

My Master 421

Chapter 421: Pride and Ambition_3

The Grand Preceptor pondered quietly, "If Heaven created everything, and everything in the world is of one kind, all as dragons, then is the dragon still a dragon? In that case, why would Heaven bother to create everything? What then is the meaning of Heaven creating everything?"

If there were only one thing in the world, then this world, I fear, would not be far from extinction. I only hope that different people, different matters, and different things all develop in the direction they are supposed to, or in the direction they themselves wish to go."

As the Grand Preceptor said this, he paused noticeably, and his tone took on a somewhat brusque nuance as he continued, "However, this development of everything comes with a premise, which does not include cultivators. Because, in my view, cultivators are the most selfish group of people in this world!"

Cao Zhen asked with a curious expression, "Why say that cultivators are the most selfish group of people?"

In the midst of speaking, he remembered the three from the Dharma Apex Sect he had encountered on the road, as well as Elder Shadowless, and could not help but say, "I admit, there are many selfish cultivators in this world, and indeed, they are no good.

But there are also those who slay demons and protect peace. Just like in my Hundred Peaks Sect, within the bounds of Hundred Peaks, no demons dare to wreak havoc. Some cultivators even sacrifice themselves for mortals."

"I am aware of the situations you describe; the people you mention do indeed exist," the Grand Preceptor said, his ordinarily unremarkable eyes suddenly flashing with sharpness as he looked directly at Cao Zhen, "Now tell me, do these people not have the blood of mortals on their hands?"

When they fight with other cultivators or demon cultivators, or with demons, do they always choose a land devoid of living beings? Or do they fight above cities or between them?

Does their combat cause destruction?

Even if they are slaying demons, what about other people?

How many mortals are killed due to being caught in their battles, and how many have their homes destroyed, forced to sleep in the open?

During their battles, do they consider those mortals at all?

I think, during their fights, they do not think about these things at all. What they think about is only exorcising demons. They believe that by killing those demons, they have done their conscience right, that they are doing good deeds, that they are protecting peace.

They simply can't see how many die because of their battles.

But what if there were no cultivators in the world?

Without cultivators, would there still be demons?

If all cultivators and demon cultivators did not exist, naturally there would be no demons, and then the world would be full of mortals, wouldn't this issue be non-existent, and wouldn't that be better?"

Cao Zhen felt the Grand Preceptor's change and thought that the Grand Preceptor was really too extreme; for such a person, the best method was to pose an even more extreme question.

"So, if you believe that cultivators should not exist, then why don't you just kill off all the cultivators in the world? You are the strongest in the land. Then the world would be full of mortals, and it would naturally become the world you idealize," he said.

"I would like to kill them, but it's impossible to exterminate them all. Just like the weeds in the wilderness, even if all the weeds were burned to ashes, when the spring breeze comes, they would grow again.

Because that is the Heavenly Dao."

The Grand Preceptor sighed softly, "Immortal cultivation is a gift of the Heavenly Dao. Not to mention that I can't kill all the cultivators in the world, even if I were to kill every cultivator within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, the Heavenly Dao would naturally bestow the gift of cultivation.

Cultivation is a part of the Heavenly Dao; even if all the cultivators died, wouldn't there be someone who would slowly come to understand how to cultivate?

Therefore, it can be said that cultivators are unkillable. That's why I believe cultivators need to be governed!"

"This is your stance towards cultivators? Not killing all cultivators, merely because you can't?" Cao Zhen looked at the Grand Preceptor full of curiosity and asked, "You are also a cultivator, why do you have such an attitude towards cultivators? Tell me your story."

He was truly curious.

He was once just a mortal, and at that time, he believed that if he had learned how to cultivate, he would have firmly chosen immortal cultivation.

Whether in this world or on the Earth of his past life.

Why then does the Grand Preceptor hold such an attitude towards cultivators?

"My story should have spread widely outside, and the rumors are not wrong. Initially, I was indeed a general of the Guardian Immortal Dynasty.

But what is said outside is that I led an army on a campaign and encountered an ambush by an enemy country, causing the whole army to be annihilated. This is not the case.

We were not ambushed; rather, the enemy had enlisted the help of cultivators, and not just one but three cultivators.

That's why our whole army was annihilated. I was lucky that while leading my troops in retreat, I stumbled into an ancient ruin, which saved me from that catastrophe.

At that time, I was just a mortal, and I don't know why, but I was the only one who entered the ruins, and none of the soldiers followed me.

The rest is simple, I cultivated in the ruins, and after leaving them, the first thing I did was to find the cultivators who had attacked that day.

The first cultivator I found, although higher in his cultivation realm than me, was no match for me and was slain by my hand."

Chapter 422: Arrogant Ambition_4

After slaying one of their people, the others naturally continued to send assassins after me, and I advanced through constant confrontation and cultivation breakthroughs.

It wasn't an exceptionally large Immortal Sect; ultimately, I alone assaulted their sect, uprooting the entire Immortal Sect from its foundation.

As for what happened afterward when I became the number one expert in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, you must have already heard about it.

What I want to say is, when I was still a mortal, before I became the recognized number one expert of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, I saw too much of cultivators doing as they pleased.

That day, the cultivator made his move, and our entire army was slaughtered like chickens and lambs. Later, when they pursued me, they didn't care where I was or whether there were innocent mortals around me; they would strike at me as soon as they saw me.

Later, to prevent innocent people from being implicated because of me, I didn't even dare to enter any city.

Yet even so, they would strike, targeting people close to me, or comrades from my past.

They never regarded the lives of mortals as human lives at all.

In their eyes, as long as they could achieve their goals, the deaths of countless mortals didn't matter.

It was from that time on that I saw through the selfishness of these cultivators."

As the Grand Preceptor spoke, he turned his head to look at Cao Zhen, revealing a sharp gleam in his eyes, an invisible pressure emerging, making the air in the room seem heavier.

He stared at Cao Zhen and said, word by word, "I'm telling you all this because you are a reincarnated being of Great Ability. Since you asked, I am sharing some of my thoughts with you.

But it's not to gain your agreement; it's because I want to tell you.

As long as you are in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, you damn well better behave yourself and follow the rules of my dynasty. Otherwise, no matter how strong you were in a previous life, no matter what kind of reincarnated being of Great Ability you are, I will still slay you."

Cao Zhen shrugged lightly, understanding that the story the other party had told was nearly all known from outside gossips, and knowing full well that he wouldn't get the truth about what the Grand Preceptor had really experienced, even if he asked.

Because the Grand Preceptor's resolve was too strong, unyielding like a rock.

However, it didn't matter if he didn't get the answers; he was curious about something else.

