

## **A Father 371**

Chapter 371: Buddha Descends Under the Mushroom Cloud, the Temple Destroyer Meets the Underworld Cat Face (5)

Directly smashed Monk Xuan Li into the ground, his bald head already a blur of blood and flesh, shattered into a pile of rotten meat!

A web of fractures spread out densely intertwined!

Xuan Li... dead!

Li Che stood quietly in place, a bit of sneak attack combined with an all-out burst, and he killed a Septenary Corpse God Envoy openly and honorably.

Exhilarating!

Li Che could even clearly feel the ripeness of the [Dragon Elephant Vajra] Dao Fruit increasing by a large margin.

But he didn't have time to observe.

After searching the body, one scan with the Star Plucking Pupil to absorb Divinity.

Then, his figure shot forth, blazing like fire, unhidden, as if suppressing all the Death Qi and chill of the dense Ghost Temple.

He sped along, rushing towards another Monk Xuanyuan!

Monk Xuanyuan was much weaker compared to Xuan Li.

However, since Li Che had made his move, he did not plan to let go.

And the noise of the Ox Demon killing Xuan Li had already startled the entire Ghost Temple!

Within this Ghost Temple which had completely fallen into the hands of the Corpse God Cult, the evildoers of the Corpse God Cult surged out one after another.

However...

Greeting them was a barrage of gunfire from the Ox Demons holding Immortal Artisan Gatlings!

And the planted Little Mushrooms, exploding thunderously!

It was like an extreme fireworks show, countless fires churning, bright and splendid lights ablaze.

It instantly shredded the darkness of the Ghost Temple!

Winds howled, as if the light of salvation for all sentient beings shone brilliantly within those small but splendid mushroom clouds.

The withered Master Faxing, trembling all over, struggled to open his eyes.

Illuminated by the explosive mushroom clouds, a radiant golden light shone all over him.

As if he were coated in a layer of Buddha's golden body.

"My Buddha... has descended..."

A smile appeared on the parched face of Master Faxing.

Finally at peace, utterly satisfied.

Then he slowly closed his eyes.

Crack...

The Zhong Kui Wooden Carving before him, as if its oil and lamp had burned out fulfilling its duty, split in half.

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The noise from the explosion was too loud.

The Divine Envoys stationed outside the Fire Eye Mysterious Awestruck Spirit Ape Strange Temple felt the ground shaking.

Head Officer Qi Yanghao's eyes narrowed, he drew his side knife and flew out, landing on the cliff edge to look down below.

He saw the Heart Monkey Temple engulfed in endless fires, blooming in dazzling golden mushroom clouds...

"This is..."

Qi Yanghao was stunned.

Then, raising his hand, he arranged for a few Divine Envoys to go check it out.

He dared not leave the Strange Temple area, fearing this was a diversion.

Qi Yanghao had a vague feeling that the Corpse God Cult... might be about to make a move on this Strange Temple.

So, he must stand guard here.

However, Qi Yanghao's eyes twinkled.

He had long been aware of something fishy going on with Heart Monkey Temple; as the abbot passed away in meditation, Heart Monkey Temple began to seal its gates.

During this time, Qi Yanghao couldn't help but become wary of Heart Monkey Temple.

Tonight, Heart Monkey Temple suffered an attack, confirming his suspicions.

What exactly happened to Heart Monkey Temple?

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In front of Heart Monkey Temple.

Li Qingshan, wearing a cat face mask, finally arrived after hurrying slowly.

Then, he saw the splendid golden mushroom clouds blooming.

He stood at the entrance of Heart Monkey Temple, his clothes fluttering and rustling in the howling winds.

His heart was filled with sorrow.

He indeed... arrived too late.

The dishes had all gone cold...

He had hurried here only to see a firework display?

In the distance.

The Divine Base Realm officers sent by Qi Yanghao arrived.

And they saw the bent old man with the cat face mask, slowly turning to look at them.

Sadness, resentment, fury, coldness...

All these expressions merged into an indifferent gaze that seemed to see through the world's affairs.

Since he was here, the old man sighed softly.

"That's right, it was us..."

"The destroyers of the temple."

"Netherworld Ox Demon and Horse Face and... Cat Face."

Chapter 372: Martial Saint Ultimate Study Primordial Equal to Heaven Staff, Young Prince Visits to Pay Respect to Emperor Xi Xi

Underworld, Ox Demon and Horse Face?

Underworld... Cat face?!

Several officers from the Temple Control Bureau revealed a look of astonishment in their eyes upon hearing this.

Ox Demon and Horse Face... they naturally knew of them!

But this was the first time they had learned of the origins of Ox Demon and Horse Face!

"Underworld?"

The group looked at each other, their eyes flickering with perplexity, and they couldn't help but feel amazed. How had they never heard of this power, the Underworld?

Although obscure and unheard of, they dared not underestimate it.

For the names of the Ox Demon and Horse Face had long been famous in Golden Light Prefecture City, who would dare to underestimate them?

Li Qingshan looked indifferently at the temple officers, hunched over with his hands behind his back, his eyes deep beneath the cat face mask.

He was late.

He couldn't catch up with the heat of the action.

However, it wasn't a big problem, he still wanted to blend in a bit in terms of participation.

Moreover, he had considered it well before revealing the name of the Underworld, having previously asked Li Che whether to publicize the name of the Underworld.

Li Che said to let it happen naturally.

Li Qingshan understood immediately, it was best to promote it naturally.

Isn't this...

How much more natural could this time be?

Even though Cat-Faced Li Qingshan did not make a move, merely adding a name meant claiming his involvement in this rat-extermination operation, didn't it?

With a faint smile, the voice of the elderly man with the cat face gradually filled the space between heaven and earth, echoing near and far.

The officers from the Temple Control Bureau glanced around and realized the old man with the cat face had disappeared.

The officers frowned at each other, no longer pondering what force the Underworld might be.

Carefully, they walked towards the Heart Monkey Temple to investigate the situation.

Upon entering the Heart Monkey Temple.

The three Divine Envoys' hair stood on end, a thick scent of gunpowder lingered, along with ceaselessly leaking divine fluctuations, extremely restless, making one feel nauseated. 然否

Even those with weaker cultivation would have their divinity drawn into disorder, thereby harming themselves.

These were the remnants of divine radiation left after the explosion of the Guanyin Lotus Bullet.

The entire Heart Monkey Temple had become ruins, most of the temples had completely collapsed.

As the Divine Envoys proceeded with their investigation, their expressions subtly changed.

"Corpse God Cult!"

There were so many evil people from the Corpse God Cult hidden inside the Heart Monkey Temple!

Many who were not part of the Heart Monkey Temple were also hiding there, being forced out by the "Green Elegant Oxen and Horses" of the Golden Light Prefecture and had to hide within the stronghold of the Corpse God Cult.

But they never expected to be found by the Ox Demon and Horse Face and get wiped out in one fell swoop!

This matter was not simple.

The Divine Envoys accelerated their movements and began to rapidly investigate the half-ruined Heart Monkey Temple.

They found one body after another riddled with bullet holes.

"Cursed Copper Corpse!"

"It's the current abbot of Heart Monkey Temple, Abbot Xuanli! He's been... smashed into a pulp."

"How ruthless! Worthy of the Ox Demon, who detests evil!"

The name of the Ox Demon was already well-known to the experts of the Temple Control Bureau.

At that moment, they truly felt the ferocity and hatred the Ox Demon held for the Corpse God Cult.

"Boss, come take a look!"

One of the Divine Envoys, looking extremely grim, ran over.

The head officer, carrying a side knife, followed up, with the other Divine Envoys also following.

They arrived at that courtyard.

In the courtyard, they saw heaps of densely packed bodies, the dried-up monk blocking the entrance, and the Zhong Kui Statue shattered into two halves.

They could almost imagine what exactly had happened here.

The monk had fought until his oil ran out and his lights went out, all to restrain these souls from turning into fierce ghosts and completely losing the possibility of transcending.

The few Divine Envoys sighed.

"The evil ones of the Corpse God Cult... truly deserve to die!"

"Ox Demon and Horse Face... true heroes indeed!"

The head officer exclaimed solemnly.

"Boss, there was also a cat face."

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The fierce wind howled and snow whirled about.

The fire at the Heart Monkey Temple began gradually to diminish.

Li Che, wearing a conical hat and a Cute Bull Mask, stood on a large tree, engulfed in a black robe, fluttering in the winter snowstorm.

