

## **A Father 351**

Chapter 351: Divine Skills Star Plucking, Encounter at Ghost Temple, Ms. Xi Xi Dominates Through the Ages

The aftermath of the explosion swept through the winter forest like a violent storm.

It was like an unending shockwave crashing between the trunks of trees, reverberating ceaselessly.

The fierce wind fluttered clothes, hair, flying snow, and falling leaves.

Wen Longshan felt an intense, burning pain as the shockwave and force from the dreadful hidden weapon's explosion caused his flesh and bones to break, and his internal organs to crack to varying degrees.

He could not understand how the hidden weapon could possess such terrifying explosive power!

During the explosion, the inherent divinity seemed to ignite, agitating thousands of times more than usual.

Such agitated and terrifying divine bombardment formed a shockwave that injured not only his martial artist's body.

It also impacted and struck at his divine sense.

This was a dual-strike hidden weapon!

Tang Family Mechanism is indeed well-deserved of its reputation...

Still, Wen Longshan racked his brains but couldn't figure out which type of mechanism from the Tang Family this was?

This level of deadly force...

Should it not already be among the top ten in the Tang Family Mechanism's records?

It should...

Already be famous throughout the world, right?

Blood uncontrollably flowed from Wen Longshan's nose and mouth.

His internal organs were shattered. At the grandmaster realm, it wasn't just about tempering the body.  
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Tempering the internal organs was also crucial.

When the Jue Xue is cultivated to major accomplishment, producing a bit of true intent, one can begin to integrate the true intent into the internal organs, refining them to make them tough and unyielding.

Only with internal and external cultivation flawless and complete, does one qualify to challenge the Great Grandmaster rank!

Wen Longshan's internal organs had long been tempered with the true intent of the Fire God Divine Arrow.

But under this mechanism's bombardment, they were all damaged to varying degrees.

Wen Longshan knew he was not going to survive.

Especially...

This Bull Demon, excessively stable.

Feeling the utterly terrifying outpouring from the Bull Demon, which almost froze his soul and rendered his divinity utterly immobile, was an oppressive force of a Temple God rank.

That is... the divinity of a Temple God from atop the Golden Light Peak in the Divine Sect, suspected from within the Golden Temple [Seven Treasures Relic Ruyi Golden Tower]!

Wen Longshan forced a wry smile.

A piece of lonely snow landed on his scorched, disheveled, and blackened face, bringing a rush of coldness.

Wen Longshan actually felt the cold.

"Bull Demon..."

Wen Longshan's voice was somber.

"I've been afraid of pain since I was young... That's why I learned archery, to stand far away, shoot arrows to hurt people, without needing to get up close to fight..."

"That was my initial intention for learning archery..."

Wen Longshan's lips uncontrollably quivered as he slowly lifted his head.

Wearily opening his only eye, he looked towards the figure clad in golden armor, with black hair fluttering, terrifying like a god demon—the Bull Demon...

"Bull Demon..."

"Be gentle."

Li Che, wearing the Bull Demon mask, didn't utter a single unnecessary word.

With a clutch of his hand, the Flood Dragon Bone Wind-Thunder Halberd immediately fell into his grasp, the halberd quivering.

It swept across abruptly!

Pfft—

Wen Longshan, who was suffering through intense pain in his head, suddenly soared into the skies, his face still twisted in extreme agony.

"Don't worry."

"I'll be quick."

With a sudden swing, he flung off the blood from the Flood Dragon Bone Wind-Thunder Halberd and stored it in the Qiankun Space.

Under the Bull Demon Mask, the vertical eye on his forehead abruptly opened!

Divine Skills...

Star Plucking Pupil!

It seemed as if a solidified gaze burst forth from the fiery vertical eye on his forehead.

One after another, the Divine Phase Chess Pieces began to float.

The number... reached a staggering ninety-two!

Ninety-two Divine Phase Divinity Chess Pieces!

Surpassing ninety pieces signified that Wen Longshan had achieved Complete Divine Appearance in Divine Cultivation and was only a step away from reaching Elemental Appearance!

"What a great harvest!"

Li Che watched the ninety-two floating Divine Phase Chess Pieces and, with a big smile, collected them all.

After the Prototype of Divine Powers Thousand Analyzing Hands evolved into Star Plucking,

He could now collect the Divinity Chess Pieces from the deceased's body without even having to Ascend the Tower.

Of course, aside from the Divine Phase Chess Pieces, Li Che also unapologetically took Wen Longshan's Qiankun Jade and Divine Bow.

All these were rightfully earned by his skills as a Bull Demon.

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Snowflakes flew wildly, and the cold wind was as sharp as a knife.

The carriage raced rapidly on the snow-covered official road.

The horses neighed.

Several fine horses swiftly surrounded and raced past the carriage, their black-clothed Cultivators looking exceedingly solemn.

Boom—!!

Suddenly, there was a deafening explosion in the distance.

Even though they were far away, the spreading divine fluctuations shocked the demon-blooded horses of the carriage!

The one-armed charioteer furrowed his brows and looked in the direction from which the divine shockwave originated.

The curtain of the carriage was lifted.

Young Prince seemed to sense something too and walked out, puzzled.

"Grandfather Dufu, has something happened?"

The Young Prince asked, frowning.

Xue Dufu, pulling on the reins with his single arm, displayed a serious expression on his weathered, rugged face.

As a protector of the Young Prince, Xue Dufu did not wish for any unexpected incidents to occur.

"It must be Cultivators clashing, this divine fluctuation... is very intense."

"But I have never sensed such explosive Divinity before, what kind of Cultivator could withstand and bear such Divinity?"

"Could it be... a Great Grandmaster?"

Xue Dufu murmured.

Golden Light Prefecture...

A Great Grandmaster?!

His aged and murky eyes suddenly flickered with a sharp light, like a polished and gleaming long sword slicing through the void.

"Grandfather Dufu, go take a look,"

Said the Young Prince, standing with his hands behind his back, calmly.

"I need to prioritize the safety of the Young Prince. Although the news of Young Prince entering Golden Light Prefecture City has just spread, we cannot rule out the possibility that those with intentions have been waiting."

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The old man spoke in a heavy tone.

The Young Prince immediately burst into proud laughter, "Grandpa Xue Du, rest assured, with my father's deterrence, not many lowlifes dare to assassinate me."

"They can't withstand my father's fury."

"My father, is the King of Quelling Chaos."

The Young Prince was incomparably proud, as if even the snowstorm had turned fervid around him.

"Well then... Young Prince, just wait."

Xue Dufu was also aware that the Prince must have prepared life-saving measures for the Young Prince.

There were many in this world who wanted to kill the Young Prince, but succeeding was by no means an easy task.

Moreover...

His return would be very swift. Stay connected with

Boom...

The one-armed old man stood up, his toe lightly tapped, and instantly a ring of invisible airwaves exploded, tearing through the snow-burdened curtain.

His terrifying vital energy, like a true dragon, writhed and roared.

His speed was too fast, not leaving a trace on the snow, but rather trampling it with dominance.

With just a few steps, the snowy ground exploded violently.

Countless veils of snow were thrown up into the air.

The one-armed old man quickly rushed into the dense forest, as swift as lightning, reaching the ultimate speed.

Suddenly.

The old man narrowed his eyes, his powerful sight allowing him to see, from nearly ten miles away, a towering figure like a mountain within the forest.

In front of that figure, a headless corpse, decapitated, leaned powerlessly against a tree trunk.

The thick and boiling blood gushed incessantly, melting the accumulated snow on the ground.

"Divine Armor, standard issue, belongs to Yun Province's Divine Guard Army Colonel Wen Longshan?"

The one-armed old man's eyes sharpened.

With a bang, countless vital energies seemed to stack up instantaneously on his back and violently exploded into waves, forming a jetting shock wave.

The entire person sped up to the point of becoming a bolt of lightning.

Too fast!

As swift as the divine wrath of thunder!

