

The Quest 691

Chapter 691: Understood (3)

The young woman nodded slightly, her voice pleasant yet commanding:

"Thank you for your efforts, Court Leader Shangguan."

Court Leader Shangguan let out a sigh of relief.

Standing to the side, Aunt Xue bowed and said respectfully, "Madam."

Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi also showed looks of affectionate longing and called out together, "Mother

This woman was indeed the mother of Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi.

She was also the Feather Transformation Realm True Woman of the Bai Family—Bai Qiancheng.

At the sound of "Mother," Bai Qiancheng's heart trembled slightly, but she still managed to maintain her composure and nodded indifferently.

Court Leader Shangguan was also taken aback.

These two children actually had a mother in the Feather Transformation Realm.

No wonder they were imbued with the special Eternal Life Rune...

"Now that the young masters and miss are safe and sound, I am relieved and will not disturb you further," said Court Leader Shangguan with tact.

Bai Qiancheng nodded slightly.

Court Leader Shangguan then took his leave.

The room was left with only Bai Qiancheng, Bai Zisheng, Bai Zixi, and Aunt Xue.

Bai Qiancheng waved her hand gracefully, dispelling the veil covering her face, revealing a beauty that could overturn states and cities.

Similar to Bai Zixi, with skin like ice and bones like jade, a flawless appearance, and a beauty that was heart-stoppingly stunning. She only lacked a bit of Bai Zixi's youthful naivety and had more mature, poised beauty to her, along with the dignity of the Feather Transformation Realm. ṙ'ANóβΞ§

Aunt Xue's face showed a look of shame. "Madam, I am incompetent, the Eternal Life Rune

Bai Qiancheng shook her head. "This is not your fault

A dozen or so Golden Core Demon Cultivators.

The Demon Path Saint Heir.

And... the calculations of Gui Tao's people...

In such a situation, no one could have protected those two Eternal Life Runes.

Bai Qiancheng looked again at her twin children, her icy gaze softening slightly, and asked, "Are you all right?"

"Yes."

Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi nodded, but they both seemed a bit restrained.

After hesitating for a moment, Bai Zisheng began, "Mother

Bai Qiancheng's expression remained calm. "What is it?"

Bai Zisheng was somewhat hesitant. He had always been somewhat afraid of his cold mother and didn't know how to start...

However, Bai Zixi spoke up. "Mother, please save Mo Hua."

Bai Qiancheng's brows furrowed. "Mo Hua?"

Aunt Xue then said, "Yes... the junior disciple taken in by Mr. Zhuang, and also the juniors' Big Junior Brother

A flash of astonishment passed across Bai Qiancheng's stunning face.

A junior disciple?

My Senior Brother actually took on a disciple?

Impossible...

How could he possibly take on another disciple?

Bai Qiancheng's gaze turned cold as she looked at Aunt Xue.

Aunt Xue was shocked and quickly lowered her head, saying, "Mr. Zhuang, he didn't want me to tell you

Bai Qiancheng paused, then her expression cleared slightly.

Her Senior Brother indeed always disliked others prying into his affairs.

Whether he took on a disciple or not, he naturally wouldn't want her to know...

Bai Qiancheng felt somewhat conflicted. After a moment, she asked, "What happened to him?"

Bai Zixi answered, “He was... captured by Gui Tao’s people

Bai Zisheng nodded on the side. “He was taken because of me and Zixi. The ones they really wanted to capture were the two of us

Having said that, Bai Zisheng hung his head in guilt.

It seemed that he felt some self-reproach for not being able to protect his junior disciple well.

Bai Qiancheng’s expression remained unchanged, but his heart couldn’t help but skip a beat.

Gui Tao’s people!

So that was it...

She had been wondering, with the abilities of Gui Tao’s people, that is, her “Big Senior Brother,” Zisheng and Zixi’s shattered special Eternal Life Rune would surely end up in his hands.

She had been deeply worried about this before.

But she never imagined that Big Senior Brother would actually let Zisheng and Zixi go...

Bai Qiancheng would never understand before, but now she knew that Big Senior Brother had found a “substitute.”

That is, the “Mo Hua” little disciple taken in by Senior Brother Zhuang...

But why?

Why was this little disciple so important?

Gui Tao’s people, would they actually let Zisheng and Zixi go just because of this?

Senior Brother Zhuang's actions were always well thought out, deeply and far-sightedly calculated.

On this little disciple, could there be hidden some unspeakable secret?

Bai Qiancheng's gaze became a bit more concentrated.

"Mother Bai Zixi said softly.

Bai Qiancheng came back to her senses, turned her head to look at Bai Zixi, and upon meeting her gaze, her heart suddenly trembled with complicated and indescribable thoughts.

But her expression was still cold as she simply nodded, "I understand."

Bai Zisheng wanted to say something more but was quietly pulled back by Aunt Xue.

She knew that enough had been said at this point, with the lady's temperament, further words might backfire.

Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi glanced at Bai Qiancheng and swallowed their words.

Afterwards, Aunt Xue detailed the whole journey to Bai Qiancheng.

Bai Qiancheng listened and nodded, her voice pleasant but somewhat icy as she said:

"Rest here for tonight and follow me when we leave tomorrow

Her words were light, but obviously not open to refusal.

Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi somewhat disappointedly withdrew.

...

As the evening arrived, the moonlight was stunningly beautiful.

Bai Qiancheng sat in the room with a Heavenly secret Compass before her, on which the entanglements of cause and effect, the rise, and fall of destiny played out.

Bai Qiancheng frowned, and after a long while, she sighed.

"Heavenly secret Calculation... I still can't surpass my senior brothers

No matter how she calculated this Heavenly secret, she couldn't understand it.

What then would be the fate of the senior brothers...

Bai Qiancheng shook her head, and suddenly the name "Mo Hua" surfaced in her mind again.

She thought back to the day when Zisheng and Zixi, the two children, pleaded with her, her feelings complicated.

Zisheng was somewhat brusque and rash, but also very proud.

