

Longevity 161

Chapter 161: Daughter Spring Floods the Princess's Mansion, Wild Mandarins Caught in the Taiyin Pool

The appearance of the Exotic Treasure known as "Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror", which began to reflect upon the causes and effects of the past, was of utmost tension and displeasure to the entity that had possessed little monk Hui Xin.

Next in line was Tao Qian himself.

For many of the scenes that came before, he had nothing to hide, but the most crucial moment – the one Tao Qian had deliberately led Bai Qin to Body Seize him, step by step – involved his greatest secret. Tao Qian was unwilling to reveal it under the watchful eyes of millions.

Even though that scene wasn't explicit and couldn't reflect the Recollections in his mind.

Yet, even mere traces, Tao Qian still preferred not to show.

At that time, after Bai Qin underwent purification by the Human Dao Destiny, losing much of his Demon Thoughts and obsessions, he had grown considerably weaker. However, Bai Qin was oblivious to the peculiarity of Tao Qian's Soul, unaware that Tao Qian was completely immune to hostile possession by alien forces and swallowing of Primordial Spirits. Tao Qian had long known this from Recollections in various alien writings such as the Exotic Fire Elixir Scroll and the Secret Demon Refining God Skill.

Leveraging this, Tao Qian exhausted all of his tactics, step by step weakening and infuriating the Bai Qin Demon, tempting him to come and seize his body. Only then did he successfully Survive the Three Calamities.

Had Bai Qin been calmer at that time and only fled the Secret Acupoint Platform, even if he couldn't completely cleanse the relic, he could have taken most of the fruits of victory and left all the karmic troubles to Tao Qian.

Sadly, Bai Qin judged the Beautiful Corpse as too greedy, yet who was to say he himself wasn't the same?

After all the meticulous scheming, hoping to achieve complete success, it ended up being all in vain.

While Tao Qian was reflecting on this, the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror had also reflected most of the past events to clarify the entire process.

It seemed that the immortal mirror, too, wished to protect its owner's child, for the projection stopped abruptly as soon as the Bai Qin Demon revealed his true face.

All that followed was obscured by a veil of misty clouds.

Tao Qian breathed a sigh of relief and, upon thinking of something, a hint of schadenfreude surfaced on his lips. Along with the rest of the audience, he looked towards where little monk Hui Xin sat with eyes full of condemnation.

Although Tao Qian did not yet know the reputation of the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror, he could infer it by the reactions of powers and Cultivators, including Li Shantong from the Infant Sect.

With the support of this immortal mirror!

He, Master Tao, instantly cleansed himself of all karmic troubles.

And the Great Freedom Temple, suddenly struck by this blow, immediately experienced what it meant to be the target of public criticism and censure.

Then, naturally, the one who spoke after Qin Wuxiang was the old rival of the Great Freedom Temple, the Demon Buddha Temple.

After all, the Exotic Treasure's projections included a scene where Bai Qin made his move against the Beautiful Corpse. Even his comments were truly recounted and resounded through this realm.

For instance, Bai Qin said that the Beautiful Corpse refined everything but regrettably did it all mediocrally.

He also mentioned that the biggest pity about the Beautiful Corpse was that she was from the Guanyin Temple, yet she didn't refine the Guanyin Method well.

Combined with the scene of Bai Qin using the "Bu Jue Guanyin Root Seal" to sneak attack the Beautiful Corpse Primordial Spirit, the effect was optimal.

Instantly, the Beautiful Corpse's Master was so enraged that his Buddha Fire surged greatly.

Whirling around, he summoned the Black Light Bodhisattva Dharma Image to strike once more, and at the same time, he bellowed,

"Tian Mozi, you shameless bald donkey, it's your disciple who's the real fool."

"If you're going to cultivate the Buddha, then cultivate the Buddha, if you're going to refine demons, then refine demons, but you just had to use the guise of the Buddha to fall into demonhood, entangling yourself in obsessions. And then, in an attempt to whitewash your deeds, you disingenuously concocted a grand plan to escape tribulation, which is utterly laughable."

"The mystery of the Human Dao Fortune is not so easily trifled with. Now that you've provoked backlash, I can't be bothered to seek out your reincarnation. Without the assistance of the Buddha Bird Relics, you are surely being burned by karmic fire at this very moment, cleansed thoroughly in flame."

"I will come for you to avenge myself, seizing your beloved disciple and bringing him back to my Demon Buddha Temple, where he will be properly disciplined into another grand demon monk, free and unbound by nature."

Before his words had even finished, the Black Light Bodhisattva Dharma Image had already closed the distance.

Forced to act, Master Tian Mozi, now possessing the body of the little monk Hui Xin, had to summon the Arhat Dharma Form to clash with his foe.

As the two exchanged blows, Li Shantong, the Sect Master of the Infant Sect, who was purging the remaining demons from the battlefield, also found time to turn back. His fierce eyes with double pupils fixated on monk Hui Xin as he proclaimed loudly,

"Master Bai Qin, such clever scheming, using the great calamity of Southern Yue to trick me, Li Shantong. But since it's all due to a twist of fate, I shall not quibble with the reincarnated Master. However, from today onwards, I do beg that the monks from Great Freedom Temple visit Southern Yue less often, lest you find my Infant Sect unwelcoming to its guests."

Li Shantong was obviously acknowledging the merit in Bai Qin Demon's deceptive actions and decided not to pursue them further.

However, the relationship between the two parties had inevitably suffered a fracture.

As cordial as the Sect Master of the Infant Sect was, the millions of ordinary people, cultivators, and the demon beasts now fleeing like bereft dogs, all held a deep hatred for Bai Qin.

They couldn't see through much, nor could they grasp the whole picture.

The only thing they could see was an old monk, deeply rooted in demonic thought, who had schemed against all of Southern Yue. His actions seemed purely self-serving, aimed at aiding his own escape from tribulation and establishing his own lineage, Bai Qin Temple.

The last point was especially damning because the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror, in reflecting this place, also happened to reveal Bai Qin's past causes and effects.

Chief among them was the tragedy of Tuo County from the days of yore.

In comparison, in the eyes of the common folk, Bai Qin had become the arch-demon among demons.

In that moment, public sentiment boiled over with relentless cursing and denunciation, as all people reviled him.

"The most shameless, does such a faceless monk truly exist in this world?"

"This monk hails from Great Freedom Temple, which suggests that the temple itself is no virtuous place, likely a sanctuary for filth, with each bald donkey there scheming daily how to deceive the world."

"Tuo County, ah! My great-uncle's father perished in that disaster. Oh, heavens, this demon monk not only brought calamity upon Tuo County but now wishes to endanger the entirety of Southern Yue. May heavenly thunder strike him dead!"

"I was fortunate to have read the county records of Tuo County from that year. The disaster was truly horrific, with houses empty and Bird Demons everywhere. In the end, it was a monk from Great Freedom Temple who rescued the survivors and for whom they erected monuments and built temples... Who knew that this was all part of a collusive plot? Is there no justice in this world?"

"As clear as day, the truth of the ancient tragedy is finally uncovered. Who knows if the souls of the departed can now rest in peace."

"Alas, everyone vies on the Dao Path. If Bai Qin's tactics had truly succeeded, they might have benefited at least several hundred million people of Southern Yue and the surrounding provinces. The outcome may be good, but the means employed are far from righteous, and he deserves this retribution."

"To calculate against the Human Dao for one's own Dao, Bai Qin devised this method to erase his own obsessions and demonic thoughts, to save the people of Southern Yue. Now, due to an ironic twist of fate, he inadvertently aided others."

"Pah! Baldies of Bai Qin and Great Freedom Temple, our Devil God Army will remember this—there will be retribution one day."

...

These exclamations and sentences made Tao Qian's heart secretly thrilled.

Since the time he was schemed against by Bai Qin and called "destined person," using his body to steal treasures, using his body to survive disasters, and in the end, still using his body to bear the consequences.

