

My Master 441

Chapter 441: Everyone's Dissatisfaction_1

Cao Zhen discovered that Li Qinglei was really a good person. Before he even opened his mouth to coax, Li Qinglei took the initiative to act as a tout.

And below the arena, Lan Pili also cooperated by shouting, "Afraid? Our Hundred Peaks Sect never knows what fear is! Peak Master Cao, debate with him. There is no reason for our Hundred Peaks Sect to retreat!"

The thoughts of the people around them began to stir again.

Could Cao Zhen be skilled in poetry, calligraphy, painting, and also musical rhythm?

How old was Cao Zhen?

Where did he find the time to study so many disciplines?

"I bet three hundred thousand taels of Spirit Stones on Elder Xue winning," a man from an unknown Immortal Sect clenched his teeth fiercely. He wanted to win back all the Spirit Stones he had lost before.

The previous victories were coincidental, since Cao Zhen was also skilled in calligraphy and painting, he won against Elder Xue.

But the next competition would still be in Elder Xue's area of expertise. He refused to believe that Cao Zhen could be proficient in it as well.

How could Elder Xue, a master of the Four Extremes, not win a single discipline!

Any individual who could overpower Elder Xue would definitely be from the Four Extremes Sect, not the Hundred Peaks Sect.

The surrounding crowd seemed to think the same, starting to place their bets aloud.

"Two hundred thousand taels of Spirit Stones..."

"I bet four hundred thousand taels of Spirit Stones..."

Quickly, the crowd had bet another five million taels of Spirit Stones.

Cao Zhen had no instrument on him, but luckily, among the disciples who accompanied him, there was one from Zither Music Peak. He took out a long zither and placed it in front of him, looked up at Elder Xue and said, "Let's perform together. We'll play the 'Breaking Formation Robe Swamp Melody'. Whoever makes the first mistake is the loser. How about that?"

The only melody he knew from the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty was the 'Breaking Formation Robe Swamp Melody' that he once performed at the Thousand Caves Door.

"Good, we'll play the 'Breaking Formation Robe Swamp Melody'."

Elder Xue also took a long zither out of his Qiankun Bag. It was unclear if he originally excelled in the zither, or if he chose it deliberately after seeing Cao Zhen use one.

Many people around them saw their movements and felt relieved.

"Since Peak Master Cao doesn't even have his own musical instrument, he will likely lose."

"The two are using the same instrument."

"This time, Elder Xue has no reason to lose."

"Elder Xue is from the Four Extremes Sect, there's no way he'll lose every debate."

Amidst the discussions, the two started playing soon.

Although it was Cao Zhen's first time playing the zither, he already had experience performing twice. This 'Breaking Formation Robe Swamp Melody' wasn't new to him either. He was slightly unfamiliar at the start, but soon he fell into his own rhythm.

Sound after sound emanated from the zithers, invigorating and stirring the listeners' spirits, as if they were on a battlefield...

Gradually, they even forgot they were watching a debate, completely immersed in the music, until...

"Ding..."

A light sound echoed.

In front of Elder Xue, a zither string suddenly snapped, and the music abruptly stopped.

Cao Zhen ceased his playing as well.

All around, the audience snapped back to reality, their faces filled with disbelief as they stared at Elder Xue, who sat frozen and expressionless.

Elder Xue had lost again!

Elder Xue, from the Four Extremes Sect, reputed to be proficient in all four arts, had lost all of them to Cao Zhen!

Lost to the Hundred Peaks Sect's Peak Master who ranked last in standing!

This...

Between the two, who was the real person from Zither Music Peak!

How could this be?

How could Cao Zhen, a member of the Hundred Peaks Sect, be so proficient in poetry, calligraphy, painting, and musical rhythm!

"I lost. Elder Xue has lost again, and all my Spirit Stones are gone."

"I... I've lost a total of seven hundred thousand taels of Spirit Stones."

"I lost nine hundred thousand—more than you!"

"How... How could Cao Zhen win!"

The people around each had gloomy faces—no one is happy about losing money.

Although Elder Xue hadn't lost any money, his face was more unsightly than anyone else's. While others only lost some Spirit Stones, he lost face for the Four Extremes Sect.

The Four Extremes Sect, as the name suggests, was known for mastering the Four Extremes—poetry, calligraphy, painting, and music!

Yet in these four disciplines, he lost to Cao Zhen in every single one!

Moreover, it all happened in front of so many people!

This was the Capital City, not some remote village. People from all the Immortal Sects were here. Without needing to wait until tomorrow, the news of his defeat to Cao Zhen would spread everywhere.

Li Qinglei, Ougao Yi, and Kou Shaoyuan from Divine Occurrence Sect had equally unsightly expressions as if they were the ones who lost rather than Elder Xue from the Four Extremes Sect.

They had lost Spirit Stones, and even though the amounts were significant to them, what made them even more uncomfortable was Cao Zhen's victory!

Initially, they had wanted to humiliate Cao Zhen and give the Hundred Peaks Sect a blow, but now it seemed as if they were facilitating the Hundred Peaks Sect!

Feeling displeased, Lan Pili walked over triumphantly, extending a hand and said, "Gentlemen, let's settle the Spirit Stones."

Li Qinglei glared at Lan Pili, and with clear discontent, passed over the Spirit Stones.

As Lan Pili received the Spirit Stones, he even thanked them, "Thank you, Dao Companion Li. Without your suggestion, we wouldn't have earned so many Spirit Stones."

Li Qinglei nearly burst out with expletives in anger. Lan Pili must be doing this on purpose—it was the classic act of playing dumb after gaining an advantage!

The people around overheard Lan Pili's remark and turned to look at Li Qinglei, who had been the one to initially suggest adding a bet.

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If it weren't for Li Qinglei, they wouldn't have lost so many Spirit Stones. freewebnovel.com

If not for knowing the relationship between Clearfall Sect, where Li Qinglei was from, and the Hundred Peaks Sect, they might even suspect that Li Qinglei was deliberately colluding with people from the Hundred Peaks Sect to trick them.

Lan Pili, seeing Li Qinglei getting angry, became even happier. He pointed towards the platform and said, "Speaking of which, hasn't your Clearfall Sect always had issues with our Hundred Peaks Sect? Now is a perfect chance, with Peak Master Cao right here. If there's anything you're dissatisfied with, you can go discuss it with Peak Master Cao."

"Discuss it we shall!" Li Qinglei's face showed a look of defiance. He truly did not believe that Cao Zhen could know everything.

Let alone Cao Zhen, just a minor Peak Master of the Hundredth Peak within the Hundred Peaks Sect. Not even the Peak Masters of the first-ranked Flying Immortal Peak and the second-ranked Five Elements Peak could possibly know everything.

Discussing doctrines?

He surely wasn't afraid of the other party!

Li Qinglei was about to step onto the platform when, from a distance, a voice passed over.

"Is the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak from the Hundred Peaks Sect present here?"

The voice was loud and filled with an endless sense of arrogance.

All those around turned their heads towards the direction the voice came from.

A man who looked quite young, dressed in a scholar's long gown, strode over.

Despite his scholarly dress, his firm face and the general air of arrogance and haughtiness about him betrayed not a hint of scholarly mildness.

Many were shocked to see the newcomer's appearance.

"The Mad Scholar of the Scholar Path!"

