

My Master 871

Chapter 871:

Cao Zhen was wholeheartedly attacking the Fourth Prince, and without blocking the Heavenly Tribulation, he was instantly bombarded into critical injuries. However, all the defensive techniques and Divine Skills of the Fourth Prince were broken by him.

Just like him, the Fourth Prince had to directly face all the Heavenly Tribulations falling in the midst of the Tribulation Array, and moreover, he had to confront Cao Zhen's terrifying sword.

Even Cao Zhen himself was not completely sure that he could withstand such an attack.

The terrifying sword even fell towards the Fourth Prince before the Heavenly Tribulation touched down.

The Fourth Prince saw the sword which seemed capable of tearing the heavens and earth apart, piercing through the sun and the moon. Yet, in his eyes, a craze emerged.

Just now he had released two treasures, used not only to block Cao Zhen's attack but also to buy time. In the moments that the two treasures intervened, he also took out a transparent bead and held it in his hand.

Almost the instant Cao Zhen's sword fell, he crushed the bead in his hand.

The sword light plummeted, and various forms of Sword Qi—whether supremely sharp, intensely hot, or as heavy as mountains—entered his body, instantly shredding his clothes, tearing his skin, crushing his flesh, and rushing inside him.

In that moment, he even felt all the meridians in his body severing.

Just in an instant, his breath was completely cut off.

Breath cut off?

A look of confusion appeared on Cao Zhen's face; his sword attack had indeed surpassed his past efforts, and he had never wielded such a powerful sword before.

This sword had also consecutively broken through the Fourth Prince's two treasures, and its might had diminished somewhat.

If it had been the Eclipse Demon or Nie Jie whom he was attacking, perhaps a single sword strike could have killed them, but his opponent was the Fourth Prince.

Such a strike shouldn't have been enough to kill the Fourth Prince.

Yet, the breath of the Fourth Prince had completely disappeared, and even...

In front of the Fourth Prince, two diagrams that had always hovered around him suddenly flew out and landed before Cao Zhen.

Not good!

Cao Zhen's eyes suddenly widened. As the diagrams fell, the varieties of Heavenly Tribulations falling from the void surged, and even some that had originally fallen towards the Fourth Prince now shifted towards him instead.

Meanwhile, the Fourth Prince had also opened his eyes, looking at Cao Zhen with a smile full of a victor's joy.

What he had just released was the False Death Heaven Deceiving Orb, originally a treasure to help those undergoing Heavenly Tribulation. Once released, the user's entire breath would disappear, even deceiving the Heavenly Dao momentarily.

Previously, he had noticed that there had been someone behind them, and although following them would also subject the follower to more Heavenly Tribulations, the follower endured fewer tribulations than he and Cao Zhen did.

Moreover, the Tribulation Array had descended because of that sudden force, a force that completely surpassed the Golden Core Stage.

He and Cao Zhen were both at the peak of the Golden Core Stage, but even the force of their combined attacks couldn't free them from this pull.

Thus, it was clear that the Tribulation Array had descended because of this force.

Moreover, it was related to the diagrams above their heads. The reason they had been able to continuously fly was because of these diagrams.

Even more, the target of these diagrams was likely to bring both of them to the final relic, letting them decide the victor, and the winner would receive the legacy of the relic.

Clearly, the Heavenly Dao had also noticed this, targeting both of them, which was why they faced so many Heavenly Tribulations.

Now, his breath had vanished instantly, and just as he had predicted, the diagrams had flown to Cao Zhen.

So, this way, although he would still be bombarded by Heavenly Tribulations, he endured far fewer than he had before.

But as for Cao Zhen, he had to endure more Heavenly Tribulations, because previously the Heavenly Dao had targeted both of them, but now it targeted Cao Zhen alone!

Even if Cao Zhen was strong, even if he was a reincarnated being of Great Ability, he couldn't possibly withstand so many Heavenly Tribulations!

As for the final relic's legacy?

Cao Zhen was about to die, how could he obtain the legacy?

If Cao Zhen couldn't obtain the legacy, as he expected, those diagrams would fly out again, then letting everyone fight over them.

If Cao Zhen was out of the picture, he would have already seized the final legacy.

Once Cao Zhen died, with no one to compete against him, wouldn't the legacy be his? He only needed to fight for the legacy once more.

And in the end, he would obtain the legacy and have killed both his third brother and Cao Zhen.

The final winner would still be him.

Therefore, in Immortal Cultivation, personal cultivation is indeed important, but it's also crucial to use one's intellect.

Although the breath of the Fourth Prince had been severed, Heavenly Tribulations still bombarded him from around him, only in lesser numbers.

Moreover, as the two diagrams fell onto Cao Zhen, the gravitational pull on him also vanished, and his body uncontrollably fell downwards, reducing the might of the Heavenly Tribulations momentarily.

In his view, above his head, countless Heavenly Tribulations fell towards Cao Zhen.

Just as Cao Zhen was about to be reduced to dust by these countless Heavenly Tribulations, suddenly, in the void above, an immensely large palace emerged, magnificent and filled with an ethereal aura, with fairy-like music emanating from within the palace amidst the swirling fairy mist.

Following that, the palace gates suddenly burst open, and Cao Zhen flew into the palace with astonishing speed.

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However, as he flew, streaks of Heavenly Tribulation descended, bombarding Cao Zhen's body.

For a moment, Cao Zhen was bombarded until his flesh flew in all directions.

Although it was only a moment's effort before he was sucked into the palace, a single breath's time was enough for countless Heavenly Tribulations to strike him.

As Cao Zhen entered the palace, the light screen in the void also disappeared, and the powder that formed from countless transparent walls further fell into the palace.

In the void, the Tribulation Array no longer struck the entire relics but plummeted towards the palace instead!

Countless Heavenly Tribulations fell on one place at the same time, and instantly, the palace burst into the ultimate dazzling light. At that instant, even the remaining Golden Core Stage cultivators, who were almost all at the stage of Pill Fusion, whether it was the injured Prince, Ling Xi, Yan Yourong, or even Star Lord Hao Yue and the Axe Madman from afar.

All the people inside the peerless relics at that moment were all blinded by the light for a brief time!

A couple of breaths later, Ling Xi, Yan Yourong, and a few others' vision started to recover.

