

Bigshot 401

Chapter 401 Relationship Trouble, What Is Going on with the Realm

“You guys are Cao Bao and Xiao Shen?”

Li Nianfan was slightly surprised. He carefully looked at them.

They were the direct cause of Zhao Gongming’s death. One could say that they were born to curse Zhao Gongming.

During the era of the ‘Investiture of the Gods’, Zhao Gongming had 24 Dinghai Immortal Pearls. He was considered superior to all except Saints. At that time, he was being hunted. He passed by Wuyi Mountain and ran into Cao Bao and Xiao Shen who were playing chess.

They were lousy cultivators but they coincidentally had a Deluxe Merit Treasure that could knock off the items of their enemies. Due to bad luck, Zhao Gongming lost all 24 of his Dinghai Immortal Pearls along with his Dragon Rope. He was instantly at a disadvantage.

Li Nianfan did not expect that the two crucial ‘minor characters’ in the legendary stories would appear in front of him.

Cao Bao and Xiao Shen noticed that Li Nianfan was staring at them. It instantly sent a shiver down their spines. They asked anxiously, “Saint, do you know us?”

“I’ve heard of you. I’m the Deluxe Merit Saint but I’m just an ordinary man, don’t need to be so nervous.” Li Nianfan had to laugh. Then, he said, “You guys seem to be working for Zhao Gongming, right?”

In the legendary stories, Cao Bao and Xiao Shen were in the ‘Investiture of the Gods’. Interestingly, they became workers of Zhao Gongming. It was supposedly payback for their karma.

Xiao Shen was the Lord of Attracting Money. Cao Bao was the Lord of Collecting Treasure. They were responsible for managing finances and the market flow. They mainly managed the finances of the people. They were considered Chancellors of the Heavenly Palace.

Xiao Shen said with respect, “You’re right, Saint. We work for the Dragon Tiger Profound Altar Lord... also known as Zhao Gongming.”

Li Nianfan asked curiously, “Where is the Profound Altar Lord?”

Cao Bao replied, “The Profound Altar Lord was the student of a Saint back then. He’s much more powerful than us. He didn’t return after the catastrophe.”

Li Nianfan nodded. He had questions about the catastrophe.

So many experts were dead. Even Saints could not escape. Everything became a mess. The catastrophe was much scarier than any big tribulations or disasters.

Something was off. Li Nianfan stopped thinking about it. He asked, “Are you guys managing money in the Immortal Realm?”

“Yes, Saint,” replied Cao Bao. “It’ll be recorded as a sin if they hurt others because of money. Of course, those who give out money could repent for their sins. At the same time, we manage their finances properly, too.”

Xiao Shen nervously said, “We were looking for some entertainment while working just now. We won’t need to pay too much attention unless we have a rare case. Please, forgive us, Saint.”

‘I see. They were watching videos...during work?’

Li Nianfan laughed. “Alright, no need to be so nervous. I’m not your boss. I was just looking.”

The Gods of Finance mainly needed to avoid financial chaos. Money was the source of chaos, and the Immortal Realm would be in ruins if their money system was messed up. However... It was a relatively easy job.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “Do your job properly. Fight for a bonus by the end of the year.”

Cao Bao and Xiao Shen sighed in relief after Li Nianfan left. They silently wiped off the cold sweat on their foreheads. ‘Is this the powerful aura of a bigshot? Too scary. We couldn’t even breathe.’

Cao Bao was taken aback. He asked curiously, “Xiao Shen, just now...do you know what the Saint meant by bonus?”

Xiao Shen carefully thought about it. “Bonus sounds like a promotion, right?”

“Promotion?” Cao Bao furrowed his brow. Then, he looked like he realized something. He excitedly asked in a shuddering voice, “For someone like the Saint, did he mean Deluxe... Deluxe Merit as a bonus?”

“Gasp-it might be.” Xiao Shen had wide eyes. He excitedly paced around the palace. “We stabilized the finance of the Immortal Realm. He most probably meant it! We have to work hard, do our jobs properly so that we can gain some Deluxe Merit by the end of the year!”

“Not Deluxe Merit, the Saint said it’s called bonus!”

“Yes, yes, bonus. We have to work hard for a bonus!”

Li Nianfan strolled around after walking out from the Palace of the Finance Gods. He gradually learned about their jobs.

The Heavenly Palace existed mainly to avoid chaos in the three realms. They did not manage everything, but they could if they wanted to. It was up to their moods.

Their main responsibility was to help when things go wrong. Once an uncontrollable situation occurred, they would do whatever they needed to do to stop the tragedy. Normally, they worked quite leisurely.

Meanwhile, at the Palace of Yue Lao.

A young lady held a bunch of red yarn in her hands. She stared at it and unknotted it.

There were about ten knots in the bunch. It was a knotted mess.

Her eyes were bloodshot. She looked like she was on the verge of a breakdown. "Dead-end knot, dead-end knot, and dead-end knot again! What's going on?"

She pouted like she wanted to cry but no tears came out. She sighed and said, "What did the world go through after all these years? When did relationships become so complicated? I'm begging you all to put me back in the seal."

She tried to detangle the knots for a while but she ended up turning it into a knotted ball...

"He loves her, she loves him, he loves her and her... Argh-just let me die!"

The young lady threw the knotted ball. She was completely done with it. She turned and looked at the old man sitting by the door.

The old man had very thin white hair. He was almost bald. He wore a red robe. He scratched his head while he frowned at a book in his hand. He looked troubled.

“Master—”

The young lady pitifully looked at the old man. She said in a tragic voice, “I failed...”

The old man turned his head and looked at the knotted ball. The corner of his mouth twitched. Then, he lifted his hand and dropped a pair of small golden scissors in front of the young lady. “It can’t be saved, just cut it.”

The young lady excitedly picked up the scissors and cut away. She instantly felt great.

However, before she could sigh in relief, two clay people with complicated relationships flew out. A red string quickly bound them together.

“Found true love so soon after cutting off all the complicated relationships?” The young lady was intrigued. However, she stared at the two clay people with fright. She covered her mouth with her hand.

She composed herself and picked up one of the clay people. She touched the pimples of the clay person. Then, she picked up the other clay person and touched it. Also pimples...

"These two...they both have pimples!" The young lady covered her mouth and stared at them in disbelief. It was a complicated fright, but she was also...kind of excited.

"It has changed. The world has changed."

Her voice shuddered. She seemed to be excited. "Master, what do I do in a situation like this?"

"Duh, cut it."

"Cut? Cut where?"

"The string. Where else?"

"Oh..." The young lady seemed disappointed.

The elder scratched his head and suddenly realized that a couple of strands of hair fell off. He instantly teared up. He angrily said, "Quickly cut it. Come with me to the Underworld after you're done!"

The young lady was puzzled. “Master, why are we going to the Underworld?”

“To talk to Ox-Head and Horse-Face! This is bullying! They’re trying to make me bald on purpose!” he said while running towards the door. However, he stopped in his tracks when he collided with Li Nianfan.

“Saint... Lord Saint!”

The elder widened his eyes in horror. Then, he quickly saluted and said, “Greetings from Yue Lao to the Lord Saint.”

Xiao Luo also bowed and greeted, “Greetings from Xiao Luo to the Lord Saint.” Li Nianfan saluted back. He smiled and asked, “Yue Lao, why are you in such a hurry? Where are you going?”

“Sigh. Lord Saint, you came at the right time. You be the judge. Is the Underworld treating us unfairly?”

Yue Lao was full of complaints. He was resentful. He passed the book over to Li Nianfan and ranted, “Relationship troubles aren’t that easy to create. They simply wrote ‘relationship troubles’ and passed it off to me. What can I do?”

Li Nianfan opened the book and saw a row of words, ‘Relationship troubles. Every trouble they face will be harsh and brutal. An unsuccessful relationship, as if Fate keeps stopping them. However... Happy ending.’ ‘Huh?

'Why does it look familiar?

'Is this Yun Yiyi and Jiese?'

"Look, look at this," said Yue Lao in agony. He said angrily, "It was fated to be an unsuccessful relationship but it needs a happy ending. Isn't that contradictory? Most importantly... I have to prepare relationship troubles that will last for nine lives! I can't think of any without balding out."

"Um...excuse me," groaned Li Nianfan for a moment. He said apologetically, "If I'm not mistaken, these two are my friends. I let the Underworld help them."

Yue Lao instantly froze in place. He was dumbfounded. He did not move.

He was inhaling through his mouth. His teeth hurt and his heart went cold. He was mindblown.

'What did I say? What am I doing? Am I going to die?'

"That."

Yue Lao sobbed and almost burst out crying. He said in a shivering voice, "I suddenly feel like this sentence was so well-written! As Yue Lao, I've always been searching for a challenge like this. Creating relationship troubles is my specialty. Such a challenging project. Interesting, so interesting. I'm already excited, I'll put my mind to it. Don't worry, Saint, I got this."

Li Nianfan had to laugh. “Yue Lao, you don’t need to be like that. I won’t force you or trouble you.”

“Force me or trouble me?” Yue Lao felt his lips tremble. He shuddered and hurriedly said, “Not at all. It’s no trouble at all. I’m too happy and genuinely willing to do this.”

Li Nianfan said, “Yue Lao, about the relationship troubles, I have some ideas. You can use it as a reference.”

Yue Lao replied without thinking, “Feel free to say it, Saint. I’ll listen attentively.”

“Master, let’s invite the Lord Saint to sit down inside first.”

Xiao Luo quietly reminded him on the side. She sneakily glanced at Li Nianfan. He always had a friendly smile, she wondered why her Master was so afraid of him. He was so handsome.

“Yes, yes, of course. What am I thinking?” Yue Lao kept nodding in realization. “Lord Saint, please, after you.”

“Sorry for the intrusion, then.”

Li Nianfan walked into the Yue Lao Palace. He glanced at the clay people and the red strings. He had an idea but he temporarily held it in.

Xiao Luo jogged over to make some tea for Li Nianfan.

Li Nianfan said, "Yue Lao. Creating relationship troubles takes skill. I have a few short stories about troubling love, hope it helps you."

Yue Lao said genuinely, "Please, teach me, Lord Saint."

His hair was barely holding on. "My first story, 'Butterfly Lovers'..." Li Nianfan immediately retold the popular love stories from his past realm. 'Butterfly Lovers', 'Legend of the White Snake', and 'Romance of the Western Chamber'.

They were all short stories. It was not complicated but the romance was spot on.

Xiao Luo did not stop crying from the beginning to the end of the story. She kept sobbing. As for Yue Lao...he did not stop smiling He even picked up a brush in his hand. He was taking notes. He said excitedly, "Awesome. These stories are awesome! Xiao Luo, don't just cry, take notes. Hurry up and take notes. These are precious materials. We can use it in the future to inspire others in romance."

Li Nianfan felt his heart drop. He suddenly felt weird. 'In the future... Will these tragically beautiful love stories be passed down for generations because of me?'

“Lord Saint, you’re truly talented. Each of these stories is deeply touching. They’ll be household stories. You’ve helped me a lot.”

Yue Lao was not trying to kiss up to him. He was genuinely impressed and thankful. Their jobs would be so much easier with the story templates. “The expert’s too amazing. Even the love stories are so impactful. So legendary. Is there anything in the realm that he could not do?”

Li Nianfan smiled and replied, “I’ll let you handle my friends, Yue Lao.”

Yue Lao went serious. He immediately promised, “Don’t worry, Lord Saint. I’ve got this. I’ll personally help them have a great experience.”

In the blink of an eye, it was the day of the battle.

Li Nianfan did not stroll around. He naturally followed along to check out how the soldiers fought the Demons.

There were 3,000 soldiers at the Southern Sky Gate that day.

Some cultivators were not even Immortals yet. They had to fill in for the number of soldiers. However, three days was not enough to gather 3,000 people.

So... The Jade Emperor once again taught Li Nianfan something new.

Almost 2,000 soldiers were actually clones of the Jade Emperor.

It was very shameless.