"It's Lu Yiren from the Scholar Dao Sect!"

"Wasn't he supposed to be challenging other Sects to debates? How did he suddenly appear in the Capital City?"

"This isn't right. He had visited our Sect before. According to his itinerary, he should have headed over to the Hundred Peaks Sect. Why has he shown up in the Capital City and is now looking for Cao Zhen of the Hundred Peaks Sect?"

Amidst the crowd's confusion, they all turned their heads back towards Cao Zhen.

Cao Zhen was equally puzzled, looking at the scholar. He was aware of the Scholar Dao Sect. Originally, when Bai Fengzi spoke of the little monk and little scholar within the Hundred Peaks Sect, the many Peak Masters would rather avoid debates with them, showing great fear.

The "little monk" referred to a disciple of the Infinite Temple.

The "little scholar" referred to one who descended the mountain from the Scholar Dao Sect to debate.

Having come to this world, he had some contact with the society of Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty outside and had heard many things about it from Lan Pili. He also knew that although the Dynasty could be considered a place where all kinds of teachings contended, the Scholar Path was still the prevailing doctrine.

In the world of common mortals, the Scholar Path was highly revered, and in the Immortal Cultivation world, many Sects cultivated the Scholar Path.

Within their Hundred Peaks Sect, the top-ranked Scholarly Cultivation Peak followed the Scholar Path.

Among the numerous Sects cultivating the Scholar Path in the Immortal Cultivation world, aside from the Scholar Dao Sect, no other sect dared to bear the name "Scholar Sect" or "Scholar Path Sect."

To those who cultivated the Scholar Path, the Scholar Dao Sect was like the Sword Sect was to the Sword Dao lineage.

All Sword Dao comes from the Sword Sect; all Scholar Path comes from the Scholar Dao Sect!

The Scholar Dao Sect was not one of the ten major Immortal Sects, but it was no less prestigious than any of them.

The reason they were not counted among the ten major Immortal Sects was simply because the Sect Leader of the Scholar Dao Sect declared that they wished to spread the Scholar Path in the secular world and would not participate in the ranking of the ten major Immortal Sects.

Among the Immortals holding office within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, the majority came from the Scholar Path.

Upon noticing everyone's gaze, Lu Yiren's eyes immediately landed on the high platform and he asked, "Are you Cao Zhen, the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak?"

Cao Zhen, somewhat confused, nodded and inquired, "Indeed I am the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak, but I wonder why you are seeking me?"

"Seek you out? Naturally, for a debate," Lu Yiren stepped onto the platform and faced Cao Zhen, saying, "I've previously visited the Hundred Peaks Sect and debated with your people.

The Scholar Path of your Hundred Peaks Sect is truly lacking, far from authentic. Not a single one of you is my match; even when your Peak Masters took action, they all lost to me.

However, this is normal. Ever since I descended the mountain to debate, I have yet to encounter a worthy opponent."

Around them, the crowd listened to Lu Yiren's words, not showing any surprise or a hint of ridicule.

Many among them had experienced Lu Yiren's debates at their Immortal Sects, resulting in their loss.

Moreover, after defeating them, Lu Yiren would challenge the elders and others from the sects to debates, and the result was the same; no one could match Lu Yiren in the Scholar Path.

Losing to Lu Yiren was not shameful nor unexpected.

What surprised them was why Lu Yiren would come to the Capital City to find Cao Zhen.

As Lu Yiren spoke, his eyes swept over a few of the Hundred Peaks Sect's disciples with a look of displeasure and said, "Losing to me is one thing; I was planning to challenge another Immortal Sect, but after losing the debate, your people couldn't accept the defeat.

They claimed that the strongest and most proficient in the Scholar Path within the Hundred Peaks Sect were not present; otherwise, I would have surely lost.

This is the first time I've encountered such talk since I've started debating others after descending the mountain.

So, I inquired as to who that person was.

The answer I got was you, Peak Master Cao of Four Treasures Peak; hence, I've come here."

Cao Zhen was immediately speechless. I've left the Hundred Peaks Sect and you still think to blame me; I really should thank you all.

The problem is, why didn't you think of me during the good times?

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When the Hundred Peaks Sect was poor, none of you thought of me or gave me any Spirit Stones. Now that someone has come to our door for a debate, and you lost, you suddenly think of me.

When did I ever say I was skilled at Scholar Path?

I never hinted I was good at achieving enlightenment through it, yet you all believed in me and directly claimed I could beat others!

Who gave you the courage?

Was it me?

The crowd around finally understood why Lu Yiren had sought out Cao Zhen.

"Peak Master Cao is also proficient in Scholar Path?"

"Isn't the Scholarly Cultivation Peak among the Top Ten Peaks of the Hundred Peaks Sect dedicated to the cultivation of Scholar Path? If their Peak Master lost in debate against the Scholar Madman, how could Cao Zhen from Hundredth Peak possibly win against him?"

The more people thought about it, the stranger it seemed. If even the master of the tenth peak had lost, why did the members of the Hundred Peaks Sect believe that the master from the hundredth ranked peak could win?

What was the deal with this Cao Zhen?

Li Qinglei, upon hearing Lu Yiren's words, wanted to laugh in his heart. What was this attitude from the Hundred Peaks Sect? They clearly couldn't accept their loss! After being defeated by others, they still claimed to have someone who could win.

Now look, the other party had come directly to the Capital City. He wanted to see how the people from the Hundred Peaks Sect would respond!

Li Qinglei looked at Lu Yiren and found him more and more pleasing to the eye.

Lu Yiren looked at Cao Zhen as if he had just remembered something and said, "Good, if I win the debate against you later, I won't need to debate with your disciple anymore."

"My disciple?" Cao Zhen was a bit dazed. How had this gotten connected to his disciple?

"Don't you know?" asked Lu Yiren, looking at Cao Zhen. "You have a disciple on the Debate Team who is now second to none, visiting all the great Immortal Sects for debates and undefeated so far.

No matter what the topic, he wins every debate.

I originally wanted to debate with your disciple, but your Hundred Peaks Sect's Debate Team was always on the move, with no fixed location to be found. Now that I've seen you, it's just as well. If I beat his teacher, it's naturally the same as beating him."

Cao Zhen was a bit stunned. The disciple from the Debate Team was naturally Xiang Ziyu. What kind of debates could Xiang Ziyu engage in?

Except for teaching him a bit about Artifact Refining, he hadn't taught him anything else.

Surely Xiang Ziyu couldn't always rely on bluffing to debate with others?

Otherwise, what else could he debate about? Discussing novels with others, perhaps?

Or inviting others to jump off a cliff?

Surrounding people, upon hearing this, couldn't quite react.

Cao Zhen's disciple was from Four Treasures Peak, the disciple from the lowest-ranked peak of the Hundred Peaks Sect. Could he really be undefeated in debates outside? Moreover, winning no matter what the debate topic was?

Could that really be a disciple from the Hundredth Peak?

It's true that being stronger in debate doesn't necessarily mean a higher cultivation base.

But if one is strong in debate, their cultivation base won't be too weak.

After all, if you understand the Dao more deeply, your cultivation can't possibly be weak.

If your cultivation base is temporarily inferior to others, it might be because they have cultivated for a longer time, so they are stronger. However, someone stronger in debate would have more potential in cultivation.

