

## **I'm Actually a Cultivation Bigshot #**

# **Chapter 161: Three-legged Golden Crow, the Secret of Ancient Times**

*Chapter 161: Three-legged Golden Crow, the Secret of Ancient Times*

Vroom!

It was merely a painting, but the black crow ignited the greatest pride in the world while exuding a surge of extremely terrifying power over everyone. The sight of the crow shocked them so much that they almost fell on their knees to worship the painting.

Meanwhile, there seemed to be an illusion of a massive flame engulfing the world, scorching everything in its path.

So frightening!

They jumped and hastily looked away from the painting.

The three-legged crow was strange-looking, but they could not feel even the slightest hint of Demon Spirit in it. Instead, they felt a sense of extravagance.

Gu Changqing could not help but ask, “Mr. Li... Is that a demon in the painting?”

“You don’t know it?” Li Nianfan was shocked at first. Then, he nodded. “It’s called a Three-legged Golden Crow. It can be considered as a demon.”

Three-legged Golden Crow?

Golden crow? Did that not symbolize the sun?

The crowd could not help but frown. They recalled the strange scene of Li Nianfan when he was painting. A scalp-itching guess appeared in their heads.

They could not help but slowly turn their gazes back to the painting with cautiousness.

It was not until then when they realized that behind the three-legged crow, a halo that seemed to have been nonchalantly painted with the brush was a red sun!

Indeed, a red sun!

With just a look, they could feel the red sun emitting a burning glow—extremely hot.

The Holy Emperor bit his tongue and asked, “Mr. Li, does this golden crow symbolize the...the sun?”

“Indeed, it does.” Li Nianfan nodded. “This is the son of the East Emperor—a golden crow with three legs—symbolizing the flying sun. The Emperor and his wife gave birth to ten golden crows just like this one.”

East Emperor?

Sun-crow?

And they made ten of these powerful beings?

The audience struggled to breathe as their hearts raced rapidly. They found this information impossible to imagine.

The secret of ancient times!

It must have been the secret of ancient times!

They all looked at Li Nianfan without blinking. Anyone could feel their desire to learn more.

Continue speaking, hurry!

‘As expected, the people in the Immortal Realm enjoy listening to mythology. Perhaps this has to do with their obsession and desire in becoming Immortals. If I stop now, they’ll go crazy for sure. Well, I’ll make it short,’ Li Nianfan thought to himself.

He then explained, “The ten sons were the suns. They lived outside the East sea. Originally, each of them would run up to the sky in turns to perform their duty of shining light onto the ground, and therefore, allowing people to live happily with plenty of sunlight. One day, the ten sons were feeling mischievous and ran up into the sky all at the same time.”

Li Nianfan paused and secretly stole a glance at the faces of his audience. He saw that all of them looked shocked and impressed. He felt good about it.

Qin Manyun took a deep breath and sighed in awe. “Ten sons?”

Everyone else gulped and looked up at the sun above them. It was hard to imagine how painful it would be if three suns were to appear above them.

They wanted to ask Li Nianfan to hurry and continue with his story. Luckily their last traces of rationality forced them to swallow their words. They could only wait in silence for the expert to continue.

Li Nianfan did not make them wait for too long. He continued, “The ten suns came out at the same time, burning the crops and trees, and suffocating the villagers and all living beings. Luckily, a man named Hou Yi appeared. He was a skilled bowman. He came to the East sea and climbed a high mountain to shoot down the nine suns. They all fell from the sky, one after another. Finally, only one sun was left in the sky!”

Gasp...

The crowd could feel their souls trembling. They did not dare to believe what they just heard. They came up with many different possibilities, such as someone negotiating with the sons, the Emperor bringing the sons back, or even the possibility that the sons became tired from playing and went home. The only possibility they did not come up with was that someone would shoot down the suns!

This was beyond their imaginations!

These were the suns! The high-up suns! Even by looking up at it, one would feel its immense pressure. How could they be shot down by a man? Not to mention, he shot down nine suns in a row!

How powerful was this man?!

“Alright, I’ll stop here. If I continue, the story will get too long.” Li Nianfan smiled. “It’s just a story though, so don’t treat it as reality.”

He only wanted the receivers to receive a meaningful painting. Hence, Li Nianfan told them the story to let them know what it was all about. If not, he would not have said anything.

After using a classic story to add meaning to it, this painting instantly seemed more valuable!

His audience seemed unsatisfied. Their breathing was still rapid. They were unable to calm down for a long while.

‘We’re fools if we don’t treat it as reality!’

‘This obviously isn’t just a story. It must’ve been something Mr. Li experienced. If not, how would he be able to paint this Three-legged Golden Crow?’

‘Without a doubt, that man must’ve been a bigshot during the ancient times if he could shoot down the suns!’

‘Of course, the story will be too long if it’s about ancient times. Mr. Li’s probably unwilling to continue because he doesn’t want to recall the memories of his experience. Just like us, once we recall the past, we get nostalgic.’

‘Mr. Li must’ve seen way too many things. He probably stopped feeling emotions for a long time. No wonder he wanted to pretend to be an ordinary man.’

They wanted to hear more about this ancient time, but if the expert was unwilling to continue, they would not insist. They could only stand by his side in silence.

Li Nianfan said, “This Three-legged Golden Crow can be considered as the King of the Demons. I hope you like it.”

“I like it! I like it very much! Thank you for giving this to me, Mr. Li,” Gu Changqing nodded hastily. He almost cried from the excitement. He reached out cautiously, accepting the painting with his trembling hands.

Gu Ziyao, her brother, and the three elders of the Azure Ville shivered. They felt as if their brains could crash anytime!

They were getting rich!

The Azure Ville was getting rich!

This was a painting done by the expert—a painting of the sun!

That was a priceless painting! Even the Immortals would treat this as the most precious item!

So precious!

This was beyond imagination. They could all faint from the excitement at any given time!

As for the others like the Holy Emperor, they were so envious! They wanted to glue their eyes onto the painting. Unfortunately, they had to act as if they were happy for Gu Changqing while their hearts were bleeding.

Sigh, so difficult!

Bootlicker!



Once they got home, they would work harder to improve the art of boot-licking!

Seeing that Gu Changqing was pleased, Li Nianfan smiled and nodded. “I’m glad you like it. Alright, I won’t disturb you any further. Goodbye!”

“I’ll walk you out.”

Gu Changqing walked Li Nianfan to the high tower and watched him leave with the skyship.

Li Nianfan stood on the skyship while waving at them. He could not help smiling happily.

‘They’re so polite and generous in giving gifts. How rare!’

## Chapter 162: Everything As It Was

*Chapter 162: Everything As It Was*

Li Nianfan stood on the skyship as he watched the scenery below him drift away. Gradually, they were hidden by a fluffy white cloud. He looked rather emotional.

This feeling was similar to one returning from a vacation.

Rather nostalgic.

Besides the minor unpleasant incident that happened during the trip, this was overall a pleasant trip that opened his eyes. He made some new friends and developed closer relationships with the cultivators.

It seemed that the teachings from the System were not useless after all. At least he could look slightly more presentable in front of the cultivators. He was probably the most successful ordinary man in this Immortal Realm.

He wondered how Blackie was doing over the past few days.

...

Inside the four-part architecture.

It was no longer quiet like the ordinary days. A tumultuous noise came from within.

A seven-tailed fox was running on the treadmill, almost out of breath. Its four short limbs moved rapidly as its fur stood on ends, dancing wildly in the air. If one looked closely, one could see a golden light emitting from its buttock—its eighth tail was getting more visible.

Xiao Bai was recording the stats beside the fox. “The little fox’s progress isn’t too bad at all. It seems that I can turn the speed up a notch.”

The little fox was instantly terrified. It screamed in a high-pitched voice, “No, I can’t do it anymore!”

The reply it got was the machine buzzing louder.

Vroom!

The treadmill sped up so much that its movement became a blur. In fact, the word ‘moving’ was no longer applicable to its speed—there were even sparks in the air due to friction.

The little fox screamed. Its skin hardened as it almost turned into a little hedgehog. Its four limbs were flying in the air, no longer visible. Finally, the four limbs turned into two. Its body straightened as it seemingly ran on two limbs.

