mind, how can you strive for perfection? How can you progress?"

Know that the Dao is endless. That goes not just for cultivation but for Formation, Alchemy, Talismans... all arts are without limit. How can you take such small achievements and become overly pleased with yourself, so arrogant? This will do you no good in the future."

With that, a trace of reminiscence crossed his face, "I've lived for endless years and seen countless astonishingly talented Heavenly Prides. You still have a very long way to go... Ah well, explaining too much to you, you probably wouldn't understand.

But now, I am part of the ten great Immortal Sects, and you are also a disciple of the ten great Immortal Sects. Thus, I remind you, don't be arrogant."

Cao Zhen's face immediately showed displeasure, and he looked up at Hao Yue, "Why are you saying so much nonsense? If you've come to debate Dao, then let's get on with it."

Since arriving at the Thousand Caves Door, although some disciples had initially underestimated him, he could understand and thought it was normal.

But what was Hao Yue's deal?

Upon his arrival, he adopted a condescending attitude, pointing fingers and teaching Cao Zhen a lesson.

Did he need his instruction?

As soon as he finished speaking, the surrounding disciples from the Thousand Caves Door became enraged.

"How can you speak to Star Lord Hao Yue like that!"

"The Star Lord is kindly advising you, yet you don't know what's good for you!"

"Having the Star Lord offer you guidance is an honor!"

Cao Zhen turned disdainfully to the shouting crowd, "Did I ask him for advice?"

As these words fell, a look of surprise appeared on Lan Pili's face. This was, after all, a reincarnated Great Ability.

Yet, Cao Zhen showed not the slightest respect.

Not even giving the other party face, where did he garner such courage and confidence?

Could it be that Cao Zhen was also...

Previously at the Hundred Peaks Sect, many wondered why Cao Zhen had suddenly become so strong. It wasn't just his cultivation that was formidable, but also that he seemingly knew far too much.

The treasures he revealed were also numerous.

He had also heard Cao Zhen personally claim to have received a great inheritance, which he initially believed.

But these past days, seeing Cao Zhen's mastery of so many arts and hearing about peerless Great Abilities, a thought suddenly emerged in his mind.

Could Cao Zhen be a reincarnated Great Ability?

Merely inheriting wisdom couldn't have enabled him to reach such heights in so many different arts such as the Way of Painting and Calligraphy, Musical Rhythm, Military Law, Sword Dao...

However, if Cao Zhen was indeed a reincarnated Great Ability, then everything made sense.

Because in his previous life, Cao Zhen already possessed such knowledge, hence with a new body he naturally retained such understanding.

Yes!

It had to be so.

Because if Cao Zhen was a Great Ability reincarnated, he might have been from an era so ancient that he was unaware of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty and many of the most fundamental things.

Everything was now clear.

Both being reincarnated Great Abilities, the so-called Star Lord Hao Yue openly revealed his identity, even adopting the name Hao Yue.

Whereas Cao Zhen, as the Peak Master, maintained a low profile, never boasting about his reincarnated identity, and even continuing to use the name Cao Zhen.

Chapter 403: Great Ability Is Not As Good As Great Luo_2

Even though Four Treasures Peak was ranked last amongst the Hundred Peaks Sect, nobody said what it actually was.

Compared to this, the gap between Star Lord Hao Yue and Peak Master Cao immediately became evident.

Elder Huan Kong, walking beside Hao Yue, looked at Cao Zhen's face, which still carried a hint of disdain, and felt even more certain about his previous speculation.

Hao Yue was a reincarnated being of great ability. Even he did not know the extent of the cultivation realm Hao Yue had reached before his reincarnation.

Such a person, even though his cultivation base was still low after reincarnation, deserved some respect from him, an elder of the Thousand Caves Door.

Ordinary disciples would also treat Hao Yue with the respect due to a junior when they saw him.

But Cao Zhen did not give him any face.

Clearly, it must have been because Cao Zhen was also a reincarnated being of great ability that he acted this way.

Hao Yue gestured gently to the crowd around him, and though he did not hold any position in the Thousand Caves Door, his gesture silenced the clamoring disciples of the Thousand Caves Door; he seemed to command more authority than even Elder Huan Kong.

He did not seem to be angry at Cao Zhen's impoliteness at all but even wore a faint smile, saying, "Each has his own aspirations. Never mind, let's not talk about it anymore."

All around, people sighed again.

"The breadth of the Star Monarch's mind is truly vast."

"This is the mark of a true strong man!"

"Compared to him, we fall far too short."

As Hao Yue listened to the praises of the crowd, a flash of annoyance crossed his eyes. After all, he was a reincarnated being of great ability, and he once held an esteemed status!

A mere Peak Master of the Hundred Peaks Sect, especially the one ranked last, would not have even caught his attention before reincarnation.

Yet, now this man even dared to speak such words!

Raising his hand, he pointed at Cao Zhen and said, "Let's talk about it some other time, when you've finished crafting your formation and mechanism."

With that, he turned and walked away! As a reincarnated being of great ability, engaging in a discourse while the other was still crafting something would tarnish his reputation.

His waiting ended up lasting five days.

Five days later, Cao Zhen finally completed the formation and the new flying boat, and without any surprises, he won against two Cave Masters of the Thousand Caves Door once again.

To this day, he remained undefeated within the Thousand Caves Door.

As the two Cave Masters conceded defeat, Star Lord Hao Yue finally returned.

Even if today only Hao Yue was to engage in discourse on talisman crafting with him, still, countless disciples of the Thousand Caves Door gathered around.

Whether the Thousand Caves Door could regain their honor depended entirely on Hao Yue today.

Under the expectant gaze of the crowd, Hao Yue spoke indifferently, "However you wish to compare talismans, just say."

As a reincarnated being of great ability, how could he be the one to set the rules when discussing talisman crafting with others? Naturally, he should let his opponent decide freely.

Talisman crafting was what he excelled at the most among the six arts of his former life.

Even though he had a new body now, and although this body's limitations meant he had been busy with cultivation and had not crafted many talismans, resulting in his current mastery of talisman crafting being far less than before reincarnation.

But to deal with a mere Peak Master of the Hundred Peaks Sect, it was still enough.

