

## Immortality 1101

### Chapter 1101 "The Black Hand"\_3

"Again with the fishing nets and the Formation

"I was careless for just a moment and got caught in the net, pulled ashore, then dragged into the woods and surrounded by those several stinky brats

"It's not that I was negligent, but that their actions were too meticulous."

Crossing River Dragon said, "I guess, they must have someone behind them, hiding in the shadows, secretly scheming, sinister and despicable, experienced in cunning tricks

"Enough!" Mr. Jin said disdainfully, "You've slipped up, just admit it. Don't make excuses for yourself; it's not your first day out in the world."

Mr. Jin's face darkened, "You've really messed things up, do you think the 'Masters' will listen to your explanations?"

Mo Hua paused.

Masters...?

Why are there Masters?

And not just one, but Masters?

This Mr. Jin, is he not the real Master?

Hearing the word "Masters," Crossing River Dragon indeed turned pale and his eyes filled with terror.

"It's... it's my fault for being careless, for a moment I fell for those little bastards' trick, nearly ruining the Masters' plans."

"I am so foolish

Crossing River Dragon said with sincere trepidation.

Mr. Jin then nodded with satisfaction, but a moment later he frowned again, "How did those Sect brats find you?"

Crossing River Dragon had a bitter expression, "I don't know

He practiced the White Wave Skill, and usually moved freely in the water, stirring the wind and waves, with unrestrained power.

Unexpectedly today, out of nowhere, he got tracked, fell into an ambush, and was forcibly dragged from the river to the shore.

Crossing River Dragon recalled the incident carefully, feeling a sinking feeling in his heart, "Could it be... someone has their eye on me?"

Mr. Jin also looked displeased, but after pondering for a moment, he still shook his head,

"It doesn't seem likely

"If someone really had their eye on you, they wouldn't send a few brats to catch you."

"It's more likely they took on a Sect's rewards to earn some Merit Points... But to be able to catch you, these brats do have some ability."

Mr. Jin sneered, then looked at Crossing River Dragon indifferently, scolding,

"I told you to act discreetly. It was just a killing, yet you were sloppy, leaving behind traces that allowed the Taoist Court to uncover your involvement?"

"Otherwise, how could those Sect brats have gotten to you?"

Crossing River Dragon had no choice, "I didn't intend for it to happen. I just wanted to drill a hole in their boat, drag those people into the water, and let the Water Demons eat them

"Unexpectedly, that Lin had a Water-Repelling Pearl on him, and the Water Demons couldn't kill him. I had no choice but to use the Three Jiao Hooks to tear his throat, leaving behind evidence that the Taoist Court discovered

Mo Hua's expression shifted.

Surname "Lin"?

Among those six, was the dead family's young master surnamed "Lin"?

Mo Hua quietly noted this surname and continued to listen to Mr. Jin saying,

"The situation has been tense recently. I will send you into the Taoist Prison later. You 'die' there, the Taoist Court will close the case on their side, seal your dossier, and once things cool down, you change your appearance and name to keep working for the 'Master

Crossing River Dragon said: "Thank you, Mr. Jin, it's just

Mr. Jin said in a deep voice, "Speak."

Crossing River Dragon lowered his voice with an anxious look,

"Why has the situation... become so adverse recently?"

"Those brothers who swore blood oaths, one by one, either getting caught, killed, or scattering like bereaved dogs, not daring to show their faces

"Those who are still breathing and can mix in the world can be counted on one hand

"Even 'Venerable just a step away from the Golden Core, with terrifying powers, even he

Crossing River Dragon's eyes showed terror, and he trembled uncontrollably.

Mr. Jin's expression turned solemn, and his eyes glinted sharply,

"Mr. Tu speculates that we have been plotted against

"For so many years, there have never been any mishaps or leaks, but in just over a year, those who pledged have fallen by more than half

all because of sloppiness, leaving behind clues, being targeted by the Taoist Court, who then issued missions, and Sect Disciples took on the tasks in exchange for Merit Points."

"What's more peculiar, the ones issuing the rewards in this process are from the Taoist Court, and those taking the rewards are ordinary Sect Disciples, who might not know anything about it at all."

"There are no apparent loopholes on the surface."

Mr. Jin's tone was slightly cold,

"Therefore, I guess... there must be one invisible, gigantic 'black hand' secretly manipulating all this

Mr. Jin declared firmly.

Mo Hua hidden in the tree couldn't help but look down at his own soft little hands, blinking in confusion.

Crossing River Dragon's face was pale, his voice hoarse, he asked,

"Can't we find out who this 'puppet master' behind the scenes is?"

Mr. Jin's gaze tightened slightly, "Mr. Tu didn't say, but in my heart, I already have a candidate

Mo Hua was curious and couldn't help but prick up her ears.

Mr. Jin said in a deep voice, "This person is very likely... the Dao Court Canon

Mr. Jin paused for a moment, his gaze sharp:

Gu Changhuai!"

Mo Hua was stunned.

Mr. Jin continued, "The Gu Family, for generations, have held positions in the Taoist Court, with rigid and outdated manners, not our kind of people."

"This Gu Changhuai, he is from the direct lineage of the Gu Family, with Golden Core Cultivation, a solitary disposition, his moods are unpredictable, and his thoughts inscrutable."

"His Cultivation Technique is of superior quality; his strength must not be underestimated."

"He even possesses Forbidden Techniques. It's said that Fire Venerable, deemed invincible below Golden Core within the Second Grade State Border, also perished at the hands of this Gu Changhuai!"

Mr. Jin's eyes carried a mix of hatred and wariness.

"This Gu Changhuai, even if he's not the 'puppeteer behind the curtain', must certainly be an extremely important 'pawn' in the hands of that person behind the scenes!"

"This man, he is undoubtedly our mortal enemy!"

Crossing River Dragon also agreed, nodding solemnly.

Mo Hua didn't know what to say...

Mr. Jin glanced at Crossing River Dragon and spoke indifferently:

"Remember my words, in these times, act with utmost caution."

"Times have changed; we can no longer afford to slip up, as it could draw fire upon ourselves, involving the young masters and spoiling the big picture. Even death would not come easily to you."

Crossing River Dragon pursed his lips and nodded tremulously.

Still not reassured, Mr. Jin added another piece of advice:

"Also... keep a tighter hold on your tongue."

"No matter who asks, you must say nothing. If they press you hard, you just directly

Mr. Jin brought his fingers together and drew them across his throat, signaling to Crossing River Dragon.

Crossing River Dragon's face turned deathly pale.

Mr. Jin patted his shoulder and said:

"Physical death does not signify true death. You've seen some things; you should understand

Crossing River Dragon looked panicked and remained silent.

Mr. Jin nodded in satisfaction, "Remember what I've said

There was a disturbance on the outskirts of the woods, as if someone was approaching.

Mr. Jin flicked two Sword Qi's from his fingers, shredding two Sound Isolation Formation Flags to pieces, then kicked Crossing River Dragon to the ground with one foot.

Crossing River Dragon fell to the ground, feigning unconsciousness.

After a while, the disciples of Sever Gold Sect who had been sent to search the area returned, respectfully saying:

"Young Master, there are no traces of that monster's accomplices around."

Mr. Jin's face showed displeasure, but after a moment, he sighed and said:

"Well, catching this one is enough. Find two people to escort this 'Crossing River Dragon' to the Taoist Court, and the rewards will be divided equally among everyone."

All the Sever Gold Sect disciples showed joy and bowed, saying:

"Thank you, Young Master!"

Mr. Jin gave a slight nod. Finally, he looked disdainfully at Crossing River Dragon one last time before leaving arrogantly.

The other disciples followed behind him, leaving only two to carry the "unconscious" Crossing River Dragon to the Taoist Court.

It wasn't long before everyone in the small woods had left, and the surroundings fell into silence.

