

## **A Father 651**

Chapter 651: Confronting the Martial Saint Horse Face Exposure, My Daughter is 5 Years Old

Spring rain pattered down relentlessly.

Striking the black tiles, it produced a ticking sound akin to the hands of a clock being moved.

Under the eaves, Old Chen who was brushing his teeth abruptly stood up.

He looked over from afar, a hint of worry briefly surfacing on his aged face.

The Temple Control Bureau?

And it's the Dao City Temple Control Bureau at that!

It's well known that the Temple Control Bureaus established by the Imperial Court in major Dao Cities not only suppress the Strange Temples but also serve to counteract the Divine Sect.

Thus, the Dao City Temple Control Bureau is certainly not an ordinary force.

Far from being comparable to the Temple Office of Golden Light Prefecture City.

It belongs to the true leviathans, nearly on par with the Authentic Divine Sect, and although there are disparities in heritage, each and every Temple Guardian dispatched by the Imperial Court to Dao City is an exceptional master.

Inside the house, Zhang Ya also stepped out, her fine eyebrows furrowing as she quickly trotted over.

"Darling

Li Che raised his hand and gently patted her shoulder.

"It's nothing. Lord Xie has some business with me; I'll just go and return shortly."

Li Che said with a calm and gentle smile.

His demeanor was very mild, without a trace of anxiety or worry.

"As a Second-Class Guest Official of the Qintian Observatory, I accompanied the Observatory on a trip to a Strange Temple to observe the Temple God. Later, that Strange Temple vanished... perhaps it's mere coincidence."

Li Che's voice was very stable, comforting his wife.

Xie Jing, watching Li Che's demeanor, couldn't help but feel admiration in his heart.

After all, most cultivators invited by the Temple Control Bureau often feel uneasy within.

To the cultivators in the world, the Temple Control Bureau is an extremely formidable entity, an organization specifically dealing with Strange Temples, filled with mighty figures. Although the number of Divine Envoys is not large, each is exceedingly powerful.

Once one joins the Temple Control Bureau, if anything occurs, escape is nigh impossible.

Li Che's composure dissolved Xie Jing's suspicion of him.

Prior to his arrival, Xie Jing had indeed harbored doubts about Li Che.

After all, some coincidences...

Could such coincidental events all happen to Li Che?

Both Strange Temples that Li Che visited to observe the Temple Gods mysteriously disappeared from the human world, how could one not speculate?

"Lord Xie, let's be on our way."

"A clear conscience fears no accusation," Li Che said with a calm smile, his black robes fluttering.

Xie Jing's genuine admiration surfaced, "Please."

After reassuring Zhang Ya not to worry about his safety, Li Che left with Xie Jing, boarded the Temple Control Bureau's carriage, breaking through the tilting curtains of spring rain, and headed towards the direction of the Temple Control Bureau.

Inside the carriage, a charcoal stove boiled water, the seething water scalding, brewing the tender shoots of early spring. A few verdant tea buds were dropped into the teacup, instantly unraveling when swept up by the boiling water as if stretching lazily.

The clear water gradually infused with a hue of verdant green.

Xie Jing and Li Che discussed many matters, mostly concerning the events in Golden Light Prefecture City.

Both coming from the same Prefecture, they naturally shared a closer bond.

"The Temple Control Bureau of Golden Light Prefecture City will soon receive a new Governor from the Imperial Court. After the Temple God Resonance, the Eight-Armed Prison Lotus Wrathful Third Prince's Sinister Temple will likely fall into a long period of calm. The next time it erupts, it could be a significant event

"Perhaps then, I might be reassigned back to Golden Light Prefecture City."

Xie Jing said with a smile, sipping his tea.

"Oh? So the Temple Control Bureau believes the Third Prince's Strange Temple in Golden Light Prefecture will have a major outbreak?"

Li Che asked, puzzled.

"That's inevitable. Compared to the other Four Royal Strange Temples, the Third Prince's Strange Temple appeared in a relatively short span of time. Every Strange Temple goes through a major eruption

"Such an eruption... has been referred to as 'Temple God Returning Light' by the Great Supervising Minister of Divine Machine from the Capital Divine Heaven Bureau."

"Prior to the 'Temple God Sublimation,' the Four Royal Strange Temples aren't particularly dangerous, even if Divinity infection spreads, it remains within controllable limits."

"That is why neither the Divine Sect nor the Imperial Court has dispatched strong figures to garrison the Third Prince's Strange Temple. However, once 'Temple God Returning Light' commences and the Temple God revives from death, Golden Light Prefecture may very well become the center of the vortex

"By then, it won't just be one Divine Fetus Great God or Martial Saint descending."

Xie Jing said in a soft voice.

He leaned back against the soft cushioning of the carriage, a serious look glinting in his eyes.

"Moreover

"I feel that the Third Prince's Strange Temple in Golden Light Prefecture might be different from the other Four Royal Strange Temples

"I have previously experienced two of the Four Royal Strange Temples within the Strange Que of Qianyuan Dao City

"Be it the Wonderous Way Manifest Saint Three-Eyed True Lord Strange Temple suppressed by the Qianyuan Divine Sect, or the Nine Chi Demon-Expelling Evil-Suppressing Celestial Cover Strange Temple jointly suppressed by the Su Family, Zhou Family, the Yun Family, and the Zhong Family from the Four Great Families

"None gave me a terror as profound as the Strange Que of the Third Prince's Strange Temple."

Xie Jing, holding his sword, his gaze took on a distant look.

"It was a night of the full moon, I had not even entered the Strange Que of the Third Prince's Strange Temple, merely being outside the Mysterious Fog, I vaguely sensed... numerous terrifying presences, as if parading in columns."

Chapter 652: Confronting the Martial Saint Horse Face Exposure, My Daughter is 5 Years Old \_2

Xie Jing spoke in a heavy tone.

"However, since then, I have never again witnessed a situation similar to 'All Gods Strolling in the Streets.'"

"The Dao City Temple Administration Office has also dispatched Grandmasters who have achieved the Unity of Heaven and Man to investigate, but... they found nothing."

"They say I might have experienced an illusion while practicing swordplay, but I feel that I couldn't have seen it wrong."

Xie Jing's voice turned somewhat deep.

He seemed to have forgotten Li Che's presence, merely seeking someone to confide in.

Li Che fell into silence.

He couldn't help but think of the scenes he had seen through the Star Plucking Pupil amidst the Mysterious Fog.

Weren't they somewhat similar to what Xie Jing "All Gods Strolling in the Streets"?

Only...

It wasn't All Gods that were strolling.

It was...

An endless horde of demons and monsters!

Li Che did not respond to Xie Jing, his face even showing a hint of horror and astonishment.

"Lord Xie... what you just said is truly frightening."

Li Che spoke.

Xie Jing was taken aback and then forced a bitter smile.

"Master Li, you can just take it as nonsense."

The carriage rumbled on, the Spring Rain crushed upon the puddles, splintering them like mirrors.

The carriage arrived in front of the expansive Town Temple Office Yamen of Qianyuan Taoist City.

Much like the Temple Control Bureau in Golden Light Prefecture, or rather, the layout of Temple Offices in other places were quite similar, with pavilions arrayed one after another in order.

Within each pavilion, numerous Divine Envoys of the Temple Office were processing official papers, recording information gathered from all over.

Xie Jing led Li Che through the green stone-paved avenue of the Town Temple Office Yamen.

Shortly after, they arrived in front of a majestic and grand pavilion located deep within the Yamen.

"Master Li, please."

Li Che nodded and stepped into the building.

After Xie Jing gestured a respectful fist and palm salute towards the inside of the building, he closed the vermilion doors.

As the doors closed, it seemed as if even the light was severed along with them.

The great hall of the building was vast and spacious, lined with bookshelves made of Spiritual Wood, and the shelves were filled with copious amounts of books.

With a glance, Li Che noticed they all pertained to the Mysterious Temple.

"Have you arrived?"

Suddenly, from behind a bookshelf, a middle-aged man dressed in a grey cloth robe slowly walked out.

