

## Longevity 411

Chapter 411: Taizong of the Zhu Dynasty is carved up, Duobao dares not call me master\_2

They howled incessantly, in a state of frenzy, but had no time to care for anything else.

After barging into the secret realm of the Imperial Mausoleum, thirteen angry roars echoed:

"Zhu Rizhao, the good deeds your Zhu Family has done, are you tired of living, wanting to repay kindness with enmity, and destroy both the jade and the stone?"

"Abolishing the national title, abolishing the imperial system, good, really good. Your Zhu Family has great audacity. Without our charity back then, you, Zhu Rizhao, would have been the Crown Prince for eternity. How could you have today's Daoist whimsy and freedom? How dare you, how can you do this?"

"Kill! Wipe out the Zhu Family, then make plans."

"Fellow Daoists, this change has nothing to do with me, nor did I know why that unworthy descendant Zhu Yong would do such a thing? Committing suicide as an apology, what a huge joke, this child has huge ambitions, how could he possibly do this? There must be a secret here, there must be, we must be careful not to fall into someone else's calculation..."

In this secret realm, a majestic and luxurious palace slowly emerged, but within this palace, every wall, chair, pavilion, corridor... were all smeared with rotten, foul-smelling flesh and blood, and the palace maids, eunuchs, and guards here had all completely mutated.

The palace maids, covered in blood with flesh tendrils and tentacles sprouting from their lower bodies, shrieked as they chased the ghost babies crawling chaotically across the floors and walls.

The eunuchs, whose bodies seemed to have rotted, leaving only pale and fishy-smelling flesh, moved about stealthily, some wielding rusty axes and knives, tending to the accompanying worms in the flesh, others holding Bronze Tripods, collecting the black water and rotten mud leaking from the bodies of the Zhu Dynasty Emperors...

These scenes were enough to scare almost any citizen of the Mortal World to death, and could also cause disciples of the Daoist and Buddhist Sects to mutate upon witnessing them.

Yet to those thirteen terrifying figures, these scenes were nothing out of the ordinary.

They burst in and crushed the disgusting palace maids, eunuchs, and guards as if crushing bugs.

They made their way to the very depths of the building that seemed to be the Imperial Mausoleum and yet also the Imperial Palace.

At this moment, on the immensely imposing, huge Dragon Throne, spread a blanket-thick, mud-rotted mass of flesh with golden, hard bristles, at the center of which lay a massive and twisted face.

If there were people of the Zhu surname here, they would immediately recognize:

This face belonged to their Zhu Dynasty, who founded a grand era and was an extremely great emperor, Emperor Taizong, Zhu Rizhao.

Before this, his Daoist Transformation realm self was incomparably carefree, considering Longevity a mere trifle.

But now, he had no choice but to beg for mercy from the thirteen former Daoist companions and argue his case.

Originally, those terrifying shadows had no desire to listen.

Until one of them crawled out, extremely fishy-smelling, and from any angle, it looked to be made of billions of rotted big and small fish, entwined with fishing lines and hooks, with dazzling multi-colored brilliance flashing, flowing, very beautiful and tempting, yet also unbearably foul-smelling.

Even if all the smelly shops in the world were piled up, they could not possibly be smellier than him.

Those Daoist Transformation life forms originally thought Li Wanshou was rushing to take the first bite.

But who could have expected?

Li Wanshou, instead suddenly spoke out in defense of Zhu Rizhao, while also revealing the truth behind it all.

His gigantic figure suddenly exhaled a colorful bubble, which immediately reflected the figure of a young Daoist.

This Daoist was currently riding the "Star Zha Demon," trying to flee from Yang Sui City.

Although they could not enter the Mortal World, being Daoist Transformation, they immediately recognized this young Daoist using Secret Demon magic was in fact a True Disciple of the Spirit Treasure Sect.

And he had recently survived a great calamity and was now reaping the rewards.

Huge rewards!

Watching the Human Dao Destiny surge out enormously from the seventy-two provinces of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, pouring into this Daoist's body.

These Daoist Transformation life forms quickly understood the cause and effect, filled with both shock and rage.

"Good villain, how dare he do this, I want to eat him alive."

"Rather than destroy the Mountain and River Map, they chose to abolish the national title and the imperial system. Even the Primordial Sect wouldn't be willing to do this, is this child a madman?"

"What benefit does he get from this? Losing a treasure and being marked as an enemy by us, vowed to be killed, other than some useless Human Dao Destiny, what else can he gain?"

"This villain is Duobao Daoist's first disciple, there must be a calculation behind it?"

"What kind of calculation? Does the Spirit Treasure Sect want to support a Human Dao Saint? Or recreate an Emperor? If so, he shouldn't have destroyed the Mountain and River Map, nor should he have abolished the imperial system."

"Stop thinking, the upheaval has already settled, we must quickly take care of the aftermath. They're just Mortals after all, what does it matter if there are billions of them? As long as Taishang Dao, Great Freedom Temple and the other Great Sects honor the covenant and stay out of the Mortal Affairs, we can still erase the impact of this upheaval."

"Public opinion? Worthless, let us fool them as we wish."

"Kill! At all costs, we must kill this child, even if he is the Spirit Treasure True Inheritor, Duobao's first disciple must die. We each send a descendant from the Ultimate Happiness Realm, and with the cooperation of the in-world Saint Heirs, encircle and eliminate him to prevent future trouble... unless the Spirit Treasure Sect sends those second-generation founders to help, otherwise Duobao alone definitely cannot protect him."

"Agreed!"

At this point, the twisted face on the Dragon Throne, belonging to the great Emperor Taizong of the Zhu Dynasty, couldn't help but show a trace of relief.

But in the next moment, devastating news reached his ears.

"The sacrifice of a limb to save the body, pushing all faults onto the Zhu Dynasty, directing the eighteen Saint Heirs around the Imperial City to cooperate, leading the Hidden Dragons they mentor and the armies to siege the Zhu's, and dig up the Zhu Family Imperial Mausoleum."

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"Remember to make all the processes and the truths found within the Imperial Mausoleum known to the public, and spread them throughout the Seventy-two provinces. Especially the true face of Zhu Rizhao and these events, they must be disseminated throughout the world within a few days."

"And those Hidden Dragons with hopes to contend for the Central Plains, give each one some benefits, let them vie to restore and snatch the title of Longevity Heavenly Dynasty as well as the ownership of the new throne."

"That's enough, although it can't entirely eliminate the influence, it should be enough to stabilize the situation... This child is really laughable, how could an imperial lineage of over two thousand years be easily eradicated, such wishful thinking."

"Speaking of which, are you all hungry?"

"Hungry, I'm starving."

"The impact of Fortune has cost me one-tenth of my blood and flesh, I'm so hungry I could swallow a hundred million Mortals."

"Then let the feast begin, eat up all the Emperors Zhu apart from Zhu Rizhao first, then consume a large part of Zhu Rizhao... Remember, Daoists, be gentle when you bite down, the skin must remain intact without damage, otherwise, how can we deceive the world?"

"Such wise words!"

"Wise!"

"You all..."

The face on the Dragon Throne, Emperor Zhu Shizong, had never anticipated this turn of events.

Had he been at the side, he might have had some strength to resist.

But it was the very Emperor Zhu of his own family who devastated the Alchemists, and under the resonance of Fortune, the Emperors Zhu suffered the deepest injuries.

Despite his attempts to resist, before he could unleash those filthy and horrifying powers, thirteen figures, more powerful, more perverse, and more disgusting than him, suddenly pounced.

Accompanied by the sounds of teeth grinding and the wails of monsters, the Zhu Imperial Mausoleum, a grand feast of flesh and blood, began.

