

My Master 811

Chapter 811:

Outside the cave, Ling Xi and Yan You Rong, along with Linghu Gudu, all stepped aside; since Cao Zhen mentioned he wanted to spar with the Axe Maniac, they naturally wouldn't interfere.

Moreover, they were also curious about how strong this reincarnated great ability could be.

The two had not yet clashed, but a pressing aura was already surging around them.

In the area between the two, the air itself began to tremble wildly; stalks of wild grass, stirred by the powerful auras, rose into the air and shattered mid-flight.

Behind Cao Zhen, six Golden Cores, each one a Heretical Golden Core, appeared.

On the other side, behind the Axe Maniac, a massive Golden Core formed from ten Variant Golden Cores also emerged.

Among the ten Variant Golden Cores were images of a Giant Axe, as well as of massive mountains and various ferocious beasts.

A wild aura emanated from his body, constantly fluctuating in all directions.

Suddenly, Linghu Gudu, standing to the side, voiced his confusion, "It's strange, according to the rumors, when the Axe Maniac fights someone, if his cultivation realm is higher, he suppresses his power to match his opponent's. Cao Zhen is at the sixth level of the Golden Core Stage; the Axe Maniac should also suppress his cultivation to the sixth level."

No sooner had he spoken than the continuously rising aura of the Axe Maniac abruptly stalled, his face instantly stiffened; indeed, when he encountered someone with a lower cultivation realm, he would suppress his own to match his opponent. Linghu Gudu's remark was not misplaced.

However, the problem was, facing Cao Zhen in the sixth level of the Golden Core Stage, who was already the strongest within the Golden Core Stage of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty,

would he really suppress his cultivation realm to the sixth level of the Golden Core Stage to fight Cao Zhen?

That would simply be masochistic!

He had already begun to rally his fighting spirit, prepared for a formidable battle with Cao Zhen, but Linghu Gudu's words forced him to interrupt the climbing momentum and turn around to explain.

"Peak Master Cao is different; he is a reincarnated great ability. Regardless of his current cultivation realm, out of respect for a reincarnated great ability, I must fight with all my might!"

As his words concluded, he once again started to gather his own fighting spirit.

However, the brief discontinuation had weakened the aura he reassembled compared to before.

Suddenly, a burst of mountain wind swept through.

The long hair hanging behind the Axe Maniac danced wildly in the wind, and from his back, the ten Variant Golden Cores began to enlarge rapidly, emitting waves of wild, bloodthirsty, ferocious, and domineering aura like the raging torrents of a river.

The next moment, he finally moved.

The Axe Maniac was barefoot, his feet exposed.

Yet as he stepped down onto the ground, the entire land trembled; the spot where his foot fell visibly bore a huge footprint, followed by a clear fissure emerging on the earth, running forward directly reaching Cao Zhen's feet, at which point the ground in front of Cao Zhen explosively burst open, and endless dust soared into the sky, blanketing the area in a gray haze.

Amid the swirling dust, the body of the Axe Maniac leapt into the air, and in his hands, a Giant Axe appeared.

Since coming to this world, Cao Zhen had seen many axe masters and various axes. Some were double-headed axes, some even had hooks and small crescent blades.

Many axes bore various patterns and mysterious runes, possessing various Divine Skills.

However, the axe wielded by the Axe Maniac appeared to be an ordinary Bronze Axe. Other than its exceptionally large size, no special features were evident; moreover, it was covered with verdigris, showing signs of untold ages.

With one swing of the axe, though it was a weapon filled with the oppressive power, those around Ling Xi and Yan You Rong felt the blade to be extraordinarily sharp, as if it could pierce all things in the world.

As a bronze glow streaked across the void, the space around them suddenly split open. The axe's descent was like a falling galaxy on a dark night, filled with an overwhelming presence.

Suddenly, Yan You Rong's eyes widened.

Although she wielded a sword, her Way of the Sword pursued cutting to decide victory or defeat, life or death with a single strike!

At this moment, the swing delivered by the Axe Maniac gave her the impression that he was trying to determine superiority and life or death with his master in that single axe stroke.

Faced with the axe strike, her heart gave rise to a feeling, a sense that this is how an axe should be swung, how a Giant Axe should cleave. No matter the type of axe or the technique, all should cut through the void like this.

She even thought this was the flawless axe strike.

It seemed like a simple axe stroke, without any further iterations of shadows or changes behind it in the void.

Yet standing there watching it fall, she even had an illusion that this single axe strike seemed to seal off all of her master's possible retreats.

This axe strike appeared to have only one purpose: to force her master to clash directly with it!

The might of this axe was enormous, carrying a momentum that could sweep away thousands of troops.

Cao Zhen, observing the descending axe, was reminded of the sword he had seen the previous night. As if in a trance, he felt as though he had once again become that nameless immortal, confronting the falling Heavenly Tribulation of the Heavenly Dao.

Chapter 812:

He involuntarily pointed the longsword in his hand, stabbing toward the front.

The reason he had agreed to Ax-Crazy's spar, the reason he said it would be one move, was because he wanted to verify his enlightenment from the previous day, to verify his Sword Dao!

Ax-Crazy's axe fell, looking perfect to the extreme. Yet Cao Zhen's sword strike, though it seemed no more ordinary than any other, was filled with an indomitable spirit—a force that would forge ahead against the Heavenly Dao, against all the world.

Ax-Crazy, gazing upon this very sword strike, even had an instant vision of the scene from when he was forced into reincarnation.

This sword strike, this was definitely Cao Zhen's sword of reincarnation, hesitant yet certain!

In the next instant, the longsword collided with the Giant Axe.

A clear, ringing sound echoed throughout, and where the Divine Weapons met, a burst of brilliant sparks erupted with force.

Sparks flew everywhere. Countless sparks, like firecrackers lit in the darkness of night, scattered in all directions, falling to the ground, instantly igniting the wild grass.

Upon collision, Cao Zhen and Ax-Crazy each staggered backward.

Cao Zhen was sent flying back more than twenty yards before stabilizing his figure, his arms tingling slightly, and his inner energy surging tumultuously.

After all, he was only at the sixth level of the Golden Core Stage and had not yet achieved Pill Fusion. Moreover, he wielded a sword, which is light and agile, not a Divine Weapon suited for brute force confrontation.