A very refined and cultured middle-aged man, his lustrous black hair, full of vitality, was tied up with a cord.

He dusted off a book in his hands, blowing away the dust.

He beckoned to Li Che amiably.

"You must be Master Li Che, right?"

"Please, take a seat."

The middle-aged man said with a gentle smile, exuding a unique sense of serenity.

However, the Dragon Elephant Vajra Dao Fruit in Li Che's chest throbbed violently as if he wasn't facing a genteel and affable Confucian scholar but a monstrous, bloodthirsty creature—a terrifying Blood and Flesh Vajra!

Very strong, exceedingly powerful!

The Great Bodily Elixir in Li Che's Dantian pulsed fiercely, yet he controlled the Dragon Elephant Vajra Dao Fruit to maintain the flow of his blood without much change.

A Martial Saint?!

Was he a Martial Saint?!

Li Che's heart trembled incessantly.

Was this cultured middle-aged Confucian scholar before him a Martial Saint?!

Li Che didn't know, but to elicit such a strong reaction from him...

Even Li Qing, who had opened the Three Flowers atop his head, did not have such an oppressive presence.

The middle-aged Confucian continued to browse through the books, apparently noticing that Li Che was somewhat reserved, a hint of curiosity flashed in his eyes.

He kindly said: "Don't be so tense... I've just come to have a chat with you after all, you're the Second-Class Guest Official of the Qintian Observatory, and although not officially employed by the Imperial Court's formal documents, strictly speaking, you're also considered a colleague of mine."

"I am Wenlong Yuwen, one of the two Governor Generals of the Si Mansion in Qianyuan Dao City."

Li Che sat down on a wooden Taishi Chair.

"Do you know that the two Strange Temples you visited have mysteriously disappeared?"

The middle-aged Confucian asked as he flipped through an ancient tome.

Although his gaze never fell on Li Che, the invisible pressure felt full.

Li Che shook his head.

His response was watertight.

He believed that Wenlong Yuwen wouldn't find any clues as long as he didn't admit it, no one would know it was his doing.

That's right, the disappearance of the Mysterious Temples from the face of the earth was a great deed, wasn't it?

Li Che was always one to do good deeds without leaving his name behind.

"Isn't the disappearance of the Mysterious Temple... a good thing?"

Li Che adopted an honest and sincere demeanor.

Wenlong Yuwen, in fact, had his powerful Divine Sense locked onto Li Che the whole time, but he did not notice anything unusual.

After a moment, Wenlong Yuwen closed the ancient book, with his gaze finally landing on Li Che.

However, Wenlong Yuwen did not answer Li Che's question.

"Alright, Master Li, you can go back first... the disappearance of the Mysterious Temples, it may indeed be a coincidence that you were present both times."

Wenlong Yuwen gave the order to leave.

Li Che stood up, cupped his fists, and bowed.

"I wish Governor Wenlong Yuwen to solve the case soon and find the culprit responsible for causing the Mysterious Temples to vanish from the world."

Wenlong Yuwen smiled and nodded slightly.

Li Che left the building, and Xie Jing had already been waiting outside.

Once the figure disappeared into the misty rain of spring.

The man in the grey Confucian robe, Wenlong Yuwen, slowly shifted his gaze away.

"Li Che

"It's not him."

"His aura is too weak... The Physical Body is strong, hiding Cultivation, but it's just in the Grandmaster Posterior Realm

"And moreover, he lacks the aura of Divinity that those two Temple Gods possessed

Chapter 653: Confronting the Martial Saint Horse Face Exposure, My Daughter is 5 Years Old \_3

"In just four short years... from a wood carving shop laborer in a small world family in a small city, to become a Second-Class Guest Official at the Astronomical Observatory?"

"Skilled in mechanical manufacturing and having given birth to a divine daughter with a purple aura a thousand feet long, getting into the Authentic Divine Sect, in just a short four years, relying on his daughter for glory, he climbed from a small city to Dao City."

He took the wolf brush, dipping it in thick ink.

His eyes became deep, with a hint of wisdom that seemed to see through everything.

Thus, beside the name Li Che, he slowly wrote down two characters.

[Horse Face]

...

...

Lord Xie sent Li Che back to Liuxiang Lane.

"Lord Xie, do you know what the Governor's Office official's cultivation is?"

Before parting, Li Che curiously asked.

Xie Jing laughed: "Do you feel somewhat oppressed, as if everything about you was seen through?"

Li Che did not directly respond but nodded.

Yes, that Divine Sense was too strong, forcing Li Che to use the power of the Dragon Elephant Vajra Dao Fruit, revealing a trace of his Qi-Blood and exposing his cultivation from the Grandmaster Initial Realm to the Grandmaster Latter Realm.

"The Governor's Office official is a newly ascended figure in the martial path... not weaker than the Divine Fetus Great God."

Xie Jing only said this much mysteriously.

Then he bid farewell and left.

"Martial path comparable to the War God's Fetus; that would naturally be the Martial Saint Li Che's eyes glittered.

This was the first time he had met a Martial Saint.

Truly terrifying, the energy contained within was too immense, as if tens of thousands of Divine Element True Person Divine Chess Pieces' worth of energy from a Great Avalanche were exploding at once.

And what was most important was that Wenlong Yuwen could actually suppress such energy within his body without any leakage, and yet he could successfully control it.

Truly terrifying and powerful!

This was Li Che's first time confronting a Martial Saint face to face; even a Martial Saint in a state of resting latent potential, not engaged in combat, also evoked a chilling sensation.

"I can't defeat him... I simply can't beat him

Li Che let out a sigh of turbid breath.

"If Wenlong Yuwen, a newly ascended Martial Saint, is this horrifying, then how terrifying must Ji Moli be? He's reached the pinnacle in the Martial Saint Realm and is also a Vassal King who is a Divine Fetus Great God

A strong sense of crisis suddenly shrouded over Li Che.

Having never seen a Martial Saint, one is like a frog in a well looking at the moon.

Having seen a Martial Saint, one then understands... I've underestimated the strength of a Martial Saint.

Previously, in the mysterious events within the Strange Que of the Third Prince's Strange Temple, amidst the resonance of the Temple God, the Martial Saint's Will hidden within Ji Hai's bloodline was shattered, which made Li Che feel that Martial Saints were not so extraordinary after all.

Li Che slapped his own face.

"This world is dangerous; the former way of looking at the moon from the bottom of a well isn't sufficient, it needs to change."

"For any enemy, they must be treated with utmost solemnity and respect."

Looking at the hazy spring colors, Li Che turned and entered the yard.

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The spring rain falling on the black tiles, like water droplets continuously dripping from a leaky copper bell, broke apart with a continuous ticking sound.

Time slowly drifted away amidst the distorting and shattering of the spring rain.

Since the day the Temple Control Bureau took Li Che away for investigation without result, Li Che no longer continued to observe the Temple God as an Official of the Heavenly Oversight.

However, Li Che had not given up on summoning the Strange Temple's Temple God.

After all, according to Li Che's cultivation plan, in order to transform his Seven Emotions Divine Base into a Divine Minister, it was best to use the method of summoning gods through the Temple God.

Therefore, Li Che did not give up, but instead took an extremely stable approach, one that no one could discover.

Although Li Che no longer went to observe the Temple God, the Astronomical Observatory would still organize the Guest Officials to do so, as only through observing the Temple God can the level of Woodcarving Masters be improved.

And Li Che could then hide a Thunder Chess Piece on the body of an Official from the Astronomical Observatory who was about to enter the Mysterious Temple.

Once inside the Mysterious Temple, Li Che would remotely control and allow the Thunder Chess Piece to shake and fall, hiding it within the Mysterious Temple.

It was like planting a seed.

Furthermore, Li Che was continuously dropping chess pieces.

Like an experienced and cautious chess player constantly placing stones and strategizing.

He chose only the Qi Yuan Mysterious Temples, and he hid a Thunder Chess Piece in each of the five Qi Yuan Mysterious Temples.

About half a month or so, Li Che would then quietly enter one of the Mysterious Temples in the dead of night and conduct a low-profile summoning ritual.