Beneath the mask, his pupils reflected the gradually fading firelight of the Heart Monkey Temple.

He sighed softly.

Master Faxing, it wasn't that Li Che didn't want to save him, but that he was beyond saving.

Burned out completely...

Still alive, barely clinging by a breath.

When Li Che killed Xuanli and broke the Thousand Soul Banner and other such spirit-nurturing techniques, as Master Faxing's thoughts emptied, he had already cut off his lifeline, leaving without any regrets.

This was a Master worthy of respect.

With his own life, he maintained the current glory of the once great tradition of the Equal Heaven Temple.

The Heart Monkey Temple was, after all, one of the three legacies passed down from the Equal Heaven Temple.

Master Faxing preserved the last vestige of face for the Heart Monkey Temple.

Li Che watched solemnly, the Heaven and Earth chessboard spread out again, centering on himself as a Stellar Position, expanding to encompass the entire Heart Monkey Temple within it.

Ensuring that all the evil people of the Corpse God Cult were dead, he then dispersed the Heaven and Earth chessboard, vanishing into the snowscape like a breeze.

When his figure reappeared.

He had already returned to the workshop courtyard in Falling Flower Alley of the Golden Light Prefecture.

Snow drifted from the sky.

Li Che stood amid the falling snow. This time, he had truly gone all out, successfully killing a Silver Gang Cursed Bronze Corpse.

He had killed a Seven Elements Corpse God Envoy.

Although it was only a Seven Elements Lower-rank Corpse God Envoy, this also meant that in terms of combat power, Li Che had now reached the level of Grandmaster Completion.

If he hadn't Ascended the Tower, and without the help of the Temple God Divinity Chess Piece, he would still have the potential to fatally strike at the Grandmaster Posterior Realm.

Summarizing and replaying this battle.

Li Che was elated. This battle... was his most righteous battle yet, except for the Barrett snipe shot by Horse Face.

Chapter 373: Young Prince Visits Emperor Xi Xi to Learn the Martial Saint Ultimate Study, Primordial Equal to Heaven Staff (2)

The rest of the time, Bull Demon used sheer strength in a straightforward proper fight!

"Not bad."

Li Che was very satisfied with this battle.

However, satisfaction was one thing; complacency was another. He still needed to review the battle's shortcomings and summarize the experiences.

This battle was slightly more difficult than the one against Wen Longshan.

In terms of physical strength, Wen Longshan was no match for the Silver Gang Cursed Copper Corpse!

His mind stirred.

A stream of light emerged before his eyes.

[Dao Fruit: Dragon Elephant Vajra (lv3, 97%)]

The battle had increased the maturity by 7%.

Not much, but not little either.

After all, Li Che had previously gained a significant increase in maturity by killing Wen Longshan; the Silver Gang Cursed Copper Corpse slain now was roughly equal in overall strength to Wen Longshan.

Approximately only a 5% increase was expected; the extra 2% must have been added from clearing out other Evil People of the Corpse God Cult in the Heart Monkey Temple.

"Soon."

Li Che's lips curled up; he had not intended this surge to result in a direct transformation.

Especially since only 3% more maturity was needed for the promotion.

If Li Che was determined, he could even use the Divinity from the [Pure Heart] Dao Fruit to forcibly enhance it.

But first, the amount of Immaculate Heart Divinity needed to forcefully enhance the Dragon Elephant Vajra Dao Fruit's lv3 maturity level was enormous.

Just his instinct alone told Li Che that if he could increase the Dao Fruit's maturity through his own combat experience,

Then he shouldn't opt for unnatural growth.

Li Che chose not to forcefully enhance and transform; he looked forward to the next battle.

He sat cross-legged in the courtyard, his powerful Qi and blood evaporating the snow covering the whole yard.

Inside the house, the [Fairy in the Painting] avatars were still diligently Nurturing Nature.

The entire yard was utterly silent.

Li Che sat upright, beginning to inventory the gains from this trip.

He killed all the Evil People who joined the Corpse God Cult in the Heart Monkey Temple; any of the Evil People who were marked sent a Wood Raven.

In total, he harvested ninety-seven Divine Aspect Divinity Chess Pieces, eight hundred and sixty-two Divine Foundation Divinity pieces...

The quantity available to create Guanyin Lotus Bullets had significantly increased.

His Divine Sense tore through Xuanli's Qiankun Jade, delving into it to start listing the gains.

And say, Xuanli, as the new abbot of the Heart Monkey Temple, indeed had substantial resources.

Much richer than that Seven Elements Corpse God Envoy whom Li Che ambushed while he lay in wait!

Two Seven Yuan Divinity Crystals, ten Eight Extremes Divinity Crystals, thirty-two Nine Luminaries Divinity Crystals!

It's very substantial!

Li Che was dazzled by the wealth.

Mainly... there are two Seven Yuan Divinity Crystals!

Li Che guessed that even the resources of the Heart Monkey Temple must have been saved by Xuanli, but if the Heart Monkey Temple's resources were added, then it could be understandable.

On the Divine Weapon front, there was nothing of high Rank; Li Che was not surprised. Since it was a declining force, high Ranked Divine Weapons wouldn't have been preserved.

Li Che had now accumulated many Nine Luminaries, Ten Cities Divine Weapons. If he found a chance, he could go to the black market and sell them, exchanging them for Divine Crystals, which were more substantial.

The same applied to items like Divine Methods.

Li Che flipped through Xuanli and the Heart Monkey Temple's resource collections.

Suddenly, his eyes slightly brightened.

He grabbed a scroll written on Spirit Beast Hide Paper.

The Dharma on it radiated an extremely intense glare of Rank.

Martial Saint Ultimate Study "Primordial Chaos Equal to Heaven Staff"!

Boom!

The entire courtyard was as if ignited by Li Che's fiery heart, instantly evaporating the slow-falling snowflakes in the sky amidst hissing sounds, with waves of air surging upwards!

A roaring wind gusted violently, and the airflow twined and rippled!

Moments later, things gradually calmed down.

Li Che's eyes shone brightly, like two blazing fires.

Sigh

"Martial Saint Ultimate Study?"

His voice could hardly conceal his surprise.

Martial Saint, in the realm of the Qi and Blood Martial Path, only those above the Great Grandmaster stage could be called Martial Saints!

Those were individuals who had truly reached the pinnacle of the Qi and Blood Martial Path.

The heritage of the Equal Heaven Temple?

Li Che's eyes lit up, but then he quickly contained his emotions, sensing something amiss.

Because, if Heart Monkey Temple indeed held the heritage of the Equal Heaven Temple, it simply could not have been preserved!

This Martial Saint Ultimate Study definitely had some issues.

Li Che quietly and seriously started reading through it.

A moment later, he closed the beast hide booklet.

"An incomplete Martial Saint Ultimate Study..."

"Only one-third is here; it's somewhat similar to that incomplete Equal to Heaven's Face, also only one-third."

This Martial Saint Ultimate Study was divided into three parts, capturing only a portion of it.

No wonder Heart Monkey Temple was able to keep it.

Because the incomplete Martial Saint Ultimate Study is very difficult to practice, carrying the risk of ruining oneself!

The Ultimate Martial Studies undoubtedly rank high, but once incomplete, the entry level is hard, and progression even harder.

The difficulty of entry isn't just hearsay; in the hundreds of years since Heart Monkey Temple acquired this Equal to Heaven Staff, countless have attempted this Ultimate Study, and many Noble Families of the Golden Light Prefecture City have learned it as well.

But those who truly entered its door could be counted on one hand, and they could merely enter.

No one else could even do that.

The difficulty of entry is evident, hence, this incomplete Ultimate Martial Study could still remain with Heart Monkey Temple.

It was like a stinky and hard piece of privy stone.

Despite bearing the name of a Martial Saint Ultimate Study.

An Ultimate Study that no one could learn is no different from trash!

"Incomplete..."

Li Che's eyes shone brightly.

"No matter... it's all to be integrated into my Myriad Transformations Dragon Elephant anyway. Whether incomplete or not, it's quite fine."

Li Che smiled His Myriad Transformations Dragon Elephant accommodated all Martial Arts, even incomplete ones could be integrated into it.

Chapter 374: The Martial Saint Ultimate Study, Primordial Equal to Heaven Staff, Young Prince Visits Emperor Xi Xi (3)

Difficult to get started?