"Master!" Ling Xi and Yan Yourong shouted in alarm, looking toward the direction where countless Heavenly Tribulations had fallen.

In the void, the palace had already vanished, and their master had disappeared just the same.

For a time, both Ling Xi and Yan Yourong were thrown into panic.

"Master? Where is Master?"

They had been following the direction their master flew in all along, and they had also witnessed the scene of their master being bombarded by countless Heavenly Tribulations.

Could their master withstand that Heavenly Tribulation?

But before they could search for their master, the entire relics began to shake violently, and in their line of sight, the ground started to collapse, and cracks appeared in the sky.

"Is this... are the relics about to collapse?" Beside them, Linghu Gudu, who had been following the group, said in a low voice, "The relics are disappearing, which means that the relics have a successor, and just now, it was Peak Master Cao who flew into the relics. So, this means that the successor to the relics is Sect Leader Cao!

If Peak Master Cao had died, it wouldn't be possible for him to become the successor, so Peak Master Cao must be unharmed right now!"

In Linghu Gudu's voice, suddenly a sound that could shatter everyone's eardrums burst out. The sound was so overwhelming that it instantly deafened everyone's ears and everyone was staggered with dizziness for a moment.

The next moment, as everyone regained their senses, they found that they were no longer standing in their original position but on an island.

It was the island where the relics were located, which had now disappeared, and only that island remained.

Seeing the scene before them, everyone quickly came to their senses.

"The relics have disappeared?"

"So, does that mean Cao Zhen has obtained the relics in the end?"

"That Cao Zhen, who was already terrifying enough, now has the peerless relics!"

"I saw Cao Zhen being attacked by Heavenly Tribulation. Under such attack, he didn't die?"

Amidst the confusion, Ling Xi, Yan Yourong, and even Li Ke showed ecstatic expressions on their faces. Then, suddenly, Li Ke began searching around, calling out, "Who was it that fought with Cao Zhen just now? That person did not die, that person is likely the remnant of the previous Dynasty, find him!"

Ling Xi and Yan Yourong also quickly reacted, searching around.

Linghu Gudu, however, followed the three with a helpless expression, thinking, these three guys, aren't they making trouble for me?

The person you are looking for is not likely the remnant of the previous Dynasty; he definitely is, and very possibly a Prince of the remnants.

You all have your own Immortal Sects to back you up, but I'm all alone here on this side. If I offend that Prince, what will I do?

The Prince also landed on the island along with everyone else, looking at the island all around and sensing the disappearance of the relics, the victorious smile in his eyes had frozen, and disbelief filled his eyes.

Cao Zhen was supposed to die in that Heavenly Tribulation; why did the palace suddenly appear?

Furthermore, even if the palace appeared, with so many frightening Heavenly Tribulations falling, Cao Zhen should have died; how did he withstand them?

And now the legacy had been obtained by Cao Zhen...

That legacy was related to the rise of their entire Praying Heaven Dynasty, and whether they could remain at the pinnacle or not!

Now, if the legacy had been obtained by Cao Zhen...

Death!

Cao Zhen must die, and I must retake that legacy; otherwise, I will become the sinner of the entire Dynasty!

And now...

The Prince felt his own injuries, quickly taking out a black cloak from his Qiankun Bag and draping it over himself, instantly his figure disappeared under the sunlight, and he silently moved away into the distance.

With his injuries so severe and so many Golden Core Stage cultivators gathered here, he must first find his subordinates.

Inside the palace, as soon as Cao Zhen had fallen in, he felt a terrifying blast of sound, so enormous it made him faint.

In a blur, he felt as if he had returned to the past, back to Earth, only he wasn't landing on Earth, but standing above the Mother River — the Yellow River, watching the rise and fall of many tribes, their conflicts, the unification of the seven states, then witnessing chaos throughout the land, the transition of dynasties, seeing the lands split and merge, watching skyscrapers rise from the earth...

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Slowly, gradually, he began to feel waves of pain, the pain of the injuries on his body.

Cao Zhen slowly regained consciousness.

He didn't even know how long he had been unconscious, but now that he had come to, he found that the wounds on his body had already formed scars, indicating he had been unconscious for quite some time. Then, he looked up ahead.

In his line of sight, a figure appeared.

His gaze had barely met the other person's face before a feeling arose in his heart, an impulse to kneel in worship to them.

He had seen many countenances of dignity, but no one he had ever seen could compare to the person before him.

Although this person was dressed in what appeared to be exceedingly ordinary white garments, a glance filled his heart with the sensation that he was looking at an emperor, one who ruled countless territories and numerous Immortal Sects!

"Your body is stronger than I anticipated. Moreover, I have never seen anyone of your caliber at the Golden Core Sixth Stage. Not even in my own era have I encountered such,"

The other's voice came slowly, as imposing as his appearance, filled with endless majesty.

"Where am I?" Cao Zhen looked at the person before him, a puzzled look in his eyes, remembering a palace that had emerged and taken him in.

But the question was, who was the person before him?

Was he still inside the palace, or was he outside it?

And if the person spoke of 'his era', then this individual undoubtedly didn't belong to this time period. Surely, such a long-lived being couldn't possibly be at the Golden Core Stage, much less within the Earth Immortal Realm.

Yet such a being should be in a state of unconsciousness now, but here they stood before him.

The other person slowly began to answer, "Naturally, you're within the ruins, and as of now, you're the only one in the entire ruins."

"Ruins? Then... may I ask who you are?" Cao Zhen instinctively wanted to address him as a senior, but remembering his identity as a reincarnated Great Ability, he withheld the words.

"Me? You may call me Emperor Skywind." As Emperor Skywind said this, pride appeared on his face. However, observing that there was no change in Cao Zhen's expression, he realized, and shook his head, saying, "It seems I've forgotten, you are a reincarnated Great Ability. You do not know of the Tianfeng Dynasty, which clearly indicates you are from an era prior to my existence."

As Emperor Skywind spoke, his body turned somewhat translucent, and he looked less substantial.

Although it was a subtle change, Cao Zhen instantly felt something different; previously, he had seen the other as a real living person, but now he felt as if the other was not a person, but rather a lingering image.

Emperor Skywind also sensed the change in himself and said softly, "You see, my body is beginning to transform. The power I had left behind was supposed to last a while longer, but it has been excessively depleted saving you earlier, and I fear I will not last much longer. Now, listen to me."

