

Longevity 431

Chapter 431 - Talents from All Sides Gather in Gao City, Demon Flesh as Provisions_2

After reading these, Tao Qian had some guesses about the intentions of these four groups of people.

There couldn't be any accidents; these four groups must have all come for the "Ancestor God Treasure" hidden in Gao Ren City, now in his hands.

The Alchemist Gao Family had taken the lead, but other Great Sects, as well as these Hidden Dragons and True Dragons striving for power, had no reason not to make some estimations.

Right now!

Throughout the seventy-two provinces, those searching for the Ancestor God Treasure were probably everywhere.

Yang Tingjian and Li Fulian were respectively supporting Si Xixin and Zhang Mazi, these two Hidden Dragons.

It seemed likely that Xie Lingzhu would be no exception: the Xie Family, Guanyin Temple... With just a thought from Tao Qian, another name automatically leaped into his mind.

"Yuan Mingzhen!"

"It seems that the downfall of the Zhu Royal Family has not caused any trouble for this Devil Concubine with the Hidden Dragon Heavenly Phoenix Destiny."

"Even, it might have been a boost—this woman might have already become the new master of Imperial City, right?"

After muttering to himself, Tao Qian quickly looked towards the last cluster of information.

He was fine not looking, but once he did, he couldn't help showing a look of surprise on his face.

"From the southern city, only two people came, one in Cavernous Mystery, one in Transcend Mortality."

"Having checked against the Primordial Human Record, their identities are confirmed."

"Zhong Ziyang, one of the True Disciples of Taishang Dao, has already entered the world."

"This man is a talented recruit who was originally an Alchemist from the medical lineage of the Zhong Family, later meeting an extremely high-ranking Elder in Taishang Dao who allowed him to bring his arts and take discipleship. Precisely because he has cultivated both the Taishang Dao and medical magic skills and walked the world for a year, affected by the corrupt world and the people's immersion in pain with no salvation, he publically vowed: If the world is not at peace, the people are not at ease, he shall never return to his sect."

"The Taishang Dao Method is no ordinary matter; not making a vow is one thing, but once a vow is made, it must be fulfilled."

"Because of that vow and the number of civilians he has saved in his life, he has been favored by Human Dao Fortune. Assisted by the Taishang Skill, he easily found a True Dragon, Ying Qingdi."

"Rumor has it Ying Qingdi is a descendant of the Ying Family, after the demise of the Ancestor Emperor their clan dissolved, and their bloodline descendants scattered across the seventy-two provinces, with authenticity hard to discern. In towns and Fan City, many claimed to be descendants of Ying's Family, most being impostors."

"A Hidden Cultivator from the Primordial Sect confirmed through a divination: Ying Qingdi indeed has the bloodline of the Ancestor Emperor."

"Once this was confirmed, coupled with the talent that Ying Qingdi displayed, within a matter of months, including Zhong Ziyang, many more True Inheritors from Great Sects and even Elders joined the ranks of cultivators going to offer their services... Although still a nobody within the seventy-two provinces nationally, he has now caught the attention of Daoist, Buddhist, Demon, and Devil factions."

"The Primordial Human Record assessed that Ying Qingdi is also one of the Hidden Dragons, at the top echelon. As of the upheaval in Demon City, he has been ranked number one in the record."

"The National Salvation Congress has decided to send comrade Yu Yanshi to negotiate a potential cooperation."

...

When Tao Qian read up to this point, he inexplicably felt something.

The Human Dao Destiny surging within him was also confirming this feeling.

This was truly the era of grand contention.

Si Xixin, Zhang Mazi, Yuan Mingzhen, Ying Qingdi... these people will soon be vying for the world under the impetus of various powers.

And he, Master Tao, although what he had done previously seemed quite shocking in both process and outcome,

When zoomed out to the entire Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, it lost its dominance.

At least, he didn't have many major forces betting on him in union.

"Looking back, it turns out that my role, by speaking through Heavenly Destiny Emperor Zhu Yong and starting the Yang Sui Uprising, abolishing the national title and imperial system, had been that of an opener."

"Although I trapped the Alchemists and led to huge changes in the seventy-two provinces, I'm still just a Spirit Treasure Cultivator on my own, commanding but a few big and small cats, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to call myself a bare pole commander."

"And these Talents and Hidden Dragons, not only do they come from terrifying backgrounds, they also have large armies, territories, and the backing of many Great Sects."

"In the days to come, the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty will probably experience a long period of tumultuous upheaval, truly chaotic, and also truly fascinating... One of them will eventually reunite the seventy-two provinces and establish a new dynasty; if they really achieve this, they will have accomplishments comparable to the Ancestor Emperor."

"It seems reasonable, no wonder each of them has sent people out, searching far and wide for the Ancestor God Treasure."

"The Nine States' Twelve Treasures must be the second treasure to have appeared after the 'Mountain and River Map'; thus, this little Gao Ren City has suddenly attracted so many Talents, and perhaps the other Eleven Artifacts are also such lively scenes."

These thoughts, though complex, seemed to take a long time.

In reality, not even a few breaths had passed.

Tao Qian even had the luxury to consider whether or not to let Lian Jing'er transfer all the records and evaluations of Hidden Dragons and True Dragons from the "Primordial Human Record" to satisfy his own curiosity.

But on further reflection, these were temporarily irrelevant to him, Master Tao.

Even without the influence of the "Nine Toad Bead," Tao Qian had no desire to compete for the Central Plains.

In some ways, Tao Qian and his disciple Duobao were quite alike:

Lazy, sly.

Even if placed in that position, they were unlikely to fit the part.

As these thoughts reached this point, Tao Qian suddenly looked towards the two hundred thousand disaster victims within Gao Ren City.

He had killed the people of the Gao Family very gladly.

But wrapping things up was a conundrum.

He had no idea how to deal with these two hundred thousand people.

Leaving them in the city was definitely not an option. Once the news of him slaughtering the Gao Wan family spread, the Gao Family would surely send people. It wouldn't be surprising if that "Gao Zhan" from the Ultimate Happiness Realm came personally.

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By that time, it wouldn't just be two hundred thousand people, perhaps even two million could be slaughtered by Gao Zhan to accompany his grandson in death.

But if we're talking about taking them away, Tao Qian would also find it difficult.

Surely he couldn't just pack them all into the Holy Embryo Bag and take them back to the Mountain Gate, could he?

Ascending Immortal Island could indeed accommodate so many people.

But what about sustaining them?

Even with the Valley God Gui, it might work for a day or two, perhaps even months, or possibly years, but as time went on and the population grew like a rolling snowball, eventually Master Tao would be overwhelmed.

Besides, he had no desire to become Emperor, nor to vie for the Central Plains; why would he want to care for so many mortals?

Previously, Tao Qian had been worrying about these issues.

But now, it was as if he had thought of something, and the furrowed brows suddenly relaxed.

"These people from all around, they've actually come at the right time."

"Putting on the armor, I, too, can indulge in the whim of an 'idle expert', while conveniently offloading this burden."

"Fortunately, it seems the patrons behind these four teams are all reliable, not the likes of Zhu Qi or Zhang Jiudeng who are just there to make up the numbers. Even Zhang Mazi, whose reputation is the worst, is said to run his territory well in both order and living standards; twenty thousand souls could be entrusted to him."

"But who to give them to, will still depend on the sincerity of these four parties."

Muttering to himself, Tao Qian made his move.

First, he asked Lian Jing'er, Little Age, Shan Jiu, and Yunrong to return to the Holy Embryo Bag.

Then he had the various Demons retreat into the Demon Gourd.

He also sheathed the Red Dust Sin Sword in his hand and dispelled the Sword Intent and killing intent from his body.

During the Demon City incident, although their actions were rather covert and did not attract too much attention, they were certainly noticed by those with intent.

Notably, after "Xiu Zhonglin's" loud proclamation, the entire Cultivation World now knew:

The disciple Duobao True Monarch brought back from Southern Yue quickly became the Spirit Treasure True Inheritor, then went to Demon City to stir up trouble, sequentially making a fool of Taishang Demon Sect, Demon Buddha Temple, Zhang Jiudeng, Alchemists, the Xiu Family, and many other major forces.

Following the great disaster in Southern Yue, he then caused the Demon City incident, and even more so, was behind the "Yang Sui Uprising," an event unseen for over two thousand years.

It could even be said that the current situation of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty was entirely carved out by Tao Qian himself.

The title "First Heavenly Pride of Daoist" might be pretentious, but indeed, many acknowledged it.

Tao Qian was actually very aware of his own fame.

During the nine days he hung the Heavenly Lantern, he grew tired of hearing the name "Tao Qian."

Naturally, he was also very aware that the many traits associated with him had spread throughout the land.

A little carelessness could expose his identity.

If that were to happen, he wouldn't be dealing with offloading a burden anymore; he would be hunted to death.

Alchemists, Great Freedom Temple, Demon Buddha Temple, the Xiu Family, Taishang Demon Sect, Evil Sect... tsk tsk, just thinking about his list of adversaries made Tao Qian shiver without cold, let alone the part that involved his Master, which would probably be even longer.

"Keep a low profile, low profile indeed."

In a moment, Tao Qian concealed all traces of his distinctive features.

Fortunately, he had never revealed his true form in front of the two hundred thousand people before, only appearing as a shadowy figure of an expert. This made it convenient for him to act now.

Before deploying the Secret Demon Transformation Technique, a figure that had already fallen and disintegrated flashed through Tao Qian's mind.

The next moment!

A figure appeared atop the mountain of corpses with a flash of light.

It was a middle-aged man, unassuming in appearance, full of vicissitudes, not too tall or too short, wearing a tattered green shirt, with short hair half black and half white, looking partly like an old farmer and partly like a scholar.

"Ancestor Spirit Daoist!"

"I'm borrowing your body to do some good deeds; surely you won't mind."

While speaking, Tao Qian seemed totally oblivious to the uninvited guests entering the city gates from all four directions.

Holding the Valley God Gui with one hand, he walked down step by step.

During the process, all flesh in Gao Ren City, as if called and attracted, simultaneously flew into the Valley God Gui.

Within moments, the city's putrid blood and filth completely vanished.

Accompanied by an incredibly dazzling array of lights, an intense aroma of grains, tempting to the taste and causing stomachs to grumble, began to waft from the Valley God Gui.

When Yang Tingjian, Li Fulian, Xie Lingzhu, and Zhong Ziyang led their people into the city and saw this scene for the first time, their eyes were captivated.

They watched as the cultivator, half old farmer and half scholar, waved his hand, and from the treasure emerged two hundred thousand cooked bundles of grains, steaming and fragrant, landing in the hands of two hundred thousand disaster victims.

Each of the four parties also received a rice ball.

"Demons saw the people of this city as Gao Ren, food to be consumed. I took the body of a Demon, cleansed it of impurity, and turned it into food as well."

"This is karma, the cycle of heaven's laws."

"Please help yourselves, no need to be polite."

Chapter 433 - Calculating the Foundations of Dayan Divine Art, Tao Qian Takes the Alias Young Cow

Gao Ren City was filled with the flesh and blood of demons, which Tao Qian had collected into his treasures. In just a moment, he purged them of their filth and refined them into Five Grains Food, and incidentally, he steamed them as well.

Even for Tao Qian, who was watching the process himself, it was incredibly astonishing.

"To turn decay into magic, what a treasure."