"How shall we compare?" Cao Zhen, remembering his grand talisman-making venture at the Hundred Peaks Sect, thought for a moment before saying, "Gathering Spirit Talisman. We'll each craft a Gathering

Spirit Talisman. Of course, it's not limited to just the ordinary ones. If you can craft any special kind of Gathering Spirit Talisman, you can craft that too.

Let's see who can craft a Gathering Spirit Talisman that gathers more spiritual energy and has greater efficacy."

To open up a talisman making venture, to sell the talismans of the Hundred Peaks Sect to the Thousand Caves Door, could there be any better opportunity for publicity than now?

What he intended to craft was, of course, not an ordinary Gathering Spirit Talisman, but a Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman.

"Gathering Spirit Talisman?" Hao Yue chuckled lightly, his smile filled with confidence and pride. Being a reincarnated being capable of crafting talismans, of course, he could craft more than just an ordinary Gathering Spirit Talisman.

Indeed, he had once researched and developed a special type of Gathering Spirit Talisman.

Soon, the multitude of materials required by him and Cao Zhen was brought out by the disciples of the Thousand Caves Door.

He waved his hand, swiftly executing a series of hand seals.

Instantly, various materials began to levitate in the air...

"That technique..."

"So skilled, watching the Star Monarch craft talismans always feels like a treat."

"With the Star Monarch making his move, victory is certain!"

"Look, Cao Zhen has started too."

"It seems that Cao Zhen's movements are also quite adept."

"They are adept, but I feel the Star Monarch's motions are more fluid."

"It must be the Star Monarch who is stronger!"

Cao Zhen's hands moved at a rapid pace, so fast that they left behind afterimages.

He had not been crafting talismans much, true, but his disciple, Ling Xi, was an Ancient Talisman Immortal Body! If it were in ancient times, that would mean a person who was the most skilled at crafting talismans.

And Ling Xi was indeed diligent. During this time, he had been incessantly crafting talismans, and every time Cao Zhen checked the China Cloud, he could see his talisman level increasing.

Now, due to Ling Xi, his talisman level had risen to Level Fifty, just one step away from breaking through to Level Fifty-One.

With such a high level of talisman making, it wouldn't take long to complete the craft.

Before Cao Zhen's talisman was finished, Star Lord Hao Yue's talisman was already complete.

Suddenly, everyone felt that a massive amount of spiritual energy from heaven and earth surged crazily toward the direction of that talisman.

Chapter 404: Great Ability Is Not As Good As Great Luo_3

"This, such strong spiritual energy!"

"The speed of gathering spiritual aura..."

All around, the crowd that had gathered here instantly felt the surge of spiritual energy in the air, each of them greatly astonished.

Everyone was a person of cultivation, no matter who they were, they all started from a weak cultivation base and slowly cultivated to a higher one. They had all used Gathering Spirit Talismans.

However, the Gathering Spirit Talismans they used allowed spiritual energy to trickle in like a small stream, while at this moment, the flow of spiritual energy into the two talismans was like the rushing of a mighty river.

"So strong, the speed at which this talisman gathers spiritual energy is astonishing!"

"Such a powerful talisman, can this still be called a Gathering Spirit Talisman?"

"Such a strong talisman, this talisman, it's a level fifty talisman!"

"I just knew, when the Star Monarch makes a move, victory is certain!"

"This time, let's see how Cao Zhen can win!"

"If I had such a talisman, my cultivation speed could double!"

Level fifty?

Cao Zhen was slightly taken aback. Reaching level fifty in talisman making was no easy feat. As far as he knew, aside from himself and his disciple Ling Xi, no one else within the Hundred Peaks Sect had a talisman making skill of such a level.

He could have a level fifty talisman making skill, all because Ling Xi's Ancient Talisman Immortal Body was too terrifying.

Hao Yue's talisman making had actually reached level fifty!

Was this truly the power of a reincarnated being with great ability?

While he was surprised, he sped up his talisman making.

All around, the disciples of the Thousand Caves Door were already cheering.

Hao Yue raised the talisman in his hand, his face still wearing that high and inscrutable smile only a true master could have, and slowly began to speak, "This talisman, its name is..."

Before his words had finished, not far away, in front of Cao Zhen, a talisman was already completed.

At once, a vast amount of spiritual energy crazily surged towards Cao Zhen's talisman, and the speed of the flow was not a bit slower than his own.

Hao Yue's face instantly showed a look of astonishment; he had refined the talisman using a special method that no one else in the entire Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty could replicate, apart from himself.

Cao Zhen had actually refined a Spirit Talisman that could rival his own Gathering Spirit Talisman!

What kind of talisman had he made?

All around, the crowd was also greatly surprised. The effect of Cao Zhen's talisman in gathering spiritual energy was not a whit slower than that of Star Lord Hao Yue!

Star Lord Hao Yue was a reincarnated great ability; how did Cao Zhen manage to refine a talisman that could rival Star Lord Hao Yue's talisman?

Elder Huan Kong suddenly understood. No wonder Cao Zhen insisted on making a Gathering Spirit Talisman; he had been prepared all along. He looked again at the talisman in Cao Zhen's hand, and for a moment, his eyebrows knit tightly together.

Cao Zhen's talisman was also level fifty.

Moreover, the speed of gathering spiritual energy felt just as fast as Hao Yue's. Thus, how would this be scored?

Were they tied?

In the past, when they from Thousand Caves Door debated with others, there were occasions when a draw would occur.

At such times, if it were any other Immortal Sect, the matter would simply be considered a draw.

But only one Immortal Sect was different, that being the Hundred Peaks Sect!

The Hundred Peaks Sect had always been competing with them, the Thousand Caves Door, for the position of the premier Immortal Sect in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty!

If they ended in a tie, neither side would concede, and they would continue to debate until a victor emerged.

But if the competition continued, what if Cao Zhen mentioned another type of talisman?

It was very possible that Cao Zhen was also a reincarnated great ability and might possess some special method of talisman making.

The best method for the Thousand Caves Door to secure victory was to have Hao Yue speak up and decide what the next challenge should be.

After all, Cao Zhen set the first rule, and it was only proper for Hao Yue to make the next challenge in the continued debate.

But crucially, Hao Yue did not know that Cao Zhen might be a reincarnated great ability, nor did anyone else.

With Hao Yue's pride, he might not take the initiative to offer the next challenge and could still let Cao Zhen continue to set the rules.