Cao Zhen, shocked by Emperor Skywind's words, realized that the other was indeed not a person but a lingering power.

Before, he too had entered ruins and had seen the image left by the Heaven Illusion Sword Monarch, which seemed more like a lifeless program, performing the same sword moves for everyone it encountered.

The power before him, however, couldn't just be described as an image; the figure seemed as real as any living person, and this was after countless years of existence.

What heights had this person reached before?

And why did the creator of these ruins, as seen before, not match this person before him, but now, this person seemed more like the true master of the ruins?

Confused, Cao Zhen watched as Emperor Skywind raised his hand and unfurled a white scroll in front of him.

Was this, the five pictures he had seen before?

Now the five pictures had fused into one, but why couldn't he feel any power emanating from the scroll?

Without waiting for Cao Zhen to speak, Emperor Skywind pointed to the scroll and said, "This scroll is known as the Prosperous Age Picture Record! The ruins you saw before were transformed from this scroll, and I am its third owner. You are the fourth!"

Cao Zhen finally understood why the person he had seen was different from Emperor Skywind before him—it turned out Emperor Skywind was a later owner of the scroll, the successor of the ruins.

Emperor Skywind continued, "The first owner of this scroll was the Merciful Immortal Lord. Back when you were a reincarnated Great Ability, you surely knew that all beings, including Cultivators, can be considered children of the Heavenly Dao. Even though the Heavenly Dao poses challenges to Cultivators during breakthroughs, like instigating the Heavenly Tribulation, it's more of a test than anything else.

In fact, the Heavenly Dao still provides protection to Cultivators. However, when Cultivators reach a certain level of Cultivation Base, when they seek to stand as equals with the Heavenly Dao, or even challenge it, they become rebels in the eyes of the Heavenly Dao."

"The Heavenly Dao will not permit such powers to exist, hence it will eliminate the Cultivators. Not just one, but all Cultivators above the Earth Immortal Realm in the entire world—it seeks to extinguish them all!"

Chapter 874:

Initially, the Immortal Lord Mingzhong challenged the Heavenly Dao, but he failed. Yet, the Immortal Lord Mingzhong was a person of great ability; although he failed, he managed to survive against the heavens with unconventional methods and lived another life through reincarnation.

He grasped the essence of the world and ultimately created the "Prosperous Age Picture Record"!

Emperor Skywind, pointing at the white scroll, said, "The 'Prosperous Age Picture Record' is closely connected to the prosperous era you live in, to the world you exist in.

The 'Prosperous Age Picture Record' can utilize all the power of this particular world. Initially, the picture record might only harness the power of a village or the power of a sect, perhaps just a branch within the sect.

However, slowly, as you connect with more worlds, as the prosperous eras you paint in the picture record grow larger, the power you can harness will also increase. You can draw upon the power of an entire sect, even the entire dynasty, perhaps even one world, the power of the entire Great Thousand World.

The stronger your prosperous era becomes, the stronger you become. If your world decays or becomes chaotic, your power will also weaken."

Speaking thus far, Emperor Skywind paused for a moment, then continued, "You've already seen before, how the Immortal Lord Mingzhong summoned the entire dynasty's power to confront the Heavenly Dao.

Unfortunately, in the end, the Immortal Lord Mingzhong still failed.

However, he left behind the picture record, which then was inherited by my predecessor. Regrettably, that predecessor also failed, and then, the picture record fell into my hands, and I, too, failed.

Although we failed, when we both existed, by relying on the 'Prosperous Age Picture Record,' we still saw a glimmer of success in opposing the Heavenly Dao.

It's just that we all lacked that final step. Now, this picture record has been passed down to you, and our unfulfilled wishes will be carried on by you."

Cao Zhen quickly absorbed everything Emperor Skywind had said; a prosperous era, closely linked to this world, the more prominent your own world's prosperity, the stronger you become. Conversely, in a world in decline, you become weaker.

But the question is, he wasn't an emperor, so what constituted his prosperous era? The Hundred Peaks Sect?

However, when Immortal Lord Mingzhong opposed the Heavenly Dao, the scene clearly showed he had harnessed the power of the entire world.

Emperor Skywind, clearly an emperor, too, they both harnessed the power of a dynasty.

What about himself?

How could he harness the power of a dynasty?

It was clear that the power of a sect in the Hundred Peaks Sect, no matter what, couldn't compare to the power of a dynasty.

Seeming to be in a great hurry, Emperor Skywind did not pause and continued, "This scroll, being entirely blank, is because our epochs differ, our prosperous ages differ.

And after we failed in challenging the Heavenly Dao, our prosperity vanished, naturally erasing the scenes depicted on the scroll.

What you previously saw through the scroll were merely some records left by our own power, not our prosperous age. Your own prosperous era needs to be painted by you with a brush on this scroll."

As he spoke, Emperor Skywind motioned with his hand, and a brush appeared out of the void, clearly a brush, yet it felt like a farmer's hoe, a blacksmith's hammer, a merchant's scale weights... imparting distinctly different feelings.

Emperor Skywind pointed to the brush and said, "This is the brush of prosperity, only with this brush can one paint a prosperous age on this scroll.

Furthermore, before you start painting the prosperous era, you would do well to learn how to paint. Naturally, cultivating immortality also includes the way of painting.

The way of painting is different from cultivating immortality; being talented in cultivation doesn't necessarily mean you will be good at painting, and I don't expect your skills in painting to be profound. However, at the very least, what you paint should look like something."

Emperor Skywind, revealing a reminiscent look, said, "The second predecessor who inherited the Prosperous Age lacked skills in painting. After obtaining the 'Prosperous Age Picture Record,' he tried painting himself but did it very poorly, almost unable to unleash the full power of the picture record.

Reluctantly, he later focused on cultivating the art of painting, and eventually dared to paint again, but the paintings he had done earlier couldn't be removed.

Once produced in the picture record, a painting is permanent, unremovable. You can only modify within it, but on a blank paper, scribbling is easy, modifying it, however, is immensely difficult.

Therefore, you must hone your painting skills well before drawing on the 'Prosperous Age Picture Record'."

Upon hearing this, a smile appeared on Cao Zhen's face; painting way?

He probably didn't need to study it any longer; he was already at level ninety-nine in the painting way.

As Emperor Skywind finished speaking, his form started to become more illusory.