When that twisted visage, emanating a 'Daoist Transformation Aura', of thirteen figures eating Zhu Rizhao and a multitude of Emperors Zhu appeared...

Even the palace maids and eunuchs who had already Mutated and gone mad, upon seeing this, were once again tainted by the contamination, with continuous explosive sounds.

Flesh burst apart, covering the palace walls.

...

Outside Yang Sui City, Tao Qian, who had once again tricked the Xiu Family before leaving,

Felt the earth-shattering changes within his body, on the verge of casting off his mortal shell, and before he could even feel joy or anticipate the vast rewards after surviving this third tribulation, he was rushing

towards the Spirit Treasure Sect's Penglai Sea with the fastest speed, controlling a herd of Star Zha Demons.

He knew he had committed an incredibly grand undertaking and also recognized the terrifying calamity he had caused.

"Alchemist's group of Daoist Transformation Realm old monsters have been entrenched in the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty for over two thousand years, they won't let me off after being outsmarted by me this time."

"Oh dear, I better run, as long as I make it back to Penglai Sea, Master surely can protect me, and if Master can't, the Heavenly Venerate definitely can, Heavenly Venerate treasures me the most..."

Tao Qian muttered to this point when suddenly, a Token that Duobao Daoist had once bestowed upon him flew out from the Holy Embryo Bag.

From within the token, the voice of Duobao, which hadn't been heard in a long while, came through.

However, this time around, Duobao Daoist's usually languid and all-controlling tone had changed.

It sounded like a mix of astonishment and helplessness,

"My good disciple, stop struggling, Alchemist's group of old monsters have already sent a whole bunch of Descendants after you, even if you cultivated the Heart Light Escape, you can't make it back to Penglai Sea."

"Fate, it really is fate, I merely dozed off once and didn't watch over you, allowing you to cause such a huge disaster, this has deviated so much from my calculation, you really are toxic, my boy."

"Even now, if I wielded the Heavenly Punishment Sword to chop people for you, I couldn't cut through them at all."

"In the future, when I, Duobao, step outside, I definitely wouldn't dare to claim I am your Master Tao, that's more trouble than I can handle."

Chapter 413: Ultimate Happiness True Master Xiu Zhonglin, Qiankun Treasure Boat's 7 Fragrant Chariots

Tao Qian was always quick with his words, never missing a chance to show off whether he was right or wrong.

He had disparaged Duobao before, and even sneered at the Heavenly Venerates.

But now, facing a barrage of ridicule from his own convenient master, he couldn't immediately retort and truly was shut up.

Reflecting on it, it was indeed his, Master Tao's, fault.

When he left the sect, Duobao had specifically instructed him to go to Demon City, where great benefits awaited.

Indeed, it had turned out that way, with treasures like the Mountain and River Map naturally qualifying as huge benefits.

Duobao's original "prediction" had ended with Tao Qian acquiring the treasure.

As for what followed, his confrontation with the owner of the Immortal Fish Technique and the shockingly abrupt conclusion—perhaps Duobao was then preoccupied with opposing Zhuge Qingyi of the Evil Sect, and that's how he lost track of Tao Qian, allowing such a major disaster to occur.

However, this wasn't entirely Duobao's fault.

Who could have expected?

A cataclysm unseen in over two thousand years would manifest in this manner.

It seemed somewhat playful, but it was actually inevitable.

Tao Qian was merely caught up in it.

At its core, it resulted from the collapse of the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique, leading to widespread chaos as demons rampaged and society crumbled beyond imagination.

Billions of citizens had long lost their sense of belonging to the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty and the Emperors. When Tao Qian stepped forward, covertly leveraging the power of the Ancestor God Treasure, he gave a gentle push, and the deed was done.

Of course, Tao Qian couldn't defend himself in this way.

With a wry smile, just as he was about to ask his convenient master for guidance, a red smoke wafted from his chest, coalescing into Yuan Gong.

Those crimson eyebrows arched up, and his ape-like face was especially lively as he started mocking Duobao True Monarch.

"Ha ha ha!"

Before a word was spoken, the hearty laughter spread for miles.

"Despite your usual boasts, Duobao, claiming to calculate everything under the heavens, how come you couldn't handle this fine child when he had just left the Penglai Sea for a few days?"

"They're just alchemists, right? If those old monsters like Li Wanshou had personally come, your cowardice might have been excusable. But to be frightened by a bunch of crazy descendants, reeking to high heaven?"

After these words,

Yuan Gong suddenly turned his head, looking at Tao Qian with a gaze full of admiration and amazement, and ignoring Duobao at his side, he directly made an offer:

"Kid, how about switching to my Secret Demon Sect?"

"Using the power of the Mountain and River Map and Li Wanshou's fishing hook to tug isn't a big deal, but the courage to smash such a treasure, abolishing the national title and imperial system of the Longevity dynasty, and striking a blow to the alchemists—"

"Brilliant! Absolutely brilliant!"

"Lawless, rebellious, with astounding audacity, you're unmistakably a natural-born Secret Demon Child."

"Come, if you're willing to switch from Dao to Demon, I'll pass on the heritage of the Secret Demon Sect to you. In a few hundred years, you'll be the Secret Demon Sect's Revival Master."

"And remember, if you're willing to switch sides, the encirclement by the alchemists can be resolved in an instant."

Perhaps Yuan Gong genuinely admired the way Tao Qian pulled the rug out from under the alchemists, and he thus offered extremely generous terms.

Given his status and temperament, there couldn't be any lies in his words.

This meant that if Tao Qian really agreed to switch sides, he might indeed become the next Secret Demon Sect Master.

And not just any master, but the Revival Master, with an extremely high future status.

What was strange was that despite clearly hearing Yuan Gong brazenly poaching him, Duobao Daoist remained indifferent, the talisman offering no response at all.

It was Tao Qian who looked somewhat solemn, then he bowed to Yuan Gong and said seriously:

"To have received Yuan Master's instruction along the way is an honor, and I trust my master wouldn't mind me addressing you as such."

"However, I'll have to decline the offer to join the Secret Demon Sect. I have received transmission from the Heavenly Venerate and cultivate the 'Scripture of Salvation,' the fundamental teaching of the Spirit

Treasure Sect. In this life, I am a disciple of the Lingbao and cannot become the Secret Demon Revival Master."

"Of course, I've practiced plenty of Secret Demon magic, and while I owe a debt of gratitude, I also bear the consequences. Should you have any commands in the future, Yuan Master, I will lend my full support."

After Tao Qian said this,

Neither Yuan Gong nor Duobao showed any surprise.

Yuan Gong even seemed to have anticipated it, as if his previous enthusiastic recruitment had been an illusion.

He merely shook his head regretfully, and then, speaking to the talisman of Duobao, he snorted coldly: "Duobao, congratulations on finding another treasure. Since it's not happening this time, old Ape will wait for the next. No matter what tricks you play, just don't go overboard and risk this good child's life."

With that, Yuan Gong turned back into red smoke, returning to the statue.

And as for the talisman, Duobao Daoist clearly did it intentionally, while Yuan Gong had not yet completely returned, a few triumphant laughs sounded: "Heh heh, my title is Duobao, and finding treasures is nothing new. Red Brows, don't bother with your wishful thinking."

After the laughter, the talisman then turned to face Tao Qian.

The tone became unusually serious, and said directly:

"My good disciple, listen well. It might be because of your own strength as well as the force of Daoist Transformation from Li Wanshou, that my predictions went wrong, but there's still no remedy beyond reach."

"After all, you're a disciple of Duobao, an inheritor of the Spirit Treasure, and shouldn't be harmed by a bunch of stinking dog shit."

