

Longevity 461

Chapter 461 - Longevity Strategy, Yellow Heaven Secret Scroll

In the Ancestor Dragon Hall, within a certain chamber.

Tao Qian almost crushed the fake toad in his hand, and he was a hair's breadth away from casting a spell to rescue them.

In this world, good people are scarce, and Yin Juejun and Duan Qiu, this heroic couple, were what Tao Qian considered to be good people.

As he watched these enthusiastic comrades being plotted against, how could Tao Qian restrain himself?

However, he soon realized it was too late.

What he had just witnessed was a delayed scene, transferred by the Invisibility Demon.

It seemed as though his thoughts had been sensed, and as soon as the projection ended, the Demon immediately reported:

"Master, those two Yellow Skin Monsters are highly alert. I dared not get too close."

"However, in my judgment, there is still a chance to save those two Human Clan Cultivators, albeit very slim."

"Those Yellow Skin Monsters seem to be akin to the 'Soul-harboring Demons' from the Outer Realm, and they seem to have owners. Their actions aim to create followers who have their own thoughts yet are extremely loyal and fervent. This is a clever technique, far more effective than common deceit or arranging Heavenly Demons to seize bodies."

"As the common saying goes, 'the person who tied the bell should be the one to untie it.' If Master could control the masters of these Evil Spirits, there might be hope to save that unfortunate man and woman."

"If not, even with Master's formidable abilities, rushing there now would do nothing but startle the snakes and result in no other outcome."

It was rare, but Tao Qian was persuaded by the advice of his subordinate, the Outer Demon.

After silently considering it, he had to admit that it was indeed the case.

Cruel, yet unchangeable for the moment.

Tao Qian furrowed his brows slightly, seemingly distressed by issues of cultivation, but in reality, thoughts were swirling in his mind:

"I was worried about Ying Qingdi, fretting on his behalf that even if his revolutionary efforts succeeded, his loose organization would result in others claiming the fruits of victory."

"But unexpectedly, the fool is myself."

"Should I say, as expected of a hero? With this silent method, building a base of unprecedented loyalty and fervor for oneself, indeed far surpasses the likes of Zhu Qi, Zhang Jiudeng, Song Tiecheng."

"Now, the only question is: how many within the Ancestor Dragon Society have been corrupted by Ying Qingdi?"

"Is it Zhong Ziyang? What about Lin Bujue? And what about Chen Xiyi, Qi Daozhen, and Shen Ruolan? Have they all been contaminated?"

"No, that's not right. They shouldn't be yet."

"While such methods are covert, they have a drawback; they must progress step by step, impatiently cannot, and must start from the lowest level. For people like Lin Bujue, Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, they would become alert at even the slightest hint of such events."

"No wonder, when coming here, Zhong Ziyang and Lin Bujue mentioned that since joining the Ancestor Dragon Society, they have been extremely busy to the point of exhaustion. It seems now that Ying Qingdi deliberately made it so, to prevent those members skilled in various techniques and strong in cultivation from discovering the secrets in Hidden Dragon Mountain."

"His actions must have started from inconspicuous details, in the most overlooked and hidden places..."

Suddenly, as if Tao Qian had thought of something, a flash of inspiration struck his mind.

Immediately, his gaze swept across the chamber, landing on a rosewood bookshelf in the room, filled with books, thick and thin, each hand-copied with slight variations, exuding a faint aroma of ink.

Pretending to have finished his cultivation, Tao Qian stood up and walked over.

In the next moment, a row of titles caught his eye.

Immortal and Mortal Debate!

Green Emperor's Uprising!

Longevity Strategy!

Outer Realm Strange Events Examination!

Ten Methods of Governing by the Ancestor Saint!

Ancestor Emperor's Dao Validation Song!

...

Without any surprise, all these works were authored by the same person, Ying Qingdi.

Relying on too much himself, Tao Qian did not hesitate. He reached out and took the first book from the shelf to flip through it.

A thin booklet, with not much content, revolving around the theme of "equality between Immortals and Mortals."

Ying Qingdi attempted to use the fact that immortals, demons, and devils all arise from mortals and, coupled with the influence of fortune, to argue counter-evidence for the equality of immortals and mortals, proposing that the cultivation sects of the world, be they Daoist, Buddhist, Demon, or Devil, should all integrate into the mundane world to aid their own lineage and so on.

It has to be said that his literary flair is impressive, but it's all talk, and even Tao Qian isn't convinced, let alone the entire Cultivation World. This booklet seems to be propaganda aimed at the common people.

Putting it down, Tao Qian then looked at the second book, "Green Emperor's Uprising."

The content was even more straightforward and directly recorded Ying Qingdi's multiple attempts at initiating reforms and revolts in the various provinces of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, totaling thirty-six times, both large and small.

Although each attempt ended in failure, Tao Qian still gradually became immersed in it.

Because the protagonist was not just Ying Qingdi; there were other heroes, and the focus was even on others.

Ying Qingdi seemed intent on highlighting the greatness of those who sacrificed themselves, turning himself into a recorder of sorts, writing down all their heroic and tragic tales.

"The Qinfu City uprising, with two hundred and thirty heroes, including fifty cultivators and the rest being martial artists or strange people, attempted to assassinate the current Emperor Zhu Yong passing through Qinfu City at the time... The assassination failed. Ying Qingdi and Liu Chengyan, although they broke through the Forbidden Army's defenses, were thwarted by a powerful figure beside Zhu Yong. Disciple of the Shenxiao Sect, Liu Chengyan, to protect the lives of the others, coerced Zhu Yong to release them with the 'Innate Divine Thunder Self-Slaughter Secret Method', ultimately resulting in two hundred and one sacrifices, including Liu Chengyan himself."

"The Zhenbei Pass uprising was led by Master Huo Ya, Sun and Moon Zen Master, and Ying Qingdi, with a hundred cultivators and heroic individuals, attempting to seize this well-known perilous pass in the Northern Land that had accumulated thousands of layers of significant prohibitions over the years... An infiltrator from the Demon Sect in the uprising squad led to a massacre by the border army. Except for Master Huo Ya and Ying Qingdi who escaped, all the others died. In a fit of rage, the leader of the border army, the Poison Demon General Fei Shigu, even ordered the slaughter of several cities related to them, resulting in rivers of blood and the deaths and injuries of more than a hundred thousand civilians."

"The Zhu Familial Fifth Prince Tomb uprising aimed to gather resources and treasures for the many rebel armies within the seventy-two provinces. Individuals like Zhou Shixiu, Ying Qingdi, Bi Longgong, and Huang Feihu, in collaboration with the Moving Mountain Sect, jointly robbed the tombs of five princes from the Zhu Dynasty... Although they successfully obtained many treasures, the act alarmed the Zhu ancestors and they were eradicated from afar. Ying Qingdi and Bi Longgong were critically injured and escaped, while all the others died."

"The Imperial City new army uprising, where Princess Zhu Xiaozhuang, eight hundred miles away from the Imperial City at Dragon Suppressing Mountain, combining Royal Secret Method and some foreign Divine Spirit techniques, created a new army. One of the leaders, Fang Jiujie, in alliance with Ying Qingdi, Ma Zhongshan, Zhou Changmin, and others sought to take control of the new army, intending to storm the Imperial City and execute the Zhu Royal Family... Unexpectedly, Zhu Xiaozhuang was a descendant of the Evil Sect, and at the critical moment, she cast a spell to summon an Evil Sect Elder. The uprising failed, and except for Ying Qingdi who survived, the rest died, including tens of thousands of new army soldiers who joined the rebellion."

...

One heroic endeavor after another, one hero after another.

Through the records of Ying Qingdi, a witness himself, even the most hard-hearted cannot help but be moved at this moment.

Those who are more empathetic, who already have aspirations for national salvation, are utterly unable to resist it.

Suddenly, they become engrossed.

Unknowingly, he also looked at subsequent books like 'Longevity Strategy', 'Outer Realm Strange Events Examination', and more.

Although Tao Qian was wary before reading, by the time nearly all the books were finished, he still hadn't felt anything unusual.

What he gained was merely a clearer understanding of Ying Qingdi's life trajectory in the first half of his life.

This person!

Truly a tenacious hero who fought continuously despite repeated failures.

Thirty-six uprisings, both big and small, fighting across many provinces, each ending in failure with heavy casualties.

Anyone else would have collapsed by now.

Perhaps they would have ended it all or seen through the vanity of the world and retreated to the mountains for cultivation.

But Ying Qingdi never gave up.

Finally, after many attempts, he formed the foundation of the Ancestor Dragon Society.

With just a bit of discernment, one could see the various forces converging on the mountain and know that the "New Moon Uprising" Ying Qingdi was preparing would come infinitely close to succeeding.

