

Longevity 341

Chapter 341: Ugly Refusal of Lian Yulou, One Hundred Thousand Red Dust Swords

"My first calamity, who will it be?"

Tao Qian hugged Yunrong, allowing the qi within his body to surge tumultuously. His face betrayed his unusual condition, with his long ears and double teeth showing, while he frowned slightly in contemplation.

Soon, he had an answer.

In fact, it wasn't complicated. Since Tao Qian had set foot in Demon City, he had always focused on concealing himself, avoiding getting involved in troubles or participating in matters. Even if he had to make a move out of necessity, he would use the Secret Demon Transformation Technique to hide his true self. Afterwards, he used the Secret Demon Formless Inversion Method to thoroughly disrupt his destiny and the Heavenly Mechanisms.

Creating false identities and vests, he had managed to come up with two in the past few days.

One was the Secret Demon Child who fought against four in the Medicine King Temple Market.

The other was the Overseas Dragon Demon Jin Linzi, who was now smashed to death by a Dragon Ball, formerly the ogre Li Qingpan.

"The great calamity of Demon City is still brewing, and it definitely wouldn't be my first calamity."

"That leaves only the group I provoked at the Medicine King Temple Market, or Lian Yulou, who marked me with an evil aura."

"Most likely, it is Lian Yulou."

"This neither yin nor yang True Inheritor of the Evil Sect is most vindictive. That day in Jin Mansion, they lost face to me and marked me before leaving. They probably think I'm just another Transcend Mortality Realm Dragon Demon who happens to have some free time to trouble me."

"If my internal qi is this turbulent, it seems I'm bound to face the calamity tonight..."

With this in mind, Tao Qian temporarily regarded Lian Yulou as the tribulation that he was about to face.

If it were someone like Liu Hongsheng, Tao Qian felt he could deal with it casually.

But Lian Yulou was a True Inheritor of the Evil Sect, and moreover an ancestral reincarnation of a Demon Sect giant. Only such an existence would make Tao Qian take cautious measures.

This wasn't enough; he immediately began to strategize on how to trap and kill the enemy.

"Displaying weakness to the enemy need not be mentioned. If I could disguise techniques like the Toad Pearl, Holy Embryo Bag, and Silent Divine Thunder openly, plus the Haotian Divine Light invited by Sister Yunrong, if all these don't kill him, then there's no need to hide the Buddha Bird Relics and Secret Demon Sword Technique. I can also call upon All Demons for help and utilize everything at once."

"If that still fails, I'll ask Yuan Gong to possess me once more, to wield the Demon Cleansing Sword Intent... And should that still not suffice, then I'll have to resort to using Aunt Bai Yin's Snake Scale, calling Aunt Bai Yin herself for assistance."

After several thoughts, Tao Qian had made a firm decision in his mind.

Ensuring everything was in place, Tao Qian did not linger in Zhang Mansion, nor even in Demon City.

Knowing that the tribulation was imminent, and facing a formidable opponent, Tao Qian did not wish to fight with his hands tied, potentially bringing harm to the Mortal Human Race.

Choosing a location based on the map of the surroundings of Demon City provided by Yu Yanshi, he selected one.

Raising his hand, he summoned an auspicious cloud and immediately headed towards a vast mountain range outside the boundaries of Demon City.

This place is also worth mentioning. Since the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique was gone,

It wasn't just the Devil and Demons entering the world; some mysterious phenomena and strange celestial events, which were rarely seen in the past, also erupted and descended into the Mortal World. These events caused numerous natural disasters, and with their ferocious momentum, they permanently altered many terrains and landscapes within the vast territory of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, making this land, originally most suitable for the Human Clan, gradually revert to its ancestry, becoming more barren and primal.

Some territories, like the border between the Eastern Four Provinces and the south, already harbored a large number of solid and impregnable strategic passes. In recent years, a barbaric sea of clouds had formed, filled with innumerable dangers. Even Cultivators, Demon or armies with Extraordinary Power such as the Heavenly Demon Army or Devil God Army found it utterly impossible to cross.

That place thus earned the name "Mountain and Sea Boundary, World Extreme Pass."

Similar changes had occurred in the surroundings of Demon City. Apart from the well-known Great Wilderness Mountain, another location—where Tao Qian was heading—housed the Heavenly Mother Mountain.

This mountain was originally nothing special, but in recent years, it had grown more divine and mysterious. It was engulfed in constant rain and thunderous roars, rendering the mountain dark and uninhabitable for humans. Yet, if one could enter the mountain successfully, they would be treated to scarcely seen magnificent views. It was even rumored to harbor many Devil and Alien Charm creatures, as well as existences such as Goddesses and Mountain Ghosts.

On an ordinary day, although the mountain had many mysteries, it was still peaceful and lively.

But this night was vastly different.

Several miles away from Heavenly Mother Mountain, Tao Qian gazed from afar, catching sight of the mountain's grandeur.

"This truly is a fine territory, a good choice indeed."

"First, let's take action and scatter those innocent Mountain Spirits and Ghosts."

After reciting these two lines,

In an instant, Tao Qian activated the Secret Demon Transformation Technique within his body.

The next moment, every Life in the territory of Heavenly Mother Mountain heard roaring sounds, grand and vast as though originating from ancient times. Whether savage or primitive, as the roaring drumbeats thundered, fierce Wind, Rain, Thunder and Lightning suddenly emerged, charging straight towards Heavenly Mother Mountain.

Within the storm of Thunder and Lightning, there surged a rainbow light.

Faintly visible was the figure of a creature with Dragon and Horse features, golden eyes and canine teeth, a black tail and a white body—the shadow of a Dragon Clan beast—roaring as it collided with Heavenly Mother Mountain.

Transformed into a Bo Dragon, Tao Qian roamed throughout the mountain, bringing clouds and rain, as if treating this place as his own territory to oversee.

As a result, many native Devil creatures and spirit monsters in the mountain were terrified, especially when they heard the strong warning in the Bo Dragon's roar, forcing them to move house reluctantly.

There was a temple on the mountain called "Wood Immortal Temple" that had been abandoned for a long time. Now, it was occupied by a group of devil charms, including a Willow Tree Demon, a Wild Fox Spirit, a Crow Spirit, a Spider Monster, and a creature called "Qingzhu Skull"—an Alien Species.

These spirit monsters, usually harmless to humans, didn't cause trouble and simply lived off Heavenly Mother Mountain, slowly accumulating Cultivation by absorbing some of Heavenly Mother Origin Qi.

They had thought the years would be calm, and they could go on living like that.

Little did they expect that this night seemed poised for a significant event, as a terrifying Bo Dragon, for some unknown reason, intruded into Heavenly Mother Mountain, appearing as if it was about to claim the mountain for itself.

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In the crumbling temple, the group of devils huddled together, trembling with fear as they looked at the fearsome beast from a distance. Merely the wind, rain, thunder, and lightning accompanying it, as well as the rainbow light, left all life within Heavenly Mother Mountain in terror, causing them to scatter and flee amidst the pouring rain.

These devils should have done the same, but they were reluctant to abandon Wood Immortal Temple, their refuge.

The Willow Tree Demon spoke in a grave and serious tone, "We better escape quickly. This is a powerful Dragon Seed. If it goes berserk, not one of us, mere spirit monsters, would be enough to even get stuck between its teeth."

The lower half of the Wild Fox Spirit had transformed into that of the Human Clan, but with a fox's head it spoke in human language, "If we can escape, what will you do? Your branches and leaves may be lush, and it's extremely painful when you hit someone with your Willow Whip, but your roots are immovable, trapped in this Wood Immortal Temple."

The Crow Spirit said, "Why should we flee? We are quite safe here on Heavenly Mother Mountain. If we leave, we'll be captured by those Evil Cultivators for refining. In the mountain next to ours, my clan of Fire Crow relatives met such a misfortune, the whole clan was wiped out, skinned and bones dismantled, not even sparing their Life Souls. It is said they were used to refine a Magical Treasure known as the 'Fire Crow Pot'."

The Spider Monster said, "Shut your crow mouth. If we flee from here and avoid those areas where Cultivators gather, we should be safe."

The Qingzhu Skull said, "No rush, no rush, the Mountain Ghost Sister is about to awaken. Her Dao Heng is the first among all the spirit monsters of Heavenly Mother Mountain. Maybe she can negotiate with this ferocious dragon."

The words of this Alien Species had hardly faded.

In Heavenly Mother Mountain, a disturbance that even Tao Qian found surprising arose.

Amidst the clouds and rain, suddenly came an imposing, remote song, filled with a wild, divine breath. The singer was a woman, whose life force was in perfect harmony with this Heavenly Mother Mountain, clearly the origin-born spirit monster of this mountain, and had already received the mountain's recognition.

If this woman had some tricks up her sleeve, she could directly merge with the mountain, which also qualified as a Cave Heaven Blessed Land, and declare herself something like "Mountain God."

Regrettably, the woman didn't seem to have the intention to monopolize the mountain and hadn't done so.

As Tao Qian was frolicking about, he suddenly turned his head, only to see a flash of brilliance, and a primitive yet exceptionally pure figure appeared in front of him.

This was a young woman, her dress seeming to be made purely of green vines. Her hair and skin were unadorned and, though not delicate, she possessed a kind of natural beauty. She was neither Immortal, Demon, Devil, nor Ghost, somewhat similar to the aura of the Divine Dao, yet entirely different. Riding on an exceptionally lively black panther, she controlled the sky and approached.

"May I ask where you have come from? Heavenly Mother Mountain is not the exclusive property of anyone. All beings between heaven and earth are welcome to cultivate here, but you are making too much noise. Could you please restrain your Divine Skills a bit and not frighten the other brothers and sisters in the mountain?"

After speaking, the woman seemed to feel her tone was somewhat improper.

She took the initiative to speak again, extending an invitation to Tao Qian, "I am the daughter of Heavenly Mother Mountain, you can just call me Mountain Ghost. I have some fruits, spiritual tea at my residence, which I can use to entertain you..."

Without a doubt!

This Mountain Ghost before Tao Qian was very courteous.

Despite Tao Qian's unannounced intrusion and commotion, this potential Mountain God, this Female Charm, still spoke peacefully to negotiate.

Under normal circumstances, Tao Qian would certainly have complied.

Unfortunately, it was at this particular moment.

Right then and there, the energy within Tao Qian surged to its limits; his first ordeal was about to arrive.

With a wry smile, Tao Qian suddenly made a move that completely surprised the Mountain Ghost before him, as well as the spirit monsters below who were still hoping for luck and had not yet departed.

"Roar!"

Only a terrifying Dragon Roar was heard as the already vast Wind, Rain, Thunder, and Lightning immediately began to expand, and blinding rainbow light burst incessantly with dreadful Divine Thunder.

