

My Master 511

Chapter 511:

She cultivated Fire Techniques and could release various types of flames, yet at this moment she felt as though all the divine flames from her techniques had vanished without a trace, merging into this flame before her.

Suddenly, an endless stream of medicinal properties burst into her body, these properties just as fiercely hot, like flame itself, instantly enveloping the hair-thin flames formed inside her, seemingly about to swallow them whole.

Almost at the same moment, outside, her master's voice came through once more.

"Do not let those flames consume your flames, you must make your flames consume it, believe in yourself, you can do it!"

Yi Sheng clenched her teeth tightly, and a sudden surge of overwhelming battle intent burst forth within her.

Instantly, the flames she had formed inside her body grew stronger, instead turning to devour the medicinal properties that had surged into her.

For a moment, inside Yi Sheng, her own flames were devouring the medicinal flame, while outside her body, the scorching high temperatures from the Pill Furnace continued to sear her.

All the Spiritual Energy and strength within her surged into her own flames, leaving her body completely unprotected.

Heatwaves struck, and her body even emitted the crackling sounds of being roasted.

Cao Zhen could no longer offer any help; now, all he could do was to delay the formation of the Pill, to buy Yi Sheng more time.

Yi Qiancheng had brought the Pill just past noon, but now, night had already fallen.

Being a person who valued health preservation, he would usually have been asleep by this time, yet now, he stood outside the room specially arranged for Cao Zhen to refine Pills, pacing back and forth anxiously as he watched the room from which light from the burning flames continuously shot out.

The last time he had been this anxious was when his youngest son was born.

Standing by his side were his four sons.

Yi Zhao, Yi Cai, Yi Jin, Yi Bao.

The names of these four sons were chosen by their grandfather, forming the phrase "attracting wealth and treasure," and what's more, their grandfather had even thought of names for the four daughters.

Business flourishes.

But to this day, he only had one daughter.

Thus, the family only had Yi Sheng, without a Yi Yi or others present.

Today, his four adult sons had all come to Capital City, hoping for a family reunion, but as of now, their sister had not emerged.

Their father was waiting outside, so they could only wait outside as well.

The night grew deeper.

Yi Zhao, Yi Jin, and Yi Bao had arrived in Capital City at dusk, weary from the journey, and had not rested after a simple meal, instead they waited here, their faces showing exhaustion.

Yi Jin was no better off; he had been helping his father all day.

The brothers waited there, but Ling Xi, Yan Yourong, and others didn't wait at this place, instead each was in their rooms, cultivating their Divine Skills.

After a long while, the sky gradually began to clear.

Yi Bao glanced at the sky, feeling as if his legs were no longer his own, and stood almost on the verge of sleep; he really couldn't hold on any longer.

He looked at Yi Qiancheng standing in front and quietly pulled at his eldest brother Yi Zhao, pointing at their father with a look full of pleading, hoping his elder brother would persuade their father.

At their side, Yi Cai and Yi Jin both looked at their eldest brother as well.

Yi Zhao, feeling the pleading gazes of his three younger brothers, finally nodded his head, walked up to Yi Qiancheng, pointed at the sun that had risen in the sky, and whispered, "Father, it's daylight now, look, the sun has risen, perhaps we should go back first."

As his words fell, accompanying the rising sun,

a phoenix's cry suddenly resounded from within the room.

It was crisp and bright, yet also full of endless majesty, an unassailable noble aura.

It was one voice, yet it felt as if two voices merged into one.

Almost at the same moment everyone heard the phoenix's cry, the vast room exploded violently, and a column of flame soared up; it was unclear whether it was the sound or the flame that shattered the room.

The fire shot straight into the sky, the outer edges of the flame tinged with a purple glow, while the flames in the center were a deep scarlet.

Within the firelight, the silhouettes of two Sacred Beast Phoenixes, spoken of in legends, emerged.

One resembled a Phoenix, and the other a Fenghuang.

Cao Zhen, feeling the first rays of dawn sunlight shining down, immediately sensed a major shift in the atmosphere inside the Pill Furnace, and at the same time, the personal panel he was closely monitoring for Yi Sheng added a new piece of information.

Scarlet Flame Heavenly Phoenix: Level 1.

Yi Sheng had successfully cultivated into a Scarlet Flame Heavenly Phoenix.

Cao Zhen hesitated no more, and seeing the Human Pill nearly completely condensed, he fiercely cast an Alchemy Technique.

Instantly, the already solidified medicinal shell around Yi Sheng shattered into pieces, turning into a powdery dust.

In the next moment, the Pill Furnace containing Yi Sheng exploded completely, and the entire room, under the scorching fire, turned instantly into ashes.

"Oh no, the Pill Furnace!"

Cao Zhen, shocked, quickly mobilized his Mana, releasing two protective shields to safeguard the two Pills that were still in the process of refinement.

Amidst the burning flames, Yi Sheng's charred figure was revealed.

Her clothes had already turned to ash during her cultivation, hence naturally her body was also scorched pitch-black.

The flames enveloping Yi Sheng were so bright that Yi Qiancheng and his four sons, mere mortals, could only see a bright blaze and couldn't make out the figure within the flames at all; they could merely vaguely sense a human silhouette.

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Yi Qiancheng was even more concerned, pointing at the vague figure in the flames and asking loudly, "Peak Master Cao, that, that figure—isn't it Little Sheng? She... she's getting burned by the fire..."

"Don't worry, those flames are being released by her. Her talent is exceptional, and she has already mastered the Divine Skills I've taught her."

Cao Zhen turned his head to look at Yi Qiancheng and the four sons standing by his side and reassured them, "Alright, Family Head Yi, Little Sheng has also made a breakthrough by now, but she still needs time to stabilize it.

You've been guarding outside all night, haven't you? You must all be tired as well, go back and rest."

What a joke, his precious disciple was now naked, and once the flames extinguished, wouldn't these fellows take advantage? There was no way he'd allow these people to stay here.

"Alright, alright, we won't disturb Little Sheng any further, let's go, let's leave." Yi Qiancheng, for sure, couldn't make out the look of someone who'd stood outside all night and quickly led his four sons away.

Luckily, the Yi Family was big enough that even this room, which was specially used for refining pills, had a separate courtyard.

Watching the group leave, Cao Zhen immediately took out a set of his own clothes from the Qiankun Bag and threw it towards Yi Sheng, while calling out, "Quick, extinguish the flame and put on the clothes."

"Yes, Master."

The blazing flames in the courtyard extinguished instantly, and Yi Sheng hurriedly caught the clothes and tied them on before kneeling on both legs and bowing to Cao Zhen, saying, "Thank you, Master, for imparting the Divine Skills."

She could feel just how exquisite the Divine Skills her Master had taught were. Not only that, but her gains were even more than this; having endured the sharp fire all night, she had gathered the Fire of Departure within her body, and now she felt the power of the Phoenix. She gained an even deeper understanding of flames and True Yang.