He sighed and said, "My power is almost unable to sustain me now; I will impart the Prosperous Age Skills to you. Only after you cultivate the Prosperous Age Skills and use the brush of prosperity, will you be able to depict your prosperous era on this scroll."

With that, he pointed a finger towards Cao Zhen's forehead, and suddenly, an endless expanse of profound and mysterious techniques emerged in Cao Zhen's mind.

It was unclear how much time had passed before Cao Zhen finally opened his eyes, and in front of him, Emperor Skywind was nearly transparent, like a phantom.

"Alright, you now possess the Prosperous Age Skills. The rest is up to you. Everyone's prosperous era is different, and I cannot guide you further. Now, all I can do is see you off on your last leg."

With that, Emperor Skywind's figure suddenly dispersed, transforming into streams of light that settled in various parts of the great hall, and Cao Zhen felt the whole hall seemed to lift off.

Chapter 875:

Outside, above the island.

Although the Peerless Relics had disappeared, presumably taken by Cao Zhen, the island where the relics had initially descended was still crowded with numerous experts at the Golden Core Stage.

The relics had vanished, but could Cao Zhen also vanish into thin air?

Eventually, Cao Zhen would appear. He might be strong, but how strong could he possibly be? Could he alone stand against ten people, a hundred at the Golden Core Stage, a thousand?

The moment Cao Zhen flew out of the relics, countless people would strike at the first opportunity, aiming to kill him immediately!

After all, who wouldn't want to possess such a significant relic?

Everyone waited again. Li Ke, Yan Yourong, and Ling Xi from the relics, and even Linghu Gudu, did not leave.

Suddenly, a shadowy light appeared in front of everyone and then flew off into the distance.

"That shadowy light!"

"It's the palace, the palace flew away!"

"Such incredible speed!"

"Hurry, chase it!"

The crowd vaguely recognized it as the palace that had appeared before and hurriedly pursued it, but the palace moved too swiftly and vanished from sight in the blink of an eye.

For a moment, everyone was stunned.

"Cao Zhen left? Riding away in the palace?"

"No, it's the Reversal Mini Epoch Period now, how could there be power above that of the Golden Core Stage? The speed of that palace's flight clearly surpasses the Golden Core Stage! Such power is not permitted by the Heavenly Dao!"

"However, previously, during the time at the relics, power beyond the Golden Core Stage had already appeared, triggering the arrival of the Tribulation Array. This time, power beyond the Golden Core Stage has surfaced again, so there must be a Heavenly Tribulation falling!"

"The fall of the Heavenly Tribulation is not a problem; the most terrifying aspect is that the power of these relics can break the limits set by the Heavenly Dao, allowing powers beyond the Golden Core Stage to emerge—that is truly the most fearsome!"

"The inheritance of such relics is unimaginably terrifying, able to break the restrictions of the Heavenly Dao."

"Now that Cao Zhen originally possessed Great Ability and has obtained such an inheritance, is there anyone in the Golden Core Stage who can stand against him?"

The palace Cao Zhen rode in only flew for a short while when suddenly, a violent impact was felt, and an immense oppressive force attacked from outside the palace.

Heavenly Tribulation arrived!

The power of the palace had surpassed that of the Golden Core Stage, and inevitably, a Heavenly Tribulation descended.

Since he was within the palace, Cao Zhen did not get injured again, but the palace he was in shattered, casting him down from the void.

The impact was so terrifying that the entire palace almost turned into ruins.

Cao Zhen looked around at the heaps of ruins, enduring the severe pain throughout his body and the roiling of his blood, raised his hand, and with a display of power, collected the remnants of the palace into the Qiankun Bag.

Afterward, he quickly flew forward.

His injuries were far from healed, and now that a Heavenly Tribulation had fallen here, it was inevitable that someone would discover the strangeness of this place.

If someone realized there was an issue here and came to inspect, what would he do if he encountered a formidable enemy in his current state?

He had to leave this place first, but as he flew, he felt his Mana being obstructed every time he tried to circulate it.

His injuries were too severe.

He hadn't been flying long when he could no longer keep up, forcing him to land and proceed on foot.

But with every step he took, intense pain surged through his body.

Even walking, his speed was slower than that of a normal person.

Slowly, after about an hour, he felt almost unable to walk any longer, and finally, a village appeared before him.

On the small road leading to the village, a carriage approached. The old man driving the carriage saw from afar the staggering figure on the road, swiftly drove up, and then stopped beside the figure.

It was only then that he saw clearly—the young man's clothes were torn everywhere, with even some of the scars peeking through the tattered fabric.

And the young man's complexion was so pale it lacked any hint of color.

The old man quickly jumped down from the carriage, supporting the young man beside him, and asked with concern, "Young man, what happened to you? Did you also encounter bandits? Were you robbed? Ah, these tumultuous times are getting worse."

Cao Zhen, seeing the old man who had suddenly stopped beside him and realizing he was an ordinary person despite his own grave injuries, immediately eased his worries. He nodded in response to the old man's words, "Yes, I encountered bandits. Earlier I was preparing..."

As he thought about what fabrication to concoct, the old man continued, "You were probably on your way to the provincial city to participate in the examinations, right?"

Ah, you're the fourth Scholar our village has encountered who wanted to take the exams but ran into robbers.

You must have had companions, and I fear they met with disaster too. It's nearly dark now, and our village is the only one around here; you've got nowhere else to go. You might as well come back to the village with me for now. If you don't mind, you can stay at my place. It just so happens that in my

household, there is a maid of a Scholar who had the same experience as you. Perhaps, you even know each other."

Chapter 876:

Old Man Xu, while talking, enthusiastically helped Cao Zhen onto the horse-drawn cart and then drove the cart towards the village, saying, "This past year, the world has really become too chaotic. Before, in Qili Country, although there were mountain bandits, they only occasionally robbed ordinary people or solitary traders. When did they start targeting scholars?"

After all, people like you, who can read, usually come from well-to-do families, while children from our poor families can't afford to study.

When you scholars travel to take exams, you are accompanied by house servants, and besides, you all arrange it among your fellow townsmen to travel together in groups. With many of you together, those common bandits can't handle you.

But now, with the world in such chaos, bandits and robbers are increasing, and they've even started to strike at you scholars first."