He always looked down on his fellow Proud Sons of Heaven in the clan and it was rare to see him so concerned about someone else.

And Zixi...

The way she called her "Mother," the expression when she asked her to save her little junior brother, returned to her thoughts.

Those eyes, usually so cold, detached, and as pure and elegant as a snow lotus, actually showed a hint of... pleading?

How could she, as a mother, fail to understand the affection brewing in that glimpse of a glance?

But how could this be possible?

She had always understood her daughter's temperament...

Yet for that very reason, her heart felt all the more shocked.

"Mo Hua

Bai Qiancheng's gaze intensified slightly as she silently noted the name.

Chapter 692: Opening (1)

The next day, Bai Qiancheng sent Bai Zisheng and Bai Zixi to Anshan City, located hundreds of miles north of Azure Mountain City.

In Anshan City, there was a mansion temporarily purchased by the Bai Family.

This place was far from the mountain city, away from disputes and strife, and with several Golden Core cultivators from the Bai Family for protection, it was very safe.

"Stay here for now. Once I've taken care of things, we'll return to the Bai Family together. You've been away from home for so long, the old ancestor misses you too

After Bai Qiancheng finished speaking, she turned and left.

"Mother

Bai Qiancheng turned back and saw two pairs of eyes filled with longing and desire, and her heart felt sour.

Zisheng and Zixi, these two children, had never shown such obvious concern and care for anyone before...

Even including her, their mother...

"I understand."

Bai Qiancheng said faintly.

After that, she no longer looked at her two children, turned around, and left, while her heart was full of worries.

Li Mountain City, that's where the real storm of blood and carnage was about to begin.

Even if she wanted to, she might not be able to save the child known as "Mo Hua".

Besides, he was in the hands of Gui Tao's people...

Taking food from the jaws of a tiger, was never easy...

Two days later, Bai Qiancheng arrived at a newly established Tao Cultivation camp outside Li Mountain City.

On the outside, the camp was encircled by Second and even Third Grade Formations.

Inside, there were Taoist Soldiers stationed from the Taoist Court.

At the same time, various powers from Taoist State also dispatched high-ranking cultivators with real authority from their clans, gathering here.

In the camp, inside a large hall marked with Sound Isolation Formation and other formations preventing others from sensing what was inside.

Nine cultivators with profound auras sat together, whispering and discussing spiritedly.

As Bai Qiancheng entered, everyone briefly fell silent, nodded at her, and then continued the discussion they had been having...

A few days ago, Heavenly Dao Thunder Punishment appeared in the direction of Dali Mountain

"After that, the auras of several Demon Cultivators in the Feather Transformation Realm disappeared

"Not just that, the presence of numerous Golden Core Demon Cultivators has also not been detected again

"Could it be... that the Heavenly Dao has opened its eyes and directly annihilated these Demon Cultivators?"

"What are you thinking? There must be some hidden circumstances behind this

"Internal strife within the Demon Path? Killing each other?"

"At this time?"

Has Senior Situ calculated anything?"

"A fog of mystery, the Heavenly secret is puzzling; the Calculation isn't clear

"Does this mean you haven't calculated it?"

"No, it means I have calculated it

"What do you mean

"Heavenly secret is puzzling

"It's... Gui Tao's person

Everyone was momentarily stunned, and then someone said:

"Did this Gui Tao's person make a mistake? At this critical point, to kill his own Daoist comrades?"

"Who can understand the intentions of Gui Tao's person?"

Some looked solemn while others furrowed their brows and said:

Switching back, aren't you curious how Gui Tao's person managed it?"

"What exactly did he do to slaughter four Demon Cultivators in the Feather Transformation Realm and hundreds of Golden Cores?"

"That was within the Third-Grade State Boundary

"The appearance of Thunder Punishment, was it... using Heavenly Punishment?"

"How to use it? Those Demon Cultivators aren't idiots, wouldn't they run? Suppressing Cultivation, unable to undergo Feather Transformation, they should know about these taboos

"How would I know? I'm not Gui Tao's person."

"Probably, they were driven to desperation by Gui Tao's person, and in that inevitable situation, they used the power of Feather Transformation, and therefore, under the Heavenly Punishment Thunder, they were turned to ash

"On what basis does Gui Tao's person do this?"

"On the strength of his own power... how is that possible?"

"Planting Devil in Taoist Heart?"

"Planting Devil in Taoist Heart comes from the Illusory Demon Sect's Sect Protecting Demon Technique, but I've experienced this Demon Skill, it's merely somewhat troublesome and difficult to deal with, but not really that powerful

"Some heart-clearing tranquility Cultivation Techniques, Magical Treasures, Spiritual Artifacts, all can suppress the Planting Devil in Taoist Heart

"If only it were that simple

If it were that simple, he wouldn't have been sealed by the Demon Sect as 'Taoist

"What's so different about his Planting Devil in Taoist Heart?"

Everyone was puzzled, but their expressions became more solemn by several degrees.

"Regardless, cultivators in the Feather Transformation Realm should not act rashly

"If we can't act, what are we, Feather Transformation cultivators, even here for?"

"What use is it if you do act?"

"In the Third-Grade State Boundary, even if you are a True Man, you're just a slightly stronger Golden Core!"

"Without Feather Transformation, unable to ascend to the heavens, if you can't exhibit even a tenth of your full strength and constantly face the risk of being eradicated by Heavenly Punishment

"Those four old Demon Heads from the Demon Sect, with origins in the Demon Path, vicious and extremely evil, living for so many years, didn't they fall prey to Gui Tao's person, wiped out by Heavenly Punishment?"

"Those were four big Demon Heads in the Feather Transformation Realm!"

At this point, everyone felt a shudder in their hearts.

Heaven Void does not emerge in the world.

The highest realms that major Tao Cultivation forces possess, when walking on the outside, are generally those of the Feather Transformation Realm.

But cultivators of the Feather Transformation Realm generally wouldn't come to state boundaries below Third Grade.