Now, hearing these curses and looking at the gleaming Buddha Bird relics in his hand, all the frustration and resentment accumulated in Tao Qian's heart were vented.

Just as Tao Qian wanted to hear more, suddenly, that elf-like girl suddenly leaned in, whispered in a tiny voice:

"Young Master, should we hurry and leave?"

"Even though Grandpa Taixuan, Grandpa Heavenly Punishment, and Grandpa Returning Immortal are all very strong, the baldies from Great Freedom Temple and Demon Buddha Temple are also frightening, and there's that sneaky Devil God. If they start to fight and it gets out of hand, you might be affected, Young Master. If those two baldies manifest their true forms, even Grandpa Heavenly Punishment might not be able to defeat them."

"Dou Dou was hoping to bring Young Master back sooner to receive Master's reward."

Having just finished speaking, the treasured sword that had been the subject of her complaints immediately jumped up and gave the girl's head a tap with its scabbard.

However, at the same time, a warm and hearty voice of an old man also reached Tao Qian's ears:

"Now that you have survived the Three Calamities, all the benefits here have mostly been gained by you, along with having cleared the karmic troubles."

"Fortune and opportunities cannot be held for too long; otherwise, disasters will surely arise."

"If those two baldies really go mad, only the arrival of a True Monarch will resolve it. And if the Devil God joins in, the trouble will be even greater..."

"If you don't leave now, then when?"

With this reminder, Tao Qian thought for a moment, said something else, and then nodded to the girl.

Hearing his words, the girl immediately whooped with joy. She suddenly stooped and dived directly into the gleaming circle, clinging tightly to Tao Qian.

"Grandpa Taixuan, let's set off quickly."

"The most clever Zhong Dou Dou has successfully picked up Young Master to return to the sect."

As the girl's words fell, the golden circle suddenly leaped up—it was uncertain whether intentionally or not—but first harshly bumped that object calling itself "Heavenly Demon Blood Transformation Divine Needle," sending it reeling precariously.

It then moved under the Beautiful Corpse skin, before smashing through the Void and disappearing out of sight.

With the departure of the circle, the other treasures, a sword and a mirror, also leaped into the Void, leaving no trace behind.

Their decisive departure left behind the fierce and intense battle. Who knew how it would end and how Great Freedom Temple would cleanse their tarnished reputation?

...

After several breaths had passed, they remained within Southern Yue but completely changed their location.

Amidst the clouds, a gleaming golden circle broke through the Void, and as the golden light surged, two figures emerged.

It was Tao Qian and the adorable girl called Zhong Dou Dou.

Previously, the girl could only be considered to be close by. But now, she was completely nestled in Tao Qian's embrace. While there was no skin-to-skin touch, the posture was truly not one that ordinary mortals would take on.

Yet within this, there was no issue of carnal desires.

Why? One would know by listening to the girl's exclamations of joy at this moment.

The girl jumped in Tao Qian's arms, her face flushed with excitement as she shouted continuously:

"So thrilling, too thrilling!"

"Though we had to borrow the might of the three Grandpas, I never expected that I, Zhong Dou Dou, could flaunt my power in front of those terrifying baldies and Devil Gods, to toy with them. After returning, I must divide this story into nine chapters and forty episodes to show those who call me dumb, and I'll surely tell it dozens of times."

"Right, right, those sly foxes actually didn't lie, staying in Young Master's embrace feels so comfortable, and it really can increase one's cultivation level, it's truly miraculous."

"Although Young Master, you don't seem as handsome as those foxes' Young Masters, after looking at you more, you're definitely more pleasant to behold."

Zhong Dou Dou rambled on passionately, occasionally snatching a few breaths in his embrace when he wasn't paying attention, though it was unclear what she was absorbing.

Tao Qian, after listening, remained unusually speechless.

At this time, he already knew the cause and effect from the girl's narrative and which powerful being had intended on making him a disciple.

Because of this, Tao Qian found himself in a pleasant dilemma.

"According to Zhong Dou Dou, my future Master, who intends to take me as a disciple, is unfathomably strong, foreseeing that I could resist the Three Calamities, arranging for this girl to fetch me, and to prevent any accidents, helping me to settle karmic debts, even specially sending the Heavenly Punishment Demon-Slaying Sword, Taixuan Ruyi Circle, and Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror—three incredible divine treasures."

"With such treatment, it would simply be unacceptable for me not to take him as a Master."

"But the arrangements of the Queen of Daughter Country..."

This thought flashed through Tao Qian's mind.

At the same moment, a furious, familiar yell suddenly came from a mountain filled with gorgeous red clouds below:

"Yin Susu, you shameless demoness."

"Quickly return my nephew, otherwise today, I, the Queen of Daughter Country, shall flatten your Red Cloud Mountain and Sunv's Mansion."

The voice, along with the two sentences and the sound of enormous gushing waters, left no doubt—it was the Queen of Daughter Country personally demanding the return of her nephew from Devil God Princess Yin Susu at her mansion.

Chapter 162: The Devil Goddess Is Confused by the Tribulation Energy, Yunhua Immortal Is Also Fated

Red Cloud Mountain, Sunv's Mansion.

As the Queen of Daughter Country's threatening voice rose, it immediately disturbed the entire mountain and mansion of fox and rabbit girls, charm spirit monsters.

All dressed either as female officials or female generals, with some mischievous Foxes even donning a suit of armor, playing fanciful games of imaginary birds and fabled phoenixes with other Female Charms. They were but empty shells, delicate demons unfit for battle, their work confined to serving others, living a life of ease solely by flattering Princess Yin Susu, the Devil God.

However, it was due to having Princess Yin Susu, such a powerful backer, that these Foxes had grown far too comfortable, losing their sense of awe and fear long ago.

Hearing the commotion outside the mountain, they rushed out one by one without seeing who it was, eagerly engaging in sharp-tongued reprimands, cursing and scolding as they approached.

If it were any other time, the Queen of Daughter Country might have humored them with a response or two.

But now, with a deep frown and a murderous look in her eyes, she thought to herself,

"This demoness Yin Susu usually loves to keep male courtesans. That little Daoist is bursting with immortal spirit inside, his luck soaring to the skies. He should still be safe for now, but if too much time passes, that can't be said."

"A complete fallout with this demoness is one thing; attacking her mansion is quite another, which might provoke retaliation from the Devil God."

"Yet this matter started because of me, how can I stand idly by?"

"So be it, let there be retaliation. Today, I, Xue Baobao, will be the unwelcome guest who storms in and takes him back."

Her thoughts raced, and in the blink of an eye, the Queen of Daughter Country had made up her mind.

Without wasting words on these ghostly spirit monsters and Foxes, she simply smirked coldly and waved her splendid sleeves.

The next moment, spring eyes appeared one after another outside Sunv's Mansion, instantly enveloping the area.

Amidst the exclamations of the fox women, all the spring eyes burst forth immediately.

In an instant, it was as if the Milky Way's celestial waters were pouring down, completely submerging Yin Susu's mansion.

The mansion itself also housed numerous forbidden techniques and defensive arrays.

But with no strong hand in control, and given the Queen of Daughter Country's decisive action, the sheer pressure was too great and instantly crushed all the forbidden techniques.

"Yin Susu!"

Striking successfully, the Queen of Daughter Country immediately entered with a murderously furious face.

Two beams of light jumped forth in front of her, Taisui Baby and Lian Jing'er.

The two little ones displayed worried expressions, fearing the Queen might lose her way; they led the way ahead with chirps and chatter.

Having interacted with Tao Qian for some time, the two children each had their own brilliant talents, and guided her along using their scent, directly heading towards the inner treasure vault.

Along the way, some female officials and generals from the mansion tried to stop them, but they were all female cultivators. Soaked by the Daughter Spring Water, no matter their Cultivation Realm, they were all rendered weak and exhausted, and the severest cases even began showing signs of pregnancy, wishing they could give birth on the spot.

How could they muster any strength to stop the furiously angry Queen Xue Baobao?