"There's no need for you to tell me all this, and no need to threaten me. And making threats like this doesn't benefit you.

The rules of heaven and earth are changing now, and the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth is about to come. I can feel that the trickery of heaven and earth is just a hair's breadth from discovering you.

You could fall into slumber at any moment. Aren't you afraid that right after you've threatened me, I will wait for all your Golden Core disciples to fall asleep, then invade the Capital City of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, dig up your living grave, destroy you, and make you truly die?

You know I'm a reincarnated being of Great Ability, so you should be aware that if I wish, I can easily become Perfect Completion Golden Core, and when I do, none of your Golden Core disciples will be able to stop me - not even if they all join forces."

"Fall into slumber?"

The Grand Preceptor seemed to hear some ridiculous joke, and with a snort of disdain, looked arrogantly at Cao Zhen and boasted, "I will not fall into slumber during this Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth; you'll never have that chance.

Not just you, but no one else will have that chance, not even if the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth comes; the world will still not fall into chaos!

This Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth is quite special.

In previous cycles, there was no fixed time for when they would occur. Sometimes, a Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth would appear every thousand years and might last for several decades or even a hundred years.

Sometimes, it might not appear for four or five thousand years.

But since the last Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth disappeared, it has been a very long time without another appearing.

I know that many have been waiting since the time I rose to power and became the foremost expert under the heavens; they have been waiting for the coming of the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth.

Yet, the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth has not appeared for so long, and no one knows why this Era is so special, why it has been delayed for such a time.

Now, as they see the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth finally emerging, each of them has already become restless, but they, like you, will never have the chance they are waiting for."

Cao Zhen realized, so it happens that ever since the Grand Preceptor rose to power, there had never been a Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth.

This was, in fact, the first one to occur since then.

However, he didn't understand.

"Why are you so confident? Do you really think that you can resist the Heavenly Dao?" he didn't believe for a second that the Grand Preceptor could defy the Heavenly Dao and resist slumber.

The Grand Preceptor raised a finger towards himself and said with pride, "I am the number one figure of this era, recognized as the strongest by everyone in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

But after seeing me, don't you wonder why I'm not as strong as those sleeping experts of the Hundred Peaks Sect and yet am regarded as the foremost of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty?

You're wrong.

Even at their peak, they are nowhere near my match. You must be wondering why I am so strong, why I haven't fallen into slumber, how can I avoid the detection of the Heavenly Dao? It's because I've used a method."

Chapter 423: Prideful Ambition_5

Cao Zhen, out of curiosity, barely gave it a thought before blurting out, "What method?"

The Grand Preceptor stretched out a hand and made a chopping gesture in the air. He looked at Cao Zhen and spoke in a regained calm tone, "Because I slashed myself with a knife."

To slash oneself with a knife, coming from his mouth, was as calm and ordinary as drinking water or eating a meal.

Cao Zhen was completely unsettled. To slash oneself with a knife naturally meant to cut down one's own cultivation base.

If a person's cultivation base was damaged due to an injury, or even if it was like Yu Tuoyu, the Grand Preceptor's disciple, who blew up his Golden Core and then took a Pill, theoretically, it's possible to slowly recover the damaged cultivation base.

But to cut one's cultivation base, if you sever your own cultivation base, then it is truly gone, and it is very, very difficult to cultivate back.

To slash oneself with a knife was equivalent to disabling one's martial arts, to severing one's own meridians!

It could even be said that a self-slashed cultivation base almost meant that after the slash, the cultivation base truly could not be cultivated back.

Cao Zhen was astonished.

The Grand Preceptor's voice came again, "I know that the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth is drawing closer, and the suppression from the Heavenly Dao will become more severe. In the coming days, I will keep slashing my cultivation base, all the way down to the Golden Core Realm."

Cao Zhen immediately understood the Grand Preceptor's intention.

The Grand Preceptor, he would keep doing this, maintaining just a thread's difference from being discovered by the Heavenly Dao, and then slash all the way down to the Golden Core Realm.

This idea, it's too strong.

How could the Grand Preceptor conceive of such an idea!

His heart was filled with astonishment and incomprehension.

Seeing the look of shock on Cao Zhen's face, the Grand Preceptor calmly said, "Are you wondering, once the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth ends, what should I do?"

By that time, the people from the realms above the Golden Core will wake up one after another. At that time, if I am only at the Golden Core level, will I not suffice?"

As the Grand Preceptor spoke, a peerlessly intense confidence surged within him, and he said proudly, "So what if I slash my cultivation base? To slash my cultivation base is to be able to cultivate it back, not that it cannot be cultivated back.

I believe that by the end of the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, I will definitely break through again, and cultivate back all of my cultivation base.

Whatever cultivation realm I reached before, why can't I achieve the same by cultivating it back? Even if I slash my cultivation base, it will be the same!

When that day comes, I will still be number one in the world, and I will become even stronger!"

Cao Zhen, feeling the Grand Preceptor's confidence for the first time, realized that his level of confidence seemed even stronger than that of a transmigrator!

Even he, who had obtained the true protagonist's script, did not possess such confidence, not like Xiang Ziyu thought of as protagonist's capital.

The Grand Preceptor's fanatical confidence had reached a point where, just by listening, those nearby would firmly believe that he could achieve everything he said!

It was the first time he had felt such intense confidence from a person!

After the Grand Preceptor finished speaking, he didn't dwell on these issues anymore. He glanced at the list in his hand and his tone once again returned to calm, "Although these Spiritual Medicines are many, you did save my disciple after all, and likewise, you have done much for the common people of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. These materials, I can give them all to you."

Upon hearing the Grand Preceptor's words, Cao Zhen snapped out of his amazement at the Grand Preceptor's intense confidence. In front of him, the Grand Preceptor had already walked to the doorway, and his voice came through again.

"The Spiritual Medicines you've asked for are indeed numerous, and it will take time for me to prepare them. How about, staying for a simple meal?"

"That would be good," Cao Zhen quickly nodded; his main purpose for visiting the Grand Preceptor was indeed out of curiosity, but more importantly, it was for these Spiritual Medicines, so he naturally decided to stay.

But just a simple meal...

Cao Zhen soon discovered that the simple meal was truly simple.

The two of them had only a simple spread of four dishes and one soup, with the four dishes being nothing more than ordinary farmhouse fare. The place where they ate was under a grape trellis in the outside courtyard, served on a stone table that seemed to have weathered countless storms. And the stone he was sitting on was exceptionally smooth, as if it had been sat upon countless times.

No sooner had he sat down than the door of the courtyard was pushed open.

A middle-aged man dressed in earthy yellow clothes, who looked to be in his thirties or forties, stepped forward.