No, he had to remind Hao Yue.

Elder Huan Kong mobilized his cultivation technique, just about to whisper secretly, when Cao Zhen's voice spread.

"My talisman, is called the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman.

You have felt its effects, which are just the same as Hao Yue's talisman."

Cao Zhen said, glancing at Hao Yue, that individual was truly a reincarnated great ability; the talisman he refined gathered spiritual energy that matched his own Gathering Spirit Talisman.

If it were not for Ling Xi's continuous hard work, he might well have lost.

What a pity, he had a good disciple, and in the end, he was the victor.

Cao Zhen gestured, flinging the talisman into the air, then continued to speak, "However, the greatest strength of my talisman is that as long as you carry it on your person, and use a special method to activate it, you do not need to cultivate. Just by carrying it, even if you are sleeping, spiritual energy will constantly flow into your body, nourishing it. Now, I have already activated the talisman; you can give it a try."

"What?"

"Don't even need to cultivate, and even while sleeping, spiritual energy can enter the body?"

"How is this possible?"

"I'll give it a try."

A disciple standing close by, instantly reached out and grabbed the Gathering Spirit Talisman in front of him.

The next moment, his eyes widened in shock as he exclaimed, "It's true, without utilizing any mana, the Gathering Spirit Talisman is still furiously accumulating the surrounding spiritual energy."

Chapter 405: Great Ability Is Not As Good As Great Luo_4

For a moment, disciples of the Thousand Caves Door tried one after another, filled with disbelief, but they quickly found that what Cao Zhen said was correct.

This Gathering Spirit Talisman truly could continuously attract Spiritual Energy without them having to channel any Mana.

"This... how can there be such a Gathering Spirit Talisman!"

"Never have I heard of such a miraculous Gathering Spirit Talisman!"

"This Gathering Spirit Talisman can gather Spiritual Energy without cultivation, then doesn't that mean..."

"We, are defeated?"

Disciples of the Thousand Caves Door quickly came to this realization.

"Has the Star Monarch also been defeated?"

"The Star Monarch is a reincarnated Great Ability, how could he be defeated!"

"Our Thousand Caves Door, haven't won a single time?"

Elder Huan Kong's face turned extremely unsightly, as he saw that the Talismans made by Cao Zhen and those of Hao Yue were almost the same in Gathering Spiritual Aura, but Cao Zhen's Talismans, in his own words, could gather Spiritual Energy even while sleeping, which made it immediately clear who was superior—Cao Zhen's Talismans were stronger.

This time, the Thousand Caves Door had been defeated yet again.

Hao Yue's handsome face, previously graced with a faint smile, now saw that smile completely vanish. Defeated? He had actually been defeated by someone he wouldn't have bothered to look at before his reincarnation, defeated by a mere Peak Master of the Hundred Peaks Sect?

How could he be defeated!

A Spirit Talisman that can gather Spiritual Energy even while sleeping?

Even before his reincarnation, he had heard of such Talismans.

And, as far as he knew, back then, there was only one Sect that could make such Talismans.

He raised his head, looking at Cao Zhen and asked, "Is this Talisman inherited from the Talisman Immortal Sect?"

The Talisman Immortal Sect?

The surrounding crowd was filled with surprise; this was a Sect they had never heard of.

Was it an Immortal Sect outside of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty? Or is it not a Sect of this era?

Observing the expressions of those around him, Cao Zhen instantly understood that they knew nothing about the Talisman Immortal Sect; that made things easier to explain.

"Talisman Immortal Sect? Never heard of it. This is from the inheritance of a senior, and the specific senior told me not to reveal his identity."

"Oh? It seems that the person you mentioned must be from the Talisman Immortal Sect. These types of Talismans can only be made by the Talisman Immortal Sect. Unfortunately, the Sect later encountered a disaster and disappeared along with the whole Sect, and the inheritance was cut off."

As Hao Yue spoke, that faint smile returned to his face as if he was looking at the inheritor of a dear friend, saying to Cao Zhen, "Back then, I was friends with the Sect Leader of the Talisman Immortal Sect. When I found out something happened to the Sect, I also wanted to investigate.

But I discovered that the Talisman Immortal Sect had completely vanished, and I couldn't find a single successor.

I thought the inheritance of the Talisman Immortal Sect was lost forever.

To think that here I would see its inheritance, truly gratifying. Being defeated by the inheritor of an old friend's legacy, I don't feel unjustly defeated, not at all."

Hearing this, everyone around shifted their attention to the Talisman Immortal Sect.

"So that's how it is."

"Turns out there was a Sect called the Talisman Immortal Sect."

"In that case, Cao Zhen is the inheritor of the Talisman Immortal Sect, several generations removed."

Cao Zhen, listening to Hao Yue's words, was cursing internally. What Talisman Immortal Sect? His Talisman Techniques were inherited from Zhang Daoling.

You're just finding an excuse to save face, making things up as you go.

Make things up if you must, but it has nothing to do with me.

But with what you're suggesting, I've become your junior.

I don't have the habit of randomly claiming ancestors.

Cao Zhen was not about to indulge Hao Yue, retorting, "What Talisman Immortal Sect? I've never even heard of it, and the senior told me he wasn't a disciple of the Talisman Immortal Sect; he is from Tai Chu, the Natural Hall."

"Tai Chu? Natural Hall? Impossible. I have never even heard of such a Sect. It must be that after the Talisman Immortal Sect's disciples vanished for unknown reasons, the inheritance was passed on to your so-called Tai Chu.

Regardless, it's comforting to see the Talisman Immortal Sect's inheritance has survived."

While Hao Yue was speaking, he had already begun to walk away.

Cao Zhen was utterly exasperated—as he had stated the facts, yet Hao Yue continued to weave his tale, was this really a reincarnated Great Ability?

At this moment, he even started to doubt if Hao Yue was truly a reincarnated figure of Great Ability.

As the Star Lord Hao Yue left, the remaining disciples of the Thousand Caves Door were left with extremely unsightly expressions.

They had lost again. They, the Thousand Caves Door, were thoroughly crushed by Cao Zhen alone. After so many confrontations, not one of them had managed to best him.

Of course, there were some other topics they had not discussed with Cao Zhen.

They could discuss the Zen Dao, the Scholar Path with Cao Zhen.

