

Longevity 381

Chapter 381: Saint Silver Coin, Demon Buddha at Ease_3

Who would have expected?

Such sudden changes occurred.

Almost simultaneously, Yang Li and Shi Yingqiong, who were in charge of contacting Yin Qiye, also showed a sudden change in their expressions.

"Not good, Yin Qiye has just sent a message, the Heavenly Demon Army has received orders to set off ahead of schedule."

"It's not to fight against the Fungus Demons, but to guard various checkpoints, encircling all four million disaster victims, leaving only one gap to let the Fungus Demons into the outskirts of Demon City... killing people."

"Bang"

Yu Yanshi seemed to realize something and slammed the table.

He quickly said to Tao Qian, "That so-called shortcut must be intentionally left by Zhu Qi for the Fungus Demon Army, he's launching the plan ahead of time, probably because he has noticed the movement of

our National Salvation Congress, fearing a change in conspiracies, planning to catch us off guard, I must immediately ask Tianjiang Immortal to take action..."

Yu Yanshi hadn't finished speaking when another unusual event occurred within Demon City.

Suddenly, a huge amount of treasure light appeared over Prince Zhao Mansion, dazzling, each beam of light wrapping a magical treasure.

Then, all cultivators and demons heard the voice of the Ninth Prince, Zhu Qi.

"Fellow Daoists, today is a great day for this prince."

"I will open the treasure vault, and all treasures within will become ownerless the next moment, available for those destined to take."

"When the time is right, this prince and the treasure within me that assisted my entry into the Cavernous Mystery will perish."

"I will let it go, and only those with virtue may possess it."

"Boom!"

An explosion, the already lively atmosphere of Demon City completely burst at this moment.

All demon cultivators, now driven mad, each employed their techniques to rush towards Prince Zhao Mansion.

If someone looked down from the sky, they would see thousands of streams of evasion light shooting towards the Ninth Prince's Mansion.

Is there a conspiracy here?

Of course, everyone knows Zhu Qi's temperament.

A princely beast, would he be so kind as to freely distribute treasures under the guise of a great treasure convention?

Without a doubt, there must be scheming.

But knowing all this did not stop these demon cultivators from rushing to snatch the treasures.

"In the cultivation world, any chance to snatch treasures is never without risk, Zhu Qi obviously has a plot, but those treasures are genuinely valuable, once we seize them, we can instantly flee far away,

with so many fellow demons and monsters here, Zhu Qi certainly can't, nor does he have the ability to kill them all."

"Why can't I be the lucky one?"

This thought was the consensus in the minds of all demon cultivators.

Tao Qian and a few members of the National Salvation Congress were witnesses to this shocking scene.

"Men die for wealth, as birds die for food, it has always been the same throughout the ages."

After sighing, Yu Yanshi's expression became even more solemn and serious as he continued his previously unfinished words.

"Quick, fellow Daoist, urgently ask Kongchan Arhat to take action, to lure Taishang Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch away from Demon City, otherwise Yin Qiye will not dare to use the Formless Chapter, transforming into Secret Demon Child."

"He won't rebel, even if Tianjiang Immortal Uncle takes action, he can only rescue ninety percent of the four million disaster victims."

"The remaining ten percent, four hundred thousand people, will undoubtedly die..."

"It's already in motion!"

The moment these four words from Tao Qian fell.

At this moment in Prince Zhao Mansion, the scene was like the battles between immortals and demons described in myths and extraordinary novels.

Various beams of treasure light surged chaotically, nearly ten thousand cultivators, demons, and alien species, their minds and souls completely filled with greed, frantically fighting over the treasures.

Ninth Prince Zhu Qi!

This Zhao prince in a black dragon robe, sitting on what was also clearly a magical treasure, the Dragon Chariot, watched the chaos he had created with a perverse look in his eyes.

"Interesting, so interesting, hahaha..."

Even if Zhu Qi didn't laugh recklessly, his actions would still attract onlookers.

And certainly, there would be many powerful beings from the Cavernous Mystery Realm.

But just as these people were about to fight over Zhu Qi, suddenly, a strange Buddhist chant echoed.

"Demon Buddha is free!"

"Boom"

Just those four words.

A group of Cavernous Mystery Realm beings immediately scattered like birds and beasts.

Especially following the arrival of the Buddhist chant, came a series of extremely clear, intoxicating cicada sounds.

That group of Cavernous Mystery cultivators seemed to guess something, and fled even faster.

"Kongchan Arhat!"

As an incredulous exclamation from some Demon Cultivator fell, above Prince Zhao Mansion.

An Arhat descended abruptly.

The serene Buddha Light instantly bathed everything in its radiance.

This Arhat, bare-chested and holding a Bodhi branch with a Jade Cicada perched on it.

Seeing the old monk and hearing the cicada calls.

All cultivators who recognized his identity widened their eyes, murmuring in disbelief:

"Demon Buddha Temple, Kongchan Arhat, a senior of the 'empty' generation from Ultimate Happiness Realm, a demon cultivator, no, just one step away from achieving Daoist Transformation."

"Is the treasure inside Zhu Qi that precious to attract such a giant from the demon path?"

"It's over, it's over, how can we compete? If Kongchan Arhat makes a move for the treasure, we might not even get a sip of soup."

"Demon Buddha Temple, like Evil Sect, often bullies Taishang Demon Sect, who knows whether this time Zhu Qi, this Taishang Demon Son, the person backing him, will tolerate this?"

Kongchan Arhat, of course, didn't care about the commotion below, his gaze firmly fixed on Zhu Qi.

As if truly a kind and benevolent old monk, after uttering a Buddhist chant, he surprisingly uttered a few unexpected words:

"Young friend, you seem to be the current Ninth Prince, also the Governor of Demon City."

"Truly a person of outstanding talents and extraordinary abilities."

"This humble monk, passing through Demon City today, felt something, foreseeing a master-disciple destiny between my humble self and you."

"Why not let go of your noble status and follow this humble monk back to Demon Buddha Temple, and become a monk?"

...

"This old guy, really knows how to infuriate."

Inside Xianheng Hotel, through the broadcast from Lian Jing'er, Tao Qian and the others could also clearly see everything happening in the Prince Zhao Mansion area.

At this moment, hearing Kongchan Arhat's words, they knew more and perfectly felt how venomous this Demon Buddha Arhat could be.

Chapter 382: Thousands of Miles of Rivers and Mountains All in a Painting, Zhu Qi Wants to Lift the Ancestor God Forbidden

If you do not know the deadly feud between Kongchan Arhat and Taishang Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch, naturally you will not understand the venom in Kongchan's words.

Clearly, Zhu Qi knew.

Thus, in this moment, Prince Zhao, who had always been the favored son of heaven, arrogant and overbearing, fell into a rage, his sinister eyes seeming almost ready to spit fire.

It had always been him, Zhu Qi, who played and fooled others; when had it been his turn to be publicly humiliated?

If it had been anyone else, Zhu Qi would have already flown into a mad rage and personally caught him to eat him alive and steam him just to feel satisfied.

Unfortunately, the other party was Kongchan Arhat.

Should a fight truly break out, the one "steamed alive" would surely be Zhu Qi himself.

Luckily, there was no need for him to act, as the voice of Kongchan resonated instantly.

In front of the Arhat, a dark glow surged, revealing a figure that captured everyone's attention.

This person was also dressed in something akin to a monk's robe, even his head was bald, but it lacked the usual bun on top.

Both his arms and legs were adorned with black gold rings.

Behind his head shone a black sun rimmed with gold.

All of this seemed a bit sinister.

Yet upon seeing his face, one could only sigh at the sight of such a handsome young monk.

His lips red, his teeth white, his eyes sparkling like stars, and his expression spirited; he truly looked like a naive young monk who had just descended the mountain.

It wasn't just the women who couldn't help but stare; many male cultivators in the venue were likewise captivated.

This seemingly monk-ish, yet not quite monk-ish youth, possessed an extraordinary charisma.

Tao Qian had already anticipated who would stand in front of Kongchan.

But this appearance?

This young monk was Lingwa?

As soon as the thought crossed Tao Qian's mind, an answer from Yuan Gong echoed in his mind.

"Ha ha ha... Look who's dumbstruck."

"Young man, did you think that in the Cultivation World, all old monsters who have lived a bit longer are like your unkempt Master, who spends his days swinging his hairy legs around, scrubbing filth, forming pills? There are those like Duobao who are lazy, and naturally, some who have no shame and like to dress up."

"Lingwa, this fellow, has been a peacock for many years; he originally wasn't from the Taishang Demon Sect, but a Buddha's son from the Great Freedom Temple. He was once a celebrated figure in the Cultivation World, with great hopes of achieving the status of Great Freedom Arhat, but due to various accidents, he eventually renounced Buddhism, became a Demon, and climbed up the ranks of elders in the Taishang Demon Sect."

"Don't be fooled by his youthful face; he is exceptionally brutal, incomparable to ordinary people. Back then, he was obsessed with the 'Blood Shadow Devouring Body Technique'; the number of lives he devoured is unknown. Compared to him, that little brat called Zhu Qi who likes to steam alive is nothing, almost as obedient as a little lamb."

...

Tao Qian had his own grandpa to answer questions, but others could only guess identities from the conversation between Kongchan and Lingwa.

Looking like a handsome young monk, Lingwa didn't spare his own son a glance, let alone the hordes of Demon Cultivators below him, who resembled chickens and dogs. He simply fixed his gaze on Kongchan Arhat and spoke, his voice surprisingly youthful and vibrant, reminding one of a distant, resounding Buddha bell in the mountains.

"Kongchan, what do you wish to do?"

The old monk, playing with a Bodhi branch, immediately smiled at these words.

He had teased Zhu Qi to force his sworn enemy to show up, with plans already in mind. Pointing directly at Prince Zhao Zhu Qi, still seated in the Dragon Chariot, he unceremoniously said:

"The poor monk recently had a whim, predicting that you Daoist want to help your lineage refine an Ancestor God Treasure by conducting a blood sacrifice of millions."

"If you Daoist succeed, you may surpass me in entering Daoist Transformation first; how can I allow this?"

"I am here simply to stop Brother Ling from achieving enlightenment."

Kongchan Arhat stated lightly, but it was a shocking revelation.

A blood sacrifice of millions?

Those words, if said by someone else, would never be believed.

But now, the speaker was an Arhat from the Demon Buddha Temple.

In a flash, the area of Prince Zhao Mansion below erupted as over ten thousand cultivator demons, who were fervently fighting over magical treasures, were suddenly struck down.

Greed receded like the tide, and terror of death surged crazily; at least half of them no longer cared about the treasure lights flying all around, decisively turning around to flee.

Unfortunately, Demon City is huge, and unless one had cultivated an escape technique like the "Great Freedom Heart Light Escape Technique," how could they escape in a few breaths?

Above, after hearing Kongchan's words, Lingwa didn't even bother to reply.

The dark light surged behind him, harkening the descent of the great black heavens, enveloping Kongchan Arhat and removing them from the Demon City territory. Kongchan did not resist and loudly said, "It's been many years since I've been close to Daoist Ling; this time, I must see how well you have refined your Six Desires Demon Scripture?"

