

## Longevity 331

Chapter 331: Demon Blood and Flesh Crushed into Mud, The Disaster Star Tao Qian Troubles All People\_3

"Everyone as dragons? Longevity Immortal Dynasty?"

Thoughts flashing to this point, Tao Qian shook his head at the bottom of his heart.

What he saw at the moment actually could not yet convince him.

"National Salvation Congress acts bold enough, but they, including myself, are touching upon a level that is too low."

"Although I have built my Dao Foundation and entered the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, leaving most cultivators far behind, an endless mist still lies before my eyes."

"Like the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique, what exactly is the Longevity Barrier?"

"And what about the Outer Realm Evil Gods? What kind of existence are they?"

"Daoist Transformation, Tribulation Immortals, and the legendary Chaos Realm, what kind of power do they possess?"

"It's possible that the people of National Salvation Congress could work their whole lives, truly overturn the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, and then randomly, a Tribulation Immortal appears and destroys all their efforts."

"However, these are not the reasons for my rejection."

"Worry about destruction later on, and no longer participate in this great upheaval? At the very least, for now, the ambition and principles of the National Salvation are aligned with mine."

"Join first, then make plans later."

The final thought settled, and Tao Qian made his decision.

But before he could open his mouth to agree, he always felt like he was forgetting something.

It was at this moment when the Cultivation Tribulation Technique within him automatically operated, connecting to the Human Dao Fortune surging within him, that Tao Qian finally remembered what he had forgotten.

Before leaving his sect, his cheap Master had personally warned: having chosen the Third Method, once you enter the world, you become a harbinger of disaster, especially for those already entangled with tribulations, people, events, or certain territories will all undergo changes because of you, creating panic from peaceful grounds, spawning calamities and tribulations without cause.

Before, because it was always calm inside him, and he knew that behind the National Salvation Congress, there was more than just the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness, possibly even the support of major factions like Heavenly Talisman Sect, Shaoqing Sect, Reclining Buddha Temple, and others.

Seeming weak, in reality, it was an organization with immense potential and bets from various parties.

For this reason, Tao Qian had slightly relaxed his vigilance.

However, the turmoil inside him now reminded him immediately of his experience within the Jin Family.

"Not good!"

The few from National Salvation Congress originally thought they would hear Tao Qian's consenting reply.

But unexpectedly, this Daoist suddenly changed his face and cried out in panic.

Just as Yu Yanshi was about to meticulously inquire the reason, suddenly within this "Secret Realm of All People", without any warning, shrieks of horror and confusion came from all directions.

"What's happening? Why has the Source Qi been severed, my Laughing Corpse Fruit trees, they've all withered."

"My fish, was it my poor care, or has someone poisoned them? They're all belly up."

"Ahhh... my crops."

These cries were from those nearby.

In the distance, similar voices arose from factories and within the Sky-reaching Tower.

It seemed like the many experiments that the cultivators here were conducting, at this moment, all encountered some kind of accident.

And these were merely a harbinger.

The next moment!

The real disaster arrived.

Within that massive mountain capable of releasing endless Source Qi, a terrifying roar suddenly echoed, causing the entire Secret Realm to tremble ceaselessly.

What's more, the sky was instantaneously tainted a withered yellow, and a river vast enough to submerge the earth and everything else emerged out of nowhere, sweeping forth. In this Small Cave Heaven, everything was stained a dull yellow, and an extremely nauseating odor was frantically spreading.

As the grand river surged towards the heavens, the Huangquan roared mightily with endless bones surging within, ghosts wailing, gods howling, as blood rained from the sky.

Is this even a river? Clearly, the Nine Netherworld Huangquan had broken through the earth's barrier, flowing into the current world.

Catching sight of this scene, Yu Yanshi and the others were all stunned, muttering to themselves:

"How could this be? How is this possible?"

"Tianjiang Immortal is indeed within the Secret Realm right now, but he only said it was an ordinary retreat, that it would be over in two or three days, nothing serious, how could it have gone out of control?"

"This is his 'Huangquan Technique', if everything gets submerged, the Secret Realm is finished."

Chapter 332: Another Magic Duel, Hungry Ghost Giant Troll

"This... could all this be the calamity I've brought about?"

Tao Qian gazed at the Huangquan that was about to engulf the Secret Realm, equally stunned.

Previously, the misfortunes of Liang Qiu, Anong, and Liu Minong, a few Daoists, were likely caused by the catastrophe qi lingering around him.

But now, with such shocking turmoil, how could Tao Qian dare claim responsibility?

Listening to Yu Yanshi's words, the person who had unleashed this Huangquan River was clearly one of the renowned Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness, Tianjiang Immortal.

You have to understand, that's a cultivator of Ultimate Happiness Realm.

Such a mighty being, originally in an ordinary secluded retreat, suddenly lost control because of his, Master Tao's, presence at this location?

At this moment, Tao Qian only felt his head was booming.

"I haven't even joined the National Salvation Congress yet, have I already doomed this organization with great potential, whose ambition is to save the country and the people?"

"How could this be permissible?"

"Whether it's calamity I caused or not, I must first try to stop it."

With urgent thoughts churning, Tao Qian immediately decided to exert his best efforts.

As long as he didn't mind exposing his identity, given his current methods such as Buddha Bird Relics, Holy Embryo Bag, and Nine Toad Pearl all at his disposal, there was a significant possibility of success in stopping that massive Huangquan River.

The current Secret Realm of All People was no longer as orderly as it had initially been.

The cultivators, both frantic and calm, watching the surging Huangquan, were all displaying faces of panic.

Without a doubt, if this Secret Realm were to be engulfed by Huangquan.

Many foundations would be utterly lost in a moment, with no chance of fortune.

After the panic, many cultivators started cursing loudly, despite one of the protectors being the famous Tianjiang Immortal.

Seeing this scene, Tao Qian knew he could not delay further.

But just as he was feeling immensely guilty, planning to first use the Nine Toad Pearl to collect the Huangquan.

Suddenly, at this moment, the voice of Yuan Gong in his bosom entered his ears.

"Do not act rashly; this junior has only temporarily lost control and will recover shortly."

"What cultivation do you have now, and how could you possibly incite a cultivator of Ultimate Happiness to mutate and fall? Moreover, this junior has extraordinary background and roots; your appearance indeed hindered him. Once he recovers, he might come seeking your trouble."

"Eh? That was quick, here he comes."

Almost the moment Yuan Gong's words ended.

In the Secret Realm of All People, suddenly the sky brightened enormously, and the monstrous Huangquan River, as if it had never appeared, blinked back into nothingness.



Among the celebrating and cheering sounds of many cultivators, the withering yellow radiance that had tainted the heavens and earth was entirely concentrated in one spot.

Right in front of Tao Qian and others, a flash of yellow light appeared, and suddenly a person stood there.

It was a tall, burly middle-aged cultivator dressed in a dark-yellow magic robe wearing an Iron Crown, his face pale with a beard, and his eyes sparkling like brilliant stars, extremely majestic.

If one looked at him, they could faintly see miles of waves and rolling silver light as if Tianhe was surging upriver and river and sea were inverted.

Upon this person's arrival, the members of the National Salvation Congress immediately offered their respects.

"Uncle Master!"

"Mr. Li!"

Unexpectedly, this senior, Tianjiang Immortal, didn't even glance at the others, his gaze directly fell on Tao Qian.

At the first exchange of glances, Tao Qian knew this senior from the Ultimate Happiness Realm had seen through some of his secrets.

With the protection of the Secret Demon Transformation Technique, perhaps not everything was revealed, but at least the "Catastrophe Qi" on him was known to him.

The next words from this senior confirmed this.

Being a cultivator of Ultimate Happiness Realm, there was no need to verbally inquire; a single look around the scene was enough to understand the situation.

"This child must not be admitted into the National Salvation Congress!"

"Ah?"

Surely enough, as soon as Tianjiang Immortal had spoken, immediately Yu Yanshi, Shi Yingqiong, and several others exclaimed, all showing eyes of incomprehension.

Yu Yanshi knew that the Heavenly Human Sensing Technique wouldn't be mistaken, and with his keen judgment, he determined that Tao Qian, this Daoist who had concealed his identity, had extraordinary Divine Power.

Bringing such a figure into the National Salvation Congress would be greatly beneficial.

To overturn the current world order, it was essential to ally with all possible comrades.

So, upon hearing this, Yu Yanshi immediately inquired:

"Uncle Master, may I ask the reason? Mr. Jin Lin has already been verified by my [Heavenly Human Sensing Technique] to be not only a person of like-minded ideals but also a step ahead of us in the matter of saving the world, having been acknowledged by Human Dao Destiny and having saved tens of millions of lives already."

"How can such a moral TRUE Practitioner not be fit for the National Salvation Congress?"

Just as Tianjiang Immortal was about to speak, hearing Yu Yanshi's words, his expression shifted, and right in front of everyone, he started making calculations with his hands.

Tao Qian's eyes flashed, thinking to himself: Alas, is my identity about to be exposed?

Although he guessed that even if his identity as a "Spirit Treasure True Inheritor" was really exposed, the senior in front of him probably wouldn't make it difficult for him.

But considering the recent upheaval, Tao Qian fully confirmed what his cheap master had said.

"Alas, indeed turned into a disaster star!"

With this thought rising in his mind, Tao Qian then forced a wry smile and took the initiative to speak.

"Senior is right, I indeed should not join the National Salvation Congress."

"At least not for now."

"There are some hidden dangers of catastrophe on me that could implicate others. The recent experiment failures by various fellow Daoists and the inexplicable loss of control by senior Tianjiang Immortal are likely due to this... If I joined the National Salvation Congress, it would inevitably implicate several fellow Daoists and this organization. I didn't realize it was this serious before, but now it seems, it's better I remain alone."

As Tao Qian uttered these words, immediately Yu Yanshi and several others all showed shock on their faces.

Shi Yingqiong, seemingly recalling something, then asked:

"I heard that in the Outer Realm there is a Divine Spirit called 'Disaster Star,' often passing through the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty showing saint, casting down some Cultivation Manuals and Magical Treasures along with alien items, once cultivated and practiced, although one gains Extraordinary Power but also brings catastrophes to those around, could it be that fellow Daoist's cultivation stems from the Disaster Star inheritance?"