With a clench of his hand, the entire atmosphere seemed about to be grasped and shattered.

However, by the time the one-armed old man arrived there,

He found that the towering figure, wearing a Cute Bull Mask and a conical hat, had disappeared into thin air.

The one-armed old man landed.

His powerful vital energy, like a heating furnace, raised the temperature of the entire dense forest.

The old man calmly looked at the deceased Wen Longshan.

His brows involuntarily furrowed.

In his mind, the image of the cute Bull Demon Mask was deeply etched.

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Golden Light Prefecture, Falling Flower Alley.

Inside the small courtyard.

With a bang...

A wave of air rippled invisibly, bursting outwards in all directions.

The Bull Demon's towering figure suddenly appeared in the courtyard.

Standing still for a long time, his chest heaved violently.

"Who... was that?"

Li Che removed his Bull Demon Mask, revealing an extremely grave expression.

Though separated by more than ten miles, his swift approach gave him an oppressive feeling that made it hard to breathe, a sense of crisis.

That person was a...

Great Grandmaster!

Absolutely a Great Grandmaster!

You see, Li Che, who had attained the level of a Furnace Grandmaster through the Divine Vein Nine Transformations, was a martial arts genius whose qi and blood could be suppressed, making him feel a sense of terror...

Only by a Great Grandmaster!

"Why would there be a Great Grandmaster in Golden Light Prefecture City?"

Li Che frowned.

Suddenly, he recalled the words spoken by Nan Lihuo before the operation.

The reason why Wen Longshan left the city was to meet and escort the youngest son of King Ping Luan Ji Moli; it seemed likely that this Great Grandmaster was the one protecting the son of King Ping Luan.

Indeed, considering the status and strength of King Ping Luan, dispatching a Great Grandmaster to escort his son was perfectly reasonable.

"For the Temple God Resonance?"

Li Che pondered.

This "Temple God Resonance" by the Four Imperials Eight-Armed Prison Lotus Furious Third Prince Mysterious Temple attracted more people than he had anticipated.

Setting aside the Divine Child from Dao City, just the Spirit Children from various prefectures in Yun Province were continuously converging here.

Those daring to participate in the Temple God Resonance were definitely the Spirit Children with the highest talent in each prefecture.

"Xi Xi's competitive pressure is much bigger than imagined."

Thinking of his daughter, Li Che couldn't help but let the corners of his lips rise slightly.

But...

What no one knew...

Was that his daughter Xi Xi had a huge trump card.

Li Che even began to look forward to the moment during the Temple God Resonance, when Xi Xi would pull out that Purple Flame Serpentine Spear Fire Tip Spear.

Of course, Li Che also understood that the current Xi Xi was still not capable of wielding the Fire Tip Spear, so he couldn't be too relaxed about it.

Li Che stroked his chin, starting to think about how to let his daughter try to command the Fire Tip Spear.

But after thinking about it, he was clueless.

This Mythical Weapon that was hidden inside Xi Xi's arm seemed to have completely fallen asleep without so much as a stir.

A Mythical Weapon indeed had its own temperament.

The main issue was that Xi Xi was still too young.

"But... the Third Crown Prince is also a little one."

Li Che muttered to himself.

They were all little ones, so why couldn't his daughter Li Che wield the Fire Tip Spear?

He did not ponder too deeply on this topic.

Li Che attributed everything to himself.

After all, he felt he wasn't strong enough as a father.

After confirming through the Thunder Chess Piece that the carriage heading to Heart Monkey Temple with Gong Yunli did not meet too many unexpected incidents.

He didn't hurry to return to the carriage immediately.

Rather, he sat cross-legged in the courtyard, bathing in the pure white flying snow.

He took out Wen Longshan's Qiankun Jade as well as that crimson bow brimming with patterns!

Between his brows, the Star Plucking Pupil grew slightly hot.

Information about the Divine Bow immediately flooded into his mind.

[Divine Weapon (Seven Elements Superior Grade): Red Flame Flowing Fire Star-Shattering Bow]

[Craftsmanship: Forged from celestial and terrestrial flowing fire crystal stones, soaked with the tendons of a Jiao Long using a unique secret method to increase its toughness, shoots out like flowing fire, its power can shatter stars!]

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[In charge: Qi-Blood Grandmasters and above, Divine Ministers and above]

A Seven Elements Superior Grade Divine Weapon, Divine Bow!

This is the Divine Bow of Wen Longshan!

Li Che's eyes sparkled as he thought of archery... he was also skilled in it, mastering the Angry Cry Hundreds of Ghosts Wind-Thunder Arrows, which was also a form of archery.

But compared to Wen Longshan's archery, it was like heaven and earth apart.

"What a great bow!"

Li Che stood up in the courtyard.

Inside his chest, the Dragon Elephant Vajra Dao Fruit trembled slightly.

Drawing the bow, hooking the string, pulling the Divine Bow empty.

Qi and blood surged throughout his body, revealing the physique of a Furnace Grandmaster at this moment, as if an angry dragon was roaring.

Creak... creak...

The muscles on his arm seemed to be twisted steel, containing explosive power that raged within.

An intense heat instantly rose in the courtyard.

The bow immediately swirled with crimson flames as if a flaming flood dragon was taking form and roaring.

Li Che's eyes shone brightly, his black hair wildly flying about. Stay connected through

A shadowy figure of a Dragon Elephant seemed to appear behind him, roaring!

This Seven Elements Superior Grade Divine Bow, despite being very rigid, was still pulled open by Li Che.

"What a great bow!" Li Che exclaimed once again, loving it too much to put it down.

Indeed, it was a Divine Archer's bow, a wonderful item.

Now, it belongs to a man named Li!

Li Che forcefully tore open Wen Longshan's Qiankun Jade and started to inventory his gains.

"One Seven Yuan Divinity Crystal, ten Eight Extremes Divinity Crystals, eighteen Nine Luminaries Divinity Crystals... Is this the fortune of a Divine Archer? So abundant!"

Li Che was astounded!

How could Wen Longshan have prepared such rich resources!

Wen Longshan had not yet stepped into the Elemental Appearance, which meant... these resources were prepared for his own breakthrough into the Elemental Appearance!

"Besides this Divine Bow, there is also an Eight Extremes Tiger Roaring Knife among the Divine Weapons. Not bad."

"The elixirs, though, are ordinary, all of them are common Flood Dragon Blood Martial Pills, with ranks ranging from Eight Extremes to Nine Luminaries."

"Supreme True Meaning Secret Techniques!"

"Red Flame Flowing Fire Divine Archery Technique,' a paired secret technique with the Red Flame Flowing Star Crusher Bow?!"

Li Che's eyes suddenly lit up.

With this secret technique, the number of secret techniques under Li Che's command has reached six!

They vary in style, including sword arts, horizontal refinement, mechanical techniques, and now an addition of archery!

Developing in a balanced way, this is.

Li Che smiled, not bothering to delve into this archery technique for now, planning to learn it when the opportunity arises.

Replaying this battle in his mind.

Li Che was quite pleased with himself.

Everything proceeded in an orderly fashion according to his arrangement.

Wen Longshan played along quite well, falling for trap after trap.

"Mainly because Wen Longshan never imagined that the eagle he raised a kilometer in the sky would catch my attention."

"Killing the eagle was like blinding one of his eyes."

"Wen Longshan was like a headless fly after that, naturally... he fell for the traps repeatedly."

Li Che exhaled deeply.

Plus, with Divine Crystal Powder, Sudden Green Powder, Mechanical Crane tactics, combined with Wen Longshan's almost blinding urge to kill Horse Face.

In his confusion, he gave Li Che the chance to surprise him with the Great Avalanche Guanyin Lotus Bullet.

"But in reality... in a real battle, it would be extremely difficult for the Great Avalanche Guanyin Lotus Bullet to hit a cultivator who has completed Divine Appearance at the Grandmaster Posterior Realm solidly."