"Ah..." Cao Zhen, sitting in the cart, deliberately sighed but didn't dare say more, having only just learned that this place was called Qili Country. He knew nothing else about where it was situated or which city it belonged to, and thus, he couldn't respond further.

Fortunately, Old Man Xu did not ask any more questions.

Qili Country.

He hadn't heard of this country before, and he didn't know where Emperor Skywind had transported his palace to.

And his current condition indeed necessitated finding a household to take shelter in.

Soon, Cao Zhen arrived at the outskirts of the village with Old Man Xu.

The village didn't appear to be very large, and on the outside, there was even a simple stockade gate.

Behind the gate, there were even two young men holding pitchforks. Upon seeing Old Man Xu, the two men quickly approached, opened the stockade gate, and let him in.

One of the taller youths, after giving the stranger on the cart a glance, revealed a look of surprise and said, "Uncle Xu, have you encountered another scholar who's been robbed by bandits?"

Old Man Xu stopped to affirm, "Yes, I've encountered another scholar. Ah, there's no telling with the times. Alright, keep an eye on the gate; I'm going to take this young man home."

The tall young man immediately called out, "Uncle Xu, is there still room in your house? With Dalang away in town, a room was freed up, but it's now occupied by another scholar. Adding one more, there won't be any space.

Otherwise, how about this gentleman, uh, this young master stays at our place?"

No sooner had the young man finished speaking than another youth by his side, teasingly laughed, "Li Lao San, are you offering your home to this young master, or are you concerned about the other Miss Qiao?"

The tall young man instantly turned red, protesting, "Don't talk nonsense, Miss Qiao is a lady from the city, she couldn't possibly look at me."

The other young man continued to tease him, "Then why do you keep running to Uncle Xu's house for no reason?"

The tall young man still tried to defend himself, "That's because Dalang is not home, and there's no strong man to help, I go to help Uncle Xu with the work."

"Really? Dalang has been gone for a while. You never helped before, so why did you only start helping after Miss Qiao arrived?"

"I've been before as well."

Uncle Xu, watching the two quarrel, said, "Enough, stop arguing, or you'll make a laughingstock before the young master. Here's what we'll do, Li family's third son, come with me. I'll discuss it with Miss Qiao and see if she could move to your place."

He definitely wanted to keep this scholar in his home, perhaps the scholar would even teach his children something.

The main reason was, Li family's third son clearly had an interest in Miss Qiao.

In fact, it wasn't just Li family's third son. Which of the unmarried young men in the village didn't have feelings for Miss Qiao?

Miss Qiao was the most beautiful person he had seen in his entire life, more beautiful than fairies in paintings.

And Li family's third son truly had good character, was driven, and his family's condition was among the best in the village. Even their second son, Li family's second son, held a position in the city, and Uncle Xu was willing to give Li family's third son a hand.

However, it wasn't certain whether Miss Qiao would take a fancy to Li family's third son.

Before long, Cao Zhen arrived at Uncle Xu's home in his cart.

Like many other homes, Uncle Xu's courtyard wall was constructed from piled-up stones, and the main gate was made from woven fences, but the entrance was large enough for a cart to pass through.

Inside the yard, beside a stone table, a woman dressed in coarse cloth was using a tree branch to write and draw on the ground. As she wrote, she also explained to two kids, who appeared to be over ten years old and squatted beside her, "Say it with me, book, the character for 'book' as in 'book of books,' the 'book' of studying. Now, you two try writing it."

As she finished speaking, the two children, seeming to hear the noise of the cart entering the courtyard, turned around and looked back, shouting excitedly, "Grandpa's back, grandpa's back."

"Eh, who is this elder brother? Who is he?"

Upon hearing the children's voices, the woman turned around, and her eyes suddenly widened in astonishment as she stared at the pale-faced man sitting in the cart.

Cao Zhen also paused in shock; wasn't this woman Qiao Jingyao, whom he had defeated at the Divine Weapon Martial Arts Conference?

Later, the Grand Preceptor not only sent her Divine Weapons but also Divine Skills Cultivation Techniques.

But what was she doing here? And it was clear that she was injured.

The two looked at each other and almost simultaneously exclaimed, "It's you!"

Next to them, Old Man Xu and Li family's third son were completely stunned.

Old Man Xu gestured between Cao Zhen and Qiao Jingyao, then asked in shock, "You know each other?"

Remembering her excuse that she had been saved before, Qiao Jingyao quickly nodded, getting ahead of Cao Zhen and said, "Uncle Xu, this gentleman is the son of our household."

"Ah? The son of your household? What a coincidence," Old Man Xu responded, stunned for a moment, then a joyful expression spread across his face as he congratulated them, "That's wonderful, you've finally found the young master of your household. We must celebrate tonight, let's slaughter a chicken at home. It's also a perfect opportunity to nourish you and your young master well."

Cao Zhen could see that Old Man Xu was genuinely happy for Qiao Jingyao.

Chapter 877:

At Elder Xu's home, the three Lee boys arrived joyously, only to leave with faces full of disappointment.

Miss Qiao had unexpectedly encountered their young master!

Therefore, Miss Qiao would definitely need to take care of their young master and could no longer go to her own home, so he had no choice but to leave.

Although Miss Qiao had found her young master, and he was happy for her, he feared there was no chance for him.

Cao Zhen returned quickly, back to the room Elder Xu had previously prepared for Qiao Jingyao.

Just after entering the room, Qiao Jingyao immediately asked with surprise, "Peak Master Cao, how did you come to be here?"

Her current state was extremely poor; had she encountered another cultivator, her first concern would have been her safety.

But encountering Cao Zhen made her feel much more relieved than she would have felt with others.

After all, Cao Zhen was the chosen State Preceptor of the dynasty; she believed that if Cao Zhen were a bloodthirsty person, even if he had become the champion of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty martial arts competition, the Grand Preceptor would not have allowed him to become a State Preceptor.

Moreover, she could feel the inherent kindness in Cao Zhen.

When they had first fought, after her defeat, Cao Zhen had even given her a pill.

But now, Peak Master Cao...

No, that should be Sect Leader Cao now, what was he doing here?

Previously, there had been the appearance of Peerless Relics; with Sect Leader Cao's capabilities, shouldn't he be at those relics? Such relics, which caused Heavenly Phenomena and were visible from all around the world, should be what he was contending for.