## Chapter 333: Another Magic Duel, Hungry Ghost Giant Troll\_2

These two sentences, however, have broadened Tao Qian's horizons once again.

He had indeed encountered Longevity Star, even picking up 180 of his Longevity Star Peach Seeds.

But he hadn't expected that besides Longevity Star, there would be a Disaster Star.

Tao Qian did not recall how many times he had sighed; the world was indeed much more vast than he had imagined.

Sigh as he might, Tao Qian did not really want to carry the name of a Disaster Star Cultivator, and he was about to open his mouth to deny it when—

Suddenly, Tianjiang Immortal, having completed his divination, cast a meaningful glance at Tao Qian.

Then the senior laughed and waved his hand, flicking a finger, and a beam of Spirit Light fell into Tao Qian's bosom.

"Do not speak further, young friend—I already know some of your background, indeed, as Yan Shi said, akin to the aspiration of those in the National Salvation Congress."

"However, it is indeed inappropriate to mix with each other for now; go and pass your Cultivation Tribulation first."

"Should you wish to contact, use this 'Great Wilderness Token.'"

"Now go, go!"

As his words fell, this senior, one of the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness, swept his sleeve and directly sent Tao Qian away from the Secret Realm of All People.

...

Outside Immortal Radiant Square, Tao Qian hugged Yunrong while standing within the crowd, as if all he had seen and heard were but an illusion.

Alone in the world, leading a few juniors to pass Cultivation Tribulation, they had finally found a reliable organization, and yet he was courteously sent away.

The only acquisition was the stone token in his hand.

Very ancient and mottled, with the character "荒" engraved in the middle, vague airs of grandeur and antiquity surged forth.

The revealed Record was extremely simple.

[Great Wilderness Token: Token of the lineage of the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness. With this token, you can contact any one of the Three Venerable Jile Practitioners.]

Clearly, though Tao Qian had been sent away, the honor bestowed was not slight.

Note that this was an alien object that could communicate with three Ultimate Happiness Realm Cultivators, not something ordinary cultivators could obtain.

"That Elder Tianjiang Immortal named Li, it seems he has already guessed the origin of us Cultivators from the Spirit Treasure Sect."

"That's why he gave me this token; the face of the Spirit Treasure Sect is indeed considerable."

Tao Qian murmured to himself this way in his heart.

But outwardly, he lamentably teased, "Sister Yunrong, it seems I'm being rejected."

In the midst of talking, he did not forget to stroke Yunrong's soft and fluffy body.

Yunrong purred in extreme comfort, her green eyes narrowing, but she paid no attention to her good brother.

Having become close over the past few days, Yunrong had long come to know the character of Tao Qian, the man of destiny.

His intents were noble, requiring no consolation.

Despite his distressed facade, he was probably already calculating in his mind.

Indeed, that was the case.

Prompted by that reminder from Tianjiang Immortal, Tao Qian immediately remembered the true purpose of his trip to Demon City.

Cultivation Tribulation!

Transcend Mortality!



"When I first entered Demon City, I developed long-eared parallel teeth; these are signs of Cultivation Tribulation."

"With the mysteries of the Infinite Tribulation Method, just once I pass a real tribulation, these peculiar signs will vanish, and at the same time my Taoist power will also grow."

"These days, I have passed through the Medicine King Temple Market and the troubles at Jin Mansion; logically, both should count as no small tribulations. Yet these peculiar signs haven't disappeared, indicating that both troubles are not up to standard. What should I do? I can't just bump into disasters just to dispel them; that would be something the reckless Tao Qian from Southern Yue would do."

"The greatest disaster within Demon City is, without doubt, that Ninth Prince Zhu Qi, no matter what he is brewing, involving more than one or two powers. I am now also considered capable, but to get involved without knowing the ins and outs is a sure path to death and the obliteration of my way. Truly passing this tribulation might even directly advance me to the Transcend Mortality Realm."

"In this light, the first tribulation that could dispel the peculiarity on my body should be just right in its difficulty; I'm afraid it might fall upon Lian Yulou."

"Is this true inheritor of the Evil Sect, right now, probably busy entangling with the Ninth Prince Zhu Qi, and that Prince of West Capital, Xiao Chenzhou, tying a thread of sinister fate to me? When will he even remember to think of me?"

Tao Qian's mind had barely flashed this thought when he quickly sensed something was amiss.

It sounded as if Master Tao had turned into a resentful woman, waiting for Lian Yulou to come looking for him.

Who would have thought that it was this Spirit Treasure True Inheritor who had secretly conspired with the Kitten Demon of the Jade Ring Mountain lineage to set a trap, planning to use the Haotian Divine Mirror, such a precious treasure, to pit and kill the formidable and fearsome Lian Yulou.

"First, I should return to Bie Fu. Zhang Baisui, this warlord's son, is at least a Tribulation Leader; one might gain something from him."

"There's still plenty of time left before the 'ten-day deadline,' and it's a few days before the grand treasure conference. There must be a great upheaval coming; the sooner I figure out the conspiracy behind, the better this Cultivation Tribulationer can stir things up..."

Tao Qian muttered to himself, while considering whether or not to trick Zhang Baisui.

Suddenly, he sensed something and his eyebrows knitted together.

Within the boundary of Demon City, a large number of Cultivators and Demon and Monster aliens were already present, but due to Demon City's inherent order, they usually concealed their aura, cohabiting with the Mortal Human Race.

However, at this moment, Tao Qian detected a great restlessness among the cultivators.

And the source, as well as the direction of flow, was unmistakably Zhang Mansion.

"Hmm?"

Tao Qian immediately began casting, swiftly moving towards Zhang Mansion.

At the same time, he formed a Demon Seal and summoned an Ear Demon.

As Tao Qian manifested six, then eight ears, the sounds made by the Cultivators and demons within a dozen miles all flooded into his ears.

In an instant, Tao Qian felt as though many people were chattering beside his ear.

"Hurry, hurry to see the excitement, there's a sight of magical combat and sword fighting to be seen again."

"Where, where? The Medicine King Temple Market or the Ten Thousand Demon Square, or the Ninth Prince's Mansion?"

"What is everyone thinking? The Ninth Prince is now almost insanely cruel, and that Prince of West Capital, Xiao Chenzhou, has become a major power too. After being retaliated against, he was crippled in a single day. Who would dare to provoke Zhu Qi's ill fortune, seeking death? It's Zhang Mansion, look, there's a Barrier opening up, the battle has begun."

"Zhang Mansion? Which Zhang Mansion?"

"It's Governor of Ancient Qin Province, Zhang Jiudeng's mansion here in Demon City. This warlord has a lot of support from heresy and heterodoxy. It seems he has collaborated with the Ninth Prince, eagerly sending his sole son Zhang Baisui as a hostage. The father, though a ridiculous warlord, has extraordinary skills and fortune, but Zhang Baisui, this tender young thing, is useless. Today, he got into a dispute over jealousy in the great dance hall and hit a snag."

"He's encountered a Ghost Cultivator from the Six Paths Sect, said to be the sole son of the Ogre Li Qingpan. After a conflict with Zhang Baisui, the latter commanded his guards to beat him to a scattered soul; it's tragic, you see, in broad daylight, what's a ghost cultivator like the son of Li Qingpan doing bustling around, courting disaster."

"It's said that Beimang Mountain has good feng shui, but it's not necessarily true. When that Ogre Li Qingpan came to Demon City with a group of ghost cultivators, they bumped into the Tianjiang Immortal, one of the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness. If people from the Taishang Demon Sect hadn't intervened, they might have been completely annihilated... Despite that, Li Qingpan was stripped of most of his Cultivation, and now his son is dead, ill-omened, probably driven mad too."

"Quick, into the Barrier, even if Li Qingpan is weakened, he's still a Cavernous Mystery and can easily kill Zhang Baisui. Those cultivators from the Heavenly Immortal Dao are no match and, at most, Li will flee back to Beimang Mountain after the killing. Zhang Jiudeng can't do anything about the Six Paths Sect."

...

When these voices fell, Tao Qian had already returned to the area of Zhang Mansion.

This place should have been bustling, a scene with crowds like weaving.

But at this moment, the sky abruptly dimmed, the Red Sun turned to a red moon, and a pitch-black ghost qi suddenly swept across several streets centered around Zhang Mansion, and all mortals inside collapsed in an instant.

The crowd of cultivators and demons who came to watch the excitement clearly saw that the ghost qi had extinguished the spirit flames of many mortals' shoulders and hearts. If these mortals weren't consumed by Fierce Ghosts and Evil Ghosts this time, they would still fall severely ill upon waking.

Perhaps driven by a vengeful spirit, the "Ogre Li Qingpan" now cast spells to shroud the area, knocking out the mortals and releasing many Evil Ghosts. They didn't go for the mortals, but instead rode on the rolling ghost mist and dark clouds, like a procession of ghosts from hell heading toward the equally defensive and luxurious Zhang Mansion.

Tao Qian, like the rest of the onlookers, didn't pay attention to the evil spirits of various shapes; his gaze was fixed on the Dharma Image that had revealed itself, a colossal Fierce Ghost reaching almost into the clouds.

This Evil Ghost stood dozens of feet tall.

It was clad in ragged clothes, skin and bones like a mummy.

With a mouthful of tusks, within its deeply dark eye sockets, an eerily green light flickered.

Yet, what was most terrifying was its abdomen, which protruded like a ten-month pregnancy. At the navel, however, there was a pitch-black, bottomless hole from which a ghastly chill wind, capable of freezing Transcend Mortality realm cultivators to death, howled out accompanied by ghostly wails.

"Quite the Hungry Ghost giant troll form!"

"It looks like the esteemed Tianjiang Immortal didn't go all out; Li Qingpan can still show his Dharma Image, and it seems Zhang Mansion doesn't have enough to satisfy his hunger."

Chapter 334 Daoist Friend's Deadly Tribulation Approaches, Tao Qian Shows Saintliness Again

At this moment, in Demon City, hungry ghosts and giant trolls were rampant.

The ghostly mist pervaded, and the blood moon hung high.

The cultivator who revealed the hungry ghost and giant troll forms and overlooked the earth was clearly an Elder from the Beimang Mountain Six Paths Sect, called "Li Qingpan, the Ogre."

