

A Father 901

Chapter 901: My Daughter's Coming of Age, A Mother's Prestige Through Her Daughter, The Second Full Assembly of the Underworld (3)

One must shed some blood to present a gift to the Young Sect Master.

The words fell silent.

Lv Taibai held Xi Xi's hand, Sword Qi riding the wind as they gracefully descended.

All the elders cupped their hands in salute.

Li Che followed suit, his lips curling into a radiant smile, like the most delicate flower of spring.

At this moment, Li Che was truly happy—happier even than when he had vanquished the Dragon Queen Consort, his most troublesome adversary.

In this instant, Li Che seemed to understand the joy of being a parent.

It was akin to the feeling when your daughter achieves the top score in the province-wide examinations—an indescribable euphoria.

"My daughter has blossomed and grown strong!"

"Emperor Xi Xi has taken a bold and monumental step forward!"

Lv Taibai's gaze landed on Li Che, his eyes sparking with an unusual glint.

Li Che paused, clasped his hands in respect, and leapt swiftly to the carriage, guiding the dazed Zhang Ya down.

Zhang Ya finally recovered from the shock of Lv Taibai announcing Xi Xi as the Sect Master's direct disciple. Her muddled mind returned, and she appeared dazed and bewildered.

When she was scooped up by her husband in his arms, she finally reacted, squirming like a caterpillar and shrieking loudly.

"Husband—!"

"Ahhhh—Husband! Our Xi Xi, she did it!"

"Xi Xi has become the Sect Master's direct disciple!"

Zhang Ya's face turned completely red, her excitement surging through her Qi-Blood.

She wrapped her arms around Li Che's neck, shaking and twisting in absolute joy, resembling a larger version of Xi Xi in that moment.

Indeed, she truly was Xi Xi's mother.

Li Che remarked gently and with doting affection, "Indeed, our Xi Xi is the best."

"The Sect Master awaits us. Let us meet Xi Xi's future teacher."

Li Che's warm words immediately calmed Zhang Ya down. Only then did she realize the countless gazes fixated on them from all directions.

Some carried mirth, others envy, some held amusement, still others brimmed with jealousy...

A kaleidoscope of emotions was directed toward her, and Zhang Ya's already flushed face deepened in redness, spreading like a ripple from her neck upward with a resounding "humph—."

Thinking about how she just flailed endlessly like a giant "caterpillar" in Li Che's embrace...

She felt that her reputation in Qianyuan Dao City was thoroughly destroyed.

Like an ostrich, Zhang Ya buried her face in Li Che's chest.

Li Che led Zhang Ya to the elder seats.

"Madam Li, congratulations, congratulations."

"Madam Li is truly skilled in raising such a daughter

...

Some Outer Sect elders greeted them warmly, as they were all acquainted through their residence in Disciple City.

Li Che and Zhang Ya exchanged pleasantries with them, smiling all the while.

Eventually, Li Che guided Zhang Ya to Lv Taibai, where Xi Xi was obediently holding Lv Taibai's hand, her face beaming at them.

"Father! Mother!"

"Isn't Xi Xi amazing?!"

Xi Xi proudly puffed out her small chest and raised her chin.

"Truly outstanding," praised Li Che.

"When we return, Mother will personally make you braised pork!" Zhang Ya, her blush not yet faded, was now brimming with joy.

Lv Taibai looked warmly upon the harmonious family.

His own wife came to mind, and an unconscious smile curved on his lips.

But recalling that he had no children of his own, a faint shadow of melancholy crossed his eyes.

He gently patted Xi Xi's head.

Lv Taibai turned toward Li Che and Zhang Ya, his silvery hair fluttering as his expression grew solemn.

"Madam Li, Master Zhang, by nurturing Xi Xi, you have provided our Qian Yuan Divine Sect with an exceptional Young Sect Master. On behalf of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect, I offer my deepest gratitude and bestow upon you:

Five Elders Lower Grade Hundred Herbs Rejuvenation Pills,

Ten Five Elders Lower Grade Divine Crystals,

One Hundred Six Ministries Divine Crystals,

One Five Elders Lower Grade Divine Weapon for Elder Li,

The position of Outer Sect Honored Elder for Madam Zhang, granting her free access to the Divine Sect...

Lv Taibai, on behalf of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect, thanks you both for your immense kindness in raising the Young Sect Master."

With that, Lv Taibai cupped his fists in respectful salute.

All at once...

The elders behind him followed suit, cupping their fists and bowing toward Li Che and Zhang Ya.

"The Qian Yuan Divine Sect thanks you both for your immense kindness in raising the Young Sect Master!"

Fang Hanshu, Zhao Fangzhou, Ding Zi, and other Martial Saint-level elders all performed the courtesy.

Voices converging as one, their collective exclamation thundered like a crack of lightning!

In an instant—

All the great families, martial world factions, and other forces erupted into a cacophony of astonished murmurs.

Shock, envy, jealousy, bitter lamentations...

A whirlwind of emotions spilled forth from their hearts, mingling like an overturned jar of spices.

Zhang Ya was utterly stupefied by the magnitude of the bestowed rewards.

Li Che, by contrast, maintained his composed demeanor, tranquil yet gentle.

As someone who had once opened a Martial Saint-grade Qiankun Jade, what unimaginable wealth could he not accept?

The rewards from Lv Taibai were indeed remarkably generous.

Li Che could sense the sincerity of Lv Taibai and the enthusiasm of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect.

Guiding Zhang Ya, he expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Lv Taibai as the sect's representative.

"Xi Xi may be mischievous, as she is but a five-year-old child. I hope the Sect Master can show leniency should she cause any trouble in the future."

Li Che said.

Lv Taibai responded with a kind smile and a nod.

Li Che's family became the center of attention.

Especially Zhang Ya, who was nearly the object of envy for countless noblewomen. After all, having birthed such an extraordinary daughter had elevated her status overnight.

Li Che himself was already the Divine Carving Ridge Elder, a position of distinguished esteem. The sect's rewards were merely icing on the cake for him.

But Zhang Ya was different—an ordinary woman transformed into an Outer Sect Honored Elder of the Divine Sect, an ascension akin to a celestial leap.

Amid the waves of congratulations, however, curious murmurs began to ripple near the Mysterious Temple, hinting at other unfolding matters.

Chapter 902: My Daughter's Coming of Age, A Mother's Prestige Through Her Daughter, The Second Full Assembly of the Underworld (4)

The Third Elder of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect Inner Gate, Ding Zi, a female Elder, gracefully arrived in front of Yun E and recruited her as a True Successor under her tutelage.

The Yun Family Patriarch, Yun Sanxiao, immediately expressed gratitude to Ding Zi for her recognition of Yun E.

Ding Zi, the Third Elder of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect Inner Gate, also one of the three Martial Saint-level combat powers.

She was the only female Divine Fetus Practitioner in the Qian Yuan Divine Sect.

With Ding Zi's recognition, Yun E's future destiny would no longer be reduced to a sacrificial pawn for the Yun Family's politically motivated marriages.

Yun E officially escaped her dark fate.

Lv Taibai's Direct Disciple assessment officially came to an end, and no one could have imagined that the one to ultimately become the Direct Disciple of the Taibai God would be a five-year-old little girl.

At first, nobody had high hopes for Xi Xi.

Gongshu Wentian, Xuan Yue, Gu He, and others from the Ancient Families and Divine Sect disciples were strong contenders, but these favorites have now all fallen out of the race.

Xi Xi held Li Che's hand and approached Jin Taixui, who was guarded by two Divine Fetus Practitioners from Wushen Mountain.

Jin Taixui stood quietly in place and did not leave.

It seemed he was waiting for Xi Xi.

"Evil Minister, are you admitting defeat or not?!"

Xi Xi stuffed Gou Za into her collar, crossed her arms, puffed up her chubby belly, and excitedly shouted.

"Don't forget our wager!"

Li Che stood behind Xi Xi, the corner of his lips faintly smiling, his gaze resting on Jin Taixui.

The two Divine Fetus Practitioners from Wushen Mountain were furious, but they dared not act rashly.

After all, the distant glances of strong cultivators like Lv Taixuan and Zhao Fangzhou swept over them intermittently, locking them in place.

If they dared show any signs of discontent.