So the Queen pressed on and entered the treasure vault without much delay.

"Not good!"

Above Red Cloud Mountain, Tao Qian, who had just rushed over, blurted out an involuntary cry of alarm.

The worry in Tao Qian's eyes certainly wasn't because of the conflict that would arise between the Queen of Daughter Country and the Devil God Princess. He had long known their powers were equal; besides, Yin Susu was in a special state, and the Queen would surely not be harmed.

What Tao Qian worried about was his own reputation.

If his memory served him correctly, the scene in the Taiyin Pool at this moment was probably not suitable for public viewing.

Although Tao Qian's real body had left for the battlefield early and had not really had any interaction with Yin Susu, Bai Qin had controlled him not long ago to cast the "Little Happiness Zen Incarnation Secret Method" to summon the Joyful Avatar to please the Devil God Princess. To the extent that Tao Qian was completely unaware due to not stirring any desire.

While the truth was as such, it did nothing to mitigate the embarrassingly clear implications.

Upon this realization, Tao Qian hurriedly asked the Taixuan Ruyi Circle to enter the treasure vault as well.

This action, fortunately, brought the tripartite forces together at the Taiyin Pool.

Previously, Princess Yin Susu was mesmerized by the "Three Calamities Tribulation Qi" emanating from Tao Qian, instinctively making subduing him her priority, momentarily ignoring her own Taisui Baby craving, and subconsciously disregarding her Prince Consort Tang Xianzong, who was making a name for himself.

Now that Tao Qian resisted the Three Calamities, the extraordinary tribulation energy dispersed as a result.

Almost simultaneous with the entry of the Queen of Daughter Country and the real body of Tao Qian into the treasure vault, Yin Susu also snapped out of her pleasure-induced stupor.

She looked intently at the naked, enchanting little Daoist who had been cavorting lasciviously with her for so long, vanishing like a bubble, only to then see the fierce-looking Xue Baobao breaking in, and after that, spotting the golden circle wrapping around Tao Qian as he leaped in.

At first, she was stunned, then as if receiving a message from a distant place, she quickly checked the reality of the Bottom of the Taiyin Pool, confirming that the Heavenly Demon Blood Transformation Divine Needle bestowed by her father had indeed disappeared.

Understanding the cause and effect in an instant, even the tempestuous Devil God Princess Yin Susu turned pale.

She didn't care that she was still in her naked state, nor did she glance at the furiously entering Queen Xue Baobao.

With eyes that could captivate souls, she fixated on Tao Qian, who had just arrived, and furiously articulated each word,

"Good, truly skillful techniques."

"I never imagined that I, Yin Susu, would fall for the tricks of you, this little man."

"Using a secret method to bewitch me, employing the Joyful Zen to deceive me, but the real aim was to steal the treasures from the Bottom of the Taiyin Pool, intent on thwarting my husband's grand ambitions."

"My Prince Consort, along with an entire Devil God Army under his command, have all been ruined by your conspiracy in one fell swoop."

Chapter 163: The Devil Goddess Enchanted by Tribulation Energy, Yunhua Immortal Also Fortuned_2

"I hate, I hate so much."

At this moment, Yin Susu's emotions and words were all genuinely bursting forth from her heart, undeniably real.

What she expelled was, to some extent, also the truth.

However, Tao Qian was unwilling to bear such accusations and directly said,

"Princess, you are being completely unreasonable. You should know that it was you who abducted me. I resisted in every possible way, but after all, you are a Great Cultivator of the Cavernous Mystery Realm, and I am merely a little Daoist of the Qi Refining Realm. How could I be your opponent?"

"As for the many changes that happened subsequently, the princess must have just received news either from the remnants of the Devil God Army or from your father."

"All the plotting was done by Free Temple's Hundred Birds, and it really has little to do with me."

"If there really is a connection, I am also a victim of the princess's actions. If you seek vengeance, you should go to the Free Temple."

In just a few words, Tao Qian laid out the causes and effects.

Although speaking or not speaking made little difference since they were destined to be enemies from now on,

Tao Qian felt the need to speak up. He did not want to bear a reputation as a "little Daoist from the Spirit Treasure Sect who, in stealing exotic treasures, became the favored male courtesan of the Devil God's daughter."

If such a reputation tarnished him, how would he, Tao Qian, ever be able to mix in the Spirit Treasure Sect again, or become a Great Master who suppresses evil forces?

Although Yin Susu truly wanted to refute Tao Qian, having learned the causes and consequences, she knew that Tao Qian's words held no errors.

None of this should have happened.

At that time, Tao Qian was nearly out of Fumin, heading to the Penglai Sea.

Had there been no accidents, he would have journeyed northward to seek a mentor.

But by some odd chance, she had encountered him during a feast held by the Queen of Daughter Country. She wished to consume the Taisui Baby but suffered a loss of face due to him, and anger welled up. Then, two days after learning that the little Daoist had left Daughter Country, she immediately deployed the Heavenly Demon Secret Technique, planning to capture him, eat the baby first, and then torment this little Daoist to vent her anger.

Strangely enough, once she made her move, she inexplicably took a liking to the little Daoist.

She had ignored the delicious baby, intent only on capturing the little man to become her male courtesan, leading to many subsequent incidents. Mistake upon mistake ultimately destroyed her husband's foundation and ruined the possibility of gaining her father's further affection.

Thinking of this, Yin Susu felt her blood boiling with rage, anger attacking her heart, and her originally pale complexion instantly turned crimson.

"No, this isn't right."

"That old monk was only thinking of using you to steal treasures. At the time, he was far inside the Beautiful Corpse, how could he have helped you bewitch me."

"It's you, you little devil. What kind of magic skill did you use to so confound my divine soul and disrupt my composure?"

The more Yin Susu spoke, the smoother and angrier she got.

Now that she had sobered up, she immediately realized how bizarre her past behavior had been, especially the fact that she ignored the grand affair of her Prince Consort establishing the Devil Country, insisting instead on bringing this little man to indulge in joys at the Bottom of the Taiyin Pool. All these actions exuded an extremely strange flavor.

With this counter-question, Tao Qian was not really able to answer, for he, too, did not understand why Yin Susu had behaved so.

Just then, a delicate little head suddenly popped out from Tao Qian's chest.

The little demon elf from the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate raised her head proudly and said,

"I know, I know."

"You silly woman, you completely underestimate my Young Master. Let me, Zhong Doudou, tell you."

"My Young Master possesses divine talents and can resist the Three Calamities. Especially that third tribulation, which pulled even Southern Yue's Human Dao calamity; even the Spirit Treasure Sect has not seen such a person in hundreds of years."

"You silly woman, it would have been fine if you hadn't disturbed the Young Master. The moment you did, you were bound to be confused by the tribulation energy."

"That's why you started acting weird after abducting the Young Master and became desperately lustful."

"It was lucky that old monk knew the Joyful Zen Secret Technique, otherwise, I, Zhong Doudou, would have jumped out long ago and begged Grandpa Tianxing to chop you silly woman for daring to dream of stealing my Young Master's Essence Blood. You're deluding yourself."

"It's not too late now. With all this nonsense, Young Master, let's ask Grandpa Tianxing to slash her."

After speaking, Zhong Doudou turned her head to look at Tao Qian with hopeful eyes.

Even so, the girl did not forget to cling to Tao Qian's arms, showing a face reluctant to leave.

However, before the Demon-Slaying Sword could respond to her words,

The calm Taiyin Pool suddenly reacted violently; the peculiar mist instantly turned into a crimson blood fog, which swelled in the blink of an eye. Inside it, a blood staff and a sacred robe appeared, faintly visible.

The Heavenly Demon Blood Transformation Divine Needle and the Heavenly Demon Blood Bag, both Devil God treasures revealed themselves, immediately also provoking the Demon-slaying Sword and the Returning Immortal Mirror to emerge.

Both parties stood in confrontation, neither making a move.