Li Che frowned, not letting arrogance get the better of him over this victory.

"I still need to focus on researching the 'Guanyin Lotus Main Battle Tank'..."

Li Che did not allow victory to cloud his judgment; instead, he remained cautious, reflecting on himself.

This world is too dangerous; he must stay vigilant and avoid making mistakes.

After all, Li Che is not just a person; he has a family now.

With a wife, a daughter...

His life is tied to his wife and daughter.

If something were to happen to him, how heartbroken would his wife and daughter be?

Li Che did not want his wife and daughter to grieve.

It would make him seem like an incompetent husband and father.

With a thought.

Streaks of light appeared before his eyes.

[Dao Fruit: Dragon Elephant Vajra (lv3, 90%)]

Looking at the maturity displayed by the Dragon Elephant Vajra Dao Fruit.

Li Che's mood immediately brightened.

"Just a little bit more to level 4, where the Prototype of Divine Powers will be promoted to Divine Powers."

Indeed, intense and thrilling combat above one's level.

It brings the most significant stimulation to the unmatched Dragon Elephant Vajra Dao Fruit.

Stimulating its rapid growth!

He took a deep breath.

Expanding his awareness, after sensing the position of his [Fairy in the Painting] clone riding along with Yunli in the carriage,

He took control of the clone, claiming he needed to step out of the carriage for some fresh air.

In the time it took to get some air, the Thunder Chess Piece hidden within the clone was firmly grasped in Li Che's hand, completing the transfer.

Li Che did not join the battle between Nan Lihuo and Li Qingshan.

Because through the Heaven and Earth Chessboard, he could clearly sense that the two had already begun to retreat.

Nan Lihuo did not want to fight to the death with Su Huaili at this time.

Without the certainty of killing Su Huaili, Nan Lihuo chose to find another opportunity.

Nan Lihuo always had a mild smile on his face, but in reality, he was as treacherous as a venomous snake.

Li Qingshan, needless to say, with the joint efforts of three generals from the Divine Guard Army, they cooperated with unspoken understanding.

Having just broken through to Divine Appearance, although Li Qingshan had the combat power of the Post-Divine Phase, he was truly at a disadvantage.

Completely suppressed.

Therefore, after a few exchanges, Li Qingshan crushed the Earth Escape Talisman and vanished in an instant.

Li Che withdrew his gaze, his black scholar's robe rustling in the cold wind.

He returned back to the carriage, where Yunli was still eating candied fruit, her cheeks continuously bulging like a little squirrel.

Shangguan Qinghong's habit of snacking might have been learned from Yunli.

Yunli seemed to notice Li Che's gaze and paused, "A Che, would you like some?"

She offered a handful of sunflower seeds to Li Che.

Chapter 354: Divine Skills Pluck Stars as the Ghost Temple Emerges, Ms. Xi Xi Dominates Through the Ages (4)

Li Che smiled gently and waved his hand, then turned his head to the window where the falling snow whirled outside.

Having just killed Wen Longshan, a stifling anger in his heart was mostly relieved, and he was in a very good mood, seeing the snowy scene come to life.

Gong Yunli seemed to have sensed that Li Che's mood had become much more cheerful.

"Gong Shaojian, we should be close to Heart Monkey Temple, right?" Li Che asked.

"We have practically arrived; we've almost entered the domain of Heart Monkey Temple... We will stop there and then head directly to Mysterious Temple."

Gong Yunli said.

"As one of the Five Great Sects of Golden Light Prefecture City, the Heart Monkey Temple's strength is indeed not weak."

"The peace of this Mysterious Temple is also thanks to their assistance in suppressing it."

Li Che nodded upon hearing this.

However, the mention of the temple inadvertently brought to mind the monk who had bought his wood carving of the Zhong Kui statue.

A hint of puzzlement arose in his heart; the monk was from the Buddhist order, a professional at subduing demons and capturing ghosts, why did he need his wood carving of Zhong Kui?

Although slightly perplexed, he didn't delve too deeply into the matter.

The carriage procession continued to sway.

Tearing through the snowstorm, they moved forward.

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Divine Sect, Golden Light Peak.

Inside the Divine Palace, Nan Lihuo, surrounded by a brown halo, abruptly dispersed it and leaped up from the ground.

Powerful waves of divinity spread incessantly.

He sat on the stone steps of the grand hall, removing the white fox mask from his face.

His expression was inevitably somber and sorrowful.

The sorrow stemmed from the death of his confidential informant within the City Lord's Mansion, whose head Su Huaili had crushed in front of him.

Nan Lihuo felt a pang in his heart.

His contemplation was due to the failure of the plan...

Hmm?

Nan Lihuo's expression suddenly took on a peculiar look.

"It seems... it's not a complete failure

"Wen Longshan is dead."

"Killed by Ox Demon and Horse Face!"

Nan Lihuo thought of Su Huaili, who suddenly flew into a rage, causing fluctuations in the flow of battle, and this provided him with a chance to flee.

The cause was the news of Wen Longshan's death that Su Huaili had learned.

"Wen Longshan... such a formidable divine archer

"To think he was killed by Ox Demon and Horse Face?!"

Nan Lihuo shook his head.

An unexpected blessing indeed.

He had thought that this time the plan was surely a failure.

Yet the outcome turned out to be so delightful.

"Ox Demon and Horse Face... how did they manage it?"

Nan Lihuo was shaken.

Wen Longshan was no mere weakling, a Seven Elements Divine Archer... within a hundred feet, he was almost invincible.

Even though Horse Face mastered long-range mechanism sniping arts, within a hundred feet, he certainly couldn't match Wen Longshan.

As for Ox Demon...

Ox Demon might not have been able to stop Wen Longshan, who although a divine archer, was also not weak in martial cultivation.

He had even mastered the ultimate skill “Red Flame Flowing Fire Divine Archery Technique” to the pinnacle of the Master Realm, developing True Intent and True Form, forging his internal organs to be tough and resilient.

He was just one step away from mastering the Transformation Realm Domain!

Once a divine archer’s True Intent Domain manifested, the killing power was extremely terrifying!

On the battlefield, that was almost a life reaper!

Nan Lihuo sat on the long stairway; in the empty grand hall, his light laughter suddenly echoed.

“Su Huaili... must be close to dying of rage.”

The smile at the corner of Nan Lihuo’s mouth was hard to suppress.

The angrier Su Huaili got, the better Nan Lihuo’s mood became.

After laughing for a while,

Nan Lihuo no longer dwelt on how Ox Demon and Horse Face managed to kill Wen Longshan.

"Ox Demon and Horse Face from the Underworld

Originally, they were called to be assistants, to ensure that when he took Wen Longshan's life, nothing could go wrong.

Now it seems...

"I'll need to pay them more."

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Nan Lihuo changed into a refreshing white Sect Master's robe and walked out of the tightly sealed Divine Palace.

Taoist King Ku Yu suddenly startled, looking puzzled at Nan Lihuo who emerged.

Just got back?

Is it... all done?

It seems it wasn't to assassinate Ji Moli's youngest son, so what was it for?

King Ku Yu shook his head, whatever Nan Lihuo had done, it would become known soon enough.

After all, something that would mobilize a Sect Master was no trivial matter.

The news would soon spread through Mansion City.

Nan Lihuo, as if basking in a spring breeze, was in a very good mood, King Ku Yu glanced over and thought that the plan must be completed, and the target probably killed.

Otherwise, Nan Lihuo would definitely be wearing a smile tinged with displeasure.

Nan Lihuo looked over the chaotic Daping, then saw Zhong Liuxiu, the Dao City's Divine Child, lying flat on the ground receiving treatment from Elder Zhang Qingzheng.

After a moment of shock, with a turning thought, he realized what had happened.

"Xi Xi, this girl... too impolite." Nan Lihuo smiled warmly, unable to suppress the smile tugging at his lips.

On the Daping.

