

## **My Master 501**

### Chapter 501: Frequent Appearances of Heavenly Pride\_4

"Who knows what strange habits Cao Zhen has. I heard that the more profound a cultivator's cultivation base is, the more likely they are to have some special quirks."

As everyone was discussing, Cao Zhen had already arrived in Capital City with his disciples. Since flying was not permitted in Capital City, they had to descend beforehand and enter the city on foot.

Although the Immortal Martial Competition was taking place, where immortals would fight each other, one could still hear many ordinary people discussing the event while walking in Capital City.

"The competition must have already started by now, right?"

"It's been going on for a while."

"Speaking of which, don't you all want to see what the battles between immortals are actually like? Aren't you curious?"

"Curious, how could we not be?"

"Curious, then why don't we go take a look together?"

"Go look at what? Some have already gone to see, and what they found was that it was crowded everywhere.

Even the nearby hills were already occupied by those who came earlier. We would have to climb to a very high place to see the dueling platform for their battles, but we wouldn't be able to reach such a high place."

"No need to go today. Even if it is a battle of immortals, it probably won't be very exciting at the beginning, much like our ordinary battles. It will only get interesting after a few days when the weaker

immortals are eliminated from the competition. Then we can think of a way to climb the hill and watch the matches."

"Forget it, I'll go to the betting house first and study the odds."

"I mainly want to place bets on the competition between immortals, but I don't know how to do it."

"What's there to be afraid of? Tongbao Gambling House has an introduction for immortals, followed by the betting odds."

Listening to the conversations of people around him, Cao Zhen suddenly realized, betting—he could go and place bets!

He could bet on his own victory, what would the odds be like.

Right now, his own capital was indeed quite substantial.

He quickly turned his head and asked Yi Sheng in a low voice, "Tongbao Gambling House, it's not owned by your family, is it?"

He had previously noticed in Capital City's Immortal Market that a Tongbao Gambling House occupied a particularly large space. However, if Tongbao Gambling House was owned by Yi Sheng's family, he would switch to another house. After all, it was his little disciple's family's establishment, he couldn't possibly fleece his own people.

Yi Sheng honestly replied, "Master, Tongbao Gambling House is not ours, my father is the chairman of Xing Kui Business Association, and there is Xing Kui Betting Shop in Capital City."

"That's good then." Cao Zhen turned back to look at Ling Xi and asked, "For our return this time, did we bring all our family fortunes, all our money?"

Ling Xi directly looked at Yi Sheng. She was not particularly sensitive to money, so the monies of Four Treasures Peak were managed by Yi Sheng, who came from a family of merchants.

Yi Sheng quickly said, "Master, all the money is with me. Since you never asked before, I did not mention it to you."

"It's good that it's brought." Cao Zhen turned back to look at his disciples and said, "You all go back and cultivate divine skills first. Yi Sheng, carry the money with you and follow your master to Tongbao Gambling House."

Little Bei Yan, looking at his little sister apprentice who quickly left with their master, had nothing but envy in his eyes. Why wasn't he the one following the master for a stroll? He also wanted to see what Capital City was like.

Cao Zhen arrived at Tongbao Gambling House with Yi Sheng.

However, surprisingly, there weren't many people inside Tongbao Gambling House at this time, and the people there all seemed to be cultivators. Apart from the shop assistants and the shopkeeper, he didn't see a single ordinary person.

Seemingly noticing Cao Zhen's puzzled look, Yi Sheng explained softly, "Master, the large gambling houses in Capital City usually have two branches. One is exclusively for ordinary people to place bets, using silver that ordinary people commonly use.

The other is exclusively for immortals to place bets with Spirit Stones or Spirit Crystals."

"So that's how it is." Cao Zhen nodded in understanding. Today, being the first day of the Immortal Martial Competition, most cultivators had probably gone to the dueling platforms, which explained why this betting house specifically for immortals was not very crowded. There were even fewer customers here than shop assistants.

Inside the betting house, boards were hung up everywhere, each with the name of a cultivator. Behind the names were listed different odds.

The number of participants in this Immortal Martial Competition was not small, and many of these names belonged to disciples who were unknown outside of their own Immortal Sects.

Thus, the betting house could not possibly list every participant's name.

Cao Zhen looked at the names on each board and noticed that they also included their cultivation realms and even had a short remark added to them.

The first board had the name of Star Lord Hao Yue written on it.

"Star Lord Hao Yue, from Thousand Caves Door: [Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection], reincarnated person of Great Ability! First-place odds at one to one point five."

Cao Zhen was momentarily stunned—such low odds.

The lower the odds, the more it indicated that the public was confident in him.

This one point five meant betting one to get one point five in return. In other words, if you bet ten Spirit Stones on Star Lord Hao Yue coming first, and he indeed won first place, you would get fifteen Spirit Stones in return.

With so many individuals participating in the Immortal Martial Competition, it was uncertain if there were hidden masters capable of facing Star Lord Hao Yue. That Tongbao Gambling House had set such high odds showed just how much they favored him.

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Cao Zhen continued to look down.

The next moment, he himself was completely stunned.

"Cao Zhen, from Hundred Peaks Sect, Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak: All the Immortal Sects suspect that he is a reincarnated powerhouse. Even the Star Lord Hao Yue, who is also a reincarnated powerhouse, has said that he is a reincarnated powerhouse, which can now be confirmed.

Although he has always displayed a cultivation base of seven Golden Cores before everyone, there is a high chance that he has concealed his true power and is actually at the Perfect Completion Golden Core. First odds: one to three."

Cao Zhen was completely dumbfounded. How could his betting odds be as high as one to three?

And what's this about guessing that he is at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, when he is clearly at the stage of having seven Golden Cores?

What a lousy gambling house, setting odds without knowing anything.

And that Star Lord Hao Yue, you didn't even come to discuss anything with me. What do you know? You just say I'm a reincarnated powerhouse, do you know that you're delaying my money-making?

Just because you're a reincarnated powerhouse doesn't mean you can talk nonsense. Believe it or not, I'll beat you to death!

This gambling house sure is quick to spread news, Star Lord Hao Yue had just finished declaring himself a reincarnated powerhouse.

I've just arrived in the Capital City without any delay, and directly came to the gambling house. Now, the introduction about myself includes what Hao Yue claimed about me being a reincarnated powerhouse.

Clearly, Tongbao Gambling House must have someone at the martial arts competition, and as soon as something big happens, they will immediately inform the gambling house through some treasures or special means.

One to three odds, what profit is there to make!

If Tongbao Gambling House is like this, then it's feared that other major gambling houses will have similar odds regarding me.

Therefore, I can't bet on myself for the first place this time.

What about my disciples?

It should be no problem for Xiang Ziyu and the others to get into the top eleven, they...