Soon after, the surging blood mist formed a large hand that grabbed everything within the treasure vault, including the furious Yin Susu, and whisked them all away.

Just as it seemed the matter was concluded, Yin Susu, about to fully enter the bottom of the Taiyin Pool,

gave Tao Qian one last complex look in the final moment, and then with a sharp voice said, "Well played, Spirit Treasure True Cultivation, well played, Young Master, well played, Secret Demon Dark Child. I, Yin Susu, will remember you. There will be a long future ahead, and a day will come when I'll return the favor."

Despite being extremely reluctant, she was outmatched by the situation.

Unless the mysterious "Devil God" personally intervened, there was simply no way to harm Tao Qian who was under the protection of three Immortal Treasures.

Yin Susu could only leave behind a vicious threat before she was teleported away by the Devil God from afar.

As for her parting words "Secret Demon Dark Child," even the Queen of Daughter Country, who was an onlooker, paid no mind, taking it as nothing more than a splash of dirty water.

Once Yin Susu had left, the atmosphere instantly eased.

Sui and Lian Jing'er, with tears welling up in their eyes, both rushed towards Tao Qian.

Tao Qian quickly comforted them while also glancing at his Puppet Body that had been discarded to the side. With all matters here resolved and the clone's cultivation being inferior, it should have been destroyed.

However, after pondering for a moment, Tao Qian decided to collect it anyway.

At this time, the Queen of Daughter Country, who had been standing by for a while with a puzzled face, stepped forward.

Listening to their conversation, she caught some clues.

However, since she was not from Southern Yue, many detailed explanations were still needed from Tao Qian. With nothing to hide, Tao Qian informed her of Bai Qin's plans and the intricate follow-ups.

After hearing the account, even the well-informed queen showed a look of surprise on her beautiful face.

"To Resist the Three Calamities, to be entwined by causality, just in time for a great Human Dao calamity... that girl wasn't wrong, even in Spirit Treasure Sect, you are the first in hundreds of years. Once you've entered the Mountain Gate, you will surely be regarded as a rarity, avidly observed by those Immortals and Devil Immortals."

"It seems that it's not only Yin Susu who's been charmed by your tribulation energy. I, too, have been similarly influenced."

"That day, on a sudden whim, I wanted to stop you, only to find you so agreeable that I had to introduce Sister Yunhua to you."

"That's good, it means that fate has arrived."

"Just right, when you go to the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate and meet Sister Yunhua, remember to... for me..."

As the Queen of Daughter Country was speaking, Zhong Doudou seemed to realize something suddenly.

She jumped up and hustled over to the side of the shining golden circle, whispering urgently,

"Grandpa Taixuan, quick, let's go. This woman is a good friend of Aunt Yunhua and has been encouraging the Young Master to take Aunt Yunhua as his mentor."

"If this comes to pass, it won't just be the end for Dou Dou; the three grandpas will inevitably be chastised by the Master."

"Hmm."

No sooner had Zhong Doudou finished speaking than the Taixuan Ruyi Circle burst forth with golden light.

In an instant, it enveloped everyone in the area except the Queen of Daughter Country, tearing open the Void and leaping inside. In the blink of an eye, they vanished without a trace.

Leaving only the Queen of Daughter Country standing there, stunned for a moment.

One second she was speaking with her nephew, and the next, he was gone?

Nevertheless, the queen was no ordinary person, and she had heard everything Zhong Doudou had said quite clearly.

A thoughtful expression appeared in her eyes, and she quickly realized everything, her face showing a conflicted look as she pondered,

"The Taixuan Ruyi Circle, the Heavenly Punishment Demon-Slaying Sword, the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror... to send these three treasures to fetch someone, the 'Master' the girl spoke of must be that True Monarch."

"It makes sense, after all; this little Daoist is indeed exceptionally talented, and it's normal for that True Monarch to have taken an interest in him beforehand."

"But what should I do now?"

"Before this, I had already sent a message to Sister Yunhua."

"Now it seems I was rash; that tribulation energy is indeed formidable, ensnaring even me."

"Well then, I should write another letter. It's fortunate that Sister Yunhua has a very good relationship with that True Monarch; otherwise, this could have caused a rift."

"However, I do envy him; this little Daoist has exceptional talents and means. Once he enters the Spirit Treasure Sect for cultivation, it won't be more than a decade or two before we meet again, and by then, I may well have to address him as Daoist."

Chapter 164 The Name of Demon City Has a Reason, the Laws of the World Are Not Longlasting

Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, above the clouds.

A meteor-like golden light was moving forward; though it seemed slow, it was actually fast, crossing a thousand miles in the blink of an eye. This apparent "slow motion" was to accommodate the group of people within its circle, especially the figure seated cross-legged at the center. It was a young Daoist, who, at the moment, was closing his eyes in deep concentration, seemingly in a state of cultivation.

However, it was not so. Tao Qian was indeed meditating, but he was not advancing in his cultivation.

It wasn't that he didn't want to, but rather that he couldn't.

Before encountering the third calamity, Tao Qian had already reached the Perfection of the Qi Refining Realm, his body had cultivated the Nine Extremes Immortal Spirit Qi, he possessed an Innate Dao Seed, and had obtained the Taishang Treasure No-leak Body.

As for the Cultivation Realm and Divine Power Talent, there was temporarily no possibility of advancement.

If it hadn't been for the limiting factors, Tao Qian might have already advanced three levels by now after surviving the three calamities and being refined by the Human Dao Destiny.

Unfortunately, beyond the Qi Refining Realm was the crucial Foundation Establishment Realm for cultivators.

To establish foundation!

Yet, one must be in the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate.

The mysterious master, whom he hadn't yet met, had sent the Three Great Immortal Treasures to guide him here, clearly considering this.

Had Tao Qian continued towards the mountain gate in his current state, he might have faced many adversities along the way.

Currently, the Immortal Spirit Qi in Tao Qian's body was surging, and his Dao Seed seemed eager to challenge the gates of the Great Dao... forcing Tao Qian to occasionally use the "Spirit Treasure Nourishing Spirit Technique" to calm the internal movements, a technique brought by a girl named Zhong Doudou, originating from his prophetic future master.

After dozens of breaths, Tao Qian revived himself.

Upon opening his eyes, he saw a delicately beautiful face approaching close.

It was Zhong Doudou herself. Although their acquaintance was brief, this girl was natural and forward, considering herself Tao Qian's maid, and she was utterly open about her origins and her true nature in front of him.

The girl's original species was not of the Human Clan but belonged to a special life form called the "Crystal Clan."

Each individual within the clan possessed innate divine powers.

And her branch of the Crystal Clan relied entirely on Tao Qian's mysterious master.

Zhong Doudou claimed she was the best at fighting, the most beautiful, and the cleverest... Tao Qian found all three questionable, for now.

But she was truly naive and carefree.

In such a short time, this young girl had already fully bonded with Shan Jiu, Little Age, and Lian Jing'er.

However, they had occasional small conflicts.

At this moment, seeing Tao Qian awaken, Zhong Doudou immediately threw herself into her young master's arms.

While her young master wasn't paying attention, she would sneak in a few draws of Qi, and pointing at the innocent-looking, green-haired Shan Jiu not far away, she immediately complained:

"Young Master, you must uphold justice! I said I wanted to be the big sister, but this green head insists he is older than me. How can I bear this?"

"I think this green head has malicious intentions, trying to take my place as Zhong Doudou. This won't do. I can let other things slide, but when it comes to being in Young Master's arms, I, Zhong Doudou, must be first. He doesn't even deserve to be second. Who ever heard of a wild leek demon in a young master's arms?"

"If the young master wants to look better, I, Dou Dou, can rent the second and third positions to Aunt Yunhua's small marten or Aunt Fox's little fox. They are both extremely beautiful and will surely make you the most prestigious among your peers."

"This Wild Leek Demon is shameless, claiming an immediate connection and similar fortune with the young master, wanting to follow and cultivate. Humph, I think he's just coveting the young master's body."