Xi Xi, hands on hips, big belly protruding, stood beside the Wood Spirit Crane, her large eyes flitting over the crowd.

"Who else?"

Emperor Xi Xi surveyed her surroundings like a young cub, domineering beyond compare.

In the distance.

Hai Chao Sheng's eyes were bright, full of longing.

Gongyang Xiu and Gong Yuanliang couldn't stop applauding.

"Ms. Xi Xi, overwhelming across all ages, unparalleled in the world!"

Gong Yang Xiu's little face flushed as he shouted loudly.

Complete silence fell over the Daping.

Xi Xi's little face couldn't help but blush slightly.

That was enough!

That was really enough!

Becoming overwhelming across all ages was sufficient, but adding unparalleled in the world made Xi Xi embarrassingly shy.

However... Ms. Xi Xi?

The way little Xiuxiu put it actually sounded quite nice.

"Who else?" Xi Xi's chest puffed up even higher.

Her gaze swept over all the Spirit Children of Dao City, lingering a few seconds longer on the dumplings being eaten by Little Fatty.

Her gaze moved to Little Fatty's face, and Xi Xi immediately shifted her attention, unwilling to taint her eyes even for an extra second.

Couldn't stand it a bit!

Her shifted gaze finally landed on Yun E, who was beside Little Fatty.

Seeing her, Xi Xi's eyes suddenly brightened significantly.

"What a pretty sister!"

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The carriage bounced along through the icy snowscape.

Shaking and swaying.

Gong Yunli, who was leaning on the carriage window, suddenly pointed toward Heart Monkey Temple in the distance, and whispered to Li Che,

"A Che, we've arrived at Heart Monkey Temple!"

Li Che, hearing this, slowly opened his restful eyes.

Turning his head, his gaze shifted toward the window.

It fell upon the ancient temple enveloped in the icy snowscape.

Ancient temple amidst ice and snow.

There was quite a poetic and picturesque sense to it.

Li Che was appreciating the view.

Suddenly...

His Brow Niwan Palace suddenly blazed with heat.

A Godly Pattern flashed past.

That was...

The Divine Skill, [Star Plucking Pupil]!

Return to Truth, Quell Evil Punish Wickedness!

The next moment...

Li Che's eyes narrowed.

He saw the peaceful ancient temple amid the wind and snow.

In an instant...

Ominous ghostly qi soared straight to the skies.

Chapter 355: Witnessing Equaling Heaven Rewards the Spirit Monkey Mask, Divine Eye Sees No More  
Huaguo Mountain

Li Che's eyes narrowed slightly.

His brow felt increasingly hot, as the "Star Plucking Pupil" Divine Skill involuntarily activated.

The Star Plucking Pupil, [breaking down everything, absorbing souls, discerning truth from illusion, quelling evil and punishing the wicked]!

In Li Che's eyes, no evil could hide or escape detection; everything was visible to the Star Plucking Pupil.

Therefore, Li Che had never doubted the judgment of the Star Plucking Pupil.

In his view, the serene Heart Monkey Temple amidst the snowstorm became ghastly and ghostly in an instant.

This was definitely not a problem with his eyesight.

It must be that there was something wrong with the Heart Monkey Temple.

"Dense with ghosts' breath, and filled with the aura of death, is this Heart Monkey Temple... actually a Ghost Temple?"

Li Che furrowed his brows.

Or could it be that ghosts were hidden within the Heart Monkey Temple?

Beyond that...

"Could it be related to the Corpse God Cult?"

Li Che's heart stirred.

He couldn't help but think of this possibility, and verifying it wouldn't be difficult.

The Chess Saint Taoist Fruit in his chest throbbed, and the next moment, his mind sank into the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

The chessboard cast a vast net that enveloped heaven and earth in an instant, shrouding the ghostly Heart Monkey Temple within it.

After that, Li Che's spirit floated within the Heaven and Earth chessboard, and he flicked his fingers lightly upon the Seven Elements Corpse Curse Mark, which was already mostly refined.

An Immaculate Heart Taoist Fruit collided with it violently and exploded abruptly!

Then came a second one...

It was like an ancient bell being struck with force!

Suddenly, invisible black ripples like bell waves began to spread from the center of Li Che's body, constantly expanding...

Like a black tide, they spread toward the Heart Monkey Temple and then, under Li Che's odd gaze.

Under the coercion of heaven and earth, one after another, dense Corpse Curse Marks burst forth from the Heart Monkey Temple.

Even Li Che couldn't help being taken aback.

Li Che suddenly understood where all those high-ranking members of the Corpse God Cult who had evacuated Mansion City had hidden.

So it turned out...

They were all hiding within this temple?

Of course...

The Heart Monkey Temple might just be one of the Corpse God Cult's stronghold outside Mansion City.

But isn't that... fortuitous?

Li Che laughed.

He was not only unafraid, but he became even more excited.

His heart could hardly resist rubbing its hands together in anticipation.

One could say, "No need for extensive searching, the prize is found by chance."

Li Che slowly dispersed the Heaven and Earth chessboard, withdrew his mind, and the burning Star Plucking Pupil once again returned to stillness.

"Gong Shaojian, this Heart Monkey Temple... isn't it said to be an offshoot of the once-glorious Equal Heaven Temple?"

Li Che asked, turning the topic to the Heart Monkey Temple.

Upon hearing this, Gong Yunli scoffed disdainfully, "The Heart Monkey Temple is simply trying to gold-plate its own face. During its prime, Equal Heaven Temple was a gargantuan entity that spanned the six paths and twelve provinces, and it wasn't exaggerated to call it the number one sect in the world

"Although it has declined and split due to the uprising at the Mysterious Temple, coupled with human interference, resulting in its division into three major sects

"In reality, the three major sect temples only share a superficial origin with Equal Heaven Temple."

"Equal Heaven Temple was very strong, but the three sects... too weak."

"From this comparison alone, it's clear... the loss of the sect's lineage is too severe," Gong Yunli said.

"Sects and the Imperial Court are different, sects place great importance on their lineage; a lineage that lasts for a thousand years is not just talk."

Li Che nodded.

Equal Heaven Temple was an enormous entity that encompassed the six paths and twelve provinces, but what was the Heart Monkey Temple?

It was nothing more than a minor faction under the jurisdiction of Lingnan Circuit in Golden Light Prefecture.

The weak have their own sorrow.

If the Heart Monkey Temple was not colluding with the Corpse God Cult, there was only one possibility—that the Corpse God Cult had utterly subverted the weak Heart Monkey Temple.

Regardless of which it was, it wasn't good news.

Li Che and Gong Yunli didn't chat much more, as the carriage convoy shattered the snowstorm and slowly entered the vast plaza in front of the Heart Monkey Temple.

Li Che and Gong Yunli alighted from the carriage as the wind and snow howled.

Gongyang Liancheng came over and joined Gong Yunli.

Li Che and the other Woodcarving Masters stood quietly in the line, silently waiting for Gongyang Liancheng and Gong Yunli's arrangements.

To go to the Fire-Eye Mystical Awe Spirit Monkey Temple, they needed the two to lead the way.

Aside from the Eight-Armed Prison Lotus Furious Third Prince's Sinister Temple at the Four Imperials Level, the Golden Light Prefecture also had two major Eight Extremes Guaiyi Temples—the Fire-Eye Mystical Awe Spirit Monkey Temple and the Iron Crutch Happy Mirth Mendicant Temple.

Being Eight Extremes Guaiyi Temples, all were suppressed by the Imperial Court and now under the jurisdiction of the Temple Control Bureau.

To enter the Mysterious Temple, one needs a Temple Entry Order.

Gong Yunli had applied for an entry order from the Temple Control Bureau a few days earlier.

However, the chief representative stationed at the Fire-Eye Mystical Awe Spirit Monkey Temple from the Temple Control Bureau sent back a message that the Mysterious Temple's Strange Que had been trembling for some days.

Therefore, the date of observing the Temple God was pushed back, and now finally promised.