The New Moon of the Northern Land's large province would fall into his hands.

So, this seems to be a good thing, right?

Having seen those feats, who wouldn't develop a favorable impression of Ying Qingdi.

If the compatibility was right, one might indeed fully endorse him and follow him.

"Could it be, that I was wrong?"

As this thought crossed Tao Qian's mind, involuntarily, several other thoughts arose.

"The idea of equality between immortals and mortals does hold some merit... If the New Moon Uprising is successful, it would also be considered great... The Seven Evils Sect deserves to be exterminated, and the Alchemists should die too... The Ancestor Emperor is certainly also great..."

When these thoughts surged, Tao Qian had not yet realized anything amiss.

Suddenly, Master Yuan's voice rang out in his arms:

"Boy, wake up quickly, you've been ensnared."

Master Yuan's voice, like the sound of a large bell, caused a thick yellow light to flicker in Tao Qian's eyes, abruptly going out.

At the same time, Record after Record belatedly entered Tao Qian's mind:

[Suffering from the invasion of Outer Realm Evil Technique... Exemption Granted!]

[Record Name: Yellow Heaven Evil Slave Summoning Divine Spell.]

[Record Type: Outer Realm Evil Technique.]

[Record: This is a special magic skill for developing Evil Slaves, invisible and traceless, hidden within secret commands, stemming from the Outer Realm Evil Scripture 'Yellow Heaven Secret Scroll'.]

...

Having come to his senses, Tao Qian, feeling the earlier anomaly and the Records revealing the truth, his eyes filled with shock and joy.

Shocked by the truth, he was pleased that by following his intuition and reading all of Ying Qingdi's works in one go, he indeed made an astounding discovery.

Chapter 462 - Yuan Gong Offers a Strategy to Seize the Magpie Nest, Tao Qian Sends a Demon to Scheme against the Green Emperor

Tao Qian had previously come into contact with the Yellow Robed Eunuch and Ying Qingdi's true body, both times without any gain.

Now, by actively venturing into danger, he had finally fished out some clues.

The invisible and traceless Divine Spell had actively sought to invade, and in turn, had been glimpsed by Tao Qian in its entirety.

In his mind, the Records continued to burst forth:

[Note 1: This spell is an intangible Secret Spell that can hide in sound, shape, characters, images, elephants, and almost any medium. Those below the Daoist Transformation Realm are unable to detect even a hint of it. Once cursed, one will gradually become the caster's evil slave without realizing it, believing they are willingly, blindly following with utmost loyalty.]

[Note 2: This spell is difficult to undo, other than by the caster themselves. Only a few rare Secret Techniques remain, such as the Taishang Dao's "Taishang Zhengyi Alliance Power Talisman," Taishang Demon Sect's "Heavenly Demon Soul Returning Technique," Spirit Treasure Sect's "True Word Secret Decree," or Primordial Sect's "Primordial Venerable's Decree."]

[Note 3: There are varying degrees of affliction among those who are cursed. If one is merged with the 'Yellow Robed Slaves' into their body, it forms a deep bond making it difficult to return, formally establishing a master-servant relationship. If someone tries to undo the spell at this time, the caster will be alerted.]

[Note 4: Due to the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body, all costs can be waived!]

...

Looking at these Records, Tao Qian quickly realized Ying Qingdi's ruse.

The scoundrel was indeed treacherous.

"Others write books and set forth biographies to express their aspirations."

"Ying Qingdi, however, uses those books as vessels to spread the 'Yellow Heaven Evil Slave Summoning Divine Spell.'"

"The Primordial Human Record states that Ying Qingdi disseminated his writings not only within New Moon Province but also in other provinces... The Divine Spell at least requires a Daoist Transformation Realm Cultivator to detect, yet how would such powerful Daoist Transformation Realm experts bother to read Ying Qingdi's seemingly naive books?"

"The real victims, apart from the general populace, also include a large number of Martial Artists and strange persons with similar aspirations, as well as middle and lower-ranking Cultivators, like Duan Qiu and Yin Juejun."

"Wait a minute?"

"What about the original members of the Ancestor Dragon Society, such as Yin Susu and members from other provinces? Have they also been contaminated?"

Just as this doubt emerged in Tao Qian's mind, the answer quickly followed.

The Invisibility Demons he had sent out were returning one after another.

One after another, they turned into intangible Demon Lights and clashed towards him, projecting the various scenes from within the Ancestor Dragon Hall.

In a moment, Tao Qian, who was seated in his chamber on a meditation mat, became aware of the many secrets surrounding him.

Aside from scenes of private nature such as "Double Body Temple Cultivators collectively practicing" or "the four daughters of the Devil God privately discussing Tao Qian," he also saw other secrets.

For example, many upper-level members of the Ancestor Dragon Society were dismissive of the concept of "Immortal and Mortal Equality" and were secretly plotting to rebel again once Ying Qingdi seized New Moon and forcefully implemented his policies.

Or Xu Wenkai, the remnant general of the Taiping Army, who managed to obtain the first volume of the Taiping Scripture because his true identity was the illegitimate son of the Taiping Heavenly King. His joining the Ancestor Dragon Society was also part of the Taiping Heavenly King's plan to hedge his bets.

The three Loose Cultivators who received the Heavenly Corpse Inheritance were certainly Heroes, but their ambitions differed from those of the Ancestor Dragon Society. The trio considered transforming the mortal world into a zombie nation as a method of salvation. Thus, they planned to ask Ying Qingdi for a city after the success of New Moon's uprising, turn the entire city's populace into zombies, and carry out an experiment.

The disciples of the various sects from New Moon Province, split between the Daoist and Buddhist factions, all went to pay their respects to Linghu Ying and Shazhei Monk, representatives of the Xuan Dao Sect and Beichan Temple, once night fell. They asked both of them to take a stand and resist the emblems of the Ying Qingdi's Immortal Sect.

Many more members seemed to have seen that the "New Moon Uprising" would surely succeed, and signs of corruption became apparent as they discussed how to divide up the vast New Moon Province, as well as matters of expansion into other provinces.

Beyond these, the rest were like Duan Qiu and his company, members showing signs of fanaticism, to a greater or lesser extent, eight or nine out of ten.

After a good while, Tao Qian digested what he had learned.

His brow furrowed slightly, yet there was no sign of surprise on his face.

Only in his heart did he silently lament, "A tree rots from its roots before it grows; it's all too common. What is surprising, though, is the scale of Ying Qingdi's ambition, unexpectedly vast."

Tao Qian said this because of what he had glimpsed.

The "Yellow Heaven Evil Slave Summoning Divine Spell" was extremely secretive, but once Tao Qian figured out the pattern, he could easily see the traces.

Those who were overly fanatic or convinced by Ying Qingdi all had the suspicion of being tainted.

Based on this, the state of the Ancestor Dragon Society was extremely serious.

And it was not just the ordinary local members; people like Pei Hong, who practiced the "Heavenly Blade Demon Suppression Scripture", and the Yellow Robed Land God and Green Robed Mountain God from other provinces, varied in the degree of contamination, but it was almost certain they were all invaded by the Divine Spell.

Tao Qian could almost foresee a massive organization completely loyal to Ying Qingdi taking shape.

"If this bastard really succeeds, it's not just New Moon Province in trouble; one by one, all the Northern Land Provinces may not escape either."

"If this son of a bitch was just a common ambitious usurper, that'd be one thing, but considering names like Yellow Heaven Evil Mirror, Yellow Heaven Secret Scroll, and these Outer Realm evil object evil scriptures, could this guy be a traitor, an usher for Outer Realm Evil Gods?"

Upon this thought, Tao Qian felt deeply uneasy.

While he was contemplating, he also informed Master Yuan of these finds.

It's wasteful not to use an elder when one is available.

However, he had overlooked Master Yuan's background; as soon as he finished speaking, he received a very sincere piece of advice.

Master Yuan was even somewhat excited and swiftly transmitted his response:

"Foolish boy, what's there to worry about, for you this is simply a great opportunity."

"How so?"

"Have you ever heard of a strategy called cuckoo occupying the sparrow's nest? From what you've said, that kid called Ying Qingdi is quite skillful, and has already whipped this damned Ancestor Dragon Society into shape, just waiting to launch and snatch New Moon Province from the hands of the Seven Evil Sects... He uses Outer Realm Evil Gods' secret techniques to succeed, which in turn becomes his biggest weakness. If you had no way to break that Divine Spell, that would be another story, but since you know the True Word Secret Decree, you are naturally his destroyer."

"In that case, just let him do his thing. You just need to pick out some of the members in this Ancestor Dragon Society who haven't been contaminated and controlled, win them over with a mix of grace and power, and set up your own small faction. Lin Bujue, Zhong Ziyang, and a few others seem suitable."