With the "Dragon Elephant Vajra" Dao Fruit at my disposal, no matter how hard it is to get started, I, Li Che, can make it happen!

Li Che couldn't help but look at it over and over again with great affection; it was his biggest gain so far!

The Martial Saint's Ultimate Study, even incomplete, is still precious.

If one could cultivate it to the level of a Master, according to the might recorded in the technique, it would be comparable to the power of a Great Grandmaster's ultimate study!

Great Grandmaster...

Li Che felt a slight heaviness in his heart; even with the Ascending Stance activated, he would probably not be a match for a Great Grandmaster.

I wonder if activating the Golden Heavenly King's Ascending Stance would be enough to withstand a Great Grandmaster?

But the Golden Heavenly King's Ascending Stance also has its drawbacks, mainly its lack of endurance.

And as for the Divinity Chess Piece of the Golden Heavenly King, I currently cannot fully bear it.

If one could completely bear a Heavenly King Chess Piece, they would certainly have combat power at the Great Grandmaster level.

But for now, I can only bear half a piece at a time while ascending.

"Perhaps, once I refine my five viscera and six bowels to the Grandmaster Posterior Realm and my physical strength increases, I'll be able to bear an entire Golden Heavenly King Divinity Chess Piece,"

Li Che mused.

Estimating the gap between himself and a Great Grandmaster, a sense of urgency and crisis flooded his mind like a tide once again.

Cultivate!

Li Che was too restless to rest.

On the spot, he began to train in the incomplete Martial Saint Ultimate Study, "Primordial Equal to Heaven Staff!"

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The next day.

The news that Heart Monkey Temple had undergone a great change and had been annihilated by the Ox Demon...

Immediately spread through Golden Light Prefecture City like a spring breeze overnight!

The Netherworld Ox Demon and Horse Face, among others... Cat Face.

This news, like a giant stone thrown into a turbulent lake, caused an instant uproar!

The name of the Underworld was also mentioned for the first time in Golden Light Prefecture City.

The Qin Family; the elder Qin Dikun emerged from seclusion.

Listening to the report from his subordinates, his expression turned extremely somber: "The forces of the Underworld... I've never heard of them, but they have two formidable individuals, Ox Demon and Horse Face."

"The Ox Demon emerges silently, with cruel and ruthless methods. Horse Face, on the other hand, can arrest souls from thousands of miles away... Both are not to be trifled with."

"Investigate, thoroughly investigate what this Underworld is all about!"

It wasn't just the Qin Family.

The Hai Family, Gong Family, and Gongyang Family were also shaken, sending people to probe into the secrets of the Underworld.

Besides them, those most disturbed were the remaining four of the Five Major Sects of Golden Light Prefecture.

Originally there were five, but with the destruction of Heart Monkey Temple, only four remained.

Gold Split Gate, Bamboo Forest Academy, Watching Tide Pavilion and Sand Scorpion Forest—these four sects were terrified.

Heart Monkey Temple was by no means weaker than them and even ranked above them after the Abbot Xuan Li allied with the Corpse God Cult and reached the level of a Silver Rigid Cursed Bronze Corpse.

In terms of strength, Heart Monkey Temple might even rank ahead of them.

After all, these noble families and sects each only had a Divine Minister Ancestor presiding, and few were in the Post-Divine Phase.

Yet the Silver Rigid Cursed Bronze Corpse that could be considered to have a Complete Divine Appearance, capable of combating the Yuanxiang Realm and the Divine Origin Realm.

Such a powerful entity was killed by the Ox Demon!

Before they knew it, the threat brought by the Ox Demon was enough to deter various forces.

However, it only intimidated the native forces of Golden Light Prefecture.

While they were daunted, they also breathed a sigh of relief.

Because an outpost of the Corpse God Cult had been eradicated, reducing the threat to them slightly.

Even though everyone knew that the Corpse God Cult probably had other hideouts, removing one was one less threat, signifying that the Cult's influence in Golden Light Prefecture City had been weakened.

City Lord's Mansion.

The Young Prince, listening to the report from his subordinates clad in black armor, suddenly raised an eyebrow.

"The Underworld..."

"I've never heard of this force before. It's no match for forces like Hunting God Pavilion, likely just a local small-time player, not worth much attention."

"But this Underworld Ox Demon, who specifically targets the evildoers of the Corpse God Cult, that's somewhat interesting."

"A local small-time force, huh? The Ox Demon's methods are intriguing; does he kill using mechanisms?"

"Was Wen Longshan killed by his hand?"

The Young Prince tapped his fingertips lightly on the desk.

Though only five years old, he was already accustomed to mimicking his father, King Ping Luan Ji Molie, in tapping the desk authoritatively.

Su Huaili beside him nodded slightly, his expression indifferent.

The death of Wen Longshan had always been a pain in his heart.

It was supposed to be a perfect counter-hunt plan, with Wen Longshan merely as bait, but the bait was taken...

Which meant his counter-kill plan had completely failed and become a laughing stock.

"Does Brother Su really want to kill this Ox Demon?" the Young Prince asked, seeing the look on Su Huaili's face and couldn't help but smile.

Su Huaili looked at the Young Prince, smiled and said, "Of course I want to kill him, but the Ox Demon is not easy to kill, with his puzzling methods, appearing and disappearing like a ghost, possessing a mysterious Art of Teleportation."

"As for Horse Face, he is even more sinister, capable of sniping people from tens of miles away, his whereabouts nearly impossible to trace."

"They killed Wen Longshan Colonel, and naturally, I am filled with wrath, desiring to eliminate them to settle this."

"But Young Prince, your main goal in coming to Golden Light Prefecture City is to acquire the inheritance of the Third Prince's Mysterious Temple, so best not to create unnecessary complications."

"Everything should focus on the affair of Temple God Resonance!"

Su Huaili spoke earnestly.

The Young Prince, upon hearing this, pursed his lips.

"Thank you for the advice, Brother Su. I understand," he said.

Su Huaili's expression softened considerably.

"Ox Demon, Horse Face and the like are not worth diverting the Young Prince's precious attention. Everything can wait until after the inheritance from the Temple God is sorted out," he assured.

Upon hearing this, the Young Prince Ji Haihui nodded gravely.

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The tumult rose and fell for five days before Golden Light Prefecture City gradually calmed down.

Within the small courtyard.

Steam billowed, and terrifying currents of air roared and surged like Jiao Dragons, without pause.

Li Che's body, from top to bottom, seemed as if his muscles and bones were twisted steel, immense power bursting forth from within.

Chapter 375: The Martial Saint Ultimate Study, Primordial Equal to Heaven Staff, Young Prince Visits Emperor Xi Xi (4)

The wooden stick in his hand suddenly snapped, crackled, and exploded with countless dust and debris as the falling snowflakes burst into fragments in an instant!

Suddenly, myriad stick shadows interwove and emerged in his hands!

Crack...

The wooden stick broke and splintered, shattering into endless fragments.

Every pore on Li Che's body was gaping open, spewing hot steam as if "tooting" breathlessly.

The strength of his Furnace Physique gave him a unique advantage in practicing this Primordial Equal to Heaven Staff martial technique.

"It truly lives up to its reputation as a Martial Saint Ultimate Study, even in its incomplete state, it still stands as a top-notch Qi and Blood Martial Arts Technique!"

"After training hard for five days, I've finally managed to get a grip on this Martial Saint Ultimate Study of the staff technique."

Li Che's body sizzled, his sweat rapidly evaporating, the heat distorting the air around his figure.

Gradually, his body cooled down, he put on a dark robe, and his physique, as though forged from steel, was brimming with explosive power.

"I've entered the door."

Li Che smiled, a hint of unusual light flickering in his eyes.

This staff technique was indeed exceptional.

The power was extremely formidable, and the training took a unique approach, featuring distinct force-application skills.

In terms of sheer martial technique force, it was not much less powerful than the attacks of the Myriad Transformations Dragon Elephant.

And this was just the beginning.

If he reached the Master Level, he might truly unleash the power of a blow from a Great Grandmaster Level expert.

After a quick tidy up, Li Che sat down in the courtyard, took out a Seven Yuan Divinity Crystal, and began to absorb and refine it.

He finished about half an hour later, ending his cultivation.

He allowed the [Fairy in the Painting] avatars to continue their cultivation.

Then he changed into a clean dark robe, braved the wind and snow, and left the small courtyard.

He arrived at the Qintianjian Treasure Building on the cliff edge.

