

Longevity 391

Chapter 391: Survivors of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, Sea God Brings a Million Corpses_2

Who could have imagined?

Yin Qiye actually rebelled.

Now wielding the Magical Treasures he provided, leading the army that he and his son had painstakingly cultivated, they were undermining his grand plan.

Fungus Demons, the Heavenly Demon Army, locked in fierce combat, were rapidly losing numbers.

On the other hand, Tao Qian also took drastic measures.

Repeatedly unleashing the Demon Cleansing Sword Intent, those Ten Thousand Demons that gathered to gnaw at him after being sent flying were immediately dispersed by the crimson pillar-like sword light.

Star Zha transporting... Counterfeiting the Universe in the Sleeve with the Holy Embryo Bag to collect the disaster-stricken civilians, throwing them into the Fish-Dragon Sky River... Demon Cleansing... The cycle repeated incessantly.

In less than dozens of breaths, when everyone looked at the camps again, they were startled to find them utterly empty.

Four million civilians!

Not a single one remained; all were transferred to the Secret Realm of All People by Tao Qian, in collaboration with Tianjiang Immortal.

Although hundreds of thousands also met with disaster, when the last one turned into a fish-dragon and fell into Sky River,

Tao Qian immediately underwent a transformation.

The very conspicuous Dragon Face, double pupils, and Big Belly—these three distinct features vanished in an instant.

Had Tao Qian not acted swiftly, connecting his Secret Demon Transformation Technique seamlessly, his true identity might have been exposed.

"Heavenly Venerate above, your disciple has survived the second calamity."

As Tao Qian rejoiced internally, his body surged tumultuously once again.

To overcome this second calamity, Tao Qian had spared no effort, deploying all means at his disposal and not hesitating to bear unimaginable debts, borrowing majestic mana from the Heavenly Venerate time and again, fighting until nearly exhausted.

Those myriad Alien Demons, although restrained by Tao Qian's Demon Cleansing Sword Intent, were all tough and resilient; he chopped at them from east to west, and from west to east until his eyes were dry, but only managed to kill around a thousand.

Such fatigue and hardships.

Now, the time for harvest had come.

He couldn't afford to rest; the familiar sensation arrived suddenly.

His body trembled, in a trance for a moment.

Tao Qian suddenly saw within the Secret Realm of All People, as well as in Demon City, the many commoners and disaster victims all cheering, crying tears of joy.

Hovering between life and death, saved by an Immortal, their hearts were filled with gratitude.

Thus, a marvelous aura was born.

Compared to the time in Southern Yue, it was a surge of Human Dao Destiny nearly equal in magnitude, which suddenly took shape and split in two.

A smaller portion went directly toward the entire Secret Realm of All People.

The remaining majority, about seventy percent, rushed towards Tao Qian.

This time, without Bai Qin to explain, the voice transmission from Tianjiang Immortal resonated:

"It was largely thanks to the young friend's efforts that we were able to save these four million disaster victims."

"This flow of Human Dao Destiny should rightfully be yours."

With this voice transmission, the flow of destiny entered his body.

Tao Qian's body, already tumultuous from surviving the calamity, became even more frenzied.

Within his No-leak Body, the elements began to refine anew, truly a world-shaking transformation.

Sensing the change within, Tao Qian's face showed delight.

He knew the rules; those who survived calamities were bound to receive benefits.

Especially after surviving the first calamity previously, he vaguely felt he had grasped another knack.

The benefits were likely bestowed by the Heavenly Venerate.

If so, he might as well ask for something even better.

The child who cries loudest gets the most milk; Tao Qian felt no shame in this at all.

His skin was no thinner than his Master's, perhaps even thicker.

Thus, at this moment, Tao Qian couldn't care that he was still on the battlefield, promptly starting to mumble in his mind.

"Heavenly Venerate above, your disciple has gone to great lengths to save those four million civilians, overcoming this second calamity was truly not easy."

"Moreover, it's foreseeable that I will be troubled by many powers and mighty beings after this, that bothersome Taishang Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch will definitely not spare your disciple."

"Your disciple has incurred a huge debt to the Heavenly Venerate and will be hunted down afterwards; I hope the Heavenly Venerate will pity your disciple's merciful heart and bestow some superior Divine Power Talents..."

As he uttered the third sentence, Tao Qian thought for a moment.

Then, at the bottom of his heart, he devoutly prayed, "If you could relieve your disciple of that mana debt, it would be even better; if that's not possible, forgiving thirty to fifty percent would also be greatly appreciated."

Tao Qian's internal upheaval was intense, yet there was no outward sign, so nobody paid any attention.

He was happy to keep it that way, feeling the surge of mana and the arrival of Divine Powers.

Meanwhile, along with everyone else, he turned his gaze to Ling Qi, whose schemes had utterly collapsed.

The removal of four million civilians was not just the end of Ling Qi's hopes for Blood Sacrifice; it was adding insult to injury.

Tianjiang Immortal, one of the Three Immortals of the Great Wilderness, a hidden cultivator of the Primordial Sect, was a bona fide powerhouse of the Ultimate Happiness Realm. He had been occupied with controlling the Fish-Dragon Sky River until now.

Now that the disaster victims had all left, he had no more reservations.

As the final stretch of the Tianjiang flowed into the Secret Realm, a bright light flashed, and everyone's gaze involuntarily fell upon the middle-aged cultivator. He wore a profound yellow magic robe, donned an Iron Crown, and possessed an antique charm.

First, the Great Strength Demon-Slaying Immortal Saber, thrown from a distance by Lingwa, was firmly subdued by Tianjiang Immortal, who controlled two Exotic Treasures. He then took out a silver-white hoop, ensnared the ferocious treasure within, subdued its fierce power, and, with a sweep of his robe, collected it.

The Mutated Ten Thousand Demons were even more straightforwardly brutal. He summoned a "Huangquan River" that swept across the sky and pressed each and every Alien Demon into the riverbed, plugging the water's eyes.

After completing these tasks, Tianjiang Immortal finally turned around to face Ling Qi, whose figure was already staggering, his face contorted to the extreme, and spoke,

"Ling Qi, my young friend, please pass on a message when the Primordial Demon True Monarch Daoist returns."

"His Immortal Slaying Halberd and these Demon lords have all been claimed by me, Tianjiang Immortal Li Bing."

"If he wants them back, he is welcome to come and ask for them."

What is called dominance? This is it.

Forcefully taking the Magical Treasure of Taishang Primordial Demon Manifestation Saint True Monarch and leaving a message. If he wants it back, he must come in person to ask for it.

It seemed polite, but in reality, it was outright imperious.

Of course, this was just the thought of the tens of thousands of Cultivators and Demons trapped within the Demon City.

Within Tao Qian's embrace, upon hearing these words, Yuan Gong directly let out a snicker.

"Heh, Tianjiang Immortal truly lives up to being of the Primordial Sect, always good at judging the situation and boasting."

"If it hadn't been for your sacrifice of the Nine Toad Bead earlier to aid him, Ling Qi would have been directly chopped by the old man Lingwa's Immortal Slaying Halberd."

"Now he dares to speak boldly because the remaining Weng Zhong and Copper Tripod are about to return, and he also knows that Lingwa has been severely beaten by Kongchan and must be injured. That's his reliance."

"Listen to me, young man. Do not get involved with people from the Primordial Sect; you will get cheated."

Receiving these sentences, the corners of Tao Qian's mouth twitched slightly.

Just as he was about to respond, suddenly, he sensed something and abruptly looked ahead.

He saw the green light Flashing; tender white roots suddenly shot out from the ground and in the blink of an eye, coalesced into a semi-grown youth covered in green slime, with a sausage mouth.

Shan Jiu!

Before Tao Qian could ask what was happening, he first saw the look of astonishment rarely shown on the face of the Wild Leek Demon.

He was even somewhat stuttering, tilting his body, pointing towards the eastern region of the Demon City, that is, in the direction of the sea, and started to narrate, haltingly.

It was fine at the beginning, but not long after listening, Tao Qian's expression also changed dramatically.

Almost at this very moment, both Tianjiang Immortal, who was about to do something, and Ling Qi, who had been ridiculed, sensed something and their reactions were starkly different.

Tianjiang Immortal suddenly turned his head towards the coastal region of the Demon City, where a thunderous roar was rapidly approaching.

"Hahaha... Fortune favors the bold, heaven hasn't abandoned me."

"I, Ling Qi, am the true image of a Saint, with talented and extraordinary individuals coming forth to join me, only to help me ascend to the great treasure and continue the fortune of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty. I'd like to see who can stop me? Who dares stop me?"

Upon hearing these two sentences, everyone thought that Prince Zhao had gone mad.

But soon, tens of thousands of Cultivators and Demons, as well as the representatives of the seventy-two provinces forcibly brought to watch the event, including the elders sent by the Imperial City Retired Emperor, all heard the thunderous roar and turned to look towards the coastal region.

There they saw a rare spectacle unfolding:

The sea and sky merging as one!

These four words had actually come true.

A hundred zhang high? No, a tsunami a thousand zhang high was suddenly assaulting their way.

At the peak of the tsunami was a majestic Golden Ship.

At the bow stood a figure.

Beneath the ship was blood-red water and corpses.

One after another, countless densely packed corpses of the Human Clan were overflowing in the tsunami, the piled-up bodies.

Their clothing differed slightly from those of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, but the facial features were unmistakably those of the Tian Chao people.

They seemed to have suffered unimaginable torture before death, drained of blood, their faces twisted with resentment, unwillingness, and despair mixing together. Ghostly wails and godly howls echoed with the bloody tsunami that connected to the sky, advancing toward Demon City in a sight that obscured the sun.

This scene left countless people stupefied with fear.

But upon seeing this, Ling Qi was filled with near-madness joy.

The Heaven Rank, which had been gradually fading due to the interruption of the Blood Sacrifice, was now rapidly recovering.

And it was becoming incredibly solid.

On the battlefield, despite Tao Qian's foresight, he still couldn't utter a word in the face of these millions of Resentful Corpses.

Tao Qian just stared at the top of the tsunami, at the figure on that majestic Golden Ship, and slowly uttered a name.

"Alchemist, Huang Chong!"

Chapter 392: The Arrival of Nine Lamps, Murdering with Merciless Intent

A thousand-feet high tsunami clearly drawn by the towering golden ship, a magical treasure, headed straight for Demon City.

The sea was a crimson red, layers of corpses piled up, and resentment soaring into the skies.

Tens of thousands of human clan cultivators and demons, just like Tao Qian, had their eyes locked onto the person on the golden ship.