After speaking, his Arhat body voluntarily entered the blazing black light, following this Taishang Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch to another battlefield.

Before leaving, Lingwa's voice pierced into Prince Zhao's ears.

"Qi'er, the time has come, take action."

Almost at the instant when two Ultimate Happiness Realm powerhouses left Demon City—

Zhu Qi on the Dragon Chariot suddenly stood up, a cold smile on his face as he looked at those who had plundered his treasure vault.

After days of operation, the number of beings in the Cultivation World drawn to Demon City had reached almost twenty thousand, mostly from the lower levels, but with no shortage of Foundation Establishment and Transcend Mortality Realm cultivators, and even more than a dozen from the Cavernous Mystery Realm, added to previous reserves, enough for his purposes.

"Since you all came, how can you escape now?"

The instant these words were uttered, a true treasure light burst forth from Prince Zhao.

Within Demon City, a pillar of light that pierced the heavens and earth appeared suddenly, so conspicuous that even millions of civilians saw it clearly.

Chapter 383: Thousands of Miles of Rivers and Mountains All in a Painting, Zhu Qi Wants to Lift the Ancestor God Forbidden

"The most horrifying thing was that inside the column of light, a scroll-like treasure appeared clearly."

"As soon as the treasure appeared!"

"Anyone, even any living being, even those in the Cavernous Mystery Realm, couldn't help but have their attention drawn."

"Heaven and earth's focus!"

"Supreme Treasure!"

"At that moment, everyone's minds harbored only these two thoughts."

"Watching that scroll unfold slowly, it encompassed the entire Demon City in an instant."

"Inside the scroll, there was nothing else, just mountains and rivers."

"The vast Demon City seemed to transform into those 'thousands of miles of rivers and mountains,' integrated into the painting by a great power."

"Billions of rays of light cascaded down from above."

"Pinpoint accurately, enveloping every Transcendent being within the boundaries of Demon City."

"This included Tao Qian and several members of the National Salvation Congress within the Xianheng Hotel."

"Yu Yanshi was half shocked, half delighted as he disturbed the glow shining upon him and said,"

"Everyone must have sensed it by now, right? This glow is the 'Ancestor God Absolute Spirit Light.' Once targeted, no matter what methods you use, even the 'Heart Light Escape,' as soon as you leave Demon City, you'll be pulled back immediately."

"If Zhu Qi successfully refines the 'Mountain and River Map' and becomes the master of this treasure, with just a thought, he could eradicate any Transcendent beings within the realm of Demon City."

"Naturally, that includes us as well. What a treasure."

"Not only Yu Yanshi perceived this, but Tao Qian and other Cultivators and Demons within Demon City felt the same."

"This was actually the effect of the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique!"

"For over two thousand years, those Demons and Cultivators gathered in the mortal world, before being eradicated, all received this message."

"Even in death, these chaotic era Demon Cultivators died with a clear understanding."

"However, after understanding, few could peacefully accept it."

"Thus, the next moment!"

"In Demon City, Evasion Lights scattered chaotically."

"Nearly twenty thousand rays of Fleeting Lights from Prince Zhao Mansion scattered in all directions."

"Alas, all attempts were in vain."

"Zhu Qi, what have you done? I got pulled back."

"How is this possible, my 'Ten Thousand Miles Solo Escape Technique' also failed?"

"I used the 'God Demon Blood Transformation Technique.' I was dragged back too."

"And my 'Near and Far Skill' was useless too."

"Zhu Qi, don't court death; my father is the leader of the Poison Immortal Sect. If I die here, my father will surely come and make millions in Demon City pay for my burial."

...

"In that instant, not only was there chaos among the group of demons, there was terror and madness."

"Even those Cultivators who hadn't participated in the treasure competition and had raided Prince Zhao Mansion were plunged into panic."

"The number of Cultivators going to rob the treasures was twenty thousand."

"If including those who hadn't participated and were watching, this number instantly surged to thirty thousand, many of whom came from the Great Sects."

"Ties to these powers would definitely drag the Twelve Daoist Sects, Buddhist Temples, and countless millennium-old clans into this."

"Unless Zhu Qi was insane, he would never dare to eliminate so many people at once."

"If he truly did so, even if he succeeded in refining the Mountain and River Map and feared no Cultivator from the Ultimate Happiness Realm,"

"he would certainly provoke Daoist Transformation Realm powerhouses."

"The Ancestor God Forbidden Technique was formidable, but it was just a fragment; how could it block a Daoist Transformation?"

"Zhu Qi was indeed cruel but not mad; he surely knew this as well."

"So, when the 'Mountain and River Map' unfolded, his voice echoed in the ears of all in the Cultivation World:"

"Everyone need not fear; those Cultivators and Demons to be eradicated today, it is all predetermined."

"Those Daoists who did not participate in the treasure competition are naturally safe."

"And for the other Daoists, there's no need for too much panic. It's just eradication—no pain at all, over in a blink."

"In fact, you all are merely minor additions; if it weren't for the need to gather you chaotic beings, Demons and Ghosts, for refining this treasure, this king wouldn't bother with the troublesome treasure competition to lure you into the trap. It's too much hassle."

"Your sacrifice of useless bodies to help this king achieve the status of Saint is considered a great merit for you fools."

"Kneel down, everybody. Kneel down."

"If you kneel well, perhaps you can spare yourself from death."

"When these infuriating words resounded,"

"Under the gaze of the multitude, Zhu Qi underwent a miraculous transformation."

"His peculiar body suddenly shuddered."

"The next moment, a ten-thousand-zhang Golden Light and Divine Music burst forth simultaneously."

"While his face remained unchanged, Zhu Qi's attire and aura suddenly seemed to transcend and transform. He wore the 'Supreme Seven Luminaries Treasure Crown,' 'Clothes of Jade Civilized Light Flying Cloud Skirt,' bore the 'Elixir Emperor Jade Seal,' and carried the 'Metallurgy Flying Spirit Summoning Mountain Sword'... Stepping into the air like a Saint descending into the world, the billions of rays of light seemed to be just there to highlight his presence."

"Even Tao Qian and the members of the National Salvation Congress had to admit at this moment."

"Zhu Qi's appearance was not something ordinary."

"Apart from the Divine Music and billions of rays of light, inside Demon City at this moment, over ten million civilians also couldn't help but look up, with many directly kneeling down, involuntarily beginning to offer Incense Wish Power."

"And in the refugee camps on the city's outskirts, millions more knelt toward the Longevity Tablets, their cries resounding like a tsunami."

"No matter who!"

"In such an atmosphere, one would be utterly intoxicated."

"The other bystanders, clearly not expecting such a shocking change, all gaped, disbelievingly watching this scene unfold."

"Only Tao Qian, who fully understood the convoluted background, could not restrain his desire to ridicule deep inside:"

"How can someone be so self-obsessed?"

"Emperor? Saint?"

"Ha, nothing but a narcissistic beast."

"Though Tao Qian harbored this thought, he also had to admit."

Chapter 384: Thousands of Miles of Rivers and Mountains All in a Painting, Zhu Qi Wants to Lift the Ancestor God Forbidden

He no longer dared to make any sudden moves, as the scene was completely under Zhu Qi's control.

He truly regarded himself as a Saint, looking down upon all people from on high.

Suddenly, he turned toward Prince Zhao Mansion and said with great authority,

"Almost forgot, on such a monumental day, how can we not have witnesses,"

"Come, let all the esteemed guests be brought out."

As his last sentence was uttered, one after another, individuals of noble status were directly escorted out from Prince Zhao Mansion, supervised by the soldiers of the Heavenly Demon Army.

There were seventy-three people in total, all wearing the same expressions of shock and helplessness.

The person arranged in the center was an old eunuch with a gentle demeanor and a youthful face despite his white hair; he, too, was illuminated by the Ancestor God Radiance, his face showing surprise and anger.

Even though he was under control, he still said defiantly, "The Ninth Prince has good karma, quite the maneuver, no wonder you dared to refuse the Imperial Edict from the Emperor making you the Crown Prince. Are you planning to establish a new dynasty?"

This old eunuch started the conversation, and the others quickly followed.

Although they weren't as direct as the old eunuch, their speech was full of sarcasm and irony.

Many Cultivators watching the scene recognized the identities of these seventy-three people and were increasingly horrified.

"How audacious. They are representatives from the provinces. If Zhu Qi is to be crowned Emperor and have these people witness, it's still acceptable, but he's using them to witness the Blood Sacrifice of four million people for Refining Treasure, and he still claims he isn't mad?"

"Zhu Qi is insane, but not stupid; there must be another plot behind this."

"It surely must be related to the 'Mountain and River Map'— the Ancestor God Fragment. Could it be that there's a significant advantage for him after establishing his own regime?"

"Letting provincial representatives and an old eunuch sent by the Emperor witness as he gains complete control over Demon City, refining the first Ancestor God Forbidden Technique Fragment... What benefit could Zhu Qi possibly gain from it?"

The last few sentences were spoken by several people in the Xianheng Hotel.

As they spoke, they turned their heads, looking hopefully to Tao Qian.

Unfortunately, this time even Tao Qian did not know.

His knowledge of Zhu Qi's conspiracy was the result of various coincidences coming together.

To understand the "Ancestor God Forbidden Technique," there was only one way.

That was to seize the Mountain and River Map, granting him a chance to touch it too.

As everyone exchanged looks, Demon City shook again, billions of rays of light flashed, causing more than twenty million people to look up at the sky.

There, within the billions of light emitting from the Mountain and River Map, steps leading to a majestic Divine Temple appeared out of nowhere.

"The Ancestor God Palace!"

Not just Cultivators, but even the Mortal Human Race.

Many learned individuals recognized the outline of that palace; it was unmistakably the residence of the Ancestor Emperor who established the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique.

This scene appeared, and no further words were needed.

Zhu Qi's ambition and aspirations were instantly clear.

And the next moment, a commanding voice echoed throughout Demon City, further confirming this.

Using the "Saint Statue," Zhu Qi, truly considering himself a Saint, ascended the heavenly stairs and made his way toward the Divine Temple in the Mountain and River Map.

At the same time, he lifted his hands high as if to receive the Emperor's crown, and exclaimed,

"Today I, Zhu Qi, no, I, Ling Qi will ascend to the position of the Saint."

"This object, called 'Mountain and River Map,' is a treasure derived from a Fragment of the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique that has protected the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty for over two thousand years."

"This treasure choosing me is enough to prove that I, Ling Qi, am blessed by divine destiny."

"I will follow the last will of the 'Supreme Ancestor God Emperor,' start with the Mountain and River Map, reassemble the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique, and reactivate the Longevity Barrier."

"On the day my task is complete, I will ensure that within this vast realm of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, across seventy-two provinces, no Demon or Devil will roam free, and no calamities nor misfortunes will occur."

Chapter 385 Heavenly River Fish and Dragon Dance, At Last the 2nd Calamity

"Self-obsessed and mad, how could divine fate ever protect such a person? Even without us, this Ninth Prince would never make anything of himself."