Life went on in this orderly manner.

Li Che went to the Divine Eagle Ridge once, inquiring about the time for the Elder examination.

The first time he went, one of the reception Elders at the Divine Eagle Ridge almost drove him away due to his young age.

Had Li Che not produced Jiao Shaoqiu's referral Jade Pendant, he might not even have been given the chance to speak.

This made Li Che realize how much the Divine Eagle Ridge valued experience.

No wonder Jiao Shaoqiu said, it would be difficult for him, Li Che, to become an Elder of the Divine Eagle Ridge...

He would have to compete with Woodcarving Masters from all over, who have decades or even centuries of craftsmanship experience.

Li Che had been learning wood carving for only so many years...

Naturally, he was not looked upon favorably, but out of respect for Jiao Shaoqiu's token, the reception Elder still received Li Che and told him that he would be notified in advance if the Elder assessment began.

Therefore, Li Che's chance to obtain a short-term entry into the ranks of the Divine Sects was temporarily out of reach.

Chapter 654 -224: Confronting the Martial Saint Horse Face Exposure, My Daughter is 5 Years Old \_4

With abundant resources provided by Li Che, Zhang Ya's cultivation was never lacking in supply.

Thus, as time ticked away bit by bit, Li Che began to immerse himself in cultivation, his life becoming more regular.

He had obtained a piece of Five Elders Spirit Wood called Blood Thunder Luminous Dragon Bone Wood, and many other spiritual woods of the Six Bureaus level, from Qintian Observatory with generous contributions from a former enemy.

Once the spiritual wood arrived, Li Che started to craft the Mechanical Beast "Blood-Yang Nine-God Vajra Ape" from Tang's Mechanism Essentials that Elder Brother Tang Sanjia of Golden Light Prefecture at Divine Carving Ridge had sent him!

A Sixth Order Senior Mechanical Beast!

But this was definitely a colossal project.

The entire Mechanical Beast had a total of 139,872 mechanism components, each needing to be manually crafted and polished by Li Che.

And the precision requirements were extremely high!

Moreover, this Mechanical Beast needed the arrangement of Nine Seals of Mechanism, requiring embedding into the components, with a total of 10,000 parts needing the Nine Seals of Mechanism, the sequence could not be wrong, nor could the Mechanism Seal imprints.

Fortunately, Li Che had his Immortal Avatar.

He directly activated the Immortal Avatar and began his research in a hectic rush!

Aside from studying the Mechanical Beast, Li Che had also become obsessed with refining the Corpse God Mark during this time.

This Corpse God Mark, after being severely beaten by the Ape God Avatar, was astonishingly tough, making the refinement process extremely difficult for Li Che!

In the void, an invisible force seemed to hinder his refining.

Li Che persisted, bombarding it daily with the power of Black and White Collapse.

Gradually, he finally pried open the cold seal within the Corpse God Mark and began refining it.

Daily, he practiced punches, nurtured Divinity, crafted Mechanical Beasts, stamped the Corpse God Mark...

Days were enormously fulfilling!

During these days, Li Che did not even bother to clear out the Evil People of the Corpse God Cult hiding inside Qianyuan Tao City.

Because it was unnecessary, once he completed the refinement of the Corpse God Mark, to all Evil People of the Corpse God Cult...

Seeing him would be like seeing the Corpse God, an overwhelming suppression of Rank.

Li Che could easily suppress them directly.

By then, killing them would be effortless, without even needing to cause much disturbance.

The days in Dao City were tranquil, with the vast city functioning like a giant machine, continuously churning.

Days flowed smoothly like silk.

Spring passed, and summer followed; as summer cicadas finished their lifespan, autumn arrived.

Maple leaves dyed the skyline red, and chilly winds struck from the north.

Snowflakes as big as goose feathers drifted through the sky.

The wind howled sharply, bone-chillingly cold.

Within Qianyuan Tao City, under the jurisdiction of the Su Family, stood a Qi Yuan Mysterious Temple.

Li Che clenched his five fingers, accompanied by drifting snowflakes.

He appeared inside the Strange Temple, where white candle flames flickered, suddenly turning a ghostly green in an instant!

It was a female Temple God holding a flower basket, seated dignifiedly on the altar, elegant yet somewhat sinister.

"The Grieving Temple God Divinity

Li Che wore a conical hat, his face covered with a Bull Demon Mask, and he raised his hand to gently brush off a snowflake from his black robe.

The next instant, his body suddenly swelled, and one after another, a total of nine fearsome Jiaolong Sinews sprang forth from his back, appearing like a red-hot branding iron, and the exposed skin resembled finely tempered fine iron.

With a flick of his finger, Ting!

A crisp sound exploded, like a roaring Thunder Dragon.

A stick interlaced and sparkling with deep blue Thunder Arcs spun in the air, finally landing in Li Che's hand.

With a "snap," it was grasped by Li Che.

With a muscular, towering body, Li Che, with one arm, wielded the Xuanjin Eight Treasures Thunder Dragon Stick, and strands of thick black hair began to grow wildly beneath his hat.

"Ascending the Tower!"

The Temple God Divinity squeezed out from the Avatar and merged into Li Che's body.

The Temple God on the altar, seemingly coming to life, erupted with a terrifying intent to kill, engaging in combat with Li Che.

Li Che's lips curled upward beneath his mask, unleashing thirty streaks of Five Elements Divine Gang in a frenzy.

The shadow of the staff bloomed like a peacock spreading its feathers!

Primordial Equal to Heaven Staff!

Air currents were thoroughly shattered and Gang Winds rampaged far and wide!

Explosive Qi-Blood surged like a boulder thrown into a lake, causing ripples of air currents to ravage and intertwine!

Moments later, this Temple God was fiercely dispersed by Li Che.

Using the Divine Skill "Summoning Gods," he dragged it into the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

Thunderous booms echoed—!!!

The Mysterious Temple began to shake and rumble, walls shattered, debris exploded, and an immensely thick blue finger pierced through the Strange Que and Mysterious Fog, pressing down fiercely!

The ultimate rage, as if thunderous roars from the heavens were washing over everything!

However, Li Che had already vanished from sight.

Outside the Strange Que.

A figure moving at extreme speed tore through the air, appearing at the edge of the turbulent Strange Que.

The Confucian-looking Wenlong Yuwen, with a solemn expression.

"Another one

"Another Mysterious Temple has vanished into thin air from the human world."

"Who in the world?!"

"The sixth one now!"

Wenlong Yuwen exhaled a breath.

The powerhouses from the Su Family also arrived, each with an extremely ugly expression.

"This is the fifth Qi Yuan Mysterious Temple under the jurisdiction of my Su Family... to disappear!"

"Who could it be? Why are they targeting my Su Family like this?!"

Wenlong Yuwen gave the Su Family powerhouses a fleeting glance.

"Your Su Family should think carefully... is it possible you have offended someone?"

With those words ended, Wenlong Yuwen tore through the Mysterious Fog and plunged into it, but the Divinity had become a thing of the past, the Temple was already gone.

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In Qianyuan Tao City, Liuxiang Lane.

Within a small workshop courtyard.

Li Che clenched his five fingers together, swirling currents dispersed, blowing away all the snow in the yard.

"The seventh Temple God... summoning successful."

Li Che even sat down on the ground of the courtyard without bothering to remove his hat.

"The seventh, the Avatar of Grieving God, is ready!"

Li Che's thoughts stirred.

The next moment, he raised his hand and pressed it upon his brow Niwan.

A powerful storm-like Divinity rippled from the forehead, spreading outwards!

The female Temple God holding a flower basket, who was suppressed on the Heaven and Earth chessboard, was wrapped by the chains of Divinity and slowly pulled into the final round of the Seven Emotions Divine Base.

Initially, this female Temple God wanted to resist.

But Li Che directly brought out the Avatars of the other six Temple Gods, fixing their gaze upon her.

The female Temple God then gave up struggling, choosing to step into Li Che's Divine Base with elegance, rather than in vulgarity.