Cao Zhen continued to read down the list, but the first person he found wasn't Xiang Ziyu or Ling Xi, but Yan Yourong.

"Yan Yourong, from Hundred Peaks Sect, Second Disciple of Four Treasures Peak: [Ten Different Phenomena Golden Elixir Great Perfection]. Skilled in sword technique, possesses an Ancient Immortal Body, specific type of Immortal Body unknown, suspected to be the Five Elements Immortal Body. First odds: one to twenty. Odds for top eleven: one to two."

Cao Zhen nodded. The one to twenty odds for Yan Yourong weren't low. The problem was, if one were to bet on Yan Yourong, they'd likely have to put in all their Spirit Stones.

No way around it, the Grand Preceptor said if he didn't take first place, he'd have to personally execute him. This time, it wouldn't work out to manipulate the outcome for Yan Yourong to win first place.

So, this twenty to one odds, just look and don't touch.

The key is the odds for the top eleven, only one to two!

Even lower than my own one to three odds.

What to do!

Cao Zhen continued reading down and soon found the introductions for Xiang Ziyu, Ling Xi, and Little Beiyang. The odds for them taking first place were even higher than Yan Yourong's.

Obviously, Tongbao Gambling House was more optimistic about Yan Yourong, thinking that she was stronger.

This discernment...

He felt that among his four disciples, Xiang Ziyu should now be the strongest! After all, the others achieved the status of Ten Different Phenomena Golden Elixir Great Perfection later, and their Divine Skills had not been cultivated to their utmost potential.

However, if given some time for them to cultivate their Divine Skills to their utmost potential, it would be hard to say who was stronger.

Perhaps Ling Xi might be able to contend with Xiang Ziyu, and it's really hard to tell who would be stronger or weaker between them.

After all, the Unparalleled Formation Diagram is more suitable for Ling Xi's use. Furthermore, Ling Xi has the complete Heaven and Earth Bagua Talisman of the sect's first-generation True Person.

The Divine Weapon possessed by the guy, Xiang Ziyu, is much weaker in comparison.

But Ling Xi...

Ling Xi's sword technique is indeed impressive, yet Xiang Ziyu's multitude of messy Divine Skills are something Ling Xi might not handle well.

This discernment of Tongbao Gambling House... let's just not talk about it.

The key point is their odds.

As Cao Zhen looked through the list, he noticed that almost all of those at Ten Different Phenomena Golden Elixir Great Perfection had the same odds for breaking into the top eleven – all one to two.

As someone suspected to be a reincarnated powerhouse, along with the true reincarnated powerhouse, Star Lord Hao Yue, no odds were opened for us to place in the top eleven.

Besides that, there were three other people also without odds opened for the top eleven.

"Four Senses Child: [Ten Different Phenomena Golden Elixir Great Perfection]. Closed-door disciple of the old Four Senses!"

Unusually simple.

I heard about the old Four Senses for the first time at the Hundred Peaks Sect Leader meeting; I even thought the old Four Senses was the Sect Leader of the Four Extremes Sect.

It was later on that I learned that this old Four Senses was not from the Four Extremes Sect, and the two had no relation whatsoever.

The old Four Senses' 'Four Extremes' were not the same 'Four Extremes' of the Four Extremes Sect. The old Four Senses' 'Four Extremes' stood for unparalleled Divine Skills, Cultivation Technique, and secret technique. The last 'extreme' was unknown. In fact, some people said the old Four Senses deliberately chose the name 'Four Extremes.'

Furthermore, Lan Pili once told me that when the old Four Senses rose to power, the people of the Four Extremes Sect were quite upset, thinking the old Four Senses was provoking them.

The Sect Leader of the Four Extremes Sect naturally would not act, but the Vice Sect Master went directly to the old Four Senses to challenge him, wishing to spar.

Although the Vice Sect Master of the Four Extremes Sect didn't say anything, his intentions were clear.

If I win against you, then you don't qualify as 'Four Extremes,' and it would be best not to use this name anymore.

However, that battle was not the massive fight everyone imagined, but ended with the old Four Senses winning easily.

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After that, the Four Extremes Sect did not trouble Old Man Four Extremes again, essentially acknowledging this title for him.

However, Lan Pili mentioned that there was still another expert from the Four Extremes Sect who made a move later on, seemingly their Grand Elder. Some also say that it was the Sect Leader of the Four Extremes Sect who took action personally.

In any case, it was definite that someone from the Four Extremes Sect made a move again later on because many people witnessed a great battle taking place in a remote area.

Many could tell from the heavenly phenomenon that it was someone from the Four Extremes Sect fighting against Old Man Four Extremes.

But that battle was not made public, and nobody knew the final outcome.

However, one thing was almost certain: Old Man Four Extremes did not lose in that battle. Otherwise, even if the Four Extremes Sect did not mention it, he himself would no longer claim to be Old Man Four Extremes.

In any event, Old Man Four Extremes was an existence that definitely would not be weaker than the leaders of the top ten Immortal Sects, and even more people suspected that Old Man Four Extremes had won that fight.

Moreover, Old Man Four Extremes was quite peculiar; he rarely took on disciples, but each time one of his disciples came down the mountain, they were bound to be exceptionally talented.

But these disciples, no matter how talented, did not have the words "Four Extremes" in their names.

Even a disciple that had previously descended from the mountain was named Three Extremes Child.

The meaning was quite clear: Three Extremes Child had learned the Four Extremes from Old Man Four Extremes. This Three Extremes Child was also the strongest among the few disciples that Old Man Four Extremes had sent down the mountain before.

Yet now, a disciple of Old Man Four Extremes descended from the mountain with the name Four Extremes Child!

This signified full mastery of Old Man Four Extremes' teachings!

Just a change in name was enough to warrant everyone's attention.

Cao Zhen then looked at another name.

"Freely Child, disciple of Old Man Zhi Ran! [Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection]."

Previously, during the meeting of the Peak Masters of the Hundred Peaks Sect, Bai Fengzi also mentioned the closed-door disciple of Old Man Zhi Ran coming down the mountain.

Four Extremes Child initially gained recognition for his strength through a battle with the Four Extremes Sect.

And the list of powerful opponents who have fought Old Man Zhi Ran is much longer.

Currently, in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, Demon Sects like the Red Refinery Demonic Sect and the Sun and Moon Demon Sect have already been uprooted.

However, this does not mean that all cultivators within the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty are on the path of righteousness.

Like Old Man Zhi Ran, he is someone who walks the line between righteousness and evil; not evil in the sense of being demonic because if he were, he would probably have been slain by the Grand Preceptor by now.

Old Man Zhi Ran is indeed peculiar; he has always acted according to his own preferences and would naturally not engage in malevolent acts.

The deeds he commits are all within the Grand Preceptor's tolerance.

