

The Quest 1371

Chapter 1371: Naughty Kid (2)

Whether it was the stove or the Pill Furnace, they were covered with a thick layer of blood grime, accompanied by a nauseating stench.

Mo Hua covered his mouth and nose, disdainfully picked some raw meat, cooked meat, and Blood Pill of unknown origin but containing immense Blood Qi, and stuffed them into his Storage Bag.

To avoid being discovered, he selected only a little of each.

After picking, Mo Hua retraced his steps back to the prison, where he threw all the meat and Pills to the Black Bear Demon.

The Black Bear Demon, who had just been bled and was resting with eyes closed, was suddenly startled.

Seeing something tossed in front of it, it began to howl and roar incessantly.

Once it realized the items were food and sniffed them, it extended its giant bear paw, dragged the meat towards itself, and devoured it ravenously.

But as it ate, it continued to growl softly.

Mo Hua shook his head in disbelief.

This big black bear is so dumb...

It doesn't even understand the principle of making money silently.

In this environment, shouldn't you hide the meat and eat it secretly?

To stealthily fill your stomach, recover Vital Energy, and accumulate strength.

Why eat while making such a racket, as if afraid someone is coming to snatch it away...

Mo Hua pursed his lips, lowering his evaluation of the big black bear by a notch in his heart.

This big dumb bear is far less clever than my big tiger.

When I was at the Black Mountain Stronghold, feeding that big tiger, it was cunning like a fox, knowing to hide the food secretly, so nobody would notice.

It even knew how to "act," putting on a pitiful, wounded appearance.

Mo Hua felt a pang of nostalgia in his heart.

"I wonder how the big tiger is doing."

"In my absence, is there anyone feeding it dried fish?"

"I wonder when I can return to see it..."

Mo Hua felt a moment of longing.

In the prison, the big black bear, having finished eating the meat, immediately looked energetic, its eyes filled with ferocity.

Mo Hua shook his head in disappointment once more.

This bear won't do, it's not cunning at all.

But there were no other Monster Beasts for now, it would have to suffice.

After that, whenever Mo Hua found the chance, he would sneak some meat to feed this Bear Demon.

And this Black Bear Demon, its Blood Qi gradually filling up, Monster Qi thickening, and strength slowly recovering.

Time passed unknown, roughly after Mo Hua had reported to Elder Xun seven Tian Gan Di Zhi cycles, someone from the Spirit Vision Formation's monitoring finally sneaked out of the room silently in the dead of night, heading towards the prison.

He was going to steal blood to drink again.

Mo Hua was invigorated.

He arrived one step ahead, entered the prison, and hid in a corner, blending into the darkness, not revealing a trace of his presence.

Like an invisible, perilous Evil Spirit.

After thirty minutes, the Monster cultivator manager walked into the prison.

As usual, he released his Divine Sense, scanning the place.

However, being a Monster cultivator, his physical body was strong, but his Divine Sense was not, and due to losing his mind after Demonization, his Divine Sense had somewhat declined, so he couldn't detect Mo Hua at all.

Moreover, he was extremely famished now.

The "food" at the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons wasn't good for Monster cultivators.

Black bear paw blood was a rare delicacy.

Overcome by hunger and thirst, the manager's eyes were greedy, and he eagerly approached the Black Bear Demon, taking out a sharp knife, intending to draw blood.

But as he approached, a sudden change occurred.

The bloody wind was intense, and the previously eyes-closed black bear suddenly opened its eyes, let out a roar, and with a massive bear paw, struck at the Monster cultivator manager.

This big black bear had become slightly smarter, knowing to wait until the manager was close before striking.

But it wasn't smart enough, as it didn't wait for the manager to get really close and start drawing blood, at the unavoidable moment to strike.

The manager's eyes flickered with shock, he immediately retreated.

Yet he was still grazed by the bear paw, half of his body went numb, and one arm was scraped bloody.

Bear Demons were massive and powerful, ranking superior among Monster Beasts in strength.

Moreover, this was a Second Grade Late Stage Bear Demon.

Its demonic power was full, and in an abrupt attack, even being grazed caused the manager considerable injury.

"Vile beast!"

Looking at his blood-dripping arm, the manager was both shocked and angry.

He hadn't expected that after overseeing the Ten Thousand Demons Prison for so many years without incident, he would stumble so foolishly today, falling into this vile beast's trap!

The manager quickly retreated another step.

The Black Bear Demon pounced forward a step, but was immediately restrained by Chains, trapped by the throat, its henchmen locked up, unable to advance further.

The manager breathed a sigh of relief.

But at the same time, a question arose in his heart.

This Black Bear Demon was heavily injured and hadn't been fed, usually barely alive, how could it have such a vigorous demonic power now?

"Fortunately, it's chained up..."

The Chains had a Second Grade Late Stage Formation inscribed, the Monster Beast couldn't break free.

If not for the restraint of Chains, being unexpectedly struck by this vile beast's paw would have definitely caused him serious injuries.

The manager felt relieved.

However, just at this moment, a slight "creak" was heard.

The manager looked towards the sound and his expression changed dramatically.

The Formation on the Chains was dulling and fading away...

And without the Formation's reinforcement, the Chains were slowly twisting and deforming under the Black Bear Demon's formidable strength until they snapped completely.

Before the Chains were completely broken, the manager had already retreated in advance.

But the big black bear, having broken the Chains, moved faster, making the first strike despite being second, pouncing fiercely towards the manager.

The manager's pupils constricted, he dared not hold back, his eyes flashed red, with a low growl, his body suddenly grew, both arms covered in rough hair, turning into grey bear claws, the fingertips turning into pitch-black sharp talons.

This manager was unexpectedly a Grey Bear Demon Cultivator.

Facing the mountainous Black Bear Demon, the manager felt immense pressure and had to give his all, employing his Demonization technique.

A Grey Bear Demon Cultivator and a Black Bear Demon Beast thus engaged in a fierce battle.

Chapter 1372: Naughty Kid (3)

For a moment, demonic power surged in the prison, and a bloody wind rose.

The monster cultivators and monster beasts were fiercely battling, constantly roaring, with every punch hitting flesh, blood splattering, and it was extremely intense.

After fighting for a while, the demonized overseer clawed the Black Bear Demon's chest and then retreated by leveraging the momentum, pulling away several meters, gasping for air on the spot.

His body was covered in scars.

Moreover, fighting head-on with a second-grade late-stage monster beast, despite being a monster cultivator, was exceedingly strenuous; his flesh quivered, and his bones faintly tingled.

On the other side, the Black Bear Demon also ceased its pursuit.

Although it was a monster beast, with boiling blood qi, it was wounded after all, having only consumed the flesh and Blood Pills secretly fed to it by Mo Hua, its strength not fully restored.

Thus, after battling for a while, it didn't have the stamina to finish off the overseer in one go, having some difficulty.

But its eyes gradually turned fierce, saliva dripped down bit by bit.

From outside the prison, came a noise.

It seemed this place's battle, with demonic power surging, was so loud that it attracted monster cultivators patrolling and guarding.

The overseer clicked his tongue in displeasure.

Despite being cautious, he was still discovered.

But it didn't matter; just a few threats and warnings would suffice, as long as these monster cultivators kept their mouths shut and didn't let the Second Elder know about this.

Moreover, with people coming, it's just suitable to subdue this Bear Demon together, saving him from being unsupported.

"Just need to hang on a little longer..."

The overseer began to concentrate, confronting the Black Bear.

Yet with a sidelong glance, he was startled, and a chill ran through his heart.

He saw the chains binding the Black Bear Demon.

On the chains, there were some damp red liquid.