"It's quite timely. You're currently in Anqing, and nearby, within eight hundred li, there's a Heavenly Sorrow Mountain where one of my Spirit Treasure refuges, the Seven Ruins Cave Heaven, rests."

"The refuge was established and overseen by your seven uncles, whom you've already met in the Penglai Sea."

"Hurry to the Seven Ruins Cave Heaven and hide there, do not come out."

"The Ancestor Emperor once signed a contract with our Great Sects, which has been handed down through the alchemists. The blood descendants of the old monsters like Li Wanshou could easily destroy the Seven Ruins Cave Heaven, but they dare not do so. Just stay hidden and do not go out; it's also a good chance to digest what you've gained from your cultivation tribulation."

Chapter 414: Ultimate Happiness True Master Xiu Zhonglin, Qiankun Treasure Boat's Seven Fragrant Chariots - 2

"Some hours from now, Senior Sister Ma Yi will bring you back to the sect."

"Hurry, do not dally."

As soon as Duobao finished speaking, Tao Qian was ready to move.

His master's instructions were very clear; Alchemists and the Great Sects had an agreement not to intrude into the Spirit Treasure Sect's territory, which included the mountain gate residence and other places, such as the Seven Ruins Cave Heaven.

Once Tao Qian successfully entered the Seven Ruins Cave Heaven, he could avoid the immediate danger and save his life.

With this thought, Tao Qian ordered Star Zha Demon to turn towards Heavenly Sorrow Mountain.

But then!

It was at this moment, as Star Zha turned, that Tao Qian suddenly felt a sense of foreboding.

He had no time to react before everything changed in front of him.

Accompanied by a faint stench and inexplicably, the sound of waves, black mud water completely engulfed Tao Qian's surroundings, rushing from all directions, sealing every bit of space, and within the mud, there were whispered hints of innumerable murmurs.

Listening closely, one could discern some profound and inscrutable mnemonic of cultivation techniques.

And a peculiar feeling arose: by cultivating this technique, one could achieve longevity.

In Tao Qian's mind, a Record sprang up:

[Under attack by Xiu Family Secret Method... Exemption granted!]

"Xiu Family?"

These two words immediately sent a shiver through Tao Qian.

Although he had not formally interacted with them, he was well aware of the strength of this millennium-old family.

Said to be a thousand years old, but actually much more.

The history of this family, along with the Si Family, traced back to the origins of the Human Clan's written language, their heritage as profound as that of the Taishang Dao, the Spirit Treasure Sect, the Great Freedom Temple, and the Dharma Cakra Temple.

The reason they had not made a deep impression on Tao Qian earlier was due to the lack of interaction.

Now, that interaction had come.

Blocked by faintly foul-smelling pitch-black mud water, Star Zha regained his original form and telepathically reported, "Master, all paths are blocked, this black mud is very strange, I fear I would be devoured if I tried to enter, I cannot pass."

Tao Qian's brow furrowed. He had just retracted the Star Zha Demon into the Demon Gourd and was preparing to use the Buddha Bird Relic to fight desperately.

Suddenly, a brilliant light surged within the mud in front of him.

He heard a "Clack, clack," resembling the sound of a carriage moving.

The next moment, the mud parted, and indeed, an ancient yet beautiful carriage pulled by a green cow came slowly into view.

Strangely, although the place had been filled with a foul smell, as soon as the green cow and the Seven Fragrant Car appeared, an exotic fragrance filled the air, and plum blossoms cascaded all around.

However, Tao Qian had no time to observe these bizarre sights; he felt his body suddenly lighten, and found himself transported atop the carriage.

He sat opposite a Daoist of extraordinary presence.

This Daoist, though appearing middle-aged, had a ruddy complexion and three tufts of black beard floated to his chest, exuding an elegant and lasting charm. Dressed in a vermilion Daoist robe, tidy and neat, with a sword and jade hanging by his side, he held a bamboo scroll in his hand, the surface covered in tadpole characters, each character as if alive, continuously merging into various combinations.

Each combination represented a unique cultivation technique.

Tao Qian had only glanced at it once or twice when those tadpole characters detached from the scroll and burrowed into his mind before he could react.

The next moment, several Records arose in his mind:

[Under attack by Xiu Family Forbidden Body Sealing Technique... No Exemption!]

[Undergoing transmission of Xiu Family Secret Technique... No Exemption!]

[Acquired "Thousand-mile Household Miniature Technique", an Ancient Escape Technique, quite powerful, with a single thought one can travel a thousand miles.]

[Acquired "Rebirth Soul Releasing Spell", a Buddhist Secret Spell from the Dharma Cakra Temple, can save wandering souls, resentful ghosts, fierce ghosts, and more.]

Looking at the Records in his mind, feeling the two new Divine Abilities he had obtained, Tao Qian's face showed no joy.

On the contrary, he immediately revealed a bitter smile.

Without needing overly sharp senses, just one piece of evidence was enough to make Tao Qian realize that he might have no escape for the time being.

This Daoist gave him a feeling similar to when Kongchan Arhat's true body descended upon Demon City not long ago.

Combining this with the Records, the identity of this person was almost self-evident.

Vaguely guessing the Daoist's purpose, Tao Qian did not bother with formalities. Instead, he simply clasped his hands and said lightly,

"Could it be the Xiu Family Elder, Xiu Zhonglin, senior?"

"Senior came here to capture me to offer as a gift to the Alchemists for a reconciliation?"

"Teaching me spells upon meeting, is it because you feared my master would trouble you?"

As soon as Tao Qian finished speaking, the Daoist immediately shot him an appreciative look.

This Daoist appeared to be in a rush. Instead of answering Tao Qian right away, he first turned to the green cow pulling the carriage and ordered,

"Daoist, speed up a bit, go to the Anqing border to meet that group of flesh and blood descendants."

"Lest my extraordinary disciple here tries some trick."

At the end of his speech, this strange carriage indeed sped up.

Amid the rolling black mud and plum blossoms, it left Yang Sui behind and headed towards the barren mountains at the border of Anqing Province.

At this time, holding the marvelous bamboo scroll and twirling his beard, the Daoist finally turned to Tao Qian.

Seeming completely unconcerned about Tao Qian's cold demeanour, he smiled and nodded, responding,

"You are indeed worthy of being Duobao Daoist's first disciple, your mind is sharper than those worthless ones in my Xiu Family."

"I am indeed Xiu Zhonglin, I have captured you to hand over to the Alchemists to seek reconciliation."

"However, giving you two divine abilities in advance is not because I fear Duobao Daoist, but because the Human Dao Destiny in you is so mighty. If I harm you, the backlash might not take my life, but it would bring me months of misfortune... By giving you these spells first, it's not considered harming you.""

Chapter 415: Ultimate Happiness True Master Xiu Zhonglin, Qiankun Treasure Boat's Seven Fragrant Chariots - 3

"This is also a kind of small trick to avoid the cost, my dear nephew, take a good look, if you can escape this calamity, you can learn to use it in the future."

"Speaking of which, if it weren't for your extremely conspicuous fortune at the moment, finding you amidst the chaotic fates stirred up by Mr. Duobao would have been as hard as ascending to heaven."

"Now, well! Just say a word to my treasure that excels at finding the 'Child of Fortune' [Seven Fragrant Car], and immediately, you were found."

"Mr. Duobao, do you have some regrets now, that back during the search for treasures in ancient ruins, you snatched the [Qiankun Treasure Boat] that I had in my grasp, only to discard this car in your eagerness to placate me."

"What's meant to be will be."

The last two sentences were clearly addressed to Duobao True Monarch.

The information was vast and obvious.

In the past, Duobao Daoist had explored ancient forbidden lands with this Elder of the Xiu Family. His master had relied on his Divine Skills in gathering treasures to forcefully snatch what was already in someone else's hands, and tossed them an ordinary item as compensation.