"You all... What terrible habits you're learning, always wanting to bow. Thankfully, you didn't learn it from your second senior sister. Get up."

When Yi Sheng had knelt just now, Cao Zhen hadn't intended to stop her, but considering that she now represented the existence of an eight-phantasm Golden Core, she was much quicker than he was, and he simply couldn't react in time to prevent it.

Yi Sheng, feeling the strength from her Master's palm, looked up, reversing her gaze upward to see her Master, who stood against the backdrop of the rising sun, the sunlight spilling over...

The next moment, the most pure and refined True Yang Qi burst forth from within Yi Sheng, her entire being radiating dazzling brilliance. Caught off guard by this light, even Cao Zhen's eyes suffered an instant of blindness from the direct exposure.

When he regained his sight, he found the still half-kneeling figure of Yi Sheng resembling a true sun, with flames and True Yang Qi soaring to the heavens, spreading for miles.

At this moment, the temperature across the entire Capital City seemed to rise significantly.

It was clearly early morning, yet people were instantly drenched with sweat, many awakened from their sleep by the heat, gazing outside at the bright light, their eyes filled with awe and wonder.

"Is it already noon?"

"Did I sleep until noon?"

"Oh no, I haven't gone to work yet!"

"It's over, I haven't set up my stall for the day..."

In the Yi Mansion, disciples like Ling Xi, Yan Yourong, and others felt that vast and pure True Yang Qi after Yi Sheng broke through her room. They all circulated their Cultivation Techniques through a complete cycle and quickly left their rooms, flying towards the courtyard where the aura originated.

Just in time, Yi Sheng had her Enlightenment.

"Little junior sister had an Enlightenment?" Ling Xi, seeing Yi Sheng in the midst of Enlightenment, revealed a joyful expression. However, there was some confusion in her heart. Why did little junior sister's actions seem so odd, as if she was kneeling to our Master?

Could it be that bowing to the Master could lead to Enlightenment?

It's been a while since I bowed to Master. Right, I wanted to bow before, but Master stopped me. Now there are no outsiders here.

With this thought, Ling Xi suddenly flew down in front of Cao Zhen, knelt with a thud, and declared loudly, "Master, your disciple has erred."

Cao Zhen was completely taken aback; Ling Xi had always had some forewarning and a reason for her kneeling in the past. Now, why was she kneeling?

"No, your junior sister has had her Enlightenment, where did you go wrong?"

"Master, your disciple is wrong because you said I should kneel less before you, but until now, I haven't. That's where I've erred."

Cao Zhen: ...

So, this kowtow had been lingering as an overdue obligation, this disciple of his...

Meanwhile, Little Beiyan stealthily approached, eyeing the blackened skin of Yi Sheng and her dark scalp with curiosity, "What happened to little junior sister? Why has she turned so black? Did she go coal mining last night?"

And why is little junior sister's hair gone? Could it be that little junior sister is planning to leave our sect and become a nun?"

"Who told you that being bald means one has taken to Zen Cultivation?" Cao Zhen swatted Little Bei's head, chiding him, "Your junior sister's hair was burnt off. There's nothing to see here, how is the practice of your Divine Skills coming along?"

With that, he opened the China Cloud, checking each of his disciples' progress in Cultivation Techniques. After a glance, he slapped Little Bei's head again, "Out of you four, you're the slowest in cultivating Divine Skills. Now get back to practicing them properly."

Little Bei felt extremely wronged. Why was it that even though he now had another junior sister, he seemed to be bullied even more now?

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The master also mentioned that his divine skills were progressing slowly.

I cultivated for a long time last night, and the master spent all night with my junior sister and did not watch our cultivation. How did he know that my progress was the slowest?

Master, this is clearly just an excuse to scold me.

At the Immortal Reception House, many cultivators also noticed the changes between heaven and earth at this moment.

"Is this... someone has achieved enlightenment?"

"Indeed, what good fortune, to achieve enlightenment during the assembly of immortals competing in martial prowess."

"This aura, it belongs to someone who practices the fire system, it must be a cultivator of True Yang who has achieved enlightenment."

"The place from where this aura emanates, why does it feel so familiar?"

"It seems, that's the location of the Yi Mansion."

"Four Treasures Peak, the people from Four Treasures Peak have been at the Yi Family's place all this time!"

"Has someone from Four Treasures Peak achieved enlightenment again? True Yang, flame, isn't that the young disciple Yi Sheng from Four Treasures Peak?"

"Previously, from Four Treasures Peak, only Yi Sheng had not broken through to reach the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection. Now, that Yi Sheng has directly achieved enlightenment!"

"The disciples of Four Treasures Peak, only one is not of the Ancient Immortal Body, and that person is Yi Sheng."

"Yi Sheng has the True Yang body, and now she has achieved enlightenment, her future is boundless."

"The True Yang body, whether it's in any of the ten great Immortal Sects, that is top-tier talent for cultivation, and any sect would treat her as a key disciple to foster."

"She was already at the stage with eight different phenomena of the Golden Core, and now that she has achieved enlightenment, her chances of becoming one with the ten different phenomena of the Golden Core in the future are very high."

"Perhaps, after the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth persists for some time, in a few decades, over ten years, or even in just a few years, she may become an expert with the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection."

After yesterday's performance by Four Treasures Peak and the news that Cao Zhen is a reincarnated being of great power, all the great Immortal Sects made a point of checking up on Four Treasures Peak, and now, virtually all cultivators are quite familiar with the situation at Four Treasures Peak.

Gradually, people began to notice something amiss.

"This enlightenment, it's lasting so long..."

"And it's still ongoing..."

This time, Yi Sheng's enlightenment lasted for almost the duration of an incense stick.

Her gains were truly immense; not only has she refined the Fire of Departure, which is one of the ancient original flames from which many divine fires have transformed.

Having obtained the Fire of Departure, her understanding of Yang and flame has become completely different.

Although she has only just made a breakthrough not long ago, she feels that after this enlightenment, it won't take long before she can break through once again.

Today is the second day of the assembly where immortals compete in martial prowess. Cao Zhen has been engaged in alchemy within the Yi Mansion all day.

He did not participate in the matches of the assembly today, because the first round has not ended yet.

There are simply too many participants in the assembly.

With many arenas and ten people fighting at the same time, such efficiency meant that only by the afternoon did the first round of the assembly come to a close.

As the first round of the assembly ended and everyone had taken the stage, countless cultivators returned to the Capital City and set off towards various betting shops to start placing bets.

The first choice for everyone was the Tongbao Gambling House, after all, it was the largest betting shop in the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty.

However, soon a piece of news spread among the circle of cultivators.

"What, Xing Kui Betting Shop has a special way of betting?"

"Three in one? What does that mean? Does it mean that with a stake of one unit, I can bet on three people, and if all three of my bets are correct, I'll get three times the money?"