Because the risk is too high.

If it wasn't for the fact that this incident was of great importance, linked to Mr. Zhuang who calculated the Heavenly secrets, there wouldn't be as many as ten Feathered Immortals from the Taoist Court gathered outside Li Mountain City!

But now because of Gui Tao's person, the situation has become delicate.

They, as Feather Transformation cultivators with powerful Cultivation, dare not make a move.

Heavenly Dao eradication.

These four words, like a bloody guillotine, were always hanging over their heads, waiting for any misstep, and they would ferociously chop down, claiming their lives.

"Damn it!"

A Feathered Immortal, feeling extremely frustrated, slammed the table in anger.

Chapter 693: Opening Move (2)

"You are a true supernatural being, a True Man. Please mind your image, consider your speech

"I damn well please, what the hell do you care?"

"Your damn self-cultivation is so poor

"You, what the fuck, aren't you also cursing?"

"What comes around goes around, now I'm damn cursing you!"

...

The two lost their composure and started arguing noisily.

Someone couldn't stand it anymore, "In front of so many people, can you both fucking mind your manners and stop cursing?!"

"You're fucking cursing too, aren't you?"

...

Someone coughed, "True Man Bai is here

"What the fuck Bai

The person stopped mid-sentence, suddenly cutting off to look up at the high seat—Bai Qiancheng, clothed in white, supremely beautiful with a clear and cold temperament—his old face flushed, and he swallowed back his words.

The crowd also quieted down, coughing a few times, clearing their throats, sitting up straight, and paying attention to their own image.

Bai Qiancheng acted as if she had heard nothing, her gaze unwavering.

The oldest person sitting at the highest seat shook his head helplessly.

His face was lined with age, wearing black robes; he had the family name Situ, a master calculator, and the Chief Elder of Mystery Valley, known as True Man Situ.

He was the person with the highest cultivation, oldest age, and longest experience sitting there, a Real Being who had undergone Feather Transformation.

True Man Situ looked around and slowly opened his mouth:

"No matter what, those of you who have undergone Feather Transformation and become true supernaturals, do not fight hastily again!"

"Feather transform sky-flying, difficult to achieve

"True supernatural beings, if anything goes wrong, it will be a loss for our Taoist Court and a disaster that could annihilate the sects you belong to!"

"Everyone, please cherish yourselves!"

True Man Situ spoke with deep sincerity.

Everybody clasped their hands and said, "Senior Situ, your words are very true."

Some questioned though, "Senior Situ, logically, the Back Ruins Heaven Burial is of great importance, but why

"Why did those top noble clans and sects in Taoist State not send any high-level cultivators this time, only sending some Golden Core cultivators to make up the numbers?"

As soon as these words came out, people exchanged looks.

"Indeed

"The Heaven Void Ancestor does not emerge in the world; it's fine if he doesn't come

Even if he had come, he would be nothing but an oversized "Golden Core", also facing the risk of falling—it would not be worth the loss.

But why didn't even cultivators at the Feather Transformation Realm come?"

"This really doesn't make sense

...

The gathered cultivators who had undergone Feather Transformation whispered among themselves and then silently turned their eyes towards Bai Qiancheng, who was seated higher up.

Among the many powers present, only the Bai Family was a true behemoth.

Although not located in Taoist State, but dominating their own territory, they were strong enough to compete with the ancient noble clans of Taoist State.

Among the True Men who had undergone Feather Transformation present, only Bai Qiancheng was from the biggest clan and had the deepest background.

Bai Qiancheng's expression remained cool and indifferent, and she didn't say a word.

The others, feeling helpless, wanted to ask but did not dare to.

True Man Situ then said, "Each noble clan has its own arrangements, and the elders of each family have their overall strategies. We should focus on our own tasks, and other matters are not for us to inquire into."

Everyone frowned, but since True Man Situ had spoken, they did not pursue the matter further.

After the group of cultivators who had undergone Feather Transformation dispersed, Bai Qiancheng also got up to leave but was stopped by True Man Situ.

"True Man Bai

Although True Man Situ was a respected elder, his tone was extremely polite towards Bai Qiancheng.

Not just because of her family, but also because of her extraordinary talent; she broke the barrier to Feather Transformation at a few hundred years old, becoming a True Man who could fly through the heavens...

More importantly, it was because of the various causes and effects she was involved with.

Mr. Zhuang, Gui Tao's people, and her two children with Heavenly Spirit Roots...

Some matters, others did not know.

But True Man Situ, skilled in the algorithms of the Great Dao and having controlled Mystery Valley for many years, naturally knew more about some inner details than others.

Bai Qiancheng's expression was cold and slightly proud, but she was still very respectful towards True Man Situ and nodded, saying:

"Senior Situ."

True Man Situ hesitated for a moment before finally speaking:

"Before True Man Bai came here, did the ancestor of the Bai Family give any instructions?"

Bai Qiancheng's eyebrows slightly furrowed, "Senior Situ, what do you want to ask?"

True Man Situ didn't want to inquire too deeply, but sighed and said:

"At my age, I fear death, so, I just ask about good or bad fortune."

It was about the Heavenly secret and the chance of the Great Dao.

No matter what, he had to come this time.

But at this moment, he found that the opportunity was very peculiar; no matter how he calculated or deduced, the path ahead was a blur.

Having lived for so many years and becoming crafty with age, he wanted to leave a contingency plan to protect his foundation at this time.

The estate of Mystery Valley was large, and the younger generation's learning of calculations was not refined; they still relied on him to support everything. He could not afford to give up his life here...

Bai Qiancheng was somewhat surprised; she didn't expect True Man Situ, as a senior, to be so candid.

After thinking, she said, "The ancestors didn't want me to come

"But because of some reasons... I had to come

"Before I left, the ancestor only gave me one instruction, telling me to

Bai Qiancheng paused, then slowly revealed four words: "Stand by and watch

"Stand by and watch?"

True Man Situ was momentarily stunned, shocked in his heart.