It ran with gritted teeth. Its tiny face looked nervous.

“Look at you, that’s not bad at all! Potential needs to be forced,” Xiao Bai commented nonchalantly by the side. “Do you know why I’m training you to run?”

The little fox’s eyeballs looked at Xiao Bai, unable to speak at all.

Xiao Bai said with a serious tone, “Because...you’ll understand in the future.”

The little fox’s chest tightened up and it almost spat out blood. Its body tensed up and almost shot out from the treadmill.

On the other side, the Wild Boar Demon was in its original form. It was hanging on a grill while the Dragon Fire Pearl spat out fierce flames beneath it, grilling the boar. Its fur was thoroughly burnt along with its body that burnt bright red, especially its buttock. It was starting to turn black. A burnt smell wafted into the air as the boar cried out miserably, “Bigshot, please, let me go, bigshot! Gentler, please, could you stop burning my buttock?”

Blackie sniffed. “Hmm, you’re getting burnt.”

The Wild Boar Demon instantly smiled humbly. “Yes, Lord Dog, may I humbly request Lord Dog to flip me around? It’s time to burn the front.”

Blackie let out an extremely friendly smile. “I’m afraid not. You have to hang in there. If you’re cooked...I’ll have no choice but to eat roasted pig with tears in my eyes.”

Meanwhile, Xiao Bai walked over. After recording some data, it said calmly, “The flame can still be turned up a notch. Also, remember to add some cumin.”

Beside the Wild Boar Demon, a green giant python was frozen in a giant ice cube.

Xiao Bai asked nonchalantly, “Are you dead yet? If you’re still alive, move your eyeballs.”

After a moment, the green python’s eyelids twitched with difficulty.

“Wow! You can still move! Ice-Crystal, you’ll have to work harder.”

In the corner of the four-part architecture, the Black Bear Demon was cutting up wood with the Fallen Demon Sword in its hands. Its thick bear palm was torn open with most of its fur rubbed away from the friction. Its eyes were watery. Just as it was about to complain, it noticed the other three demons’ punishment and quickly shrunk back its head. It did not dare to make another sound and continued cutting up the wood quickly.

Suddenly, Blackie looked up in high alert. Its face looked different as it sniffed the air again. “Master’s coming back!”

The entire four-part architecture fell into a dead silence. The active Dragon Fire Pearl halted mid-air as if it was struck by lightning.

Xiao Bai quickly walked out of the four-part architecture and swiftly walked back. “Master’s really coming back! Hurry, everyone back to your positions!”

As it spoke, it picked up the little fox that was still running on the treadmill and tossed it aside. Swiftly after, it turned off the machine and quickly pushed it back into the room.

After that, a robotic voice spoke, “Butler Xiao Bai’s online. Master’s at the foot of the mountain. Everyone, please, hurry up.”

The Dragon Fire Pearl rolled back to its position beside the pile of wood. The Fallen Demon Sword flew out from the Black Bear Demon’s hands and returned to the Dragon Fire Pearl’s side.

Instantly, a loud noise was heard coming from the backyard, along with some moaning and complaining.

“Lord Dog, how could you do that? Why didn’t you tell us earlier about the master coming back?”

“Do you think master’s whereabouts are so easily traced? I can’t even predict it! If it wasn’t for my nose, none of you would’ve been able to tell even if our master’s outside the gate!”

“Hurry! Stop bickering! Right, put down the boar. And the snake. Hurry and unfreeze it!”

The Wild Boar Demon had its buttocks burnt while the Green Python Demon had its body frozen. They both fell to the floor, unable to move.

Blackie opened its mouth and sucked in vigorously.

Instantly, all the sundries and the smell in the air were sucked in and cleared up. Blackie glanced at the four demons arrogantly and said calmly, “Whoever doesn’t make it out of the yard by the time our master gets in will become his dinner tonight.”

The four demons jumped and shivered. They used whatever energy they had left to run and crawl out of the yard.

...

Li Nianfan and Daji walked up the familiar path as a sense of familiarity overwhelmed him. Home was always better than a hotel. Not to mention, his home was so well-made!

Home sweet home!

He quickened his pace and walked up the mountain. Meanwhile, a black dog ran out from the woods toward Li Nianfan.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Blackie ran toward Li Nianfan's feet. Just like the time he left, Blackie licked his boots with its tails wagging quickly.

"Ha-ha-ha! Blackie, you missed me, eh?" Li Nianfan laughed. "Were you a good boy at home?"

'Hmm...' Blackie nodded vigorously.

Soon, the four-part architecture appeared in sight.

Click!



The door swung open and Xiao Bai walked out from the house. It bowed like a gentleman and greeted, “Welcome home, Master.”

“Xiao Bai. Long time no see.” Li Nianfan smiled and nodded.

He walked into the four-part architecture and glanced around. Everything was as it was with the same familiar scent!

It seemed that the courtyard had been very quiet when he was away. It felt as if he had never left. This feeling was so...great!

## Chapter 163: The Ordinary Men No Longer Have Desires?

*Chapter 163: The Ordinary Men No Longer Have Desires?*

“Blackie, I brought back a new toy.” Li Nianfan smiled and took out the Divine Bead, playing around with it in his hands.

“This is called a compressor! You’re lucky enough to get to taste the happiness of drinking Fanta.”

With that, he turned to Xiao Bai. “Xiao Bai, I’ll show you how the compressor works. It’s useful and voice-controlled as well. You’ll be in charge of making the Fanta!”

Xiao Bai nodded seriously. “Yes, my master. Don’t worry, my master.”

Li Nianfan and Daji rushed home. Now, they could finally rest. He sat beneath the pavilion in his reclining chair languidly as he enjoyed the peaceful afternoon.

After resting for a while, Li Nianfan felt refreshed. He recalled that he brought back other stuff besides the Divine Bead.

He took out the statue and the three paintings. The three paintings were nothing special. Li Nianfan did not want to bin them even though he thought lowly of them since it was given to him as a kind gesture. Therefore he simply placed them aside. As for the statue, he found it intriguing.

Li Nianfan admired it in his hand. Its dark shade and terrifying look were pretty intimidating. It seemed like a demon from the Immortal Realm.

He wondered what material this statue was made of. It did not seem like wood or ceramic. It was cold to the touch but not too hard.

The carving technique was not bad. Who would have thought that the Immortal Realm had someone so skilled in carving!

After examining it for a while, Li Nianfan simply placed this new toy on his table, using it as a piece of decoration.

The sky turned dark gradually. Li Nianfan and Daji had a simple dinner, played a few rounds of chess, then went to bed.

After a long day of traveling, he was tired. He deserved a good rest. Li Nianfan laid in his bed and stretched, moaning with pleasure.

As expected, his bed at home was the best! It was so comfortable that he fell asleep almost instantly.

Hoot—

In the woods, the hooting of an owl was heard, making the night seem rather quiet. The night sky was getting darker.

In the darkness, the statue looked like a demon with open jaws, ready to devour its victim. A terrifying sight.

Suddenly, the silent statue jolted slightly. Swiftly after, a black smoke hovered around it.

The black smoke stood out even against the dark sky. It grew thicker, covering the bottom of the statue until it eventually surrounded the entire statue.

The black smoke was like a strong current washing directly into the statue. The statue's eyes lit up with a flash of black light.

“What did my pet experience in this realm that made it so terrified? It's so terrified that it's still in a half-dead state! What happened? Who could do such a thing in this realm?”

The black smoke boiled from within the statue.

“However, it's not too bad. Since there's still a hint of demonic spirit left in this statue, I, the Mighty Lord Yuecha will be able to use it as a portal to this ordinary realm. I'll be able to recruit a few demonic followers to work for me!”

Instantly, the color of the statue turned darker.

The next day.

The sunlight shone through the trees and into the yard of the four-part architecture, casting shadows on the ground.

Click!

With a soft click, Li Nianfan opened the door and walked out of his room. He faced the sunlight with a smile. “The start of a brand new day!”

Daji was arranging the flowers in the yard. She smiled. “Good morning, Mr. Li.”