"What if one of them is wrong?"

"If one is wrong, then you lose, and you get nothing."

"In this way, isn't the chance of winning much smaller?"

"It is much smaller, but the payout is much larger if you win."

"We can try going, bet a little, even if we bet less, but with higher odds, we'd win more."

"We could take a look."

"Perhaps we can take a chance!"

One by one, cultivators left the Tongbao Gambling House and headed towards the Xing Kui Betting Shop.

And more and more cultivators, having received the news early, bypassed the Tongbao Gambling House and went directly to the Xing Kui Betting Shop.

Tongbao Gambling House.

On the second floor, the owner of the betting shop looked at the crowd that was rapidly leaving and at the street below, saw people passing by his establishment without entering and instead headed straight towards the distance. Gradually, his expression changed.

"What's happening? Why has the growth rate of our patrons slowed down so much? How come there is even a decrease in numbers?"

"What's going on here? Hurry, find out what's happened!"

His subordinates quickly reported back with the news.

"Three in one? Four in one? So it can be played like that... Xing Kui Betting Shop, this idea, it must have been Yi Qiancheng's doing!"

I knew it, once the Xing Kui Trading Company entered the betting industry, there would be trouble, and indeed, the trouble has come.

Quickly, pass the word, our betting shop will also change the rules, we can do three in one, we can do four in one too...

Also, spread the news immediately, let everyone know that our shop offers as many betting options as the Xing Kui Betting Shop."

After giving the instructions to his subordinates, the owner of Tongbao Gambling House sighed once more.

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Although they reacted quickly, news of the other betting methods at the Xing Kui Betting Shop had already spread, and they were simply following suit, but even so, spreading news takes time.

Today, they're likely to lose a substantial number of customers.

They can only wait until tomorrow, by which time the news would have fully spread. With the reputation of being the top betting shop, they hoped they could turn the situation around.

On the third day of the Immortals Martial Gathering, Cao Zhen finally arrived.

This time, he wasn't standing alone with the people from Four Treasures Peak; he brought the disciples of Four Treasures Peak along with Li Ke to the gathering place of the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Of course, with his arrival, Gu Chengyu did not show up again.

Although he had finished refining the Tianyuan Yiqi Pill yesterday, he hadn't completed the pill for his own breakthrough to the Golden Core Stage and needed time, still relying on Gu Chengyu to watch over the Pill Furnace for him.

He returned to the Hundred Peaks Sect with the people of Four Treasures Peak, while Wu Jianzi and Lu Yiren both returned to their respective sects' areas.

Just as Cao Zhen had returned to the area of the Hundred Peaks Sect, three figures came toward him together.

"Pen and Ink Sect, this generation's most outstanding disciple, Qing Mozi."

"War Edge Sect, this generation's most outstanding disciple Jiang Yan."

"And that, isn't that the personal disciple of the Infinite Temple's abbot, Liao Kong?"

"What are they doing, why are they all heading in the direction of Bai Fengzi?"

"I heard that Qing Mozi and Jiang Yan both took Peak Master Cao as their Pathfinder, they must be looking for Peak Master Cao, but what is Liao Kong doing there?"

These three had considerable reputations, especially Jiang Yan, who was the personal disciple of the abbot of the Infinite Temple and also a practitioner of the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection.

When these three made a move, it immediately drew the attention of countless onlookers.

It wasn't until they stood before Cao Zhen that they stopped, with Qing Mozi and Jiang Yan bowing to him and saying, "Disciple, Qing Mozi (Jiang Yan), pays respect to Senior Cao."

"Senior, we have long wanted to visit you, but you were in Yi Mansion, where outsiders are not allowed, so we did not go.

After the gathering started, we went to Yi Mansion, heard that you were cultivating, and did not disturb you, which is our mistake."

As they spoke, both men knelt down on the ground and kowtowed deeply to Cao Zhen.

The audience, watching from a distance, were not surprised.

Since Qing Mozi and Jiang Yan took Peak Master Cao as their Pathfinder, which was akin to having a half-mentor, it was normal for them to admit their oversight since they hadn't seen him since his arrival in the Capital City.

"All right, stand up. I've been busy since coming to the Capital City, so it's not your fault," said Cao Zhen, signaling for them to rise before looking towards Liao Kong.

After Qing Mozi and Jiang Yan stood up, Liao Kong knelt with a thud and said loudly, "Disciple Liao Kong, after receiving the Buddhist scriptures from Senior Cao, has gained a lot of understanding and found his path forward. I have informed my sect and wish to take Senior Cao as my Pathfinder."

With that, he kowtowed three times heavily to Cao Zhen.

He had been immersed in the Prajna Paramita Sutra since the day he saw it, absorbing it deeply for half a month.

After half a month, he finally came out of his deep state.

He had been immersed without immediate enlightenment, and knowing that Peak Master Cao had left, he did not go to the Hundred Peaks Sect but left with the sutra.

Afterward, he traveled to various Zen sects to debate and all the while studied the scripture.

Finally, after finishing his last debate, he found his future path, and he attained unprecedented clarity and enlightenment at that moment.

Since the scripture from Senior Cao directed him to his future path, naturally, he wanted to take Senior Cao as his Pathfinder.

A Pathfinder is different from a master.

Apart from not calling someone a master, generally, one would not refuse to be a Pathfinder.

If I take you as my Pathfinder, I will fulfill the duties as a half-disciple.

But as my Pathfinder, you don't need to do anything, just because I found my future path thanks to you, I want to recognize you as my Pathfinder.

"All right, stand up, it's good that you found your path forward." Cao Zhen pointed to the five disciples standing beside him, "These five are my disciples, get to know them for now."

In the distance, the audience, who saw Liao Kong kneel and kowtow to Cao Zhen, were completely numbed.

"Indeed, Liao Kong also took Peak Master Cao as his Pathfinder."

"How many people have recognized Peak Master Cao as their Pathfinder now?"

"Sword Sect's Wu Jianzi, Scholar Dao Sect's Lu Yiren, Pen and Ink Sect's Qing Mozi, War Edge Sect's Jiang Yan, and now another one from the Infinite Temple, Liao Kong!"

"Each of these individuals is a prodigy of their time, with Qing Mozi and Jiang Yan both being practitioners of the Nine Phenomena Ten Golden Elixir Great Perfection. And the remaining three are all practitioners of the Ten Different Phenomena Golden Elixir Great Perfection!"

"Reincarnated with Great Ability, this is what it means to be reincarnated with Great Ability, to provide guidance under which others find their path forward!"

"Speaking of which, have you heard? That Peak Master Cao went to the Tongbao Gambling House and wagered a huge amount of Spirit Stones and Spirit Crystals, betting it all on him winning the first place in the Immortals Martial Gathering!"

"I heard about it too, speaking of which, why is Star Lord Hao Yue's odds lower than Peak Master Cao's, even though they're both reincarnated with Great Ability from Heaven?"