As she spoke, the girl firmly believed in what she said, her face full of conviction.

Seeing this left Tao Qian speechless. Well, it seems he, Master Tao, is being treated like a heavenly treasure, and beyond fighting for a higher seating, she even plans to start trading like a middleman?

Tao Qian wanted to flick her forehead but then remembered the pitiful swelling at his fingertip from last time.

Zhong Doudou's may or may not have lied about other things, but the hardness of her body was indeed real.

In her own words: "I, Zhong Doudou, am unafraid of fire or water, immune to swords and blades, have a treasure body without faults, and a clear divine soul, perfect for handling."

Just as Tao Qian was mediating the conflicts among the children, causing his head to ache slightly,

suddenly, the space beside him cracked open, revealing the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror leaping out.

The surface of the mirror flashed with brilliance, then spat out a mottled and dim relic.

Needless to say, it was the Buddha Bird Relic from Bai Qin, cleansed by Human Dao Destiny after Tao Qian survived the intense third calamity, now devoid of any demon thoughts.

Each of the one hundred Dharma-protecting Buddha Bird Vajras contained inside possessed extremely terrifying combat power. With enough mana, using this relic could grant one fearsome battle capabilities.

Yet combat was just one of the many modest functions of the relic.

Its true great use was far more astonishing than mere combat.

As the mottled relic returned to Tao Qian's hand, a voice emerged from the mirror, deep and magnetic, sounding like a middle-aged man,

"Little Peach has indeed faced extraordinary fortune in surviving the Three Calamities."

"I have sealed this Buddha Bird Relic for you, so you needn't worry about it escaping as before, when the bald monks from the Great Freedom Temple used Bai Qin's reincarnation body's convenience, covertly applying Buddhist law."

"In fact, that was the only instance. That so-called reincarnation body of Bai Qin, afflicted with Karmic Fire, forcibly used a slight, almost non-existent causality link to remotely activate the relic. In that instant, he was directly killed, and the subsequent interference was just other monks from the Great Freedom Temple messing around."

Chapter 165 The Name of Demon City Has a Reason, the Laws of the World Are Not Longlasting_2

"However, reinforcing the seal is indeed necessary, after all, it's a Buddha Treasure refined by the Great Freedom Dharma, and although you have branded your True Spirit into it, you haven't cultivated the profound Buddhist Law, and for the time being, you cannot unleash the efficacy of the Buddha Bird relic. On the contrary, it might even be used by the Great Freedom Temple to harm you in the shadows."

"Once you return to the Mountain Gate, it would be best to have the True Monarch deal with this relic."

"When you have entered the Cavernous Mystery Realm, the Realm of Ultimate Happiness, with this relic, you can establish a new lineage, and even become an ancestral master."

"The myriad Magic Skills contained within this Buddha Bird relic, if assembled together, could indeed be called the great 'Bai Qin Scripture.' Once this new lineage is established, although it cannot be compared with the major Buddhist Temples, it can still develop into a vast power, which would greatly benefit your Dao Path."

"Such a chance is something not even the True Monarchs encountered in their youth, and for a Qi Refining Realm child like you, your fortune is truly inconceivable."

"How odd, it really is strange."

"Little Peach, are you truly not some lost ancestor of my Spirit Treasure Sect?"

As he spoke, the Returning Immortal Mirror moved into view in front of Tao Qian, using its slick surface to reflect him.

This juvenile behavior was obviously not the first instance.

Several hours had passed since Tao Qian left Southern Yue, and through this time of interaction,

He had come to understand the personalities of the three Immortal Treasures that had come to guide him.

First was the Taixuan Ruyi Circle, which seemed like a sullen gourd; Tao Qian could sense it had a True Spirit within, but it never spoke.

While the Heavenly Punishment Demon-Slaying Sword's True Spirit seemed like an elder, not talkative, but extremely steady.

Only the Spirit Treasure Returning Immortal Mirror, it wouldn't matter if it were just talkative, but it even gave nicknames to people on a whim.

The victims started with Zhong Doudou, then Shan Jiu, Little Age and Lian Jing'er, none were spared.

And before even arriving at Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, he, Tao Qian, had already acquired the nickname "Little Peach," his several protests all in vain.

If he didn't consider that he couldn't defeat this Immortal Treasure, he, Master Tao Da, would have already shown his might.

He had no choice but to ignore it and revisit the recent third calamity and many gains after overcoming it.

"The Buddha Bird relic is, of course, the greatest benefit."

"Then there's that Human Dao Destiny, according to the Returning Immortal Mirror, although most of the destiny was consumed by the relic, the small remainder was absorbed by my Taishang Spiritual Treasure No-leak Body, which could directly enhance my fortune, opportunities, and lifespan among others, all invisible great benefits."

"Besides these two, I've obtained a 'Joyful Zen Incarnation Secret Method' from Bai Qin, which is unlikely to be necessary, but it's good to learn more Secret Techniques."

"Just a pity, I didn't manage to learn that Great Freedom Heart Light Escape Technique, nor the whole set of that extremely effective Little Reincarnation Formless Secret Method, nor the 'Bu Jue Guanyin Root Seal' Bai Qin used to ambush the Beautiful Corpse... These Divine Power Skills are indeed high-end, and I envy them."

"But if I haven't learned, then I haven't learned. Once I join the Spirit Treasure Sect, there certainly won't be a shortage of such profound Magic Skills."

Upon this thought, Tao Qian's mood was excellent.

Through the auspicious clouds attracted by the Immortal Spiritual Qi around him, his gaze couldn't help but look down at the Shen Zhou Holy Land below.

After several hours of swift travel, the group had thoroughly left Daze Province and Southern Yue, crossing many provinces in between.

Such a journey, along with the splendid scenes glimpsed along the way,

made Tao Qian once again confirm: although there are some seemingly connections with his former world, this one is definitely a completely different world.

First and foremost, size-wise, it's simply not on the same level.

Moreover, the local customs and practices of many provinces made Tao Qian feel alienated whilst broadening his perspectives.

Like the province named Daze Province they had passed through not long ago.

The territory was even larger than Southern Yue, famous throughout the world for its great rivers, lakes, and marshes, with extremely peculiar weather and customs different from other provinces, earning it the nickname 'Daze Water Country.'

There are quite a few provinces like Daze Province.

Tao Qian, along the way, took in everything clearly, enriching his knowledge greatly.

At the same time, it also made Tao Qian more aware of just how rotten and dangerous the current situation of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty is.

"It's hard to imagine that the court could control such an enormous territory with dozens of provinces as large as Southern Yue and a population that might well exceed several billion. No wonder, with internal strife and external threats, it's not surprising that the dynasty is showing signs of imminent collapse."

"Throughout the journey across many provinces, although none were as chaotic as Southern Yue before, they were all not clean and pure."

"The Taiping Army, Devil God Army, White Lotus Rebels, and heroes... and so on, are innumerable."

"Some slightly smaller provinces have even been covertly controlled by 'modern warlords' like Ji Xianxian."

"And then there are the Western Countries, each seemingly has a force supporting it that is not weaker than the Buddhist and Daoist Sects; initially winning a war or two, but recently with the court taking action and the support of the Cultivation World, they have fought and won several major battles, severely beating the Western Alliance Army."

"After suffering such blows, the countries changed their strategies, and began infiltrating the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty by providing Western Cultivation Skills, Alien Technology, and many powerful weapons for the commoners to use, among other things."

"Including Southern Yue and other provinces, nowadays all exhibit a special climate of transition between old and new eras and the impact of Western influence."

"Complex, truly complex, with such significant epochal impacts arriving, I, a mere Qi Refining Realm cultivator, should quickly join the Mountain Gate and rush to Foundation Establishment, then Transcend Mortality, before charging towards the Cavernous Mystery Realm..."

Chapter 166 The Name of Demon City Has a Reason, the Laws of the World Are Not Longlasting_3

Tao Qian's mind was preoccupied with his own wild fantasies.