Besides, if their cultivation base was too low, how could they possibly grasp so many aspects of the Dao? Once their understanding deepens, their cultivation speed couldn't possibly be slow.

If Cao Zhen's disciple is so strong in debates, his cultivation base certainly can't be too weak.

How could such a person, such a peak, possibly be just the last-ranked peak within the Hundred Peaks Sect?

The Hundred Peaks Sect has just re-ranked the one hundred peaks. If such a Four Treasures Peak, based on strength, is still ranked last, then how strong must the Hundred Peaks Sect be?

If that were the case, we might as well not call them one of the top ten Immortal Sects, but simply refer to the Hundred Peaks Sect as the strongest Immortal Sect!

That's obviously not possible.

So, they were somewhat unable to understand why Four Treasures Peak was only ranked at the bottom!

Lu Yiren, seeing Cao Zhen somewhat out of it, became a bit impatient and said, "Peak Master Cao, shall we start the debate now? I don't want to trouble you, you go first. What do you think Scholar Path is?"

Before Cao Zhen could speak, from below, Lan Pili had already started shouting again, "Our Hundred Peaks Sect's Peak Master Cao, debating with a disciple of the Scholar Dao Sect, does anyone dare to place a bet? Same rules as always, no matter how many Spirit Stones you wager, our Hundred Peaks Sect will match it."

What was there to fear?

Peak Master Cao had already proven time and again with facts that, in the realm of debating, he was a unique presence and would not lose.

In any case, no matter what the debate topic was, just blindly bet on Peak Master Cao to win.

As his words fell, the surrounding crowd's eyes instantly gleamed, and they began to shout out one after another.

"I bet on Lu Yiren winning five hundred thousand taels of Spirit Stones!"

"Eight hundred thousand taels of Spirit Stones on Lu Yiren as well!"

"I'm betting on the Scholar Madman too!"

Although Lu Yiren was a scholar, he didn't resemble one at all, appearing incredibly arrogant. Yet, as it happened, his understanding of Scholar Path was deep enough that as he continuously debated sect to sect, he quickly garnered the nickname "Scholar Madman."

Many people got used to calling him Scholar Madman instead of his actual name.

It didn't matter to the crowd whether Cao Zhen had won before or not; betting on the Scholar Madman was never wrong. Although Lan Pili's words revealed his confidence in Cao Zhen,

no matter how confident they were, they did not believe Cao Zhen could win a debate on the Scholar Path over Lu Yiren!

The Scholar Dao Sect is regarded as the most orthodox Scholar Path within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. The pursuit of enlightenment in the entire dynasty began with the Scholar Dao Sect.

Even many say that for all Scholar Cultivators, the Scholar Dao Sect is their Holy Land!

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Lu Yiren, who was chosen to descend from the mountain to engage in debate as the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth approached, was obviously the most outstanding disciple of the Scholar Dao Sect in this generation. How could he possibly lose!

As everyone placed their bets, the amount of Spirit Stones surged rapidly. In a short period of time, the Spirit Stones wagered by the crowd even exceeded ten million taels!

Especially those who had lost before, they bet even more fiercely.

They had already lost twice, and desiring to recover their losses, naturally they had to wager even more Spirit Stones.

Twelve million taels of Spirit Stones.

Cao Zhen, looking at the final betting amount, sighed deeply in his heart, thinking that there were indeed many wealthy Cultivators in the world—what a vast market this was.

He would have to devise a method to fully open up the market for the Gathering Spirit Talismans once he returned.

Even though the Hundred Peaks Sect was among the top ten Immortal Sects, the number of disciples was limited.

After all, what was the point in earning money from one's own sect members? To make a profit, one should target the money of the entire Immortal Cultivation realm!

While Cao Zhen was contemplating, he glanced at Lu Yiren, believing that he actually had a chance to win in a debate against a Scholar Path practitioner.

After all, he was connected to Mozi and could simply use Mozi's ideas to refute the Scholar Path notions of the young scholar.

The problem was, if he did so, the opponent might not accept it.

Then he couldn't just advocate "universal love and non-aggression."

Luckily, Mozi had often engaged in discourse with the Confucian scholars and understood the Scholar Path as well.

When he heard that a young Confucian scholar was going to the Hundred Peaks Sect for debate and that there would be a substantial reward for winning, he made many preparations in advance.

Among these, he wrote a Buddhist scripture and gave it to the young monk who was going to the debate.

Besides, he also prepared a copy of the "Analects," but unfortunately, even by the time he left, nobody from the Scholar Dao Sect had come to the Hundred Peaks Sect for debate.

He thought he had prepared the "Analects" in vain, but who would've thought, in the end, it actually found use.

Cao Zhen took out the "Analects" and tossed it to Lu Yiren, saying, "Read it yourself."

Lu Yiren glanced at the title of the book—"The Analects"? He had never heard of it; what kind of book was it that he was being asked to read? As a disciple of the Scholar Dao Sect, what kind of Scholar Path texts hadn't he read?

Who was the author of these "Analects"?

Nowadays, it seems anyone can write a book.

In a while, he would have to thoroughly examine this book, pick out any issues, and present them one by one to Cao Zhen for rebuttal.

Below the platform, Li Qinglei saw Cao Zhen directly producing a book and couldn't help but sneer, "Peak Master Cao, what are you showing him? A book of the Scholar Path? Stop joking around. All the Confucian texts in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty originated from the Scholar Dao Sect. Are you showing him a text of the Scholar Path? You..."

Li Qinglei, however, suddenly found himself speechless.

On the platform above, Lu Yiren had only glanced through the pages before becoming completely stunned.

Below the platform, Lan Pili, the people of the Hundred Peaks Sect, and the members of Thousand Caves Door were also stunned. They had seen such a scene too many times before.

When Cao Zhen debated at the Thousand Caves Door, many people, including two Cave Masters present today, had their moment of Enlightenment!

However, they never imagined that Lu Yiren from the Scholar Dao Sect would come to Enlightenment so quickly!

"Enlightenment! The mad scholar of the Scholar Path, he's actually achieved Enlightenment!"

"How is this possible!"

"The mad scholar from the Scholar Dao Sect, he has read all kinds of Scholar Path texts! How could he attain Enlightenment from a single text of the Scholar Path!"

"What kind of text is this?"

"Is this not a text from our Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty?"

"Even if it's not from the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, it shouldn't have immediately led him to Enlightenment."

The crowd was utterly baffled.

The mad scholar, all around him, streams of Scholar Path energy spread, enveloping the entire platform in moments. In no time at all, this aura had pervaded the entire Immortal Reception House and continued to spread to the outside.

On a street in Capital City.

Two peddlers were arguing loudly.

Although this was the Capital City, and numerous constables were present, that didn't mean there were no arguments or conflicts within the city.

"Have some shame. Every time I set up my stall, I use this spot. You took my place, and now you're saying you're in the right!" a butcher wielding a pig-slaughtering knife angrily confronted the peddler opposite him.

The sturdy man opposite him was just as unyielding, picking up a stick and thumping it hard on the ground as he retorted, "Just because you've always been here makes this spot yours? It's not as if your name is written here. Why should it be yours? I got here first, so I'm taking this spot!"

The surrounding crowd kept their distance, with no one daring to step forward. The argument was getting increasingly fierce, and it looked like it might come to blows at any moment. Why risk getting in the way and possibly getting injured?