He appeared to be a young male cultivator in his thirties, tall and thin, with a gaunt appearance. Dressed in blue robes and wearing a scholar's square scarf, his eyes cunning like those of a sly fox. Anyone who looked at his face and witnessed his actions would angrily proclaim, "What a malevolent scholar!"

Much like another encounter Tao Qian had in Southern Yue with an alchemist saint child, Qin Wuxiang, this man was also from the Cavernous Mystery Realm.

But his methods were even more ruthless and clever than those of Qin Wuxiang.

Hearing Shan Jiu's story, Tao Qian had already realized the cause of this horrifying scene:

"Huang Chong is quite skilled and had prepared well for the 'blood sacrifice.'"

"Besides the four million disaster-stricken populace, he transported some remnants from beyond the southern borders of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty."

"Such remnants, mostly relocated outside of Longevity Heavenly Dynasty due to wars, plagues, and other disasters, appear not to be citizens of Tian Chao, but they share the same bloodline and could completely deceive the Mountain and River Map."

"After Tianjiang Immortal intervened, Huang Chong immediately began slaughtering these remnants. Shan Jiu, by chance, had infiltrated a transport team of the Changchun Society and was thus able to return early to report."

"Within that tsunami, there were corpses of 1.8 million remnants, and due to the mistreatment they suffered while alive, the resentment source qi emitted was enough to rival the density when four million disaster victims were killed."

"With these millions of corpses replacing the disaster victims for the blood sacrifice, it was enough for Ling Qi to refine the Mountain and River Map."

This realization dawned not only on Tao Qian.

Everyone present had come to understand, especially in the next moment.

Huang Chong, standing on the golden ship, voluntarily started to boast of his achievements:

"Your Highness, proceed swiftly in refining the treasure."

"Do not be tender-hearted and soft; how can you achieve sainthood without sacrifices, without any cost?"

"Should anyone here wish to stop you, Your Highness, just commence a massacre."

Huang Chong's words struck directly at Ling Qi's spirit.

This Ninth Prince of the current dynasty had completely lost his sanity.

He stepped towards the Heaven Rank, laughing maniacally as he went:

"Good, very well said."

"I am the Saint Sovereign, and all who dare obstruct me shall die."

As his laughter echoed, within the realms of Demon City, brutal scenes began to unfold without any warning.

The "Ancestor God Radiance", which initially could only drag people, seemed to transform into a light of slaughter due to the right moment.

Thunderous explosions resounded, and tens of thousands of cultivators and demons were immobilized.

Starting from those with the lowest cultivation, one after another began to endure the attacks of the Mountain and River Map.

Each beam of light was mountainous.

Those who could not withstand it would burst into death with a "boom."

Blood and flesh fireworks!

Thus, they unfolded everywhere in Demon City.

Tao Qian, having directly bypassed this ordeal, was naturally unafraid.

Especially since he was currently enduring his second tribulation and receiving blessings from the Heavenly Venerate, no one could harm him.

Tao Qian stood there, watching the continuous bursts of blood and flesh fireworks, the drifting black snow, the flauntingly flashing Death Star, the white bones spewing from the Earth Orifice, and layers of

resentful corpses approaching... Suddenly, as if realizing something, Tao Qian vaguely felt that he had uncovered another significant secret.

"Mountain and River Map, Sheji Seal, these kinds of treasures spawned from the fragments of the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique."

"To refine them, blood sacrifices and the like are perhaps just appearances."

"The real condition: a chaotic world triggered by demons causing people to suffer unbearably, with continuous anomalies."

"To some extent, it's practically imitating that Ancestor Emperor who swept across the wilderness, seizing control from demons, aliens, transcendents, and other species that viewed the human clan as mere two-legged sheep."

With these realizations, not only did the rage in Tao Qian's eyes not diminish, but it also surged ever higher.

He understood what was just appearances, and considering Ling Qi and Zhang Jiudeng who had the treasure map, they must have known from the start.

"These two beasts, knowing that the conditions to refine the exotic treasure were not ripe."

"So, without the conditions, they created their own to refine."

"My sweet rain... truly malevolent."

Tao Qian was cursing furiously in his heart when Tianjiang Immortal flew into a rage.

This Ultimate Happiness Cultivator, who had originally planned to return to the Secret Realm of All People, saw the tsunami strike, corpses surging into the boundaries of Demon City, and the stench of death and resentment crazily spreading, his expression immediately turned solemn.

"You audacious scoundrels!"

Tianjiang Immortal roared angrily, about to cast a spell.

But before he could act, the completely crazed Ling Qi suddenly pulled something from his bosom and threw it directly towards the location of the Secret Realm of All People.

It was a pitch-black bead, as large as a baby's head.

Hanging above the secret realm, it started to spin erratically.

Extremely dazzling and unstable Demon Light surged wildly; the bead... seemed on the verge of self-destruction?

Alarming qi swept across Demon City.

Simultaneously, Ling Qi's twisted screams echoed.

"Old Tianjiang, take a look, what is this?"

"Taishang Heavenly Demon Pearl!"

Just as he was about to take action to kill Huang Chong, Tianjiang Immortal had to pause, frowning.

With his status and cultivation, he immediately recognized the origin of the treasure bead.

One of the renowned magical treasures of the Taishang Demon Sect.

Somewhat similar to the Nine Toad Bead, it could be part of a set or used separately.

This one, clearly belonged to Taishang Demon Saint True Monarch Lingwa.

But unexpectedly, even against such a ferocious opponent as Kongchan Arhat, Lingwa had still left this treasure to his son.

And Ling Qi's method of using it was extremely brutal.

"Old Tianjiang, your Primordial Sect's Sealing Spirit Forbidden Technique is quite formidable, but it absolutely cannot withstand the self-destruction of the 'Taishang Heavenly Demon Pearl'."

Chapter 393: The Arrival of the Nine Lights, Slaying the Heart_2

"If you dare to obstruct my refining of the treasure again, I'll risk destroying this Heavenly Demon Pearl and obliterate your Primordial Sect's secret realm."

"And when that time comes, you might be unharmed, but those disciples of yours, the four million disaster survivors you just rescued, will undoubtedly perish."

As Ling Qi finished speaking, the Tianjiang Immortal's brows indeed furrowed, and he had to stop.

His vulnerability had been seized.

"If Lingwa had left the Heavenly Demon Pearl for his son, he must have allowed him to refine it first, ready to detonate at a thought."

"This child is now under the protection of the Mountain and River Map, even if I were to attack shamelessly, I would have to break through the map first, which is not something that can be accomplished in a mere few breaths."

"Troublesome, troublesome."

The Tianjiang Immortal pondered, finding himself in a difficult position.

He was aware that Ling Qi was desperate, ready to grasp at the last straw, and it wouldn't be surprising if he were to act crazy or irrationally.

Just when the Tianjiang Immortal hesitated, the voice transmission of Tao Qian suddenly reached his ears:

"Elder, just capitulate to him for now. I am sure this scoundrel won't amount to anything significant. That poisoner named Huang Chong is only pretending to serve him but actually serves another."

"Huang Chong and his real master have laid their own traps, but I too have kept some tactics in reserve which can be used when you cooperate."

"Good!"

If it was from someone else, the Tianjiang Immortal would not have trusted the voice transmission.

But Tao Qian?

The Tianjiang Immortal Li Bing didn't even hesitate for a moment and agreed outright.

However, as far as Ling Qi was concerned, it appeared as though his intimidation had been effective.

Inside the boundaries of Demon City, the scenes that unfolded were indeed similar to those from over two thousand years ago, when the Ancestor Emperor swept through the bizarre.

The common folk lay dead in droves across the land, their grievances piercing the skies.

Armies waged war, omens and strange phenomena kept emerging.

Representing the demons and the bizarre, the tens of thousands of evil cultivators that had been lured there were one by one forcibly obliterated.

Amidst this backdrop, Ling Qi manifested the Saint Statue, ascending the heavenly steps one by one.

Watching his figure, in the blink of an eye, he was about to reach the inner part of the Mountain and River Map's [Ancestor Palace], ready to fully refine this Exotic Treasure.

"Heavenly fate lies with me, I am the heavenly fate."

"I, Ling Qi, am the Saint..."

The arrogant laughter that echoed throughout Demon City was abruptly cut off as he stepped on the last heavenly stair.

A new twist occurred.

At this moment, Ling Qi not only felt that he had lost control over his body, but, more than that, something he couldn't accept.

His knees began to bend!

Gradually bending forward, it was clear he was about to kneel.

Kneel before whom?

Just as this question arose in Ling Qi's mind, he saw a radiant light flickering upon his body, and the [Taishang Heavenly Golden Palace Venerable Saint King Statue], which he had refined and that could instantly grant him the avatar of a Cavernous Mystery Realm entity, suddenly separated from him, and brazenly stood before him, ready to receive his homage.

But this twist wasn't enough in itself, the real horror followed.

The face of the Saint Statue was unmistakably Ling Qi's.

But at this moment, it began to change.

As the radiance faded, the face revealed was shockingly similar to the famed warlord Zhang Baisui from Demon City but slightly older and more comical.

Especially noticeable were the curled-up mustache tips on the upper lip.

Not just Ling Qi but almost all surviving cultivators and demons recognized him.

"Zhang! Nine! Lanterns!"

On the last step of the Mountain and River Map, Ling Qi's entire face was contorted, lost in outrage, emitting an angry roar.

Ling Qi was out of character, and the onlookers were stunned by this sudden and inexplicable change.

The tens of thousands of cultivators and demons lured there had been nearly 80% annihilated.

All treated like fireworks, their blood spilled and flesh exploded, sacrificed to the Mountain and River Map.

But the remaining few thousand, along with the more than ten thousand innocents who were still alive, could serve as witnesses to watch the changes above.

Ling Qi was on the verge of completely refining the Mountain and River Map.

Suddenly, a "Zhang Jiudeng" separated from within him, and yet he actively bowed towards Zhang Jiudeng.

Such a scene was strikingly similar to Ling Qi offering up the map and his position.

For Ling Qi!

For him, there was nothing more humiliating in this world than this scenario.

One moment he was uncontrollably kneeling, the next his eyes were blood-red, fiercely fixed on Zhang Jiudeng—yet his roaring mouth was cursing another.

"Huang! Chong!"

"How dare you, how could you, deceive me."

"You will surely die, I will put you and your entire Huang family in the steamer, I'll eat you all, piece by piece, skin and bones, until nothing's left."

Anyone listening knew.