Now, this ordinary item turned out to help Xiu Zhonglin capture his apprentice, Duobao's.

When calculated carefully, it was indeed a huge loss.

"Master has set me up!"

Immediately, Tao Qian's resentful gaze fell once again on the token that was thrown out.

The Buddha Bird Relics that had already been taken out were silently put away.

Xiu Zhonglin!

A peer of Duobao True Monarch, from the Ultimate Happiness Realm.

Without fighting, he knew this was an existence akin to Kongchan Arhat, Taishang Demon Saint True Monarch Lingwa.

Let alone fighting, there was no escape.

Despite Tao Da True Master's defiance against heaven and earth, continuously antagonizing the Taishang Demon Sect, warlords, the Xiu Family, alchemists, and the likes, it all depended on external items and his own resourcefulness.

If it came down to fighting, Tao Qian of the Cavernous Mystery Realm dared to engage.

But the Ultimate Happiness Realm? Better to rest instead.

He could only hope that his master could drive away this powerful being with a mere word from afar.

Just as this thought flashed through Tao Qian's heart, Xiu Zhonglin suddenly reached out and took the token into his hand.

"Mr. Duobao, you and I have been acquainted for many years, Zhonglin is naturally aware of your talents in persuasion."

"Don't waste your effort, this nephew is even more capable than you were at his age, and I can't let him succeed in causing a fight between the Xiu Family and alchemists."

"If you seek revenge, feel free to come."

Having said that, Xiu Zhonglin did not wait for Duobao's reply, and immediately sealed the token by casting a spell.

When he threw it back into Tao Qian's arms, he also telekinetically fetched the Yuan Gong Statue.

Pretending to be an expert, he casually smiled at Tao Qian and then turned to address the Yuan Gong Statue:

"Who would have thought that Mr. Yuan Daoist would end up in such a state, only a Divine Thought remaining, clinging to this world, probably hoping to find a worthy successor for your swordsmanship."

"This nephew is indeed a rare Talent, but Daoist Brother, don't be deceived by Duobao."

"This nephew is cultivating the 'Scripture of Salvation,' and in the future might inherit Duobao's mantle. Teaching him your swordsmanship is like throwing a meat bun to a dog—gone without return?"

"Besides, this child is about to face calamity right now and might die... Why not do this, Mr. Yuan Daoist, follow me instead, and I, Xiu Zhonglin, will find a suitable disciple for you, and I will ensure you are satisfied."

Xiu Zhonglin did not intend to wait for Yuan Gong's reply after speaking, and directly sealed it.

Then, he was about to tuck it into his own bosom.

Tao Qian watched him, evidently not planning to search on himself for the Holy Embryo Bag or Buddha Bird Relics anymore.

With a turn of his eyes, he immediately guessed that this Elder of the Xiu Family must have overheard the argument between Yuan Gong and his master earlier, prompting this intervention.

Firstly, to prevent Tao Qian from seeking refuge in the Seven Ruins Cave Heaven, and secondly, to stop him from hastily agreeing to Yuan Gong's conditions.

"This old codger eavesdropping and blocking all my escape routes!"

"Nephew, are you secretly cursing me as an 'old codger'?"

Tao Qian looked up to see Xiu Zhonglin's annoying smile, his gaze seemingly able to see through people's hearts.

He didn't blame Tao Qian, but instead nodded in agreement:

"You should curse, although I am alleviating worries for the Xiu Family, my actions are indeed not honorable. So, nephew, go ahead and curse."

"But you should also sympathize with me. After your death, I, Xiu Zhonglin, will still have to face Mr. Duobao's wrath... In this world, no one dares say they can live well after being targeted by Mr. Duobao, nor can I, Xiu Zhonglin."

"It seems I might also die and go seeking you, how difficult."

"Nephew, you go first. Look, your true calamity has arrived...."

Upon finishing, Xiu Zhonglin, who was sitting on the Seven Fragrant Car, directly pointed ahead.

At the border of Anqing Province, atop hundreds of desolate mountains, under the sky, a sky-full of blood and flesh rushed forth.

Chapter 416: Transcendent and Exquisite, Entering the Daozhen, Immune to All Techniques with a Spiritual Treasure Body

A total of thirteen "giant beings" were entering Anqing.

They crowded together like a thick layer of flesh and blood mist, or a flesh tide, sweeping over from the edge of the sky, occasionally shedding some alien appendages, such as a piece of tentacle covered with fleshy buds and sharp teeth, a gaping blood maw supported by long whiskers, a segment of tail pulsing with phosphorescence, a cluster of insects buzzing, a fishing line with a hook at its end, baited and ready...

Such a scene immediately reminded Tao Qian of the true forms he had once seen inside the Mountain Gate, those of Wu Chao, Three Stars, Golden Silkworm, and other Uncles involved in the contest for the Absolute Immortal.

Massive, terrifying, mutated... and even more so.

It was fortunate that the border of Anqing was all barren hills and ravines where no vegetation grew, letting these monsters enter without causing any horrific casualties.

Having seen them, Tao Qian understood why Xiu Zhonglin had actively captured him to meet these flesh and blood descendants.

Aside from seeking reconciliation, he was probably also afraid that this group of crazy descendants would find an excuse to wreak havoc within Anqing Province, devouring one county here, destroying a city there, lawless and indulging to their heart's content.

Tao Qian also saw that the Xiu Family was by no means anything good; such actions, of course, were not out of concern for the lives of the common people, but rather they treated Anqing Province and its tens of millions of people as their own private property, meat fields, sheep pens, any such designation was fitting.

Since it was private property, of course, they could not tolerate any intrusion by others.

Xiu Zhonglin, still not feeling assured after successively cutting off Tao Qian's two escape paths, continued to maintain the Sealing Spirit Forbidden Technique on Tao Qian's body.

However, his expression had softened somewhat.

Driving the Seven Fragrant Car, they headed towards the tide of flesh and blood mist.

At the same time, he still had the leisure to introduce to Tao Qian each of the Ultimate Happiness Realm's flesh and blood offspring, their names and origins?

The tone of this Xiu Family Elder's speech oddly reminded Tao Qian of Bai Qin, but in terms of charisma and grace, Xiu Zhonglin was much higher; at first glance, one would never think this old man specialized in dirty deeds, but would rather think of him as a refined and cultured Cultivator from a noble family, like plum blossoms dancing in the wind, black mud paving the way, a green cow stepping on the white clouds, a fragrant car rolling over the sky, always good at putting on an act.

Xiu Zhonglin was all smiles as he first pointed to the first giant being, which seemed to be made up of two enormous mountains, composed of two completely different abnormal creatures stitched together, half dragon, half snake, the dragon part gleaming gold, the snake body dazzling, its entire body riddled with lumps as large as millstones, a pair of extremely long claws grew from its belly, reaching out from the clouds.

It was as if everything in the world could not escape its entanglement, its devouring.

"This is Daoist Huan Xiao, who was the Emperor of the Liu Dynasty that inherited the Magic Skill after the First Emperor died. Don't look at him now, in such a state, unable to recover his human form; back then, he was a diligent and enterprising Emperor under whose rule All People prospered and flourished."

"Ordinary Ultimate Happiness Realm Cultivators, even with extended lifespans, would not live past a thousand years if they do not attain the Dao, constantly worn down by major and minor calamities."

"Daoist Huan Xiao resided in his own Gao Zu Emperor's Secret Realm, enjoying longevity and an undying prime."

"Although much of his past wisdom has been eroded, his flesh is extremely tough, and even if Mr. Duobao came wielding the Heavenly Punishment Sword to strike it, he couldn't kill him at all."