The extremely intense aura of the Cavernous Mystery Realm was impossible to conceal; his presence alone dragged this territory into an atmosphere akin to the Nine Nether Purgatory.

At Zhang Mansion, everyone from top to bottom, whether it was the group of cultivators from the Heavenly Immortal Dao or Zhang Baisui, the second-generation warlord, was shivering.

Disaster!

Those mortals who had fainted were somewhat better off, temporarily without the worry of losing their lives.

But for their group, with the only Transcend Mortality Cultivator, Zhu Quanfu, at its core, they were barely maintaining a Forbidden Technique that surged with golden light and bursting flames, protecting Zhang Baisui in the middle while also keeping that group of ferocious evil ghosts at bay.

Although they successfully prevented the evil ghosts from gnawing away at Zhang Baisui's skin and flesh, the cultivators of the Heavenly Immortal Dao felt no joy.

Including Zhu Quanfu, everyone's faces were as pale as gold paper, trembling incessantly.

There was no need for the Ogre Li Qingpan to come over; the other ghost practitioners from Beimang Mountain released one fierce ghost after another, tearing the grand Zhang Mansion apart.

One could only see the ghost practitioners with fierce faces revealing themselves all around, sneering at everyone in Zhang Mansion; one shook the Ghost Flag Demon Banner, releasing dozens of ghost soldiers and generals with infinite strength and green faces and tusks, flattening the buildings in Zhang Mansion; another tossed an Evil Ghost Net that not only enveloped this area but filled the sky with hanging ghosts, long-tongued ghosts, decapitated ghosts, and knife-grinding ghosts surging and howling.

Infinite ghostly mist surged, concealing who knows how many powerful beings, gnawing relentlessly around the Forbidden Technique.

Despite being pierced by golden rays and scorched by flames, they showed no intention of retreating.

On one side, sparks flew and golden light surged chaotically; on the other, they did not forget to insult and provoke everyone with their words.

Inside the shrinking protective shield of the Forbidden Technique, the cultivators of the Heavenly Immortal Dao clenched their teeth and looked toward the center, not at Zhang Baisui, their nominal master, but at their leader, the True Inheritor Daoist Zhu Quanfu.

This man had achieved Transcend Mortality Cultivation and was highly valued within the Heavenly Immortal Dao, a Heterodox Sect; otherwise, he wouldn't have been entrusted with the task of protecting Zhang Baisui.

In the past, this was a plum job.

But now, it was a deadly burden.

One Daoist with a shifty gaze bit his teeth and said,



"Brother Zhu, has there been any response from the Ninth Prince's side?"

"We cultivators are joining forces to hold up this 'Fire Spirit Emperor's Golden Light Skillful Method Cover,' barely resisting these ghost practitioners from Beimang Mountain. It's practically a joke. Without that Exotic Treasure, the 'Vajra Buddha Beads,' on the young master to temporarily deter Li Qingpan, we wouldn't be able to withstand a single breath."

"But those Buddha Beads are about to be shattered; if the Ninth Prince does not come to our aid, we must make early plans. I joined the Heavenly Immortal Dao to enjoy the blessings, not to lose my life."

As these words came out, along with the scene above, all the cultivators under the Golden Light Shield, including Zhang Baisui, changed their expressions.

Indeed, as he had said!

The reason Li Qingpan in his hungry ghost form had not yet succeeded

was due to his massive body being currently pinned down by a spinning, emitting hundred zhang Buddha Light, Buddha Bead.

This treasure came from Vajra Temple.

It was refined by a high monk of the Buddhist Sect, containing the mighty power of the Vajra Dharma; it could indeed hold a Cavernous Mystery Cultivator in place for some time.

But that was about it. Li Qingpan was no mere Loose Cultivator.

Beimang Mountain, Six Paths Sect.

They were definitely among the foremost in ghost practitioner forces.

As Li Qingpan roared and struggled, the Buddha Beads grew dimmer, ready to shatter and lose effect at any moment.

It was precisely for this reason that Zhang Baisui was even more angered now.

Although he was a second-generation warlord with neither much cultivation talent nor ability, being exposed to such matters had not made him a fool; naturally, he understood the meaning behind these few sentences.

What does it mean to make early plans?

It was clearly an intent to abandon Zhang Baisui and flee.

The lackeys were overbearing!

Just as Zhang Baisui was seething with indignation and about to scold them,

the leading Transcend Mortality Cultivator named Zhu Quanfu preemptively shouted, "Shut your mouth, don't talk nonsense."

Then, turning to Zhang Baisui, he said,

"Master, don't panic. As soon as the disaster started, I sent a Cloud Talisman to the Ninth Prince's Mansion. The Great Governor and the Ninth Prince are allies. Hearing of the master's plight, they should send aid no matter what. Although Li Qingpan is fierce, he's just a Cavernous Mystery Ghost Practitioner; any Demon General from the Ninth Prince's command could easily scare him off."

These two sentences did indeed comfort Zhang Baisui.

However, the young master failed to notice the fleeting light in Zhu Quanfu's eyes as he spoke.

He wasn't lying; there were just a few things he hadn't said, secretly thinking to himself:

"Everyone knows the Ninth Prince has formed an alliance with the Great Governor in Demon City."

"If Li Qingpan this hungry ghost dares to take action, how could he be unprepared? I'm afraid there's some twist behind it all. With the current inexplicable situation in Demon City, if the reinforcement from the Ninth Prince's Mansion is not timely or encounters delays, wouldn't I end up dying alongside this frivolous young master?"

"How could this be acceptable? Let's wait and see how things change. If this young master cannot be saved, I must abandon the car to protect the commander. I've already inherited the 'Jade Emperor Heavenly Immortal Origin Scriptures'; by leaving this place, I can simply find a large province and raise a Sect force just as well."

...

In a villa adjacent to the Zhang Mansion, it appeared empty.

However, four heads were shamelessly perched on the wall, observing the grim scene inside Zhang Mansion.

Jin Xiuju, Little Age, and Shan Jiu could relax in peace and remain unaffected by the various evil ghosts and fierce ghosts only due to Lian Jing'er's methods.

Chapter 335 Daoist Friend's Deadly Tribulation Approaches, Tao Qian Shows Saintliness Again\_2

There was no place where he had demonstrated his combat prowess yet, but the Treasure Wheel floating behind his head was noteworthy.

Many aunts and uncles at Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, considering Lian Jing'er's potential and the Cultivation Tribulation Technique he refined, fed him numerous rare treasure materials to forge an Exotic Treasure he carried with him, named the Creation Treasure Wheel. This artifact could grow as Lian Jing'er grew and currently had many marvelous uses, such as releasing the Shadowless Stealth Divine Light at this moment.

It could disrupt one's Divine Soul perception and allow one to stealthily conceal oneself.

Even for Tao Qian himself, if not for Lian Jing'er's active guidance, it would be difficult to track down these four individuals.

A circle of Divine Light, and on this wall, Tao Qian suddenly appeared, embracing Yunrong.

As he turned around, he saw the worried Jin Xiuju. Upon seeing Tao Qian and Yunrong, she immediately wanted to ask for help, but seemed to think of something and then stopped herself.

Clearly, the girl knew that neither before nor now could she command the two impressive Transcend Mortality Cultivators.

Moreover, she had no valid reason.

However, she remained silent, and Tao Qian took the initiative to ask,

"Xiuzhu, do you want me and Yunrong to make a move to save your fiancé?"

"Senior Jin Lin must not, Xiuzhu, although naive, is also aware that battles of magic are no trivial matter. That Evil Ghost uses the title 'Ogre' and must be fierce and terrifying. This calamity was brought upon by Brother Zhang himself; how could we let Senior Jin Lin and Sister Yunrong risk themselves to save him? It's up to Brother Zhang's fate now. If he also perishes here, it must be because my Jin Xiuzhu's blessings are thin."

Jin Xiuzhu replied, her expression numb and bewildered, clearly resigned to her fate.

Originally, she was simply a wealthy merchant's daughter who had suffered successive blows, and her unsure behavior was quite normal.

Tao Qian also sighed in pity. Although the misfortune at the Jin Mansion had nothing to do with him personally, even without his involvement, the Ninth Prince would still have chosen to target Jin Mansion and played out that act, involving Jin Tianyang and leading to the massacre of his entire family.

Nevertheless, as an "involved party," Tao Qian looked at Jin Xiuzhu and then at the precarious Zhang Mansion.

The Cultivation Tribulation Technique inside him started to operate automatically at this moment.

"Zhang Baisui, as a Tribulation Leader, signifies great potential to be unearthed. Whether it concerns the Ninth Prince or his father, Zhang Jiudeng, this suggests disaster, as well as great opportunities and benefits."

"Previously, I couldn't find a point of entry, but now seems just right."

These two thoughts flashed through Tao Qian's mind.

Then, he abruptly said to Jin Xiuzhu:

"Rescue is possible, but we must wait for the right moment."

Upon hearing this, Jin Xiuju's face immediately brightened somewhat.

Just as she was pondering what a suitable moment would be, suddenly, a huge commotion came to her ears.

Not far from Zhang Mansion, an outbreak of shouts and killing arose.

Demon Light, Divine Radiance, Red Clouds, curses... tangled and battled several miles away.

While she was puzzled, the noisy voices of cultivators who were far enough to enjoy the spectacle yet still close, as interpreted by Lian Jing'er as fluctuating information, cycled through phrase after phrase to her:

"Another battle of spells has erupted; it seems like the remnants from Red Cloud Sect have encroached here, setting up a sorcery array, trapping the devil cultivator sent by the Ninth Prince to assist Zhang Mansion."

"What is this about? Are the remnants of Red Cloud Sect colluding with Six Paths Sect? Just to facilitate Li Qingpan's killing of Zhang Baisui?"

"Who knows? Anyway, that libertine is doomed."

"Look, the Buddha Beads have shattered."

...

Only at that again shielded by the Golden Light territory of Zhang Mansion, the Heavenly Immortal Dao's Zhu Quanfu and others also heard the disturbance.

In an instant, they understood that reinforcements had come but were trapped.

Although they knew the Ninth Prince would send more people, it would certainly be too late.