"I..." Cao Zhen opened his mouth, but coughed up a bright red blood. His injuries were too severe, and even after consuming a pill, he could not recover any time soon.

"Sect Leader Cao... your injuries..." Qiao Jingyao was shocked once again. She had already seen that Cao Zhen had injuries, but she had not realized the extent of his injuries was so severe.

Cao Zhen was the champion of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty martial arts competition, yet who could have injured him to such an extent? Or perhaps it was not one person who had inflicted such heavy injuries, but he had encountered an ambush by numerous experts?

Cao Zhen did not immediately answer Qiao Jingyao, but instead asked her, "You also have injuries; how were you injured? And, why are you here? Not in the Guardian Immortal Dynasty?"

On hearing this, Qiao Jingyao's face showed a trace of hatred as she said, "I am here because my Immortal Sect no longer exists."

"No longer exists?" Cao Zhen recalled having heard about various minor sects being attacked by Demon Sects and asked seriously, "Was it the work of a Demon Sect?"

"Yes, a Demon Sect!" Qiao Jingyao spoke coldly, "Those people from the Demon Sect stormed into our sect and annihilated it completely, leaving only me to escape.

My vendetta against the Demon Sect is irreconcilable. After escaping, I had thought to seek out the disciples of the Grand Preceptor, to join together with them to annihilate the people of the Demon Sect.

However, the disciples of the Grand Preceptor also had unpredictable movements, so I began to kill those from the Demon Sect alone, and somehow, I ended up here. Later, I realized that this country was somewhat special."

Qiao Jingyao paused slightly and lowered her voice: "Qili Country is just a small country; it cannot even be called a dynasty. It survives only between the cracks of several other dynasties, and this country does not have any significant Immortal Sects.

Yet, I found several Golden Core Stage cultivators here. Moreover, several of these were in the late phase of the Golden Core Stage.

Under normal circumstances, this country should not have so many late Golden Core Stage cultivators, and these individuals also acted mysteriously, heading towards a particular place; out of curiosity, I followed them.

As a result, I discovered a large group of Golden Core Stage cultivators, all of whom belonged to the Demon Sect — this place, is a lair of the Demon Sect!"

Cao Zhen's eyes immediately widened as he looked at Qiao Jingyao in surprise, "Is it the lair of the Sun and Moon Demon Sect, or the Red Refinery Demon Sect?"

"I don't know," Qiao Jingyao shook her head and sighed, "There were too many of them, and alone, I was no match for them, so I left temporarily, planning to capture an isolated person to interrogate.

Although I managed to capture a lone individual, that person chose death rather than reveal anything about their situation. Before I could capture a second person, perhaps due to that person or perhaps just bad luck, I encountered one of their experts. Although I ultimately killed the opponent, I was gravely injured myself. I fled here and was then saved by Elder Xu."

"I see, but whether this place is a lair of the Red Refinery Demon Sect or the Sun and Moon Demon Sect is indeed important, but it is not the most important thing," Cao Zhen nodded slightly, looking at Qiao Jingyao and said, "Because there are other forces behind them."

"Other forces?" Qiao Jingyao was taken aback. Both the Sun and Moon Demon Sect and the Red Refinery Demon Sect were forces comparable to the top ten Immortal Sects. Now Cao Zhen was telling her that behind the Sun and Moon Demon Sect and the Red Refinery Demon Sect, there was yet another powerful entity.

Cao Zhen nodded and explained, "Yes, not only your sect has been attacked, but our Hundred Peaks Sect was also attacked."

Qiao Jingyao nodded slightly, speaking softly, "I am aware of that, I heard it was a combined attack by the Sun and Moon Demon Sect and the Great Lai Dynasty on the Hundred Peaks Sect."

Although she had been alone, constantly killing those from the Demon Sect, the attack on the Hundred Peaks Sect was a major event that had already spread; how could she possibly not know about it.

Chapter 878:

This is also where Hundred Peaks Sect differs from her Immortal Sect.

Whether her Immortal Sect exists or is annihilated doesn't attract much attention, but as one of the top ten Immortal Sects, Hundred Peaks Sect is constantly under the scrutiny of the world.

Cao Zhen felt that standing up was tiring. He looked around and finally sat down on the ground, crossing his legs and beginning to circulate his Divine Skills to heal his wounds before he said, "When they attacked us, it was during a time when I and a few other sect experts were not present."

"If it hadn't been for the Crown Prince's disciple bringing people over in time, our Hundred Peaks Sect might have suffered heavy losses. And afterward, the Grand Preceptor's disciple even told us that behind the Sun and Moon Demon Sect and Red Refinery Demonic Sect, there might be remnants of a former dynasty."

"Remnants of a former dynasty?" Qiao Jingyao obviously didn't know about the former dynasty and exclaimed in shock, "How can there still be remnants when the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty has existed for so many years?"

"Why there are still remnants of a former dynasty, I'm not sure. But, I am certain that behind the Sun and Moon Demon Sect and Red Refinery Demonic Sect, indeed stand the remnants of a former dynasty."

As Cao Zhen spoke, he pointed to himself and said, "Weren't you asking me earlier why I was injured? It was because of the remnants of that former dynasty."

"Earlier, I entered a Peerless Relic, and the remnants also went inside. Thereafter in the relic, I tried to kill their leader, but due to some special reasons, the opponent survived, and instead, I was seriously injured."

Cao Zhen still trusted Qiao Jingyao for the time being.

After all, Qiao Jingyao had just mentioned her sect being annihilated. Such hatred could not easily be faked.

Besides, when he arrived, Qiao Jingyao was still teaching those two children, clearly showing that she was a kind person.

But with his injuries so severe, if Qiao Jingyao knew about the Legacy he had obtained from the relic, who knew what she might do.

Thus, he didn't tell her about the inheritance he obtained from the relic or the final Tribulation Array.

Qiao Jingyao showed a look of surprise upon hearing this, but she didn't voice her question. She knew of the Peerless Relic located in the South Ocean and even wanted to go there herself.

But later, after much consideration, she decided to stay outside and kill members of the Demon Sects.

And from here, the South Ocean is extremely far.

How could Cao Zhen have arrived here so quickly?

However, she was curious but did not ask aloud.