Having introduced the dragon-snake monster, Xiu Zhonglin pointed to the next one.

Also from the Ultimate Happiness Realm, it was even more astonishing on the outside.

One could only see a massive clump of flesh approaching through the air, and upon closer inspection, it was rotting flesh mixed with skin and fur, slimy tentacles dripping with saliva, mouths, and twisted, gigantic sheep's hooves, and at the forefront, there was a colossal pitch-black sheep's head.

That eerie sheep face had rows upon rows of cold and violent crimson eyes, scanning both the sky and the earth.

"This is Daoist Sima, who was also once a mighty ruler but now wanders the world in this shape. Rumor has it he was fond of women, building a [Sheep God Temple] in the Secret Realm for his daily pleasures, often spreading skills like 'Sheep Saint's Enchanting God Skill' and 'Divine Sheep Scripture' in the Human World to select suitable furnaces for himself, likely harming at least tens of thousands of female cultivators over the years."

"This is Daoist Gao; look at him, rotten to the core, stinking to high heaven, nothing more than a pile of writhing maggots and rotten flesh, but little is known that he too once had brilliant talent, adept at manipulating hearts. Nowadays, he enjoys spreading the 'Jade Demon Scripture' in the Mortal World. It's said that a city in the Heavenly Fire Province to the west suffered his calamity, with over a hundred thousand people turning into jade carvings in one night, all plundered by him back to the Secret Realm for his enjoyment."

"This is Mr. Yang, speaking of carefree, speaking of freedom, although we are all from the Ultimate Happiness Realm, we don't compare to his distance. His methods of indulgence are so numerous, that even some absurd rulers from the Ancient Era cannot compete; his most acclaimed exploit: he reared

thousands of ethereal Heavenly Girls, often revealing traces of immortality in the Human World, seizing the opportunity to spread the 'Longevity Technique' among people – half Immortal Skill, half Martial Arts. Once cultivated, they all became slaves to Mr. Yang, at his mercy to slaughter."

...

"This Daoist Li, my nephew should be somewhat familiar with; his ancestor is none other than the renowned Elder Li Wanshou. In terms of Divine Power, Daoist Li is not as outstanding as his ancestor, but in terms of literature and art, chess, calligraphy, painting, and so on, Daoist Li is truly a role model for our kind. Although due to his bloodline, he has to adopt that smell of rotting fish, if you look closely at him, you can vaguely see the charm of his former human form."

"Speaking of which, my nephew needs to be smart when he falls into their hands. The other Daoists might think to take you back to the Alchemist Secret Realm for handling, but Daoist Li is likely to act directly and assassinate you."

Such an introduction was intricate.

Yet, it was nothing more than a few of Xiu Zhonglin's voice transmissions that took but a moment, and the two sides were already incredibly close.

Chapter 417: Transcendent and Unworldly, Entering Daozhen, Immune to All Techniques with a Spiritual Treasure Body\_2

Soon, the Xiu Family Elder had no choice but to wipe the smile from his face, becoming solemn and serious.

In total, thirteen Ultimate Happiness Realm powerhouses descended together.

It was as if a tidal surge of heavens and earth's oppressive powers were crashing down together, rendering Tao Qian speechless.

Even though he had not yet fallen into their clutches, Tao Qian felt like a decrepit little boat in the midst of a storm, liable to capsize at any moment.

Looking down, he saw rotten flesh, sheep hooves, snake scales, fish gills, maggots, and other such mutated signs appearing on his body.

At such a moment, one would think death was certain.

Tao Qian should be utterly terrified, loudly begging for mercy.

Xiu Zhonglin was indeed looking forward to such a scene.

He certainly had an elegant demeanor, but his mind was dirty, extremely eager to watch a member of the Spirit Treasure Sect, a talent who had just achieved a great feat and whose background was extraordinary, reveal his most pitiful side.

Unfortunately, his malicious wish was destined to be unfulfilled.

At some point, Tao Qian's face had lost that look of wandering fear; there was not even a hint of helplessness.

It seemed as if he had come to a realization, and his expression gradually relaxed.

Even while bearing the thirteen surges of chaotic, contaminated energy, he stared directly at the thirteen behemoths' indescribable true forms.

Under Xiu Zhonglin's baffled gaze, Tao Qian suddenly opened his mouth and began casting.

After being sealed by the Sealing Spirit Forbidden Technique, none of his other magic skills could be activated.

Only the "True Word Secret Decree" ignored the seal.

But when Tao Qian used this technique, it was not to escape the predicament, but to verify something.

"This tribulation is a false one, I shall remain unharmed."

As soon as the words were spoken, there was no reaction.

Yet, a look of surprise and joy immediately appeared on Tao Qian's face.

The reason?

The Secret Decree followed a principle of equivalent exchange; if this tribulation were real, Tao Qian would have suffered severe injuries upon uttering that sentence.

But if it were false, there would naturally be no cost at all.

"Ever since leaving Demon City, I have overcome three tribulations. With the profound mystery of the Spirit Treasure Unlimited Tribulation Crossing Technique, now should be the time for me to reap the benefits. How could there be a new tribulation to come for me?"

"If that is the case, there must be a solution to this dangerous predicament before me, but what is it?"

"Previously, Yuan Gong had reminded me, and my master is scheming as well... but facing such a situation, even if he came wielding the Heavenly Punishment Sword, it would probably be of no use...unless..."

Just as Tao Qian pondered to this point, a change took place within him.

A spark of Spirit Light appeared, surging from his inner cosmos that tumbled with the elements of earth, water, fire, and wind, fostering the profound truth of the Spiritual Treasure.

This Spirit Light was all too familiar to Tao Qian.

When the Ancestor Master passed down his teachings, besides being taught the "Scripture of Salvation," Tao Qian had received an even greater boon.

Back then, Tao Qian had inwardly criticized his Ancestor Master for being cryptic. Yet he hadn't expected its relevance to be revealed here.

Innate Spiritual Treasure Divine Light!

"So that's how it is."

"My master must have foreseen this incident, deliberately quarreled with Yuan Gong, simply to trap Xiu Zhonglin once again, and incidentally eliminate some of the lingering troubles after my cultivation tribulation,"

Having said this, Tao Qian's face instantly revealed a smile.

Whether it was the Sealing Spirit Forbidden Technique or the Ultimate Happiness Realm pollution, in the face of that Spirit Light that steadily expanded, enveloping Tao Qian's body from inside out, they were as inconsequential as clay chickens and pottery dogs, utterly ineffective.

Tao Qian sat cross-legged in his Seven Fragrant Car, looking around at his surroundings, and felt an inexplicable sense of invincibility.

Fortune comes to a joyous heart!

Before leaving, Tao Qian too experienced a moment of mischief, brewing some schemes in his mind.

He gave Xiu Zhonglin a mysterious smile, leaned in, and whispered:

"I once encountered an old predecessor like you with a hypocritical demeanor. Your esteemed self, being so well-learned, must surely know of him: the esteemed monk Bai Qin of the Great Freedom Temple."

"Back in Southern Yue, Elder Bai Qin also boasted before me, but in the end, he achieved nothing, meeting a death that wiped away his path."

"Now, the fortune and blessings upon me far exceed Southern Yue. Predecessor, you insisted on troubling me, I fear you too will face adversity."

Taken aback by this sudden curse, Xiu Zhonglin hesitated.

Realizing something was wrong, he was about to take harsh action.

But just at that moment, a Divine Light appeared before him.

Ziyan smoke spiraled up, and radiance shone like jade. The Spirit Light first knocked him staggering and then snatched back the Yuan Gong Statue from his grasp.

Then, a wildly joyous laugh echoed through the heavens.

"Hahaha... Thanks to Master Xiu for drawing these brainless fools, the Mutated Blood Beasts, to this place."