Within the Xianheng Hotel, Shi Yingqiong looked at the scene beneath the Mountain and River Map and suddenly made an assessment.

It has to be said, it's extremely accurate.

Tao Qian shared her views; he had seen many ambitious people.

But those who truly had the means and schemes were still few.

Like Zhu Qi, he didn't even deserve the title 'ambitious,' and no wonder he had a bunch of foolish followers—other than his own father, not a single one was loyal.

Even without Tao Qian and the National Salvation Congress, Zhu Qi would never be able to refine the Mountain and River Map and become the so-called Saint.

His achievements would be snatched away by Huang Chong in collaboration with Zhang Jiudeng.

"I don't know about divine fate, but I do know that this guy is good at putting on a show."

"The citizens of Demon City might as well forget it, after all, they've been paid."

"These refugees are also being deluded by this beast, kneeling to him without knowing that in not too long, all four million of them will be sacrificed in his blood ritual."

"Whether it's the Demon Cultivators or the rebel army, attacking a city would at most harm tens or hundreds of thousands, but this beast Zhu Qi starts by plotting to kill four million people, oddly enough also claiming the moral high ground, making the refugees who are to be killed kneel to him, thank him, and hail him for eternity."

"In this world, could there be anything more absurd?"

Li Wenyan said these words with a face full of anger and helplessness; the expressions of the others were similar.

Looking around, indeed, everywhere were scenes of people kneeling to Zhu Qi.

Not just in the city area of Demon City but also in each of these absurd refugee camps.

Tao Qian was also watching, seemingly remaining calm on the surface.

But within him, there were already raging tides.

The Human Dao Fortune he had obtained in Southern Yue churned, allowing Tao Qian to clearly perceive the thoughts of the millions of citizens within the borders of Demon City and those four million refugees at the border.

"They don't truly believe in Zhu Qi; they have no other choice."

"The miracles shown by the Mountain and River Map, together with Zhu Qi's sanctimonious words, are enough to make them temporarily believe."

Tao Qian uttered these words, and at the same time, he inexplicably felt a sense of unease.

He had experience with such premonitions.

"Does this sign mean my second tribulation is coming?"

As he pondered, Yu Yanshi also spoke up.

"We needn't concern ourselves with Zhu Qi's mad self-admiration; as long as we prevent the blood sacrifice, his conspiracy will naturally break down."

"Currently, these tens of thousands of Demon Cultivators should be able to entangle Zhu Qi for a moment. We should also assist our comrades and help fortify Tianjiang Immortal's altar, together with Yin Qiye's cooperation. We must ensure not a single one of the four million refugees is left behind, let the Heavenly Demon Army and Fungus Demon Army fight it out in a bloody battle."

Upon hearing this, the others nodded and, following Yu Yanshi's gaze, indeed saw those doomed Demon Cultivators, transferring their rage into an effort to kill Zhu Qi after losing hope of escape.

Those tens of thousands of rainbow lights that had scattered began to be pulled back together toward Demon City, and under some Demon's reminder, simply congregated, rushing toward the sky.

"Gentlemen, do not waste your efforts; Demon City has already been enveloped by this treasure, escape is utterly impossible. At this point, only by killing Zhu Qi, this little beast, can we save ourselves."

"That's right, we have all heard of the reputation of the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique. Since this treasure is a Fragment of the Forbidden Technique, once that guy refines it, we will have no chance of survival. Kill!"

"Ha ha ha... This isn't a tribulation; it's an opportunity, gentlemen; this is the true Great Fate Technique. The Ancestor God Forbidden Technique can only reside with the virtuous, and I have never heard of a beast with a penchant for 'live steaming,' 'torturing,' and 'cannibalism' like Zhu Qi recognized by the Forbidden Technique. He will surely fail to refine it, and though I'm modest, I am better suited to be the owner of this Mountain and River Map."

"Zhu Qi, you brat, you have the nerve to call yourself a Saint? I am also a scoundrel, but compared to you, I am practically a saint. If you can refine the Ancestor God Fragment, does that not mean I can be your father?"

"Daoist friend, speak carefully; Zhu Qi has just renamed himself Ling Qi. If you want to be his father, you'll have to contend with Taishang Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch."

"Ha ha ha, never mind then, if I truly had a son like Zhu Qi, I would have drowned him in the toilet from the start..."

In the Cultivation World, there are many such brazen types among the Demon Cultivators and Evil Cultivators.

Taking treasure from a treasure convention and knowing certain death awaits, might as well let loose, and started to vehemently curse Zhu Qi.

These indirect insults were comparatively civil; many, while charging at Zhu Qi, were cursing foully.

Words like "Damn your mother," "You bastard," "Stuff your mother," "Poke your grandma," and dialects from various provinces were endless.

It was an eye-opener for the unadventurous.

Most of the tens of thousands of Cultivators attacking Zhu Qi were doing so for self-preservation, but many also coveted the Mountain and River Map.

The Ancestor God Forbidden Technique Fragment!

These six characters held extraordinary significance, revealing a major secret.

It turned out that after the terrifying Ancestor God Forbidden Technique shattered, all the fragments turned into various Exotic Treasures.

And each treasure held part of the Forbidden Technique's Power.

One can imagine that after today, the entire Longevity Heavenly Dynasty would be in an uproar.

Representatives of the Seventy-two provinces would spread the news back to their provinces, and afterwards, it would erupt throughout the land.

Among the tens of thousands of lights of escape, a dozen or so were the most terrifying.

Obviously, inside were Cavernous Mystery Realm Cultivators.

Although Tao Qian had encountered many Ultimate Happiness Realm Cultivators, such figures in Cultivation realm are exceedingly rare to see.

Cavernous Mystery!

Generally, such a person was considered an attention-grabbing powerhouse.

During the battle of Southern Yue, there were not so many Cavernous Mystery Realm Cultivators participating.

But here, under the Mountain and River Map controlled by Zhu Qi, Cavernous Mystery Realm truly seemed unremarkable.

Zhu Qi, in the guise of a Saint, stepped onto a certain Heaven Rank, and watching the tens of thousands of lights shooting toward him, merely sneered. Then, with a sweep of his sleeves, targeted beams of light fell down, one after another, sending all those Cultivators and demons flying back where they came from.

One against ten thousand!

At this moment, Zhu Qi was exhibiting a Power that perfectly matched the grandeur he portrayed.

"Gentlemen, no need to panic, no need to hurry, though your lives are indeed in my hands, it's not yet the time to kill you."

"First, let me torment and slaughter those rats who have been hiding under my eyes for quite a while, trying to foil my grand plans."

"National Salvation Congress? Hah, I've tolerated your disgusting rallies and your calls to abolish the imperial system, which seems to have filled you with pride, thinking that I, Ling Qi, am easy to bully."

"My realm needs no salvation from you; save yourselves first."

When that last sentence from Zhu Qi drilled into Tao Qian's ears.

It struck him like a thunderbolt from a clear sky; Tao Qian finally understood where his unease came from.

The National Salvation Congress had been discovered.

Was there a traitor?

Tao Qian's first reaction was this, but he quickly remembered the Magic Skill cultivated by Yu Yanshi, and the dedication of those who were brought in by his Secret Technique—they couldn't possibly have a traitor among them.

"It's the Mountain and River Map! Although this Exotic Treasure has yet to be completely refined by Zhu Qi, he can evidently already control it to some extent, releasing Divine Light to envelop Demon City, capable of locating tens of thousands of Demon Cultivators; he might have previously used it to discover the existence of the 'Secret Realm of All People' and thereby noticed the numerous arrangements of the National Salvation Congress..."

Inside the Xianheng Hotel, only Tao Qian remained.

Yu Yanshi and the others had gone to the Refugee Zone to assist the Tianjiang Immortal, activating one hundred and eight "Fish and Dragon Escape River Altars" to move the four million refugees into the Secret Realm of All People.

At this very moment, on the outskirts of Demon City.

The camps housing as many as four million refugees were a powder keg of complexity.

The scene projected onto Lian Jing'er's Treasure Wheel in front of Tao Qian flashed through numerous forces.

And the machine-like voice of Lian Jing'er grew more and more urgent with each announcement.

"The Heavenly Demon Army led by Yin Qiye has completely sealed three sides of the Refugee Zone and is now dispatching Demon Cultivators to herd the refugees towards the Fungus Demon Army... Detection indicates potential Changchun Society, Cao Gang, White Lotus Sect members stirring up the refugees to confront the Fungus Demon... Fungus Demons, due to pheromone interference, have marked four million refugees as targets for slaughter... Fungus Demons have entered the Refugee Zone, already claiming the lives of two thousand nine hundred people, and the count continues..."

"All one hundred and eight altars of the National Salvation Congress have been activated, currently transferring refugees into the Secret Realm of All People, with the first wave numbering one million, in progress..."

In the broadcast, Tao Qian also witnessed the power of one of the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness, the senior Tianjiang Immortal.

After one hundred and eight radiances lit up in the Refugee Zone, every refugee there felt their bodies relax.

A bizarre and special sensation arose.

Everyone felt an inexplicable easiness, with all ailments vanishing as if they became fish in water.

Those with sharper senses even discovered they were growing scales, gills, and fins.

Then, with a "swoosh," a million refugees witnessed a miracle.

It was as if the Milky Way descended to earth—a silver-white Heavenly River shimmering with sparkling ripples suddenly swept over the Refugee Zone.

Upon seeing this river, every refugee felt an irresistible longing.

And then, they transformed.

Visible to the naked eye, a miraculous bodily change took place.

A million refugees turned into fish and dragons, fluttering and leaping, entering the silver-white Heavenly River.

At this moment, night had just fallen over Demon City.

The moonlight led the fish and dragons, and starlight showered upon the great river.

Such a scene was unspeakably beautiful.

"What a skillful move, what a majestic 'Heavenly River Fish and Dragon Map'."

Tao Qian admired the beauty of the scene.

But for Zhu Qi, the sight was an insult, igniting in him an overwhelming desire to destroy.

"Hmph."

With a cold hum that echoed through Demon City,

Another billion rays of Mountain and River luminosity fell, as if countless mountains had been brought from nowhere and smashed into the Immortal Radiant Square, where the Secret Realm of All People was located.

Amidst the thunderous noise, the hidden realm finally revealed itself to the public.

When the many Demon Cultivators of Demon City saw the other world, the workshops belching rolling demon flames and smoke, the Sky-reaching Tower built purely of refined iron and ores, the burial mounds formed from a million broken swords and remnants... and other unimaginable yet surprisingly harmonious sights.

They were stunned, gasping in disbelief, eliciting myriad reactions.

Even more inconceivable, the Secret Realm, attacked by the "Mountain and River Map" which could initiate the Absolute Spirit Forbidden Zone, stood unscathed, continuing to guide the magnificent Heavenly River.

In the blink of an eye, a million refugees were successfully transferred.

"The second wave, two million people, in progress..."

Lian Jing'er's mechanical voice sounded again; Tao Qian watched the scene with a look of surprise.

"Could the 'Sealing Spirit Secret Realm' of the Primordial Sect withstand an attack by an Ancestor God Treasure?"