The majestic Divinity surged around Li Che like a boiling martial world, provoking fierce winds to howl.

Li Che slowly opened his eyes, his Mo Shan black robe fluttering in the wind.

Sturdy hair danced wildly.

Li Che raised his hand, and with a forceful push of his five fingers.

In an instant, all the Divinity returned to the Mud Pill in his forehead, sinking like mud into the sea, without causing any ripples.

The entire courtyard turned calm.

Everything became extremely quiet.

Only the pure white snowflakes made soft thuds as they landed on the roof.

Li Che extended his hand and turned his palm upward towards the sky.

A piece of cold snow fell into his palm.

It was melted into clear water by his hot Qi-Blood.

Li Che clenched his hand into a fist.

A smile appeared at the corner of his mouth.

He looked up...

Gazing at the snowflakes falling from the sky.

He still remembered that year, when the snow fluttered heavily.

He carried a frozen fish, welcoming the news of his wife giving birth.

"It's the time of the year again when the snowflakes are born between heaven and earth."

"My Xi Xi

"Is five years old now."

Chapter 655: 5-Year-Old Daughter's Dao Fruit [Lei-Ci Dao Body], Inviting Big Black Dog to Visit the Divine Sect

Flakes of snow, magnified countless times, as if the most patient Woodcarving Master had meticulously crafted them with an engraving knife.

The ice crystals spun like flowers, fluttering down from the sky.

Cold air rose from the ground, condensing the moisture between heaven and earth, gathering into snow and falling gently.

The snow piled up on the bamboo hat, thickening layer by layer, unnoticed.

Li Che stretched out his hand, holding a crystal-clear snowflake suspended above his palm, which he controlled with a powerful Gang Qi, tumbling violently within, yet not melted or evaporated by the scalding and boiling Qi-blood.

In his eyes, it was as if he could feel the excitement from the year when he returned with frozen fish through heavy snow, the rush of blood quickening in his veins when he heard the news of his wife giving birth.

Yet now, in the blink of an eye, five years have passed.

These five years, so much has happened.

His family left Fei Lei City, moved to Golden Light Prefecture City, and then from the Prefecture City to Dao City.

Xi Xi, too, has grown from a tiny curled bundle into a lively, incredibly strong little girl.

Even in the Eight-Armed Prison Lotus Wrathful Third Prince's Mysterious Temple, she performed exceptionally well, resonating with the Temple God and gaining a considerable amount of Temple God Divinity, laying a solid foundation.

For a child from an ordinary family to grow to this point, it truly wasn't easy.

Although Li Che was granted a Dao Fruit just because his daughter was born.

But...

Xi Xi was just an ordinary child at the start.

And now, she has reached the level to participate in the selection for direct disciples of the Great God of Divine Fetus of Qian Yuan Divine Sect.

One must know, those partaking in this assessment are all geniuses and Divine Children from all corners of the land, from various sects and noble families.

Each with a notable heritage and status.

Compared to them, Xi Xi's background could really be considered almost unworthy of mention.

"My Xi Xi... is five years old."

Five years old.

Truly grown into a little girl.

Li Che's eyes opened and closed, a brilliant smile lifting the corners of his mouth.

In these past six months or so, Li Che had been quietly watching his daughter's safe and steady growth, and his mood couldn't help but calm down a bit.

As if he had received a kind of extraordinary cleansing.

As an old father, even though the current Li Che could slay a Master of Divine Gang and battle an Innate Great Grandmaster as a Martial Artist, possessing formidable martial strength, ranking top tier in Dao City.

He would still feel proud and pleased for his daughter's every learned move and each minor advancement.

Li Che's eyes became more tender.

"Today is Xi Xi's birthday, and I have already mentioned to Elder Jiao who has especially granted permission for entrance to Divine Sect to celebrate Xi Xi's birthday... So, I need to head home early today."

Li Che gently flexed his finger, launching the snowflake, spinning within Gang Qi, shooting out.

The day of heavy snow is the day of his daughter's birth.

This is an extremely memorable day.

Whether for Xi Xi, for Zhang Ya, or for him, Li Che.

It is crucial.

Li Che's destiny changed because of the birth of his daughter Xi Xi, gaining his first Dao Fruit [Immortal Artisan], breaking free from poverty, and rising from obscurity.

And with every safe year of his daughter's growth, Li Che was able to obtain another Dao Fruit.

Now that Xi Xi is five, it means that the sixth Dao Fruit is about to be born.

"Hoo

"Inhale

Li Che calmed his emotions, and with each inhale and exhale, the airflow stirred slightly.

He was not in a rush because what was meant to come would eventually come.

Li Che closed his eyes slightly, waiting in silence.

Unhasty and unmoved, his heart like still water.

At the same time, he reflected on his cultivation progress so far.

In these past six or more months, Li Che's improvement had been tremendous.

Within the Inner Scene of the Energy Center, besides the God Image of the rank of The Three Pure Ones resembling the Heaven and Earth Spirit Bright True Ape, the Seven Emotions Divine Base had all condensed into a Divine Likeness.

Next, Li Che needed to enhance his cultivation of the Divine Likeness and start trying to condense the Shen Yuan Golden Elixir!

"I have eight Divine Likeness... should I condense eight Shen Yuan Golden Elixirs?"

Li Che's gaze lowered, pondering.

"Eight Golden Cores... I wonder how long it will take to condense them successfully with my divine talent at the divinity level."

Li Che muttered.

Compared to his martial arts talent, his divine talent indeed fell short, but that was only what Li Che thought.

In fact, Li Che's divine talent had reached the level of a Divine Child, a twenty-four-year-old senior Divine Child... naturally living up to his reputation.

In the whole Qianyuan Dao City, it was probably the only case.

But compared to the more dazzling martial arts talent, it paled slightly.

The [Dragon Elephant Vajra] Dao Fruit reached level 4, greatly enhancing the talent from the cross-training.

Even that legionary Divine Seed Martial Arts that could condense True Gang had been cultivated by Li Che to a stage of major accomplishment.

The Divine Seed Martial Arts "Blood Crocodile Sky Splitting Palm" received from Long Tai, though difficult to practice.

Divine Seed Martial Arts were a bit harder than usual Martial Saint ultimate techniques, but with the Dao Fruit's blessing, Li Che had an exceptional comprehension for martial arts.

"If I can cultivate to the realm of Master, I can comprehend True Gang ahead of time, even without stepping into the Unity of Heaven and Man realm."

Li Che raised his hand, and his palm instantly turned blood-red.

Faintly, there seemed to be a ferocious and domineering roar of a Blood Crocodile bursting forth from within his palm, with innumerable streams of Gang Qi intertwining with Qi-blood, constantly converging, compressing the furnace into the palm.

As if a blood-red seed wrapped with numerous blood vessels throbbing non-stop, was condensed in the palm.

Chapter 656: 5-Year-Old Daughter's Dao Fruit [Lei-Ci Dao Body], Inviting Big Black Dog to Visit the Divine Sect

"Divine Seed... condenses Essence, Qi, and Spirit within a single Martial Art, transforming into a force similar to a Divine Power Seed, known as Divine Seed Martial Arts."

"It is positioned higher than Martial Saint Ultimate Study, and even above the Dharma of Martial Saints."

"It is more challenging and more demanding, requiring the Divine Seed formed through condensation to be connected to the complex meridian points in the human body, to stimulate stronger responses in the body functions and unleash more terrifying power."

Li Che exhaled deeply.

According to the description of the Divine Seed Martial Arts called Blood Crocodile Sky Splitting Palm, to cultivate it to the Master Realm, one not only needs to effortlessly master the technique but also needs to deliver this "Divine Seed" to the human body's meridian points.

To root it within the body's nodes, and ultimately blossom and flourish!

"According to the theory of Divine Seeds, planting each Divine Seed can stimulate the potentials of the human body, and there are eight meridian acupoint nodes in total, like eight doors

"Planting a Divine Seed in each of the meridian gateways signifies a digging and release of the body's potential!"