Seeing Qiao Jingyao's pale face, Cao Zhen reached into his Qiankun Bag, took out a pill, and handed it to her, saying, "Your injuries are too severe. Take this pill so your injuries can heal faster."

Qiao Jingyao took the pill, and immediately a fragrance wafted into her nose.

This aroma was the same as the pills Cao Zhen had given her at the Immortal Martial Gathering. Without hesitation, she swallowed the pill and while cultivating the energy to heal her wounds, she looked at Cao Zhen and asked, "Can Sect Leader Cao tell me more about these remnants of the former dynasty?"

As you said, behind the Sun and Moon Demon Sect and Red Refinery Demonic Sect stand the remnants of a former dynasty, then my enemies are these remnants!"

Cao Zhen, sensing the power emanating from Qiao Jingyao, looked up only to see nine Golden Pills behind her, each one a Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill!

Qiao Jingyao had already become a wielder of Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills?

At the Immortal Martial Gathering, wasn't Qiao Jingyao a Six Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pill, definitely not nine?

In such a short time, to break through directly to nine Phenomenon Golden Pills, Qiao Jingyao's talent was indeed astonishing.

Cao Zhen pondered for a moment before beginning to share what he knew about the remnants of the former dynasty.

"So... the remnant forces of the former dynasty are completely different from the royal family of the Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. Their royal family consists entirely of cultivators and possesses amazing legacies and vast treasures.

"I haven't returned to the sect yet, so some things are unclear, but I suspect that the destruction of the remnants of the former dynasty is inseparable from the top ten Immortal Sects. I'll need to return to the Hundred Peaks Sect to discuss the details."

As Cao Zhen spoke, he frowned.

His injuries, whether treated with his supreme Divine Skills or healing pills, usually healed excellently on their own.

But now, after taking the pill and using his Divine Skills, it was so troublesome.

These injuries...

Is this the power of the Heavenly Tribulation?

This injury was far more difficult to heal than common injuries.

Qiao Jingyao, seeing Cao Zhen's furrowed brows, also furrowed her brows, a look of confusion appearing on her face. Why was Cao Zhen still at the sixth stage of the Golden Core?

Even her, had now reached Nine Abnormal Phenomenon Golden Pills. Given that Cao Zhen was a reincarnated being of great power, how could he not have made any breakthroughs? What was he doing?

Qiao Jingyao was filled with incomprehension.

But Cao Zhen then asked another question, "By the way, I only know that we are currently in Qili Country. What is the exact location? What state, what city, what village is this?"

Qiao Jingyao, having been here for some time, knew exactly where she was, and promptly replied, "I am currently located in Huan Mountain State of Qili Country. We are surrounded by mountains here. This village is called Xu Family Village, primarily inhabited by people surnamed Xu. Xu Family Village belongs to Black Iron City, Star Terrace County."

Chapter 879:

This city has a very large vein of black iron ore. Initially, people gathered here just to mine, hence the name."

After Cao Zhen knew the location, he quickly connected with Ling Xi through the China Cloud.

He had not known his current location before and it was not convenient to contact Ling Xi and others directly. Now that he knew the location, he contacted Ling Xi immediately.

Suddenly, the island where he was previously located appeared before his eyes.

Although the relics had disappeared, many people were still gathered on the island. Ling Xi, Yan Yourong, Li Ke, and Linghu Gudu were all there.

The voice of Cao Zhen suddenly emerged in Ling Xi's ears. Since there were too many people around, this time he spoke directly, "Ling Xi, it's me. Do not make a fuss, you only need to converse with me in your mind, no need to voice it out."

Upon hearing his voice, Ling Xi's face immediately showed a hint of joy. The words "Master" nearly slipped out, but after hearing the rest of his Master's words, she swallowed back her response and hurriedly asked in her mind, "Master, where are you now? How are your injuries?"

Although Ling Xi did not speak, the other three people around her immediately noticed the change in her expression. Li Ke and Linghu Gudu, remembering that Cao Zhen had contacted just their disciples before, immediately understood that Cao Zhen had contacted Ling Xi.

Cao Zhen felt warmth in his heart. After his disciples made contact, their first concern was not about the relics he had acquired, but his safety and injuries.

He quickly replied, "Your master is now in Qili Country."

"Qili Country?" Ling Xi asked, filled with confusion, "What place is that?" She had never heard of this country before.

"To the east, a country to the east of our Guardian Immortal Imperial Dynasty. Linghu Gudu has traveled a lot, ask him; he should know about Qili Country."

As for your master's injuries, there are some minor issues. You saw that I was injured by the Tribulation Array. I thought that with the Divine Skills of healing and the pills I have, I could heal quickly.

However, the Heavenly Tribulation is somewhat different. For now, your master might not be able to heal his wounds quickly."

Ling Xi became anxious and asked hurriedly, "Master, where are you? I will come to bring you back."

"Your master is in Black Iron City, Huan Mountain State, Qili Country, in a village called Xu Family Village. The people here are mainly from the Xu Family. Ling Xi, do not rush to find your master now. There are too many external threats, and the relics have already disappeared.

Moreover, the relics your master obtained inside it are extremely important to the remnants of the former dynasty. These remnants might know about the relics and what treasures were inside.

Now that the treasures have been taken by your master, they will definitely try to seize them. But if they cannot find your master, they will definitely attack the Hundred Peaks Sect.

Therefore, the current Hundred Peaks Sect might also be in danger. Now, do not all come to find me. Tell Yan Yourong to return immediately with Li Ke to the Hundred Peaks Sect while you come alone to fetch me."

If possible, if his injuries recover quickly, he would not even want Ling Xi to come for him.

But given his current condition, he does not know how long it will take for his injuries to heal completely.

And with the Hundred Peaks Sect possibly facing danger, he must return as soon as possible. So, he could only ask Li Ke and Yan Yourong to return first to the Hundred Peaks Sect to strengthen its forces, while Ling Xi comes to fetch him.

"Yes, I understand, Disciple."

As Ling Xi finished speaking, she found that her master's echo was gone, evidently he had finished communicating and had disappeared.

Ling Xi did not dare delay. Seeing that there were still many people gathered around, she communicated secretly with Yan Yourong and the others, "Just now, master contacted me. He's not here now and he's injured, so he needs me to fetch him. But, junior sister and mistress, you two need to return to the Hundred Peaks Sect first.