Because he straddles righteousness and evil, he has also clashed with quite a few of the righteous Immortal Sects. He has fought with the Bright Heart Sect, the Thousand Caves Door, and it is said he has even clashed with their Hundred Peaks Sect.

In any case, he never ended up on the losing side in any of these conflicts.

The most severe clash, however, was with the Infinite Temple.

The master of the Infinite Temple, the little monk's teacher, the great monk once fought a two-day and two-night battle with Old Man Zhi Ran without a winner emerging!

Old Man Zhi Ran and Old Man Four Extremes are both recognized as the strongest independent cultivators throughout the entire Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

Neither of them founded a Sect, but both have taken in disciples.

Although Old Man Four Extremes has few disciples, counting Four Extremes Child, he has sent down a total of four disciples from his mountain.

As for Old Man Zhi Ran, many knew he had taken a disciple before and that he had only taken this one disciple.

Over these years, Old Man Zhi Ran never sent his disciple down the mountain.

This time, it was his first time sending his disciple down the mountain.

Old Man Zhi Ran, being such a powerful figure and having no Sect distractions, could naturally focus entirely on cultivating his disciple.

His disciple's descent from the mountain, even without having made a single move, was looked upon favorably by countless people.

Besides these two, the third was a disciple from one of the top ten Immortal Sects, the Divine Dao Sect.

"Zong Wuji, Divine Dao Sect, personally taught by the Sect Leader: [Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection]. The only direct disciple taken in by the Divine Dao Sect Leader in nearly a thousand years.

He is also the great-grandson of the previous Sect Leader of the Divine Dao Sect, Limitless Taoist. The Divine Dao Sect says he has inherited his ancestor's prowess."

The top ten Immortal Sects, unlike the Hundred Peaks Sect, do not have rankings among their different peaks.

There are no specific rankings for the ten great Immortal Sects, but the Divine Dao Sect is commonly recognized as the strongest among them, the number one Dao gate of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty!

Besides these three people, and in addition to Cao Zhen and Star Lord Hao Yue, all the other participants with [Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection] who received odds to finish in the top ten had the same odds, two to one.

And now, just from the publicly announced participants, there were already more than thirty people with [Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection]. After all, each of the ten major Immortal Sects had at least two disciples with this level of completion. Adding people like Wu Jianzi and Lu Yiren, while the Ten Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection might be rare, looking across the entire Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, there were probably no issues surpassing forty individuals. It

is expected that as the competition continues, even more practitioners of [Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection] would emerge.

Forty individuals, each with odds of two to one, that indeed seemed like a good deal.

Cao Zhen couldn't place his bets on others, so in the end, he found that he could only bet on himself unless there was another way to wager.

The shopkeeper of the betting house, although a mere mortal, for some reason kept his gaze on Cao Zhen and Yi Sheng ever since they entered the establishment.

Upon seeing Cao Zhen approaching, his face immediately brimmed with a smile, saying, "Gentlemen, are you here to place a bet?"

"Exactly, to place a bet," Cao Zhen pointed at the signboard in the betting house and asked, "Let me ask, can we only bet on the first and the eleventh place?"

The shopkeeper nodded and replied, "That's correct, those are the only bets available."

"Can I place a combination bet? For example, I bet on Cao Zhen as the first, and then, at the same time, I bet that Ling Xi, Yan Yourong, Xiang Ziyu, and Bei Yan will all be in the top eleven. However, their odds can be stacked together?"

The shopkeeper appeared stunned upon hearing this and after a moment, he shook his head and said, "Esteemed customer, our betting house does not offer such a betting method."

"You don't?" Cao Zhen sighed deeply as he looked at the utterly bewildered shopkeeper, thinking how backward this was. There's no *quinella* or *superfecta*, which meant he could only bet on himself to make any real money.

So backward, much too backward.

Behind him, Yi Sheng listened to his master's words, his eyes revealing a bright gleam, thinking, 'Is that even possible?' He needed to hurry back and inform his father about this innovative way of betting.

Chapter 504:

Cao Zhen loathed Star Lord Hao Yue to death.

If it were not for Star Lord Hao Yue, who publicly declared him a reincarnated Great Ability, others might guess he was a reincarnated Great Ability but would have no concrete evidence, and his betting odds would not be so low.

As a result, once the universally acknowledged reincarnated Great Ability, Star Lord Hao Yue, directly stated he was a reincarnated Great Ability, everyone believed it. Consequently, the odds of him winning the championship dropped to a mere one to three.

How much money this would cause him to lose!

Yet he had no other choice but to place bets on himself winning first place.

"Yi Sheng, how much money do we have? Take out all the money for your master." Cao Zhen extended his hand toward Yi Sheng.

"Master, here are Spiritual Crystal Tickets worth a hundred thousand, and the rest are Spiritual Stone Tickets amounting to forty million." Upon hearing his master ask for money, Yi Sheng quickly took out all the money he had brought along.

"That much? I remember I took some money before; it really shouldn't add up to forty million Spirit Stones, right? Are our talisman sales really that brisk?" Cao Zhen looked at the Spiritual Stone Tickets in his hand, somewhat stunned. Previously, through the bets on the Hundred Peaks Sect competition, he had earned a hundred thousand in Spiritual Crystal Tickets and forty-one million Spirit Stones.

However, he had since handed out quite a few Spirit Stones and spent a portion as well. He hadn't calculated the exact amount spent, but he was sure it definitely wasn't as much as forty million Spirit Stones.

But the money Yi Sheng returned to him, aside from those hundred thousand Spiritual Crystals, had again reached forty million Spirit Stones.

Yi Sheng spoke softly, "Master, there's actually some still left over. Recently, with the discussions of the Tao and the upcoming Qiankun small epoch, for many reasons, our talisman business has been better than expected. However, since the junior sisters and brothers also need to spend money from time to time, I have given each of them one million Spirit Stones.

Additionally, when Brother Xiang Ziyu left, disciple also gave him one million Spirit Stones to use, and then, disciple also set aside a portion of Spirit Stones for emergencies."

"I see." Cao Zhen took out the twenty million Spiritual Stone Tickets he had earned from gambling during the previous discussions and handed them to the shopkeeper in front of him, "Bet it all on Cao Zhen winning the championship."

"Alright, esteemed guest, please wait a moment, I..." The shopkeeper took the various Spiritual Stone Tickets and Spiritual Crystal Tickets passed to him, pointed a finger, and instantly froze. These Spiritual Stone Tickets, shockingly worth millions, some even worth a hundred thousand, and what's more outrageous were the Spiritual Crystal Tickets...

"One hundred thousand Spiritual Crystals, sixty million Spirit Stones... Esteemed guest, are you, are you sure you want to bet it all on Cao Zhen? The Cao Zhen from Hundred Peaks Sect?"

He felt the need to confirm again, his tone of voice stuttering somewhat.