The problem was, Cao Zhen had never claimed to be proficient in Zen Dao or Scholar Path—surely, they couldn't force Cao Zhen to discuss them.

Discussing the Dao was always subject to the visitors' preferences—whatever they wished to discuss, that would be the topic.

Just as if Wu Jianzi, a disciple from the Sword Sect, came to discuss the Sword Dao, they could not, after losing in Sword Dao, suggest discussing the Way of the Sword with him.

Elder Huan Kong's aged face underwent several changes. This year, the Thousand Caves Door was confident that they could overpower the Hundred Peaks Sect in the discussions of the Dao.

Who would have thought that the Hundred Peaks Sect would produce someone like Cao Zhen, who alone overpowered their entire Thousand Caves Door.

And then there was the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman.

Even though he could tell that the materials for the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman were not cheap, by providing it exclusively to a part of the disciples for cultivation, it could greatly enhance the cultivation speed of that subset of disciples.

Chapter 406: Great Ability Is Not As Good As Great Luo_5

By then, if this went on for much longer, the disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect would only grow stronger. But what about them, the Thousand Caves Door?

Just thinking about the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman, which even allowed one to gather spiritual energy while sleeping, gave him an increasing headache.

Cao Zhen looked around and noticed that no one else had anything to say. With a wave of his hand, he took back the Supreme Gathering Spirit Talisman he'd just refined and told everyone, "I have now finished debating all the topics, everyone, let's..."

"Finished debating? When did you finish?" Lan Pili quickly stepped forward upon hearing Cao Zhen announce the end of the debates, reminding him, "Peak Master Cao, didn't you say you were also proficient in the Sword Dao? We haven't debated the Sword Dao yet."

Peak Master Cao's swordsmanship was so capable that he had directly defeated Wu Jianzi of the Sword Sect—beating Thousand Caves Door would hardly be a problem!

Since they were already here, it was natural not to miss the opportunity to suppress Thousand Caves Door.

Cao Zhen's eyes widened in fury as he glared at Lan Pili—what a pig-headed teammate!

That was what they called a pig-headed teammate!

He had finally gotten through all the debates without a single loss, and you had to go and ruin it while nobody was even saying a thing.

You just wouldn't be comfortable unless you saw me lose one, would you?

"Debating the Sword Dao?"

Elder Huan Kong's face showed a trace of surprise; he remembered that when Cao Zhen had listed his proficiency, it did not include the Sword Dao.

But it didn't matter now. Since Lan Pili mentioned the Sword Dao, then they would debate the Sword Dao.

If they let Cao Zhen just walk away like that, where would Thousand Caves Door put their face?

Even if debating the Sword Dao meant that Cao Zhen lost just one debate, it would still be embarrassing for Thousand Caves Door, but at least they would retain some semblance of face.

If they lost, then they lost—it's not like Thousand Caves Door hadn't already lost face big time; losing one more time wouldn't make much of a difference.

Elder Huan Kong addressed the surrounding disciples, "Everyone, since Peak Master Cao wishes to debate the Sword Dao, let us continue and discuss the matter with him."

As he spoke, his gaze turned toward several Cave Masters of the Sword Dao.

The Sword Dao has always been mainstream in the Immortal Cultivation world.

Many people practiced the Sword Dao, and even those who did not practiced it usually understood some swordsmanship. Additionally, a large number of cultivators chose swords as their weapon.

Thousand Caves Door had nearly fifty caves where disciples practiced the Sword Dao. At the moment, many Cave Masters, who were standing nearby, stepped forward upon hearing Elder Huan Kong's words.

"Peak Master Cao, please enlighten us."

"Peak Master Cao, what is your Sword Dao like?"

"Peak Master Cao, what is the Sword Dao?"

Lan Pili listened to these questions and his face almost betrayed a smile of victory; asking such questions to Peak Master Cao was practically a joke—he was the man who defeated Wu Jianzi!

Cao Zhen, looking at Lan Pili's expression which suggested that he was expected to perform, wished he could just hit Lan Pili right on the head with the Five-thunder Righteous Method.

What is the Sword Dao?

He knew jack shit about the Sword Dao.

Now, all he could hope for was that these people would have some pride, that they would manage to bluff themselves.

Back then, they had withstood Wu Jianzi's attacks for three days.

Surely they could bluff a little, right?

Cao Zhen continued with what he had told Wu Jianzi back in the day, looking at the Cave Masters of the Sword Dao, "To me, the Sword Dao is simply drawing the sword."

"Drawing the sword? Is that all?"

"Drawing the sword?"

The Cave Masters were momentarily taken aback, with one even showing a mocking smile, "Drawing the sword? Is that all there is to it?"

Below, many disciples of the Thousand Caves Door began to snicker upon hearing this.

"Drawing the sword? What's so special about that?"

"Who can't draw a sword?"

"It's literally a joke."

A few Cave Masters also shook their heads and said, "Peak Master Cao, what's so special about drawing a sword?"

"Drawing the sword? And what comes after that, can it save lives, or is it just about practicing how to draw the sword?"

Lan Pili also looked at Cao Zhen in confusion, drawing the sword? Was there anything special about that? How did Peak Master Cao defeat Wu Jianzi back then? It couldn't just be about saying 'drawing the sword.'

Cao Zhen, looking at the disciples of Thousand Caves Door with disappointment, shook his head and sighed, "Rotten wood truly cannot be carved; contemplate it, contemplate it deeply."

He was truly disappointed; he had overestimated the people of Thousand Caves Door.

"Contemplate? What's there to contemplate about drawing a sword?"

"Peak Master Cao, if it's just about drawing the sword, I'm afraid there's no need to continue this debate anymore."

Elder Huan Kong, seeing the words of the Cave Masters, immediately his face shone with brightness—there was hope in this debate!

It seemed like Thousand Caves Door might just win!

Initially, when he saw Lan Pili reminding Cao Zhen about debating the Sword Dao and then urged the others to discuss it, he really didn't have much hope.

After all, by Lan Pili specifically reminding Cao Zhen, Lan Pili must have known about Cao Zhen's proficiency in Sword Dao, feeling confident that he would certainly overcome them.

But what did Cao Zhen say?

Drawing the sword?

Even as someone who wasn't adept with the sword, Elder Huan Kong felt that Cao Zhen's statement was full of loopholes, and he could refute it countless ways, let alone the Cave Masters skilled in the Sword Dao.