In contrast, Ax-Crazy's axe, a heavy type of Divine Weapon, strived for momentum and was designed for such brute force combat.

Ax-Crazy too flew backward but only for a shorter distance, stabilizing himself after retreating only a dozen yards or so.

He looked at Cao Zhen across from him, his fighting spirit growing even more intense. After all, he was at the Perfect Completion Golden Core Stage, whereas Cao Zhen was only at the sixth level. In a head-on clash, he suffered only a slight disadvantage.

Interesting, truly interesting!

Ax-Crazy lifted his leg and soared into the air, charging forward once more while swinging his axe down in Cao Zhen's direction.

Unlike the previous strike, this time, as his axe slashed downwards, countless axe shadows emerged in the Void, each like a dazzling meteor streaking across the night sky, completely enveloping Cao Zhen.

And in the wake of those countless axe shadows, he seemed to have transformed into a colossal primordial giant, wielding his axe and viciously chopping down at Cao Zhen.

An overwhelming aura filled the space.

In an instant, the entire Void shook wildly.

When the axe fell, even Heaven and Earth were startled.

The surrounding mountains shook furiously, and massive stones tumbled from their peaks.

Cao Zhen's longsword swung again, and suddenly, the Void was filled with hundreds of Cao Zhen's figures, each one striking forward with a sword blow.

In that moment, it seemed as though a hundred top swordsmen had unleashed the sword strikes of their lives simultaneously.

A hundred swords each struck in different directions, yet each was enshrouded in an ethereal aura, every strike unparalleled in power, each containing endless variations.

As this sword thrust forward, the entire Void seemed to be filled with sword intent.

This sword strike seemed like one, yet it was also like a hundred, or even like thousands of Sword Shadows falling.

In the Void, the axe shadows shattered instantly.

The next moment, the sword once again collided with Ax-Crazy's Giant Axe.

Suddenly, a loud sound as if the void itself had split open echoed out.

Sword Qi and axe light whistled in all directions, ripping through the air and the earth in an instant.

On the nearby giant mountains, peak after peak cracked and collapsed.

In the air, sonic booms erupted continuously, blending into a constant roar.

For a time, the experts exploring the ruins all looked up, turning their gaze in a certain direction.

"What a commotion!"

"This noise, it's two of the top Golden Core Stage experts battling it out!"

"This is... too terrifying, better to stay away!"

"No, let's watch. Maybe there'll be an unexpected gain!"

Those who noticed the battle made their choices, some keeping their distance, while others quietly approached to see if there was a chance to seize any opportunities.

In the midst of the battle, Cao Zhen and Ax-Crazy each backed off.

The two, one with a sword and the other gripping the Giant Axe, looked at each other, their clothes torn into strips from the previous clash's impact.

But other than that, no wounds could be seen on either of them.

After a moment, Ax-Crazy looked regretfully at Cao Zhen, "Just two moves, that's hardly satisfying."

"There will be another chance. After leaving the ruins, you can come find me at the Hundred Peaks Sect," Cao Zhen nodded at Ax-Crazy, then turned and flew off into the distance.

Ax-Crazy did not pursue Cao Zhen and the others any longer.

The brief battle between the two, each making two moves, had not determined a victor.

Yet, the fight had been witnessed by many.

At a distance, atop a high mountain, two men in fiery-red robes exchanged glances, both filled with shock.

"That Cao Zhen, only at the sixth level of the Golden Core, is already so terrifying."

"His swordsmanship is too profound. I had heard of Cao Zhen before but had never seen him take action. I even thought that the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty had declined. The strongest Golden Core of the entire Dynasty was only at the sixth level. I never expected him to be so formidable."

Chapter 813:

"Beside Cao Zhen there are three individuals at the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, with such strength, among the people who entered these ruins, probably no force could stop them!"

"Yes, if we encounter a treasure and then happen to meet them, what should we do at that time? Simply hand over the treasure to them?"

Not long after Cao Zhen and others left, more individuals successively flew in.

Meanwhile, hidden in the distant mountains, Lan Mei also quietly appeared and flew towards the people.

Cao Zhen had already left far away. As he flew, he reflected on his recent battle with the Axe Madman. The battle had indeed ended in a draw for now, but after only exchanging two moves with the Axe

Madman, he couldn't gauge how strong the Axe Madman really was, nor could he determine, both being reincarnations of great abilities, whether Star Monarch Hao Yue or the Axe Madman was stronger.

Speaking of which, it had been a while since he viewed Star Lord Hao Yue through the Zhonghua Cloud.

The ruins were incredibly vast. That day, Cao Zhen had been flying continuously, without encountering anyone or any dangers, just endlessly flying until he reached a cave.

And this was only the first day.

In the following ten plus days, he flew non-stop every day. Even though he occasionally encountered some dangers, those were hardly significant for them.

These ten plus days were essentially filled with nothing but flight.

In the blink of an eye, the group had been here for half a month.

At dusk, a group of five people once again ducked into a cave.

As they continued to advance, they found that the caves became progressively smaller.

The current cave could accommodate just over ten people, and it seemed somewhat cramped for their group of five.

Li Ke was still in deep slumber, with no indication of when he might awaken.

Like usual, Cao Zhen took out two maps.

They had obtained three maps in total.

However, one of these, which allowed them to see the formation scene of the ruins, shouldn't be called a map. Since they had used it once, it had turned into a blank piece of paper. Bringing it into other caves resulted in no changes.

On the other hand, the other two maps, when brought into a cave, would cause the walls around them to change and could be used continuously. Firstly, they could observe the situation in other caves and the other entrants of the ruins, and secondly, they could verify the authenticity of the caves.

Previously on their journey, they had entered a cave.

However, after entering and using the map, the cave showed no changes. Clearly, it was a fake cave.

Possibly, someone had deliberately created such fake caves to trap others.

After Cao Zhen took out the map, he no longer paid attention to the condition of the rocky walls while Ling Xi and Yan Yourong, as well as Linghu Gudu, were free to examine them.

He then started connecting with Eclipse Demon.

Hmm? The Eclipse Demon and they have entered a palace?

Cao Zhen's gaze narrowed slightly as he began to observe.