Worse still, accompanied by an odd noise.

Everyone then saw the Vajra Buddha Beads that had been thrown out early to immobilize Li Qingpan suddenly explode.

As the Buddha Light disappeared, the terrifying hungry ghost immediately hissed and stretched out its bony yet immensely huge green-haired ghost claw towards Zhang Mansion.

Upon seeing this scene, Zhu Quanfu and the others were immediately terrified.

The next moment!

These few men spontaneously withdrew the Golden Light Protective Shield and then each chose a direction to frantically flee.

The leading Zhu Quanfu was even shouting loudly:

"The chief culprit, Zhang Baisui, is over there; leave it to Senior Li to deal with."

"We, Heavenly Immortal Dao, hereby sever ties with the Zhang Family today; please do not harm the wrong person, Senior."

These shouted phrases, thus also surprised the watching demon cultivators at the boldness of these individuals.

Crisis upon them!

Betrayed his master and fled!

Such shameful behavior, yet he dared to break with Zhang Jiudeng on behalf of the Heavenly Immortal Dao. It was obviously just a ploy to deceive people. Only a fool would believe him.

However, their public abandonment of Zhang Baisui indeed delivered a heavy blow to their own sect.

The cultivators could already imagine, once the news reached Ancient Qin Province, how the great warlord Zhang Jiudeng would madly pursue the cultivators of the Heavenly Immortal Dao.

Zhu Quanfu and his companions had a good idea.

Unfortunately, they underestimated the ferocity of Li Qingpan.

Right then, a chilling wind arose, and among the whistling sounds, a group of Heavenly Immortal Dao cultivators who hadn't escaped far were frozen in place. Then, with a swift motion like that of grabbing

sugar beans, those green-haired ghost claws scooped them up and tossed them into a tusked mouth. Accompanied by the crackling sounds, fresh blood and flesh dripped from the corners of the mouth.

The cultivators witnessed as Li Qingpan munched down a Transcend Mortality Cultivator and more than a dozen Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

After getting his fill, this hungry ghost then set its sights on the main culprit, Zhang Baisui.

The ghost claw tore through the air, and it was at that moment,

Tao Qian's voice suddenly pierced into Jin Xiuju's ears.

"The time has come!"

As she spoke, Jin Xiuju suddenly felt her body being moved out of the range of the Shadowless Stealth Divine Light, instantaneously appearing beside Zhang Baisui.

She was quick-witted, instinctively shouting,

"Don't kill Brother Zhang!"

"Senior Jin Lin, save me!"

"Roar!"

Almost immediately as Jin Xiuju's youthful voice rang out, a terrifying dragon roar followed, echoing throughout the territory of Zhang Mansion.

Soon after, an abnormal celestial phenomenon occurred, dark heavy clouds suddenly appeared, covering the blood moon. Wind, rain, thunder, and lightning followed, with blazing white lightning turning into endless sharp blades, cleaving the territory that was being ravaged by fierce ghosts, turning it into something resembling the Nine Nether Purgatory.

From within the clouds, a massive figure resembling both a dragon and a horse burst forth, heading straight for Li Qingpan.

Seeing this, Li Qingpan immediately roared hoarsely, "A mere half-bred dragon from the Transcend Mortality Realm dares to show itself! I'll eat you alive..."

Li Qingpan, possessing the cultivation of the Cavernous Mystery Realm, clearly had a much more terrifying presence than Tao Qian's Bo Dragon.

When he got angry, a frightening cold wind blew fiercely, instantly freezing the celestial phenomena induced by Tao Qian.

Also, a pair of immensely huge terrifying ghost claws, much like seizing a serpent, firmly grasped Tao Qian's body, and it looked like they were about to tear him apart, scattering Dragon Blood and Dragon Meat everywhere. Even some fearless Demon Cultivators had already run down to collect some Dragon Blood and Dragon Meat.

But, just at that moment, a scene that previously appeared at Jin Mansion now occurred over the sky of Zhang Mansion.

An extremely dazzling display of blue-white rainbow light and the radiance of thunder burst forth, and in an instant, all the cultivators in the territory were blinded by the flash.

Although Li Qingpan sensed the explosion of the thunder, he did not feel threatened.

Having been a ghost cultivator at Beimang Mountain, he had refined an Evil Technique before and collected the flesh of various Exotic Beasts to feed his hungry ghost.

He had killed a Bo Dragon before.

He knew very well the power of the Bloodline Divine Power of such Devil Cultivators.

"Not bad, but not enough to hurt me."

"I'll eat this Bo Dragon first, then capture that little creature."

As Li Qingpan thought this and was also using his immense strength to pull and tear the Bo Dragon's body to stuff it into his mouth,

Suddenly, a very calm voice, imbued with the rhyme of Dao, entered his ears.

"Daoist, your tribulation has arrived."

Among those designated to die by the Nine True Spirit Sound, there was the Ghost Cultivator refining the Evil Technique.

Li Qingpan was mighty, but having been heavily injured by Tianjiang Immortal before. Hearing the Spirit Sound, his Primordial Spirit briefly stagnated.

And it was in this brief moment, he was doomed.

Mixed with the thunder of the Bo Dragon, the "Silent Divine Thunder" roared and exploded, flipping over his hungry ghost form.

Tao Qian, breaking free from the ghost claw, twisted his body and in an instant appeared above Li Qingpan, stepping on his skull. As he let out a proud dragon roar, his dragon mouth opened wide, and a "Dragon Ball" emitting intense Dragon Qi and golden light was ferociously spewed out. Its contained immense force mercilessly slammed into Li Qingpan.

The cultivators only heard a dull thud, then saw Li Qingpan's giant hungry ghost head burst open like a smashed watermelon, his Cavernous Mystery Spirit barely showed any traces before it was completely disintegrated by the residual force within the Dragon Ball.

Those Demon Cultivators who had hoped to collect some dragon meat now looked up to see chunks of green-haired, sinister ghostly dry flesh and mottled broken bones raining down like a torrential downpour.

Chapter 336: Heart Lamp Green Flame, Secret Demon Entwined

In the cultivation world, fighting with spells and tricks was never a matter of honor or fairness; it was all based on one's own methods.

Hence, Tao Qian felt no psychological burden in resorting to the tactics of feigning weakness like a pig to devour a tiger or launching surprise attacks.

Who would have thought that this "Ogre" so underestimated his enemy, and as a ghoulish creature who indulged in cannibalism and committed countless atrocities with his refinement of evil techniques?

On closer analysis, from the moment Tao Qian made his move, the ogre was doomed to die.

Failing to see through the Secret Demon Transformation Technique meant falling victim to ambushes by the Nine True Spirit Sound and Silent Divine Thunder. This thunder skill was so insidiously toxic that it instantly blew him up, leaving him no chance to withstand the crushing blow of the Nine Toad Bead masquerading as a Dragon Ball—even though this bead was categorized among the auspicious treasures, it was extraordinarily brutal when used to bash someone.

Before his demise, Li Qingpan felt as if he had been hammered by the weight of a dozen mountains.

His "Hunger Ghost" body had quite the origin, derived from the Hunger Ghost Path Chapter of the great book of the Ghost Path, the Six Paths Reincarnation Scripture. It was fed with the flesh and souls of myriad living beings, not only capable of releasing the Nine Nether Yin Wind that froze the souls and bodies of the living but also able to swallow tens of thousands with its gaping hunger ghost mouth. Its green-haired corpse bag was incredibly sturdy—to the point that not even divine weapons or exotic treasures could harm it.

Alas, the origin of the Nine Toad Bead was even greater.

With just one smash!

Years of cultivation, wealth, and life all came to an end, turning to ash.

Witnessing this terrifying scene in the sky, the crowd of demon cultivators simply watched in horror, while also finding it extremely satisfying.

The group of ghost cultivators from the Six Paths Sect were the ones who suffered, as they never expected such an abrupt change of events.

The tides had turned, and now it was their turn to flee for their lives.



Unfortunately for them, Tao Qian had long known what kind of characters these cultivators, who specialized in refining and controlling ghosts, were. Since he had already taken action, how could he possibly allow them a chance to live?

While Tao Qian was assassinating Li Qingpan, Yunrong was also dealing her ruthless hand below.

She became increasingly reluctant to show her human form, using only her pair of enchanting green eyes to gaze at all the Six Paths Sect ghost cultivators in the field.

Soon after, a sound that to onlookers seemed no different from heavenly music, yet to the ghost cultivators it was a life-taking demon sound, began to echo.

"This is the Charm Demon's Heart Lamp Green Flame, a kind of heart-inquiry fire."

"If you can withstand it, you may escape and live another day."

"If not, then join Li Qingpan on the path to Huangquan."

As the magnetic and charming female voice faded, those Six Paths Sect cultivators hidden in the ghost fog seemed to be suddenly struck by some terrifying attack, crying out in unison, flailing their limbs as they tumbled out of the black mist.

Onlookers were immediately faced with the grotesque sight of all the Six Paths Sect ghost cultivators, each one more deformed than the next, all with defects.

It was clear they were all victims of the practice of refining evil techniques. Before refining ghosts or driving them away, they had to feed their own bodies to the ghosts. Those with good fortune might only lose a nose or an eye, but the less lucky ones would not only have their faces completely devoured but also suffer damage to their organs and vital parts. It would be polite to say they were merely ugly, but in reality, these ghost cultivators were no different from fierce ghosts.

Those who could be heartless enough to practice such refining techniques were hardly of benevolent nature.

Being villains by nature, they naturally could not withstand the Green Flame Heart Inquiry of the Jade Ring Mountain lineage.

So when the blood moon vanished and the ghost fog dissipated,

the grounds around Zhang Mansion were littered with charred corpses.

Due to rumors of Demon City's exotic treasures, a group of ghost cultivators sent by Beimang Mountain's Six Paths Sect came to seize these treasures. They had once been casually dealt with by the Tianjiang Immortal upon stepping foot in Demon City, and now they had been ruthlessly eliminated by Tao Qian and Yunrong—all were dead.

Those demon cultivators who had come to watch the excitement all retreated.