They could easily be accused of attempting to assassinate the Qian Yuan Divine Sect Young Sect Master...

Even if the Great Witch God himself came, he wouldn't be able to argue against such accusations.

After all, attempting to assassinate the Qian Yuan Divine Sect Young Sect Master was no different from someone trying to assassinate Wushen Mountain's Young Witch God.

Jin Taixui was merely among the ranks of Young Witches, and to advance to the rank of Young Witch God, he must first rise within the Young Witches.

The position of Young Witch God was even higher than that of a Young Witch.

Jin Taixui looked at Xi Xi.

"I've never denied it; I've been waiting for you."

On his painted face, Jin Taixui slowly removed his Young Witch Divine Robe.

The previously smug Xi Xi tilted her head, baffled by Jin Taixui's earnestness and sincerity.

Wasn't he supposed to react like Ji Haihui? With silence, a turned-back denial?

Jin Taixui handed the Young Witch Divine Robe to one of the Elders of Wushen Mountain.

"Please inform the Great Witch God upon your return that Taixui has lost. He accepts defeat and will remain here as the servant of Li Nuanxi."

"After 60 years, Taixui will return to offer his formal apology."

Jin Taixui then removed the Purple Gold Bell from his neck and handed it to the Elder of Wushen Mountain.

As he released his grip, the Purple Gold Bell rang lightly, his trembling hands betraying his emotions. His eyes brimmed with relentless tears.

He bit his lip, his vision blurred by tears.

He accepted the wager and admitted defeat.

Though humiliating, Jin Taixui vowed to etch this shame deeply within himself.

"Young Witch... Alas..."

Holding Jin Taixui's Divine Robe, the Elder of Wushen Mountain let out a long sigh.

After exchanging a solemn glance with Jin Taixui, they knew he had made his decision and refrained from further discourse.

With a light tap of their toes, their figures vanished without a trace.

With their departure, the severance of Jin Taixui's ties to Wushen Mountain was complete; he had truly accepted his defeat.

Jin Taixui wiped away his tears and took a deep breath.

Then, he gazed upon Li Nuanxi and her puffed-out belly.

He bowed, dropped to one knee.

"Jin Taixui..."

"Pays his respects to the Master."

Xi Xi looked at Jin Taixui kneeling with one knee down, her large eyes softening slightly.

He addressed Xi Xi the Emperor as his Master, huh.

This was far better...

...than Ji Haihui, the Evil Minister.

"Alright!"

Xi Xi reached out her chubby little hand and patted Jin Taixui's purple hair, billowing in the wind.

"Rest assured that as long as you serve Emperor Xi Xi, Emperor Xi Xi will protect you forever!"

...

...

Li Che didn't fully trust Jin Taixui, but after Jin Taixui accepted defeat and became Xi Xi's servant, he followed Xi Xi everywhere she went.

After observing him for a while, Li Che discreetly placed a Flying Thunder Chess Piece into Jin Taixui's body.

Should anything happen with Jin Taixui, Li Che would be alerted immediately.

Through the Flying Thunder Chess Piece...

Jin Taixui would come to understand the concept of fatherly love.

Xi Xi becoming the Direct Disciple of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect Master was a revelation that brought glory to Li Che's family in Liuxiang Lane.

The Yun Family, Zhou Family, Zhong Family, Sang Family, and other noble families all sent gifts to celebrate.

Their courtyard doors were nearly worn down with visitors.

Late at night, under the stars.

After sending away the last batch of messengers from noble families, Li Che closed the courtyard gate in Liuxiang Lane.

Xi Xi was already taken back to the Sect Master Peak of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect by Lv Taibai.

Originally, Zhang Ya wanted Xi Xi to stay another night in the courtyard at Liuxiang Lane.

"As the Young Sect Master of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect, her responsibilities have grown... Her safety can no longer be overlooked as it once was."

Lv Taibai explained with a smile.

"Now that she's the Young Sect Master of the Qian Yuan Divine Sect... Xi Xi might rank within the top three on the Hunting God Pavilion's bounty list..."

"Back in my day as Young Sect Master, I even made it to the top of Qianyuan Taoist City's Hunting God Pavilion bounty list... surpassing my Great God mentor."

Lv Taibai's explanation made Zhang Ya's face pale slightly, and even Li Che couldn't help but grow solemn.

Hunting God Pavilion...

A specialized assassin organization; indeed, precautions must be taken.

Chapter 903: My Daughter's Coming of Age, A Mother's Prestige Through Her Daughter, The Second Full Assembly of the Underworld (5)

Li Che's eyes flashed with a trace of sharpness.

"This is quite normal. Becoming the Young Sect Master of Qian Yuan Divine Sect... is not merely about holding a title. Xi Xi is now intrinsically linked to Qian Yuan Divine Sect's Dao Yun."

"This assessment this time is essentially a process of connecting with the Qiankun Dao Yun."

"If Xi Xi were to die, the newly established connection with Dao Yun would be severed. This means Qian Yuan Divine Sect would lose this share of Dao Yun... The loss would be extraordinarily severe."

"The Dao Yun Power... is extremely crucial to cultivators in the Divine Embryo Realm. It's an invaluable resource."

"Furthermore, Xi Xi has now inherited the legacy of Golden Light Prefecture and the Eight-Armed Prison Lotus Furious Third Prince Temple God... Her refinement of this Temple God power is currently shallow."

"I will guide Xi Xi to refine it more swiftly and see if it's possible for her to catch up with the Empress's 'Flat Peach Victory Meeting.'"

After a simple explanation, Lv Taibai took Xi Xi away.

However, Li Che and Zhang Ya are both now elders of the Divine Sect, one an Inner Sect Elder and the other an Outer Door Honored Elder. Both are qualified to visit Xi Xi at Sect Master Taibai Peak.

"Father, mother, don't worry. Xi Xi will work hard on her cultivation and definitely become strong enough to protect mother! In the future, father won't be able to defeat Xi Xi!"

Xi Xi held Lv Taibai's hand, pouting and tearing up, while waving goodbye.

Leaving home to join Sect Master Peak, Xi Xi felt as though she was reliving the experience of leaving her family behind for cultivation to grow stronger on her own.

Xi Xi, don't cry. Emperor Xi Xi must be strong!

Xi Xi wiped her tears and cheered herself up.

Zhang Ya covered her mouth and kept waving her hands.

Beneath the glow of the moonlight, Lv Taibai departed with Xi Xi and the tag-along Jin Taixui, while Zhang Ya still couldn't bear to lower her hands.

The small courtyard fell silent.

The moon hung coldly in the sky.

The couple sat beneath the eaves.

Zhang Ya leaned against Li Che's shoulder, gazing at the imperfect moon in the sky.

"Husband

"What do you think Xi Xi will be like when she grows up?"

Li Che smiled, gazing at the waxing and waning moon plate: "Our Xi Xi... will surely be the most beautiful girl in the world."

As long as she doesn't bring back Huang Mao.

Li Che secretly added in his heart.

...

...

Qianyuan Taoist City.

Thunder Alley.

Independent workshop courtyard.

After studying blood exchange postures with Zhang Ya and coaxing her into a deep sleep, Li Che entered the courtyard.

"Hunting God Pavilion

Li Che's eyes slightly narrowed, a fleeting trace of killing intent swirling past.

According to Lv Taibai, Hunting God Pavilion posed an enormous threat to Xi Xi. After all, as a mercenary organization, if Xi Xi's bounty were set high enough, Star Constellation Assassins would certainly risk it all.

Inside the courtyard.

Li Qingshan pushed up the cat face mask onto his head, waving his hands and feet in excitement as he relayed to Horse Face the spectacular entrance he made after killing the Dragon Queen Consort among Earthly Hell's Evils.

"So thrilling, absolutely thrilling!"

"Luckily, I had the teleportation chess piece from the Underworld. Otherwise, I might have been killed a hundred times over! I was seriously over-the-top back then! Even I couldn't stand myself."

Li Qingshan stroked his beard and chuckled.

But...

What exhilaration!

The expression of utter shock from Three Flowers Grandmasters like Han Qizhong and Dai Qingxiao became his perfect stimulant.

"I've realized something. I, Cat Face, have comprehended."

"What's the point of constant killing?"