The place where Eclipse Demon and his group were located, referred to as a palace, actually resembled more of a labyrinth. It was filled with numerous long corridors.

Moreover, the corridor in front of them clearly led to five different paths in five different directions.

"Five corridors, my people, each enter a different one. Moreover, everyone remember, once you enter a corridor, immediately leave a mark on the walls. We do not know how many corridors there will be."

After saying this, the third prince stepped towards the central corridor, and the middle-aged man behind him closely followed.

Eclipse Demon, together with a charming woman, entered the far-left corridor.

The corridor was narrow, just wide enough to accommodate two people walking side by side.

Once Eclipse Demon entered the corridor, he did not walk alongside the woman but instead lagged behind. The charming woman glanced back at Eclipse Demon and sneered with disdain, "Eclipse Demon, I really wonder how you managed to cultivate to the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection. A male cultivator like you hides behind me as soon as we enter the corridor, letting me lead the way?"

Unblushing and calm, Eclipse Demon replied, "Junior Sister Qian Jiao, I merely intended to cover our rear."

"You..." Qian Jiao appeared annoyed yet did not argue with Eclipse Demon and continued to lead the way.

Neither spoke, and for a while, only the sound of their footsteps echoed in the long corridor.

After an unknown amount of time, Qian Jiao spoke again, "Senior Brother, do you think what we, the Sun Moon Demon Sect, are doing now is correct? Nowadays, we're completely relying on the third prince..."

Eclipse Demon, walking behind, slowly spoke up, "Junior Sister, wasn't this what the Sect Leader had decided before they went into slumber? Besides, if we hadn't cooperated with the third prince, neither of us might have broken through to become Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection."

"But our fate as the Sun Moon Demon Sect is now entirely in the hands of the third prince," said Qian Jiao softly. "I would rather our Sun Moon Demon Sect..."

"Junior Sister!" Eclipse Demon suddenly interjected, cutting off Qian Jiao's desire to continue, "Don't say anymore, let's find the entrance first."

Chapter 814:

As he spoke, he vigilantly looked around.

Qian Jiao turned her head to observe the cautious demeanor of Sun Erosion Demon, her face showing a trace of responsibility. She then turned back without speaking any further and continued walking forward.

In the Sun and Moon Demon Sect, many had forgotten that when she first arrived at the sect, when she was but a small child, she and the Sun Erosion Demon had been in the same academy.

Though the academy had countless disciples, numbering over a thousand.

Though they had stayed in the academy for only a year before leaving, with the Sun Erosion Demon being taken to the Eclipse Hall and she herself entering the Thousand Charming Hall.

Yet she had always treated Sun Erosion Demon as her true senior brother.

The competition within the Sun and Moon Demon Sect was far more brutal than in the major Immortal Sects, which was the case even within the academies. Every year, the numerous academies saw an unknown number of boys die.

Back then, if it weren't for the Sun Erosion Demon, she would have died within the academy walls.

Just that, so many years had passed, and the Sun Erosion Demon seemed to have long forgotten the one he saved back then.

Or perhaps, the Sun Erosion Demon has never known to this day that the person he saved was her.

Cao Zhen watched the two remaining silent and felt speechless inside. Sun Erosion Demon, what business did you have interrupting Qian Jiao like that? Just as she was getting to the crucial point, you interrupted her. Now, with just the two of you in this passage, what are you afraid of?

Are you afraid that the Third Prince might overhear your conversation?

Also, if you're going to follow behind, just follow; why do you keep staring at someone's behind?

What, do you have the mind of a thief but not the guts?

And can the two of you please walk a bit faster?

So Cao Zhen watched the two walk slowly forward, listening to the echoing footsteps on the stairs, and just watching them was exhausting.

The staircase seemed to have no end at all.

Finally, after about two hours, a crossroads appeared before them, and it was a three-way split.

After a long silence, Sun Erosion Demon finally spoke up again and pointing at the crossroads, he asked, "Junior sister, with three paths and only two of us, how shall we choose?"

Without a moment's thought, Qian Jiao replied, "Three paths mean no matter how the two of us choose, we'll miss one. Moreover, we don't know if there are other crossroads ahead, and we're even less aware of other dangers that might lie within this passage. So... we continue down one path."

With that, she took the lead down one of the paths, and the Sun Erosion Demon nodded in agreement behind her.

Indeed, who knew if there were dangers lurking within this passage; thus, it was better to continue down one path. At the very least, if danger arose, two people could support each other.

The two entered another path, and this time, after walking for about two and a half hours, they were faced with another fork in the road, still offering three paths.

Seeing the crossroads before her yet again, impatience crossed Qian Jiao's face. "Why is there another fork? How long must we walk this way? Why must we keep following the path they've laid out?"

Suddenly, she came to a stop, and in her hands appeared a giant hammer.

Though she was a woman of a thousand charms, the divine weapon she wielded was a hammer.

Gathering mana, she swung the hammer with full force at the wall beside her.

Bang!

A dull thud echoed as the hammer struck the wall, kicking up dust. Under this hammer strike, the peeling surface revealed a series of smooth rock faces.

Cao Zhen's gaze sharpened at this sight. Wasn't this the wall of a cavern?

Was this maze-like place completely made up of such rock faces?

Qian Jiao looked at the rock face in front of her, seemingly unable to believe it was truly part of a cavern. As she stood there, all ten of her Golden Cores emerged, and her aura began to climb. The next moment, she raised the hammer and slammed it down hard against the rock wall.

Instantly, the wall shook violently, but soon returned to calmness, the smooth rock face not even retaining a mark from the blow.

"Junior sister, stop trying, it's no use," urged Sun Erosion Demon, looking at the smooth walls surrounding them. In a low voice, he said, "This ruin has appeared during the Minor Era of Inversion of Heaven and Earth this time, but in the past, it didn't appear during the Minor Era.

So, these walls, all the structures here, they are not meant just for us at the Golden Core Stage, they might be meant for Earth Immortals, or even higher beings. It's impossible for us to break through these walls, let's just keep going."

Qian Jiao retracted the hammer, glanced at the three paths, and started toward the middle one, murmuring, "This time, we take the middle one."

"Okay."