"This desolate land is perfect for my actions."

Before the laughter faded, the shocking Spirit Light leaped up suddenly.

In a moment, it turned into a speeding comet-like purple moon, charging towards the thirteen Cultivation Tribulation Fallen Cultivators of the Ultimate Happiness Realm gathered together.

With neither sound nor warning, wails filled the air.

The dense pollution and substantial tide of flesh were blasted with a big hole, utterly unstoppable and breaking through with ease.

Having firmly pinned the blame, the Spirit Light did not linger for battle, dragging Tao Qian away and instantly leaving Anqing behind.

On the Seven Fragrant Car behind him, Xiu Zhonglin's expression drastically changed.

In a single breath, he unleashed over a dozen Divine Powers at Tao Qian, but not one seemed to affect him.

Even his divination and predictions were clouded in fog.

Telling the Seven Fragrant Car to chase, the treasures that had previously been pinpoint accurate were now being pulled in circles on the spot by the green ox, trampling the muddy plum blossoms into a complete mess, without a trace of their former elegance.

"Immune to All Techniques!"

"Oh no, it's the Spirit Treasure Divine Light. How is this possible?"

"What is the origin of this child, to be protected by Lingbao Tianzun?"

As Xiu Zhonglin yelled in alarm,

The truly dire consequences arrived.

The thirteen Ultimate Happiness Realm monsters sent by the Alchemists, although none perished when hit by the Divine Light, found one severely injured and four affected by it.

In their previous lives, they were all exceptional individuals, all leaders.

Now mutated and fallen, their minds were hardly functioning correctly.

Chapter 418: Transcendent and Unworldly, Entering Daozhen, Immune to All Techniques with a Spiritual Treasure Body\_3

He wouldn't seek to vent his frustrations on Tao Qian, but he knew to take his anger out on the cultivator before him.

"Xiu Zhonglin!"

"The Xiu Family has some nerve, starting a war."

"Kill! Exterminate the Xiu Family!"

"Such wild ambition, they deserve death."

...

Wrapped in Divine Light, Tao Qian had thought he would return to Penglai Sea all the way.

But, that was not the case.

It was night by then, with the bright moon hanging high.

The speck of Spirit Light carrying Tao Qian had not sought a Cave Heaven Blessed Land, nor entered a mortal city, but instead ascended into the clouds, hanging directly in the sky, naturally blending into the starlight all around.

As if Master Tao naturally belonged in that place in the sky.

Tao Qian had no time to think when the Divine Light flashed, and the changes within him reached their peak.

It was as much a Record as it was his own inspiration leaping out:

The time has come!

It was time to ascend!

Starting from his Primordial Spirit, scenes after scenes surged forth. Tao Qian had thought it would start from the moment he set foot in Demon City, but it was truly "from the very beginning".

The first scene that emerged was when Tao Qian was born into this world, the original scene of him nearly being beheaded... followed by overcoming the tribulation in Southern Yue... the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate... trials in Demon City... and finally, the All People, the scenes after Tao Qian abolished the imperial title, handed down from the Ancestor Spirit, of countless civilians cheering within the vast territory of the seventy-two provinces.

Amidst this euphoria, overwhelming Fortune completely submerged Tao Qian.

He had built his Dao Foundation on the roots of the Miraculous Tree Venerable, gained immense mana, and sealed his Taoist Body with the Taishang Treasure No-leak Body, making the breakthrough into Transcend Mortality extremely difficult.

Once broken through, however, he could leap to possess Immortal Mana far beyond his peers.

Difficult?

It should have been. Tao Qian should have spent decades, or even hundreds of years, slowly unlocking the No-leak Body.

But now, as the overwhelming Fortune started to surge upward with a profound Spiritual Resonance, beginning to push through the barriers.

Any obstacle ahead was instantaneously overcome.

The long-sealed Taishang No Leaking Body was now completely unlocked.

Various sublime truths gushed out like a fountain, overwhelming Tao Qian's body, spirit, and soul.

At this moment, there was only one feeling – exhilaration.

No "pleasure" or "joy" in the world could compare to this moment.

Tao Qian offered no resistance and immediately immersed himself in it.

The Transcend Mortality Realm, broken in an instant.

The stages of Spiritual Shedding, Feather Transformation, Ascension, broken in an instant too.

This was transcendence into true Dao, a Spirit Treasure Body immune to All Techniques.

The roaring tide eventually left his realm just before the Cavernous Mystery.

At the same time, Tao Qian's mind also conjured Spiritual Resonance.

"It's not that Fortune cannot break through the Cavernous Mystery Realm, but that it's too violent and might leave consequences."

"The Fortune from overcoming my Third Cultivation Tribulation is unparalleled in the Cultivation World, a 'treasure medicine' that could easily push me into the Cavernous Mystery Realm."

"But the Sublime Dharma is profound and leaves room for nuance, a gentle and steady progression is the best strategy."

"After breaking through, even without cultivating, my cultivation level will continue to grow every moment. After a period of time, naturally entering the Cavernous Mystery and after diligently cultivating for some years, I can easily advance to the Ultimate Happiness Realm... Uncle Qin Jiao must have had a similar experience, though perhaps not as smooth and enjoyable as mine."

As these joyful thoughts settled, Tao Qian came back to his senses.

On one hand, he felt the boundless mana within his body of the Transcend Mortality Realm, already completely surpassing Brother Xu Xuun, Brother Yang Jie, Sister Golden Crow, and his other peers still in the Transcend Mortality Realm, even a bit more profound than ordinary Cavernous Mystery cultivators.

On the other hand, he also looked at the Records he hadn't had the chance to review before.

These were the real benefits of a disciple from a Great Sect, which also included one advantage that had relieved a great burden from Tao Qian's heart when he overcame his Second Cultivation Tribulation.

"[By overcoming the Second Cultivation Tribulation, I've gained... the Spirit Treasure Unlimited Gold Que Dao Divine Chapter.]"

"[By overcoming the Third Cultivation Tribulation, I've gained... the Spirit Treasure True Man Named Commanding God Talisman.]"

"[By ascending to the Transcend Mortality Realm, I've gained... the Spirit Treasure Disaster Relief Life Protection Scripture.]"

"[By breaking through Spiritual Shedding, Feather Transformation, Ascension simultaneously, I've gained the Magic to Communicate with Ghost, Drive God, Sword Control.]"

...

Tao Qian skimmed over the latter three Magical Techniques.

Apart from the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body and the tremendous mana gained after the Transcend Mortality Realm, the first three benefits were what truly made Tao Qian feel: "This time, I've struck it big."

Just the first one was not some Divine Power.

It was a Sublime object belonging to the Treasure Sect, something that, if it were to spread within the Sect, even Brother Xu Xun would probably not care about losing face to fight for it.

Tao Qian had previously worried about owing a great debt to his Heavenly Venerate, with few options other than selling himself.

But unexpectedly, the turnaround came just like that.

Chapter 419: All 72 Provinces Become Independent, Wise Men Jointly Govern the World

Stars and moon shone together, and Tao Qian, who was suspended in the sky, was smiling excitedly as he rubbed his hands together, tallying up his gains.

First, he formed a Dao Seal, and instantly a flickering Divine Light gathered in front of him, swiftly solidifying into a page of Golden Seal suffused with Xuanhuang energy.

This Golden Seal, inherently emanating mist and radiance, sparkled with spiritual essence, seemingly like the very foundation of creation, the essence of deities, and the source of heaven and earth.

If one looked closely, within the curtain of the seven treasures, one could vaguely see an Innate Divine Being sitting cross-legged.

"This object," he declared, "is the 'Spirit Treasure Unlimited Gold Que Dao Divine Chapter.'"