It wasn't that he didn't want to earn this large amount of money; the main issue was the bet was so large he had to ask again.

This was a bet of a hundred thousand Spiritual Crystals and sixty million Spirit Stones. Even for Tongbao Gambling House, the largest gambling establishment of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty in Capital City, it was his first time seeing someone bet such a huge sum at once.

It was said his predecessor's predecessor had indeed seen someone bet even more money before.

The sum was frighteningly large.

Although he was not a cultivator, he knew well enough that not to mention those with a Golden Core, even some less experienced Earth Immortals might not be able to bring out this much money.

He recognized the person before him.

Their Tongbao Gambling House had two Immortals specifically responsible for conveying the latest news at the competition ground.

After all, for a gambling house, setting the odds is extremely important. Should the news be delayed, incorrect odds might lead to huge losses.

The news that Star Lord Hao Yue said Cao Zhen was a reincarnated Great Ability was transmitted back by one of those Immortals through a certain Treasure, along with Cao Zhen's imprinted image.

Therefore, as soon as Cao Zhen entered the gambling house, he had been observing him closely.

He had also thought that Cao Zhen's arrival at the gambling house might be to place bets, but he never imagined that Cao Zhen would bet so much.

Other Golden Core cultivators didn't have this much money, but Cao Zhen...

He was a reincarnated Great Ability; this money must have been prepared by him in advance, and then taken out for immediate use. It must be so.

However, for him to take out so much money to bet on his own victory, he must be extremely confident!

Amazed in his heart, the shopkeeper hurriedly verified the authenticity of the Spiritual Stone Tickets and Spiritual Crystal Tickets. After confirming they were genuine, he then tremulously wrote down the document.

As a gambling house open for business, they would allow anyone to place bets. There wasn't a rule that participants in the competition couldn't gamble themselves.

Cao Zhen, after receiving the document, did not linger and turned around, heading out.

The shopkeeper, however, swiftly tidied up the Spirit Stone Tickets and Spiritual Crystal Tickets before heading upstairs. As the competition for the assembly of Immortals had already begun, countless people would come to gamble once today's session ended.

Hence, their boss was also constantly within the gambling house.

On the second floor, the shopkeeper opened a room to see a portly middle-aged man seated in the central position and quickly bowed and reported, "Boss, Cao Zhen has just come to place a bet."

The boss immediately sat up and asked, "Cao Zhen? Is it that Cao Zhen who has the second-lowest odds?" While he might not remember others, how could he not know about someone like Cao Zhen, who was among the top ten with the lowest odds.

"To the boss, yes, it's that Cao Zhen, and moreover, Cao Zhen has bet a very large amount—there are a hundred thousand Spiritual Crystals and sixty million Spirit Stones."

Chapter 505:

"So much..." The owner of the gambling house showed a look of surprise on his face when he heard the number, "Cao Zhen actually has so much money... A reincarnated great ability, he must be a reincarnated great ability, otherwise, he wouldn't have so much money.

Betting so much, is he certain he can take first place? If he wins, we will have to pay out triple, a vast sum of money."

The gambling house's boss furrowed his brows tightly.

In the room, besides the boss, there were two other cultivators. The slightly younger man upon hearing this, gently shook his head and said, "There's no need to worry so much. You are not a cultivator, so naturally, you do not understand many of the cultivators' ways.

I can tell you, cultivators are all filled with confidence in themselves, especially the more powerful and talented cultivators have even greater confidence.

Cao... Peak Master Cao is a reincarnated great ability and is naturally extremely confident. If not for that kind of confidence, he would not have reached the level in his previous life to reincarnate.

For him to bet on himself is only natural, and moreover, I can assert that after some time, many other geniuses will place bets on themselves too.

They bet on themselves because of their confidence. Without that kind of confidence, they would not become geniuses, not become strong.

But, them betting on themselves does not mean they are certain to win."*freewebnovel.com*

Now that Cao Zhen is confirmed to be a reincarnated great ability, it is inappropriate to call him by his name directly anymore.

"Indeed." The other, slightly older cultivator next to him took over the conversation, "In our world of immortal cultivation, many times when two individuals compete in magic, they will bet on themselves to win.

But in a competition, inevitably one will lose. They bet on themselves because of their confidence. So there is no need for alarm."

The opposing boss, however, furrowed his brows and lightly shook his head, saying, "Confidence is one thing, but to bet so much...

Moreover, now that Cao Zhen has taken out such a large sum of money and placed a bet on himself to win, it has thoroughly confirmed that he is a reincarnated great ability.

As another reincarnated great ability, his odds are so much higher than Star Lord Hao Yue's, which also seems unreasonable. But we cannot have his odds be as high as Star Lord Hao Yue's, after all, Star Lord Hao Yue has already revealed the Cultivation Base of Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, whereas Cao Zhen has not."

He thought for a moment and instructed, "Change Cao Zhen's odds to one pays two and a half."

"Yes." The shopkeeper quickly departed.

After leaving the Tongbao Gambling House, Yi Sheng seemed very eager and asked, "Master, what was the meaning of that betting method you used just now? Can you explain it to me in detail... Our family's betting shop is on this street. With Master's permission, we can inform my father, and then, let Master take a cut."

"Alright, let's go to your family's betting shop." He wouldn't pass up an opportunity to make money.

Yi Sheng's Xing Kui Betting Shop was indeed on this street too, but it was not close to the Tongbao Gambling House, one being at the southern end of the street and the other at the northern end. In terms of size, both betting shops were quite comparable.

Cao Zhen swept his eyes over the betting shop. The odds at Xing Kui Betting Shop were nearly the same as those at Tongbao, and many of the odds could be said to be identical.

Under the guidance of Yi Sheng, Cao Zhen entered the inner parts of the betting shop, where he was greeted by Yi Qiancheng, who was in charge of the establishment, and also a man who looked about seven or eight years older than Yi Sheng and resembled Yi Qiancheng somewhat.

When Yi Sheng saw this person, he instantly revealed a look of surprise and called out, "Third brother, what are you doing here?"

While speaking, Yi Sheng turned to introduce to Cao Zhen, "Master, this is my third brother, Yi Jin."

Then, she introduced to Yi Jin, "This is my master, the Peak Master of Four Treasures Peak from the Hundred Peaks Sect."

Although Yi Jin had some resemblance to Yi Qiancheng, he was much taller, almost catching up to Yi Sheng's height. He also knew of Cao Zhen's presence and quickly gave a respectful bow to Cao Zhen, greeting him with honor, "It's an honor to meet you, Peak Master Cao."

After greeting Cao Zhen, he turned to Yi Sheng and explained, "Little sister, once father heard you were back, he said it has been too long since our family gathered, so he immediately sent a message for us all to come back.

Not just me, but I expect that big brother, second brother, and fourth brother are all on their way too."