"Is it because Zhu Qi has not finished refining it? Or is the Tianjiang Immortal of Ultimate Happiness Realm so fearsome?"

Either way, it was a delight for Tao Qian.

As long as the safety of four million refugees was ensured, Zhu Qi would not be able to refine the Mountain and River Map.

It should have been so.

But at this moment, Tao Qian could not bring himself to feel any joy.

For while he was admiring the dance of the Heavenly River Fish and Dragons, a storm was raging inside him.

At the same time, abnormalities such as double pupils, Big Belly, and Dragon Face, which he had hidden with the Ten Thousand Transformation Technique, blatantly revealed themselves, ignoring the magical defenses.

The Infinite Tribulation Method sent a premonition at this time:

"The second tribulation is imminent!"

"If the tribulation is passed, one will receive Heaven's command and the Human Dao Fortune."

"If not passed, one will perish and the Dao will dissipate."

Chapter 386: Ten Thousand Demons Escape the Cage, Fungal Corpses Rise Like a Forest

Xianheng Hotel, Tao Qian felt the movement within his body, his expression grave.

"The benefits are so great, these two tribulations must be aimed at taking my life."

Tao Qian had just mused to himself.

In the Refugee Zone illuminated by Lian Jing'er's Treasure Wheel, a huge upheaval suddenly occurred.

The scene, which seemed to exist only in mythological albums, "Heavenly River Fish and Dragon Dance," was abruptly destroyed.

Zhu Qi obviously knew that since he had not yet fully refined the Mountain and River Map, he could not interfere with a Secret Realm of All People personally presided over by a Cultivator from the Ultimate Happiness Realm, nor could he destroy the magnificent Tianjiang that led a million refugees.

However, just because he couldn't didn't mean his father couldn't.

Zhu Qi immediately used a secret technique to send a message to the Taishang Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch, who was fighting far away with Kongchan Arhat.

Almost instantly, the voice of this Supreme Elder resounded over the Refugee Zone.

"Tianjiang Immortal, you also want to obstruct my path to enlightenment?"

"Do not forget this place is Demon City; your Primordial Sect dares to plot a return on my territory, giving me difficulties, truly thinking my Taishang Demon Sect fears your Primordial Sect."

Lingwa's true body was entangled by Kongchan, temporarily unable to return.

Through trans-spatial transmission of sound, he immediately began with a great threat.

Yet to the ears of other Demon Cultivators, this was another earth-shattering revelation.

The Primordial Sect!

Any Cultivator who had mingled in the Cultivation World long enough would understand the weight of these three words.

Currently in the Daoist world, the "Twelve Sects" were revered, among which the first rank was occupied by Taishang Dao and Spirit Treasure Sect, with other Great Sects like Canxuan, Shenxiao, and Shaoqing being strong and unreasonable but still relegated to the second tier.

But in a more ancient era, the Daoist world was ruled by Taishang, Primordial, and Spirit Treasure Sects.

It was only that halfway through, the Primordial Sect mysteriously collapsed.

Yet unexpectedly, in this age of great dispute, the inheritance of the Primordial Sect had once again emerged, already plotting its return, while in Demon City, Jiangnan Province, Qiantang Province, and Wu Yue Province, and several other provinces, the renowned Ultimate Happiness Realm Loose Cultivators, the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness, turned out to be from the Primordial Sect.

These secrets, if told by others, would be dismissed as nonsense, but now, spoken by Taishang Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch Lingwa, every word he uttered was ironclad evidence.

Everyone could hear that Lingwa was threatening Tianjiang Immortal; if the Three Immortals obstructed his enlightenment, he would also obstruct the great matters of the Primordial Sect.

However, he was quickly refused, which was reasonable; although the Primordial Sect had collapsed and fallen, why would they care about a threat from an Ultimate Happiness Realm Demon?

Would even switching to the Sect Master of the Taishang Demon Sect matter?

Lingwa was just an Elder.

"Whether or not Ling Daoist can achieve enlightenment is irrelevant to me."

"I cultivate the Primordial Marvel, and if I were to stand by indifferently as the Daoist friend's son slaughters four million mortals, I fear tonight when I meditate, my soul will mutate and I will die both physically and spiritually."

"Ling Daoist, why bother to struggle? With your perceptiveness, how can you not see that Young Friend Prince Zhao is destined to die young, with no chance of ascending to high positions or mastering your Taishang Demon Sect's magic skill?"

"Daoist friend attempts to defy destiny and is bound to be fruitless; you might as well heed the suggestion of Kongchan Daoist. Both you and your son could go to the Demon Buddha Temple and seek the Great Freedom, otherwise, both of you are doomed to perish."

When Tianjiang Immortal's response echoed.

Tens of thousands of Demon Cultivators, who couldn't control their own fate and were gradually turning to watch this drama unfold, all showed excitement on their faces.

Anyone with sense could detect the venom in Tianjiang Immortal's few sentences.

Condemning the other's family to the face, he directly started laying the blame.

Cursing their early demise!

Accusing them of fruitlessly defying fate!

Tianjiang Immortal's target was not Lingwa, this old demon head, but Ling Qi, this arrogant and delusional man who compared himself to a saint.

A few simple sentences pulled Ling Qi down from the lofty position of a saint and trampled him into the mud and dust.

Tao Qian also discerned the implication and, through Lian Jing'er's Treasure Wheel, saw Ling Qi's current extremely unsightly expression.

Just as when Lingwa spoke, credibility was extremely high.

Likewise, when Tianjiang Immortal spoke.

"It's quite unexpected; Senior Tianjiang Immortal really knows how to... speak."

Tao Qian muttered, and at that moment, the voice of Yuan Gong in his arms reached him.

"You currently think this way about the people of the Primordial Sect because you are allies; wait until you're their enemy, then you'll know how shameless the people from the Primordial Sect are."

"Your Spirit Treasure Sect merely has Duobao."

"But the Primordial Sect, from top to bottom, is full of old monsters skilled in scheming; if it weren't for a great disaster years ago, this Sect might not have given up the second place in the Daoist world to you. Although you are cunning, you might not be able to contend with the true inheritors carefully cultivated by the Primordial Sect."

"That National Salvation thing, I advise you not to join, lest you get cheated."

Yuan Gong's words were quite abrupt and unexpected.

However, Tao Qian did not immediately reply or refute after hearing them; instead, he pondered deeply.

Only now, in these rapidly changing circumstances,

Just as he was about to think deeply, Tianjiang Immortal's words completely enraged both father and son Lingwa and Ling Qi; their hatred reached its peak in an instant.

"Old fool, you are courting death; I will exterminate your entire lineage."

"Tianjiang boy, since you love to play with words so much, let's see how you like the taste of Ten Thousand Demons devouring you."

Ling Qi's threat was obviously not taken seriously by Tianjiang Immortal.

He had not yet completely refined the Mountain and River Map; he couldn't do anything to a being of the Ultimate Happiness Realm.

But his father, that was entirely different.

Clearly, even within the Ultimate Happiness Realm, there was a huge disparity between individuals.

Before Lingwa's words had finished echoing, the sky-spanning Heavenly River above the refugee zone had begun to accelerate. In an instant, schools of fish and dragons danced through the air, and the river, burdened with two million people, surged towards the Secret Realm of All People.

However, at that moment, without any sign, an enormous cage enveloped in demonic qi suddenly materialized above the sky.

Without any delay, the cage opened immediately.

One by one, terrifying demons with physical forms, shackled in chains engraved with Forbidden Runes and muzzles, crazily squeezed out.

These demons, whether in terms of size, vibe, or other aspects,

were far more terrifying than the Outer Realm Heaven Demons summoned by Tao Qian, even more so than those previously summoned by Tao Qian for slaughter—like the "Power Demon," "Scorpion Demon," "Death Demon," and others—they were too numerous to count.

As they squeezed through, they roared,

"Lingwa, old fool, remember your promise. Let us devour this fellow then let us return to the Outer Realm."

When this cry fell, the Heavenly Demon Cage emptied immediately.

But in the refugee zone, the moonlight, starlight, and such were no longer visible.

Even the silvery Heavenly River carrying two million people was surrounded by countless demons. Although Tianjiang Immortal immediately started casting, summoning vast amounts of Huangquan and the Great River, and even caused the Tianhe to flow backward, it was clear to all that Tianjiang Immortal was slowly falling into a disadvantage.

This scene rendered tens of thousands of onlookers stupefied.

They were clearly witnessing a battle between cultivators of the Ultimate Happiness Realm for the first time. They had assumed that Tianjiang Immortal, with his notable reputation and the Taishang Primordial Demon, Saint True Monarch Lingwa engaged far away with Kongchan Arhat, would at least have the upper hand.

But who expected the opposite?

Among those surprised was also Tao Qian.

But he had his elder grandfather with him, who immediately explained through telepathy,

"Don't underestimate Tianjiang for this. The cage is called 'Ten Thousand Demon Prison' and is one of Lingwa's proud methods."

"Although both employ Outer Realm Heaven Demons, the methods of the Taishang Demon Sect differ from our Secret Demon Sect. They like to bring the demons into this world, create mutated, strong bodies for them, and then enslave them."

"The Ten Thousand Demon Prison is surely meant for Kongchan."

"Now that it has been moved to deal with Tianjiang, haha, Lingwa is in trouble, as Kongchan enjoys his malicious pleasures. He will most likely rely on his Arhat Dharma Body to close in and beat Lingwa's handsome face."

Yuan Gong laughed, but Tao Qian could not find it in him to laugh.

The visions projected by Lian Jing'er's Treasure Wheel, and the situation in the refugee zone, were rapidly deteriorating.

The numbers broadcasted by his mechanical voice skyrocketed, representing countless lives slipping away.

"Tianjiang Immortal obstructed by Ten Thousand Demons... One hundred and eight altars are being destroyed... The Fungus Demon Army has completely invaded the bounds of Demon City, and within the refugee zone, 'Baina Camp' has half of its population, about one hundred thousand refugees, slaughtered by the Fungus Demons... Yin Qiye transmitted that he had received orders that Zhu Qi is to slaughter the refugees. He could only delay for three breaths."

"One tenth of the demons released by Lingwa have broken away from the group and started rampaging through the camps, devouring anyone they see, with another fifty thousand refugees losing their lives..."

Accompanied by Lian Jing'er's voice, what followed were scenes reminiscent of a human purgatory.

In a flash!

In the Refugee Zone, bodies were strewn everywhere.

Seemingly sensing Tao Qian's movements and thoughts, Yuan Gong transmitted his voice again:

"You shouldn't blame yourself, it's pointless."

"You are merely a Spirit Treasure Foundation Establishment Cultivator, even with the so-called National Salvation Congress, how can you compete against a group of long-planned ambitious schemers? Furthermore, Lingwa is not an ordinary Ultimate Happiness Realm Cultivator. Whether Tianjiang played tricks with his words or not, anyone who sabotages his plans must face the Ten Thousand Demon Prison."

"Moreover, he surely has more than one trick up his sleeve. If you go and reveal yourself, you'll surely die unless you can bring Duobao or your group of aunts."

Yuan Gong's words completely failed to stop Tao Qian.