This middle-aged man showed no hint of a cultivation aura, nor could any special traits be felt from him. If placed on a busy street, Cao Zhen felt he would not draw anyone's notice.

Yet this middle-aged man entered the Grand Preceptor's estate as casually as if returning to his own home.

This person? Who is this? A disciple of the Grand Preceptor? It didn't seem like it.

While Cao Zhen pondered in confusion, the Grand Preceptor next to him had already stood up and gave the middle-aged man a hand salute.

"Your Majesty."

The voice wasn't loud, but the short two words hit Cao Zhen like a thunderbolt, nearly making him exclaim in shock!

This man, this middle-aged man, was the emperor of the Guardian Immortal Dynasty!

The Emperor!

Cao Zhen suddenly came to his senses, stood up quickly, and glanced at the Grand Preceptor, then at the emperor nearby, his mind quite befuddled.

This was his first time seeing an emperor in both of his lives.

Why had the Emperor suddenly come?

That's right, this is the Emperor, so, what should he do?

Cao Zhen turned his head towards the Grand Preceptor and asked, "Should I... should I kneel down?"

Chapter 424: Proud Ambition_6

He genuinely didn't know what people in this world were supposed to do upon seeing the Emperor.

Anyway, he knew that on Earth, before a certain dynasty, ministers didn't have to kneel when they attended court after seeing the Emperor, but he felt like he wasn't a subject of the imperial court.

So, what was he supposed to do when he met the Emperor?

The Grand Preceptor didn't answer Cao Zhen's question but looked at him with a bit of surprise and said, "You really are an odd one. Normally, people kneel when they see the Emperor.

Even those cultivators, upon seeing me by the Emperor's side, would kneel, albeit reluctantly.

Even if they were extremely proud inside and looked down on a mortal Emperor, they would still kneel, thinking that I was nearby.

They all would kneel.

And yet, I sense a very special feeling from you.

I can tell that you don't hold in your heart that same disdain and contempt for the Emperor some cultivators have.

But at the same time, you don't seem to hold the Emperor in particularly high regard either.

That feeling is, in your eyes, the Emperor seems to be no different from yourself.

Moreover, I can feel that in your eyes, I also don't seem any different from you."

Cao Zhen suddenly laughed. His surprise just now was at this middle-aged man's identity and indeed, it was the first time he had been surprised to see an Emperor.

After all, anyone here would be surprised to see the Emperor.

But it was only surprise.

He certainly didn't regard the Emperor as someone above the rest.

"What's different about us?" Cao Zhen laughed, looking at the Grand Preceptor and pointed to his own head saying, "Aren't we all the same as humans? We all have one head and two hands, we all need to eat and to sleep, we all feel joy, anger, sorrow, and pleasure, we all face birth, aging, sickness, and death. Can there be any difference between us?"

At best, some of us have a higher cultivation base and live longer. Big deal, the Emperor has a bit more authority than I do, big deal, you currently have a higher cultivation level than me.

Beyond that, what else is there? We really aren't that different.

Oh, and one more thing, all three of us are men. As you said, everyone should be equal, so if I see you and the Emperor as the same, isn't that quite normal?"

"Interesting, truly interesting." The Grand Preceptor looked at Cao Zhen with some amazement and said, "This is the first time I've heard such a theory from you."

Upon hearing Cao Zhen's words, which many would consider outrageous, the Emperor's face did not show any sign of anger. He gestured towards the stone table and said, "No need to stand there, sit down and join us for a meal."

Cao Zhen didn't wait for the Emperor and the Grand Preceptor but sat down almost at the same time as them, looking at the meal before him, and felt even more convinced that it was indeed a simple meal.

After all this commotion, it turned out that the four dishes and one soup were not for two people, but for three.

In this era, it was clear there was no rule of silence during meals, or perhaps the Grand Preceptor just didn't care about such trivial formalities. As soon as he sat down, he turned to the Emperor curiously and asked, "Your Majesty, what brings you to my humble abode so suddenly?"

"I merely heard that you were meeting people from the Hundred Peaks Sect in your old mansion, and even went so far as to keep one behind. It struck me as really strange, and I was curious to see what kind of person could make you want to keep him around, so I specifically came to have a look," said the Emperor.

While speaking, the Emperor took a soup spoon, scooped up a bowl of soup, and then looking at Cao Zhen, said, "Having met him now, I find that the person you kept behind is indeed quite interesting, no wonder you decided to keep him."

Cao Zhen could see that although the relationship between the Grand Preceptor and the Emperor was that of sovereign and subject, it was quite casual. The Grand Preceptor continued to help himself to dishes and eat while the Emperor spoke.

He too picked up a pair of chopsticks and placed a piece of tofu into his mouth.

Before he could swallow the tofu, the Emperor turned to him and said, "Actually, sometimes I really envy cultivators.

After all, they can live much longer, hardly ever get sick, and with more time, they can do more things. The longer one lives, the more experience they gain, and it makes managing state affairs much smoother."

Cao Zhen swallowed the tofu in his mouth and looked at the Emperor with curiosity, asking, "If that's the case, why don't you cultivate yourself?"

As you've said, after cultivating, one doesn't fall ill and can live much longer. With more time, you'll handle more state affairs, accumulate more experience, and you'll understand better how to manage and govern the nation. This would be beneficial for the people of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty wouldn't it?"

Without any pretense, the Emperor picked up a vegetable, swallowed it, and then looked back at Cao Zhen, a nostalgic expression on his face, "When I was very young, I really did consider immortal cultivation. But as I grew a little older, I no longer wanted to cultivate.

That's when I became sensible and knew that if I cultivated, I would have an extraordinary mind.

At that time, I would no longer possess the mortal mindset; when contemplating issues, I would consider them from the perspective of a cultivator, and over time, I might even become unaware of common human hardships, not knowing what the common people truly need.

I might even neglect the governance of the nation due to being engrossed in cultivation.

Therefore, I cannot cultivate; I must remain a mortal.

Only as a mortal can I understand what the common people need, and thus, properly govern the nation."

Cao Zhen looked up at the Emperor in astonishment; he really hadn't expected that the reason the Emperor did not cultivate was such.

The Emperor gestured toward the courtyard outside and said, "Common folk just like me live no more than a century, right? But if I were someone with a lifespan of over ten thousand years, how would I understand what they are thinking? If I could perform Sword Flight and Gold Light Across the Land, how could I possibly know what the common people need for travel..."

While listening to the Emperor, Cao Zhen asked with some curiosity, "So, don't you feel it's a pity?"

He put himself in the Emperor's shoes, wondering if he could resist the temptation of cultivating when the number one master stood by his side as the Grand Preceptor.