"Don't expose yourself just yet, just wait until the moment Ying Qingdi succeeds. Then join forces with Zhong Ziyang and others to break his Divine Spell and seize his fruits of victory."

"You don't need to worry about the backlash from the Outer Realm Evil Gods, you've been in this world so long and yet have never called for a strong support from your sect. This matter you may request. I've heard some about the Evil God behind the Yellow Heaven Secret Scroll, you just need to send a message back, not to mention Duobao and such, but even Ma Yi, Shifang, and several of the second generation ancestors from your Spirit Treasure Sect would be willing to take a trip to wipe your bottom."

"With such actions, you young man could leap directly from a wayward wanderer to the master of a great force, carving out a Spirit Treasure Sect of your own, with such clout that suppressing all your peers would be no issue at all. Truly, it is a splendid opportunity; no wonder Lingbao Tianzun threw you to this place."

At this point, Yuan Gong paused.

Then, with a tone of frustration born of high expectations, he spoke again:

"You young man carry many treasures and have received multiple inheritances."

"For others to obtain one, they would have to be grateful and devote themselves to cultivation, hoping to achieve success on the immortal path."

"But you, roaming around, when will you find the time to properly cultivate? Sort out these trivial matters as soon as possible and follow me to learn the remaining Demon Suppressing, Slaying Strange, God Slaying, and Destroying Buddha skills of the Secret Demon Sword Skill. If you do not wish to learn, find me a good successor soon. I have no need for a lazy person like you."

"Master Yuan, no need to rush, it will be soon."

While Tao Qian pondered over the plan Master Yuan had mentioned, he casually responded to his master's impatient urging.

Cuckoo occupies the sparrow's nest!

That was the plan of the old demons from Secret Demon Sect, and it was very reasonable.

If Tao Qian were truly a qualified Secret Demon Child, he should indeed follow the plan, but he wasn't, and he knew himself well. He was not the sort of "hero" who could rule a province, at least not for the time being.

However, Yuan Gong's suggestion did have points worth considering.

Holding the "Ancestor Emperor's Dao Validation Song Rhymes" in his hand, Tao Qian mulled over in his heart:

"Although the Ancestor Dragon Society has been deeply corrupted, it still holds great value, at least for the current New Moon Province. It can be said that the Ancestor Dragon Society is the only savior."

"As long as I can select those who have not yet been tainted, and once they grow into towering trees, carving out the rot from their flesh to inherit the fruits of victory would still be a great deed."

"The only problem now is, who remains untainted?"

"Lin Bujue? Zhong Ziyang? Chen Xiyi? Qi Daozhen?"

"None can be certain, as the Divine Curse is indeed an Outer Realm Evil Technique, formless and traceless. The tainted individuals show no evidence other than their fanaticism toward Ying Qingdi, and if I had not witnessed yellow-robed slaves merge into Cultivators Duan Qiu and Yin Juejun, meeting them tomorrow would likely reveal no flaws."

"Thinking about it now, it seems like Zhong Ziyang has been affected."

"So how should the screening be done?"

Tao Qian did not ponder long; as he turned his head to see a row of obedient and invisible demons waiting to receive their rewards, the answer suddenly emerged.

In his mind, a slightly mad plan took shape.

"Those who fall victim to the Outer Realm Divine Curse are branded upon the soul, becoming private property of Ying Qingdi or the evil gods behind him."

"It's said that one mountain cannot contain two tigers; if another demon were to attempt body seizing, Ying Qingdi would likely not allow it."

"I can deliberately create a large-scale body seizing incident by Outer Realm Heaven Demons to select the untainted."

Once determined, Tao Qian increasingly felt the feasibility of the plan.

And moreover, it was very convenient.

In the span of a few breaths, Tao Qian selected a location from the scenes he had previously observed, which could be exploited.

First, he would pretend to cultivate a secret technique and remove the shielding prohibitions.

Then, after giving a group of invisible demons their reward, he directly took out the Demon Gourd, gave it a shake, and demon light surged forth, revealing hundreds of various Heavenly Demons.

"Greetings, Master!"

The well-trained demons cried out in unison.

Tao Qian nodded with a smile and gave his commands:

"In a chamber some distance from here, there is a man named Kuang Fusheng."

"He is currently cultivating the Summoning Demon Technique, not well-versed, often allowing Heavenly Demons to slip in. However, he's set up a trapped demon prohibition, so there are no issues."

"Later, you will return to the Demon Gourd, with the invisible demons leading the way. Afterward, Decree Demon, you quietly meddle with it to cause the man's cultivation to go out of control, letting at least a thousand low-class, inferior Heavenly Demons pass through and break that trapped demon prohibition. Let these demons proceed with body seizing... You will accompany them and observe, selecting those who cannot be seized for me."

"However, you must also take care, as a backlash will arrive soon, and any carelessness will result in death."

"Once the task is done, destroy this Demon Gourd and then all return to the Outer Realm to await my call. Do not leave a trace."

"Is it possible?"

"Master, rest assured!"

"Piece of cake."

"Dirty work like this, we've long since mastered."

"Master, just prepare the reward and it's easy, no trouble at all."

...

After the demons boasted, they returned to the Demon Gourd, carried away without trace by the invisible demons, all heading to Kuang Fusheng's location.

Once they succeeded, Kuang Fusheng would certainly die.

But Tao Qian would feel no guilt as, though there were many heroes in the Ancestor Dragon Society, this man was not one of them.

What the invisible demon had spied on: this man's realm was at Foundation Establishment, serving in the Ancestor Dragon Society's Assassination Hall. His cultivation had hit a snag, and he had to rely on the Five Organs Divine Pill for relief, negating the consequences. The main ingredient for this elixir required the five internal organs of Human Clan members, and the organs of the wicked were of no use; only those of good people would suffice.

Through his position, this man killed several evildoers, but he had taken even more innocent lives.

Such a person, dead is dead.

Chapter 463 - Sanyuan Commits Murder, Kuang Fusheng; Great Treachery Appears Loyal, Lin Runiu

In a certain chamber within the Ancestor Dragon Hall, not only was it secluded and dark, but it also faced a cliff, with chilling winds blowing and the earth's fire lingering around.

The place seemed harsh indeed, and apart from a few cultivators who practiced special cultivation techniques, no one else would choose such a territory.

Kuang Fusheng, however, was different; he worked for the Assassination Hall and harbored sneaky intentions.

This place suited him just right.

He was about forty years old with a fairly pleasant appearance, a pale face without a beard, and regular features—only a pair of drooping eyes ruined his demeanor, making anyone who looked into his eyes feel his fierceness and cold indifference, not at all like a good man.

In truth, he was once considered a good person. Growing up poor with only his widowed mother, she single-handedly raised him. Later, with his exceptional business acumen, he amassed a considerable fortune before thirty, was kind to others and praised by neighbors.

Regrettably, he later faced disaster when his neighbors and servants conspired to plunder his home and, accidentally, killed his mother.

Kuang Fusheng became embittered by this turn of events. Fortune subsequently favored him when he acquired a scroll of the "Three Elements Kill Body Scripture." Although it was a heterodox magic, it resonated well with Kuang Fusheng, who spent over a decade cultivating to the Foundation Establishment Realm. During that time, he tracked down all of his family's enemies across several provinces and tortured them to death.

This was the logic of Heavenly Dao's retribution, with nothing much to criticize.

Unfortunately, Kuang Fusheng was too hasty in his cultivation for revenge, which inevitably led to complications. A killing intent loomed over his Mud Pill Palace and couldn't settle, subjecting him to the torment of "Killing Qi Rebound" every now and then. During these periods, his heart and soul would be in intense pain, his internal organs as if being pierced back and forth by myriad blades—agony unfathomable to outsiders.

To alleviate the pain, he had no choice but to refine the demonic and nefarious "Five Organs Divine Pill," which ultimately led him down an evil path.

In those years, there were hundreds, if not a thousand, good people who died by his hands.

More crucially, he had fallen too deeply into the Demon Path, without the desire or possibility of turning back.

And now!

He sat cross-legged in the room, surrounded by a total of eighteen palm-sized flags, each embroidered with the image of a divine general from an Immortal Sect—complicated and splendid, majestic and awe-

inspiring, vibrating with golden light—part of a Demon Suppression Forbidden Technique known as the "Nine Palace Demon Suppression."

He had had to beg the leader of the Ancestor Dragon Society's Assassination Hall, Shen Ruolan, for a full seven days before he successfully borrowed it.

Kuang Fusheng sat with his eyes slightly closed, before him was the "Ten Thousand Demon List," resembling a book of nothingness, flipping pages loudly before finally settling on a page that clearly revealed an alien species demon.

This Demon had a human head on a ghost's body, with two heads and four arms.

The heads were yin and yang, one female and one male.