"The intricacies of the Five Grains, all contained within the gui, whoever possesses this can sustain all people."

Due to an early response, the teams from all four directions entered the city simultaneously.

At that moment, two people spoke up.

One came from the East City, wearing a monk's robe and walking barefoot. He had a transcendental air about him, but his face, unexpectedly, was somewhat coarse and ugly, with a yellowish complexion. However, his eyes truly were like shining stars; even in the daylight, despite his ugliness, it was impossible to ignore him.

Clearly, this was one of the Great Freedom Buddha's Sons who walked the earth, Yang Tingjian.

The other was a female cultivator, also in Buddha's robes, yet she had her hair unrestrained, indicating her path of cultivation. She was plain-faced, but her stunning appearance drew attention as well. When Tao Qian looked over, he felt as if "Senior Sister Lingji" had come back to life.

However, upon closer inspection, the differences quickly became clear.

"The face of Lingzhu Daoist is rounder and more plump than Senior Sister Lingji, and also appears more fortunate, but indeed lacks the aura of being favored by the heavens and the earth like Senior Sister Lingji."

"Then again, it's all about comparisons. Aside from Senior Sister Lingji, there aren't many female cultivators in the world who surpass Daoist Lingzhu."

Tao Qian appraised these two, silently making his judgment.

They, too, were looking at him, as well as the Valley God Gui in his hand.

Tao Qian didn't immediately reply to the two, but instead, his gaze shifted to the other two parties.

From the West City, the leader looked somewhat older, a middle-aged man with regular features, thick eyebrows, and dark eyes. He wore a strange Daoist robe embroidered with peculiar stars and carried a

large and intricately built sword box, seemingly forged from cold iron, on his back. Beneath him was a winged Devil Horse, stepping on flames, with flowing red mane.

From the South City, there were only two people who seemed to be master and disciple; however, the one walking at the front appeared more like the disciple. He wore a green Daoist robe, though not properly, casually draped over him. Handsome to an extreme, with sword-like eyebrows and bright eyes, only his rather large nose somewhat spoiled the atmosphere.

Tao Qian had just finished appraising them when all parties simultaneously fixed their gazes on him. After exchanging glances, instead of taking any rash actions, they each declared their origins in turn.

"I am Yang Tingjian, here for the Ancestor God Treasure in Daoist friend's hands."

"Lingzhu Xie, same as Mr. Yang, I am also here for the Valley God Gui. In the vicinity of the Imperial City, calamities have been occurring recently, with famine burying the land in corpses. We urgently need the Valley God Gui to relieve this crisis."

"I am Li Fulian. Perhaps Daoist friend has heard of the recent 'Celestial Dog Descending' disaster in Youliao Province? That evil dog came from the Outer Realm and devoured nearly half of Youliao, not only causing a million people to die or get injured but also leading to a complete failure of the harvest on the Black Water Plain this year, without a single grain of food left. The countless citizens of Youliao are in imminent peril, and I plead for Daoist friend's assistance."

"For goodness' sake, can you two have some shame? Coming here to play the victim?"

Zhong Ziyang, the Taishang Dao True Inheritor, was quite a character.

He intended to introduce himself as well, but he hadn't expected the previous two to not only announce their origins but also to adeptly use their tonguesterling skills.

He wouldn't indulge them, though. After making a sarcastic remark, he immediately exposed their true colors:

"Don't deceive others, Lingzhu Xie. Aren't the disasters around the Imperial City all resolved by Yuan Mingzhen, your family's Devil Concubine, who invited over a dozen Bodhisattvas from Guanyin Temple to jointly perform the 'sweet rain Rescue Method'?"

"Without the fortune and merit generated by these deeds, how could Yuan Mingzhen rule over the Imperial City with the identity of a former dynasty's Devil Concubine? Even with your Xie family's backing and Guanyin Temple's assistance, that wouldn't be possible."

As soon as Zhong Ziyang finished speaking, the ugly-faced Yang Tingjian joined in.

Being honest, he reported his intention along with his identity.

Who would have thought?

The following two were manipulative.

So, he spoke up, indignant, revealing the truth about Li Fulian:

"I've heard that Li Daoist was once taught by a Shaoqing Sword Cultivator predecessor. It's unexpected for you to act this way. Shaoqing Sword Cultivators are known to be straightforward and truth-speaking."

"Youliao Province is the territory of the warlord Ma Xiaoning. Recently, your supported Zhang Mazi invaded, both sides gathering armies of a million on the Black Water Plain and spilling blood. The scent of blood and cries of resentful souls broke through the barrier of clouds, attracting an Outer Realm Celestial Dog."

"It's said that the evil dog could descend for only thirty minutes and ended up devouring Ma Xiaoning's great army, inadvertently benefiting Zhang Mazi. Now, Youliao Province is likely in his hands."

"With the support of the Five Immortal Demon Clan and the Star Leader Sect, the crisis of food shortage is negligible."

"The two of you must think this Daoist friend here looks easy to deceive, wanting to trick him out of the treasure."

"Mr. Yang, be careful with your words. I, Li Fulian, am not that sort of person."

"Mr. Yang, do not slander. My reputation as Lingzhu Xie is not to be tainted."

...

As the four extraordinary figures began to argue with one another, Tao Qian was at a loss for words.

Just as he was about to say something, suddenly, a figure appeared in front of him—Zhong Ziyang, the large-nosed Daoist. While the other three were talking, he had used a teleportation technique to appear in front of Tao Qian, though he didn't make any aggressive move.

Instead, he showed friendliness by clasping his hands together in greeting before speaking:

"A disciple of the Taishang Dao, Zhong Ziyang, has met Daoist friend."

"May I inquire where Daoist friend comes from and what brings you into the world?"

Although Tao Qian was already familiar with the name Taishang Dao, this was his first encounter with someone from it.

He had originally thought that disciples from this Great Sect would all have a nature of being detached and inattentive to worldly affairs, at least the renowned First Heavenly Pride of the Taishang Dao, Wang Chan, was said to be like that.

But now, it seemed that stereotypes were unreliable.

This large-nosed Daoist Zhong Ziyang, in front of him, appeared to be liberated and straightforward, yet capable of quick thinking.

Upon hearing the question, Tao Qian was well prepared, and with the demeanor of an honest man, he clasped his hands in return and said, "I am Lin Runiu, a mere loose cultivator, unconcerned with entering or exiting the world."

That name!

His origin was simple, using the surname of his first original self, who had been beheaded at the very beginning of his rebirth in the vegetable market, that hero who had caused reform.

As for the given name, it was an inspiration from the Ancestor Spirit.

After exchanging greetings, Zhong Ziyang withdrew his hand back into his sleeve, and upon hearing the name that Tao Qian had given, he immediately began to perform calculations with a single hand.

However, he soon realized in shock that his "Taishang Great Yan Divine Skill" yielded nothing. There was only a fog before him, and he couldn't find any roots or origins of the odd cultivator who looked like an old farmer or a scholar.

While feeling surprise in his heart, Zhong Ziyang did not delay and pointed at the Taoist before him, asking:

"I see that Mr. Lin Daoist has a worried expression, may I know what troubles you?"

"Speak and let me listen, my cultivation may not be impressive, but I have mastered some divine magic that might be able to help."

Zhong Ziyang had just finished speaking.

Tao Qian had yet to respond when suddenly three more voices came through.

"Mr. Lin Daoist, just say the word, and Yang Tingjian will lend you a helping hand."

"Do not hesitate to ask, Xie Lingzhu is also willing to help."

"How could I, Li Fulian, be outdone, please speak, Daoist."

As these words reached him, Tao Qian felt pleased.

The four people present belonged to Daoism, Buddhism, Heterodoxy, and the aristocracy, but without a doubt, they could all be considered part of the Righteous path.

At least on the surface, they maintained a Righteous demeanor.

Before now, dealing with the likes of Lian Yulou, Zhu Qi, Zhang Jiudeng, Demon Buddha Temple, Taishang Demon Sect, Alchemist, and other evil demons and heretics often meant fighting and killing, a struggle between life and death.

Although battling was somewhat fun, too much of it was tiring.

The current scene, however, was far more harmonious.

"These four Daoists, each and every one of them is after the Ancestor God Treasure in my possession, yet they all maintain a superficial friendliness, with none attempting to forcibly snatch it away."

"Provoked by Zhong Ziyang's words, they've now all turned into enthusiastic Daoists, eager to assist me."

"Excellent, excellent!"

While such thoughts spun in his head, Tao Qian still maintained the simple and honest appearance.

On the spot, he showed an expression of tearful gratitude, then quickly turned to anger, and took the opportunity to recount:

"Let all the Daoists know, I, Lin Runiu, have long aspired to travel through all seventy-two provinces of this country. A few days ago, I arrived in Tiannan Province and accidentally discovered that there were demons in this city raising the Human Clan as food, eating and playing with them as they pleased."

"Although I have no backers and my cultivation is not high, I couldn't stand by and watch such evil deeds unfold."

"After my investigation, the perpetrators turned out to be a family. From the family head to the slaves, they were no better than pigs and dogs, cultivating demon skills as human beings and after mutating and falling into the ranks of demons, they ended up treating the Human Clan as sustenance they could breed and devour."

"Enraged, I took action and slaughtered all the demons in the city."

"I found killing the demons to be quite satisfying, but immediately afterward, I encountered a dilemma: I didn't know how to handle the placement of the two hundred thousand disaster victims in the city. That's two hundred thousand mouths to feed. In my treasure bag, there is some stored grain and some spirit pills that can satisfy hunger, but at most, they can support a few thousand people."

"I can't take care of two hundred thousand people, even if I were to die."

"Just when this thought crossed my mind, a treasure suddenly flew out of the pile of demon corpses."

"Here it is, this object called the Valley God Gui."

"As the two Daoists mentioned before, with this treasure in hand, I can feed the two hundred thousand disaster victims."

"But as soon as this first trouble was addressed, a second problem arose."

At this point, Tao Qian's face showed full sorrow again, holding the Valley God Gui in his hands, and continued.

"It's not enough just to fill the stomachs of the disaster victims; they also need to be settled properly."

"Dear Daoists, look here, this city was originally named Ganyue City, later seized by that demon family, and then renamed Gao Ren City."

"That family calls themselves the Tiannan Gao Family."

"When I killed the head of the family, he claimed that the Gao Family was incredibly strong, with his grandfather being a mighty cultivator from the Ultimate Happiness Realm."

"What Tiannan Gao Family, Ultimate Happiness Realm cultivator... I, Lin Runiu, am a lone individual, naturally unafraid, I can simply flee Tiannan if I have to."

"But what about these two hundred thousand disaster victims?"

"If I leave, when someone from the Tiannan Gao Family comes, won't they kill all of them as a sacrifice for those beasts? How can this be allowed?"

"That's what's been troubling me, after much thought, I've found no solutions. If it really comes to it, I, Lin Runiu, will just have to live and die with the two hundred thousand people of Ganyue City."

"With my humble and inadequate divine powers, I should be able to take down a Cavernous Mystery Realm cultivator before I perish, and that would not be too disappointing."

Having said that, Tao Qian's brow was deeply furrowed, and he repeatedly sighed.

His demeanor and tone were completely inherited from the Ancestor Spirit, combined with his genuine emotions, and the truth that couldn't be more real.

In an instant, even the deeply scheming Zhong Ziyang was thoroughly moved by Tao Qian.