“Good morning, Daji,” Li Nianfan greeted. “After being away for so long, I wonder how the Fallen Immortal Town is doing. Why don’t we have breakfast there today? I know a stall that sells nice buns.”

Daji walked forward to help Li Nianfan straighten his slightly wrinkled collar. She smiled. “I’ll follow you.”

“I knew you’d say that.” Li Nianfan smiled bitterly and shook his head. “Let’s go, then. We can walk around as well.”

He glanced at the statue on the table suspiciously.

“Hmm? Daji, did you move the statue in the morning?”

“No.” Daji shook her head.

Li Nianfan frowned and mumbled, “Strange. I remember it was facing the door. Why’s it facing my bedroom door now?”

Perhaps he remembered wrongly.

Li Nianfan could not help holding it in his hand and examining it closely. It seemed a shade darker than yesterday.

“Weird.” Li Nianfan sighed. “Things in this Immortal Realm are indeed different. So mysterious! Who knows, it might be a little treasure after all!”

Meanwhile, a dark glow lit up from within the statue. Following that, black smoke oozed out, surrounding Li Nianfan’s hands.

Yuecha was delighted! Who would have thought that she would instantly run into an ordinary man right upon her arrival? How lucky!

She could easily turn this ordinary man into her follower. In turn, this ordinary man could help her recruit more followers! What a marvelous plan!

She could not wait any longer! She used the three deadly curses in one go.

“Young man, do you want to be invincible? To stand at the peak of the world?”

“Young man, do you want unlimited wealth and pretty ladies?”

“Young man, do you want revenge on those who once looked down on you?”

However, the reply she got was a long silence. The man did not even change his expression.

“Hmm?”

She jolted slightly. She was perplexed.

What happened? No reaction? This man had no desires?

Boring! So boring!

‘I, the Mighty Lord Yuecha, have lived over ten thousand years. Yet, I’ve never met such a boring ordinary man!

‘Whatever, this man is useless. Luckily, there’s a woman beside him. I’ll have to lower my standards and try her instead.’

“Young lady, do you want beauty that can turn people crazy?

“Young lady, do you want to stand at the peak of the world?

“Young lady, do you want unlimited romance and the ability to kill all the douchebags in the world?”

Daji merely threw a glance at the statue and looked away. There was not a hint of reaction on her face either.



‘I failed again!?’

Yuecha’s mind was buzzing with disbelief.

‘Perhaps after being absent from this ordinary realm all these years, the ordinary people no longer have any desires.’

Whatever! Whatever! What a boring couple! She would not recruit boring people like them as her followers.

She turned to her next target and caught sight of Blackie who was resting beside Li Nianfan.

‘Better than nothing. I’ll take the dog then!’

“Hey, black dog, do you want to become the winner among the dogs? Do you want to become a legendary dog with the prettiest mates?”

## Chapter 164: Surrounded by Bigshots

However, Blackie did not even bother looking at her. It merely turned away and faced her with its buttock, wagging its tail slowly from left to right as if mocking her.

“Hmph?” Li Nianfan halted slightly. He looked at the statue in his hand with suspicion. “This statue seems to be moving. Did it just vibrate?”

Whatever! He did not care anymore.

Li Nianfan put the statue down. “Daji, let’s go. It’s still early, so let’s hurry and grab our breakfast.”

Daji nodded. “Okay.”

The two of them eventually left the four-part architecture and walked down the mountain.

“Blackie, remember to guard the house.” Li Nianfan’s voice was heard coming from outside as he walked away.

Walking away, he felt rather guilty somehow. Before he met Daji, he would bring Blackie along with him everywhere he went, but now...

Would love vanish?

Inside the four-part architecture.

The statue vibrated again, and a puff of black smoke appeared in the air. The demonic spirit appeared in sight. Even the eyes of the statue turned bright red.

She growled in a deep voice with anger, “Stupid dog! I’ll give you one more chance to take the opportunity of becoming the best dog in the world. Are you taking it or not?”

Blackie turned over and its lips curled into a mocking smile. “Do you know who you’re talking to? I’ll give you another chance to speak to me properly.”

“Ha-ha! So, you’re a Dog Demon, eh?” Yuecha was shocked at first. Then, her anger turned into laughter. “It’s been too long...at least a thousand years since someone dared to speak to me so rudely. Who would’ve thought that the first would be a mere Dog Demon in this ordinary realm? Do you even know who you’re talking to?”

“Well, you asked for it, so don’t blame me!” Black smoke shot out from the statue, transforming into the shape of a black palm that reached out to grab Blackie.

“Whatever, it’s time for you to face reality as well.” Blackie stood at the same spot and shook its head arrogantly. It raised its paw and swatted the black palm away as if slapping someone.

Smash!

A force appeared out of thin air, crashing toward Yuecha. Following the powerful force, the black palm instantly dissipated, flying out along with the statue.

Bam!

The statue fell onto the floor as the black smoke seemed to shake vigorously. It was apparent that Yuecha was agitated!

She had countless question marks in her head. She was caught off guard and was still unable to accept this reality.

‘Did I just get hit by an ordinary dog demon in this ordinary realm? I didn’t even have a chance to defend myself?’

What breed of dog demon was this?

Yuecha took a deep breath and calmed herself down. She could not help glancing around at her surroundings. She narrowed her eyes instantly

Next to her was the Fallen Demon Sword!

Yuecha was delighted! She did not expect to meet a helper here! Indeed, life was full of surprises!

She said hastily, “Sword Demon, come out! This dog demon is unordinary. Let’s work together and we might stand a chance at winning!”

Vroom!

The Fallen Demon Sword emitted a glow. Swiftly after, the Sword Buddhist in robes appeared in sight, hands clasped together. He looked at Yuecha with a compassionate look as he spoke calmly, “Amitabha, Yuecha. Since you’re an old acquaintance of mine, I can help you beg for Lord Dog’s mercy and teach you Buddhism.”

What was that about?

Yuecha felt that her worldview had been challenged over and over again today. She could not help asking, “Sword Demon, what are you wearing? You’ve turned to Buddhism? Have you forgotten that we’re from the Demon Realm?”

The Sword Buddhist said, “Yuecha, my friend, heed my warning. Please, look around you.”

Look around?

What was there to see?

Yuecha pouted in disdain and glanced around half-heartedly.

With a simple glance, she was thrown off guard. She went blank as a chill penetrated her.

Somehow, she had been surrounded.

This...was this the Dragon Fire Pearl?

Hmm? Tianxin Bells?

Gasp! Thousand-Year Black Ice?

Ice-Crystal? Preaching Pearl? Divine Bead?!

Even though she had been to many impressive fights, she shivered under their gazes.

Somehow, she had been surrounded by so many bigshots...

What Immortal place was this? Was this not the ordinary realm? Was this the Immortal Land?

Yuecha panicked. She could feel her scalp itching as she cried out in a trembling voice, "Hurry! Sword Demon, we can work together. Perhaps we can still escape! Quick!"

The Sword Buddhist shook his head. "I've changed my name to Sword Buddhist. Not only am I not leaving with you, but I'm also going to convert you. Do you want to take the initiative to be converted, or do you want me to make you?"

"It seems that you've gone crazy! It was always us luring others. Who would've thought that you'd be lured by others! This is so disappointing!" Yuecha said in disdain. "If I were you, I'd rather die as the most determined defender of the Demon Realm!"

The Sword Buddhist's face sank as he clasped his palms together. "If that's the case, have a taste of my Heavenly Dragon!"

...

Fallen Immortal Town.

Li Nianfan and Daji walked along the street, looking at the familiar and friendly passers-by.

Soon, they arrived at a breakfast stall. The stall was not big, but its business was good. Customers were coming and leaving, filling up space.

A puff of smoke emanated from the stall, adding some heat to the morning air of the Fallen Immortal Town.

"Boss, bring me a plate of Soup Dumplings and two bowls of Tofu Pudding."

"Hey, Mr. Li!" Seeing Li Nianfan, the owner of the stall instantly smiled in surprise. "What brings you here today?"