Initially, he thought it was monster blood, but now, when focusing closely, it didn't seem like pure monster blood, more like blended with monster blood...

Spiritual Ink?

"Spiritual Ink?!"

The overseer's pupils abruptly widened.

This Spiritual Ink, fresh, not yet dried and discolored.

Obviously, someone just used this Spiritual Ink to draw a formation, tampering with the chains!

How could it be?!

The overseer's thoughts turned chaotic, unable to think carefully, suddenly feeling a chill behind him, scalp tingling.

Behind him... someone!

The overseer's face turned pale, immediately turning his head, but being tall, he didn't see Mo Hua at once.

Just at this moment, a light flickered in the darkness.

Two piercing flames ignited within the prison.

These were two fireballs.

The powerful and profound Divine Thought waves spread instantly.

The two fireballs, under the heavy pressure of the Divine Sense, collided rapidly; the internal skill pattern collapsed, fusing with each other, generating a twisted, terrifying Spiritual Power Fusion.

A dark-colored mutant fireball, with lava flowing on its surface, akin to a meteorite, formed.

A pair of fair hands pressed this "meteorite" onto the monster cultivator overseer's back.

Terrorizing waves of Spiritual Power were suddenly unleashed.

The mutant flames ravaged outward.

The Foundation Establishment Peak, demonized monster cultivator overseer, only felt an intense burning pain in his chest, flames pouring out before his eyes; when looking down, he saw a blackened hole in his chest.

The flesh around the hole burned charred.

The flesh wriggled to grow while being burned down by the remaining flames.

"What kind of terrifying spell is this?!"

The overseer's eyes filled with horror, disbelief.

Between life and death, he immediately reached out, took out his Storage Bag, hoping to retrieve flesh pills to stave off his injuries.

He didn't want to die!

But as soon as he took out the Storage Bag, he felt a stench.

Something approached.

Then a bloody maw bit onto his shoulder.

Surprised by the flames of the Mini Meteorite Skill, but quickly regaining composure, the Black Bear Demon, seeing the monster cultivator overseer gravely injured, its eyes turned red and lunged with a foul wind, mouth like steel, biting hard on the overseer's upper half.

The overseer struggled, suddenly his fingertips slipped, his hand empty.

It seemed someone seized his Storage Bag!

Fury surged through the overseer's heart, then turned icy cold.

He knew he had no hope of surviving anymore...

Beside him, the Black Bear Demon showed no mercy, chewing bloodily on his body.

The overseer struggled with all his might, desperate to turn around, wanting to see clearly.

Unwilling in his heart, his eyes were wide open.

"What exactly... killed me..."

But when he looked behind him with blurry, bloody vision, he found behind him empty, not a single figure or demonic creature.

No one tampered with the chains.

No one cast that terrifying spell.

Nor anyone who snatched his Storage Bag.

The monster cultivator overseer, with bloody tears in his eyes, blood in his mouth, uttered word by word:

"Who, exactly..."

Before he could finish, with a crunch, his body was completely bitten off by the Black Bear.

When other monster cultivators arrived, they only saw their overseer, bitten into two by a massive Black Bear, inch by inch being chewed into its mouth.

"Damn beast!"

"Quickly save the overseer!"

"Damn it!"

"Kill this beast!"

In an instant, the monster cultivators were agitated, chaos erupted.

The Black Bear Demon, having eaten a person, its ferocity fired up, roaring as it charged at the other monster cultivators.

The monster cultivators couldn't resist, being knocked back several meters.

The Black Bear Demon kept rushing out of the prison, relentless, eyes blood red, slashing at monster cultivators with swift claws, while crashing around, walls rumbling loudly.

Other trapped monster beasts echoed each other, their ferocity surging.

The entire Ten Thousand Demons Prison, with ten thousand demons roaring, boiled over like water in hot oil.

Even Elder Xun outside the Ten Thousand Demons Prison could vaguely feel the commotion and turmoil within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

"Valley of Ten Thousand Demons is in turmoil?!"

The Inner Sect Elders and disciples of Taixu Gate and Rushing Void Sect felt a chill in their hearts, faces solemn.

Xun Ziyu was even more worried, immediately messaging Mo Hua:

"What happened?"

Inside the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

Mo Hua, still in the prison, waited until the Black Bear Demon and other monster cultivators charged out, creating chaos, before silently erasing the formation marks on the chains.

Then Mo Hua checked again.

The formation had been erased by him.

The prison was in ruins, and some traces were destroyed by the Bear Demon.

The marks of Mini Meteorite Skill's spell left on that monster cultivator overseer.

But this overseer was eaten by the Black Bear Demon.

"Perfect!"

Mo Hua nodded, ensuring no evidence was left before standing up to leave.

He dodged and evaded, bypassing the monster crowd, finding a place unnoticed, and returned to the Secret Chamber of Formation Pivot through the formation pivot passage.

Then, he opened the Taixu Token, seeing Elder Xun's message.

Mo Hua replied:

"Nothing much, I let a big black bear loose, the monster cultivators are playing catch with it..."

Outside the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, Elder Xun, worried about Mo Hua, seeing his reply, his expression became rather wonderful.

He looked up again at the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, from where vibrations faintly came, couldn't help but sigh:

"This mischievous kid, truly knows how to stir things up..."

Chapter 1373: Four Symbols Formation

Xun Ziyu sighed.

Continuing in this manner, he suddenly didn't know whether he should be concerned about Mo Hua or the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons...

As soon as this thought surfaced, Xun Ziyou paused, shaking his head immediately.

After all, Mo Hua is just a child.

The Valley of Ten Thousand Demons is a true land of evil, extremely perilous.

Inside, who knows how many dangers await Mo Hua...

Xun Ziyou couldn't figure out the situation inside the valley, so he kept reminding Mo Hua tirelessly.

"The valley is dangerous, be careful in everything, act low-key, don't take risks. If you detect danger, tell me immediately..."

"Hmm hmmm."

Mo Hua nodded in response.

He's always been very cautious, and he acts discreetly.

Even after tricking that responsible monster cultivator to death, he'd taken good care of the aftermath, "destroying the corpse," not leaving a trace behind.

However, as things stand now, the dangers within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons aren't quite as Elder Xun thought.

Without the Golden Core, the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons has lost its true "deadlock."

The Yuan Magnetic Spiritual Vision Formation has lit up, and any movement nearby is within control.

Now with the Demon Banner in hand, the upper hand is ours!

With the conversation over, Mo Hua continues with his own matters.

He takes out the responsible cultivator's storage bag, flips through it, and finds that most of it consists of monster cultivator's items.

Monster Blood bottles, Human Flesh Pills, Demon Skill Sword Control, Demon Transformation Manual, and so on...

He has no interest in the evil objects made of flesh and blood.

It's the demon skill manuals that he can take a look at.

Mo Hua extracts some cultivation skills and demon transformation manuals, flips through them roughly, gains a general understanding of the monster cultivators, then stops looking.

This kind of thing should be experienced lightly.

Understand some principles of monster cultivators, know the enemy and oneself, that's enough.

Don't delve too deeply, lest you get caught up in it, and the demon nature seeds itself, inadvertently falling into the evil path, becoming a great demon someday.

After finishing, Mo Hua stores away the demon technique manuals, then digs out the black Demon Banner that had long caught his eye from the bottom of the storage bag.

The Demon Banner has a black base with blood patterns, a pole made of bone, cold and sticky in his hand, making Mo Hua uncomfortable.

This is a natural repulsion toward sinister items for cultivators who practice Spiritual Power of the Righteous Dao.

Then Mo Hua immediately dismantles the Demon Banner without a second thought.

The Demon Banner is an evil artifact that needs demonic power to be activated.