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"What's up? Are you interested?"

"Indeed, I'm quite interested. I'm planning to go place a bet, on Peak Master Cao."

"I advise you to think it through. Do you think the people at the betting houses are fools? Both Peak Master Cao and Star Lord Hao Yue are reincarnations of individuals with great abilities. Why are the odds for Peak Master Cao higher and why is he less favored? That's because the scenarios for Peak Master Cao and Star Lord Hao Yue are different."

In the crowd, a disciple of the Sun and Moon Sect explained to a friend, "Star Lord Hao Yue has no disciples; he is alone. He can devote all his experiences to his own cultivation.

To fully restore his cultivation base, and even surpass his previous life at the same realm.

But it's different for Peak Master Cao. Peak Master Cao has five disciples, and he is very dedicated to all five of them.

With four with Ancient Immortal Bodies, to be able to bring them up to the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection under his guidance, even as a reincarnation of a powerful entity, must have taken a tremendous effort and consumed a lot of his energy.

Thus, when both are reincarnations of powerful entities, one focused solely on himself while the other cannot focus only on himself, isn't it clear who to bet on?"

"That makes sense, I understand now. After the tournament is over, I shall go place my bet on Star Lord Hao Yue."

Amidst the discussions of the crowd, today's Immortal Competition also began.

Unlike the previous two days, today's Immortal Competition was no longer ten people to a platform, but a series of one-on-one fights.

The order of the fights was also very simple, based on the number tags they received on the first day.

For example, the winner from the first group of group 'A' was 'A Zi number one', and the winner from the second group was 'A Zi number eleven'. These two would fight first, followed by the winner of the third group facing off the winner from the fourth group at the 'A Zi' platform.

Cao Zhen was 'A Zi number twenty-six', the victor from the third group at the 'A Zi' platform. Today, he was to fight the person from the second group to take the stage.

Those who managed to emerge victorious from yesterday's battles clearly weren't the ones with Golden Core level one, two, or three.

It's just, his opponent was truly weak.

A Golden Core level five, with only one abnormal Golden Core.

He truly didn't understand how his opponent managed to fight his way out from a platform of ten people.

He didn't pay much attention to the later fights at the 'A Zi' platform yesterday, so he didn't know the details.

Yesterday, facing the attacks of nine people, he had managed to win. Not to mention, he was only facing someone at the Golden Core level five today.

Cao Zhen released his Heretical Golden Core and consecutively cast two sets of the Five-thunder Righteous Method.

The first Five-thunder Righteous Method was dodged by the opponent, but the second was unavoidable; the opponent could only attempt to block it. Yet, unable to withstand the Five-thunder Righteous Method, he was defeated right there on the platform.

After that, one by one, the disciples from Four Treasures Peak, including Yi Sheng, took to the stage, each winning with ease.

Although those who made it to the second round today weren't particularly weak, it also depended on whom they were matched against.

The disciples from Four Treasures Peak, each one with the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, how could their opponents compete?

Even Yi Sheng himself possessed an Eight Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core. His opponent, not even as strong as the ones from his platform the day before, merely had five Golden Cores. How could they resist him?

In fact, among those advancing today, there were even those with only four Golden Cores.

These individuals either had special divine skills and cultivation techniques, or they were lucky because the other competitors have nearly wiped each other out, letting them take advantage, or they were even luckier to be in a group with no particularly strong opponents.

Cao Zhen figured out that the Grand Preceptor was indeed controlling the draw when he tossed out the number tags, but it seemed his intention was only to ensure those with the Ten Different Phenomena Golden Elixir Great Perfection, those with the Perfect Completion Golden Cores, could bypass the others easily.

The rest, the Grand Preceptor didn't seem to care much about at all.

He even heard the discussion of the Hundred Peaks Sect nearby: yesterday, there were even two people, each with nine Golden Cores, who ended up in the same group to compete.

Those experts who were eliminated after encountering Xiang Ziyu, Yan Yourong, and the others could only be considered unlucky for having faced the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection.

The disciples of the Hundred Peaks Sect had relatively early numbers on their tags, with the latest one belonging to Yi Sheng, with the character Ji 37. Those with tags in the thirties were grouped to fight with those in the twenties.

The disciples from Four Treasures Peak had finished their battles early in the day.

After watching for a while, Cao Zhen hurriedly took his group away to return to Yi Mansion, to continue alchemy, while his disciples started cultivating their Divine Skills.

At dusk, Cao Zhen discovered that Yi Sheng's Scarlet Flame Heavenly Phoenix had already reached level twenty-five in cultivation.

"Cultivating so fast? If I didn't see the name, I'd think it was that kid, Xiang Ziyu. Indeed, the introduction didn't lie. Scarlet Flame Heavenly Phoenix, difficult to cultivate, but once mastered, has an incredibly high speed of progression in the early stages. Just not sure, how early is 'early'? Is level fifty-one still considered early?"

"My Golden Core pill is almost ready. Tomorrow, it should be ready. I wonder if, by then, Yi Sheng can push the cultivation of the Scarlet Flame Heavenly Phoenix to its limit."

Cao Zhen devotedly refined his pill.

In the Capital City, the second round of the great competition of immortals had also come to an end. Many cultivators, having a clearer understanding of everyone's strengths, flocked to the various gambling houses.

Upon learning of the new betting method at Tongbao Gambling House, many chose to go there, but soon after, another piece of news arrived.

"What? Xing Kui Betting Shop has a new betting method?"

"You can bet on four people at the same time, and as long as any three of them win, you're considered victorious? Doesn't this significantly increase the success rate?"

"Indeed, it's much higher, but the principal amount is also greater, isn't it?"

"How much more principal?"

"Look, four people, any three of them, means there are four possible combinations, so that's four times the principal."

"Regardless, this method seems much better."

"Let's go, to Xing Kui Betting Shop."

In the Capital City, the managers of each gambling house cursed as they watched customers leaving for Xing Kui Betting Shop.

"That Yi Qiancheng is too cunning!"

"He must have anticipated that we would copy him, so he held back some of his wagering methods. Moreover, he knew that in the daytime, everyone would be watching the competition among the immortals, so he didn't announce other wagering methods.

Only after the competition among the immortals ended did he publicize this new wagering method."

"Go, send someone to Xing Kui Betting Shop immediately. We will follow whatever way they're betting."

"But, boss, some of their betting methods are quite complex. And it seems like the odds they're offering have also changed—they've based it on their own odds. If we were to copy them directly, we'd need to change the odds too. Exactly how to change them, it's not easy to adjust on short notice."

"If it's not easy to adjust, then learn from them—how they bet is how we bet! Why are you still standing around? Knowing that their betting method is complicated, shouldn't you be hurrying to learn from Xing Kui Betting Shop!"

The odds set by various gambling houses in the Capital City were generally similar, but there were also slight differences.