Suddenly, an energy wafted over.

In the crowd, an old farmer carrying a shoulder pole felt this aura and was moved to speak out to the two men, "Gentlemen, it's not worth fighting over a spot of ground."

Around them, as the aura spread, everyone began to speak up.

"We're all here to make money; it's hard enough to scrape a living."

"We all work to support our families; if you two fight and something happens, who will take care of your households?"

"Look, my stall doesn't need so much space either. I'll move a bit to the side, and then there'll be room for both your stalls."

The two men who were on the brink of fighting, under the influence of this righteous energy, gradually saw the fierce expressions fade from their faces. One even showed a hint of sheepishness as he admitted, "I got carried away just now."

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"Not at all, I was too hasty in my speech. What I originally meant was for us to squeeze in together..."

"So shall we squeeze in together?"

With the persuasion of the crowd, the two reconciled quickly.

Amidst his enlightenment, Lu Yiren was filled with the aura of humanity, righteousness, propriety..., which even influenced the commoners in the city.

The Grand Preceptor did not take any action.

If it were an aura filled with killing intent, or the sharpness of the Sword Dao, he would definitely act and confine that aura within the Immortal Reception House.

However, now, although this aura affected many people within the Capital City, it impacted them positively, so he saw no need to intervene.

On the tournament stage, Lu Yiren browsed the pages of the book in front of him, and with every page turned, the aura of the Scholar Path about him grew denser.

As he read, he never emerged from his state of enlightenment.

Under the stage, the crowd was initially surprised, but gradually, they began to envy him.

Enlightenment is generally swift, an instantaneous realization. Once you understand, enlightenment ends.

But there are instances when enlightenment lasts longer.

And without any exception, the longer the enlightenment, the greater the gain, ensuring a more solid foundation for future cultivation!

Now, Lu Yiren's enduring enlightenment suggested a tremendous harvest!

An incense stick's time... half an hour...

As time ticked away, Lu Yiren remained engrossed in the book, lost in enlightenment.

And the crowd, too, did not leave, standing watch nearby. They wanted to see just how long Lu Yiren's enlightenment would last.

Lan Pili waited for a moment, then suddenly realizing something, he addressed the surrounding crowd, "Fellow cultivators, the disciples of Scholar Dao Sect faced the book provided by Peak Master Cao and went straight into enlightenment. The outcome of this debate, I presume, goes without saying, doesn't it?

Shouldn't we settle our accounts first?"

The people around him had complexions that suddenly turned sour.

They had not expected that Cao Zhen could win the debate simply with a book.

Lan Pili was the first to approach Li Qinglei, reaching out and saying, "Dao Companion Li, come on."

Li Qinglei looked at Lan Pili's face, brimming with a smile, and the more he looked, the more distasteful it became. With a snort, he said, "What's the hurry? Just because Lu Yiren entered enlightenment, it does not necessarily mean he will lose!

Moreover, even if your Peak Master Cao presented a book and won, it was the book that won. Who can prove that the book was written by Cao Zhen? Everything should wait until Lu Yiren wins the debate.

You're in such a rush for Spirit Stones, has the Hundred Peaks Sect become so impoverished?"

He truly did not accept it!

He refused to believe that the book was written by Cao Zhen and refused to believe that Cao Zhen could win the debate against the Scholar Dao Sect's heavenly pride disciple!

"I'm just trying to save everyone's time. Since you refuse to accept it, fine. In a moment, you will be utterly convinced," Lan Pili declared, turning to Cao Zhen and calling out, "Peak Master Cao, later show Dao Companion Li what a true debate is. Convince Li Dao Companion thoroughly, make the Clearfall Sect concede completely."

His confidence in Cao Zhen was unshakeable.

Cao Zhen himself was at a loss for words, thinking that Lan Pili must be the very definition of a 'problem ally'. He assured himself that as soon as Lu Yiren finished the book, he would submit instantly.

It was the "Analects", after all!

How could he remain unconvinced?

But Lan Pili just had to make things more difficult, insisting he convince the young scholar with words after the fact. What more could he say?

Among the crowd, Cave Master Peng looked disdainfully at Li Qinglei and said to Cave Master Hu with a secret voice transmission, "No wonder their Clearfall Sect isn't one of the top ten Immortal Sects. With such spirit, how can they be considered among the top ten?"

If it were any member of our top ten Immortal Sects in this situation, they would hand over the Spirit Stones straightaway.

An enlightenment has occurred, what's left to debate?"

With a slight shake of his head, Cave Master Hu replied through voice transmission, "Li Qinglei's bearing is indeed somewhat lacking. But the reason they did not become one of the top ten all those years ago was also due to their lack of strength.

They merely had a brief surge, welcoming a period of rapid growth in power. After all, every Immortal Sect goes through phases of strength and weakness, as does everything under heaven.

At that time, the Hundred Peaks Sect happened to be in a weak phase, which gave them the illusion that they were stronger.

Perhaps at that time, they had indeed more experts than Hundred Peaks Sect, and the whole Sect was flourishing more.

Yet when it came to the true foundation, they were still not comparable to Hundred Peaks Sect back then."

Li Qinglei continued watching the book, and by evening, after finishing the last page, he finally came back to his senses from his enlightenment, holding the book with a sense of reluctance as he looked towards Cao Zhen. Before he could speak, Cao Zhen had already taken the lead.

"There's no need to thank me. The Scholar Path values humanity, righteousness, propriety, wisdom, faith, courage, sincerity, forgiveness, loyalty, filial piety, fraternal duty. And I, I excel at nurturing the vast energy of righteousness!"

"The vast energy of righteousness..." Lu Yiren murmured to himself, as an endless surge of scholarly aura erupted from him, his presence becoming profoundly righteous and vast...

"Enlightenment, he's enlightened again!"

"Twice in one day!"

"Is enlightenment so readily achieved?"

"I excel at nurturing the vast energy of righteousness'... What kind of magnitude of spirit is required to utter such a phrase!"

The crowd was completely stunned; Cao Zhen truly mastered the Scholar Path. With just a few short words, he induced Lu Yiren to enter a state of enlightenment once again.

And Lu Yiren, with his astounding talent, actually experienced consecutive enlightenments!

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Cao Zhen had long grown accustomed to others achieving enlightenment twice daily; he realized that these prodigies from the great sects were truly talented.

Just like Wu Jianzi of the Sword Sect and Qing Mozi of the Pen and Ink Sect, both experienced enlightenment twice daily...

Lan Pili, looking at Lu Yiren, who had entered a state of enlightenment, immediately ran to Li Qinglei and said triumphantly, "Li Dao Companion, didn't you say that the book wasn't written by Peak Master Cao? Weren't you unconvinced?"

"Are you convinced now? Have you admitted defeat?"

"You..." Li Qinglei spat out a mouthful of fresh blood in anger.

The duration of Lu Yiren's enlightenment this time was much shorter than the last, but in just a moment, he had recovered. Following this, he knelt down and knocked his head on the ground three times in quick succession before Cao Zhen.

His face no longer bore the previous arrogance and brashness; he looked at Cao Zhen with utmost respect and said, "Thank you, Peak Master Cao, for your guidance. I was too arrogant before... I now understand the way of cultivating the vast and honest spirit, and the path I shall follow henceforth.