Why would it be... stand by and watch?

They didn't care anymore, didn't ask, didn't seek, no longer pursuing that...

True Man Situ's face showed varying expressions, overcome with emotion.

Having said as much as she wished, Bai Qiancheng clasped her hands and said, "Junior takes her leave."

Until Bai Qiancheng had walked far away, True Man Situ remained motionless, standing in place, his brow deeply furrowed, murmuring to himself:

"Impossible

Chapter 694: Starting Move (3)

"How could they possibly be so unhurried?"

"At this final moment, when placing the last piece determines the winner in this grand chess match, how could they suddenly become timid turtles, withdrawing and pulling out?"

"Those old immortals who are nearing their end must certainly be more anxious than I am

"No, this isn't right!"

"Unless... they've calculated something, or perhaps, are they wary of something?"

"Or maybe, this chess game isn't quite what I thought it was

Doubts surfaced in True Man Situ's mind as he stroked his beard and paced back and forth in the hall, losing count of how many circles he had walked when he suddenly stopped, his heart quivering:

"Could it be that there's been a change in this game?"

"The current state of the game... is not the end but merely the beginning?"

"Beginning with Mr. Zhuang's death?"

"Taking the appearance of Back Ruins Heaven Burial as the first move in a grand strategy that spans heaven and earth?"

Throughout the two thousand years since the establishment of the Taoist Court, fragments of deeds and rumors surfaced in his mind, linking together...

True Man Situ found it somewhat unbelievable.

"Impossible, right?"

"Who could have, such a grand scheme?"

The more he thought about it, the more frightened he became, as if a boundless abyss had opened a giant maw, emitting an alarming breath.

True Man Situ's body couldn't stop trembling.

What exactly was hidden inside?

Or was he just overthinking it?

True Man Situ slumped into the chair, silent for a long time, before he finally sighed deeply:

"Forget it, I should just focus on staying alive for now

Even if there were some conspiracy, it was still far from him. If not a millennia, then at least a thousand years, and perhaps by then, he might already be dead and gone...

True Man Situ suddenly felt relieved.

For now, he still had to consider the matters at hand.

The Old Ancestor of the Bai Family telling Bai Qiancheng to "stand aside and watch" must have his reasons.

That suggests that all of these people, once involved, would face a life-or-death crisis.

Where would they die?

Without thinking, he knew it would definitely be Gui Tao's people, inevitably related to "Planting Devil in Taoist Heart

The title of Taoist was not simple.

True Man Situ frowned and pondered for a moment before summoning a disciple and instructing:

"Send down the order to set up the Clear Heart Formation, Solidifying Spirit Formation, and Dustless Formation around the camp

"Strengthen the guard on all sides, and if anyone looking like a 'Taoist,' or any oddly shaped cultivator approaches, let me know immediately

"Tell all cultivators in the Feather Transformation Realm not to go out indiscriminately

...

True Man Situ reeled off a lot in one breath. After he finished giving instructions, he finally took a breath of relief, then began to doubt himself again:

"Am I making a mountain out of a molehill?"

"No matter how strong Gui Tao's people are, they can't possibly kill all ten of us in the Feather Transformation Realm, can they

No sooner had True Man Situ finished speaking than he immediately caught himself, lightly smacking his own mouth.

He mustn't jinx it!

He studied causality, he should not speak such ill-fated words!

After True Man Situ's arrangements were put in place, it wasn't long before other Feathered Immortals heard about it and came to see him, starting with:

"Senior Situ, aren't we overreacting a bit?"

"No matter how strong Gui Tao's people are, they surely can't

The razor-sharp gaze of True Man Situ immediately silenced him.

"Better safe than sorry!"

"Don't underestimate Gui Tao's people!"

True Man Situ spoke with a heavy tone.

Seeing the solemn expression on True Man Situ's face, everyone else figured the matter was serious and said no more.

...

And a few days later, a disciple reported.

"Ancestor, a 'Taoist has come

True Man Situ felt a chill in his heart and immediately got up to take a look outside.

But the surroundings were empty with formations densely arrayed, and mountains looming; there was no sign of the 'Taoist.'

True Man Situ frowned.

"Strange, I'm certain I saw a 'Taoist

The reporting disciple mumbled quizzically.

"Where did the 'Taoist' go?"

"Could he be hiding?"

"Or could it be that

A moment of silence followed, and then the disciple's voice became hoarse and wooden:

I am the Taoist?"

True Man Situ heard this and was startled, breaking out in a cold sweat.

As he turned his head to look, he saw the disciple's pupil turn pitch black.

Chapter 695: Meeting (1)

"Planting Devil in Taoist Heart?!"

True Man Situ was shocked and immediately acted, confining the disciple with jet-black pupils with a magical artifact resembling a golden bell, isolating the disciple's aura.

He had just breathed a sigh of relief when he turned his head and saw that around the camp, many cultivators suddenly started behaving abnormally, like puppets on strings, trembling and contorting as they slowly turned their heads, their pupils all pitch-black!

True Man Situ gasped in cold air.

Anomalies in Taoist Heart, the Demon Seed spreads.

"When exactly did Gui Tao's people make their move?!"

Other Feather Transformation True Men sensed the abnormality in the aura and also flashed out one after another. Seeing that the surrounding cultivators and Taoist Soldiers had lost their senses, their pupils pitch-black, they too were shocked.

True Man Situ said sternly, “Release your magical artifacts and guard your Divine Thoughts!”

Those still retaining their senses were shaken and quickly summoned their magical artifacts to guard their Sea of Consciousness.

True Man Situ sighed and flipped his right hand, taking out a glittering and translucent glass lamp.

This lamp, named Qiankun Clear Light Lamp, was the Sect Protecting Treasure of Mystery Valley, combining Divine Sense extensions and concentration to drive away evil.

True Man Situ sacrificed the Qiankun Clear Light Lamp, and its clear light swept across, scattering the gloom. The strange aura of Heavenly Dao’s anomalies filling the air was also gradually dispelled.