Upon hearing this, Sun Erosion Demon nodded and followed Qian Jiao into the middle entrance.

No sooner had the two walked into this new corridor, then a sudden barrage of sharp lightning bolts shot towards them.

Indeed, there was danger here!

Lightning struck fiercely.

Behind both Sun Erosion Demon and Qian Jiao, the Golden Cores manifested instantly, their aura skyrocketing, and a surge of black Demonic Qi swirled around them.

Within the Demonic Qi around Qian Jiao, the sound of demons chanting emitted, causing the air around to vibrate, sending ripples of visible sonic waves scattering in all directions, clashing with and dispersing the lightning bolts.

Chapter 815:

Cao Zhen looked at Qian Jiao's work and slightly raised his eyebrows. He had seen the Eclipse Demon in action and had a rough idea of the cultivation base of the Eclipse Demon.

Now that Qian Jiao had made her move, he discovered that her strength seemed to surpass that of the Eclipse Demon.

So, what kind of person had he chosen initially?

Had he chosen the weakest among the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection in the Sun and Moon Demon Sect?

Although there was a lot of thunder, it wasn't particularly terrifying and hadn't much affected the two of them.

After blocking the bolts of lightning, they continued forward, aware of the dangers ahead, so they became even more cautious.

Cao Zhen watched for a long time, waiting until dawn, only to find that the Eclipse Demon and Qian Jiao were still endlessly wandering in the corridor, unsure of when they would stop.

It was already light, and he stopped observing them and flew forward with the others.

A day later, that night, Cao Zhen found a cave and resumed observing the Eclipse Demon.

He was surprised to discover that after a day and a night, the Eclipse Demon and Qian Jiao were still aimlessly wandering in the labyrinth.

"No, we've been down this road before."

In the corridor, Qian Jiao suddenly stopped and tapped her foot on the ground.

There was a faint trace where her shoe had touched, which was hard to notice if not carefully observed.

Cao Zhen noticed Qian Jiao's actions and was struck with a thought. The prince had talked about leaving marks on the walls.

However, Qian Jiao evidently hadn't done so; instead, she had left the marks under her feet.

This woman had her own schemes.

"Come on, let's head back and try another path."

Qian Jiao quickly turned around, leading the Eclipse Demon back the way they came. Yet, when they passed through the entrance of this corridor to the previous one, both of their eyes widened in shock.

"This... This isn't the corridor we just came from. The one we came from had three passages, but this one has four passages."

The Eclipse Demon looked at the corridors ahead, his expression turning extremely grave, "So, entering one passage and then coming back doesn't mean returning to the original path. With this, exploring all paths just got harder. We've walked so many paths and only now discovered two we've repeated.

We don't know when we'll ever find our way out of this labyrinth."

"No matter how difficult the labyrinth, it has its limits. If we keep walking, we'll eventually find the end, we just don't know when."

Qian Jiao murmured softly and continued moving forward. They had just taken a few steps when suddenly, footsteps echoed from behind them.

Someone was there!

Qian Jiao quickly turned back to look.

Suddenly, she saw a figure appear in her line of sight.

It was a man dressed in white. Upon seeing Qian Jiao and the Eclipse Demon, his face showed a look of surprise, "Qian Jiao, Eclipse Demon? Are the two of you always together? Haven't you separated?"

The Eclipse Demon, seeing the man, revealed a delighted expression and called out, "Qian Wu, my Dao Companion, we finally see someone again. We've walked till now and this is the first time we've encountered one of our own. As for separating, we thought about it, but we found this passage quite dangerous. For safety, we decided to stay together."

Qian Wu's face showed confusion at hearing this, "Dangerous? There are indeed dangers in this passage, but they shouldn't be enough to make the two of you walk together."

Those dangers are indeed threats for other Golden Core Stages, but are they really a threat for someone of Ten Different Phenomena Golden Elixir Great Perfection? You could face those dangers separately. Walking together like this surely slows down the exploration pace.

Let's walk together for now and later we can all take separate paths."

As he spoke, he stepped forward, looking at a blank wall nearby. Frowning at the unpainted wall, he said in displeasure, "Didn't the prince say to leave marks on the wall? Why didn't you leave any marks?"

"Marks? We did leave marks," Qian Jiao said, equally puzzled. She even stepped beside Qian Wu, pointing to the wall, "Here, we definitely left marks after entering..."

"Where are they?" As Qian Wu looked in the direction Qian Jiao was pointing, his face suddenly changed drastically.

Behind Qian Jiao, ten different phenomena Golden Elixirs suddenly appeared, and in her hands, a split decorative ball appeared.

She was holding half of the decorative ball in one hand. With both hands swinging, she brought them together as if the heavens and the earth were squeezing towards the center!

A terrifying force headed straight towards Qian Wu, as if trying to crush Dragon Gagon alive.

"You dare attack!"

Qian Wu, greatly alarmed, quickly retreated. Simultaneously, from his hands, he pulled out a golden bracelet and smashed it forward.

In the next moment, the bracelet exploded with a thunderous sound, and waves of brutal, gloomy, indifferent, and deadly Evil Qi surged out.

Chapter 816:

The next moment, piercing, spine-chilling screeches erupted.

Above the ground, resentful spirits shot out, their thick aura of death coalescing. These spirits did not attack Qian Jiao but instead swirled around Qian Wu.

As Qian Jiao unleashed the overwhelming force of her sneak attack, one after another, the resentful spirits burst apart, but with that, the power of Qian Jiao's attack also began to diminish.

Seizing the opportunity, Qian Wu quickly retreated, putting distance between himself and Qian Jiao. He looked at her with an icy expression and said coldly, "Qian Jiao, you dare to sneak attack me? Have you lost your mind? Do you want to doom your Sun and Moon Demon Sect?"

Cao Zhen was stunned by the sudden turn of events before him. What was happening?

That Qian Wu was not a member of the Sun and Moon Demon Sect but belonged to the Third Prince. Qian Jiao had just realized who the other party was when she suddenly made her move.

Indeed, Qian Jiao harbored great dissatisfaction toward the Third Prince and his people.

So, before he even made his move, they had started fighting among themselves?

It seemed he could make use of these people.

Cao Zhen continued to watch.