He didn't think he could do it.

And what about the Emperor? After achieving such a feat, didn't he find it regrettable?

Chapter 425: State Preceptor_1

Cao Zhen felt that the size and location of the mansion he was in did not match the status of the Grand Preceptor. Before becoming the Grand Preceptor, he had been a General. Could it be that he had stayed in the old mansion in the Capital City since those times, and even after becoming the Grand Preceptor, he had not moved to a new residence but instead remained in this old house?

In the courtyard of the mansion, the ruler of the vast realm of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, the monarch of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, listened to Cao Zhen asking if he regretted not being able to practice Immortal Cultivation and laughed lightly, "Regret, how could I not regret it?"

Although he spoke of regret, there was no sign of it on his face, but rather an air of nonchalance and pride.

"If I were to practice Immortal Cultivation, how old could I live? Three thousand years, or ten thousand years? Even if I could live ten thousand years, that would just be ten thousand years."

But now, I have not practiced Immortal Cultivation; instead, I have learned how to govern a country well, how to let my subjects live better lives.

In fact, my life is lived through them. If they could previously live only thirty years, fifty years, but under my governance, they live better lives, eat better, fall ill less often, have the money to treat their diseases, and do not die from wars.

They can live sixty years, seventy years, or even a hundred years; aren't those extra years my life as well?

For ten thousand people, each living ten years longer, that's a hundred thousand years. And what about a hundred thousand people? Ten million people?

How many more years have I lived? Even if I die, but they are still alive, in a sense, it is I who have given them more life.

One could say that though I have died, I am still alive. Doing a good job as an emperor is what is truly meaningful."

The emperor is clearly a mortal, but at this moment, Cao Zhen vaguely felt something great emanating from him.

Realizing Cao Zhen's gaze was full of emotion, the emperor turned towards the Grand Preceptor with admiration and said, "Don't look at me like that, all these words were taught to me by the Grand Preceptor."

The words of the Grand Preceptor?

Cao Zhen was momentarily stunned. If these words came from the Grand Preceptor, that would be interesting. What the emperor meant was nothing more than: Some people are alive, yet they have already died...

And some people are dead, yet they still live...

Isn't this the text that everyone learns in compulsory education?

Thinking back on the Grand Preceptor's theory of equality for all, could the Grand Preceptor truly be a transmigrator?

Astonished to his core, Cao Zhen almost became certain the Grand Preceptor was a transmigrator. He suddenly turned his head, looking at the Grand Preceptor, and blurted out, "Odd changes, even remains the same!"

"What are you talking about?" The Grand Preceptor looked at Cao Zhen with a dumbfounded expression, filled with confusion. What did 'odd changes, even remains the same' mean? Although he had traveled the world for many years, his cultivation was expansive, and his experiences were vast, he had never heard of such a phrase.

Could it be a very special type of Taoist Enlightenment? An epiphany?

Did Cao Zhen suddenly want to engage in a philosophical debate with me?

But I've never heard of such a theory, and besides, this statement seems somewhat illogical?

"Odd changes" refers to strange and unique transformations, it is the way of the 'odd', it must continuously change to be considered the path of the 'odd', but what does "even remains the same" mean?

What does 'even' mean?

A humanoid Magic Artifact? Or "pair"? Or perhaps it means randomness?

If it's the latter...

Cao Zhen was dumbfounded. The Grand Preceptor didn't understand the meaning? He didn't know this? But that's a universal code among transmigrators. Shouldn't you be a transmigrator? Shouldn't you respond with, "Look at the symbol, consider the quadrant"?

Or could it be that you've never read any transmigration novels and weren't a science student? Although, it's something taught in elementary and middle school, so maybe after so many years, it's been forgotten?

Let's try a different approach.

After giving it some thought, Cao Zhen looked at the Grand Preceptor and continued, "The sun shines on Pill Furnace, producing purple smoke..."

The Grand Preceptor was completely befuddled and finally said after a long pause, "The poem is indeed a good one, but it is night now. What is the rest of the verse?"

Why did Cao Zhen suddenly switch to poetry, especially at nighttime?

Could it be that he is talking about the way of Cultivation?

Sunshine? Is it about practicing Sunlight Cultivation? And then cultivating to achieve the Three Flowers Gathered at the Crown?

The Pill Furnace producing purple smoke, is that the Divine Weapon? Using the Pill Furnace as the Divine Weapon? Sunlight shining down, cultivating vapor that ascends to the primal essence?

Theoretically, this is indeed a method of Cultivation, but it's not particularly clever. Cao Zhen is a Great Ability reincarnated, so why suddenly discuss such a mundane thing with me?

Cao Zhen was utterly flabbergasted. You don't remember this? Or is the Grand Preceptor not very studious? Should I try another phrase?

He pondered for a moment and then said, "Hoeing rice under the midday sun?"

You should know this one by now.

The Grand Preceptor's brow furrowed deeply. "These two lines, one of seven characters, the other of five, do not make a poem." A line of five characters, another of seven, Cao Zhen was surely not talking about poetry, definitely Cultivation, engaged in philosophical discussion.

But similarly with 'midday', it must also involve the sun.

What Cao Zhen meant must be about how to cultivate during the intense midday sun, but why mention hoeing rice?

To cultivate among the rice fields, to be closer to nature?

This seemed even less profound. Cao Zhen should not be discussing such common Cultivation Techniques with me. So what is he actually trying to say?

Cao Zhen was completely at his wits' end. I'm prompting you with "sweat drips down to the soil beneath the rice," you could at least ask me "who is midday?", and I would understand. Am I supposed to ponder the difference between five-character and seven-character lines?

Chapter 426: State Preceptor_2

I...

Grand Preceptor, your studies must have been terribly poor before you transmigrated, but that's not right, if your studies were that poor, how could you still remember "Some People"?

Could it be that the Grand Preceptor isn't a transmigrator?

But the Grand Preceptor's practices, where everything must be judged according to the law, advocating equality for all, including those persuasive words to the emperor, all seem to suggest he might be a transmigrator.

I've already started probing, I can't just abandon this halfway.

If I consider him to be a poor student, couldn't I still find a phrase known to all Chinese people?

In this world before me, there was...

A thought struck Cao Zhen, and, looking at the Grand Preceptor, he suddenly spoke out, "The Way that can be walked is not the eternal Way."

This phrase is definitely known to any adult Chinese person; he didn't believe that the Grand Preceptor hadn't heard it before.

The Grand Preceptor furrowed his brows tightly, pondering incessantly in his mind. He was utterly confused by Cao Zhen; what exactly was Cao Zhen trying to convey?

He looked at Cao Zhen, opened his mouth, just about to inquire, when Cao Zhen's voice reached his ears.