However, tonight, as night fell, the odds of all the gambling houses in the Capital City ended up being exactly the same. All the gambling houses followed suit with Xing Kui Betting Shop.

It was just too late for them to change.

Today, Xing Kui Betting Shop was once again the gambling house with the biggest gains!

At Tongbao Gambling House, the owner listened to his subordinate's report and burst out harshly, "Tomorrow! We'll see tomorrow! I refuse to believe that Xing Kui Betting Shop can come up with any new tricks tomorrow!"

Chapter 516: Grand Preceptor Goes to Sea_1

The battle for martial supremacy among the immortals had concluded its second round, and the third was about to begin.

The Sun and Moon Sect, a powerful Immortal Sect and one of the ten great sects under the banner of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, was full of disciples and even the two leading elders with faces filled with worry at the Immortal Reception House.

Tomorrow, the fourth round of the grand tournament would take place.

Today, for the second round of the competition, the winners from the first group in each stage battled the winners from the second group, and the winners from the third with those from the fourth.

They estimated it would be the same tomorrow.

Their genius disciple from the Sun and Moon Sect, Qin Yao, who had emerged victorious in the second grouping on the 'A' stage, had also defeated the winner of the first group.

And from Four Treasures Peak, Peak Master Cao of the Hundred Peaks Sect was the third group's victor on the 'A' stage; today, Peak Master Cao had also bested his opponent.

So tomorrow, their prodigy Qin Yao from the Sun and Moon Sect, would face none other than the reincarnated Great Ability, Peak Master Cao from the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Naturally, they had faith in their prodigy Qin Yao, but the opponent, after all, was a reincarnated Great Ability.

This...

"What kind of rotten rules are these? Our Qin Yao has to face that Peak Master Cao of Four Treasures Peak so soon!"

"Even if our Qin Yao can easily secure a place in the top eleven, she would now have to face Peak Master Cao prematurely."

"We have three disciples in the Sun and Moon Sect who have reached Perfect Completion with the Ten Different Phenomena Golden Core. Yet among them, the strongest is Qin Yao. Now that Qin Yao has to confront Cao Zhen, Peak Master Cao so soon, she has no choice but to fight with all her might."

"If it were any of the other two disciples facing Cao Zhen, there would probably be no chance of victory. But for Qin Yao...Although she faces a reincarnated Great Ability, it's not like Qin Yao doesn't have a chance to win.

It's just that by doing so, our best trump card would be revealed."

"Not only is it a matter of revealing our trump card, the fierce battle between the two will undoubtedly be bloody, leaving Qin Yao severely wounded even if she wins. Although we've brought top-quality Healing Sacred Medicine, such injuries won't be quickly healed by even the best Sacred Medicine. And if later on Qin Yao encounters another formidable opponent..."

"Troublesome, truly troublesome, these abysmal rules!"

Cao Zhen was also panicking.

Based on the matches of the previous second round of the Immortal Martial Tournament, he would encounter Qin Yao from the Sun and Moon Sect in the third round!

A being with Perfect Completion Golden Core manifesting Ten Different Phenomena.

He, currently in the Core Formation Stage, could handle the ordinary with ease, but when facing someone who had achieved Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, no amount of tactics would avail him.

"Now, without having forged my Golden Core, even if I wished to forcibly advance to the Golden Core Stage, it's impossible. What am I to do?"

As Cao Zhen was grappling with his headache, a voice came through—not from the room but from afar, echoing throughout the Capital City.

"Tomorrow, when the chen hour arrives, the Immortal Martial Tournament will officially begin, and opponents will be selected at random to face each other."

The voice was filled with boundless authority, brooking no doubt.

"The voice of the Grand Preceptor... The Grand Preceptor is making an early announcement of the rules for tomorrow's Immortal Martial Tournament. The rules have changed, meaning I won't face Qin Yao tomorrow," Cao Zhen breathed a sigh of relief, feeling much better.

Was the Grand Preceptor suddenly changing the rules for his sake? To give him a helping hand and prevent an early elimination?

After all, the Grand Preceptor truly wished for him to assume the role of the State Preceptor.

Upon hearing the announcement, the people from the Sun and Moon Sect at the Immortal Reception House showed a flicker of joy on their faces.

"The rules have changed, the opponents will now be selected randomly."

"So now we don't know who our opponent might be."

"This means we won't have to face Cao Zhen, Peak Master Cao, prematurely."

"It's not like we won't face him at all. Didn't the Grand Preceptor say it? The selection of opponents is random, so it's possible to still draw Peak Master Cao, though the chances are incredibly slim."

"Actually, it's right to change the rules in this way. Otherwise, many strong contestants would clash early on, which would make some of the later matches uneven in strength."

"This way, it also prevents people from studying their opponents in advance and employing underhanded strategies."

"This change is for the better."

The people of the Sun and Moon Sect rejoiced, but many other sects with contenders in tomorrow's match cursed the sudden change.

"They've changed the opponent? I've already spent a long time studying my opponent for tomorrow, and now they just change it like this?"

"You're lucky. My opponent for tomorrow was one Phenomenon lesser in his Golden Core than I – victory was assured. I even started researching the opponents for the next round. Now the rules might change."

That night was one of joy and worry for those who would continue in the competition the next day.

The next day, in the third round of the Immortal Martial Tournament, the battle officially commenced.

The chen hour.

Which correlates to 7 a.m. in modern society.

Cao Zhen arrived at one of the mountains occupied by the Hundred Peaks Sect straight away, just as he did the day before. With the Immortal Martial Tournament ongoing, each Immortal Sect had established their fixed spectating positions.

However, unlike previous days, he noticed that many gazes were directed toward the top of a high mountain with the best position.

Atop that peak, which was typically occupied by the Grand Preceptor alone, there were now several others.

Frowns were already etching the brows of many.

"Mortals... The Grand Preceptor has actually invited some mortals to watch us contend in magic."

Chapter 517: The Grand Preceptor Goes to the Sea_2

"These appear to be the civil and military officials from the imperial court."

"Watch us duel, but can they understand it?"

"What does this mean? Are we performing for them? What do they take us for?"

The crowd around buzzed with dissatisfaction, venting their unhappiness.

Yet, despite their displeasure, not a single one approached the Grand Preceptor to protest the commoners' presence at the duel, content to merely vent among themselves.

Soon, the referee's voice rang out.

"Platform A, number one hundred and six from the Celestial Plum Sect, Qiao Jingyao, versus, from the Hundred Peaks Sect, number twenty-six from Four Treasures Peak, Cao Zhen. Both contestants, please take the stage."

As the referee's call echoed, Cao Zhen landed on the platform.

A step behind him, from afar, another figure flew down to the stage.

"A female cultivator?"

Cao Zhen looked at the woman before him, who was quite beautiful. She wasn't as tall as Yi Sheng, but she was tall among women, and the most noticeable feature was a plum blossom tattooed near the corner of her eye on her fair skin.