"Although I already have a sect and cannot take you as my master, I am willing to recognize Peak Master Cao as my Pathfinder!"

Pathfinder!

Below, the crowd gasped in astonishment.

A pathfinder was second only to a master!

It wasn't the case that one had to recognize the other as a pathfinder just because they led them to an enlightenment!

Otherwise, there would be countless pathfinders in the world.

A pathfinder was one who would guide another's future cultivation path.

And who was Lu Yiren? He was a disciple of the Scholar Dao Sect, and there was a very high possibility he was the most talented disciple of his generation in the Sect.

The Scholar Dao Sect was the leader of all the Scholar Cultivators in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

Lu Yiren had received the most orthodox teachings of the Scholar Path. Yet, after so many years with his sect, he had not determined his path until Cao Zhen's few words helped him find his future cultivation path!

This was simply absurd!

But no matter how unbelievable it seemed to everyone else, the reality was right in front of them.

They could not comprehend how Cao Zhen, who was so versed in Scholar Path, was still only the Master of the least-ranked peak within the Hundred Peaks Sect and why they couldn't sense any aura of the Scholar Path emanating from Cao Zhen.

Cao Zhen had grown used to being others' Pathfinder, and he waved his hand indifferently, saying, "Rise. I have always said that I am good at nurturing a vast and honest spirit. It's good that you have found your future path."

No sooner had his words ended than a voice came from outside.

"Senior Cao, I didn't expect another person to acknowledge you as their Pathfinder."

Wu Jianzi stepped forward, and immediately the gaze of the people around fell upon him.

"Wu Jianzi of the Sword Sect!"

"Why does he address Cao Zhen in such a respectful way? It sounds like he respects him very much."

As a disciple of the Sword Sect, Wu Jianzi was quite well-known after debating with disciples from other sects, and many recognized him.

Hearing the crowd's remarks, Wu Jianzi showed a look of admiration and said, "I respect Senior Cao because I, like him, also recognize Senior Cao as my Pathfinder. My Sword Dao was also guided by him.

'I am good at nurturing a vast and honest spirit' ... it turns out that the senior's magnanimity is so great."

Upon hearing Wu Jianzi's words, the surrounding crowd was utterly unsettled.

"What? You too recognize Cao Zhen as your Pathfinder?"

"Aren't you a disciple of the Sword Sect? Could it be that Peak Master Cao also understands Sword Dao?"

"This... Does Peak Master Cao understand so many paths? Then what exactly is the path that Peak Master Cao cultivates?"

Cave Master Peng and Cave Master Hu exchanged glances, their hearts filled with nothing but admiration. Lu Yiren was arrogant and wild to the point that people called him the Mad Scholar of the Scholar Path.

Yet after Peak Master Cao's intervention, didn't he also acknowledge Cao Zhen as his Pathfinder?

These people were only surprised to see Wu Jianzi and Lu Yiren acknowledging Peak Master Cao as their Pathfinder. If they knew that there were also geniuses from other sects who had taken Peak Master Cao as their Pathfinder, one wonders how astonished they would be!

Peak Master Cao, truly a prodigy under Heaven.

They both had also been wondering all along, how Peak Master Cao had knowledge of so many paths, and had almost reached the pinnacle in each of them.

Then which path is it that Peak Master Cao actually cultivates?

Cao Zhen looked at the approaching Wu Jianzi and sighed in his heart, "Wu Jianzi, when is it not a good time to come, yet you choose this moment? Had you not come now, I might have been able to bluff someone into discussing Dao with me and then fleece them a little."

Now, good, you came and directly called me your Pathfinder.

If others see it this way, who would discuss Dao with me?

Maybe there is someone with an unbending will?

Embracing the thought of trying his luck, Cao Zhen looked around and asked the crowd, "Everyone, is there still someone who wishes to discuss Dao with me?"

As soon as he spoke, the people around him shook their heads one after another.

"Peak Master Cao, the sky has already turned dark."

"Yes, it's already evening; we should go back for dinner."

"I also need to go back and meditate for cultivation."

"Tomorrow, let's talk about it tomorrow."

The crowd scattered. Discuss what now?

Cao Zhen is too uncanny; he knows this and that, what could they even discuss with him?

They would first go back and gather some information on Cao Zhen's background, and then see about tomorrow.

And indeed, even if they were to discuss Dao with Cao Zhen, they had no intention of wagering Spirit Stones anymore.

When people leave the sect, they naturally have ways to contact their sect, but contacting them also requires a considerable amount of resources, so generally, without any matter, they would not contact their Immortal Sect.

But now, given Cao Zhen's performance, they had no choice but to contact their Immortal Sect.

Moreover, each major Immortal Sect has its own channels of information, and upon hearing the messages from their disciples, they immediately began to investigate. One piece of information after another was quickly gathered and then relayed to their representatives in the Capital City.

Soon, a series of curses echoed throughout the Immortal Reception House.

"Good one, Thousand Caves Door, I wondered why you didn't place any bets from the start; it turns out Cao Zhen visited the Thousand Caves Door and even swept it clean!"

"We have been hurrying along on our journey all this time and somehow missed this news!"

"The ones from Thousand Caves Door, they don't want to lose face themselves, they aim to drag everyone down, so everyone loses face together!"

"This Cao Zhen, what's the deal with him? How is he skilled in everything?"

Let's not talk about his proficiency in calligraphy and musical rhythm, as one might say he simply has those talents, but how can he be an expert in alchemy, talismans, and mechanical techniques? Each of these paths requires a significant amount of time for research and learning; where does he find the time for all this?"

"How did the Hundred Peaks Sect produce such a person!"

"What I understand even less is, why is Cao Zhen only ranked as the hundredth Peak Master within the Hundred Peaks Sect?"

"Actually, it's also possible that he is only theoretical, simply formidable in discussing Dao but perhaps not high in cultivation base. Think about it, he has devoted his experiences to various paths; how could he have more energy left for cultivation!"

"His cultivation base is indeed not high; back when he was alchemizing in the Thousand Caves Door, people from there saw that he had only seven Core Formation stages."

"In fact, seven Core Formation stages is not too weak. With that strength, within the Hundred Peaks Sect, he should be able to rank around the eightieth or even the seventieth peak, right?"

"Moreover, the disciple from his Debate Team also seems strong, so why is Four Treasures Peak ranked last in the Hundred Peaks Sect?"

Everyone's minds were filled with confusion, but the next day, when another piece of news arrived, they were even more perplexed and found it impossible to accept.

"What? Cao Zhen is to be appointed as the State Preceptor?"

"Cao Zhen? A man with only seven stages of Core Formation, what qualifies him? Just because he's formidable in discussing Dao?"

Chapter 447: If You Don't Agree, Then Let's Fight_1

Cao Zhen had not expected that the Grand Preceptor's appointment would be so swift, he had only just returned for one day when, on the second day, news of his appointment as the State Preceptor of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty quickly spread.

Inside the Immortal Reception House, people from other Immortal Sects couldn't comprehend at all.

And just like the Hundred Peaks Sect, other Sects among the top ten Immortal Sects, such as the Four Extremes Sect and the Dharma Apex Sect, felt even more dissatisfied!

On this day, two of the top ten Immortal Sects, the Bright Heart Sect and the Sun and Moon Sect, came to the Immortal Reception House in the Capital City.