Li Nianfan smiled. “I’m just too lazy to make breakfast at home. Your business is doing good!”

The owner said with gratitude, “Thanks to the pointers you gave me. You taught me how to make the dough and Tofu Pudding. I must say that these are more delicious than what you can find anywhere else! I’ll always remember your teaching.”

“I was just saying, don’t take it to heart!” Li Nianfan waved it off. “Is there an empty table?”

“Yes! Of course!” The owner instantly led Li Nianfan to the pavilion. After searching around, he said, “Er Gou, is your butt so big that you need a table all to yourself? Go and join Da Niu’s table and let Mr. Li have your table.”

“Zhang Laoliu! I’m doing this for Mr. Li! I wouldn’t move if it was for anyone else!” Er Gou scoffed as he moved away. He smiled at Li Nianfan. “Mr. Li, please, sit.”

Li Nianfan smiled and made a grateful gesture with his hands. “Thank you.”

Er Gou waved it off. “You’re welcome. An uncultured man like myself is always impressed by a cultured man like you. Not long ago, I went home late because I went to listen to your story-telling of ‘Journey to the West’. My wife scolded me for that.”

“Ha-ha-ha!”

A few others joined in to laugh at Er Gou.

Someone added, “Mr. Li, you’re too humble. How rare it is to see you out with your partner. Of course, Er Gou should give you the table!”

## Chapter 165: Destruction and Rebirth

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Li Nianfan and Daji sat down.

Soon, a plate full of Soup Dumplings and two bowls of Tofu Pudding were brought to the table. The fragrance washed over their faces and drifted into the air, making one feeling hungry.

“Yum!”

A bite of the Soup Dumpling with a mouthful of Tofu Pudding warmed one’s body up instantly while getting rid of the morning chill with immense relief.

Meanwhile, the owner brought a few more plates to the table. There were some cooked eggs and other light dishes. He smiled and said, “Mr. Li, my treat!”

Li Nianfan could not help smiling. “Boss, you’re too kind!”

The owner said instantly, “How could you say that? My business is doing so great all because of you! I hope you’ll come and visit me more so I can learn more from you. Perhaps my son could become a cultured man and bring glory to the family!”

“Ha-ha-ha! Surely!” Li Nianfan laughed. He asked with a curious tone, “Boss, I heard people talking about a thunderbolt. Did something happen?”

“Mr. Li, don’t you know?” the owner gasped. He then continued, “Last night, a thunderbolt struck the old tree by the gate of the Fallen Immortal Town, cutting it into half!”

Li Nianfan frowned.

The owner sighed and continued, “The old tree has been here for a few generations. I remember climbing up the trees when I was young. Who would’ve thought that a thunderbolt would cut the tree into half! People who witnessed it said that the thunderbolt was as thick as the opening of a bowl. How rare!”

Li Nianfan asked, “Is it the old tree by the east gate?”

The owner said, “Yeah! However, I find it strange how the old tree fell without crushing anyone even though its stem was so thick! It didn’t even crush any building at all! Some are saying that this old tree has spirits within it!”

“Boss, do you have any alcohol?” Li Nianfan asked out of the blue.

“Yes, Mr. Li. Just a moment.”

After a moment, the owner secretly took out a bottle of wine from the bottom of his stall. “My special wine. I take a sip or two every once in a while. Keep it. However, it’s not healthy to drink this in the morning.”

Li Nianfan smiled. “I know. Thanks for telling me.”

“It’s nothing.” The owner smiled.

Li Nianfan wiped his mouth. “Daji, are you full?”

Daji nodded. Li Nianfan placed some silvers on the table and stood up. "Let's go."

It was not long after that the owner called out after them. "Mr. Li, your silver."

"No, your silver!" Li Nianfan replied cheekily. He was in a good mood. He held the bottle of wine in his hand as he walked toward the east gate.

Daji asked, "Mr. Li's going to see the old tree?"

"Yeah." Li Nianfan nodded.

"The tree's quite old. I was impressed by it when I first saw it. Who could've seen this coming?"

They passed by the long street and crossed a bridge opposite a marketplace.

Soon, the two of them arrived at the east side of the town.

Although it happened yesterday, there were still many people gathering by the tree today. Everyone was filled with emotion and regret as they talked and sighed around the tree.

Most of them were elders and children.

“This tree’s over a thousand years old. It has been here since my great-grandfather’s era.”

“Sigh, what a pity. Out of so many places, the thunderbolt struck this old tree.”

“Do you know that there’s been so much thunder and lightning lately? My son travels for business and he said that there have been thunderbolt incidents in many other places recently, especially in the mountain area. Though there wasn’t a cloud in the sky, you could still hear the thunderclaps!”

Li Nianfan stood by the side, listening in on the conversation as he observed the gigantic old tree.

The roots of the old tree had grown out of the ground, growing along the uneven ground and forming a network-like path under the people’s feet. The trunk of the tree was extremely thick. It looked like it would require at least ten adults to carry it.

The most stunning part of all was how the thick trunk was split vertically. Both sides of the trunk fell in two different directions, blocking the pathway. There was also a burnt spot in the middle of the trunk.

One could tell from the remains how glorious the old tree was.

Li Nianfan could not help reaching out to touch the fallen trunk. It had a rough texture with detailed veins. It was as if he was tracing its old age.

He glanced around and his gaze fell on a spot. At the center of the burnt spot, a new seedling had sprouted. It was eye-catching against the burnt patch, hinting at the coexistence between destruction and rebirth.

Instantly, Li Nianfan smiled with delight.

“Old tree, if you have a spirit in you, let me make a toast to you! I hope you’ll get back on your feet and receive a new life!” Li Nianfan took a sip of the wine and then tilted the bottle, pouring the wine over its roots.

Being in the Immortal Realm, Li Nianfan did not find it strange for trees to develop spirits from cultivation. Regardless if it had a spirit inside it or not, it earned his respect for shielding the town from wind and rain for so many years, and that its death did not harm anyone!

Just as Li Nianfan was ready to leave, a familiar sound was heard. “Mr. Li?”

Li Nianfan halted. “Fish stall owner?”

The man was indeed the fishmonger from the fish stall!

Li Nianfan smiled. “Not selling fish at your stall today? I was thinking of buying two fishes from you!”

“I came here to have a look. If Mr. Li would like to buy some fish, follow me.” The fishmonger was in a good mood today. He smiled and said, “Now that the demon in the Clear Moon Lake has been killed, I have all kinds of fishes now. I’m sure you’ll be satisfied.”

“Huh?” Li Nianfan was surprised. “The Demon has been killed?”

“Yeah! Let me tell you something, I was almost eaten by the demon!” the fishmonger said, face flushed red with excitement. “The demon was so scary, way beyond your imagination! It was an abalone bigger than a man! It opened its mouth and almost sucked me in entirely. So terrifying! I was lucky to have come across some cultivators descending from above. They saved my life when I was a split second away from death! You’ve no idea how dangerous it was. I was zero point one centimetres away from the Abalone Demon!”

The fishmonger gestured widely with his hands as he described his experience.



Li Nianfan smiled without speaking.

Abalone Demon?

Was it not the abalone that Qin Manyun and Luo Shiyu brought over the other day?

He looked at the fishmonger strangely as he thought to himself, ‘You were almost eaten by an Abalone Demon. I ate the Abalone Demon! You wouldn’t believe me even if I told you.’

## Chapter 166: Yao Mengji’s Last Words

*Chapter 166: Yao Mengji’s Last Words*

After buying two big carps from the fish stall, Li Nianfan walked around the town with Daji. They bought some daily necessities before going home.

On the way home, Li Nianfan could not help looking up at the sky with a worried look. “Daji, do you think there have been more thunderclaps recently?”

After a moment of thought, Daji said, “Indeed. It seems like there have been some changes recently.”

Li Nianfan’s expression grew even more worried. He remembered how the sky changed abruptly in Azure Ville. There were frequent thunderclaps there, too. How terrifying!

Not to mention, it was because of the thunderstorms that he decided to bring Daji home.

It seemed that thunder and lightning were a frequent occurrence in this Immortal Realm.

Li Nianfan asked, “Do you think the thunder will strike our house?”