In the Guardian Immortal Dynasty, he had seen people tattoo special patterns and lines on their bodies, some because of their beliefs and others due to their cultivation techniques.

However, it was rare for him to see anyone with tattoos on their face.

After all, in the rules of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty, facial tattoos were stigmas, marked by officials on those who broke the law. The characters were cut into their skin and filled with ink so that the marks would last longer. These were called "ink punishments," and were a form of humiliation.

Therefore, it was unusual for anyone to choose to have such tattoos on their faces.

The plum blossom mark on this woman's face must be related to her cultivation technique or some Divine Skill.

As for the Celestial Plum Sect's name, he had never heard of it; it must be a relatively minor sect.

At a spot on the mountain, an elder with a face showing signs of age stared helplessly towards Platform A.

His disciple had drawn Cao Zhen, Peak Master Cao, as her opponent.

That was a reincarnated Great Ability. Against such a contender, his disciple had no chance of winning.

He had allowed his disciple to participate in the Immortals' Combat Assembly with the goal of having her spar with as many geniuses as possible.

Sects like the Ten Great Immortal Sects, or other well-known ones, allowed their disciples to spar with each other and even engaged with disciples from other sects.

But it was different for their Celestial Plum Sect.

With only four Golden Core cultivators in the Celestial Plum Sect, they were not even on par with many of the peaks within the Hundred Peaks Sect.

This number even included him.

As Qiao Jingyao's master and a mere Golden Core cultivator himself.

Even if the four of them sparred, they'd just be circulating amongst themselves.

As for seeking other sects for sparring matches, perhaps those of similar size to their Celestial Plum Sect might agree to fight.

But near their Celestial Plum Sect, besides them, there was only one other minor sect. Always the same people sparring with each other; their experience was too limited.

And as for the other sects, those from the major orthodox sects could agree to sparing once or twice, but how could they spar regularly with them?

This was why if given a choice, everyone preferred the larger Immortal Sects or even the Ten Great Immortal Sects.

In a great Immortal Sect, they wouldn't face this issue.

Moreover, in those larger sects, one could have access to more resources and superior guidance. Perhaps you're only at the Immortal Bridge Period, but if your talent is high enough, you could be receiving Earth Immortal Realm guidance.

Whereas in their Celestial Plum Sect, Qiao Jingyao only had alternating instruction from him and the sect leader, both of whom were merely at the Golden Core Stage.

Even now, he was no match for Qiao Jingyao anymore.

He was at the seventh level of Golden Core, but his Golden Core contained no Phenomenon Pills, only ordinary ones.

It was only through many years of cultivation, having lived over two thousand years, that he had slowly accumulated enough to break through to the seventh level of Golden Core.

His disciple, on the other hand, had Phenomenon Pills in all her Golden Cores.

Originally, he hoped that this Golden Core Assembly would provide his disciple with more experience and opportunities to spar with others. Yet unexpectedly, she encountered a reincarnated Great Ability quite early.

On Platform A, Qiao Jingyao looked warily at Cao Zhen across from her, as rows of Golden Cores appeared behind her.

Though victory was unattainable, even though she faced a reincarnated Great Ability and was bound to be defeated, she resolved to fight with all her might and let the world know of the Celestial Plum Sect's existence.

Her aura of combativeness surged as one by one, her Golden Cores rose into the air.

Five Golden Cores, each containing a phenomenon, whether it was a towering and majestic tree like a mountain, or blossoming flowers, or tenacious wild grass...

"Phenomena!"

"All five Golden Cores are Phenomenon Cores?"

"They're all phenomena of wood."

"I've never heard of this Celestial Plum Sect before, but this disciple's talent is astonishing."

"Too bad she's up against Peak Master Cao."

"Such a pity. It's truly a pity."

Having five Golden Cores was considered on the lower end by the standards of the Immortals' Combat Assembly, especially as the tournament progressed to its current stage, with most participants having more Golden Cores.

What set her apart were her five Phenomenon Golden Cores.

Chapter 518: The Grand Preceptor Goes to Sea_3

Two people, one with eight Golden Cores, of which five are Heretical Golden Cores, and the other, all five are Heretical Golden Cores without a doubt the former is stronger. However, the latter has much more potential for growth.

After all, of the former's cores, three are ordinary Golden Cores, but the latter theoretically could become Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection.

Above the arena, Cao Zhen looked at the rising five Heretical Golden Cores on his opponent's body, his face revealing a solemn expression.

Five Heretical Golden Cores. Today, he feared it would not be as easy to win as it had been the day before.

Moreover, it was apparent that there seemed to be a sixth Golden Core's phantom outline behind the opponent.

His own Heretical Golden Core was between four and five Heretical Golden Cores; thus, theoretically, his Heretical Golden Core power should be weaker than that of five Heretical Golden Cores.

However, his Divine Skills should be much stronger than the opponent's, and he also had more Divine Weapons, so his chances of winning were greater.

But this time, to win, he needed to reveal some real skills.

Behind Cao Zhen, seven Heterodox Elixir Pearls and ten Illustrious Immortal Bridges, along with ten Illustrious Dao Platforms, all emerged.

Atop the best-positioned mountain, a robust man clad in the armor of a Martial Officer looked towards the direction of the arena.

Fortunately, the distance from here to the 'A' arena wasn't too great; otherwise, he wouldn't even be able to make out what was happening there.

Seeing the two who had already taken their places on the arena and the Heterodox Elixir Pearls behind Cao Zhen, he asked curiously, "Is that Peak Master Cao the candidate for State Preceptor previously decided by the Grand Preceptor? That behind him, it's not Golden Cores, is it? It's already this late, isn't Peak Master Cao going to release his Golden Cores?"

Though he was not a Cultivator, he had seen the battles of Cultivators and their Golden Cores. He knew what a Golden Core should look like.

Golden Cores?" The Grand Preceptor scoffed, replying indifferently, "He is not in the Golden Core Stage, so how could he release Golden Cores?"

The General who had just asked the question was startled, asking in complete bewilderment, "Not in the Golden Core Stage? What does that mean? Wasn't it said that Cao Zhen is a reincarnated being of Great Ability?"

The Grand Preceptor sneered, "Who decreed that a reincarnated being of Great Ability must be in the Golden Core Stage? Cao Zhen, at present, possesses Seven Elixirs Cultivation Base."

The Grand Preceptor was not speaking softly, nor did he intend to conceal this, having no need to hide it. Furthermore, there was no barrier to prevent his voice from reaching those around him.

Instantly, his voice reached many who were paying attention, causing a stir.

In a flash, the entire mountain seemed to explode with exclamations.

"What? The Grand Preceptor said Cao Zhen is only at Seven Elixirs Core Formation?"

"How is that possible?"

"Cao Zhen is a reincarnated being of Great Ability; he enabled his disciple to break through to Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, but he himself hasn't broken through?"

"Indeed, it's too inconceivable!"