"What? The Grand Preceptor has conferred the title of State Preceptor on someone from the Hundred Peaks Sect?"

Inside the Immortal Reception House, the envoy group from the Bright Heart Sect, with the chief envoy hearing the freshly received news, was instantly upset.

"In our Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, there are ten major Immortal Sects. If a State Preceptor is to be selected, choosing from among these ten is acceptable, but why did it have to be their Hundred Peaks Sect?"

Could it be that our Bright Heart Sect, as well as the other Immortal Sects, are inferior to the Hundred Peaks Sect!"

At this, Ougao Yi from the Divine Occurrence Sect uttered a cold snort upon hearing this: "It's not just that, you may not be aware, but the one conferred as State Preceptor, Cao Zhen, is none other than the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak, which ranks as the hundredth of the Hundred Peaks Sect."

"The hundredth Peak!" Upon hearing this, the chief envoy from the Sun and Moon Sect expressed his discontent, "To let the Peak Master from the last ranked peak of the Hundred Peaks Sect become the State Preceptor, what does this mean? Are they trying to insult us or what?"

Around them, no one answered. The State Preceptor was appointed by the Grand Preceptor.

If they responded, wouldn't they imply that the Grand Preceptor was insulting them?

They certainly did not dare to speak ill of the Grand Preceptor randomly.

The State Preceptor from the Sun and Moon Sect also realized that there was a problem with the words he had spoken in his agitation and quickly rephrased, "I'm not saying anything about the Grand Preceptor, I just think that a Peak Master ranking last in the Hundred Peaks Sect does not deserve to be the State Preceptor!"

I have nothing against the Hundred Peaks Sect, if they chose the Peak Master from Flying Immortal Peak to be the State Preceptor, I would have no objections whatsoever!"

Around them, everyone nodded in agreement.

Who doesn't know that Flying Immortal Peak is the strongest among the Hundred Peaks Sect? If the Peak Master of Flying Immortal Peak were appointed as State Preceptor, they would accept it, but even the Sect Master of the Hundred Peaks Sect wouldn't agree.

Moreover, the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth is about to come, and by then, the Peak Master of Flying Immortal Peak will have to sleep. His role as State Preceptor would be meaningless and have no impact.

But Cao Zhen was different. He was merely at the Core Formation Stage, and even if the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth arrived, he would not be put to sleep.

"Anyway, no matter when, I just can't accept somebody with only seven formed cores becoming the State Preceptor!"

"We are also displeased with this matter..."

Within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, although the major Sects would not outright attack each other, they were always in competition. Resources and talents were limited, and to cultivate and strengthen themselves, they must vie for these.

This time, the major Immortal Sects were unusually united, unanimously opposing Cao Zhen's appointment as the State Preceptor of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

Although they had no desire for positions within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, they also didn't want to see someone from the Hundred Peaks Sect become the State Preceptor.

What does the imperial court mean by not allowing individuals from other Sects to be the State Preceptor and instead appointing someone from the Hundred Peaks Sect? Does this mean they are inferior to the Hundred Peaks Sect?

Moreover, if someone from the Hundred Peaks Sect served in other official capacities within the court, it would not affect them.

But being the State Preceptor was different.

If Cao Zhen, in his capacity as the State Preceptor, were to order them to do something, should they comply or not?

And if the Grand Preceptor were indeed not to sleep, what then?

Furthermore, Cao Zhen was given the title of State Preceptor for a thousand years.

Even if the Grand Preceptor were to sleep, the current Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth being so special, it still would not last for a thousand years.

Once the Minor Era ends and the Grand Preceptor awakens, Cao Zhen would still be the State Preceptor. What would they do then if he gave orders in his capacity as State Preceptor?

To disregard Cao Zhen's orders would be to defy the imperial commands of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, for which the Grand Preceptor would have to act to suppress.

Therefore, no matter what, they also did not wish for Cao Zhen to be the State Preceptor.

"Just talking amongst ourselves is useless," Li Qinglei in the crowd suggested, "We must go see the Grand Preceptor."

He was the most proactive among them. Given the relationship between his Clearfall Sect and the Hundred Peaks Sect, if Cao Zhen became the State Preceptor, he would definitely target their Clearfall Sect, so no matter what, he could not let Cao Zhen become the State Preceptor.

As Li Qinglei's words settled, those who were previously discussing forcefully fell silent.

Go see the Grand Preceptor?

What kind of joke was that?

It was okay for them to discuss matters privately, but going directly to see the Grand Preceptor? What did that imply? That would be openly questioning the Grand Preceptor, could it possibly end well?

After a moment of silence, Ougao Yi looked at the reticent crowd and spoke up: "We cannot just talk among ourselves, we still need to raise the issue, of course, we cannot directly confront, but we can subtly bring up our concerns. It's best if the question doesn't come from us, the major Immortal Cultivation Sects.

We could have someone from the Scholar Dao Sect ask, as they have many connections among the scholar-officials in the court. Let these scholars raise the issue indirectly."

"Right, this method is good, let's find someone from the Scholar Dao Sect."

The crowd quickly came to a consensus on a plan.

Another day, early in the morning, the imperial court proceeded with its usual morning assembly.

Every Emperor of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty was exceedingly diligent.

It was the royal family's ancestral instruction that barring special reasons, the Emperor must hold court every morning.

Chapter 448: If you won't accept it, let's fight then_2

Dawn was just breaking, and officials of sufficient rank in the Capital City hurried to the Imperial City.

The Capital City was divided into the Outer City and the Inner City, with the Inner City being the Imperial City.

Audience Hall.

The Emperor sat on the dragon throne, although he had not yet ascended, he had in fact already begun to exercise all the powers of an emperor, with only the final, nominal procedure outstanding.

To his side, the Grand Preceptor sat on a Taishi Chair.

At first, the Grand Preceptor did not wish to sit on the chair.

But the Emperor had said that the Grand Preceptor, as the regent, ought to have a seat, and if the Grand Preceptor did not sit, he would not sit either.

Only then did the Grand Preceptor agree to sit to the side of the Emperor during the morning court sessions.

As the eunuch beside the Emperor called out "Court is now in session" loudly.

Outside the great hall, civil and military officials entered the hall.

Perhaps in some dynasties, officials needed to kneel before the emperor during court sessions, but in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, this rule did not exist.

The officials simply bowed their hands to the Emperor and then split to stand on both sides.

The Emperor, with one hand gently caressing the carvings on the dragon throne, looked down at the officials below and asked, "Does any of you have matters to report?"

"Your Majesty, Great Wilderness Province has sent news that this year, they are experiencing even more drought than in previous years. Although Immortals have used their Divine Skills to bring down rain, it does not match natural rainfall, and the harvest of grains is far less than in previous years. The Governor requests that the granaries be opened to release grain."

"We cannot let our people go hungry. This matter, I approve. Minister Chen, you will go to the Great Wilderness Province and oversee the distribution of grain and disaster relief."

The Emperor then looked towards the ministers and asked, "Gentlemen, are there any other matters to report?"

"Your subject, has a matter to report."

From the front ranks of the military generals, a middle-aged man with a face covered in bristly beard and an air of ferocity stepped forward and said, "Your Majesty, today, the border defense General sent a message that the Great Jin Dynasty has been making numerous moves at our border with the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, continuously probing our defenses. I have also received news that the Great Jin Dynasty has mobilized an army of fifty thousand towards the border."