Li Che shook off a few snowflakes mixed in his clothes and stepped into the building.

Upon seeing Li Che, Shangguan Qinghong hurriedly put on her shoes and sprinted over.

"Che!"

Her face bore a look of urgency.

Li Che's face wore a gentle smile, "What's the matter?"

"They're here, the examiners from the Qintianjian for your Second-Class Guest Official assessment have arrived," said Shangguan Qinghong.

"And it's not just someone from the State City Qintianjian, but a Vice Supervisor from the Qintianjian in Southern Ridge Qianyuan Taoist City!"

After Shangguan Qinghong finished, Li Che's eyes showed a trace of surprise.

A Vice Supervisor from the Dao City Imperial Heavenly Observatory?

This was a really big shot, a step above the Deputy Inspector Lin Xiu.

After all, one was a Vice Supervisor for a Taoist City, the other for a Mansion City.

It was the difference between provincial and municipal.

"Why would a Dao City Vice Supervisor come to proctor the exam? Wasn't it said that for a Second-Class Guest Official, an official from the Provincial Qintianjian would suffice?"

Li Che expressed his confusion.

Shangguan Qinghong, with her well-informed insights, said gravely,

"Because... the Temple God Resonance at the Third Prince's Mysterious Temple, right?"

"This Vice Supervisor from the Qintianjian has also brought a Divine Child... and the Temple Control Bureau did the same, bringing a Divine Child too."

"This Temple God Resonance is too important; the Great Supervising Minister said that a legacy might emerge, so naturally, the Imperial Court is also paying great attention."

"So, the Divine Sect sent a Divine Child, and the Imperial Court is not willing to be outdone."

Shangguan Qinghong continued with fervor, "Xi Xi's competition pressure... is getting bigger and bigger."

"It's too competitive, really too competitive..."

Shangguan Qinghong felt overwhelmed just thinking about the pressure.

"The Imperial Court's Divine Child from Dao City, plus the son of King of Quelling Chaos Ji Molie, and the Divine Child from the Divine Sect of Dao City..."

"If Golden Light Prefecture City had not produced Xi Xi as a Divine Child this year, relying solely on several Supreme Spiritual Children and Upper Class Spiritual Children... I fear we would be thoroughly crushed."

Li Che also became solemn.

"Since they're coming for the Temple God Resonance, the Dao City Qintianjian Vice Supervisor took the opportunity to take on your assessment as well."

"This is not good news... an official from the Dao City Qintianjian will naturally have higher standards for the assessment and will be much stricter."

Li Che raised his eyebrows slightly.

He was about to learn more details from Shangguan Qinghong.

But Gong Yunli and Gongyang Liancheng had already come down from upstairs together, and upon spotting Li Che, they waved him over.

"Master Li Che, your timing is perfect, we were just about to notify you that your Second-Class Guest Official assessment is ready. Compose yourself and the assessment will start shortly," said Gongyang Liancheng with a smile.

Gong Yunli, on the other hand, clenched her fists and nodded vigorously, her chest heaving with emotion.

"A Che, I'm counting on you!"

Gong Yunli was extremely earnest.

Li Che was her Guest Official, and if he became a Second-Class Guest Official, it would reflect well on her!

But her lovely brows soon drooped down.

"However, the proctor for this examination is Lu Yao from the Dao City Imperial Heavenly Observatory, known for his strictness, and the difficulty of the second-class guest official examination is already immense..."

"It might be quite difficult for you."

Even though Gong Yunli was very optimistic about Li Che, some anxiety began to emerge.

It wasn't that she lacked confidence in Li Che.

Rather, Li Che had only been a third-class guest official for a short time, and the difficulty of becoming a second-class guest official was extreme.

The probability of Li Che failing was very high.

Gongyang Liancheng standing beside also held this view.

He was not optimistic about Li Che becoming a second-class guest official, mainly because Gongyang Liancheng felt that Li Che still needed some time to consolidate and accumulate experience.

He shook his head slightly, knowing that Li Che had a talent for wood carving and was recommended by Li Qingshan to join the Qintian Observatory as a guest official.

But having a talent was one thing, the difficulty of the second-class guest official examination still depended on accumulation and experience!

Yet Li Che didn't care at all.

After all, his "Immortal Artisan" Dao Fruit talent had improved again, reaching level 4. In wood carving, Li Che's skill had elevated to a higher grade.

"Right, the second-class guest official examination will test your mastery of the Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique. You must have achieved major accomplishment; the more proficient you are, the more advantageous it will be for passing the examination... This is very important," Gongyang Liancheng suddenly spoke up.

Li Che looked at him and nodded with a smile.

"Alright, come on up with us."

Gong Yunli pulled Li Che and headed upstairs.

Shangguan Qinghong picked up her small stool, packed some snacks, and secretly followed them.

The examination room.

When Gong Yunli and Li Che arrived, someone was already waiting in the room.

The Chief Supervisor, who was rarely seen without playing his erhu, was sitting in a Taishi Chair, conversing and drinking tea with a figure in the white robe of the Astrological Bureau.

Next to the white-robed figure, a young boy stood quietly with his hands folded.

As soon as Li Che entered, his gaze was involuntarily drawn to the young boy.

Hmm?

Li Che's brow quirked.

A crossbow hidden up the sleeve and a belt wound around the waist with three loops of Thousand Spider Threads...

Li Che almost thought he was seeing a younger version of himself.

Meanwhile.

The gaze of the white-robed figure, who was having tea with the Chief Supervisor, also fell on Li Che.

In an instant.

Li Che felt a scorching Primordial Spirit energy sweeping towards him.

...

...

The luxurious carriage wheels crushed the snow on the ground, plowing two long tracks in it.

The carriage stopped outside the white marble archway at the bottom of the Divine Sect Branch mountain gate.

Six black-armored knights riding demon blood treasure horses pulled the reins and dismounted.

The one-armed charioteer jumped down from the carriage.

From inside the carriage, the Young Prince Ji Haihui, wearing a fox fur cloak and with a jade-like complexion and amethyst eyes, stepped down.

He looked up, hands behind his back, gazing at Golden Light Peak that reached into the clouds like a towering spear, and smiled.

"Grandfather Xue Dufu, let us go," he said.

"To meet this Divine Child of Golden Light Prefecture, whom my father instructed me to watch closely, someone we cannot afford to underestimate."

Xue Dufu, wearing a hat and simple clothes, with a dark utility knife hanging at his waist, had an empty sleeve fluttering in the wind and snow.

"Alright."

So Xue Dufu pressed down his hat and in worn-out straw shoes,

He took a step forward.

And stepped onto the first bluestone stair of the Divine Sect Mountain gate!

The old man guarding the Divine Sect gate changed expression slightly.

A Divine Foundation appeared behind him as he grabbed a red-tasseled spear, ready to step out of the guardhouse.

However, the one-armed old man did not even glance at him.

He simply lifted one finger and lightly pressed it down.

The Divine Foundation behind the old man was suppressed back into his body. His whole face became red, he sat down with a thud, veins popping on his forehead, fingers trembling without stop, yet he was unable to move.

The one-armed old man looked up, his eyes deep, as he took another step.

Suddenly, a terrifying aura emanated from him, like a flood bursting forth, surging upwards!

It seemed as if the entire Divine Sect was shaken by the impact.

"The son of the King of Quelling Chaos."

"The Young Prince Ji Haihui."

"Has come to pay respects to the mountain!"

Chapter 376: Guest Elder Assessment, Divine Element True Person's Golden Core Suppresses the Great Grandmaster

The plain snow exploded into a mist, drifting between heaven and earth.

The entire cobblestone mountain path, like a giant dragon, started to roll and tremble, causing the copious amounts of accumulated snow on the path to surge down like an avalanche.

With a single step on the cobblestone, the aura of the old man in the lone sleeve changed completely.

It was as if he had awakened in an instant, like a tiger opening its eyes, earth-shattering.

A cry to pay respects to the mountain thundered like an explosion!

It stirred up a violent current of air, which blocked the many snow slides like a tide.

Thousands of dust clouds burst forth, resembling white river waves!

Then, the old man in the lone sleeve began to stride forward, and with just one step, his body shot up as if it were a cannonball.

His speed was too fast.

So fast it reached the extreme!

Faster than an arrow leaving a bowstring!

Whoosh—whoosh!

The cold wind of winter, blown away, twisted the air in an indescribable display of aura that radiated from the old man, forming a unique domain around him!