Prince Zhao Ling Qi, who held multiple identities, was on the verge of collapse.

Although arrogant and perverse, he was certainly not foolish. Suddenly faced with such a turn of events, how could he not realize that he had been played?

Huang Chong, one of the Alchemist Saint Children, had come to him offering allegiance, claiming to support him to ascend to the throne... It was all a conspiracy from the start; Huang Chong was actually Zhang Jiudeng's man.

As Ling Qi howled and cursed, Huang Chong, who just a second before had been on the Golden Ship, moved with a Flashing technique, instantly appearing beside the two.

This Saint Child, this poison master, smiled like a venomous snake.

To facilitate Ling Qi's curses, he even deliberately moved closer to his face.

The disgust of it made Tao Qian feel the urge to smash his face.

Huang Chong didn't immediately answer Ling Qi, but instead turned to the Tianjiang Immortal below and gave a bow, then said politely and sincerely,

"Tianjiang Immortal, I hope you will not act rashly."

"Right now, Ling Qi is afflicted with my Huangquan Gu; whether it's his Cultivation or tactics, they are temporarily under my control. As for that Heavenly Demon Pearl, if I wish, I could detonate it."

"You need not be irritated with me. These million corpses were not citizens of Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, but remnants from the southerly regions plagued by miasma. It's just as well that they're killed."

"I assure the Immortal and everyone here of two things: first, now that everything is prepared, there will be no further casualties; second, the Absolute Spirit Forbidden Zone refined from the Mountain and River Map will not be in Demon City, nor will it be controlled by someone as cruel as the Ninth Prince."

Having said all this, Huang Chong then looked back at Ling Qi with a smiling gaze.

Completely indifferent, even relishing the venom in Ling Qi's eyes before, the next moment,

In public, he uttered Heart Execution Words.

"Ninth Prince, although you were once my lord, at this point, it would not be right for you to die with your eyes closed, so I will resolve your lingering doubts."

"There's no need to worry about my entire Huang family—years ago, I killed them all and refined quite a few interestingly powerful Gu worms from them."

"You know of my background; I entered the world with one purpose, and that was to support the rise of a new Founding Emperor."

"Such a person may have any sort of defect; whether cruel or demented matters not, as long as the timing is right, they could possibly claim that position."

"But there's one thing that's unacceptable... stupidity."

"Fools can never become the Founding Emperor."

"Ninth Prince, you are nothing but a complete fool."

"If it weren't for your powerful father, with your own cleverness and methods, you wouldn't even be qualified to stand here as a stepping stone for my lord."

"Ninth Prince, if you're unconvinced, just look down. Apart from Elder Lingwa, is there anyone in your command who hasn't betrayed you?"

There's a saying that goes, "To kill someone, you need only hit them where it hurts." Huang Chong, having controlled the Ninth Prince with his Huangquan poison, could now do as he pleased, including taking away the Mountain and River Map.

Yet Huang Chong seemed unsatisfied, publicly delivering a fierce blow to the Ninth Prince.

Ling Qi went mad!

His Spirit and Mind completely shattered.

Regrettably, whether it was to curse or self-detonate, he couldn't do either.

All he could do was glare with bulging eyes at the two in front of him: one a former military strategist, the other a former ally.

After delivering a Heart Execution, Huang Chong turned back, smilingly looking at Zhang Jiudeng, who had descended with the Saint Statue, and said with respectful yet somewhat hypocritical tones,

"My lord, let us begin."

"Quickly combine the Mountain and River to refine the treasure, and return to Ancient Qin."

"The opportunity is rare; otherwise, once Elder Lingwa returns, I will have to pay a great price to summon my Master here."

After hearing a few words, Zhang Jiudeng did not move immediately.

Instead, he fiddled with his beard, pondering at Huang Chong with an amused look, and teased,

"Damn, you old boy, you've got a vicious heart."

"I heard that the Ninth Prince let you sleep with his concubines at will and even invited you to eat steamed meat every day, but you, you almost drove him mad."

"Let's get one thing straight—if you mess this up, and some Demon True Monarch comes seeking vengeance with all his might, I sure as hell won't protect you. At that time, turning you over to settle the account is the proper way to handle it."

Chapter 394: Suddenly Facing the 3rd Calamity, Secret Demon Child Obtains Treasure

In the vast Demon City, due to various conditions being met, the only exception, the Heavenly Demon Pearl, threatened the Tianjiang Immortal.

The entire field was controlled by the Mountain and River Map, the Ancestor God Treasure.

Now, the Mountain and River Map was in the possession of Zhang Jiudeng and Huang Chong, which allowed the two of them to leisurely converse and even cruelly ridicule the Ninth Prince.

Huang Chong, upon hearing Zhang Jiudeng's candid words, showed not embarrassment but an openly admiring expression.

He then nodded and laughed loudly,

"Hahaha... Of course, as long as it preserves your foundation and helps you ascend to that position in the future, even if I am crushed to dust and scattered, it would pose no problem."

Below, the others showed little reaction to this statement.

But Tao Qian was stirred and thought to himself, "This devious alchemist is cunning and unscrupulous in achieving his goals; it doesn't seem like he's the type to die for his master unless there's some secret here that allows him to resurrect after death. What exactly is the relationship between the alchemist and the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty?"

While Tao Qian pondered, above the sky of Demon City,

Zhang Jiudeng, urged on by Huang Chong, had begun Refining Treasure.

Once again, a grand spectacle that stunned everyone present.

Everyone had already accepted the existence of the Mountain and River Map, an Ancestor God Forbidden Technique Fragment turned Exotic Treasure, and were aware of its terrifying power.

But at this moment!

Huang Chong, controlling the Ninth Prince's body, offered the Mountain and River Map to Zhang Jiudeng.

The latter did not immediately accept it but silently began casting spells. In an instant, though separated by millions of miles, the Incense Fire Wish Power from both Demon City and Ancient Qin Province erupted simultaneously.

The Saint Statue!

Instantly, it became a bridge, a channel connecting the two territories.

A dazzling brilliance visible to the naked eye rolled up towards the sky; in this haze, the more than ten thousand remaining cultivators and the millions of citizens of Demon City all heard a grand sacrificial text echoing through the two territories.

"This seems like...?"

Within the original identities inherited by Tao Qian, one was a scholar.

Hearing this sacrificial text, he felt inexplicably familiar with it.

And the next moment, the scene illuminated by the brilliance of the incense fire within Ancient Qin Province not only allowed Tao Qian to realize what it was, but everyone else also woke up to the fact that it was clearly the text used when the Ancestor Emperor conducted his heavenly sealing ceremony.

It was like a mirage, but much more real.

It seemed as though a particular territory in Ancient Qin Province had completely overlapped with Demon City at this moment, and that territory was an extraordinarily majestic and towering mountain.

At this moment, that mountain was lined with civil and military ministers, ritual officials, and tens of thousands of impoverished people who had clearly been forcibly brought there, gathering together and shouting phrases like "Long live the new emperor", "Long live Emperor Jiudeng", "Long live Saint Jiudeng" and so on.

Accompanied by solemn music, that familiar sacrificial text transmitted via the Saint Statue echoed in everyone's ears within Demon City.

Simultaneously, everyone also saw the real attire of Zhang Jiudeng at that moment.

He was seen wearing the Emperor's Dragon Robe, his head adorned with the Pingtian Crown, and was guarded at the forefront by civil and military officials.

In his hand was an object, his figure gradually overlapping with the Saint Statue, intending to place that object atop the Mountain and River Map offered by the Ninth Prince, Ling Qi.

Seeing this scene, who could not understand what Zhang Jiudeng intended to do?

"Zhang Jiudeng has gone mad; he wants to declare himself emperor!"

A cultivator with a loud voice lost his composure and shouted.

And not just this one person.

Despite the fact that the scene in Demon City was completely under the control of Zhang Jiudeng and Huang Chong,

Seeing this ridiculous spectacle, no one could remain calm.

Representatives of the Seventy-One Provinces!

Holy Envoy of the Taishang Emperor!

These people were the most unable to accept it.

They had previously accepted the Ninth Prince, Ling Qi, claiming to be the Saint and wanting to refine the Mountain and River Map.

That was because, legally, Ling Qi barely qualified.

But Zhang Jiudeng?

If this man were a member of the Imperial Family widely recognized as competent, or a great warlord, that would be one thing.

But what sort of person was this? He was definitely a warlord, but a tremendously absurd, even laughable one.

In the currently extremely chaotic Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, there are countless warlords governing their own territories; if anyone counted carefully, there would not be many who could compete with Zhang Jiudeng for being the most ridiculous.

Those provincial representatives, along with an old eunuch, outright disregarded their lives and started cursing, simultaneously recounting Zhang Jiudeng's comedic past.

"Shameless, ridiculous, everyone in the world might become emperor, but you, Zhang Jiudeng, cannot; our Longevity Heavenly Dynasty has lasted thousands of years, how could such a ludicrous and laughable person have ever ascended to the imperial throne?"

"I'd rather have Ling Qi, this foolish and pig-like Ninth Prince arrogantly claim the throne than accept someone like Zhang Jiudeng wearing the dragon robe."

"The cannons fire booming against his mother, his power spreading across the land to return home. Counting heroes, Zhang Jiudeng, who could swallow the giant whale to aid his rule... Gentlemen, could the poet of such verses be our Emperor?"

"Ha, even without mentioning poetic talent, not to talk of legal continuity, Zhang Jiudeng is not a wise ruler; he has been brutally taxing in Ancient Qin Province, said to be scraping the land bare, I heard he has already taxed up to several decades in the future; under his rule, even if you defecate or urinate, you must pay tax to this turtle son, can such a man be emperor?"

"How dare you, Zhang Jiudeng, the Taishang Emperor appointed you Governor of Ancient Qin Province, is this how you repay His Majesty?"

...

Although these outcries were satisfying, they had absolutely no effect on the master-servant pair.

Particularly Zhang Jiudeng, who at that moment was still wearing that dragon robe, taking advantage of the Saint Statue's convenience, listening to the cursing of those provincial representatives and the old eunuch, suddenly burst into loud laughter.

One hand still holding that object to be placed atop the Mountain and River Map, he pointed at the people of Demon City and said:

"Damn it, I just want to become emperor, so what?"

"Everyone watch closely now, this object is called the Sheji Seal, another treasure formed from that Ancestor God Forbidden Technique Fragment, matching this Mountain and River Map."

"As I stamp this seal and the Mountain and River come together, all will belong to me, Zhang Jiudeng."

"I hold the mountains and rivers, and control the lands, who dares say I'm not the emperor?"