The brilliant lamp light, like a screen, protected everyone.

It also isolated those cultivators who had been “Planted with Devil in Taoist Heart.”

Within the light of the Clear Light Lamp, some cultivators unknowingly had Demon Thought implanted in them.

But as soon as their Demon Thought grew, it would be “scorched” by the clear light, causing black-grey energy to fill the air.

True Man Situ would then drive these cultivators out, to prevent them from infecting more cultivators.

Inside the Qiankun Clear Light Lamp, with clear light overflowing, the cultivators all sat tensely in meditation, guarding their spiritual arteries.

But outside the Clear Light Lamp, it was like hell.

Cultivators fought each other, kin slaying kin.

Family cultivators, fellow disciples, and familiar Taoist Friends, their Taoist Hearts collapsed, their expressions hideous, engaged in mutual slaughter.

Some Feather Transformation True Men could not bear it and wanted to take action, only to be stopped by True Man Situ:

"If you don't go over, they will die. If you do go over, they will still die – and perhaps... even more will die!"

After all, if a Feather Transformation cultivator was Planted with Devil in Taoist Heart, the consequences would be unimaginable.

That Feather Transformation True Man was filled with hate, yet he was powerless to do anything but sit back down, close his eyes in pain, and not look at the tragic scene outside...

The expressions of everyone were solemn.

True Man Situ also knitted his brows.

Time passed, unknown how long, when suddenly his spirit quivered and he looked up.

He saw a Daoist not far away, holding a small cultivator and slowly approaching.

The Daoist had a youthful face with white hair, eyes cold and sinister. It was Xuan Sanren, but at this moment, his expression was indifferent, surrounded by Gui Qi, obviously no longer Xuan Sanren, but instead should be...

Gui Tao's people!

True Man Situ was on high alert.

The other cultivators were also terrified.

Yet Gui Tao's person seemed to pay them no heed, nor did he spare them a glance.

It seemed that Planting Devil in Taoist Heart was just a matter of convenience for him.

If he could kill them, then he would.

Even if he couldn't, it didn't matter.

Thus Gui Tao's person, clad in black, carried Mo Hua and walked past thousands of Taoist Soldiers, hundreds of Golden Cores, and ten Feather Transformations as he boldly and nonchalantly passed in front of everyone.

He was heading to Li Mountain City.

The cultivators around fought each other, like haunting specters.

And he was the "specter" itself.

The Taoist Court side didn't dare to make a sound.

All around was deathly silence.

Some Feather Transformation cultivators, filled with indignation, wanted to act but were stopped by True Man Situ.

True Man Situ shook his head slightly, his eyes stern.

He sensed that aura imbued with a Tricky Calculation Divine Thought.

He knew that anyone present who made a move would surely die!

No matter who it was.

They were powerless.

Even though they were Feather Transformation True Men from various powerful factions of the Taoist Court, they could only watch as Gui Tao's person walked past them.

They watched as the black silhouette of Gui Tao's person grew more distant, disappearing in the direction of Li Mountain City, into the surging sea of blood...

All the Feather Transformation cultivators present gnashed their teeth in fury.

Only Bai Qiancheng's gaze was slightly concentrated.

She saw the child that Gui Tao's person was holding.

If she guessed correctly, that should be the "junior brother" that Zisheng and Zixi spoke of...

And as Gui Tao's person entered the sea of blood, it also meant that this calculation against the brother was about to fully unfold...

Bai Qiancheng frowned and then rose, giving a simple bow to True Man Situ before summoning her Brocade Mountain and River Umbrella and stepping out of the Clear Light Lamp.

The cultivators affected by the Demon Seed rushed at Bai Qiancheng to attack, but were each repelled by the umbrella.

Bai Qiancheng followed the path taken by Gui Tao's person, heading toward Li Mountain City, entering the vast sea of blood.

True Man Situ sighed helplessly.

Inside the Qiankun Clear Light Lamp, three Feather Transformation cultivators developed mutinous thoughts. They exchanged glances, each summoned their magical artifacts, and then without a word, they left the Clear Light Lamp and chased after Gui Tao's person.

The remaining Feather Transformations were somewhat tempted, and looked to True Man Situ, “Senior Situ, this

True Man Situ’s eyes turned slightly cold as he sat unmoved, only saying sternly:

"Everyone has their destiny, and it cannot be forced."

But in his heart, he silently thought, “If you want to die, go die on your own

These Feather Transformation True Men, knowing the profundity of Mystery Valley’s Mystery Calculation Method, also understood the saying “Ignorance of the elder’s advice leads to trouble ahead,” and so they all reined in their restlessness and sat down to meditate steadily.

Yet True Man Situ continued to look in the direction where Gui Tao’s person had left, his brows tightly locked.

In his eyes, there was deep concern.

This was Planting Devil in Taoist Heart...

Chapter 696: Meeting (2)

No, is this the Heavenly Secret Tricky Calculation...

The path of Divine Sense, pushing boundaries and evolving, one thought embodies two methods, Heavenly Secret Tricky Calculation.

He had never imagined that Gui Tao’s people would cultivate the Heavenly Secret Tricky Calculation to such a degree; even in his Sect, which was known for producing evil monsters, this was unprecedented...

Heavenly Secret Tricky Calculation, cultivated to perfection.

Divine Thought transformed monstrously, undying and indestructible...

Without gathering the forces of the Righteous Dao for a thorough extermination of Gui Tao's people, if left unchecked, he would inevitably become a Great Demon Head that pierces the heavens and earth.

But...

How to kill him?

Mr. Zhuang is at his last gasp, and the Heavenly Secret Calculation has been lost...

Who in this world can still see through the heavenly secrets and contend with Gui Tao's people?

The undying and indestructible Divine Thought of Gui Tao...

Who truly has the power to kill him?

True Man Situ, with a cold expression, couldn't help but heave a deep sigh...

...

Inside Li Mountain City.

The broken walls were dyed thoroughly red by a sea of blood.