The rising heat of his qi blood baked the snow-covered mountain, causing the void to become misty and distorted.

It was like a great sun rising from below the mountain, magnificent and radiant, spreading light and heat!

Great Grandmaster!

At this moment, the entire Golden Light Sub-sect trembled.

Inside the mountain gate, disciples from various peaks and veins trembled with shock!

Almost at the same time.

Across various peaks within the sub-sect, powerful auras burst forth!

At Zheng Lei Peak, Li Qingshan suddenly became furious, his fingers clenching as the Ram Horn Hammer slid into his palm and he picked it up.

With the gates wide open, he moved swiftly, his Divine Minister aura bursting forth, as if a thunderous Divine General with wings on his back spanned the heavens and the earth!

At Twin Sleeves Peak, the scholarly Elder Zhang Qing Zheng, who was reading a book, suddenly slammed it shut, unable to contain his anger.

Stepping forward, his presence swept through the area, carrying him out at an explosive speed.

At Red Cloud Peak, Zhu Hong Dou was polishing her red Divine Spear and sensed the moment the Great Grandmaster's aura burst forth from the bottom of the mountain.

Without hesitation, she thrust her spear and shot out.

At Nanshan Peak,

The eldest Elder, Weng Wuyu, sighed lightly and with a tap of his peach wood walking stick, he too stood up.

Above Golden Light Peak,

Nan Lihuo's expression remained unchanged, his white robe fluttering in the wind.

By his side, Taoist King Ku Yu's face grew even more bitter.

"Junior brother, as you predicted... this Young Prince, after all, couldn't sit still and has come," he said.

"To pay respects to the mountain, that's actually a show of force," Taoist King Ku Yu muttered, shaking his head.

Nan Lihuo laughed, "No, it's not a show of force... it's a probe."

"A probe?" Taoist King Ku Yu asked, puzzled.

"He's probing you, elder brother..."

"The Young Prince is ostensibly here to witness Xi Xi, wanting to see the natural-born Divine Child of the Golden Light Prefecture, and to gauge the caliber, but in fact, by having a Great Grandmaster pay respects to the mountain..."

"The aim is to test the strength of the Authentic Divine Sect newcomer, you, elder brother."

"Our Golden Light Sub-sect, after all, is a branch of the Divine Sect, and with the authentic presence, it will certainly not stand idly by, equally representing the Divine Sect."

"The Great Grandmaster paying respects to the mountain is meant to see if the Divine Sect has sent a Divine Primordial True Person this time."

Nan Lihuo's white robe rustled, his white hair fluttering uncontrollably.

Upon hearing this, Taoist King Ku Yu was suddenly struck.

"Ah..."

"Indeed, it is so."

Nan Lihuo gave Taoist King Ku Yu a meaningful look.

To contend or not, to kill or not, sometimes these are not choices you get to make.

With nothing more to say, his great sleeves whirled, swept behind him; with a step he drifted downwards, landing on the flat area of Golden Light Peak.

Liu Yangyuan and Sang Guanyin arrived one after another.

Xi Xi and Little Fatty Zhou Peng, the stunningly beautiful girl Yun E, and many Supreme Spiritual Children and Upper Class Spiritual Children gathered together for training on Golden Light Peak, hurried over.

"Sect Master Teacher! Someone's starting a fight!" Xi Xi exclaimed, her big eyes wide with excitement.

"Shh... Xi Xi, you can't speak recklessly," Little Fatty Zhou Peng, his cheeks shaking, quickly warned.

Xi Xi tilted her head, "But if the other party is provoking, doesn't paying respects to the mountain mean they want to fight?"

Little Fatty's head shook fervently, as if spinning a rattle drum, "Of course not, this person is a Great Grandmaster... a Great Grandmaster, who can beat him?"

"Unless one of the Great Grandmasters from our authentic sect comes over, or a Divine Primordial True Person makes a move... otherwise, most likely, we'll just have to take the beating."

"A Great Grandmaster, with a flawless and complete physical body, condensing Divine Gang, spirit, and blood refined into a Human Body Treasure Elixir; achieving the Elixir is enough to dominate among peers!"

Little Fatty took a deep breath, enlightening Xi Xi about the Great Grandmaster's power!

Xi Xi opened her mouth in awe, her eyes sparkling: "Then how many fireworks would it take to blow him up..."

Little Fatty: "..."

Well, that was a wasted effort; this young girl had nothing but fighting on her mind.

Fearlessly confronting the Great Grandmaster...

Truly... remarkably brazen!

Sure enough, she is a child born in the Year of the Ox!

Yun E, meanwhile, chuckled behind a hand and quietly pulled Xi Xi aside to whisper.

Xi Xi's expression grew serious upon hearing her words.

Nan Lihuo arrived with his hands behind his back, glanced over the group of little ones, and did not bid them to leave.

He wasn't worried that the Young Prince, with a Great Grandmaster in tow, would dare to commit a massacre inside the Golden Light Sub-sect's mountain gate.

After all, the activation of the Temple God Resonance still required their Golden Light Sub-sect.

Presumably, they had come to pay respects to the mountain, to intimidate their peers with their aura, to deter the Divine Sect's Divine and Spiritual Children, so that they would underperform in the upcoming Temple God Resonance.

Thump thump thump...

The entire mountain was trembling.

Chapter 377: Guest Elder's Assessment - Falling Blade Carving the Great Sage, Divine Element True Person's Golden Core Suppresses the Great Grandmaster (2)

The four Elder God Phenomenons arrived in succession, landing atop Golden Light Peak.

Li Qingshan's face was gloomy, clutching the Ram Horn Hammer, feeling the suffocating oppression and involuntarily inhaling and exhaling to adjust the fluctuation of his inner breath.

A Great Grandmaster ah...

The physical body without fault or leak, forming a Vajra Indestructible body, the five viscera and six bowels forged to the limit, the Qi connecting the whole body and all apertures, condensing Divine Gang, God's Intent, and blood and flesh binding to form the Human Body Treasure Elixir!

Once the Elixir is achieved, it's like a domain, and the will is like a god!

The most terrifying aspect of a Great Grandmaster is their fearsome Martial Dao Will!

Li Qingshan was now only at Grandmaster Completion, having refined the True Intent Ultimate Study of Eight Flood Dragons Overturning the Rivers into five blood Qi Jiao Long.

However, if he wanted to step into the realm of a Great Grandmaster, it seemed far off, even hopeless.

Grasping True Intent, melting and refining the five viscera and six bowels, cultivating a supreme study to the Transformation Realm, and giving birth to True Intent Domain is what defines Grandmaster Completion, seemingly just one step away from a Great Grandmaster.

But in reality, this one step is harder to cross than anyone could imagine.

Just like Elemental Appearance striving to break barriers and step into the Realm of Divine Origin, becoming a Divine Element True Person.

Even more difficult!

A Great Grandmaster on the bloody battlefield is enough to fight against thousands of troops and remain undefeated.

Even not just any ordinary army, but the most elite, battle-hardened Martial Husbands Ironclad Army of the Grand Prospect Dynasty!

Even just a Great Grandmaster who had initially condensed Divine Gang, seen from the perspective of Dao City, belonged to first-rate powerhouses!

Nan Lihuo's face was unchanged, his Divine Sense expanding, taking on all the terrifying auras to prevent the Divine Children from being affected.

When the Young Prince entered Golden Light Prefecture, he had foreseen this situation, so he wasn't surprised.

As a son of the King of Quelling Chaos Ji Molie, such domineering behavior was completely understandable.

Boom

A sound of breaking through the air echoed, followed by a one-armed elder, who thunderously descended upon the mountain peak.

With one step, it seemed as if the entire mountain forest was trembling underfoot, all grass and mud shaking vigorously.

Countless streams of air, as if they had materialized, were torn apart violently, and the roar on the mountain peak continued unceasingly!

The elder landed in front of Daping.

His black hair flew about, the empty sleeve under his cloth clothes lashed out, and although he wore only straw shoes, no one dared to underestimate his might.

"Master of Divine Gang... Xue Dufu."

Nan Lihuo murmured softly.

He was well acquainted with the strong figures around Ji Molie.

Xue Dufu slowly opened his eyes, and in an instant, the snow on the entire mountain peak came to an abrupt halt.

It was as if the night sky was enveloped by even denser and deeper darkness, dim and oppressive.

This was the Martial Dao Will of a Great Grandmaster!