Qian Jiao's sneak attack had not succeeded, yet her face bore no hint of panic. She scoffed disdainfully, "If you die, naturally, no one will know it was I who killed you."

"Kill me? With you?" Qian Wu scoffed, shaking his head slightly, "I really can't understand why you would sneak attack me. Why oppose the Third Prince? He has promised to make you one of his consorts once he reclaims the throne and ascends."

"You think I'm keen on becoming his consort? He wants me as his consort only to fully win over and bind our Sun and Moon Demon Sect. Besides, among all the princes, the Third Prince is not the most outstanding. At the very least, I know that the Fourth Prince has also entered the ruins, and he is far more distinguished than the Third Prince. Whether he can even ascend the throne is a separate matter."

Cao Zhen's heart trembled once more. Those who entered the ruins were not just the Third Prince; there was also the Fourth Prince, who was even more accomplished!

It sounded like there was competition between the Third and Fourth Princes, so they didn't enter the ruins together but separately.

But where were the Fourth Prince and his men?

And furthermore, the Fourth Prince...

On the other hand, hearing Qian Jiao's words, Qian Wu became visibly agitated, "The Fourth Prince? He's better than the Third Prince? Ridiculous; how could he compare to the Third Prince..."

Suddenly, he realized, shouting aloud, "I get it now, you must be one of the Fourth's! Eclipse Demon, hurry, this Qian Jiao has long since secretly defected to the Fourth. Join me, and we shall kill her. The Third Prince will surely reward you richly."

Your Sun and Moon Demon Sect is supposed to be with our Third Prince. It is the Red Refinery Demonic Sect that supports the Fourth Prince. She won't have a good end by defecting to him. Kill her!"

"Good!"

The Eclipse Demon nodded vigorously, and the next moment, from his mouth came the unsophisticated and plain sound of a xun, echoing around him, ethereal as if the sounds of heaven.

Hardly had Qian Wu heard this sound, he was briefly immersed in a daze.

Almost at the same time, Qian Jiao advanced suddenly, revolving around Qian Wu. Amidst her swirling, a series of bell-like, crisp sounds emanated from her mouth.

Enchanting Music!

In the midst of these two successive sounds, Qian Wu's face even began to look intoxicated.

The next moment, the sound of the xun abruptly changed.

Above the corridor, fierce bestial roars suddenly burst forth.

It was as if from the Savage Era, behemoth Strange Beasts the size of mountains let out a series of ferocious roars and terrifying bellows.

The sound shook the heavens, causing the surrounding space to fracture in pieces, and from all directions, visible Sonic Waves surged towards Qian Wu.

Ten Sounds of Destruction!

What the Eclipse Demon had been cultivating in seclusion was precisely this Ten Sounds of Destruction!

The multitude of air waves struck Qian Wu, slamming him onto the ground. Before he could react, Qian Jiao, who had been revolving around him—a look of seductive charm on her face—suddenly revealed a bone-chilling intent to kill!

In her hands, a grand hammer materialized, striking furiously towards Qian Wu, who laid on the ground!

With a single hammer blow, as if a towering mountain had plummeted, it struck his face directly, and in an instant, flesh and blood flew.

Qian Wu's breath was extinguished instantly, and the next moment, more Sonic Waves bombarded him.

In just a short moment, Qian Wu's life force had completely vanished.

Cao Zhen shook his head lightly at the swiftly slain Qian Wu. Although Qian Wu was not notably strong, he was still of the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection.

Even just before, when Qian Wu fended off Qian Jiao's sneak attack, he seemed stronger than Nie Jie,

Qian Wu had met such a swift death simply because he was terribly unlucky.

They might have known about the Eclipse Demon, but except for himself, no one knew the Eclipse Demon had cultivated the Ten Sounds of Destruction!

Caught off guard by his sudden attack, Qian Wu was doomed.

Moreover, that Divine Skill Qian Jiao used just now was likely a Charm Attack.

He himself hadn't felt the full effects of that Divine Skill, but judging by Qian Wu's reaction, it must have been a Charm Attack.

And the Ten Sounds of Destruction seemed to perfectly complement Qian Jiao's Charm Attack, so Qian Wu was utterly entranced.

In a battle between masters of Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection, a moment of intoxication is sufficient to be fatal, so Qian Wu's death was not surprising. It was just his bad luck.

As for that Qian Jiao, he found her somewhat unexpected. Could she be a traitor?

Was what Qian Wu said true? Was Qian Jiao really a person of the Fourth Prince?

The Eclipse Demon seemed puzzled by this question as well. He didn't deal with Qian Wu's body right away but looked at Qian Jiao and asked, "Are you with the Fourth Prince?"

Qian Jiao didn't answer the Eclipse Demon right away but looked at him with a complex expression and asked, "In what capacity are you asking me this question?"

After a moment of silence, the Eclipse Demon replied softly, "I'm your senior brother, little snot-nosed girl."

Chapter 817:

Cao Zhen never expected that by observing the Eclipse Demon in order to find out about the situation of the third prince and his people, he would continue to be completely fed a dog-food feast.

After hearing herself being called a snot-nosed kid by the Eclipse Demon, Qian Jiao was so stirred up that she disregarded the recently killed Qian Wu, who had been jointly assassinated by her and the Eclipse Demon. She rushed in front of the Eclipse Demon, hugged him tightly, and muttered to herself, filled with words like, "Senior Brother, you truly haven't forgotten me. You remember everything about me, why didn't you tell me sooner?"

After a long while, under the pressing questions of the unromantic Eclipse Demon, she nodded and responded, "Yes, Senior Brother, I have indeed gone over to the fourth prince."

The Eclipse Demon's brow immediately furrowed deeply. "Why would you side with the fourth prince, you..."

Seeing the Eclipse Demon's strange expression, Qian Jiao hurriedly explained, "No, Senior Brother, don't misunderstand. I simply pledged allegiance to the fourth prince; there's nothing between the fourth prince and me."

The Eclipse Demon immediately felt a headache coming on. "What's there for me to misunderstand? I'm not misunderstanding anything; I'm just confused. Why would you align with the fourth prince? What were you thinking? Our Sun and Moon Demon Sect supports the third prince. What are you going to do about it?"