"The Way that can be walked is not the eternal Way..."

The entire being of the Grand Preceptor froze in an instant, as though he had heard some shocking news, looking completely stunned, yet surges of mana flowed outwards from him.

Enlightenment?

Cao Zhen looked at the Grand Preceptor with a surprised face. Just by saying this phrase, known to every person from Earth, had the Grand Preceptor achieved enlightenment?

The sentence, "The Way that can be walked is not the eternal Way," is known to every Chinese person.

However, probably very few truly understand its deepest meaning, after all, that was a supreme statement from Laozi himself.

Most likely, others understand only the superficial aspects, but the deeper Cold Breath, probably only the genuine cultivators, and even those of Great Ability, could comprehend.

All I intended was to use this sentence to test and see if the Grand Preceptor was a transmigrator. Instead, he achieved enlightenment right away, what does this mean!

However, this at least proved one thing, that the Grand Preceptor isn't a transmigrator, or at least he did not transmigrate from Earth, not from China!

Cao Zhen calmed his mind and looked towards the Grand Preceptor. He had seen many achieve enlightenment, and even felt that in this world, probably nobody had witnessed more enlightenments than he had.

He didn't know how many had achieved enlightenment because of him.

Among the enlightenments he had witnessed, some involved Sword Qi reaching across thousands of miles, others were filled with the dense aura of precious ink. Each person's enlightenment was different, but that was because everyone pursued diverse paths; overall, the state of enlightenments had certain similarities.

Yet at this moment, the Grand Preceptor's enlightenment caused the surrounding air to tremble along with him, the frequency of the air's tremors subtly in sync with the Grand Preceptor's, making it seem as though the Grand Preceptor and his surroundings had merged into one.

Gradually, the heavens and earth around him began to tremble as well.

The Grand Preceptor had completely fused with the entire heaven and earth, with this world.

Heavenly Phenomenon!

In the sky, which had grown dark, the scattered light of stars no longer fell, but instead gathered together, focusing entirely upon the Grand Preceptor.

In the high Void, the crescent moon began to grow fuller, turning into a round full moon.

Around him, tall trees and wild grasses swayed gently, rising and falling with the Grand Preceptor's breath.

In just a short while, the entire Capital City shuddered.

In the Immortal Reception House, the cultivators gathered there all looked up, gazing into the distance.

Above a certain part of the Capital City, a colossal pillar of light beamed down, and within that pillar, the silhouette of a person faintly emerged, as if standing atop the sun, moon, and stars, emanating an awe-inspiring presence.

Waves of Daoist energy radiated from this Xu Ying, spreading outwards in all directions.

"Grand Preceptor!"

"It's the Grand Preceptor, he's achieved enlightenment!"

"Such an aura, shaking the entire Void of the Capital City, a Heavenly Phenomenon..."

"How strong the Grand Preceptor was already, and yet he could still achieve enlightenment, has he realized some aspect of the Way?"

"The Grand Preceptor, resonating with heaven and earth!"

All the cultivators were shocked and amazed. How exalted was the Grand Preceptor to resonate with heaven and earth upon enlightenment.

Gradually, as the resonance swept through, an elder among the onlookers suddenly closed his eyes.

Enlightenment!

He too had attained enlightenment, stimulated by the Grand Preceptor's enlightenment and the resonance he felt with heaven and earth.

Following one person's enlightenment, it didn't take long for the second, the third... in the Immortal Reception House, cultivators entered the state of enlightenment one after another.

In the blink of an eye, within the entire Immortal Reception House, all the cultivators achieved enlightenment!

Not just in the Immortal Reception House, at that moment, in the Capital City, all cultivators were drawn into enlightenment due to the Grand Preceptor's enlightenment and his resonance with heaven and earth. They sensed the Grand Preceptor's Way and felt the resonance with heaven and earth.

Some people, after their moment of enlightenment, awakened quickly within a few breaths; for others, the duration of enlightenment was slightly longer.

Some individuals shone with brilliant golden light, some with far-reaching Sword Qi, some with overwhelming Cold Breath...

The duration and depth of everyone's enlightenment varied greatly, but after awakening, all of them looked towards the place where the pillar of light had fallen.

At that time, waves of mana kept continuously surging out from the pillar of light, belonging to the Grand Preceptor.

"Many thanks to the Grand Preceptor for this gift." In the Immortal Reception House, a young disciple bowed deeply toward the Xu Ying of the Grand Preceptor within the pillar of light.

Chapter 427: State Preceptor_3

Although he was dissatisfied with many of the Grand Preceptor's actions and did not accept the rules set by the Grand Preceptor, a cultivator was a cultivator—why should they be equal to mortals? To even help them with their affairs!

But no matter how much he disagreed or was discontent, he was one of the Grand Preceptor's disciples who had experienced enlightenment, and for the grace of this enlightenment, he had to give thanks!

All around, other cultivators who had just awakened from their enlightenment also began to either clasp their fists or bow towards the direction of the Grand Preceptor.

Suddenly, an elderly figure among the crowd fell to his knees, giving three deep bows to the illusory figure within the beam of light.

All around, people turned to look.

The Grand Preceptor granted the grace of enlightenment, for which they naturally had to express gratitude, yet among them, only this one knelt.

Although the Grand Preceptor had not utterly obliterated them, members of the Immortal Sect, he indeed suppressed them, forcing them to engage in many things they did not wish to do.

In their hearts, they had admiration for the Grand Preceptor, fear, and even hatred; therefore, their gratitude was shown either through a bow or a clasped fist. This elder was the first one to kneel towards the direction of the Grand Preceptor.

As the elder knelt and bowed his head, he said softly, "I, Sun Chang, thought that I could only reach the Core Formation Stage in this lifetime and could never achieve the Golden Core, but this time, I had an epiphany—I realized, thanks to the Grand Preceptor, how to achieve the Golden Core."

As he finished speaking, he was already weeping.

Not just him—in various places within the Capital City, many cultivators knelt and paid homage in the direction of the Grand Preceptor.

In the Immortal Reception House, several cultivators remained silent.

As cultivators, unless the other party's cultivation base was substantially higher or they intentionally concealed it, using a cultivation technique to mask it, they could usually sense the other party's life essence.

They could feel that Sun Chang's life essence was dwindling; without a breakthrough, he likely did not have many years left to live.

But due to the Grand Preceptor's enlightenment, Sun Chang was confident after his epiphany that he could break through to the Golden Core. This way, Sun Chang could live many more years. For him, the Grand Preceptor's act was as significant as saving his life, so kneeling in thanks was understandable.