Mo Hua, who had been hiding, finally jumped down from the big tree and left unnoticed.

He had intended to head directly to the ferry to meet up with Cheng Mo and the others, but not long after leaving the small woods, he ran into Cheng Mo and his party.

Cheng Mo and his group were lying in ambush in the bushes, eyes intently fixed on the small woods, seemingly waiting for him.

Mo Hua felt a warmth in his heart and revealed himself.

The four members of Cheng Mo's party were shocked and asked in quick succession:

"Mo Hua, are you okay?"

"I'm fine," Mo Hua said.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief, then Cheng Mo asked, "Are we going back to the Sect now?"

His expression was somewhat disheartened. Situ Jian and the others also shared a similar dim look.

The hostage had been taken, and the original one hundred and twenty Merit Points per person were lost.

But Mo Hua shook her head and said, "Not in a hurry, we can't come all this way for nothing."

Everyone was startled and turned to look at Mo Hua.

Mo Hua stated confidently, "A gentleman seeks revenge, it need not wait until the next day. They dared to take what is ours; now let's go take what is theirs!"

Chapter 1102: Take Back (Thanks to Boss Kuangluan Ye Weiyang for the alliance leadership~)

These hundred or so Merit Points aren't a small sum either. It's still alright for myself since I have Formations to make up for it, but Cheng Mo and the others have made a wasted trip.

With many Sect Disciples and few tasks, Merit Points are precious.

Cheng Mo and the others lack experience, and it's not easy for them to earn these hundred or so Merit Points.

As their Junior Brother, I can't let my "Junior Brothers" suffer a loss.



Moreover, we finally caught the Crossing River Dragon, only to have it snatched away by the Sever Gold Sect who bullied us with their power. If this gets out, it would surely damage the reputation of the Taixu Gate, making people think the Taixu Gate is afraid of the Sever Gold Sect.

Personal glory and disgrace are minor; the face of the Sect is a major concern.

For the face of the Sect, we absolutely must take back what was lost!

Mo Hua nodded solemnly.

Cheng Mo and the others were stunned at first, then their eyes lit up, the previous disappointment swept away, and their spirits lifted.

But after thinking it over, they still felt somewhat uneasy.

"Mo Hua... We can't beat them, can we

"Yeah, there are seven or eight of them on the other side, all at the Foundation Establishment Middle Stage

"Don't worry," Mo Hua said, "I've just stealthily observed; they've split into two groups. One followed that 'Golden Straw Bag' and swaggered off, while the other group, with only two people, is escorting the Crossing River Dragon towards the Taoist Court."

Cheng Mo and the others showed joy.

Mo Hua pondered:

"Two at the Foundation Establishment Middle Stage, but their Cultivation isn't profound, relatively weak within the same Realm. From the look of them, full of hot air, they're used to 'bullying others with their power.' They probably don't have much real combat experience, so they should be easy to handle

Afterward, Mo Hua whispered the plan:

"I'll sneak up ahead and set up a Formation to catch them off guard, then we all attack together

"Don't be too ruthless; we can't kill anyone and cause trouble for the Sect or ourselves

"After all, we adhere to principles. It's just 'tit for tat.' They snatch ours, we snatch back, not that we have a vendit against them to drive them to their doom."

"So, restrain your blows, just beat them half to death

Mo Hua said with an amiable face.

Cheng Mo and the others:

After Mo Hua finished, he stood up to leave, but then he seemed to remember something, and said to Cheng Mo and the others:

"Get some black cloth to cover your faces."

Cheng Mo was bewildered, "Cover our faces? To hide from them?"

Situ Jian was also puzzled, "Even with covered faces, they would surely guess it was us who did it, right?"

After all, there had just been a conflict between the two sides; now going to snatch people.

Few of the Sever Gold Sect's people, unless fools, would suspect it was them.

Mo Hua said earnestly: "It's a matter of 'courtesy,' a necessary gesture of face-saving."

"We cover our faces, at least showing them respect."

"If we don't cover our faces and openly snatch, it implies we don't consider them worthy of attention, and that's rude."

"Moreover, I'm also doing this for their benefit

"Think about it, two Foundation Establishment Middle Phase disciples knowing they were openly robbed by a group at the Foundation Establishment Early Stage, how sad they must feel in their hearts

Mo Hua sighed, appearing considerate of others.

Hao Xuan had an epiphany and nodded, "Junior Brother, you have a really good heart!"

Cheng Mo and the others were at a loss for words.

Is Hao Xuan misunderstanding the term "good-hearted

Anyway, the plan was set and they began their journey.

The Sever Gold Sect's Mr. Jin and others had indeed split into two groups.

Among them, two were escorting the seemingly "on their last breath" Crossing River Dragon along a small path by the forest towards the nearby Taoist Court.

Mo Hua quickly caught up with these two, then gave Cheng Mo and the others a look.

They nodded in understanding.

Afterward, Mo Hua alone used the Minor Five Elements Stealth Skill to get ahead of these two Sever Gold Sect Disciples and set up a Second Grade Earth Fire Formation at a distance of one li ahead on the road.

He didn't set up a Formation with too much killing power, lest he take the lives of these two Sever Gold Sect Disciples, thus creating karma and trouble for himself and Cheng Mo's group.

Sever Gold Sect Disciples, though bad, probably aren't evil enough to deserve death.

Remembering his status as an “ordinary” Formation Master, Mo Hua began methodically burying the Array Plate, laying traps, and covering tracks.

After a while, as expected, the two Sever Gold Sect Disciples escorting the Crossing River Dragon approached from afar.

Mo Hua hid to the side and listened as the footsteps drew closer; at the same time, there were the two’s grumbling voices:

We always get stuck with the hard jobs

"Damn it

"Just be content you’re not ordered to do ‘dirtier’ work, that’s good enough

"True

"I wonder when we’ll also get to be on the ‘boat

The other person said in a lower tone sarcastically, “What’s your background? From which family? Should we of such status even dream about that boat?”

"Damn, it’s tantalizing

"Don’t be rash.”

"I know, I’m just envious. Damn, that kind of item, even enjoying it once in a lifetime, would mean dying without regrets

"Stop dreaming

...

Mo Hua frowned.

On the “boat”?

What boat?

He pondered for a while, and suddenly the three words spoken by the Fish Cultivator surfaced in his mind: Rouge Boat.

"What is this Rouge Boat for, and what's the relationship with Mr. Jin... or rather, with these Sever Gold Sect Disciples?"

Mo Hua's eyes revealed contemplation.

At this moment, the two Disciples escorting the Crossing River Dragon had already reached the trap that Mo Hua had set.

By now, the sky was dark.

The two were preoccupied with their conversation and unaware that the seemingly solid road had been laced with a Formation ahead of time.

As the two Sever Gold Sect Disciples walked on, they suddenly stepped on something. The ground turned red; a “boom” rang out as the explosion went off.

Chapter 1103: Take it Back (Thank You Boss Kuan Luan Ye Wei Yang for the Alliance Leader~)\_2

Surging flames erupted suddenly, engulfing the two men and Crossing River Dragon who was being escorted.

Mo Hua remembered that Crossing River Dragon had consumed a Pill given by Mr. Jin, and his injuries had somewhat recovered, posing a hidden threat.

Thus, the Formation blasted him along with it.

After the explosion of the Formation, Cheng Mo and a few others who were ambushed from afar immediately activated their movement techniques and rushed over.

Their faces covered with black cloth, they struck simultaneously with guns, clubs, swords, and axes aiming at the two disciples from Sever Gold Sect and Crossing River Dragon, beating them fiercely.

Mo Hua appropriately supplemented a few Spells from the side.

In about a quarter of an hour, the three were subdued.

The two Sever Gold Sect disciples had bruised and swollen faces, filled with panic.