Suddenly, two beams of light flashed by his side, revealing the "Heavenly Punishment Demon-Slaying Sword" and "Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror" leaping out again.

And from the aura they emitted, it seemed that these celestial weapons, including the Taixuan Ruyi Circle, were all somewhat tense.

Just as Tao Qian was puzzled, Zhong Doudou seemed to guess something, and suddenly leaned forward over the clouds to look down, then exclaimed, "It's the Demon City!"

After saying this, the girl turned her head to look at the two celestial weapons, and directly asked, "Grandpa Tianxing, when we came here, you said the territory of the Demon City was quite dangerous. Although this path is the quickest, if it's really too perilous, why don't we take a detour? The safety of the Young Master is of the utmost importance."

She had barely finished speaking when she heard the three celestial weapons respond in turn.

"Do not detour."

This short and undoubted reply came from the Demon-slaying Sword.

Next was the Taixuan Ruyi Circle, the vigorous and glittering circle quivered slightly, turning into Golden Light that cut through the sky—clearly indicating its stance.

The Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror quickly responded too, and took the opportunity to clarify for Tao Qian,

"The reason why this territory is called the Demon City is that many years ago, a demonic catastrophe broke out here. An Outer Realm Demon Lord, owing to some accident, descended upon this realm. After indulging in the prosperity of the mortal world, this demon actually became reluctant to return and even planned to summon many of his subordinates to join in the fun of playing Emperor."

"Such actions, naturally, were not permitted by the Cultivation World, hence a great war erupted."

"Although that Demon Lord was eventually expelled back to his own realm, the place of his body seizing and birth was heavily tainted by demonic qi and became a favored destination for many of the Evil Demons in the Cultivation World. Even the likes of Evil Sect, Secret Demon Sect, and Demon Buddha Buddhist Temple, as well as some Outer Realm Demon Lords, have set up branches and offices there."

"Over time, it gained the name 'Demon City'."

"Now, nobody knows exactly how many demons are hidden within its bounds, but one thing is for sure: one of True Monarch's arch-enemies resides within the Demon City all year round."

"Passersby might not encounter anything."

"But we three have followed the True Monarch for too long, that demon will surely recognize us, and if he has the intention, he might take action."

"Nevertheless, even so, we cannot take a detour. We also have you, Little Peach, and you too represent the face of True Monarch. To detour out of fear of that demon is to needlessly diminish our own prestige."

"Be assured, even if that demon really takes action, we three can handle it."

"As if Brother Heavenly Punishment is a vegetarian, humph."

"Besides, since we are so close to the Penglai Sea, if that Old Demon really makes a move, it will certainly provoke True Monarch. Then he will suffer a great loss again. Let me tell you secretly, the Old Demon has challenged the True Monarch more than a dozen times without a single victory. He really fights and loses time and again, not seeming to tire of it."

After hearing these secrets, Tao Qian suddenly felt there was an advantage to the chattering nature of the Returning Immortal Mirror.

Thinking it over, Tao Qian felt there was something unreasonable about what he had heard and asked subconsciously, "Ancestor God Forbidden Technique, Longevity Barrier, with such a great incident as a demonic catastrophe, wouldn't it be erased by the Forbidden Law Barrier?"

Upon hearing this question and its key terms, the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror trembled and then replied, "The Ancestor God Forbidden Technique was indeed strict when it was first established. But as years went by, along with the influence of those beings in the background... after a thousand years, some loopholes began to appear. Those Little Demons would never find them, but the Major Sects and Great Demons had long been aware."

"Now it has completely shattered, which perhaps is the work of fate."

"Laws of the world have always been so, never lasting."

Chapter 167: A Good Hour in the Penglai Sea, Ten Thousand Immortals Coming to Biyou Palace

The answers provided by the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror had indeed resolved a long-standing confusion in Tao Qian's heart.

He had long heard of the mighty power of the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique, which was said to protect countless commoners from the encroachment of transcendent deceitful objects, demons, and ghosts.

According to the Longevity History Books he had studied from his original self, this seemed to be true.

However, there were some discrepancies, as certain rumored incidents indicated that quite a few demons had escaped the annihilation of the Forbidden Law Barrier. Now, hearing that "even the Forbidden Technique has its flaws" rounded out the explanation somewhat.

"That the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique has protected this territory for over two thousand years, despite its flaws, is indeed extraordinary."

"For an Immortal Treasure like the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror that has existed for such a long age, one might say that no worldly law lasts forever, but for generations of common people, this Forbidden Technique has indeed been a long-standing blessing for the Human Clan."

"Unfortunately, it's still broken."

While Tao Qian was contemplating this, suddenly, a few little things perched in the clouds all exclaimed in surprise.

From their tone, it was not an issue of danger but rather that they had seen some rare spectacle.

Zhong Doudou was the most eager, turning to Tao Qian with excitement and shouting, "Young Master, look quickly, the people of the Human Clan below seem to be having a wedding, and it's quite the event. There's a huge crowd, and they've rigged up several iron contraptions floating on the water, quite a few of them flying in the air, which is really interesting, though a bit noisy."

Tao Qian, upon hearing this, couldn't help but express surprise.

For a moment, he couldn't figure out what scene Zhong Doudou was describing. He casually waved away some of the auspicious cloud mist and also looked downwards.

With his current eyesight, even at a great distance, it posed no hinderance.

He happened to see the territory below called "Demon City," where the estuary port, far busier than the Seeking Immortal Pier by ten or a hundred times, had towering cement buildings reminiscent of those from Tao Qian's previous life, but these structures, which combined characteristics of Longevity Heavenly Dynasty and the styles of Western Countries, were somewhat different from his previous life, pulling Tao Qian back to the present.

Looking further, Tao Qian saw many uniquely styled, either ornate or intricate neon signs, Western street lamps, and brass chandeliers; even more, there were large, eye-catching billboards hanging on the buildings adorned with gold and silver, each featuring glamorous magazine girls advertising cigarettes, soda, Western liquor, and other exotic items like typewriters.

These sights deeply astonished Tao Qian.

At the same time, this territory also instilled in him an intense sense of familiarity.

If it were not for his pursuit of cultivation and truth, he would certainly have immersed himself there to take a longer look.

It was at this moment, suddenly, the roaring of cannon fire echoed through the earth and skies.

Tao Qian then looked towards the dock area and indeed, it was swelling with people as far as the eye could see.

The large number of Demon City commoners, judging by their clothing and complexion, seemed slightly better off than those in Seeking Immortal County, though only marginally.

But the spirit of reveling in the spectacle was no different.

At this moment, they crowded the dock, all watching the steam airships circling in the sky and an extremely majestic and domineering fleet cutting through the waves toward the front. The iron battleship Tao Qian had once seen at Seeking Immortal Pier, if it were in this current fleet, would probably be positioned at the very back, possibly mixed among the smaller ships.

The most terrifying ship was arguably the one at the forefront.

Despite decorations for festivity, making it resemble a giant red ark, ignoring the surface decorations revealed the icy body below, the layers of mysterious talisman seals, and each red-ribbon-tied cannon muzzle... The recent cannon fire came precisely from these warships and the extremely strict military on board.

And the destination of their meeting was another fleet coming from the far seas.

With vast differences in design between the two sides but similar in scale, the threatening aura emitted was also comparable.

With the booms, everyone's gaze was drawn to two figures.

A man and a woman!

Each standing at the bow of the foremost ship of their respective fleets.

On Demon City's side was a highly handsome young man, tall and exquisitely featured, dressed as a groom, his inherently noble demeanor hard to conceal.

Opposite him on the foreign fleet, the woman dressed as a bride was not wearing the typical bridal attire of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, but rather what was distinctly foreign regalia, a "bridal gown" in pure white, along with a crystal crown and light veil covering her face, her stature no less imposing than that of the groom.

The wild sea breeze not only revealed the bride's curvaceous and alluring figure, making countless onlookers gulp, but also inadvertently lifted the veil, momentarily exposing a face of exotic beauty, both breathtaking and startling.