Li Che sat cross-legged on the ground, his eyes opening and closing, a majestic current of air whooshed around him.

As if a powerful force was whipping the air, sending out a sound of breaking through the sky.

"Normally, a Master of Divine Gang cultivating a Divine Seed Martial Art, generates True Gang, implants it in one of the Eight Extraordinary Meridians, can ascend to Innate Great Grandmaster, tapping into human body potential, and during combat, further stimulate the power of Qi Men

"This is also one of the significant differences between an Innate Great Grandmaster and the Corpse God Cult's Cursed Golden Corpse."

"The Eight Extraordinary Meridians in the human body are actually eight Qi gates, where Gang Qi condenses into the lands of truth

Li Che stood up, and with a thunderous slap, the enormous Qi-Blood gathered in the palm of his hand, like a terrifying giant crocodile opening its jaws to tear apart heaven and earth!

The airflow in the entire yard seemed to burst apart in an instant!

"If Divine Seeds are planted in all Eight Extraordinary Meridians of the body... what then?"

"Could one directly confront a Martial Saint?"

Li Che's eyes shone brightly, feeling the seemingly invisible Divine Seed in his palm.

Though not yet fully formed, it already possessed extremely terrifying power.

If eight Divine Seeds were planted in the human body's Eight Extraordinary Meridians, releasing all of the body's potential...

How strong would that be?!

"However... getting hold of Eight Divine Martial Arts is not an easy task."

Li Che exhaled.

Even in the collection of a Demon Child, an illegitimate child of Corpse God, there existed no Divine Seed Martial Arts.

Because Divine Seed Martial Arts are not essential for an Innate Great Grandmaster, a Master of Divine Gang confronting Innate Great Grandmaster, would open all 360 acupoints in the human body, interconnecting to form a grand circulation of Qi-Blood!

To realize the perpetual cycle of Divine Gang, connected to heaven and earth, allowing breath to reach through heaven and earth, is known as the Unity of Heaven and Man.

Furthermore, condensing into a trace of Innate True Gang, would officially step into the realm of Innate Great Grandmaster.

In fact, for a Master of Divine Gang, to rigidly cultivate Divine Seed Martial Arts is not a wise move.

Not to mention the difficulty of Divine Seed Martial Arts, just incorporating Divine Seeds into the Eight Extraordinary Meridians is an extremely dangerous matter.

It can only be said that a grandmaster who successfully cultivates Divine Seed Martial Arts will have stronger combat power and more thoroughly excavated potential.

"Divine Seed Martial Arts... my Myriad Transformations Dragon Elephant, has now reached the level of Martial Saint Ultimate Study, then can it become Divine Seed Martial Arts?"

From transformation of Martial Saint Ultimate Study to Divine Seed Martial Arts...

Li Che did not know how to handle it; he lacked the experience.

Right now, what he needed to do first was to cultivate "Blood Crocodile Sky Splitting Palm" to the Master Realm and try guiding the first Divine Seed into the Eight Extraordinary Meridians.

Only by successfully cultivating to Divine Seed Martial Arts would he then have the qualifications and ability to refine corresponding Divine Seed Martial Arts.

"The cultivation path is long and arduous

Even with the aid of Dragon Elephant Vajra Dao Fruit, the cultivation of Divine Seed Martial Arts had brought considerable trouble to Li Che.

On the other hand, Divine Cultivation had also entered the accumulation phase.

It required ample Divinity Crystals to accumulate and strengthen until enough Divinity is collected to attempt condensing a Shen Yuan Golden Elixir.

"The Spiritually Bright Real Ape of the Three Pure Ranks is truly a colossal Swallowing Gold Beast... only consuming Five Elders Rank Divinity Crystals, not knowing how many it would take to satisfy it."

Li Che was somewhat amused yet frustrated.

The Spiritually Bright Real Ape shared the same temperament as the Immaculate Heart Daoist Fruit, learning only the bad and not the good, such irony...

As for the other Temple God Avatars...

It seemed they followed the footsteps of Apples, except for the Fire-eye Little Monkey, although the others were Temple Gods summoned from Qi Yuan Mysterious Temple, their consumption of Divinity Crystals, strangely, was limited only to those of the Six Ministries!

Li Che was utterly numbed.

Based on the standard of at least ten Six Ministries Divinity Crystals per Temple God Avatar, Li Che had to prepare at least seventy!

Since all other Divine Likeness were consuming Six Ministries Divinity Crystals, even though Fire-eye Little Monkey was an Eight Extremes Temple God Divine Likeness, it wouldn't be fair not to provide Six Ministries Divinity Crystals to Him, would it?

"The burden is massive and the road is long."

Li Che sighed.

Li Che previously thought he was quite wealthy, but now, upon calculation.

He was incredibly poor!

Not to mention the Spiritual Wood needed to construct the Mechanism Beasts, spending a significant amount of Divinity Crystals, just feeding these Temple Gods was enough to deplete Li Che's current resources.

Fortunately...

In this world, there are always kind-hearted people willing to be his patrons.

Thunderous sounds—

Just as Li Che was immersed in his longing for resources.

He suddenly felt the world around him turn eerily quiet.

In the solemn silence, there was an incomparable aura of deathly stillness!

Thump, thump, thump—

Within his chest, five Dao Fruits pulsed one after another, strong and powerful, as if invisible currents were swiftly intertwining...

Li Che's entire body felt momentarily limp.

Chapter 657: 5-Year-Old Daughter's Dao Fruit [Lei-Ci Dao Body], Inviting Big Black Dog to Visit the Divine Sect

Dao Fruit [Divine Craft], Dragon Elephant Vajra, Pure Heart, Chess Saint, Fairy in the Painting, five Dao Fruits violently trembled!

Bursting forth were circles of invisible currents stirring up!

The tranquility of the courtyard was instantly shattered!

As if welcoming the arrival of a new companion!

Here it comes!

Li Che abruptly lifted his head, his black, robust hair dancing wildly in the fierce wind.

Before him, the scene shifted, revealing a vast expanse of wilderness.

Numerous ancient and profound currents intertwined and collided!

...

Rumbling!

As if the heavens themselves were collapsing at this moment.

Li Che's spirit was suddenly pulled, and he instantly appeared in the space of the vast wilderness.

Endless, boundlessly expansive, within the vast universe, it seemed as though gods were standing omnipresent.

A treasure tree shot up into the sky, its multicolored leaves rustling violently, wildly spreading to cover the entire world!

Fruits of multiple colors, accompanied by flowing light, hung from the treetops, bending them down, drooping.

Li Che in his black robe, with his hair flying, floated in front of this towering tree.

Seemingly minuscule like an ant, he gazed up at the endlessly towering treasure tree.

Li Che's eyes condensed with endless flowing light, exhaling a breath of turbid air.

He looked around, always curious about where this vast land exactly was...

And where this Dao Tree was growing?

He once saw someone playing a chess game beyond the heavens during the transformation of the Chess Saint Dao Fruit...

Does that imply that this universe truly exists?!

However, Li Che didn't think too much.

Because he was still too insignificant, many mysteries are beyond his reach to even touch.

Perhaps, what he considers strong is far beyond his imagination, like a frog in a well looking at the sky, only when he truly reaches a certain realm will he understand... he is not a frog, but merely a mayfly.

A multicolored fruit fell from the treetop!

The sixth Dao Fruit!

Li Che's eyes shone brightly, his whole body radiating a crystal-clear glow.

Before him, the Dao Fruit's multicolored light reflected out, seemingly presenting all the experiences Xi Xi went through this year in a rapid review.

There was Xi Xi's encounter during the Temple God Resonance, and also Xi Xi's arduous cultivation in Dao City after arriving.

Indeed, after Xi Xi entered the Authentic Divine Sect, she took her cultivation very seriously and diligently completed the tasks assigned by Jiao Shaoqiu.

Because Xi Xi firmly believed, if she became strong enough, she could take on missions sooner and leave the Divine Sect Mountain Gate!

Therefore, Xi Xi put in extra effort and hard work!

Li Che watched with a bit of heartache.