"Even if it's said that his four disciples, who are all Ancient Immortal Bodies, could only breakthrough to achieve Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection during this time, that doesn't mean he shouldn't have allowed those four disciples to break through. But what about his other disciple?"

"Yes, Yi Sheng is not an Ancient Immortal Body, yet she has broken through to eight Heretical Golden Cores. Why didn't Cao Zhen break through himself?"

"Unfathomable!"

"No, if Cao Zhen is only at Seven Elixirs in Core Formation, how did he get to where he is today?"

"Right, in the first match, he faced an onslaught of nine Golden Core Stage cultivators, and he seemed to defeat the other nine quite effortlessly. How could that possibly be something someone in the Core Formation Stage could achieve?"

"The Golden Core Stage is incomparable to the Core Formation Stage, it's impossible for someone at Core Formation to defeat a Golden Core, let alone crush so many Golden Cores!"

No matter how much the crowd couldn't believe what they heard, the speaker was the current State's Grand Preceptor, the undisputed number one expert of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty!

"This... this was said by the Grand Preceptor; no matter how much we doubt it, it's probably true."

"The Grand Preceptor, he couldn't possibly be wrong."

"Indeed, the Grand Preceptor couldn't be wrong, and he wouldn't lie. He hasn't lied in all these years; he has no reason to tell a lie now."

"So you're saying that Cao Zhen truly has the Cultivation Base of Seven Elixirs in Core Formation?"

"Then, how did he manage to defeat so many Golden Core masters with only Seven Elixirs?"

"The skill of 'Rotation of Sun, Moon and Stars' is something that can be performed only in the Earth Immortal Realm. Are you saying that what Xiang Ziyu obtained is something that can be executed at the Core Formation Stage?"

"And what about his Divine Skills? You've seen how terrifying his Divine Skills are; they don't seem to be something that could be performed at the Core Formation Stage."

"Just because others can't do it doesn't mean that Peak Master Cao can't. He is, after all, a reincarnated being of Great Ability."

"A reincarnated being of Great Ability, is it that horrifying? If that's so, when Peak Master Cao truly becomes a Perfect Completion Golden Core, who among Golden Core Stage cultivators could be his match?"

"Or to put it another way, how many Golden Cores would it take to stop Peak Master Cao?"

"I initially thought Peak Master Cao was using some special techniques to suppress his own Cultivation Base and turning his Golden Cores into Core Formation. But it turns out he didn't use any special methods at all; he is simply at Seven Elixirs in Core Formation!"

Not just the disciples, but even the leading Elders of the ten Immortal Sects were completely stunned at this moment.

Chapter 519: The Grand Preceptor Goes to the Sea_4

"Cao Zhen, Peak Master Cao is only at Core Formation?"

"Core Formation Stage, yet he managed to defeat so many Golden Cores, this..."

"Exotic Pill, do you remember the Exotic Pill he released during the battle? His Divine Skills were all channeled through that Exotic Pill; his power comes from it."

"Indeed, that Exotic Pill resembles a Golden Core but is certainly not one. I have never seen such an Exotic Pill before."

"Not to mention seeing it, I have never even heard of such an Exotic Pill."

"So, the reason he could be that strong is entirely because of that Exotic Pill."

"That Exotic Pill is likely a treasure from his past life. After his reincarnation, he immediately found it."

"It must be so, otherwise a Core Formation period cultivator could not possibly be that strong."

"As for that Exotic Pill, it's probably his special tactic. After all, he's a Great Ability capable of reincarnation, he surely has his unique methods. But even if the Exotic Pill is strong, I'm afraid its strength has limits."

After all, Peak Master Cao is currently only at the Core Formation Stage. If the Exotic Pill's power is too strong, he himself won't be able to control it. He might even be suppressed by the Heavenly Dao."

"However, Peak Master Cao is actually much weaker than we imagined."

"He wasn't intentionally hiding his power before, but what he showed was actually all of his strength."

The words of the Earth Immortal Realm Elders spread to the ears of their disciples, and suddenly, everyone finally understood the reason behind Cao Zhen's strength.

"So it's because of that Exotic Pill's power."

"Hence, we misunderstood him before."

"This also explains everything he did before; he wasn't deliberately hiding, he's just that strong."

"Doesn't this mean that we all have a chance to win when encountering him, to defeat a reincarnated Great Ability?"

"There's no need to mention us, I'm afraid, even his current opponent has a chance to defeat him, that's someone with five Exotic Golden Cores."

Upon the stage, Cao Zhen was speechless. Grand Preceptor, why didn't you say before that I have a Core Formation of seven pearls?

If you had said it earlier, would I have been besieged by nine Golden Core Stage cultivators?

If I had bet on myself to win, who knows how much higher the odds would've been? Wouldn't I have made a fortune?

Instead, you waited until now to tell me, and I nearly threw all my possessions into betting on myself to win. After the odds were revised because you said I was at the Core Formation Stage, I didn't have much money left to bet. Aren't you tricking me?

Across from Cao Zhen, Qiao Jingyao listened to the conversations circulating around and looked at the seven Heterodox Elixir Pearls behind Cao Zhen, her fighting spirit surging intensely, reaching skyward.

The opponent is only at the Core Formation Stage?

I'm at the Golden Core Stage, even if he is a reincarnated Great Ability, I must win!

As long as I defeat this reincarnated Great Ability, I will ensure the world remembers the Celestial Plum Sect!

With this, the Celestial Plum Sect can attract even more gifted disciples, thus accelerating its development!

In today's battle, victory is the only option; defeat is not allowed!

Cao Zhen suddenly realized that his opponent's gaze became more piercing, as if harboring deep-seated enmity against him.

"Begin!"

From below the stage, the referee's call to start the match echoed; Qiao Jingyao made her move first.

Behind her, a Golden Core trembled violently, letting out a sound as if bursting open, and a piercing chill swept over the stage, instantly covering the entire stage with a layer of frost.

Amidst the biting cold, an image of a plum blossom emerged in the void, sending waves of fragrance that made one feel as if they were plunged into the depths of winter.

The next moment, the plum blossom phantom exploded, and petals flew towards Cao Zhen, each petal imbued with endless might.

Cao Zhen did not deploy the rotation of sun, moon, and stars again.

Qiao Jingyao's cultivation was higher than his. Although he could use the rotation of sun, moon, and stars to counter her Divine Skills, after reflecting her skills back, he could not do it with greater speed or stronger force.

Moreover, there's one more point, the rotation of sun, moon, and stars are indeed more suited to the Earth Immortal Realm's Divine Skills. Although Xiang Ziyu modified it so that Golden Core Stage cultivators could use it, the mana consumption was significantly high.

And now, as he was still only at the Core Formation Stage, using the rotation of sun, moon, and stars consumed even more mana.

Now, facing Qiao Jingyao and deploying the rotation again seemed a bit futile.