Let it be known, the cultivators present from all four quarters were all exceptional talents.

To pay attention to a single loose cultivator simultaneously and to extend their trust so generously was an extremely rare occurrence.

Lin Runiu!

These three characters were firmly remembered by the four great talents.

Chapter 434 - To Witness a Battle of Talent between Tao Qian and Ziyang's Yin-Yang Dust Victorious

In the Cultivation World, there was a common understanding: disciples of Great Sect could easily crush Loose Cultivators.

However, there were exceptions to this rule.

Some Loose Cultivators only appeared average on the outside, but secretly they might have profound luck and terrifying origins that had caused many disciples of the Great Sects to suffer huge losses.

At this moment, in the eyes of Yang Tingjian, Xie Lingzhu, Li Fulian, and Zhong Ziyang, the Loose Cultivator known as "Lin Runiu" seemed to be such an existence.

Could an ordinary Loose Cultivator really receive recognition from the Ancestor God Treasure, the Valley God Gui?

Could an ordinary Loose Cultivator dare to boast about using a Cavernous Mystery Realm cultivator as a stepping stone before dying?

The reason why the various parties didn't immediately fight over the treasure after entering the city

was not only due to mutual constraints but also because none of them were confident they could snatch the treasure from this odd cultivator, who looked like an old farmer and also a scholar.

What if they didn't manage to snatch it and ended up offending the other party instead? What then?

Fortunately, Tao Qian was understanding and directly provided a way out.

His words were clear: whoever could solve the relocation challenge for two hundred thousand people might not only win over that person but also that treasure.

Find a place for two hundred thousand people!

Such a problem would be impossible for Loose Cultivators or ordinary disciples and elders of cultivation factions.

They might be able to slaughter two hundred thousand people, but to take them away and properly settle them would be extremely difficult.

However, the four individuals present were all talented young cultivators of the younger generation, not at all inferior to any of the eighteen True Disciples of the Spirit Treasure Sect. Upon hearing this, their eyes lit up as they took turns promising to take on the task.

The first to speak this time was still Yang Tingjian, one of the sons of the Great Freedom Temple.

He smiled, took out an iron bowl from his bosom, flicked it with his finger, and instantly, the Buddha Mantra was revealed, and a surge of golden Buddha Light burst forth. In the depths of the light was an outline of a miniature Buddha Country with hundreds of monks and nuns, all dignified, chanting Buddhist scriptures.

"Mr. Lin Daoist need not trouble himself, I, Yang Tingjian, will take on this matter."

"This treasure, named the Weimo Bowl, is one of the treasures of the Great Freedom Temple. Inside, there is a small, self-contained Buddha Country, with hundreds of Sramana and nuns chanting Buddhist Law and constructing a Buddha Country."

"If I begin casting, the two hundred thousand people can enter the bowl and then follow me to Ancient Yu Province to settle down. Xixin Mansion will soon control the entire province, finding an empty city is not difficult."

Without waiting for Tao Qian to respond, Yang Tingjian was about to start casting to take the people away.

However, Xie Lingzhu suddenly stepped in to block him, taking out a Jade Bottle, seemingly carved from glaze, engraved with the living beings of the Four Seas.

"Slow down, slow down!"

"I've heard about the Buddha's bowl in Junior Brother Yang's hands too; indeed, it's a good treasure. However, that bowl has a side effect: any living being who stays inside for a time will inevitably be influenced by the Buddhist Law within it, and regardless of everything else, they will be dedicated to joining the Buddhist Sect."

"We, Buddhists, are compassionate, but we do not wish to force people into our faith. Junior Brother Yang, what you are doing is not right."

"Let me handle this matter. In my hands is the Xie Family's Four Seas Glaze Bottle, which can hold the water of the Four Seas and also contains floating islands that can accommodate a million people, which is incredibly suitable."

Hearing this conversation, Tao Qian involuntarily turned to look at Senior Sister Lingji's elder sister.

My goodness!

She was extremely beautiful, with a face like a silver plate, appearing like a sincere female cultivator.

Yet who would have thought her combat strength to be so strong?

In a few words, she had exposed the bottom line of the cost of the Buddha Treasure in Yang Tingjian's hands, just short of outright calling Yang Tingjian a "hypocrite."

It seemed that although Xie Lingzhu cultivated Buddha's Law at Guanyin Temple, she still identified more with the Xie Family or perhaps there were also some disputes and frictions between Guanyin Temple and the Great Freedom Temple.

Sure enough, after Xie Lingzhu finished speaking, Yang Tingjian's burly and unattractive face changed immediately.

Anger flashed in his eyes.

The Buddha Treasure, the Iron Bowl in his hand, flew out instantly and, with a "clang," blocked the Four Seas Glaze Bottle.

The collision of the two treasures immediately caused a great disturbance in Gao Ren City.

"It is said that Senior Sister Xie once cultivated in Guanyin Temple and was taught extremely profound Buddhist Law."

"Now, your words seem quite critical of us Sramana."

"Is it that you can cultivate Buddha's Law, but cannot bear to see these two hundred thousand struggling people of Ganyue City also cultivate?"

Despite his unattractiveness, Yang Tingjian was adept with words and managed to corner Xie Lingzhu once again.

"Junior Brother Yang is overreacting. Buddha saves those with destiny, but it is not about forcing salvation on all in the world. It is no wonder the high monks of the Great Freedom Temple haven't insisted on you returning to the temple; perhaps they know that your six roots are not pure, and your five aggregates are not empty, and that you still need to practice in the mundane world."

"Senior Sister Xie has quite a sharp tongue. Although I have not reached Cavernous Mystery yet, and perhaps I'm not your match, Senior Sister, with such gratuitous insults, I cannot help but seek instruction in Guanyin's Buddhism from Senior Sister."

"It should have been this way from the start! I, too, want to see how the magic skills of your Great Freedom Temple fare."

"Good!"

In just a few words, these two young prodigies from the Great Freedom Temple and the Guanyin Temple each with their exotic treasures, began to compete in spellcasting.

Seizing the opportunity created by their conflict, Li Fulian, the well-featured man carrying the Sword Box, appeared.

From his bosom, he pulled out a small banner, gave it a shake, and all at once, a huge flag appeared, glimmering with starlight.

On the flag were embroidered the celestial constellations.

For anyone who looked at it, they would immediately feel the world spin, with stars surging around them.

"The matter troubling Daoist is not difficult to resolve. This treasure is called the Heavenly Kui Star Banner; inside, it contains three hundred sixty-five Star Leader Great Prohibitions, creating a Star Leader Secret Realm within the void, which can be used to trap people, or in this case, to save them."

Chapter 435 - To Win Over Tao Qian's Talent, Yin-Yang Dust Triumphs in Ziyang_2

"Although two hundred thousand people may seem numerous, it shouldn't be a problem," he said.

"With my Subterranean Evasion Speed, I could transport them into Youliao Province within a day. It's a fertile and rich land that is currently in need of revitalization. These two hundred thousand people could certainly make a happy and prosperous life there. Daoist Friend, follow me and see for yourself."

During the conversation, Li Fulian raised his hand to wave the Star Banner to gather people.

But just then, a big-nosed face with a grin appeared in front of him. It was Zhong Ziyang, the Taishang True Inheritor.

In terms of Cultivation Realm, Divine Power, and the origin of his Sect,

he ranked second to none among the other three.

Zhong Ziyang had not taken action until now, but he finally couldn't hold back.

The Taishang True Inheritor lived up to his reputation, striking precisely and ruthlessly.

He first grabbed Li Fulian's hand to prevent him from waving the banner, chuckling as he gave a very far-fetched but indisputable reason:

"Li Daoist, hold on. Your Star Banner is indeed extraordinary, but the people you gather with it would suffer from a spinning sensation, causing their body and soul to separate."

"These two hundred thousand people are in the middle of a meal, shaking them now will probably make them vomit even their bile, thus wasting the Five Grains Essence diligently refined by Mr. Lin Daoist."

"Why don't we try my method?"

Before he finished speaking, Zhong Ziyang reached into his chest and pulled out a crumpled bundle of cloth.

He then unfolded it swiftly, and in a moment, it had enveloped the entire Ganyue City. Figures of Yellow Turban Warriors leapt out, chanting Daoist Scriptures and touting benefits, coaxing the two hundred thousand people into walking toward the small world inside the cloth bundle.

At this time, Zhong Ziyang finally added, belatedly:

"I'm not as skilled as the other Daoist Friends. This treasure, called the 'Little Qiankun Map,' was given to me for protection by my seniors when I left the Sect. It's only use is to hold people, nothing else."

"It contains a small Qiankun environment. It can accommodate one city, even ten cities. The two hundred thousand people inside won't feel cramped at all, and they don't have to join my Sect, endure tsunamis or heavy rains, or vomit the food in their stomachs."

Upon hearing this last line,

Tao Qian silently pretended to maintain order, avoiding the battlefield.

Indeed, the other three had been caught up in their own struggles.

Upon hearing these deeply infuriating words, they all turned their heads simultaneously.

It was the Taishang Dao's big talker, speaking nonsense, disrespecting filial piety.

"Mr. Zhong has great skill. I was just about to experience the Taishang True Inheritance's secret techniques."

"Ling Zhu feels the same."

"Add me, Li Fulian," to the list.

The three had just finished shouting when they saw Zhong Ziyang's big nose twitch a few times.

Then, he burst into raucous laughter, "Great Freedom Temple, Guanyin Temple, Star Leader Sect, all are great Cultivation Sects with profound Divine Powers and magical spells... Yet, your methods are minor compared to my Taishang Great Method!"

Upon hearing this, Tao Qian immediately sped up.

This was no longer just attracting hatred; it was an outright mockery.

Anyone would find it unbearable.

Especially the other three, each proud and in high spirits.

Three angry shouts resounded, and three figures attacked simultaneously.

...

For three tremendously reputable cultivators to unite and attack one person is extremely rare.

But with Zhong Ziyang, it was effortlessly achieved.

Firstly, he was the universally recognized strongest inheritor of the Primordial Sect from the Cultivation World.

Secondly, his knack for provoking others with his sarcasm immediately incited the three to action.

Tao Qian, also known as Lin Runiu.

While marveling, he descended into the crowd on the ground.

"I really shouldn't underestimate the cultivators under the heavens. Master previously praised me, calling me 'the first talent of the Dao Sect.'"

"I thought with the Buddha Bird Relics, the Holy Embryo Bag, and the Nine Toad Bead in my possession, even if I wasn't truly number one, ranking within the top three or five might be possible?"

"Who would have thought that before I even ventured to several territories, the four who voluntarily came here were impossible for me to easily overcome."

"Weimo Bowl, Four Seas Glaze Bottle, Heavenly Kui Star Banner, Little Qiankun Map... These four treasures are not inferior to my three treasures."

"If it really came down to fighting, Yang Tingjian and Xie Lingzhu might be easier to deal with; Li Fulian is a bit more troublesome, Zhong Ziyang... I'm not sure at all."

Having assessed the situation, Tao Qian had settled among the crowd of two hundred thousand city residents, watching the four talents battle in the sky.

This scene was destined to occur.

Tao Qian was not surprised, although these four were talents of the righteous path and would not engage in a frenzy of killing at the slightest disagreement like the Evil Cultivators.

But their goal was the same.