Crossing River Dragon spat out fresh blood, finding it even more unbelievable.

They had no idea what just happened.

All they knew was that as they were walking along, the Formation suddenly exploded, and then they were besieged and subdued out of nowhere.

One Sever Gold Sect disciple lifted his head, looking through swollen, bleeding eyes at Cheng Mo and others.

Seeing them with black cloth covering their faces, the disciple exclaimed angrily:

"Who are you...? We are from the Sever

Yang Qianjun stuffed his mouth with a rope to keep him from shouting.

The other Sever Gold Sect disciple, with a swollen left eye but a clear right, struggled to peer through the darkness. Though he couldn't see the attackers' faces under the black cloth, he could make out a pair of large axes, a Spirit Sword, and a long spear.

In that instant, he understood.

"You... you are!"

Those damn little miscreants from Taixu Gate!

But before he could finish speaking, Hao Xuan struck him on the head with a club, knocking him unconscious, then moved to the other Sever Gold Sect disciple and did the same.

This was the order from Junior Brother.

The strike with a club had to be crisp, thorough, and leave no room for resistance.

Hao Xuan took note.

Thus, on the dimly lit path at night, only Crossing River Dragon remained.

By this time, he also recognized that these masked Cultivators were the same detestable Sect youngsters who had ambushed him earlier!

This also further confirmed his previous suspicions.

Setting a net trap, controlling enemies with Formations, measured advancements and retreats, and pressing step by step.

Now, taking advantage of the night, they even made a surprise counter-attack.

Such feats couldn't possibly be executed by these youngsters alone; there must be someone plotting from the shadows.

Blood tinged the corners of Crossing River Dragon's mouth as he gritted his teeth and asked:

"Who exactly is orchestrating you?"

Cheng Mo and others remained silent, surrounding Crossing River Dragon with black cloth masks like four “bandits.”

After a while, footsteps sounded on the silent path.

The person manipulating from the shadows arrived!

Crossing River Dragon’s heart missed a beat as he looked up, but saw no one.

Confused, his pupils suddenly constricted.

Where there was previously no one, a figure suddenly appeared.

"A child?"

"No, not!"

This figure did not look very substantial, appearing somewhat frail, with a face obscured in darkness and merging with the night.

It looked like a little cultivator, but brought a strange, oppressive feeling through Divine Sense, almost like a young...

Demon Monster.

Crossing River Dragon knew, and had seen with his own eyes, that there are some “people” in this world who can’t really be considered “human.”

They carry terrifying things within them...

A shiver ran through Crossing River Dragon’s core.

This person also wore black cloth over their head, making it impossible to see their face.



Even Crossing River Dragon wasn't sure if the face hidden under the black cloth was human or bore the features of another Demon Monster...

Because a being as cunning as a demon couldn't possibly be a mere little cultivator.

Then Crossing River Dragon discovered that this entity that looked like a "person" was observing him with a cold Divine Sense...

Feeling incredibly uneasy, after a moment, he heard a childlike yet slightly cruel voice say:

"Cut off his hands and legs, take him away

Crossing River Dragon's pupils dilated, and he attempted to struggle, only to feel intense pain suddenly surging from his limbs as if they were truly being severed.

Then another blow to the back of his head, and he completely lost consciousness.

Cheng Mo touched his chin, somewhat uncertain, and asked Mo Hua:

"Is this... a bit too cruel?"

Mo Hua sternly replied: "Being kind to the wicked is the real cruelty! So when dealing with the wicked, one must be resolute and harsh!"

Cheng Mo thought about it and nodded, saying: "You're right."

Situ Jian and others pondered for a moment and also nodded agreement, realizing this might be wisdom that Mo Hua had learned from his uncle, a Supervisor at the Taoist Court.

The Taoist Court deals with Sin Cultivators daily, rich in experience, and if they all acted this way, it was likely correct.

With the matter concluded and Crossing River Dragon secured.

Cheng Mo and others dumped the two Sever Gold Sect disciples into some bushes.

Though injured and dazed, they were not fatally wounded and would awaken after a while.

Then the group prepared to take “Crossing River Dragon” to the Taoist Court to claim their reward.

Mo Hua had initially planned to make Crossing River Dragon kneel on his “Formation iron board” to see if they could extract some information.

But after thinking it over, he decided against it.

Mr. Jin had repeatedly cautioned, instructing Crossing River Dragon to keep his mouth shut before anyone, and even if tortured, it was unlikely that they could pry his mouth open.

There was even a chance that it could provoke him to suicide.

Crossing River Dragon was listed by name.

And on that list of Cultivators, some had died, some had fled, and not many were left.

#### Chapter 1104: Snatch Back

This Crossing River Dragon clearly plays an important role; he must be used sparingly, for he might just lure in bigger fish.

Furthermore, using a Formation to force a confession is too ostentatious.

Mo Hua also did not want to leave too deep an impression on Crossing River Dragon.

Crossing River Dragon also possessed a Storage Bag.

Mo Hua had searched it as well, but nothing particularly important was found inside; not even secret Jade Slips like a Letter Token.

Either due to the recent sensitivities, Crossing River Dragon dared not carry such confidential items on his person.

Or they had been taken away by Mr. Jin.

However, there was one thing that Mo Hua was quite interested in— it was the water system skill “White Wave Skill” that Crossing River Dragon practiced.

To be precise, it was a set of Cultivation Techniques.

Aside from the Cultivation Technique itself, there was the complementary White Wave movement technique and a few secret techniques for avoiding Water Demons.

Mo Hua couldn’t practice the Cultivation Technique, but the movement technique and the secret techniques were worth some investigation.

Since these things were of no need to Cheng Mo and the others, Mo Hua “greedily inked” them for himself without much ceremony.

Afterward, the hands and feet of Crossing River Dragon, now severed, were thus delivered to the Taoist Court by Mo Hua and the others.

After completing the procedures and handing over custody, to avoid unnecessary complications and encounters with Sever Gold Sect members, Mo Hua and his companions boarded their carriage and set out on the return journey to Taixu Gate.

On the carriage, although Cheng Mo and the others were tired, their expressions were elated.

Despite some twists and turns, this trip had been successful; they had avenged themselves, captured Crossing River Dragon, and earned Merit Points.

And they were not afraid of the Sever Gold Sect.

Having coincidentally run into the more powerful Sever Gold Sect outside, they had no choice but to retreat.

But once they were back at the Qianxue State boundary, with each belonging to a Sect and coming from a family, and with Elders and Instructors watching over them within the Sect, they had nothing to fear from provocations of the Sever Gold Sect.

Thinking of this mission, with both the acceptance of rewards and the final task completion all thanks to Mo Hua, Cheng Mo felt a bit embarrassed and said:

"Mo Hua, why don't you take two hundred points, one hundred per person for us is enough."

The others also nodded in agreement.

Without Mo Hua, they might not have earned any merit at all.

Mo Hua shook his head: "We agreed on one hundred twenty per person, we must keep our word. Besides, without your help, I couldn't have caught Crossing River Dragon on my own."

Hearing this, Cheng Mo and the others were deeply grateful.

Yang Qianjun looked at Mo Hua with even greater admiration.

"Alright, we'll treat you to a big meal when we get back!" said Cheng Mo.

"Mm-mm!"

Regarding eating, Mo Hua was not one to refuse.

Then, as night enveloped them, the carriage rolled on.

Cheng Mo and the others, overcome by fatigue, sat down to meditate and rejuvenate.

Mo Hua sat by the window, gazing at the misty night outside, his thoughts drifting as he reflected on the events of the trip.

Crossing River Dragon knew Mr. Jin and, judging by the tone, their relationship was very close.

Crossing River Dragon mentioned the “Blood Oath List

Could this list be the same Sin Cultivator list that he obtained from Boss Jiang?

If so, this list truly didn’t belong to Boss Jiang.