"What? Could they be preparing to use military force against our Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty?" Looking towards the Grand Preceptor below him, the Emperor asked, "Grand Preceptor, what are your thoughts on this matter?"

The Grand Preceptor suddenly stood up from his chair, an intense aura surging from within him. He bowed his hands to the Emperor and said, "Your Majesty, our Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty's territory cannot be violated. This old subject suggests that we dispatch troops immediately."

"Then, Grand Preceptor, whom do you think we should send as General?"

"Zhao Liao, General Zhao."

The Emperor nodded slightly and said, "Indeed, General Zhao is most suitable. General Zhao, after you leave the court, go immediately to the Department of Military Affairs to receive the tiger tally. I command you to serve as Conquering General of the West, leading the Tiger Army to campaign against the Great Jin Dynasty."

Below, an older man with white-streaked beard but standing very straight stepped forward and accepted the order, saying, "This old subject receives the order, and will not fail Your Majesty's trust."

One by one, the ministers began to report.

Gradually, from among the ranks of civil officials, an official exuding an air of scholarly elegance neither too forward nor too far back, stepped forward, bowed to the Emperor and Grand Preceptor, and said, "Your Majesty, Grand Preceptor, this old subject heard a piece of news yesterday. Grand Preceptor, it seems that you have designated a State Preceptor."

As far as this old subject is aware, the people from the major Immortal Sects are not very satisfied with the selection of State Preceptor..."

"Let them roll!" The Grand Preceptor's face suddenly turned cold. Since when did his order invite others to criticize?

The official who had just spoken trembled, fully aware that the Grand Preceptor's remark was aimed at those from the major Immortal Sects, but he couldn't help but break out in large beads of sweat on his forehead.

On the high platform, the Emperor, upon hearing this, frowned and asked, "Do all the major Immortal Sects disagree with this matter?"

"Your Majesty, not discontent..." The civil official raised his head and hurriedly said, "They are somewhat disgruntled, questioning why the Peak Master from the Hundred Peaks Sect was chosen to be the State Preceptor."

"Dissatisfied?"

The Emperor pondered for a moment and then said, "I suppose they have some point. In that case, let's do this.

If any of the major Immortal Sects are not convinced, they can send their Immortals to compete in a spell contest, and the winner shall become the State Preceptor of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

Grand Preceptor, what do you think?"

"Since the Emperor has said so, let's give them a chance," the Grand Preceptor responded, seeing that the Emperor had spoken, for the sake of the Emperor's authority, it was not good to object.

He even suggested, "The Emperor's ascension ceremony is about to begin. After the coronation, let's hold an Immortal Martial Competition for the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty as a celebration.

In addition to the first place winner being granted the position of State Preceptor, the next ten shall receive the titles of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty's Immortal Generals.

All Immortals within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty are welcome to participate, however, their Cultivation Base must be below the Earthly Immortal Tribulation."

"The Grand Preceptor's method is good, let's proceed according to the Grand Preceptor's method."

As they set the Immortal Martial Competition, the morning court soon came to an end.

By noon, the news had spread among the people.

"Does the Grand Preceptor know about this?"

"What did the Grand Preceptor say?"

Inside the Immortal Reception House, envoys from each Immortal Sect in the Capital City, except for Lan Pili and Cao Zhen of the Hundred Peaks Sect, gathered together, looking to the one who brought the news.

"Scram!"

The messenger sighed heavily and said, "The Grand Preceptor only said one word, 'Scram'."

Immediately, the expressions of those around soured, evidently, the Grand Preceptor's word 'Scram' was not directed at the scholar who asked the question, but at them.

Chapter 449: If You Disagree, Then Fight_3

Indeed, once the Grand Preceptor makes a decision, it is not easily changed.

Even if so many Immortal Sects oppose it together, it is futile.

If they continue to make a fuss, there's only one outcome: they will anger the Grand Preceptor and then suffer his punishment.

Over the years, has there been any sect that questioned or opposed the Grand Preceptor and ended up with a good outcome?

The Grand Preceptor, after all, is the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty's top expert, the number one expert far surpassed by no one else.

While everyone was troubled,

the messenger spoke up again, "However, after hearing about this matter, His Majesty felt that appointing the State Preceptor directly would not be appropriate. Therefore, His Majesty suggested that all the great Immortal Sects should be involved.

Ultimately, the Grand Preceptor proposed holding a Great Martial Contest of Immortals, and the one who ranks first will become the State Preceptor of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

Besides, those who rank second to eleventh will be bestowed as the ten Grand Immortal Generals of the dynasty. However, only those below the Earth Immortal Realm may participate; those above are not permitted."

"A contest?"

"All great Immortal Sects participating in the contest?"

"Not allowing Earth Immortals to participate is clearly because of the approaching Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth. In fact, even if Earth Immortals were allowed to participate, I fear no one would."

"As long as it's a martial contest, it's fair after all."

"Gentlemen, I must take my leave first as I now need to inform our sect."

"Actually, there's no need for us to inform them. The Grand Preceptor will notify our sects."

That very day, the news of the Great Martial Contest of Immortals soon spread throughout the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

And the contest was set to begin a month from then.

After all, the territory of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty is vast, and it takes time for people from each sect to arrive.

Hundred Peaks Sect, Divine Occurrence Sect, Four Extremes Sect...

All the top ten Immortal Sects of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, as well as other sufficiently strong sects, quickly gathered their talented disciples below the Earth Immortal Realm.

They did not want their disciples to enter into official positions within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

But this time, the position in question was that of the State Preceptor!

Actually, under normal circumstances, with a Grand Preceptor in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, there was no need to appoint another State Preceptor.

But now, since the appointment of a State Preceptor was proposed by the Grand Preceptor himself, they could not miss this opportunity.

If a disciple from their sect became the State Preceptor of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, it would be all benefits and no harm.

Moreover, at such a grand event, where people from all the great Immortal Sects would participate, only the first could become State Preceptor.

By becoming the State Preceptor, it would prove that one has indeed prevailed over the other Immortal Sects.

This first place, naturally, had to be contended for.

As for the rewards of such a grand event, they were secondary.

Not only the top ten Immortal Sects, but all the various factions within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty also received the news and began to mobilize.

Compared to heritage and senior experts, they could not match the top ten Immortal Sects.

But this time, since only experts below the Earth Immortal Realm were participating, their sects also had talented individuals, ones who were not necessarily inferior to the disciples of the top ten Immortal Sects.

If they ultimately secured first place, their sect would instantly become the most eye-catching existence in the Immortal Cultivation world of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

With the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth approaching, it would be beneficial to let others recognize their strength and avoid many troubles.

Even if they couldn't contend for first place, they could still compete for the top ten, excluding the first place.

Even if they couldn't make it into the top ten, just securing a good ranking would tremendously enhance their reputation.

Countless minor sects and even Loose Cultivators were now rushing towards the Capital City.

Even if they could not achieve a high ranking, it was still an opportunity to spar with members of the top ten Immortal Sects—something they didn't get to experience in their everyday lives.

Thus, they could also witness the strength and versatility of the top ten Immortal Sects' Divine Skills.

Further, watching others battle was an accumulation of experience in itself, which was beneficial for their own cultivation.

For a time, all the Cultivators below Golden Core within the entire Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty started to take action.