Xue Dufu didn't act, merely displaying his Martial Dao Will, and it formed an extremely terrifying pressure.

Nan Lihuo's expression became extremely solemn, the Divine Appearance emerged from behind, and brilliant Golden Light shone forth.

His body's sinews all sang in harmony; he was after all a Grandmaster Completion Martial Artist, and his body involuntarily emitted a splendid humming.

That was the defensive response after sensing the Martial Dao Will.

"Ah..."

A soft sigh suddenly emerged from within the Divine Palace.

Xue Dufu's gaze shifted slightly, he looked up, and the black firewood knife at his waist began to tremble.

A Taoist slowly walked out from within the Divine Palace.

"Xue Dufu, if you move to take down the mountain, do so, why be so overbearing? The Martial Dao Will is like a wildfire; how can these children withstand it?"

"You've gone too far."

The Taoist sighed again.

The next moment, he flicked his whisk.

His hands forming Seal Formulas, his Divinity surged out, overwhelmingly filling the sky, with a brightly spinning Golden Treasure Elixir floating up behind him.

Inside the Treasure Elixir, Divine Appearances were contained, radiating dazzling Golden Light and overflowing brilliance!

All kinds of Divinity, God's Intent, and Primordial Spirit were all ensconced within.

Shen Yuan Golden Elixir!

The appearance of this Shen Yuan Golden Elixir.

Instantly, a terrifying pressure swept out from the Taoist, like a tide covering the earth, harshly impacting Xue Dufu's Martial Arts True Intent!

Boom!!!

As if the heavens and earth were drumming, a muffled explosion!

Xue Dufu involuntarily retreated a step, his face showing a slight change.

His palm had completely fallen onto the firewood knife at his waist.

"Divine Element True Person?"

"Qian Yuan Divine Sect's Wang Kuyu... have you broken through to Divine Primordial?"

Xue Dufu took a deep breath, feeling the surging Divine Hierarchy oppressing him, forcefully striking and suppressing his Martial Dao True Intent.

His expression couldn't help but become much more grave.

Just as the Young Prince had guessed, the Qian Yuan Divine Sect... had truly sent a Divine Element True Person!

Meanwhile.

The entirety of Golden Light Peak had fallen into silence.

Li Qingshan, Zhu Hong Dou, and other Elder God Phenomenons all turned around in disbelief.

Sensing that terrible hierarchical oppression that nearly prevented the flow and functioning of the Divinity within their bodies...

They were immensely shocked.

Divine Element True Person!

The Sect Master's senior brother had actually managed to condense the nine-deaths-and-one-life Shen Yuan Golden Elixir successfully, becoming a revered Divine Element True Person!

Nan Lihuo looked back, his deep eyes filled with a touch of relief.

...

...

The entirety of Golden Light Prefecture City was shaken.

As the Young Prince brought a Great Grandmaster to visit the Golden Light Sub-sect, all the strong figures in the city were alarmed.

The Divine Ancestors from the Qin Family, Hai Family, Gong Family, and Gongyang Family all soared into the sky, their Divine Senses spreading out to sense from afar.

That was a Great Grandmaster...

A Great Martial Arts Master was able to contend with Divine Element True Persons!

If this Great Martial Arts Master also stepped onto the path of Divinity and reached Divine Primordial, that would be terrifying to the extreme!

However, Xue Dufu had not stepped into Divine Primordial in the path of Divinity; he was only in the Post-Divine Phase.

Chapter 378: Guest Elder Assessing the Great Saint Lao Dao Carving, Divine Element True Person with Golden Core Suppresses Great Grandmaster (3)

Because he had spent most of his time on martial arts cultivation, divine cultivation naturally slowed down.

"Great Grandmaster..."

The expressions of several Diviner Ancestors changed repeatedly, filled with unexplained awe.

However, they also understood that this fight was not going to happen, the Young Prince was just seeking to pay respect to the mountain and meet the Divine Children. Truly laying hands on them was out of the question.

But soon, the expressions of several Diviner Ancestors changed once again.

Because a surge of aura, even more powerful than that of a Great Grandmaster's martial dao will, burst forth; so immense that, from a great distance, one might catch a glimpse of that terrifying Shen Yuan Golden Elixir!

"Divine Element True Person?!"

It was at this moment that the Diviner Ancestors from the noble families truly understood the Young Prince's purpose.

He wanted to probe the foundation of the Divine Sect in Golden Light Prefecture!

The Divine Sect still had a Divine Element True Person hidden within Golden Light Prefecture!

This was beyond anyone's expectation.

For a time, a chill rose throughout the bodies of the elders.

...

...

Cliffs Edge Treasure Tower.

Qintian Observatory.

Inside the examination room.

Li Che's gaze rested on the white-robed figure and the child beside them.

A familiar feeling came over him, quite suddenly.

Sleeve Crossbow, Thousand Spider Threads...

Li Che shook his sleeve slightly; the Sleeve Crossbow and Thousand Spider Threads hidden within it felt a tad hot to handle at this moment.

However, Li Che's expression changed slightly.

The Thunder Chess Piece left on Xi Xi immediately sensed the incident occurring atop Golden Light Peak.

Even without the perception of the Thunder Chess Piece, one could almost sense the powerful aura erupting from Golden Light Peak.

The Chief Supervisor and the Vice Director from Dao City exchanged glances, and almost simultaneously, they disappeared from the room.

They landed atop the tower of the Treasure Building, looking in the direction of the mountain gate of Golden Light Sub-sect.

"It truly is Ji Moli's son, fierce and unparalleled, indeed he has probed it out..."

"Unexpectedly, Wang Kuyu has actually forged the Shen Yuan Golden Elixir amidst life and death crises, breaking through to the Divine Origin Realm, achieving the status of a True Person."

The Chief Supervisor sighed incessantly, moved by the scene before him to the point of wanting to draw a bow across an erhu.

The Vice Director from Dao City, with his hands clasped behind his back and a flicker in his eyes, also gave a slight nod.

"Indeed, it was unexpected..."

He and Wang Kuyu were both from Dao City, but Wang Kuyu's breakthrough to the Realm of Divine Origin...

Was so well hidden.

"The breakthrough to Divine Primordial by Elemental Appearance is extremely grand and at times, people are even invited to witness it."

"One can only say that Wang Kuyu might have concealed it on purpose, for the sake of coming to Golden Light Prefecture City, for this Temple God Resonance..."

Lu Yao from the Dao City Imperial Observatory laughed lightly, his eyes twinkling with speculation.

The Chief Supervisor glanced at him but did not say anything.

"There won't be a fight, indeed it is a paying of respect; the Young Prince wanted to test these Divine Children to see if there are any among them that pose a threat."

"If there's no fight, all will be well; we shall continue the examination."

Lu Yao said.

The next moment, he was already back inside the examination room.

Li Che stood quietly, while the Divine Child beside Lu Yao stared at Li Che, as if he had found a familiar aura on him.

Lu Yao glanced at Li Che, a slight smirk on his face: "Master Li Che, have you received the legacy of the Tang Family?"

"After the Tang Family was destroyed, most of its disciples joined the Qintian Observatory in search of a way out, and this Divine Child comes from Qianyuan Daoist City, a newly risen noble from the Tang Family... Tang Ren."

Upon hearing this, Li Che came to a realization.

So he was a legitimate descendant of the Tang Family.

"I had once entered Divine Carving Ridge and was favored by the Master of Divine Carving Ridge, who then taught me some mechanical techniques."

Li Che said with a warm smile.

The young boy, Tang Ren, had his eyes light up: "Could it be Grandpa Tang Sanjia?"

Li Che nodded, and immediately, the little boy hopped up with excitement, almost running over to tug on Li Che's sleeve, eager to have him bring him to meet the Master of the Divine Carving Ridge, Tang Sanjia.

"Tang Ren, do not be impetuous, Master Li is about to prepare for the Second-Class Guest Official examination."

Lu Yao said sternly.

Little Tang Ren immediately let go of Li Che's sleeve and stood to the side, earnestly, but his eyes still held a fervent eagerness akin to meeting a fellow countryman.

Li Che smiled and turned to the examiner, Lu Yao.

Lu Yao nodded his head, and the examination room suddenly fell silent.

"Li Che, from Fei Lei City, has been involved in wood carving for over four years, entered Golden Light Prefecture City Imperial Observatory last year, passed the Third-class Guest Official examination, and became a Third-class Guest Elder of the Qintian Observatory."