The leader, Taoist Taihua, was already the clone of the Jade Emperor. Most of the army was also made from the Jade Emperor. The battle was basically a solo battle of the Jade Emperor. He tried so hard to keep the reputation of the Heavenly Palace.

Chapter 402 Heavenly Palace Army, Reckless Jade Emperor

The Jade Emperor stood on the Southern Sky Gate and looked at everyone standing below him. He looked pleased. "You're the elites of the Heavenly Palace. The most important battle force of the Heavenly Palace. We must win this battle, and we have to win with pride. Make this a successful battle, show them what we've got. Can we do that?"

"Yes, we can! Win! Win! Win!"

3,000 soldiers chanted at the same time. The 2,000 lousier soldiers yelled loudly.

However, no matter the circumstances, the vibe was achieved.

"Good! Depart!" the Jade Emperor ordered. The 3,000 soldiers instantly hopped onto clouds and headed to the Immortal Realm. They looked powerful and united.

Li Nianfan stood at the frontlines. He felt emotional.

He used to watch 'Journey to the West'. 10,000 soldiers headed towards Huaguo Hill, and he was always fascinated with that majestic sight. He did not expect to lead soldiers to kill Demons. Although 3,000 soldiers were far from 10,000 soldiers, it still felt awesome.

They did not head straight towards the Western Sea. They went to the Eastern Sea instead to meet up with Ao Cheng.

At the Eastern Sea.

Ao Cheng and his Eastern Sea army waited at the sea's surface.

The Eastern Sea was more calm than usual. However, if anyone came to snorkel, they would realize that underneath the calm sea was an army ready for battle. They looked serious.

Ao Cheng stood on the surface and looked at the huge cloud that landed from the sky. He was happy that the Heavenly Palace was reliable. They sent a lot of soldiers for backup.

He instantly levitated and saluted, "I'm Dragon Ao Cheng. Greetings to the Generals!"

“Haha, Brother Ao, we’re colleagues now,” someone said and laughed loudly. Xiao Chengfeng could not wait to reveal himself. He stepped on a flying sword and flew in front of Ao Cheng. He circled him as he said, “Check it out, how’s my outfit?”

He wore silver armor with a long sword on his back. He also had a helmet on. He went from a bohemian sword cultivator to a general.

Ao Cheng was surprised. Then, he laughed and asked, “You also joined the Heavenly Palace, Brother Xiao?”

Xiao Chengfeng gave him a smirk and said, “Of course. I’m now the Northern Heavenly Lord. Cultivator Liuyun, too. He guards the Western Sky Gate.”

Ye Liuyun was standing beside Li Nianfan. He saluted from the cloud, “Brother Ao.”

He noticed that amongst the soldiers, Pei An, Gu Yuan, and the Gu Sibling had ordinary yellow armor. They were looking enviously at them.

They were not even Golden Immortals so they could only be guards.

They had to train themselves properly. They had friends to look after them at the Heavenly Palace so they would be fine. As for their future at the Heavenly Palace...

The expert was on their side. How would the Heavenly Palace not be successful? They thought about how glorious the Heavenly Palace once was. If the expert successfully rebuilds it, they would be the originators of the Heavenly Palace. It would be foolish not to join the Heavenly Palace.

“Since you all knew each other, this will be much easier.” Lord Taoist Taihua nodded and asked Ao Cheng, “How many Eastern Sea soldiers do you have?”

Ao Cheng finally noticed the leader of the battle.

He furrowed his brow, thought about it, and realized...he had no idea who he was.

‘What do you mean it’ll be much easier? We know each other but we don’t know you.’

However, he still answered, “We have two thousand crustacean soldiers in total and three thousand soldiers of other sea species. They’re the best we’ve got in the Eastern Sea.” Ripples started to form on the calm surface of the water. The sea soldiers appeared with every ripple. They were all holding weapons in their hands. They glistened and looked delicious.

“Very good! You still have an army in the Absolute Era. The Sea Race is indeed huge.”

Lord Taoist Taihua nodded with satisfaction. The army of the Heavenly Palace combined with the army of the Sea Race amounted to about 10,000 soldiers in total. The battle to settle the Western Sea problem was the biggest battle in the Absolute Era. It would show them the power of the Heavenly Palace!

He pulled out the Sun Sword and yelled, "Orders to every soldier, follow me... Go!"

Splash!

Every sea soldier started to leap into the sea as if they were surfing. They sprinted towards the Western Sea.

Those who could ride on clouds followed. They headed towards the Western Sea with tenacity. They did not stop at all.

Li Nianfan stood on a cloud and looked at the sea underneath him. They were getting close to the Western Sea. Something felt off to him.

He looked around. Ao Cheng and Ye Liyun looked like they knew something was off, too. Only two people looked excited.

One of them was Taoist Taihua, also known as the Jade Emperor. Maybe he held it in for too long, but he seemed like he was ready to fight, like he could not wait to battle.

The other one was Xiao Chengfeng. He already had his long sword out. He picked up a rag from somewhere and was using it to wipe his sword. He was probably thinking about how he should make an entrance and what pretentious lines he could say for maximum awesome effect.

“Taoist Taihua!” Juling Shen finally snapped. He stepped out and said, “If you have a strategy, please, share it with us. Let us know what we should expect.”

“Strategy? What strategy?” Taoist Taihua paused. Then, he said, “We’re only battling a Sea Demon, why do we need a strategy? We’ll just win the battle to show them the power of the Heavenly Palace!”

‘Just like that?’

Li Nianfan had to look around. He was trying to find a good escape route. He was worried that he would be involved in the battle if he was not careful.

“This Jade Emperor...is so reckless, too reckless.’

“That’s inappropriate!” Juling Shen walked out. “As a General, how can you not have a strategy?”

Back then, he took part in battles with King Tota. He learned battle strategies under his influence. It was obviously an unwise choice to go into battle without a strategy.

“Why is it inappropriate?”

“It’s inappropriate.”

“Why is it inappropriate?”

Li Nianfan felt speechless watching them repeat themselves.

It was clear that... Juling Shen knew it was inappropriate but could not explain. He objected purely because...he was displeased with Lord Taoist Taihua.

If Juling Shen were to lead the army, he would not go into battle without a strategy, but it would just be those dumb little strategies.

The Heavenly Palace lacked soldiers but they also lacked Generals who could lead.

Li Nianfan decided to be the temporary army advisor. He said, “Taoist Taihua, I have something to say.”

Lord Taoist Taihua and Juling Shen stopped arguing. His annoyed facial expression quickly went away as he said with friendliness, “Feel free to say anything, Saint.”

Li Nianfan said, “Our goal for this battle is to deal with the Western Sea problem in the shortest time and at the lowest cost so that we can show them what the Heavenly Palace is made of. It’ll let our other enemies be afraid so they wouldn’t dare to cause havoc.”

Lord Taoist Taihua was instantly convinced. "So true, Saint. But what should we do?"

"Brother Ao has grudges against our Western Sea problem. We can send Brother Ao out first. Let him announce that he's there to avenge his brother. Hence, the Eel Demon wouldn't be too alarmed, and he'd be lured out. I call this the luring strategy. Then, we'll ambush him and easily kill him in one strike!" Li Nianfan paused for a moment before he continued, "Meanwhile, we can also split the army in three. The first group will back up Ao Cheng. Once the Eel Demon notices that it made a careless mistake, it'll probably call for soldiers for backup. By then, our second group that stayed hidden will attack. We'll be able to strike them again when they least expect it. As for the third round, they could attack their lair, or use them to clean up what's left."

"Nice, nice!"

Everyone was astounded.

They initially felt insecure heading into battle without a strategy. They instantly felt better and felt like they would surely win.

"Saint, your advice is going to help us so much. Brilliant, it's truly brilliant!" complimented Lord Taoist Taihua genuinely. He could not wait to say, "I'll give the orders this instant."

Juling Shen waited until Lord Taoist Taihua left. He instantly scoffed, "I knew that this fresh-face was unreliable. How did he become the General without knowing any strategies?"

Ao Cheng asked curiously, "General Juling, who is he?"

"Just a new guy..." Juling Shen immediately told him everything. He also added a few exaggerated details to show how wrong he was treated so he would gain some sympathy. Ye Liuyun nodded and said, "I think the Emperor was too desperate for decent recruits. The General should be you, Juling Shen." "Thanks for understanding, General Ye." Juling Shen scoffed, "His actions today showed everything. I'm going to sabotage him in front of the Jade Emperor. Hmph."

"Alright, count me in."

Everyone immediately hit it off. They were going to sabotage Lord Taoist Taihua.

Juling Shen looked at Li Nianfan and asked in a bootlicking way, "Saint, what do you think?".

Li Nianfan remained expressionless. He said calmly, "Me? I'll just stand by and watch."

Chapter 403 Battle of the Western Sea, Fight for Being the Lord Dog

Soon, everyone got a hold of the plan. Of course, they mainly relied on Li Nianfan, everyone else only needed to nod and be astounded.

The first step of the plan was for Ao Cheng to instigate the Black Eel Lair of the Western Sea with 100 sea soldiers.

The insolent lines were taught by Xiao Chengfeng. He did a great job of making the enemies hate them.

An angry roar and maniacal laughter could immediately be heard from the Western Sea. The Eel Demon with a Steel Trident in hand rushed out. He looked like he was ready to kill someone as he sprinted toward Ao Cheng.

The person was in human form but he was covered with black snakeskin. He also had a long tail behind him. It was hairless like a snake's tail.

A bunch of Sea Demons followed him and fought the army that came with Ao Cheng.

Ao Cheng had the Purple Golden Hammer in hand. Electric current flashed every time he waved it around. The electric current followed the water's current and destroyed the Sea Demons in groups.

However, the Eel Demon with the trident was unaffected. He seemed to be immune to electric attacks. He fought back and forth with Ao Cheng

Ao Cheng was able to kill a lot of Sea Demons with the power of the Purple Golden Hammer. It finally pissed the Eel Demon off. He called for backup Ao Cheng acted like he was defeated. He yelled, "The enemy's too powerful. Retreat! I'll be back."

Then, he retreated with his army.

The Eel Demon chased after him with more confidence.

“Dragon, where will you run?!”

“I let a Dragon escape the last time and it was a shame. This time, I won’t let you escape. We’ll taste your Dragon meat, haha! “You came here for vengeance? You shouldn’t even have come here in the first place. You won’t escape!”

“Soldiers of the second round. Follow me, attack!”

The Eel Demon was too pleased with himself. A bunch of soldiers suddenly ran out from the side. Lord Taoist Taihua was leading them. He seemed to be very excited as he charged toward the Eel Demon while holding the Sun Sword.

Lord Taoist Taihua was surrounded by golden sun flares. He looked like a person on fire. He was blinding. The Eel Demon was more of an idiot. He did not expect there would be an ambush at all. He was stumped at the moment.

However, he was not going to just sit there and do nothing. He saw that Lord Taoist Taihua was going to attack him with the sword. He hurriedly raised his Steel Trident and fought him!

Clang!

As expected, the Steel Trident broke.

The Sun Sword was an Intermediate Heavenly Spiritual Treasure. It was also improved with Deluxe Merit. It was very powerful. A small Steel Trident was not able to stop it.

The Eel Demon was so shocked that he became a reaction meme. He backed off horridly.

"I'm a Daluo Golden Immortal with a Deluxe Merit Treasure. How dare you ambush me? That's so inhumane!"

The Eel Demon had a mental breakdown. His hair stood on end as he ran and screamed, "Save me, my King!"

"Demon, I'll kill you!"

The Jade Emperor... No, wait, Lord Taoist Taihua, was having fun. He did not allow the Eel Demon to escape. He stepped out and moved wonderfully to keep the Eel Demon by his side. The sun flares surrounded him like a fire dragon, circling the Sun Sword as he attacked!

Fume!

The Eel Demon was killed. Fire rose and instantly burned him into nothing.

The Jade Emperor felt good with the Sun Sword in his hand. He said goodbye to the boring days of being sealed. His life finally started to become interesting again.

He shouted with excitement, 'You daring Demons, I'll defeat you all today!'