Mo Hua is a serious cultivator, without demonic power in his body, thus unable to activate the Demon Banner. He can't use the Demon Banner to "control" other monster cultivators.

There's no way around it.

He can't possibly learn the cultivation skills of monster cultivators just to use the Demon Banner against them.

However, the Demon Banner is still of great use to Mo Hua.

Mo Hua takes out various Artifact Refining tools, dismantling the Demon Banner swiftly.

His artifact refining skills are mediocre, but his skills at dismantling spiritual artifacts are decent.

Mainly because he's practiced a lot, skill improves through practice.

The dismantled Demon Banner lies scattered across the floor.

Mo Hua fumbles and finds, finally discovering a type of special blood-colored Formation Pattern on the inside of the flag's surface.

"Four Symbols Formation Pattern..."

Found it!

Moreover, these patterns do not seem like ordinary formation patterns, more like a special...

Mo Hua scrutinized for a moment, frowning slightly, "...Four Symbols Array Hub?"

Feels a bit odd...

He takes out a sheet of paper, carefully transcribing the formation classified as "Formation Hub" type from the Demon Banner, and then from memory, copies down the few types of Four Symbols Monster Patterns he had obtained.

These monster patterns include Four Symbols Eagle Pattern copied from the bald Sin Cultivator "Bald Eagle" at the very beginning.

Also included is Four Symbols Wolf Pattern obtained from the severed arm of a werewolf in the dense forest through Sword Control.

Mo Hua currently combines the Four Symbols Formation he has gathered, quietly cross-references, and gauges the structure of the Formation Pivot in the Demon Banner, carefully making inferences.

Meanwhile, he recalls Elder Master Xun's sporadic teachings on the Four Symbols Formations and his previous speculations about the Four Symbols Formation, referencing to understand...

Time passes bit by bit.

The logic of the Four Symbols Formation is becoming clearer in Mo Hua's eyes.

Finally, after much deep contemplation, a sudden flash of insight strikes Mo Hua, and he is enlightened.

He understands what the underlying logic of the Four Symbols Formation truly is...

Formation is the manifestation of the rules of heaven and earth.

Cultivators use formations to control the power of the world.

Five Elements Formation derives its power from the Five Elements. Eight Trigrams Array derives power from trigrams.

The Four Symbols Formation essentially draws on the power of "Ten Thousand Beasts" of heaven and earth...

From Mo Hua's learnings at Taixu Gate in the courses on Nine State's Tao Cultivation history, he understands that in the world between heaven and earth, "beasts" come in a multitude of varieties.

There are Divine Beasts from ancient legends;

Exotic Beasts of peculiar species;

Spirit Beasts born innately or raised by cultivators;

And monstrous Monster Beasts of brutal ferocity...

...

If Mo Hua's inference is correct, a pure Four Symbols Formation should rely on orthodox "Beast Pattern."

Using beast blood as ink, drawing "Beast Patterns" on oneself, with one's flesh as Formation media, meridians as Formation Pivot, and heart pulse as Formation eye, with surging blood Qi providing the formation's driving force.

Integrating the beast's power into one's being, using the body as a formation, thus mastering the power of Ten Thousand Beasts, roaring like wind, strength like Qian Jun.

However, this kind of formation has an obvious problem...

Mo Hua takes a slight cold breath, his sight heavy.

This structure of Four Symbols Formation is almost identical to the methods of "Evil Formations!"

The difference lies only in the fact that this formation system is rooted in the cultivator's flesh, committing no atrocities, stained by no evil.

Unlike true Evil Formations, which require killing humans to refine blood as ink, skinning and dismembering as media, and may even borrow telekinesis from evil spirits and ghosts.

Chapter 1374: Four Symbols Formation (2)

However, as Elder Master Xun said, this Four Symbols Formation is indeed too dangerous.

The line between right and wrong is very thin, and it's hard to control.

Borrowing the power of beasts and integrating it into oneself, using the body as the formation, is almost walking the edge between righteous and evil formations. One moment of inattention, and one might easily stumble and fall into the path of evil formations.

Moreover, Elder Master Xun also mentioned that beasts are close to monsters.

The beast patterns in the Four Symbols Formation can easily evolve into monster patterns.

Because superior "beast patterns" are hard to come by.

Divine beasts almost exist only in legends, exotic beasts are extremely rare, spirit beasts are not strong enough, and they are also very expensive.

These types of "beast patterns" are either scarce or too weak, making it almost impossible to meet the wide application of the Four Symbols Formation.

Since that's the case, if beasts cannot be used, then only "monsters" can be used.

The powerful and versatile Four Symbols Formation Patterns can only be "monster patterns."

But as long as monster patterns are used, the Four Symbols Formation becomes an "evil formation."

Once a cultivator draws the Four Symbols Monster Pattern on themselves, integrating monster beast power into the body, the demonic power will contaminate the flesh, assimilate the cultivator's blood qi, erode the cultivator's divine sense, and gradually erase the cultivator's humanity, turning them step by step into a real "monster beast."

Mo Hua sighed.

No wonder the Taoist Court does not promote the Four Symbols Formation widely.

Once this formation is promoted, at best, it harms oneself, and at worst, it harms others.

If there are many formation masters learning the Four Symbols Formation, and if the Demon Sect happens to tempt them a little, it's feared that a large number of evil formation masters might be corrupted at once...

Mo Hua shook his head, muttering to himself:

"No wonder, no matter how I tried to learn these Four Symbols Formations before, I always felt something was missing, and I couldn't learn them at all..."

To learn the Four Symbols Formation, besides the formation patterns, one must learn the structure of the formation pivot.

The blood qi circulation systems of the flesh formation media and the formation eye are also particularly important.

In other words, learning just the formation patterns is not enough.

This set of patterns must be mediated by "flesh," with the "heart pulse" as the formation eye and powered by "blood qi."

Previously, when I drew the Four Symbols Formation on formation paper, I used the Spirit Gathering Array as the formation eye and powered it with spiritual power, so it's naturally impossible to learn it that way.

Mo Hua scratched his head.

This is troublesome...

This is almost akin to the methods of evil formation masters.

Moreover, the few sets of Four Symbols Formations he had used all used "monster patterns," which are more strictly "evil formations."

They are fundamentally inconvenient to learn.

Even if learned, they cannot be used.

Drawing this Four Symbols Demon Array on oneself?

Once demonic power enters the body, I will become a monster cultivator.

Moreover, I am not a body cultivator; my blood qi is weak. Once the fierce demonic power enters the body, I might explode and die instantly.

Drawing it on someone else?

Wouldn't that just be nurturing "monster cultivators"...

Mo Hua shook his head.

That would purely be harming others; it's certainly not possible either.

Mo Hua felt a bit dejected.

"If I can't apply what I've learned, isn't that just learning in vain?"

"I've pondered for so long, only to understand the way of evil formations..."

Mo Hua sighed, feeling a bit tired, so he decided to lie down and rest for a while.

Lying there, Mo Hua caught sight of the disassembled black demon banner with his peripheral vision and suddenly got an idea and sat up immediately.

"Control!"

Mo Hua's mind raced.

This formation cannot be used on myself, nor on others, but it can be used on monster cultivators.

Just like this demon banner, it is used to control monsters!

Through the Four Symbols Array Hub, "regulate" other monster cultivators!

Mo Hua's eyes sparkled.

He immediately turned the Four Symbols Array Hub on the demon banner over and carefully scrutinized it again, his mind stirring:

"The entire Valley of Ten Thousand Demons uses the Four Symbols Demon Array to manage and control the many monster cultivators within the valley..."

"Who this demon array was crafted by is still unclear for now."