It must be said, Zhang Jiudeng, the warlord, lacked neither cunning nor wisdom, yet his temperament was indeed absurd.

At this moment, he was showing off, tinged with a sense of ridiculousness.

For the ordinary people and even for the times, this was a matter of great sadness and disaster.

Yet, for some reason, it always seemed laughable.

However, very soon, when Tao Qian also, taking advantage of the Desire Sin Worm, secretly listened to Huang Chong's transmitted message, he could no longer laugh.

"Quick, quick, do not delay any longer, swiftly integrate the Mountain and River and thereafter completely refine the Province of Ancient Qin,"

"Right now, the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty is unstable, warlords are emerging everywhere, and billions from the Mortal Human Race have long been yearning for a wise monarch to save the world... Due to the desire of all people, there is already a tremendous Human Dao Destiny brewing, whoever seizes this destiny will secure a vital advantage in the future battle for the Central Plains."

"I have made painstaking arrangements for you to seize and refine the Mountain and River Map, and to be the first to declare yourself Emperor, to announce independence, to overthrow the old dynasty, which will certainly attract that fortune to willingly come to you."

"I can arrange this, just as other Saint Heir within the Alchemist could, but they have chosen not to support you."

"Hurry, securing a lead is most imperative, any further delay might lead to changes."

From these few transmitted sentences, one could hear the urgency in Huang Chong's voice.

Huang Chong had long known Zhang Jiudeng's personality and urged him now because he sensed something ominous.

His cultivation was based on the Gu Scripture.

He had raised countless Gu Worms, which would warn him immediately if any crisis emerged.

At this moment, the Gu Worms in his body were tumultuously active.

Although Zhang Jiudeng was absurd, he was reliable when serious. Seeing his own military strategist's grave expression, he didn't even argue and took action directly.

Following the Saint Statue, Zhang Jiudeng's hand, holding the seal, turned from ethereal to solid, and astonishingly crossed millions of miles to stamp onto the Mountain and River Map.

Everyone saw clearly, the seal was four inches in diameter, with knobs of five dragons, and the front carved with "Granted by Heaven, May Long Life Prosper" in eight seal characters, indeed a treasure that could "certify imperial divine right and legitimacy".

"Absurd! Ridiculous! The world has gone mad!"

Seeing that scene about to become reality, countless people in Demon City had their worldviews shattered.

But it was also just at that moment.

No one noticed, the "Weird Secret Demon Child" who had been ignored for a long time.

Suddenly, having received some boon, his face first showed shock, then broke into a brilliantly radiant smile.

At the same time, his body suddenly manifested a large amount of abnormalities. Not only did his long ears, double teeth return, but his big belly, Dragon Face, and double pupils also re-emerged; besides that, scales appeared all over his body, a single horn grew on his forehead, among other abnormalities – it seemed endless, instantly transforming Tao Qian into an extremely bizarre figure.

"The third calamity, it has arrived."

"Survive this calamity, and acquire the treasure, and ascend into Transcend Mortality."

Tao Qian had a premonition but completely ignored it.

Because at that moment, the opportunity he had long awaited had also arrived.

Previously, he had many opportunities to take action, but was unable to.

Because the Sheji Seal was still far away in the Ancient Qin Province, even if he controlled the Saint Statue, he couldn't snatch it.

But this moment was starkly different.

Under the gaze of thousands!

Just as Zhang Jiudeng was about to stamp the Sheji Seal onto the Mountain and River Map.

Suddenly, his bloodline magically integrated Saint's avatar abruptly stopped moving.

No, not that it stopped moving.

It was actually suddenly kneeling down, turning sideways, performing the same action as Nine Prince Ling Qi, who was controlled by Huang Chong.

These two men made the same move.

"Not good!"

Huang Chong was extremely close and quickly realized, his instinct told him to try to regain control of the Nine Prince's body.

But he was immediately doomed to fail as the number of Desire Sin Worms inside Ling Qi far exceeded the Huangquan poison, and with the advantage of striking first and a sneak attack, the Huangquan poison was instantly annihilated.

And the same was true for the Saint's avatar, the other Zhang Jiudeng couldn't even put up a token resistance.

The unique radiance of the Desire Sin Worm flashed, immediately causing Huang Chong to cry out:

"Evil Sect! Lian Yulou?"

"No, not right, Lian Yulou is already dead..."

In terror, Huang Chong immediately tried to grab the Mountain and River Map and the Sheji Seal.

Unfortunately, the Nine Prince and the Saint's avatar, who had been obedient to him just a moment ago, turned against him simultaneously.

The three being of Cavernous Mystery, two against one, how could there be no victory?

With two abrupt 'bangs', caught off guard, Huang Chong was directly hammered and flew out.

This also showed Tao Qian's malicious pleasure; the move by Nine Prince Ling Qi was with his foot, kicking Huang Chong in the groin, seemingly with the sound of eggs breaking, Zhang Jiudeng's avatar struck with his palm, hitting Huang Chong's seductively vile face, unexpectedly breaking his nasal bone with a harsh blow.

The instant Huang Chong was struck and flown away, the two knelt back down.

Each holding up their Exotic Treasures before them!

And in front of the two men, a figure appeared without warning, a sight immensely surprising to all.

Secret Demon Child!

That Secret Demon Child, connected to the Primordial Sect, who had rescued four million disaster victims.

At this moment, brazenly standing before Zhang Jiudeng and Ling Qi, accepting their kneeling and the offering of treasures.

"Thunderous!"

Including the National Salvation Congress, everyone's minds roared, unable to digest the scene for a moment.

Chapter 395: Tao Qian Faces Calamity, Immortal Fish Has Bait

The upheaval within Demon City actually began with Yin Qiye's rebellion. The watching cultivators were somewhat perplexed.

A rebellion is just a rebellion, and it seemed like layers stacked upon layers in a matryoshka doll.

Now, everyone watched that bizarre Secret Demon Child, forcing two major figures, the Ninth Prince of the current court and the Governor of Ancient Qin Province, to kneel before him, offering up the Ancestor God Treasure... Each person was exceedingly shocked and wanted to exclaim in surprise, but at the same time, they all felt they could wait a little longer.

"What if? What if this scene is going to turn around? What if this Secret Demon Child ends up kneeling too?"

It wasn't surprising that the cultivators and demons harbored such thoughts.

It was like a group of conspirators and ambitious characters, playing their games seemingly endlessly.

However, to everyone's disappointment, the scene they all anticipated with the Secret Demon Child kneeling did not occur.

Tao Qian, despite his mutated appearance, took the Mountain and River Map and Sheji Seal from the two men.

During the process, it was clear from the fire burning in the eyes of Zhang Jiudeng and Ling Qi, especially the latter, who had been toyed with time and time again, driving him nearly mad. This thoroughly confirmed Huang Chong's assessment of him: an utter fool.

At the same moment, Huang Chong had already rushed back.

But what greeted him were two auras exploding, with figures about to self-destruct.

Although the "Saint's Avatar" and "Ninth Prince's Body" were now mere Cavernous Mystery Realm Puppets in Tao Qian's hands.

Others would have been ecstatic and taken great care of them.

Yet for Tao Qian, they were nothing more than chicken ribs, of no use to keep, so he might as well recycle waste and controlled the two to confront Huang Chong, the Alchemist Saint Child.

Ordinarily spoken, neither of them was a match for Huang Chong, not even together.

But at this moment, Tao Qian was pushing them to their limits, and that made a difference.

Take Ling Qi, for example. Even though he was controlled by Tao Qian to step forward, his hatred for Huang Chong was clearly greater than for the Secret Demon Child, with fierce anger bursting from his eyes as he was forced to shout, "Huang Chong, pay with your life."

Following that, his body clad in a dragon robe shimmered with numerous cracks, bursting out with blinding Demon Light.

In a haze, Huang Chong and everyone else saw a black Taiyang explode.

Among the surviving cultivators and demons, there were many Demon Cultivators, who immediately recognized the origin of this Magic Skill.

"Taishang Heavenly Demon Shape Splitting Method!"

"This Secret Demon Child is really crazy; he's making mortal enemies with Lingwa."

At this moment, everyone could see the original cause.

Of course, Ninth Prince Ling Qi did not wish to die, but he had no choice.

Struck by the Huangquan poison and then the Desire Sin Worm.

At this breath, he was forced to use this self-destructive spell before the crowd.

A flash of black Demon Light and Ling Qi met a swift death without leaving a single last word.

Amidst the radiance, Huang Chong stumbled out, staggering.

At this moment, the Alchemist Saint Child was in rags, his body with no single piece of unscathed flesh, charred and rotten, with a rotting eyeball falling out of its socket—a truly miserable sight, nowhere near his previous charmer and venomous look.

Even so, Huang Chong didn't intend to let Tao Qian go.

Just then, he was faced with Zhang Jiudeng's Saint's Avatar.

"Damn it, I've been hit too."

"Huang the Strategist, I'm imposing on you, take this 'Heaven and Earth's Longevity' strike, but don't die on me... Boom!"

Zhang Jiudeng's words were not yet cold when the Exotic Treasure, forged with great difficulty over several months by the Heavenly Immortal Dao, exploded.

It was as if millions and millions of people were roaring in anger, the sky and earth trembled as a result, and a terrifying aura swept out, completely submerging Huang Chong.

In that final moment, Huang Chong also let out a hiss filled with resentment and unwillingness.

Not because he was attacked by self-destruction by his new and old masters.

But in that moment, he and the cultivators of Demon City saw an utterly unbelievable scene.

Due to the previous upheavals and scenes, everyone was aware of some of the details of the Mountain and River Map and Sheji Seal. For instance, the two treasures were actually a pair, both born from the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique Fragment. Once refined, they could completely control a certain territory, wiping out the cultivators, demons, and Alien Species and other Transcendent beings within it.

But to refine them, one would need to meet harsh conditions like Blood Sacrifice, True Dragon Blood and Flesh, chaotic times of demons, and strange celestial phenomena.

Hence, there were scenes like Ling Qi stepping onto the Heaven Rank, and Zhang Jiudeng proclaiming himself emperor to the sky.

One might say that although the Secret Demon Child acted as the "Yellow Sparrow," it was impossible for him to refine the Mountain and River Map in a short time.

But the grand spectacle that was unfolding proved it was entirely possible.

The moment the two items entered Tao Qian's hands, they merged without any ceremony or refining process, with the Sheji Seal turning into Golden Light and entering the Mountain and River Map. After covering the markings, one could see the Mountain and River Map unfolding again with a "whoosh," but this time, the radiance within depicted not just scenes from Demon City.