A voice that was obviously struggling and on the verge of losing control echoed in the ears of all the spirit monsters.

"Get out of here... I've had a mishap with my cultivation, I'll vent it in your territory."

"If you don't want to be eaten by me... then quickly scam out of here."

As this roar resounded, Tao Qian also activated the Ten Thousand Transformation Technique, causing his Bo Dragon body to swell up wildly, soon transforming into a true behemoth that struck fear into all spirit monsters' hearts, shattering their hope completely; they started fleeing desperately.

The effect was perfect, but to Tao Qian's frustration.

The Mountain Ghost riding the black panther, upon hearing his excuse, did not flee but rushed into the lightning towards Tao Qian, shouting in her holy voice, "Do not panic, fellow Daoist, I have some refreshing and concentration-restoring techniques that can help you recover."

Watching the beautiful, yet seemingly wild daughter-like Mountain Ghost ride the panther towards him,

Tao Qian was absolutely certain this Female Charm wasn't pretending to be innocent to take advantage of him.

She was truly innocent, pure, and naive.

"This Female Charm must have been born from Heavenly Mother Mountain not long ago, showing not the slightest sign of being battered by the Cultivation World."

"Since I can't send her away, there's no other way."

As Tao Qian's mind was set, taking advantage of the Female Charm's proximity, he enveloped her with the Holy Embryo Bag.

The Mountain Ghost was indeed naive, unaware of the wickedness of the human heart. Wrapped up in the white light, she tumbled into the bag at once, becoming dazed with limp limbs and falling into a deep sleep.

At the same time, the spirit monsters within the mountain had all fled without a trace.

Thus, Tao Qian had no more concerns and fully committed to his act, beginning his performance.

Huge dragon body rolling rampantly, drumming sounds thunderous, thunderous booms explosive, with the aid of the Ten Thousand Transformation Technique and Tao Qian quietly using spells like the Sweet Rain Skill and Summoning Thunder Skill, he entirely portrayed the image of a Dragon Seed who had met with a mishap in cultivation to the fullest.

Soon after, as though exhausted,

Amid the enveloping mist, he chose a rocky peak on the mountain and wrapped around it.

This gesture was effortless and natural for Tao Qian, yet this scene was enough to shock the many spirit monsters who had fled at a distance.

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"Such a terrifying Bo Dragon, our Heavenly Mother Mountain is so unlucky."

"Is this a Dragon Seed? It's horrifying."

"Can the cultivation of a Dragon Seed also go awry? Out of control, it's almost like a mad beast. Luckily, we escaped quickly; otherwise, we all would have been eaten by this Evil Dragon."

"Will we be able to return when this Evil Dragon has vented its rage?"

"Poor Mountain Ghost Sister, she wasn't eaten, was she?"

At Heavenly Mother Mountain, the Evil Dragon had attacked, and Devil creatures had fled, too angry to speak, only daring to watch from a distance outside the mountain as the giant beast coiled around the summit after its rampage. This scene was quite consistent with some legends of marvels, seen by woodcutters and farmers, soon to be spread far and wide.

It was just when many spirit monsters were indignantly plotting that suddenly, deep within Heavenly Mother Mountain, a sigh echoed.

Then came the dark, sinister wave that Tao Qian had become quite familiar with, enveloping everything, including Tao Qian and the Bo Dragon, under the blanket of darkness at Heavenly Mother Mountain. The bright light showered down, and the new stage was set. Surprisingly, Tao Qian heard a familiar catchphrase.

Not long ago, Tao Qian had spoken those words to the True Inheritor of the Evil Sect, Lian Yulou.

Now, it was being returned to him.

"Mr. Jin Lin, sorry to keep you waiting. These past days have really kept me busy. Now that I've found some free time, I've come to settle the score from that day at Jin Mansion when you bit me."

"Mr. Jin Lin, your doom has arrived."

As the voice died away, Tao Qian saw the person in question.

Lian Yulou seemed to really relish his role as an "actor" this lifetime, incorporating performance into his combat. Last time at Jin Mansion, he had contrived the scenario of Little Juxian kidnapping the Rashamon Girl. Now, at Heavenly Mother Mountain, he had stirred up something new.

He appeared dressed in an extremely lavish red wedding gown, holding a Red Sleeve Longsword. If one didn't look at his clearly male face, they might really think he was a graceful bride.

As if that was not enough, soon after his bride made her debut, the stage quickly filled with various puppets, singing a weird script eerily.

Tao Qian pretended to be weakened, listening intently. This was clearly a play titled "The Malevolent Love of Marrying a Dragon."

His previous memories revealed that this drama was adapted from folktales of marvels, telling a tangled tale of love between a woman from the Human Clan and a Dragon Demon, across three lifetimes—bittersweet and quite popular.

And the play's ending was pleasing to hear.

Because the Dragon Demon was naturally lascivious and committed many evils, it was ultimately slain by the woman with an Immortal Sword. Afterwards, the woman wore her bridal gown and followed him in death.

Tao Qian had originally enacted his part excellently, pretending that his cultivation went awry and was extremely weakened after venting. He planned to strike Lian Yulou fatally as he approached, but he certainly hadn't expected Lian Yulou to come up with such a scheme.

Those voices, sorrowful and lingering, immediately stiffened Tao Qian's expression.

Then, disregarding his weakened body,

he soared into the air with a thunderous explosion, much like that time at Jin Mansion, charging towards Lian Yulou.

At the same time, he shouted:

"Lian Yulou, even if you want to kill me, choose another way."

"I can't accept this one. If you were good-looking, maybe, but you're so ugly. How can you claim there's any cursed bond between us?"

"Even if I, Jin Lin, were truly licentious by nature, I still couldn't possibly fancy you. Not in three lifetimes, not even in nine."

"You're too ugly!"

Clearly enraged, Tao Qian spat out several 'ugly' words in a row.

In a few sentences, it could be summed up in two words: ugly reject.

Although Lian Yulou, a member of the Evil Sect, had a twisted mind beyond ordinary people,

suddenly being insulted repeatedly by Tao Qian caused his expression to slightly change. Following the script, he paced towards Tao Qian, intending to engage in combat, but then he suddenly stopped.

The next moment, he coyly smiled.

Previously unseen, [Evil Silk Demon Puppet], without warning, leapt out.

The sky filled with Evil Silk falling like rain. Despite Tao Qian's huge dragon body, the Evil Silk broke through his defenses, binding and suspending him mid-air.

At the same time, her coquettish voice laden with intense killing intent came again:

"What a bold Dragon Demon, you are just a minor role. Originally, I planned to kill you quickly to vent my anger and then attend Zhu Qi's night feast."

"But unexpectedly, you provoked me. So, now no one can be blamed."

As her voice fell, Lian Yulou waved his sleeve robe.

His Red Sleeve Sword suddenly split from one into two, two into four, four into eight... In an instant, the entire Heavenly Mother Mountain stage was enveloped by the swords, each appearing as sharp as a little knife, hissing as they fell. Judging by this arrangement, it was clear he intended to subject Tao Qian to a lingering death.

Even more terrifying, these Red Sleeve Swords were quite sinister, bringing far more than just physical pain.

"This is the hundred thousand Red Dust Sin Swords, the blades smeared with Red Dust Poison. Subjected to their lingering torture, you must not only roll in the sins of greed, hatred, ignorance, lust, and evil desires, but also experience the human sufferings of birth, old age, sickness, death, and unfulfillment... After suffering this punishment, your flesh and Life Soul will become exceedingly delicious."

"After you are on the brink of death, I will then consume your flesh and Soul. You will likely regret having indulged in the pleasure of arguing."

Chapter 344: Silver Dragon Sashimi, Desire Sin Nine Tribulations Body

Tao Qian allowed the Evil Silk to hoist him up, certainly not out of a desire to be abused.

Master Tao, after all, never confined himself to one way of slaying, capable at the Southern Yue Fragrant Meat Gathering of cutting down a group of demons with a single swing of his sword, and also could legitimately duel with that merchant demon, Liu Hongsheng.

However, he couldn't act so straightforwardly in front of Lian Yulou, the true inheritor of the Evil Sect. Tao Qian's glimpse into the secrets of Jin Mansion during that biting incident had indeed revealed some of Lian Yulou's background, but how many tricks did he really have up his sleeve?

Tao Qian thought it was best to feign weakness and wait for an opportunity to strike with a sudden killing blow.

Thus, at that moment, while he sent a telepathic message to Yunrong asking her to patiently wait, he continued to curse and shout,

"What kind of rubbish is this Red Dust Sin Sword? Come on, I'll let you hack at me, you androgynous ugly thing. If I flinch, then I'm not Jin Lin."

"And why are you standing so far away? Afraid of my moves, too cowardly to come closer?"

"People of the Evil Sect, is that all you are, a waste of space? No wonder you became a male concubine for some rebel army leader."

Having established themselves as mortal enemies, Tao Qian was far from courteous.

With sharp tongue, his words pierced like blades, striking Lian Yulou to the core right to his face.

Of course, such provocation wasn't nearly enough to drive him mad.

After all, how could the true inheritor of the Evil Sect be compared to an ordinary cultivator?

Upon hearing this, Lian Yulou's face didn't show any rage but rather another playful smile as he said:

"What a crude method of provocation."

"How could a mixed Dragon Demon like you understand the elegance of the Evil Sect's magic skills?"

"Afraid of your moves? Hahaha... I'll stand right in front of you and execute you with a lingering death. What can you do about it?"

"You're merely a Bo Dragon, thinking you're something because of a trace of your lineage, not realizing that to some stronger beings, you're just an ant to be trampled and slaughtered at will. Your blood, your marrow, your Dragon Ball, your dragon liver, are merely bait for others to fish with."

"It so happens I was worried about not having a gift to give at Prince Zhao Mansion; your flesh and Life Soul would be most appropriate."

"Let me slice you piece by piece, arrange you on a plate, and prepare a dish of Silver Dragon Sashimi as a gift for Zhu Qi, Huang Chong, and others to taste."

In the midst of this talk, Lian Yulou's body flickered, and in the next moment, he appeared directly in front of Tao Qian.

He had called Tao Qian's provocation clumsy, yet he took the bait on his own, clearly seeing Tao Qian as a weakling he could toy with at will.

It was quite normal. A true inheritor of the Evil Sect, who had cultivated for generations and was nearing Great Perfection, not to mention the friendship with Huang Chong, one of the Alchemist Saint Children, would hardly regard a mixed blood Bo Dragon.

Still dressed in that flirtatious red wedding gown, he stood in front of Tao Qian, casually grasping a Red Dust Sin Sword and aiming straight for Tao Qian's dragon eyes to gouge them out.

Clearly, Lian Yulou was angry after all.