He took out a Demon Reeds and shook out a Star Zha Demon; with a flash of starlight, Tao Qian had vanished from the Xianheng Hotel.

A beam of starlight moved against the tide of cultivators and demons escaping the Refugee Zone, entering camps known as Thousand Mountains Camp, Ten Thousand Miles Camp, Stove King Camp, and Iron Pot Camp.

When he set foot in the Baina Camp, an extremely terrifying and desolate scene, without any warning, came into Tao Qian's eyes.

That foul, black snow had, at some unknown time, enveloped the entire Refugee Zone.

A scene that should only appear in the coldest winter months, with snow tinged black, covering body after lifeless body.

Men, women, the elderly, and the young... Each one was pale and emaciated, their skin stretched tight over their bones.

Many people didn't even have clothes on their bodies.

But they hadn't frozen to death; they had been eaten.

A horrifying entity had devoured their flesh, viscera, bone marrow, and brains, leaving only empty husks filled with countless disgusting, viscous spores resembling "Frog Eggs" and even causing them to bloat. They grew clusters of dark, ink-like mushrooms that continuously oozed black liquid from their ear canals, nostrils, mouths, anuses, the tops of their heads... and even the surface of their skin.

A hundred thousand people, eaten.

Not a single corpse lay fallen; they had become mushroom people, towering in the black snow.

Where there were many, there formed a forest.

The place where Tao Qian now stood was like a Fungus Corpse Forest.

Before him was a small fungus tree, a ragged girl, her body filthy.

Her features were gaunt, seeming as if she had just died recently, her eyes still retaining a bit of vitality.

Yet this vitality too was fading, being devoured by two small, foul-smelling mushrooms. The black fungus bit by bit consumed her eyeballs until they fully occupied the girl's eye sockets.

In Tao Qian's ears, Lian Jing'er's mechanical broadcast voice continued to transmit through the air:

"The Fungus Demon Army has slaughtered the Baina Camp, resulting in two hundred thousand casualties, and is now attacking the next target, Qingming Camp, which houses five hundred thousand refugees. The Fish and Dragon Altar has been destroyed, preventing entry to Tianjiang... Detecting a total of three hundred demons, with an extremely high danger level, approaching Qingming Camp from the western area..."

Hearing these voices, Tao Qian suddenly sighed.

Then, making some kind of decision, his expression became solemn, his eyes nearly bursting with killing intent, he coldly said:

"Since entering the Demon City, I have fought many times, but I have yet to walk the path of slaughter."

"It's better that the second Cultivation Tribulation happens here as well. Regardless of whether I overcome the tribulation, let me first revel in the slaughter."

Chapter 387: A Glimmer of Hope, Crazy Father and Son

On the borders of Demon City, the Baina Camp was livened by the corpses used as trees.

Tao Qian, filled with murderous intent, resolved to enter the tribulation and transformed into Star Light, heading straight toward Qingming Camp where fifty thousand disaster victims were about to be slaughtered.

Yet, by looking at his solemn expression, one could tell he was uncertain of his success.

It was only normal.

In the first calamity, facing the True Inheritor of the Evil Sect, Lian Yulou, if Tao Qian hadn't made preparations in advance, benefiting from Yunrong's support and summoned over a dozen Haotian Divine Lights, he would have likely been devoured alive by Lian Yulou.

Now, in this second calamity, the adversaries Tao Qian was facing had changed to the Fungus Demon Army and the demons fostered by the Taishang Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch.

A misstep, and he might have to face the Heavenly Demon Army.

How could he possibly fight this?

To the common observer, this situation was a sure death sentence.

Even Yuan Gong, at this moment, sent a message to pour a bucket of cold water.

"Young man, don't show off your strength, not to mention those alien demons nurtured by the old fellow Lingwa."

"Do you know the origin of these fungus demons? Don't underestimate the Fungus Sect because it's considered a heresy and heterodoxy."

"This sect is not only extremely ancient, comparable to our Secret Demon Sect, but its methods are incredibly weird, nearly undying and undemolished, not to mention having parasitic and devouring abilities. Should you carelessly fall into their trap, all your cultivation could go down the drain."

"A few hundred or even a thousand fungus demons might be manageable, but with hundreds of thousands ahead, your newly refined Golden Light Mantra, Innate One Qi Great Seizing Hand, and Silent Divine Thunder, although excellent for individual battles, will see their effectiveness significantly reduced once on the battlefield."

"Charging in like this is akin to courting death."

"I advise you to put aside your pride and kindly ask your family elders for help. Although using such a cultivation tribulation technique is somewhat crafty, it's still better than letting hundreds of thousands of fungus demons drown and devour you."

This earnest advice from Yuan Gong was truly heartfelt.

Unfortunately, Tao Qian had already made up his mind.

"It's not about pride, but rather the Infinite Tribulation Method that holds profound mysteries."

"Getting the Primordial Sect involved is already extremely risky. If I were to ask my Master or Aunt Bai Yin for help, it could likely create a huge mess."

"Currently, it's only me, but that doesn't mean I'm without means."

In an instant, his form neared Qingming Camp.

In the next moment, Tao Qian witnessed a scene he would never forget:

On the ground covered with black snow ahead, a massive army was moving in a bizarre manner, appearing under the moonlight like a sly forest, dense and thriving yet merged with the darkness.

In the blink of an eye, the forest shifted forward instantaneously.

Silent and without a trace, only shadows moved.

The only "disturbance" came from above, where the sky was completely covered by spores clouds.

Densely packed, ink-black spores, emerging thread by thread from within the forest, coalesced into clouds and obscured the sky.

Tao Qian's high spirit vision allowed him to clearly see each "soldier."

They wore no clothes because they didn't need them.

Perhaps they were once human, but now they certainly were not.

Men and women alike, all naked.

Their bodies were parasitized by various fungi, hardly leaving any soldiers alike. Some were adorned with vividly beautiful mushroom-like fungi, others with hard, armor-like black fungi, and yet others that shone brightly like stars, or emitted nocturnal glows... What they shared in perspective were their eyes, a haunting green color, flickering like flames.

Inside, there was neither resentment nor desire for slaughter.

What existed was more akin to a natural life force that secretly conformed to the heavens and earth.

Their eerie movements meant that every shift devoured any life within the range ahead.

The Mortal Human Race, that is, the disaster victims.

They stood no chance of resistance. The spores, seemingly fine as sand to the naked eye, were omnipresent. They entered the bodies through breath and the human orifices, rooted in the blood, bone marrow, and brain matter, and in a moment, thousands upon tens of thousands perished.

Transforming into fungal corpses, they stood rigidly, forming a forest of fungi.

But the spores planted in the human bodies didn't have those eerie forms.

Some resulted in rot, emitting foul odors.

Before Tao Qian could act, cultivators from the National Salvation Congress and some nearby righteous cultivators had already clashed with these fungus demons.

Transcendent beings, too, showed the terrifying combat prowess of these fungus demons.

As Tao Qian observed from a distance, he saw the front lines of the battlefield.

Cultivators from the National Salvation Congress and eager cultivators and demonic beings alike were being slaughtered.

He didn't even have time to make out the methods of the fungus demons, only seeing streaks of rainbow and gleaming lights flicker, strange shadows flitting about. Whether cultivators, demons, or mountain spirits and ghosts, all that lacked protective measures were robbed of life in an instant.

Cultivators willing to aid mortals were already few.

Stricken by sudden attacks, most retreated.

Only the cultivators from the National Salvation Congress stubbornly held their ground before Qingming Camp.

But anyone with clear eyes could see that these people wouldn't last long, soon to perish along with their cultivation paths, and then, none of the fifty thousand within the camp would escape a cruel fate.

A chill ran through Tao Qian's heart, his movements ceaseless.

He circulated the Golden Light Mantra to protect himself and transformed into a rainbow, forcefully piercing through the massive, dense spore clouds ahead.

"Everyone, step back, let me handle this."

The cultivators from the Qingming Camp of the National Salvation Congress had suffered heavy casualties, and only a few were left. Upon hearing that voice, they had no time to react.

Suddenly, a dazzling golden light tore through the sky and smashed into the Qingming Camp with a thunderous roar.

As the light faded, a "strange man" appeared.

He was a young cultivator with an odd appearance, resembling the legendary dragon face, and having double pupils, not to mention a belly as large as a pregnant woman in her tenth month.

No sooner had the strange man stabilized on the ground than he waved his hand, and a sky filled with thunder struck down, turning the ground ahead into scorched earth and blasting at least a hundred various fungus demons into dust.

However, those behind him from the National Salvation Congress immediately changed their expressions and warned, "Daoist, be careful. These fungus demons are almost undying and the Thunder Skill does little against them. Seal all your orifices immediately and release your protective divine light, or you'll be parasitized and devoured in an instant, turning into nourishment for the fungus demons."

Before the person had finished speaking, the charred corpses of the fungus demons burst open, and a cloud of spores erupted like a black giant net, instantaneously engulfing Tao Qian.

A chillingly creepy sound filled the air.

"It's over, our backup has been ambushed as soon as he arrived."

"This Daoist was too reckless, interfering without first understanding the fungus demons' tactics; we couldn't even warn him in time."

"Fight to the death then, even if our Dao perishes it doesn't matter, we should move as many refugees to Tianjiang as we can."

"It's probably hopeless though, those demons are coming too, and none of us may make it out alive."

As the few members of the National Salvation Congress grudgingly prepared to stake their all,

Tao Qian, engulfed in the cloud of spores, had records flashing through his mind.

[Record Name: Fungus Demon.]

[Record Type: Alien Species.]

[Record: In the great province of Wu Yue, there exists a side door heterodox sect called 'Fungus Sect', whose cultivators are like but not humans, all considering themselves descendants of the Fungus Ancestor... These are puppet soldiers cultivated through special means by the Fungus Sect, each possessing some transcendent trait, able to merge with spores passed down through generations of the Fungus Ancestor, the earlier the generation of merged spore puppets, the stronger their combat power.]

[Note 1: Once a Fungus Sect cultivator reaches the Foundation Establishment Realm, they can achieve a degree of immortality. Separating from their physical body, as long as a single origin spore remains, they can be revived, though if they fail to break through to the next realm within a limited time, everything including their soul will turn back into the most primitive spores of the Fungus Ancestor, and this time limit is extremely short, just one year between Foundation Establishment and Transcend Mortality.]

[Note 2: As cultivation is extremely difficult, there are not many Fungus Sect cultivators. This army is led by eight Cavernous Mystery Realm fungus demons and over a hundred Transcendent Mortality fungus demons.]

[Note 3: The Fungus Ancestor spores are almost invincible, fearing only several special flames such as the Tusita Fire of the Taishang Dao, the Taiyi Pure Yang True Fire of the Pure Yang Sect, the Heart Lamp Buddha Flame of the Great Freedom Temple, or the True Sun Fire, Outer Heaven Flame Essence, etc., which are rare in the world.]

...

When the third note appeared, a light immediately flashed in Tao Qian's eyes.

His heart roared with joy:

"So that's it, the opportunity for life is here."