The remaining Demon Cultivators also instantly turned on each other, slaughtering one another under the influence of Planting Devil in Taoist Heart, dying clean.

Gui Tao's person walked straight up to the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation.

He reached out to touch the formation, but his fingertip was immediately dissipated into a plume of blood mist by the overwhelming power of the Large Formation.

However, within a blink of an eye, the blood mist reversed its flow, and flesh and blood reformed.

Gui Tao's person's hand was as good as new.

With a tap of his finger, strange, dark grey Formation Patterns began to crawl over the Large Formation, eroding it from the outside in.

But the faster the erosion, the quicker the Large Formation repaired itself.

Unable to break through the Large Formation...

Gui Tao's person, with an indifferent look, then lifted the unconscious Mo Hua, shaking her in front of the Large Formation.

From within the Large Formation, there seemed to come a sigh of resignation.

Shortly after, there was a flash of light.

The five-colored light curtain of the Large Formation opened by itself, revealing an entrance.

Gui Tao's person sneered, hauling Mo Hua, and walked into the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation.

...

Not long after, Bai Qiancheng also arrived outside the Large Formation and saw the open entrance to the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation.

The entrance had not yet closed.

After hesitating for a moment, she too entered the Large Formation.

After Bai Qiancheng stepped into the Large Formation, the light curtain flickered, the Formation Patterns writhed, and the entrance gradually closed.

Just as it was about to close, three Feathered Immortals from the Taoist Court also arrived at the scene.

Seeing the entrance closing, the three hurriedly made their move. Blades and swords flashed, impeding the closure of the Large Formation.

Then, they too entered the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation through the narrow entrance.

Afterward, the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation closed completely.

Outside was the Soul Banner Blood Sea, inside, the Mountain Protection Array.

Outsiders could not tell what exactly was happening inside the Large Formation, within the old site of the Five Elements Sect...

And after an unknown amount of time, the unconscious Mo Hua slowly came to...

His forehead felt heavy and foggy.

He could vaguely feel tremendous Spiritual Power fluctuations around him.

Such Spiritual Power was vast like rivers and seas.

And he himself, like a tiny boat engulfed by a tempestuous wave, felt insignificant and powerless.

His surroundings were blurry, and there were people talking.

These voices... they were all familiar...

Mo Hua squinted his eyes and it took him a long time to come to his senses, before he realized that he was already within the Five Elements Sect, standing in front of the Five Elements Sect's Formation Pavilion.

All around him was a scene of devastation. Once beautifully sculpted beams and painted rafters were now broken stones and rubble; everywhere he looked, he saw ruin, with remnants of astonishing magical aura suggesting a great battle had taken place.

Nearby were three people who had been corroded into white skeletons.

Clearly, they were dead.

And their bones were crystal clear, delicately etched with crystalline traces of Feather Transformation.

Mo Hua's heart jolted.

"Yet another three Feathered Cultivators...dead?"

He looked up and saw Old Kui.

Old Kui was wrapped in a blood garment, his body disintegrating, but as the flesh dissolved, no blood or muscle were beneath the skin, only brown, mottled wood patterns.

"Blood of Destruction Path

"Good, you actually colluded with that undying Blood Taoist

Old Kui coughed, colluded with that undying old Blood Taoist

The indifferent-looking Gui Tao's person bowed to Old Kui, "Senior, please forgive me, I could not deal with the senior otherwise

Old Kui glared like a sword, his voice sharp, "Then who told you how to find my life gate?"

Gui Tao's person remained silent.

Old Kui laughed out of extreme anger, “Very well, blurring lines between righteous and demonic, what Dao are these Tao Cultivators really following?!”

Gui Tao’s person spoke gravely, “Senior, may you find peace.”

As soon as the words fell, the blood garment exuded an even darker and death-like blood light.

Slowly, bit by bit, it wrapped around Old Kui, eroding him...

And step by step, it devoured Old Kui’s vitality.

Old Kui, gazing at Gui Tao’s person, coldly said,

"Don’t let me see you again, otherwise, I’ll surely kill you!"

Gui Tao’s person bowed slightly, “Junior will bear it in mind.”

"Grandpa Gui

Mo Hua’s heart ached as he muttered under his breath.

Hearing this, Old Kui, being eroded by the blood garment, gave Mo Hua one final look, his gaze growing gentle.

It softened, carrying hints of apology and regret.

In the end, he turned entirely into what seemed like a wooden sculpture, mottled and lifeless.

Gui Tao’s person glanced sideways at Mo Hua, furrowing his brow.

Grandpa Gui...

Old Kui actually allowed this child to call him “Grandpa Gui

Gui Tao’s person only pondered with a frown for a moment before stepping forward, heading inside the Formation Pavilion.

Heavenly secret calculated to the utmost, Demon Cultivators punished, the Taoist Court shaken, and even Old Kui had been dissolved by Blood Taoist’s Undying Blood...

All obstacles before him were now entirely eliminated.

Ahead was only his junior brother whom he had not seen for hundreds of years...

Chapter 697: Meeting (3)

Just then, an icy yet clear voice rang out:

"Big Senior Brother

Gui Tao’s people turned their heads and saw Bai Qiancheng standing to the side.

Bai Qiancheng had been standing aside all along, witnessing with her own eyes as three Feathered Immortals of the Taoist Court were killed by Gui Tao’s people, and then watched as Gui Tao’s people used the Undying Blood to melt Old Kui.

She could only stand by idly.

No one could stop what her Big Senior Brother wanted to do.

Whoever tried would die, including herself.

However, she still remembered the request of her twin children, so in the end, she wanted to save Mo Hua from Gui Tao’s people’s hands.

No matter what, the child was innocent after all.

Moreover, he was indeed a disciple accepted by Senior Brother Zhuang, and shouldn't be involved in this right and wrong, to lose his life because of it...

"Big Senior Brother... give me that child

Gui Tao's people looked up, glanced at the Formation Pavilion, apparently thinking of something, and casually tossed Mo Hua to Bai Qiancheng.