If it wasn’t Boss Jiang’s, then where did he get it from?

Mo Hua frowned and went over the reasons behind his encounter with Boss Jiang in his mind, along with what he had observed, and a conjecture gradually formed:

This list must have been stolen by Boss Jiang.

Boss Jiang was once a disciple of the Sever Gold Sect, but likely a marginal one, unable to learn core Sword techniques, feeling aggrieved, hence he sought to steal.

If he were to steal, he had to target core disciples.

In his theft, he accidentally obtained two Jade Slips.

One was the “Sever Gold Sword Control Jue”, and the other was the “Blood Oath List”.

Both Jade Slips were Sever Gold Sect’s heritage Jade Slips, and as a disciple, Boss Jiang should be able to undo their “Sealing Patterns”.

But the “Secret Patterns” inside the Blood Oath List would definitely be beyond Boss Jiang’s ability to unravel.

Without deciphering the Secret Patterns, he couldn't see the list.

Boss Jiang probably thought this "list" Jade Slip was just a simple blank Jade Slip that had been "sealed".

So, inside it...

He wrote a diary...

And as for the "list" itself, he might have been completely unaware.

He probably died never knowing that he had written his own diary on such an important encrypted Blood Oath List...

Then the question arises again...

From whom exactly did Boss Jiang steal these Jade Slips?

Mo Hua's gaze became intense.

Could it be... that "Mr. Jin"?

Mo Hua drew upon his own experience and gradually fathomed some possible outcomes:

Whether it was the Sever Gold Sword Control Jue or the Blood Oath List, both Jade Slips were extremely valuable, not something ordinary disciples would possess.

This Mr. Jin, evidently, was not any ordinary disciple.

It seemed reasonable that the Jade Slips would be in his possession.

And if Boss Jiang could steal Jade Slips from Mr. Jin, they may have had a "familiar" relationship to some degree.

Boss Jiang had done work for Mr. Jin.

But Boss Jiang's cultivation must surely have placed him on the fringe.

Thus, to enhance himself, he took risks and stole Mr. Jin's Sword technique, gaining a trump card in hand, and then ventured out on his own.

Hence, Boss Jiang would not resort to using the Sever Gold Sword Control Jue unless it was a matter of life and death.

And as for the Blood Oath List, he didn't have a clue about it—ignorance is fearlessness, thus he never exposed himself accidentally.

Subsequently, Mo Hua harbored a new question.

So, after Boss Jiang rebelled against the Sect, gathered a gang, recruited “brothers”, and engaged in the trade of abducting Cultivators, did Mr. Jin know about it?

If he were unaware, it seemed rather unlikely...

But if he knew, would Mr. Jin let Boss Jiang carry on like this?

Or could it be...

Mo Hua's gaze grew solemn.

Boss Jiang, on the behest of Mr. Jin, defected from the Sect to engage in illegal activities.

Yet Mr. Jin himself might not know that Boss Jiang had stolen his Jade Slip.

Even until the end, Boss Jiang, in the arrogant eyes of Mr. Jin, was probably regarded as a marginal “henchman”, a “tool” for trafficking Cultivators...

And if Boss Jiang abducted Cultivators with the covert support of Mr. Jin orchestrating arrangements,

Then could this Mr. Jin be...

One of those black-robed traffickers?

...

Mo Hua's gaze became increasingly somber.

One of the core disciples of the Sever Gold Sect, from the Direct Lineage within the Twelve Streams of Qianxue State's realm, might possibly be the mastermind behind Cultivator trafficking...

And behind him, there were so-called "young masters

Did the Sever Gold Sect know about these matters?

What about the other Sects? Were they aware?

Did the Great Families of Qian State know?

And within those families, those ancient ancestors who sought to divine Heavenly secrets, couldn't they calculate even a hint of it?

Mo Hua's brows knitted tightly as he gazed out into the profound night.

He had a premonition that a vast conspiracy was taking shape.

Beneath the facade of prosperity, the darkness of Qianxue State's realm seemed to slowly surface...



## Chapter 1105: Evil God

After returning to the Sect, Mo Hua immediately sent a message to Gu Changhuai:

"Uncle Gu, you need to keep an eye on 'Crossing River Dragon', someone is going to sabotage."

Gu Changhuai replied quickly, "How do you know?"

Mo Hua: "I heard about it

Gu Changhuai: "Heard from whom?"

Mo Hua hesitated for a moment and asked, "If I tell you, will you believe me?"

There was also a pause on Gu Changhuai's side, "Go ahead."

"It was a disciple from the Sever Gold Sect who said it, others call him 'Mr. Jin'," said Mo Hua.

"Mr. Jin?"

"Yes."

Mo Hua continued, "He arranged for Crossing River Dragon to first enter the Taoist Prison, then 'faked his death' there, afterwards changed his appearance, and then came back to mix in

Gu Changhuai went silent, his gaze also somewhat dreadful.

Such a switch of identity, violating the law, also offended a great taboo of the Taoist Court.

Some small local Taoist Courts, being corrupt and bold, might be possible, but here at the border of Qianxue State, a distinguished Fifth-grade Taoist Court...

Gu Changhuai did not quite believe it.

But Mo Hua, although behaving unpredictably and mysteriously, would not likely spout nonsense regarding such a matter.

Mo Hua said, "So I sent Crossing River Dragon into the Taoist Prison, keep an eye on it and see if you can root out the mole in the Court."

Gu Changhuai was somewhat surprised, after a long moment, he replied, "Okay

Mo Hua then asked, "Sever Gold Sect... can the Taoist Court investigate it?"

Gu Changhuai said, "No. Matters internal to a Great Sect, our Taoist Court cannot intervene, unless there are clear proofs showing that the Sect Disciple has violated the Taoist Law and committed a grave crime, otherwise we cannot investigate, let alone arrest."

Mo Hua felt a bit regretful.

"Did you find out something again?" Gu Changhuai asked.

Mo Hua thought for a while, and did not withhold,

"I suspect, the black-clothed traffickers in Qian State are these Sect Disciples, and this 'Mr. Jin' from Sever Gold Sect, is very likely to be one of them

Gu Changhuai again fell silent for a moment, slowly saying:

"Leave this matter aside for now."

Mo Hua was stunned, feeling something was off, "Uncle Gu, you... knew already?"

Gu Changhuai didn't speak.

Indeed!

His silence was naturally a confirmation.

Mo Hua had also felt it strange before, how could the Taoist Court be completely uninformed if such a matter with black-clothed traffickers was deeply entrenched.

Mo Hua hurriedly asked, "Uncle Gu, how much do you know?"

No reply came from the other side.

Mo Hua went on a series: "Uncle Gu," "Uncle Gu, are you there?," "Uncle Gu, please speak sent them over.

Gu Changhuai couldn't take it anymore, he finally sighed, slowly saying:

"You know about the incident where Yu Er was kidnapped."

"Yes." Mo Hua nodded.

How could he not know about that.

Gu Changhuai said: "That day you... by chance, took Yu Er away, and afterwards a few black-clothed men came to the restaurant."

"They were 'picking up the goods.'"

"The Taoist Court attacked them, the leader escaped, the remaining black-clothed men were left behind, but without exception, all died. Demonic Qi destroyed their flesh bodies, tainted their meridians and Spiritual Roots, leaving only a black, foul-smelling lump of flesh and blood

"This is not an isolated case."

"Long before, there were disappearances of noble family's sons with Superior-Grade Spirit Roots, the Taoist Court investigated, catching these traffickers, but all these traffickers were destroyed by Demonic Qi to erase the traces

"That's why we speculate

Gu Changhuai gritted his teeth, that many sons of noble families have entered the Demon Sect, became demonic beasts but covered in human skin, hiding their aura

Mo Hua's eyebrows knitted tightly, "Can't they be investigated?"