Daji looked at Li Nianfan and then looked up at the sky. “I think...it’s unlikely?”

“We can’t leave it to chance. Ordinary people like us must live cautiously in this Immortal Realm.”

Li Nianfan shook his head. “We live at the top of the mountain with trees surrounding us. That makes us prime targets of a thunderstrike! I must think of some precautions when we get home.”

Li Nianfan frowned as he started to brainstorm ideas. The most straightforward way to deal with thunderstorms was to use a lightning rod. However, the key material in making a lightning rod was galvanized wire. Making it was not too complicated. He merely needed to find some ordinary metal and melt them into one.

Now that he had a lighter at home, he should be able to make it. He had to return to the town to buy some metal equipment. Li Nianfan picked up his pace so he could start making the lightning rod. The sooner the safer.

At the Linxian Palace.

Qin Manyun and the four Elders were guarding a stone wall with worried looks.

Vroom!

Suddenly, the stone wall moved and Yao Mengji walked out.

“Teacher!”

“Sect Master!”

Everyone's eyes lit up as they walked toward him. However, when they laid eyes on Yao Mengji, the smiles on their faces stiffened.

Yao Mengji looked worn out. His hair was messed up and his eyes had sunk in like an aged elder, looking weak and feeble. He looked nothing like before.

Qin Manyun's eyes turned red instantly. Trembling, she said, "Teacher, you..."

Yao Mengji waved it off. "Speak no further. I don't have many days left."

"This...this..." Everyone felt as if they were struck by lightning.

Zhou Dacheng frowned and said hastily, "Yao Laotou, don't speak nonsense. What're you doing? How could you say such a thing?!"

Qin Manyun added, "Yeah, teacher. Haven't you already passed the Interrogation of Insights?"

"Bad timing. Bad timing!" Yao Mengji smiled bitterly as he shook his head. "Now that there are massive changes in the world, I sensed during my Interrogation of Insights that the natural tribulation I need to endure is at least double the usual danger! Double! How am I going to survive it?"

Everyone's eyes narrowed as their hearts sank a little. "Double? How could it be?"

They did not doubt what he said. Normally, cultivators could sense impending danger. Since it came to Yao Mengji during his Interrogation of Insights, it was unlikely to be a mistake.

"I'd like to know why, too!" Yao Mengji said with a desperate look. He complained, "I got this far, yet something like this happens during my Cross Tribulation. What am I supposed to do!"

Everyone gasped with their mouths wide open. They did not know what to say. The thought of doubling the danger was scary to even think about. How could it be!

"Whatever! That's fate," Yao Mengji waved it off as he turned to Qin Manyun. "Did you present yourself well when I was in the retreat? I hope you didn't piss the expert off."

"Of course, we didn't piss him off. However, quite a lot happened..."

Instantly, Qin Manyun recomposed her emotions and told Yao Mengji everything that happened from head to toe, as if she was telling a story.

Yao Mengji looked like an ordinary elderly man, smiling as he listened to her story. He nodded and shook his head from time to time. Half a day had passed when Qin Manyun finished her story.

Yao Mengji's face changed along with Qin Manyun's description, sometimes smiling and nodding with satisfaction, sometimes sighing with regret.

When she mentioned the Liu Family, his face became serious. "How dare the Liu Family offend the expert. They must be destroyed! What a pity that I was in the retreat. If not, I would've gone and destroyed them myself!"

When he heard about the descent of an Immortal, he was stunned. "There are indeed big changes in the world. My natural tribulation is probably related to this as well. I wonder what the future will hold."

When he heard that the expert gave Azure Ville a painting, his eyes filled with admiration as he gasped. "Azure Ville got lucky! Gu Changqing must be so happy that his jaw must be sore from smiling!"

Finally, he looked at Qin Manyun and praised her, "Manyun, your recent improvement is very obvious. You've deciphered most of the expert's clues. Ha-ha-ha! You're my best student after all!"

"However...there are some parts where your understanding is still too shallow," Yao Mengji said to Qin Manyun. "As the expert said, 'at worst you are a successful man, at best you are a legendary savior.' That was obviously him reminding us! What he meant was that as long as we're doing enough, he won't let us down! For example, the expert must've

been impressed by how Azure Ville sealed the entrance of the Demon Realm so he rewarded them with a painting!”

Qin Manyun and the Elders looked impressed. “You’re so right! Thank you for your teaching!”

“In this world, we must learn as we live and help others if we can. Just because we came across the expert, it doesn’t mean we’ll be trouble-free. We need to keep working for the expert! If we don’t share our capabilities with those in need, we will be disposed of by the expert!” Yao Mengji pointed out to them as if speaking his last words. “When I’m no longer here, the Linxian Palace will rely on all of you. Now that the world’s changing, you’ll need to be more cautious than ever!”

The four Elders looked depressed as they said in unison, “Don’t worry, we’ll do our best to uphold the Linxian Palace forever!”

Qin Manyun looked at her teacher who seemed to have aged instantly. She bit her tongue and said in a low voice, “Teacher, why don’t we go and ask the expert? He must have a way to help.”

“No, no need!” Yao Mengji shook his head without hesitation. “The expert has helped us enough. If I do so, I’ll be disrupting his peace. Even if the expert is willing to help me, I’m too ashamed to ask for his help. And if it offended the expert, the Linxian Palace might be shut down because of me.”

“Don’t be too upset. Death is beyond our grasp. Before I go, I’ll go and bid the expert farewell one last time!”

# Chapter 167: The Expert Is So Nice to Me

*Chapter 167: The Expert Is So Nice to Me*

The next day, countless traveling lights shot out from the Linxian Palace and arrived at the foot of a mountain.

Yao Mengji looked up and said, “You don’t have to follow me. Since it’s a farewell, I’ll go alone.”

“Teacher, we’ll wait for you here.” Qin Manyun bit her tongue and said with a hopeful tone, “I think the expert is kind. Perhaps he might be willing to save you if he sees that you’re sincere.”

“Hopefully.” Yao Mengji smiled and walked up the mountain.

He did not say things that would hurt Qin Manyun. The truth was that he knew clearly how difficult it would be to ask the expert for help. It was almost impossible. The expert was living as an ordinary man. Why would he make an exception for an insignificant person like him?



Furthermore, unless one was a Godly figure, a natural tribulation like this was impossible to avoid!

Sha...sha...sha...

One step at a time, he stepped on the leaves as he walked up the mountain. The Autumn leaves fell to the ground just like Yao Mengji's heart—dried up and lonely.

He lowered his head with watery eyes. He did not expect to be walking up the mountain in such a bad state.

Perhaps...this was his last time coming here.

His steps were heavier than usual, like an aged elderly. Every step came with deep and distant memories.

Usually, the journey ended quickly. However, it was unusually long today. After some time, the familiar sight of the four-part architecture finally appeared.

“Hopefully the expert will save me after all.”

Even though he knew it was impossible, Yao Mengji could not let go of that last hint of hope in him. Nobody wanted to die, especially him!

He walked forward, raised his hand, and knocked on the door.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Yao Mengji asked with his hoarse voice, “May I know if Mr. Li’s home?”

“The door’s open. Come in.” Li Nianfan’s voice came out from the inside.

Click!

Yao Mengji pushed the door open and went in. He said politely to Li Nianfan, “Mr. Li, sorry to disturb you today.”

“It’s you, Mr. Yao! Haven’t seen you in a while.” Li Nianfan looked up to see Yao Mengji. However, he frowned. After not seeing him for a while, how did this old man change so drastically?

In the past, even though he was old, his face still had a reddish glow with good vibes. He was a happy and glowing old man. Now, he looked more like an old man in his last stage.

Li Nianfan could not help asking, “Mr. Yao, you...”

“Sigh, long story.” Yao Mengji sighed. “Perhaps this is the last time I’m visiting you.”

Li Nianfan’s hand froze as he looked at Yao Mengji strangely. Looking at the change in his appearance, Li Nianfan understood right away what he meant.

He wanted to say things to comfort him but did not know where to start. It seemed that his illness was caused by his cultivation. Normally, cultivators could sense their own deaths quite accurately.