But the real mountains and rivers, the scenery of the vast Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, which included Demon City, Imperial City, Devil City, the views of the seventy-two provinces, famous mountains and Great Rivers, Cave Heaven Blessed Lands, Immortal Birds and Strange Beasts, mysterious celestial phenomena... truly, the entire vast landscape captured within the painting.

If it were only so, it could only be seen as a testament to the power of the Ancestor God Treasure.

But quickly, within that Mountain and River Map, a dazzling column of Golden Light fell down with a rumble, enveloping Tao Qian, and then began to draw him into the painting.

At the same time, behind Tao Qian, the boiling Human Dao Destiny appeared visible to the naked eye as if thousands of hands were supporting Tao Qian, bit by bit, ushering him into the Mountain and River Map.

Seeing this scene, everyone realized the truth.

It turns out that refining this treasure did not necessarily require meeting so many stringent conditions.

If supported by Human Dao Destiny, it was also possible.

"So it is, since the Mountain and River Map is born from the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique Fragment, it naturally also belongs to the Human Dao Magical Treasure."

"Once favored by destiny, any Human Dao treasure can be refined."

In the crowd, some well-informed cultivators began to explain.

At the same moment, from another end of the sky, a thunderous roar came, along with Huang Chong's screams of agony.

If the Alchemist Saint Child had avoided from the start.

Neither of their self-destructions would have harmed him.

But he did not evade, desperately rushing back, only wanting to recapture the "Mountain and River Map."

After suffering two consecutive self-destructive attacks, Huang Chong's body was completely annihilated.

Bound by the same lifespan as heaven and earth, Huang Chong turned to ashes.

But as his flesh vanished, a strange Gu Worm burrowed out from the top of his skull.

The insect, initially no larger than a palm, swelled rapidly upon leaving the human body, and in an instant, it had grown as large as a small mountain, moving about below the sky.

It appeared insect-like yet not, fish-like yet not, its body covered in a hard shell with fish gills and antennae of sorts.

At the forefront of its fish head dangled something like a "lantern," emitting a blinding rainbow light.

What drew even more attention was the giant fishhook hanging from the mouth of the Gu Fish.

At this moment, in the vast Demon City, no one could overlook this enormous, bizarre fish—was it a Gu Worm, or something else entirely?

Even Tao Qian, who was being absorbed by the Mountain and River Map, seemed to sense something and violently turned his head to look.

When his gaze met the rainbow light and the fishhook, a stir arose within him, the Immortal Fish Technique, which he hadn't cultivated for a very long time, unexpectedly sparked a recognition.

Without a moment to spare, the gigantic fish Huang Chong had turned into fixed its bulging phosphorescent dead fish eyes on Tao Qian, filled with an intense, undissolvable resentment.

Suddenly, it spoke human words:

"Disciple's true Gu form is here, willing to pay any price."

"Master, please help once more, capture this child and send the Mountain and River Map to my lord's side."

As Huang Chong finished speaking,

Tao Qian's mind immediately exploded with noise, and his expression uncontrollably distorted.

At this moment, he finally understood where his third tribulation should take place.

While cursing his bad luck, Tao Qian no longer cared about anything else and, with a body as agile as a swimming fish, he actively dove into the Mountain and River Map.

"My TMD...no wonder I have scales among the mutations on my body; it turns out this was a sign as well."

"And the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique, I practiced it just once, shamelessly took your bait once—is it necessary to haunt me so persistently, my great uncle Li Changle being related to you, and the Alchemist Saint Child I managed to trick is your disciple...?"

Tao Qian grumbled as he frenziedly fled for his life.

As he was about to drill into the Mountain and River Map, he also saw that from beside the massive fishhook of Huang Chong's true Gu form emerged a transparent fishing line, appearing without warning; it then jerked upwards, yanking Huang Chong's mountainous Gu form into the void, leaping into an unknown void.

In the last moment, Huang Chong still glared at Tao Qian, howling with bitterness, "You won't escape."

Huang Chong's curse instantly became reality.

Visible was the fishline connected to the fishhook that had just pulled Huang Chong away, dropping from within the unknown void.

At the end hung something.

It shone brightly and was unclear in detail.

But the Exotic Fragrance it emitted made everyone in Demon City lift their heads uncontrollably, greedily swallowing saliva.

Tao Qian included.

"Damn it, what kind of bait is this, smelling so good?"

Tao Qian cursed under his breath, struggling to resist the impulse to rush over and consume the bait.

He scrambled with hands and feet, pushing his way into the Mountain and River Map.

As he was about to immerse half his body into the Exotic Treasure, surrounded by the support of Human Dao Destiny, he was on the verge of refining this treasure.

He had a premonition that as long as the refinement was successful, there was a high chance of surviving this third tribulation.

But just at that instant, a sudden change erupted within Tao Qian.

The long-neglected Immortal Fish Technique began operating automatically, simultaneously generating a fatal attraction to the fishhook.

The fishing line began to drift toward Tao Qian.

Even as Tao Qian clenched his mouth shut, refusing to bite the hook,

a lump of flesh on his body suddenly burst open, and amid the spraying juices, a ferocious large mouth appeared out of thin air, stretching out and biting the hook on its own.

With this development, a lazy voice, indeterminable in gender, age, or whether it belonged to the Human Clan, penetrated Tao Qian's mind:

"Hmm? Quite an interesting little fish."

"Your origin alone could have exempted you from disaster, but unfortunately, you cultivated my spell."

"Be a good boy, bite the hook, come on up!"

With that voice, a Record also surged forth.

[Bound by the power of the Immortal Fish Heavenly Dao... Exemption available after half an hour!]

Hearing of the exemption, Tao Qian cursed bitterly in his heart.

"TMD! Half an hour, I can't even last half a breath, my wretched luck. I'm about to be fished away."

"No good, call for help, quickly call for help..."

Tao Qian's thoughts churned, despite having other means at his disposal, even fools knew that things like Buddha Bird relics or the Secret Demon Sword Technique were of no use against the current predicament.

The only way was to call for help from his own master, Aunt Bai Yin, and others; that was exactly what he planned to do.

But just as he was about to act, an unexpected change occurred—one that neither Tao Qian himself nor the distant owner of the Immortal Fish Technique had anticipated.

The boiling Human Dao Fortune, sensing Tao Qian's plight,

erupted fiercely at that moment, forcibly thrusting him into the Mountain and River Map.

Even as the "Mutated Immortal Fish Mouth" spontaneously generated on Tao Qian's body officially bit the hook, the Mountain and River Map suddenly closed, turning into a streak of Golden Light, wrapping Tao Qian, dragging the void fishing line, thunderously plunging into the earth, and in a moment, traveling countless miles away.

The fishing line meanwhile, was stretched taut, on the verge of snapping.

Suddenly, that voice came again: "Heh, interesting, interesting. Let's see how far this little fish can go. Can it escape my hook?"

As the words fell, the fishing line began to stretch infinitely, allowing the Mountain and River Map to dash chaotically across the world.

Chapter 396: The Alchemist's Details, Tao Qian Desires Rebellion

On this day, within the territory of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, a dazzling light speeded through the air.

Its speed was incomparable; one moment it was in this province, and within a few breaths, it appeared in another.

Such velocity, even the acclaimed "Subterranean Evasion Speed No. 1" Great Freedom Heart Light Escape Technique in the Cultivation World, might not be able to compare.

However, even so, Tao Qian, who was wrapped within it, felt no joy.

"Is this Immortal Fisher treating the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty as his own fishpond, and I, Master Tao, have become the caught fish to be dragged all over the world?"

"TMD... This fishing man, what an addiction."

Encased within the Mountain and River Map, Tao Qian sarcastically criticized without reservation.

Although by now he also knew the creator of the Immortal Fish Technique must be a formidable figure, since their relationship was as such, he did not hesitate to take some verbal advantage.

Especially when he turned his head and saw a ferocious mouth, biting onto a fishhook, protruding from the exploded tumor on his neck, he was infuriated beyond reason.

"This is karma, the retribution for eating the bait without paying back in the past."

"If I can escape this catastrophe, I will never take advantage of others without giving back."

After venting and setting a new goal, Tao Qian turned his gaze forward.

Before him was a vast emptiness, a void.

However, with the surging of his thoughts, the scene in front of him immediately transformed into a realistic landscape. Whether it was Seeking Immortal County's Chengyou Bookstore where he had been reborn, or the major enterprise he acquired later, the Penglai Sea's Ascending Immortal Island... all were directly manifested by this Exotic Treasure, so realistically that Tao Qian could reach out to touch it and detect no flaws.

"To think of mountains and there are mountains, to think of waters and there are waters... The Mountain and River possesses endless mysteries, truly worthy of being an Ancestor God Treasure."

Tao Qian, just as he was praising,

Suddenly, a person materialized from the converging radiance before him.

He looked to be a middle-aged man, neither tall nor short, draped in a worn and tattered green robe, with short hair that was half black and half white, standing up like steel needles, a very ordinary but weathered face, and coarse skin as if he were an old farmer or a scholar worried about his country and people.

His eyes were most striking — bright and tenacious, unshakeable by anything in this world.

As soon as this figure appeared, Tao Qian instantly recognized its identity, it was the Artifact Spirit of the Mountain and River Map.

To see such an aged appearance, yet in fact, it was just born not long ago.

[The integration of the Mountain and River Map and Sheji Seal two treasures, combined with the nurturing and prompting of the Human Dao Destiny, this treasure is in the midst of giving birth to its Artifact Spirit...]

This Record had surfaced in Tao Qian's mind not long before.

Tao Qian, however, did not expect the Artifact Spirit of this Ancestor God Treasure to look like this?

As soon as he appeared, he immediately bowed deeply, speaking respectfully to Tao Qian:

"Ancestor Spirit, I greet you, Daoist."

"I would like to thank you on behalf of the millions of people from Southern Yue and Demon City."

As of now, Tao Qian, being the owner of the "Mountain and River Map," ought to have its Artifact Spirit call him master.

To address him as Daoist seemed inappropriate?

However, upon hearing this, Tao Qian showed no opposition.

Why?

The name of this Artifact Spirit was "Ancestor Spirit," signifying the spirit of the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique, the embodied will of billions of ordinary mortals in the Human Dao Destiny.

His calling Tao Qian "Daoist" did not feel out of place to him; here it must mean like-minded friends, which he appreciated very much.

More importantly, the birth and appearance of this Artifact Spirit signified that Tao Qian had become the master of this rare and powerful Ancestor God Treasure.