Although the first layer after achieving Earth Immortality is known for life extension,

at other cultivation realms, with each advancement in the realm, the lifespan differs significantly.

At the peak of the Golden Core, one can live for about three thousand years; below the Golden Core, one definitely cannot live that long.

"With the Grand Preceptor's cultivation, it is ordinarily difficult to achieve enlightenment, after all, the higher the cultivation, the more you know, and the harder it is to become enlightened. The Grand Preceptor must have been perceiving something before his enlightenment, but I don't understand why he chose this moment to perceive."

"This enlightenment—I even have a feeling that the Grand Preceptor intentionally bestowed a fortune upon everyone present."

"But why would the Grand Preceptor do this?"

In the Immortal Reception House, everyone looked on puzzled.

"It's my first time seeing someone resonate with heaven and earth due to enlightenment."

"Standing here, just feeling the fluctuations of that breath, we were enlightened. I wonder, what would it be like to be closer to the Grand Preceptor?"

"Cao Zhen!"

Someone suddenly remembered that afternoon, when the people of the Hundred Peaks Sect returned, and whispered, "Cao Zhen has not come back, he stayed by the Grand Preceptor's side!"

"Now, Cao Zhen might still be by the Grand Preceptor's side!"

"From such a distance, we have received so much, then what kind of gains would Cao Zhen have, being next to the Grand Preceptor!"

"This... The Grand Preceptor resonated with heaven and earth; close up, Cao Zhen felt that resonance with heaven and earth. Such gains, that's an immense fortune!"

"Four Treasures Peak, that Peak Master's luck!"

"Good fortune, he's incredibly lucky. If I were next to the Grand Preceptor, I can't even imagine how much I would gain!"

"The Grand Preceptor has resonated with heaven and earth!"

"Now, the Grand Preceptor has not yet finished his enlightenment! Even if Cao Zhen has completed his enlightenment, by staying next to the Grand Preceptor and feeling the resonance with heaven and earth, he can still gain more. He is too fortunate!"

At the Imperial Tutor Mansion, Cao Zhen, feeling the Grand Preceptor's resonance with heaven and earth, could also sense the lights and aura emerging throughout the Capital City.

This was... all the cultivators of the entire Capital City had become enlightened due to the Grand Preceptor's resonance.

But why, why was he the only one not to have it!

Cao Zhen felt the distant dissipating auras of enlightenment, looked at the Grand Preceptor still in the midst of enlightenment, and was rendered speechless.

The Grand Preceptor had an epiphany because of what he said; as a result, everyone else benefited, while he himself got nothing!

How could this be!

No, he couldn't just let this go.

I, Cao Zhen, have enabled so many to have an epiphany, without a single one being for free.

You, Grand Preceptor, said everyone was equal, didn't you?

If I accepted other people's favors, I have to accept yours too.

And I must ask for more.

Since you had the epiphany first, once you are done, I'll have a good talk with you to see what kind of favor I'll get...

Cao Zhen began to ponder what he should ask for later.

Gradually, another period of time passed, long enough to burn a stick of incense.

Suddenly, Cao Zhen felt the air around him gradually return to tranquility, the sky no longer vibrated and returned to normal, the stars in the sky no longer concentrated their light on the Grand Preceptor but scattered around, and the moon once more became a crescent.

Has the Grand Preceptor's enlightenment ended?

Cao Zhen looked towards the Grand Preceptor and at the same moment, the Grand Preceptor opened his eyes.

In an instant, divine light burst forth.

Chapter 428: State Preceptor_4

In this black night, a flash of brilliance streaked by, and though it was but a brief moment, Cao Zhen could confirm that he had never seen such a dazzling light.

In that instant, he even had the illusion that all of him had been seen through.

That light also gave him the sensation of being filled with endless wisdom.

In that moment, he even felt that what he saw was not a person, but the illusion of a true Immortal.

After that fleeting moment, the Grand Preceptor's boundless aura suddenly retracted, the divine light contained within. In the brief time it takes to breathe, he had returned to normal, even resembling a mortal so much that one could not sense any imposing aura from him.

A smile appeared on the youthful face of the Grand Preceptor as he looked at Cao Zhen and said with a laugh, "I originally had the confidence that I could, with each slash, reduce my cultivation base down to the Golden Core, and then wait until the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth disappeared. After the Way of Heaven and Earth changes again, I would recover through cultivation.

But whenever you told me that phrase, my enlightenment deepened, and my confidence grew! I understand even more what I should do!"

'The Dao that can be told is not the eternal Dao'!

How did you comprehend such a Dao?"

Filled with admiration, the Grand Preceptor gazed at Cao Zhen, even feeling that such a revelation was directly seeking the origin of the Heavenly Dao.

Just how profound had Cao Zhen reached in his past life to have such an understanding!

"Those words were not realized by me," Cao Zhen gently shook his head. There were things he dared to claim as his own realizations, but 'The Dao that can be told is not the eternal Dao'—this he did not dare claim. Further questioning on the matter would reveal his lack of understanding, he felt, even with Zhang Daoling's theories on Immortal Cultivation at his disposal.

Those words were spoken by one of the most supreme existences, Laozi.

He was one of the Three Pure Ones, Taishang Laojun!

"Oh? So it wasn't a revelation from Cao Dao Companion, then... could it be..." recalling what Cao Zhen had said about the era, the Grand Preceptor asked, "Could this be the understanding of a Great Ability from the Taichu Era?"

Cao Zhen nodded slightly and said, "If you put it that way, you're not wrong."

"Then, which Great Ability would that be?" The Grand Preceptor looked earnestly at Cao Zhen, "In any case, although the phrase came from your mouth, I have gained enlightenment from it, and I owe that individual a favor. So I want to know, who exactly is that person?"

In a low voice, Cao Zhen replied, "This person is known as Laozi... commonly addressed as Taishang Laojun."

"Taishang Laojun, I wonder just how exalted one must be to be referred to as 'Taishang' by others," the Grand Preceptor lamented with a hint of regret, "It's a pity that we are separated by different fates. If there were a chance to meet him, I would have one less regret in my life."

Having said that, he turned his head to Cao Zhen, "This time, if it hadn't been for you, I would not have enlightened. You've truly helped me quite a lot. I also know your current situation. Besides the medicinal ingredients you've spoken of, is there anything else you desire?"

Before Cao Zhen could speak, the emperor had already said, "In my life, I've never seen anyone who could aid the Grand Preceptor.

The Grand Preceptor has done far too much for our Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. Helping him is helping the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. If there's anything you want and it's within my power, I will give that to you as well. Even an Alchemy Book Iron Ticket or a Death Exemption Token, I can grant you."