Cao Zhen could see that, although Yi Jin and Yi Sheng were half-siblings, he was very affectionate towards her.

He knew Yi Qiancheng, as the wealthiest man of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, naturally wouldn't have just one child like Yi Sheng, but the total number of Yi Qiancheng's children was unclear to him. However, he had once heard Yi Sheng mention that she was the only daughter of her father and her mother had only one child as well.

In any case, being the only daughter in the Yi Family, she naturally became the family treasure.

Yi Qiancheng showed a look of surprise when he saw Cao Zhen arrive, "Peak Master Cao, what brings you here? I thought you had already returned to your residence."

He wasn't surprised by the fact that Cao Zhen and Yi Sheng had left the arena, clearly, their Xing Kui Betting Shop also had people by the arena who could get the news from the arena at the first opportunity.

Yi Qiancheng looked at Cao Zhen with a warmer gaze than the first time they met, even his eyes contained a slight hint of ingratiating themselves.

Chapter 506:

He had already learned that his daughter's master was a reincarnated Great Ability!

Although the Grand Preceptor had always claimed that mortals and cultivators were equals, even he, as a mortal, did not believe this to be true.

Otherwise, why would he have agreed for his only daughter to pursue immortal cultivation at the Hundred Peaks Sect?

Furthermore, the upcoming Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth was approaching. Who knew what would happen then?

If the Grand Preceptor really did fall into a deep slumber, then no one would be able to suppress the cultivators, and people would finally realize that cultivators and mortals were inherently unequal.

Cultivators possessed far greater power than ordinary mortals.

Today, upon learning that his daughter's master was a reincarnated individual with Great Ability, even as the ostensible richest man in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, he was aware that he needed to ingratiate himself with Peak Master Cao.

To put it in less than flattering terms, he needed to fawn over Peak Master Cao.

"Father, we came here to discuss with you, our visit to the Tongbao Gambling House. Inside the gambling house, master discovered that there was only one way to wager, but master felt there could be an alternative way to place bets," she said.

"What do you mean? What kind of betting method?" Yi Qiancheng immediately became interested. He had talked with his daughter before and learned that her master was proficient in many areas, not just in music, chess, calligraphy, and painting, but also in Military Law and the Scholar Path. She had even admitted that her master was extremely skilled in the ways of business.

Indeed, his daughter had shared some of Peak Master Cao's business strategies with him, impressing even him, known as the Golden Hand, and inspiring him. He was eager to see if her master had any unique insights.

Cao Zhen quickly began to explain, "Actually, it's very simple. Let's say, the odds for me to win the championship are two to one, and the odds for my disciple, Yan Yourong, to rank in the top eleven are also two to one.

If we were to bet normally, to bet on my victory, or Yan Yourong's victory, you would have to place separate bets. With a hundred Spirit Stones, if one were to bet fifty on my victory and another fifty on my disciple's victory, and if we both won, one would end up with two hundred and fifty Spirit Stones, making a profit of a hundred and fifty, right?" he asked.

Yi Qiancheng and Yi Jin beside him both nodded in agreement.

After letting the two digest what he had said, Cao Zhen continued, "Then why not change it a bit? For example, same as the hundred Spirit Stones, but they can be linked in a bet.

The hundred Spirit Stones would be wagered on both my victory and my disciple's victory. If we win in the end, it means getting three times and two times the hundred Spirit Stones, totaling five hundred Spirit Stones, netting a profit of four hundred Spirit Stones in one go."

Upon hearing this, Yi Jin immediately furrowed his brow and said, "But then, wouldn't our gambling house be at a loss? With the same hundred Spirit Stones, previously we could earn just a hundred and fifty, but now, this would allow the other party to earn four hundred!"

"No, it is our gambling house that will profit!" Yi Qiancheng's eyes shone with excitement as he turned to his son and explained, "You're only seeing what happens when they win; what if one of the two bets loses?"

Yi Qiancheng then turned to Cao Zhen and asked, "Peak Master Cao, if one of the two bets is wrong, it's the same as losing, isn't it?"

Cao Zhen nodded, "Of course, if one bet is incorrect, it equates to having bet wrongly; naturally, one won't get a single penny."

Yi Qiancheng then faced his son again, "See, do you understand the issue now? Your first reaction was that if the other party guesses correctly, our gambling house loses more money. Likewise, when others see this betting method, their first thought is that if they guess right, they earn more.

So, tell me, when other people realize there is such a betting method, wouldn't they be tempted to gamble at our house?

Actually, this way, our gambling house stands to gain more in the long run because if they choose to bet this way, their risk is also higher."

"Father, actually, it's not just possible to place bets on two people," Yi Sheng intervened, "Master calls this kind of betting 'doubles', but Master said we can also do 'trebles', 'four-folds', and even more.

As long as we provide these betting methods, there will always be someone who'll take the bet. They might know that by doing so, the risk is higher, but they will still wager, because people are always greedy."

"Precisely, if one is human, they have greed. If humans had no greed, would there still be gambling houses in this world?" Yi Qiancheng looked towards Cao Zhen with gratitude, "Thank you, Peak Master Cao, for sharing this invaluable information. We..."

He opened his mouth, intending to suggest sharing some of the profits with Peak Master Cao, but he hesitated, not knowing how to broach the subject. After all, Peak Master Cao was a reincarnated Great Ability. Directly offering money to such a being might seem disrespectful. What if Peak Master Cao felt that he was being insulted?

Cao Zhen was momentarily at a loss for words. This sounded all too similar to the people from Thousand Caves Door after his Enlightenment, claiming they would keep it in mind and were unable to repay it.

If you want to give something in return, just say it!

Appearing to understand her father's dilemma and as Cao Zhen's disciple, Yan Yourong took the initiative and said, "Father, seeing how Master has provided you with this information and helped you greatly..."

Chapter 507:

By then, there will definitely be many people who will come to bet at our betting shop because of this new way of placing bets.

They may not only bet in this "double selection" or "triple selection" manner, but they might also bet on just one event.

However, once they come to bet at our betting shop, naturally, after betting on the "double selection" or "triple selection," they won't go through the trouble of running to other betting shops to bet on other events.

They will continue to bet at our betting shop, which in turn will help drive the overall business of our betting shop. Therefore, we should thank Master, or perhaps..."

Yi Qiancheng nodded with satisfaction and said, "Indeed, that is the logic."

At this, Yi Jin, who was standing to the side, heard and his heart stirred, suddenly thinking of another problem. He hurriedly said, "Sister, what you said is correct, but you have overlooked another problem. That is, this method is very easy to imitate.

Once other betting shops learn that our betting shop has this novel approach to attract more customers, they will definitely imitate it. By then, we will no longer have any advantage."

After speaking, he looked at his father with a smug expression, thinking about how his father had always said that he was the least business-savvy among the four adult children.