"The ones who make the final appearance often bear the most meaning. My presence... brought enlightenment to the Underworld!"

Li Qingshan's eyes grew deep and profound.

Li Che glanced sideways at him, disinclined to respond, and simply let him be.

After all, with Flying Thunder Chess Pieces and Mo City as backup...

Unless a Divine Fetus Great God made a move, Li Qingshan wasn't going to get himself killed so easily.

More importantly, Li Che felt as though Li Qingshan had lost his fear of death...

"Cat Face, go to Hunting God Pavilion and check out the bounty list to see where Xi Xi ranks on it

Li Che adjusted his Bull Demon mask as he spoke.

Li Qingshan pulled down the cat face mask and nodded.

Li Che then flicked his fingers, light radiating in bursts.

Following Horse Face, Divine Monkey, Thunder Dragon, Black and White Impermanence, Niu Shisan, and other Earthly Hell's Evils gathered once again in the courtyard.

Each displaying unique postures, they stood scattered across the courtyard.

Cat Face Li Qingshan was overcome with excitement; his hunched back slowly straightened.

The Underworld's second full assembly...

Now, Cat Face could finally partake with dignity!

The chessboard of Heaven and Earth revolved above the courtyard, masking their aura.

You Liqing, clad in golden armor, pushed the visor of his helmet up, revealing his handsome face. At this moment, his expression appeared conflicted.

Long Tai stood beside You Liqing, while Green Bird, carrying a Divine Bow on her back, sprang into a corner of the courtyard with her long, commanding legs, her face cold and indifferent, not sparing a glance toward them.

They all knew what was about to happen.

Li Che cast a look across them, his gaze finally resting on You Liqing.

Li Che was naturally aware of the relationship between the Dragon Queen Consort and You Liqing.

This was the reason why he hadn't chosen to immediately perform Soul Capturing after killing the Dragon Queen Consort.

If he had immediately used the Soul Capturing technique, and the Dragon Queen Consort resisted, Li Che would have directly opted for obliteration.

At that time, You Liqing was carrying out his mission and wouldn't have gotten to see her one last time.

Li Che prided himself on being an excellent superior, so he had waited until now.

With two fingers together, he tore open the Qiankun Space.

The ferocious dragon head, encased in blue dragon bone, descended like a millstone.

With a heavy thud, dust and dirt erupted.

You Liqing's Soul Capturing gaze fell upon the severed head, his eyes tinged with disorientation and complexity. He exhaled lightly and shut his eyes.

But upon reopening them, his look had turned icy cold.

"Do you wish for her to live?"

Li Che looked at You Liqing.

You Liqing nodded.

"But if she should resist Lord... Liqing will personally kill her!"

"Kill without mercy!"

You Liqing declared sternly.

At this moment, You Liqing's Soul Capturing heart held but one master—Lord—above all else!

Li Che's lips curled slightly upward.

The next instant, his five fingers stretched wide, aiming at the ferocious dragon head.

"Come forth."

"Soul Capturing."

Chapter 904: Soul Capturing Princess Consort Rides a Dragon with Bull Demon, Father and Daughter Both Are Ancient Godly Prodigies?

The night was deeply somber, with the bright moon hanging high in the Nine Heavens, its luminous rays cascading down and illuminating the small courtyard.

The willow trees swayed gently in the spring breeze under the moonlight, the fragrance of blooming catkins drifting through, stirring one's heart.

Sss—sss—sss—

It sounded as though paper was being consumed by flames, its edges curling and charring, accompanied by faint crackling noises, akin to tiny insects gnawing away.

"Soul Capturing

A low, guttural voice, reminiscent of the raspy chants of priests performed during ancient rituals, opened a portal to death, summoning the souls of the departed from the void of annihilation.

Crunch—creak, an icy and ethereal aura surged within the courtyard, spiraling as though an entryway to the Netherworld had swung wide open, now hovering above everyone's heads.

One by one, black threads rose and intertwined, slowly twisting upward from the shadow of the severed, grotesque dragon head of the Dragon Queen Consort, severed after her transcendence to the Martial Saint Realm under the moonlight's reflection.

Like droplets of black liquid, they converged bit by bit.

Vast, deep, pitch-black...

The jet-black dragon shadow towered ten zhang tall, nearly filling the entire courtyard, its overwhelming and ferocious Martial Saint-level Heavenly Person Sensing pressure stirring fierce winds.

Within the courtyard.

Everyone wore black robes, their garments flapping violently in the wind, their expressions varied beneath their masks as they gazed up at the obsidian dragon shadow.

The dragon shadow grew increasingly tangible, slowly shedding its pitch-black hue, as though the death qi lingering from its descent from the Netherworld was being washed away.

The azure dragon bone emitted a faint ghostly gleam, cloaking the dragon's body, with dragon horns, dragon whiskers, dragon scales, and azure dragon eyes appearing distinct and lifelike!

This was the Dragon Queen Consort, whose Dragon God Bloodline ignited entirely during her deadly clash with Li Che.

Roar—!

The dragon uttered a cry, its chant resounding within the courtyard.

Gradually, the colossal, ten-zhang-long serpentine form reverted back to the appearance of the Dragon Queen Consort.

Closing her eyes, then reopening them, her stunningly beautiful visage glowed with ethereal blue eyes that seemed to radiate light under the moonbeam.

Soul Capturing—

Return!

The Dragon Queen Consort Ao Yuxin had awakened!

Li Che, towering and powerfully built, wore a Cute Bull Mask, his expression indifferent as he stared at the human-shaped, bewildered Dragon Queen Consort.

Once everything became clear, the Dragon Queen Consort's gaze immediately fell upon You Liqing.

You Liqing, who raised the visor of his golden helmet, looked back at the Dragon Queen Consort with a complicated expression.

The entire courtyard fell into oppressive silence.

Cat-faced Li Qingshan sat among the crowd of fiends, holding his breath.

The Dragon Queen Consort and You Liqing...

While neither were Martial Saints in life, they both became Martial Saints after their deaths. Now, after being resurrected by the Netherworld Ox Demon, they carried Martial Saint-level power.

This made Li Qingshan somewhat tempted.

It seemed that after death, one could grow stronger and more formidable!

Comparatively, it appeared that death... wasn't so terrifying after all.

Of course, this wasn't what Li Qingshan was pondering; his thoughts wandered elsewhere, with flickering eyes and a hint of gentleness, hesitation, and longing...

No one paid attention to what was on Li Qingshan's mind.

After all, there were only two living beings present in the courtyard.

Li Che was too disinterested to guess Li Qingshan's thoughts. His gaze remained fixed on the Dragon Queen Consort, awaiting her reaction. Should she exhibit any sign of resistance or defiance...

Li Che could grant her a final, true death.

In Li Che's view, the death following Soul Capturing was the ultimate death.

The Dragon Queen Consort glanced at the towering Bull Demon.

Her exquisite face revealed an expression of deep complexity.

So...

You Liqing was truly dead after all.

Yet his resurrection was merely through this manner.

Now she truly understood.

But inexplicably...

Ao Yuxin's heart did not harbor rejection; instead, she felt liberated, joyful, and unburdened.

Even though...

The Bull Demon was the true culprit behind her death, the murderer of her son, and the slayer of her lover.

Still...

The Bull Demon had brought her brother Liqing back to life.

"Ao Yuxin of the Dragon God Lineage greets my lord."

With grace and submission, the Dragon Queen Consort knelt.

No resistance, only wholehearted devotion, even...

A hint of delight.

Li Che's expression beneath the Bull Demon Mask remained unmoving.

Seeing the Dragon Queen Consort so obedient and subservient, the killing intent he had amassed slowly dissipated.

Enough. It seemed the Soul Capturers' feast...

Would have to wait for the next round.

You Liqing's Soul Capturer exhaled in relief, while Long Tai's Soul Capturer let out a strange cry, prompting the far-off Green Bird, arms crossed, to scoff.

"Not bad."

Li Che praised with a single utterance.

He glanced, somewhat surprised, at the astute Dragon Queen Consort.

Who would have thought...

That the Dragon Queen Consort would surrender and submit so decisively, without even a trace of struggle in her eyes.

Li Che had expected that subjugating the Soul Capturer of the Dragon Queen Consort would be far more troublesome.