"In the second year, initiated the Second-Class Guest Official examination; if it is not passed this time, it cannot be initiated again within three years."

Lu Yao said in a solemn voice.

His somber tone echoed within the examination room.

"The Second-Class Guest Official examination will be presided over by Lu Yao, Vice Director of Daocheng Imperial Observatory; all records are documented, and any objections can be appealed to the Capital Divine Heaven Bureau."

As the examination commenced, the atmosphere grew increasingly tense.

In the distance, Shangguan Qinghong and Gong Yunli huddled together; the two had brought little chairs and were sitting in a corner, one cracking seeds and the other eating snacks, excitedly and expectantly watching Li Che's examination.

The Second-Class Guest Official examination was certainly not as simple as the Third-class Guest Official one.

Gong Yunli didn't really think highly of Li Che's chance since it had only been a year, but completing the accumulation of merit within a year was not entirely impossible.

Lu Yao nodded his head and slowly wrote in the record: "Of clear origins, within the year at the Prefecture City Qintian Observatory, undertook missions diligently and earnestly."

"Now, about to initiate the Second-Class Guest Official examination."

"The Second-Class Guest Official examination is divided into three aspects."

"They are cultivation, proficiency in Divine Carving Techniques, and practical skill level in wood carving."

Lu Yao looked towards Li Che and said solemnly.

"Firstly, for the cultivation examination, to become a Second-Class Guest Elder, one's qi and blood cultivation must reach the Meridian Connection Realm, and divine cultivation must cast the Divine Foundation."

Chapter 379: Guest Elder Assessing the Fall of the Great Saint with a Knife, Divine Element True Person's Golden Core Suppresses the Great Grandmaster (4)

"Master Li, demonstrate your cultivation."

As the words fell,

Everyone's eyes inside the assessment room shifted slightly, all of them curiously staring at Li Che.

Meeting the cultivation standard was a mandatory requirement; if one's cultivation didn't meet the standard, the assessment was needless to proceed with—they would be directly eliminated.

This was the standard for the assessment of a second-class guest official.

As for the specifics of Li Che's cultivation, many were unclear.

Yet, Gong Yunli and others knew that Li Che hadn't been cultivating for long, and he was extremely low-profile, almost always working from nine to five in Mansion City.

Even though his daughter had joined the Divine Sect and became a Divine Child, he still maintained his low-profile demeanor.

What exactly Li Che's cultivation level was, the crowd really wasn't sure.

The assessment room was eerily quiet.

Everyone was waiting for Li Che to reveal his cultivation level.

Li Che smiled, showing no signs of stage fright.

For him, meeting this cultivation standard was indeed very easy.

But now, the question for Li Che was how much of his cultivation to reveal.

His dark robe trembled slightly as he stepped forward, clenched his fingers, and a surge of Qi rushed through him, his sinews and bones resonating as if a Qi Channel had burst forth from his Heavenly Spirit Cover to his feet with a thunderous sound.

"His Qi and Blood Martial Cultivation has indeed reached the Qi Channels realm," Gong Yunli remarked with a nod, a hint of joy appearing in her eyes.

However, in the next moment, her enchanting eyes suddenly widened.

Because with Li Che's grip, the airflow within the assessment room seemed to be completely swept away, whirling violently!

Mysterious Vein through Channel Opening!

Gong Yunli let out a startled "ya" of surprise.

Li Che's body trembled again, and as the state of the White Tiger Chaotic Wind Fist merged into his body, it caused another transformation in his Qi and blood, as furious as a tiger descending the mountain!

It seemed as though everyone in the room could hear the roar of a tiger, shaking the entire room.

"Divine Vein!"

Gongyang Liancheng's eyes twinkled, astounded.

Powerful Qi and blood surged and then gradually receded, leaving Li Che with a gentle smile on his face.

"Lord Lu, next is the Nurturing Nature level of cultivation," Li Che said.

Lu Yao nodded slightly, his gaze sharpening.

Li Che remained standing in place, lifting his hand to press on the Mud Pill between his eyebrows.

Divinity suddenly boiled over within the examination room, and subsequently, a Divine Base ascended from behind Li Che!

Shangguan Qinghong blinked.

When did Che break through to the Divine Base Realm?

So fast...

During the third-class guest official assessment last time, wasn't Che only at the level of Nurturing Nature like a stream?

In one year, Che had gone directly from Three Transfers of Blood Change to Divine Vein, Nurturing Nature like a stream to forge a Divine Base...

Incredibly astonishing!

What kind of monster is this?

This talent... is too exaggerated!

But then, considering that Li Che's daughter is Prodigy Xixi, a rare Jiazi Child Prodigy from Golden Light Prefecture, it seemed somewhat reasonable.

Lu Yao scanned the document before him and raised his eyebrows slightly, "Nine Luminaries Xuansi Liu Sword Divine Base... not bad, it meets the requirements."

"But a year ago, you were merely at Nurturing Nature Like a Stream. How could you create a Divine Base in such a short year?" Lu Yao's gaze swept over lightly.

Li Che retracted his Divine Base into the Mud Pill and said with a smile, "Perhaps... there are more resources in Mansion City, and the food is good."

"This year, I've worked diligently, earning a total of fifty-six Divine Crystals, all of which I've refined, thus leading to the breakthrough in cultivation."

"Deputy Supervisor Lu, what you may not be aware of, Li Che... is the biological father of Golden Light Prefecture's Divine Child Prodigy Xixi," the Chief Supervisor said with a smile as he stroked his beard.

"When Li Qingshan went to Fei Lei City to test for Spirit Children, Li Che's talent was also detected. Although he was twenty years old, he was Divinity without blemish or flaw, a Supreme Spiritual Child with extremely high Talent..."

"Just a bit older, that's all."

Hearing this, Lu Yao smiled and looked towards Li Che. A twenty-two-year-old Spiritual Child?

He didn't doubt much.

Under his Primordial Spirit perception, Li Che's displayed cultivation was indeed as he had shown.

Lu Yao trusted his Primordial Spirit detection even more.

He didn't believe Li Che could hide from his Primordial Spirit's search.

After noting down Li Che's current cultivation realm on the document, it represented that Li Che had passed the first round of the cultivation assessment.

"The second test... is to evaluate the 'Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique.' This technique, 'Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique,' is a fusion of a Divine Secret Technique and Divine Martial Arts," Lu Yao said.

"Seven Element Divine Sculpture Technique, as well as the Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Jue Xue..."

"You may demonstrate."

Lu Yao instructed.

For a Heavenly Oversight Guest Official, the "Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique" is the most important, as it is transmitted by Qintian Observatory, and the level of mastery also relates to whether one qualifies as a guest official.

After Lu Yao finished speaking, Li Che immediately took action, his qi and blood bursting forth as he flung out his arm in an instant.

Countless shadows piled up layer upon layer, dense and numerous, as if behind him they transformed into hundreds of arms, each one in a different posture, with every finger acting differently, as though they were grasping, carving, pressing...

Bang!

All the Thousand Arms converged, smashing into the air ahead, the airflow intensely stirred, as if striking the surface of a giant leather drum, bursting forth with a deafening roar!

Whoosh

Li Che's arm swung again, his qi and blood surging like a furnace overturning, the countless arm shadows stacking up nearly solidified, spreading out behind him like a peacock displaying its feathers!

"Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique... the realm of a Master!"

Whoosh!

After Li Che demonstrated the Divine Carving Technique, there was suddenly a buzz of astonishment in the examination room.

Shangguan Qinghong, Gong Yunli, and Gongyang Liancheng were utterly shocked.

In just one year, to have mastered the Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique to the level of a Master?

Is this what talent looks like?

Li Che's wood carving talent was outstanding, and it enhanced his ability with the Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique... But this enhancement, wasn't it overly significant?!

Even the Chief Supervisor and Lu Yao revealed looks of surprise.

They had thought that Li Che mastering this Divine Sculpting Technique to Major Accomplishment was already his limit, yet unexpectedly, he had entered the realm of a Master.

No wonder he had the confidence to undertake the Second-Class Guest Official assessment.

Li Che reined in his aura, the shadows of a thousand arms disappeared, his expression gentle.

As his own cultivation improved, Li Che could also appropriately reveal a bit more of his true strength, enabling him to gain more benefits.

Lu Yao narrowed his eyes, observing the gentle young man before him with some surprise.

This young man... he has the stature of a Special Class Guest Minister!