Gu Changhuai sighed, "Uninvestigable, and unattainable to investigate

"Sect forces are strong and mostly protective, connected to various enormous families in the background

"A Fifth-grade Taoist Court in Qianxue State doesn't have the capacity to intervene into these significant powers to investigate such sensitive matter

"After all, a disciple entering demonhood, whether for the family or the Sect, is an enormous scandal, under severe circumstances, it could force the Dao Court

Tianquan Pavilion to demote them

"So that's it Mo Hua nodded.

"But that's not right Mo Hua thought for a moment, becoming puzzled again, "All major Sects in Qian State strictly forbid disciples from practicing Demon Monster skills, forbid carrying any Demon Monster Cultivation Technique, Dao Skill, or Evil Artifact up the mountain

"Also, at the gateway of Sects, they have laid down measures to monitor for Monster Qi and Demonic Qi."

"If these disciples have entered demonhood, even if covered in human skin, they would be detected and couldn't even enter the Sect gates, how could they still reside safely within the Sect?"

"This is the most bizarre part Gu Changhuai's gaze was icy, mixed with perplexity:

"No one knows, what means they have used to conceal their identities, clearly entered demonhood, committed acts worse than livestock, yet still move freely in and out of the Sects, considering themselves as the Heavenly Pride of noble families

Suddenly Mo Hua thought of something, his gaze intensifying, and he asked seriously:

"Uncle Gu, do you know about the Evil God?"

Gu Changhuai looked evidently startled, "Why bring this up suddenly?"

"Uncle Gu, do you know what the Evil God is?"

After a moment of contemplation, Gu Changhuai shook his head, "The Heavenly Demon Evil God is said to be a great disaster from ancient legends, specifically what it is, seems no one knows."

"There's also scant mention in the Tao Cultivation Canons."

"Why all of a sudden

Gu Changhuai paused, "You don't think that these matters are related to the Evil God, do you

Mo Hua: "Hmm

Gu Changhuai took a deep breath, reluctantly said:

"You haven't been reading some bizarre tales of Tao Cultivation or assorted myths of immortals and gods, have you

Quite imaginative...

Mo Hua was startled, “Really

Gu Changhuai shook his head, “This is Qian State, under Chengqian Heaven’s Dao, where noble families are extensive, Great Sects stand numerous, and Cultivators of great power are countless; how could the Evil God establish a foothold, how could he spread his teachings?”

Chapter 1106 Evil God\_2

Mo Hua: “But, don’t you know what an Evil God is? How do you know that an Evil God cannot preach?”

Gu Changhuai was stumped by Mo Hua’s question.

He pondered for a long time, feeling that he should not follow this child into obsessing over minutiae, lest he become entangled himself.

Gu Changhuai then said: “You should focus on your cultivation, solidify your foundation, and prepare for Core Formation as soon as possible. Don’t always think about these erratic and supernatural matters, they can disrupt your Taoist Heart and waste your cultivation.”

Mo Hua sighed.

But even if he didn’t think about these “supernatural” matters, he couldn’t break through his Cultivation...

Without “biting” into an Evil God occasionally, once stuck at a bottleneck, even reaching the middle stage of Foundation Establishment would be tough.

"What if... there really is an Evil God?" Mo Hua tried again.

Gu Changhuai really tried to think about it, but the more he thought, the more abstract it seemed.

The term “Evil God” was too alien to him.

In his ingrained knowledge of Tao Cultivation, there was very little about “Evil Gods,” making it hard to imagine what an Evil God would actually be like...

He also couldn't imagine how an Evil God could possibly manifest in the vast Fifth Grade Qianxue State Boundary...

Mo Hua gave up.

He also tried to see it from Uncle Gu's perspective and realized it was indeed hard to understand.

It was like a child who'd always grown up in the mountains suddenly learning about the existence of the ocean; their mind would surely be blank.

Mo Hua suddenly remembered, the master had once said.

Only with a sufficiently strong Divine Sense can one see the underlying truths that others cannot, and perceive the essence of all things in the world.

An Evil God must be one of these “unseen” truths.

Ordinary cultivators, if they do not follow the Path of Divine Sense, seem unable to see deities.

Not to mention Evil Gods, even Lord Yellow Mountain, the minor Downcast Mountain God, might be invisible to average cultivators...

Mo Hua compromised and said to Gu Changhuai:

"Yes, I just saw a book called ‘The Top Ten Evil Gods Through the Ages’ in the Book Pavilion. It said that Evil Gods control the Divine Sense of foolish cultivators and even devour humans

Gu Changhuai fell silent for a moment, then couldn't help saying:

"The taste in books of your Taixu Gate is indeed somewhat unique

Mo Hua didn't say more.

Sometimes, "ignorance" is a kind of bliss.

It's just that his own Divine Sense was too strong; sometimes he couldn't feel bliss.

Mo Hua then remembered something else and reminded:

"Uncle Gu, be careful, someone has set their sights on you

It seems Mr. Jin and others have attributed all the debts of those Sin Cultivators on the list to Uncle Gu, assuming Uncle Gu is the "puppet master" behind everything.

Uncle Gu seemed to have unwittingly become a "scapegoat," shouldering a massive "burden" on behalf of others.

Mo Hua felt truly sorry.

However, Gu Changhuai was accustomed to it, "Being a Canon of the Taoist Court, one is always watched by many people, a little more or less doesn't matter."

Mo Hua still cautioned: "Be careful

"Mm," Gu Changhuai responded indifferently.

Mo Hua then felt reassured.

Uncle Gu, besieged by debts, unfazed by more, probably didn't feel burdened by him...

Gu Changhuai pondered for a moment, then told Mo Hua:

"I'll keep an eye on Crossing River Dragon, and as for Mr. Jin and the Sever Gold Sect, I'll also pay attention



"For matters like Sect Disciples falling into demon paths and black-garbed human traffickers, don't get involved; these are murky waters, don't get yourself trapped

After Gu Changhuai finished, he felt his words were futile; whatever Mo Hua wanted to do, he couldn't stop him. He added:

"Be careful, and if you find any clues or face difficulties, let me know."

"Yes, yes!"

Mo Hua agreed repeatedly.

He wasn't a fool.

Be it black-garbed cultivators or family disciples falling into demon paths, these weren't issues he could resolve alone; now that he had willing assistance, he wouldn't refuse.

Their conversation ended there.

In the following days, Mo Hua continued his usual cultivation, practiced Formation arts, and refined his Divine Sense.

His Cultivation gradually increased in a methodical fashion.

Because he didn't focus on foundation but on speed, his progression in cultivation was neither fast nor slow among his peers.

His Spiritual Power, thicker than when he first started Foundation Establishment, but still a bit away from a breakthrough to the middle phase of Foundation Establishment.

However, besides that, the realm of his Divine Sense was truly challenging.

His Divine Sense was already too strong, far surpassing the realm of early Foundation Establishment, and was stuck at the bottleneck of late Foundation Establishment.

Thus, solely relying on Drawing Formation to refine it, like dripping water eroding a stone, was indeed too slow.

And with his Divine Sense stuck at Sixteen Patterns, his standard in Formation couldn't improve either.

During this time, Mo Hua could only try to broaden his scope of Formation, learning more about the Five Elements Eight Trigrams Array Formation.

But he had grown tiresome of Formations at Sixteen Patterns.

He really wanted to draw higher than Seventeen Patterns, the High-level Second Grade Formation.

Especially the formations involving the Original Magnet above Seventeen Patterns, which likely involved deeper principles of Yuan Magnetic and more advanced applications of Formation.

Mo Hua was full of anticipation.

But without a breakthrough in his Divine Sense, all were but empty talk.

Yu Er's nightmare demons were also decreasing.

Yu Er's complexion was getting better day by day, which made Mo Hua quite happy.