In the Hundred Peaks Sect, Bai Fengzi once again summoned the ninety-six Peak Masters, excluding Cao Zhen, Lan Pili, and two other Peak Masters who were away.

But this time, the place she called for the Peak Masters was in her own Cave Mansion.

With the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth drawing nearer, she feared the Heavenly Dao would detect her existence, and now she dared not casually leave her Cave Mansion.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I presume you're already aware of the news. My intention for this contest for the position of State Preceptor is not only about securing the title; it's about showing face to the outside world, flaunting our skills.

Therefore, I hope that the experts below the Earth Immortal Realm in your respective peaks will participate as much as possible. Of course, if there are genius disciples below Golden Core with relatively lower cultivation, but sufficient talent, esteemed Peak Masters can certainly bring them along as well.

Even if they do not participate in the Great Martial Contest of Immortals, they can also watch the contest, as such an event is rare. Strictly by observing, it would also greatly benefit them.

Ladies and gentlemen, please start preparing as soon as possible.

We at the Hundred Peaks Sect will set out together in three days.

This time, I will have True Person Lu of the Hidden Dragon Observatory lead the team, along with Elders Gu Chengyu and Ai Yunqi."

Everyone nodded in agreement. This time, it was the Sect Leader True Person's intention for all the genius disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect to head out together.

This would surely necessitate sending skilled Elders to lead the team.

However, because of the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth, the strongest experts within the sect were not suited to venture out.

Chapter 450: If You Don't Agree, Let's Fight_4

The Hidden Dragon View Master, Elder Gu Chengyu, and Yun Qi had all reached the Earth Immortal Realm, capable enough to face unexpected situations.

However, their cultivation base, for the time being, also carried no risk of falling into a deep slumber, so having them lead the teams was the most suitable course of action.

Upon hearing this, Chen Qingluan felt a stir in her heart and said, "However, Sect Leader, with Hidden Dragon View Master responsible for Hidden Dragon Observatory, if she is not around, shouldn't the deputy take over the duties of the View Master temporarily? In fact, the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth is drawing ever closer, and eventually, Hidden Dragon View Master will have to enter slumber.

The deputy, who is merely at Perfect Completion Golden Core, will not fall into slumber. Wouldn't it be better to take this opportunity to directly appoint the deputy as the new Master of Hidden Dragon View?"

"There is no need," Bai Fengzi waved his hand and said, "Actually, I had already appointed another deputy earlier, but he was too busy, and at the time, I was planning to have him succeed as View Master, so I didn't formally notify all of you.

I was going to tell you all when he officially took office as the View Master, but since you've brought it up, I might as well inform you now."

"A deputy?" Chen Qingluan and the plenty of Peak Masters were visibly caught off guard; they truly did not know that a new deputy had been appointed for Hidden Dragon Observatory.

Full of curiosity, Chen Qingluan asked, "Then, Sect Leader, who is this deputy? "

"You all know him, he is actually a Peak Master," Bai Fengzi smiled as he mentioned Cao Zhen, recalling all that Cao Zhen had done for the Hundred Peaks Sect, "It is Four Treasures Peak's Cao Zhen, Peak Master Cao."

"Cao Zhen!" Chen Qingluan looked incredulously at Bai Fengzi and asked, "Him? How could it be him?"

"Why can't it be Cao Zhen!" Tu Zhuque, as if someone from his own peak was being questioned, didn't even wait for Bai Fengzi to speak and exclaimed, "What's wrong with Peak Master Cao? These past days, the visitors who came to our Hundred Peaks Sect for discourse, one after another, have all been bested by Peak Master Cao.

And have you not heard the news from Thousand Caves Door? Cao Zhen single-handedly wreaked havoc through the entire sect.

Whether it's alchemy or formations, talisman making, or mechanical techniques, and even the six paths of agriculture—Peak Master Cao is a master of them all. Is there anyone more suitable to be the Master of Hidden Dragon View than him?"

"Indeed," Bai Fengzi continued, "This was also what Hidden Dragon View Master explicitly stated. It was Hidden Dragon View Master who recommended him, and I agreed too.

Therefore, let it be settled now. You need not have any objections. Now go and prepare the candidates for the journey to the Capital City."

She had originally planned to wait until Cao Zhen obtained his Golden Core before letting him take over as the Master of Hidden Dragon Observatory.

But Cao Zhen's recent performance had convinced her otherwise.

Cao Zhen was even more versatile than she had imagined, leading her to believe there was nothing he could not do.

Such an individual would be a waste if he didn't become the Master of Hidden Dragon Observatory!

Moreover, this time at the Great Gathering of the Competition Among Immortals, Cao Zhen should also participate.

Although there was only a month left until the start of the assembly, he believed that Cao Zhen would certainly not continue with the level of seven Core Formation cultivations at the event.

Given Cao Zhen's ability as a reincarnated being of great powers, a month's time should suffice for Cao Zhen to condense a Golden Core.

"Yes," Chen Qingluan helplessly agreed. With the Sect Leader True Person having said so much, what else could she say? She really didn't understand what sort of spell Cao Zhen had cast on the Sect Leader True Person to warrant such protection!

She knew all too well that after Cao Zhen left the Hundred Peaks Sect, the disciples of Four Treasures Peak had purchased many materials of great value.

Additionally, there were those who discovered that Four Treasures Peak had mortgaged their two Spirit Fields before the martial contest.

And right after the contest, the people from Four Treasures Peak promptly repaid the debt and reclaimed the mortgaged Spirit Fields' receipts.

It appeared that Four Treasures Peak was quite wealthy.

So the question arose, where did Four Treasures Peak get all that money?

Then, someone saw the disciples of Four Treasures Peak in contact with the Four Evils of Hundred Peaks!

The Four Evils of Hundred Peaks, they were the ones who openly broke with Cao Zhen.

Why would the people of Four Treasures Peak meet the Four Evils of Hundred Peaks? And they did so secretly. Besides, what did the Four Evils of Hundred Peaks bet on during the great upheaval at Hundred Peaks?

They bet that Four Treasures Peak would rank in the hundredth position.

And indeed, Four Treasures Peak ended up exactly at the hundredth place.

It was clear to everyone that the prowess of Four Treasures Peak was not merely at a hundredth ranking.

Yet, the people from Four Treasures Peak encountered various accidents, ending up at the hundredth place.

Considering all these factors, suspicions arose that Four Treasures Peak had deliberately lost, with the purpose of profiting from everyone's money.

At that time, several Peak Masters who had lost many Spirit Stones at the grand competition of Hundred Peaks alliance sought Bai Fengzi, asking the Sect Leader to investigate this matter.

Yet they were all driven away by the Sect Leader True Person!

The suspicions of those Peak Masters were very reasonable, and deliberately losing directly at the Hundred Peaks grand competition was what? That was an insult to the grand competition of Hundred Peaks.

Yet the Sect Leader True Person didn't even conduct an investigation, which showed the extent of protection the Sect Leader True Person had for Cao Zhen and Four Treasures Peak.

The Sect Leader's actions bewildered her, but what perplexed her even more was the Grand Preceptor.

In the whole Immortal cultivation world of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, who didn't know the Grand Preceptor was the top expert of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty? Although nobody liked the Grand Preceptor, they all admitted, deep down, they were afraid of him.