Master said that he has obtained a heritage artifact that is extremely important to the remnants of the former dynasty. Since they cannot find him, they will definitely attack the Hundred Peaks Sect, so you need to return quickly, and I will go to fetch master."

As Ling Xi spoke, she also secretly asked Linghu Gudu, "Do you know where Qili Country is?"

"Qili Country, although I have not stayed there, I have passed through that country. You suddenly mention Qili Country, is Cao Zhen there? How did he end up so far away?" Linghu Gudu's face immediately showed a look of astonishment, and his heart was also shocked.

For Cao Zhen to be in Qili Country and then to be severely injured but still able to find Ling Xi?

That was not unexpected when they were in the relics. Given such a long distance, how could Cao Zhen manage that?

After Linghu Gudu asked, he quickly realized that now was not the time to ask such questions. He hurriedly said, "Explaining it to you in a moment wouldn't be clear. Let's do this, I'll take you there. Also, there are definitely many people watching us now. We should first head in the direction of the Hundred Peaks Sect to make others think we are returning there. Then, I will take you to Qili Country. Don't worry, it won't be much of a detour; we have to head north anyway."

Ling Xi hesitated for a moment but still nodded her head.

Xu Family Village.

Cao Zhen sat cross-legged on the floor inside the house, when suddenly, a series of footsteps came from outside, followed by the voice of Old Man Xu.

Chapter 880:

"Miss Qiao, young master Qiao. Dinner is ready, please come out to eat."

Upon hearing the call, Cao Zhen raised his head. Old Man Xu hadn't asked for his name, but Jing Yao had likely mentioned her surname, leading Old Man Xu to instinctively assume that Jing Yao belonged to the young master's family and thus referred to him as young master Qiao.

He withdrew his breath, supported himself with his hands on the ground, and slowly stood up, smiling, "Alright, Elder, we'll be out shortly."

As he said this and took a step forward, intense pain surged through his body, making him grimace involuntarily.

Immediately, Jing Yao extended her hands and supported Cao Zhen, whispering, "Young master, let me help you out."

As she carefully assisted Cao Zhen outside, her mind grew increasingly puzzled. Cao Zhen was the champion of the great cultivation tournament, and according to his own words, he had faced the leader of the remnants of the former dynasty in a duel, which had resulted in a severe injury due to an accident.

Just how strong was that leader of the former dynasty's remnants to have injured Cao Zhen to such an extent?

No, according to what Cao Zhen had said, he had aimed to kill the opponent, indicating that Cao Zhen was stronger; otherwise, he, as a reincarnated being with great ability, would not have misjudged his opponent's strength.

It was just an accident that had caused Cao Zhen to be heavily injured; the specifics of that accident were unknown.

Moreover, the adversary's strength must not have been much less than Cao Zhen's, or the accident wouldn't have occurred, leading to such injuries.

Her own strength was still far too inadequate.

To seek revenge, she would need much greater power.

The Ten Different Phenomena of Golden Elixir Great Perfection—after recovering from her injuries, she would strive to achieve it!

As Jing Yao contemplated, she had made her way to the door frame with Cao Zhen's support, then raised her hand to push open the door, guiding Cao Zhen out.

Outside the room, Old Man Xu, seeing the two emerge, paused his gaze on Jing Yao's face—a look of surprise crossed his expression, and he exclaimed unexpectedly, "Miss Qiao, you look much better than just a while ago."

Previously, Jing Yao's face had been unusually pale, barely showing any color, but now her cheeks were noticeably rosier.

"It must be because I saw the young master, and I felt happy, so my body also recovered a lot," Jing Yao quickly fabricated a reason, as she couldn't possibly reveal that she had recovered due to a pill Cao Zhen had given her.

For now, she couldn't let the other party know she was a cultivator.

After all, in their current condition, both she and Cao Zhen were too weak and still needed time to recuperate.

For now, they could only temporarily stay here.

Though Cao Zhen no longer needed to eat every day, he still maintained the habit from his past life whenever he had time.

The Xu family were merely ordinary villagers. Even though they had specifically killed a chicken today, the dishes on the table couldn't exactly be called abundant.

Cao Zhen glanced at the people of the Xu family. Besides Elder Xu, there were the two children he had seen earlier, as well as an old woman and a middle-aged woman.

Elder Xu had mentioned earlier that his son was in the city, so these must be his two grandchildren, his daughter-in-law, and his wife.

The two women of Elder Xu's household were very polite to Cao Zhen; he could sense their respect, steeped in admiration, for a literate person.

However, Elder Xu's two children, since sitting down, had not taken their eyes off the pot of stewed chicken.

Cao Zhen smiled, picked up a bowl, and said to the two children, "Come on, children, it's time for you to grow. Eat more meat."

As he was about to serve some chicken into the bowl, his hands began to tremble uncontrollably.

Jing Yao hurriedly took over the bowl and ladled, spooning chicken meat and broth into each child's bowl.

Elder Xu quickly intervened, "Master Qiao, please don't be polite. The children just had some wild rabbit shot by their uncle next door a few days ago. You are frail now; eat more meat to build up your strength."

"It's fine; I can't eat that much on my own anyway," Cao Zhen said with a light smile, shaking his head. His injuries weren't something that could be healed by eating chicken.

Yet, he also felt Elder Xu's sincere warmth and hospitality.

Meanwhile, Ling Xi, observing Cao Zhen's smile, revealed a surprised look. Her sect was a small immortal sect, and she had always interacted with mortals. Thus, in her eyes, although mortals were different from cultivators, she regarded them as essentially the same and, therefore, deeply admired the Grand Preceptor who had established laws promoting equality between mortals and cultivators.

However, she had also interacted with other cultivators, especially during her visit to the Capital City for the cultivation tournament, where she fully experienced many cultivators' disdain and contempt for mortals.

Yet, there was Cao Zhen, a reincarnated being with great ability, and now the Sect Leader of Hundred Peaks Sect, one of the top ten immortal sects, whose demeanor towards mortals was so gentle, even making her feel as if Cao Zhen were an ordinary mortal himself.

This was truly unexpected.

After the meal, Elder Xu also brought some blankets. He hadn't spoke of preparing another room or anything of the sort, as Miss Qiao was the attendant of Master Qiao, and serving him was naturally expected, wasn't it?

Cao Zhen and Jing Yao did not say much, nor did they feel any awkwardness.