He even felt that there was no need for Cave Masters to step in; just by having their disciples debate the Sword Dao with Cao Zhen, they would be able to win against him.

Hearing everyone's comments, Cao Zhen suddenly realized—although he didn't understand the Sword Dao, Wu Jianzi did.

On the day of their encounter, after hearing his theory of drawing the sword, Wu Jianzi had explained it once. All Cao Zhen had to do was to repeat what Wu Jianzi had said.

Chapter 407: Great Ability Is Not As Good As Great Luo_6

Cao Zhen, imitating the previously departed Hao Yue, put on an unfathomable face and said to the crowd, "If you can't appreciate it, it's because your understanding of the Sword Dao is still far too lacking."

No matter the swordsmanship, even the most profound swordsmanship, whether you wish to anticipate the enemy's moves or desire to attack without defense, the prerequisite for everything is to draw the sword.

Though drawing the sword seems simple, it actually contains everything within it. The moment you draw your sword is the moment of life or death, drawing the sword is everything.

Actually, there's no need for anything like anticipating the enemy's moves, no need to practice other subsequent sword moves, the sword drawn from the sheath, that sword strike, is the strongest one.

A person only needs to master this sword strike, and that would be enough!"

Having finished speaking, a laugh was already bubbling in his heart. How about that, are you all shaken now? These are the authentic words of the Sword Dao master Wu Jianzi. Let's see how you argue against that; good thing I reacted quickly!

Surrounded, the people who heard Cao Zhen's words were stunned for a moment.

But quickly, one of them spoke up, "In many cases, when you are fighting someone, they have already drawn their sword.

For instance, you see a member of the Hundred Peaks Sect battling someone, and you arrive in time, only to find their sword already in hand. What then? Will you draw your sword? Faster than them? Then at the moment of life or death? One sword strike to determine life and death? What kind of flawed theory is this?"

Cao Zhen was dumbfounded, truly dumbfounded.

The theory he had shared was that of Wu Jianzi, who had achieved enlightenment from it twice.

Yet, these people, they simply couldn't understand it.

Now he truly knew the strength of the Sword Sect's understanding of the Sword Dao.

You are all Cave Masters, yet you can't even understand the words of a disciple from the Sword Sect; the gap is simply too large.

The Cave Master who had just spoken now laughed smugly upon seeing that Cao Zhen had no answer, "Peak Master Cao, have you run out of things to say? If that is the case, then in this Sword Dao debate, it is we, the Thousand Caves Door, who have won."

Cao Zhen nodded emphatically, laced with irony, "Yes, I have nothing more to say, but the victor is not you, it is I."

I have nothing to say because your understanding of sword fighting is too shallow. You can't fully comprehend the meaning behind my words, you can't grasp my Sword Dao."

"Can't understand your Sword Dao? What a joke. I've been practicing the sword for nearly three thousand years, how could I not understand the Sword Dao?"

"Peak Master Cao, if you speak like this, it's rather unimpressive."

"Yes, we are all from the ten great Immortal Sects and should maintain our dignity. Peak Master Cao, if you have a retort, say it, but now, when you fail to come up with a response, you claim our comprehension of the Sword Dao is lacking and hence can't understand your Sword Dao; this kind of talk just seems like sore losing."

Lan Pili, upon hearing this, immediately retorted, "What do you mean by sore losing! If Peak Master Cao says your comprehension of the Sword Dao is lacking, then it's lacking."

Do you know of Wu Jianzi? Wu Jianzi once visited our Hundred Peaks Sect for a debate and was defeated by Peak Master Cao. He even conceded openly. Are you saying you are stronger than Wu Jianzi?"

Lan Pili, while saying this, also transmitted his voice secretly to Cao Zhen, "Old Cao, don't put on airs now, just explain it to them in more detail, tell them exactly what's going on."

Cao Zhen didn't want to deal with Lan Pili and wanted to throw a Five-thunder Righteous Method at him!

Explain in more detail?

How should he explain?

It was Wu Jianzi who said it like that originally; he couldn't possibly provide a more detailed explanation.

"Wu Jianzi?"

"Wu Jianzi lost to your Hundred Peaks Sect?"

"Wu Jianzi has acknowledged defeat? Does his acknowledgment lie within the art of drawing the sword?"

"What a joke, truly a joke. Wu Jianzi comes from the Sword Sect, and all swordsmanship in the world originates from the Sword Sect. How could your Hundred Peaks Sect make Wu Jianzi acknowledge defeat? Are you implying that your Hundred Peaks Sect's swordsmanship surpasses that of the Sword Sect?"

Laughter erupted from the crowd all around.

Even Elder Huan Kong chuckled and shook his head at this.

Cao Zhen suddenly didn't understand. Initially, the Sect Leader True Person Bai Fengzi had received the news that Wu Jianzi, while outside, had admitted his loss and paid respects to him, Cao Zhen.

How come the people of Thousand Caves Door had not received the message?

Was it because it was news related to the Hundred Peaks Sect, which was why Bai Fengzi knew of it, and since it was not related to Thousand Caves Door, they were unaware?

Among the various Cave Masters of Thousand Caves Door, one who stood sharp and unyielding, without any hint of combat intent, and as keen as a thrusting sharp sword, laughed sneeringly while stretching out his hand and pointing at Cao Zhen: "Alright, since Peak Master Cao, you keep saying that the so-called way of drawing the sword is your Sword Dao."

"Let's just settle this with a fight. We'll both use swords, and I will suppress my Cultivation Realm to be at the same level as yours. We'll let our swords do the talking.

Peak Master Cao, you use your Way of Sword Drawing, where drawing the sword signifies life or death. Whereas I will use my Sword Dao, and we'll see whose Sword Dao is more powerful.

When the time comes, if Peak Master Cao loses, I urge you to no longer search for other excuses."

A sword duel?

Cao Zhen's heart began to worry at once; he knew swordsmanship, but it was the Sword of Dodging rather than any sword drawing.

This duel would certainly give him away.

That Lan Pili, if you want to show off, why drag me into it? Now look at the fix we're in; we're truly about to crash.

His head throbbed with this dilemma.

In the distance, a disciple of Thousand Caves Door rushed over hastily and said to Elder Huan Kong, "Elder, that... Wu Jianzi has returned."