Yao Mengji could either fight for his life or give up entirely. Judging by his look, he seemed to have lost his willpower to fight, so the latter was more likely.

Was he not fine earlier on? Why so sudden?

Li Nianfan did not understand, thus, he did not know how to comfort him.

After a moment of silence, he said, “Mr. Yao, don’t be too upset. There might still be a chance, who knows?”

“I hope what you said will come true.” Yao Mengji forced a smile and asked with a curious tone, “Mr. Li, what’re you making?”

Li Nianfan said nonchalantly, “I’m trying to make a lightning rod, just a small toy.”

“Lightning rod? Yao Mengji jolted. He asked doubtfully, “Can it shield one from lightning?”

He looked blankly at the long metal rod in Li Nianfan’s hands. Perhaps the expert was making a very cool treasure?

However, no matter how hard he looked, he did not sense any Spiritual Qi coming from this item!

“I noticed that there’s too much thunder and lightning lately, that’s why I thought of making this.” Li Nianfan explained, “The tip of the lightning rod is pointy. When static electricity is induced, the tip of the conductor will accumulate the most charge. Therefore, the air between the lightning rod and the clouds can easily become a conductor, forming a path between the two. Since the lightning rod is grounded, it can prevent the house from getting struck by lightning.”

Yao Mengji looked confused. He really wanted to say, “Oh, I see,” but his lips parted without any words escaping them. Other than ‘preventing the house from getting struck by lightning’, he did not understand a word Li Nianfan said.

‘The words of an expert are indeed deep and mysterious. They must contain some secrets that I’m not meant to understand.’

Li Nianfan laughed and put the lightning rod aside. “Mr. Yao, don’t take it to heart, I was speaking nonsense. This is nothing worth mentioning, unlike your cultivation.”

“Please, have a seat. Xiao Bai, pour Mr. Li some tea.”

Pa-la-pa-la...

Instantly, Xiao Bai walked over with a glass of tea. It said politely, “Mr. Yao, please, have some tea.”

“Thanks.” Yao Mengji accepted the tea from Xiao Bai. In the past, he would have flushed red with excitement for this opportunity, but now he remained calm and unperturbed. An opportunity was nothing in the face of death. Perhaps this was the biggest revelation.

‘I’m a man facing impending death. What right do I have to waste this glass of good tea?’

Yao Mengji put down the glass and stood up. “Mr. Li, I’ll skip the tea. The reason I came this time is to bid you farewell. I should go now.”

“Mr. Yao, how could you say such a thing? Get back to your seat. You must drink this tea! You must stay for a meal, too!” Li Nianfan continued, “No matter what happens, your attitude isn’t right! Life is meant to be enjoyable, so why think so much? You must stay on! I won’t let you leave my house so easily!”

“Life’s meant to be enjoyable?” Yao Mengji’s eyes sparkled. He regained some energy after all.

He kept on mumbling this sentence to himself. An expert was indeed an expert. A casual statement from him could even reveal the philosophy of life. Being able to have cultivated to this stage was a true example!

Yao Mengji sat back in his seat. “What you said is inspiring. Thank you.”

Li Nianfan laughed. “That’s the right attitude! At least you’re still alive now. As long as you’re still alive, everything is possible.”

“You’re right. I’ll be shameless and stay on for a meal then!” Yao Mengji said with a slightly positive tone.

Li Nianfan said, “Your taste buds are in luck today. Xiao Bai, prepare a dish for Mr. Yao. Let’s make him fish head tofu soup!”

“Yes, my master.” Xiao Bai nodded.

Yao Mengji looked perplexed as he thought to himself, ‘I’m merely a nobody. Why would the expert treat me with such kindness?’

‘Not only did he spend time comforting me, but he’s also even rewarding me with good food.

‘The expert’s so nice to me!’

## Chapter 168: No More Regrets In Life

*Chapter 168: No More Regrets In Life*

Li Nianfan smiled. “Mr. Yao, you came at the right time. I bought two large carps yesterday. We ate one yesterday but we haven’t eaten the other one. It turns out I was saving it for you.”

Li Nianfan was merely joking, but Yao Mengji took it seriously. He said with genuine shock and terror, “Thank you so much for your kindness, Mr. Li.”

‘So, Mr. Li knew I was coming today? He was preparing a farewell dinner for me!’

Meanwhile, Xiao Bai had already walked to the center of the yard. There was a stream that was used as a fish pond, very convenient. Inside, a fish was swimming languidly.

The stream was connected to the pond in the backyard. However, Li Nianfan used a net to block the fish from swimming to the backyard.

This fish was a well-grown grass carp that seemed active. Even though it seemed relaxed, any slight movement would make it flip its tail and swim away rapidly with caution.

However, even though it was a very cautious fish, Xiao Bai could easily capture it anyway. Xiao Bai reached its hand into the water without any expression and caught it effortlessly.

Pud! Pud!



The fish shook vigorously in Xiao Bai's hand but could not get out. Its hand secured around the fish like a plier. The struggling fish started getting worn out and struggled less. Eventually, it became the fish on the chopping board for the chef to cook.

Slap!

Xiao Bai used the chopping knife to slap the head of the grass carp. This instantly made the grass carp stop moving. It went off peacefully.

Descaled the fish, opened the mouth. Xiao Bai performed the procedure fluently. Soon, the fish was prepared.

Xiao Bai then cut off the head of the fish and placed its body aside to start preparing the fish head tofu soup.

The making of tofu was not difficult. Li Nianfan had planted soybeans in the backyard. Having both the ingredients and the recipe, tofu was something he could eat any time.

Xiao Bai took out the white and crystal-like tofu from the fridge by the stream and started cooking.

Meanwhile, Yao Mengji sat in his seat and blanked out. Although he was comforted by Li Nianfan, it was still impossible to ignore his impending death. From time to time, he would let out a sigh and look depressed.

The tea by the side had also turned cold.

In such a situation, company was needed more than consultation. Li Nianfan did not say anything. He simply sat there, waiting for Xiao Bai to prepare the meal and hoping that Yao Mengji would feel better after tasting the delicious food.

He did not have many friends in this Immortal Realm, so one friend gone was one friend less. He hoped that Yao Mengji would be fine.

In the yard, Li Nianfan accompanied Yao Mengji as he blanked out while Daji practiced checkers by the side. Blackie laid on the ground lazily. Xiao Bai was the only one moving around preparing the meal.

Boil! Boil!

Somehow, a burst of smoke lifted the lid of the casserole, causing a crisp sound. Once the lid was opened, thick smoke wafted out.

A strong fragrance came in waves, engulfing the entire yard and flowing into their bodies through their nostrils. It encouraged one to take a deep sniff, giving one a pleasant feeling all over the body.

Hmm?

The blanked-out Yao Mengji jolted as he took a sniff unconsciously. His pupils dilated.

Smells good!

The fragrance went through his nose and into his stomach. Since it was merely air, it upset his stomach and it started to shrink uncontrollably.

Growl! Growl!

The sound was followed by hunger. His stomach was rumbling!

Instantly, Yao Mengji's face flushed red. He was too ashamed! It had been so many years since he had forgotten the feeling of hunger. Now he felt it again and his stomach was growling!

It was apparent that he was still a half-dead person moments ago, but now his stomach was growling! This was...too embarrassing!

'No, Lord! Let me die instead! I'm so ashamed!'

He looked toward the direction of the scent and saw that Xiao Bai was walking over with the fish soup in its hands. Smoke was swirling above the casserole.

Through the smoke, one could easily see the white fish soup. The color of the soup was pure without oil floating on top. It was the purest combination of the fresh fish head with tofu

The soup was sparkling under the sunlight.

Beneath the thick soup, the beautiful fish head was half visible. The fish head was complemented by a few jade-like tofu, making them the best combination!

The fragrance of the fish soup was not too strong. It was more of a long-lasting and fresh scent, flirting with one's taste bud.

With a look at the fish soup and the smell of the delicious fragrance, one would want to taste it instantly.

Gulp!

Yao Mengji swallowed as he stared at the fish soup. A wave of desire overwhelmed him. He thought he was half-dead and that nothing in the world could tempt him. Yet, now he realized he was wrong—he was very wrong!