Li Nianfan and Dragin stood on the other side of the sea to watch the show. They were inside a huge water ball shield cast by Dragin. It did not affect their viewing pleasure and it was a great defense.

Compared to the steady Dragin, Nanan could not wait to get her battle on. She joined the soldiers and attacked.

The sudden appearance of Lord Taoist Taihua was not only unexpected to the Eel Demon, but it was also unexpected to Li Nianfan.

'What's going on? Isn't this fella supposed to be in the third round? He couldn't wait and changed the plan?

'He was supposed to be the termination soldier, why did he reveal himself?'

However, it surprisingly worked well. He instantly killed a powerful Eel Demon. That was a pleasant surprise.

“How dare you?! Do you really underestimate the Black Eels?”

Just when Lord Taoist Taihua was going in for the kill, an angry roar could be heard from the bottom of the sea. Then, a black dagger suddenly shot out from the water’s surface. It flew toward Lord Taoist Taihua.

Something came out from the sea but the situation was calm like nothing happened. The black dagger was extremely fast and silent. It was as if it merged with its surroundings, hard to detect but...extremely powerful! Lord Taoist Taihua calmly cast a spell. The Sun Sword flew out along with the sun flares. It clashed with the black dagger. A three-foot-long sword and a short black dagger fought mid-air like they were alive.

Every clash they made caused explosions in the sea. Seawater kept splashing, and the people nearby kept being blown away. The two Spiritual Treasures fought in the air. They started to leave the battlefield.

Then, a huge black eel came out from the sea along with a loud noise. The giant eel head straightened up and glared at everyone. Then, it opened its mouth and spat out black water that drowned everyone.

Lord Taoist Taihua cast another spell. Sun flares were dancing on his palms. Then, he raised his hands and formed a sea of fire. It clashed with the endless black water.

Sizzle

The black water clashing with the sun flares formed a distinct contrast. The battlefield was transformed into something new. Suddenly, the scene became visually impactful. No words were needed to describe how powerful it was.

“Scary, terrifying!”

Li Nianfan looked at it without blinking. As an outsider, a lot was going on on the battlefield. Endless black water and sun flares covered the area, various Sea Demons fought with the soldiers and the seafood soldiers, and spells were constantly being cast.

It was too majestic. A large area was affected. He could only say that Immortals were unimaginably powerful.

“Dragin, let’s back up more.”

The duration of the battle was not long. However, there were countless dead bodies on the surface of the sea. There were also a lot of...golden beans.

It was very awkward. ‘All those soldiers were made from beans?’

“You evil eel that conquered the Western Sea, I’m the Northern Heavenly Lord. Today, I shall defeat you. What are you waiting for? Why don’t you come here and surrender?”

Xiao Chengfeng and Ye Liuyun advanced with the third group of soldiers. They caused commotions and attacked from both sides. The giant eel circled Lord Taoist Taihua and laughed coldly. "This is the army of the Heavenly Palace? It's not nearly enough!"

A huge amount of figures came out as the eel said that. However, the figures were not Sea Demons, but instead, they were all sorts of Demons from the land. For some reason, they were hiding in the Western Sea and working with the evil eel.

Lord Taoist Taihua did not look happy at all. He did not expect them to have an ambush, too. He realized that battle strategies were indeed important.

However...something was clearly off.

"For the glory of the Demons, minions, follow me and kill them!" roared a Tiger King with a golden tiger head. He sprinted towards Xiao Chengfeng. At that moment, the Demons were powerful. The battle instantly became intense. Spells and weapons were flying around everywhere as lights flashed in the sky.

Meanwhile.

At the Above Immortal Realm.

A black Pekingese dog leisurely strolled around while scrunching its nose. The confused little black eyes were concealed underneath its hair. 'What's going on? Why do I smell so many Dog Demons around here?

'Perhaps it's because I haven't been out for many years? Did the dogs of the world gather together as a family?'

The Pekingese dog was confused and curious. It started to walk toward the source of the smell.

Soon, it arrived at the bottom of a mountain.

The place was full of dog figures of various kinds. Some were in full dog form, some were half-dog half-human. A few of them were in full human form. The Pekingese sensed that some of them were at the peak of being True Immortals.

There was a table at the bottom of the mountain. A yellow Dog Demon sat at the table with papers and brushes. He was recording the check-ins of the Dog Demons.

"Awesome. The Dog Demons really gathered here."

The Pekingese dog looked pleased. It thought to itself, 'If that's the case, I shall be their leader. The Dog Demons will be powerful under the leadership of me and my Master. We can finally be as powerful as the Phoenixes. The Dogs...will rise!'

It stepped forward and slowly walked over.

“A new face. You must be new here, right?” The yellow Dog Demon inspected the Pekingese dog and asked, “Name and cultivation?”

The Pekingese dog replied, “Deified Dog.” The yellow Dog Demon looked at the Deified Dog and pouted, “This name’s taken. Please, use another.”

Deified Dog was puzzled. “Taken? There’s another dog called Deified Dog?”

“A lot. You’re the fifty-sixth Deified Dog. You can be called Deified Dog fifty-seven.”

The yellow Dog Demon was very familiar with how things worked. It suggested, “You must’ve taken the name from the stories, right? There’s no need to do that. Like, our Lord Dog’s name is Blackie. It’s ordinary but it’s a hundred times better than the Deified Dog. Blackie’s like a Dragon or a Phoenix amongst us Dogs.”

“Lord Dog? A hundred times better than the Deified Dog?”

The Deified Dog did not look happy. A hint of danger emitted from its aura as it glared and shouted, “What a bunch of nonsense! Bring me to meet this so-called Lord Dog!”

The Dog Demons could sense the dangerous aura of the Deified Dog. They jumped and looked fearful. The yellow Dog Demon also went silent. It quietly brought the Deified Dog toward the mountain.

Blackie was laying on a giant rock on top of the mountain. It grinned with its eyes closed.

A female dog servant fanned Blackie on the side. On the other side, a servant fed Blackie Spiritual Fruits. Another Dog Demon laid at the side to massage Blackie's legs.

'Sigh. Since the Master doesn't want me anymore, I can only numb myself by living sinfully.

'I'm actually not happy at all. My happiest days were when I was an ordinary dog, being next to the Master.'

Suddenly, the Deified Dog slowly walked over from the bottom of the mountain. It looked at Blackie with rage and contempt.

'Luxurious, rotten, and sinful!

'The debauchery of Dogs! 'This is the Lord Dog that would lead the Dog Demons? I shall be the one to replace him!'

It energetically asked, "Are you the Lord Dog of this place?"

Blackie yawned. It opened its sleepy eyes and glanced at Deified Dog. Then, it shut its eyes without caring. “New dog? You could probably be my massager. You should guard the door over there first.”

Deified Dog frowned. His tail straightened up from rage. It gritted its teeth and said arrogantly, “Lord Dog, the capable shall replace the weak. Since I’m here, you should back down and retire.”

Chapter 404 Western Sea Bait, The Plan of Group Destruction

The nearby Dog Demons felt their faces sink. They slowly surrounded the Deified Dog and growled, “Where did this Dog Demon come from? How dare you act recklessly in front of Lord Dog?”

The Dog Demon who was massaging Blackie hurriedly signaled, “Drag him away. Don’t let him upset Lord Dog.”

“Hmph, how ignorant!”

The Deified Dog looked disappointed. It said slowly, “I thought the Dogs gathered to become powerful again. Who knew you all lived like degenerates? You only gathered here to play, and you have a degenerate for a Lord Dog. It’s clearly not a good dog but you’re all blindly protecting it. How stupid!”

The Deified Dog sounded hurt. It leaped to the air and levitated. It looked directly at Blackie, feeling bossy and proud. “It seems like I have to reveal myself. I’m the true Deified Dog under the Saintly God Jiro. I’m the first Dog Immortal in the realm and I’m a Taiyi Golden Immortal. I may not be the best cultivator in the realm but no dog can compare to me. Hurry up and kneel to your new Lord Dog!” it said while flying high up in the air. It stood at the highest point to become the center of attention. It looked down on the dog crowd.

The Dogs started to make noises. They looked at each other with shock in their eyes. They kept observing the Deified Dog like they learned something new. “No way. Is it really the Deified Dog? The famous God Jiro’s bootlicker?”

“No wonder he has such high cultivation. This is so awesome. It’s still alive. How old is he?”

“One of the eldest amongst Dogs!”

“I must admit that he’s famous but I still insist on protecting Blackie as our Lord Dog. After all, there’s dog food for us.”

“I thought so, too.”

“Silence!”

Blackie seemed to be mentally exhausted. It softly sighed and stood up. It walked forward and silently looked at the Deified Dog in the sky. A mountain breeze slowly blew its fur. It asked in a low voice, “You want to dance?”

“Ha, you still dare to speak to me in that tone. I have to say, how courageous of you!” laughed the Deified Dog. It started to boast, “I won’t kill you, but buzz off!”

It opened its mouth and blew out a hurricane. The wind was harmless but it was very strong. It blew toward Blackie!

The rocks and trees behind Blackie were instantly blown away like paper. They vanished into the faraway area.

However, Blackie stayed in place. Only his fur was moving. Blackie even squinted his eyes as if it was enjoyable.

“Nice skill. You could fan me next time.” Blackie slowly raised its paw and licked it with his tongue. Then, he placed his paw back on the ground.

Boom!

A huge dog paw instantly appeared in the sky like a falling meteor. It attacked the Deified Dog.

The Deified Dog suddenly felt like the sky went dark. The sunlight was blocked out and he was covered by the huge shadow.

When it looked up, he saw the dog paw incoming! At that moment, its eyes almost popped out of its skull. The Deified Dog opened its mouth wide and its fur stood on ends like a porcupine. It went blank from fear. Bark... Whine!

Then, he fell from the sky. When it crashed, there was a huge hole in the ground that almost penetrated the entire mountain. Everyone went silent. Nothing was moving in the hole.

The Deified Dog laid in the hole on all fours. It looked confused like its brain had not yet caught up with the situation.

'I'm the first Dog Immortal but I seem to have been slapped away by an ordinary black dog?

'What's going on?

'Times have changed?'

Blackie went back to the debaucheries. He shut his eyes and said calmly, "Drag him down to the dog cage."

"Wise choice, King."

At the Western Sea.

There were a lot of dead bodies floating on the water's surface. Not just seafood, there were also a lot of various animals. The sea became like a huge hotpot.

According to principles, soldiers fought soldiers and generals fought generals.

Lord Taoist Taihua battled the Eel King. They were both Daluo Golden Immortals so their battle was the most majestic and ferocious one out on the battlefield. They battled on the sea's surface and in the air. It was an amazing fight.

Logically speaking, Lord Taoist Taihua had the Sun Sword and he was the Jade Emperor. He was also an elite amongst Daluo Golden Immortals, so he should be able to easily defeat an evil Eel Demon. However, that was not the case.

The weapon of the evil Eel Demon was also extraordinary. The short black dagger was an Intermediate Heavenly Spiritual Treasure. He also had a blue flag levitating around him. The blue flag flowed in the wind. It was another Heavenly Spiritual Treasure. Looking closely, one would realize that the sea waves were moving rhythmically with the flag.

The flag helped the Black Eel spit out waves of black water.

Xiao Chengfeng was battling a golden Lion King. Ye Liuyun was battling a white Bear Demon. Ao Cheng was fighting another Eel Demon. They were both in their original forms. The Dragon and the Eel twisted around each other and fought like crazy in the sea.

Nanan was also shockingly powerful. She avoided the battle areas and blended in with the cultivators who were not Immortals yet. She did not use her spells but her attacks were still powerful. Even the Demons did not dare to fight her with force.

Thankfully, she was not an Immortal. Bigshots on the battlefield would not notice her even if she did great.

“What a tough battle.”

Li Nianfan was a viewer. He could see it clearly. He had to shake his head and sigh.

The Jade Emperor was probably going to lose. The situation was obvious—the ‘Western Sea problem’ was just bait. They were already prepared to fight the Heavenly Palace.