"What? Wu Jianzi?"

In an instant, everyone's gaze fell upon the disciple who had arrived with the news.

A look of joy suddenly appeared on Cao Zhen's face; the turnaround had come so quickly. With Wu Jianzi here, what need was there for a sword duel?

Wu Jianzi's arrival meant they could directly engage Wu Jianzi to debate swords with these Cave Masters.

Elder Huan Kong, full of surprise, looked at the disciple who came to report and asked, "Wu Jianzi? What has he come for?"

"He said he's here looking for someone."

"Looking for someone? Whom could he possibly seek?"

The disciple shook his head, "The disciple doesn't know; Wu Jianzi only mentioned he came to find someone, he didn't say whom."

Elder Huan Kong's confusion deepened, "Strange, who in our Thousand Caves Door has a private acquaintance with Wu Jianzi? When he came to debate swords previously, he didn't mention knowing anyone from our Thousand Caves Door."

A Cave Master suggested with a sudden thought, "Elder, perhaps it's one of my disciples. When Wu Jianzi came to debate the Dao previously, he had a long sword debate with my disciple Huo Zheng. Perhaps, after debating with swords widely outside, he ultimately discovered that Huo Zheng possesses the highest talent in Sword Dao, thus he returned here to seek him out?"

Another Cave Master glanced over at Cao Zhen and said in a teasing tone, "Never mind who Wu Jianzi is privately acquainted with; just summon him over."

Didn't Peak Master Cao claim that he defeated Wu Jianzi in a Dao debate? Perfect, now that Wu Jianzi has arrived, we can simply ask him how Peak Master Cao managed to best him and make him acknowledge defeat."

Chapter 408: I Wasn't Boasting, Right?_1

In the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, every once in a while, people from various Immortal Sects would send out Disciples to engage in philosophical debates with other Sects.

Essentially, it was a chance to showcase their abilities, to let others know the depth of their heritage.

Normally, there would still be some time before the next debate, but due to the upcoming Qiankun small epoch, it had been moved up.

Among the Disciples universally acknowledged as unbeatable in debates, there was Wu Jianzi from the Sword Sect.

"The Swordsmanship of the World emanates from the Sword Sect," is more than just an empty phrase.

"Cao Zhen says he once defeated Wu Jianzi? That's laughable,"

"Have you ever heard of a Disciple from the Sword Sect losing a debate when they descend the mountain?"

"No, I haven't. But I haven't been in the Sect for long, so maybe I just haven't heard."

"You don't need to have been here long. I've read records, and in the last ten thousand years, Disciples from the Sword Sect have never lost a single debate when they went out!"

"So Cao Zhen can win against Wu Jianzi and even make him admit defeat? I can't believe he'd say such a thing."

Amidst the discussions of the crowd, a figure approached from a distance.

"Wu Jianzi!"

"Strange, why do I feel Wu Jianzi seems a bit different than before?"

"His aura, his momentum, it seems to have undergone some changes."

Cao Zhen watched from afar as Wu Jianzi came closer and closer, feeling that compared to the last time, Wu Jianzi had become even more restrained.

The Wu Jianzi of the past, even when showing the style of the Sword Sect's Disciples externally, though he had also been quite contained, one could still sense the sharp aura that exuded from him.

Even those who did not recognize him could tell he was an expert at using the sword.

But now, looking at Wu Jianzi again, it seemed as if the sharp sword's edge had been fully withdrawn.

If one did not know him, it would be impossible to discern from his aura that he was a master swordsman.

So, did he improve further after an Enlightenment?

Many Disciples from the Thousand Caves Door, some of whom had debated with Wu Jianzi before, saw him coming and, as Disciples of the Thousand Caves Door, naturally hurried to greet him.

"Dao Companion Wu Jianzi, why have you suddenly come to our Thousand Caves Door?"

One Disciple asked this while also glancing in the direction of Cao Zhen, weren't you just saying that you defeated Wu Jianzi?

You didn't expect that, now, Wu Jianzi would come again.

Let's see how you deal with this!

Wu Jianzi looked up at the person before him, unrecognizable to him, leaving no impression.

However, as a successor of the Sword Sect, he maintained polite decorum and replied, "I have come this time to find Senior Cao."

"Senior Cao?"

Beside them, a few others were slightly stunned. Could that Senior Cao be Cao Zhen?

And Wu Jianzi calling him "Senior"...

Under the gaze of the crowd, Wu Jianzi quickly approached Cao Zhen, raised his hand, and performed a salute, "Senior Cao, the Disciple's debate has concluded. I went to the Hundred Peaks Sect after hearing that you had left, and since you are now at the Thousand Caves Door, the Disciple hurried over."

Surrounding members of the Thousand Caves Door listened to Wu Jianzi's words, all standing dumbfounded in place. Wu Jianzi came to find Cao Zhen? Moreover, he had first gone to the Hundred Peaks Sect, and upon not finding Cao Zhen there, he specifically hurried to the Thousand Caves Door.

What is Cao Zhen's relationship with him that would make him travel so urgently?

The distance from the Hundred Peaks Sect to the Thousand Caves Door is no short journey!

And what did Wu Jianzi call Cao Zhen?

He kept addressing Cao Zhen as "you"!

Cao Zhen, could what you said before actually be true?

Cao Zhen himself was momentarily stunned by Wu Jianzi's words, as he had simply been polite before, and yet Wu Jianzi truly went to the Hundred Peaks Sect.

He went to the Hundred Peaks Sect, and even ran over here to find him.

After a brief moment of surprise, he suddenly came to a realization.

Wu Jianzi also hailed from a prominent and righteous Sect.

If this was before he left the Hundred Peaks Sect, he might not understand.

But after leaving the Hundred Peaks Sect, after meeting Elder Shadowless, seeing three from the Dharma Apex Sect, and after witnessing the perseverance of the people from the Hundred Peaks Sect and their sacrifices for the sake of their Sect.

He had come to realize that the noble and righteous Sects here truly lived up to their name.

They might all have their own pride and sometimes exhibit inadequacies, such as believing themselves to be above ordinary people.

But as noble and righteous Sects, they must honor their promises.

If he had promised to go to Four Treasures Peak to find him, he would certainly go; even if he wasn't on Four Treasures Peak, he would find his way to the Thousand Caves Door!