Now what?

He had identified a problem that even his sister had not noticed. Shouldn't his father be praising him by now?

Yet, when he turned his head and saw his father's expression, his eyes immediately froze, filled with confusion. His father's face showed no sign of happiness, and even more so, he felt a veiled warning in the glance his father cast his way.

Yi Qiancheng sighed deeply. How could he have fathered such a foolish son? Their Yi Family was a merchant dynasty. When he took over the position of Family Head, the Yi Family was indeed a well-known family in the Human World of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, but it was nowhere near as prestigious as it was today.

Back then, the Yi Family was just a member of the Xing Kui Business Association, and he was not the association president.

But with his own abilities, he became the association president. He maneuvered through the business world and eventually reached today's status, being called the richest man in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

But how could he have such a foolish son?

This foolish son, why couldn't he think that, in that situation he described, having navigated the business seas for so many years, wouldn't he himself understand? Wouldn't his genius sister have thought of it? He was considering how to give Peak Master Cao some benefits, even trying to tie his own family to Peak Master Cao.

He was just looking for an opportunity to speak, and his daughter had proactively brought it up. All he needed to do was to continue the conversation from there.

But then, this foolish son of his jumped out and directly interrupted his daughter's words.

If weren't for his son's resemblance to him, he would have even questioned whether this was truly his own flesh and blood, for he was just too foolish.

"Father, others offering 'double selection' or 'triple selection' is easy to imitate. But we can prepare in advance for 'double selection four,' 'double selection five.' These offer a kind of error tolerance. For instance, if you bet on four events, and you get three right but one wrong, isn't that a pity?"

So, we provide other options, like any three right out of four events count as a win... And we can offer 'quadruple selection five' for even higher error tolerance.

For example, if you bet on the outcomes of four individuals, any three-person combinations that are right count as wins. That will be even higher if all four are correct. But that means there will be more events to bet on since there are different combinations, and the principal will be higher... These methods need to be calculated in advance; they cannot be imitated in a short time."

Yi Jin listened for a while, finally understanding the meaning.

In short, these methods seem to offer you more choices, making it easier to guess correctly but, in fact, they cost more.

In the end, the betting shop is the one that profits.

He didn't understand how these ideas were conceived.

"Brilliant, truly brilliant!" Yi Qiancheng kept on exclaiming in admiration. He was genuinely impressed now that betting could be made so varied and intricate.

Yi Sheng continued the conversation that her brother had interrupted earlier, "Father, since our Master has helped us to this extent, shouldn't we show our gratitude? For instance, with the money we earn from using Master's method this time, shouldn't we give a portion to Master?"

"This... That's not the right approach because we can't calculate how many people will come to our betting shop due to these novel betting methods. Moreover, with Peak Master Cao, in this Heavenly Conflict of Immortals, our Xing Kui Betting Shop will undoubtedly be the most profitable among all betting shops! It will also become the most famous betting shop, and our reputation will skyrocket, the benefits of which are incalculable.

Just offering Peak Master Cao a portion of the money earned from betting during the Heavenly Conflict of Immortals is simply not enough, it is far too little."

After a brief moment of thought, Yi Qiancheng looked at Cao Zhen and said, "Peak Master Cao, I know you are a man of great ability, but since you have helped us, we, being mere mortals, do not know how else to show our gratitude.

How about this, I currently hold a sixty percent share in the Xing Kui Betting Shop, and I wish to gift ten percent of the shares to Peak Master Cao as a token of our gratitude. Please, Peak Master Cao, you must accept."

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"I know you, Peak Master Cao, as a cultivator, might not care about these things, but this is a gesture of my good will. If you don't accept, I will feel uneasy. I implore you not to decline,"

Yi Qiancheng spoke without giving Cao Zhen a chance to respond, and immediately added, "Yi Sheng, this time, thanks to you, I was able to meet Peak Master Cao and learn of this method. Therefore, I'm also offering you a 10% share in the Xing Kui Betting Shop."

Having said this, he felt a surge of triumph within. After all, Peak Master Cao was Yi Sheng's master, and now that he had offered his own daughter shares, it would be hard for Peak Master Cao to refuse.

By just giving out a 10% share of the Xing Kui Betting Shop, he had brought Peak Master Cao to his side; no matter how he looked at it, it was a winning deal.

Eventually, when the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth comes, true chaos will reign.

If someone were to make a move against the Xing Kui Betting Shop, that would mean going against Peak Master Cao's interests. To offend someone reincarnated as a Great Ability, who has several disciples and partners at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, would not be wise.

Before the time comes, just mention Peak Master Cao's backing, and see who dares to make a move.

Now with the relationship to the Xing Kui Betting Shop established, why fear the future absence of opportunities to further deepen ties with Peak Master Cao?

As for the other 10% share, Yi Sheng was naturally his own beloved daughter. He only had this one precious daughter, so what was wrong with giving her some dowry in advance?

"Well, if the Family Head Yi insists thus, if I were to refuse, would it not imply that I don't give you face? Then I shall gratefully accept,"

Cao Zhen watched with a smiling face across the table, finding Yi Qiancheng to be quite likable; he truly provided benefits when it mattered.

A 10% share of the Xing Kui Betting Shop—how many Spirit Stones, how many Spirit Crystals would that be worth? The key point was that Yi Qiancheng also spoke pleasantly; although he was offering gifts, he made it seem as though Cao Zhen was at a disadvantage, that by accepting a gift, he scored a bargain.

Cao Zhen enjoyed befriending such people. When he manages to craft Pills and breakthrough to the Golden Core Realm, freeing up some time, he could chat with Yi Qiancheng about deepening their cooperation.

As Cao Zhen consented, Yi Qiancheng's smile blossomed even more radiantly. He turned to Yi Jin and instructed, "Now, go find all the accountants of our betting shop and explain to them the betting methods your sister mentioned. Have them calculate how to place bets to ensure the maximum profit for our establishment."

Cao Zhen was not surprised by Yi Qiancheng's instructions.

Betting shops aren't charitable organizations; they are naturally aimed at making a profit.

In his past life, those betting companies did the same, didn't they?

Their ultimate goal was to make money, which is why they would retain a host of actuaries with high salaries to calculate how to set odds so that they could turn a greater profit.

Thus, the vast majority of those who gambled ended up losing.

For the light-hearted, it meant being burdened with debt and becoming an outcast, and for the severe cases, it meant losing everything—family, home, and even life.

Therefore, he generally wouldn't bet unless it was on himself.

His actions didn't count as gambling or taking a risk, but outright cheating!

If he can't bet on himself, he would never place a bet on someone else. Because he didn't want to hand over his money to the betting shop!

