

## The Quest for Immortality

### Chapter 1436: Extinguished Light

"I want to see, where exactly the demon wraith in this painting is hidden..."

Mo Hua's eyes flickered slightly as he stepped towards the depths of the Demon Refining Diagram.

"My Divine Sense has been stuck for too long."

"This time, it should advance further..."

...

While Jin Gui's Divine Soul was obliterated by Mo Hua with a single finger.

In a grand hall, deep within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

A gust of sinister wind swept across an altar.

A lamp in front of Jin Gui's physical body was instantly extinguished.

The more than ten bustling monster cultivators managing the hall fell silent in an instant, their expressions showing a hint of bewilderment.

"What's going on? The lamp... extinguished?"

"How could it be extinguished?"

"A person's death is like a lamp extinguishing, did his Divine Soul... just die like that?"

Some monster cultivator stewards immediately showed cold smiles.

One monster cultivator sneered and said:

"He really was a useless waste!"

"The young master entrusted him with such a small task, yet he couldn't even do it right and lost his life in there."

"The demon wraiths in the diagram are all sealed and can't come out. He only needed to deliver three Divine Souls, yet he messed up..."

"I wonder how that fool managed to die?"

A monster cultivator chuckled coldly, "Could it be that he slipped and fell off a cliff, smashing himself to death..."

Other monster cultivators also began to mock.

In the center of the hall, behind beaded curtains, a young master with an indistinct, yet handsome figure sat there.

He was currently sorting through the scrolls within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

Upon hearing the conversation, the young master slightly frowned, his expression turning cold.

The crowd of stewards, realizing the atmosphere was not right, ceased their laughter and dared not speak further.

After a moment of silence, an elderly steward spoke:

"Young master, I'm afraid there's something fishy..."

"Though Jin Gui was incompetent, he bore the Four Symbols Mysterious Tiger Demon Patterns, and without being besieged by demon wraiths, it was absolutely impossible for him to die so easily within the Demon Refining Diagram."

"I fear..." The elderly steward paused briefly, then said solemnly, "The Demon Refining Diagram has been 'infiltrated' by something."

"Infiltrated the Demon Refining Diagram?"

The group of monster cultivators exchanged glances in astonishment.

Jin Yixuan's gaze sharpened as he said, "Young master, could it be... that 'rat' lurking in the shadows?"

The young master's expression remained indifferent.

Jin Yixuan explained, "Previously, when those three little devils escaped, it was evident someone secretly helped them."

"But when we captured those three little devils, there were no other figures around. Clearly, that 'rat', seeing the situation was unfavorable, fled beforehand."

"Now, secretly 'infiltrating' the Demon Refining Diagram, it seems still to recover those three little devils."

"This 'rat'..."

Jin Yixuan's expression turned slightly somber, "It's probably more 'troublesome' than we imagined."

Skilled in concealment, proficient in the Yuan Magnetic Formation, and even somewhat knowledgeable of the Dao of the Divine, capable of bypassing the "ceremony" and infiltrating the Demon Refining Diagram with Divine Thought... many methods, diverse strategies.

The young master's gaze slightly narrowed, his tone chilling:

"Find it, and kill it."

By this point, he had lost all patience.

This rat had meddled in his affairs repeatedly, and now there was no need to keep it alive.

From among the crowd, one person stepped forward arrogantly and said:

"A mere 'rat', I'll light the lamp and enter the diagram to kill it."

This person, a young master in appearance with a charming yet wicked visage, was none other than Jin Yicai of the Sever Gold Sect.

Jin Yixuan slightly frowned, "You're going?"

Jin Yicai grinned lightly and said, "Cousin, don't worry, I'm not like that useless Jin Gui, who died so inexplicably."

Jin Yixuan was slightly uneasy.

In his eyes, Jin Yicai was also a waste.

But, given his special status and noble bloodline, if something happened, it would be hard to answer to the family elders.

"This 'rat', might not be underestimated..." Jin Yixuan said.

Jin Yicai shook his head, "Cousin, you're mistaken, only weaklings would be sneaky, how could a strong person be so secretive?"

"If this 'rat' was truly strong, they'd have killed us all by now, how could they be so cautious?"

"Precisely because he's not our match, he acts like a 'rat', daring only to do these petty tricks in the dark."

Jin Yixuan appeared contemplative, nodded, and said:

"Take a few stewards with you."

Jin Yicai hesitated for a moment, wanting to say it wasn't necessary as simply his skill would suffice alone and calling more people would only split his merits.

But as this was his cousin's wish, he could not refuse.



Moreover, since this was an order from the young master, if something went wrong, there would indeed be no explanation.