"But based on previous speculation, it is highly likely crafted by that 'Mr. Tu,' who worships the Great Wilderness Evil God and is intricately connected to the Barbaric Mountain."

"If it's true..."

Mo Hua contemplated silently, "Then that Mr. Tu is definitely a highly skilled formation master, at least a highly skilled Four Symbols Evil Formation Master."

"He divided the Four Symbols Demon Array into two parts."

"One part of the monster pattern is drawn onto the monster cultivators to strengthen their demonic power."

"The other part of the formation pivot is drawn onto the demon banner, controlling the monster cultivators by controlling the formation pattern through the formation pivot."

"This formation system is very complete, and given the current scale of monster cultivators in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, its application is very extensive."

"Moreover, because the demon banner needs to be activated by demonic power, the righteous cultivators cannot use it. So to some extent, it prevents the 'control rights' from falling into the wrong hands."

"The entire Four Symbols Demon Array system is very tight."

"However, there are also loopholes..."

Mo Hua's eyes glimmered, "If I could learn the Four Symbols Array Hub, then theoretically, through the array hub, I could 'usurp power' and indirectly control the life and death of the numerous monster cultivators in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons!"

But...

Mo Hua slightly frowned.

The array hub is hidden in the demon banner.

Such 'usurpation' must first go through the demon banner.

The problem is, I am a Righteous Dao Cultivator, practicing spiritual power, making it impossible to activate the demon banner.

Moreover, that managing demon banner has already been "disassembled."

Taking things apart is not difficult for Mo Hua, but expecting him to put them back together is not very realistic.

"Then... make a new 'spiritual banner'?"

Mo Hua thought for a moment, shaking his head.

In such circumstances, there is no condition to refine a spiritual artifact.

Moreover, trying to use a righteous "spiritual banner" to control evil "monster patterns" is clearly unrealistic.

Mo Hua continued pondering:

"The essence of the demon banner is the array hub."

"The manager uses the demon banner because he does not know formations, so he can only use the 'demon banner' to control monster cultivators."

Chapter 1375: Four Symbols Formation (3)

"So, the Demon Banner was refined for the 'Formation Dummy'."

"But I'm not a 'Formation Dummy'..."

Mo Hua's eyes lit up.

With his formation skills, he could completely abandon the Demon Banner and directly control other Monster cultivators through the Four Symbols Array Hub.

"But without the Demon Banner as the formation media, how exactly should this be done?"

Mo Hua furrowed his brows.

"Directly use the flesh of Monster cultivators as formation media, draw the array hub on their bodies, and control the Four Symbols Demon Array on them?"

"This is somewhat similar to the Spiritual Pivot Formation..."

However, there are distinct differences between the two.

The Spiritual Pivot Formation is a Spiritual Power Formation, achieving hierarchical control through the array hub weight, controlling the actions of puppets.

Of course, if used to control zombies with evil power, it would be an Evil Array.

The Four Symbols Formation—or Four Symbols Demon Array—is an Evil Path demon power formation, controlling formation patterns through the array hub, essentially controlling the flow of demonic power.

As for whether this set of ideas is feasible, Mo Hua pondered for a moment and decided to give it a try.

Issues with formations can only be tested by hands-on experiments to verify his hypotheses and find more problems by trial and error.

Mo Hua set his eyes on the Spirit Vision Formation.

He had to choose a "fortunate one," who was also an "unlucky one."

In the Spirit Vision Formation, virtual images of Monster cultivators constituted by Original Magnet, wandered back and forth in the Ten Thousand Demons Prison.

Quickly, Mo Hua chose a Monster cultivator.

This Monster cultivator was not strong, approximately at the Foundation Building Middle Stage, with a tall, thin body, vertical pupils, and a long tongue, looking quite sinister.

He was the prison guard, and the Monster Patterns on him were drawn on his back.

Mo Hua approached this Monster cultivator through the array hub channel, then observed him for a while, and seized the opportunity to stealthily use Divine Sense Control Ink to draw the Four Symbols Array Hub on his back.

The Monster cultivator's body temperature was abnormal, cold as a corpse, and he was dozing off, completely unaware.

The array hub was finally completed.

But Mo Hua's experiment failed...

He tried to use the Four Symbols Array Hub to control the Monster Patterns on this Monster cultivator, but for unknown reasons, it was of no use, and the Monster cultivator even noticed it.

"What's crawling on my back?!"

The Monster cultivator said in horror.

His shouting and yelling made things difficult for Mo Hua.

Mo Hua had no choice but to rub out a Mini Meteorite Skill with his hands, blowing the Monster cultivator's head off on the spot.

The Monster cultivator was killed instantly, without a head.

The reason for blowing off the head instead of the chest was that Mo Hua wanted to leave a relatively intact corpse to copy the Four Symbols Monster Pattern Array on this Monster cultivator for research, to understand why he failed.

After copying, Mo Hua tampered with the chains and released a Monster Beast.

The Monster Beast ate the corpse of the Monster cultivator, became wildly aggressive, and rushed out of the prison, causing another commotion.

The Ten Thousand Demons Prison was again in chaos.

Mo Hua returned calmly to his Secret Chamber of the array hub.

He began to research why he failed.

Why, when the Four Symbols Array Hub was drawn and indeed operated, did it fail to successfully control the Monster Patterns?

Was it because of problems with the ink?

Spiritual Ink didn't work, should pure Monster Blood be used?

Or should a bit of Human Blood be dipped?

Mo Hua pondered, thinking that these were not the fundamental issues.

At least, these weren't the root problems.

The structure of the array hub itself might still hide some secrets he overlooked.

Mo Hua tinkered with the dismantled Demon Banner again, using Heavenly secret Tricky Calculation and blending it with Heavenly secret Calculation to further deconstruct the formation, and then realized that there were some tiny Monster Patterns inside the Demon Banner that were previously overlooked.

These Monster Patterns had different Monster Beast symbols.

They seemed to represent different... permissions?

Mo Hua was momentarily stunned, then suddenly understood.

A single Demon Banner could not possibly control all types of Four Symbols Monster Patterns simultaneously.

Different Monster cultivators had different types of Monster Patterns, and the corresponding array hubs naturally had differences.

Eagle Pattern, Wolf Pattern, Bear Pattern... every type of Monster Pattern should have a corresponding array hub.

The Demon Banner integrated the array hubs.

The more types of array hubs integrated inside, the more types of corresponding Monster Patterns could be controlled.

This seemed to be a highly advanced method of array hub fusion and formation design, corresponding to the refining requirements of an Evil Artifact, which should have special requirements.

These were completely outside of Mo Hua's knowledge.

With his formation skills, he had not yet encountered such complex formation craftsmanship.

"This Mr. Tu... is indeed impressive, it's unknown what rank Formation Master he is..."

Mo Hua thought silently in his heart.

At the same time, he understood why Mr. Tu was so confident, not even implementing any "self-destructive" methods in the Demon Banner, not fearing others would take it apart for research.

Because the integrated array hubs were so complex, even if others obtained these array hub patterns, they would be useless.

But that was for others.

Mo Hua's eyes lit up.

As long as he knew the principles, everything else was manageable.

The Four Symbols Array Hub and Four Symbols Monster Patterns had to be compatible.

Mr. Tu integrated the array hubs in the Demon Banner, utilizing the Demon Banner to singly call the array hubs and fit the Four Symbols Monster Patterns for control.

This was the effect of the Evil Artifact.

But Mo Hua couldn't use the Demon Banner, and he intended to draw the array hub on the body of the Monster cultivator, which meant he couldn't use the integrated array hubs.

He could only fit them individually.

One set of array hubs matched one set of Monster Patterns.