Bai Qiancheng instantly caught him, involuntarily examining Mo Hua, and silently said in her heart:

"Is this... the little disciple Zixi is concerned about

The Spiritual Root is very poor...

Compared to Zixi, it's really like heaven and earth...

She then looked at his appearance.

He does look quite good...

His features are picturesque, he's lovable, with a pure and ethereal temperament, invoking an instinctive fondness when seen.

And his eyes are clear, revealing at a glance that his nature is also good...

It's just... the Spiritual Root is poor, and the bloodline is even worse...

Bai Qiancheng frowned.

"Why did Senior Brother Zhuang accept such a young disciple?"

Furthermore, what surprised her the most was Big Senior Brother...

Big Senior Brother was once gentle and elegant, kind and tender to people, but since he turned into Gui Tao's people, he became sinister, terrifying, cold, and heartless.

This was the first time she saw Big Senior Brother carrying a small child, not letting go the entire way.

And in her view, the two seemed to get along very casually, even a bit "close"?

Bai Qiancheng furrowed her brows in confusion.

Meanwhile, Mo Hua looked up and also saw Bai Qiancheng.

With just one glance, he was amazed.

So beautiful...

After a second glance, he felt that the woman's eyes and brows resembled those of his little sister-disciple...

"Are you the mother of my little sister-disciple?"

Mo Hua couldn't help but ask.

Bai Qiancheng was slightly taken aback, then involuntarily nodded.

Mo Hua silently calculated, "The mother of my little sister-disciple is also Uncle's sister-disciple, and also my master's sister-disciple... So I should address you as... 'Aunt'?"

Bai Qiancheng was startled.

This child is so smart and seems a bit... overly familiar?

"Correct."

Bai Qiancheng nodded again.

"Disciple Mo Hua, greetings to Aunt," Mo Hua said politely.

A warmth blossomed in Bai Qiancheng's heart.

She looked at Mo Hua once more and noticed that Mo Hua had no injuries, wasn't "Planted with Devil in the Taoist Heart," his eyes were clear and upright, without any abnormalities, and she breathed a sigh of relief.

After hesitating for a moment, Bai Qiancheng then said to Mo Hua:

"Good child, stay here and don't run around. I'm going to check on your master

Mo Hua immediately said, "Aunt, may I go in as well?"

Bai Qiancheng was taken aback.

Mo Hua whispered, "I also want to see my master

Bai Qiancheng felt a bitter tug in her heart but still declined, "It will be very dangerous for you to go in

"Oh

Mo Hua nodded, disappointed yet understanding.

Bai Qiancheng left Mo Hua behind and walked towards the Formation Pavilion. After taking a few steps, she looked back and saw Mo Hua standing there, all alone, feeling a touch of heartache and worry.

If Gui Tao's people came out, this child might still be in danger...

But now she couldn't manage that much anymore.

Her Senior Brother's life was hanging by a thread.

The opportunity related to the Back Ruins Heaven Burial, although the old ancestor told her to "stand idly by," when the time actually came, she couldn't possibly just sit back and do nothing.

"Well, let fate take its course

Bai Qiancheng's expression was solemn; he clenched his teeth and also entered the Formation Pavilion...

And Mo Hua, he just stood there alone.

He wanted to go in, but he couldn't.

It seemed that there was some kind of barrier in the Formation Pavilion. Uncle and Senior Uncle had high cultivation and deep mastery in formation, hence they could disregard the barrier and enter the Formation Pavilion.

But he couldn't get in...

Yet, staying here didn't seem safe either.

Once everything settled down and Uncle came out, he would probably kill him too.

Mo Hua sighed.

It was at this moment that a buzzing sound came from the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation around him.

Mo Hua was startled and looked up.

He saw that within the Large Formation, one of the main Formation Pivots was operating on its own, dazzlingly bright.

"Is this... the Formation Pivot?"

Mo Hua suddenly remembered what his master had said to him when he first arrived at the Five Elements Sect.

He remembered that at that time, he and his master had talked about the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation.

His master then drew a mountain map on a piece of paper, outlined several lines along the mountain's profile, and instructed him, saying:

This is the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation, the main formation pivot's meridians; you remember this."

"When the formation circulates, there will be a life-gate on the formation pivot."

"Although this small section is a second-grade Formation Pivot, it is similar in pattern to the Five Elements Slaughter Demon Great Formation, and with your Divine Sense being sufficient, you should be able to calculate the life-gate on your own

Mo Hua was racked with agonizing thoughts.

"Calculating the life-gate

Did his master have arrangements in place all along...

Did he anticipate that I would be captured by Uncle and brought back to the Five Elements Sect, so he told me the life-gate of this section of the formation in advance?

Did he want me to calculate the life-gate of the Five Elements Mountain Guarding Formation, and then leave on my own, staying away from this place of imminent danger...

"Master

Mo Hua's eyes welled up with tears.

He didn't want to go; he wanted to see his master one more time.

But...

Even if he saw his master, what could he do?

What could he do himself?

With such low cultivation, not strong enough Divine Sense, and formation skills not yet mastered, in such a perilous place, he could hardly keep himself safe...

The Large Formation buzzed again.

It was as if the master was urging him to leave...

Mo Hua felt desolate, wiped away his tears, and then sat down on the ground. Using the Calculation Method taught by his master, he step by step calculated the entire Formation Pivot of the Large Formation, found the position and determined the life-gate.

After determining the life-gate, Mo Hua looked up at the Formation Pavilion.

It was as if his master was inside, silently watching him.

It seemed to say, "Go on

Mo Hua hung his head, his figure full of desolation, and walked silently to the section of the mountain range marked by Mr. Zhuang and to the formation in front of the mountain range.

Following the life-gate he had set, Mo Hua stepped forward and walked into the middle of the Large Formation.

The Large Formation turned into a Spirit Screen, with Spiritual Power flowing like blades, airtight.