Jin Yicai then said, "Alright, as my cousin wishes."

Jin Yixuan appointed four "stewards" to accompany Jin Yicai in sitting at the altar while facing an eerie mural, lighting the soul lamp.

Under the influence of the Divine Soul, they naturally entered the Demon Refining Diagram.

When they opened their eyes, they found an eerie valley shrouded in a black cloud of blood mist before them.

A bloody stream trickled, and white bones covered the ground.

This was truly the Demon Refinement Valley within the Demon Refining Diagram.

They followed the fixed path of "sacrifice", walking into the valley, searching for clues along the way.

Soon, they found the place where Jin Gui met his end.

"There was a battle here..."

"The Demonic Qi is intense, mixed with Sword Qi; the enemy seems to be a 'Sword Demon'."

"There's another weak Divine Thought Aura, seemingly barely contributing in the battle; compared to the Demonic Qi, its presence is much fainter..."

Jin Yicai was slightly stunned, "Sword Demon?"

Not human, not a monster, but a Sword Demon?

Which Sword Dao Sect cultivates this?

Jin Yicai was somewhat puzzled, looking into the distance, he continued:

"Chase!"

A group of five monster steward cultivators continued their pursuit.

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About thirty minutes later, they saw a towering Sword Demon on the road, its entire body transformed into white bones, exuding an imposing Demonic Qi.

Next to it was a "little kid."

In Jin Yicai's arrogant eyes, he only saw the "powerful" Sword Demon and didn't care at all about Mo Hua. He immediately stepped forward and laughed coldly:

"Did you kill Jin Gui?"

At these words, Sword Bone was taken aback.

Who is Jin Gui?

It had no idea...

But on the surface, it remained silent, sullen and cold.

Seeing its "swagger," Jin Yicai's eyelids twitched slightly, then he laughed coldly:

"Just killing a useless person, are you feeling proud?"

With Mo Hua by its side, Sword Bone maintained courtesy, still not daring to utter a word, ignoring Jin Yicai's ridicule.

Jin Yicai's gaze sharpened.

Could this Sword Demon be a "puppet"?

He looked over at Mo Hua.

However, Mo Hua's figure was even smaller than outside, so Jin Yicai didn't recognize him and ignored him once again.

"Although Jin Gui is indeed useless, this Sword Demon doesn't seem completely without merit. Anyway, better to test it first..."

Jin Yicai thought silently, then stopped wasting words and immediately revealed his Sword Qi, attacking the Sword Demon.

Sword Bone felt helpless.

Why do these people have such a death wish...

If you want to die, at least choose the right target.

If you attack that little kid next to me, you'll die instantly, why bother with this "shell"...

However, with the opponent already attacking, Sword Bone had no choice but to fight back.

It transformed into the White Bone Evil Sword, and engaged Jin Yicai in battle.

Yet Sword Bone couldn't grasp Mo Hua's intentions, uncertain if it should give its all in the fight, so it fought half-heartedly with Jin Yicai for a while.

For a while, the battle was quite back-and-forth.

Jin Yicai was slightly surprised, "This Sword Demon indeed has some skills, no wonder Jin Gui died at its hands..."

After several rounds of fighting, just as victory seemed elusive, a streak of golden light suddenly swept by.

Jin Yicai felt an inexplicable chill, realizing something was amiss, he deflected Sword Bone and turned to look.

When he saw, it was as if he had fallen into an ice cave.

Behind him, the previously coldly observing four managers, had been somehow shattered by an unknown force.

What happened?!

Jin Yicai's pupils trembled violently.

At this moment, a crisp but displeased voice said: "Sword Bone!"

"Yes!"

Sword Bone responded promptly.

It knew this little ancestor was growing impatient, unwilling to waste more time on these small fry.

Sword Bone stopped holding back, its pupils ignited with two flames of magic, and the white bone longsword in its hand suddenly enlarged, slashing fiercely.

Jin Yicai couldn't block it at all, his shoulder instantly carved with a deep blood mark.

Only now did he realize that his Gold-Cutting Sword Skill was utterly useless against this Sword Demon.

"Not good!"

He roared in fury, the Monster Pattern on his back glowed, and the demonic power gradually gathered.

It was a Dog Pattern.

Sword Bone sneered contemptuously, without a hint of hesitation, it reversed its sword and thrust effortlessly, piercing Jin Yicai's left chest and pinning him to the ground.

"You wear a dog's pattern, and yet try to act like a big bad wolf?"

Jin Yicai's face turned pale.

No, how could the battle of Divine Thought be entirely different from what he imagined?