They were well-prepared. Not only did they have a sea army, but they also had an animal army. They made it clear.

The Demons were collaborating!

Most importantly, the Heavenly Palace had already used up all their moves and strategies in the battle. However, those evil Eel Demons seemed to have some hidden tricks left.

The battle was on their turf, too. The longer the battle held out, the more disadvantages the Heavenly Palace had.

“The little lion has thick skin, truly tough to beat!” Xiao Chengfeng squinted. Shiny swords surrounded him and attacked the golden Lion King.

However, the golden Lion King had a golden orbit around its head. It was a Deluxe Defense Treasure. It formed a golden shield around the Lion King and blocked the swords. It had a great defense.

Xiao Chengfeng did not look happy at all. He did not have a lot of Immortal Items. The items of the Lion King were better than his. He felt troubled.

He glanced at the Sun Sword of Taoist Taihua. He looked envious. He suddenly attacked the Lion King by making a slashing gesture with his hands. The longsword in front of him instantly transformed into a million locust-like swords, stopping the Lion King in his act.

Then, he shouted, “Taoist Taihua, lend me your sword!”

Lord Taoist Taihua did not reply but the Sun Sword knocked away the short Black Dagger and turned into a golden light. Then, it instantly appeared in front of Xiao Chengfeng.

Xiao Chengfeng did not dare to delay. He quickly held the Sun Sword and focused. He flipped and tumbled in the air as his sword aura turned into a golden dragon. Then, he attacked the Lion King!

The sword aura was groundbreaking. The surface of the Western Sea was slashed apart. Countless Western Sea Demons were annihilated.

The Deluxe Spiritual Treasure became like an orbit for show. The shield was slashed through like tofu!

The Lion King froze, looking horrified. Then, it turned to dust and was gone with the wind. It all happened within two seconds.

Xiao Chengfeng did not want to return the Sun Sword. He said, "What a nice sword. If I had this sword, I'd be invincible." Lord Taoist Taihua was agitated by the insolent words. He had to scold him, "I order you as your General to shut up!"

'You'd be invincible if you had this sword? Does that mean I'm so trash that I'm undeserving of this sword? 'You'd attack your own teammates with your insolent lines?'

Splash!

Before Xiao Chengfeng could relax, another figure came out from the Western Sea and sprinted toward him. It was an Elephant Demon with a huge ax in hand. He was a Taiyi Golden Immortal!

Li Nianfan felt his heart sink. He was worried. "Something's off! Why would they hide their teammates?"

The only purpose for that was to hold the opponent in place. They would hold their opponent in place because...they were trying to buy time so they could destroy their opponent in groups!

Someone was going to kill the soldiers in one attack!

If the soldiers were killed, there would be no one left at the Heavenly Palace. The Heavenly Palace was freshly rebuilt. They would only be left with civil servants.

Li Nianfan immediately made a decision. He quickly said, "Dragin, tell them to retreat."

"Yes, brother." Dragin obediently nodded. Then, she lifted her arm and cast a spell. The seawater splashed up like a fountain. Endless streams of water circled in the air and formed a huge word. 'RETREAT!'

The huge word sparkled and shined because of the spell. Li Nianfan was cautious. That was the signal he came up with.

Lord Taoist Taihua was unwilling to leave but he would not disobey Li Nianfan. He immediately started to retreat.

"Haha, trying to leave? Too late!"

The Eel King laughed maniacally. The flag stood on the surface of the sea and rattled.

Suddenly, multiple water pillars surrounded them...

Chapter 405 A Guangling Song, Extreme Purple Lightning Bolt

Splash!

The water pillars rose into the sky and formed a water tornado.

Then, more water pillars appeared and slowly expanded out. There was soon a water prison locking down the battlefield. Splash! Splash! Waves started to splash around inside the water prison. However, it was only splashing at the Heavenly Palace army. It was troublesome for them to fight properly.

Ao Cheng wagged his tail, trying to move the seawater underneath him. He realized it was way harder to move. The seawater appeared to be controlled by that flag.

“The Heavenly Spiritual Treasure, Xuanyuan Water Flag.”

Lord Taoist Taihua furrowed his brows and looked down. He asked weirdly, “Why do you have that flag?”

Although the flag was not as incredible as the Heavenly Fifth Dimension Flag, it was still a Superior Heavenly Spiritual Treasure. It could control all forms of water. Apart from that, it was also an incredible defense item. It was terrifyingly powerful.

The Eel King smirked cruelly. He said, “I purposely prepared it for you all. Today... None of you will leave!”

“You’ve been planning for that since you took over the Western Sea. You wanted to attract us here to fight.” The situation was quite clear, Lord Taoist Taihua naturally noticed the suspicious acts. He asked in a low voice, “Who’s sabotaging the Heavenly Palace?”

“The Heavenly Palace originally belongs to the Demons! That’s our Demon Palace!”

The Eel King glared hard. His voice was cold and full of mockery, “This catastrophe should’ve changed the world. We Demons shall reclaim our glory! The Demons should be the ones to rule this realm!”

“Demon Palace...”

Lord Taoist Taihua instantly recalled a lot of people in his mind. ‘Who is it? Who could be alive and would sabotage the Heavenly Palace?’

“Minions. Kill every Heavenly Palace soldier. We shall fight and reclaim the Demon Palace!

“Kill!”

Countless sea creatures and animals yelled in the Western Sea. They sprinted to attack.

“With you bunch of seafood and poultry?”

Juling Shen kept sneering. He held his axes and bravely sprinted toward them. He yelled, “For the glory of the Heavenly Palace. Everyone, follow me, let’s go!”

Both sides went into the climax of the battle. The Demons were ferocious and the Heavenly Palace fought even with the water dragging them down. It was a tough battle.

Dragin had to ask, “Brother, should I join the battle?”

Li Nianfan petted Dragin on the head and replied, “You aren’t going to be of much help with that cultivation of yours. It’d be useless.”

He carefully analyzed the battlefield and realized both sides had bloodshot eyes.

The Heavenly Palace must win the battle, and the Western Sea had prepared for that. Both sides did not want to back down or lose. The Heavenly Palace fell into their trap but the Jade Emperor was not to be messed with. It was clear that he still wanted to represent the power of the Heavenly Palace with that battle.

It was not the time for Li Nianfan to shine. He was waiting for the Heavenly Palace to be at a disadvantage or when Nanan and the others were in danger. It was not too late to make a move by then.

'I'm the Deluxe Merit Saint. When the time comes, I'll release the Deluxe Merit Light and walk on Deluxe Merit. I shall be the peacemaker, I don't think anyone would be reckless.'

Li Nianfan touched the armor he had on and felt safe. He told Dragin again, "If something happens, remember to protect me. We will head on to the battlefield together."

Dragin nodded. "I got it, brother. Will we wait here for now?"

"Yeah. We can only wait here and see."

Li Nianfan took a deep breath and watched everyone battle it out. Then, he looked at the dead bodies on the water's surface. His mind was somewhere else. It was hard not to be passionate when he was involved in a majestic battle.

He suddenly had an idea. He said, "We are missing background music for a situation like this. I should just play a song to encourage them." According to science, music on battlefields could help uplift soldiers.

Li Nianfan could not help the soldiers to kill the enemies. The only thing he could do was to hype them up. He hoped it would help them.

He flicked his wrist and out came a zither in front of him. Then, he sat crossed-legged above the water and touched the zither.

He could see that the screams and yells were getting intense. Spells were thrown left and right like flashlights. The sparks of fire, water, and electricity flowed in the water prison. Explosions made the seawater splash around. Demons and soldiers were hurt but they were still fighting with their lives.

“This song is called... ‘Guangling San’!”

Then, Li Nianfan played the zither. Jam!

The zither music was soft at first. It slowly spread out. It was insignificant on the battlefield and could be easily neglected. However, everyone clearly heard the soft zither music. It was extremely weird.

Lord Taoist Taihua and the others that were deep in battle jumped when they heard the zither music. They had to look for the source. When they saw it, they were overjoyed.

‘It’s the expert!’

‘Is the expert going to...attack?’

They looked like they were fearless on the surface, but in reality, they knew that they were probably going to lose. They knew that they could not surrender the battle. Their opponent had lured them into a trap. The Demons were at an advantage in every way.

However, things had changed. The expert was playing the zither!

Jam.

The zither music was soft at first. It started to become rushed, and the rhythm gradually became uplifting

‘Guangling San’ was the only song that was both uplifting and perfect for battles. It expressed the spirit of resistance and the will for battle.

Zither music was not as loud as drums, and it was not as inspirational as a horn. However, the zither music played by Li Nianfan worked wonders. Everyone imagined a painting scroll of an epic battle slowly opening up in their minds.

Splash.

The zither music came in waves like the sea. It started to make the soldiers have goosebumps. They felt as if their blood was boiling. Deep down in their veins, they were not afraid of violence. Their ‘rather die than compromise’ spirit started to awaken with the zither music. Their powers were also on fire.

“Let’s go kill these Demons!”

Every soldier instantly had spirited eyes. They felt as if they had an energy that would not burn out. They had only one thing in mind, fight!

Lord Taoist Taihua felt the newfound power in his body. He looked genuinely shocked. His tiredness from battling for so long was gone and he felt re-energized. Also...he had new powers?

'It's not an illusion. This is actually happening! "This zither music... powerful. It's too powerful!"

He gulped and thought it was incredible.

'He turned nothing into something! Music was inspirational and uplifting However...what they felt was not an illusion. It was actual strength in their psyches. Their bodies were still their bodies but the zither music helped them gain strength and power

wer.

"Too scary!"

He took a deep breath and cast a spell. The sun flares were way stronger. It exploded into a golden fire dragon that spat out fire pillars. It easily turned the battle around. The black water of the Eel King was diminished.

Taoist Taihua was mentally prepared but he was still shocked by his attack. "I'm so powerful."

Roar!

Ao Cheng roared. His Dragon body was thrice as huge. He flicked his tail and knocked out the Eel Demon. He was easily slapped away. It was unbelievable.

The trap of the Xuanyuan Water Flag was instantly broken. The Western Sea army was utterly confused by the sudden change of events. They were puzzled by how powerful the Heavenly Palace army became. 'Even if it's a potential near-death burst, they shouldn't be this powerful. It's as if they had steroids together. It's illogical. 'It's just music. Is it possible to become so powerful?'

The Western Sea Demons felt pressured. They kept flicking their ears and listened attentively. They tried to figure out what was going on with the music. They realized their efforts were to no avail... It was ineffective to them.

They looked at the source of the zither music and found out that an ordinary man was playing the zither. That person was insignificant. If it was not for the change of events, they would not even have noticed him.

'Maybe the zither music is just a cover-up? These people have a hidden trick?'

"Damn it."

The Eel King looked around. He could not figure out what was going on. He kept cursing inside.

A pair of bloody red eyes suddenly opened in the dark depths of the Western Sea. A low and hoarse voice slowly rang, "This zither music... is odd!"

Suddenly, a Clam Demon quickly swam from the surface. It said, "Second King, the battle outside isn't going well for us. I'm afraid we need you."

Splash!

The Second King moved. Tentacles rose like pillars and swayed around. It was a humongous Octopus Demon.

"Truly the Heavenly Palace. Lord Kunpeng set up this scheme but they could still handle it." The Octopus Demon moved out from the mud. "Are you sure there won't be any more accidents?"

"No. From the looks of it, as long as we have you, the Heavenly Palace army will be defeated!"

The Clam Demon paused then said, "We didn't plan for this to happen but that zither music changed things up. I don't get it."

"I'm well-aware of the situation. I'm curious, too. Is the Heavenly Palace army affected by the zither music, or is it...that they have another helper!"

The Octopus Demon glared and fell into deep thought. Then, it shook its head and laughed in a low voice, "Whatever. It's a waste of time. It's easy to find out, all I need to do is to kill that ordinary man. We'll be able to know if they were affected by the zither music or not!" One of its tentacles shot out toward Li Nianfan at high speed! It was way too fast. It went near Li Nianfan in the blink of an eye. The water shield formed by Dragin was useless against the Octopus Demon. However, it did not attack head-on to be safe. It chose to attack from behind.