Rather, another Divine Skill was more suitable for the current situation.

Qiao Jingyao's Golden Core vision was of plants, clearly representing wood, and wood's nemesis was fire.

Behind Cao Zhen, seven Heterodox Elixir Pearls and ten Immortal Bridges, ten Dao Platforms, began to tremble wildly.

Streams of mana poured into the Heretical Golden Core he released above his head.

The next moment, the temperature on the stage soared.

The layers of frost that had appeared on the stage melted instantly, while from the Heterodox Elixir Pearls behind him, flames rushed out, linking together to form a vast sea of fire, engulfing the entire stage and surging fiercely towards Qiao Jingyao.

The flames soared, as if intent on reducing the entire world to ashes.

"Explosive Sun Flames!"

"Isn't this the Divine Skill previously displayed by Yi Sheng?"

"Cao Zhen is Yi Sheng's master; is it any wonder that he knows Yi Sheng's Divine Skills?"

Chapter 520: The Grand Preceptor Goes to Sea_5

"No, this Divine Skill belongs to the Hundred Peaks Sect, and it is extremely difficult to cultivate."

The members of the Hundred Peaks Sect looked at the Explosive Sun Flames released by Cao Zhen, each of them showing a strange expression on their faces.

"The Explosive Sun Flames are indeed extremely difficult to cultivate. Previously among our disciples in the Hundred Peaks Sect, there were also three people who cultivated the Explosive Sun Flames. Now there is Peak Master Cao as well?"

"The issue is, the Explosive Sun Flames must be cultivated by those with a Flame Body, like those with a Pure Yang Body, for instance, Su. Yi Sheng is a True Yang Immortal Body, so he was able to succeed. But Peak Master Cao, he isn't a Fire Body, is he?"

"Peak Master Cao's strongest aspect is his Thunder Law, so how did he cultivate it?"

"That's why, this is the terror of a reincarnated Great Ability!"

Within the astonished gazes of everyone, on the platform, a sea of fire roared, directly swallowing the falling petals of the plum blossoms. Instantly, these plum blossoms were completely consumed by the flames, not even having a chance to explode.

The flames continued to surge toward Qiao Jingyao's direction.

Qiao Jingyao's complexion suddenly changed, and she quickly retreated, her hands waving continuously, and suddenly, a giant tree phantom appeared in front of her.

Instantly, an air of ancient, desolate, and mysteriousness surged forth.

Cao Zhen's eyes slightly widened in surprise. This aura, this is clearly a phantom of an ancient tree from ancient times, this is one of Qiao Jingyao's Golden Core's phenomena. To have such a phenomenon, Qiao Jingyao must also be an Immortal Body.

But, Qiao Jingyao's Divine Skills.

As Qiao Jingyao continued to wave her arms, mana gathered around her body, forming numerous thin and withered-looking tree trunks that landed on the giant tree phantom, seeming to merge into one with it, and create a massive web of tree branches.

But in the next moment, under the assault of the flames, the giant net emitted a series of crackling sounds as it was burned branch by branch.

While Qiao Jingyao continued to wave her arms unceasingly, regenerating the branches and supplementing the giant net.

Cao Zhen shook his head slightly. Qiao Jingyao was integrating her Divine Skills with the phenomena within her own Golden Core, in order to enhance the power of her Divine Skills.

The thought process wasn't wrong, and she did achieve it; it's evident that her talent is excellent.

But, her Divine Skill is too weak.

When he was at the Hundred Peaks Sect, he had watched the entire Hundred Peaks competition.

In the Hundred Peaks competition, the Divine Skills displayed by the Core Formation Stage disciples were all stronger than this one.

Indeed, he felt that he had never seen a worse Divine Skill.

It's not that the level of the Divine Skill is low. It is evident that Qiao Jingyao has cultivated her Divine Skill very purely, so the level of her Divine Skill is certainly not low, it's simply that the Divine Skill is too weak.

Although he can perform all of the Divine Skills connected to him, and the level of the Divine Skills is the same, the same Explosive Sun Flames he releases are definitely not as strong as Yi Sheng's, and it's not because their Cultivation Realms differ.

At the same Cultivation Realm, under the circumstances where their power is identical, the Explosive Sun Flames he uses would surely be weaker.

Because, after all, the Explosive Sun Flames are a Fire-oriented supernatural power, and Yi Sheng has a True Yang Immortal Body which is more suited for Fire-oriented supernatural powers.

Therefore, for such a Fire-oriented supernatural power, the mightiest he can unleash will absolutely not surpass Yi Sheng's.

Under such circumstances, the Explosive Sun Flames he releases completely overpower the two Divine Skills performed by Qiao Jingyao, revealing just how inadequate her Divine Skills are.

In the distance, on Gao Shan, many people also began shaking their heads.

"That Qiao Jingyao's Divine Skill is too weak."

"How can there be such a poor Divine Skill? Such Divine Skills wouldn't be cultivated by anyone in our Immortal Sect."

"To say the least, there are no such weak Divine Skills in our Immortal Sect, unless it's one of those entry-level, low-grade Divine Skills."

"Which Immortal Sect is Qiao Jingyao from?"

"The Celestial Plum Sect, an Immortal Sect that we haven't heard of, seems to be a remote and barren place's sect."

"In such an Immortal Sect, she managed to become a Five Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core. If she were in one of the top ten Immortal Sects, perhaps she would already exist as a Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core, or even reaching Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection wouldn't be impossible."

"It's a pity, such a splendid talent, but she joined such an Immortal Sect. In that kind of sect, what profound teaching could her masters provide her on a daily basis?"

On the platform, Qiao Jingyao kept retreating. She knew that although she could hold out this way, she was consuming more mana, and in the long run, she would undoubtedly lose. But still, she persisted.

Cao Zhen released a wave of Explosive Sun Flames, and seeing its excellent effect, he briefly paused the flames, then released another wave of Explosive Sun Flames!

That's the difference between him and Yi Sheng.

Since Yi Sheng has a True Yang Immortal Body, her Golden Core also contains phenomena related to fire, so when she releases the Explosive Sun Flames, she doesn't need to continue releasing them. Her Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core can provide a continuous flow of Fire system mana to maintain the Explosive Sun Flames.

Originally, in Yi Sheng's first battle, she relied on her Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Core to continuously release Explosive Sun Flames, while she herself was free to use the Five-thunder Righteous Method.

But Cao Zhen couldn't do this. He isn't a Fire Body and can't keep releasing the Explosive Sun Flames continuously. To maintain it, he must release the Divine Skill anew.

From the opposite side, Qiao Jingyao stared intently at Cao Zhen's position, observing him releasing the Divine Skill again. In her eyes, a resolute look suddenly appeared.

Now is the moment!

She pulled from her waist, and suddenly a silver spear appeared in her hand. With a stomp on the ground, her entire body was enveloped by a burst of green grass, like a meteor or a moth, she abruptly plunged into the sea of fire.