Though most commoners lacked the vision to see clearly, there were still many martial artists and cultivators among the crowd who could.

In a moment, there was an uproar everywhere.

Logically, with such unsynchronized attire, the scene should have been awkward.

But the inherent nobility in both individuals, as well as an aura that ordinary people couldn't possess, made the scene both majestic and harmoniously beautiful.

Such an unusual spectacle also made Tao Qian and his companions take a few extra glances.

Tao Qian even cast a spell directly, listening intently to the many noises from the land below, thereby learning the origin of this peculiar wedding.

"Hey, hey, don't push, will you?"

"Who is this sissy? If you think it's too crowded, just roll back home. Why bother staying to look?"

Chapter 168: A Good Hour in the Penglai Sea, Ten Thousand Immortals Coming to Biyou Palace_2

"Look at that bride, her eyes are so blue, just like cat's eye gemstones, too beautiful, this telescope was really worth buying, truly a fantastic item."

"You know nothing, her bosom is the true top grade, no worries about lacking milk even with a triad of kids."

"Vulgar. Wasting a Rashamon girl by making her carry your child is the real travesty; she is the pinnacle of beauty in this world. Even the Oirans I've seen in the Imperial City can't compare to her. Ninth Prince is truly lucky."

"Shush, pointing fingers and commenting on the future Crown Princess Consort? I think you lot don't want to live anymore. With those Forbidden Army soldiers being all ears and eyes, just one stray Demon Arrow from afar could end your lives."

"Crown Princess Consort? That's still far off, if we talk military achievements, Ninth Prince might be leading, but Eighth Prince, Fourth Prince, and the Eldest Prince aren't losing ground either. Who will finally claim the crown prince's position remains unknown."

"Ninth Prince is said to be leading, though he's actually the bottom of the barrel. The position of Admiral he desperately scrambled for was actually discarded by the other princes. If not for that, how would he, a prince affiliated with the Demon Sect, get a chance?"

"Have you heard about that battle? Ninth Prince led the naval fleet, fought tirelessly for seven days and nights, utilized all forms of battle tactics and strategies, finally succeeded in defeating the Western Countries' naval alliance, forcing Rashamon Country to marry its king's most beloved princess to him."

...

Numerous noises entered his ears, and Tao Qian blinked to unravel the reason for this grand scene, as well as the current situation of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty Imperial Family.

"A new modern navy was formed by the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty recently. After various power plays, Ninth Prince won the command and quickly defeated the Western Alliance Army, eventually coercing the king of Rashamon to marry off his daughter... This marriage is considered by many as a sign indicating Ninth Prince has gained the upper hand in the contention for the crown prince."

"The reason for choosing Demon City as the meeting place for the wedding is because it is the provincial capital of the Luo Mo Province, which is nominally the fief of Ninth Prince."

"Almost everyone knows that nearly every prince with hopes on the crown has the support of a Major Sect behind them."

"Due to many signs during the war, many cultivators speculate that a Demon Major Sect is likely backing the Ninth Prince."

Tao Qian quickly processed the information he heard, then couldn't help but cast a probing glance at that Ninth Prince.

Perhaps due to the gap in their cultivation levels, or maybe because the other possessed an Exotic Treasure, his glance yielded no results.

However, soon the talkative Returning Immortal Mirror noticed Tao Qian's action, and used its smooth mirror face to reflect on that Ninth Prince from afar.

The next moment, Tao Qian only heard a snicker from within the mirror, and then the Mirror Spirit said:

"This lad is the current Ninth Prince, cultivating the 'Six Desires Heavenly Demon Scripture' from the Taishang Demon Sect, often self-proclaimed as the Demon Sect's True Lineage. In reality, they have been repeatedly bullied and beaten by the Evil Sect and Demon Buddha Temple during many internal conflicts within the Demon Path, and even before the Secret Demon Sect disintegrated, they also bullied them."

"The Taishang Demon Sect indeed has an extraordinary origin, just temporarily lacks reliance and can't restore the ancient grandeur."

"However, these demons, now degenerated to support a mortal prince to vie for fortune, is also laughable."

"Ah, disaster approaching?"

"The groom is doomed. Tomorrow at a fortunate hour, a group of girls from the Taiping Dao are set to assassinate this prince. While they won't kill him, they will certainly destroy his lineage."

"It's also sad, marrying a mesmerizing Rashamon girl with great pomp and circumstance, yet on his wedding day he's sabotaged by Princess Taiping."

As he spoke, Tao Qian even heard the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror beginning to sing.

The tone brimming with joy at the misfortune was so apparent that even the little ones like Lian Jing'er could discern it—a truly vile-tempered Immortal Treasure.

However, the power of this Immortal Mirror also indeed made Tao Qian shift his gaze; earlier, in Southern Yue, being able to trace the past and clear causality was enough.

Now, it could even foresee tomorrow's scene?

Tao Qian was surprised, and this was also detected by the Mirror Spirit. The ancient mirror emitted a bright glow and then proudly said:

"I am the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror, following the True Monarch for a period only slightly shorter than Heavenly Punishment elder brother."

"Don't think the True Monarch has various Exotic Treasures tucked away; he still calls me Returning Immortal elder brother."

"Though I'm not skilled in slaughter, apart from that, I can indeed claim infinite uses, even the True Monarch cannot bear to part with me for a moment."

"To see causality and reclaim the past is but a small matter."

"Look at that Rashamon girl, she is also carrying a lot of treasures to prevent prying, yet they still can't resist my Returning Immortal Mirror light."

"Young Master, do you want to see what color of bellyband she's wearing?"

"Come, come, see my capability."

"No... no need!"

Hearing the initial boasting of the Returning Immortal Mirror was one thing, but as it continued, Tao Qian immediately changed his expression and hastily spoke up to stop it.

What a joke?

He, Master Tao, was he that kind of person?

Merely passing by and wanting to see someone else's bride's bellyband, isn't that shameful?

At that moment, Tao Qian also remembered the promise he made when Zhong Doudou first summoned this treasure—it was to let Dou Dou lead it into the immortal maidens' bathhouse.

Well, it turns out it's a habitual offender.

After mentally criticizing for a few moments, Tao Qian thought twice, withdrew his curious gaze, and then had Zhong Doudou, Shan Jiu, Little Age, Lian Jing'er all sit down properly as well.

Chapter 169 A Good Hour in the Penglai Sea, Ten Thousand Immortals Coming to Biyou Palace_3

He then respectfully addressed the Taixuan Ruyi Circle that had been carrying them all along:

"Grandpa Taixuan, I have just circulated the Spirit Treasure Nourishing Spirit Technique, which should sustain me for some hours."

"Since we are not far from the Penglai Sea, why not ask Grandpa Taixuan to rally his spirits and head straight to the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate?"

"Under the protection of the True Monarch, I too wish to complete my initiation ceremony soon, so that I may cultivate the Spirit Treasure Sublime Dharma with peace of mind."

As soon as Tao Qian finished speaking, the previously stable Taixuan Ruyi Circle

suddenly burst into splendid brilliance, enveloping everyone and transforming into a streak of golden light that broke through the Void at the speed of Subterranean Evasion, swiftly crossing the vast sea and disappearing into the clouds.

As soon as they left, within the warship dressed as a giant red mansion, called "Sea Suppression",

Inside the control room, the image of a valiant middle-aged man, the Ninth Prince's chief bodyguard, and an old man in a black robe, both originally had faces full of tension, sweating profusely as if facing some terrifying threat.

Only at this moment, feeling something, they both relaxed.

"Have they gone?"

The chief bodyguard, still frightened, turned his head and asked.

The old man, using his mana to evaporate his sweat, then nodded and replied, "Yes, they have indeed gone."

The chief bodyguard, still frowning, asked in confusion, "Why would those three Immortal Treasures mobilize together and purposely pass through Demon City? Could it be they were targeting the Young Master?"