The first sword of the lingering death aimed to take Tao Qian's eyes, as a symbol of his blindness.

But in that instant, the Bo Dragon that Tao Qian had become suddenly let out a Dragon Roar, and its enormous body suddenly struggled violently. An immense burst of thunder exploded, and a surge of rainbow light surged forth, actually allowing him to momentarily break free from the Evil Silk's constraints. His ferocious dragon head lunged forward to bite at Lian Yulou, a gleaming Dragon Ball shining brightly in its mouth.

If he couldn't bite, he would crush.

Who would have expected that Lian Yulou would have anticipated this? He just smirked and showed an expression of "Is that all?"

With a flick of his hand, double the number of Evil Silk strands fell down, hoisting Tao Qian up again. The Red Dust Sin Swords showed no mercy, stabbing him all over amid his wails, turning him into a porcupine-like dragon. Even a Magic Sword glinting with Evil Light pierced directly through the dragon's mouth, pinning it in mid-air.

Unable to even let out a wail, Tao Qian could only moan painfully as fresh red tears flowed.

Lian Yulou, sword in hand, approached cautiously and began slicing Tao Qian's flesh, chiding as he cut,

"Dragon Demons like you, who bully those Loose Cultivators without any foundation or take advantage of sneak attacks to kill already seriously injured cultivators, might get by."

"In the face of real power, you're just a little Snake."

"Don't rush, don't rush. In just half an hour, I'll make sure my cuts are gentle. You wouldn't want your dragon gall to burst from fright, spoiling this uniquely delicious Dragon Meat."

At this moment, had there been a mirror before Lian Yulou,

he would have been able to appreciate that eerily gentle and immensely twisted expression for himself.

Practitioners of the Evil Sect are all madmen.

One of the iron laws of the Cultivation World!

But Tao Qian had already witnessed his madness back in Jin Mansion, and now remained completely unmoved.

The act he had just played out had apparently hit its mark.

Being cut into pieces, very painful indeed.

But to completely lower Lian Yulou's guard, it was worth it.

Tao Qian had already confirmed with his cultivator's intuition that the bridal-clad Lian Yulou, standing perilously close, was indeed the true body and not some illusion.

With that certainty, the woeful cries of Tao Qian suddenly stopped.

His dragon eyes abruptly looked up, locking eyes with Lian Yulou, who was cutting his flesh. But this time, there was no fear or panic in Tao Qian's gaze.

It was a look of indifference, as if he were staring at a dead man.

Before Lian Yulou could react, the Silent Divine Thunder that had been lurking around him from the moment they'd met suddenly exploded without warning.

What is a thunderstorm?

At that moment, Heavenly Mother Mountain experienced a thunderstorm.

An inconceivable surge of thunder burst forth, countless blazing white serpents and Thunder Pythons churning and stacking, erupting endlessly.

Even though Lian Yulou was at Perfect Transcend Mortality and skilled in numerous Evil Sect Divine Skills,

his Evil Light protective shield was supposed to be invincible against All Techniques.

But as one of Spirit Treasure Sect's most treacherous Thunder Skills, Silent Divine Thunder wasn't just hidden; its Power was equally astonishing.

Chapter 345: Silver Dragon Sashimi, Desire Sin Nine Tribulations Body_2

In the Lian Yulou, an ambush was sprung, suddenly exploding and turning the whole place upside down. The Protective Demon Light had barely emerged when it was forcefully suppressed by the Thunder Skill, driving it back. A mouthful of fresh blood spurted from Lian Yulou's mouth, and at the same time, his sturdy Evil Sect's Dharma Body was scorched by Divine Thunder to a semi-cooked state, with a fragrant and foul odor wafting out.

At the same time, his complexion changed drastically as he exclaimed in horror,

"Silent Divine Thunder! You're not a Dragon Demon? Who are you?"

"No matter who you are, even if you are a True Inheritor of the Spirit Treasure Sect, you can't unravel my Evil Silk. I'll skin you alive."

Hearing Lian Yulou's furious roar amidst the thunderstorm, Tao Qian did not answer at all.

Once the battle had begun, especially against a first calamity and such a formidable enemy, there was no room for idle chatter.

In the instant when the Divine Thunder detonated, "Yunrong," who had been hidden inside the Holy Embryo Bag for a long time, was summoned forth by Tao Qian's thought. At the sound of a Kitten's meow, Yunrong soared into the air, her supple body stretching out, and her voice, like that of a gentle elder sister, resonated through the mountain.

"Yunrong is here to help the destiny-bearer to subdue the Evil Sect Devil."

"Please, grant me a beam of Haotian Divine Light, Granny, to break through these Red Dust Evil Silks!"

As soon as her voice fell, flowers blossomed throughout the territory of Heavenly Mother Mountain, Golden Radiance surged, and in the distant Void, an Exotic Treasure revealed its phantom—it was a treasure mirror, neither made of Gold nor jade, engraved with ancient Tadpole Characters, and depicting the universe, stars, Mountains and Seas, flowers and birds alike.

The treasure mirror, as soon as it appeared, covered the space where Tao Qian was located from afar. A flicker of green light began weakly, but by the time it reached Heavenly Mother Mountain, it had transformed into an immense beam of green light. It not only instantly pierced through the stage Barrier arranged by Lian Yulou, but after landing on the Evil Silk Demon Puppet, the sky full of Evil Silk, like snow melting under the blazing sun, began to violently dissolve.

The Demon Puppet, the bright red Evil Worm, and Lian Yulou themselves... as one entity, let out pained wails.

Tao Qian had managed to break free and, without a concern for his pain, pinch a Golden Light Mantra with his dragon claws, ejecting all of the Red Dust Sin Swords embedded in his body.

Simultaneously, his dragon mouth opened wide, and he spat out the Nine Toad Bead towards the crumbling figure of Lian Yulou.

Amid the thunderous roars, it struck with the weight of dozens of mountains.

Lian Yulou's protective treasures, including the big red wedding dress, leaped out automatically—one after another. Jade, swords, beads, ornaments... a dozen treasures that could cause a frenzy of competition outside, if controlled with full focus could be effective, but in passive response, they could not exert even a tenth of their Power. Struck by the Toad Bead and colliding with its brilliance, all turned dim and shattered.

With a "bang," Lian Yulou felt the same torment that the Ogre, Li Qingpan, had endured moments before. The difference was that though Lian Yulou spewed fresh blood, he did not die instantly.

Instead, his head buzzed, stars danced before his eyes, and his upper body suffered from broken tendons and fractured bones.

But that was not the end; next was the "quack" of a Toad—a Three-legged Golden Toad jumped out from within the Toad Pearl, landed on Lian Yulou, and gulped down ferociously.

Tao Qian did not care how much Blessing or luck he absorbed; as long as it made Lian Yulou more miserable, even by just a little, it was worthwhile.

"Nine Toad Bead!"

"Are you the Secret Demon Child from the Medicine King Temple?"

Attack after attack came without pause.

Completely bewildered, Lian Yulou fell into confusion. A Mixed Dragon Demon, using the Silent Divine Thunder of Spirit Treasure Sect, summoning Haotian Divine Light of the Huan Mountain lineage, and releasing the supreme treasure, Toad Pearl, of Toad Sect... where did this monster come from?

His confusion aside, the severely injured Lian Yulou instantly entered a state ready for battle, but he did not counterattack.

The next moment, his action was to retreat!

He tore off the tattered wedding dress from his body, turning his flesh into a whitish meat worm, darting toward the Void in an attempt to use this bizarre Escape Skill to escape from danger.

But immediately, Tao Qian launched a new attack.

With a flick of his robes!

The white light transformed by the Holy Embryo Bag, wrapped around him.

Seeing this bad turn of events, Lian Yulou let out another wail, as his whitish body suddenly disintegrated, turning into billions of blood-red mites so small they were hard to see with the naked eye, scurrying in all directions.

Most of them were collected by the Holy Embryo Bag.

But the true body of Lian Yulou successfully escaped hundreds of feet away, again revealing the fat meat worm body, about to tunnel into the Void.

"You can't escape!"

These cold words of Tao Qian drilled into Lian Yulou's ears just as a stream of accommodating Source Qi manifested in the Void in front of him. It shook once and immediately transformed into a huge nebulous hand that grabbed Lian Yulou, hauling him back.

What awaited Lian Yulou next was an extremely horrifying Sword Intent specifically targeting Demon Cultivators.

It soared across the sky, slashing towards his severely injured body.

Watching this, and seeing Tao Qian shimmer with Golden Light at this moment, Lian Yulou's complexion finally turned utterly pale, with shock and disbelief climbing upon his face.

"Golden Light Divine Spell, Innate One Qi Great Seizing Hand, Demon Cleansing Sword Intent... are you a person from the Secret Demon Sect, or from Spirit Treasure Sect?"

"Boom!"

Lian Yulou did not get a response from Tao Qian.

His half-cooked, gravely injured body, controlled by the Great Capture Hand, could not dodge the Demon Cleansing Sword Intent.

The Evil Sect, being a pure Demon Sect.

As such, it could not exempt itself from the damage of Tao Qian's sword.

Although the Power did not match Yuan Gong inhabiting a body, Tao Qian had already practiced Demon Cleansing back in Southern Yue.

Having been refined over so much time, the Power was also considerable.

As the terrifying sword light swept over the summit of Heavenly Mother Mountain, Lian Yulou's body was like ground up in a millstone, little by little, grinding into dust.

He didn't even let out a wail; his body disintegrated, ash to ash, dust to dust?

Even Tao Qian himself had not expected that this series of attacks would achieve such results?

The True Inheritor of Evil Sect!

Those four words were enough to make all the young generation Cultivators in the Cultivation World, including disciples of Taishang Dao, take it seriously.

Chapter 346: Silver Dragon Sashimi, Desire Sin Nine Tribulation Body_3

Tao Qian originally planned to ignore his cover being blown, using all methods available to severely injure Lian Yulou if possible, then slowly grind him to death.

But now, Lian Yulou had vanished?

Doubt replaced pleasure on Tao Qian's face as he furrowed his brows and locked his gaze onto that area.

Suddenly, his vision blurred.

The Innate Spiritual Sensing adorned with "High Spiritual Vision" gifted by Senior Sister Lingji, which had not been used for a long time, unexpectedly provided feedback.

Tao Qian's pupils contracted sharply, revealing the reflection of an extremely tiny "Blood-Colored Insect" that other cultivators couldn't detect even if they used their Divine Souls to sweep through the area.

It somewhat resembled the Corpse Evil Worm that Tao Qian used for controlling demons.

However, there were more differences, the biggest similarity being that both made one feel disgusted and ominous.

But before Tao Qian could take a closer look, his complexion abruptly changed.