Gongyang Liancheng's expression was solemn as he checked the list, then nodded.

"Everyone is here, let's get ready. We are about to go to the Mysterious Temple to observe the Temple God,"

"For all of you, this is a rare opportunity. Make sure to seize it well."

Gongyang Liancheng didn't cower like when he faced Vice Supervisor Lin Xiu; instead, he wielded considerable official authority.

From a distance, two old monks slowly emerged from within the Heart Monkey Temple.

With kind expressions, white eyebrows, and white beards, they were clearly elderly monks.

"Master Xuanli, Grandmaster Xuanyuan

Gongyang Liancheng clasped his fists in salute and greeted the two monks with a warm smile.

"Master Xuanli is the abbot of Heart Monkey Temple. Heart Monkey Temple has been meritorious in assisting the Temple Control Bureau in overseeing the Mysterious Temple; among these, Master Xuanli's help is indispensable."

Chapter 356: Witnessing Equaling Heaven Obtains the Spirit Monkey Mask, Divine Eye Sees No More Huaguo Mountain (2)

Gongyang Liancheng introduced Li Che and other third-class Guest Officials.

Many Guest Officials immediately responded with a bow and held a salute.

The old monk pressed his palms together and smiled benevolently, "Everyone here is a master of the Wood Carving path. If by observing the Temple God you manage to gain something, it would not be in vain the efforts of the Heart Monkey Temple and the Demon Suppression Bureau in suppressing the Mysterious Temple."

Li Che blended among the many Guest Officials, also holding a salute.

However, a thought crossed Li Che's mind, and he activated the Seven Elements Corpse Curse Mother-and-Child Seal to probe whether the two masters from the Heart Monkey Temple were related to the Corpse God Cult.

What?

As soon as Li Che activated it, the Seven Elements Corpse Curse Mother-and-Child Seal supremely tremored within the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

Li Che raised an eyebrow and immediately brought over an ambergold Heavenly King Divine Chess Piece.

He firmly suppressed the Mother-and-Child Seal.

Through the Heaven and Earth chessboard, Li Che then saw Master Xuanli and Grandmaster Xuanyuan from the Heart Monkey Temple...

Their bodies exuding a dense Death Qi and Corpse Qi, so potent it nearly seemed to morph into evil spirits breaking out of Hell!

My goodness!

Li Che was startled and inwardly exclaimed, what a find.

Are these fellow Corpse God Cult evil people disguised as monks?

Li Che's mind was subtly alert, yet his expression remained unreadable, having mastered over the years the skill to keep his face as still as an ancient well.

Ordinary people cannot detect the Corpse Curse Mark, which is why the evil ones from the Corpse God Cult could freely corrupt many high ranks within the Golden Light Prefecture.

Because, even if marked, it would remain unknown, allowing them to conceal their malevolence.

So, even if marked, what of it?

However, ever since the Bull Demon appeared in Golden Light Prefecture City, everything changed.

The Bull Demon could actually discover those marked by the Corpse God Cult, a severe blow to these evildoers.

The two masters naturally did not know that Li Che had already discovered their true identities under their kind appearances.

Li Che didn't expose them.

To expose them now would be unwise. He had control over the Thunder Chess Piece, which kept him safe, allowing him to leave whenever he wished.

But the others wouldn't be so lucky.

Even Gongyang Liancheng and Gong Yunli, the two Illusory Phase Cultivators...

Would likely be detained.

Thus, Li Che decided not to expose them but to leave behind a Thunder Chess Piece, setting a coordinate point, planning to later contact Li Qingshan and find a chance... ！a2oBEξ

To wipe out this stronghold of the Corpse God Cult!

Towards the Corpse God Cult, Li Che always felt a deep, agonizing hatred.

He adhered to the principle of better to err in killing than to miss an enemy.

Now that he had discovered a stronghold of the Corpse God Cult, how could Li Che let them go easily?

Perhaps, right now within the Corpse God Cult, they were planning how to abduct Xi Xi!

Just the thought of it made Li Che feel that the Corpse God Cult deserved to be put to the sword a thousand times.

Masters Xuanli and Xuanyuan, with gentle smiles, watched Gongyang Liancheng and Gong Yunli leading the group of Woodcarving Masters towards the depths of the temple behind the Heart Monkey Temple.

The two monks exchanged glances, their smiles vanishing from their eyes instantly.

Master Xuanli straightened up suddenly, his eyes devoid of any aged weariness, sharp as ever.

"Just now... my Thousand Li Divine Communication Mirror seemed to have reacted

"Xuanjiu seems to be nearby!"

Grandmaster Xuanyuan, with a bright bald head, rubbed his head in surprise and said, "Xuanjiu... is he not dead?"

"How could he be dead? He was only injured by the old man from the Qintian Observatory, not so easy to die... after all, he is a half-step Cursed Silver Corpse."

Xuanjiu is indeed a half-step Cursed Silver Corpse who had cultivated a trace of Silver Gang.

Xuanli felt sure that Xuanjiu couldn't have died so easily.

"So, you suspect that Xuanjiu hid his identity, blending in with the group of third-class Guest Officials from the Qintian Observatory?"

Grandmaster Xuanyuan furrowed his brow.

Master Xuanli nodded, peering towards the gradually blurring figures vanishing into the snowy mountain path.

His eyes sparked with sharpness.

"This Xuanjiu, he better not mess up our plans."

Grandmaster Xuanyuan's brows relaxed at once, "Perhaps Xuanjiu plans to use the Temple Guardian Cursed Corpses inside the Strange Temple to restore his Silver Gang strength... Send him a message asking him not to interfere with our plans."

Master Xuanli nodded, feeling it made sense.

...

...

The sharp winds and heavy snow continued whipping through the mountain path for a moment.

Everyone was a cultivator, having the strength of a Woodcarving Master does not leave one weakened by environmental factors, thus not slowing their journey.

In roughly the time it takes for half an incense stick to burn, Li Che and his companions reached the front of the Mysterious Temple.

Fire Eye Mystical Awe Spirit Ape Strange Temple!

Located on the mountainside, yet it enveloped the entire slopes.

Here, Li Che even saw several old village sites.

Clearly, this Strange Temple originally sprouted from the village, and now that the village had perished, the Strange Temple had expanded to its utmost.

Thick gray fog tumbled, blended with the snowstorm, making it seem like a temple located in a smoke-filled, alternate dimension.

Temple Control Bureau's Divine Envoys had set up barriers around it.

Preventing cultivators without a Temple Entry Order from entering.

Compared to the security of the Four Royal Mysterious Temples, this was considerably weaker.

Eight Extremes Guaiyi Temple had already cultivated a Strange Que. Li Che curiously observed the Strange Que, recalling how the City Lord Cao Guang of Flying Thunder City had planned to stage a Thousand Infants Banquet to promote the Strange Temple to a higher rank and produce a Strange Que.

Unfortunately, Li Che had disrupted that plan.

Because there was a Temple Entry Order, and it wasn't the first time the Qintian Observatory brought Woodcarving Masters here to observe the Temple God.

Thus, the chief officer of the Temple Control Bureau, after a simple check, allowed them to pass.

An incense burner appeared in the chief officer's hand, and after lighting three incense sticks,

Carried the burner forward.

Chapter 357: Witnessing Equaling Heaven Obtains the Spirit Monkey Mask, Divine Eye Sees No More  
Huaguo Mountain\_3

The thick fog of Strange Que unexpectedly split open like curtains, revealing a spacious path leading straight to the towering temple.

The temple's architectural beams and mural paintings, its soaring eaves and angled corners—covered by the thick, white snow—appeared somewhat dilapidated, with the walls engraved with various poses of monkey images.

Just like the first time he had seen the Mysterious Temple.

A tremendous suction force suddenly burst forth from inside the temple, but Li Che was no longer the naive youngster who had first encountered the Mysterious Temple.

Not to mention that he had now achieved the physique of a Furnace Grandmaster.