After all, he'd done much to harm her—he'd slain her son, killed her lover, and ultimately slaughtered the dragon herself.

Indeed...

The minds of women are inscrutable.

Even a female dragon's thoughts are just as enigmatic.

Xiao Ya, now she was the purest by far.

Nonetheless, this outcome was still favorable; the Dragon Queen Consort, after all, was a Martial Saint-level existence, albeit at the First Level. Even so, she now represented a top-tier combat power under Li Che's command.

With Yellow Sword Wine, You Liqing, and now the Dragon Maiden, that made three Martial Saint combat powers.

The Blood God Nine Yang Vajra Ape could barely qualify as Martial Saint-level combat power, though it still lagged behind an actual Martial Saint.

The Dragon Maiden hailed from the Dragon God Lineage, naturally gifted in Body Refining with exceptional talent, making her physical body extraordinarily strong.

She was far more useful than the Vajra Ape...

Chapter 905: Soul Capturing Princess Consort Bull Demon Rides a Dragon, Father and Daughter Both Millennium Divine Children? (2)

Most importantly.

Li Che's eyes flickered...

"Dragon Transformation."

Li Che looked at the Dragon Maiden and said calmly.

"Yes."

The Dragon Queen Consort respectfully responded. The next moment, her five fingers clenched, and her jet-black hair flew wildly in the air. The two dragon horns on her forehead began to emit a bright azure glow.

The dragon bones began to spread out, accompanied by a thunderous and resounding Dragon's Chant. The Dragon Maiden spun in place, soaring into the sky, transforming into a ten-zhang long azure Bone Armor Divine Dragon!

Li Che took a step forward, and the next moment, like an instant teleportation, he appeared above the Dragon Maiden's head.

Riding the dragon into the sky, he stood with hands behind his back, his black robe fluttering in the wind, exuding an aura that pierced the heavens.

Within the area covered by the Heaven and Earth chessboard, after letting the Bone Armor Divine Dragon fly for a while, Li Che returned to the courtyard.

The Dragon Maiden also transformed back into her human form, quietly standing next to You Liqing, her eyelashes gently curling, occasionally sneaking glances at You Liqing.

She pressed her lips, wanting to smile but feeling she should maintain the seriousness of being a Soul Capturing entity in front of her Lord.

But she couldn't hold it back, she just couldn't.

Dead at last, Ao Yuxin!

Why didn't you die earlier?

So I could reunite with Brother Liqing sooner!

For a moment, as the Dragon Maiden looked at Li Che, her eyes even carried a hint of resentment.

Li Che frowned.

"My lord, why didn't you kill me earlier?"

The Dragon Maiden Ao Yuxin was both aggrieved and pitiful.

Li Che: "..."

You blame me now?!

"Shut up."

Li Che said calmly.

"Oh." The Dragon Maiden pursed her lips, then looked at You Liqing, smiling brightly.

You Liqing, feeling a bit shy from the look, dared not meet the Dragon Maiden's gaze.

"Hmph!"

In the distance, the Green Bird gave a heavy snort, its nostrils nearly splitting!

Long Tai lifted his Crocodile Head Axe, unconcerned with stirring up trouble, and restrained the urge to laugh loudly.

King of Quelling Chaos Ji Molie...

The Green Hat King, right?

Li Che was speechless.

However.

The King of Quelling Chaos probably had no feelings for the Dragon Queen Consort, was even extremely indifferent to Ji Haihui, and sent her to the Golden Light Prefecture merely as a chess piece to die.

Moreover, Li Che felt that Ji Molie must have known long ago that the Third Crown Prince was at odds with the Dragon Clan, so sending Ji Haihui, who had the Dragon God Bloodline, was only to deliver the Prison Lotus Yin God Sword.

He wanted to find that Prison Lotus Yang Divine Sword and unite the Prison Lotus Yin Yang Swords into one.

If united into one, the rank of the Prison Lotus Yin Yang Sword could probably reach the level of a Four Imperial Middle-level Divine Weapon, or even... higher.

"Prison Lotus Yang Divine Sword..."

A peculiar color flashed in Li Che's eyes.

Xi Xi became Lv Taibai's Direct Disciple and the Young Sect Master of Qian Yuan Divine Sect. Among the Divine Weapons bestowed by Lv Taibai, it seemed...

There was indeed the Prison Lotus Yang Divine Sword!

"No wonder... no wonder it wasn't drawn in the Golden Light Prefecture's Third Prince's Mysterious Temple, because the Prison Lotus Yang Divine Sword... had long been taken away!"

Li Che suddenly realized.

No wonder Ji Molie wielded a sword in the Third Crown Prince's Mysterious Temple's Strange Que without attracting the Yang God Sword.

Li Che was too lazy to look at these people's love and hatred entanglements.

He looked at the Dragon Maiden who kept moving closer towards You Liqing, and said: "What kind of person is King of Quelling Chaos Ji Molie?"

Li Che asked in a deep voice.

The Underworld killed Ji Haihui, killed Su Huaili and You Liqing, also killed the Dragon Queen Consort...

It's impossible for King of Quelling Chaos Ji Molie to remain indifferent.

At that time, the Martial Saint's Will of King Ping Luan hidden in the Prison Lotus Yin God Sword revealed a monstrous killing intent.

Therefore, Li Che wanted to understand King of Quelling Chaos Ji Molie as a person.

The Dragon Maiden heard this and fell silent. After a moment, she finally spoke: "A very terrifying person, inscrutable, unfathomable, with incredibly strong power."

"Even the Titled Dragon Kings of my Dragon God Clan are respectful and very wary of Ji Molie."

"The Titled Dragon King... is equivalent to the level of Martial Saint Four Openings, Divine Embryo Great Divine Realm."

"In the years I've been married to Ji Molie... I haven't actually seen him many times."

The Dragon Maiden pressed her lips, speaking in a low voice.

"Every time I see him, I feel an incomparable suffocation and terror."

Li Che heard this and couldn't help but take a deep breath.

He then looked at You Liqing, also learning some information about King of Quelling Chaos Ji Molie.

He slowly closed his eyes.

In Li Che's mind, the Martial Saint's Will he confronted in the Third Prince's Mysterious Temple's Strange Que emerged...

"Does Ji Molie rank on the Great God List?"

Li Che asked.

He didn't know much about the Divine Embryo Great God List, only knew that Lv Taibai was ranked fifth.

Huang Sword Wine shook his wine gourd, smacking his lips, and said: "One of the Eight Great Vassal Kings, titled King of Quelling Chaos, with unparalleled combat power, how could he not be on the Divine Embryo Great God List?"

"The Sect Master ranks fifth, Ji Molie's rank is even above the Sect Master's... ranked third."

Li Che squinted his eyes.

However, Huang Sword Wine wasn't finished speaking.

"But, Ji Molie's true strength does not rely on divinity, but on the Martial Path... the Martial Saint Heavenly Gate, Ji Molie ranks second."

"While the Sect Master's ranking in the Martial Saint Heavenly Gate is weaker, ranked seventh out of fifteen people."

"However, the Sect Master is not considered weak either, after all, in the Great God List and Heavenly Gate, only five people can be on both lists simultaneously."

"Ji Molie is one, the Sect Master is another..."

Li Che heard this and took a deep breath.

To be ranked on both the Great God List and Heavenly Gate naturally indicates balanced combat power level.

The comprehensive strength is naturally stronger as well.

At present, he is too far from facing such strong people, even if he exhausted all his trump cards, he wouldn't be a match.

Fortunately, now that Xi Xi has become the Young Sect Master of Qian Yuan Divine Sect, with Lv Taibai's protection, safety is considered assured.

Chapter 906: Soul Capturing Princess Consort Bull Demon Riding a Dragon, Are Both Father and Daughter 1000-Year-Old Divine Children? (3)

However, the Hunting God Pavilion and the Corpse God Cult...

Still pose a tremendous threat.

Li Che's gaze fell upon Yellow Sword Wine and You Liqing: "During the hunt for the Dragon Maiden last time, did you remember who intervened?"

"The Hunting God Pavilion and the Corpse God Cult dispatched a Demigod Corpse

"Find that Demigod Corpse,"

Li Che said in a deep voice.