Xi Xi guessed that her father and mother came to see her late at night, but she never caught them once.

Li Che, in his black robe, with eyes shimmering, a Dao Fruit hovered.

Each birthday of Xi Xi was the time for him to open blind boxes.

In fact, Li Che was also a bit worried that having too many Dao Fruits, he couldn't enhance each one.

But gradually, Li Che figured it out.

Let nature take its course, the ripeness of the Dao Fruits, with time brewing, will always grow slowly.

After all, his ultimate goal... is to quietly watch his daughter's longevity.

As long as his daughter continues to live peacefully, there will not be fewer Dao Fruits.

But now...

Li Che has also glimpsed a corner of this world...

True longevity is extremely difficult!

Even the founder of Qian Yuan Divine Sect, the top Martial Saint who first encountered the Strange Temple, the legendary existence that broke through the Divine Tribulation, couldn't achieve longevity...

Can Xi Xi...achieve longevity?

Can he, Li Che, achieve longevity?!

Difficult!

And if unable to achieve longevity...

If Xi Xi dies, the Dao Fruits will no longer grow.

Li Che couldn't even assure if Xi Xi were to die, whether the Dao Fruits he had acquired so far would also wither and perish.

All is unknown...

The future seems to be shrouded by a thick fog!

Five Fingers seized.

The Dao Fruit seemed to fall into his palm, lifted up by him.

A year of protection, today bears fruit!

Xi Xi turns five!

The sixth Dao Fruit.

Bears fruit!

...

[Your daughter, at the age of five, braved difficulties, endured separations, strong and sensible, safe and sound, obtained the Dao Fruit “Thunder Magnetism Dao Body”.

...

Like golden thunderbolts flashing, the currents converged, weaving into a line of golden text prompt.

The sixth Dao Fruit!

Finally emerged!

Blind box opened, producing a Dao Fruit... beyond Li Che’s expectations!

Thunder Magnetism Dao Body?!

Is this Dao Fruit... a special physique?!

Obtaining this Dao Fruit, will it change his physique?

Becoming a man... who controls the thunder?!

Li Che was filled with doubts.

Zzzzz—

Watching the Dao Fruit bursting with thunder arcs, it seemed like countless Divine Thunders from the Nine Heavens converged into a fruit, filled with terrifying heat and destructive power!

Thunder Magnetism...

Li Che pondered, yet found no clue.

However, he knew that this Dao Fruit...

Should be a combat type.

Li Che categorized the Dao Fruits he had received so far according to their functions.

[Divine Craft], [Chess Saint], [Pure Heart], [Fairy in the Painting] Dao Fruits were actually auxiliary or semi-combat types.

While [Dragon Elephant Vajra] was a combat type Dao Fruit, directly triggering the Dragon Elephant Vajra Transformation, allowing him to plant the Divine Seed deep into the Eight Extraordinary Meridians, thoroughly activating the potential of the human body!

With a thought, Thunder Magnetism surged!

[Thunder Magnetism Dao Body (Dao Fruit): Nine Heavens Divine Thunder, forged into the Dao Body, Xuan Magnetism within me, flipping heaven and earth]

Here it is!

Chapter 658: 5-Year-Old Daughter's Dao Fruit [Lei-Ci Dao Body], Inviting Big Black Dog to Visit the Divine Sect

About the introduction of Dao Fruit!

Introduction of the new Dao Fruit [Lei-Ci Dao Body], its overpowering surges hang suspended before his very eyes.

"Nine Heavens Divine Thunder, fuse and mold the Dao Body!"

Li Che took a deep breath, remarkably domineering!

It must be known that the might of the thunder from the heavens and the earth is terrifyingly great. According to records in the ancient texts, among the Three Calamities and Nine Tribulations faced by a Divine Tribulation Expert, the most renowned is the "Shenxiao Thunder" Tribulation!

Doesn't this mean that once the Lei-Ci Dao Body is forged, one could be directly immune to the Shenxiao Thunder Tribulation?

Even if not completely immune, it would certainly reduce many threats and hassles.

"Not just thunder, there's also magnetism

"A man who plays with magnetic fields?"

Li Che's lips curved up involuntarily.

"But how exactly do I forge this Lei-Ci Dao Body?"

"Do I need to be struck by lightning?"

Li Che muttered to himself.

"Let's try it."

His eyes snapping open, Li Che shot up from the courtyard, his powerful Qi-Blood bursting forth.

[Dao Fruit (Lei-Ci Dao Body): LV1, 0%]

Inside his chest, the Dao Fruit pulsated!

It seemed as if massive electric currents rapidly intertwined within his muscles, instantaneously spreading throughout his limbs.

Standing upright in the middle of the courtyard, Li Che closed his eyes.

In his mind, information about the Lei-Ci Dao Body surged continuously.

Snowflakes as large as hands, meandered down profusely from the high sky, landing on Li Che's head and shoulders.

With every inhale and exhale, the snowstorm churned!

After roughly twenty breaths, Li Che finally concluded his research.

His eyes snapped open abruptly.

His pupils suddenly burst with brilliant azure color, fine arcs of electricity weaving about within!

Reaching out his palm, his five fingers suddenly spread wide!

His thought willed it.

It was as if an invisible field emanated from his body, wildly dispersing in all directions!

Solidifying, freezing!

Li Che's mind moved again.

Suddenly, his feet left the ground, soaring into the air on their own.

It seemed as if he had isolated the Earth's magnetic field, and his whole person levitated serenely.

Without utilizing any Qi-Blood, nor wielding any Divinity...

It was purely through the manipulation of the [Lei-Ci] Dao Fruit that he achieved unbridled flight.

"Coupled with the Martial Saint Ultimate Study, Lingxu Baqi Step

"I've become the brightest in the sky."

Li Che smiled.

With a step, his Qi-Blood erupted, executing the Lingxu Baqi Step, as though he tore open the void itself, leaving behind seven fading afterimages streaking across the sky!

Switching positions seven times in succession, he gathered seven slowly dissipating silhouettes!

Suspended mid-air, as if he had merged with the heaven and earth.

"Is this considered a unique form of Unity of Heaven and Man?"

Li Che's eyes opened, a faint electric current darting about in his pupils.

"Thunder Magnetic Power

"Right now, it's just an LV1 tenderly fresh Dao Fruit, not yet baptized by maturation

"According to the feedback from the Dao Fruit, if I were to endure the baptism of Nine Heavens Divine Thunder, it could forge the Lei-Ci Dao Body and might even capture Divine Thunder, constructing a Thunder Magnetic Avatar!"

"As long as there is a magnetic field within heaven and earth, even if separated by hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of miles... it can make contact and be manipulated!"

"This is far more formidable than the Immortal Avatar from the Fairy in the Painting."

Li Che's eyes brightened slightly.

"Lei-Ci, both lightning and magnetism... are primarily offensive forces."

"They can be gradually developed!"

"Right now... the Mystic Magnetic Field I can condense has an approximate range of ten zhang around me, which is due to the immaturity of the Lei-Ci Dao Fruit."

Li Che gracefully landed on the ground, a force of magnetic field surging in his blood, flushing his physical body.

As for the offensive nature of Lei-Ci...

A trial would make it known.

He flicked his finger.

A black chess piece shot out rapidly.

Soon, it swelled in midair.

Transforming into White Impermanence Xue Dufu wearing a white mask!

Xue Dufu grew rapidly in the wind, and after landing, he swiped at his waist, turning the Cleaver instantly into a Crescent Blade!

"Come, my Lord! Let me feel your dominance and strength!"

Xue Dufu slashed wildly with the Crescent Blade, the fierce Gang Wind rampaged!

Li Che silently watched the increasingly unserious Xue Dufu, feeling that this fellow had consumed too much Soul Capturing and his mind was gradually becoming irregular.

"Wowwwww"

Xue Dufu let out a long howl.

His foot stomped the ground, shaking the entire courtyard violently; countless snowflakes were thrown upside down into the dome of the sky, only to be blasted into powdery mist by the tremendous Gang Qi!

The Crescent Blade danced wildly, unrivaled and domineering!