That was to take him, Lin Runiu, along with the Ancestor God Treasure in his hand, away. Not to mention the strength revealed by his disguise, just the Valley God Gui, which could nurture all people, any force that aspired to compete for supremacy and rule once more over the seventy-two provinces would not miss such an opportunity.

However, there was only one person and one treasure, which inevitably led to disputes.

Those words were just excuses.

Tao Qian didn't care about that, fully immersed in playing "Lin Runiu," watching the splendid spell battle above.

He himself was not satisfied just watching, and took the opportunity of his sleeves covering the Holy Embryo Bag to let Yunrong and a few others watch along.

Yuan Gong was responsible for commentary.

But unexpectedly, as soon as Yuan Gong took his first look, he immediately made a conclusion and gave Tao Qian a warning.

"There's nothing much to see, that Taishang Dao youngster is definitely not an ordinary true inheritor, and he has already reached the Cavernous Mystery Realm. If it's not a fight to the death and just a contest of Divine Skills, the other three tied together wouldn't be his match."

"It's only that youngster who has learned the Shaoqing Sword Skill who poses some threat."

"Don't get cocky, lad. It's fine to look down on others a little, given the marvel of the Ten Thousand Transformation Technique of the Secret Demon Sect, there's no worry about being exposed."

"But Taishang Dao is different, if he has cultivated the 'Taiqing Dharma Eye,' he can truly see through your transformation."

"Don't think all Taishang Dao cultivators are naive, and let me tell you, some of them are even dirtier than Duobao... If that youngster sees through your transformation early on and is just playing along with you, waiting for the right moment to trap you, heh, that would be interesting."

After observing Zhong Ziyang several times, Tao Qian actually became cautious.

Now, having heard Yuan Gong's advice, he couldn't help but think:

"I would indeed like to see Zhong Ziyang win the spell battle, settle down the two hundred thousand people, and also accompany him to meet the First Hidden Dragon Emperor Ying Qing, whom the Primordial Sect has identified as the most likely to conquer the world."

"The reason is simple: the location of the Yu Ding, one of the Nine Provinces' Twelve Treasures, is in the Capital City of New Moon Province, Shangyang City."

"The records say that Ying Qingdi and his followers are secretly plotting to initiate an uprising in 'Shangyang City' to take over New Moon Province."

"Before going, I still need to figure out a way to get some information out of Zhong Ziyang... In case I really get duped by this Taishang True Inheritance, it would be a big embarrassment."

As Tao Qian settled on this idea.

In the sky above, as if to confirm what Yuan Gong had said.

After a brief struggle, Zhong Ziyang suddenly swung his sleeve. It was unclear what kind of Divine Skill it was, but an explosive Mana eruption centered on his Dao Body created a stormy turmoil of Yin and Yang, and with golden light flashing, hundreds of Yellow Turban Warriors were summoned to drive the three away.

Zhong Ziyang then unfastened a ringing Yellow Gourd from his waist, pulled the stopper, and poured it towards the three.

From the mouth of the gourd, millions of hair-thin white gleams burst out like a tide.

Anyone who glimpsed it would feel their soul pain as if countless tiny needles started frantically moving and piercing inside their body, instantly mashing up your flesh, while also experiencing the most terrible torture.

Yang Tingjian, Xie Lingzhu, and Li Fulian were all cultivators skilled in combat, sensing the danger at the sight.

With great tacit understanding, each took a different path, planning to bypass first and then attack together.

But who expected?

The fine white needles moved even faster, instantly catching up to the three and enclosing them first.

In an instant, the entire sky turned white.

The three were enveloped and suppressed by some kind of array formed by tens of thousands of fine needles and dared not move again.

Even Li Fulian, who had cultivated the Shaoqing Sword Skill, looked helpless at this moment.

His internal Sword Intent surged, yet it could not surpass the crisis of life and death.

He had a premonition: if he fought desperately, he could indeed release terrifying Sword Intent, break the array, and strike Zhong Ziyang with one blow.

But doing so would come at a great cost.

His Dharma Body would surely be destroyed.

The next moment, advice from Zhong Ziyang confirmed this premonition.

"Three Daoist fellows, don't move rashly."

"These fine needles are called 'White Eyebrow Dust Needles,' each one is refined from my heartfelt efforts, capable of both saving and killing."

"A total of 169,872 needles, under the control of my Divine Soul and mind, can instantly form a simple 'Taiqing Yin-Yang Dust Array.'"

"Below the Ultimate Happiness Realm, anyone trapped in my array is at my mercy."

"All three of you are true practitioners and should be able to see through the details, so no need for me to actually make a move."

"How about considering this spell battle as my win?"

Chapter 436 - Tai Wei Escape Heaven Immortal Technique, Divine Corpse in Changliu Mountain

Great Sect prodigies, each with remarkable abilities and supernatural powers far beyond ordinary cultivators.

And because of this, it's extremely difficult to subdue them.

Yet, in the face of the current situation, they had no choice but to submit.

Zhong Ziyang truly deserved to be a Taishang Dao True Inheritor. Setting aside his Cavernous Mystery Cultivation, this bout of spell combat also revealed his depth of cunning and prowess in slaughter.

He feigned engagement with the three of them, then suddenly struck a vicious blow.

162,872 White Eyebrow Dust Needles, tsk tsk, who wouldn't call that a grand gesture.

"This move must be Zhong Ziyang's trump card."

"Invincible below the Ultimate Happiness Realm... truly impressive spirit."

"Yang Tingjian, Xie Lingzhu, and Li Fulian must have similar Divine Powers, their might perhaps weaker, but in a three-against-one situation, a turnaround could be possible."

"Unfortunately, they lost the initiative and now it's too late to counter."

While Tao Qian murmured, his mind involuntarily considered what he would do if faced with such a predicament. Could he find a solution?

After simulating a few scenarios, he realized there indeed were ways.

"Be it the Holy Embryo Bag or the Nine Toad Bead, both are treasures of offense and defense. Combined with the Golden Light Divine Spell, one could fend off the assault of those tens of thousands White Eyebrow Needles."

"At that moment, whether using the Secret Demon Sword Skill or sacrificing the Buddha Bird Relics, there would be a chance to carve out a path to survival."

"However, ultimately this method still relies on external objects."

"If I advanced to Cavernous Mystery, even if Zhong Ziyang were on the same level as I, his mana wouldn't be as profound as mine, and I would suppress him with sheer power, fair and square."

As Tao Qian concluded his thoughts, the struggle above the sky had also come to an end.

The three prodigies, despite their reluctance, had their own dignity and would not fuss senselessly.

Fortunately, the Ancestor God Treasures were not limited to a single item.

At this moment, losing the Valley God Gui didn't matter; just from the Nine Provinces' Twelve Treasures alone, there were still eleven pieces left.

Seeing the three submit, Zhong Ziyang cheerfully lifted the gourd and uttered the word "collect."

Immediately, the white river reversed, and the countless tiny white needles, like cow hair, all returned to the gourd, and the terrifying aura of annihilation dissipated along with them.

The four landed back in the city, where the two hundred thousand city dwellers had also been taken into the Little Qiankun Map by the Yellow Turban Warriors.

Though unwilling to leave their homes, having experienced the horror of "the Gao family people" and hearing that the crazed Gao family demons were coming, they had no choice. Moreover, the conditions offered by Ying Qingdi, represented by Zhong Ziyang, were quite appealing—clothes for everyone, fields for everyone, equality for all... These slogans held great attraction for the common folk.

Tao Qian's curiosity about Ying Qingdi was partly due to these slogans.

He had seen more detailed rules in the Primordial Human Record passed down from Lian Jing'er, and among the many Hidden Dragons vying for the world, it was none other than the Green Emperor who cared most about the commoners.

And those slogans he proposed resonated quite well with Tao Qian's own thoughts.

As Zhong Ziyang emerged victorious, Tao Qian, maintaining his identity as "Lin Runiu," was about to find an excuse to touch his Dao Body and peek to see if his own secrets had been exposed.

But at this moment, within Tao Qian's body, the Human Dao Fortune suddenly rolled as a warning, and the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body, not to be outdone, sent out its own forewarnings.

At this crucial juncture, this precise moment.

What was the source of the danger?

Almost without thinking, it must be the Gao family powerhouses rushing over.

No wonder, though Tao Qian had quickly severed Gao Wan's communication earlier, this place was after all Tiannan Province, the Gao family's turf.

The Gao family would surely feel some repercussion in their ancestral shrine from the slaying of Gao Wan's family, leading powerhouses to investigate was inevitable.

Only a breath or two behind Tao Qian, the spell fight ended, just as the four, Zhong Ziyang included, were snipping at each other with snide remarks and about to go their separate ways, they also abruptly sensed something.

Zhong Ziyang immediately began divining with his hands, and in an instant, his expression changed drastically.

"Bad news!"

"Red Star Transits the Sun, an ominous sign."

"It's the Tiannan Gao Family, Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan."

As his words fell, the others' faces also changed, showing solemnity.

As disciples from a Great Sect, they all had access to very current information.

Ultimate Happiness Realm powerhouses in the Cultivation World were few and well-known.

And the vicious reputation of "Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan" might be an exaggeration to claim no one was unaware, but the four of them were very familiar with it.

Fortunately, in this battle, not one of them was a pushover.

Even facing an Ultimate Happiness Realm powerhouse, Zhong Ziyang showed no fear on his face.

He raised his hand, pointing to the still-enlarged Little Qiankun Map,

and then, with a bow to Yang Tingjian, Xie Lingzhu, and Li Fulian, he said solemnly,

"Fellow Daoists, although we serve different masters, our ambitions should align."

"The Gao family people are mad, and the likes of Gao Zhan are complete devils; we can't let Mr. Lin Daoist and the two hundred thousand city dwellers fall into their hands."

"Therefore, I would like to ask the three of you for help, each of you take fifty thousand city dwellers and flee in separate directions."

"The Jade Demon True Monarch's cultivation has reached the Ultimate Happiness Realm, and he will arrive in less than fifteen breaths. He will surely not spare any of us. He will likely send avatars to chase you three, while the main body will come to kill Daoist Lin and me."

"With the three of your statuses and Divine Powers, even if you are pursued by avatars, you should be able to protect the lives of fifty thousand city dwellers."

"As for me, I also have a way to save myself and definitely will not let the city dwellers, Daoist Lin, and the Ancestor God Treasure fall into Gao Zhan's hands."

"This puts each of you at significant risk with nothing to gain; I, Zhong Ziyang, have nothing to offer in return. Let it be said that I owe each of you a favor, how about that?"

Chapter 437 - Tai Wei Escape Heaven Immortal Technique, Divine Corpse in Changliu Mountain_2

Zhong Ziyang had just finished speaking when he immediately received a response.

"No need, I am willing to take on this task."

"Others may fear Gao Zhan, but I do not. Quickly pick out fifty thousand citizens willing to go to the Imperial City."

"Mr. Zhong Daoist, no more prattle, act quickly."

An unexpected yet somehow anticipated scene unfolded.

Tao Qian had observed before that Yang Tingjian, Xie Lingzhu, and Li Fulian were all different in temperament, but they could all be considered "good people." That they agreed to Zhong Ziyang's request was actually quite normal.

In the blink of an eye, the four had divided the two hundred thousand citizens among themselves.

Without delay, they escaped through the same city gates they had entered.