Indeed, the Corpse God Cult had left contingencies within the Lingnan Circuit, secretly hiding a Demigod Corpse. Li Che intended to unravel their exact plans.

"Understood."

Yellow Sword Wine and the seemingly liberated You Liqing promptly responded.

"Brother Liqing, I'll go with you, wait for me!"

The Dragon Maiden quickly called out.

Li Che glanced once, then snapped his fingers.

The Dragon Maiden instantly transformed into a black Confining God Chess Piece, landing within the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

The world... instantly grew much quieter.

Li Qingshan donned his Cat Face mask: "Shall I take a trip to the Hunting God Pavilion?"

"The Hunting God Pavilion only cares about resources. As long as you're offering resources... they'll do anything."

"Has Xi Xi made it onto the Hunting God Pavilion's bounty list? You can leave that to me."

Li Che silently looked at Li Qingshan: "Alright."

In fact, he had already planned to leave the matter to Li Qingshan, especially since Li Qingshan wielded the Flying Thunder Chess Piece, which emboldened him greatly.

Cat Face departed as well, leaving the courtyard increasingly tranquil.

With a flick of his fingers, numerous avatars and confining gods disappeared without a trace.

Li Che sat cross-legged in the courtyard.

"Hoo

"Sii

Each exhale and inhale stirred waves of air.

Blending into the night breeze, it teased the shadows of trees outside the courtyard, fracturing moonlight and scattering dappled fragments across the ground.

Within Li Che's chest, the [Dragon Elephant Vajra] Dao Fruit gradually settled into serenity, bringing an unmatched peace to his mind and spirit.

His eyes slowly opened, golden smoke drifting through like sinking incense.

[Dao Fruit: Dragon Elephant Vajra (LV5, 25%)]

As his eyes opened and closed, brilliance danced within them.

A hint of joy flickered in Li Che's eyes.

The battle against the Dragon Queen Consort was a clean victory, killing her in a one-on-one confrontation. Unexpectedly, the Dao Fruit's maturity jumped by 10%!

One must know, this was a Level 5 Dao Fruit, and any growth in its maturity carried great weight!

"It should not merely be the result of dueling the Martial Saint. Typically, as a Dao Fruit progresses, maturity growth becomes increasingly challenging."

"The increase must be linked to my combat style; during the fight, I detonated two Divine Seeds... unleashing unparalleled strength that transcended human limits, resonating with the Dao Fruit's peak excitation points, hence the rapid rise."

Li Che reflected deeply, analyzing the reasons behind the swift increase in Dao Fruit maturity.

Furthermore, Li Che noticed that the Immaculate Heart Dao Fruit also experienced a 2% maturity boost.

This was likely due to confining the Dragon Queen Consort with the Confining God technique.

"The Chess Saint Dao Fruit still needs some more growth to break through Level 5, while the Fairy in the Painting Dao Fruit and Lei-Ci Dao Body are progressing rather slowly as well

"The Immortal Craft Dao Fruit hasn't shown much improvement recently either. Maybe I should try sculpting a Half-Saint Divine Sculpture; that might accelerate its maturity growth."

"Additionally, the Mechanical Beast—if I can craft one at the Five Elders Rank—it could be interesting. The Vajra Ape's current quality only amounts to a Six Divisions Upper Stage, which was artificially enhanced by Qi-Blood Rosy Clouds compensating for its flaws

Faced with the immense pressure brought on by Ji Moli,

Li Che couldn't help but ponder ways to elevate himself.

"If Lei-Ci Dao Body upgrades successfully, I could also research the Immortal Magnetic Cannon... further boosting the maturity of the Immortal Craft Dao Fruit."

"Lei-Ci Dao Body

Li Che closed his eyes, then slowly opened them: "There are so many tasks that need attention. Forget it... I'll commission someone to create that [Small Divine Sky Five Thunder Shocking Killing Talisman]."

With his current wealth and resources, Li Che certainly could afford it.

What's more, within the Divine Sect, there was a Divine Talisman Half-Saint who happened to be Xi Xi's mentor—a resource going unused would be mere waste.

After briefly organizing his cultivation plans,

Li Che produced the Dragon Queen Consort's Qiankun Jade, and began indulging in one of his favorite activities: inventorying treasures.

However, having previously accessed the Qiankun Jade of Su Wenxi, the former Family Head of the Su Family and a true Martial Saint, Li Che didn't hold high expectations for that of the Dragon Queen Consort.

After all, prior to this, the Dragon Queen Consort could at best be considered a Great Grandmaster.

Sure enough, after forcibly breaking through the Qiankun Jade's outer membrane,

Li Che began his audit.

There were plenty of Fifth-Order Lower Stage Divine Crystals; a total of fifteen. Yet beyond that, there were no Fifth-Order Middle Stage Divine Crystals.

Still, it was better than nothing.

Next came the martial arts pills. To Li Che's surprise, their quantity was indeed substantial.

A wide variety of martial arts pills were present, but the highest quality pill was only Fifth-Order Lower Stage, and there was just one of them.

Rather disappointing.

Was this the Qiankun Jade of a Princess Consort?

Despite an impressive appearance, in reality... it proved astonishingly scarce?

Li Che frowned in displeasure.

Perhaps it was the immense wealth conveyed by the Martial Saint's Qiankun Jade that had skewed his expectations, resulting in a sharp psychological contrast with the Princess Consort's stash.

On the matter of martial arts, there were no surprises either.

Li Che let out a regretful sigh.

Clearly, she was a neglected consort...

Her life strung through with poverty.

"This is

Suddenly, Li Che sensed something unusual.

His five fingers clenched.

Instantly, a treasure bead appeared in his palm, radiating soft brilliance, pure and luminous.

The blood on his brow split open as Li Che activated the Divine Skill Star Plucking Pupil.

Endless Analysis, Peering into Illusion and Returning to Truth!

Golden light sparkled within his sharp gaze, sweeping across the treasure bead.

Information emerged at once.

[Five Elders Middle Ice Bone Dragon Element Pearl]

This is...

A Dragon Ball!

A genuine Dragon Ball!

Li Che's eyes lit up with sudden excitement!

Following her ultimate transformation, Dragon Queen Consort Ao Yuxin shattered the Dragon Ball, expelling and igniting the Dragon Essence within it to fuel her ascension.

Chapter 907: The Princess Consort, a Soul Capturing, Bull Demon Riding a Dragon, Both Father and Daughter are 1000-Year-Old Divine Children? (4)

After the Dragon Maiden's death, nothing was left behind—her physical body turned to ash, and even the Dragon Ball had long shattered.

Unexpectedly, there was a Dragon Ball hidden within the Qiankun Jade!

A treasure indeed!

The small semblance of fortune splashed onto Li Che!

A faint smile appeared on Li Che's face—this way, it wasn't an entire loss.

For this journey, the harvest was decent!

"The Dragon Essence Pearl contains boundless dragon power, though its energy is rather violent. If it could be refined into a Divine Pill, that would undoubtedly be the best

"But Qianyuan Dao City lacks a Divine Pill Half-Saint; to refine the Dragon Essence Pearl, one would have to go to Guangling Dao City

Li Che shook his head—he had no time to travel so far.

"I'll simply refine and siphon it directly."

"The energy of the Dragon Essence is indeed tempting, and my physical body should be able to endure it."

Li Che glanced at the Dragon Essence Pearl and chose not to put it away, standing upright instead.

"Huuu

He let out a long breath, the chaotic winds stirred!

In an instant, all sounds of airflow, wind and clouds, and rustling leaves vanished between heaven and earth!

Within his chest, the [Dragon Elephant Vajra] Dao Fruit began to leap wildly.

Thud... Thud... Thud—

It resembled the ancient bells atop a sacred mountain, having witnessed the ebb and flow of three thousand years, violently struck by a powerful Martial Monk's fist.

The bell's resonance burst forth, sweeping from the depths of his physical body, rippling out like waves, cleansing every inch of Li Che's blood and flesh.

The Dao Fruit's instant enlightenment feedback surged forth like a rushing stream!

Li Che's gaze suddenly became dazzling.

He let out a long roar, his jet-black hair danced wildly in the night wind, his spine recoiled and emitted explosive cracks, as if a giant dragon were whipping its tail to pierce the heavens!