"Senior Brother, it's precisely because our Sun and Moon Demon Sect supports the third prince that I chose to join the fourth prince," replied Qian Jiao as she saw the Eclipse Demon had no misunderstandings and breathed a sigh of relief while quietly explaining. "The third prince has no chance. Senior Brother, you don't understand the fourth prince. You don't know how powerful he truly is, and you are even less aware of the fourth prince's plans.

In the end, when they restore the dynasty, the throne will undoubtedly belong to the fourth prince. By then, all of the third prince's people will be purged. I pledged myself to the fourth prince also for our Sun and Moon Demon Sect."

Qian Jiao paused briefly and then looked at the Eclipse Demon with a hint of mystery in her eyes and asked softly, "Senior Brother, why does our Sun and Moon Demon Sect support the third prince instead of the fourth prince?"

The Eclipse Demon almost subconsciously replied, "The Red Refinery Demon Sect supports the fourth prince; naturally, we side with the third prince. Moreover, our Sun and Moon Demon Sect's support for the third prince isn't a recent development. When our old Sect Leader was alive, we had already sided with the third prince..."

Without waiting for the Eclipse Demon to finish, Qian Jiao interrupted, "The old Sect Leader is no longer with us."

The Eclipse Demon furrowed his brows and corrected her, "The old Sect Leader is not gone; he and our Sun and Moon Demon Sect's experts are just in slumber."

"What's the difference?" Qian Jiao scoffed disdainfully. "By the time they wake up, it will have been a hundred years later. Though a hundred years may not seem very long for cultivators, it's enough time for the fourth prince to restore the dynasty and ascend the throne.

By then, what difference would it make if the old Sect Master and the others wake up? Would they dare to plot against the fourth prince? Dare to seek us out?

Moreover, if the fourth prince truly ascends the throne, and we lead the Sun and Moon Demon Sect to him, it would be a salvation for our Sun and Moon Demon Sect. When the old Sect Master and the others awaken, they wouldn't blame us, but instead, they should be grateful for our actions."

Locking her gaze, Qian Jiao paused briefly, then stepped closer to the Eclipse Demon and spoke with determination, "Senior Brother, now is the Reversal Mini Epoch Period when all the experts are in slumber, and the highest combat power is the Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection.

If the two of us join forces to kill the Sun Moon Demon, who do you think would inherit the position of Sect Master?"

The Eclipse Demon's eyes suddenly narrowed, staring intensely at Qian Jiao. After a long moment, he finally spoke, "It should be the Xue Yue Demon. His strength is second only to the Sun Moon Demon."

After a short pause, he looked at Qian Jiao and added, "Of course, it could also be Junior Sister. Your strength is feared to be above many others."

"Senior Brother, haven't you also been concealing your abilities? Before this, who knew that you possessed Divine Skills in Sonic Waves, and such high-tier Sonic Waves at that. Even though your main target was Qian Wu, I almost got caught in the crossfire as well," Qian Jiao remarked, as the tone of her voice changed suddenly, her eyes full of deep affection as she looked at the Eclipse Demon. "Besides, I won't compete with you, Senior Brother. The only one who could pose a barrier is the Xue Yue Demon. But what if the Xue Yue Demon were gone as well?"

Then, the position of Sect Master of the Sun and Moon Demon Sect would definitely fall upon you, Senior Brother. By then, we will find a way to lead the entire Sun and Moon Demon Sect to the fourth prince."

The Eclipse Demon was completely stunned. "So, you plan to kill the Sun Moon Demon and the Xue Yue Demon one after another? Let's put aside the strength of those two for a moment; even if we're fully confident in killing them, if we actually do... we will have killed off all the top experts in our Sun and

Moon Demon Sect; what value would our Sect have left? How many experts would remain in our Sun and Moon Demon Sect?"

"As long as we side with the fourth prince, we will naturally have our value. As for experts? Our Sun and Moon Demon Sect's value lies not in top rank experts but in the entirety of our Sect," she explained.

Qian Jiao tempted the Eclipse Demon, saying, "So, let's pledge allegiance to the fourth prince, Senior Brother. Then I will support you in becoming the Sect Master of the Sun and Moon Demon Sect. Moreover, we've already killed a person from the third prince's side; we no longer have a way out."

The Eclipse Demon extended his hands with a pained expression and massaged his head, saying with a troubled look, "What you're saying is all too sudden; let me think it over properly. For now, let's take care of Qian Wu's body."

Chapter 818:

"The corpse will be handled by junior sister."

Qian Jiao searched through Qian Wu's body, took away his Qiankun Bag, and then her hands gathered layer upon layer of solid mana. She struck Qian Wu's body repeatedly, turning his corpse into an unrecognizable mess of flesh and blood. She then took out a jade bottle, opened the lid, and sprinkled the liquid inside over Qian Wu's body.

Instantly, a hissing sound came from Qian Wu's body as it visibly began to dissipate at a rate detectable to the naked eye.

In just a few breaths' time, Qian Wu's corpse had completely vanished, not even a single bone left behind.

Cao Zhen watched Qian Jiao's proficient manner, full of admiration in his heart. This was the Demon Sect! From Qian Jiao's actions, it was clear this wasn't her first time doing something like this.

In the Demon Sect, even becoming Sect Leader didn't guarantee safety, as there were so many eyeing the position, thinking how best to kill the Sect Leader and take their place.

Compared to righteous sects like the Hundred Peaks Sect, the living conditions in these demon sects were far more hostile.

And then there was this woman.

He couldn't decide for the moment whether her intention to kill the Sun Moon Demon and have the Eclipse Demon become Sect Leader was genuine or if she was plotting to use the Eclipse Demon.

Who knew if she was deceiving the Eclipse Demon's emotions? He had to be careful not to let this woman cause his demise.

Thinking it over, Cao Zhen found himself with a headache. What was this situation?

The Eclipse Demon was undoubtedly an enemy, but now because of the connection to the Eclipse Demon, he found himself worrying about the devil's safety.

If the Eclipse Demon died, his connection would have been in vain and he would be without an insider in the future.

A headache, truly a headache.

And there were the remnants of the previous dynasty. It wasn't enough that there was a Third Prince; now there was talk of a Fourth Prince. It wouldn't be long before a Fifth Prince or a Second Prince emerged.