The four arms each wielded a spear, halberd, iron sword, and big saber. They were evil spirits of vile nature, with Demonic Qi surging to heaven. A casual look from an average person would be enough to scare them to death.

As the caster, Kuang Fusheng was naturally unafraid.

He glanced at the drawing of the Demon, took note of its name and commands, his eyes flashed with longing, and he pondered in his heart:

"It's not easy to borrow the Demon Suppression Prohibition; I must succeed this time."

"As long as I summon this yin-yang Execution Demon and devour its true body, combining the three elements, then kill myself, I can advance to Transcend Mortality, and even grind away that killing intent in my heart—killing two birds with one stone, it's a huge advantage."

"The big moment is upon us; the vast organization of the Ancestor Dragon Society that has lain dormant for so long is about to emerge. If I succeed in advancing, I will surely make a name for myself in the society... Hah, even Shen Ruolan, who has always looked down on me, might end up beneath me, willingly giving her favors."

Scattered thoughts churned for a moment, quickly dispatched by Kuang Fusheng with a surge of killing intent.

Then, he quietly began casting the "Summoning Demon Technique," intending to summon the Demon from the Outer Realm.

Though he practiced the Summoning Demon Technique, it was by pure chance that he obtained it. He possessed neither the Secret Demon Inheritance nor Tao Qian's uniqueness, so there was absolutely no way he could ever deeply master the magic skill.

Naturally, he failed to notice that what appeared to be an empty room was, in actuality, bustling with activity at this moment.

A multitude of Invisibility Demons were squatting and peering around, observing the target through a Forbidden Technique.

Having spent a long time with their Master, they gradually picked up the bad habit of making snide comments.

"Wow! This lad has some serious ambition, daring to summon an Execution Demon. That demon is on par with us, yet its combat power is somewhat higher. Even if summoned, could this kid possibly control it?"

"Don't glorify yourself. We're adept at remaining unseen, but when it comes to combat, even lower-level demons outmatch us. Not to mention a killing machine like an Execution Demon."

"If you can't beat them, you can't beat them. What good is just killing? If that demon were to serve under the old Master, it wouldn't even get any duties to perform. Not like us. Whenever the Master faces an issue, we're the first he thinks of. Using invisibility to spy is incredibly convenient."

"Indeed, of the many demons under the old Master, we are the most useful and receive the most rewards. It won't be long before I get promoted and will be far ahead of those pitiful folks from the Outer Realm."

"If I remember correctly, the most favored by the old Master are Star Zha child, Red Lady Demon, Decree Demon, and then it's us."

"Nonsense, it's us."

"Stop arguing, this chap is about to form a connection with the Outer Realm and open the passage... Quickly release the group of demons from the Demon Gourd. Let's all use Demon Thought together to reach out to those dazed kin from the Outer Realm, so they rush over in droves and burst this Demon Suppression Forbidden Technique. When that happens, this lad is as good as dead, and our mission can be completed with ease."

The leader of the Invisibility Demons had just issued the command.

Inside the barrier, Kuang Fusheng suddenly let out a low shout.

"All Heavens Secret Demon, please come forth."

With the last word uttered.

Kuang Fusheng only saw a pitch-black vortex appear before him, and a familiar Demon Shadow emerged slowly from within.

With two heads and four arms, each wielding demon weapons.

It was the "Execution Demon" he desperately longed for. However, before he could react.

Out of the corner of his eye, he seemed to see something.

Turning his head abruptly, he saw that outside the Demon Suppression Forbidden Technique in his room, a multitude of Outer Realm Demons had appeared.

Invisibility Demons, Substitute Demons, Star Zha Demons, Joyful Demons... even the incredibly rare Red Lady Demon.

If Kuang Fusheng had personally summoned these demons, he would be delighted and exhilarated.

Unfortunately, that was not the case.

Therefore, at this moment, Kuang Fusheng was plunged into terror.

Especially when he saw that each of the hundreds of demons standing outside the Forbidden Technique was showing him a strangely eerie smile.

Among them, an enchantingly beautiful Joyful Demon extended her slender finger, pointed behind him, and said with a voice full of charm:

"Kind sir, you'd better turn around quickly. While you're so focused on looking at one's chest and thighs, the Execution Demon you summoned is getting angry."

"This is a vicious spawn of murder, once summoned into this world, its first act is to slaughter its master, utterly crude."

The Joyful Demon's words were far from a mere reminder.

Clearly, they were a deathly demon sound.

At the moment he turned his head, he had already missed the moment to control the demon.

There was simply no time to use the magic skill for negotiating with the demon imparted to him by Shen Ruolan, let alone to invoke the forbidden technique to send the demon back to the Outer Realm.

He felt a sudden chill at his neck, and then his fine head soared into the air, gripped by a long, black-haired demon hand and carried upside down to the "Yin Face" of the Execution Demon. The female demon opened her mouth, extending a long red and black tongue, and with a slurping noise, she licked his brain clean through the split in his head.

The male demon was even more savage, waving his arms as if wielding iron swords and large knives, hacking Kuang Fusheng's mangled body into large chunks as easily as chopping vegetables, and stuffed them into his mouth, swallowing them whole.

The Execution Demon, indeed adept at slaughter among the Outer Realm Heaven Demons, moved with extreme speed. In a moment, "Kuang Fusheng" was devoured completely, without even a trace of his primordial spirit's true spirit escaping. He had truly met his death.

However, it also had no time to rejoice. Just after savoring the sweet dessert, at least a thousand colourful Heaven Demons sprang from behind.

This was the power of connected demon thoughts!

The hundreds of demons under Tao Qian's command were all of not low status, each one highly prized.

When they "called" to their kin with "demon thoughts," the effect was extraordinary.

In an instant! The Nine Palace Demon Suppression that had lost its master's control was burst open.

The Eighteen Banners, their faces torn and fallen.

The Execution Demon, shoved off balance, didn't even have the chance to rage.

Although savage, it was not stupid.

Seeing the forbidden technique shatter, it instantly knew that "opportunity" had arrived.

Both male and female demons cheered and, along with a swarm of Heaven Demons, rushed out of the room with a clatter, following their senses to find members of the Human Clan suitable for their demonic nature to possess.

A demonic disaster!

This sudden change was indeed a true demonic disaster.

It's known that Outer Realm Heaven Demons are cunning and devious, with bizarre methods, and even a single one is extremely difficult to handle, requiring pre-arranged restrictions and arrays.

And now, there were as many as a thousand.

And these demon chiefs had a tacit understanding among them, except for that initial moment when the converging demon qi could not be concealed.

A moment later, they all cast spells to dissipate their own demonic qi, dispersing into nothingness in an instant.

Even if a powerful cultivator rushed to Kuang Fusheng's room at the first opportunity, they would not find the slightest trace.

In the distance, in a room belonging to Tao Qian, he watched the demonic qi that suddenly exploded and then abruptly scattered, and couldn't help murmuring:

"What a thing these youngsters have created."

"Thousands of Heaven Demons secretly entering the world, even with the 'True Secret Demon Child' present, it seems unlikely they could settle this chaos quickly, tsk tsk."

Tao Qian's words once again provoked Yuan Gong, who couldn't help but retort.

The statue in his arms trembled as he raised his long crimson eyebrows:

"Your skin, it's even thicker than Duobao's."

"Still, you'd better be careful. Outer Realm demons may be useful, but from what I see there are hidden dragons and crouching tigers on this mountain. Aside from Ying Qingdi, there are others with nonordinary origins, and there's no telling what means they might have to trace these demons back to you."

"By then, you'll have no defense."

"Actually, that's wrong, defend nothing—the one behind all this is none other than you, lad."

"I'd rather look forward to seeing you capsize in the gutter. Once exposed, your avatar will surely garner descriptions such as 'thick-faced, black-hearted, great treacherous loyalty,' heh heh."

"Master Yuan, rest assured, I've already instructed them."

"Should there be any sign of danger, my subordinates will immediately disintegrate their worldly demon bodies and return to the Outer Realm. When safe, I will summon them back and reward each in turn. With this coming and going, any risks can be mitigated, there's no need to worry about me being exposed."

No sooner had Tao Qian finished speaking with Yuan Gong,

The next moment!

The Hidden Dragon Mountain, which had been somewhat quiet, with many cultivators beginning to rest,

Suddenly, a commotion arose.

That soaring demonic qi, though dissipated quickly, was still noticed by Ying Qingdi, Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, and Qi Daozhen.

Especially those thousands of Heaven Demons, eagerly having surreptitiously crossed over, were cautious to remove their demonic qi, but they couldn't contain themselves, desperately seeking to possess humans.

Possession is never a simple matter.

Normally, it leads to agitation.

Moreover, Tao Qian had also instructed his demons to watch, to ensure they wouldn't really cause chaos by possessing en masse.