Every muscle was twisted like a rope; Li Che clenched his five fingers, causing the Dragon Essence Pearl to burst instantaneously under his grip!

Boom—!

A surge of boundless and ferocious dragon power erupted!

Extreme and pure, blazing hot, carrying endless might!

Li Che clenched his five fingers, causing the Eight-Treasure Xuanjin Thunder Dragon Treasure Stick to fall into his hand; this upper Sixth Order Divine Weapon trembled uncontrollably in this moment.

The power from the Dao Fruit's enlightenment surged endlessly; Li Che grasped the Thunder Dragon Treasure Stick and thrust it forward forcefully, shattering a terrifying stream of air instantly!

The sound of sonic booms roared and ripped through the courtyard!

A Demon Python was instantly formed, slithering behind Li Che, letting out a sky-shaking roar!

The energy released from Li Che crushing the Dragon Essence Pearl, combined with the hot flow feedback from the Dao Fruit's enlightenment, made him feel as if aided by divine forces in this moment!

The Divine Seed Martial Arts technique 'Demon Python Spear' had already reached Major Accomplishment, and Li Che kept pushing forward relentlessly, striving for a breakthrough into the Master Realm!

"Dragon Elephant Sky Gang!"

Li Che's eyes erupted in gold-plated brilliance, as if a colossal golden python emerged, coiling around his frame, rubbing against his muscles and spine as they recoiled!

His body swelled and grew stronger; within his bones and tendons, the strength to shatter shackles germinated wildly!

The Dragon Elephant Sky Gang Divine Skill could elevate Li Che's strength tenfold, a hundredfold, even a thousandfold!

Fully unleashed, the sheer force of power exceeded the limits of Li Che's physical body!

Boom—!

Li Che felt an unparalleled exhilaration as the Great Bodily Elixir within him pulsed and contracted—the pores across his entire body stretched open, devouring the dragon power madly!

The golden demon python coiling behind Li Che instantly birthed God's Intent!

It was unclear how much time had passed as the courtyard became drowned in chaos, turbulence, roars, and explosive sounds!

Gradually, it all began to subside.

The courtyard fell silent, and even a pin drop could be heard.

Li Che slowly opened his eyes; the golden demon python behind him looked as though it had turned into a real giant python.

The scales gleamed clearly, and its forked tongue flicked like scattered branches.

"The Divine Seed Martial Arts 'Demon Python Spear has entered the Master Realm!"

Li Che opened his eyes, his muscles and bones emitting synchronized cracking sounds.

"The third Divine Seed—has entered the Qi Gate!"

Li Che stood in the courtyard, his spine triggering the third Qi Gate that shone brilliantly like the Big Dipper in the heavens!

With the Divine Seed entering the Qi Gate, Li Che's powerful physical body underwent subtle transformations in this moment.

A faint stabbing pain emerged, though it wasn't overwhelming.

After all, Li Che's physical body had already undergone previous transformations.

However, allowing the third Divine Seed to enter the Qi Gate was no easy feat and extremely perilous.

Li Che stood firm in the courtyard's center, a protrusion on his back expanded and contracted along with his breathing.

When the Divine Seed was fully guided into the third Qi Gate,

Li Che devoured dragon power relentlessly, converting it into Innate True Gang unique to this Divine Seed... One hundred and eight strands of Innate True Gang!

During the transformation and germination of the Innate True Gang,

Li Che flicked his finger, sword light flickered, and began practicing [Six Desires Evil Extermination Pure Yang Sword Technique].

This Divine Seed Martial Arts technique was only at entry-level, requiring diligence and effort from Li Che.

Li Che's gaze burned bright beneath the moonlight as sword qi entwined.

His daughter had become a disciple under the Divine Fetus Great God.

As her father, he naturally couldn't slack off—he had to remain diligent.

Otherwise...

Should his daughter surpass him someday, it would certainly be embarrassing.

...

...

Three days later.

The Qian Yuan Divine Sect held a grand celebration in the open ground before the Mountain Gate, setting up three thousand banquet tables and inviting nearly every faction in the city.

The banquet lasted three full days to celebrate the establishment of the sect's Young Master.

The entire city rejoiced.

The lavish banquet spared no expenses, showcasing an array of rare and exotic delicacies.

Some Jianghu Guests reveled in the feast, marveling at the lavish demeanor of the Divine Sect. But then again, given that this divine sect's existence had lasted longer than even the Great Vista dynasty, such foundations were unsurprising.

Chapter 908: The Princess Consort, a Soul Capturing Bull Demon Riding a Dragon, Both Father and Daughter are 1000-Year-Old Divine Children? (5)

Li Che and Zhang Ya, as Xi Xi's parents, received the greatest hospitality. Leaders of various noble families all came up to offer them a toast.

Zhang Ya was in high spirits, drinking one cup after another, her small face blushing brightly, her whole body seeming to radiate heat.

Li Che didn't persuade her to drink less. Feeling happy himself, he simply let her enjoy as much as she liked.

Meanwhile, Xi Xi sat next to Zhang Ya, indulging ravenously in the delicacies laid out on the table. Her little stomach seemed like a bottomless pit, as she swept food clean plate after plate.

"Daddy!"

"I finally got my wheels together!"

Still munching away, Xi Xi proudly showed off to Li Che, lifting her little feet into the air.

Instantly, sparks burst forth from beneath her soles.

Both her feet lit up with sweeping flames, accompanied by the metallic clanking of friction. Countless sparks danced wildly as two Prison Lotus Wind Fire Golden Light Wheels materialized out of thin air!

Supporting her body, the wheels lifted her off the ground and into the air. She tread lightly as though walking on flat ground, each step held steady by the spinning wheels beneath.

After showing off for only a moment, Xi Xi descended again, settling back beside Li Che.

She wore an expression of utter obedience and innocence.

Lv Taibai, his silver hair fluttering cleanly and freely, sat nearby. The Sect Master's Wife swayed her little feet while seated beside him.

Occasionally Lv Taibai picked dishes to place into her bowl, and Sect Master's Wife Xuan Qisha thoroughly enjoyed herself, her mouth glistening with grease from the feast.

After sharing a drink with Lv Taibai, Li Che served Xi Xi a roasted spirit chicken leg.

Beside them, Gongshu Jingjun walked over, laughing and raising his cup for a toast.

"Master Li, now that Xi Xi has become the Young Sect Master, you should feel at ease. It's high time for you to focus on your work at the Divine Carving Ridge."

"You've inherited Elder Sun's Half-Saint Divine Sculpture legacy—don't waste such an invaluable gift."

"In the future, if Elder Li truly ascends as the Divine Sculpture Master, it will undoubtedly mark a great celebration for the establishment of the Young Master," Gongshu Jingjun said with a grin.

The Sect Master's Wife laughed aloud, her mouth slick with oil as she gnawed at a chicken leg.

"Even though he's Xi Xi's father, a Saint-level Sculptor is not something just anyone can achieve, isn't it?"

"Divine Sculpting and Divine Talismans alike are easy to begin but difficult to master. Becoming a Saint Hand... far too difficult."

"Better try achieving Half-Saint first. Only after becoming a Half-Saint Sculptor will there even be credentials to discuss Saint Hand status. Half-Saint is merely the threshold toward Saint Hand."

The Sect Master's Wife commented thoughtfully.

Li Che, hearing this, nodded in agreement...

"Mountain Master Gongshu, I haven't been idle lately. I've been diligently studying Elder Sun's inheritance and have already mastered it. I think I can attempt sculpting a Half-Saint Divine Sculpture," Li Che said.

Upon hearing this, Gongshu Jingjun froze mid-drink.

A glimmer of astonishment flashed in his eyes.

"Are you serious?"

Considering Li Che's age and the short period since he obtained Elder Sun's dying gift—a painstaking Half-Saint inheritance...

He had already mastered it?

The Sect Master's Wife scoffed lightly.

"Young man, do you think breaking into the Half-Saint realm is that simple? Don't be deluded into thinking that just touching the threshold allows you to craft a Half-Saint Divine Sculpture. Seeing the mountain and reaching the summit are entirely different things."

"The saying 'Looking at a mountain makes a horse die from exhaustion' holds true. Many Half-Saints exhaust their entire lifetimes to reach within arm's length of the Saint realm, but that arm's length... is an infinite chasm."