However, the life-gate was where the Formation Pivot's key lay, also the space reserved for life.

Mo Hua stepped into the life-gate as the surging Spiritual Power rapidly circled around him, like a boundless river or a galloping herd of thousands of horses, yet it did not harm him.

On the contrary, this Spiritual Power was protecting Mo Hua.

It shielded Mo Hua all the way, allowing him to leave the Mountain Protection Array unharmed...

...

Fourth floor of the Formation Pavilion.

Mr. Zhuang just sat there silently, watching Mo Hua walk out of the Large Formation all alone.

A moment later, the Formation Pavilion shook.

The Five Elements Formation on the fourth floor was eroded by pitch-black Formation Patterns, torn open, and a figure walked in.

With white hair cascading down his shoulders and an indifferent expression.

It was Gui Tao's people.

Mr. Zhuang's breath was weak, his face pale as paper, but his expression was tranquil, as if confronting his destiny, revealing a composed smile.

"Long time no see

"Senior Brother."

Chapter 700: Sect (3)

He had killed his junior brother with his own hands...

Mr. Zhuang's breath was already faint, but he still held onto a last gasp of air, as if he still had some concerns.

The Blood of the Heavenly Man, the Innate Taoist Bone, the Back Ruins Heaven Burial – these, he didn't care too much about...

"Big Senior Brother

Mr. Zhuang murmured softly, "For the sake of our brotherhood, please don't trouble... my few young disciples

Gui Tao's people stared in shock, then turned cold again, about to utter a mockery.

Just then, several golden chains suddenly appeared in the sky.

These chains, adorned with majestic and rough Great Dao Formation Patterns, appeared and formed into a cage, seemingly intended to lock Gui Tao's people inside.

Gui Tao's people sneered, "Old fool, coveting a windfall!"

His gaze hardened as he swallowed the Innate Taoist Bone and then his body was covered in black-gray Formation Patterns. These patterns, from the outside in, devoured his flesh, dissolving it...

And the figure of Gui Tao's people also gradually faded, gradually scattered...

In the void, an old and vigorous voice rang out:

"Heavenly secret Tricky Escape... thinking of fleeing?"

The golden light in the sky grew stronger as the chains layered.

But it seemed that nothing could stop the escaping method of Gui Tao's people.

His body faded bit by bit, vanishing from sight, but as he was leaving, he gave Mr. Zhuang one last look.

That look was extremely complex, with a trace of pain, and finally, only determination remained.

After that, Gui Tao's people disappeared.

A cold snort sounded in the sky, followed by the dissipation of golden light, also vanishing without a trace, as if some unknown powerful being had followed the thread of Tricky Calculation in pursuit of Gui Tao's people...

In the Formation Pavilion, only Mr. Zhuang was left.

Having lost the Back Ruins Heaven Burial map, the dying Mr. Zhuang was no longer cared for by anyone...

Nobody cared about his life or death.

Bai Qiancheng stepped forward, lifted Mr. Zhuang up, but found Mr. Zhuang's body lighter than willow fluff, thinner than paper, and couldn't help but shudder in his heart.

"Big Senior Brother

Mr. Zhuang slowly opened his eyes, took a look at Bai Qiancheng, his gaze gentle, a faint smile on his face, but he did not speak.

It seemed he no longer had the strength to talk.

Bai Qiancheng's expression grew tense, "Big Senior Brother, you can't die!"

After a while, Mr. Zhuang finally spoke, his voice light and weary:

"I have calculated all my life, I'm tired, I want to sleep for a while

Pain wracked Bai Qiancheng's heart, "Big Senior Brother, you can't die! Isn't there anything in this world you still want to do, anyone you still want to see?"

Mr. Zhuang hesitated for a moment but still shook his head, murmuring:

"No more, there's no one left in this world I want to see

After he spoke, Mr. Zhuang slowly closed his eyes, no matter how Bai Qiancheng called out to him, there was no response.

The last trace of color faded from his face.

The faint spark of life, like a spring seeping into the desert, gradually dried up...

Bai Qiancheng watched Mr. Zhuang's expression, his face filled with bewilderment.

He had never imagined he would witness this scene.

Seeing his own Big Senior Brother die in front of him.

That was Senior Brother Zhuang...

Such a prodigious talent, so magnificent and peerless, so invincible.

Whatever happened, he had a plan for everything; no matter what mistakes he made, he would be forgiving; whatever he wanted, Senior Brother would figure it out for him.

The Big Senior Brother was right.

He was also scheming against his Big Senior Brother.

But...

He always thought that no matter how much he schemed, Big Senior Brother would still be Big Senior Brother, the one adept at Heavenly secret Calculation, confident in everything.

And not like this, pale-faced, devoid of life...

"Big Senior Brother... going to die?"

A great terror spread throughout his body.

Bai Qiancheng trembled all over.

Everybody dies eventually.

But having lived for hundreds of years, he had never realized, never thought, that one day, his Big Senior Brother, who treated him like a younger sister, always indulgent and caring for him, would... die?

He felt as if his chest was constricted, his heart torn by a knife.

Tears flowed silently down his face.

Bai Qiancheng wiped his cheeks, looking at the teardrops on his fingertips, murmuring: "So it turns out, I can still cry

Death...

Bai Qiancheng was suddenly shocked.

"No, you can't die!"

"Big Senior Brother... he cannot die!"

Master had died...

Big Senior Brother had turned into a demon...

If Big Senior Brother were to die too, then all those who had ever cherished him in this world would be gone...

"Big Senior Brother can't die!"

"But... how to save him, what do I have to save him with?!"

With the Qi Sea shattered, the Sea of Consciousness exhausted, the Taoist Bone stripped, and life fading away... in such a state, no Pills would be of use...

Bai Qiancheng felt suffocated, involuntarily clutching his chest, enduring the agony, his mind racing.

Moments later, a flash of inspiration struck him, and he suddenly said:

"True Man Situ... the Qiankun Clear Light Lamp