Cao Zhen watched for a while longer, noting that after dealing with Qian Wu's body, the two didn't speak much more, only hastening their pace. Seeing that there was nothing else of use to him, he withdrew from the China Cloud.

Now, he needed to carefully consider how to deceive the Eclipse Demon under the guise of a senior with great ability.

The night passed quickly.

Cao Zhen and the others set out again, continuing to follow the map.

Li Ke was still unconscious, but her breathing was noticeably stronger, and even Ling Xi, who was carrying her, could distinctly feel Li Ke's heartbeat.

In fact, after half a day, even while flying, Cao Zhen and Yan Yourong could clearly hear Li Ke's heartbeat.

"It looks like Li Ke should be waking up soon."

A hint of joy finally appeared on Cao Zhen's face. He truly had not expected Li Ke to sleep for so long after taking the Nirvana Pill.

"Over there, what is that?"

Suddenly, Linghu Gudu pointed in a distant direction, and everyone looked along where he pointed.

They could vaguely see a blurry white tower in the distance.

"A tower? We've been in the ruins for so long and finally came across a building. Let me check the map; it seems the final destination indicated by the map is that tower."

"Finally, after so many days of flying, we've reached our destination."

"Let's go, we must reach our destination before nightfall."

The group quickened their pace, and they finally arrived at their destination just as darkness was about to fall.

It was indeed a tower, an immense tower the likes of which they had never seen before.

Cao Zhen even felt that the building before them couldn't justly be described as a tower but should be called a vast complex of palaces.

This tower, entirely white, was so vast that it appeared even larger than some towering mountains. Aside from its size, from the outside, the tower didn't seem to have any other notable features.

Looking at the tower before him, Cao Zhen suddenly recalled what he had seen before of the place where the Eclipse Demon and others were, wondering if this place would be like the labyrinth they had entered.

Linghu Gudu, looking at the tower, said in a low voice, "Everyone, apart from the tower, we did not pass any caves on our way here, and night is about to fall. Should we find a cave to take shelter for the night and then enter the tower tomorrow?"

It had been difficult to reach this place, and of course, he wanted to enter the tower immediately, but the night was when skeletons and wraiths appeared.

If they went in now and encountered skeletons and wraiths while also having to face the dangers within the tower, the situation would become truly perilous.

"There's no need to look for caves anymore. First, there are no caves nearby, and even if we went looking for them, we might not find any. Secondly, it's not certain there are skeletons inside."

Cao Zhen recalled the scenes from the previous night. Last night, the Eclipse Demon and his companions hadn't entered any caves but had been inside what seemed like a maze-like structure. He had watched for most of the night and had not seen the Eclipse Demon or Qian Jiao encounter a single skeleton or wraith.

Therefore, inside this tower before them, there was a high probability of no skeletons.

As Cao Zhen spoke, he stepped forward and placed his hands on the great doors of the tower, pushing them open.

Behind him, everyone saw Cao Zhen's actions and entered the tower as well, even Linghu Gudu without hesitation. After all, the person before them was a person of great ability reincarnated. If a person of Great Ability said there were no skeletons, then there must be none...

Chapter 819:

"So, so many skeletons!"

As soon as Linghu Gudu entered through the main door, he was completely astonished.

In front of him was an immensely huge hall, and at the back of the hall were some steps; these weren't important, though. What was important was that at the center of the hall, it was filled with a layer of skeletal remains.

Instantly, everyone turned their heads and looked toward Cao Zhen.

Cao Zhen looked at the skeletons in front of him and his face showed an awkward expression, "This... actually, there are skeletons here, but not all these skeletons will necessarily come to life. After all, the walls surrounding us could be those particular smooth stone walls that should prevent the emergence of any skeletons or resentful spirits."

As he spoke, to prove his point, he even raised his hand and smacked it in the direction of a side wall.

In the completely still hall, where there wasn't a hint of wind, a gust of chilling wind suddenly blew and within the void, a huge palm silhouette appeared and heavily struck the wall.

Immediately, the entire wall trembled and pieces of plaster fell off, dust billowed, and the hard, smooth-as-jade stone wall behind the plaster was revealed.

Cao Zhen breathed out a sigh of relief, looked at the others, and said, "I told you, although there are skeletons here, these skeletons wouldn't necessarily..."

Before he could finish his sentence, a series of crackling sounds already echoed from the hall.

In the center of the hall, one by one, skeletons slowly rose to their feet, and between their bones, a crisp ringing sounded.

Cao Zhen felt that the persona he had so painstakingly built up, the persona of a reincarnated being with great ability, was on the verge of collapsing instantly.

It was as if these skeletons were deliberately opposing him; he had claimed there were no skeletons, yet this place was filled with so many of them.

He had said all these skeletons were dead, but in the blink of an eye, they were starting to stand up.

It must be deliberate, these skeletons opposing him.

"Strange, it's not even fully dark yet, why would these skeletons be coming to life already!"

Linghu Gudu quickly retreated and pushed toward the main door.

If there were so many skeletons here, then it was better to leave and find a cave to hide in first.

This place was too odd. There were absolutely no skeletons outside at the current time.

However, when he pushed, the main door through which they had entered so easily before, now wouldn't budge an inch.

They couldn't go back!

"What kind of place is this, the door won't open anymore."

Cao Zhen glanced at Linghu Gudu but didn't try to help him open the main door. Instead, he swiftly flew towards the exit, shouting as he flew, "Let's go, let's leave this hall first."

If they continued to stay here, once all those skeletons woke up, they would certainly attack them, and by then they would all have to run.

If they had to run anyway, it was better to make a move first.

Seeing Cao Zhen's actions, Linghu Gudu also stopped trying. While the skeletons had not yet fully risen, he quickly flew past them, following Cao Zhen, and landed on the steps, his face showing a look of shock.

"What's happening? I feel a force dragging me down, constantly pulling me down and preventing me from flying," Linghu Gudu looked ahead at Cao Zhen and the others who were running and called out loudly, "Is it the same for you?"

"The same, we also can't fly."

Yan Yourong followed behind Cao Zhen, running forward, and answered Linghu Gudu, but her face did not show much surprise.