Zhong Ziyang was to do the same, but before he set off, he asked Tao Qian, "How are your Escape Skills? If they are not fast, why not join my disciple and seek refuge in my Little Qiankun Map for a moment?"

Upon hearing this, Tao Qian swept his robe, flinging out an Outer Realm Demon that appeared bold and valiant, with a green face, tusks, and a single horn on its forehead, resembling a small general.

Naturally, he did not choose the "Star Zha Demon" to reduce the risk of revealing his identity.

Within the Cultivation World, rumors about the Spirit Treasure True Inheritor Tao Qian highlighted a noteworthy detail: he practiced Secret Demon magic and favored commanding the Star Zha child, capable of escaping tens of thousands of miles in a single bound.

Decree Demon!

Still unnoticed, and as the Secret Demon magic spread throughout the Cultivation World, many Cultivators skilled in commanding demons emerged. The Decree Demon was quite useful and had gained considerable fame, with many Cultivators loving to capture it for their use.

Indeed, Zhong Ziyang immediately recognized the nature of the Demon and exclaimed in surprise,

"Quick as a decree!"

"Daoist, your good fortune is strong. I also know the Summoning Demon Technique from the Secret Demon Sect, but whenever I summon, it's always the likes of the Joyful Demons that appear, which are unbearably mundane."

"With this little devil here, indeed, your speed will not be inferior to mine."

"Let's go, let's go, Gao Zhan is coming."

As soon as the words fell, Zhong Ziyang was the first to escape towards the south.

Tao Qian commanded the Decree Demon to follow, looking upwards only to see Zhong Ziyang's Dao Body suddenly transform into a wisp of white smoke, soaring into the sky in an instant, crossing a thousand miles in the blink of an eye.

From his embrace, Yuan Gong's voice came through:

"This is the 'Taiwei Sky Escape Technique,' a mysterious Escape Skill of the Taishang Dao, which hardly consumes mana and comes at a minor cost. Its speed may not match the Great Freedom Heart Light Escape, but it carries a casual elegance, befitting a supreme Immortal Intermediary."

"You need not be envious; since you have obtained the 'Scripture of Salvation,' you already possess a treasure trove. Within this Great Book, there is a technique called the 'Spirit Treasure Unlimited Mahayana Escape Technique.' Once activated, the sky will be filled with jade light and rising purple smoke, indistinguishable from the scenery of ascending to immortality in a cloud. It would be much more graceful than that little Daoist's ascent of white smoke."

"Of course, in terms of convenience, the Star Zha child is somewhat easier to use."

...

As Yuan Gong offered his guidance, the two had already escaped thousands of miles, leaving Gao Ren City far behind them.

Yet neither Tao Qian nor Zhong Ziyang's expressions were anything but grave.

The premonition of crisis had not weakened but grown more intense.

Tao Qian glanced sideways to see Zhong Ziyang using both hands, fleeing rapidly while incessantly performing calculations.

And at that very moment!

Even from thousands of miles away, Tao Qian could faintly hear a terrifying roar coming from the direction of Gao Ren City.

At the same time, a message was transmitted to all four escaping parties:

"Whoever kills my Gao Family's people and steals my Gao Family's treasures..."

"No matter who you are! Kill!"

The message was quickly followed by a contamination descending through the void.

Both Tao Qian and Zhong Ziyang, as they desperately fled, felt their bodies suddenly seize up.

Disturbing changes began to manifest on the surface of their bodies.

It started with a sickly yellow-white "pus" seeping out from beneath their skin, spreading relentlessly. Wherever the pus spread, flesh, skin, bones, and hair follicles began to undergo Jade Transformation...

A Record burst forth in Tao Qian's mind:

[Currently suffering from Jade Demon Origin Qi corrosion... Can resist!]

Then, from the sky above, two cold snorts were heard.

The Mutated changes in both Tao Qian and Zhong Ziyang's bodies were simultaneously purged.

Obviously, being the True Inheritor of the Taishang Dao, it was unlikely for Zhong Ziyang to be harmed by Gao Zhan across such a vast distance, even though this Jade Demon True Monarch was from the Ultimate Happiness Realm.

However, Gao Zhan was also aware of this; his tactics were just to delay Tao Qian and the others' speed, creating an opportunity to cast a second spell through the void.

As the two hesitated, the surroundings immediately transformed.

The mountains, clouds, and birds... everything within their sight turned to jade in an instant.

Even the very air was filled with a large amount of visible "Jade Fragments," growing more numerous by the moment.

Within this illusion, both found themselves seemingly entering a jade stone Secret Realm.

Fantastically beautiful!

Incredible!

At the same time, dangerously abnormal.

The two exchanged a glance, each feeling an extreme sense of impending crisis.

Without waiting for the thoughts in his mind to surge, Yuan Gong's reminder came again:

"Quick, flee that place."

"That's the 'Jade Demon God Evil Thunder Skill' of that beast Gao Zhan; this technique is even more treacherous than your 'Silent Divine Thunder.'"

"Within a radius of six thousand miles, all are within that beast's throwing range."

"If either of you is even a fraction too slow, you won't control your own life and death."

As Yuan Gong finished speaking, Tao Qian had already reached out to grab Zhong Ziyang.

He paid no attention to whether his Dharma Body was strong or not, treating himself and Zhong Ziyang as if they were comets streaking through the sky, hurtling directly towards the boundaries of the Jade-Transformed world.

Following a "crack" sound, the two blasted out.

And with that, the Secret Realm exploded.

In an almost silent roar, an unspeakably powerful force transmitted, pushing them hundreds of miles away with its momentum.

Both turned their heads at the same time, and by the light of the exploding jade fragments, they saw, in the direction of Gao Ren City,

A terrifyingly huge shadow of a creature!

Rapidly moving with a horrifying speed, it was frantically pursuing them.

That thing resembled an irregular, enormous mass of rotting flesh.

Suspended above the sky, within the rotten flesh teeming with innumerable maggots, were thousands of bulging yellow eyes filled with lascivious evil; from it extended numerous meaty tentacles with large mouths at their ends, their blood-red tongues stretching out as a cascade of yellow and white pus poured down like waterfalls towards the earth.

Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan?

Who could have imagined that such a powerful being from the Ultimate Happiness Realm would look like this?

Without even maintaining a human form, more devilish than a demon.

Yet even in this form, Gao Zhan's evasion speed far surpassed the two of them.

If this continued, in just a few breaths, he could catch up to Tao Qian and Zhong Ziyang.

Seeing his crazed form, Tao Qian's true identity need not be mentioned; if it were exposed, it would only drive Gao Zhan to elated madness.

Even for Zhong Ziyang, invoking the "Taishang Dao" might not guarantee mercy.

Zhong Ziyang's one hundred and sixty thousand White Eyebrow Needles were unmatched in might.

But against this being, they were likely insufficient.

"Being caught, death is certain."

This thought arose in Tao Qian's heart.

At the same time, he couldn't help but begin pondering what methods he could employ to avoid this tragic fate.

At this very moment, Zhong Ziyang's frantically calculating hands suddenly stopped.

His face openly showed joy, and then he transmitted a message to Tao Qian:

"Quick, Mr. Lin Daoist."

"Let's escape in the southwest direction, there lies a chance for life."

Tao Qian, hearing this, swiftly followed suit.

The two sped through the air, and in just a few breaths, that Gao Zhan was drawing ever closer behind them.

Just then, an immensely large, and extremely bizarre, mountain suddenly appeared before them.

That mountain!

Completely enshrouded in a thick layer of gray-white fog.

An urgent sense of danger even more intense than facing Gao Zhan immediately erupted.

At this time, Zhong Ziyang's voice came through:

"Mr. Lin Daoist need not panic, this mountain is dreadful, but it is where you and I can find a chance for survival."

"The Ancestor God Forbidden Techniques have been disintegrating for many days, gradually failing to block some of the Outer Realm Evil Gods."

"I've calculated that this mountain is called 'Changliu Mountain,' it too is a place for Cultivation, rich in Source Qi, harboring seven or eight minor Sects, with five to six thousand Demon Cultivators."

"A month ago, the corpse of an Outer Realm Evil God fell into the mountain, transforming all the life within overnight into beings akin to Corpse Slaves and Demon Servants."

"That Evil God's corpse is alarmingly corrupt, turning this place into a Forbidden Zone of death in just ten days."

"After we enter, using my Secret Techniques to conceal us, we can pass through the mountain and escape successfully. If Gao Zhan follows us in, his Ultimate Happiness Realm Mana will surely provoke the residual will in the corpse to devour, and he will have no chance of survival."

Chapter 438 - Taishang Exotic Treasure Dun Yi Talisman, Evil Python Corpse Hides Moon Toad

Upon hearing Zhong Ziyang's transmitted message, Tao Qian's face did not show any sign of surprise or shock.

During the nine days when he had hung the Heavenly Lantern, aside from the major events concerning the Human Dao in the seventy-two provinces, he occasionally received some special information.

For instance: the terrifying changes occurring in the world.

The cause, the disintegration of the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique.

More and more evidence proved that this Forbidden Technique was not merely internal; it also had external effects, particularly in isolating certain invasions and contaminations from the Outer Realm.

Once the Forbidden Technique was gone, the number of "mystical phenomena" that the seventy-two provinces could neither understand nor solve began to explode.

Occasionally, instances like what Zhong Ziyang described would occur—Evil Gods from the Outer Realm would fall into a province, permanently altering the geography there.

Of course, any Outer Realm God that fell into the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty was dead, with none surviving.

They were either corpses or some kind of organ.

"The god of Changliu Mountain must be one of such cases, though I wonder if it's intact?"

Tao Qian pondered as he directly followed Zhong Ziyang.

Earlier, he had intentionally touched Zhong Ziyang's Dao Body, and the verification had already burst forth in the Record.

This adherent of the Taishang Daozhen had not cultivated the Dharma Eye Divine Power, hence he had not seen through Tao Qian's Ten Thousand Transformation Technique; Tao Qian could safely accompany him to Shangyang City in the New Moon Province.

The Record also explicitly stated: although Zhong Ziyang was scheming, his ambition and aspirations could not be feigned. He had never thought of forcibly snatching the Ancestor God Treasure obtained by Tao Qian; he only wanted to abduct Tao Qian and join him in assisting Ying Qingdi, especially with the ongoing planning of the "Shangyang Uprising."

After calculating together with another cultivator in their faction who was skilled in prediction, Zhong Ziyang confirmed that one of the keys to the success of the uprising was whether they could abduct Tao Qian back.

For this reason, he had rushed to Gao Ren City at top speed.

He did not hesitate to act ruthlessly, facing three enemies alone.

Tao Qian knew that this was also influenced by the Human Dao Destiny.

After all, out of the four options, Tao Qian had actually chosen Zhong Ziyang from the beginning.

After setting their plans, they quickly arrived at the front of Changliu Mountain.

Before even touching the gray-white clouds, Tao Qian saw Zhong Ziyang reach into his robe, and with a slightly proud expression, he took out a golden, supremely treasure-lit Spirit Talisman, and handed it over.

Tao Qian took it, and before a Record could burst forth in his mind, he heard Zhong Ziyang say:

"Mr. Lin Daoist, this talisman is called the 'Great Daoist Escape Talisman.' Not to boast, but among talismans like invisibility talismans, this one is the best. Even the Da Yan Hidden Fate Talisman from the Heavenly Talisman Sect, the Taiyi Invisible Talisman from the Canxuan Sect, and the Wonderful Qi Unity Talisman from the Spirit Treasure Sect are slightly inferior."