With Yi Jin leaving the room, Yi Qiancheng turned to his daughter, setting business aside, and said with a smile, "I heard about it, my daughter. Today on the competition platform you were truly formidable, defeating nine opponents by yourself. And one of them was the same as you, also an eight Golden Core cultivator."

Father, I still have a long way to go. Compared to my senior brothers and sisters, I am lacking by a lot," Yi Sheng said with some self-reproach, "And my control was rather poor, causing severe injuries to a few. I didn't mean to hurt them that badly, but it seems my judgment and control are still insufficient."

It wasn't that she was womanly merciful and did not wish to injure the others.

She referred to those of the third and fourth stages of the Golden Core realm, whose strength greatly differed from hers; it wasn't necessary for her to inflict serious injuries on them. She was more reproaching herself for not having better control.

"You can't blame yourself for that," Yi Qiancheng quickly consoled when he saw his daughter reproaching herself, "Those who participate in the assembly for combat prepared for injury.

Since it is a competition, whether by duel or fight, it's similar. Once on the platform, anyone can get hurt. Moreover, I heard that today someone was even killed in the competition."

At this point, Yi Qiancheng paused mid-sentence, looking at his daughter with deep concern, "Little Sheng, you... attending this assembly, there will be danger. Although you are at the level of an eight phenomena Golden Core, there still exists those at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection. When you face them..."

He was about to say, to surrender against those unbeatable opponents, but seeing Cao Zhen nearby, he swallowed those words. Such remarks would surely offend Peak Master Cao.

Still, he felt the need to say it, but would look for a chance when Peak Master Cao wasn't around to talk to his daughter.

When Yi Sheng heard her father's words, her expression immediately turned solemn, and looking at Cao Zhen, she said, "If I encounter them, I will fight with all my might, not to bring shame to the Immortal Sect or my own sect, our Hundred Peaks Sect..."

"Wait a moment..." Cao Zhen directly interrupted Yi Sheng, "How many times have I taught you? 'Play it safe, don't showboat.'"

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"When you truly can't win a fight, it's time to stop. Have you forgotten what your master has taught you? 'So long as the green hills are there, one need not worry about firewood.'"

The reason master told you to focus on reinforcing your armor and cultivate protective divine skills first is precisely to ensure your own safety. Look at your third senior brother, no matter how reckless he seems. But do you know why master agreed to let him leave the mountain without hindrance? It was because his protective divine skills were strong.

Remember, safety is the first priority. To be able to bend and stretch, to advance and retreat—that is true wisdom, that is true courage."

Yi Qiancheng, hearing this, agreed repeatedly: "Peak Master Cao is right. Preserving one's own safety is the most important thing."

As he spoke, he reached into his chest and took out a jade bottle: "I know that you all are going to participate in the Immortal Sects' Martial Contest, so I specifically sought out this bottle of pills. If anyone gets injured, you can take them.

However, time is tight, and I was only able to procure five pills in this bottle."

His words were directed at Yi Sheng, but in the end, he handed the pill bottle to Cao Zhen, the subtext clear: he was giving Cao Zhen the authority to distribute the pills as he saw fit.

Cao Zhen took the pills and gently sniffed them, then smiled at Yi Qiancheng: "The Guiyuan Yiqi Pills are indeed healing pills used in the Golden Core Stage. The effectiveness is decent, but the speed of healing is too slow, and moreover, if the injury is due to some special divine skills, I'm afraid these pills won't be able to completely heal the wounds.

If it were the Tianyuan Yiqi Pills, that would be much better. Those could cure even the gravest wounds, the most unusual injuries. As long as it's an injury inflicted by someone of the Golden Core cultivation base, it can be healed."

As Cao Zhen spoke, he sighed gently: "It's a pity, though I know how to refine Tianyuan Yiqi Pills, I don't have enough of the necessary ingredients on me."

"Ingredients? What ingredients do you need?" Yi Qiancheng eagerly asked: "Our Xing Kui Trading Company also deals in all kinds of ingredients. Peak Master Cao, please tell us what you need, and we will provide."

"Well, the list of required ingredients is rather extensive, and I will need..." Cao Zhen looked around and asked, "Do you have pen and paper? I'd better write it down."

"Of course, we have them," Yi Qiancheng quickly provided the necessary writing materials. Then he realized that the rumors he had heard were indeed true—the calligraphy of Peak Master Cao was genuinely peerless.

Peak Master Cao's writing speed was already very fast, yet every character and even the strokes of each character were like works of art.

These characters...

Why are there so many of these characters?

Yi Qiancheng grew more bewildered as he watched, questioning whether alchemy really necessitated so many different ingredients.

Cao Zhen filled no fewer than five pages of paper before he stopped writing and said: "These are all the materials needed for alchemy. I'm troubling the Family Head Yi with this. Considering the possibility of injuries in each round of the Immortal Sects' Martial Contest, if possible, please have the materials delivered by today. With them, I can start refining the pills as soon as possible."

He truly wasn't trying to swindle Yi Qiancheng—these were indeed all ingredients required for refining Tianyuan Yiqi Pills, merely with a few extra types to accelerate the formation of the pills.

Under normal circumstances, refining a batch of Tianyuan Yiqi Pills would take at least fifty days, which was far too long since the Martial Contest would be over by then, and perhaps even the Grand Preceptor could have fallen into a deep slumber.

So, to speed up the maturity of the pills, more ingredients were needed. If he didn't need so many varieties, he wouldn't have bothered shaving wool off Yi Qiancheng by requesting materials he could have just bought and refined on his own.

"Rest assured, Peak Master Cao, I'll send my people to collect the ingredients immediately, and ensure they are delivered posthaste to your residence," Yi Qiancheng pledged.

"Also..." Cao Zhen continued, looking at Yi Qiancheng: "Family Head Yi, I require a Pill Furnace, one large enough to accommodate a person. Besides that, I need some more ingredients..."

As he said this, he turned to Yi Sheng, speaking with a touch of guilt: "Speaking of which, I've been too busy lately and have somewhat neglected Yi Sheng. Most of the divine skills Yi Sheng has been cultivating are those of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

However, I have a special divine skill that is actually suitable for Yi Sheng to cultivate. It's just that this particular divine skill requires some ingredients for cultivation..."

"Peak Master Cao, whatever ingredients you need, please write them down, and I shall accommodate," Yi Qiancheng hastily stepped aside, his excitement undisguised.

The implication of Peak Master Cao's words was crystal clear.

His daughter had been practicing the divine skills from the Hundred Peaks Sect, which, despite being one of the top ten Immortal Sects, provided techniques accessible to everyone.

Now, Peak Master Cao was about to impart divine skills that he himself knew to his daughter.

Peak Master Cao—known for his great ability—his divine skills would surely shake heavens and earth, stir up ghosts and gods!

Why hadn't Peak Master Cao imparted this particular skill to his daughter before, but chose to do so today?