Let alone the powerful Divine Sense that he had condensed through forging Seven Wheels Divine Base, which was sufficient to easily break free from the enticing lure of the Mysterious Temple.

"Strange Que is considered the most dangerous part of the Mysterious Temple, generally believed to be its self-protection mechanism

"Once Strange Que is breached, the Mysterious Fog clears, and the Divine Temple is revealed."

The leading officer of the Temple Control Bureau, holding the incense burner, spoke softly.

"Strange Que is very dangerous, if one has not conquered the Mysterious Temple and gets swept up by Strange Que, they will be pulled into the Temple God's illusion, easily becoming lost in it and possibly encountering attacks by the Temple Guardian Cursed Corpses

"The Temple Guardian Cursed Corpses of the Eight Extremes Mysterious Temple can reach the level comparable to the Cursed Copper Corpses of the Corpse God Cult."

"The Corpse Curse Technique of the Corpse God Cult seems to originate from the Temple Guardian Cursed Corpses of the Mysterious Temple."

After a brief introduction.

The group walked a path shrouded in mysterious fog about a kilometer in length to the front of the temple."

"Everyone, this is where I leave you, step into the Mysterious Temple on your own."

"Observing the Temple God ... mind the balance."

"If your Divine Sense can't take it, your Divinity can't hold up ... wisely pull yourself out."

"Otherwise, if the Temple God takes over your consciousness, becoming a Temple Guardian Cursed Corpse, you will deeply regret it."

The chief officer of the Temple Control Bureau then placed the incense burner, burning with three sticks of incense, at the entrance of the Mysterious Temple. 千安

"Everyone, please enter."

"You need to leave before the three incense sticks burn out!"

The chief officer Qi Yanghao said in a deep voice.

Many Third-class Guest Officials solemnly acknowledged, responding accordingly.

Li Che did the same, going with the flow.

Soon, he and the other Third-class Guest Officials stepped past the incense burner and into the Mysterious Temple.

Qi Yanghao stood with his arms crossed and a side knife at his waist, standing still in front of the temple.

Once the three incense sticks burned out, he would pick up the incense burner and retreat immediately.

Then...

As Strange Que closed, these Third-class Guest Officials who wanted to leave the temple would have to rely on their own skills.

The number one rule of guarding the Mysterious Temple was to avoid engaging with Temple Guardian Cursed Corpses and Demon Beasts as much as possible...

Engaging too much could easily awaken the Temple God, causing an uprising in the Mysterious Temple!

As for the lives of these Third-class Guest Officials...

He wouldn't care, as the time had already been set.

If these officials were greedy and wanted to observe the Temple God for longer, they would pay the price for their greed.

...

...

Li Che and many other Third-class Guest Officials stepped into the Mysterious Temple.

Compared to the Spirit Infant Temple outside Fei Lei City, this Spirit Monkey Temple was quite larger.

White candles lit up all around, serving just for illumination, revealing the darkness within the temple.

But in reality, this Spirit Monkey Temple was not very large.

As many officials streamed in, it became quite crowded.

A small temple, atop its altar, held three statues.

One of a towering Temple God, and the other two somewhat smaller.

But without exception, all depicted monkeys.

The Temple God Spirit Monkey, wearing armor, eyes glittering as if fire flowed within, was posed cross-legged sitting on a lotus throne.

A single glance was enough to see the liveliness and agility exuding from the Temple God Wood Carving as if it were alive.

Li Che found himself a spot.

Just like the other guests, he sat cross-legged, looking up and releasing his Divine Sense to observe the Temple God.

By observing the aura of the Temple God Statue and simulating it in his mind, he aimed to elevate his own carving skills.

A guest official, floating, raised his hand and drew virtual strokes, using the Great Scenic Heavenly Seven Elements Thousand Hand Divine Carving Technique.

The atmosphere instantly heated up, everyone seriously observing the Temple God.

After watching for a while, Li Che understood the theory behind observing the Temple God.

It was about sensing and capturing the essence of the Temple God.

Temple God Wood Carving... I wonder who carved it?

It is said to have appeared alongside the Mysterious Temple out of nowhere.

It contains unique carving techniques.

The reason why there is the profession of a Woodcarving Master is that they mimic the Temple God Wood Carving, catching and imitating the essence of Temple God Wood Carving, allowing Spirit Children and Divine Children to accelerate their Essence Cultivation.

Thus we have this world, where beyond the path of blood and martial arts, the way of Divine Cultivation has developed and flourished anew.

Having the Star Plucking Pupil, Li Che practically learned the carving technique of the Divine Ape immediately at a glance.

This kind of imitation was effortless for him.

However, technologies and developments like the [Great Avalanche Guanyin Lotus Bullet], [Guanyin Lotus Main Battle Tank], and others, even with the Star Plucking Pupil, required gradual Research and Development and trial and error.

The surroundings gradually became utterly quiet.

"Exhale

"Inhale

It was extremely quiet all around.

It seemed like everyone plunged into deep contemplation of the Temple God, their minds captivated.

Only Li Che's mind was exceptionally active.

Glancing around to ensure everyone was immersed in silence,

Li Che then stood up, dusted off his black robe, lifted his hand, and touched his brow.

He gently slid his finger downwards.

"Star Plucking Pupil!"

Endless analysis, drawing spirit with a touch!

His brow split open, his flesh appearing to tear apart on both sides.

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Huaguo Mountain\_4

A bead-like eye rotated swiftly, a faint golden smoke diffusing from the pupil.

As the Thousand Analyzing Hands were promoted to Star Plucking Pupil, he drew upon the Temple God Divinity and didn't even need to leap onto the altar or stretch out his hand to touch it.

He merely needed to make eye contact with the Temple God's eyes.

Hum—

Streaming light burst forth, falling upon the Fire-Eye Mystical Awe Spirit Monkey.

The very next moment.

Li Che saw that the statue of the Temple God seemed to come back to life.

The eyes of the Spirit Monkey blazed, sweeping a glance that appeared to echo the monkey's call between heaven and earth!

Li Che felt a moment of haziness before his eyes.

It was as if everything around him had changed.

As if his mind had shifted from the external world to the Heaven and Earth chessboard!

In an instant.

The colors of heaven and earth changed.

...

...

**Boom!**

Outside the Mysterious Temple.

An incense burner lay quietly, three incense sticks burning silently, their smoke rising straight up.

Suddenly.

Qi Yanghao abruptly opened his eyes, his hands crossed on his chest, his gaze sharp.

He stared at the smoke column rising from the three incense sticks.

He noticed that the rising smoke column first swayed to the left and then twisted towards the right.

As if it was torn apart by air currents blowing from both sides!

Qi Yanghao's hairs stood on end, he turned his head to both sides, only to see the separated fog of Strange Que gradually closing.

Qi Yanghao could even see the Temple Guardian Cursed Corpses faintly visible within Strange Que... and all sorts of bewildering illusions!

"This isn't right!"

"Why is Strange Que closing ahead of schedule?!"

"Isn't it supposed to wait until the three incense sticks burn out?"

Qi Yanghao was startled.

His heart trembled with shock!

A sudden outbreak at the Mysterious Temple!

An outbreak without any warning!

It was known that the procedure for the Qintian Observatory's Guest Elders entering the temple had always been this way!

"This is bad!"

Qi Yanghao hurriedly rushed to the incense burner.

He started screaming at the many Guest Elders who were still contemplating the Temple God inside the Mysterious Temple.

"Wake up!"

"Retreat!"

However, those Guest Elders seemed to be completely immersed in some bizarre illusion.

His shouting was to no avail!

"Damn... what on earth is happening?"

Chief Qi Yanghao looked distressed.

But he could not care anymore.

He even didn't have time to grab the incense burner and directly burst into a run, his blood surging as he sprinted toward the closing curtains of Strange Que outside. 风卷残云

Whoosh—

In the final moment, as the two sides of Strange Que crashed together like massive waves.