With another wave of his sleeve, the Demon Gourd inside shook and dropped out several Star Zha Demons and a Decree Demon.

"Take me away!"

Tao Qian commanded, and the stars immediately sliced through the ground.

Unfortunately, it was already too late.

With a noise like the universe beginning, the invisible insect morphed from minute to massive in an instant.

A "gigantic creature" that appeared abruptly, almost collapsing the entire Heavenly Mother Mountain, was like something neither human nor insect, a monstrous beast composed entirely of a viscous, disgusting mixture of flesh, even including that lower part of the giant creature; they swelled, wriggled, and had countless hooked claws and writhing flesh tentacles growing out of them.

On the surface of the viscous flesh, perhaps a million vivid faces of men, women, young, and old, twisted and emerging.

These human faces were extremely lifelike, displaying various expressions and emotions, such as desires, sufferings, karmic ties, and sins from the ordinary mortal world—all starkly revealed.

Despite sensing the imminent threat and fleeing beforehand,

Tao Qian was still too late.

This gigantic creature, this great worm, swelled instantly, a million blood-red tentacles forming a barrier-like around Heavenly Mother, blocking Tao Qian's path.

Among them, tens of thousands, silently like Evil Silk, completely submerged Tao Qian.

That moment, Tao Qian heard an angry roar from Lian Yulou:

"Damn it, you damned creature."

"Destroying my mortal body, damaging my dao journey, leaving me no hope for Daoist Transformation... Ah, ah, ah, I want your soul to forever reside within my body, never to be freed."

Hearing this voice at the same time,

Tao Qian's body was submerged by the tentacles, triggering an immediate surge of new Record knowledge in his mind.

The confusion quickly resolved, but fear also arose.

[Record Name: Desire Sin Tribulation Body.]

[Record Type: Cultivator.]

[Record: This is the true form of the Evil Sect's True Inheritor, Lian Yulou, who cultivated one of the Evil Sect's Great Books, "Desire Sin Scripture." This scripture is extremely profound, utilizing the desires and evil energies of the world for cultivation without many restrictions. It can be said to be without any prohibitions. After entering Ultimate Happiness Realm, this scripture allows the cultivator to completely shed the human form, mutating into a Desire Sin Tribulation Body, which achieves a sort of Undying Immortality. It can parasitize within the True Soul from reincarnation to reincarnation of the cultivator until the Nine Tribulations Perfection is achieved. Not only retrieving all daoist powers, but at the perfect unison of the Ninety-nine Returns to One, it glimpses the mysterious Daoist Transformation from the Heavenly Mechanism.]

[Note One: Due to the destruction of his mortal body this lifetime, the Desire Sin Tribulation Body, hidden inside Lian Yulou's True Spirit, emerged prematurely. His merits from lifetimes of cultivation were almost entirely lost, with no more chances to glimpse the secrets of the Daoist Transformation Realm.]

...

As the first note emerged, Tao Qian understood the source of the terrifying premonitions and also the extent of Lian Yulou's current wrath.

Chapter 347: True Identity Revealed, What is a Secret Demon Child?

Before her transformation, Lian Yulou had been an elder of the Evil Sect, a cultivator of Ultimate Happiness Realm named Lian Hongshang, a junior in front of an old demon like Yuan Gong from the Secret Demon Sect.

But in Tao Qian's presence, she was absolutely a senior elder.

Lian Hongshang, in order to pry into the secrets, had successfully passed the extremely dangerous "Daoist Transformation Tribulation" and chose to reincarnate and cultivate anew. Despite being born an elder of the Evil Sect, this method spelled danger, with a high chance of accidents leading to an inability to return, potentially disappearing completely through successive reincarnations.

After taking such risks, she had finally reached the Ninth Tribulation in this life, on the brink of achieving Perfect Merit, only to be sabotaged by Tao Qian.

The Desire Sin Tribulation Body was born prematurely, forbidding any further insight into the secrets of Daoist Transformation.

Surely she couldn't reincarnate and continue to cultivate through Tribulation, right?

At this time, Lian Yulou probably felt that even pulverizing Tao Qian into dust wouldn't quell her hatred.

Moreover, from the current scene, looking at the power of Lian Yulou's Tribulation Body, it seemed certain that Master Tao was doomed.

"Although I do have some tricks up my sleeve, fighting someone in the Cavernous Mystery Realm is not too difficult."

"But this damn Lian Yulou, if he's really from the Ultimate Happiness Realm, then why am I even bothering to fight?"

"Better skedaddle while I can, Aunt Bai Yin should be fine."

"At worst, after fighting, I'll sleep with her."

Being overwhelmed by tens of thousands of thick and long tendrils, squeezing him until the Golden Light Mantra on Tao Qian's body creaked, he was painfully aware of the mana being madly drained from within, lamenting the huge debt he incurred, while despairingly thinking with a grimace on his face.

Meanwhile, the Record kept bursting forth.

Although he hadn't seen much of the specifics yet, Tao Qian's spirit was suddenly shaken as if he had realized something, and his expression swiftly lit up.

"No, no, there's still hope."

"Based on past experiences, if this Desire Sin Tribulation Body were truly of the Ultimate Happiness Realm, even at such close proximity, my abnormal soul couldn't possibly glimpse so much information from the Record; it would mostly be a pile of question marks."

"He must have a flaw, and a big one at that?"

As this joyous thought emerged, Tao Qian immediately looked more seriously at the subsequent Record.

Indeed, just the second piece of deciphered information from the Record reignited the fire of hope in Tao Qian's eyes.

"Note 2: During the battle at Xixia City, the entire Western Capital Army was wiped out, and Xiao Chenzhou and his daughter were captured by Zhu Qi. As repayment, Zhu Qi prepared a special program tonight for Lian Yulou and himself, 'Steamed Xiao Chunjaio alive,' and Xiao Chenzhou must be personally killed by Lian Yulou to achieve Nine Tribulations Perfection..."

"Note 3: Lian Yulou failed to arrive at the banquet. His human form was damaged, his Tribulation Body was born, but his accumulated mana across lifetimes was still sealed within his Desire Sin True Spirit. To retrieve it, Lian Yulou must experience the Ninth Tribulation, witness Xiao Chunjiao being steamed alive, partake in her flesh, and personally slay Xiao Chenzhou. These are ties of evil fate and numbers of tribulation set by heaven, and he cannot decide for himself."

"Note 4: With no mana available, Lian Yulou cannot unleash Nine Tribulations Demon Seed, Desire Demon Destruction Spell, Heart Demon Flames... and other Evil Sect Divine Skills. He can only brute force his way through killings, but his Desire Sin Tribulation Body remains a genuine body of the Ultimate Happiness Realm, immune to all techniques, fearless of Daoist and Buddhist."

...

With each additional piece of the Record, more joy appeared on Tao Qian's face.

Very quickly, in less than a few breaths, Tao Qian's eyes cleared of confusion, fully understanding what state Lian Yulou was in now?

To put it simply!

His Desire Sin Tribulation Body was forced to emerge early because Tao Qian destroyed his Human Clan body, making it necessary for him to appear.

But Lian Yulou's years of accumulated mana were still sealed within his True Spirit.

To extract it, there was one firm condition: passing the Ninth Tribulation.

And precisely, he needed to rush to the Prince Zhao Mansion to attend the distasteful banquet hosted by the Ninth Prince, Zhu Qi.

In fact, that was Lian Yulou's schedule for tonight.

However, being petty, he remembered his grudge against Tao Qian as soon as he had a moment to spare, thinking Tao Qian was just a Mixed Dragon Demon, planning to casually slaughter him on the way to the banquet, and bring a dish of "Silver Dragon Sashimi" as a gift to thank Zhu Qi for the hospitality, in return for the "Steamed Xiao Chunjiao."

Well, that matched up.

"The mystery of Tribulation Energy is so terrifying."

Tao Qian suddenly exclaimed this realization, for a simple reason.

He knew Lian Yulou was petty, but to choose this moment to butcher Master Tao, if not for the influence of Tribulation Energy, Tao Qian wouldn't believe it.

"It's good news and bad news."

"Although without mana, Lian Yulou cannot release terrifying Divine Skills like Nine Tribulations Demon Seed or Heart Demon Flames, his Tribulation Body remains genuinely of the Ultimate Happiness Realm... Can I defeat him?"

"Whether I can or not, I must fight. If I delay any longer, I'll either be assimilated by this ambiguous creature or incur a colossal debt I can never repay, working for Lingbao Tianzun for a lifetime until I pass away after ninety-nine cycles."

Before Tao Qian could even answer his own question, he knew he couldn't delay any longer.

Looking around, if nothing went awry, he should have been dragged back inside Lian Yulou's body by those tendrils.

At this moment, the creature was still roaring, venting his fury.

It's a good thing Tao Qian had driven away the Mountain Spirits and Ghosts beforehand, otherwise, they would have been collateral damage.

"Speaking of which, this isn't my first time being swallowed by someone else's Dharma Body. Back in Southern Yue, I've also been inside the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva."

"After all, it's the Tribulation Body of the Ultimate Happiness Realm. Lian Yulou's Evil Worm Tribulation Body is indeed much larger than the Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother, and Silent Divine Thunder will definitely not be able to blast it open. Looks like I'll have to use my treasured possessions."

"As for exposing my identity?"

"If I'm exposed, then so be it. How else would I pass this first Tribulation if I don't kill Lian Yulou?"

As he spoke, Tao Qian had already invoked the Buddha Bird Relics.

This item was currently Tao Qian's strongest for battle.

Upon the release of the relics, the familiar Buddha Ape Vajra emerged. Tao Qian recited the Great Freedom Nirvana Divine Spell, uttered "Amitabha Buddha," and continued to borrow mana from Heavenly Venerate using the Spirit Treasure Returning Immortal Technique, then merged with his body.

The next moment, inside Heavenly Mother Mountain, the real commotion erupted.

As Lian Yulou was still venting with his grotesquely bloated, disgusting Tribulation Body, suddenly, his thigh burst open with a violent explosion.

Amidst the sky littered with flesh and blood, a figure burst into the air, rolling and holding a Vajra Demon-suppressing Stick pulsing with dazzling radiance.

Still in midair, he swelled with the wind.

In a moment, a Sky-Supporting Ancient Ape draped in Buddha's kasaya descended to the Human World, Buddha Light and Spirit Light bursting forth together. Without a word of warning, an unspeakably terrifying force, accompanied by the Vajra Demon-suppressing Stick smashing down like a violent storm, relentlessly rained down upon Lian Yulou's tribulation body.

This turn of events was extremely abrupt.

Even Lian Yulou was stunned for a moment.

He watched helplessly as the terrifying stick beat upon his body with inconceivable speed.

Loud booms thundered, and flesh flew in all directions.