When the group of demons became entangled with the group of cultivators, the noise was naturally not small.

Soon, the strong cultivators in the Cavernous Mystery Realm were all alerted.

With a "clang clang clang," their voices echoed throughout Hidden Dragon Mountain one after another.

"Damn it, some Human Cultivator's Summoning Demon Technique has gone awry, leading to a horde of demons smuggling into our world. Everyone guard your spirits carefully to avoid being taken advantage of by the demons."

"This place is guarded by Shen Ruolan, those demons are seeking death."

"Fellow Daoists, act swiftly, do not delay."

"This is bad, there are at least a thousand demons, Mr. Ying Daoist quickly activate the mountain's defensive array, we must not let these Heaven Demons escape, or it will surely brew a great demonic disaster."

Chapter 464 - Chen Xiyi, the True Inheritor of Fangcun, Schemes Against Her Daoist Couple Ying Qingdi

In the Cultivation World, it is common for practitioners to encounter mishaps during their cultivation.

Even some of the old monsters and powerful Daoist and Buddhist figures frequently make mistakes, leading to great disasters.

Especially when it comes to cultivation of Divine Power Skills such as "Summoning Demon," "Gu Refining," and "Summoning Ghost," should there be a mishap, it would inevitably result in catastrophe. Should such an incident occur within a city in the Mortal World, it might be beyond salvation, and in a moment, thousands of demons could emerge, scattering in all directions and bringing calamity to the Human World.

Fortunately, this location was Hidden Dragon Mountain, the base of the Ancestor Dragon Society.

Ying Qingdi reacted extremely fast, and as soon as he sensed the Demonic Qi soaring skyward, he activated the Protective Big Array in an instant.

The Ancestor Dragon Society, where talents emerged in succession and strong warriors gathered like clouds, had naturally set up an extraordinary Array. It was capable not only of preventing invasions but also of stopping any disaster from escaping, especially Outer Realm Heaven Demons and Fierce Ghosts. One could see the golden radiance bursting forth, instantly forming a golden Protective Shield that covered the territory of Hidden Dragon Mountain.

Thereafter, one after another, Cavernous Mystery Realm powerhouses took action.

Should the trespassing Demon be a high-level Heavenly Demon and in the thousands, even talents including Yin Susu, the secret son of the Taiping Heavenly King, and True Disciples of the Taishang Dao would flee at the sight.

However, Tao Qian was not yet capable of that.

The hundreds of demons he had called forth were thousands of low-level inferior demons, and the only somewhat high-level Execution Demon was actually summoned by Kuang Fusheng.

In this way, it reached a balance that greatly satisfied Tao Qian.

As he sat cross-legged in his room, he had already sensed that, with each of those sounds echoing, a variety of Divine Power Skills specifically targeting Outer Realm Heaven Demons were unleashed.

From different forces, different Sects.

Tao Qian thought for a moment and then got up, pushing open the room door to take a look.

First, he saw at the Ancestor Dragon's main hall where Ying Qingdi, with a solemn face, rose into the air. He waved his hand, and the "Yellow Heaven Evil Mirror" appeared before him. With a pinch of his Dharma Seal, thick yellow beams of light shone down, and out of them leapt Yellow Robed Eunuchs, ghostlike, floating around, using some Secret Technique to search for traces of demons.

They barged into one room after another, pinning down Cultivators being possessed by Heavenly Demons. Pale withered claws reached out from the Yellow Robe, phased into the body, and forcefully extracted the demons.

"Kill without mercy!"

Following Ying Qingdi's furious shout, those eunuchs rubbed and twisted their hands, forcefully turning the demons into meatball shapes, stuffing them into their mouths and crunching them down.

Before Tao Qian could fully enjoy the scene, a roar came from the eastern courtyard. Amidst surging murderous intent, a bright moonlike silver sword light swept out, suddenly disintegrating into ten thousand strands of delicate sword threads. They swam through no less than dozens of rooms like a school of fish, with the wailing of Outer Realm Heaven Demons following in each.

Clouds of blue smoke rose, each representing the death of a Heavenly Demon.

"Great swordsmanship!"

"This girl is not bad, with sword gallantry and murderous spirit in her soul. Learning the 'Yue Girl Demon Slaying Scripture' is a waste. Boy, you usually gain the favor of sisters and aunties; find an opportunity later to get close to that girl. If you can coax her to join our Secret Demon Sect and learn our Secret Demon Sword Skill, I'll consider it a merit for you."

Yuan Gong had just finished praising Shen Ruolan when there was a commotion in the west wing.

A peculiar Copper Tripod rose into the air. This tripod was surely a treasure, with various phenomena such as sun, moon, and stars, and wind, clouds, and thunder surrounding it. Below the belly of the tripod, purple flames soared, much like a forester from the mountains. Qi Daozhen revealed himself, simply conjuring a Dao Seal and blowing a breath onto the Copper Tripod.

In the next instant, the purple flames surged out, transforming into thousands of bean-sized sparks, enveloping a major part of the west wing in a rain of fire.

The purple flames seemed to be particularly restraining towards Heavenly Demons. Moans of agony echoed, and at least dozens of Cultivators who were being possessed found rescue.

In Tao Qian's arms, Yuan Gong timely offered an explanation.

"Purple Mysterious Tripod?"

"This old chap is likely a Hidden Cultivator that the Canxuan Sect has been nurturing outside. Merely with his Alchemy Scripture, he has entered into the Cavernous Mystery Realm and is also a talent. His

Master must be 'Zi Ming True Monarch.' This person has accessibility and is rather stubborn yet honest. Since he is valued and taken as a disciple, he should probably be of the same quality."

"Moreover, since he has inherited Canxuan Sect's Purple Mansion Elixir Scripture, contamination would also be difficult; he should still be of pure body."

After Yuan Gong spoke, Tao Qian's eyes brightened.

But he did not immediately confirm it, still observing.

Ying Qingdi, Shen Ruolan, and Qi Daozhen had all taken action, and the rest of the Cavernous Mystery cultivators were not to be outdone. Cavernous Mystery Realm cultivators might be a rarity elsewhere, but the Ancestor Dragon Society was, after all, about to start the New Moon Uprising, gathering talents from all factions. The Hidden Dragon Mountain at this moment, though it was an exaggeration to say Cavernous Mystery cultivators were as common as mud, was definitely close to twenty people.

Subsequently, Tao Qian observed various glows and Flashing lights working together to exterminate those thousands of disruptive Outer Realm demons.

Even Tao Qian's own subordinates were often injured by mistake.

Luckily, they had been instructed in advance, knowing when to retreat. At any sign of danger, they would immediately abandon their current Demon Body and return to the Outer Realm.

The inferior Heavenly Demons that had been smuggled over did not share this sentiment; with the chance to possess bodies and incarnate, not one Heavenly Demon would give up, even if it resulted in death.

Aside from the three previously mentioned, there were a few Cavernous Mystery powerhouses whose Divine Power Techniques piqued Tao Qian's curiosity.

Fortunately, with Yuan Gong by his side, he did not need to touch others directly yet could still learn the origins and backgrounds of each individual.

Like Chen Xiyi, who presented a puzzle-like figure at their first meeting.

He retrieved a bowl from within his bosom, engraved with Buddhist scriptures. With a flick of his finger and a resonant clang, a hundred meters of radiant golden Buddha Light soared, and he tossed the bowl into the air above the northern wing. Wherever the Buddha Light shone, demons within the rooms immediately let out wails of agony.

Wisps of smoke rose, and at least a hundred Outer Realm Heaven Demons perished.

Given this sight, recalling that he had introduced himself as practicing the "Little Reincarnation Wisdom Heart Sutra," it seemed even more likely that this individual was indeed an Incarnated Buddha's son from the Great Reincarnation Temple.

However, Master Yuan's voice transmission soon followed.

"This one looks like Buddha but is not, appears Daoist but isn't, and with such a demeanor, he must undoubtedly be a disciple of Fangcun Mountain."

"That mountain belongs both to the Daoist and to the Buddhist Sect."

"Just like the Jade Ring Mountain where Yunrong's cat resides, it is a special Sect within the Cultivation World."

"In ancient times, there was a senior who practiced both Daoist and Buddhist paths and, with tremendous determination, achieved Tribulation Immortal Dao Fruit. Later, in a battle sweeping across both the Inner and Outer Realms, this senior acquired numerous scriptures from Daoist, Buddhist, Devil, and Heterodox sects, and after negotiations, was allowed to keep the scriptures without being besieged by the sects."

"Afterward, this senior founded Fangcun Mountain. Though not widely recognized, its status within the Cultivation World is not low."