Especially some of those demons who believed they could not pass the test of "Green Flame Heart Inquiry," despite their coveting of the Hunger Ghost Demon Body painstakingly refined by Li Qingpan, dared not reach out their limbs. Surely they could still pick up some bits of flesh and ghost bones, right? Although fragmented, they could sell those in the Medicine King Temple or Ten Thousand Demon Square for some fragmented silver to spend.

Unfortunately, their lives were still the priority, and they vanished without a trace.

Only the bolder ones quietly picked up scraps of flesh and bones in the outer residential areas and ditches. Earning silver was a joke—such items were greatly useful for alchemy or refining. High-level cultivators might scorn them, but for the lower-tier cultivators and demons, such a chance could excite them for months.

Tao Qian naturally ignored this as he let these cultivators clean up the remnants, thus keeping the mortal human race free of contamination.

As for the pieces of corpses in the territory of Zhang Mansion, Shan Jiu would take care of them.

The most stunned, as if in a dream, was certainly Zhang Baisui. From being on the brink of being devoured by hungry ghosts to being completely unscathed, it spun around in just a few breaths.

Fast, too fast.

He sat there dumbfounded on the ground, letting Jin Xiuju hold him.

The voices of the cultivators and demons from the periphery drifted away while entering his ears.

"Zhang Jiudeng's family's good-for-nothing second generation is really lucky. He wasn't killed by that Cavernous Mystery Realm ghost cultivator, but instead, it was Li Qingpan who was unlucky, ending up killed instead."

"Eh, eh, what's the origin of that Dragon Demon? How is it possible for someone from the Transcend Mortality Realm to kill one from the Cavernous Mystery Realm? Could it be an old dragon from somewhere pretending to be a pig to eat a tiger?"

"It's not entirely impossible. That Dragon Demon has a top-notch dragon seed; its Bloodline Divine Power is extremely fearsome. Plus, Li Qingpan had been crippled by one of the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness, and his divine skills were greatly diminished. Just now, he was subdued by a Buddha Treasure from Vajra Temple and then suddenly attacked by a powerful Dragon Seed, it does make sense."

"Make sense? Heh, I think you all don't know the background of that Dragon Demon. Let me tell you, it made a name for itself previously during that bloodbath at Jin Mansion..."

"Lately, there are more and more powerful figures in Demon City, the march of time and tide ah. For us small-fries, it's both risk and opportunity. I just saw a guy step in dog shit, and he actually picked up one of Li Qingpan's half-broken eyeballs. Completely capable of refining a 'Ghost Eye' with that, what a lucky bastard."

These voices, along with the girlish fragrance of Jin Xiuju, finally brought Zhang Baisui back to his senses.

He quickly realized what had happened and also knew what he had to do.

In fact, everything that had happened at Jin Mansion before, as well as the strengths of the two tributes from Jin Mansion, he had already had them investigated clearly, just without an excuse to ally with them.

But unexpectedly, an opportunity had now arrived.

Just then, Tao Qian transformed back into human form and with a wave of his hand, he collected Li Qingpan's headless Hunger Ghost Demon Body back into the Holy Embryo Bag.

As soon as he landed, Yunrong was in his arms.

Zhang Baisui walked up with Jin Xiuju and said with a cupped-fist salute,

"Many thanks to Senior Jin Lin and Senior Yunrong for coming to our aid. I will never forget the debt I owe you for saving my life," Tao Qian gratefully expressed.

"Now, Xiuzhu and I are truly a pair of lovebirds linked by fate. We will marry as soon as possible, and I'll never fail her."

"Just the two of us here are completely alone and isolated, with only both of you seniors as support. I hope you can stay a few more days so my wife and I can express our gratitude," he implored.

Upon saying this, Zhang Baisui, the second-generation warlord, immediately tried to kneel with Xiuzhu to kowtow to Tao Qian and Yunrong.

Had Tao Qian been beside them at another time, he could have stopped Zhang Baisui's motion with a thought and the casting of a spell.

However, at this moment, he did not do so; instead, he proactively reached out to hold Zhang Baisui back.

The moment they touched...

Tao Qian verbally agreed to his request while secretly casting a spell.

However, very quickly, a little demon with armor and a command flag in Tao Qian's sleeve, its face scrunched up in frustration, relayed feedback to him:

"Master, it looks like I won't get a taste of that Demon Pill you rewarded me with. This guy has treasures protecting his Divine Soul, and my 'Cognitive Modification' isn't affecting him."

"Why don't you first strip the treasures from his body, Master? Then I can give it another try."

No sooner had the Decree Demon finished speaking than it was shoved aside.

Then, a new Demon Child swaggered forward. This one had a truly bizarre appearance.

It looked like a pale, twisted, noodle-shaped figurine with a funny, smiling face, and its lanky arms and legs flailed comically as it moved, as if it might topple over at any moment.

Full of vigor and arrogance, it pushed aside the Decree Demon and stepped past him, its funny face turning stiffly to speak:

"What a waste of space, little goblin. You make Master uncomfortable even when he mounts you, and now you can't even help Master control others or eavesdrop on secrets—an easy task."

"Master shouldn't have given you that Demon Pill. It should be mine."

"Just watch my methods, Master. It doesn't matter what protections this fellow has, they're no match for my entwined embrace and heart kneading for a few hours."

After spouting this strange declaration, the noodly little figure became transparent.

It leapt out of Tao Qian's sleeve and grew as it caught the wind, taking shape behind Zhang Baisui.

Its long limbs stretched out immediately, wrapping itself entirely around the body of the second-generation warlord. Meanwhile, its comical face rested gently on Zhang Baisui's shoulder, its mouth moving ceaselessly in silent muttering.

This was not the end of its actions.

The Demon Child's supple little hands had somehow slipped into Zhang Baisui's Divine Soul, doing something unseen, all that could be observed was wriggling, kneading movements.

Soon after, Tao Qian heard a new piece of feedback:

"Master, it's done."

"This boy may have many treasures protecting his Divine Soul, but my 'Chan Xin Demon' is not a vegetarian."

"Now that it's successful, Master must reward me with more Demon Pills."



"Agreed!"

With his secret plan a success, Tao Qian couldn't help but reveal a hint of a smile.

He contemplated inwardly, "The Magic Skills of the Secret Demon Sect are indeed useful. The Ten Thousand Demon List is a great find, and the Summoning Demon Technique is even more mysterious. If I weren't already one of the Spirit Treasure True Inheritors, I might have actually wanted to try being a Secret Demon Child myself, reviving the Secret Demon Sect... That sounds quite appealing."

Amidst Tao Qian's distracted musings, the peculiar Demon Child attached to Zhang Baisui was known as the 'Chan Xin Demon'.

In terms of rank, it was on par with the Decree, Heart, Eye, and Power Demons.

However, in terms of rarity, it far surpassed these others.

Tao Qian was increasingly fond of dredging up such bizarre and unheard-of demons from the "Ten Thousand Demon List", using demons so obscure that not even widely-traveled Cultivators had ever heard of them.

Their unfamiliarity made them particularly useful; they couldn't be countered.

The Red Lady Demon was one, and the Chan Xin Demon was another.

"The reason this demon can stay hidden is due to its peculiar Demon Thought. It doesn't emit even the slightest hint of malice. It brazenly attaches to its target, ignoring Exotic Treasures and Forbidden Techniques, even High-level Cultivators struggle to notice it," Tao Qian thought.

"'Entwined embrace and heart kneading,' in effect, is somewhat similar to the Decree Demon's 'cognitive modification,' but it's slower to take effect, more covert, and with no lasting ill effects."

"After today's turn of events, Zhang Baisui will inevitably contact his warlord father—a powerful figure in his own right. To covertly learn the secrets I seek from their conversation, ordinary methods would definitely fail."

"I thought that if both the Decree Demon and Chan Xin Demon failed, I would have to resort to employing the Substitute Demon."

"I'd have to take Zhang Baisui away and control the Substitute Demon myself to interrogate him... Such an action, due to the influence of calamity, would likely expose me to great risk. Although I'd probably learn the secrets I seek, I might also come to attention and officially enter into tribulation—too soon for my liking."

"Luckily, the Chan Xin Demon was successful."

"Without incident, results should be forthcoming."

These thoughts churned inside Tao Qian.

Completely unaware that he had been parasitized by a Demon Child, Zhang Baisui also had his own calculations in mind, particularly about Tao Qian and Yunrong.

"Heh, those idiots from Tianjiang Dao Sect died a fitting death. Without their demise, I would've had no excuse to enlist these two powerful Cultivators with noteworthy backgrounds."

"I've heard from Tianjiang Dao Sect that this female demon called Yunrong, not only is she from the Transcend Mortality Realm, but she also hails from Jade Ring Mountain—a cultivator's holy land teeming with the Devil Clan."

"It was a pleasant surprise to recruit this woman, but the really important one is the Dragon Demon called Jin Lin, from Overseas Immortal Island. He killed a Cavernous Mystery being while still in Transcend Mortality, and considering his feats within Jin Mansion, tsk tsk, after today, the entire Demon City's Cultivation World will know how formidable the Dragon Demon is."

"No rush, no rush. Now that they're both by my side, I have plenty of tactics at my disposal. If I can sway such martial prowess to my side, my father would never again say I'm unfit for great responsibilities."

With this thought in mind, Zhang Baisui couldn't help but feel joyous.

Chapter 337: Suddenly Knowing the Secret, Annihilation Divine Needle

Due to Tao Qian's interference, a battle of spells and a massacre ended in a different way.

The Ghost Cultivators sent by the Six Paths Sect from Demon City were wiped out, remnants of the Red Cloud Sect were wiped out, and the cultivators from Heavenly Immortal Dao Sect who came to protect the sole child of Zhang Jiudeng were wiped out...

After learning the outcome, the Demon Cultivators of the Ninth Prince's Mansion casually consoled Zhang Baisui, the young master, and indeed, as Tao Qian had predicted, they didn't lay a hand on Jin Xiuju, the orphan of the Jin Mansion; they completely ignored her.

However, it was another of Tao Qian's disguises, the Dragon Demon known by the Taoist name "Jin Lin."

As Zhang Baisui thought, he had made a name for himself thoroughly in the Cultivation World of Demon City.

It made perfect sense, for Tao Qian had publicly killed the Cavernous Mystery Realm cultivator, the ogre Liu Qingpan, with his Transcend Mortality Realm cultivation.