"Once Daoist wears this talisman, it can conceal your aura and fate completely. Evil Gods in the mountains or Corpse Slaves, neither will be able to detect any trace of you."

"As for myself, I have my own Mysterious Skill transformation that can also conceal all traces."

After saying this, Zhong Ziyang wiped his body, and indeed, all traces of his aura and fate disappeared without a trace.

After casting, he turned and started heading into the mountain.

At that moment, Tao Qian also sorted out the Record related to the Great Daoist Escape Talisman.

Immediately, Tao Qian's eyes widened slightly.

What a treasure!

Zhong Ziyang had not bragged.

The Spirit Talisman in Tao Qian's hands was not a single-use item, but a talisman treasure from the Taishang Dao.

Worn on the body, even cultivators of the Ultimate Happiness Realm could not discover him.

The only side effect: after wearing it, one's presence would be reduced to that of an ordinary person for the next 24 hours, and this could not be exempted.

It sounded seemingly useless.

But to Tao Qian, this Spirit Talisman was an essential treasure for going out and gaining experience.

In an instant, Tao Qian felt the impulse to keep this Spirit Talisman for himself.

It seemed that Zhong Ziyang sensed his thoughts and, feeling somewhat uneasy, he turned his head back and cautioned:

"Mr. Lin Daoist is not a disciple of my Taishang Dao. Using this talisman comes at a great cost."

"However, there's no need to worry. After crossing this mountain in less than half an hour and taking off the Spirit Talisman after leaving the mountain, the cost will be much less."

Clearly, Zhong Ziyang was also aware of the logical flaws in those two sentences.

Without waiting for Tao Qian to reply, he went ahead into the mountain.

Fortunately, Tao Da, the Great Master, was only a little covetous and didn't genuinely want to snatch the treasure.

Actually, with Tao Qian's abilities, he didn't need the aid of this Spirit Talisman.

Using the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body obtained through the Third Method Transcend Mortality, forged by the Infinite Tribulation Qi, and further enhanced by the Taishang No Leaking Body, he was immune to all techniques, mysteriously unsurpassed.

Even using a common "Invisibility Technique" with Tao Qian's capabilities would have great effects, and when combined with the Secret Demon Sect's Formless Inversion Technique, he could hide all traces of his aura and fate without this talisman.

However, doing so would expose his identity.

Tao Qian had no choice but to slap the Spirit Talisman onto himself.

In an instant, the world in front of his eyes transformed dramatically.

Everything seemed to slow down, becoming distant.

He himself seemed to become an outsider to the world.

Not part of the Three Realms, not touching the Five Elements.

"Truly a remarkable item."

Tao Qian sighed again as he followed Zhong Ziyang, and before entering the mountain, he still had the leisure to look back at Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan, who was chasing after them.

He clearly saw that after wearing the Spirit Talisman, the thousands of lustful and evil eyes of this Ultimate Happiness Realm powerhouse all simultaneously showed confusion and doubt.

Clearly, the Spirit Talisman was effective.

...

The two passed through the gray-white clouds and entered the mountain.

Immediately, they encountered an unexpectedly scenic view: a mountain surrounded by water, secluded rock valleys, numerous bizarre peaks, murmuring streams, cascading waterfalls, and everywhere one could see tall ancient trees that several people would struggle to embrace together. At several nodes where Source Qi and Spiritual Qi converged, numerous temples, pavilions, palaces, and fortresses could be seen.

"A truly spiritual mountain, worthy of the name Changliu."

Both Zhong Ziyang and Tao Qian had this thought.

At the same time, they also immediately harbored doubts: what about the calculated Outer Realm Evil God's corpse polluting this mountain, creating countless Corpse Slaves and Demon Servants?

Before they could take action, a question arose.

Two people almost simultaneously sensed something and looked up toward the depths of Changliu Mountain.

They heard a piercing roar filled with death's aura, a sound that no living creature on this earth could make.

From the pit in the mountain, a massive shape suddenly surged forth.

Before, Tao Qian and Zhong Ziyang had seen the true form of the Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan, which was like rotting maggot flesh, as big as a mountain.

But now, compared to the massive being before them, it was far smaller.

This corpse was even taller and larger than a mountain.

Its primary color was gray-white, mixed with dark purple and blood red.

Its decaying body was covered with bone spurs as long as spears, each one several yards long, and each adorned with natural patterns resembling certain characters or symbols.

At the end of its body were three organs resembling reproductive openings.

From one hole, a gray-white liquid gushed out, evaporating into fog as it touched the air.

From the second, a woeful green blood sprayed, which soon seeped into the mountain; far from harming Changliu Mountain, it instead enhanced its foundation and made its Source Qi even richer.

The third hole was even more remarkable, expelling a mix of corpse pieces, pus, unknown skins, eerie stillborns... even various Spiritual Treasures greatly damaged by corrosive spiritual energy.

And at the forefront was a face, twisted and swollen with pain and slack with torment.

On its forehead were eyes, green and filled with resentment and reluctance, though their color had faded.

This corpse!

This Evil God!

It resembled an overly fat, or perhaps excessively bloated in death, monstrous snake covered in spines.

Even from such a great distance, Tao Qian and Zhong Ziyang could faintly feel the taint of evil Source Qi.

In Tao Qian's mind, a Record directly erupted: [Suffering from the invasion of the Evil Python's Source Qi... As the Evil Python has perished, exemption granted.]

[Record: Evil Python.]

[Record Type: Outer Realm Divine Spirit.]

[Record: This corpse is an Outer Realm God, which devours everything. Once tainted by its internal Source Qi, one will transform into an Undying Servant, obeying its will.]

[Note: Several months ago, the Evil Python participated in an Outer Realm war, was besieged and perished, coincidentally falling into this place through a crack in the celestial wall...???)

...

"Hmm? An Outer Realm war?"

Tao Qian's brows slightly furrowed, clearly not expecting such a secret to emerge spontaneously in the burst of Records.

But this 'secret' was relatively speaking; to Tao Qian, it wasn't much of a secret at all.

Ever since he knew of the "Absolute Strife," Tao Qian had speculated:

The powerhouses above the Daoist Transformation Realm in this realm might, whether willingly or unwillingly, go to the Outer Realm to battle those Evil Gods.

Elders known as Absolute Immortals like Wu Chao, Three Stars, Golden Silkworm—such slim chances of survival would probably have to be wrested from these Evil Gods.

Of course, these were all speculations.

A genuine Evil God's corpse was an unprecedented sight.

And it was this long-dead Evil God's corpse, now undulating and swaying, whose roar shook the entirety of Changliu Mountain.

Shortly after, the sound of drums thundered.

"Boom"

"Boom boom boom"

Amidst the roaring drums, countless figures of cultivators and demons erupted from the temples, fortresses, and forests within the mountains.

What should have been chaotic fighting between different races and sects of Demon Cultivators now strangely showed them working together.

It was as if an invisible will was guiding them, as many Divine Skills and Magical Treasures bombarded the Evil Python's corpse.

But upon closer inspection, the two realized,

These Demon Cultivators were not attacking the body of the Outer Realm Evil Python, but attempting to rid it of some "alien" matter.

Tao Qian and Zhong Ziyang, both cautious, despite relying on some powers, still chose to circle around the mountain at a distance, also to avoid possibly encountering the pursuing Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan who might still enter the mountains.

Circling did not prevent them from witnessing clearly.

Upon seeing this,

Both wore a somber expression.

They noticed that the Evil God's corpse was riddled with scars, clearly besieged to death, and those wounds, sores, and holes stemmed from complex origins, not only from the Qi of other Outer Realm Gods but also noticeably from the Qi of cultivators of this realm.

Zhong Ziyang suddenly communicated telepathically:

"Mr. Lin Daoist, there may be trouble here."

"This Outer Realm Evil God is dead, but its corpse still harbors the True Spirit Will, using Corpse Qi to transform Changliu Mountain into a Forbidden Death Zone, planning to heal itself and transform into something like a Divine Corpse."

"Those remnants of dead injuries are easy to deal with, but some injuries are 'live,' and it can only further pollute and mutate all the Demon Cultivators within this mountain, turning them all into servants to use their power to clear those continuously damaging living beings from the Outer Realm."

In fact, Tao Qian didn't need Zhong Ziyang's reminder; his gaze was already locked on those living beings.

On the Evil Python's body, the huge wounds, resembling mountain caves or cavities, numbered in the hundreds.

From around thirty of these, living beings were present.

Either long worms with human heads and sharp claws, or bizarre little people with screw-like faces, or slugs constantly secreting corrosive pus... Tao Qian watched them all, then suddenly, as though sensing something, sharply looked at a sore on that corpse.

There, utterly corrupted, grey-white pus had accumulated, forming a lake.

Within that lake, creatures as big as calves, horribly decayed, outwardly resembling toads, were dealing with attacks from those Demon Cultivators turned servants, while also emitting a "croaking" sound that Tao Qian found eerily familiar.

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, an item on Tao Qian trembled violently.

The Nine Toad Bead!

This highly precious Exotic Treasure from the Nine Toad Sect, used by Tao Qian to ram into the Heavenly Axe thrown from afar by Taishang Primordial Demon True Monarch Lingwa during the incident in Demon City, had been damaged and rendered unusable for some time.

However, on reflection, that collision had indeed been crucial, at no loss.

As the treasure stirred and combined with the Qi emitted by those toad-like creatures.

An incredible speculation spontaneously arose in Tao Qian's mind:

"Among those that besieged this Evil Python, was there a share from that Toad God?"

Chapter 439 - Tao Qian Obtains a Treasure, Toad God Tile

Tao Qian knew that there were gods in the Outer Realm, and they were numerous.

However, these gods were divided into good and evil, righteous and malevolent, or perhaps neutral types.

Like the Longevity Star who once scattered Immortal Peaches at Meiling, it likely was one of those gods who didn't side with any particular camp.

The Toad God, on the other hand, belonged to the friendly type.

"When I obtained the Nine Toad Bead that day, the triggered Record stated: 'The Toad God is a lazy, obese god from the Outer Realm, extremely friendly to the Human Clan, who had helped many strong individuals from the Nine Toad Sect advance to the Daoist Transformation Realm.'"

"It is rare indeed that this 'Evil Python,' a god from the Outer Realm, could enrage the Toad God to attack it."

"Looking at the scene in front of us, Zhong Ziyang's concerns are not unwarranted. Although this Evil Python is thoroughly dead, the remnants of its True Spirit Will are attempting to rid itself of the scour inside its corpse and transform into a mysterious being like a Divine Corpse. If successful, the future troubles will not be limited to Changliu Mountain alone."

"However, how should we deal with this?"

As this thought arose in Tao Qian's mind, both were about to bypass the Evil Python's corpse but their figures paused as they moved away from Changliu Mountain.

Zhong Ziyang furrowed his brows and after carefully observing for a moment, suddenly turned to Tao Qian and said,

"This place is within the East Sea Province, where no major Daoist and Buddhist Sects reside, only the Sea Elder Sect, Thousand Dragon Cave, and Star-picking Cave, these Shoal Side Doors, are present. Although they each have some remarkable techniques and profound Divine Skills, how can they overcome a corpse of an Outer Realm god?"