To any Human Clan cook in the Mortal World, this scene might have looked eerily familiar...

After his sudden attack, Tao Qian, finding his thrashing insufficiently satisfying and powerful, casually shook and summoned out the "Nine Toad Bead." Regardless of it being an auspicious treasure, he used the immense strength contained within the Toad Pearl to instantaneously smash back Lian Yulou's subconscious resistance.

In the blink of an eye...

Too fast!

Too fierce!

The fighting capability Tao Qian demonstrated in the past few breaths was his true strength.

Without fretting over debts, he squandered mana at will, and with the aid of the Buddha Bird Relic and the Nine Toad Bead, two supreme treasures, Tao Qian indeed could easily slay a cultivator from the Cavernous Mystery Realm.

Regrettably, at this very moment, Lian Yulou was not of the Cavernous Mystery Realm.

He was of the Ultimate Happiness Realm.

Ultimate Happiness, without mana but still commanding its form, remained Ultimate Happiness.

A similar scene had unfolded within the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate on the Eight Immortals Demon Island, where the one who suffered under Tao Qian's cruelty was none other than Uncle Jade Toad, whom he had not long ago sent for reincarnation.

Uncle Jade Toad, also in the Ultimate Happiness Realm and tormented for an extended period by Tao Qian with the Demon-suppressing Stick, was neither unscathed nor seriously injured.

Just like now, Tao Qian grew lax for just an instant.

The speed at which he swung the Demon-suppressing Stick slackened for a split second.

And in that instant, blood surged tumultuously over Heavenly Mother Mountain.

Lian Yulou's nearly flattened tribulation body suddenly rolled upwards, wrapping Tao Qian's Buddha Ape form, the stick, and the toad pearl tightly.

"Hahaha... Had enough? Now it's my turn."

Amidst manic laughter, a more terrifying force rushed from all directions.

It not only instantly dissolved Tao Qian's actions; the flesh suddenly transformed into countless Evil Worms with hooked claws and sharp teeth, which began to gnaw at the body of Tao Qian's Buddha Ape. No matter how he struggled, as his mana ebbed away like a flood, he could not break free and was close to being enveloped and dissolved.

At this moment, Tao Qian truly felt the weight of his tribulation.

Previously, being swallowed could be considered as still reserving plenty of strength, but over the past few breaths, he had played all his trump cards, yet he was still not Lian Yulou's match.

Despite this being very normal!

Being without mana is fatal for a cultivator.

Just like Tao Qian, the esteemed Spirit Treasure True Inheritor—if he were stripped of his mana, any Foundation Establishment Realm Loose Cultivator could kill him at will.

Where would there be the pride of casually slaying those at the Cavernous Mystery Realm?

It should be said that Lian Yulou, left only with his tribulation body and without mana, should have been easy to kill.

Unfortunately, this was not the case.

Having ascended to the Ultimate Happiness Realm, his tribulation body acquired the trait of being "Undying," making him extremely hard to kill and terribly difficult to deal with.

Tao Qian grew slightly careless, and the situation immediately reversed.

To make matters worse, his identity was finally revealed.

"Buddha Bird Relics, Spirit Treasure True Inheritor... You're not a Dragon Demon after all; you're that lucky kid from Southern Yue who drew attention and was beckoned by Duobao True Monarch with three Immortal Treasures."

"Hahaha, true enough, fortune and misfortune go hand in hand. You've destroyed my mortal life, ruined my Dao Path, yet you never imagined that you would end up paying with yourself."

"Now let me think, the Buddha Bird Relics and Nine Toad Bead are nice treasures indeed. Wasted in your hands and used in such a way, it's truly a disgrace; it's right they should come to me. Still, they can't make up for my inability to witness the secrets of Daoist Transformation. But the Human Dao Destiny in you... now that's the real treasure."

"Though I'm at a loss, it's sufficient enough. Once I exert my techniques and turn you into my Desire Sin Slave, amid this era of great contention, vying with others, there's a chance I will find another path, still with hope to step into the Daoist Transformation Realm, or even climb higher."

"Wonderful, just wonderful. Let's proceed with this plan."

...

With each word that entered his ears, Tao Qian could no longer hold back.

He had to ask for help.

But before he used his ultimate trump card, Tao Qian thought of something and hastily sent a message to the one in his embrace.

"Yuan Gong, Yuan Gong, hurry, save me, it's an emergency."

"Your disciple, whom you labored to teach, is about to be devoured by someone, and it's from the Evil Sect lineage you despise the most."

It was unclear whether Tao Qian's provocative tactic was effective or for some other reason.

He received a response almost immediately.

The voice of Yuan Gong, filled with a sense of disappointment as if lamenting over unfulfilled potential, now followed suit into Tao Qian's ear.

"Pah!"

"If you truly saw yourself as a Secret Demon Inheritor, you wouldn't use such crude methods in battle. Look at yourself, you fool. Do you resemble a Secret Demon Cultivator in the slightest during combat?"

"If our Secret Demon Sect had been filled with dull and straightforward fellows like you back in the day, we wouldn't have needed successive grand battles against Daoist and Buddhist Major Sects before collapsing. The bald monks of Vajra Temple could have wiped us out with brute force alone."

Chapter 348: Tao Qian Casts Again, Group of Demons Devour Yulou

"Hmm?"

"Secret Demon Style? There's such a thing?"

Upon hearing a brand-new term, Tao Qian, looked confused.

However, with Yuan Gong's reminder, he did recall the formidable battle achievements of the Secret Demon Sect, which fought fierce battles against several major Daoist and Buddhist sects with the power of just their own sect, including Buddhist Temples as renowned as Vajra Temple.

Later, even his own adoptive Master, Duobao True Monarch, joined in. The combat prowess of the Secret Demon Cultivators was beyond doubt; they were overwhelmingly powerful.

When it was time to act prudently, Tao Qian never hesitated to do so.

After hearing the lesson, he hurriedly sent a respectful telepathic message: "The number of secret demon powers and Spirit Treasure Methods I possess is now nearly equal, so naturally, I am one of the Secret Demon Children. I implore Yuan Gong to teach me the art of enemy confrontation, lest I, as a disciple, tarnish the reputation of Secret Demon Cultivators and bring shame to our name."

As he uttered this sentence, a silent thought crossed Tao Qian's mind: "Heavenly Venerate above, you know that I am a true inheritor of the Spirit Treasure lineage, it's just a temporary plan, a temporary plan, ha."

It was unclear whether it was because Tao Qian identified himself as a Secret Demon Child or because his modest request for instruction genuinely inspired the desire to guide.

Yuan Gong's telepathic response came immediately.

"With treasures like the Buddha Bird Relics, Nine Toad Bead, and Holy Embryo Bag in your hands, along with a plethora of Divine Power Skills, you should have long prepared several or even dozens of strategic combat methods. Yet, when facing an enemy, you mostly resort to swinging a stick and smashing wildly, a sight too unsightly, nothing more than a brute act."

"Your opponent, just a superficial Evil Sect Practitioner, though this tribulation body is decent, still has all his mana trapped within the Desire Sin True Spirit. He has no fear of Daoist and Buddhist methods; don't you know how to use secret demon power? Were your Refining God Technical and Summoning Demon Technique cultivated in vain?"

"The enemy reveals his flaws and vulnerabilities so openly, and yet you fail to exploit them. Truly as dumb as a pig."

Another long lecture, with none of Yuan Gong's words offering a specific method of enemy confrontation.

Tao Qian was not truly foolish and certainly understood that if Yuan Gong provided a specific battle method, it would truly be harmful to Tao Qian.

Just a hint!

For Tao Qian, it was entirely sufficient.

A flash of insight seemed to pass through his mind.

Tao Qian immediately had an epiphany, and after figuring out a way to extricate himself, he was still not satisfied; in the blink of an eye, he thought of a true method to defeat the enemy.

"Lian Yulou's tribulation body has brute strength but no mana, akin to a giant beast."

"I cannot defeat it alone, but what if I ask for assistance? As the saying goes, even ants can kill an elephant. What if I use the Summoning Demon Technique to call upon All Heavens Secret Demons for help?"

"With my current Foundation Establishment Realm cultivation, if I disregard mana loss, demons like Power Demons and Eye Demons, which are often called upon by Demon Cultivators for aid in battle, I could summon countless numbers of them. Even by sheer numbers, I could bury his tribulation body, which cannot utilize mana."

"Yet, there is a great risk in doing this. Although I possess Control Demon Techniques, I cannot control such a large number of demons all at once."

"Summoning demons is easy, sending them away is hard!"

"If I summon so many demons and deal with Lian Yulou, but let these demons scatter in the human world, wouldn't my sin be enormous?"

"If I caused thousands of Outer Realm Heaven Demons to wreak havoc in the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty because of me... that backlash could instantaneously cause me to mutate, fall, and perish both in body and Dao."

While pondering, Tao Qian also sent his thoughts to Yuan Gong.

Clearly, the latter wanted to continue freeloading, seeking to extract more advanced Control Demon Techniques from the old seniors of the Secret Demon Sect.

Unfortunately, the intent was too obvious and was instantly seen through by Yuan Gong.

"Pah! Keep dreaming, you slippery youngster. The day you're willing to give up your identity as a Spirit Treasure True Inheritor and join my Secret Demon Sect, this old man will use his last breath and broken body to help you however you wish."

"You may want to have your cake and eat it too, but that's impossible."

"I am, after all, an old demon from the Secret Demon Sect, not that kitten demon beguiled by desire, ready to yield to your every demand."

To the public ear, Yuan Gong still refused Tao Qian.

However, when these words reached Tao Qian's ears, his expression changed, and he couldn't help but show delight.

"Thank you for the guidance, Yuan Gong!"

"Let's put aside the matter of switching allegiances for now, and allow me, your disciple, to first deal with that ambivalent successor of the Evil Sect outside."

Tao Qian casually brushed off Yuan Gong with a few words.

Then, he immediately transmitted a secret message to his dear sister Yunrong, although Tao Qian's request was somewhat excessive.

But indeed, Yunrong's desires were stirred by Tao Qian, who yielded to her every wish, unable to withstand her good brother's soft entreaties, and she quickly agreed to his request.

With her confirmation, Tao Qian immediately took action.

With a wave of his sleeve, the Holy Embryo Bag tumbled and rolled, this time actually stuffing Tao Qian himself inside it.

Then with another thought, the gray and dusty Holy Embryo Bag suddenly revealed its true form—surprisingly, it was an enormous sack capable of containing mountains and rivers.

Once opened, it almost burst the Ultimate Happiness Tribulation Body of Lian Yulou.

It looked like a huge red, bloody meatball, terrifying and strange yet somewhat comical.

Before Lian Yulou could react!