It turned out that the temptation of good food was able to battle one's despair of death.

Li Nianfan saw Yao Mengji's reaction and a smile curled upon his lips. As expected, there was nothing a good meal could not solve.

Xiao Bai had already scooped a bowl of fish soup and handed it to Yao Mengji. "Enjoy."

"Thank... Thank you."

Yao Mengji accepted the fish and could not help bringing it up to his nose for a good sniff.

The warm fragrance excited him. Besides the half-filled soup in the bowl, there was a piece of beautiful fish meat with two crystal-like cubes of tofu.

He gulped and impatiently raised the bowl to take a sip.

Instantly, the thick, white fish soup flowed into his mouth. Its smooth texture made him feel pleasant. Most importantly, the aroma of the soup burst into his mouth and wrapped around his throat like top-graded silk wrapping around one's skin. He was almost unwilling to swallow.

He could not help using his tongue to flirt with the fish soup before swallowing it slowly like a long and narrow stream.

“This...this is too delicious!”

Yao Mengji opened his eyes wide with a look of surprise and shock. He could feel every cell in him opening up, feeling extremely relaxed.

He could not help lowering his head to take another big mouthful of it.

Gulp!

This time, he took in a piece of tofu with the soup. The silky and extremely smooth tofu seemed to have blended in with the soup. Before he could chew on it, the tofu had already melted in his mouth.

Instantly, the tofu's fragrance and the fish soup combined perfectly, making the soup even more delicious than it already was!

“Delicious! So delicious! This was definitely the most delicious dish I’ve ever eaten in my life!”

Gulp! Gulp! Gulp!

Yao Mengji seemed to have completely zoned out. He grew more impatient as he drank, and ended up covering his entire face with the bowl.

However, behind the bowl, his tears were running down his cheeks.

‘I can’t believe I get to taste such a delicious dish before I die. My life is complete. I have no more regrets!’ he thought.

“I’m so embarrassed!” Yao Mengji wiped off his tears hurriedly. “Can I please ask for another bowl?”

Li Nianfan said, “No problem, you can have as much as you want!”

## **Chapter 169: Yao Mengji, Attacked.**

*Chapter 169: Yao Mengji, Attacked.*

Soon, the big bowl of fish soup was emptied!

Yao Mengji wiped his lips with satisfaction. Swiftly after, he stood up and said to Li Nianfan politely, “Mr. Li, thank you for having me. I shall leave now.”

Li Nianfan looked at Yao Mengji for a moment and sighed. “Goodbye, Mr. Yao.”

He wondered if this was his farewell to Yao Mengji.

Yao Mengji jolted and let out a painful look. Finally, he nodded his head and walked out of the yard.

Li Nianfan looked at his back, feeling emotional. He was rather upset.

Life was full of uncertainties. Regardless if it was an ordinary man or a cultivator, they would face the same problem in the end. Perhaps this was what made life so precious.



Maybe when it came to the end of his life, Li Nianfan would be just like Yao Mengji.

No wonder the scholar insisted on finding the secret of longevity. Life was too short. Who would want to leave so soon?

Li Nianfan shook his head and went back to the making of the lightning rod. It was better to live in the present. Overthinking was bad.

Yao Mengji walked down the mountain slowly with a calm face. When he arrived at the foot of the mountain, Qin Manyun and the four Elders surrounded him with concern.

“Teacher, did the expert have any solution?” Qin Manyun asked impatiently.

Yao Mengji shook his head. He was so sad that he felt as if his heart was blocked by a stone. He looked like a child whose teacher complained about to his parents. His eyes reddened as he said with a hoarse voice, “No, I won’t stand a chance!”

Qin Manyun’s eyes reddened as she sobbed, “Teacher, I’ll go and beg the expert!”

“Stay!” Yao Mengji stopped her. He was terrified. “The expert knows I’ve reached the end of my life. He bid me farewell by preparing a bowl of fish head tofu soup, also...”

Yao Mengji's lips trembled. It was apparent that he was repressing his sadness. He wiped off his tears. "Before I left, the expert said 'goodbye' to me. What he meant was clear! I've no more hope, so he let me go in peace."

Qin Manyun and the others were in grief. They did not know what to say.

"Ha-ha-ha, don't be too sad. The meal prepared by the expert was so delicious, it was beyond your imagination! I've no more regrets after tasting it! Don't be too envious of me." Yao Mengji smiled suddenly and he then waved it off, "Alright, you all may go now. The thunder will strike in the next two days. Let me stay here by myself."

"Teacher!"

Qin Manyun was covered in tears. She seemed to have things to say but Yao Mengji had already turned into a light and traveled to the deep end of the forest.

"Don't look for me, don't bother me. If I die, don't come looking for my body. That's it for now..."

...

The night had fallen unknowingly.

Li Nianfan was still caught up in the making of the lightning rod. Since it was made to prevent lightning strikes, the quality had to be good. Li Nianfan had many things to consider since it was the first time he was making this. He had to try it out first to see if it worked.

The best way to test it was to do what the original creator of the lightning rod did—fly a kite to catch thunder and lightning!

Li Nianfan was going to do this!

The materials needed for the kite were simple. He could find them all over his yard. After completing the lightning rod, a simple kite was made as well. The kite looked like a big butterfly without any pattern on the surface—very plain.

After looking around, Li Nianfan's eyes lit up. He took out a brush pen and wrote two words on the kite—'Come Here'!

With this written on it, the chances of lightning striking on it would be higher!

Li Nianfan was satisfied with his work. He smiled and said, "Everything's set. Now I'm just missing an experimental product."

Daji asked curiously, “Mr. Li, what do you lack? What’s an experimental product?”

Li Nianfan said nonchalantly, “When the lightning strikes, I need someone brave enough to run with the kite to attract the lightning. This is the only way to see if this would work. There’s no hurry, we can take it slow. If I can’t find any, there must be other ways.”

He put down the kite and yawned. He smiled and said, “Daji, it’s late. Sleep early.”

Daji nodded diligently. “Goodnight, Mr. Li.”

Gradually, the night sky had darkened. Daji walked out of the room cautiously. She walked gently to the door of the four-part architecture.

The little fox hanging by in the trees ran over in joy. “Sister! Sister!”

“Shush! Softer! Don’t wake my master up from resting.” Daji made a shushing gesture and ruffled its fur with surprise. “You’re growing an eighth tail! Not bad!”

“Waa...sister, those things in the yard are so mean to me! They bullied me and now my body’s still sore.” The little fox showed Daji its paw. “Look, a few patches of fur even fell off.”

“Alright, you’re so lazy. If they didn’t force you, would you ever improve?” Daji gently nudged the little fox’s head. She raised her hands and instantly, a frozen body appeared by her side.

Instantly, a strong wave of Immortal Qi came out from the body, causing one to shiver in fear.

The little fox was terrified. It jumped up abruptly.

“Sister, this—this is...”

“A body of an Immortal!” Daji looked at the body and said, “I’m planning to use it to awaken the bloodline in you.”

“Body of an...an Immortal?” The little fox was stunned. It stared at the body with wide eyes. It was tempted to touch it with its paw but was too terrified to do so.

Her sister was so cool now? She could even get hold of the body of an Immortal?

The little fox said with anticipation, “Sister, will it turn me into a nine-tailed?”

“Should be able to.” Daji nodded. “I checked out this body. I realized that the biggest difference between an Immortal and an ordinary person is the presence of Qi in them, the so-called Immortal Qi! Immortal Qi doesn’t exist in this Immortal Realm and species like us have an innate ancient bloodline. Although it’s just a hint, it’s still considered as a slight foundation of Immortal Qi. As long as you absorb this Immortal Qi to activate your bloodline, you should be able to turn into a nine-tailed fox.”

“That’s awesome!” The little fox’s eyes sparkled. Its tails all stood up and swayed.

‘Once I become a nine-tailed, nobody will bully me again!’

“Once you become a nine-tailed, you’ll finally be able to unleash your potential and become more useful to my master.” Daji was worried that her lazy sister would not be useful to her master.