Why was this Sword Demon so powerful?

And how did those four monster cultivator managers die?

While he was in a state of shock and confusion, he heard a crisp voice next to him questioning:

"In Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, a place that nurtures ten thousand demons, where have you hidden all those demon wraiths? Why can't I find them?"

Jin Yicai glanced again at Mo Hua next to him, noticing that although his figure had shrunk considerably, his facial expression was very familiar. Suddenly, realization dawned, "You, you are..."

Jin Yicai was too stunned to speak.

Mo Hua shook his head, "Forget it, I'll find it myself."

"Sword Bone, you can eat them all."

Eat?!

Jin Yicai's eyes were filled with fear; before he could think further, the omen of death arrived.

The last thing reflected in his pupils was a white, grim bone sword and a pair of cold, hollow white bone eyes.

The Sword Bonesman killed Jin Yicai with one strike, shook his head, and murmured to himself:

"The cultivation world is perilous, and the Divine Way is even more ruthless; it's not something a young master like you can play with..."

I, a dignified Sword Demon, still tread carefully; let alone you, an arrogant but ignorant fool.

...

The moment Jin Yicai died.

In the grand hall of the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, all five soul lamps had extinguished.

The surrounding monster cultivators fell silent.

Even the young master behind the beaded screen slightly contracted his pupils.

They all sensed that something seemed amiss.

Jin Yixuan also furrowed his brow, not expecting such a situation at all.

He knew well that his cousin was useless, so he didn't have any expectations.

But those who followed his cousin and lit the soul lamps to enter the Demon Map were all experienced monster cultivator managers with some experience in Divine Way combat.

These four managers' soul lamps extinguished in an instant.

Which means, these four managers were almost simultaneously slain by something.

Jin Yixuan's heart sank, only then did he realize that what entered the Demon Refining Diagram might not be just a "rat," but quite possibly, a man-eating "fierce tiger."

Moreover, this "fierce tiger"... if it just wanted to save someone, it could have left after killing Jin Gui.

But it didn't.

It stayed in the Demon Refining Diagram after killing Jin Gui.

It even killed those who went to assist, including Jin Yicai and several managers.

Ruthless and vicious, it surely has... significant ambitions!

After all, within the Demon Refining Diagram, lies a big secret...

Jin Yixuan's expression was grave, and he cupped his hands upwards, saying:

"Young master, whether it is man, monster, or demon, we must kill the intruder in the Demon Refining Diagram as soon as possible!"

The young master looked indifferent, without comment.

Jin Yixuan pondered for a moment, then said:

"The greatest taboo in warfare is dispersal; entering in batches, we are easily defeated one by one."

"Therefore, it would be better to act together; with thunderous might, thoroughly surround and kill it, or endless troubles will be in store!"

The young master contemplated for a moment, then slowly nodded and said:

"That's the only way..."

Jin Yixuan saluted the young master, then turned and said: "Everyone, light the soul lamps and follow me into the diagram to kill the invaders!"

"Yes, Leader!"

"Understood!"

More than ten managers cupped their hands in response.

Then, according to routine, each one lit a soul lamp, sat cross-legged, closed their eyes tightly, and their divine souls entered the Demon Refining Diagram.

Their expressions were solemn, knowing the situation was somewhat serious.

But what they didn't know was just how serious it really was...

After the monster cultivators entered the diagram, the grand hall fell silent.

Only a few already extinguished soul lamps emitted wisps of white smoke, and ten-plus yet-to-extinguish soul lamps flickered slightly.

Within the screen, the young master continued with his own tasks.

The Valley of Ten Thousand Demons being destroyed, time was short, there were too many things to transfer out, not to be left behind in the valley, to avoid leaving any leverage.

Calmness in major events.

This was the teaching of the Ancestor to him.

The more critical the moment, the more one must maintain composure, to be poised and confident, to have the stature to accomplish great matters.

He aimed to use the Qian Learning State Boundary and the Four Great Sects as stepping stones, to one day stand atop the Taoist Court, high above, controlling the fate of countless cultivators in the cultivation world.

The young master's emotions slowly calmed down.

He finished organizing rows of cultivation documents, formation diagram drafts, pills, evil artifacts, and other Tao cultivation materials, preparing to stash them in the storage bag to take away.

His expression focused, he checked each item one by one.

He didn't know how much time passed, yet it seemed little time passed...

A gust of cold wind suddenly blew through.



The young master seemed to sense something, his fingers trembled, and his body froze.

Moments later, he slowly raised his head, his clear eyes gazing towards the grand hall, his pupils trembled violently.

Inside the grand hall.

The soul lamps... were all extinguished...