Although he was not a Cultivator, he knew about the significance of enlightenment through the conversation between the Grand Preceptor and Cao Zhen, and he was aware that the Grand Preceptor's enlightenment came because of Cao Zhen.

"Alchemy Book Iron Ticket?" Cao Zhen seemed to remember something, and suddenly turned his head to look at the emperor with a serious question, "Your Majesty, may I ask you a question?"

The emperor nodded and said, "There are only the three of us here, ask away."

"Good, then I'll ask." Filled with curiosity, Cao Zhen looked at the emperor and inquired, "Your Majesty, is your surname Zhu?"

"Zhu?" The emperor clearly did not expect Cao Zhen to seriously ask such a question. After being taken aback, he still shook his head and said, "I do not have the surname Zhu."

"Not Zhu? Then I'm relieved. Since that's the case, I'd like to request this Alchemy Book Iron Ticket," Cao Zhen immediately decided. A life-saving item like the Alchemy Book Iron Ticket, how could he not want it!

The emperor was completely baffled, unable to find any connection to Cao Zhen's words, "What does your surname being Zhu have to do with whether or not you want the Alchemy Book Iron Ticket?"

"It's very much related," Cao Zhen began to bluff, "In the Taichu Era where I came from, there was a Dynasty called the Great Ming."

The emperor, curious, asked, "Ming? As in the brightness of the sun and moon?"

Cao Zhen nodded and said, "Exactly, that Ming."

"What ambition, to name a dynasty for the brightness of the sun and moon," the emperor praised, and then realizing he had interrupted Cao Zhen, he took a small step back and urged, "Go on."

Recalling the historical books he had read, Cao Zhen complained, "The emperors of that Ming Dynasty all had the surname Zhu, and in that Dynasty, Alchemy Book Iron Tickets were a death warrant."

The emperor was puzzled, "What do you mean? Alchemy Book Iron Tickets are for salvation from death. Why would they become death warrants? Could it be that in that Ming Dynasty, Alchemy Book Iron Tickets were not for salvation from death?"

"The Alchemy Book Iron Tickets of the Great Ming and our Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty should be no different; both are for salvation from death. The issue lies with the person granting the Alchemy Book Iron Tickets."

Chapter 429: State Preceptor_5

Cao Zhen thought for a moment but decided to start from the beginning.

"Let me put it this way, the founding emperor of the Great Ming King Dynasty used to be a beggar. Then, he led a rebellion, unified the land, and then..."

Cao Zhen gave a brief account of what Zhu Yuanzhang had done, including ordering farmers back to their land, rewarding land reclamation and military farming system; organizing repair of water conservancies across regions; vigorously promoting the cultivation of economically beneficial crops like mulberry and hemp to enrich the people, and suppressing the powerful clans; and issuing orders to emancipate slaves and so on.

Finally, he commented with a sneer, "And then you see, at the beginning when bestowing rewards on the heroes, he cast thirty-four Death Exemption Tokens and granted them to thirty-four of the most distinguished founding heroes or their descendants.

But in the end, twenty-eight of these thirty-four families died off, and the six that remained didn't fare well either. These weren't Death Exemption Tokens, they were clearly death warrants!"

Upon hearing this, the Grand Preceptor expressed his admiration, "He did so only to preserve his dynasty, for the sake of law and order. This man rose from being a beggar to conquering such a vast territory and was even able to benefit the populace. He truly deserves to be called an emperor of the ages."

"Yes, for him to rise step by step from a beggar to an emperor was indeed very difficult. In our era, dynasties have also changed, but most of those who become the new emperors are born of royalty and nobility.

Behind them, they have the support of their families and clans. They also represent the interests of the great clans, which is why they are able to become the new emperors.

In fact, for the great clans, changing to a new emperor is merely changing a ruler, their interests are not harmed, and they may even gain more. Therefore, they will offer their support.

However, for a beggar with no backing whatsoever, and even challenging the interests of the great clans, to be able to overthrow a dynasty and establish a new one is extremely difficult.

What's even more rare is that after establishing the new dynasty, he continued to suppress the interests of the prominent families, rectify corrupt officials, and indeed, he can be sincerely called an emperor of the ages.

If he were here now, still alive, I would even be willing to relinquish my throne to him."

Cao Zhen was completely convinced, looking at the emperor with a grave face, he could only give a thumbs up and say, "Impressive, Your Majesty, your enlightenment is truly profound. I am indeed convinced."

After all, in his past life, he was merely a civil servant, and now he's just a Peak Master. He didn't have the awareness to worry about the world, nor the position to consider such issues, and he didn't want to discuss them anymore. He turned to the Grand Preceptor and said, "As I said, I have five apprentices, four of whom possess the Ancient Immortal Body, and I myself need Pill for my cultivation. I need to refine a large quantity of Pill, so I require a vast amount of medicinal ingredients, the rarer the better."

"Medicinal ingredients?"

Upon hearing this, the emperor suddenly turned to the Grand Preceptor and asked, "Grand Preceptor, if I were to have a grand wedding, the ten Immortal Sects, as well as those from our Town Immortal Dynasty, should bring some fine gifts, right? There ought to be quite a few rare medicinal ingredients among them, shouldn't there?"

Cao Zhen was stunned for a moment and then looked at the emperor in disbelief, "Your Majesty, you haven't married yet? You must be at least thirty already, right? You're not married?"

He didn't know exactly how old the emperor was, and though the emperor was just a mortal, he could easily sense his vitality but only to a rough extent; the exact age was unclear to him.

Even if the emperor was only thirty, it was quite late to not be married by that age.

This...

No, that's not right.

He suddenly remembered some gossip about the Guardian Immortal Dynasty that Lan Pili had told him on the road.

Among them was the fact that the royal family of the Guardian Immortal Dynasty was very peculiar. For some unknown reason, every emperor of the Guardian Immortal Dynasty lived to be exactly one hundred years old and then died.

Thus, they should know when it is appropriate to marry, sire children, and select their successors.

However...

Cao Zhen asked with some confusion, "This time, we are here for the new emperor's enthronement ceremony. Your Majesty, have you not yet ascended to the throne? You..."

"Are you curious as to why I have not ascended to the throne, despite my age?" the emperor said frankly, without any intention of hiding the matter: "This was the rule set by the previous emperor. His appointed successor was not me, but my elder brother.

However, later my brother experienced some issues, and it was decided that I would succeed to the throne.

But the age gap between the previous emperor and me was too great. Therefore, before his passing, he specifically decreed that the Grand Preceptor was to act as the regent until I had sufficient experience and knew how to be an emperor, after which I would be allowed to ascend to the throne.

This period was to last at least ten years.

This year, those ten years have just ended, so I will ascend to the throne this year."