"This corpse fell into Changliu Mountain a month ago. These sects must have been aware of it but have never approached to combat it, which suggests they understand the danger."

"I wish to send a message back to my sect requesting seniors to deal with this corpse. I wonder what Mr. Lin Daoist thinks?"

Upon hearing the final question, Tao Qian couldn't help but feel puzzled.

Why would Zhong Ziyang ask for my opinion on slaying this Divine Corpse?

Fortunately, at that moment, Master Yuan's voice transmitted into his ears:

"Although this Taishang True Inheritance couldn't predict your roots and origins, it can be guessed from this that you, lad, definitely aren't some common Loose Cultivator."

"For existences like Taishang Dao and Spirit Treasure Sect, a corpse of an Outer Realm god is not just a disaster but rather an opportunity. Bringing it back to the Mountain Gate to peel and dismantle,

whether for refining arts or treasures, is highly beneficial. This lad has indeed a clean heart, he is consulting your opinion, asking if you also want to invite someone to share the loot."

"Quickly agree and send the message to Duobao; he is adept at handling such matters, and it won't expose your roots."

With this guidance, Tao Qian immediately knew how to respond.

Before he spoke, he once again felt two exclamations arise in his heart, first marveling at having a wise elder as having a treasure, then complaining that his frugal Master indeed knew how to handle calculations, as well as being quite lazy, as he didn't teach his disciples directly but plotted to have others instruct them instead, relying on Aunt Yunhua within the sect and on Master Yuan while outside.

While complaining in his mind, Tao Qian pretended to contemplate for a moment before replying to Zhong Ziyang:

"Mr. Zhong Daoist is indeed a generous man, I would not decline."

"Lin Runiu, though a Loose Cultivator, indeed has some background; I have an elder adept at dealing with such filthy corpses, and I can send a message to call him here."

"But before that, allow me to apply a Secret Technique to probe the details of this Divine Corpse."

Upon hearing this, Zhong Ziyang looked intrigued.

He also remembered something and hastily cautioned,

"Daoist friend, don't be reckless. Although you carry a Dun Yi Talisman, if you get too close and use some conspicuous Divine Power Skills, the Divine Corpse will still notice you. With its methods, even if it can't find you, it can employ techniques that cover Changliu Mountain to forcefully kill us in the mountain."

Tao Qian felt the agitation coming from the Nine Toad Bead within him, and pointing at a group swimming in the 'Pus Lake', as large as calf-sized toads, he said with a smile:

"Mr. Zhong, look at that group of toads, they are called 'Moon Toads'. Don't be fooled by their current rotten appearance, they are actually Spirit Beasts."

"I have an elder who practices the Nine Toad Secret Method, who casually passed on a Divine Skill to me. Now is the perfect time to use it silently and remotely fish these Moon Toads. At that time, the origin and details of this corpse should become clear."

Having said this, Tao Qian immediately took action.

The Divine Skill he applied was naturally the Fishing Toad Technique taught by one of the Eight Immortals, Master Jade Toad.

Tao Qian had no worries about revealing his origins to Zhong Ziyang, who would instead deduce that Lin Runiu was a member of the Nine Toad Sect.

Though there were many Sects within the Heterodox Side Doors, few were stronger than the Nine Toad Sect.

That he originated from this sect made sense given his ability to defy his Prediction Skills earlier.

Zhong Ziyang did not perform any Predictions but simply looked on with curiosity.

All he saw was Tao Qian casually extending his hand, pulling out a thread from his sleeve, and as his fingertip passed over it, spiritual light surged. Then he pinched a Dharma Seal above the "spirit line" and touched it nine times. Each touch added a gold coin infused with the energy of Blessing and Fortune to the thread.

That's not all; suddenly, Zhong Ziyang looked upward.

Indeed, he immediately saw a bright moon appear above Mr. Lin Runiu's head, with a Moon Toad faintly visible within the moon. Then, with a "gua" sound, the Moon Toad opened its mouth and spit out a bright pearl.

The pearl solidified from the void and landed precisely in Tao Qian's palm, and he placed it at the end of the spirit line as bait.

In a moment, a fishing line capable of capturing treasures from all over the world was refined.

"Mr. Zhong Daoist, watch my technique."

As the words fell, Tao Qian's hand suddenly swung out the fishing line.

The spirit line turned invisible, instantly extending as if it were Ten Thousand Feet Silk, appearing above the corpse of the Evil Python.

In the pus lake, a large group of Moon Toads, which were currently responding to attacks from Corpse Slaves and Demon Servants, croaked loudly.

At that moment, they all leapt forward, ignoring the attacks that hit their bodies as they bit towards the Spiritual Pearl.

The one at the very front got the prize.

As soon as it swallowed the bead, its decaying body disappeared without a trace.

The Moon Toads then fell back into the lake and continued croaking, while the Corpse Slaves and Demon Servants agitated for a while but couldn't find any trace. Under the urging of the Divine Corpse's will, they had to continue their grisly task of cutting wounds and fetching medicine.

On the other side of the mountain, at its edge, Zhong Ziyang witnessed a miraculous scene:

That rotting Moon Toad was being fished over, still in mid-air, its body flipped over shedding its rotten clothes, revealing a dusty gray body, and with a croak, it transformed into a very strange fragment, falling into the hands of Mr. Lin Runiu.

The two stared at it, finding the fragment extremely irregular.

It seemed to be made of something like tile, inscribed with tadpole characters and Toad-formed talismans.

A thick and heavy aura emanated from it.

Zhong Ziyang couldn't comprehend it, but Tao Qian instantly knew the details.

Even before the insights burst into his mind, the nurtured Nine Toad Bead had already sent the information.

"This object is a fragment of a treasure."

"That treasure is called 'Toad God Tile.'"

"There is a record in the Nine Toad Sect's Secret Book that there's a Toad God from beyond the sky residing in a Divine Temple on a Divine Mountain, and this treasure should be a tile from that temple."

"This Divine Corpse had angered the Toad God once, and during a siege, a tile was thrown, striking it and creating a large hole, which now festered, untreatable while also infecting this tile."

"But you and I need not hurry, as the fragment transformed Moon Toad spoke to me, calling this Divine Corpse 'Evil Python.' Its injuries are severe, and even with the help of these Corpse Slaves and Demon Servants, it's not likely to recover for decades."

Tao Qian revealed this, and of course, it was true.

But the source of the information was not just the tile fragment, but also triggered insights.

Zhong Ziyang saw that scene and heard Tao Qian utter these sentences.

He believed Mr. Lin at the same time, even more convinced of his background, thinking to himself:

"Mr. Lin Runiu must be a direct disciple of an old predecessor from the Nine Toad Sect."

"No wonder, it's said that disciples of the Nine Toad Sect are rich in blessings, always finding treasures when they venture out."

"Mr. Lin visibly is a True Practitioner, naturally attracting the Valley God Gui to willingly follow him, which is most normal."

"Excellent, although the Nine Toad Sect is a Side Door, its strength is extremely strong, not weaker than any remaining Daoist sects aside from my Taishang and the Spirit Treasure Sect. If I could cleverly persuade and influence them, it would be best to participate in the upcoming Shangyang Uprising together, which would greatly help the Green Emperor."

While these thoughts settled, Zhong Ziyang suddenly pointed at the other end outside Changliu Mountain, at a massive black shadow hovering indecisively before the gray-white mist, and then pointed at the remaining large group of Moon Toads.

Then, with a relaxed smile, he said:

"As I had predicted, Gao Zhan, although mad, is also aware of dangers and sensed the terror of this Divine Corpse, daring not enter the mountain."

"Daoist, continue your actions, having obtained one fragment, there's no reason to retreat now."

"That 'Toad God Tile', capable of harming an Outer Realm Evil God, must also be an extraordinary treasure. You might as well fish up the remaining fragments one by one."

"After obtaining the treasure, we immediately flee."

"Even without this treasure to suppress, the Divine Corpse will need at least a decade to recover its vitality."

"Since both of us know its details, let alone a decade, even fifteen hours cannot be spared for it."

"That's exactly my intention!"

Tao Qian also smiled in response and then again cast his silk fishing line out.

Repeated dozens of times thereafter.

All the Moon Toads in the Pus Lake dissipated, no longer croaking.

These changes bewildered the Corpse Slaves and Demon Servants, attributing it to the fruits of their labor.

And the Divine Corpse, possessing only a wisp of its chaotic will, believed likewise, joyfully exhaled some Corpse Qi, rewarding these Undying Servants.

...

On the other side, Zhong Ziyang, rather enviously and curiously, observed Tao Qian holding the round tile in his hand.

Quaint in design, potent in Divine Light.

Truly befitting a treasure from an Outer Realm God, even just a tile radiated a tremendously shocking aura.

Yet, as he watched, Zhong Ziyang suddenly felt a chill in his mind.

At the "back of his head," an inexplicable sense of danger loomed particularly.

Especially when he saw Tao Qian holding the tile, eager to test it out, a strong sense of déjà vu emerged.

"Mr. Lin, the usage of this object isn't going to be..."

"Right, this treasure has immense power, but its usage is restricted to only one method, 'smashing people,' particularly the back of the head. Even a Cavernous Mystery Realm cultivator, if struck, would likely immediately faint, oblivious to life or death."

"Mr. Zhong need not be nervous, I, Lin Runiu, also possess some willpower, not so easily persuaded to use it to smash your head."

Chapter 440 - Jade Demon Conception, Ancestor Dragon Secret Society

Tao Qian's recent words carried an intention to conceal something by overtly displaying it.

Yet, they were also true statements, and at that moment, he was using his will to resist the strong impulses and desires aroused by the treasure in his hand.

In his spirit, a demon thought surged:

"Quick, find someone quickly. It must be a living person. Then, with a single strike of the Wa Dang, the soul feels exhilarated, and there will surely be benefits."

Tao Qian believed there were benefits, but the person before him was from the Taishang Dao lineage.

If he were to suddenly strike the back of someone's head with the Wa Dang, when Zhong Ziyang woke up, Tao Qian, as the True Master, would have to face the terrifying power of the Sixty-four Thousand Yin Yang White Eyebrow Needles.

As he suppressed this impulse, detailed records also burst forth in Tao Qian's mind:

[Name: Toad God Tile.]

[Type: Magical Treasure.]

[Record: This item is a tile from the eaves of the Toad God Palace in the Outer Realm, Great Abyss. Cast from the stone of the Great Abyss, it is not only indestructible but, after years of exposure to the Toad God's divinity, has mutated into a treasure artifact. However, because this tile has never been ritualized, there are no Forbidden Techniques within, thus its utility is minimal and consequently priced low.]

[Note 1: This treasure can be thrown or struck. However, it only becomes effective when 'striking a living creature.' If one can hit pivotal areas such as the back of the head, face, or knee, the effect can be doubled. Whether it's the dharma body or the Divine Soul, once struck by this tile, they will fall immediately into a daze, with life and death unpredictable.]

[Note 2: As this treasure contains the Toad God's qi, it has a nourishing and beneficial effect on cultivators and treasures within the Nine Toad Sect.]

[Note 3: This treasure can serve as a medium, allowing the user to establish a connection with the Toad God from the Outer Realm by striking one's own skull with the tile, causing fresh blood to burst forth. This method yields the best results and may allow the Toad God to bestow Secret Techniques or even treasures... Unlimited use; each strike guarantees a gain.]