"Purely condensed from the essence of Spirit Treasure Immortal Spirit and recognized by the Heavenly Venerate, it's an unparalleled treasure for the disciples of the Spirit Treasure Sect."

"Having this, chant the name of the Heavenly Venerate three times, and instantly, one may acquire great magical power."

"It's not an exaggeration to say that a Transcend Mortality disciple possessing it could challenge a Cavernous Mystery, and a Cavernous Mystery Elder holding it could preserve his life in front of a Cultivator from the Ultimate Happiness Realm... The Heavenly Venerate rewarding me with this treasure indeed seems like my wailing about the debt had an effect — could my past debts be written off if I spend it?"

"However, consuming such a treasure lightly would surely be a waste."

"Better to keep it as a safety net for now. If it remains unused by the time I need to ascend to Cavernous Mystery, then perhaps I could use it to repay the debts?"

At this thought, even Tao Qian himself felt that his own cheek was rather thick.

Although there is a saying, 'The debtor is the boss,' suggesting that the more one owes, the more the Spirit Treasure Heavenly Venerate might look after his favored True Inheritor.

But can reality really work that way? It's just too shameless.

Moderation is key, moderation is key indeed.

"Heavenly Venerate above, your disciple knows the proprieties best."

"This bestowed treasure will ensure that your disciple may ascend to the Cavernous Mystery Realm without any obstacles in the future, all thanks to the Heavenly Venerate's care."

"From now on, your disciple will stop being reckless and borrowing mana."

Tao Qian made a deep bow from afar, making a promise he himself hardly believed.

Then he chanted the name of the Heavenly Venerate three times, and the next moment, purple smoke billowed and the Golden Seal was consumed in an instant.

In that instant, Tao Qian's Spirit Treasure Sublime Body, already exhilarated, relaxed even further.

A surge of happiness greater than ever before swept over him.

A sensation faintly transmitted: The mana borrowed for the Spirit Treasure Returning Immortal Technique in the past was all mitigated.

There will be no impediments to cultivation, the moment is ripe, and entry into Cavernous Mystery is instantaneous.

"No debt, a light body!"

"Hmm, indeed, the truth does not deceive me."

Tao Qian sighed twice, then formed another seal.

Instantly in his mind appeared an expansive Void Divine Talisman, intricate and complex, surrounded by Spirit Treasure Divine Light, generating marvelous effects on its own.

"Spirit Treasure Quasi-True Person Named Imperial Decree Divine Talisman!"

"This object is even more wondrous; in short, it's a 'Summoning Talisman' that will unquestionably take effect, and the summoned cannot refuse."

"There are many Named True Persons within the Spirit Treasure Sect; using this talisman, one can summon a specific Spirit Treasure True Person for assistance."

"Of course, its usage comes at a cost."

"One must provide a tribute as compensation; mere words will summon no one, and one might even earn a scolding or two."

"Hmm? This talisman can clearly also work on my Master and Master Ma Yi among others; let's see what tribute is required to summon them?"

With this thought, Tao Qian immediately made a mental inquiry towards the talisman.

In the next moment, the talisman vibrated, and the required tribute for summoning Master Ma Yi immediately appeared in Tao Qian's mind.

Surprisingly, it wasn't complicated—only one type of item was needed: presenting spiritual objects totaling nine thousand years of longevity.

This condition immediately perked up Tao Qian.

"Nine thousand years of longevity? Do my peaches count? Harvesting batch after batch, and after a few years, I could pile them up as a tribute, and easily gather nine thousand years."

"Although the cost is extremely high, that's Master Ma Yi."

"Judging from the existing performance, formidable beings from the Ultimate Happiness Realm like Kongchan Arhat, Lingwa Master, and Xiu Zhonglin probably seem like mere juniors before Master Ma Yi."

"Spending a few years' harvest from the Peach Garden to invite Master's intervention is more than worthwhile."

"Fantastic treasure!"

Tao Qian thought happily, and then he queried what tribute would be needed to summon his own Master.

The talisman vibrated again, and the answer poured in for a full moment; the multitude of treasures and spiritual materials needed left Tao Qian dumbfounded.

After looking over it, he muttered to himself, "It can only be said, worthy of my Master, inviting him out might simply be impossible."

Tao Qian didn't bother to inquire about the costs of summoning ancestors from the second generation, knowing full well it would be futile to even ask.

His attention then shifted to the "Spirit Treasure Disaster Relief Life Protection Scripture."

As the name suggests, this was a life-saving scripture.

Should one face an unstoppable calamity or tribulation, reciting this scripture would connect to the Heavenly Venerate and ancestors for disaster relief and life protection.

As for whether it would succeed?

There was no guarantee—it all depended on the sincerity of the heart.

Tao Qian glanced at it and chuckled; this was something Great Master Tao was familiar with, as he had often cried out for the Heavenly Venerate to save him during battles or disasters.

Only this time, it might actually work.

Though there was only one chance!

The scripture, once chanted, would be instantly forgotten.

After going through these three significant benefits, Tao Qian turned his attention back to himself.

"Communication with Ghosts, Drive God, Sword Control; as the names suggest, these are techniques for conversing with ghosts and deities, commanding divine spirits, and the Swordsmanship of the Spirit Treasure Sect, along with 'Sweet Rain,' 'Qingfeng,' and other techniques are common spells that any disciple of the Spirit Treasure Sect can easily learn, but I don't need to spend time learning; I automatically know them."

"But it seems my Transcend Mortality Sublime Body, apart from being immune to all techniques, impervious to water and fire, and so on, has some special abilities."

"Perhaps because I chose the Third Method for my Cultivation Tribulation?"

While speaking, Tao Qian subconsciously touched his own ears, mouth, eyes, belly, and so on.

Chapter 420: All 72 Provinces are Independent, Wise Ones Jointly Govern the World Together\_2

Almost simultaneously, Record and sensing emerged together.

Tao Qian quickly came to know what these "Special Abilities" were.

It was precisely the unusual features—such as the long ears, double teeth, Big Belly, Dragon Face, double pupils, and so on—that had emerged during his Cultivation Tribulation and had, under the washing of the tribulation energy, merged into Tao Qian's treasure body after his Transcend Mortality, endowing him with several special abilities all at once.

For instance, with those long ears, even without Tao Qian casting any spells, merely by listening attentively, he could hear the faintest sounds from miles away, or even hundreds of miles away.

Then there were the double teeth, which would cause Tao Qian's tongue and teeth to exude a natural,

Qingjing fragrance, meaning that even without utilizing any Decree Demon or invoking the True Word Secret Decree, he could make many Mortals involuntarily obey his commands, though it was more difficult with Cultivators, unless he paid a hefty price.

The effects of Big Belly, Dragon Face, double pupils, and so on were similar.

That is to say, Tao Qian at this moment,

Even if he did not use any mana, merely relying on his body's Special Abilities, could easily pass as an Immortal in the Mortal World.

And if he were to add mana on top of that, his Power would increase dramatically.

"Sharp-Hearing Ear, Thousand-Mile Eye, Inner World... Sounds quite similar to those Immortals and strange persons in the mythological legends."

"Indeed, somewhat akin to the Buddhist 'Thirty-two Forms,' or the Innate Divine Power like the one possessed by Brother Yang Jie, only mine emerged from the washing of the postnatal tribulation energy."

"Nevertheless, it's an unexpected blessing."

"Now that I'm at the Perfect Transcend Mortality, and the richness of my mana could compare with the ordinary Cultivators of the Cavernous Mystery Realm, coupled with these Special Divine Skills and my Spirit Treasure Sublime Body, even without the use of Buddha Bird Relics, Holy Embryo Bag, Nine Toad Bead, and other Exotic Treasures, I can engage in battle with those Independent Cultivators of Cave Profound, and perhaps even triumph over them."