According to the records, his growth rate is too fast!

A fine prospect!

Lu Yao could not help but think about poaching him.

Such a fine prospect, if sent to Dao City's Imperial Heavenly Observatory, could receive even more resources and develop and improve more quickly.

"Very good, very good, you've mastered the Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique to the level of a Master, which meets the requirements for a Second-Class Guest Official; next, comes the final assessment."

"Wood Carving skill assessment!"

"Independent carving."

Continue your adventure with

Lu Yao stood up.

He waved his hand.

In a flash.

Three seemingly simple wood carvings appeared on the desk.

Yet the expression on the wood carvings was lifelike, as if they were about to come to life.

"These three are Temple God Wood Carvings from the Qi Yuan Mysterious Temple, you have the time of one incense stick to complete an independent wood carving."

"After the carving is complete, your wood carving will be placed alongside the three Temple God Wood Carvings."

"At that time, divine mutual exclusion will occur, and if your wood carving can withstand the divine power of the three Temple God Wood Carvings for the duration of ten breaths, you'll be considered to have passed the assessment!"

Lu Yao said calmly.

Li Che's gaze immediately fell upon the three Temple God Wood Carvings.

His eyes flickered slightly.

He suddenly understood why the Chief Supervisor, when he proposed to take the Second-Class Guest Official assessment, had asked him to visit the Mysterious Temple and observe the Temple God.

Was it for this moment's preparation?

Li Che laughed.

There was not a hint of panic or tension in his heart.

He glanced over the three Temple God Wood Carvings.

He slowly walked to the pile of wood, selected a piece of Eight Extremes Spirit Wood, gently tapped it, his qi and blood steaming, drying out the moisture within the Spiritual Wood.

Then he returned to his work station.

Taking out his carving knife, he began to carve.

Since he didn't plan to hide his skills and wished to show a little of his ability,

Li Che let go.

His eyes suddenly sharp, the Immortal Artisan Dao Fruit within his chest at level 4 throbbed, the carving knife danced in his palm, and the next moment, it touched the wood.

Amid the tearing sound, wood shavings flew in all directions.

With each knife raise and fall, the blade gleamed like a wandering dragon!

Then, a wood carving slowly took shape under Li Che's knife!

Dressed in Locked Golden Armor, crowned with a Phoenix Wing Purple Gold Crown.

His eyes blazing like golden fire.

Holding a Primordial Staff, with Cloud Turning Flow beneath his feet!

In an instant!

The three Temple God Wood Carvings that Lu Yao had brought out and placed on the table... uncontrollably burst forth with Divinity!

Inside the examination room, Divinity boiled and churned!

In the Nine Dragons River, the river water surged with a great tide!

Chapter 380: The Fire Tip Spear in Xi Xi's Arms Reacts Strangely, The Young Prince with Dragon God Purple Pupil Seeks Battle

Boom!

Huge waves suddenly rose, ferociously crashing upon the cliffside, generating towering white foam several zhang high.

The typically tranquil Nine Dragons River in the winter had suddenly become restless.

It even whipped up large waves that lashed against the rocks.

This unexpected event naturally attracted the attention of many.

The divinity that permeated the air suddenly began to boil over, it was the divinity contained within the exploding waters of the Nine Dragons River, stemming from the Divinity that spread and bred within the Nine Dragons River from the Four Imperial Arms, the Furious Lotus Prison, and the Third Anger Prince's Sinister Temple!

"The river's churning! How is that possible?"

Shangguan Qinghong and Gong Yunli both approached the carved wooden window and looked out just in time to see the river waters raging and roaring!

It seemed as if there were giant beasts lurking beneath the flow, colliding fiercely with the cliffside rocks, causing the entire Treasure Tower to shake!

Wave after wave, even more terrifying than the waves caused by Li Che's last sculpting session of the Third Prince's statue!

The snowflakes drifting through the sky seemed to melt in an instant, turning into a pitter-patter of falling rain.

Raindrops exploded on the river's surface, producing a barrage of explosive sounds!

The river's surface along the Inner City's Nine Dragons River tributary collapsed several zhang in an instant!

It was as if a giant beast on the other end of the river had fiercely sucked in a mouthful of water, swallowing the half river's tide completely, and then spewing it out!

"This shouldn't be! The statue... Li Che is carving now isn't the Third Prince's, is it?" Gong Yunli was a bit stunned.

If it isn't the Third Prince's statue, why would it agitate the divinity within the Nine Dragons River?

This doesn't make sense!

She was struggling to process the situation at hand.

Shangguan Qinghong was also puzzled.

The river violently struck the rocks upon the cliffside, and the suddenly risen waves were now higher than the Treasure Tower itself.

Like an endless water curtain, it continuously washed over everything!

The thick Divinity spread and intertwined ceaselessly within the assessment room!

It was too dense!

The Chief Supervisor narrowed his eyes, the erhu at his waist trembling, its strings as if plucked and played by an invisible force, emitting a faint sound.

Deputy Inspector Lu Yao of Dao City, his gaze solemn, fixed on the wood carving being sculpted by Li Che.

The only explanation was that it was Li Che's carved statue of the deity that had stirred up the fury of the Third Crown Prince's Divinity in the Nine Dragons River!

Not only that, Li Che had only sculpted the outline of the statue so far, and the three Temple God statues he had set up were also infused with Divinity!

Faintly, three silhouettes, emitting the suppressed Divinity of the Temple God Rank, hovered slightly behind the three statues.

"That is..."

The Chief Supervisor stood up, stroked his beard, his eyes sparkling.

Though it was only an outline, he felt as though... he remembered something.

Li Che was not affected in the slightest.

His carving knife was still dancing in his hands as he sat on the chair. His essence, Qi, and spirit were highly concentrated and infused with the skill of the Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique, perfectly executed by his hands.

The master level of the Thousand-Armed Divine Sculpting Technique was not only manifested in killing.

Its artistic mastery was just as impressive.

The carving knife tore through the Spirit Wood Organization, the falling debris blown away by the surge of Qi and blood. Counts of knives danced among his fingers, the tools changing spectacularly, with a craftsmanship so fantastical and dreamlike.

Li Che's eyes flickered open and closed, and in his mind emerged the extremely renowned image from a previous life, an indelible figure from everyone's childhood!

Every single monkey hair was vividly detailed, and the golden hoops on the Primordial Staff were carved out.

The cloak billowed, with lotus-patterned cloud-walking boots stepping on clouds, as if it was about to break out of the statue's shell, coming to life with splendid detail!

When the final cut was made.

The heavens and earth seemed to quiet down at that moment.

The thick Divinity surged out from the statue, almost like forming invisible ripples spreading out.

The air laden with the Divinity of the Eight-Armed Prison Lotus Furious Third Prince seemed to solidify at that moment, gathering upon the wood carving brought forth by Li Che and sweeping out.

Pop, pop, pop!

Three explosive sounds rang out!

The silhouettes invoked by the three Temple God statues Lu Yao had brought out seemed to each have been hit by a silent blow.

They burst into Divine mist and dissipated.

The three statues also cracked with fissures and fell completely silent.

For a moment.

The entire assessment room became very quiet.

In the distance, Tang Ren, the little descendant of the Tang Family, opened his mouth wide, his eyes gaping, his heart full of shock.

So fierce, so powerful!

It seemed he also knew Mechanical Techniques!

Truly a role model for my generation!

Lu Yao stood there, stunned, looking at the three broken statues that he had personally carved. Although done casually, their quality was not bad.

They also possessed six to seven parts of a Temple God's essence...

After Li Che carved out the Temple God's statue, they seemed like they had actually been beaten by this Temple God, their Divinity fluctuating and emotions intense.

Could it be that these three Temple Gods had really been beaten before?

Lu Yao's expression subtly changed.

The Imperial Court's research on Mysterious Temples never stopped, no matter whether it was the previous dynasty or even earlier, when the Mysterious Temples had just begun to arise.

Whether there were connections between the Mysterious Temples and the Temple Gods within them...

There were also some conclusions drawn: the Temple Gods certainly had connections with each other!

Could it be that the Temple God Li Che was sculpting now had actually fought the three Divine General Temple Gods he had carved?

There was no time to contemplate further.

The Chief Supervisor was already applauding gently.

"Not bad, very good."

"A Temple God born from the 'Fire-Eye Mystical Awe Spirit Monkey?' A Che, did you come up with this by yourself, or... did you have a reference?"