For instance, the Eagle-shaped array hub matched the Eagle Monster Pattern, the Wolf-shaped array hub matched the Wolf Demon Pattern, the Bear-shaped array hub matched the Bear Demon Pattern, and so on...

This meant he had to "deconstruct" the single Monster-shaped array hub from the integrated array hubs to fit the specific Monster Beast array pattern.

Chapter 1376: Four Symbols Formation (4)

The Formation Pivot within the Demon Banner is the integrated structure of the assembly.

What I need to do is to reverse it, deconstructing different Four Symbols Demonic Pattern Pivots from the integrated Formation Pivot.

As for how to calculate and deconstruct...

Mo Hua thought for a moment and realized that this was somewhat similar to the Yuan Magnetic Formation Pattern.

By using the Fixed Magnetic Pattern, along with the Secondary Thunder Flow, one can infer the Unfixed Magnetic Pattern.

So, through the integrated Formation Pivot, combined with specific Monster Patterns, and using the inference from Heavenly secret Calculation, I can probably deduce the corresponding Monster-type Formation Pivot.

Mo Hua immediately attempted this.

His pupils were deep, with Heavenly secrets floating and sinking in his eyes. By utilizing Heavenly secret Calculation, he began inferring and deconstructing the integrated Formation Pivot within the Demon Banner, matching it with the Wolf Pattern in his hand.

Everything went smoothly.

After about two hours, Mo Hua deciphered a set of Four Symbols "Wolf-shaped" Formation Pivot. Mo Hua was delighted and immediately eager to try again.

He stared at the Spirit Vision Formation for a while longer and selected another "unlucky fellow."

This unlucky fellow was a Green Wolf Demon Cultivator.

Since he deciphered the "Wolf-shaped" Four Symbols Formation Pivot, he could only try it on wolf-type demon cultivators.

This Green Wolf Demon Cultivator was patrolling near the prison.

After the shift change, he would rest for a while, eat some meat, and drink some blood.

No one knew what kind of meat he ate or what kind of blood he drank.

After eating and drinking his fill, the demon cultivator's mouth was full of blood. He leaned back on a chair to rest with closed eyes, saliva dripping down, seemingly dreaming of eating humans.

In the gloom, a blood-colored Spiritual Ink slithered through the air, like a thin snake, crawling onto his arm.

On the demon cultivator's arm, there was a Wolf Pattern, merging with his flesh.

The blood line of the Spiritual Ink climbed up the arm, bringing a slight chill.

But the demon cultivator's skin was tough and thick, and he was a bit drowsy. He didn't notice at all that a blood line was creeping along his arm, silently forming a Formation Pivot, linking all the Monster Patterns together, eroding bit by bit, and gaining complete control...

Once the Formation Pivot was formed, it thoroughly controlled the Monster Patterns.

Hidden in the shadows, Mo Hua smiled slightly and moved his Divine Thought.

The Green Wolf Demon Cultivator's arm suddenly emitted a blood-red glow, and then a torrent of green-red demonic power surged from his arm, flowing over his shoulder, rushing straight to his forehead.

The surging demonic power flowed the wrong way, instantly destroying his Sea of Consciousness and shattering his mind.

In just an instant, his human nature was completely extinguished, and his demon nature erupted.

The remaining demonic power rampaged through his body.

Driven by instincts, the demon cultivator held his head and continually howled, his eyes blood red, almost ready to devour anyone in sight.

Several patrolling demon cultivators sensed something amiss and rushed over.

But as soon as they appeared, they were slaughtered by this Green Wolf Demon Cultivator.

A string of curses erupted, followed by the constant howling and fighting among the demon cultivators, as well as the sound of flesh being gnawed...

It continued until this Green Wolf Demon Cultivator's demonic power was completely exhausted and he died.

By then, the chaotic demonic power would also destroy the Monster Patterns on this demon cultivator's arm, leaving his flesh torn and blurry, without any trace.

Meanwhile, before the chaos subsided, Mo Hua, the "mastermind," had already slipped away quietly.

At the same time, he also verified his own way of thinking.

By using the Four Symbols Formation Pivot, it is indeed possible to bypass the Demon Banner and perform a "coup" on the Formation, controlling the Four Symbols Monster Patterns on the demon cultivators.

As long as I kill one demon cultivator of each type and copy down the Four Symbols Monster Patterns on him.

Then, based on the Four Symbols Monster Patterns and the integrated Formation Pivot within the Demon Banner, I can deduce the corresponding Monster Pattern Formation Pivot.

In this way, the entire category of demon cultivators, as long as I find an opportunity to draw a "Formation Pivot" on them, their lives and deaths will be completely in my control.

And if all types of demon cultivators in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons are deduced to have corresponding Four Symbols Formation Pivots by me.

Then in the entire Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, almost all demon cultivators bearing Four Symbols Monster Patterns, as long as I paint a Formation on them, cannot control their own lives and deaths...

Mo Hua couldn't help but smile slightly.

This smile was somewhat innocent, but in the darkness, it looked extremely dangerous.

Chapter 1377: Unexpected Changes

Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, in front of a prison.

A corpse of a Monster cultivator, limbs twisted on the ground, eyes bulging, blood flowing everywhere.

Beside it, several Monster cultivators with solemn expressions, their tone icy.

"It's only been two days, this is already the fifth one..."

"Damn it, we're haunted."

"Don't talk nonsense, haunted by what 'ghost'?"

"If it's not a ghost, what is it? Suddenly went mad without warning, biting and chewing, then exploded to death..."

One Monster cultivator's face turned pale:

"I always feel like something 'dirty' got into our prison..."

Another Monster cultivator sneered coldly, "What cowards! Frightening yourselves. We are Monster cultivators, cultivating demonic power, naturally not following the common righteous Dao, risks are nothing unusual."

"These few Monster cultivators all died from Blood Qi reversing, either went wrong in cultivation, or ate too much monster meat and couldn't suppress the Blood Qi... Is it worth making such a fuss?"

"But five have died..." a Monster cultivator questioned, "Isn't that a bit too many?"

"And," another Monster cultivator said, "the Master also died."

"The Master was eaten by Monster Beasts."

"He was too bold, even dared to steal the Second Elder's bear paw blood, ended up unfortunate, was swallowed into the belly by the Black Bear Demon, otherwise couldn't avoid..."

This Monster cultivator paused, coldly said: "...to walk through that Demon Refining Diagram, soul scattered, mortal remains gone..."

Mentioning the "Demon Refining Diagram," the other Monster cultivators felt chills deep inside.

Apparently, this Demon Refining Diagram was terribly frightening, making them pale at the mention.

Mo Hua, who was eavesdropping, wanted to hear more about the Demon Refining Diagram, but this group of Monster cultivators dared not discuss it further.

The atmosphere became somewhat oppressive.

After a moment of silence, another Monster cultivator spoke, "But, speaking of, how could Master Xiong, in charge of Ten Thousand Demons Prison for nearly a century, die so 'easily'?"

"People make mistakes, horses trip, everyone has their day in the gutter..."

"Moreover, the Cultivation World is treacherous and sinister, no one can guarantee not encountering something terrifying."

"Any slight negligence, and one's life is lost..."

...

Monster cultivators whispered, then someone asked:

"What do you say, Master Xiong is dead, what will happen to Ten Thousand Demons Prison?"

"Is this your concern?" a Monster cultivator snorted coldly, gestured upward, "Above, there are Elders, if the Elders aren't around, the Princeling is still here..."

Princeling?

Mo Hua was taken aback.

Below, a Monster cultivator asked: "Princeling... who exactly is it?"

Mo Hua perked his ears to listen.

Unexpectedly, another Monster cultivator immediately wore a fierce expression, lowered his voice and cursed:

"Do you want to die? You dare inquire about the Princeling?"