Defeating an enemy above one's level!

In the Cultivation World, it was always big news.

If it happened elsewhere, in another territory, it would undoubtedly be discussed and studied over and over again for months.

But it was different here because, recently, there had been quite a few cultivators who had risen to fame in one fell swoop like the Dragon Demon.

Such as the True Inheritors from major sects, or some cultivators with great fortune and impressive combat achievements, like the inheritor of the Secret Demon Sect, who nearly killed the Demon City Giant Merchant, Liu Hongsheng, at the Medicine King Temple Market in a fight against four.

Nowadays, Demon City was a mixture of dragons and snakes, turbulent and stormy.

Everyone was waiting for the so-called "Treasure Convention" hosted by the Ninth Prince Zhu Qi, all eager to find out what the Supreme Treasure possessed by the Ninth Prince was as per the legend.

In the Cultivation World, there were many lawless individuals, many cultivators, demons, and alien species who simply disregarded these matters and sought to invade Prince Zhao's Mansion day and night.

They employed all kinds of means, stopping at nothing.

Unfortunately, most of them never returned.

Despite suffering losses in face of the Taishang Demon Sect, Secret Demon Sect, Evil Sect, and Demon Buddha Temple, the Demon Sect still held its major status and had no trouble dealing with these petty characters.

Tao Qian had dispatched the Red Lady Demon, lurking inside "Lady Mei" without taking action, also considering this.

The Taishang Demon Sect had been beaten several times by the Secret Demon Sect; how could they not be prepared against the Secret Demon Means?

But it mattered little, as there were others who could lead to calamity, not just Lady Mei alone.

At that moment!

In the Zhang Mansion, which had been rebuilt in a few hours by the cultivators from Heavenly Mechanism Building, summoned with silver banknotes by Zhang Baisui.

Tao Qian had secured a large quiet room, embracing Yunrong, engaged in the act of eavesdropping.

He closed his eyes and focused, secretly forming the Summoning Demon Dharma Seal.

His Primordial Spirit sat upright on the Spirit Platform Secret Acupoint, establishing a subtle connection with the "Chan Xin Demon."

Soon, Tao Qian saw a blurry scene:

In another quiet room, Zhang Baisui was holding a copper mirror Magical Treasure.

First, he shone it around to ensure no one was spying.

Then he reached out and rubbed the edge of the mirror a few times, and immediately, the mirror surface burst into dazzling brilliance, flashing several times, and reflecting a face both majestic and somewhat comical.

The face somewhat resembled Zhang Baisui's but appeared older with a mustache turned up in curls.

As soon as the face appeared, before Zhang Baisui could speak,

The person's loud voice came through first; he coughed up some old phlegm and then scolded with a laugh:

"My little bastard, not enjoying yourself in Demon City but looking for your father, have you run out of money again?"

Zhang Baisui obviously was aware of this greeting; after listening to his absurd father's words,

He then explained the many changes that had occurred during the day.

Just a moment ago, the absurd and comical warlord Zhang Jiudeng immediately changed his expression after hearing this, becoming majestic and solemn, his eyes flashing with a hawk-like sharpness.

Despite his first words still carrying that usual tone,

"Damn it, I told Shangguan E, that old thing, a long time ago that Zhu Quanfu is an ungrateful, cowardly white-eyed wolf. Though his cultivation isn't bad, he lacks courage and wisdom. He's bound to end up as cannon fodder. Didn't expect it to come true so quickly."

"Good, my little bastard, don't worry, with this episode involving you, I'll be able to extort quite a few nice things from Heavenly Immortal Dao, and I am sure it pains those hypocritical practitioners of the Evil Path. Speaking of which, I've long had my eyes on their newly created [Nine Heavens Phoenix Girl]; oh, that appearance, that figure, I'll have my fun again."

"..."

In front of the copper mirror, Zhang Baisui felt extremely weary.

Is this what he meant? His own son was almost killed by his guards, yet his father wasn't thinking of revenge or exterminating Heavenly Immortal Dao across Ancient Qin Province, but using this incident for extortion? And the target of the extortion was that illegitimate goddess nourished by Incense Fire Divine Power.



Recalling the humiliating scene during the day, when he was thrown to Liu Qingpan by Zhu Quanfu and others, Zhang Baisui's face showed grief, and he was almost in tears.

Seeing this, Zhang Jiudeng immediately cursed:

"Look at this pathetic sight of yours; aren't you fine? If you dare to cry, I'll send someone to beat you to death right now."

"I really wonder if you're truly my son. If it weren't for that old Taoist skilled in [Seven Birds Divine Calculation] who said that I, Zhang Jiudeng, could only have one son in my lifetime, and indeed, despite being with so many women over the years, not one has bore another child, I would have beaten you to death a long time ago."

"Forget it, at most I'll spend a few more days with that so-called phoenix girl, making her cry for her father and mother, and take revenge for you."

He was only halfway through speaking when his words took another derogatory turn.

Zhang Baisui silently composed his expression, presenting a serious demeanor, and directly revealed the presence of Xiuzhu, Jin Lin, and Yunrong.

He also informed him of the plans to fulfill the marriage agreement and to recruit these two Transcend Mortality Cultivators as Guest Elders using the resources of the Zhang Family.

After he finished speaking, Zhang Jiudeng surprisingly considered it seriously for a moment or two, then nodded and said:

#### Chapter 338: Suddenly Gaining Secret Knowledge, Annihilation Divine Needle\_2

"You may marry Jin Xiuju, but as for those two cultivators from the Devil Clan with extraordinary origins, first keep them stable," he said. "Others may not know your background, but do I, your father, not know? These two Devils must have come for me; I'll have someone investigate thoroughly."

"Don't blame me for being cautious; you, boy, still don't understand how the world works. Everywhere there are crafty old things skilled in calculations, laying out schemes and fishing for opportunities."

"One careless step and it's a tragic ending of both body and Dao vanishing."

"While I'm still alive, it's all fine, but if I die, you, a powerless little bastard, will be devoured alive by others, even using your Life Soul for their refining."

"But it won't take too long now. Once Zhu Qi, that little bastard, gets his way and I get my share of the critical benefits, your father will ascend to immortality in one leap and take complete control of Ancient Qin Province. By then, not to mention the Heavenly Immortal Dao, even the Quanzhen Sect and White Cloud Temple or any other Daoist and Buddhist Sects, I can equally handle."

"You can rise to heaven along with me, chicken and dog alike. With your natural talent, you had basically bid farewell to cultivation in this lifetime."

"But who made you my son? At that time, I can simply blood sacrifice tens of thousands of people, have you switch to cultivating the Demon Dao Skill, and easily push you into the Cavernous Mystery Realm."

You might not become a thousand-year-old tortoise, but living for a few hundred years should be no problem. It's also fair to your reincarnation fortune."

"Blood sacrifice tens of thousands of people?"

Zhang Baisui, though a complete playboy and a waste of a second generation,

still had some conscience.

Suddenly hearing these wild words spewed out by his boastful father, his face changed, showing hesitation.

He envied those cultivators who could fly and escape through the earth and sought Longevity, but if he had to pay the price of blood sacrificing tens of thousands of people for these powers, he found himself caught in a dilemma, wanting to refuse but also fearing a scolding.

Zhang Jiudeng clearly knew what his only son was like. Seeing his expression, those two curled mustaches quivered again, and he was about to scold him when he suddenly severed the connection with the magical treasure.

However, just at this moment, Zhang Baisui seemed to ask nonchalantly:

"What exactly does the Ninth Prince want to do? How much longer do I have to stay in this damn place?"

"Don't assume that just because I bear the title of your son, everyone here gives face to Zhang Jiudeng. Had it not been for Xiuzhu today, those damn Ogre Li Qingpan would have caught me, flayed my skin, dismantled my bones, and eaten me clean."

Had the first question been the only one asked, without the additional remarks, Zhang Jiudeng would surely have been suspicious.

Now, he naturally burst out cursing,

"Pah, you know nothing! That Li Qingpan is deliberately picking a fight, all that jealousy and spite are probably because he hit a snag with Zhu Qi, and now he's turning his attention to you, trying to pry my mouth open through you. He's out of his mind."

"That old Taoist's calculation was damn accurate, saying your trip to Demon City would be free of danger and that you could turn misfortune into fortune."

"As for what Zhu Qi wants to do? What else could he do, rush to become the bloody Emperor? All those bastards with the surname Zhu, isn't that what they're all thinking?"

"Only before the big drama of the fight for succession starts, that little bastard has to gather strength on one hand and eliminate a few rivals on the other, like the stupid Fourth Prince Zhu Xuan."

"Pretty soon, you'll be able to come back."

"By then, our father and son duo can also have a fresh taste, and eat some True Dragon Blood and Flesh together."

"What flesh?"

Just as Zhang Baisui reflexively asked.

The copper mirror, without any warning, emitted an extremely blinding light, as if a million steel needles were shining forth.

This light, known as the "Annihilation Divine Needle," always resided within the [Mysterious Light Treasure Mirror] and could be controlled remotely by Zhang Jiudeng and unleashed at will.

The Annihilation Divine Needle was formidable and could kill any cultivator whether they were Daoist, Buddhist, Demon, or practitioners of heresy and heterodoxy, any concealed Divine Soul or Primordial Spirit.

Once these beams were launched, they could not be stopped, and in an instant, they swept the quiet room over and over again.

"Hey? There's nothing? Dammit, was my intuition wrong?"

When Zhang Jiudeng uttered this astonished remark.

Outside the quiet room, an intangible and insubstantial little man with a ridiculous grin on its face was running wildly.

While heading towards his master, it let out terrified shouts that only its master could hear:

"The end is nigh, master save me!"

"Thank goodness Chan Xin is quick on its feet, I curse my ancestors if I had been hit, my divinity would have been annihilated."

This Chan Xin Demon, perhaps having massaged Zhang Baisui's heart for too long, also picked up some of the local dialect.

The Zhang Family, father and son, were now the rulers of Ancient Qin Province, but in truth, Zhang Jiudeng's hometown was Tianfu Province. Starting as a cook, he worked his way up to become a warlord. On the night of the shattering of the Ancestor God Forbidden Techniques, he seized his great opportunity, and with the conveniences of being a warlord, he took control of Ancient Qin province in one go.