But his own "ration" was diminishing day by day, Mo Hua still felt some regret.

"If only I could 'feast' soon

Mo Hua muttered to himself.

Otherwise, he could only wait another year, wait for his own Cultivation to breakthrough, which would in turn expand his Sea of Consciousness, and then he could breakthrough the bottleneck in his Divine Sense.

And the matter of the “Evil God

Others might ignore it, but he couldn’t.

These days, Mo Hua pondered it for a long time.

Chapter 1107: Evil God\_3

According to what Lord Yellow Mountain previously stated, Mo Hua concluded that the ascension of Divine Sense actually has two dimensions.

One is the “quality” of Divine Sense, the other is the “tier” of Divine Sense.

Feasting on demon monsters enhances the “quality” of Divine Sense, which is the “amount” of Divine Sense, that is, the so-called Divine Sense Realm;

Devouring Divine Marrow enhances the “tier” of Divine Sense, which is the “essence” of Divine Sense, that is, the so-called ranking of deities.

The advancement of Divine Sense for a general cultivator only has “quality”, merely a change in “amount”.

However, having learned Heaven Yan Jue, my Divine Sense seems to also mutate in “essence”, much like a deity, elevating the “tier” of Divine Sense.

This demands that I, if I wish to “Prove the Dao with Divine Sense”, must cultivate both quality and quantity, improve both quality and tier.

To raise the grade of Divine Sense is already troublesome, and now there’s the need to elevate the tier.

Mo Hua’s head starts to ache.

The only way now is to try by all means, to slowly approach the Evil God.

Demon monsters are minions of the Evil God, Divine Marrow is hidden within the Divine Remains of the Evil God.

For Divine Sense, they are great supplements!

But the Evil God is hidden too deeply...

Uncle Gu, that Divine Sense fool, doesn't believe me even when I tell him.

And now that Fire Buddha is dead and the Demon Palace of Bishan has sunk, the only clue we can grasp is Crossing River Dragon, listed with Fire Buddha.

It's just that I can't keep watch on Crossing River Dragon myself.

Unable to leave the Sect, nor enter Taoist Prison, I am of no help; this matter can only be entrusted to Uncle Gu.

Moreover, it involves an insider from the Taoist Court, essentially an internal matter of the Taoist Court itself.

I can't intervene.

Crossing River Dragon is like an earthworm, which I'll use to bait the fish.

But fishing requires patience, one must not rush.

Wait for the fish to bite, wait for the big fish to take the bait.

In doing so, one can only advance the plan slowly...

Mo Hua sighs.

It looks like I'll be hungry for a while longer...

"Where exactly is the Evil God's Divine Remains hidden

...

Meanwhile, as Mo Hua was thinking about targeting the Evil God, in a forbidden place, Mr. Tu suddenly opened his eyes wide, his pupils constricting sharply.

That feeling of heart palpitations returned...

He was utterly certain this time that someone was audaciously coveting the Divine Lord!

Suddenly, Mr. Tu's face cracked, his pupils pitch-black and hollow as if possessed, his voice hoarse and stridently demanding:

"Find them!"

"Find whoever it is!"

Mr. Tu instantly became fearful and anxious, his voice trembling, "Yes, yes

"Divine Lord, please calm your anger

"It's all my fault, all my fault, I've looked, but I haven't found them

"A few hundred years of cultivation, with a hooked nose, facial creases, a sinister gaze, brilliance concealed within, appearing gentle on the surface, but with a sinister and malevolent smile when I do

"There are a few such people within the Qianxue State boundary, but they do not fit the description."

"They certainly don't have the capacity to ruin the Divine Lord's grand plan

Amidst his speech, Mr. Tu suddenly let out an imposing and terrifying roar, unlike that of a human.

Afterwards, Mr. Tu's face turned even paler.

"Yes

"But, there has been too much loss among those listed as minions, the altar of the Demon Temple of Bishan was destroyed, and the demon slaves were nearly all killed or injured

"The number of peddled livestock has drastically diminished, and fewer people and livestock mean that the sacrifices are raised more slowly. The progress of that array can only

Mr. Tu didn't finish his words when suddenly blood gushed out of his seven orifices, uncontrollably collapsing to the ground, limbs contorted.

"Yes, the old servant spoke out of turn

Mr. Tu endured the pain, his voice hoarse.

After a while, when the Evil Power slightly receded, he managed to crawl up, tremblingly knelt down again, and devoutly said:

"My loyalty to the Divine Lord, undying, everlasting!"

"One day, the great Divine Lord will awaken from the dust, and rule over the Great Wilderness!"

After expressing this sentiment, Mr. Tu's tense body relaxed slightly, visibly breathing a sigh of relief.

He then slowly said, "Someone is hindering the Divine Lord's grand plan

"All of this is... someone manipulating from behind the scenes."

"The Divine Fetus is protected by someone, the demon monsters under the command of the Divine Lord's authority had one way out but no way back

"Even... one of the divine servants died, the entity residing within him, one of the myriad Divine Remains, the Divine Eye, has also... perished."

"I realized then, I was wrong."

"I underestimated him."

"This person is certainly not an ordinary Formation Master."

"This person, who repeatedly desecrates the Divine Lord and hinders the Divine Lord's grand plan, is most likely a Divine Tao Array Master who cultivates Divine Tao formations, or a fearsome Sword Cultivator who practices the Divine Thought Skill."

"If he cultivates Divine Tao arrays, I am not afraid."

"But if it's the Divine Thought Sword Skill

A strong sense of dread emerged in Mr. Tu's gaze.

An already forbidden technique, the horrifying method of Divine Thought into Sword, resurfaced in his mind.

Finally, Mr. Tu bowed his head towards the ferocious fanged, bloodstained, and white bone senso sheep ram effigy and promised:

"I will find out

"Anyone who dares to hinder the Divine Lord's grand plan, shall become a sacrificial animal, submerge into the Desolate Mountain of Purgatory, both Divine Soul and flesh extinguished, forever deprived of transcendence!"

"Taixu Gate

Mr. Tu's voice became gradually inaudible.

After finishing his statement, he didn't dare to look directly at the sheep ram effigy with the human face, his gaze lowered and respectfully retreated backward.

Not until exiting the altar area did he slowly rise to his feet, pulling out a piece of human skin and draping it over himself.

The skin spread over him, covering his deathly pale, wrinkled face and his skin, bloodstained and cracked from years of soaking in blood.

Mr. Tu then transformed into a tall, fair-skinned, gentle-looking middle-aged cultivator.

He shed the ugliness and abjection from before, wearing a congenial smile as he walked slowly out of the bleak forbidden land.

Chapter 1108 Blood Mist

The undercurrents at the Qianxue State Boundary ran swifter now.

Yet Mo Hua, the orchestrator behind the scenes, remained oblivious to it.

Right now, with a "hungry stomach," all he wanted was to fish and catch some Divine Remains to "sate his hunger."

Several days later, finally, a fish took the bait.

After finishing his class, Mo Hua was eating at the Disciple's Residence when he received a message from Gu Changhuai:



"Crossing River Dragon is dead."

Mo Hua asked, "Really dead, or feigned?"

"Feigned."

"Did you catch the mole?"

Gu Changhuai hesitated, then spoke apologetically, "No

Thereafter, Gu Changhuai explained the details:

"I'm short on time and can't always keep watch, so I had someone from the Gu Family disguise as a prisoner to infiltrate Taoist Prison and secretly monitor the cell next to Crossing River Dragon."

"Initially, all was calm, nothing happened."

"But last night around midnight, the monitor suddenly felt icy all over, as if something had entered Taoist Prison. At the same time, he felt dizzy and drowsy, and when he awoke, Crossing River Dragon was already dead, his body decayed

Mo Hua's gaze sharpened, "Decayed?"