The old man also solemnly pondered for a moment, then shook his head and answered, "No. That True Monarch is too proud and aloof to concern himself with the Master or the Young Master's matters, and he would not send those three treasures for any purpose. As for passing through by chance? Probably just to avoid a detour, since Immortal Treasures have spirits and wouldn't want to tarnish their master's reputation."

As he uttered the last sentence, a bitter smile appeared on the old man's face, and he added, "It's a pity the Master left his residence over the Young Master's affair, otherwise, with the Master's temperament,

he might have used his spell to intercept those three treasures... It's okay for us, but provoking that Heavenly Punishment Demon-Slaying Sword might have ended us in annihilation."

...

Tao Qian and his group, of course, did not know about this conversation.

After the Ruyi Circle began utilizing Subterranean Evasion Speed seriously, Tao Qian and the few little ones only felt the world spinning around, unaware of how many seas and stunning vistas they were passing.

Only 15 minutes later, when the Ruyi Circle burst out from the Void, Tao Qian was immediately confronted with an extremely terrifying sight.

It seemed to be the edge of the world right ahead.

In Tao Qian's eyes, no further path could be reflected, only seeing endless storms converging from all directions at that endpoint.

"Is that the location of Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate, Penglai Sea, Biyou Palace?"

Tao Qian had just asked this question.

Suddenly, a series of thunderous noises erupted in his mind, more intense and numerous than ever before, as if numerous war drums had moved into his mind and started pounding frantically.

Accompanied by this commotion, Tao Qian's eyes immediately reflected streaks of dawn light shooting from all directions toward this place.

In an instant, Tao Qian felt as if he was in the polar regions, suddenly seeing those billions of clouds and radiant auroras.

Just as the Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror and Heavenly Punishment Demon-Slaying Sword leapt out together, the solemn voice of the Mirror Spirit entered his ears:

"Young Master, you're really lucky today, you're about to see some splendid sights."

"It's a propitious hour in the Penglai Sea, Ten Thousand Immortals Coming to Biyou Palace."

Chapter 170 Yunhua Immortal's Spiritual Resonance Stirred, Daughter Palace Master Has Sent a Message

Tao Qian heard the voice of the Mirror Spirit as the Taixuan Ruyi Circle still enveloped everyone, transforming into a beam of golden light that shot into the endless storm.

However, it seemed that the Immortal Treasure slowed down slightly to allow Tao Qian, the new disciple, to witness the magnificent sight.

Around him, the gray, stormy skies blocked out the sun, completely obscuring the view of the Bibo below. The storm seemed to arise from nowhere and was unceasing, blowing lifetime after lifetime, harming any life that entered; to withstand even a moment or two was to be reduced to white skeletal remains, with the soul returning to darkness.

However, when it reached Tao Qian, all the storms were blocked by the Taixuan Golden Light.

The Spirit Treasure Rejuvenation Mirror then explained, "This is the Nine Prisons of Ghosts Wind, the outer defensive Forbidden Technique of the Penglai Sea. It has no source and is inexhaustible. Only Cultivators possessing the Spirit Treasure Immortal Spirit Qi can pass through it; any others who enter, even if they withstand it, would instantly trigger the real Forbidden Big Array, and then they will face more than just a mere ghost storm."

As soon as the Mirror Spirit finished speaking, Tao Qian didn't have time to ask anything else.

His eyes no longer had a moment's rest.

For at that moment, within the storm, myriad colors of radiant light and thousands of Evasion Lights surged into motion.

What had been a scene of desolate horror transformed into a sanctified Immortal landscape with the arrival of the auspicious clouds and radiance.

First, Tao Qian heard the sound of a valley whale's call, and then he saw a snow-white Cloud Whale treating the sky as the sea, its body undulating as it swam gracefully through, and atop its head was an old man dressed in a straw coat, wearing a bamboo hat, holding a fishing rod, his body swirling with Immortal Qi, enveloping even the Cloud Whale.

Before Tao Qian could marvel, he suddenly saw, to the side, a large cluster of multicolored auspicious clouds, from which soft deer calls emerged. Six multicolored deer appeared, each with cloistered Daoists of archaic visage seated on their backs, unseemingly of modern men.

As the deer call ended, a burst of refined and eloquent music played, and above, enveloped in colorful clouds and mist, he saw about a dozen plump, snowy-white female cultivators, each with their hair up in a high bun, draped in Red Silk, wearing tight-sleeved short tops and trailing long skirts, their waists adorned with silk ribbons, partially revealing their dignified and noble statures like ladies of nobility.

As Tao Qian's gaze was drawn elsewhere, he suddenly heard a dragon roar to his right and saw dozens of creatures resembling Jiao Dragons with slender bodies filled with divine power burst through. Each Exotic Beast had one or several Cultivators in dark fitted attire, wearing jade masks, talking and laughing loudly, truly not ordinary people.

Hardly had he observed for a moment when a sky-high building ship plunged into the storm, encircled by fire clouds and accompanied by thunder, various flags of the Immortal Banner fluttering, Human Clan Cultivators moving about, some beating drums, others ringing bells, with the sounds of stringed and wind music incessantly filling the air, as if they were orchestrating a symphony to break the array with grandeur.

These Human Clan Cultivators already astounded Tao Qian beyond measure; whether it was the feel of their energy or their external demeanor, they made Tao Qian experience what is called the aura of a Great Sect.

After observing the Human Clan, soon reflections of non-human immortals started appearing in Tao Qian's eyes.

Like below in the dark, deep Bibo waters, a large mass of shadow drifted by, akin to seaweed—lengths of pitch-black hair spread out, covering an entire small island, with a delicate Lady sitting at the front end, her skin pale, holding a wooden comb, slowly tending to her long hair.

This scene, beautiful as it was, even an ordinary person could guess that this woman was not human but some form of "spirit charm Deceitful Object," with a tender, pitiful Immortal Qi that involuntarily evoked pity and a desire for closeness.

Not far behind this hair demon, there appeared a half-person, half-snake being, donning an Iron Crown and bright yellow robe, holding a bronze longsword, dressed like a member of the mortal Imperial Family. His body, as vast as a palace, tore through the storm, treating it as casually as if he was strolling through his own garden.

Suddenly, Tao Qian heard the sound of a Golden Bell echoing around him, and saw the ghostly wind part to allow a procession of about a hundred skeletons carrying a Bone Sedan with a silk cushion atop, seating what seemed to be a corpse made of crystal, from which rich Immortal Spirit Qi billowed.

Then came the sound of laughter, and a burst of bright fiery clouds entered the scene, containing about a dozen children dressed in odd costumes, with horns on their heads and red pupils, where intense heat surged wherever they passed.

As Tao Qian looked around, Golden Radiance passed by, and clouds of smoke curled up, with dozens of evidently non-human Devil Immortals riding their Evasion Lights swiftly across.

Before he could get a clear look, the Void suddenly began to tremble.

Following a loud roar and laughter, about a dozen giants appeared to be running through the sky into the eye of the storm, each one distinct and carrying a massive Barbaric weapon forged from some type of copper material.

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In just a few breaths, Tao Qian felt his horizons had been vastly broadened.

Just as he was about to ask Zhong Doudou or the Returning Immortal Mirror which of the known "Ten Thousand Immortals" these were,

Suddenly, he heard the movement of icy springs and the tinkling of bells, and saw clouds and rain gather above his head in the storm, as a towering Goddess-like apparition appeared and then disintegrated in an instant, almost crossing the storm to enter the domain of the Spirit Treasure Heaven and Earth.

But suddenly, as if sensing something, she solidified again.

Her head, adorned with a luxurious crown, bowed down, and just then, he saw the glittering circle and on either side, two Immortal Treasures accompanied by a procession of several little beings, and the central figure of a delicate little Daoist sitting cross-legged.

This young Daoist seemed like a fledgling unacquainted with the world, looking here and there, overwhelmed, his eyes filled with wonder.