Splash!

The tentacle suddenly splashed out from the sea like a whip. It attacked Li Nianfan from behind!

Every Heavenly Palace soldier saw that. They were horrified by the sight. They almost fainted from shock.

"Stop!"

Xiao Chengfeng and the others went crazy. They risked being heavily injured and tried whatever they could to stop it.

"Haha, where are you going? Stay here!" The Eel King noticed how panicked they were. He instantly felt pleased. He waved the Xuanyuan Water Flag. The water prison instantly became stronger, blocking everyone in their way.

"You ignorant fool, you ignorant fool!"

“It’s all over now. How should we explain this to the expert?!”

“Eel King, tell them to stop. We’re trying to do what’s best for you!”

Lord Taoist Taihua watched as the tentacle attacked. He felt as if he could not breathe anymore.

Pop!

The water shield formed by Dragin burst. The huge tentacle attacked Li Nianfan’s back.

Zither music stopped!

However... Li Nianfan did not budge. He looked slightly confused.

‘Did something...tap me on the back?’

The chaotic battlefield went silent. Everyone looked in his direction with wide eyes. They all looked shocked and in disbelief.

Lord Taoist Taihua froze.

Ao Cheng froze. The Eel King froze.

And the Octopus Demon that slapped Li Nianfan also froze.

“How... How is this possible?” The Octopus Demon’s mind was buzzing. It tried to recall the force it just used. It did not make sense because it was forceful.

Kaboom!

A purple lightning bolt suddenly struck from the sky.

The lightning came without a warning. Also, it was terrifyingly thick. It slashed through the sky and heavily struck the Western Sea like a huge pillar!

The area was instantly covered in a purple hue.

The Sea Demons in the sea were instantly cleared out. Some of the seawater even evaporated. It formed a temporary vacuum area.

The lightning immediately faded but that shocking sight played in their minds over and over again. It was deeply imprinted into their souls!

Chapter 406 We Are the Strongest Allies

The Octopus Demon at the bottom of the sea was still puzzled. It did not have any time to realize what happened, let alone regret and repent. It was vaporized on the spot. The Eel King was burned by the lightning bolt. He instantly had a burnt portion of meat. He was heavily injured.

However, he did not care about his injury. He looked at Li Nianfan, baffled and staring at him as if he had seen a ghost. His jaws were wide open at a ninety-degree angle.

‘What...what...what’s going on?’

‘Is this not cheating?’ The lightning bolt was gone but the air was still filled with traces of it. It sizzled around everyone. No one dared to move an inch.

Li Nianfan slowly stood up and touched his back. Then, he gently peeled a tentacle off his shoulder.

“Yo, what a huge octopus tentacle.”

Li Nianfan hugged the tentacle. He had already decided that he was going to eat it. It was a shame that he only had one tentacle.

He made a guess. It was clear to him that he attracted the Octopus Demon by playing the zither. The Octopus Demon had sneaked up on him.

However, he wore the armor given to him by the Jade Emperor. The Octopus Demon did not break his defense, and it was punished by lightning because Li Nianfan had the Deluxe Merit Flesh. The tentacle was what was left of the octopus.

Everyone finally snapped out of it. They all gasped loudly at the same time.

Gasp

'Scary, terrifying!' A lot of Sea Demons were deranged after the lightning bolt. Their legs went soft as they fell to the ground. They stopped resisting.

The Eel King finally noticed the smoke on his body. He hurriedly applied water to his burnt meat. He was mind blown by the terrifying turn of events. He trembled and was frantic.

It was hard to imagine that his Second King, the Octopus Demon who was a Daluo Golden Immortal, died because he slapped an ordinary man. He was goners, left with just an octopus tentacle.

The Octopus Demon was their hidden force. They did not expect to be in such trouble. It was groundbreaking and they were dumbfounded.

‘I’m also heavily injured.’

“Our sweet plan fell apart. Just like that. There’s no logic to it. This is unreal.’

“Phew—”

Lord Taoist Taihua and the others noticed that Li Nianfan was fine and did not seem to be angry. They instantly sighed in relief. After the extreme shock and panic, they were extremely livid.

“I told you that we were looking out for you. You wouldn’t listen to us. Now look, dead.”

“The Western Sea’s going to lose. Everyone, follow me and kill them!”

“Don’t let any of them escape!” Lord Taoist Taihua and Ao Cheng yelled. They once again turned things around on the battlefield. The Western Sea Demons were at a disadvantage.

Li Nianfan had to laugh at the situation. He felt like it was a pleasant surprise.

‘In a way, this octopus tentacle indirectly helped us. I’ve achieved something in battle.’

The Eel King knew that he was going to lose. He was a decisive demon. He turned to escape with his half-burnt body. He did not forget to talk smack before fleeing. "Time flies and seasons change, I'll be back!" "Eel Demon, where are you running to?!" Lord Taoist Taihua yelled coldly. He picked up the Sun Sword and chased after him.

Ao Cheng also chased after him. He suddenly had an idea and thought of the expert's hobby. He immediately shouted, "Today, we shall taste your eel meat!"

"The battle's over. Let's go over to the battlefield."

Li Nianfan stepped on the Deluxe Merit Cloud and safely flew over to the battlefield.

Everyone, especially the Western Sea Demons, shivered when the golden Deluxe Merit Cloud came over. They went pale from fright and they all backed away.

They did not know what was going on, they only knew that their awesome Second King died from slapping him. Not only was this man fine, but he also did not budge from that attack. Their Second King was vaporized from the lightning strike. He did not even get the chance to make a sound or anything.

It was extremely horrifying.

He was not to be messed with.

Ye Liuyun flew over to protect him. He said with respect, "Lord Saint, we're at the final stage of the battle. Take a look, do you see anything you like?"

He meant the seafood and the poultry and if he would like to eat them.

Li Nianfan waved it off. "I think we should wait until Ao Cheng and the others return. If it's possible, that eel meat seems nice."

Ye Liuyun nodded. "I understand. I think they won't let you down, Lord Saint."

Nanan teleported and landed on the Deluxe Merit Cloud. "Brother Nianfan."

Li Nianfan smiled and asked, "Nanan, you're improving fast. What level are you at?"

"Mahayala." Nanan chuckled. "I absorbed a lot of power this time, too. I can devour various types of power now. I can probably immortalize soon."

ver na

Then, she looked at Dragin smugly, almost as if she was hinting that she would be able to catch up soon.

Dragin scrunched her nose and scoffed, “Ha, I’m a great cultivator. I won’t need to cultivate for fast improvement.”

“Alright, you’re both awesome. You’re all geniuses,” laughed Li Nianfan. Nanan and Dragin were indeed geniuses. ‘According to their growth, they’d probably become bigshots in the future. Awesome.’

Lord Taoist Taihua and Ao Cheng were out of the Western Sea. They had entered the Southern Sea.

The Eel King started to relax. He became calm again.

He looked back cautiously while using his powers to heal his burnt flesh. He thought to himself, ‘Ha, catch me if you can. Wait until we arrive at the Southern Sea turf. I’ll make sure you won’t get out!’

Several figures slashed through the sky at maximum speed. Lord Taoist Taihua was very fast. He was catching up with the Eel King.

He was stern as he said, “Evil Eel, I must kill you with this sword today!”

“Chase me if you’re not afraid to die!” the Eel King sneered coldly. Suddenly, he saw two figures and his eyes lit up. He quickly flew over to them.

The two figures were Ao Shu and Ao Feng. They had just returned from somewhere. They were also smiling with an orange in hand.

Ao Feng said, "This time, I sent my Third Brother into the Sucking Gourd, my Sixth Sister's missing. Next time, I'll be able to gather all my siblings."

Ao Shu smiled and said, "It's indeed effective whenever you do things, Prince. Statistically, most of the elders are with the Southern Sea Dragons. If we work harder, we'll be able to take over the Southern Sea."

Ao Feng said, "Our opponent's powerful. All my efforts are for the greater good of the Southern Sea Dragons. I hope my father can understand where I'm coming from."

Suddenly, they both saw the fleeing Eel King. They looked at each other and went over.

Ao Shu asked, "Eel King, why did you run over here from the Western Sea? Also... Are you hurt?"

"Prince Ao Feng, Elder Ao Shu!"

The Eel King looked overjoyed. He wagged his eel body and exclaimed, "Haha, pals. It's so nice running into you at a dangerous time like this!"

Ao Shu furrowed his brow and asked, "What happened?"

“The Heavenly Palace sent an army to get rid of us. Things were originally in our control. Too bad that in the final moment, we were too careless. We lost.”

The Eel King sighed. Then, he rushed to say, “We’re allies! Now that the Heavenly Palace is rebuilt, we can’t let it become powerful. How about we work together and get rid of them once and for all?!”

Ao Shu looked at the incoming Lord Taoist Taihua and Ao Cheng. He instantly brushed his beard and nodded, “You’re right, Eel King.”

The Eel King instantly felt confident. He turned around and calmly faced the incoming Ao Cheng and Lord Taoist Taihua. He felt empowered to fight again.

Lord Taoist Taihua slightly frowned. He slowed down and said sternly, “The Heavenly Palace is arresting the wanted criminal. Those who aren’t involved better leave!”

“Haha, ridiculous. They aren’t random nobodies. They’re my allies. They’re also criminals!”

The Eel King laughed loudly. He held the Xuanyuan Water Flag and the short Black Dagger. He reminded them in a low voice, “They can’t fight all three of us together! Also, this is your turf in the Southern Sea. Once we attack, we’ll have backup. I’m confident that we can take them!”

“Don’t worry, Eel King. We get it.”

Ao Shu nodded with confidence. He took out a huge seal.

Ao Feng held a blue harpoon tightly. He chimed in, "That's right. We're the strongest allies."

"Great allies! I truly made the right choice." The Eel King felt excited. He said, "On my mark, attack!"

Bam!

Spurt! Ao Feng and Ao Shu attacked without hesitation. The huge seal was stamped on the Eel King's head as the harpoon pierced through it...

Chapter 407 Weapon Level Up +1, Tear Trickster Li Nianfan

"Ow..."

The Eel King could only whine and groan. Then, he fell to the floor as blood dripped out of his mouth. Trembling, he pointed at Ao Feng and Ao Shu. "You...you guys..." Ao Feng said, "Sorry. You're the only criminal here. We're the good guys." "Alright, enough. Stop fighting!" Ao Cheng hurriedly stopped them. "Try to ensure the quality of the meat. We need it to taste good."

Lord Taoist Taihua was slightly confused. He said, "Dragon King, they're..."

“One of us,” Ao Cheng smiled and said. “Under the authority of the expert, they were converted to our side.” Lord Taoist Taihua nodded in understanding. “I see. How smart of them.”

They greeted each other and let Ao Cheng carry the dead body of the Eel King.

Back in the Western Sea, everyone was smiling with relief. The battle...was tough. It was also an important battle for the Heavenly Palace.

Thankfully, they won. All thanks to the expert!

Lord Taoist Taihua looked at Li Nianfan with respect. The strategies before the battle, the zither music during the battle, and the purple lightning bolt that ended the battle were all crucial.

They were able to win the battle mostly because of the expert!

If he was not there, they would probably be goners.

He hurriedly went over and saluted, “This victory is all thanks to you, Lord Saint. That lightning bolt was too crucial. Are you alright, Lord Saint?”

“I’m fine.”

Li Nianfan smiled and waved it off. Then, he said with gratitude, “Actually, I have to thank the Jade Emperor. He gave me the defense armor. Otherwise, that attack would have been terrifying. By the way, the armor is quite nice, the defense is shockingly fantastic. It’s a great treasure.”

“Ha...”

Everyone tried their best to force a smile.

‘Fantastic armor? Yeah, right. It’s only fantastic because it’s on you. Try and put it on somebody else. They’d be goners with that Octopus Demon attack.’

However, they were used to it. They successfully went along with the expert.