"I'm not inquiring," the Monster cultivator frowned, a bit obstinate, "I only heard you mention the Princeling, never seen him, don't know what 'Princeling' entails, whether it's a person, or a group..."

"Still dare to ask? Truly courting death!"

"Do you think you're a noble family's son, indulged by your family, can speak freely? Here, being talkative is deadly!"

"I..."

"Shut up!" a Monster cultivator with a noticeably stronger aura said coldly.

His gaze, akin to that of tigers and leopards, swept around, warning:

"Everything in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons is at the command of the Princeling."

"No matter if the Princeling is one person or a group, you just need to know that upon encountering the 'Princeling,' you must bow your head. All orders from the Princeling must be obeyed. Even if the Princeling commands you to die, you have no choice but to die!"

The group of Monster cultivators had stern expressions, some were fearful, some indifferent, some unwilling.

But all thoughts, they only dared keep in their hearts, showing no disrespect to the 'Princeling.'

"Alright..."

Seeing that no one dared to speak further, the strongest aura Monster cultivator nodded slightly, said calmly, "Wash the blood on the ground, peel the skin of this Monster cultivator's corpse, dig out the heart, use it for Alchemy."

After saying this, the group of Monster cultivators dispersed, each doing their own tasks.

Mo Hua's eyes narrowed slightly, pondering.

Is there a "Princeling" hidden within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons?

Just not sure... whether it's a real Princeling, or a fake one.

In a trance, by the Mistwater River, the opulent Flower Boat, light songs and dances, in the midst of enchanting sounds, the shadow of a "Princeling" around Mo Hua's age resurfaced in his mind.

On the ship's curtain, silhouettes layered upon silhouettes.

Wearing attire like a beast, draped in a magnificent human skin, yet appearing like a demon monster...

Mo Hua frowned slightly.

In this Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, there truly seem to be many secrets.

And that "Master Xiong"...

Master Xiong had already been tricked to death by Mo Hua, died in a Monster Beasts' belly, died plain and simple, not a trace left.

But he was at least a "Manager," and according to these Monster cultivators, this Manager had been in charge of Ten Thousand Demons Prison for a century.

Now that he's dead, who knows if there'll be any action from above in Ten Thousand Demons Prison.

"Send a new Manager over?"

Should Mo Hua trick this new Manager to a "sudden death" too?

If a Manager keeps dying, could it lure the "Princeling" over?

"Let's see how things develop, it's too early to say..."

Mo Hua noted the time, sent some Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches count to Elder Xun, then turned around and headed to Ling Huxiao's prison.

He needed to bring Ling Huxiao and the others some food.

As for the Four Symbols Array Hub, over the past two days, Mo Hua had secretly tricked five or six Monster cultivators to death, and had gotten snake pattern, dog pattern, bear pattern, three types of Four Symbols Monster Pattern, gained quite a bit.

He could temporarily take a break.

Assassination is something that requires balance, creating tension but also occasionally letting them breathe, can't kill too hard all at once.

Chapter 1378: Unexpected Change (2)

Now that the Four Symbols Array Hub has been learned, it's like holding a "Book of Life and Death" in hand.

Mo Hua's back was straighter, and he didn't even need to sneak around anymore; he walked openly and boldly in the prison while staying invisible.

Anyway, this place was full of monster cultivators, and whoever dared to see him would die.

Mo Hua thus reached the prison, looked inside, and saw Little Wood and the other two sitting like logs in the cell, their faces pale.

Cultivators won't die from not eating for a while, but they will get hungry.

Blood Qi will inevitably diminish to a certain extent.

Monster cultivators would also send some food, but Ling Huxiao and the others dared not eat.

Monster cultivators practice the Demon Path, gradually assimilated by demonic power, to a certain extent, already no different from "monster beasts."

Their food is not something ordinary people can eat.

Ling Huxiao and Ouyang Mu carefully remembered Mo Hua's instructions, so they naturally wouldn't eat the food from monster cultivators.

Even Song Jian understood the pros and cons and refrained from eating, enduring hunger.

The overseeing monster cultivator with a dog's head left, and the prison was quiet without anyone else watching, so Mo Hua gradually revealed his form.

Seeing Mo Hua, Ouyang Mu's eyes lit up and he exclaimed with delight:

"Mo..."

Then he realized his voice was too loud, quickly lowered it, and whispered:

"Brother Mo!"

Mo Hua nodded and then took out some fruits, dried meat, and fasting pills from his storage bag and handed them to Ouyang Mu and Ling Huxiao.

"Eat something."

Ouyang Mu's expression brightened with a smile:

"Thank you, Brother Mo!"

Ling Huxiao also cupped his hands and, with a complex expression, said softly: "Thanks."

The feeling of hunger was truly torturous.

If they continued being hungry, they might not be able to endure.

Once they ate the unknown meat given by monster cultivators, their Blood Qi might get contaminated.

Ouyang Mu and Ling Huxiao feasted heartily.

Song Jian watched eagerly.

Mo Hua had no choice but to also share some dried meat with him.

Song Jian accepted it silently and then immediately devoured it, yet he was stubborn by nature, unable to utter the words "thank you," only internally erasing a bit of the blame on the "great villain" Mo Hua.

After eating some fruits and dried meat, Ouyang Mu felt somewhat relieved of his hunger and asked Mo Hua curiously:

"Brother Mo, where have you been these past few days?"

Mo Hua found a place to sit and said: "I went to scout and assess the situation."

"But the defense here is too tight, and I don't know how to open the valley entrance; rescuing you in a short time is quite difficult..."

Ouyang Mu expressed his gratitude: "Thank you, Brother Mo, for your efforts."

Then he felt a bit guilty and worried, "There are so many monster cultivators in the valley, and danger lurks everywhere; maybe you should find a way to leave first, as we don't want to burden you..."

Mo Hua waved his hand, "It's okay, don't worry."

At least within the current Ten Thousand Demons Prison, he was just fine not searching for monster cultivators to kill.

Ouyang Mu saw Mo Hua calm and composed, at ease, and felt inexplicably reassured, saying nothing more.

Mo Hua thought for a moment and said, "Don't worry about me, but you should be careful yourselves..."

Mo Hua frowned, "Since these monster cultivators went to great lengths to bring you to the valley, their plot must be significant, and who knows what other means they'll use. Be careful."

He was in the dark, free to act.

The three of Little Wood were exposed, themselves targets of the monster cultivators' plot; the upcoming days might be tough.

Ling Huxiao and Ouyang Mu nodded solemnly.

Beside them, Song Jian, munching dried meat, also turned slightly pale.

Mo Hua gave a few more reminders before saying, "I'll go now, I'll visit again when I have time..."

"Yes, Brother Mo, take care," said Ouyang Mu.

Ling Huxiao also said: "Take care."

Mo Hua nodded and then gradually disappeared before Ling Huxiao and the others, leaving no trace.

Ling Huxiao and Ouyang Mu exchanged glances, amazed.

What an exceptional Concealment Technique...

Even Song Jian, who knew Mo Hua's methods well, felt chills witnessing such concealment first-hand.

"Not a hint left, appearing and vanishing like a ghost. How can I ever deal with him, when will I finally settle my 'Sword' grudge?"

Song Jian felt weak inside, involuntarily sighed.

...

After leaving the prison, Mo Hua sent a message to Elder Xun:

"I visited Ling Huxiao and Ouyang Mu, everything's temporarily alright."

"I'm also doing well!"

Mo Hua then appended a smiley face.

Afterward, Mo Hua resumed his own tasks.