Chief Qi Yanghao finally dashed out.

In the distance.

Gongyang Liancheng and Gong Yunli's faces immediately changed, rushing over.

"What's happened?!"

Gongyang Liancheng asked urgently.

After landing, Qi Yanghao stood up, brushed the dust off his official robe, and placed one hand on his side knife.

His eyes were frosty cold.

"What else could it be?"

"The Mysterious Temple

"Erupted."

...

...

Shouts, flames, and explosions!

Li Che opened his eyes, only to see a scene of devastation, a palace crumbling apart, countless stones flying and collapsing.

On the ground, densely packed, were all the bodies of monkeys...

Scattered across the ground, the thick stench of blood filled the space between heaven and earth.

Li Che, uncontrollably looking up, saw the sky above.

A bright red cape billowed, a figure with two long feathers flapping atop the head, clad in the Golden Xuanling Armor, wielding a golden Divine Staff, its might overwhelming, as if the flow of clouds in heaven and earth was overturning for it.

Opposite the figure, dense dark clouds churned, atop which countless figures stood imposingly, their spirit shaking the heavens, oppressive and stifling!

Too far away.

Unable to hear the conversation between the two sides.

All he could hear was a desolate laughter that suddenly shook heaven and earth!

A heart full of desolation, endless sorrow...

Li Che just raised his head for a glance.

He wanted to look again.

But he simply couldn't, no, it wasn't that he couldn't...

It was because the perspective he occupied at this moment was turning around, fleeing rapidly like a bolt of lightning.

As if adhering to the will of that Divine Monkey holding the Golden Staff, opposite the endless bizarre strength.

Survive...

A great sadness spread, his eyes blurred, breaking the scene.

Countless streaks of fire ignited, turning into dripping flames like tears!

Like a tearful Spirit Monkey, dynamically leaping and dashing through the mountains and fields.

"Equaling Heaven

"Equaling Heaven!!!"

By his ear.

An endless frenzy of Spirit Monkeys, excited, roaring, exploded by Li Che's ear in an instant!

Boom...

The endless perspective shattered completely.

Li Che felt a sharp pain.

The possessing Spirit Monkey, its perspective spinning wildly, finally, crashed hard to the ground.

He had already escaped to the foot of the mountain.

He strenuously, staggeringly crawled toward a standing...

A stone stele covered with burn marks and cracks.

Struggling, he raised his hand, his blood-soaked palm heavily slapped onto the stele.

Slowly, rubbing and pulling out a blood stain...

As if inscribing on the soul of the Spirit Monkey its deepest belonging.

Just because, the stele bore three characters.

"Huaguo Mountain."

Drip, drip...

Flame-like teardrops trickled from his fiery eyes.

"But henceforth."

"No more Huaguo Mountain."

"No more Equaling Heaven."

...

...

The scene fragmented.

The Brow Niwan's Star Plucking Pupil in Li Che's forehead radiated endless fervor.

His eyes, opening and closing, slowly opened.

Unknowingly, his cheeks had been moistened by tears.

Li Che was still in shock.

Touched his wet cheeks.

Felt as if he had not recovered from the scene he had just witnessed.

What was that?

The obsession of the Temple God?

But he hadn't intended to view the obsessions of the Temple God...

He only intended to absorb the Divinity Chess Piece of the Temple God.

Why?

Why could he see the lingering obsession of the Temple God?

Was it because of the Divine Skill "Star Plucking"?

Li Che did not know, couldn't figure it out, and didn't think about it.

Suddenly.

Within his chest, the Chess Saint's Dao Fruit throbbed!

His mind abruptly immersed into the Heaven and Earth Chessboard.

Only to see...

Quietly floating above the interlocking lines of the Heaven and Earth Chessboard...

A Spirit Monkey Mask.

Chapter 359: Emperor Xi Xi's New Love, A Young Girl Harbors a Temple God Inside

A Spirit Monkey Mask, adorned with golden monkey fur, was flying wildly.

The smile on its face bore a touch of demonic charm, arrogance, and dominance. The surge of emotion that came forth made one's mind dizzy.

Li Che stared blankly at the mask suspended in the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

In his mind, visions akin to illusions emerged involuntarily.

Huaguo Mountain... a Divine Monkey facing the black clouds above, alone against thousands of heavenly demons and monsters...

All these images were like overlapping and interwoven myths from two realms' memories.

What exactly is real?

What exactly is fake?

Li Che found it somewhat difficult to distinguish; the scenes he had just witnessed were considered mythical in this world.

But that inexplicable familiarity and overlay tightened his heart as if gripped by an invisible hand.

What exactly had the Temple Gods of this world encountered?

Li Che took a deep breath and then exhaled it.

He calmed himself down.

These were not matters he could interfere with right now.

His mind returned to the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

With a thought, as if manipulating chess pieces on the chessboard, he wanted to control the Spirit Monkey Mask.

Presently in the Heaven and Earth chessboard of Chess Saint Dao Fruit, two strange objects not classified as chess pieces had appeared.

One was the Seven Elemental Corpse Curse Mother-and-Child Seal, and the other was this Spirit Monkey Mask.

Masks...

Li Che was all too familiar with them!

"Eh? Not a Temple God Chess Piece... but it turned into a Temple God 'Mask'?"

Li Che slightly moved in thought.

Divine Sense attraction.

In an instant, he felt an extremely terrifying suction force, wanting to drain his Divine Sense completely dry.

He, who possessed the Pure Heart Divine Foundation and eight other great Divine Foundations, thus generating a Divine Sense eight times stronger than ordinary Divine Base Cultivators,

Felt for a moment that he might be drained dry.

Now, Li Che, in terms of strength of Divine Sense, was not weaker than any Divine Minister.

After all, his Divine Foundations were numerous...

Resulting in a qualitative change through quantitative accumulation.

"Interesting

Li Che opened his eyes.

He raised his hand and touched his face...

Only to discover that a fuzzy mask was slowly spreading and covering his face!

It was precisely that Spirit Monkey Mask, which originally should have existed in the Heaven and Earth chessboard, that now appeared on his face.

A surge of madness, violence, refusal to concede, and anger...

All such emotions, like waves, surged, impacting his mind, bursting out through the Heavenly Spirit Cover.

"Equaling Heaven—!"

A roar suddenly exploded next to Li Che's ear!

The sound was too loud, akin to a millennium-old ancient bell hanging next to Li Che's ear, heavily striking down and creating ripples like waves!

Continuously echoing, continuously impacting!

Li Che abruptly cut off his Divine Sense from the mask.

Moreover, he forcibly suppressed the emerging Spirit Monkey Mask back onto his face.

As if the sprouting fur was being pushed back into the pores.

Unconsciously...

Li Che found himself already drenched in sweat.

...

[Mythical Weapon: Equal to Heaven's Face]

[Craftsmanship: ???]

[Description: Fragmented mythical weapon, will of Equal to Heaven, indomitable spirit]

...

In front of him, light was flickering.

Star Plucking Pupil provided a brief introduction to this mask.

The introduction was simple, not even offering the rank or quality level of the mask, leaving Li Che completely perplexed.

But just by seeing the name, Li Che knew this mask was nothing ordinary!

Equal to Heaven's Face!

Li Che's eyes sparkled brilliantly, his emotions swirling uncontrollably.

However, having experienced many things, Li Che's heart had long become strong, allowing him to calm himself down afterward.

He frowned slightly.

Because, this Equal to Heaven's Face, now... he could not control it, nor could he unleash all its power.

Just now, his Divine Sense was almost drained dry, barely stimulating the mask.

But in that astonishing moment, the terrifying will transmitted from the mask nearly put Li Che's consciousness to sleep.

Shaking his head, Li Che couldn't help but recall a line from the description.

Fragmented mythical weapon...

It suggested the mask was incomplete.

"Could there be... other masks?"

Li Che looked towards the statues of the Temple God in the Mysterious Temple.