Lord Taoist Taihua smiled and said, “No matter what, the credit for winning this battle goes to you, Lord Saint!”

Ao Cheng hurriedly went over with the dead body of the Eel King. He showed it to Li Nianfan. “Oh yeah, Lord Saint, look at this Eel King. The meat’s intact. What do you think?”

Li Nianfan had sparkly eyes. He smiled and said, “Awesome. It’s so long. I can cook it in different ways. I must try it out.”

Everyone kept nodding. “Of course. As you should.” Li Nianfan looked at everyone and smirked. He calmly said, “The Western Sea Demons illegally took over the Western Sea. They were extremely evil. We were able to get rid of the Western Sea problem thanks to everyone. You all should be rewarded.”

Li Nianfan spoke normally without using any spells. However, everyone could hear him clearly. Their hearts were thumping hard.

They were so excited that they held their breaths.

“The Deluxe Merit Saint said that, so-”

‘Are-we...going to get some sort of reward?’

Li Nianfan continued, “Alright, take out your weapons. There isn’t much Deluxe Merit so think about how you’re going to properly divide it.”

“Yikes—”

Everyone, especially the soldiers, could not believe their ears. They opened their eyes wide and were irrecoverably excited.

‘Not much is still Deluxe Merit. I’ll take whatever I can get!’ ‘What’s generosity? What’s kindness? The Deluxe Merit Saint is the definition!’

Xiao Chengfeng held his sword up and immediately bowed. "Thank you for the reward, Lord Saint."

Everyone bowed at the same time. They said, "Thank you for the reward, Lord Saint!"

"It's what you all deserve. You're welcome." Li Nianfan laughed. Then, he looked at the longsword held by Xiao Chengfeng and asked, "Cultivator Xiao, are you going to use your Deluxe Merit on this sword? Should I save your Deluxe Merit first?"

He could see that Xiao Chengfeng borrowed Lord Taoist Taihua's sword. It was apparent that his sword was not that great. At that moment, Li Nianfan suddenly felt like that NPC who rewarded players. He was there to help improve their weapons. They had to choose the right weapons to upgrade. Otherwise, the reward would be a waste.

Xiao Chengfeng caressed his longsword and said, "My sword's an ordinary Spiritual Treasure but it has been with me since I was in the Above Immortal Realm. It's still a sharp sword. I'll be using it!"

He believed that he would gain more Deluxe Merit to improve his weapon into a Deluxe Merit Treasure.

Once his weapon became a Deluxe Merit Treasure, it would be way powerful. However, he would require...a lot of Deluxe Merit.

Styx Laozu's two weapons were able to become Deluxe Merit Treasure because he imitated Goddess Nuwa. He created the Asuras and gained Deluxe Merit. He was originally planning to use it to become a Saint.

In other words, the Deluxe Merit required to create a Deluxe Merit Treasure was lesser than the Deluxe Merit required to become a Saint. Li Nianfan nodded. "In that case..."

He waved. Golden Deluxe Merit Light instantly showered over everyone like raindrops. Everyone straightened up and held their breaths.

Some chose to use the Deluxe Merit to improve their weapons, some chose to use it for power improvement and sin deletion. They wanted their futures to be better, and if it was not possible, at least they would have a nice afterlife.

At that moment, everyone instantly felt re-energized. They felt like the tiresome battle was all worth it. They felt like they had chosen the right side. It was beneficial to be with the Deluxe Merit Saint.

Xiao Chengfeng and Ye Liuyun looked at their weapons with excitement. Almost as if they saw a 'weapon level up +1'.

Ao Cheng and Juling Shen were even more excited. They were grinning from ear to ear. It was obvious they achieved a 'weapon level up +2' moment.

Lord Taoist Taihua also said, "I need two guards. Listen to my orders, go to the Underworld and greet them on behalf of the Heavenly Palace. Let the soldiers who died today have reincarnation privileges."

All was settled. Everyone rode on clouds again and went back to the Heavenly Palace.

Lord Taoist Taihua stood on a cloud with a smile. He looked victorious. He was thinking of ways to announce their victory.

At the same time, he was also in deep thought, wondering who was behind the scheme.

In the end, he had to sigh. He said, "The Demons... Who was behind all of that? Reclaim the Demon Palace? Ha!"

Li Nianfan heard that. He looked up at him, smiled, and said, "Lord Taoist Taihua, it is easy to guess." Lord Taoist Taihua focused. He hurriedly asked, "Do you know, Lord Saint?"

"I don't but it's not hard to guess."

Li Nianfan paused. He combined his knowledge of the legendary stories and figured out the history of Demons. He said, "Since the beginning, there were two Demon Kings birthed by the Sun, Di Jun and Taiyi. They created the Demon Palace. However, they both died. Then, Hou Yi shot the Suns. There could only be three people left that are related to the Demons. Goddess Nuwa, Lu Ya, and Lord Kunpeng."

Li Nianfan instantly made it clear. Lord Taoist Taihua nodded and said, "It seems so."

Then, he analyzed, "Goddess Nuwa was always a neutral character. She was a pacifist amongst Demons so I guess she wouldn't scheme against the Heavenly Palace. Lu Ya loves freedom and being free from the bonds of the three realms. Lu Ya was always nowhere to be seen. Only Kungpeng's ambitious like that!"

Li Nianfan continued, "If there are no other powerful Demons, he's most likely the one who planned this scheme."

'Another bigshot. The Heavenly Palace just keeps running into disasters. No one dared to offend the Heavenly Palace back then. But now, they've all appeared, fighting to rule the world.'

He had a thought. He frowned.

'In that case, the Fire Phoenix and Daji are in trouble. They wanted to rule the Demons. Isn't that going directly against Kunpeng? That's so dangerous.' Lord Kunpeng was a bigshot character who was a Saint. His power was as good as Di Jun. They called him Lord Kunpeng because he was a Master of all Demons.

He had to say, "Lord Taoist Taihua, you have to beware. Especially with the Fire Phoenix. She might catch the attention of the Lord Kunpeng." Lord Taoist Taihua focused. That was a direct order from the expert. He instantly grew serious. He carefully said, "Don't worry, Lord Saint. I'll watch out for Kunpeng!"

Ao Cheng also heard it at the side. He remembered the name. He was going to let everyone take notice when he returned. "The expert has spoken so no matter what, that Kunpeng...has to die!"

Then, everyone did not speak anymore. Li Nianfan pursed his lips and thought to himself. 'If it's possible, I have to give more Deluxe Merit to Daji since she's family.

'I have the chance to earn Deluxe Merit as an agent fee. I have to look out for Daji. I can't keep rewarding Deluxe Merit to other strangers. I have to take care of my family. I'd be a fool if I didn't take advantage of this.'

It was dark out when they returned to the Heavenly Palace.

Everyone felt victorious. They simply celebrated and left. A bunch of guards were happily boasting to the civil servants about their Deluxe Merit.

The recruitment of the Heavenly Palace would be much easier from then on. Deluxe Merit as a reward was plenty tempting

It was night time but Li Nianfan could not sleep. His experience during the daytime was impactful for an ordinary man like him. The epic battle and the gory sights would not go away. Of course, he was also slightly worried about Daji.

He went to the highest spot in the Palace of the Deluxe Merit Saint alone. He held his wine gourd and wine glass. He started to drink alone.

He poured himself a drink and chugged it.

He looked at the glorious Heavenly Palace from up high. He felt that it was dreamy. He was able to befriend a bunch of Immortals. Also...he became their boss that rewards them with Deluxe Merit. He was loved by them. It was quite interesting.

Then, he had to look up to the stars. He was sitting at the best viewing spot. He could look up at an endless sky full of stars. It was different from viewing stars in the Immortal Realm. The stars at the Heavenly Palace felt much closer. Especially that round moon that looked like a white Jade plate. It shined brightly but it was not blinding at all. It felt cool.

The moon displayed itself like a scenery painting in front of Li Nianfan.

It was very beautiful but lonely at the same time.

He felt inspired. He had to recite a poem. "The candle shadow of the mica screen was dim, like the long river that gradually falls as the stars sink. Chang'e should be regretful for stealing the elixir, but she regretted it every night in the heart of the blue sea and the blue sky.

"Chang'e should be regretful for stealing the elixir, but she regretted it every night in the heart of the blue sea and the blue sky."

An echo came back but it was the soft voice of a lady. Her voice was beautiful like the voice of an angel. Her emotions were complex.

Li Nianfan looked over and saw a figure slowly flying toward him from afar. He thought he was looking at a painting at first sight.

He saw a lady in a long white dress with her hair up. Her body slowly floated over as if she was weightless.

‘A fascinating soul of the god of autumn water, a half-tuned song, and a shadow floating

‘Super pretty lady.

‘She’s just as pretty as my Daji.’

He noticed her tone and thought of the location. Li Nianfan could guess who she was.

“Lord Saint, you’re truly talented. Your poem almost made me, Chang’e, cry. Perhaps you knew I was coming, so you purposefully came here to see my tears?”

Chapter 408 Goddess Chang’e With Weak Alcohol Tolerance

Li Nianfan knew who she was. The lady was naturally the main character of ‘Chang’e Flying to the Moon’. Her name was Chang’e.

In ‘Journey to the West’, Chang’e was the iconic female Immortal in the Heavenly Palace. She was not the one that Zhu Bajie flirted with. That was another Goddess.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, "I see, so you're Goddess Chang'e. I won't be a trickster for your tears, I'll be punished by lightning."

Chang'e laughed shyly. She teased, "Don't say that, Lord Saint. I'm afraid I'll be struck by lightning, too." She was teasing the fact that Li Nianfan was the Deluxe Merit Saint.

"Haha, you have your looks, I have my talents. We're more or less the same."

Li Nianfan laughed. Then, he invited, "Goddess Chang'e, do you want to have a drink with me?"

"I won't be courteous then."

Chang'e floated to the attic with her flowy dress and sat across Li Nianfan.

Li Nianfan looked at Goddess Chang'e in front of him. He felt dazed. The big round moon in the background implied that the real Moon Goddess was sitting in front of him. The Moon Goddess was having a drink with him. What a fresh experience.

Li Nianfan took out a crystal glass and poured Chang'e a drink. "Goddess Chang'e, after

you."

“Thanks, Lord Saint.” Chang’e was bolder than Li Nianfan imagined. She raised the glass and chugged the wine.

She instantly blushed.

Li Nianfan had to remind her, “Um... Goddess Chang’e, my wine’s quite potent. You should relax.”

Chang’e smiled and said, “Don’t worry, Lord Saint. My alcohol tolerance is quite high. Perhaps you want to save up on the beautiful wine?”

“Ha, of course not. Feel free to drink as much as you want.” Li Nianfan smiled and waved it off. He looked at how flushed Chang’e was and doubted her.

Soon, his doubts were evident.

Chang’e was quite emotionally unstable because of Li Nianfan’s poem.

Chang’e was drunk after the third glass of wine. She looked into Li Nianfan’s eyes and smiled. “Saint, your story-making skills are incredible. Even I was touched,” she said while she took out a small book. ‘Chang’e Flying to the Moon’. The book also included pictures. It was sort of like a comic book.

Li Nianfan instantly felt awkward. The main character came to find him to argue.

He coughed softly and said, "I was forced to do so. Please, don't be mad at me, Goddess Chang'e."

"I don't blame you, I have to thank you."

Chang'e batted her eyelashes at Li Nianfan. Her pale face was flushed. Her breath smelled of alcohol as she said, "The story's beautiful. I became well-known because of it, some even call me the Moon Goddess. I'm popular now, and my Moon Palace is no longer lonely and deserted."

"As long as you like it, Goddess Chang'e."

"Ha, Mr. Li, do you know why I married Hou Yi in the first place?"

Chang'e talked to herself, "In the beginning, the Humans were born. They were weak. They barely survived amongst the Demons and the Witches. Thankfully, the Witches fought amongst themselves. Humans were able to survive and reproduce..."

Li Nianfan did not interrupt her. He was also curious about it. He quietly listened.