In addition to his own power, there was a plethora of Side Door forces supporting him, forcing the court to bestow upon him the title of Great Governor.

Seeing Chan Xin Demon, which had accomplished a great feat, return without regard for formalities, Tao Qian flicked out two demon pills to appease it.

In his mind, however, a storm of thoughts was already churning.

The conversation between father and son had no real secrets; it merely informed Tao Qian about what kind of ridiculous warlord Zhang Jiudeng was.

The truly key phrase was the one Tao Qian had remotely made Chan Xin Demon force Zhang Baisui to reveal.

As he had hoped, the secret entered his ears.

Although Zhang Jiudeng spoke vaguely and evasively,

Tao Qian pieced together the information he knew and, after a few moments of thought, quickly deduced the Ninth Prince Zhu Qi's plan.

"Under the support of the Taishang Demon Sect, Zhu Qi is conspiring with Zhang Jiudeng and the Alchemist Saint Child Huang Chong, using Xiao Chenzhou of the Western Capital Army as bait. They plan to lure the Fourth Prince Zhu Xuan out and then besiege and kill him—his own flesh and blood brother."

"That Zhu Xuan, titled as the Yue King, with lands in Wu Yue Province, is said to have the support of the province's leading heretical sect, the Fungus Sect. He has made Wu Yue Province as impenetrable as an iron barrel, with a peculiar and indescribable Fungus Demon Army under his command. Any other power entering would undoubtedly perish. To kill him, indeed, they'd need to lure him out first."

"The most crucial point is, killing his own brother isn't just about eliminating a rival; it seems that the real purpose is something called 'true dragon blood and flesh'?"

At this thought, Tao Qian's brow slightly furrowed.

Now that he too held the fortune of the Human Dao, he naturally knew some relevant secrets.

Though all from the Human Clan, the true rulers of this vast realm, directly descending from the Imperial Family, especially princes and emperors, all have something special about them.

"True dragon blood and flesh... true dragon blood and flesh!"

Tao Qian muttered this phrase in his mind as he recalled details and conjectured further.



Suddenly, he uncontrollably uttered, "The key benefit... true dragon blood and flesh!"

Suddenly,

it was as though thunder boomed in his mind, and Tao Qian felt he had come to an incredible realization about a profound secret.

"There are rumors that the Ninth Prince Zhu Qi possesses a Supreme Treasure. With it, one could completely control Demon City, and perhaps even the fate of a whole province."

"With such a treasure, he isn't in a hurry to refine it, but instead goes to great lengths to plot the killing of the Fourth Prince Zhu Xuan. The purpose is clearly the blood and flesh of his own brother... Obviously, the precondition for refining that treasure, or the key to fully controlling Demon City and a province, involves the use of true dragon blood and flesh."

"Likewise, that absurd warlord Zhang Jiudeng claims to be in collaboration with Zhu Qi. By offering him key benefits, he would also completely control Ancient Qin Province. Could it be that this guy also has such a treasure?"

"A Supreme Treasure capable of such effects, which is not unique, can almost be concluded without further thought to be that..."

Tao Qian's face showed shock, but he did not voice his final conjecture.

This was partly because the guesses were not yet substantiated by solid evidence.

Another reason was the fortune of the Human Dao within him that was again stirring, along with the Infinite Tribulation Method.

This was a warning!

"So that's it, the great calamity of Demon City is expected to arise here."

"It will involve Zhu Qi and the Taishang Demon Sect, along with Zhang Jiudeng and Alchemist Saint Child Huang Chong. Speaking of which, Huand Chong's vision is much better than Qin Wuxiang's; at least he chose a prince and not someone of Ji Xianxian's ilk."

"These people have been conspiring for a long time and have set countless Forbidden Techniques and Secret Techniques here. If I utter those four words and, given my association with Zhang Jiudeng and his son, they might sense it, signifying my official entry into this game."

"Once done, either I will break free from this tribulation, or I will turn to ash, with no third possibility."

"Looking at the power comparison, it is clearly the latter for sure."

"Sweet rain... to confront so many forces all at once, how am I to play this game? Seriously considered, I am still but a mere Foundation Establishment cultivator."

Tao Qian suppressed the thoughts related to this secret in his mind while voicing his woes with a pained expression.

However, in his arms, Yunrong, the Kitten, quietly looked up. Her emerald bewitching pupils reflected the flickering expression in Tao Qian's eyes.

Fear and sorrow?

A bit of that.

But more prevailing was a reckless eagerness to try.

Seeing this, Yunrong lay back down, thinking to herself, "Grandmother was right; this good brother is indeed my destined one. The lineage of Jade Ring Mountain's Kitten shall continue."

Chapter 339: 3-Day Refining, The First Calamity Arrives

Tao Qian had no idea about his cat's thoughts, and was focused solely on caressing her.

After leveraging the Chan Xin Demon for convenience and peeking at the hidden truths behind Demon City, Tao Qian felt stirred and did not go anywhere else for several days, staying in Zhang Mansion to refine magic skills.

Zhang Baisui, whose single-minded goal was to woo two powerful cultivators to establish his own faction, naturally didn't disturb him.

Upon hearing that Senior Jin Lin intended to refine magic, he boldly declared, "Senior, should you need any treasure materials or spiritual objects, just give the order and all shall be provided."

Disliking this fellow's flaunting of silver coins and banknotes, Tao Qian made him uncomfortable several times, requesting some bizarre spiritual materials, who would have thought that this second-generation warlord indeed was formidable, satisfying Tao Qian's demands within a few hours.

The cultivation world was merging with the mortal world, and at this time silver coins and banknotes were still useful.

Especially Zhang Baisui, whose father controlled a province as a great warlord; having money was indeed impressive.

Alas, the treasure materials that money could buy could only be used to refine some common divine power skills. Other guest cultivators would be grateful and excited, but those were completely useless for Tao Qian.

However, Zhang Baisui was indeed not foolish, and instead shifted his focus to Little Age, Lian Jing'er, and Shan Jiu.

This caused Tao Qian to take pleasure in their misfortune. These three half-sized youngsters looked harmless and easy to maintain, but that was just an illusion.

Before cultivation, both Little Age and Lian Jing'er had huge appetites, which were still within the acceptable range.

At that time, Tao Qian was in Southern Yue, continuously slaughtering Evil Cultivators and plundering war supplies, which barely managed to sustain them.

Until the two youngsters each acquired "Taisui Qi Eating Scripture" and "Creation Puppet Technique" and formally embarked on cultivation.

My goodness!

They were truly like two bottomless pits; no matter how much flesh and essence of myriad things were filled into them, they took it all in stride.

It was fortunate that they were at Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, with the foundation of Ascending Immortal Island and the assistance of many aunts and uncles, otherwise, Tao Qian reckoned he couldn't afford to sustain them.

As for Shan Jiu?

This Wild Leek Demon of mysterious origins and unusual methods didn't require Tao Qian's concern.

Many treasures naturally found their way to him.

Over time, his body became a treasure, and the surging green gleam within him was actually the light of treasures.

Thus, what Tao Qian worried about each time he saw Shan Jiu was suppressing his own evil desires to harvest him.

"After all, he is the only son of a great warlord; even Little Age and Lian Jing'er likely can't devour him into poverty."

"While there are still a few days of leeway, let me first refine the [Spirit Treasure Golden Light Body Protection Divine Spell] and [Innate One Qi Great Seizing Hand]."

Inside the quiet room of Zhang Mansion, Tao Qian muttered this.

His face showed reluctance, then he reached into his bosom, pulled out Yunrong, and placed her aside.

Without waiting for his words, Yunrong immediately wriggled back inside.

Tao Qian laughed and sighed, pulling her out again and apologetically said, "Dear sister, I need to refine magic now."

After much persuasion and tugging back and forth, Yunrong finally settled down in a soft cushion in the corner of the quiet room, staring at her destined companion with eyes filled with deep fascination as he refined magic.

At first glance, there seemed nothing unusual about the Golden Light Mantra he was refining from Spirit Treasure Sect.

This mantra, she also knew some details about.

"Among the Twelve Daoist Sects, several great sects have their own Golden Light Mantra, similar in effect."

"Among them, the Golden Light Mantra of Spirit Treasure Sect and Taishang Dao are the most powerful; once refined, internal evils will not arise, and external demons cannot invade, truly unparalleled in defense."

"However, this divine spell is extremely difficult to enter. Whether one can refine it not only depends on diligence and talent, but more critically on the cultivator's 'Karma.' Because when refining the mantra, one must form the Golden Light Seal, envision one's own founding master, and if there is karma, it can be refined easily; if not, a hundred years may pass without emitting a single thread of golden light."

"It's basically about who the founding master takes a liking to; they can refine it the fastest."

"It's a kind of face-judging divine spell. My dear brother, although a Spirit Treasure Cultivator, seems rather unattractive, fearing it's difficult to enter Lingbao Tianzun's sight..."

Yunrong, this Kitten, thought thus.

Already forming the Golden Light Seal and envisioning his own founding master, Tao Qian, seated at the Secret Acupoint Platform of the Primordial Spirit, actually started negotiating with Lingbao Tianzun.

"Heavenly Venerate above, as your disciple, you know I have always honored you. Last time at the treasure distribution conference, you played a trick on your disciple. Right now, I am facing a cultivation tribulation outside, it's a matter of life and death; I'll have to fight with the demons from the Evil Sect and Taishang Demon Sect soon, urgently needing the Golden Light Body Protection, I hope Heavenly Venerate will pity me and allow me to refine this divine spell."

As his thoughts settled, Tao Qian instantly made a move.

While forming the seal, he envisioned his founding master, the Innate Divine being within the Seven Treasures Canopy, simultaneously chanting, "Universe's mystic root, ten thousand Qi as the origin... Widely cultivate through endless tribulations, proving my divine powers... Within and beyond the three realms, only the Dao is revered... I possess golden light, reflecting on my body..."

Tao Qian originally thought, even though his talent was extraordinary and he was a Spirit Treasure True Inheritor, he would need at least a dozen attempts to produce golden light.



Who could have guessed?

Only one attempt!

Just a single attempt!

As Tao Qian uttered, "Golden light reveal swiftly, shielding the True Master," suddenly,

Within the quiet room, golden light surged.