The Sect Master's Wife sighed deeply.

Her words reflected her own struggle: that arm's length seemed agonizingly close, yet eternally unreachable.

Li Che laughed in response, his eyes gleaming as he glanced at the Sect Master's Wife: "Sect Master's Wife, shall we bet on it?"

She wrinkled her nose: "Why are you just like Xi Xi, so fond of gambling? No wonder you're father and daughter—carved from the same mold."

"Little Jinzi, here, you eat too," she said, handing another chicken leg to Jin Taixui, who stood quietly behind Xi Xi. Xi Xi turned her head around in confusion.

Wait—did someone just call Xi Xi cute?

Lv Taibai's eyes sparkled momentarily as he focused on Li Che: "What do you want to bet on?"

"Hey! Old Bai, don't go making decisions for me!"

The Sect Master's Wife kicked her short legs restlessly, complaining.

Li Che chuckled: "A small bet to spice things up."

"I'll wager with Sect Master's Wife... that within one month, I can sculpt a Half-Saint Divine Sculpture."

"If I succeed, I hope the Sect Master's Wife can craft a Divine Talisman for me."

"Oh? What kind of talisman?" she asked curiously.

"[Small Divine Sky Five Thunder Shocking Killing Talisman]!"

Li Che declared.

"Huh? A Fifth-Order Middle Stage Divine Talisman? What do you need such a talisman for? This talisman... is very dangerous, with massive destructive power rivaling a full-force strike from a cultivator at the Divine Embryo and One Divine Transformation level."

The Sect Master's Wife said in surprise, narrowing her eyes suspiciously at Li Che. "Moreover... how do you even know about this talisman? It's recorded in the Xuanfu Divine Sect's Divine Talisman Record. Normally, outsiders wouldn't know of its existence."

"Xi Xi talked about it, so I remembered," Li Che replied, casually pinning the reasoning on Xi Xi.

Xi Xi, her mouth stuffed with chicken leg, mumbled incoherently: "Mm-hmm, uh-huh? Yeah... sure."

"I plan to integrate this talisman into an artifact mechanism," Li Che said gently.

"Alright, bet accepted! Within one month, if you can sculpt a Half-Saint Divine Sculpture, I'll craft this Small Divine Sky Five Thunder Talisman for you free of charge."

"If not, you'll have to carve ten Divine Sculptures for me within a year to my specifications."

Seeing that Li Che wasn't pursuing something overly reckless with the talisman, the Sect Master's Wife readily agreed.

"Then let the Sect Master and Mountain Master bear witness to this wager..."

Li Che poured wine, offering a toast.

Gongshu Jingjun froze for a moment: "Seriously?"

He inhaled sharply.

Was Li Che being too audacious?

One month...

To sculpt a Half-Saint Divine Sculpture?

Had he just glimpsed traces of Half-Saint essence and let them go to his head?

However, since both parties agreed, there was no objection from him.

Still, for twenty-four-year-old Li Che to achieve crafting a Half-Saint Divine Sculpture in a month...

If he truly succeeded...

Wouldn't he, like Xi Xi, be a once-in-an-eternity prodigy? Father and daughter both being eternal Divine Children?

Most merely saw Li Che's excitement as the overconfidence of a novice glimpsing the Half-Saint realm.

Li Che drank the wine from his cup.

The corners of his lips curved into a subtle smile.

Suddenly.

The instant Li Che set down the wine cup, his brow Niwan pulsed slightly.

Within the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

A black chess piece swiftly coagulated and formed.

It was none other than the Confining God chess piece tied to Yellow Sword Wine.

It had been shattered ten times in succession?!

Who dared?!

Chapter 909: Qingshan Remains, the Beauty Has Aged, A Heartfelt Welcome from the Underworld

Li Che set down his wine cup, a faint glimmer of peculiarity flashing in his eyes.

All around him, the clinking of glasses and the aroma of wine mingled with the scent of exquisite delicacies, their essence constantly wafting into the air.

Yet at this moment, none of it held Li Che's attention.

His mind moved slightly, sinking into the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

The Soul Capturing piece created from the Yellow Sword Wine immediately landed quietly on the chessboard.

When a Soul Capturing piece leaves, it can detach from Li Che himself and act independently.

That's why Li Che had sent the Soul Capturing pieces of Yellow Sword Wine and You Liqing to search for the forces the Corpse God Cult was hiding around Dry Yuan Dao City.

After all, the last time he had assisted the Princess Consort, the demigod corpse from the Corpse God Cult had caught Li Che's attention.

Li Che harbored no goodwill toward the Corpse God Cult, whether for its atrocities or its demon child—it all filled him with loathing.

Within the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

Li Che's Primordial Spirit condensed into form, his eyes slowly opening.

With a flick of his fingers, a surge of Pure Heart Divinity flowed out, reinvigorating the Soul Capturing piece of Yellow Sword Wine.

Gradually, the Soul Capturing piece twisted and shifted, transforming into the form of Yellow Sword Wine himself.

A Soul Capturing piece can only regenerate back into itself after being broken ten consecutive times and running out of supply, at which point it will return to Li Che's Heaven and Earth chessboard to recharge.

This was the conclusion Li Che had come to after crafting the Soul Capturing pieces.

Until now, it was the first time a Soul Capturing piece had been struck down back into its chess form. Old Huang had truly opened Li Che's eyes to this.

Yellow Sword Wine scratched at his messy hair, uncorked his wine gourd, and guzzled several hearty swigs before muttering curses under his breath.

After a few moments, Yellow Sword Wine's Soul Capturing piece began to recover.

"Speak, what's the situation?"

Li Che asked calmly.

Yellow Sword Wine nodded, and began to recount the events.

"I was working separately from Old You, following the traces of the Corpse God Seal to locate the Corpse God Cult's base outside Dry Yuan Dao City

"At first, there were no leads, and despite searching for a long time, we found nothing, so Old You and I decided to expand our scope

"Upon expanding the range... near the area around Divine Carving Ridge, I encountered an ambush."

Yellow Sword Wine slapped his wine gourd, marked prominently with sword scars, his gaze darkening with a hint of sharpness.

"Where?"

Li Che furrowed his brows.

"Divine Carving Ridge."

Yellow Sword Wine took another gulp of wine and replied.

"Outside Divine Carving Ridge, I encountered a demigod corpse

"Not the same demigod corpse that Old You had previously blocked—this one was even stronger, more enigmatic. I used Ninth Sword, released explosions ten times, and none of them could break through."

"Strong, incredibly strong... roughly comparable to the pinnacle level of Qi Sea Martial Saints. Right now, I'm no match."

Yellow Sword Wine said, his voice heavy with frustration.

Upon hearing this, Li Che did not react emotionally to the fact Yellow Sword Wine had experienced ten bursts.

After all, he couldn't truly die.

Out of those ten times, at least nine were self-destructions deliberately unleashed by Yellow Sword Wine using the Ninth Sword style.

However, the information Yellow Sword Wine returned with caused Li Che's expression to grow grave.

"Near Divine Carving Ridge... there are strong figures from the Corpse God Cult, including a Two Flower Demigod Corpse comparable to the second level of Qi Sea Martial Saints?"

Li Che had been to Divine Carving Ridge before.

But previously, he hadn't sensed this presence.

Yellow Sword Wine nodded. As a Soul Capturing piece, his loyalty and obedience to Li Che were absolute, without concealment or betrayal.

"Among Martial Saints, the gap between the first opening and the second opening is indeed vast. The difference between a Human Core Martial Saint and a Qi Sea Martial Saint is akin to the disparity between a Grandmaster and a Great Grandmaster."

"While targeting the Su Family, my greatest concern was their elder sage Su Leibao, a Qi Sea-opening Martial Saint—the cornerstone enabling the Su Family to maintain their position as the foremost noble family of Dry Yuan Dao City."

"Cloud Family, Zhou Family, and Zhong Family—these three thousand-year-old noble clans have deep foundations, yet their strongest combatants are merely their ancestral patriarchs, all first-level Martial Saints with Divine Transformation fetuses

"Far inferior to the Su Family."

"Which is why, back then, I requested the Great Elder Fang Hanshu to intervene

Yellow Sword Wine sat directly on the Heaven and Earth chessboard and continued.

Li Che's Primordial Spirit fell silent...