[Note 4: Possessing or using this treasure generates some impulses, such as striking the back of the heads of living beings or one's own skull, partial exemptions are permissible.]

...

"What a... strange treasure!"

After going through the record, Tao Qian felt both joy and helplessness in his heart.

Without a doubt!

This Toad God Tile was an excellent treasure.

Not to mention its powerful attack capabilities, the fact that striking oneself even once could gain benefits from the Toad God was extraordinarily rare and valuable.

Tao Qian could imagine that if the cultivators of the Nine Toad Sect knew about this, they would stop at nothing to seize it.

Having it fall into his hands felt like casting pearls before swine.

After all, Tao Qian didn't have the preference to strike his own head, at least not currently.

He was quite skeptical that the so-called benefit of striking one's skull could just be a performance at the Toad God's place, with the reward being mere money.

"A lazy, fat, homely Outer Realm God who loves performances and rewarding!"

Holding the tile, Tao Qian muttered in his heart.

Although he was still reluctant to smash his own skull for some reward, he couldn't deny the Toad God Tile was an Exotic Treasure.

From this, he could also deduce that he was currently in a period of harvest, whether it be the Nine States' Twelve Treasures or this tile; they were almost all picked up by Tao Qian himself.

Even if it were truly an inheritance of the Nine Toad Sect, such good fortune was incredible.

After all, these two treasures were not ordinary artifacts.

Just by observing Zhong Ziyang's envious gaze, one could understand a thing or two.

"Not to mention treasures like the Vajra Demon-suppressing Stick and the Red Dust Sin Sword, which seem incredibly rare to ordinary cultivators, let's talk about the Buddha Bird Relics, the Nine Toad Bead, the Holy Embryo Bag, the Valley God Gui, and the Toad God Tile... Each of these five treasures could be used as Protecting Dao Treasures, and the Buddha Bird Relics could even be used to establish a new lineage."

"My identity as the sole true inheritor of the Duobao Lineage finally seems somewhat justified."

"The slightly irritating part is, these treasures weren't given by my master; I gained them through my own hard work."

"I see, is this the true essence of the Duobao Lineage?"

Tao Qian was internally criticizing his own master.

Suddenly, Zhong Ziyang let out an exclamation, raising his hand to point towards another part of Changliu Mountain, and sneered:

"Mr. Lin Daoist, look over there. Gao Zhan still refuses to give up, it seems he wants to use some Secret Technique to bypass his physical body's limitations to provoke the Outer Realm Divine Corpse and continue pursuing us."

"In this manner, he resembles a sticking-out turtle. Where is the dignity of a True Master from the Ultimate Happiness Realm? A filthy and fallen devil, worse than a beast, hardly even a human."

Although Zhong Ziyang was only a Cavernous Mystery Realm cultivator, his background was extraordinary.

Such ridicule of Gao Zhan, who has reached the Ultimate Happiness Realm and called "Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan," didn't seem inappropriate to Tao Qian.

Following the pointed direction, the distaste and criticism in his heart exceeded even that of Zhong Ziyang.

In the gray-white cloud barrier of Changliu Mountain, an abnormal sight suddenly appeared.

First, a thick meat pillar could be seen burrowing into the mountain.

At the front, embedded with dense eyeballs, large mouth, and thick red tongue.

The eyes full of lust, the mouth full of tusks, dripping saliva from the red tongue.

Perhaps because the Divine Corpse of the Outer Realm remained undisturbed by not moving the principal body and only inserting one meat pillar.

In an instant, its eyes locked onto Tao Qian and the other.

Despite the effects of the Dun Yi Talisman, Gao Zhan had not directly seen Tao Qian.

But as there was a blood feud between them and the qi was linked, it was not difficult to vaguely locate his foe.

Without making any noise, the next moment, a slight puffing sound was heard.

Its tail, a large mess of maggots, flesh spikes, and densely haired pus-ridden flesh penetrated into the cloud fog, the tip cracked open with a hiss, throbbing as it began to lay eggs.

The first giant egg, milky white and shining like jade, hit the ground.

The thin membrane-like shell subsequently shattered, and from the sticky pus, a creature writhing like a mix of Human Clan and Alien Species, making one's scalp tingle with its breathing sounds, was eager to be born.

"Not good, Gao Zhan, this beast, has indeed abandoned the body of the Human Clan."

"This is the 'Jade Demon Childbirth Secret Method,' consuming some mana, he can breed useful descendants. This person is now hermaphrodite, confusing yin and yang, truly deserves to be killed."

"If we could let him live, we truly might circumvent..."

As Zhong Ziyang spoke, he was about to make a move.

But before that, Tao Qian made his move first.

Impeccably smooth, no hesitation.

Almost subconsciously, he poured some mana into the Wa Dang in his hand and tossed it toward the barrier.

That Wa Dang, an object of the Toad God from the Outer Realm.

Though it lacks an Artifact Spirit, it possesses its own mysteries.

Once it left Tao Qian's hand, it instantly transformed into an invisible divine light undetectable by anyone.

In a flash, it struck the "meat pillar head" of Gao Zhan reaching into the mountain.

With a crisp snap, an ugly head burst open like a shattered watermelon.

The yet unborn "Jade Demon" inside the enormous egg also met its doom, instantly turning into a mess of rotten flesh; dead within the egg.

But that was not all!

Unsatisfied, the Toad God Wa Dang, cutting through the clouds and fog, slapped onto the actual head of Gao Zhan.

Had it been any other treasure, even something as precious as the Nine Toad Bead, this Ultimate Happiness Realm powerhouse would have instantly noticed it and cast spells to seize it.

However, the Toad God Wa Dang was extremely crafty, leaving not a trace of its presence.

The next instant, Tao Qian and Zhong Ziyang just heard a loud "clang" sound coming from outside Changliu Mountain.

When the Wa Dang flew back to Tao Qian's hands, Gao Zhan, who had been stealthily attacked, let out a miserable wail. Numerous crystal spikes, each tens of meters long, involuntarily pierced into the mountain.

A Cavernous Mystery Realm cultivator hit by the Wa Dang would be instantly knocked unconscious.

While an Ultimate Happiness Realm powerhouse couldn't be knocked unconscious, a slap could still tear flesh and break skin, causing minor yet extremely painful injury.

Gao Zhan's wailing and rolling, his screaming outbursts, eventually drew the attention of a lingering thread of True Spirit Will from the Divine Corpses.

The Corpse Slaves and Demon Servants paused, then simultaneously turned their heads to look towards Gao Zhan.

A conflict was about to erupt.

At that moment, Tao Qian tucked the Wa Dang into his robes and, with a smile, said to Zhong Ziyang,

"Daoist Zhong, the timing is perfect."

"This demonic corpse will block Gao Zhan for us. If Gao Zhan stubbornly persists, once our masters arrive, we might just end him in one fell swoop."

"Brilliant, brilliant, let's go."

Zhong Ziyang was also delighted. The two of them each sent messages to summon others.

The former invited an elder from Taishang Dao.

Tao Qian, less honest, led others to believe he had invited a powerhouse from the Nine Toad Sect.

Nevertheless, there was no mistake. As Yuan Gong mentioned, when it came to sharing the spoils, Duobao was exceptionally skilled. Whether it involved disguises or other tactics, he could easily cover Tao Qian's origins and still secure the most valuable treasures.

Even if someone from Taishang Dao arrived, they wouldn't be able to outmatch him.

"Once my master gains a benefit, as a guide and messenger, it'd be perfectly reasonable for me to share in the profit,"

"Though I already have many treasures on me, who would ever spurn a few more?"

Muttering this to himself, Tao Qian followed Zhong Ziyang away from Changliu Mountain.

They circled around and immediately headed toward Shangyang City in the New Moon Province, the capital city.

With the supernatural powers of the two, and without an enemy like Gao Zhan chasing them, they were bound to encounter no further trouble along the way.

During the journey, Zhong Ziyang took the opportunity to introduce Tao Qian to New Moon Province, and the secret society he belonged to, the Ancestor Dragon Society.

"Daoist Lin, given your aspiration to travel the world, you cannot miss the land of New Moon."

"Among the provinces of the Northern Land, regardless of comparison, New Moon Province is undoubtedly among the top three."

"Speaking of heritage, this is where the ancestors of the Human Clan began their rises by wresting the world from indescribable mysteries and abnormalities, starting right from the heartlands of New Moon. The deeds of the Ancestor Emperor, who swept across the wastelands, also began from 'Shangyang City.' Subsequent new dynasties have all chosen Shangyang as their Imperial City, not at all inferior to places like Xiajing, Divine Capital, or Wu City."

"Speaking of the Mortal World, New Moon Province boasts a vast territory with hundreds to thousands of large and small cities, with a population nearing hundreds of millions. Any prosperous scene or luxurious enjoyment found elsewhere in the world can also be seen in New Moon Province, unmatched by Demon City and even surpassing Imperial City."

"Speaking of the Cultivation World, famed mountains and great rivers, Cave Heaven Blessed Lands, and even ancient relics and mysterious, strange secret realms abound in New Moon Province. It gathers

Daoist, Buddhist, demonic, and devilish beings, heresies, heterodoxies, as well as millennium-old clans and prominent families."

...

Hearing this, Tao Qian assessed that Daoist Zhong was about to make a critical turn.

Sure enough, a voice full of rage soon followed:

"After the Ancestor Emperor's demise, the reigns of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, including New Moon Province among its seventy-two provinces, fell into the hands of Alchemists, that group of old fools poisoned us all."

"Gao Zhan and his ilk are from among the Alchemists, his ancestors being one of their leaders who reached the Daoist Transformation Realm. But looking at the Gao family, regardless of how high their cultivation, they are neither human nor beast, just demonic beasts."

"The land of Shen Zhou was originally abundant with spiritual energy, which if well managed could promise an unlimited future... But those old beasts piled atop billions, sucking blood, have utterly ruined this era, and since the Ancestor God Forbidden Techniques crumbled, it has only added insult to injury for the people of this world."

"But as they say, when things reach an extreme, they can only move in the opposite direction. In chaotic times like these, heroes emerge."

"Daoist Lin, you must have heard about the recent upheaval in Demon City and the 'Yang Sui Uprising.'"

"The Daoist Tao from Spirit Treasure Sect, truly a heroic figure."

"With his own might, he manipulated many decaying powers and even managed a severe blow to those Alchemists; truly a disciple of Duobao True Monarch, even my master said, Daoist Tao has immeasurable merit."

"Though this drastic measure alone cannot save the world in a short time, it's an incredibly significant beginning, abolishing the imperial system and state designations, effectively pulling the rug out from under the Alchemists, severing their foundations. I heard that the Southern Provinces have already started this; we too cannot lag behind too much."

"Daoist Lin, I wouldn't hide from you that I, Zhong Ziyang, along with a group of fellows, have formed the 'Ancestor Dragon Society.'"

"Recently, we plan to rally around Daoist Ying Qingdi, a descendant of the Ancestor Emperor, to initiate an uprising within Shangyang City, to completely seize New Moon Province from those decaying powers and fallen warlords."

"If Daoist Lin has a heart to save the world, would you like to join us?"

"If you dislike slaughter, you could discuss it with our fellows, perhaps serve as a Grain and Grass Officer. With the Ancestor God Treasure in your possession that can refine the essence of the Five Grains, saving disaster victims would also be an extremely meritorious deed, how about it?"