"The Sect is extremely strict in accepting disciples, often not taking a single one in over a decade. For this individual to be admitted and reach Cavernous Mystery, and to borrow the Little Reincarnation Wisdom Heart Sutra, his status within Fangcun Mountain is probably not lower than yours in the Spirit Treasure Sect."

"You must be wary of him. Fangcun Mountain's people look like True Practitioners, but their temperaments are, in fact, peculiar and often indulge in capricious acts that harm others."

"Don't be fooled by his current propriety. If he wishes to see you embarrassed, he will surely play a dirty trick on you."

"Right, this person also will not be corrupted. Earlier, you quickly went through those evil books and briefly fell under a curse, but with the power of your Spirit Treasure Sublime Body you would have broken free without my reminder, just later, and so would he. A Fangcun Mountain inheritor of his standing should have protection within his spirit platform."

...

Tao Qian listened to Master Yuan's teachings while using the power of the Nine Toad Bead and Toad God Tile, deliberately making some noise and eliminating a few dozen Outer Realm Heaven Demons as a show.

In the eyes of Zhong Ziyang and Ying Qingdi, Tao Qian, or rather Lin Runiu, was also a Cavernous Mystery Realm cultivator, possibly from the Nine Toad Sect.

Aware of this, Tao Qian brazenly slacked off.

Despite the many high-level cultivators taking action, the demon calamity still lasted two hours, with repeated sweeps. Many "slip-through" demons audaciously attempted to assault formidable individuals such as Linghu Ying, Shazhei Monk, and Shen Ruolan.

The outcomes, of course, go without saying.

In the latter half of the night, Ying Qingdi used his spells to recall the Yellow Robed Slaves, declaring the calamity over without a single Heavenly Demon surviving.

The demon calamity had caused a long disturbance, plunging many on the mountain into panic and fear.

Yet in the end, all realized that, aside from the initiator from the Assassination Hall called "Kuang Fusheng," there were miraculously no other victims, with no one succumbing to body seizing.

Naturally, this outcome was excellent, but upon closer consideration, it also seemed somewhat Abnormal.

But after all, it was a fortunate event. In just a few hours, the "Ancestor Dragon Assembly" was to be held, with representatives from various regions and fellow daoists discussing the details of the matter—why dwell on it?

Without further words, everyone returned to their rooms to rest.

Tao Qian blended in with the others and returned to his room. He sat down and, lowering his head slightly, continued pretending to refine techniques.

But in an instant, his expression turned solemn, eyes filled with both anger and helplessness.

He had orchestrated the demon calamity to see how many people Ying Qingdi had harmed using the "Yellow Heaven Evil Slave Summoning Divine Spell," at the cost of thousands of Heavenly Demons!

And the result was as expected.

Tao Qian's bleak premonitions had been confirmed by the glimpses of truth, proving to be more serious than anticipated.

At this moment, ideas churned in Tao Qian's mind.

"The Ancestor Dragon Society's membership, aside from the core, roughly falls into two categories."

"One consists of mid-to-low-level cultivator heroes like Duan Qiu and Yin Juejun, mostly Loose Cultivators or disciples from small sects, with no one behind them, only drawn by the society's philosophy. Lin Bujue might also be counted among them. This group is the most numerous and the backbone... The level of their corruption is severe, nearly seven or eight out of ten have become fervent supporters of Ying Qingdi, and what's worse, no one realizes it."

"The second includes outsiders like Yin Susu and Pei Hong, who represent major powers, each backed by an Overlord, or they might directly be from organizations like the Devil God Army or Taiping Army... The degree of their corruption is light, barely one or two out of ten. Pei Hong, who practices the 'Heavenly Blade Demon Suppression Scripture,' seems to have been corrupted because he commands a large army, supposedly by Ying Qingdi's own hand, at great risk."

"Then there are Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, Qi Daozhen, Shen Ruolan, among others, who are unaffected."

"But there are two others who have fallen prey."

"The first is Linghu Ying, a disciple of the Xuan Dao Sect. I had an Invisibility Demon secretly assist a dozen Heavenly Demons in attacking him, and one fortunately entered his body, only to glimpse a deep yellow Evil Seal and be expelled immediately. His condition should be similar to Pei Hong's, directly manipulated by Ying Qingdi."

"The second is not the Shazhei Monk of the Beichan Temple, but another woman previously seen in the Observing All Living Beings Pavilion, named 'Yu Wenfang.' This woman is a True Disciple of the Nature Sect from a neighboring province, easy to guess why she was affected."

"She is Ying Qingdi's daoist couple, likely the first to be corrupted."

"To not even spare his own daoist couple, Ying Qingdi is truly heartless."

Chapter 465 - Six Ding and Six Jia, Spirit Coffin Treasure Lamp

Tao Qian pondered, and a scene naturally emerged in his mind:

The Yu Wenfang in question was a beautiful Daoist nun, with bright eyes and white teeth, skin as creamy and delicate as milk, a charming demeanor, and an innate grace, truly a great beauty that inspired tenderness. When Tao Qian reemployed his old trick of inviting a Heavenly Demon to seize her body, little did he expect that as soon as the demon entered her flesh, which seemed as white as milk, all the muscles beneath came to life instantaneously.

Transforming into numerous tiny, writhing yellow snakes, hissing and biting ferociously.

In an instant, the four or five invading Heavenly Demons were devoured.

Only the Joyful Demon under Tao Qian's command escaped promptly, losing only an arm in the process.

Seeing this, where could Tao Qian be oblivious to the fact that the first victim of Ying Qingdi was most likely this lady?

"The Ancestor Dragon Society always said that Ying Qingdi and Yu Wenfang were immortal companions, who encountered each other in humble beginnings. She was captivated by his idealistic notions, and despite opposition from the Mountain Gate [Nature Sect], she resolutely followed Ying Qingdi to instigate revolutionary uprisings everywhere."

"Now it seems, this lady must have met with disaster, thoroughly controlled by that Summoning Divine Spell."

"Hypocritical, secretive, ruthlessly decisive... indeed, a formidable character."

Tao Qian's expression was exceptionally grave.

He realized how terrifying an opponent Ying Qingdi was.

If he, Tao Qian, did not have such a cheat-like means of prying?

Could he stand against Ying Qingdi?

The answer was simple, no.

Tao Qian might even fail to detect the other's scheming, and end up like Zhong Ziyang, Lin Bujue, and others, deceived and becoming followers, ultimately facing a tragic fate.

"Ah?"

"That's right, Lin Bujue, must save him."

Upon recalling the key point, Tao Qian reacted immediately.

From his previous insights, he had a rough idea of the number and severity of those contaminated within the Ancestor Dragon Society.

The most severe was naturally Yu Wenfang, almost beyond salvation.

The least contaminated was Lin Bujue.

It happened because he was present and listened to the impassioned exchange between Yin Juejun and Duan Qiu. Although Lin Bujue did not engage in the argument, he deeply agreed with Ying Qingdi's philosophy.

Thus, after returning to his chambers and seeing those books, Lin Bujue chose to read them.

And thus, he was ensnared.

However, compared to others, his exposure was short and the degree minimal.

If he could awaken in time, there was still hope for salvation.

With this thought, Tao Qian could no longer afford to delay and stood up to leave his chamber.

At other times, he need not go personally, just cast the "Summoning Demon Technique" again to call forth the Invisibility Demon that spied on the scene of the Yellow Robed Slaves invading the bodies of Daoists Duan Qiu and Yin Juejun, instructing the demon to seek out Lin Bujue, and use its invisible Demon Light to reveal the secrets spied upon, instantly breaking the contamination.

But not now, a demon calamity had just occurred.

Now, the Hidden Dragon Mountain was covered with Forbidden Arrays for demon binding, suppression, and slaying, where even an Invisibility Demon would find it difficult to move an inch.

To save Lin Bujue, Tao Qian had to go himself.

Their residences were not far apart, and after walking only a few dozen steps, Tao Qian arrived at Lin Bujue's resting place.

He was located in a rather spacious courtyard, with green bricks and tiles, and lush bamboo and pine, a quiet and secluded setting.

As Tao Qian approached, he heard many lively voices from within the courtyard.

Lin Bujue was an upright person, so there were no concealment spells around the yard, and at a glance, one could see many spirit ghosts, Outer Demons, and Divine Spirits playing and frolicking inside.

Compared to the odd collection under his command, with congruent auras from Outer Realm Demons, Lin Bujue's minions, used for errands, were lively, with varied forms and auras, an interesting sight to behold.

"It seems I'm outdone ah, my subordinates of Heavenly Demons, only Red Lady and Star Zha are somewhat interesting, the rest only seek rewards from me."

"The Summoning Demon Technique of the Secret Demon Sect seems to lack the fun compared to this Outer Realm Evil Technique [Seven Secret Chapters of Mysterious Corpse] and its Demon Capturing Talisman."