"Is it related to the split of Equal Heaven Temple's teachings into three parts?"

Li Che pondered.

To collect the complete [Equal to Heaven's Face], perhaps visits to the other two doctrine divisions of Equal Heaven Temple besides Heart Monkey Temple were needed.

It was rumored that the [Fire-Eye Mystical Awe Spirit Monkey Divine Temple] appeared after Heart Monkey Temple relocated from Golden Light Prefecture.

Originally, Golden Light Prefecture had only the Eight Extremes Guaiyi Temple.

Thus, Li Che had reason to speculate that the fragmented Equal to Heaven's Face might be related to the other two temples that resulted from the split of Equal Heaven Temple.

Ruyi Sect and Tian Gang Tower were the other two split doctrines of Equal Heaven Temple.

Originally called Ruyi Temple and Sky Firmament Temple, no one knew why and when the names were changed to Sect and Tower.

Li Che secretly noted this down, intending to visit them when the opportunity arose.

However, these two forces had declined just like Heart Monkey Temple.

Compared to the prosperous times of Equal Heaven Temple, they simply could not compare...

Li Che was somewhat surprised to have found such an opportunity in this Mysterious Temple.

Mythical weapon...

Though it was only one part of the fragmented mask...

But, it at least provided him the chance to piece it together!

To revive the true Mythical Weapon!

"Perhaps, this is the reason Heart Monkey Temple fell into decline; no one could master or find this mask... Although the teachings remain, they could not be sustained."

Li Che thoughtfully speculated.

And he, Li Che, possessing the Divine Skill of Star Plucking Pupil, capable of Peering into Illusion and Returning to Truth, was exactly the reason he found this [Equal to Heaven's Face].

Li Che raised his hand, touching the burning hot Star Plucking Pupil at his brow.

Chapter 360: Emperor Xi Xi's New Concubine, A Young Girl Harboring a Temple God Inside

Indeed...

Those with power really can do as they please.

Li Che chuckled.

He lifted his head and continued to gaze at the statue of the Temple God.

The real business hasn't even started yet!

Although he had acquired the "Equal to Heaven's Face," his true goal in coming to the Mysterious Temple was to accumulate Temple God Chess Pieces for himself!

Under the illumination of the Star Plucking Pupil.

This time... no illusions appeared.

As time trickled away, Li Che looked outside the door and saw that the incense burner was still there, but the mysterious fog had begun to ravage, enveloping the entrance with Strange Que.

Li Che glanced at it and then looked no more, his eyes falling on the three incense sticks burning in the incense burner.

In the time of three incense sticks, he had drawn out nine Temple God Chess Pieces.

That's really not a small number!

After all, the current Li Che was far stronger than when he first encountered the Temple God of the Spirit Infant Temple outside Fei Lei City.

And with the Prototype of Divine Powers escalating to Divine Skills...

The speed at which the Star Plucking Pupil extracted the Temple God Divinity Chess Pieces was much faster than that of the Thousand Analyzing Hands.

The nine Temple God Chess Pieces, showing a dark color intertwined with some red lines, appeared on the Heaven and Earth chessboard and were initially somewhat restless.

But as if sensing something, they didn't even require Li Che to mobilize the Immaculate Heart Chess Piece to suppress them, and they gathered directly beside the "Equal to Heaven's Face."

How obedient...

"Nine Eight Extremes Temple God Divinity Chess Pieces

"The feeling of suddenly enriching the chess piece repository is really great."

Li Che was in a good mood.

With a flick of his finger, he shot out a Thunder Chess Piece, merging it into the Mysterious Temple.

He left behind coordinates for easy travel.

Having done all this.

Li Che then stood up and stretched languidly.

Many Woodcarving Masters, whose attention had been drawn by the Temple God Statue, also came back to their senses when Li Che covered the Heaven and Earth chessboard and cut off their line of sight. **NOBES**

The Woodcarving Masters still looked utterly baffled.

What had they just...

Experienced?

Weren't they admiring the Temple God?

Studying the techniques, lines, and methods on the Temple God statue with great concentration, how did they suddenly seem to enter a world full of monkeys?

The Woodcarving Masters felt as if their spirits had been manhandled by countless monkeys, some appeared utterly disheartened.

"Ah?"

Suddenly, some of the Woodcarving Masters snapped back to reality, saw the mysterious fog shrouding the exit outside the Mysterious Temple, and their expressions drastically changed as they let out a scream.

No, the three incense sticks haven't yet burned down, why has the mysterious fog already cut off their retreat?

How were they to return?

The Strange Que of the Eight Extremes... that was not something these Third-class Guest Officials could easily traverse.

If they really had to rush out, they feared a great number would perish.

Li Che looked at the Guest Officials wearing expressions of despair.

Most of these Third-class Guest Officials were at the Divine Base Realm, their Martial Cultivation hadn't even stepped into the Grandmaster level, they were just at the Mysterious Vein.

Being in such an extremely dangerous place naturally led to despair.

Li Che stood up and walked toward the incense burner at the door, under the watchful eyes of everyone.

Since he was related to the tumult occurring in the Mysterious Temple, it was only natural for him to step forward and provide a lifeline for these Woodcarving Masters.

So, Li Che picked up the incense burner as a ruse.

The next moment, his mind communicated with one of the Temple God Chess Pieces on the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

Even a simple connection was enough.

It seemed as though a supremely sharp blade light was born between heaven and earth, cleaving outwards as if drawing a sword to break the water or a saber to block a river.

The mysterious fog of Strange Que slowly parted to the left and right.

Accompanied by roars, the Temple Guardian Cursed Corpses that flew out from the fog, their bodies eroded by Temple God Divinity and covered in patterns, hadn't come within ten zhang of Li Che before being swept aside by the force of Temple God Divinity.

A spacious road once again emerged before everyone.

"Gentlemen... it seems this incense burner still has its use, hurry up, the incense is about to burn out," Li Che urged.

The numerous Woodcarving Masters, ecstatic from their narrow escape, rushed out one after another.

They surged out of the Strange Que area along the road.

...

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Outside the Strange Que.

Gong Yunli's face was extremely unsightly.

"Qi Yanghao, you need to give us an explanation! Weren't you the one who took the Incense for Invoking Gods inside, then why did you come out yourself, and the incense was not brought out?"

"Knowing that the Strange Que would be tempestuous, why didn't you bring out those Guest Officials from the Qintian Observatory?"

Gong Yunli was furious.

The Que shrouded the area, leaving no way out.

Those Guest Officials... apart from fighting their way out, they would only be torn apart by the curse corpses and demon beasts spawned by the Mysterious Temple and turned into Temple Guardian Cursed Corpses!

And the strength of those Guest Officials, how could they fight their way out?

Gong Yunli, furious, had turned somewhat pale. Li Che was still inside!

How was she to explain this to the Chief Supervisor upon her return?

This visit to the Observatory Temple God was mainly for the sake of Li Che, and now this incident had occurred.

Gongyang Liancheng's expression was also unpleasant, but he did not speak out to question.

He knew that asking questions at this time would be futile.

Moreover, the upheaval at the Mysterious Temple was definitely sudden.

Otherwise, there was no need for Qi Yanghao to stage such a thing when the relationship between the Temple Control Bureau and the Qintian Observatory was quite good.

Qi Yanghao had already summoned a team of Divine Envoys from the Temple Control Bureau, himself checking his weapons and equipment, ready to enter the Strange Que and bring people back.

But how many could be brought back was uncertain.

He offered no explanation, because it was unnecessary.

Having held the Incense for Invoking Gods to enter the Strange Que, the hour for the incense had not yet arrived, yet the Que shrouded and cut off the route of return, and he had failed to warn those Guest Officials to return.

He certainly had blame to bear.

And that blame was inescapable.

Suddenly.

Qi Yanghao's gaze sharpened, and the Divine Envoy team from the Temple Control Bureau, who had been ready to enter the Strange Que, also halted their movements.