Divine Carving Ridge.

As Divine Carving Ridge lay outside Dry Yuan Dao City, distant from any settlements, it did indeed harbor numerous uncertainties and dangers.

"Because of... the Two-Hearted Great Saint Mysterious Temple? Are they here for that mystical weapon, the Heart-following Gold Iron Divine Rod?"

It was a possibility Li Che couldn't help but consider.

The pressing question now was whether the Corpse God Cult's Two Flower Demigod Corpse was hidden within Divine Carving Ridge itself or...

Had the Corpse God Cult set up an ambush in the area surrounding Divine Carving Ridge, effectively encircling it?

But it seemed unlikely—it was more plausible they were merely concealed nearby. After all, the remote mountainous terrain around Divine Carving Ridge was sparsely inhabited.

If the Corpse God Cult were truly making such large moves, Qian Yuan Divine Sect couldn't possibly remain oblivious.

Li Che slowly closed his eyes and ordered Yellow Sword Wine to resume his Essence Cultivation.

He himself withdrew from the Heaven and Earth chessboard.

Upon opening his eyes, he glanced toward the banquet table, where seated were Gongshu Jingjun, Ridge Master of Divine Carving Ridge, along with Great Elder Tang Xiejia.

Which meant, if the Corpse God Cult's demigod corpse was truly hiding its identity, it couldn't possibly be Gongshu Jingjun or Tang Xiejia.

All other elders were also in attendance at this banquet celebrating Xi Xi's ascension as the Young Master.

Ten consecutive bursts forced upon Yellow Sword Wine by the Two Flower Demigod Corpse...

"It seems I'll need to find an opportunity to dispatch Yellow Sword Wine to warn Qian Yuan Divine Sect and Divine Carving Ridge."

Li Che set down his wine cup and massaged his temple.

The Corpse God Cult...

They were truly like restless ghosts, never fading away.

The Corpse God Cult's primary battleground had always been the Jiangnan Dao of Jizhou, where they were locked in opposition against King Ping Luan Ji Moli.

Yet now, the appearance of the Corpse God Cult's experts near Qian Yuan Divine Sect had grown increasingly frequent.

Chapter 910: Qingshan Remains, The Beauty Has Aged, A Harsh Welcome from the Underworld (2)

"The undercurrents are surging." Li Che exhaled heavily.

His eyes flickered, emotions stirring within him.

The Great Supervising Minister of Qintian Observatory in the Divine Capital once said that whoever obtains the Six-Eared Two-Hearted Great Saint's Heart-following Golden Iron Divine Rod would ascend the tower of Qi Tian City and acquire the Mythical Weapon, the Ruyi Stick...

Adding to that, during his previous participation in the Divine Sculpture Ridge Elder assessment, the sudden appearance of the Heart-following Golden Iron Divine Rod stirred quite the commotion.

Perhaps it was precisely for this reason that the strong figures from the Corpse God Cult have been mobilizing frequently and heading his way?

Li Che buried his thoughts deep in his heart; the appearances of the Corpse God Cult outside Divine Sculpture Ridge certainly weren't for him to mention — it was more fitting to let God-binding Yellow Sword Wine bring it up.

Li Che continued drinking with the elders.

The feast extended long into the night, marked by revelry and indulgence.

Zhang Ya was thoroughly drunk, her cheeks flushed as she nestled into Li Che's embrace. She was overjoyed — her husband was capable, and their daughter had become the Divine Sect's Young Sect Master.

Zhang Ya had never dared to imagine days like these before.

At that time, they lived in a dilapidated hut in Fei Lei City, where the wind leaked through the cracks, worrying about their livelihood every single day.

Who would have thought their family could rise to such heights now?

And yet, Zhang Ya herself unexpectedly earned the honorary Elder status...

Li Che wrapped his arms around Zhang Ya's waist, and she clung to him like a koala bear.

"Sect Master, Sect Master's Wife... I'll take Xiao Ya back first. Xi Xi must follow the Sect Master and cultivate diligently — no slacking off. Next time we meet, father will test your cultivation. If you're lagging behind, I'll certainly be stern with you."

Li Che directed these words to Xi Xi, admonishing her.

Immediately, Xi Xi planted her hands on her hips and stuck out her chubby little belly.

"Don't worry, father! Xi Xi is working hard to get stronger. When I grow strong, I'll definitely suppress you!"

Xi Xi declared boastfully.

She triggered waves of laughter around the table.

Li Che couldn't help but smile as well. Though his outward cultivation seemed unimpressive, Xi Xi knew he'd hidden his true strength.

Therefore, Xi Xi's obvious goal was surpassing the strength he revealed.

"Alright then, father will wait for you to grow stronger and see it for himself."

Li Che then bid farewell to Xi Xi while holding Zhang Ya and boarded the carriage.

At another banquet table, Nie Yang abstained entirely from drinking, adhering to a charioteer's principle: no drinking and driving.

Seeing Li Che carrying Zhang Ya into the carriage, Nie Yang promptly ushered Li Chengzhou to follow them.

Returning to Liuxiang Lane, Li Che carried Zhang Ya, still attached to him, as he looked at Nie Yang. “Mr. Nie, the banquet isn’t over yet; take Chengzhou back to enjoy more food and drink, make merry.”

Upon hearing this, Nie Yang made no remarks.

He clasped his hands in salute to Li Che, then took the sword-wielding and cold-faced Li Chengzhou and drove the carriage away.

Li Che carried Zhang Ya back into the courtyard.

The moonlight was cold and serene, resembling a gauzy glow descending on the human world, gently draping Li Che and Zhang Ya, shrouding them in a faint radiance.

Zhang Ya’s face was flushed red, her drunken eyes dreamy. The potency of the Spiritual Wine was no joke — her martial cultivation couldn’t suppress its effects. Coupled with her joyful mood and indulgence, she quickly succumbed to intoxication.

Placing his drunk wife onto the bed, Li Che activated the divinity within his [Pure Heart] Dao Fruit to tend to Zhang Ya’s physical body.

He also called upon the Dragon Elephant Vajra Dao Fruit's power, channeling its strength to refine Zhang Ya's physique.

Helping her improve her sinews and bones, he even infused her with his understanding of the Martial Path in one go.

For her to match the pace of Li Che and Xi Xi, it would undoubtedly be difficult for Zhang Ya.

However, Li Che's aspiration was for his family to be well, to silently watch his daughter achieve longevity, but not at the expense of neglecting his wife.

The warm Zhang Ya, her face flushed, lips pressed together, and a smile lingering at the corners of her mouth — she seemed to be dreaming of something pleasant.

After cleaning Zhang Ya up and tucking her in, Li Che walked out of the room.

"Did Xiao Ya drink too much?"

A soft voice came from afar.

Li Che, clad in a dark robe, turned to see Nurse Momo seated in a rocking chair, wrapped in a thin blanket, her weathered face lined with wrinkles.

"Xiao Ya, that girl... she's so simple... You must treat her well."

"A Che, your status and position now differ greatly from the past. The temptations you'll face will only grow. I hope you'll hold fast to your true heart and care for your family."

Her words were earnest as she gazed at Li Che with moonlight faintly illuminating her figure, lending a peaceful aura.

Li Che's heart suddenly calmed.

He sat down beside Nurse Momo, settling on the wooden floor. Moonlight shone against the edge of the black tiles above them, cascading like flowing water.

Li Che smiled and began chatting with Nurse Momo.

Nurse Momo had watched Xi Xi grow up. Back in Xu Family's Spiritual Child Institute, when the Spirit Infant Sect stormed in to seize Xi Xi and other Spirit Children, Nurse Momo fought to her last breath, even risking her own life — something Li Che deeply admired and respected.

Facing death often proves the true test of character.

"Cough, cough

Nurse Momo coughed lightly a few times, breaking the tranquility of the moonlit scene.

Leaning back in her chair, her gaze turned profound. "A Che

"We both walked out from Fei Lei City. To see your family rise to such heights... it fills me with joy. Xi Xi has a father like you and now a master like the Taibai Sect Master; her future is on solid ground."

"Watching her grow step by step brings me immense happiness."

Li Che stood up and moved behind Nurse Momo, massaging her temples.

Her dry, white hair and deeply lined face seemed so fragile...