The Holy Embryo Bag suddenly shrank, and in that brief moment, Tao Qian jabbed upward with the Vajra Demon-suppressing Stick, carving the path with Silent Divine Thunder.

With a thunderous "boom," Tao Qian, on his second intrusion, now flew out from another leg of Lian Yulou.

In midair, Tao Qian once again summoned the Nine Toad Bead, allowing this treasure to expand and fall, blocking Lian Yulou's attempted assault while at it.

Tao Qian formed the Summoning Demon Dharma Seal with both hands, and the "Ten Thousand Demon List" materialized in front of him, furiously flipping pages.

"All Heavens Secret Demon, please come forth!"

Instantly, above Heavenly Mother Mountain, numerous black whirlpools brimming with demonic qi appeared.

Looking into those whirlpools, a succession of Slaughter Sky Demons such as Power Demon, Death Demon, Eye Demon, Scorpion Demon, and others, all skilled in slaughter from the Outer Realm, emerged one after another.

In an instant, it was truly a wild dance of demons, demonic qi reaching for the skies.

Tao Qian's experience in Summoning Demon was already maxed out; he well knew the nature of these demons.

Not waiting for them to betray him as their master at the first opportunity, he waved his hand and the Demon Gourd leapt forth.

The stopper removed, from within not only fell a great number of "house slave demons" that he had already subdued, but also several enticingly fragrant Demon Pills.

First, he had the house slave demons blend into the crowd of Sky Demons, then Tao Qian's voice echoed:

"Gentlemen, I've invited you here for a deal."

"See that big fellow down there? I'll join forces with you, no need to kill him; just dismember him enough to render him powerless to resist."

"And rest assured, he has no mana to use, just an empty husk of a body, that's all."

"For this venture, each of you shall obtain a Demon Pill, and the spoils of war will also be shared equally among you."

"What do you say?"

At any other time, though the offer sounded fair and enticing,

facing a group of Outer Realm Demons, it would inevitably lead to dispute and was likely to fail.

But Tao Qian was prepared, as Substitute Demons and Joyful Demons he had infiltrated among them immediately began to create a commotion on his behalf.

"A good deal! I'm in."

"Attack! Even without the Demon Pill, the flesh and blood of these high-level cultivators are extraordinarily delectable."

"Excellent, let's go."

Traders often employed the tactic of using shills, for a simple reason—it was effective.

Power Demons and Eye Demons, those naturally inclined to slaughter and lacking in wit, were easily stirred by this agitation. Coupled with the lure of Demon Pills, their own insidious little schemes, there was no need for Tao Qian to lead them. Their eyes glowed as they fixed their gaze on Lian Yulou, howling as they charged forward.

The first wave, hundreds of Heaven Demons.

In just one confrontation, working in tandem with the Nine Toad Bead and Tao Qian's Demon Suppressing Stick, they actually managed to completely suppress Lian Yulou.

At this moment, if anyone dared to risk their life and enter Heavenly Mother Mountain, they would witness an astonishing scene:

A massive fleshly creature struggled incessantly, enduring the frenzied beating of the Nine Toad Bead and the stick, while its body was covered in equally enormous Outer Realm Heaven Demons.

There were Power Demons with strength to carve mountains and pave paths, Eye Demons that could emit deadly Demon Light, Death Demons clad in armor and wielding scythes, Flame Demons with surging demonic flames, and omnipresent Scorpion Demons... Although they were far from dismembering Lian Yulou, the sight still made Tao Qian's eyes shine brilliantly.

Without any delay, he repeated his trick, summoning the second wave of Heaven Demons.

As expected, employing skills coupled with the promise of rewards, another few hundred Heaven Demons joined the battlefield.

Moments later, Tao Qian ignored the depletion of his mana, gritted his teeth, and summoned a third wave.

This time, the number of Outer Realm Demons present soared to the thousands.

What was most terrifying was that there were no low-level or insignificant demons among them.

All that were present were beings like Power Demons and Eye Demons.

One must know that the Evil Cultivator "Jade-faced Lady Lan Qing'er" had offered her own flesh to summon a few Power Demons to mine a mountain,

And those few Power Demons were sufficient to carve out an entire mine.

Yet Tao Qian summoned no less than a thousand. One need not speak of the grand spectacle.

The entire Heavenly Mother Mountain!

At this very moment, it was like a true Nine Nether Purgatory; where was there even a hint of a spiritual mountain and beautiful water anymore?

Fortunately, with such a sacrifice, victory was also within reach.

Tao Qian, along with nearly a thousand Outer Realm Demons, finally pushed Lian Yulou to the brink.

The situation reversed!

Swiftly, too swiftly.

Lian Yulou had not expected that the crafty disciple of the Spirit Treasure Sect, upon breaking free, would resort to such despicable methods.

As he watched helplessly as his formidable Ultimate Happiness Tribulation Body was torn apart by one ferocious demon after another,

Many of them didn't hesitate to indulge in eating and seizing parts for themselves.

Gradually, Lian Yulou's eyes began to reveal despair and terror.

Being dismembered by a group of demons!

It was not merely as simple as having his Tribulation Body sliced apart; even more horrifying was the invasion of demonic qi and Demon Thought, which corrupted his Dao Heng.

Lian Yulou could fully sense himself being cut apart, bit by bit, weakening gradually.

Even if he could retrieve his mana and reunite his Dharma Body, he would still be gravely injured.

He didn't care about his noble status anymore, and quickly yelled at Tao Qian:

"Stop, order them to stop now."

"Have you gone mad? Do you realize the catastrophe you're about to unleash? You, a disciple of the Spirit Treasure Sect, summoning so many Middle Stage Demons to this world with a Secret Demon Summoning Technique, how could you possibly control them?"

"Even if you dismember me, you can't truly kill me. But if those demons escape from here, 'The Calamity of Demons' that once ravaged the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty will reoccur."

"If you incite such a calamity, the backlash of Fortune alone will drag your Spirit Treasure Sect into the world's woes. Even if your Spirit Treasure Dao is not extinguished, it will still heavily injure the Spirit Treasure Sect."

"You, as the instigator of this disaster, will wish for death yet be unable to attain it."

The descendant of the Evil Sect, Lian Yulou, was not only of a twisted nature but also of a malicious mindset.

His words, in fact, were directed at the group of demons.

Though the Power Demons and Eye Demons, those Slaughter Sky Demons, didn't have much of a brain,

They still possessed basic intelligence.

In an instant, enlightened by Lian Yulou's reminder, they began to realize the situation, holding clumps of the Tribulation Body's flesh and attempting to flee.

Demons entering the world should seek to seize bodies and revel in freedom.

This was a belief rooted in the depths of the demon spirits of the Outer Realm Heaven Demons, unalterable.

Alas, had they quietly slipped away upon being summoned, they might have succeeded; but now, having labored for Tao Qian to dismember Lian Yulou, and each clutching the flesh of the Ultimate Happiness Cultivator as if it were provisions before seeking humans to possess,

Spurred by greed, preoccupied with caution, they fell right into Tao Qian's calculation.

It was at this very moment that Tao Qian suddenly gave a cold laugh, and following that, the lively figure of Yunrong leaped out from his embrace.

The voice that Lian Yulou knew all too well and feared once again rang out,

"I request Granny's Haotian Divine Light!"

In an instant, a void opened anew.

This time, the Haotian Divine Light Yunrong borrowed was not merely a single beam.

Dozens of robust Divine Lights joined together, like a blazing sun, shining down on Heavenly Mother Mountain.

Chapter 349 Tao Qian Deceives Hongshang, Finally Passing the 1st Calamity

Haotian Divine Mirror!

The treasure of Jade Ring Mountain that suppresses fortune, even the Outer Realm Evil Gods can be immobilized, let alone a group of demons without much wisdom.

Previously, a beam of Haotian Divine Light had directly captured Lian Yulou.

Now, more than a dozen beams of Divine Light fell from the sky, thousands of Outer Realm Heaven Demons were frozen in place at once.

Each of them still maintained the motion of fleeing, nearly all clutching clumps of Lian Yulou's flesh and blood, their expressions and postures looked as lifelike as ever.

Just a breath, really just a single breath away.

Had they not been so greedy and fled early, they truly would have been able to enter the world and cause havoc.

Alas, they encountered Tao Qian, who was shameless.

Despite already having borrowed the Divine Light once, he still went and pleaded with Yunrong with soft words, and managed to coax that Kitten Demon, who ran in front of her grandma to borrow another dozen beams.

It was also fortunate that Yunrong had considerable clout on Jade Ring Mountain; Tao Qian's scheme, in the end, succeeded.

He appeared completely oblivious to any sense of wrongdoing; previously mocking Xiao Hua Daoist for sponging off others, now he did the same, and even more gleefully than Xiao Hua Daoist, indeed in this world all truths can't escape those two words "real fragrant."

Seeing the scene before his eyes, Tao Qian let out a chuckle and blinked as he counted the crowd of demons.

"Very good, no one has sneaked away, not a single one is missing."

"My fellow Heaven Demon brothers, since you were the ones who first fell for this person's deceit and broke the deal's oath, you can hardly blame me."

"The rewards I promised earlier, I'm afraid I can't give them out."

"But I'm not a vindictive person; I won't take this opportunity to crush you with the Refining God Seal, or swallow you up. I just had to trouble you for a wasted trip."

"The next time there's a good deal, I will summon you again, and may we cooperate happily."

As he spoke, a black vortex emerged once more.

Tao Qian waved his hand, bundling thousands of Outer Realm Heaven Demons into a large bundle, and immediately sent them back to the Outer Realm.

What a pity for these Power Demons, Eye Demons, Death Demons, Scorpion Demons... they fought hard, and not only did they miss the enticing Demon Pills, they didn't even get a drop of water or a bite to eat, and just like that, Tao Qian sent them back.

It was indeed their own fault for breaking the oath first, so they couldn't blame Tao Qian for not giving any rewards.

They could only look at Tao Qian with resentful eyes before leaving; if they were not immobilized by the Divine Light, it's likely that thousands of mouths would have started cursing at Tao Qian.

Had this been Tao Qian when he first entered the Cultivation World, still very thin-skinned, he would have felt ashamed before such a spectacle.

Now, Tao Qian just curled his lip, not caring in the slightest.

These Outer Realm Demon Lords, by nature, they are greedy, and that could never be changed.

Though he may have offended them this time, Tao Qian suspected that if he summoned the demons again and repeated the old trick, there was a high chance it would work.

Surely, while foreign demons could be treated this way, the group that had already been subdued in his service still needed some kindness.

With the thousands of duped victims gone, the stand-ins became very apparent.