It was as though an additional golden figure had appeared in this realm instantly, capable of warding off all evils. The Daoist golden light gushed out, casting Tao Qian in an appearance similar to a Daoist divine being. In his presence, no evil could arise, demons were terrified, and spirit monsters disappeared.

Even Yunrong, a cultivator stemming from the legitimate Spirit Demon Dao lineage of Jade Ring Mountain, felt that she couldn't approach Tao Qian at this moment.

Chapter 340: 3-Day Refining, The First Calamity Arrives - 2

"How did he enter the door so quickly? How is this possible?"

"Could this dear brother be the son of the Spirit Treasure Sect Master?"

"Oh no, I've heard that cultivating this Divine Spell has numerous risks, one of which is excessive visualization. While it indeed makes it easy to refine the Golden Light, it also blends one's body into the Spirit Treasure Dao, and in an instant, one could perish and the soul could return to darkness."

Thinking this, Yunrong immediately rose to her feet.

Her supple body transformed into a faint light, and she was about to rush over to try and awaken Tao Qian.

However, as she moved, the golden light in the quiet room suddenly retracted. Tao Qian, who had just released the Golden Light Seal, wore a look of joy and proudly said, "As hard as they described, I entered the door on the first try; it seems quite easy after all."

As he spoke, Tao Qian just happened to see Yunrong rushing towards him, and he naturally caught her with both hands.

Then, quite naturally, he fondled her a few times before putting her down and patting her head while shoos her toward the corner with the words, "Dear sister, do not rush, I have just entered the door of the Golden Light Divine Spell and need to practice more. Later, I must also refine the Innate One Qi Great Seizing Hand; I have no time to mingle with you."

After speaking, Tao Qian, without caring about the skeptical and cat-like expression on Yunrong's face, continued his refining methods without pause.

Yunrong had reasons for her previous concerns.

Whether it is the Spirit Treasure Golden Light Body Protection Divine Spell or the Innate One Qi Great Seizing Hand, both are powerful Divine Powers.

Even if a Spirit Treasure disciple were to refine them, he could not escape the price.

Inside the Spirit Treasure Great Volume there were Dissipation Methods, but they could only eliminate most of the risk, not all.

However, it was different for Tao Qian.

"All consequences exempted!"

It was precisely because of this sentence that Tao Qian dared to refine without any concern.

Yet, to refine the Golden Light Mantra in the first attempt at such a speed, even within the bounds of Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, could provoke heated discussions.

Apart from demonstrating that Tao Qian, with talents like Innate Dao Seed and Taishang Treasure No-leak Body, was indeed extraordinarily gifted.

It also indicated that Tao Qian had a deep affinity with the Spirit Treasure Dao.

The refinement process of the Innate One Qi Great Seizing Hand, which once again caused Yunrong's emotions to fluctuate, confirmed this point further.

Like what Yuan Gong said earlier, for others to refine the Great Seizing Hand was extremely difficult, yet Tao Qian, with an Innate Dao Seed in his possession, easily refined a thread of 'Innate Qi' and almost instantly formed the Great Seizing Hand, mastering a New Divine Power.

...

Three days later, at Zhang Mansion.

Still in that spacious quiet room, a special struggle was taking place.

In that room, a young Daoist's figure was sitting upright, holding a Dharma Seal, his body emitting golden light.

In the void, something seemed to be attacking him, only the sounds of "ding ding ding" could be heard. It was lively, yet it couldn't even scratch Tao Qian's skin.

That figure, moving so fast it was invisible, thus grew irate, and a sharp cat's cry was heard as a nimble Kitten stepped out of the void, its fur black and white, its eyes green and demonic, surrounded by flames and falling golden flowers, rushing towards Tao Qian in a blur of motion.

At the same time, a seductive magnetic voice entered Tao Qian's ears.

"Dear brother, this is the Xuan Yin Demon Flame, which scorches both body and heart, and can ruin the Yin and Yang Qi within you. If you can't withstand it, just speak up, and your sister will save you with her body."

Before these words fell, the quiet room, already set with a Forbidden Technique, suddenly saw thousands of ethereal cold glows burst forth, each thread instantly forming a bizarre, temperature-less flame, turning the room into a sea of fire. Every thread seemed alive, recklessly burrowing into Tao Qian's body.

Even though Tao Qian was protected by the Golden Light Mantra, he still shuddered abruptly.

First feeling cold, then the Yin and Yang Qi inside his body became unbalanced, his body like falling into an ice chasm, trembling all over, eyebrows frosted, yet his lower abdomen was ablaze, as if something was crashing left and right, longing to break out.

The usually composed Tao Qian was severely affected this time.

He thought to himself, "This is going to be tough. I really shouldn't underestimate anyone. The Heart Lamp Green Flame Yunrong used before was ferocious enough, and I didn't expect another 'Xuan Yin Demon Flame' to come."

Startled though he was, Tao Qian didn't plan to lose his composure in the face of a great enemy or during an overwhelming tribulation.

With a wry smile, he continued with the Golden Light Divine Spell, and with another thought, saw a stream of Source Qi emerge from the Chaos Abyss, engulfing everything. It shimmered and instantly transformed into a vast white hand that casually scooped in front of him, catching Yunrong neatly.

Gently caressing, in an instant, a comfortable moan was heard from the Kitten.

The mysterious appearance inside the quiet room vanished completely, the flames extinguished.

Tao Qian had just withdrawn the Golden Light Divine Spell and pulled Yunrong back into his arms when he heard an exasperated voice say, "Dear brother, you're cheating. Didn't we agree to only test the power of the Golden Light Body Protection Divine Spell and not use any other Divine Powers?"

Tao Qian chuckled dryly, about to offer some excuses.

Suddenly, a rescue arrived.

Sensing that events here had concluded, a Cloud Talisman Letter that had arrived earlier but had been intercepted by Lian Jing'er was now released from its constraints and flew directly into the open doorway.

The source of the Cloud Talisman was the National Salvation Congress.

Due to the tribulation energy on them, currently preparing and accumulating power, unable to afford any setbacks, the National Salvation Congress had no choice but to forgo inviting Tao Qian to join.

His mere visit was intended to be just that, a visit, yet it almost led to a catastrophe with the refining going out of control for one of the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness, Tianjiang Immortal.

Formal membership would likely have entangled the Congress in ample trouble by now.

It was only a temporary inability to join, but that did not hinder establishing contacts and friendships.

Though he had visited only once and met merely a few individuals like Yu Yanshi, Li Wenyan, and Shi Yingqiong, Tao Qian was no fool or blind man. He could perceive the potential of the organization "National Salvation Congress."

To say nothing of the others, upon that visit, Tao Qian had seen influences like the Primordial Sect, Taishang Dao, Shaoqing Sect, Reclining Buddha Temple, Liang Family, and Heavenly Talisman Sect... Such forces, with a forward-thinking ideology—if he did not engage with them, he would indeed be a fool.

Not to mention, once contact was established, many benefits followed.

One of them was information sharing.

In these recent days, Tao Qian had learned much more from the National Salvation Congress, including secrets and news.

He had also tasked the Congress with collecting information about the many changes in Demon City and the progress of the war between the Ninth Prince and the Fourth Prince.

This letter was the latest.

Tao Qian thought and opened the Cloud Talisman, immediately lines of text reminiscent of a news bulletin emerged:

"Within the last two days, the rumors regarding the Exotic Treasure possessed by the Ninth Prince have escalated. Some say it's the Ancient Treasure [Thirty-Three Heavens Xuanhuang Pagoda], others claim it's one of the lost treasures of Taishang Demon Sect [Heavenly Demon Pearl], and still others suggest it's a Devil from the Outer Realm capable of swallowing heaven and earth."

"Fooled by these rumors, dozens of powers and hundreds of Demon Cultivators in the last twenty-four hours tried to use various Divine Powers to break into Prince Zhao Mansion and steal the treasures... Most were slain by the Demon Cultivators of the Demon Army under the Ninth Prince, yet some strong beings caused losses to Prince Zhao Mansion, though none succeeded in taking the treasure."



"After surrounding Xixia City for two days, the Heavenly Demon Army led by Yin Qiye was suddenly attacked by the Fungus Demon Army under Yue King Zhu Xuan, with insiders helping. The Heavenly Demon Army, along with the forces led by Zhang Jiudeng, suffered tremendous losses, and Yin Qiye was severely injured and had to flee."

"Only a few hours later, hundreds of miles outside Xixia City, a grand array suddenly appeared; it was the [Ten Directions Nine Realms Sky Demon Slaying Immortal Array], one of the most renowned Arrays of the Taishang Demon Sect. With the power of this Array, the Ninth Prince Zhu Qi not only annihilated Zhu Xuan's Fungus Demon Army and the remnants of the Western Capital Army but also trapped Zhu Xuan's other powerful subordinates and disappeared Xiao Chenzhou and his daughter."

"And at the critical moment of the final battle, a mysterious cultivator suddenly appeared on the side of the Ninth Prince, breaking through numerous Forbidden Techniques to abduct Zhu Xuan."

"Thus, the battle was won."

"The battle of Xixia City, within a few hours, became legendary across the lands."

"The Ninth Prince Zhu Qi, previously not a frontline contender in the struggle for succession, suddenly rose to the top three."

"The reigning Emperor, who had only recently returned triumphantly to the Imperial City and resumed his throne, also sent an Imperial Edict to Zhu Qi an hour ago. Rumor has it that the edict contained no reprimands but quite the opposite—lots of encouragement and even an invitation for Zhu Qi to come to the capital to assist him, intending to appoint him as the Crown Prince."

...

"Fourth Prince Zhu Xuan has been captured!"

Originally relaxed Tao Qian, upon seeing this outcome of the so-called battle of Xixia.

Suddenly, the hardly settled Human Dao Fortune within him along with the Infinite Tribulation Method churned out once more.

And this time, the disturbance was much too violent.

Even the abnormalities Tao Qian had hidden with his casting, long ears and double teeth, revealed themselves without restraint.

Then the Infinite Tribulation Method transmitted a premonition:

"The first tribulation is coming!"

"If you survive this tribulation, great benefits await."

"Fail, and your body will die, and your path will vanish."