“Alright, hold your breath and focus. I’ll now transfer the Immortal Qi from this body to you!” Daji squinted her eyes and said with a serious tone.

With that, she raised her hand and pointed between the brows of the body. Instantly, specks of white Immortal Qi that looked like ants crawled from all parts of the dead body and gathered between the brows...

Vroom!

The sky darkened with dark clouds all over. Wild lightning was flashing like crazy, causing loud and deafening thunderclaps that almost shook the ground.

Yao Mengji's face darkened. He was waiting for his impending death inside a cave. He looked up at the sky and started to question his life.

“My natural tribulation just turned a notch stronger? God, what did I do to deserve such a traumatic death?”

## Chapter 170: Sacrificing for Science

*Chapter 170: Sacrificing for Science*

Vroom!

The space between the sky and ground seemed to have layers of waves weaving between them.

From Daji's fingertip protruded a delicate strand of white Qi that looked just like earthworms, wiggling left and right. Although the white Qi was not much, it was like a light source, illuminating the surroundings and painting everything a faint white.

A fearful breath came out, making one shiver.

The little fox looked at the white breath blankly. "Sister, is this the Immortal Qi?"

"Alright, don't talk." Daji's face was serious. She flicked her finger and the white breath went directly into the body of the little fox.

Click!

It instantly transformed, becoming an unlimited force flowing all over its body.

The little fox felt its body becoming lighter. First, it felt some lightness. Then, nothing. It rubbed on its tiny head. "Hmm? Sister, is it over?"

Daji jolted slightly, too. "I'm not too sure, it seems that this isn't an instant process. Perhaps the Immortal Qi will slowly awaken your bloodline."



“Oh.” The little fox nodded.

Daji said, “Oh, right. Pick a few demons and ask them to act like normal animals and hang around here in the next few days. Tell them to be ready, my master might need them.”

“Okay, sister.”

“Pick the better ones, they must be well-disguised,” Daji warned.

“My master must have meant this when he said experimental product...”

The next day.

Li Nianfan walked out of his room. Instantly, his face changed as he looked up at the sky. His brows furrowed.

It was merely one night but the sky had gone so dark?

There was no sun in the morning sky as it was hidden by a large, dark cloud. The thickening cloud was rolling, flashes appearing within it from time to time. The sight was terrifying to see!

“I was told that there had been more lightning two days ago, and now it’s happening again? That’s so soon!” Li Nianfan quickly brought in the clothes he was drying outside.

“This is indeed a realm with frequent lightning! It’s too dangerous to live here without a lightning rod.”

“Daji, Blackie, follow me. Let’s go out and see.” Li Nianfan held on to his kite and walked out from the four-part architecture. Daji and Blackie followed behind him closely.

The wind was blowing wild!

Huff!

Although it was early in the morning, the sky was as dark as a night sky. Countless leaves were swaying in the wind. In the woods, some trees were bent sideways by the strong wind, branches shaking wildly.

“What weather is this! So Stormy!” Li Nianfan faced the wind as he looked up at the swirling dark cloud. He was rather intimidated.

What a scary sight! Perhaps the lightning rod would not be able to withstand it after all?

“The thunderstorm is happening so soon. I haven’t even found an experimental product!” Li Nianfan looked around as he mumbled, “If only there’s an animal around.”

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Meanwhile, Blackie rushed toward a direction and barked. It then rushed into the woods.

“Blackie, don’t run around when the weather’s like this,” Li Nianfan said worriedly. However, in the next moment, he was shocked. He saw Blackie running back with a strong, black boar.

“Hmm? There’s a boar in there?” Li Nianfan said delightedly. “Not bad, Blackie. Perhaps this boar ran out from someone’s house down the mountain. Catch it!”

Li Nianfan took out his trapping equipment and quickly captured this boar.

“Hey there, you’ll have to run in the direction of the thunder. If you do well, I won’t eat you. If you run away, you’ll become a roasted boar.” Li Nianfan patted the back of the boar as he tied the kite on its body.

“Don’t be scared, I’ve insulated you with a piece of wood. If there’s no accident, you’ll be fine. Stop shivering, be brave! This is slightly cruel, but just treat it as a sacrifice to science. You’ll be remembered for centuries and become the role model of all boars.”

The boar was so terrified that it almost fell off. Its tiny eyes were full of despair. It looked at Blackie by its side and took another look at Daji. The despair in its eyes worsened.

‘Not only do I have to pretend I’m an ordinary boar, but now I have to hold up a kite and run under someone’s natural tribulation thunder?’

‘Murderous! So murderous!’

‘I’m done! I’m dying! This is so difficult!’

In the woods, the Black Bear Demon and the Green Python Demon looked at the Wild Boar Demon who was tied to a kite with tears in their eyes. ‘Bro, thank you for sacrificing yourself for us.’

Swiftly after, they turned around to say to the rest of the demons, “Lord Wild Boar Demon will be dead. We’ll have to choose a new demon to take its place. Good luck to you all!”

“Okay, it’s ready! Time to test the lightning rod.” Li Nianfan smacked the Wild Boar Demon’s buttock. “Off you go!”

The Wild Boar Demon jolted and turned back to look at them with a pathetic look. It had one last trace of desire to live.

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Blackie barked at it.

Daji frowned slightly, and instantly, a chill struck the boar's buttock.

The Wild Boar Demon let out a miserable cry as tears rolled down its cheeks. It started to run toward the center of the dark clouds with its head down. As it ran, the kite on its body flew up into the air as the lightning rod pointed upward.

The string of the kite was a conductor as well. It was tied around the boar's body, passing through the wooden insulator. At the end of it was a long rod touching the ground for grounding purposes.

Vroom!

Among the dark clouds, a flash of lightning illuminated the entire forest.

Yao Mengji stood by a cliff, looking up at the sky. His chest was rising and falling rapidly. He was standing in the middle of the dark clouds as a single cloud swirled above his head. Furthermore, waves of powerful pressure weighed down on him from above, causing him to struggle for air as he felt chills all over him.

A natural tribulation like this was so many times stronger than the normal ones. So terrifying that one could not have the heart to refuse it.

Finally, the dark swirling clouds turned brighter as countless flashes visible to the naked eye gathered at a high speed. Looking up from under the swirling clouds, one could almost see the bowl-thick lightning bolt forming.

The lightning was about to strike!

Due to the static energy building up, Yao Mengji's hair spiked up. As he was about to die, he suddenly broke into laughter.

“Ha-ha-ha! Damn it, God! Why would you do this to me? Isn't it merely a natural tribulation? I want to take over my fate. Check me out as I change my fate!”

His hair was dancing in the air wildly. Instead of retreating, he flew toward the sky!

Vroom!

The lightning struck him down. It was thicker than Yao Mengji as he fell hard on the ground!

Bam!

He fell back down as hard as when he took off. Instantly, Yao Mengji spat out a mouthful of blood. His shirt was torn and burnt.

“Oh, no. It’s too strong.” Yao Mengji laid on the floor listlessly. He was in despair.

It was merely the first lightning bolt and he had already used up all of his energy.

“God, I’m wrong. Please, let me off easy. I’m a good man.”

Vroom! Vroom! Vroom!

However, the thunderclaps in the sky became even louder.

Yao Mengji could see through his blurred vision that the second lightning bolt was already starting to form. He was prepared to die.

Meanwhile, he saw from the corner of his eye that something was flying in the sky.

Hmm?

Was that a...kite?

He took another look.

The kite was tied to a wild boar that was running wildly.

What was that?

Was this boar crazy? He was running over so eagerly to give up his life?



Yao Mengji found it hard to believe. He took yet another look at the flying kite and he jumped.

There were words written on the kite!

‘Come Over!’

This was...the writing of the expert?

Indeed! It was the handwriting of the expert!

‘The expert came to save me! So, the expert didn’t give up on me!’

Suddenly, Yao Mengji’s eyes reddened like a desperate child seeing his parents. His strength instantly collapsed as tears gushed out of his eyes.

‘The expert’s asking me to go over?’

As if holding onto the last life-saving straw, he stood up without hesitation and ran toward the kite.