"I knew it, me, Master Tao, just at the Foundation Establishment Realm, how could there not be a shred of hope left for me."

With a flash of thought, Tao Qian immediately took action.

He had neither the Tusita Fire nor the Heart Lamp Buddha Flame.

But as for the Outer Heaven Flame Essence!

As long as he could withstand it, there was plenty.

Without those little things helping, Tao Qian could not have casually produced so many demon pills.

With a thought, a spark flashed at Tao Qian's fingertip.

It fell into the cloud of spores, and instantly the sparks spread.

As if wailing spirits cried out abruptly, when the black ash fell to the ground, Tao Qian now held a peculiar elixir in his hand.

[Record: Spirit Fungus Pill, refined from Fungus Ancestor spores mixed with the resentment of fungus demons, can increase cultivation power, can resolve the parasitism of Fungus Ancestor spores, can resolve all poisons.]

"Good stuff!"

Having obtained the Spirit Pill, Tao Qian was exhilarated.

But immediately, joy turned to sorrow.

An army of tens of thousands of fungus demons had once again shifted mysteriously and arrived.

In that instant, Tao Qian only had time to throw the few people from the National Salvation Congress out to safety.

He himself, along with a third of the Qingming Camp, were completely engulfed by the fungus demons and the ubiquitous spores of the Fungus Ancestor.

At the same time, the trans-spatial voice of Lian Jing'er rang in his ears:

"Qingming Camp has been invaded, already 150,000 refugees have been parasitized... it has been detected that the Fungus Demon Army is beginning to divide, splitting into a total of thirteen groups, each attacking a camp still holding refugees."

"Detected to the west, 300 alien demons are devouring refugees, the death toll has risen to 10,000... detected 200 alien demons have invaded the Ten Thousand Miles Camp, starting to devour the refugees... detected 500 alien demons have invaded the Stove King Camp, where the number of dead refugees has risen to 50,000..."

"Qi Ye has sent a message, the Heavenly Demon Army is setting out, they will form the Chiyou Slaughter God Formation, launching a massacre from three angles, it is estimated that the Heavenly Demon Army will be able to kill the remaining over a million refugees within half an hour..."

"A moment ago, the target Lingwa has released another exotic treasure of the Taishang Demon Sect, estimated to arrive in Demon City in 10 breaths, under the current conditions, there's about a 60% chance of completely cutting off that branch of Tianjiang, with two million people inside dying from mutation..."

"Boom"

The real thunderbolt from a clear sky had come.

Tao Qian's eyes instantly turned completely red.

He knew without guessing that Ling Qi and Lingwa, this father and son duo, probably couldn't wait any longer.

Completely ignoring the benefits of shifting the burden, they planned to take matters into their own hands.

Even if they had to endure the backlash of the consequences, Ling Qi must refine the Mountain and River Map.

Chapter 388: Toad Pearl Collides with the Immortal Slaying Halberd, Both Primordial Secret Demon Fall into Ruin

Ling Qi and his father had planned in advance, utilizing Tao Qian's pure and simple attitude, characteristic of many cultivators in the Cultivation World; they seek benefits without wanting to pay the price.

Thus, they had gone through all the trouble to orchestrate events like "Fungus Demon Invasion of Demon City" and "Treasure Convention," aiming naturally to shift the cost of sacrificing millions to the Fungus Sect and the tens of thousands of unfortunate cultivators competing for treasures.

As for the Fourth Prince, Zhu Xuan?

This ruling Yue King of Wu Yue Province, from the moment he fell into the hands of his ninth brother, was destined to be used as a sacrificial material with no chance of survival.

The plan was perfect, unfortunately ruined by Tao Qian.

Even as merely a Foundation Establishment cultivator, alone in Demon City, he still managed to utilize the power of the National Salvation Congress and summoned the Kongchan Arhat, thoroughly destroying the father and son's conspiracy.

Seeing the potential for failure, Ling Qi and Lingwa made a resolute decision. They took on the cost themselves, deciding to personally eliminate the four million people.

Lian Jing'er, transformed into the "Satellite Spirit" and monitoring the whole Demon City, not only transmitted voices but also used the power of the Treasure Wheel to directly send a holographic image into Tao Qian's mind.

This action indeed allowed Tao Qian to instantly grasp the extremely complex situation on the battlefield.

"Ling Qi is constantly attacking the Secret Realm of All People with the power of the Mountain and River Map... Tianjiang Immortal moves two million people but is blocked by tens of thousands of Alien Demons, stranded halfway with no way back... Alien Demons splitting off, attacking the disaster victims who haven't yet reached Tianjiang... Fungus Demons also splitting off, attacking the disaster victims... Yin Qiye forced to dispatch the Heavenly Demon Army... Lingwa remotely sending treasures to cut off Tianjiang, planning to kill everyone transforming into fish and dragons within..."

"Does this mean I need to resolve all the dilemmas on the battlefield within ten breaths to save the lives of four million disaster victims?"

"My sweet rain..."

After grasping the situation clearly, Tao Qian couldn't help but curse loudly.

At this moment, he harbored no resentment toward the National Salvation Congress for the plan's failure, after careful consideration.

Expecting a fledgling organization to counter a long-premeditated interest group was extremely difficult indeed.

Not to mention anything else, just "Taishang Demon Saint True Monarch Lingwa" alone presented an extreme challenge.

Complaining was pointless; Tao Qian, at this moment, was clear-headed.

Ideas feverishly ran through his mind.

"There must be a chance for life."

"Outer Heaven Flame Essence can counter the Fungus Demons, Kongchan can suppress Lingwa, the Heavenly Demon Army has insiders, as long as those Alien Demons can be dealt with... freeing Tianjiang Immortal, wouldn't this calamity be overcome?"

The last spark of inspiration flashed by, and Tao Qian seized it immediately.

His idea immediately crystallized, and a plan sprang to mind in an instant.

But he didn't act immediately; he let the Fungus Demons engulf his body as the Golden Light Mantra flashed incessantly.

Suddenly, Tao Qian contacted Master Yuan again, very solemnly said,

"Master Yuan, I would like to request your help once more to perform the Demon Cleansing Technique, if possible?"

Perhaps it was rare to hear Tao Qian speaking so solemnly, or perhaps the title "Master" carried more power.

Without hesitation, Master Yuan replied with a single word, "Yes!"

Tao Qian had already anticipated this answer, showing no surprise on his face.

Immediately, he took action.

While still surrounded by the Fungus Demons, he directly used the Golden Light Mantra to open a protective shield and then took out the Demon Gourd.

With a shake, he released all sorts of demons within like the Joyful Demon, Fantasy Demon, Substitute Demon, Invisibility Demon, etc.

He first instructed the Buddha Fragrance Demon, which seemed akin to burning Buddhist incense, "Go to that Arhat and tell him if he doesn't suppress Lingwa and completely draw him away from Demon City soon, our pact will be nullified."

After sending the Demon to threaten an Ultimate Happiness Realm Arhat, Tao Qian addressed the rest of the demons.

"You all see those Mutated Demons, right? They're your fellows from the Outer Realm. Go, connect with them."

"Whether by deception or other means, when you hear my signal, draw them all to me."

"I will use the Demon Cleansing Sword Intent to obliterate their Alien Demon bodies, then summon the Flame Essence to refine all their Demon Thoughts and Demon Souls into Demon Pills."

"After the deed is done, I, as your Master, will not keep a single one, sharing them all with you."

"How about this deal?"

As soon as Tao Qian finished speaking, all the demons' eyes turned red.

Even the haughty Red Lady Demon couldn't help but start drooling profusely.

In an extremely rare show of unity, the demons began to vehemently flatter Tao Qian.

"Yes, the Master is generous."

"The Master is mighty, the Master is domineering."

"The Master's divine power is unbeatable, all demons submit."

"Idiot, we are also demons."

As time was pressing, Tao Qian had no time to entertain these small demons' ramblings, and he dismissed them with a wave of his hand.

After doing all this, he still didn't take action.

At this moment, the "ten breaths" warned by Lian Jing'er had finally arrived.

Boom!

Over the vast region of Demon City, with black snow sealing the city and Death Star looming, suddenly another loud noise came.

All cultivators looked in unison, only to see a terrifying brilliance shoot from afar.

Within that brilliance hid a treasure.

It was an anciently styled giant axe, engraved with some ancient demonic runes, crimson as blood. As it roared by, dragging flames in its wake, about a thousand Great Strength Demons appeared, roaring as if ready to break free from the treasure's binding and wreak havoc.

Wherever the giant axe passed, any obstacle was cleaved apart.

Seeing the direction of this treasure, it was clearly targeting the splendid Tianjiang containing two million fish and dragons.

Ancient Treasure!

In an instant, countless cultivators subconsciously made this judgment.

Furthermore, many extremely unlucky ones were in the same area as the Fish-Dragon Sky River.

Before the deadly weapon even struck, the unknown sharpness arrived first, and with multiple "bang bang bang" sounds, dozens of Demon Cultivators exploded and died instantly.

At that moment, Tao Qian heard Master Yuan's voice in his mind,

"Old man is desperate. This is the 'Great Strength Demon-Slaying Immortal Halberd,' a relic once found by Lingwa in the ruins, and also his treasured asset."

"This treasure binds thousands of Great Strength Demons, fiercely ferocious. Even a cultivator from the Ultimate Happiness Realm, if struck once, would suffer grave injuries if not death."

"Tianjiang is certainly skilled and seems to have some heritage from the Primordial Sect, but currently, he's casting a spell to save someone. If hit by this ancient divine halberd, he's likely to lose centuries of his Dao cultivation."

"As for those two million people, they undoubtedly can't be saved."

"Hmm? Are you planning to... Lad, have you lost your mind?"

Before Master Yuan could finish, Tao Qian suddenly stamped his foot.

Hearing Tao Qian's command, the Star Zha Demon he had left behind, although terrified, ultimately erupted in a burst of starlight under the lure of great profit and wrapped up Tao Qian, charging towards that extreme terrifying divine halberd that seemed to cleave the entire Demon City.

Such an action was extremely abrupt and very conspicuous.

Not only was Master Yuan horrified, but tens of thousands of cultivators fleeing around Demon City also couldn't help but turn their heads to look.

Had that man gone mad?

Before colliding with the divine halberd, Tao Qian for the first time sent a message to Tianjiang Immortal.

It wasn't known what exactly he said, but Tianjiang Immortal immediately replied,

"Agreeable!"

"If this succeeds, all credit is due to you, young friend."

"I, the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness, owe you a favor."

Tianjiang Immortal's last statement, if made public at this moment, would likely cause tens of thousands of cultivators in Demon City to grow envious of Tao Qian.

Who are the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness?

Three Ultimate Happiness Realm cultivators, collectively owing Tao Qian a favor.

This benefit was huge.

However, Tao Qian, after hearing this, had no time to rejoice.

For the next moment, he was about to 'seek his own death' by colliding with the 'Great Strength Demon-Slaying Immortal Halberd,' which even Master Yuan described as horrifically powerful, not actually using his physical body to collide.

A pained expression crossed Tao Qian's face, then on a thought, he summoned the Nine Toad Bead.