Li Che's toes touched the ground.

Eyes gleaming bright.

Five fingers raised, and the next moment, with a fierce slap toward the ground.

"Ten times gravity."

Boom!

White Impermanence Xue Dufu's eyes behind the mask suddenly changed, only to feel the gravity around him shift, making him somewhat unaccustomed!

His speed slowed down immediately, even the arc of the Crescent Blade he swung out began to collapse!

However, Xue Dufu was now a Great Grandmaster with thirty-six completions in Divine Gang!

His adaptability was beyond imagination, merely half a breath's pause, and his long blade slashed down again!

Li Che's body soared into the air, roaming freely, hovering off the ground.

Extending a finger, he pointed downward once more.

"A hundred times."

Thump—!!!

Within a ten-foot range around Xue Dufu, it was as if the air was suddenly pressed down to the ground, nearly causing the courtyard's ground to completely cave in.

If it weren't for Li Che's Heaven and Earth Chessboard shielding it, the ground would probably have shattered and exploded long ago!

Li Che simply didn't want to destroy the courtyard, which would require repairs later.

White Impermanence Xue Dufu's face under the mask, however, was completely twisted, his muscles tensing up like steel rods, swelling!

Large tendons vibrated tremulously, like Jiao Dragons roaring furiously!

A rare light flickered in Li Che's eyes.

A hundred times control of the magnetic field!

This was already the limit that the newly emerged Raw Dao Fruit could achieve...

"Promising

"It could be combined with Immortal Artisan techniques, perhaps... even a Superconducting Magnetic Cannon could be crafted by hand," Li Che chuckled.

The next moment, with a slap, his palms ferociously clapped together.

Xue Dufu only felt the air around him compressing with an irresistible force, squeezing him together.

"Lord... go easy!"

Thump—!!!

Li Che opened his palms and flicked his fingers.

The magnetic field suddenly expanded and dispersed...

Xue Dufu felt like he couldn't even touch his Lord's clothes, as if he were a toy, being arranged by his Lord in various positions, wantonly played with!

Unable to block...

Completely unable to block!

"Lord—I'm off!"

Bang!

Xue Dufu instantly exploded into black mist, transforming into Soul Capturing and being pinched between Li Che's fingertips.

"Not bad

Li Che floated in the air, his clothes fluttering, standing suspended without using Divinity or Qi-Blood.

A thought crossed his mind.

He controlled the magnetic field to land on his shoulder.

Li Che then gracefully landed on the ground.

The ground seemed to sink slightly.

Just like that, with the power of Thunder Magnetism, he tempered his physique.

"Now, all that's left is to be struck by Nine Heavens Divine Thunder, for me to capture

Within the magnetic field that constantly enveloped his body, Li Che stretched and yawned, resulting in a crackling sound from all his muscles and bones!

Li Che, in high spirits,

Allowed his busy Fairy in the Painting Immortal Avatars, each with a Divinity Crystal, to diligently cultivate their Divinity.

Meanwhile, Li Che left the courtyard in Thunder Alley.

"Time to go celebrate Xi Xi's birthday."

Jiao Shaoqiu wouldn't let Xi Xi leave the Authentic Divine Sect, but he managed to obtain permission for them to join the Authentic Divine Sect and accompany Xi Xi in celebrating her birthday.

Locking the door, he stepped on a thick layer of fallen snow in the alley and walked toward the depth of the alley.

In front of the restaurant, it was deserted and cold.

The Big Black Dog lay on the ground.

Upon seeing Li Che arriving alone, it disdainfully stuck out its tongue and lay back down.

The boss sat under the eaves, quietly enjoying the falling snow.

Seeing Li Che come alone again, he couldn't even be bothered to look his way.

"The restaurant is closed, sir."

The boss said, languidly.

Li Che's face darkened, when he brought Xi Xi with him, he affectionately called him Old Li.

Without Xi Xi, had he become so distanced as to be demoted to just a customer?

Indeed...

This man and dog were truly too pragmatic!

Li Che rolled his eyes, today was Xi Xi's birthday, and he wasn't going to bicker with them.

"Boss, and Old Black, today is Xi Xi's birthday, I specially came to invite you to the Divine Sect to celebrate Xi Xi's birthday

"Are you interested?"

Li Che spoke with a gentle smile.

The Big Black Dog suddenly stood up, shaking off the snow from its body, looking energetic, tongue lolling, breath steaming.

The boss flicked off some cigarette ash, his eyes lifting slightly.

"Oh?"

"Inside the Divine Sect Mountain Gate?"

Chapter 659: The Familiar Combination of a Man in White Leading a Dog, Sensible Xi Xi Tugs at the Heartstrings

Ice and snow embrace a glaze-like world, and the night is exceptionally clear.

The dim yellow light from the restaurant shone out, coating the white snow as if dusted with a layer of fried breadcrumbs.

"Going to celebrate Xi Xi's birthday?"

The boss, with a cigarette in his mouth, lit up his eyes and stood up, clapping his hands.

"No problem, we still have time. I'll go cook a few dishes."

The boss's tone became cheerier, full of motivation.

The big black dog on the floor had already stood up, bouncing in place a few times, looking at Li Che with admiration and approval.

Li Che smiled and sat in the spot previously occupied by the boss.

The big black dog strolled back and forth in the snow, with snowflakes drifting down through the narrow Heavenly Dome above the lane.

The dog was happy, perhaps looking forward to seeing Xi Xi.

Li Che pinched a cigarette, squinting and sitting on the chair, gently exhaling smoke.

"So comfortable..."

"How I wish I could live such a laid-back life right now."

"Smoke every day, bask in the sun, admire the snow, and quietly watch my daughter grow up..."

"Truly delightful."

"Unfortunately... in this world, I walk on thin ice and cannot stop my pace."

Li Che sighed softly.

Running a restaurant, keeping a dog, listening to the wind and watching the snow is such a satisfying life.

After waiting for a moment, the boss called for Li Che.

Li Che lifted the curtain and entered, the tinkling doorbell sounded, emitting a crisp noise.

"Wow, such a feast!"

Li Che took a deep breath, feeling his nostrils filled with endless fragrance.

"Braised pork, braised pork trotters, Earth Three Fresh, sweet and sour fish..."

"All Xi Xi's favorites."

Li Che smiled, his eyes softening a great deal.

"Xi Xi is the birthday star today, of course, we make her favorite dishes. Would we make your favorite clear soup noodles instead?"

The boss, while wiping his clean hands with a clean towel, said indifferently.

Li Che's face immediately fell.

Boss, do you have some misunderstanding about my taste, Li Che?

Am I the kind of person who likes clear soup noodles?

It's you who only wants to make clear soup noodles!

And it's the kind without even an egg!

Li Che brushed past, putting all the dishes into the Qiankun Space.

Li Che and the boss walked side by side out of the restaurant, one in white as snow, the other in Mo Shan ink stain.

Frosted flowers laden with snow line the mountain waist, and ice pearls cover the green willow branches.

The big black dog followed behind the two, heading toward the Inner City.

Huge snowflakes like palms drifted down, covering the entire Qianyuan Dao City in silver, with few pedestrians on the vastly spacious streets, all seeming deserted.

Li Che, along with the boss and big black dog, returned to the large courtyard in Liuxiang Lane.

Outside the courtyard, two carriages waited.

Falling snow snugly covered the tops of the carriages, and the ordinary horses steamed in the cold wind.

Upon seeing the big black dog, the two horses immediately shivered, but soon recovered.

It seems that the big black dog reined in its energy.

Li Che had already noticed this point; the black dog and the boss were indeed enigmatic.

But Li Che also felt that they truly cared for and adored Xi Xi. The boss seemed indifferent, but while cooking for Xi Xi, one could feel the warmth in his heart.

And there's no need to mention the dog, Li Che hasn't even touched its head...

Yet in front of Xi Xi, there was not a single clean spot on the dog's body.

"This is..."

Zhang Ya, Old Chen, Nurse Momo, and Shangguan Qinghong were all waiting in the courtyard.