"Yes." Gu Changhuai continued, "His body developed venomous sores, foul and necrotic, and no one in Taoist Prison dared approach him."

Mo Hua inquired, "Could his identity still be recognized?"

Gu Changhuai replied, "As always, his flesh was corroded by demonic Qi, his facial features decayed, meridians completely destroyed, and spiritual power tainted. But this time, the demonic Qi wasn't intense, so much of his body was left

Gu Changhuai sighed, “You could tell, the deceased’s physique and stature matched those of Crossing River Dragon, possessing a Water Series Spiritual Root, and there was a fishy smell on him

Mo Hua nodded.

This was a case of finding a ‘scapegoat’, whose dissimilar traits were obliterated by demonic Qi, leaving only the height, physique, and Spiritual Root—the traits that matched Crossing River Dragon.

Clearly, a lot of cunning was at play.

And who this scapegoat was, and where they were found, remained a mystery.

Gu Changhuai continued, “Sudden onset of the severe ailment, demon sores covered his body, died in prison, basic traits matched, Taoist Court Officials concluded the case and sealed Crossing River Dragon’s files.”

Mo Hua slightly nodded.

All this matched exactly what he had heard from Mr. Jin.

"What happened next?" Mo Hua asked.

"That’s all.” Gu Changhuai replied.

Mo Hua clearly didn’t believe it, asserting confidently:

"Uncle Gu, you must have kept a backup plan, there’s something you’re hiding from me.”

Mo Hua understood Uncle Gu.

Although he was “no good” with Divine Sense and Formations, at the Taoist Court, especially in handling Sin Cultivators’ criminal investigations, he was genuinely a crafty old fox. How could he just let Crossing River Dragon escape so easily?

Gu Changhuai was found out and resignedly said, “There’s no use telling you.”

"If you don’t tell me, you’ll never catch Crossing River Dragon.”

Mo Hua confidently stated.

Gu Changhuai was startled, his look complicated, then he deeply sighed.

He always sensed that Mo Hua, like a “Minor Religious Con Man,” could deduce and predict so much, nothing could be hidden from him...

Since that was the case, Gu Changhuai didn’t hide it anymore.

"Outside the Taoist Court, I secretly arranged someone to keep watch, the next day at 1 p.m., an Enforcement Leader transporting the executed Sin Cultivators’ corpses from the Taoist Court for cremation—Crossing River Dragon was among them

"Is there an issue with this Enforcement Leader?"

"No, he was unaware." Gu Changhuai explained.

"And then... was Crossing River Dragon cremated?"

Gu Changhuai shook his head, “He was swapped in transit

"A funeral procession passed by the corpse transport carriages, someone took advantage while the Enforcement Leader wasn’t looking, and swapped two identical coffins.”

"Afterward, the Enforcement Leader transported the corpses to the crematorium, while the funeral procession took away the coffin containing Crossing River Dragon and buried it

"After the burial, I secretly had people dig up the coffin; inside, it was found empty, Crossing River Dragon was gone

Mo Hua was somewhat surprised.

This “substitute-the-spurious” tactic was indeed clever.

He silently noted it; perhaps he could use it himself in the future.

"Where was the coffin buried?" Mo Hua asked.

"Along the Mistwater River."

Mo Hua was startled, "So, Crossing River Dragon has returned to Mistwater River?"

"Seems likely

"Is there any way to track him down?" asked Mo Hua.

Gu Changhuai sighed, "For such a Water Series Cultivator, entering the river is like letting a fish swim or a bird fly into the forest; where the woods are deep and the waters vast, no traces remain."

"And he must have altered his appearance, no one could recognize him."

"The Water Series Cultivators of Mistwater River are not too few, nor too many; I could check one by one, but that would likely alarm others, making it impossible to cast a long line to catch a big fish

"Oh Mo Hua nodded.

He was straightforward, earnestly offering, "Uncle Gu, let me find him for you!"

Gu Changhuai's gaze narrowed, sensing something amiss, "Are there conditions you're waiting to propose?"

Mo Hua feigned heartbreak, "Uncle Gu, am I such a person? Punishing evil and promoting good is the duty of a Righteous Dao Cultivator, especially as a member of the esteemed Taixu Gate

"Never mind then."

"I'll tell!" Mo Hua immediately spoke, then delivered a prepared spiel:

"Just three small conditions: if there are clues about human traffickers, let me know; when you need manpower, support me a bit;"

and finally, can I complete the rewards first before you issue them according to task content? This way the process at Taoist Court goes quicker, merit points won't be delayed

The Fire Buddha's merit points haven't come through yet!

Taoist Court organization is cumbersome, process redundant, Mo Hua resented deeply.

Gu Changhuai took a deep breath.

Are these three small conditions?

Which condition is small?

Though young, his demands are not.

"No!" Gu Changhuai refused.

Chapter 1109: Blood Mist

"Don't ah, I didn't say we couldn't negotiate Mo Hua said weakly.

Gu Changhuai felt a headache coming on.

So this kid is trying to ask for a sky-high price from me, a Daoist Court Canon, and then bargain down...

Gu Changhuai: "I can only agree to one condition."

"Two conditions?" Mo Hua probed.

"Just one, if that's not okay, then forget it."

\*Sigh\*, one condition it is, then.

Mo Hua accepted begrudgingly.

Gu Changhuai said, "The affair of the kidnappers is confidential, I can't tell you; and the matter about rewards involves the Daoist Court's system, I can't agree to that either. But if you encounter danger or need support, I can help you with that

Protecting Mo Hua's safety was also his cousin's wish; in a way, it was for Yu Er's good too.

Gu Changhuai found a reason for himself in his heart.

Gu Changhuai continued, "Next time you take a break, come to the Gu Family, I will give you a secret command from the Gu Family, this command can summon cultivators from the Gu Family within the surrounding Second Grade Little Immortal City's Daoist Court

Mo Hua was stunned.

A secret command from the Gu Family?

To command the Cultivators from the Gu Family within the Second Grade Daoist Court?

Mo Hua felt a bit embarrassed, "Isn't this... a bit too valuable

"If you don't want it, then forget it."

"I want it!" Mo Hua hurriedly said.

It's stupid not to take advantage when it's offered.

He was just about to chase after the tail of the Evil God and needed manpower.

Although Cheng Mo and the others would also help, there were only four or five of them and they were not enough.

Moreover, their cultivation is indeed too low, they need more training before they can be of use.

Gu Changhuai reminded again, "This secret command from the Gu Family, in my hands, is meant to 'command,' but in yours, it's only for 'saving lives.' Don't misuse it or think about using the command to lord over and blackmail disciples of the Gu Family into doing excessive tasks for you, they won't agree

"If I find out you're abusing the command, I will take it back!"

Gu Changhuai said sternly.

"Got it! Don't worry!" Mo Hua assured, "I will definitely not do anything excessive!"

Gu Changhuai finally breathed a sigh of relief after getting Mo Hua's promise.

"I'll tell you the other clues about the Crossing River Dragon. It's best if you can find him, but don't force it if you can't."

"Okay!" Mo Hua nodded.

After that, Gu Changhuai told Mo Hua about the places where the Crossing River Dragon was buried and then disappeared, including clues investigated by the Daoist Court around Mistwater River.

When the break came, Mo Hua couldn't wait and rushed to the Gu Family.

Looking at Mo Hua's eager eyes, Gu Changhuai felt somewhat regretful, but considering he had already promised Mo Hua and couldn't break his word, he gritted his teeth and handed over a jade-green secret command engraved with the "Gu" character to Mo Hua.

"Use it only for seeking help or support, don't misuse it!"

Gu Changhuai reiterated.

"Got it!"

Mo Hua swore.

Gu Changhuai finally relaxed and handed over the secret command to Mo Hua.

Taking the "Gu Family's secret command" in hand, Mo Hua felt its smooth, cool, and heavy presence, a clear sign of its significant value.