Tao Qian swung his sleeve, and the unadulterated Demon Pills rolled out—Substitute Demon, Joyful Demon, Empty Demon, and others—each claimed one or two, gladly took their shares and ate, then they all transformed into Demon Light and, in a flash, burrowed back into the gourd Tao Qian had used for so long it began to show patina.

Before returning, the Demon Lords didn't forget to leave sweet words.

"Thank you, Master!"

"Master is generous!"

"If there's another errand like this next time, don't forget us, Master!"

"May Master enjoy immortal blessings and live as long as the heavens!"

Below, what was once a mountain had turned into a mass of minced meat. Lian Yulou, severely injured and still held by the Divine Light, was watching all this with an expression of astonishment and disbelief, also reflecting on how he had been tricked. If he could take on a human face right now, it would doubtlessly wear an expression that questioned life.

Although he had lost control of his body, it did not prevent him from forming thoughts secretly:

"I have seen many shameless cultivators, and usually, those who climb up from the bottom are without taboo and will do anything to succeed."

"But this man, despite such a standing, with numerous Exotic Treasures on him, I heard that he was once dispatched by Duobao Daoist, the future Sect Master of the Spirit Treasure Sect, with three items... Hmm?"

"That makes sense now, the direct disciple of Duobao can be as shameless as possible—it's normal."

"This time, I, Lian Yulou, admit defeat. I shall first flatter and seduce him with benefits, and if it soothes his anger to mistreat me, so be it. Only when he lets his guard down and the Haotian Divine Light is gone, will I then abandon this Ultimate Happiness Tribulation Body and execute the Nine-Nine Returns to One Demon Worm Soul Splitting Technique. Hopefully, I can take this opportunity to escape with some of my True Spirit. Once I reach Prince Zhao's Mansion and survive the Ninth Tribulation, I can reclaim my past lives' powers and settle this."

Just as Lian Yulou finished his thoughts, Tao Qian, who had dealt with the group of demons, turned his gaze back to this true opponent.

At this point in the battle, Tao Qian could be said to have used almost all his methods, save for a few trump cards, he had employed everything available to him.

Yet even so, there were several moments he almost met with disaster.

Tao Qian looked at Lian Yulou in silence, his brows slightly furrowed.

He didn't speak or torture him, but appeared to be pondering something amiss, and the atmosphere took on an eerie turn.

The inconsistency that Tao Qian noticed, was that the aberration on his body, the Long-eared Parallel Teeth, had not disappeared.

"The Infinite Tribulation Method describes that if I successfully overcome the first disaster after entering the world, the aberration will vanish, and I will also reap some benefits."

"But now that I have completely defeated Lian Yulou, the aberration still exists. Could there be some unexpected development? Or do I have to kill him completely for it to count?"

"Hmm?"

Thinking this, Tao Qian suddenly seemed to have noticed something, his pupils slightly contracting.

The side effect of Innate Spiritual Sensing resulting in High Spiritual Vision, he saw something unusual once again.

He observed within the mountain of flesh and blood, invisible to the naked eye and unique to Lian Yulou's True Soul, tiny glimmers flickering.

Eager to try!

Agitating to act!

Seeing this, Tao Qian immediately understood the reason and guessed the intentions of the Evil Sect Elder who sought to rebuild his life.

As his heart sneered, Tao Qian suddenly raised his hand to take out the "Holy Embryo Bag," and said:

"Mr. Lian Daoist, I think by now you must have guessed at my true foundation."

"Alas, this matter was originally a misunderstanding. My visit to Demon City was merely for worldly experience, and I had not truly offended you, Daoist. It was you who, relentlessly, sought to kill me."

"But now that things have come to this, since we've forged a mortal enmity, I can't very well let you go either."

"This item is called the 'Holy Embryo Bag,' transformed from the relic skin of one of my deceased elders from Spirit Treasure Sect, and was jointly refined by Master Duobao and my Aunt Yunhua. Not only can it contain mountains and rivers, but it can also hold living creatures. Once a living thing enters, its life and death are in my hands. A mere thought from me is enough to start the refinement, and the Mixed Element Qi Unpolluted Great Prohibition inside will activate instantly. No matter how powerful you are, after a short while you will dissolve into clear water."

"The flesh and blood of this entire mountain, though devoured by a group of demons, still retains considerable strength. I would very much like to refine your remains into treasures, yet I lack the means and can't guarantee that you won't burst forth and kill me."

"Therefore, to eradicate any future trouble, I will simply send you into this Holy Embryo Bag to be turned into clear water, so you may depart this life with a clean conscience. In the next life, you better not seek me out again... oh, I almost forgot, the Great Prohibition set by my Aunt Yunhua even refines the soul. So, in this case, you will be completely annihilated, with no chance of reincarnation."

"Marvelous, marvelous, let's do that."

Tao Qian spoke with patience and a terror that revealed his petty, vindictive nature without reservation.

At that moment, Lian Yulou's spirit quivered violently.

Although his eyesight was vicious, he couldn't discern the specifics of the Holy Embryo Bag in his current plight.

Master Duobao!

Yunhua Immortal!

With these two heavyweights named by Tao Qian as guarantors, how could Lian Yulou not believe him?

In the next instant, when Lian Yulou watched Tao Qian throw out the Holy Embryo Bag, and as its mouth opened, a tremendous suction swept away the flesh and blood of the entire mountain, his fear of death and obliteration surged tremendously.

It was in that moment that the Haotian Divine Light, seemingly reaching its limit, flickered a few times and then dimmed completely.

Yet at this time, Lian Yulou realized that only three pieces remained of his vast tribulation body.

Although these three pieces were the largest chunks of meat, together they only accounted for one percent of the tribulation body's mass.

This meant that even if Lian Yulou were to use the Nine-Nine Returns to One Demon Worm Soul Splitting Technique to escape to Prince Zhao Mansion and successfully endure the Ninth Tribulation, he could only reclaim one percent of his lifelong mana.

Lian Yulou's heart was filled with bitterness.

But he knew he had no other choice.

"Hesitation invites disaster!"

With a sudden resolution, Lian Yulou initiated the spell with this thought.

The three large pieces of flesh, floating toward the Holy Embryo Bag, exploded violently.

Subsequently, three rays of True Spirit brilliance flashed and fled in three different directions.

After all, the secret techniques of Evil Sect contained profound mysteries.

Except for revealing traces at the moment of Soul Splitting, the three rays of True Spirit then completely vanished, eluding even Tao Qian's soul search.

If at this time, Lian Yulou truly split and fled in three directions, there might still be a chance for him to escape.

But with immeasurable losses already incurred, he was loath to spend another large portion of that one percent of his lifelong mana.

Seeing that Tao Qian seemed unaware of the presence of his True Spirit, greed overtook him, and the two True Spirits heading elsewhere suddenly turned back, fusing again with the soul heading toward Prince Zhao Mansion.

Alas, Lian Yulou, focused solely on escape,

Was completely unaware that Tao Qian leisurely released several Star Zha Demons behind him.

Just as his True Spirit was about to enter the territory of Demon City,

Abruptly, a terrifying voice transmission reached him.

"Lian Hongshang!"

Unsure if it was a name from a past life or the Nine True Spirit Sound uttered by Tao Qian, his soul involuntarily paused.

He then saw a streak of starlight sweeping across the land, appearing instantly before him.

It was the Secret Demon Child—the inheritor of the Spirit Treasure True Inheritor—bearing a sinister smile as he faced him, while forming the Secret Demon Refining God Seal capable of smashing Outer Realm Heaven Demons and pulverizing True Souls alike.

"This is a trap?"

"You deceived me!"

As Lian Yulou came to a shocking realization, he let out a bitter roar.

At that moment, Tao Qian's Refining God Seal had already smashed upon his last remaining True Spirit.

Struck by the seal, Lian Yulou's True Spirit did not perish but immediately fell into a daze, and Tao Qian, with a sweep of his robe, collected it.

It was then that the peculiar features of long ears and parallel teeth on Tao Qian's true face disappeared without a trace.

As he reverted to his original appearance, a tumultuous surge began within Tao Qian's body.

"Heavenly Venerate above, your disciple has finally endured the first tribulation."

Elated, Tao Qian voiced this without delay, and with a flash of starlight, vanished from the spot.

...

Meanwhile, in a location that seemed far but was quite close for a Cultivator, the residence of the Ninth Prince, Zhu Qi—brightly lit.

Amidst the absurd, exotic night banquet underway in Prince Zhao Mansion,

Around a massive steamer, the host, seated at the head of the table, was a young man with an unusual beauty, garbed in a black dragon robe.

The esteemed Prince Zhao himself, the Ninth Prince of the current dynasty,

Was watching with pleasure the sultry yet valiant woman trapped within the transparent steamer.

His gaze held no kindness; it was filled only with deep malevolence.

This was perfectly natural, after all, the woman was none other than Princess of West Capital, Xiao Chunjiao, who had played a cruel trick on him on his wedding day, using the Exotic Treasure "Taiyin Xuan Nu Locking Dragon Needle" to lock his 'dragon root' and subject him to a great humiliation.

The piercing wails and twisting body of Xiao Chunjiao as she was being steamed to death, along with the rich aroma that filled the air, brought him an immense sense of pleasure.

However, abruptly, he sensed something.

His brows furrowed, he turned his head toward the direction where Tao Qian had just disappeared, and suddenly uttered words that caused a change of expression among the powerful Cultivators present.

"Lian Yulou, something has gone wrong."

Chapter 350: Duobao's Scheme, Tao Qian Compensates with a Mountain

Demon City, Prince Zhao Mansion.

As soon as Ninth Prince Zhu Qi spoke, he revealed the incident at Lian Yulou.

Everyone at the banquet had their reactions, for they had yet to start feasting, precisely because they were waiting for the last guest, Lian Yulou.

Originally, everyone held a grudge in their hearts against the tardy arrival of this True Inheritor of the Evil Sect, but who would have thought that a twist of fate had occurred.

They were all significant collaborators with extraordinary backgrounds and, upon hearing the news, each began to form Dharma Seals, using their skills to perform predictions.

Quickly, the guests at the banquet, their auras enigmatic, all frowned, clearly, the result of their predictions was completely unexpected.

At Ninth Prince Zhu Qi's side, a Demon Cultivator shrouded in a black robe spoke first, his voice hoarse:

"How strange, how strange! I can only deduce that Lian Yulou has failed to overcome his tribulation, but cannot ascertain his current whereabouts, nor who has harmed him."

"Wait a moment, I shall return shortly."

After uttering these two sentences, the black-robed Demon Cultivator turned directly into a wisp of black smoke and vanished on the spot.

After he left, the discussions continued.

"The numbers of the Heavenly Mechanism are obscured, surely a powerful being has interfered from behind."