Tao Qian mocked but made sure Master Yuan could hear him.

The Yuan Gong Statue in his arms trembled discontentedly and transmitted its voice:

"You should not spout nonsense, what's this laborious Demon Capturing Talisman? It's just summoning some spirit ghosts and alien species, what's the use?"

"If you find your demon subordinates boring, just look up the 'Ten Thousand Demon List' yourself, no matter what your preferences, you can find something suitable in the list."

"Creatures like the Joyful Demon are the most common."

"Know that Outer Realm Heaven Demons are born from all living beings, they are the opposing demons of this myriad of beings."

"If your cultivation is strong enough, using the Summoning Demon Technique you can even summon Demon Lords, Demon Kings, and even Demon Gods."

"How could a mere ghost summoning evil technique compare with our family's Summoning Demon Technique?"

"Alright, alright, our Secret Demon Sect's Summoning Demon Technique is the most formidable, overpowering all heavens, unmatched."

Tao Qian had just appeased Master Yuan on his end when, in the yard, an armored ghost with a horse head, one hand wielding a spear and the other a chain, his body rising on a cloud, spotted Tao Qian walking leisurely toward them.

The horse-headed ghost descended from the cloud and entered the yard.

Soon after, Lin Bujue emerged from the quiet room inside the courtyard.

He, Lin Bujue, and Zhong Ziyang had shared actions and therefore had a close relationship, bound by similar ambitions and ideals.

"Brother Lin has come to visit," said Bu Jue, "I should have hosted you well."

"However, my Taoist Body is currently afflicted, and I urgently need to erase these costs, so please don't be annoyed with me, Brother Lin."

"Why don't I have these children accompany you for a while? When I return, we can discuss the mysteries of Tao together."

Bu Jue spoke with a face full of sincere regret.

Tao Qian's gaze immediately fell on his hands, neck, and even his face, where the exposed skin had developed black and yellow rotten spots. The air in the courtyard was also filled with the stench of decay, which grew stronger as time passed.

The source of the stench was none other than Bu Jue himself.

When I first met him in Golden Sand City, he was a true practitioner who had found his way.

Now, he resembled those ground mice that burrow into graveyards and cadaverous caverns.

Tao Qian's expression grew serious, and after a brief moment of thought, he came to a realization and asked,

"Is it because of the recent demon calamity that you have suffered much loss?"

Hearing this, Bu Jue's expression turned bitter as he nodded and replied,

"My cultivation base is not strong enough, and I couldn't bear to see my fellow Daoists taken advantage of by demons. In a rash move, I summoned too many 'Six Ding and Six Jia Spirits,' which caused me to lose some of my essence. Now, the backlash has turned on myself. If I don't handle it in time, tomorrow's fierce sun will cause me great suffering."

"I've also advised Kuang Fusheng before not to practice the Summoning Demon Technique. He's not from the Secret Demon Sect, and even if he summoned a demon, without the Control Demon Technique, not only would he be unable to subdue the Heavenly Demon for his own use, but it would also bring about disaster."

"Now, it appears my words have come to pass."

As these words came out, Tao Qian's face stiffened.

Fortunately, his skin was thick, and without any change in his demeanor, he simply offered to try his hand at helping.

Clearly, he intended to seize the opportunity to intervene, secretly allowing Bu Jue to come to a realization of the truth.

However, before he could reach out, he was rejected by Bu Jue.

This young Daoist, even covered in the stench of decay, still maintained an extraordinary presence. With a wave of his hand, he said,

"Brother Lin need not worry. This mutated scene is caused by the Secret Technique I practice."

"It is part of the cost and also necessary for cultivation."

"I'm practicing an Outer Realm Evil Scripture, the 'Seven Secret Chapters of Mysterious Corpse,' with secret treasures and true skills. Although I've gained many conveniences, I must also deal with these frequently arising costs."

"To dispel these rotten spots and the stench of decay is simple. My master gave me a 'Spirit Coffin Lamp.' This treasure is one with my Divine Soul and protects my way. Holding this treasure, I can circulate the secret technique, allowing my soul to leave my body and enter a body afflicted by disaster, to endure the hardship on someone else's behalf. With each transference, the lamp flame will incinerate all this filth."

"At the same time, my cultivation will also improve."

Bu Jue had just finished speaking when both he and Tao Qian showed a look of surprise on their faces.

Tao Qian was amazed that there was such a bizarre method of cultivation in this world?

Bu Jue, on the other hand, was astonished at his own forthrightness.

Though he was a gentleman, that did not mean he was a fool.

Even the true inheritors of the Daoist and Buddhist Sects would keep their cultivation methods tightly guarded. How could they reveal them so easily?

Even if their relationship could be considered close.

But despite the surprise, Bu Jue did not react too much, merely thinking to himself quietly:

"Although Brother Lin Runiu is somewhat reticent, his good nature cannot be faked. Besides, he has also gained recognition from one of the Nine Provinces' Twelve Artifacts, 'Valley God Gui.'"

"My master once said that if such a treasure, which is closely related to the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique and Human Dao Fortune, chooses a master on its own, that master must be virtuous."

"But the real reason is still that inexplicable affinity. From the first meeting, I felt extremely comfortable with Brother Lin, and although the appearance and aura are different, it always reminds me of my deceased elder brother. It's truly strange."

Tao Qian, of course, was not aware of Bu Jue's inner thoughts.

If he were to know, it would probably be a great shock.

After hearing Bu Jue's explanation, Tao Qian seemed to take an interest and said directly,

"If I'm not mistaken, the method you are using is actually for the removal of disaster and the alleviation of hardship."

"That 'Spirit Coffin Lamp' takes your soul out of your body and transfers it into someone who is actually suffering from a disaster, for you to bear the hardship on their behalf. If you successfully resolve the disaster, the lamp can hence burn off the mutated impurities from your body and in turn aid your cultivation?"

"I didn't expect that such a wonderful method existed in this world. It's no wonder that even though you practiced the Outer Realm Evil Scriptures, you are still a true practitioner."

The more Tao Qian spoke, the more surprised he looked.

Then, in just a few words, he made a request that left Bu Jue stunned.

"Bu Jue, can you trust me?"

"Your character, Brother Lin, is beyond doubt."

"I find this method of cultivation extremely interesting and see much that could be adopted. Are you willing to let me accompany your soul's departure to observe this process, and at the same time, I could protect you?"

This statement from Tao Qian was quite abrupt.

Normally, Bu Jue would not agree.

It wasn't that he feared Tao Qian would harm him; outsiders had no idea that his master's origins were extraordinary and that the "Spirit Coffin Lamp" he was given was a precious treasure. With its protection over his Divine Soul, unless faced with a strong person from the Daoist Transformation Realm, no one could harm him during his cultivation.

He wanted to refuse because the departure of the soul was a major event, and even a cultivator of the Cavernous Mystery Realm could end up in trouble, especially since the current New Moon Province was anything but peaceful.

The Spirit Coffin Lamp could only protect him alone and not this Brother Lin.

However, just as he was about to speak, he suddenly noticed an unusual expression on Lin Runiu's face, hinting at something.

The words of polite refusal he had at the tip of his tongue were swallowed back, and instead, he laughed heartily and said,

"If Brother Lin wishes to join me in cultivation, to experience the suffering of the mundane world, that would be most excellent."

Chapter 466 - Bu Jue Possesses a Courtesan on the Boat, Facing Great Peril That Night

Lin Bujue's "Spirit Coffin Secret Technique" was indeed mysterious and magical.

Although it was still not as exceptional as his exemption-cost Abnormal Soul, it was more ingenious, and it sounded like a Righteous Magic Skill rather than an Evil Path.

However, Tao Qian made his unreasonable request not only to observe the Secret Technique but more importantly to save someone.

"Lin Bujue is affected by a Divine Spell, but mildly so. I can easily undo it with my True Word Secret Decree, but we are currently in the territory of Ying Qingdi, and who knows if the 'Yellow Heaven Evil Mirror' can monitor us. If I rashly use this method, which can restrain him, and he detects it prematurely, my trump card would be revealed, making it impossible to control him in the future."

"It would be best if I could leave Hidden Dragon Mountain with Lin Bujue's Divine Soul and find an opportunity to summon an Invisibility Demon, present the evidence to him, and ensure there is no lingering threat."

With this thought, Tao Qian subtly suggested that Lin Bujue accept his proposal.

This man was indeed a wise gentleman and agreed without any hesitation.

The two returned to their room and sat facing each other.

Lin Bujue was about to begin casting, but before he started, he seemed to recall something, his expression slightly embarrassed as he took the initiative to say:

"Just so Brother Lin knows, this Spirit Coffin Lamp is an Innate Treasure. Whether it's humans or beasts from Acquired realms, it makes no distinctions. Therefore, when it casts its soul-transferring magic, it does not avoid human, beast, demon, or Alien Species, nor does it discriminate against men, women, the elderly, or children."