Lan Pili, listening to the conversation between the two, was completely stunned. He knew that Cao Zhen had won over Wu Jianzi, but he didn't know that Wu Jianzi took Cao Zhen so seriously.

After Wu Jianzi finished speaking, he looked at the many surrounding Disciples of the Thousand Caves Door with some curiosity and asked, "Senior Cao, what are you doing here...?"

Lan Pili, hearing this, was immediately delighted within. He had just been about to say that the people of the Thousand Caves Door did not believe Cao Zhen had won against Wu Jianzi, but after all, Wu Jianzi had lost to Cao Zhen, and it would not be proper for him to directly address it.

Now that Wu Jianzi had brought it up, it was easier to discuss.

He didn't wait for Cao Zhen to answer, but interjected, "Peak Master Cao is currently discussing Sword Dao with the people of the Thousand Caves Door. Moreover, they don't think Peak Master Cao's Sword Dao is up to par."

"Senior Cao's Sword Dao is lacking? Who dares say such a thing!" Wu Jianzi's entire demeanor changed dramatically in an instant. Previously restrained and hardly revealing any edge, his sharp aura suddenly burst forth!

Just in that moment, a cutting energy emanated from his body, the sharp aura stirring the heavens and the earth.

Chapter 409: I Wasn't Boasting, Was I?_2

Everyone even had the illusion that Wu Jianzi seemed ready to draw his sword immediately, an illusion that once Wu Jianzi drew his sword, the very heavens and earth around them would be torn apart by Sword Qi.

Lan Pili felt the terrifying Sword Qi and couldn't help but involuntarily step back twice, his heart filled with indescribable shock. Wu Jianzi was not targeting him and, moreover, Wu Jianzi showed no sign of taking action or releasing his combat power.

Yet even so, he couldn't help retreating involuntarily.

Just how profound was Wu Jianzi's Sword Dao?

He even discreetly circulated his Mana to regain his composure, pointing at the individuals from Thousand Caves Door who had spoken earlier as if tattling to an elder, "They said it. Peak Master Cao said, 'Drawing the sword is everything, the moment the sword is drawn marks the divide between life and death.' They called it some flawed theory."

As the words fell, it felt as if the air around them solidified instantaneously, as if invisible Sharp Swords were shooting towards them.

Wu Jianzi turned his head to look at them, speaking slowly and deliberately, "Daring to insult Predecessor Cao. Predecessor Cao is the Pathfinder of my Sword Dao, insulting him is like insulting my teacher.

Who just spoke, draw your sword! I will duel with you!"

Around them, the disciples of Thousand Caves Door were completely taken aback.

This...

How had the situation escalated to this point? They were merely discussing swordsmanship with Cao Zhen when Wu Jianzi arrived, ready to draw his sword for a duel.

"Pathfinder?" Around them, everyone took note of the key word in Wu Jianzi's statement, finding it completely unbelievable.

"Wu Jianzi said that Cao Zhen is the Pathfinder of his Sword Dao? How is that possible?"

"Wu Jianzi comes from Sword Sect."

"The swordsmanship of the world comes from the Sword Sect. What swordsmanship hasn't Wu Jianzi seen? Why would he take Cao Zhen as his Pathfinder?"

"What did Cao Zhen tell him? Could it really just be those two words 'draw sword'?"

They couldn't understand it at all, how could Wu Jianzi from the Sword Sect acknowledge Cao Zhen, a Peak Master of the Hundredth Peak of the Hundred Peaks Sect, as his Pathfinder.

A Pathfinder is not something one merely mentions casually.

The Pathfinder might not be a master, but in certain aspects, they could be regarded as one.

As for Wu Jianzi wanting to duel, they were speechless.

When a master is insulted, a disciple duelling on their behalf is beyond reproach.

And when a Pathfinder is insulted, it's nearly the same as the master being insulted, so there is nothing wrong with Wu Jianzi wanting to duel.

Cao Zhen understood the importance of a Pathfinder, but now, he saw firsthand how revered the status of a Pathfinder was. Seeing Wu Jianzi about to start a battle, he hastily waved his hand, "There's no need for this. Everyone is just discussing the problems of Sword Dao. There's no need for violence. If they don't understand my Sword Dao, then let's discuss it with them."

"Yes," Wu Jianzi heeded Cao Zhen's instructions, his aura retracting instantly. He turned to the Cave Masters of Thousand Caves Door, "It's your own problem that you can't comprehend Predecessor Cao's Sword Dao; you simply cannot reach the heights of Predecessor Cao's swordsmanship.

It was because of Predecessor Cao that I became resolute in my way of the Sword Dao, so let me be the one to discuss this with you."

Elder Huan Kong glanced at the Cave Masters and then at Wu Jianzi before finally nodding, "The exchange of ideas between Sects is meant for mutual improvement. Let's proceed with the discussion."

It wasn't that Thousand Caves Door was afraid of Wu Jianzi, but since they were all part of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty's Immortal Sects, it would be better to avoid fighting if possible.

Besides, such matters would not sound good if they were to spread.

Moreover, if it came to a discussion...

Wu Jianzi was strong, but even if he was extremely capable, he was still a disciple. When Wu Jianzi last joined a discussion, although he cut through the ranks of Thousand Caves Door, he did so against the disciples, not their Cave Masters, who did not participate in the discussion.

Soon

Elder Huan Kong realized he had made a grave mistake.

Back then, the disciples of Thousand Caves Door had held on for three days, but watching their masters, it wasn't even three hours before they were overwhelmed.

Within just two hours, one after another, the Cave Masters of Thousand Caves Door were rendered speechless by Wu Jianzi's questions.

One by one, the masters of the sword caves hung their heads in shame; they had lost. Together, they had joined in a discussion with Wu Jianzi—a generation younger—and were utterly defeated.

When Wu Jianzi previously came for discussion, they had watched the entire process without participating. Although Wu Jianzi was strong then, he had not reached the level he was at now.

Or rather, although Wu Jianzi was formidable that day, they felt that his strength was in understanding the Sword Dao; he was superior in all aspects of understanding the Sword Dao.

But on that day, Wu Jianzi did not have a clear Sword Dao.

Today's Wu Jianzi had a definite Sword Dao, and his entire martial arts theory had undergone a qualitative change. In the discussion, he completely crushed them.