"Lian Yulou has an extraordinary origin, having been an Evil Sect Elder in a past life, reincarnated to re-cultivate and overcome the Nine Evil Tribulations. He could regain past life's mana and glimpse into the realm of Daoist Transformation. The Evil Sect placed great importance on him, and his past life's disciple, Zhuge Qingyi, is now also an Evil Sect Elder, with Ultimate Happiness Realm cultivation. Such an existence being harmed, the underlying matter involved is likely beyond our reach."

"To abandon the investigation? Then how should we deal with Xiao Chenzhou and his daughter? And what about the plan? Although Lian Yulou had no intention of participating, he was aware of some details. If he is subjected to a Soul Search, would not Your Highness's Great Plan be jeopardized?"

While several people at the banquet were exchanging words,

Suddenly, at Zhu Qi's side, the black-robed Demon Cultivator reappeared, and everyone present, including Prince Zhao, turned to look.

This Demon Cultivator immediately spoke, unexpectedly advocating to abandon the pursuit.

"Your Highness, I have already contacted the old master just now."

"The old master has used the 'Taishang Demon Pearl' for prediction, and Lian Yulou is not dead yet, only his mortal body is destroyed, and there's no hope for him to once again face the Nine Evil Tribulations."

"The one who obstructed his Taoist path is a Secret Demon Dark Child reincarnated in the world. This child has inherited from an old monster of the Secret Demon Sect, before whom Lian Yulou's previous life was no more than a junior... The old master said, there might be old grievances between the Evil Sect and the Secret Demon Sect here, which should have no relation to Your Highness's Great Plan."

"As for Zhuge Qingyi, Lian Yulou's Master, there's no need to worry either. It seems the Secret Demon Sect wants to rise again, they won't let others harm their painstakingly cultivated True Inheritor. Presumably, there are already Secret Demon Sect elders in hiding who have gone looking for Zhuge Qingyi."

"We need not do anything else, just detain Xiao Chenzhou, and if Lian Yulou is lucky enough to escape, Your Highness will have an explanation for him."

"The old master said, Your Highness's Great Plan is urgent and cannot afford delays, nor can we get involved in the grudge between the Secret Demon Sect and the Evil Sect at this juncture. Also, the tribulation energy of Lian Yulou's Evil Tribulation is terrifying; if we weren't sure that his ninth victim was Xiao Chenzhou, we wouldn't have dared cooperate with him."

"Moreover, there is no need to worry about Lian Yulou's Soul Search revealing Your Highness's Great Plan, after all, he was an Evil Sect Elder in his past life, a genuine Ultimate Happiness Realm cultivator, such an existence is not afraid of any Soul Search techniques."

With these words, everyone at the banquet seemed to come to a realization.

Ninth Prince Zhu Qi's gaze returned to the steaming basket. Xiao Chunjiao, who was no longer struggling, had a perverse smile slowly emerging on her beautifully devilish face, and then he definitive said:

"So be it, my dear fourth brother falling into my hands, I no longer needed Lian Yulou after all."

"Evil Sect, Heh!"

"Send the order, in three days, we will have an auspicious day."

"I shall host the 'Treasure Convention', inviting cultivators from all directions to come, whether they be human, devil, beast demon, or god and demon."

"This auspicious day should be celebrated by all. Open up all the granaries, provide relief to disaster victims, and build several more slums around Demon City. For refugees from all provinces, no matter how many come, I shall take them in."

"Let the banquet begin!"

...

Of the scenes inside Prince Zhao Mansion, Tao Qian naturally was unaware.

He had successfully overcome the first major tribulation upon entering the world after hammering Lian Yulou into a daze with a Refining God Seal and taking away his true soul.

But Tao Qian did not immediately return to Zhang Mansion, instead planning to turn back first to Heavenly Mother Mountain.

To clean up the traces left behind after the battle between the two, however, as he covered half the distance, Tao Qian suddenly stopped, remembering a critical oversight.

Worry immediately showed on his face:

"This is bad, Lian Yulou mentioned he was to attend Zhu Qi's banquet tonight. Having killed him now, isn't that alerting the enemy?"

"Could it be that those people have already began to predict my whereabouts and are coming to assassinate me?"

"Moreover, Lian Yulou's status might be even higher than my own in the Spirit Treasure Sect. With the disappearance of such a True Inheritor, wouldn't a horde of perverts from the Evil Sect come to kill me too?"

Tao Qian muttered, even considering whether to hide in the Spirit Treasure Sect for a while. What puzzled him, however, was that if these suspicions were true, his body at this moment should be sounding alarms, manifesting more anomalies.

Yet, there were none.

Aside from the great benefits and major changes brewing within him due to overcoming the first tribulation, there were no alarm signals, no premonitions of danger whatsoever.

As he puzzled over this, suddenly Yuan Gong's voice came, somewhat frustrated and helpless:

"Kid, there's no need for wild thoughts."

"You, as the True Inheritor of the Spirit Treasure Sect, the only direct disciple of Duobao, intercepted Lian Hongshang from attaining her Taoist path - how could Duobao ignore such a significant matter? You think the notoriety of the Evil Sect is for fun? If Duobao had not made arrangements in advance, allowing you to cause trouble and meddle freely, any Evil Sect Elder could have taken your life effortlessly from afar."

"If you're safe now, it means Duobao's plans have taken effect."

"If I'm not wrong, Duobao would use my Secret Demon Sect to deceive the Evil Sect and that good-for-nothing Ninth Prince."

"Both your false identities should have been exposed by now."

"It's just unknown how Duobao will deal with Lian Hongshang's disciple from her previous life. I heard there's some illicit affair between the master and disciple; knowing that her past life's master and current life's disciple has been harmed, that person is bound to go mad... Poor thing, even if an Ultimate Happiness Realm, once caught in Duobao's plan, the odds are not in favor."

""

Yuan Gong's words certainly comforted Tao Qian.

Even at this moment, Tao Qian, as if blessed with sudden enlightenment, began to do his calculations.

The "Secret Demon Formless Inversion Method" he had practiced could disturb the heavenly fate, and naturally, there was a corresponding prediction technique.

However, the way Tao Qian used it was extremely rudimentary, hardly worth mentioning.

One would think he couldn't figure out anything, yet he did make a discovery.

It was as if there was information in the mysterious workings of fate, waiting for him to retrieve it.

Almost immediately, Tao Qian learned of the schemes his master had made behind the scenes, which had been set in place from before Tao Da had left the sect and just after he received the Yuan Gong statue.

Yuan Gong's guess was indeed mostly correct.

Tao Qian brazenly killed Lian Yulou!

This should have raised the vigilance of the Ninth Prince's faction.

But under Duobao's arrangements, the blame was directed entirely towards an old grudge between the Secret Demon Sect and the Evil Sect.

To make it more believable, when Tao Qian blocked Lian Yulou from overcoming the Ninth Tribulation, Duobao Daoist also made a showy move against the Evil Sect Elder Zhuge Qingyi.

Of course, to outsiders, the one who took action was actually an infamous old demon of the Secret Demon Sect.

After digesting the heavenly mysteries that came to him unsolicited, Tao Qian blinked his eyes and couldn't help but feel a bit of sympathy for Yuan Gong in his arms.

After thinking it over, he couldn't restrain himself and suddenly asked,

"Young master, did my master take a lot of treasures from your Secret Demon Sect back then?"

"Is that even a question? That scoundrel's name is Duobao. Wherever he goes, he would scour the land; what treasures could escape his covetousness?"

"Then, did my master also know the Ten Thousand Transformation Technique of the Secret Demon?"

"Know it? Not only did he know it, but he also practiced it extremely well. What about it?"

"Nothing, nothing, just asking."

"Young man, did you figure something out? Tell me clearly, what is that Duobao planning?"

...

Knowing there was no imminent danger, Tao Qian returned to Heavenly Mother Mountain with peace of mind.

Apart from symbolically eradicating traces, he indeed had to wrap things up.

This place, a beautiful land of spiritual mountain and beautiful water, had been chosen by Tao Qian to ambush Lian Yulou. After the great battle, it was left utterly devastated.

If it were someone else, they would most likely be powerless.

Destroying a spirit land is not difficult.

But restoring a spirit land is extremely difficult, even for a disciple of a great sect, let alone anyone else.

Even if it were possible, they would probably be unwilling to do so, as it would most likely require a significant sacrifice.

But Tao Qian, he could just do it.

First, with a wave of his sleeve, he released the Mountain Ghost Girl, an elf with Alien Charm known as the Mountain Ghost, who had been placed into the Holy Embryo Bag before the battle.

Perhaps due to her innate elf nature, as soon as she emerged from the bag, she shook off her daze in a few breaths and then saw the current state of Heavenly Mother Mountain.

She let out a "waah".

The Mountain Ghost Girl collapsed onto the black panther, crying bitterly.

Her cries were so mournful that they could make onlookers feel heartache and listeners shed tears.

She turned her head and gazed at Tao Qian, not a shred of goodwill in her eyes. She looked as if she was staring at an unfaithful lover; she wished she had never seen this man, and that he had never come to this place.

This scene made Yunrong, who had at some point returned to Tao Qian's arms, unsure how to console her.

Tao Qian didn't expect the Female Charm to start crying on the spot and quickly said,

"Don't cry, don't cry, this is only temporary."

"This mountain was destroyed by me, I'll compensate you with an even better one."

As he spoke, Tao Qian pointed with his hand.

The Nine Toad Bead!

This treasure suddenly soared into the sky.

With a "quack" sound, the Three-legged Golden Toad appeared, opened its mouth and spat out a surge of auspicious and blessed treasure aura. Not only did it swiftly cleanse Heavenly Mother Mountain of the residual evil and demonic qi in a moment, but it also enhanced the foundation of Heavenly Mother Mountain, adding to its already spiritual beauty the potential to evolve into a Grotto Heaven Blessed Land.

Tao Qian, deeming the bare appearance displeasing, continued to cast the Sweet Rain Skill, Clear Wind Skill, Spring Thunder Skill, and more.

The next moment, Heavenly Mother Mountain was rejuvenated; one could see with naked eyes how lush greenery blanketed the entire mountain in the blink of an eye.

During this process, Tao Qian casually scattered some low-level spirit fruit seeds as well.

From the moment Tao Qian released the Nine Toad Bead, the Mountain Ghost Girl felt her eyes were not enough to take in everything.

She watched in awe as the destroyed Heavenly Mother Mountain quickly transformed into something even more beautiful and spiritual.

Being the daughter of Heavenly Mother Mountain, she had a natural connection with the land.

Therefore, she could clearly sense her "mother" quickly transition from sorrow and pain to joy and exuberance.

She hurriedly wiped her tears, got off the black panther, and was about to give a deep bow, expressing her gratitude to this peculiar Human Clan Cultivator.

But when she turned around, the youth cradling the Kitten had already vanished without a trace.