Uncle Gu is such a good person!

Mo Hua thought to himself.

Then he put the secret command into his storage bag, but feeling this wasn't respectful enough, he transferred it to his Storage Ring.

With the Gu Family secret command in hand, it was like having a "backer" while mingling in the Second Grade small state boundaries near sects, making his actions much more convenient and confident.



Mo Hua felt he stood more upright because of it.

But having received a favor, he needed to be even more careful in his actions.

He had to help Uncle Gu... and in a sense, help himself to catch the “feigning-death” Crossing River Dragon.

He couldn’t let down Uncle Gu’s trust.

Especially not this valuable Gu Family secret command!

Mo Hua nodded solemnly with a grave expression.

After bidding farewell to Gu Changhuai and meeting with Aunt Wan and having a meal with Yu Er, Mo Hua set off towards the downstream of Mistwater River.

This mission was solo.

Because it involved tracking and there were no merit points available yet, he didn’t bring Cheng Mo and the others.

Arriving at Mistwater River, Mo Hua found the Crossing River Dragon’s feigned death burial site.

The grave had no stele, just a hillock with some superficial feng shui formations around it to protect the grave.

Close to the riverside, the soil was damp.

Mo Hua didn’t have to dig; his Divine Sense scanned over and he knew the coffin was empty.

But from some residual energy in the coffin, Mo Hua could clearly distinguish that it belonged to the Crossing River Dragon.

His gaze deepened as the Heavenly secret emerged.

Traces of karma extended from the coffin, drifting into the river, after which the vast river's current made them disappear without a trace.

Mo Hua also remembered the other clues Uncle Gu had mentioned and stealthily, he checked along Mistwater River, one by one.

The river did indeed contain traces of the Crossing River Dragon and some faint white karmic lines, but they were very weak.

Though weak, it also meant that Crossing River Dragon was still active nearby.

The Crossing River Dragon cultivated water system skills and drew life from water. This river was his second life, the waterways were his lifelines; he couldn't have gone far.

After all, the most dangerous place is often the safest.

Mo Hua calmed his heart, found the place with the deepest causal lines, sat down invisibly, and prepared to wait silently.

At the same time, he took out the Cultivation Manuals he had acquired from the Crossing River Dragon and silently flipped through them.

Firstly, the White Wave Skill.

This Cultivation Technique, Mo Hua couldn't learn nor did he need to, but he meticulously studied the pathways, meridians, acupoints, and flaws within.

To know both the enemy and yourself ensures that you will not be imperiled in a hundred battles.

Knowing the Crossing River Dragon's techniques would better prepare him for restraint.

Secondly, the movement technique of White Wave Skill.

## Chapter 1110: Blood Mist

This is a Water System Body Skill, but it is vastly different from Mo Hua's evasive Water Passing Step which is primarily used for survival.

The White Wave Body Skill emphasizes unity between man and water. When executed in the water, one moves as freely as a fish, without restraint.

Mo Hua felt that this might be useful in the future, so he decided to learn it.

With limited time, there was no need to master it completely; being passably proficient would suffice.

There is also a secret technique for avoiding monsters in the water, called the Water Avoidance Demon Expulsion Technique. It allows cultivators to avoid waterborne monster beasts, poisonous plants, whirlpools, and other unknown dangers.

In a sense, it's more like the experience and techniques of a Monster Hunter.

Except, this kind of Monster Hunter is from the water, not the mountains.

Mo Hua instinctively found the materials of the Monster Hunter very interesting. So, he decided to learn this as well.

The Cultivation World is vast, and learning is endless.

Thus, Mo Hua, while browsing through these various cultivation techniques and Taoist skills, also divided his attention to keep watch on the activities in the water.

The more he saw, the more he understood Mistwater River.

Just like when he first entered Big Black Mountain, moving from unfamiliarity to familiarity, then to knowing every plant and tree in the mountains like the back of his hand.

Now, Mistwater River was gradually becoming clear in Mo Hua's eyes.

The flow of the river, the drifting water grass, the swimming spiritual fish, and the dangerous water demons lurking in the murky mud, waiting for an opportunity...

Suddenly, Mo Hua felt a subtle connection with Mistwater River.

This stretch of river water seemed to slowly respond to Mo Hua's Divine Sense.

The originally perilous waves of Mistwater River gradually became "friendly" and familiar, just like the pond at his home...

This feeling was very mysterious.

At that moment, Mo Hua's Divine Sense slightly stirred.

From the familiar river, a very familiar presence suddenly swam up from a distance.

Crossing River Dragon!

Mo Hua could sense it instantly, even without looking.

The vast Mistwater River, sparkling with light.

The Crossing River Dragon lurked in the Mistwater River, following the current, moving freely like a big fish.

This gave Mo Hua an illusion.

As if the fish he released were leisurely swimming back into his own "pond

Mo Hua's eyes subtly brightened.

In the Mistwater River, Crossing River Dragon continued to swim along with the current.

Mo Hua, keeping his presence hidden, followed the Crossing River Dragon along the riverside.

He walked for a long time; the Crossing River Dragon stayed in the river, moving downstream, never coming ashore.

Mo Hua followed patiently.

He didn't know how much time passed, until nightfall arrived and the river surface darkened, then Crossing River Dragon finally turned and swam toward the shore.

Approaching the shore, Crossing River Dragon first surfaced at the river's edge, paused for a while, and after ensuring that there was no one around, confidently leaped ashore.

Under the faint moonlight, Mo Hua clearly saw his figure.

The previous Crossing River Dragon had an unshaven face and snow-white skin, resembling a white fish.

Now, however, he had the appearance of a man, with dark and rugged facial features, sporting a long beard, also bare-chested but with thick body hair and muscular, dark skin, resembling a big black fish.

At a glance, he looked completely different from before.

But Mo Hua snorted in his heart:

"Kid, you think I can't recognize you just because you've changed your 'vest'?"

A person's appearance might change, but the essence of Spiritual Power remains the same.

Such superficial changes couldn't deceive Mo Hua's Divine Sense.

"But, the big fish has finally shown itself

Mo Hua felt a slight joy in his heart.

After Crossing River Dragon went ashore, he cautiously looked around, then took a few dead fish out of his Storage Bag and placed them in a fish basket.

Then, he carried the fish basket on his back, walking towards the shore with the dead fish.

Mo Hua quietly followed behind him.

Upon reaching the shore, the moonlight grew slightly brighter, casting a pale glow on the path.

The rugged-faced Crossing River Dragon walked forward obliviously, unaware that from the moment he left the riverside, a small cultivator, invisible like a "Water Ghost," had been tailing him.

After walking for a long time, the path widened and a small fishing village appeared in front.

The fishing village was dilapidated, with old fishing nets and fish baskets strewn everywhere.

The air was faintly filled with the smell of fish.

It was already night, and in the quiet fishing village, only a few dim and flickering yellow lights could be seen.

Mo Hua was startled, and based on his current location, suddenly realized that this small fishing village was the same place the Fish Cultivators he had met before had invited him to visit.

Crossing River Dragon directly walked into the small fishing village.

After some thought, Mo Hua also followed him in.

The small fishing village was poor, quiet but serene.

Crossing River Dragon continued to walk ahead, and Mo Hua followed closely behind.

As they walked, Crossing River Dragon turned into a narrow, secluded cabin and then completely disappeared.

Mo Hua frowned, released his Divine Sense to scan around, but found nothing.

"Where did he go?"

Mo Hua looked perplexed and thought to use Heavenly Secret Calculation to determine the cause and effect.

His pupils deepened, and the patterns of Heavenly Secrets appeared in his eyes as he looked around.

A sudden, cold, sinister energy emerged.

The originally tranquil fishing village, with its scattered lights, suddenly shrouded in a layer of faint crimson blood mist.