"Dear treasure, I'm truly sorry about this."

"Given that you too come from an extraordinary origin, this strike shouldn't damage you too much. Rest assured, if I encounter other toad pearls in the future, I will use the 'Fishing Toad Technique' to gather them for you, making you the first in the set."

While muttering, Tao Qian ruthlessly began casting.

The next moment, an extremely shocking scene unfolded before the eyes of all cultivators.

Quack!

Amidst the shocking noise that shook the Demon City, a massive Three-legged Golden Toad vaulted out.

Then, from the side, it fiercely collided with the divine halberd.

Initially, one could hear the pitiful cry of the Golden Toad, followed by a loud 'clang' noise. The previously ferocious divine halberd rushing to cleave the entire Demon City had its slashing force significantly weakened by the collision, and the direction of the axe's chop fatally shifted.

In an instant, when it reached the splendid Tianjiang, its power was fundamentally insufficient to threaten this hidden cultivator of Primordial Sect.

One could hear a low shout from the Tianjiang Immortal, within the surging silver white Fish-Dragon Sky River, suddenly, two magical treasures also flew out.

A rusty iron sword!

A red lingham, which swelled upon facing the wind!

The instant these two items appeared, Tao Qian's mind once again heard Master Yuan's voice.

"Yu God Sword, Muddying River Silk, huh, truly a hidden cultivator of Primordial Sect."

"With these two items there, unless Lingwa retrieves the Immortal Slaying Halberd and attempts the God Demon Immortal Slaying Technique again, they won't undermine Tianjiang."

As if to prove Master Yuan's words,

The 'Muddying River Silk,' known as the red lingham, suddenly extended and twisted, catching the handle of the divine halberd a step ahead, and dragging it tightly backwards.

While the so-called Yu God Sword released a brilliant water light, which seemed like moonlight, and autonomously flew over, accompanying by 'tinging and clanging' sounds, these three magical treasures actually engaged in a struggle together.

Despite still being dominated by the Great Strength Demon-Slaying Immortal Halberd, undoubtedly, it was fundamentally unable to subdue Tianjiang Immortal.

This turn of events came extremely fast.

Ling Qi was extremely enraged, while the other cultivators were shocked.

Who was this formidable figure? What was that treasure which could help Tianjiang Immortal avoid severe injury?

From a distant land, the voice of Taishang Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch came through,

"Nine Toad Bead, Secret Demon Child?"

"Good, truly splendid."

"Primordial Sect, Secret Demon Sect, you two declining families rushing to combine."

"Do not let Lingwa succeed this time. Once I ascend to Daoist Transformation, I must stop your plans to rebuild the Mountain Gate."

As Lingwa's voice echoed,

Tianjiang Immortal didn't react much, but Master Yuan in Tao Qian's chest was the first to grow angry.

"Declining family? Even Taishang Demon Sect's old thing has the audacity to insult my Secret Demon Sect."

"Young man, strike quickly."

"If you can block this old tortoise's path, I won't only lend you 'Demon Cleansing Sword Intent,' but also grant you a great opportunity."

"This old thing suspects you are the Secret Demon Child, so I will truly pass on the Secret Demon True Method to you, solidifying your identity."

...

Although suddenly favored by two seniors, one after another, offering benefits,

Tao Qian, knowing a few internal details about the Secret Demon Sect, after hearing Master Yuan's words, couldn't help but mutter disrespectfully, "Master Yuan, your trace is too visible. It's clearly you who wants to solidify my identity as the Secret Demon Child, isn't it?"

Chapter 389: Tao Qian Overcomes the Second Tribulation, the Heavenly Demon General Transforms into a Secret Demon

"Tao Qian counters the Immortal Slaying Halberd with the Nine Toad Bead, resolving the death trap of the Tianjiang Immortal.

With his current repulsive and majestic dragon face, sporting a big belly and double pupils, no one can tell who he is; yet, the deliberate display of a Secret Demon Cultivator's aura has indeed led the Taishang Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch to mistake him for the contemporary Secret Demon Child.

Lingwa's mockery, which came after her annoyance, reminded Kongchan Arhat.

Previously, the Arhat did not exert his full strength, wary that Lingwa, in desperation, might lash out at him if her plot failed.

Even though their strength was evenly matched, if Lingwa truly fought with all her might, even if she couldn't kill Kongchan, exchanging wound for wound would not be difficult at all.

"Ling Daoist, after losing both the 'Ten Thousand Demon Prison' and the 'Great Strength Demon-Slaying Immortal Saber', you will not be able to do anything to me, even if you fight with all your might."

"Well, the time has come."

Kongchan Arhat had this calculation in the back of his mind.

Then, suddenly, he clapped his hands together, and dazzling Buddha Light burst forth.

In a moment, an extremely large Dharma Image of an Arhat, as if an actual Buddha had come to the world, manifested in a distant place.

Amidst the sound of cicadas, the region began to be transported away.

This time, it was Kongchan Arhat that acted to drag someone away, and with his move, it was certain that he intended to completely bring Lingwa out of this realm, possibly to a minor world or a secret realm for battle – the Buddhist Arhat Bodhisattvas were most adept at this type of method.

But before leaving, Kongchan did not forget to confirm his deal with Tao Qian.

Accompanied by the Buddha Light and the cicadas, the voice of the Arhat transmitted:

"My young friend from the Secret Demon Sect, I'll take care of Ling Daoist."

"You may proceed to act freely, just don't forget the share that awaits this poor monk."

As the voice faded, the two extremely noble and powerful figures, the Arhat and the True Monarch, were no longer heard.

...

The people of the Demon Buddha Temple are never fussy, discussing pacts and deals in public without feeling anything wrong with it.

The Beautiful Corpse was such in the past, and now Kongchan, who had become an Arhat, acted similarly.

But this revelation of his, apart from truly confirming Tao Qian as the Secret Demon Child, also caused a shock among tens of thousands of cultivators and demons in Demon City, changing the expressions of Ling Qi and Huang Chong, who were hidden.

Primordial Sect!

Secret Demon Sect!

Though both sects were disparaged by Lingwa as 'decrepit houses', a lean camel is still bigger than a horse.

If these two major sects got involved,

Even with their early conspiracies and long-term planning, success might not come easily.

Almost instantly, all parties began to speed up their actions.

Tao Qian also thought of this and cursed Kongchan Arhat in his heart.

"This loudmouthed blabbermouth, no wonder he's called Kongchan."

Before the swearing had finished, Tao Qian dared not delay any longer.

He retrieved the Nine Toad Bead, which had dimmed and become useless after clashing with the Divine Axe, and put it away.

Then he instantly relocated with a flash of starlight to a camp within Demon City, where the disaster victims had all transformed and entered the Fish-Dragon Sky River, coordinating with the group of 'Demon Traitors' he had released.

Straightaway, he took out an Elixir Gourd, and with a wave, one after one, round elixirs appeared in the sky, looking quite splendid from a distance."

Tao Qian didn't need to cast any wind spells; the stench of the poison gas releasing from within was so putrid, smelling like feces and urine to the Human Clan Cultivators, that they felt like vomiting upon inhaling it.

But to the Outer Realm Demons, it was as if an Exotic Fragrance wafted to their noses, making their mouths water profusely.

Especially the next moment, when all the demons turned their heads to look.

That oddly-shaped Human Clan Cultivator with a strange face was smiling joyously and amiably. He patted his Big Belly and issued a sincere invitation to all the demons within the Demon City, especially to those Alien Demons currently attacking Tianjiang, chasing and devouring the refugees—the most arduously working among them.

"My Heavenly Demon Daoist friends, I know that you, too, have suffered at the hands of the Elder Lingwa. You came to the Mortal World without enjoying any blessings and have been squatting in a bitter prison for many years."

"Although we are enemies and not friends, I can't bear to watch this. Before proceeding with the slaughter, let me entertain you Daoists with these Demon Pills."

"Come, come, all of you, come here."

These words entered the ears of the demons, and not only were the over ten thousand Alien Demons dumbfounded.

Even the remaining Cultivators were also stunned.

It was obviously a trap.

But presenting it so brazenly? Without even a hint of subtlety?

Just as the cultivators were thinking this, suddenly within the ranks of the thousands of Alien Demons, directly a hundred demons took action first. As they rushed over, they bellowed loudly:

"So fragrant, so fragrant, I don't care, I'll eat the Secret Demon Child first, then the Demon Pills."

"Right, we kill the Secret Demon Child first, then we don't have to worry about the Elixir being poisoned."

"Great idea! Charge!"

"Hahaha, I'm also tired of eating humans. It's been many years since Secret Demon Cultivators vanished. I wonder what the taste of the new generation's Secret Demon Child's flesh and blood is like, if there's any chewiness."

"This Secret Demon Child doesn't look like a good person, but I imagine the taste of his heart and liver must be delicious."

...

A group of Alien Demons, though still cunning, naturally reacted a beat slower than the group of Demon Traitors Tao Qian had subdued, after spending many years imprisoned and tormented in the bitter prison.

Being led by them and taking the lead, the Alien Demons surrounding Tianjiang hadn't moved yet.

The Alien Demons wandering the camp devouring refugees were, however, all attracted over. Here a group of several hundred, there a band of over a thousand, swarming in, shrieking and roaring their way over. This movement immediately stirred the desires of the Alien Demons around Tianjiang.

"These refugees are all skin and bones, utterly chewy-less. How could their flavor compare to a Secret Demon Child and tens of thousands of Heavenly Demon Pills?"

"Such a feast, if we're late, we might not even get to sip on bone marrow brain juice soup."

This Demon Thought was highly contagious.

The next moment, all at once, the thousands of Alien Demons around Tianjiang Immortal also moved in unison, surging toward Tao Qian.

This scene was extremely shocking to the onlooking Cultivators, but to Ling Qi, it spelled big trouble.

He hastily called out to stop them, insisting the Ten Thousand Demons continue besieging Tianjiang Immortal, absolutely not allowing Tianjiang Immortal to transport the two million refugees back to the Secret Realm.

Unfortunately, although he was the son, he was not the father.

The Ten Thousand Demons were only controlled by Lingwa; they paid no heed to Ling Qi.

Especially since Lingwa had been completely dragged away by Kongchan, unable to sense the changes here and thus unable to restrain the group of demons.

However, when the Ten Thousand Demons attacked, Tao Qian couldn't help but feel a surge of unease in his heart.

While maintaining a pretense of inviting his guests into the urn with a hypocritical smile, he couldn't help but swallow nervously, knowing this was a life-and-death test in his fate. Just like when he had faced Lian Yulou's Desire Sin Nine Tribulations Body before, if he couldn't pass this test, it was inevitable he would die and his Dao would be extinguished.

Thus Tao Qian prepared to start casting while secretly transmitting a message to Yuan Gong:

"Master Yuan, Master Yuan, can the Demon Cleansing Sword Intent work? If this attempt is successful, the Secret Demon Sect will surely make a name for itself."

"If we can't win, it'll be disastrous."

No sooner had the issue been raised than it was immediately rebutted.

"Do you really think that a single use of the Demon Cleansing Sword Intent could kill these Ten Thousand Demons? That's a fool's dream."