Tao Qian knew very well that he had taken a shortcut.

There was no Blood Sacrifice, nor had he offered any items such as True Dragon Blood and Flesh.

Refining and recognizing the master in a short period of time relied entirely on the merit of Human Dao Destiny.

That being said, Tao Qian currently owned three treasures: Buddha Bird Relics, Nine Toad Bead, and Holy Embryo Bag, each capable of nurturing an Artifact Spirit, but not yet matured enough, especially since the Nine Toad Bead was once sabotaged by its own pitiful master, which delayed the birth of its Artifact Spirit.

Unexpectedly, the recently acquired Mountain and River Map took the lead.

The first Artifact Spirit, calling himself "Daoist," was indeed a novel experience.

At the same time, a Record surfaced in Tao Qian's mind, and to his surprise, it wasn't about the Mountain and River Map but the fishhook and line.

[Name: Immortal Fish Hook.]

[Record Type: Magical Treasure.]

[Record: Crafted by the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique, although it is a mass-produced treasure capable of being made by the hundreds, once tainted by the "Immortal Fish Heavenly Dao Power," its potency skyrockets. Especially against cultivators who practiced the Immortal Fish Technique, this treasure can be said to be unbeatably effective and a sure catch. Once hooked, the fish have no chance of survival.]

[Note One: The treasure has mastered the art of Daoist Transformation, targeting the primordial Life Soul and True Spirit Taoist Body. No matter how you traverse, shrink, or expand, or rely on other Divine Skills, it is impossible to loose its bond; even self-destructing into a pile of mush, you would still be hooked away.]

[Note Two: To unravel this treasure, a cultivator at the Daoist Transformation Realm is necessary.]

[Note Three: As the poison is not deep, after half an hour, the "Immortal Fish Technique" residual poison that was activated will be completely dispelled, by which time the mutated fish mouth will disappear, the fishhook will detach on its own, and freedom will be obtained.]

...

The Record was not long, but the information it revealed made Tao Qian instantly wear an expression of distress.

Entering the Mountain and River Map to avoid being immediately fished away was a correct hunch.

What he did not expect was that it still wasn't enough.

"That owner of the Immortal Fish Technique is clearly a bigwig at the Daoist Transformation Realm. Even if his true body isn't in this world, with a single fish line and hook, he can reel me in."

"Of course, this is actually the repercussion from practicing the Immortal Fish Technique in the beginning, facing the third catastrophe, and my opponent was the Alchemist Saint Child Huang Chong, a disciple of that fishing man. This caused me to face the catastrophe directly and get caught by this fishhook."

Chapter 397: The Alchemist's Background, Tao Qian Wants to Rebel_2

"The problem is, can I, and this Mountain and River Map, hold out for half an hour?"

"Truly a matter of life and death, worthy of being the tribulation before my Transcend Mortality ascension. If I can overcome this, the rewards will likely be enormous."

"Right, the Mountain and River Map has such a significant origin; perhaps there is a method it can provide?"

Tao Qian found dark humor in his predicament, pondering for a brief moment.

Then, looking at the Ancestor Spirit in front of him, he pointed at his ghastly neck and the vicious fishhook, and with a wry smile, he directly asked,

"Daoist friend, as you see, I'm being treated like a little fish about to be reeled away."

"You're helping me flee like this; how much longer can we hold on?"

"If that person pulls, can the Mountain and River Map resist being dragged away in the slightest?"

He immediately received an answer to his consecutive questions.

"The Mountain and River Map is currently utilizing the 'Heavenly Track' left by the Longevity Barrier; its speed is unrivaled by any Escape Skill in the world. As long as the treasure continues without rest, that person won't be able to exert their strength and cannot fish you away, Daoist friend."

"However, utilizing the Heavenly Track requires the burning of Human Dao Destiny. With the accumulation you have, you should be able to persist for about the duration of burning one incense stick."

Upon hearing this answer, which was both alarming and exciting, Tao Qian's brow furrowed immediately.

As expected, there's no loophole to exploit when facing a Cultivation Tribulation.

Two incense sticks amount to half an hour, meaning that Tao Qian, even after exhausting his destiny, still wouldn't be able to endure.

Without a pause, Tao Qian asked again, "Since you're carrying me in this escape, pulling the fishing man's line, is there another method to resolve this tribulation?"

To this, the Ancestor Spirit actually nodded and replied, "Nothing is impossible to a willing heart; indeed, there is a method to remove the fishhook."

At these words, Tao Qian's face immediately lit up with joy.

But who could have expected,

just then, a familiar yet abrupt voice came from within the fishhook,

"Ha, such big words from a little Artifact Spirit."

"When I was casting the spell and split you in two earlier, why didn't I see you flaunting your power then?"

"Go ahead and teach this young friend, how to slip off my hook?"

Instantly, Tao Qian's mind thundered again.

The owner of the Immortal Fish Technique!

Clearly, he had not anticipated that this fishing man could perceive the scenes and conversations within the Mountain and River Map.

Is the Daoist Transformation Realm so terrifying?

As Tao Qian was sinking into shock, he saw in front of him

the old farmer-like Ancestor Spirit sneered coldly, then pointing at the fish line and hook leading to that unknown void, spoke rudely to the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique,

"You Daoist are truly shameless, flaunting ferocity with mana obtained through greedy bloodsucking; it really is a disgrace to your [Alchemist] brethren."

"But when I think about it, it's not surprising. The Alchemists of today are likely without a single good soul among them; there are no faces left to save."

"You forcefully split my treasured body in the past, but wasn't it ultimately delivered into the hands of Daoist friend?"

"This is fate. You Daoists are skilled in fishing but poor in calculating the Heavenly Mechanism; you think you've gained an advantage, not knowing that this time, it's at the cost of both your wife and your troops."

The Ancestor Spirit's sarcastic retort did indeed silence the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique.

But the counterattack came swiftly, right at the site of the fishhook's entry.

Suddenly, "bang bang bang" sounds erupted continuously, as seven or eight lumps burst forth, each bursting with a fierce fish mouth, which then started gnawing at Tao Qian's neck.

The feast was so fierce that juices splattered, thoroughly relishing the feast.

However, this was still within the Mountain and River Map; although the fishhook could not be removed, dispelling the pain was not difficult.

He waved his hand to erase those fish mouths and simultaneously explained to the stunned Tao Qian,

"Just so you know, Daoist friend, including this Immortal Fish Daoist, right now, they're all among the ranked rats and parasites of this Shen Zhou Holy Land, lying atop the bodies of the nation's people, bloodsucking for years, too bloated to speak of."

"Although they've thus acquired Great Divine Power and great magical power, their minds have rotted, their Divine Souls decayed, and therefore, their dharma bodies are immobile. They rely only on manipulating such objects and playing with people's hearts."

"To break free from this thing, there are many methods. Those with great strength could snap the fishing line, tear off the hook, and if they are even stronger, it wouldn't be surprising to pull the fishing rod out of that person's hands. Those with less strength could swim towards the tangled rocks and jagged projections, using debris and sharp edges of stones to sever their fishing line..."

This figure seemed like an old farmer, and yet like a scholar, an ancestor spirit.

Although it had only just been born, it dared to scold the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique, and it seemed to be privy to many secrets.

Tao Qian almost immediately grasped the key points and couldn't wait to speak again, firing off a series of questions,

"Daoist, do you know the origins and details of that alchemist, and the owner of this fish hook?"

"With my weak mana, it's clearly impossible to break the fishing line and remove the hook, but are there other methods?"

After all, Mountain and River Map is a supreme exotic treasure, its artifact spirit, with increasing age, becomes wiser.

Initially somewhat rigid and inflexible, after a few sentences of conversation with Tao Qian it's master, and after a round of cursing the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique, it began to show initiative.

Hearing this, it did not reply but stepped forward and suddenly pointed at Tao Qian's forehead.

At the same time, it spoke respectfully, "The origins and the Cultivation Tribulation Technique are all within, just look and you'll know."

As its words fell, a torrent of immense information flooded into Tao Qian's mind.

In an instant, he knew: even though he, Tao Qian, was the master of the Mountain and River Map, he was still a hair's breadth from completely refining it, which no wonder, explained why the detailed Record had not emerged.

The current influx of secrets was the ancestor spirit forcibly transferring its authority to Tao Qian's head.

In a moment, Tao Qian digested the numerous secrets.

Long-standing doubts in his heart began to swiftly dissipate at this moment, at least a large part of them.

"The Ancestor God Forbidden Technique has protected the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty for more than two thousand years. As time flowed by, seas changed into mulberry fields, and everything was recorded within the Forbidden Law Barrier. However, after its collapse, most of these informations has gone, the remaining parts carried by various fragments, Mountain and River Map, is among them."

"However, it is far too incomplete; the part concerning 'alchemists' isn't abundant."

"The alchemists are related to the Ancestor Emperor."

"Initially, it seemed to be a righteous organization, but it quickly began to decay. Indeed, there are many old monsters inside; who knows what methods were used, each of them seems to have a virtually unlimited lifespan, living for more than two thousand years. However, these old monsters seem incapable of moving their true bodies into the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, only able to leech from above."

"The owner of the Immortal Fish Technique, is one of them."

"Even so, the alchemists still have an extremely deep control over the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty."

"One of their methods: dynastic change."

"Whenever the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty faces times of turmoil, the alchemists would send out a large number of Saint Heirs, picking Hidden Dragons to establish a new dynasty."

"Only, every time, they must continue using the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty as the nation's name."

"Clearly, this is a necessary condition for the Alchemist Organization to maintain its rule."

"Perhaps, it's even the key."

What Tao Qian sorted out now, the former are the alchemist's secrets, and the latter is the Cultivation Tribulation Technique.

He entered the world because he chose the extremely difficult Third Method of Transcend Mortality.

Even though the technique is difficult, how could it not leave a ray of hope?

Under the operation of the Infinite Tribulation Method, if conditions mature again, Tao Qian only needs a "pointing" to figure out the method to overcome the tribulation.

Just as now, Tao Qian suddenly grinned, looking along the hook and line towards that unknown void, and mocked, "Today the wind is fierce and the waves are high, not only are you destined to return empty-handed, but you might also suffer a little injury."

Although the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique could not comprehend the words 'return empty-handed,' inexplicably, he felt an extreme aversion to these two characters.

Once again, a message was transmitted, this time directly revealing Tao Qian's details:

"Young friend, you may do as you please, but I want to see how you, the True Inheritor of the Spiritual Treasure, plan to harm me?"