Elder Huan Kong watched from a distance as a faint smile appeared on Cao Zhen's face, and no matter how he looked at it, he felt there was a hidden meaning to that smile.

It must have been intentional; Cao Zhen must have done it on purpose.

Not only did he win himself, but also allowed Wu Jianzi to win a second time.

No one would think less of Thousand Caves Door the first time Wu Jianzi won the discussion since it was their disciples who lost to the heir of the Sword Sect, which was quite normal.

But this time, they sent out their Cave Masters!

If the Cave Masters were to lose, it would be a massive embarrassment.

Chapter 410: I Wasn't Boasting, Was I?_3

If it had been a normal situation, they wouldn't have sent a Cave Master and their disciples to engage in a doctrinal debate. This time, it was entirely because of Cao Zhen that it happened.

Wu Jianzi said Cao Zhen was his Sword Dao Pathfinder.

Such words would not be spoken carelessly.

In other words, Cao Zhen's Sword Dao was more profound than Wu Jianzi's. So why didn't Cao Zhen speak out during the previous sword discussions?

Why didn't he defeat the Cave Masters of the Thousand Caves Door?

He must have known that Wu Jianzi would return, and even conspired with Wu Jianzi in advance, intending to use him to strike at their Thousand Caves Door.

What a schemer, Cao Zhen truly is a master schemer!

This time, with only Cao Zhen fighting his way through their Thousand Caves Door and engaging in countless debates, they didn't win even once!

Then there was Wu Jianzi, crushing their Cave Masters in debate.

Once this news spread, their Thousand Caves Door would be completely suppressed by the Hundred Peaks Sect.

The Hundred Peaks Sect, how did they produce such a sly character!

Cao Zhen, seeing that Wu Jianzi had finished his doctrinal debate, smiled and walked over to Elder Huan Kong, just like a creditor looking at his debtor, and said, "Elder, our doctrinal debates have ended. Now, shouldn't we talk about other matters?"

Elder Huan Kong looked at Cao Zhen with foggy eyes: "Other matters? What matters?"

Cao Zhen raised his hand and pointed towards the multitude of people from the Thousand Caves Door and said, "Look, so many people from your Thousand Caves Door have achieved Enlightenment because of me. Shouldn't you show some gratitude?"

As Cao Zhen spoke, he also stretched out one hand and rubbed it together, making a gesture of asking for money.

Elder Huan Kong was completely stunned, as he never imagined Cao Zhen would say such things. Cao Zhen, he was the Peak Master of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

He actually, in front of so many people, blatantly asked for benefits!

How could he have the nerve to say it!

They were both among the top ten Immortal Sects, didn't he care about face at all?

Cao Zhen, seeing that Elder Huan Kong didn't speak, immediately became anxious and urged, "Elder Huan Kong, you don't intend to renege, do you?"

"Renegade?" Elder Huan Kong's eyes suddenly widened, annoyed, "What renegade? Our Thousand Caves Door doesn't owe your Hundred Peaks Sect any money!"

"Of course, our people from the Thousand Caves Door, having achieved Enlightenment because of you, we should show our appreciation."

Elder Huan Kong pointed towards the Flying Boat that Cao Zhen had refined and said, "This Flying Boat, we of the Thousand Caves Door will gift it to you."

"The Flying Boat? Isn't this Flying Boat that I myself have refined?" Cao Zhen looked at Elder Huan Kong with a puzzled face and asked, "Shouldn't what I have refined myself belong to me?"

"It's true that you refined it yourself, but the materials for that Flying Boat - does Peak Master Cao not know their worth? Moreover, there are Formations embedded on the Flying Boat, the cost of materials alone amounts to a value of a million tael of Spirit Stones."

Elder Huan Kong was so angered he almost cursed out loud. Normally, if others came for a doctrinal debate, whether it be Alchemy, Artifact Refining, or crafting mechanisms, letting them take the item would be fine; at most, it would be a few tens of thousands of tael of Spirit Stones in material costs, which their Thousand Caves Door could afford.

But the problem was the cost of the materials for Cao Zhen's Flying Boat was over a million tael of Spirit Stones; it was their Thousand Caves Door's Spirit Stones, why should he just give it to Cao Zhen directly?

Cao Zhen, looking at Elder Huan Kong with the eyes one would give to a miser, casually waved his hand and said, "Let's not discuss the value of this Flying Boat for now; next, let's talk about other things."

"Other things?" Elder Huan Kong was no longer composed.

Cao Zhen looked at Elder Huan Kong as if it were to be expected and said, "How can there be nothing else? As you know, Enlightenment is extremely rare and not something to be encountered on demand! Would it be too much for me to ask for some more things?"

"Alright, Peak Master Cao, you tell me, what do you want?" Elder Huan Kong finally nodded in agreement, as Enlightenment was indeed rare. Since Cao Zhen asked for something, it wouldn't be good for him to refuse.

"That's more like it. What I want isn't much, how about some medicinal materials, Elder? I just happen to lack some for Alchemy. Elder, take note, one Dark Cloud Real Fruit aged over ninety thousand years, plus two Traceless Herbs..."

Cao Zhen listed one Spirit Grass after another; he had already helped Xiang Ziyu to reach the Perfect Completion Golden Core, but he also had other disciples, and he certainly couldn't neglect the others.

Furthermore, the Qiankun small epoch was soon to arrive, and if he were to craft Pills for his other disciples, he couldn't afford to be too slow.

Thus, he needed some medicinal materials to speed up the process of Alchemy.

As a result, the amount of medicinal materials he required was extraordinarily large, and these materials were not commonly found. Seizing the opportunity to fleece them, he naturally couldn't let it pass.

As Cao Zhen spoke eagerly, Elder Huan Kong interrupted, "Peak Master Cao, what you're asking for is too much. Upon maturation, Dark Cloud Real Fruits are of great use. It's rare to see even a ten-thousand-year Dark Cloud Real Fruit, not to mention one of ninety thousand years.

"Regarding the Traceless Herb, they are so named because, like their name suggests, these Spirit Grasses seem to leave no trace, moving at every moment upon maturation, making them extremely difficult to find. Yet you ask for two, and other Spirit Grasses..."

Cao Zhen narrowed his eyes slightly, "Are you saying that I'm asking for too much, Elder Huan Kong?"