Killing monster cultivators, copying Monster Patterns, and deconstructing the Four Symbols
Demonic Pattern Pivot would need to pause briefly.

Using this time, he continued repairing the Yuan Magnetic Spiritual Vision Formation within the
Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, aiming to expand his "monitoring" scope a bit further.

In this way, any subtle movement in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons wouldn't escape his eyes.

Encountering any special circumstance, he could react accordingly.

Even "hunting" monster cultivators and analyzing the Four Symbols Formation would be much
easier.

Thinking of this, Mo Hua suddenly paused.

Four Symbols Formation...

Why is it called the Four Symbols Formation?

The Five Elements Formation follows the path of the Five Elements.

The Bagua Formation Method researches the reasoning of the Eight Trigrams.

But the Four Symbols Formation?

Logically, shouldn't it be called "Myriad Beasts Formation" or "Ten Thousand Demons
Formation"?

Why is it called "Four Symbols"?

Ultimately, what do these Four Symbols refer to?

Could it be referring to the Four Divine Beasts?

The legendary Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Vermilion Bird, Xuan Wu...

If that's truly the case, then the genuine Four Symbols Formation, wielding the "Divine Beast Formation Patterns" and controlling the power of divine beasts, is surely immensely powerful, isn't it?

Mo Hua was momentarily dazed, feeling a longing in his heart.

Chapter 1379: Unexpected Changes (3)

...

Outside the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

Xun Ziyou saw Mo Hua's smiling face and felt a bit bitter inside.

He didn't know whether to say that this child was audacious because of his skills or brave like a newborn calf unafraid of tigers...

Xun Ziyou shook his head and showed the news to the worried Chongxu Sect Elder Shangguan Xuanjian beside him, "Don't worry, Xiaoer is safe for now."

Shangguan Xuanjian relaxed his tense heart but didn't completely let go of his apprehensions.

He said with a bitter smile, "My life is practically hanging here. Only if Xiaoer comes out can I return to the sect and report. If he..."

Shangguan Xuanjian dared not say more, fearing he might jinx it, and simply said bitterly, "I have no face to confront the Ancestor."

Xun Ziyou also sighed, "Me too..."

Shangguan Xuanjian shook his head, "You are much better than me."

Then he was somewhat puzzled, "How did your Taixu Gate come across such a child?"

He can conceal himself, track others, and is proficient in formations. In such a dangerous Demon Valley, not only can he protect himself, but he also has the capacity to gather intelligence.

Are these really things a disciple can achieve?

How exactly did Taixu Gate find such a disciple?

Xun Ziyou silently thought to himself:

"He wasn't found. He was sent here through connections by the Shangguan Family Head's daughter-in-law..."

But he did not say this out loud, instead said, "The child doesn't have much else going for him, just a bit clever and lucky, nothing to worry about."

Shangguan Xuanjian shook his head, not bothering to deal with him.

Then he felt a bit puzzled, "Not to mention the disciple from the Song family, but didn't Tai'a Sect's Ouyang Family have a disciple who was captured as well? Why is there no stir from Tai'a Sect?"

Xun Ziyou also furrowed his brow.

Ouyang Mu, although not talented, is part of the direct lineage of the Ouyang Family.

He's been missing for so long, and the Ouyang family hasn't noticed at all?

Or, is the water within Tai'a Sect muddied as well?

Shangguan Xuanjian and Xun Ziyou looked at each other, speechless.

Xun Ziyou's gaze turned cold, and he slowly said:

"Let's wait until the matter of the Myriad Demon Valley is resolved and see. I want to see how some people manage to handle such a mess..."

...

Deep inside the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons.

In a blood-colored lavish cave.

Jin Gui, dressed in a grey robe, appearing like a monster cultivator, bowed with hands clasped before a burly black-clad cultivator seated on a tiger demon leather chair, respectfully greeting:

"Senior Brother..."

The black-clad cultivator's gaze turned cold, "In this valley, you must call me 'Leader,' not 'Senior Brother.'"

"Yes, Leader..."

Jin Gui quickly bowed with clasped hands.

The black-clad leader nodded slightly, "Speak."

Jin Gui kept his head down and continued:

"Over at the Myriad Demon Prison, a manager died, reportedly from secretly consuming monster blood and being eaten by monsters in return..."

"After cultivating the Dao for so many years, he ends up like a dog, what a waste!" The black-clad leader scolded and then said coldly, "One manager died, just replace him. This is the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons; monster cultivators are plenty..."

"Yes." Jin Gui bowed.

The black-clad leader glanced at Jin Gui and asked:

"Has the finger been sent over?"

Jin Gui replied, "The severed finger of Ouyang Mu has already been sent to Tai'a Sect and handed to his elder brother Ouyang Feng."

"As for the Song family, Song Jian's parents have also received their son's severed finger."

"But for the Rushing Void Sect..."

Jin Gui hesitated a bit, "Ling Huxiao is isolated in the clan, with no close elders, so I don't know who to send it to."

The black-clad leader said, "Forget about the Rushing Void Sect for now. Ling Huxiao is different from ordinary people; his public identity should be kept 'clean,' at least to outward appearances."

"This child has an innate sword heart, brightly illuminating the Sword Dao. The young master holds him in high regard. In the future, the Rushing Void Sect might need him to take charge..."

"Yes."

Jin Gui bowed, yet as he lowered his head, a flash of envy crossed his eyes.

Such is the disparity.

Those with talent are always favored by fate, without having to do much, they receive preferential treatment.

Even if they tread the path of demonic cultivation, they are highly valued.

Despite his own diligent efforts to please, he is still treated like a 'dog,' summoned at will.

However, he dared not show even a hint of this jealousy.

Entering the valley first, then boarding the ship.

Entering the valley is the first step.

Now that he's already stepped into this Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, his fate is sealed; there's no turning back. To achieve prominence, he can only grit his teeth and move forward.

"There is one more thing..." Jin Gui paused for a moment, then spoke again.

"Speak." The black-clad leader remained cold-faced.

Jin Gui thought for a moment, then slowly frowned and said:

"These past few days in the Myriad Demon Prison, there have been occurrences of demon cultivators losing control..."

"Often, demon cultivators inexplicably lose their minds for no apparent reason."

"I wonder if it's because the manager died, and without restraint, these lowly demon cultivators can't suppress their beastly nature, or if there's some other reason..."

Jin Gui's voice was low.

"Demon cultivators losing control?" The black-clad leader frowned, and after a moment his face gradually became sombre, "What are you trying to say?"

Jin Gui's eyes flickered as he spoke in a deep voice:

"Could it be that there has been a traitor in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, or someone sneaked in and tampered with things..."

The black-clad leader's expression suddenly changed, his gaze turning vicious, as sharp as a sword.

The atmosphere became more oppressive.

Jin Gui kept his head down, not daring to speak.

The black-clad leader pondered for a moment, then slowly shook his head, "This Valley of Ten Thousand Demons was built based on the establishment of Ten Thousand Demon Mountain, one of the great powers of the Demon Path Sect;"

"This multitude of demon-natured hard-to-tame demon cultivators are controlled by Mr. Tu using the secret Four Symbols Formation of the Great Wilderness;"

"The gates at the mouth of the valley are sealed with the long-lost Divine Way Formation;"

"There are also various Demon Wraith means within the valley..."

"It is impossible for there to be a traitor, or for anyone to sneak in here, much less to have any means to make the demon cultivators lose control."

Jin Gui still felt suspicious, "But..."

"No buts." The black-clad leader sneered, taking a deep breath, "You are not a Formation Master, you don't understand what 'Four Symbols Formation' and 'Divine Way Formation' signify."

"If you knew, you wouldn't have such amateurish concerns..."