"If I were to also rely on external objects, tsk tsk, I dare not imagine."

"The Third Method Cultivation Tribulation is terrifying as such."

"No wonder Uncle Qin Jiao, in the end, became addicted and refused to return to the Sect for further Cultivation."

"I, however, am different, a coward through and through. After wandering for so long, I should return to Ascending Immortal Island to recuperate for some time."

"It's time for 'the wind sweeping across worldly society and the darkening of the rustic village; the surrounding mountains roaring like ocean waves, the fire from the brook's firewood softly warming the barbarian felt mats, where I and Kitten won't leave the door.'"

Muttering to himself, Tao Qian unconsciously quoted someone else's poetry.

He rather obscurely expressed his desire to return to the Penglai Sea for a period of happy and leisurely life, indulging in cat stroking.

Talk is cheap, and he was about to act.

However, Tao Qian quickly realized he could not.

This Innate Spiritual Treasure Divine Light that had saved his life and also suspended him in the sky clearly had its own intentions.

Tao Qian wanted to move, but it remained still.

Even after he sensed something was wrong and repeatedly called out to the Heavenly Venerate, or tried to communicate with the Divine Light through spellcasting, all his struggles were in vain.

The Divine Light simply enveloped him, keeping him suspended in the sky.

Immediately, Tao Qian's expression changed.

"Why is this happening? The price for using this Innate Spiritual Treasure Divine Light?"

"What kind of strange price is this? Making me a Heavenly Lantern? How long must I stay lit?"

Initially panicking for a moment, Tao Qian soon noticed a clue.

It was still the Human Dao Fortune!

He had already accepted a considerable amount of Fortune, transforming it into treasure medicine, which helped him easily break through the Transcend Mortality barrier.

Normally, it should have stopped by now.

Like in Southern Yue, it was just a surge akin to a wild tide, and then it ceased.

Yet as Tao Qian hung in the sky, every some time, more Fortune would gather towards him.

He struggled to no avail, and by the time dawn arrived, another surge of tremendous Fortune came rushing in. As Tao Qian accepted it, he also saw the information within the Fortune and understood the reason in an instant.

"The events that transpired in Demon City and Yang Sui had been explosively spread throughout the world. Especially when Heavenly Destiny Emperor Zhu Yong announced his abdication and the abolishment of the imperial title, revealing the Alchemist Organization's acts of prostrating themselves to the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty to leech off after the Emperor's death, it completely plunged the tens of billions of people in the seventy-two provinces into extreme fury."

"At that moment, in Xiangxi and Ancient Qin provinces, the populace's awareness grew. In the past few hours, they organized rebel armies, overthrew the government offices of both provinces, and Zhang Jiudeng and Cai Yuanshen, the two Great Governors conferred by the court, fled. The former even turned to cooperate with the rebel army."

"Both provinces declared today, at the hour of 7am to 9am, their complete secession from court governance, no longer recognizing the Zhu Dynasty, let alone the national title of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty. Rejecting the imperial system, they temporarily adopted a 'collective governance by the wise' model."

"The civilians from the two provinces have exceeded the number of one hundred million, all of whom are jubilant and inspired."

...

Along with this news came the faces of common folk and the scenes akin to celebrations in every city within the two provinces.

It was these scenes that gave rise to another tremendous wave of fortune, which then divided into numerous portions, flowing toward different individuals.

Tao Qian naturally received the largest share.

Receiving this great gift, Tao Qian faintly understood why the Divine Light remained hung in the sky above, not allowing him to leave the territories of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty.

"The gains from my third tribulation haven't ended yet."

"No, it could even be said that they have just begun."

"My method of transcending the tribulation was somewhat crude, inspired by my previous life, I see it as normal development."

"But in this world, it might indeed be the first of its kind in two thousand years, utterly unique, even if the Alchemist Organization will do everything in its power to stop it, to mitigate its impact."

"Regrettably, it's probably too late now."

"Xiangxi, Ancient Qin, two provinces, perhaps, are they just a beginning?"

Tao Qian muttered this, sensing a premonition.

And this premonition soon began to turn into reality at an alarming rate.

The territories of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty were much larger than in his previous life, but one should also know that this world was not free of demons.

In this world, the transcendent was everywhere.

Accordingly, the means of communication were also much faster than in his previous life.

About six hours later, Tao Qian, hanging in the sky, received another tremendous wave of fortune, still attached with that Record-like message.

"Inside Sanjin Province, there is a secret society called the Great Unity Society, formed by a group of young cultivator heroes, each with impressive backgrounds, belonging to different sects of Daoist and Buddhist, demon, and herodox paths within Jin Province. The leader's surname is Yan, hailing from the Buddhist Temple 'Hanging Temple'; he is disillusioned and audacious in his ambitions."

"Following the spread of Yang Sui's uprising, he rallied the other heroes of the Great Unity Society, launching a surprise attack on the Governor Mansion in the provincial capital, using a Buddhist Array, the Demon Extinguishing Vajra Array, to kill the Governor surnamed Lu, sent by the court to keep order, on the spot."

"After seizing the Governor Mansion, the Great Unity Society rallied a million civilians within the province, seeking aid from various major sects. With the irrefutable will of all people, the sects had no choice but to respond... With this, the Great Unity Society completely took control of Sanjin Province."

"Following Xiangxi and Ancient Qin provinces, Jin Province also announced its independence to the nation, no longer recognizing the imperial title and government."

"The province's governance will adopt the Great Unity Society model, drawing upon the ancient sages' idea of 'great unity under heaven'."

When this news spread across the world, the fervor added another flame.

However, Tao Qian, after sharing the fortune with that group of cultivator heroes of the Great Unity Society, discerned something else.

But for the moment, Tao Qian couldn't tell whether it was a blessing or a curse.

"From the fortune, one may glimpse that the court originally had very successful control over Sanjin Province, one of the few large provinces not ravaged by rebel armies. Major sects like Hanging Temple, Five Blessings Sect, Taihao Sect, Red Crown Mountain, and others were unable to meddle in secular affairs. This was not due to a lack of power, but rather a kind of tacit agreement, a sort of invisible covenant."

"Yet the cultivator heroes from the Great Unity Society, born within these sects, used public opinion and a roundabout strategy to break this covenant."

"If Jin Province can do it, couldn't other provinces also follow suit?"

Shortly after this thought arose in Tao Qian, it once again became a reality.

Three hours!

Just three hours later, Tao Qian once more received a tremendous wave of fortune.

"After learning the true nature of the Yang Sui Uprising, the Great Governor of Yundian Province, Lu Qianjun, announced to the nation again, declaring the complete independence of Yundian."

"Not only refusing the government's jurisdiction, declining to recognize the imperial government, but also explicitly stating that no members of the Zhu Royal Family and any other former imperial families are welcome to enter Yundian."

"Lu Qianjun acted personally, executing a strategist named 'Emperor Bai Guang', one of the Alchemist Organization's Saint Heirs, who attempted to bewitch Lu Qianjun into restoring the imperial government and reviving the title of Longevity Heavenly Dynasty."

"To prevent retaliation from alchemists against himself and the people of Yundian, Lu Qianjun ventured deep into the mountains to invite the reclusive sect the 'Illusion God Sect'. Despite belonging to heterodox paths, this sect's foundation dates back very early, and its ancestor even reached the Realm of Tribulation Immortal, practicing both Daoism and Buddhism."

"Lu Qianjun announced that from this day forward within Yundian Province, the Cultivation World would belong to cultivators, and the Mortal World to the secular; anyone who crosses these boundaries will be executed without mercy."