"You should know that you don't need to kill them; you simply need to disperse them to break the siege on the young Tianjiang."

"That shouldn't be hard, but..."

"But what?"

"Nothing much, it's just that you'll have to take on a huge debt."

As soon as Master Yuan's transmitted message ended, Tao Qian could no longer see any light before him.

Above and below, from all sides, he was surrounded by Ten Thousand Demons.

To those onlookers, the peculiar Secret Demon Child was probably already in the belly of the Ten Thousand Demons, with no chance of survival.

At that moment, however, Tao Qian moved to cast a spell in silence, shouting without a sound:

"I invoke Master Yuan to possess me!"

As the divine command was issued, a familiar scene unfolded.

Tao Qian's dragon-like countenance underwent another transformation—his sword-browed eyes turned a blood-red in an instant.

Already able to be called a strange man or a weirdo by his original appearance, his new form seemed even more ferocious and sinister.

When the blood-red sword light, as if intending to level everything and suppress everything, shot into the sky, every being associated with the "Demon Path" in the vast region of the Demon City—whether man, beast, devil, or any other kind of alien species—began to tremble uncontrollably and dared not look at the Secret Demon Child within the sword light.

Some of the weaker Demon Cultivators with less resolute minds even died on the spot.

Those more knowledgeable started shouting loudly.

"It's the Demon Cleansing Sword Intent of the Secret Demon Sect!"

"Legend has it that on the day the Secret Demon Sect collapsed, an Old Demon named Master Yuan used this sword to slay countless Demon Masters and Demon Cultivators in a moment."

"Look over there!"

There was no need for reminders; at that moment, everyone was watching that spot.

With their own eyes, they watched the swarm of Alien Demons, one after another, being blasted away.

The scene was like a drop of water in a pot of oil.

Boiling!

Exploding!

It was unclear how much mana Tao Qian had borrowed from his Heavenly Venerate, but a stroke of blood-red sword light was unleashed with extreme ferocity, sweeping in all directions from the empty refugee camp as its center.

The entire Demon City seemed to be grazed by the red light, truly presenting the spectacle of a single sword stroke clearing ten thousand miles.

Those thick-skinned Alien Demons weren't seriously injured, except for a few hundred in the core area that were directly obliterated.

The rest were swept away by Tao Qian for hundreds, even thousands of miles.

The most unlucky were the Demon Cultivators caught in the blast—how could they expect to face a life-and-death crisis just by watching? They didn't even have time to cry out before being swept away by the sword light, facing immediate death if their cultivation wasn't sufficient.

This spectacle stunned countless onlookers in an instant.

At the same time, no one doubted Tao Qian's identity as the Secret Demon Child any longer.

What's the ironclad proof?

This, this was it.

But an even more astonishing turn of events was yet to come.

One sword scattered Ten Thousand Demons!

Tao Qian's face showed anguish as he withdrew the Sword Intent and then teleported with a flash, now appearing at a refugee camp being invaded by Fungus Demons.

With a thunderous crash, flames erupted.

While burning the surrounding Fungus Demons to ashes, he also obtained a batch of Spirit Fungus Pills, which he crushed and mixed into the sweet rain, instantly neutralizing the fungal poison affecting all refugees in the camp.

Then, a surprising scene took place.

With a wave of Tao Qian's robe, he incredibly whisked away hundreds of thousands of refugees from the camp in one breath.

With another flash of starlight, he reappeared over the magnificent Tianjiang, dumping all those refugees into the great river.

The change of events was too fast and too abrupt!

Tens of thousands of Demon City cultivators and demons couldn't react in time or ponder the reasons behind it.

"Why would a Secret Demon Child save people?"

"Has the Secret Demon Sect made a pact with the Primordial Sect?"

"And what about that divine skill, it looks a lot like the Universe in the Sleeve of the Spirit Treasure Sect?"

While the onlookers were pondering these questions, Ling Qi was near madness.

He watched as Tao Qian, this queer Secret Demon Child, first clashed with his father's Immortal-slaying Treasure, then used the Demon Cleansing Sword Intent to relieve the siege on Tianjiang Immortal, and now was single-handedly transferring the remaining refugees into the Fish-Dragon Sky River.

At this rate, in a few breaths' time, all four million refugees would be relocated.

His painstakingly devised plan was thoroughly ruined.

Ling Qi's body started to shake uncontrollably, his handsome yet sinister face distorted whilst he screamed:

"Junior Brother Yin, hurry, kill everything before me."

"No, go into the Demon City Territory and slay, exterminate all those millions of civilians."

"If you're a moment too slow, once my father returns, I'll steam you alive."

Everyone heard this scream and saw the potential madness in Ling Qi, and they all understood why.

How could he tolerate his thoroughly thwarted plan?

However, it seemed like the Taishang Demon Son still had the power to turn the tide.

Exterminate the civilians within!

Kill enough, and it would still satisfy the refining conditions.

But immediately, a truly devastating blow came for Ling Qi.

A burst of maniacal laughter suddenly erupted from the mouth of the peculiar Secret Demon Child.

"Ha ha ha... Junior Brother Yin, since Daoist Ling Qi has called for you."

"You might as well stop pretending and take your place."

Chapter 390: Survivors of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, Sea God Brings a Million Corpses

Previously, Tao Qian had risen to prominence under his identity as a Secret Demon Child.

Yet, onlookers didn't believe he and the National Salvation Congress could win, for the reason was simple.

Slaughter is always much simpler than saving the world.

Especially when you have a well-trained army skilled in conquest and slaughter, you should feel confident of victory.

Ling Qi felt exactly that.

But after he gave the order, he suddenly heard Tao Qian's wild laughter, and those two thunderclap-like statements:

"Secret Demon Child calling Yin Qiye a 'brother disciple'?"

"The great general of the Heavenly Demon Army, the peerless Taishang Demon Son, is actually a Secret Demon Child?"

Some quick thinkers immediately realized this point.

The subsequent change in the next moment solidified this extraordinary, completely overturning fact.

Within the Heavenly Demon Army, already arrayed in the Chiyou Battle Array and contracting from three directions to slaughter everything ahead, a young Black Armored General appeared before the public.

Purely in terms of appearance, this general was only slightly inferior to Ling Qi, and though clearly a Demon Cultivator, had a somewhat honest and gentle look.

Of course, there were also bizarre aspects: fiery red short hair, drifting Demon Flame, a pair of crimson Demon Eyes on his forehead, and an extra pair of arms at his ribs, clutching weapons like the Red Copper Hammer, Iron Rod, etc. Anyone who saw him would commend him as a fierce war general.

It was no wonder that the Rashamon Girl fell in love at first sight and secretly conspired with him.

However, at this moment, this general, the center of everyone's attention, clearly belonged to the Taishang Demon Sect.

After hearing Ling Qi's threatening order, he simply gave him a cold look, then, disregarding his armor, he respectfully saluted Tao Qian from a distance, and loudly said:

"With brother's command, how dare your brother disobey."

"I ask everyone here to witness that today I, Yin Qiye, officially sever ties with the Taishang Demon Sect, from Demon to Demon, henceforth I am a member of the Secret Demon Sect."

As Yin Qiye's voice faded,

Everyone saw a pillar of Heavenly Demon Qi burst forth from his body, a visible transformation occurring swiftly.

Although both are from Demon Sects, the Source Qi refined and absorbed by different sects is essentially different.

The Taishang Heavenly Demon Source Qi, in the blink of an eye, transformed into Secret Demon Origin Qi.

Yin Qiye's Cultivation Realm remained unchanged.

But at this moment, he had transformed from Taishang Demon Son to Secret Demon Child.

At that instant, Tao Qian also heard Master Yuan's voice in his mind.

"Crafty lad, regardless of how you planned it, preserving Yin Qiye's life, he who was chosen by the Taishang Demon Sect to cultivate the 'Chiyu Three Disks Scripture', has an extraordinary talent and constitution, the kind that appears once in a hundred years. If you can bring him under your control, he will be greatly useful in the future."

"Master Yuan, rest assured!"

As Tao Qian conversed,

The entire Demon City, including Ling Qi, as well as those like Huang Chong who were scheming in secret, and the tens of thousands of cultivators and demons watching,

At this moment, had the same expression.

How could this be?

This question was the collective thought of the crowd.

But the truth was exceptionally clear and unmistakable, especially after Yin Qiye publicly converted from Taishang Demon Son to Secret Demon Child in front of everyone, directly controlling the Chiyou Battle Array, deliberately bypassing the camps of the disaster victims, and directly attacking the tens of thousands of bizarre Fungus Demons.

The two sides were old adversaries.

Initially outside Xixia City, the battle between the Heavenly Demons and the Fungus Demons had been undecided.

It was only after Fourth Prince Zhu Xuan had been manipulated and Huang Chong, the Alchemist Saint Child, had brazenly intervened that they were defeated.

Now, with the advantage of fighting on their home ground, and with the battle array set up early, the Heavenly Demon Army almost immediately gained the upper hand.

Each Heavenly Demon Soldier had been first tainted by the Heavenly Demons before being put to use, thus naturally they were hardly afraid of the Fungus Ancestor Spore and its parasitic nature, relying solely on 'devouring' did not work.

Watching his own Demon Army slaughtering the Fungus Demon soldiers, Prince Zhao Ling Qi couldn't feel happy at all.

His complexion was dark and twisted, as if about to drip blood.

The discussions in his ears, almost like sharp blades, kept stabbing at his spirit.

"An earth-shaking change, the Secret Demon Sect really knows how to play the game. Although Yin Qiye is not as dazzling as Ling Qi, he's still a highly regarded Taishang Demon Son of this generation. Such a promising young talent is actually a Secret Demon Dark Child?"

"Counterintelligence, espionage, how long has the Secret Demon Sect been planning this? Are there Secret Demon Dark Children among the True Disciples of other sects?"

"Very likely. I've heard that the Secret Demon Sect has been planning for hundreds of years, spreading the Secret Demon Skills with special techniques, thus placing Secret Demon Children within the Daoist, Buddhist, and Demon Sects, and even those closed millennium families."

"Grand gesture! The Secret Demon Sect is truly the leading Demon Sect. They are plotting a major comeback all at once."

"Didn't you hear what the Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch said earlier? The Secret Demon Sect has already colluded with the Primordial Sect. Daoist and Demon collaboration, such a rare occurrence."

"Ling Qi, this guy is so arrogant and oblivious to the principle that winning favors leads to support while losing them leads to isolation, he deserves to fail."

...

Under the Mountain and River Map, on that Heaven Rank,

Ling Qi stared fiercely at Yin Qiye and Tao Qian.

Especially the former, the hatred garnered from Ling Qi now topped everyone else in the venue.

No superior hates a traitor.

At this moment, Ling Qi not only hated, it could be said that his hatred was deep in his bones.

He and his father had placed extreme trust in Yin Qiye, thus handing him command of the Heavenly Demon Army, even bestowing upon him the Exotic Treasure "Chiyou White Bone Flute" which perfectly controlled all Heavenly Demon Soldiers, forming the 'Chiyou Slaughter God Formation' that moved and operated as desired.