It was just the inability to fly, after all. Before, when she followed her master in the Heaven Illusion Sword Monarch's minor world, it wasn't just flying she couldn't do—there was a long time when she couldn't even access spiritual energy or operate mana, just like an ordinary person.

Now, she merely couldn't fly, but she still had her cultivation base, could still use her cultivation techniques, cast her mana, and exercise her divine skills.

Cao Zhen, on the other hand, didn't speak but continued to run towards the front. He found that all these staircases were spiraling forward, similar to the ones built on a high mountain, though much gentler than those on mountains.

He now could be sure that the place he had entered was completely different from the maze where Eclipse Demon and others had gone into.

But, he wondered, what was special about the place where Eclipse Demon and the others had gone into with so many branching paths, while the place he was in now had... what?

And so, Cao Zhen kept running.

Even though they couldn't fly, his strength was unaffected by it, and he didn't feel tired from running at high speed; only a visual fatigue settled in, seeing the same scenery over and over, only spiraling staircases, with no end in sight.

Two hours, four hours, time flowed unconsciously.

The more Cao Zhen ran, the more he felt that something was not right. He might be unable to fly, but it wasn't like he had no mana. This tower appeared massive, but even so, with his cultivation base, he should have traversed this tower by now after such a long time. He shouldn't still be running endlessly through it.

"Wait a second..."

Linghu Gudu also seemed to have realized something was amiss and suddenly shouted, halting everyone, "Something's not right. We've been running all this time, first of all, those skeletons haven't chased after us.

It's been so long, it should already be dark outside, and the skeletons and resentful spirits should have already awakened. After their awakening, they should be coming after us from behind. With our level of cultivation, we would definitely be able to hear them if they gave chase. But now, I haven't heard a thing.

Chapter 820:

Moreover, we have been running this entire way and surprisingly haven't encountered any danger, which is quite bizarre. Besides, with our speed, we should have already finished running through the entire tower, yet there are still countless steps ahead of us.

"I suspect we might have fallen into some Formation," he whispered.

Yan Yourong and Ling Xi immediately looked over at Cao Zhen upon hearing this.

Cao Zhen frowned and spoke in a low voice, "Around these steps, I haven't found any Formation, but if this tower itself is a Great Formation, we wouldn't be able to detect it from within."

After thinking for a moment, he bowed his head and took out a Sharp Sword, forcefully carving several marks on the step beneath his feet. After leaving a mark, he then said to everyone, "Let's continue on, but everyone pay attention to your steps."

"Okay."

The group moved forward again, yet within half an hour, they stopped in their tracks.

Beneath their feet appeared the mark Cao Zhen had left earlier.

"It really is a Formation, we've returned to the distant spot!"

Cao Zhen's brows tightened. He knew something about Formations, but currently, inside this tower, he truly hadn't seen any Formation.

Actually, he had also looked around in the cave earlier and hadn't seen any Formation.

However, if there were no Formation in the cave, the skeletons and resentful spirits wouldn't be prevented from entering it, so there must be a Formation inside the cave.

Yet, he still couldn't discover the Formation, which meant there was a very big possibility.

Cao Zhen thought for a while and then said, "The Formation, I'm afraid, is inside those smooth stone walls. That's why we can't detect the Formation, nor can we break through it."

"So what do we do?" Linghu Gudu looked around with a headache, "We can't just keep being trapped here, can we?"

Meanwhile, Ling Xi was deep in thought. After a while, she slowly proposed, "What if we split up and walk?"

Linghu Gudu looked up, full of confusion, and asked, "Split up?"

"Yes, split up," Ling Xi pointed toward the steps ahead and said, "No matter what, we keep returning to this spot. So what if we split up? Walk in different directions? Could it be possible that someone might reach a different place? After all, even if there really is a Formation here, its range must be limited."

"You're right, we can give it a try," Linghu Gudu immediately understood and shouted, "This is just a deceiving Formation. If we all close our eyes, or say, if some of us deliberately walk in reverse. Some continue moving forward toward the steps, and others deliberately walk in another direction, deliberately moving downward, could we still meet? Maybe walking backwards, we might have a chance to get out."

After pondering for a moment, Cao Zhen finally nodded and said, "Fine, Ling Xi and You Rong keep moving forward, and I and Linghu will head downstairs. I want to see if we all eventually end up back here."

Linghu Gudu had only met them at the ruins after all; he had seen before how Eclipse Demon and Qian Jiao had joined forces to slay their companions.

So, he had to be cautious and chose to go with Linghu Gudu.

Initially, they had all been climbing the stairs ahead, but this time, he opted to take the steps downward, walking downward with Linghu Gudu.

Gradually, as time slipped away, they kept descending the steps, and soon, a series of crackling sounds began to emerge.

Cao Zhen immediately perked up, hearing sounds now!

Previously, when they had been climbing up, they hadn't heard any sound at all.

Linghu Gudu's face also showed a trace of joy, and the two accelerated their pace downward. As they ran down, the sounds from below grew louder and louder.

Finally, before them appeared silhouette after silhouette, shapes of skeletons and resentful spirits.

"Is this..."

"The hall! The hall where we first entered this place!"

In the hall, the skeletons and resentful spirits upon seeing the two, all rushed forward.

But as soon as they reached the range of the steps, they immediately halted, just as if they were outside the cave seeing people inside the cave, they kept shrieking, but dared not step onto the stair.

"We're back at the hall?" Cao Zhen's brows deeply furrowed, they were returning the same way they came, so it was not problematic to end up back in the hall.

But the problem lay right there.

Whenever they moved forward, they always unconsciously circled back. Yet when they chose to go back, that phenomenon didn't occur; instead, they could return to the hall where they entered the tower.

Thus, moving forward there were issues, but going back there were none.

"This... there seems to be no other passages here, only the steps forward,"

Linghu Gudu, full of headache, looked towards Cao Zhen. He too had been on many explorations, but his adventures in various ruins were mostly normal dangers,

like divine attacks left by the ruins' masters or various dangerous Formations like Flame, thunder striking, and the like.

But what was this tower all about?

Just making people walk non-stop? Keeping people trapped inside?

"Let's go, let's head back," Cao Zhen scanned the surroundings once more, found nothing, and then started walking up with Linghu Gudu.