Zhang Ya looked puzzled at the boss and the big black dog.

Li Che made a brief introduction.

Zhang Ya immediately showed a smile. Anyone who dotes on Xi Xi is a friend of hers, Zhang Ya.

"Let's go, we're off... Elder Jiao only opened for us this one night."

Li Che said warmly.

Great Uncle, Great Aunt, and cousin Li Zhengran along with his wife Liu Chunming had been waiting for a long time.

They hadn't seen Li Chengzhou for quite a while and were naturally eager. They also planned to visit Li Chengzhou tonight, especially Liu Chunming who was extremely anxious, wondering if her son was eating and dressing well inside the Divine Sect Mountain Gate.

Following a Grandmaster to practice swordsmanship, could it be very exhausting?

A mother always has endless worries for her child.

The group boarded the carriages, the wheels churning, tearing through the wind and snow, carrying everyone and a black dog, sprinting towards the direction of Divine Sect Mountain Gate.

At the Divine Sect Mountain Gate, before the massive Qiankun plaque.

Great Grandmaster Nie Yang was leading Xi Xi while at his side was Li Chengzhou, standing in horse stance holding his sword.

Li Chengzhou's small eyes flickered with fire.

He wanted to become a super awesome Great Grandmaster swordsman just like his master!

Xi Xi looked forward eagerly, staring with bright, twinkling eyes, even hopping up and down in place.

Nie Yang led Xi Xi, his face showing no emotional fluctuation.

As the two carriages tore through the wind and snow.

Xi Xi immediately screamed, "They are here, they are here!"

"Uncle Nie Yang, let me take a look!"

Xi Xi's words were just out when she broke free of Nie Yang's grasp, her Qi-Blood surging, her tiny feet stomping down fiercely amidst the wind and snow.

Like a cannonball, she shot out!

Buzzing—!!!

Sparks danced from beneath her feet, and amidst the ravaging flames, the wind and snow were torn apart.

The Prison Lotus Wind Fire Golden Light Wheel burst forth from beneath Xi Xi's feet, carrying her wobbly figure, speeding toward the carriage!

Chapter 660: The Familiar Combination of a Man in White Leading a Dog, Sensible Xi Xi Tugs at the Heartstrings (2)

Clearly, she had just mastered the Wind Fire Golden Light Wheel, but she was not yet proficient.

But she just wanted to show off in front of her father and mother, the results of a year's cultivation within the Divine Sect!

"Daddy—!!!"

"Mommy—!!!"

The curtain of the carriage was lifted, and Zhang Ya looked excitedly at Xi Xi, who was rushing towards her.

Xi Xi stepped on the Golden Light Wheel, which spun rapidly and landed on the carriage, before the Prison Lotus Wind Fire Golden Light Wheel retracted back into her feet.

"Mommy!"

Xi Xi plunged into Zhang Ya's arms, and her tears immediately burst forth.

Pouting her lips, hot tears rolled down from the corners of her eyes.

Clutching onto Zhang Ya tightly, her little head kept rubbing against her, unwilling to let go!

Zhang Ya also had tears rimming her eyes, gently caressing her daughter's head, her heart full of compassion.

Li Che watched the mother and daughter tenderly, his emotions also undeniably stirred.

After hugging Zhang Ya for a while, Xi Xi struggled free and entered the carriage, diving into Li Che's embrace, wrapping her arms around his neck.

"Wuwuwu... Daddy!"

"Xi Xi misses you guys!"

Xi Xi said aggrievedly.

Li Che gently patted his daughter's back, feeling his heart softly throb with emotion.

"Daddy will come to be with you inside the Authentic Divine Sect very soon, and then you can see your parents every day, alright?"

"Okay!"

"Pinky promise!" Xi Xi raised her head, skillfully extending her little finger.

Li Che rubbed Xi Xi's head and seriously made the pinky promise with her.

Only then did Xi Xi use her sleeve to wipe away her tears.

Suddenly, Xi Xi's eyes lit up!

"Doggy!"

She instantly spotted the Big Black Dog lying in the carriage.

She leaped down from Li Che's embrace and hugged the Big Black Dog, wrapping her arms around its neck, in almost the exact same way she had done with Li Che.

The soft feeling in Li Che's heart suddenly hardened.

"There's also the boss! Looks like Xi Xi will have something delicious for her birthday today!"

Xi Xi smiled brightly and happily.

Li Che shook his head, stepped out of the carriage, and braved the snow to approach Nie Yang.

He patted Li Chengzhou's head: "Your parents are in the carriage behind, go on."

Li Chengzhou had been impatient already, but still glanced at Nie Yang.

"Master, may I go?"

Nie Yang's eyes softened, and he nodded his head.

Li Chengzhou instantly dashed joyfully towards the other carriage.

Great Aunt and Liu Chunming had already squeezed onto the carriage shaft, eagerly waiting.

"Much obliged to Master Nie."

Li Che said warmly with a smile.

Nie Yang, however, waved his hand unconcernedly: "Let's go, let's enter the mountain."

The two sat atop the carriage shaft, Old Chen snapped the reins, and as they had informed the Mountain Keeper in advance, they were not stopped.

Inside the carriage, Xi Xi was playing with Gouzi, laughing joyfully.

Elsewhere.

The boss sat quietly, calmly watching Xi Xi and the Big Black Dog play, her eyes filled with softness.

Just as the carriage had passed under the Qiankun Dao Yun Plaque...

Boom—!!!

The snow that had settled on top of the Dao Yun Plaque suddenly began to tremble, and a powerful force seemed to surge out from the plaque.

Inside the carriage, the boss glanced at the Dao Yun Plaque.

In an instant, the plaque calmed down.

Extremely well-behaved.

This slight anomaly did not attract anyone's attention, not even the powerful beings within the Authentic Divine Sect.

The carriage galloped through the mountain paths, slowly passing mysterious temples, one after another.

Nie Yang sat on the carriage shaft, holding the bronze iron sword bundled with rags, slightly furrowing his brows.

He had come especially to guide Li Che and others to prevent the Temple Gods in the strange temples from harboring hostility towards strangers on the way, and releasing Strange Que and Mysterious Fog to engulf the newcomers.

One reason why the Divine Sect Mountain Gate does not allow outsiders to set foot and reside for long is that those who are not disciples of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect are considered strangers within the mountain gate. Without the aura identification of a Divine Sect disciple, elder, etc., they would be deemed invaders by the mysterious temples.

And thus, they would be corroded by Strange Que and targeted by the Temple Gods, who plan to turn them into Temple Guardian Cursed Corpses.

"The strange temples today..."

"Are eerily quiet."

Nie Yang's brow furrowed, then gradually relaxed.

Silence is best, saving him the trouble of having to take action.

When the two carriages entered the Inner City of the Divine Sect Mountain Gate, they soon arrived at the sprawling Elder Court of Jiao Shaoqiu.

Inside the courtyard, many waiting children had already run out.

Gong Yuanliang, Gongyang Xiu, Tie Shancai and other children ran out one after another.

Li Che glanced at them, only to see Huang Mao's yellow hair flailing in the wind and snow.

Suddenly, Li Che's mind stirred slightly.

The Heaven and Earth chessboard emerged from between his brows, instantly enveloping the entire Outer Disciple City.

He immediately detected two familiar auras.

On a long street in Disciple City, amid the quietly drifting snow, a serene carriage stood parked.

Inside the carriage were Su Chuyang, and the powerful elder of the Su Family in the Fetal Breath Transformation Realm.

Su Chuyang was somewhat unwilling.

The old man in the plain long robe was just calmly stroking his beard: "What are you resisting?"

"I don't even like him... Elder, I don't want to go."

Su Chuyang shook his head.

As someone listed on the Chu Long List, although only ranked third, Su Chuyang also had his own pride.

He was displaced by Li Nuanxi, and he was very discontent. He now only wanted to cultivate strenuously, defeat Li Nuanxi, and take back everything he had lost!

At this moment, the elder was actually asking him to make nice with Li Nuanxi, to bring her gifts, and even attempt to cultivate feelings!