However, Chang'e suddenly stopped talking. She picked up the wine gourd and poured herself another glass of wine. Then, she chugged it. She half-laid on the table. She went from a graceful Goddess to a drunk Goddess.

"Then, the father of the Witches was tricked by a Three-legged Golden Crow. He was burned alive. Hou Yi was one with the Witches. He wanted revenge. He took Di Jun's ten sons out to play. They burned the earth and made the Humans suffer."

Chang'e paused. Then, she said, "The Humans decided to work together with the Witches. They were going to kill all ten sons of the Three-legged Golden Crow. It was biologically difficult for the Witches to procreate. So, they brought up the idea of marriage with Humans. They wanted to marry Humans so there'd be more Witches.

"At that time, my father swore to end the suffering of the Humans. He accepted their idea. Hou Yi shot down the Suns to show sincerity. Then, I was married off to Hou Yi."

Chang'e spoke softly. Her beautiful eyes slowly closed because she was drunk. She had long, thick eyelashes.

Even so, she did not forget to refill her glass.

However, she was stopped by Li Nianfan. "Goddess Chang'e, you're drunk. Stop drinking."

"Nonsense. I have a high alcohol tolerance. How can I get drunk?"

Chang'e suddenly opened her eyes. Her eyes were bloodshot. She looked like she was about to act like a drunkard. She twisted her body and fought for the wine gourd. "You want to save up on the wine, right? I've been lonely for so many years. I finally found someone I can talk to so how can you be so stingy? How about I dance for you?" "No, please, don't!"

Plop!

She plopped on the table and went silent. She snored softly.

"Phew...thank God." Li Nianfan felt grateful. If she went nuts on him, it would create a lot of rumors.

Chang'e had an awesome background. Her father was Emperor Ku. He had a lot of Deluxe Merit and he was one of the original Five Emperors.

Truthfully, no one dared to flirt with Chang'e.

However, it was unexpected that...the famous Goddess was a drunkard and she could not drink. Her alcohol tolerance was weak.

Li Nianfan looked at the snoring Chang'e and felt troubled. He could not let her sleep on the open roof. 'Oh yeah, how much did she drink again? 'Six glasses I think. So easily drunk.'

He remembered that a wise prophet once said, 'If a girl isn't interested in you, her alcohol tolerance would be through the roof. If a girl's interested in you, she'd be wasted after a mere few glasses.'

Li Nianfan stared at Chang'e with wide eyes. He looked at her shut eyes and tried to be calm. He said, "Goddess Chang'e? Goddess Chang'e?" Li Nianfan probed. "I know you aren't drunk. Stop trying to seduce me. Stop acting, get up."

No reaction. Li Nianfan was blushing hard. 'No way, I can't keep staring at her. Something will go wrong.'

"Goddess, wake up, Goddess." He tried to poke Chang'e with his finger. It seemed like she was completely wasted.

Li Nianfan licked his lips and stood up. He looked around and made sure no one noticed them. He saluted Chang'e and said, "I'm forced by the situation, sorry for the offense."

He took a deep breath and slowly reached out to her. He searched for an area to place his hands and clenched his jaw. In the end, he carried her by the waist. Then, he started to walk downstairs.

The good news was that Chang'e was very light. She was almost weightless so it was easy to carry her. The bad news was her body was too soft. She was soft and bouncy. Li Nianfan did not dare to use any force. Also, she was drunk. She unconsciously hugged Li Nianfan back.

Yikes.

Li Nianfan gasped and finally brought her downstairs.

He was about to sneak into a room but he suddenly heard a 'creak'. Nanan and Dragin both curiously peeked inside.

The three of them made eye contact. They went silent.

Dragin looked at Chang'e with wide eyes. She covered her mouth and exclaimed, "Brother, you've been bad!"

However... Li Nianfan felt like she somehow sounded excited.

As expected, her eyes lit up. She asked excitedly, "Do you need help?" Nanan was more professional. She thoughtfully asked, "Do you need us to kill her?"

Li Nianfan felt awkward. His face sank and said sternly, "You two came at the right time. She's all yours. Also... No television for a month!"

Meanwhile, at the Western Sea.

A few Flying Fish Demons leaped through the water's surface into the air. They were soon at a mysterious sea border. Then, they swam into the depths of the sea.

They entered a dim sea cave. The Flying Fish Demons all transformed into half Human forms. They walked to the deepest part of the cave to meet an elder.

The elder had an extremely thick long beard and long hair. His beard was straight and long like a ribbon. His face was thin and he had a red dot on his forehead. He looked stern and powerful without even seeming angry.

He did not open his eyes. He calmly asked, "How was the battle at the Western Sea?"

One of the Flying Fish Demons gulped. It answered in a trembling voice, "The Western Sea army...lost!"

The elder suddenly opened his eyes and frowned. He growled, "What happened?"

The Flying Fish Demon immediately told him everything. The elder frowned harder.

"Deluxe Merit Flesh?"

He hurriedly made some calculations with his fingers and found no answers. He felt confused and could not predict what was going to happen.

“The Absolute Era suddenly stopped. The secrets of the realm are puzzling and chaotic. Multiple change of events. It most probably is another catastrophe!”

The elder squinted. He glared as he said, “We Demons had a high chance to rise again after the catastrophe! Is that Octopus Demon stupid or something? Why did it attack someone who was playing the zither? How dare it touch the Deluxe Merit Flesh? It ruined my big plans! It deserved to die!”

He groaned for a moment and said with a low voice, “The Heavenly Palace is something else. They have hidden tricks up their sleeves. Let’s leave it be first. We should gather the Demons during this urgent time.”

The Flying Fish Demon said, “Ancestor, the Demons aren’t at peace either. The Southern Sea Dragons and the Kirins are acting up. They’re quite ambitious. Also, the Fire Phoenix and the Nine-Tailed Fox are leading a big group of Demons. They wanted to gather the Demons, too. The weirdest part is the Dog Demons. The Dogs have been gathering. We’re unsure of the reasons. I feel like...there’s a bigger picture!”

“Dog Demons?”

The elder sneered and scoffed, “Ha. After the catastrophe, everyone came out to play and forgot their place. They dare call themselves rulers now?”

Chapter 409 Plague God, Stubborn Shy Small Mimosa

The next day.

Li Nianfan woke up early in the morning. He headed to the attic and looked at the mess from last night. He had to shake his head.

'This is the first time I've seen a girl act like a drunkard. Also...that drunkard is Goddess Chang'e.'

"I suddenly miss Xiao Bai. I totally could have picked Xiao Bai up. I'll bring Xiao Bai over the next time I go back." Li Nianfan suddenly realized. "It can only be nice when Xiao Bai's around. I won't have to do everything myself."

He did not rush to clean up the mess. He stood at the attic and looked at the sunrise.

Soon, a golden light passed by like a river. Then, he could see the golden sun slowly passing through the Heavenly Palace. It was big, bright, and red. However, it was not hot.

The red sun hung in the air as the sunlight washed over him. The attic was covered in golden light.

Li Nianfan silently watched the majestic view. He took a deep breath and instantly felt energized. It was hard to imagine that he could own a high-class penthouse like that. It was priceless!

Then, he simply cleaned up the attic and set up his pot at the side. He was going to have a rooftop picnic for breakfast.

He roughly thought about the ingredients and was ready to cook.

'Breakfast for this morning shall be...soy milk and dough sticks.'

He immediately walked downstairs and started to look for things.

He found the machine to grind soy milk, flour, and oil.

Creak.

Suddenly, the door to Nanan's room slowly opened. Then, Nanan and Dragin hopped out of their room. A slim figure that hid behind the door took a deep breath and slowly walked out after a while. She tried to stay calm.

However, when she saw Li Nianfan, she still blushed hard.

Chang'e was not fully sober yet. She avoided eye contact and said, "Lord Saint, morning."

She barely remembered what happened last night. She knew how she acted. She noticed that Li Nianfan was looking at her and instantly felt embarrassed.

She slapped herself on the head. She felt anxious. She tried to recall what she said last night.

The most painful part of living in the Moon Palace for her was the loneliness. It was highly likely that she would complain when she was drunk. "So...did I tell the Lord Saint I was super lonely and cold or what? If I did, I'd be too embarrassed to face him."

'Man, my Goddess image! 'Forget it. Since I can't remember, I'll pretend I never said anything. As long as I don't feel embarrassed, others can't have second-hand embarrassment. Keep your head up.'

Chang'e touched her burning cheeks and straightened up. She smiled normally and looked at Li Nianfan.

Li Nianfan felt embarrassed. He looked away, "Morning, Goddess Chang'e."

Dragin looked at the things Li Nianfan prepared with curiosity. She asked, "Brother, are you preparing breakfast? Are you making steamed bread?"

"No, I'm making something new." Li Nianfan smiled and said, "The ingredient is also flour but it's very different from steamed bread."

Nanan was instantly excited. She said, "Wow, must be delicious."

Li Nianfan rubbed her head. He smiled and said, "Don't always think about eating. Hurry up and go wash up. Come to the attic when you're done."

“We got it, brother.” Nanan and Dragin pulled on Chang’e and left.

Li Nianfan chuckled and brought the ingredients to the attic. He started to make the dough.

Soon, Chang’e and the others walked to the attic. Chang’e winced when she saw Li Nianfan using Spiritual Water to make dough. Although she had already heard about him, she still felt amazed when she saw it herself. Luxurious people truly could do whatever they wanted.

She recalled the wine from last night. It was so good. She was too confident in her alcohol tolerance and drank until she had a hangover. It seemed like she improved on her cultivation, too. The breakthrough felt dreamy to her.

‘Is this the happiness of befriending a rich guy?’

‘By the way, I was wasted last night and passed out. Did he do anything to me?’

Chang’e was imagining things. The pot of oil started to boil. The hardest part of making dough sticks was the technique. After making the dough, you have to pinch the right amount of dough and flatten it. Then, you have to twist it into the right shape and harden it in the pot of oil.

Once it was in the pot, three minutes were required to deep fry it.

Expanding food was a very magical existence for Chang'e and the others. Their mouths were O-shaped in amazement. They watched as the small stick of dough expanded into a thick dough stick. The color also went from pale white to reddish-brown. "Flour can be turned into that." Nanan looked like she learned something new. "Looks delicious."

"Wipe the drool off your mouth. Let our guest eat it first," Li Nianfan said while taking out the dough sticks. He passed it to Chang'e.

"Thanks, Saint."

Chang'e looked at the dough sticks with curiosity. It was naturally her first time seeing food like that. She was moved from the familiarity of it.

She remembered a time when she was with her father in the Immortal Realm. At that time, Humans first started to cook. They ate different types of dough food. Every time they invented a new delicacy, it was her happiest day. She did not expect to feel that way after all those years. It had been...a long time.

Chang'e inhaled and hurriedly tried to push back tears.

Li Nianfan smiled at the side and said, "Stop being in a daze. Just bite it. Dough sticks are best when they're hot. It won't be crunchy after a while."

"Just bite it?"

Chang'e observed it and said in a troubled voice, "This thing expanded too much. I can't bite this in one go."

She said that but she still bit into it.

Crunch!

She gently bit it and it instantly made a loud crunch. The unexpected crunchy texture surprised Chang'e. Then, the unique dough stick taste filled up her mouth. The dough stick did not have any other seasoning other than oil and flour. However, the two combined birthed a brand new flavor. It was hard to describe but it tasted delicious.

The crunchy and soft golden brown dough sticks were delicious and tasty.

It had oil in it but it was not greasy.

'Delicious. This is too delicious!

'The expert's too amazing. Forget his invincible cultivation, even his food is so delicious. Is this allowed? How can someone so excellent exist?' Chang'e immersed herself in the deliciousness and almost lost herself. She soon swallowed the dough stick in her mouth. Then, she opened her mouth again and bit the dough stick.

She could not pretend to be graceful anymore. She opened her mouth much wider.

Crunch, crunch.

Every bite she took made a crunch. It sounded appetizing. Soon, she finished the dough stick. She licked her fingers. Li Nianfan smiled and asked, "Does it taste nice, Goddess Chang'e?"