What did this imply?

It suggested that Peak Master Cao might not have fully accepted his daughter as one of his own before, but today, he clearly did.

Could it be that the stock ownership he had given played a role?

Indeed, even cultivators covet wealth, perhaps even more so than ordinary people. Even a great ability reincarnated valued riches. He had once heard that the higher the cultivation, the more resources it required!

As a reincarnated great ability, he must be eager to regain his past cultivation base, hence needing even more resources.

After Cao Zhen had written down all the ingredients needed for Yi Sheng's cultivation of divine skills, he had a brief conversation with Yi Qiancheng and then returned to the Yi Mansion with Yi Sheng. Subsequently, he replaced Gu Chengyu at the Pill Furnace and began his own pill-making process.

Gu Chengyu was only capable of watching over the Pill Furnace, but to speed up the pill-making process and ensure the pills would form quickly, Cao Zhen had to do it himself.

The list of ingredients Cao Zhen gave to Yi Qiancheng wasn't comprised of just commonly found items—some were rare and not easily purchasable, even with ample wealth.

This was another reason he hadn't procured the ingredients and refined the Tianyuan Yiqi Pills himself.

Yet, when he returned to the Yi Mansion, roughly four hours later, Yi Qiancheng had sent someone to deliver all the required ingredients for both the Tianyuan Yiqi Pills and those for Yi Sheng's cultivation.

"This... the wealthiest indeed show their prowess, assembling all the ingredients the same day."

Handling two tasks at once, Cao Zhen brought out another Pill Furnace, set the fire, and started refining the Tianyuan Yiqi Pills. Additionally, he had Yi Sheng prepare a third Pill Furnace. Once Yi Sheng had lit the fire in the furnace, Cao Zhen pointed to it and said to Yi Sheng, "Jump in."

Chapter 510:

In the realm of immortal cultivation, alchemy is one of the six arts and is of great importance; many spent their entire lives studying the art of alchemy. As such, the methods and schools of thought in alchemy are incredibly diverse.

However, Yi Sheng had never heard of an alchemy technique that required a person to jump into it.

If it had been anyone else asking her to do so, she would have never leaped, but the person making the request was her master. Without any hesitation, she jumped directly into the pill furnace.

As soon as she landed inside the pill furnace, her master's voice came again, "Listen to me, I will soon place the herbal ingredients into the pill furnace, and you need to coordinate with me to cast the alchemy techniques inside."

"I cast the alchemy techniques?" Yi Sheng was stunned for a moment.

"That's right, both you and I will cast the alchemy techniques," as Cao Zhen tossed handfuls of herbs into the pill furnace, he asked, "Do you know what a human pill is?"

"Disciple has heard of it. It is a wicked alchemy method that transforms a person into a pill through special techniques." Ever since Yi Sheng began practicing alchemy, even though her master was absent, she had read a lot about alchemy, including about human pills.

Now, sitting inside the pill furnace and hearing the words 'human pill,' there wasn't a trace of fear or dread in her heart.

She believed her master would not refine her into a human pill.

"The 'human pill' you speak of simply involves transforming a person into pill form and then consuming it. In fact, there is a special kind of human pill in this world," Cao Zhen replied. "People usually make human pills outside of a pill furnace. Have you ever thought about what it would be like for a person to transform themselves into a human pill inside the pill furnace?"

"Transforming oneself into a human pill?" Yi Sheng was utterly confounded. She had never considered this before, but as she pondered, she guessed, "Master, your disciple suspects that the ordinary human pill involves refining someone into a pill for others to consume.

In truth, a human pill is still a pill, aside from being made from a person. It can be seen as a normal pill and all pills have their medicinal properties.

However, if one refines oneself into a human pill, naturally one wouldn't let someone else consume it. So does that mean the medicinal properties would remain inside oneself?

Master, are you trying to enhance my cultivation base?"

"Your analysis is not incorrect, but the conditions are not yet sufficient."

Cao Zhen felt his young disciple was truly bright, having simply deduced what would be gained from self-refining into a human pill.

Unfortunately, she was mistaken about refining herself into a human pill to enhance her cultivation base; he truly couldn't do that. His alchemy skills were not yet up to the mark!

For now, he could only do one other thing for Yi Sheng.

"Although I temporarily can't enhance your cultivation base by refining you into a human pill, I can help you cultivate a divine skill. Now, you need to cooperate with me to refine yourself into a human pill."

Cao Zhen began to state the names and methods of various alchemy techniques while also controlling the flames from outside the pill furnace.

Within the pill furnace, the herbs melted under the heat of the flames; due to the lid of the pill furnace, they could not escape, creating currents of air that spun endlessly around Yi Sheng.

Gradually, Yi Sheng realized that the herbs inside the pill furnace had fully melted into medicinal gas, which even began to solidify, entwining around her like silken threads.

Cao Zhen's voice reached her again.

"The next divine skill I'm going to impart to you is named the Scarlet Flame Heavenly Phoenix, Zi Chentian, Danxia Hechong..."

A string of incantations followed, and Yi Sheng hurriedly focused her mind to practice the techniques.

Cao Zhen cast a series of alchemy and flame techniques, controlling the flames within the pill furnace and ensuring that the medicinal properties inside did not fully solidify into form.

Because once the pill was about to solidify, he intended to break it apart.

If he didn't break the pill, then his disciple would truly become a human pill.

However, he couldn't simply rupture the pill; he had to do it after Yi Sheng had cultivated the divine skill, or else all would be in vain.

Therefore, he needed to control the process so that the pill in the furnace would take as long as possible to form.

In truth, the Fire of Departure is the very essence of the true Fire of Departure. He intended to use this opportunity to enable Yi Sheng to cultivate the Fire of Departure.

Though the Fire of Departure is not as powerful as the Samadhi True Fire and is not as ancient, it encompasses all flames.

In fact, some believe the Fire of Departure is one of the most primordial flames, the foundation of all divine fires.

The Phoenix is the Phoenix Sacred Beast.

The Scarlet Flame Heavenly Phoenix uses the power of the Fire of Departure to unleash the majesty of the sacred beast Phoenix.

In Zhang Daoling's records of immortal cultivation, the Scarlet Flame Heavenly Phoenix was not a divine skill of Dragon and Tiger Mountain, yet it was specifically highlighted by him, which speaks volumes about the power of this divine skill.

Within the pill furnace, waves of scorching heat kept assaulting Yi Sheng's body.

Her own body was of the True Yang Immortal kind, and she cultivated fire system techniques and divine skills, but even as she sat cross-legged in the pill furnace, it felt as though she sat within a volcano, the scorching air seemingly melting her skin, muscles, and bones.

As she continued to practice her cultivation techniques, gradually all the energy within her converged at the center of her forehead, forming a flame as fine as a strand of hair.