"Even if you were to invite Duobao and his Heavenly Punishment Sword, it can slay others, but it cannot touch me."

Hearing this, Tao Qian paid no attention.

He turned to the Ancestor Spirit and said,

"Daoist, since I am now the half-master of the Mountain and River Map, I should be able to borrow the power of this treasure and the remaining Heavenly Track."

"There's no need to run around aimlessly, we should head straight for those territories where fortunes are boiling and significant events that could result in dynastic change and shake the foundations are happening."

"Today, I shall indulge in the thrill of rebellion."

Chapter 398: Heavenly Street Paved with Bones of Officials, Hidden Dragon and Phoenix Concubine Enter the Imperial City

Rebellion, the term was far from rare in the current Longevity Heavenly Dynasty; on the contrary, it presented itself as naturally and inevitably as eating and drinking.

In this kingdom, this realm, with its seventy-two provinces and billions of people, every moment saw a multitude of major events related to rebellion unfolding.

The Hero into whose body Tao Qian reincarnated also bore the name of a rebel.

It was unexpected that, after twists and turns through the Third Method of Transcend Mortality, I would come to this.

Upon his command, the "Mountain and River Map" that had been aimlessly scattering throughout the world immediately found its target.

Tao Qian said he was half owner of this treasure, which wasn't wrong at all.

For in the next instant, a complex and elaborate celestial map appeared, set against the background of the seventy-two provinces of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty. Notable cities like the Imperial City, Devil City, Demon City, Xiajing, Wu City, and more were specially marked.

The entire celestial map was boiling, covered in the dense Human Dao Destiny, seething and surging. This represented the state of those billions from the Mortal Human Race. And the "Star Light" flashing on it, each streak represented a significant event in progress that affected the Human Dao Destiny.

There were orbits connected on the map.

Although they were faint and looked as if they could dissipate at any moment, the Mountain and River Map could still make use of them.

"This is the state of this country and its people, isn't it?"

"Yes, if so much is happening in Demon City alone, enough to brew such terrible disasters, how could the rest of the seventy-two provinces maintain peace?"

"How many heroes, ambitious figures, demons, strong beings, alien species, and the uncanny... have truly turned the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty into a boiling pot of porridge."

"Let's see what this first event is about?"

As Tao Qian's thought landed, the Mountain and River Map followed the Heavenly Track and, in a few breaths, appeared in another province.

To be precise, a city with a great reputation within the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty.

The capital city of the Ancient Yu Province, Divine Capital.

Like Xiajing, this city was a well-known ancient capital and one of the earliest settlements of the human progenitors. With outstanding people and a spiritual land, surrounded by six rivers, its population numbered in the tens of millions. Along with the many surrounding cities gathering around it like stars around the moon, it was not as bustling as Demon City, but if you really compared them, the momentum of the Divine Capital was much greater than that of Demon City.

But at this moment, what Tao Qian saw was not the prosperity of this ancient capital.

Instead, it was a disaster!

A military disaster!

The once flourishing capital city was being invaded by an unknown massive army, dark clouds looming overhead, and artillery fire surging. Thunder echoed explosively everywhere. This invading army had left more than a hundred thousand corpses outside the city walls, clearly the work of the defending forces.

Once the city walls were breached, the invading army unleashed their bestial nature.

Hundreds of thousands in purple garments, waving the [Purple Python Flag], killed anyone they saw, be it civilians or officials, none could escape the calamity.

Every household was slaughtered, with rivers of blood flowing everywhere. Acts such as rape, looting, murder, and abuse were rampant.

If you had a noble status at such a time, it immediately became a reason for disaster, especially those rich families and high officials in gold and silver directly becoming the first objects of venting anger. Those tall buildings and luxurious palaces were either occupied or simply set ablaze.

This was precisely the plundering of the royal treasury reduced to beautiful ashes, the crushing of all nobility underfoot on Heavenly Street.

Wrapped by the Mountain and River Map, Tao Qian entered like a ghost, drifting above Divine Capital.

This rampaging army also had many Transcendent techniques. At a cursory glance, the number of cultivators and demons among the troops had already surpassed ten thousand, with both Foundation Establishment and Transcend Mortality realms present in sizeable numbers, and five or six in the Cavernous Mystery Realm. They clearly came from some Great Sect and could arrange troops and create powers similar to those of the Heavenly Demon Army and the Fungus Demon Army.

However, their discipline was extremely poor.

The scene below immediately reminded Tao Qian of his experiences in Southern Yue.

His gaze locked directly onto one of the palaces in the core region of Divine Capital, and the figure seated on the dragon throne in the main hall.

This person was a lofty Great Man with an ugly face but dressed flamboyantly, wearing Purple Python Swallowing Immortal Armor, donning a Phoenix Wing Purple Gold Crown, stepping in Black Dragon Stepping Cloud Boots, and holding a Sawtooth Flying Scythe Great Chopper that was clearly forged from spiritual materials and had absorbed a copious amount of fresh blood and numerous Life Souls.

His aura turned into a black and red pillar of air, shooting up into the sky.

Although he was in the Cavernous Mystery Realm, he made no efforts to conceal it, nor did he bother to stop his subordinate Demon Soldiers from unleashing their beastly nature.

Tao Qian's brows immediately furrowed. The voice of the Ancestor Spirit conveyed in his mind:

"This man is called 'Song Tiecheng'. He leads the largest rebel army in Ancient Yu Province. Commanding six hundred thousand of the Purple Python Army and supported by the Demon Sect [Devil Star Sect], he rose up and continued to grow, successively capturing dozens of cities and counties in Ancient Yu, besieging Divine Capital, and cutting off court supplies. Fifteen days later, the city fell."

"Today, Song Tiecheng enters Divine Capital. To maintain the combat strength of his Purple Python Army, he has ordered a massacre for one day."

"Though he is brutal, he has mastered Emperor Skill and possesses excellent military talent; it won't take long before he can control the entire Ancient Yu Province and force the court to appoint him as a Great Governor."

"He has already planned to proclaim himself emperor, resembling a Hidden Dragon about to soar. If he could receive the aid of the Mountain and River Map, he could establish True Skill, significantly increase his Fortune, and he could also break through the current predicament facing you, Daoist fellow."

After the Ancestor Spirit finished speaking, Tao Qian didn't even glance at Song Tiecheng.

Just frowning, he memorized the man's aura and features; then he said directly, "Next."

Saying and Following, the Mountain and River Map tugged the line again, shifting along the Heavenly Track to the next territory.

Chapter 399: Heavenly Street Paved with Bones of Officials, Hidden Dragon and Phoenix Concubine Enter the Imperial City_2

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This turn, it was an exceedingly unexpected location.

It was a cemetery, or rather, an imposing group of solemn graves.

Imperial Mausoleums, merely the burial places of former emperors.

Oddly yet not unexpectedly, through the generations of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, the Imperial Family, with every change of dynasty, slaughtered the former dynasty's family mercilessly, usually only stopping when all the bloodlines were exterminated.

Yet, they treated the former emperors' burial sites courteously, never allowing tomb raiding or grave digging.

But just because they refrained, did not mean others would, especially in this era of great conflict, which not only produced many heroes but also numerous deviants, beasts, and crazies.

Like at this moment, a great warlord, leading his grand army, was forcibly breaking open the many forbidden techniques of the burial site using brute methods.

Tens of thousands of soldiers dressed in mixed military garb, bearing Western firearms, Divine Thunder Magics or some terribly filthy demon techniques, were rapidly unlocking the Imperial Mausoleum's forbidden techniques, excavating all its spiritual materials, treasures, Cultivation Technique Scriptures, and so forth.

The warlord at the forefront was even uglier than the previously mentioned Song Tiecheng, with a stocky build, droopy eyes, and a bulbous nose, exactly resembling a gourd turned sprite.

Currently, he was extremely excited, directing his subordinates ceaselessly.

Watching this scene from the air, Tao Qian immediately speculated in his heart.

The voice of the Ancestor Spirit that came next confirmed his thoughts.

"This man, named 'Wu Shaozu,' is a great warlord from Qilu Province, who rose from banditry, a man who stops at nothing to achieve his goals."

"After facing encirclement by other warlords and running out of ammunition and provisions, he eventually targeted the Imperial Mausoleum of the previous dynasty."

"He, along with the heterodox 'Moving Mountain Sect,' forcefully excavated the Imperial Mausoleum today."

"This man knows not his fate, arrogant and conceited, and was schemed against by the Moving Mountain Sect, bearing all the costs of this expedition, and in a few days, he will meet his demise and be utterly obliterated."

"However, what he does inadvertently corrects a mistake, specifically for that Alchemist Daoist's trouble, who forcefully separated my treasured body, and whose somewhat known origin I am aware of, was indeed a very famous emperor of the former dynasty whose tomb lies here."

"Including that Daoist's tomb, these burial sites together form a huge Life Chart Array. If the Daoist friend is willing to help this man flatten all the burial sites, though it may not harm that Daoist severely, it can still damage some of his lineage's foundation. With the dragging of the fortune, raising some trouble is certainly not a problem."

"In thus doing, the Daoist friend can take advantage of the situation to escape and gain his freedom."

"Good idea..."

After hearing the words of the Ancestor Spirit, Tao Qian immediately felt some excitement.

Digging up ancestral graves, this was terribly wrong.

But to dig the grave of the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique, Tao Qian felt no moral pressure whatsoever.

"Allow you to fish, but not allow me to steal?"

Just as this thought crossed Tao Qian's mind, a familiar noise returned.

Accompanied by the 'bang bang bang' sounds, the mutated fish mouth erupted once again.

At the same time, the lazy voice of the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique, now with a tinge of annoyance, could be heard.

"Ha, one true inheritor of the Spirit Treasure Sect, one Artifact Spirit from an Ancestor God Treasure."

"Both good, yet here you are plotting to dig up my grave, thinking I, the old man, am bereft of temper."

"Can't fish me up, yet can't I manipulate you a bit?"

As the voice fell, a faint light flashed.

The fishing line, which had been stretched unknowingly by how much, suddenly retracted significantly, followed by an irresistible massive force transmitted from the hook.

In an instant, the Mountain and River Map was pulled away from the location of the Imperial Mausoleum.

Though the treasure quickly reacted and stretched the distance, it couldn't return to its original position for the time being.

Of course, it wasn't without gains.

Tao Qian was overjoyed to discover that by implementing this technique, the originally pressing time limit had immediately relaxed a bit.

"Quick, to the next one."

"This old fellow is getting anxious, it's only a matter of time before he's forced to cut the line himself."