"Yes, so nice," Chang'e replied without thinking. Her pretty eyes glanced at the oil pot.

Li Nianfan was looking at the soy milk machine. It was almost done. He smiled and said, "Wait for a while. The dough sticks are too dry, it needs soy milk for a great combination."

Chang'e silently nodded. She looked at the horizon and was slightly startled. There was a blue figure running on the clouds.

She was instantly surprised. She asked, "Hey, that kid Lan's back? Lord Saint, can I call her over?"

Li Nianfan casually replied, "Sure. Let's have breakfast together."

Chang'e immediately flew out from the attic. Soon, she crashed into Lan who was in a hurry.

She noticed that Lan looked pale. Chang'e arched her eyebrow and asked, "Lan, what's going on with you?" "Sister Chang'e." Lan looked at Chang'e and stopped. She sighed softly and said, "I was heading towards the North River borders to search for the Plague God under the Empress's orders. The Plague God's acting up in the Immortal Realm. He caused a lot of plagues."

"You fought him?" Chang'e noticed that Lan slightly recoiled her hand. She immediately grabbed her wrist.

Lan had a long black wound on the center of her right palm. Dark energy emitted from her wound. It caused her right arm to blacken with blood veins.

Chang'e felt the plague energy from the wound. She asked, "It can't be healed?"

Lan hurriedly pulled back and said softly, "Don't worry, Sister Chang'e. It's not fatal."

"You kid. Why take on such a serious thing alone?"

Chang'e frowned and said, "Why are you hiding it if you're heavily injured? Why don't you tell the Empress?" "No, no need..."

Lan slightly stepped back. Her voice was coy but stubborn, "This is just a small matter. There's no need to distress the Empress. I came back to find some guards to accompany me to settle this matter."

"It can't be that easy." Chang'e shook her head. However, she saw how stubborn Lan was so she stopped talking. She felt helpless.

'This kid isn't courageous but she's oddly stubborn, too.

"Sister Chang'e, I shouldn't chat with you anymore. The plague's too serious. I have to look for guards now." Lan was about to leave.

"Wait." Chang'e hurriedly called on Lan, "The Lord Saint invited you to come over. He isn't someone you can reject."

Lan instantly freaked out. She stared with wide eyes. "Ah! This..."

"Yeesh, don't be afraid. Are you worried that the Lord Saint will eat you?"

Chang'e looked at her and teased, "You dared to fight the Plague God so why are you still so shy? Alright, stop thinking about it. Hurry up and follow me."

Lan silently followed Chang'e to the attic with her head down.

She half-hid behind Chang'e. She bowed deeply and said softly, "I'm Lan. Greet... greetings to the Lord Saint."

Although they only met once, she still left a deep impression on Li Nianfan. He asked curiously, "You seem to be very afraid of me?"

"No... No." Lan hurriedly shook her head and teared up. She almost cried from being anxious.

"Lord Saint, this kid was formed from a Mimosa plant. She's famously shy. She's actually much better now than before."

Chang'e pushed Lan forward. "She'd probably faint if you blew in her direction."

"No wonder. You're a Mimosa." Li Nianfan nodded with understanding. He thought it was interesting. The Goddess could not handle a tease.

He did not continue to tease Lan. He took out the dough sticks and placed one in front of her. He smiled and said, "A dough stick. Please, enjoy."

"Thank... Thanks," said Lan softly. She moved her right hand but hurriedly changed it into her left hand.

Li Nianfan noticed that. He had to glance. He saw that her right hand was hidden in her sleeve. It seemed to be blackened. He looked at her face again. It was also covered in some dirt. Her hair was slightly messy.

'Yeah, it seems like she just returned from a mission. She didn't even have time to wash up yet.'

He immediately said, "Nanan, Goddess Lan just came back. Help her wash up before eating."

Chapter 410 His Awesomeness Is Right There, It Is Your Fault for Not Realizing It

"Oh, alright."

Nanan put down the dough sticks. She smiled at Lan and said, "Sister Lan, follow me."

"Thank... Thanks."

Lan quietly thanked her. Then, she followed Nanan, feeling anxious.

'Wash up?

'What does that mean?'

She thought about it and looked at her injured right hand. She hid it further under her sleeve.

'Did the Saint think my right hand's dirty? How does washing up help? Can this be washed off?'

She felt conflicted. They arrived downstairs.

Nanan walked to the basin and said, "Sister Lan, here."

"Yeah... Oh!" Lan snapped out of it. Nanan bent down and picked up a big red bucket on the floor. Then, she filled it up with water.

Lan looked at the flowing water and had to ask, "Is that... Spiritual Water? I don't need to use this, it's too wasteful."

"Hey, this is just ordinary water to Brother Nianfan. Don't you get it, Sister Lan?"

Nanan winked at Lan. Then, she pouted and said, "This place isn't as convenient as Brother Nianfan's four-part architecture. Water comes out from a tap there. We need to carry water ourselves over here. The design of the Heavenly Palace is whack."

Lan had a complex facial expression. She did not say anything. 'You're the first one to say the Heavenly Palace is whack. More importantly, why do we need tap water? Which Immortal needs to wash up?'

"Alright, wash your hands before eating. We have hand soap over here. It is quite fun."

Nanan said while she played with soap. She put soap on her hands and showed it to Lan. Soon, her small hands were filled with white bubbles.

“Sister Lan, look. It’s so smooth and nice.”

Then, she happily placed her hands inside the water. She squinted in enjoyment.

“Wow! So nice—”

Lan had to smile at Nanan. She felt slightly relieved and less shy. Then, she also slowly placed her hands in the water.

The cool sensation covered her hands. The layer of bubbles left by Nanan slowly covered her palms. It felt different from ordinary water. She had never felt something like that before. It was very slippery to the touch.

Lan had to rub her hands in the water. She felt like her hands became soft and light. She felt at ease.

‘So magical...’

She blushed. She cleaned her hands in the water.

Then, she stared with wide eyes. She stared at her right hand with disbelief. She froze up and thought she was hallucinating.

‘My right hand, the—the...the injury...is

gone?!

‘How could this be?

‘How is this possible?’

She took her hand out from the water with a splash and repeatedly inspected it. She stared at the spot of her injury.

Not only was the wound gone, it also became whiter and softer. Her perfect small hand was like white jade.

‘It’s gone. It’s really gone!’

She looked at the bucket of water again. She discovered a black stain floating on the water's surface. It was as if...an ordinary person washed her dirty hands in water.

However...her hand was not 'dirty'. She was infected by the plague! How could it be the same?

Lan was dumbfounded. She stood there and felt thunderstruck. She was irrecoverably shocked.

She asked in a trembling voice, "Nanan, what do you call that...thing you wash your hands with?"

"Hand soap." Nanan wanted to continue and play. However, she instantly lost interest when she saw the blackened water. "Ah, Sister Lan, your hand's so dirty. No wonder my brother asked you to wash up."

Lan felt her skin crawl. She said, "Yes... Yeah. Sorry about that."

'Hand soap?

'What kind of magical hand soap is that?'

Lan looked at the bottle and realized the bottle was extraordinary. The round, chunky, and clear bottle had a thin nozzle at the top. Green liquid would come out when it was gently pressed.

'I've never seen or heard of a bottle like that. Perhaps it's a container for treasure?

'Weird bottle, scary hand soap!'

She finally realized why they said the expert had treasures all around him. The insignificant things he had were usually more rare and precious than Spiritual Treasures. It was her fault for not realizing it because...his awesomeness was right there.

Plague God was a Taiyi Golden Immortal that walked the plague path. He was full of poison. One would be entangled with plague without a defense shield. He was hard to defeat and eliminate. His attacks were hard to recover from in a realm with limited resources. She could only withhold it with her powers.

Her original plans were to endure the suffering. She would torch her skin off to get rid of the plague. However, she did not expect that her injury would be gone after washing it. That was so simple. 'Of course. In the eyes of the expert, the poison of plague is nothing, right? "Am I about to eat with the expert later?'

Lan winced and teared up. It was so scary for her.

"Sister Lan, let's go." Nanan said, "Let's hurry up. I haven't had breakfast yet."

"Oh," nodded Lan. She meekly followed Nanan to the attic.

She saw Chang'e with a dough stick in hand. She was holding a bowl with soy milk in it. It was still steaming hot. She sipped from the bowl.

Slurp!

The white soy milk entered her mouth while she quivered. She instantly squinted her eyes in enjoyment.

The dough stick and soy milk combo was perfect. She felt warm when she drank the soy milk. It felt indescribably nice, and it also quenched her thirst after eating the dough stick. The two of them were perfect for each other.

Gulp.

Lan had to gulp. It looked delicious.

Li Nianfan pointed at the dough sticks and soy milk at the side. He smiled and said, "Goddess Lan, this is your breakfast. Go ahead and eat it."

"Thanks, Lord Saint."

Lan carefully walked over and sat down. She picked up the dough stick, then looked at how Chang'e ate it. She was instantly shocked. She asked, "Sister Chang'e, your... Your dough stick is huge and hard. How did you put it in your mouth?"

Chang'e had experience eating it. She said, "If you think it's hard, you can dip it in soy milk. It'll become soft. The texture's quite nice, too."

Lan said, "I see, thanks."

Meanwhile, at the Dog Mountain in the Above Immortal Realm.

That was not the original name of that mountain but there were a lot of dogs. Blackie ordered to rename the mountain and change it to Dog Mountain. It was simple and easy to remember-straight to the point.

The back mountain of Dog Mountain was empty with nothing but a cage.

Inside the cage was a man with a black cape on. His face was thin. He looked lonely and tragic.

He pulled on the cage and kept shaking it.

"Let me out! I'm the Deified Dog! I'm a popular character amongst Dogs so at least give me some dignity!"

He had to yell, "Are there no guards out there? Someone, please, at least change my cage into something bigger. My Human form's much bigger, I don't fit well here and I can't stretch."

Suddenly, a white Pekingese dog slowly walked in. Then, it peeked inside.

Its white fur covered its eyes. It was unsure whether the dog could see or not.

"Finally."

The Deified Dog stood up in excitement. He hurriedly waved at the white Pekingese dog and said, "Let me out, I was wrong. I'm not going to be the Lord Dog anymore."

"I'm afraid it's not that easy." The white Pekingese dog walked over and said, "You offended the Lord Dog. You're lucky that he didn't kill you on the spot. Letting you go is clearly impossible." He paused and asked mysteriously, "Do you know what this place was originally called?"

The Deified Dog shook his head, "I have no interest in knowing, I just want to leave peacefully."

The white dog said, "This place is originally called the Million Demons Mountain. Then, our Lord Dog arrived and killed off all the Demons. Hence, this mountain became the Dog Mountain. We Dogs don't kill our own kind. Otherwise, you probably would've been dead now, too."

The Deified Dog asked with shock, "Who is your Lord Dog exactly?"

The white dog said sternly, "Blackie!"

"Blackie? Such an ordinary name." The Deified Dog started to reflect on it. "It's unbelievable that some dog is more powerful than I am."

The white dog looked at the Deified Dog with curiosity. He asked, "Are you the real Deified Dog? The Deified Dog who was with God Jiro?"

"Ha, who knew that after so many years I'm still famous in the Dog world?" The Deified Dog smirked. "I'm the real Deified Dog! The others are all imposters."

"Who knew that the Deified Dog's also a Pekingese dog like I am? We're from the same family!"

The white dog looked at the Deified Dog and instantly felt close to him. It reminded him, "I came here to give you an opportunity." The Deified Dog was puzzled. "Opportunity? You?"

The white dog said with confidence, "Our Lord Dog seems to be impressed by your wind-blowing skills. You should be his fanning dog. If you perform well, you'll be successful. There would be tons of benefits!"

“You want me to become his fanning dog?”

The Deified Dog thought it was ridiculous. He wanted to laugh but he was also pissed. His face sank. He said coldly, “Ridiculous! Is that a wind-blowing skill? That’s my spell! Also, we’re all Dogs here so why should I be his fanning dog? Are you trying to insult me?”