Jin Gui quickly said, "Yes, in terms of Formation, I am indeed ignorant, naturally unworthy to even hold a candle to the Leader."

His manner was somewhat obsequious.

But his flattery was too lowbrow and failed to gain the black-clad leader's approval.

The black-clad leader frowned in thought, pondering about something.

Seeing this, Jin Gui took his leave, but before he could exit the door, he was suddenly called back.

"Jin Gui..."

The black-clad leader gave him a look and suddenly said:

"You will become the new manager of the Myriad Demon Prison."

Jin Gui was startled, cold sweat immediately breaking out, hurriedly saying, "Leader, I..."

The black-clad leader was indifferent, "You lack insight, but your concerns are valid. During this time, the young master just happens to be in the valley, so no mistakes can be made, to avoid leaving a bad impression on the young master."

"Since one manager has died, you will fill the position; this shows that you are valued."

"If you perform well, I will report to the young master and plead on your behalf."

Jin Gui wanted to explain, but the black-clad leader's gaze had already turned from indifferent to merciless.

Jin Gui felt a chill in his heart, knowing there was no room for negotiation, so he could only grit his teeth and agree:

"Yes!"

The black-clad leader nodded slightly and said:

"You will also be responsible for those three kids, whether by any means necessary, make sure they 'submit' and join us..."

The black-clad leader smiled slightly, revealing blood-red gums.

"...to eat human flesh."

Chapter 1380: Tiger Pattern

The smile of the leader in black was gloomy, clearly a human face, yet resembling a Demon Monster.

It seemed as though a Demon Wraith was residing within him.

Jin Gui felt a chill in his heart, having no more thoughts of resistance, he gritted his teeth and accepted his fate, saying:

"As long as I can serve the young master and work for the leader, I would not hesitate to go through fire and water!"

The leader in black nodded with satisfaction, giving Jin Gui a deep look before saying in a deep voice:

"You haven't had a Monster Pattern drawn on you yet, to reward your loyalty..."

"I will personally draw it for you!"

Jin Gui's pupils contracted slightly.

Previously, he had secretly worked for the young master, often doing things against the Taoist Law, but had not yet delved into Evil Techniques.

The Evil Demon Path is not tolerated by the Taoist Court.

Violating Taoist Law could still be argued.

But once he practiced the arts of Demon Monsters, it was undoubtedly a capital offense.

And he had already spent quite a while in the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, how could he not know what this "Monster Pattern" meant?

Once "Monster Pattern" was drawn on him, demonic power would assimilate with his flesh, truly stepping into the path of Evil.

However, this was something he had anticipated.

It was both a ritual and a form of "recognition."

At this point, he had no way to turn back.

Coming from an ill background, he naturally had to disregard everything and gamble for a future, otherwise, from where would the future come?

Jin Gui bowed and said, "Thank you, senior brother!"

This time, the leader in black did not correct his "address," but accepted the identity of "senior brother."

Afterward, the leader in black led Jin Gui to a secret chamber.

The surroundings of the secret chamber were drawn full of Formation.

The Formation Patterns were sinister and unpredictable.

Moreover, the surroundings were filled with human blood, human skin, skulls, man-eating grass, Yin Spirit Stones, rotting flesh, and other items of the Evil Path.

At the center of the secret chamber lay many Formation Books and Classics, recorded on materials of unspecified human or beast skin.

The leader in black took out a book, opened it, and said to Jin Gui:

"Among these dozens of Monster Patterns, pick one."

On the skin paper were illustrations of dozens of different Monster Patterns, including Bear Pattern, Eagle Pattern, Wolf Pattern, Dog Pattern, Snake Pattern, etc...

Each Monster Pattern corresponded to a type of Four Symbols Demon Array.

Likewise, it also corresponded to a type of powerful demonic power.

Bear Pattern with boundless strength, Wolf Pattern transforming into sharp claws, Snake Pattern inherently poisonous...

Jin Gui scanned through the various Monster Patterns, pointing to one and saying, "Senior brother, I choose this one."

The leader in black followed his gaze, eyes narrowing, then looked up at Jin Gui with an expression of interest.

"Tiger Pattern?"

Jin Gui nodded slowly.

He didn't want to be a dog for life.

Even if he was humble now, only serving others as a lackey, he too dreamt of becoming a "king of all beasts" like a Fierce Tiger one day!

The leader in black's expression was slightly complex.

It was unclear whether it was mockery or admiration.

He nodded, "Alright."

In this life, one is either a dog or a tiger.

Just because you have a Tiger Pattern, it doesn't make you a tiger.

"The Four Symbols Formation stems from the Patterns of the Four Saints of the Great Wilderness, yet with the extinction of the Saint Bloodlines, only can the Saint Patterns be transformed into Beast Patterns, then evolve into Monster Patterns."

"And the tiger is the king of all beasts."

"One of the Four Saints is the White Tiger."

"Among the many powerful and ferocious Monster Beasts, one tiger can dominate a mountain and rule a territory."

"Hence, this Four Symbols Tiger Pattern is among the top-tier inheritances of the Four Symbols Monster Patterns."

"This type of Tiger Pattern can not only amplify the demonic power of a Fierce Tiger but can also blend the power of a Fierce Tiger into oneself, harnessing the power of a hundred beasts and mastering the earth-stilling might through the Formation."

"Now, I shall inscribe this 'Four Symbols Mysterious Tiger Demon Array' upon your back, infusing it into your flesh..."

With a pen made of a White Bone, dipped in fresh blood, the leader in black inscribed Formation Patterns onto Jin Gui's back.

With each stroke, Jin Gui shuddered in pain.

The pen of White Bone was like a scraping knife, the tip sharp as a needle.

Blood Ink felt like lava.

With every stroke drawn, his back suffered as if a thousand blades slashed or as if burned by molten lava, unspeakably painful.

Yet Jin Gui gritted his teeth, enduring with all his might.

This was his opportunity!

He needed to inscribe this Mysterious Tiger Demon Array, forsaking the dignity and lowliness of "human," from then onward, clawing his way up, distinguishing himself!

The Formation Patterns were inscribed stroke by stroke.

Jin Gui's complexion turned whiter bit by bit, the pain he endured deepening, but on his back, the Fierce Tiger Formation also took shape stroke by stroke.

Finally, who knows how much time passed, a Tiger Roar sounded in the chamber, and the Four Symbols Mysterious Tiger Demon Array was complete.

The leader in black also put away the Formation Pen and the Formation Diagram.

He said indifferently, "Remember, this is a gift from the young master."

"Do not harbor treacherous thoughts or rebelliousness."

"Everything you have is granted by the young master."

Jin Gui trembled, kneeling on the ground, bowing his head to the floor, "Thank you for the young master's gift! I am willing to serve the young master, even if it costs my life and blood!"

Afterwards, he slowly stood up.

As he stood up, his body extended inch by inch.

The Monster Qi on him gradually grew stronger.

A Fierce Tiger's aura slowly emanated.

Finally, when he stood fully upright, his stature was several feet taller than before, his body also more robust.

But the look in his eyes grew colder.

He lost some humanity and gained more beastliness.

The leader in black nodded, saying calmly, "Go, serve our young master diligently."

"Yes!"

Jin Gui's voice became hoarse, with an added hint of beastly panting.

After speaking, he turned and left, heading through the secret chambers deep within the Valley of Ten Thousand Demons, towards the Ten Thousand Demons Prison he was about to command...

...

At this time, in the Ten Thousand Demons Prison.

The previous manager had already been killed.

Mo Hua was waiting for the new manager.

He wanted to see what kind of Monster cultivator the new manager would be.

And whether he could obtain any new clues from this manager to help rescue Little Wood and the other two.