That's when Cao Zhen finally understood why the emperor could only ascend this year. In fact, it was more precise to say that the current emperor was not yet the emperor and would only become the rightful emperor after the enthronement ceremony.

He didn't inquire further about what issues the emperor's elder brother had encountered, whether he was unfit to rule, or had died prematurely.

After all, not every person in the imperial family of the Guardian Immortal Dynasty lived to be one hundred.

After explaining, the emperor turned his head to the Grand Preceptor and said, "Grand Preceptor, are you truly about to enter your long slumber this time?"

Chapter 430: State Preceptor_6

Cao Zhen was suddenly dumbfounded. What did that mean?

Hadn't the Grand Preceptor told him before that he could repeatedly self-mutilate, self-mutilate down to the Golden Core Stage mark?

Moreover, just now the Grand Preceptor even said that after his enlightenment, he was even more confident, so why was the emperor now asking if he was going to go into a deep sleep?

What was going on here?

The Grand Preceptor fell suddenly silent, and after a long while, he sighed softly, helplessly saying, "This time, I'm afraid I really have to go into a deep sleep.

Before, I could evade the Heavenly Dao's scrutiny by self-mutilating once.

But the recent resonance between heaven and earth has drawn the attention of the Heavenly Dao. Although I can still self-mutilate once, and hold on for a few more years, if I were to do it again, one slice, two slices, that would be manageable, but any more than that, and I would be targeted by the Heavenly Dao.

After all, to self-mutilate takes time. I cannot possibly reduce my cultivation base to the Golden Core level in one attempt.

By that time, as long as my cultivation base is above Golden Core, I will fall into a deep sleep."

With that, he let out a long sigh, looking at Cao Zhen, "I had originally intended to keep this from you, but since His Majesty has asked, I cannot deceive the emperor and can only tell His Majesty now."

Cao Zhen was still a bit out of sorts. The Grand Preceptor had just said he was more confident about successfully self-mutilating, so why did the emperor ask again?

How did he see that the Grand Preceptor hadn't told the truth? Why did he have to ask it directly in front of him?

And listening to this, it sounded like it was because of him that the Grand Preceptor resonated with heaven and earth and was discovered by the Heavenly Dao. If that was the case...

Cao Zhen looked up at the emperor and the Grand Preceptor and asked, "Grand Preceptor, to put it this way, haven't I caused your misfortune?"

"It's not really about causing me misfortune, but rather the misfortune of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty." The Grand Preceptor shook his head slightly and said, "You should know that I still have four Golden Core disciples. They have all received my true teachings, and I believe that even if I fall into a deep sleep, they can still stand guard over the gateways of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, deter the petty, and maintain the dynasty's peace!"

"That's not necessarily the case." Cao Zhen shook his head lightly, "The four of them could not compare to you no matter what."

"Those four are not simply ordinary peak characters," the Grand Preceptor revealed an incredibly strong confidence again, "They are my disciples, the disciples I've chosen, and they will be the strongest Golden Cores! With them here, the dynasty will surely be protected!"

Cao Zhen stressed, "But they are not you, after all, and besides, they are only four individuals."

"I understand what you're saying, that they, being only four, have limited hands, and after I fall asleep, they will face an unknown number of Golden Core experts.

Even if the situation you describe arises, the world may have changed entirely when I awake. So what? If that happens, I'll just have to do all over again what I've done before." As the Grand Preceptor spoke, an endless, bold spirit surged forth.

Cao Zhen shook his head slightly, "Grand Preceptor, in that case, all your previous efforts will have been in vain, who knows how many people will die as a result, and the world may be plunged into misery and suffering..."

The Grand Preceptor looked at Cao Zhen, his face showing a complex expression, and suddenly spoke, "You should owe me a favor. Although it led to my enlightenment and resonance with heaven and earth, it is also because of you that I must go into a deep sleep.

So, you owe me a favor, don't you?"

Cao Zhen did not directly answer whether he owed a favor, but instead asked back, "If I owe you a favor, how do you propose I repay this favor?"

"Don't you need medicinal materials? And His Majesty is also planning a grand wedding," the Grand Preceptor turned his head to look at the emperor beside him, "Your Majesty, this time, don't worry about losing face. This time, just go directly to the top ten Immortal Sects and ask them for medicinal materials, ask for wedding gifts."

The emperor nodded slightly.

Cao Zhen could see that the emperor and the Grand Preceptor, although sovereign and official, also resembled mentor and disciple.

After saying his piece, the Grand Preceptor turned to look at Cao Zhen, "These medicinal materials are resources, which we can offer you to choose from. I only hope that in the darkest and most chaotic times, you can make a move to protect this land, to guard the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty well.

Of course, we won't let you guard it for nothing. When I wake up, I'll supply you with another batch of resources. You know, in the past, I tied down the Sun and Moon Demon Sect and the Red Refinery Demonic Sect, two major sects.

To speak frankly, those two sects were even more prosperous than your Hundred Peaks Sect at that time, and the accumulated resources of those sects over countless ages, they were not just medicinal materials, but all kinds of treasures, materials for artifact refining, everything... all of it fell into my hands."

Cao Zhen suddenly realized that he seemed to have been set up.

Did the Grand Preceptor plan this all along? But even if it was a setup, he was still tempted.

His Heretical Golden Core's first layer used medicinal materials, but for the subsequent layers of the Heretical Golden Core, it was not just medicinal materials that were needed; it took various heavenly treasures and materials.

He indeed required a large amount of materials.

"Alright, I can help you."

After pondering for a moment, Cao Zhen nodded and said, "But to what extent can I help you, and to what degree can I protect you?"

Even, whether the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty will continue to exist, I cannot be sure of."

Because by then, I too won't know what will happen."

"I understand. Even I have not experienced such moments. I also know that many are already dissatisfied with some of my methods, and no one knows what will happen. However, your words are enough for me." The Grand Preceptor looked at Cao Zhen, then suddenly added, "But you're right, just having you protect the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty isn't quite proper, and if there's a change in the meantime, without any official position, it might be troublesome.

Though I cannot confer upon you the title of Grand Preceptor, I can make you the State Preceptor... I can confer upon you the title of State Preceptor for a hundred years, no, for a thousand years.

For a thousand years, you will be the State Preceptor of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, and with this title, protecting the Imperial Dynasty becomes justified!"

Cao Zhen himself was stunned for a moment. So, in the near future, he would become the State Preceptor?

State Preceptor Cao?

What was the reason he had left the mountaintop in the first place? Was it just for the reward offered by the Hundred Peaks Sect? After all the twists and turns, he came to the Capital City, and now he was going to become the State Preceptor?

What was this situation about?