Encouraged, Tao Qian immediately urged Ancestor Spirit on.

It took a few more breaths, and the treasure entered another territory.

Obviously, good news doesn't come constantly, and the predicament presented by a Daoist Transformation Realm expert was not going to be easily resolved.

Over the next several breaths, Tao Qian used such miraculous and mysterious methods to traverse the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty.

In a short time, he witnessed several major events that could alter the course of history:

"At this moment today, an internal conflict has erupted within the Taiping Army. The Taiping Heavenly King issued a secret decree, beckoning Zhang Yuanji, Liu Jinbo, Jia Tianbao, and other five imperial princes to covertly return to the Capital City to jointly eliminate 'Bright King Yang Jin'. The action was a huge success, but it was followed by a chaotic battle among the princes of the Taiping Army, ultimately leading to the death of three princes, one prince fleeing with the only remaining fragmented book [Bright Scripture], and the rest severely damaged... This incident is called by many newspapers as [The Chaos of the Six Princes], which originally swept over a dozen provinces. The Taiping Army that contended for the world thence began its decline..."

"At the same time, turmoil also arose within the Devil God Army. One of the Devil God Princesses, the [Red Buddha Demon], completely captured Qilu Province, thereby winning the favor and many rewards from the Devil God, growing into another Hidden Dragon..."

"Sensing the turmoil within the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty today, a large number of refugees scoured across the seventy-two provinces. To stabilize order and protect the people, at the initiative of the Great Governor Lu Qianjun of Yundian Province, Southern Yue, Fumin, Bai Yue, and other southern provinces, including Xiangxi, will come together to temporarily declare independence, and will not be constrained by the official decrees of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty..."

...

Many such major events caused the fortunes of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty at this moment to tumble wildly.

As a spectator, Tao Qian watched almost helplessly as the foundation of this kingdom, home to billions of subjects, was violently shaken, possibly ready to collapse at any moment.

However, the major event that could smoothly resolve his disaster had yet to appear.

Suddenly, the Mountain and River Map entered another location.

Almost immediately, upon taking in the scene below, Tao Qian too showed a look of surprise.

The Longevity Heavenly Dynasty had no city more famous than this.

Imperial City!

The true center of fortune, where billions of the Mortal Human Race focused their attention.

Outside the Imperial Palace, an extremely long procession was entering the palace, with loud gongs and drums and fireworks lighting up the sky, somewhat similar to the previous atmosphere of the Demon City but even more festive.

Wrapped up by the Mountain and River Map, Tao Qian was directly thrown into the middle of the procession, inside an extremely luxurious and noble Phoenix Chariot.

Inside, a bride dressed in a phoenix crown and cloud robe sat.

Although her face was covered, that could not hinder the power of the Ancestor God Treasure.

Tao Qian immediately saw that this woman had a plump face, broad forehead, dragon-like eyes, and phoenix-like neck. Her build was somewhat robust, but it only added to her valiant aura and did not detract from her appearance. Additionally, a teardrop mole on her face elevated her beauty, making her a match for the many beauties of this world.

Tao Qian had seen many beautiful women. Disregarding the added charisma brought by potent cultivation,

only one person in Tao Qian's mind could compare to this woman.

Senior Sister Lingji!

"But although this woman is beautiful, what does she have to do with me? And what does she have to do with this calamity?"

Just as this thought arose in his mind,

the voice of Ancestor Spirit explaining once again came:

"This woman is called 'Yuann Mingzhen'. She is a descendant of the former Imperial Family and also considered part of the millennia-old Xie Family. She possesses the Taiyin Heavenly Girl Body, not only an outstanding cultivator seed but also the favorite concubine physique loved by Emperors of past generations."

"From her childhood, the Xie Family sent her to the Great Freedom Temple in Fumin Province to practice Buddhism. Some days ago, a monk from the Great Freedom Temple advised the Taishang Emperor to take women with the Heavenly Girl Body into the palace as concubines, claiming that such women could help the Taishang Emperor practice Joyful Zen, extend life, and attain Great Divine Power."

"To curry favor with the Imperial Family and liaise with the Great Freedom Temple, the Xie Family sent this woman into the Imperial Palace, and she has been appointed as 'Primordial Consort'."

"While people only know she possesses the Taiyin Heavenly Girl Body, they are not aware of her inner abnormalities, she also carries the Hidden Dragon Heavenly Phoenix Destiny. As soon as this woman enters the palace and touches the lingering True Dragon Fortune, her life chart will be stimulated, and she might not become an Empress of a generation."

"When her life chart is stimulated, if Daoist friend helps her with the Mountain and River Map, it may accelerate her ascension to the Empress's position... In that instant, if Daoist friend inserts the thought of 'abolishing the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty' into her Primordial Spirit as the fortunes resonate during the impact, it may affect that Daoist, thus naturally resolving the fish hook."

Chapter 400: The Primary Meaning of Longevity is in Yang Sui, Tao Qian Finally Passes the 3rd Calamity (Part 1)

Imperial City, inside the Phoenix Chariot.

Tao Qian was riding with the newly admitted Primordial Consort of the Emperor, even though the latter was unaware of the man sitting in front of her.

The Mountain and River Map was indeed a mysterious treasure.

Hearing the words of the Ancestor Spirit, Tao Qian's gaze penetrated the curtain, knowing the procession was about to enter the Imperial Palace.

Should nothing unexpected occur, as long as this woman came into contact with the residual True Dragon Fortune within the palace, her Life Chart could be activated. Tao Qian, adding his touch at the right moment, could detach the connection of fortune immediately and in the future, could even support this woman to ascend to the throne, enjoying the addiction of being the man behind the Empress.

However, Tao Qian made no move.

"Emperor, I am not Uncle Qin Jiao, I have no interest in this matter."

"Besides, who knows if this could be a trap? If it were really a threat to that old geezer, he would cast a spell to stop me before I make a move. Yet there's been no action from him. If I were to act and it turned out to be a trap, I wouldn't even have the chance to regret."

After muttering to himself, Tao Qian turned his head and stared back at the Ancestor Spirit.

"Is there more?"

Although time wasn't slipping by too quickly and there was still ample distance from the life-and-death deadline,

Tao Qian had truly been kept busy by the Mountain and River Map, touring nearly half of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, including Wu Yue, Fumin, Ancient Qin, Qiantang, Jiangnan, Heavenly Mansion, Xiangxi, QiLu, Fengtian, Anqing, Ancient Yu, Bai Yue, Jing Chu... and other provinces, witnessing many major events.

But Tao Qian never made a decision. This one didn't satisfy him; that one was not possible.

Anyone else would have stopped waiting long ago.

The Ancestor Spirit, however, remained extremely patient.

Though patient, the answers it gave disappointed Tao Qian.

"Daoist, though the territory of the seventy-two provinces is vast and big events happen all the time, there aren't as many that meet your requirements as you would imagine."

"The ones just mentioned, including the one at hand, already have the strongest connections."

"Finding another event that involves fortune and shakes the foundations of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty is extremely difficult, extremely difficult. Waiting a bit longer might present more opportunities, but I fear you don't have the luxury of time."

The response of the Ancestor Spirit was reasonable.

Tao Qian indeed couldn't wait.

Don't think that the master of the Immortal Fish Technique only stopped Tao Qian when he attempted to dig up his ancestors' graves; that didn't mean the old man was easy to deal with.

That old geezer must be enjoying the pleasure of fishing, deliberately letting Tao Qian run amok all over the world until he was tired, then just lift his rod and reel Tao Qian in.

"Broaden the requirements a bit. Those who are currently rebelling or about to successfully rebel will do."

"In that case, there would be more options. Follow me."

As the words fell, the ghost-like Mountain and River Map immediately vanished again, moving along the Heavenly Track to another location.

Yet Tao Qian did not know, he had just left.

That woman, called "Yuann Mingzhen," who seemed to have never noticed his presence, suddenly blinked her eyes, appearing to sense something as she looked towards where Tao Qian had been before their departure.

...

On the other hand, under the guidance of the Ancestor Spirit, Tao Qian personally witnessed several rebellions.

Some were large, some small, but even the smallest involved a city with a population of millions.

From these scenes alone, Tao Qian could tell that in the current Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, saying that the beacon fires were everywhere wasn't an exaggeration.

Even incidents like the earlier one where "Song Tiecheng allowed his soldiers to massacre a city" were common.

Unfortunately, he still hadn't found anything satisfactory.

Watching as time flowed rapidly again, the scenes before him changed like a revolving lantern.

Suddenly, almost involuntarily, Tao Qian seemed to see something.

"Stop!"

As his voice fell, the treasure halted at a new territory.

Anqing Province, Capital City, Yang Sui.

This place was reflected because a major rebellion had occurred.

However, unlike other places, this provincial city wasn't chaotic.

On the contrary, Yang Sui City was bustling with excitement.

Just as there were thundering drums and blaring trumpets, vibrant crowds moved about, but this place wasn't hosting a wedding, rather, a special ceremony for ennoblement.

The reason Tao Qian suddenly stopped was because he saw a figure, receiving the attention of thousands, being supported by a grand army, slowly ascending to the top of a building so tall, it almost seemed able to pluck the stars and moon, a person he recognized.

It wasn't proper to call him an acquaintance, for they had only met and spoken.

During one Immortal Peach Banquet at the hall of Spirit Treasure Mountain, among the guests were two royal siblings.

They were the Thirteenth Prince Zhu Quan and Princess Bao Shou.

And now, slowly ascending the platform was none other than Thirteenth Prince Zhu Quan, who was dressed in a robe only the Emperor could wear, majestic beyond words.

From a distance, Tao Qian immediately noticed something.

Whether it was him or Princess Bao Shou, who sat high up early, appearing like a clay Bodhisattva, their expressions were unnatural, their eyes filled with anger and fear, as if they were coerced into being there, furious but unable to speak.

Besides them on the building were seventy-three seats, each occupied by a dignified guest.

Surrounding them were at least hundreds of reporters, holding cameras, ceaselessly snapping photos of the crowd below, the tightly guarded soldiers, and every detail of the ceremony. The flashes of light and the sounds of their cameras were incessant.

When Tao Qian saw this scene, he was momentarily stunned.

Such a spectacle, it was all too familiar.

Not long ago, when the Ninth Prince Zhu Qi was to become the Emperor, he had also forcibly gathered representatives from the seventy-two provinces, as well as old eunuchs from the Imperial City, and numerous newspaper reporters to witness the ceremony.

"Could it be that those from the old Zhu Family all love to do it this way?"