"If in a moment my Divine Soul ends up in the body of an Alien Species, Brother Lin, please do not be alarmed."

"Alright!"

Tao Qian fully understood what Lin Bujue meant.

Clearly, his Cultivation Technique was of a random nature.

This piqued Tao Qian's interest even more, and even Master Yuan, who was secretly listening, trembled and muttered in confusion, "Is there really such a technique to mitigate the cost? Whose disciple is this lad? This Spirit Coffin Lamp sounds somewhat familiar."

Unaware that the current Brother Lin was carrying an old master, Lin Bujue speculated about his background.

After finishing his explanation, he immediately instructed the various spirit ghosts and demons outside in the courtyard: "As soon as Brother Lin and I separate from our bodies, activate the Forbidden Law Barrier immediately, allowing no evil invasions."

As his words fell, Lin Bujue suddenly opened his palm.

A gleam flashed, and a bean-sized Flame appeared first, followed by a lampstand cast from some kind of Black Stone.

This stone, porous with wind blowing through it, whispered secrets of gods and demons.

The lamp oil was pasty, the Flame grey with a hint of red, communicating with the Netherworld, refining the Human World.

Tao Qian glanced at it and immediately felt his Soul tremble as though it were about to be scorched by the flames.

He had thought that upon seeing this "Spirit Coffin Lamp," Master Yuan would have some advice, but unexpectedly, Master Yuan fell mysteriously silent.

After the lamp Flame flickered a few times, a person emerged directly from within.

This person was an old man, dressed in vermillion with a majestic beard and eyebrows, though his head was somewhat bald, swaying with a grey flame.

"Bu Jue pays his respects to Lamp Elder; I need your help with my cultivation again."

"This Daoist is my close friend. Master, when you cast your spell, you can include him as well; he is only observing and won't interfere."

Lin Bujue spoke very politely, treating the elder as if he were a senior from his own sect.

Yet this old man seemed devoid of autonomous Spiritual Wisdom.

He simply glanced at Tao Qian, said nothing, nodded, and suddenly began to cast.

His wide sleeve waved, bringing a mysterious Power rolling in, engulfing both Tao Qian and Lin Bujue.

Both of their Divine Souls simultaneously left their bodies and turned into two beams of Spirit Light, leaping into the lamp.

Immediately, the Forbidden Law Barrier outside the room was activated, and various spirit ghosts and demons took up their posts to guard all sides.

The Spirit Coffin Lamp bloom fully turned from grey to red, flew from the lampstand, and disregarded the Forbidden Law surrounding Hidden Dragon Mountain, wrapping the two Divine Souls and carrying them off to an unknown destination.

...

New Moon Province, about three hundred li from the provincial capital, lay a city called Yulan.

Built alongside the water, this city was extremely prosperous and had various industries.

Yet, what it was most famous for were the flower boats.

Who didn't know that in Yulan City, as the sun set, along the river, lights would shine brightly, with numerous styles of flower boats lined up, full of guests and revelry night after night... If a foreigner only saw this scene, they might mistakenly think Yulan City was the capital of New Moon Province, rather than Shangyang.

Indeed, many nearby cities, including Shangyang, when they had spare money, often called friends to come here for pleasure.

There were elegant flower boats where beautiful women sold their arts but not their bodies, allowing one to posture as cultured.

There were also vulgar fishing boats with clear-cut prostitutes solely selling their bodies to make a living.

On this day, by the riverbank outside the city, a dozen flower boats were moored.

One of them, a six-canopy boat, even had a couplet hung on it that read, "Butterflies in love with flowers make nations, mandarin ducks playing in water make home," with a stop-setup at the main cabin and places for entertaining guests in the middle cabin, where entering through the rolled curtains revealed dazzling brocades and captivating fragrance, with guests from all around beginning to frolic with the ship prostitutes.

And in the deepest part of the cabin on a bed, a charming woman lay.

This woman, although dressed in flamboyant attire, seemed to be severely ill, her complexion pale and her breathing rapid.

A middle-aged woman adorned with heavy makeup grumpily walked away from her, having just confirmed that this woman's body likely couldn't entertain guests for the next few days, making her mood rather foul.

If it were a lowly prostitute, she would not care, and the girl would have to entertain guests no matter how ill, as there was no room for rest.

But the one on the bed was a Money Tree, not to be used too harshly.

If mishandled, the one who would regret it would be herself.

"Hmph, overthinking has caused your heart to be afflicted?"

"You're just a low-born, yet you fancy yourself a cherished lady. Your Xia family has long been destroyed; all the men are dead, and all the ladies and madams have been sold off as merchandise."

"Xia Xinlan! I, too, have been through hardships. I advise you not to foolishly hope for someone to rescue you. I spent a full thousand silver coins to buy you, and your future is already set. You'll spend the rest of your life on this boat, earning back my money."

"Of course, if you're diligent, when you're older and lucky enough to find someone willing to redeem you, I might let you leave the boat."

"Accept your fate, take good care of yourself. In a few days, I'll find someone handsome and gentle for you. I guarantee your first time will be painless, filled only with joy."

After saying these words, the woman sashayed her ample hips and turned to welcome new customers in the front cabin.

She completely failed to notice a flicker of spirit light, invisible to mortals, leap out of the void and split in two.

Tao Qian's divine soul landed to one side.

Lin Bujue's soul, however, dove straight into the mind of the woman who seemed to be caught in a nightmare.

Even though Tao Qian had been forewarned of this moment, he still couldn't hide his shock upon seeing it.

"Good heavens!"

"Truly without any taboo, Lin Bujue has transformed into a woman?"

"This secret technique is tantamount to artificial reincarnation, with no limits. Each time Lin Bujue cultivates, it means a reincarnation into another body, experiencing a new life. It almost sounds like something out of a hero's tale, doesn't it?"

As Tao Qian's divine soul was wrapped in the light of the Spirit Coffin Lamp and he muttered to himself from his hiding spot.

On the bed, the woman with her black hair spread out and her white arms pillowing her head slowly woke up.

Whether it was because Lin Bujue had possessed bodies too many times or due to his cultivation technique,

despite his true form being male, he still exhibited the demeanor and elegance of the original owner, charming and extraordinary.

It wasn't until the next moment, when the woman examined herself and adjusted her clothes, that some of Lin Bujue's presence emerged.

She turned her head towards where Tao Qian was and sighed,

"Brother Lin must be laughing at me. The victim of this calamity is a pitiable young woman."

"This woman, named Xia Xinlan, belonged to a prominent Xia family in Shangyang City. Recently, the Xia family offended a powerful figure, and overnight, her home was destroyed, her father and brothers killed, and her mother and many sisters were captured and sold. She was bought and became a ship prostitute."

"She was so terrified that she fell ill and retreated into her dreams, which led the Spirit Coffin Lamp to bring me here."

When Lin Bujue finished speaking, Tao Qian seemed to think of something.

He looked at her and transmitted his voice, "How will you cultivate in this possessed state? Do you just have to live as this woman for some time?"

The Lin Bujue within the woman's body shook his head and replied, "The duration of my secret technique's cultivation varies. If I wish, I could live in a body for years, even decades, but I've never done so. I use this method now merely to offset the cost of dealing with the Outer Realm Evil Technique, so it's always brief."

"Usually, it takes just an hour or two."

"So brief, what can be done?"

Tao Qian asked in surprise.

Lin Bujue slowly stood up, reached for the medicinal soup that was prepared nearby, and drank it down.

After finishing, he wiped his mouth and responded to Tao Qian,

"Anyone the Spirit Coffin Lamp senses is a person plagued by calamity."

"Which means, this woman is soon to face a great disaster."

"My coming here by borrowing her body is just to resolve her crisis, which would be an accomplishment."

"It's a good thing for both her and me."

Having said these words, before Tao Qian could marvel at the mysteriousness of the Spirit Coffin Secret Technique.

Lin Bujue, embodying the graceful figure of Xia Xinlan, elegantly lifted her fingers and in a melodious tone speculated,

"The current calamity this poor sister faces is likely tied to her pristine body and status as a ship prostitute, but it's odd that neither should lead to a major disaster tonight, given that woman said she'd only take on clients in a few days."

"So, the great disaster she faces tonight must be something else?"

"However, it doesn't matter. Although I'm in this body and can't use many divine skills, I still have some techniques to avert disaster and protect life."

"Keeping this sister safe shouldn't be difficult."

Just as Lin Bujue finished speaking boldly,

Tao Qian suddenly felt something and turned his head toward the shore. He heard the hurried sounds of horse hooves and footfalls, and in the distance, saw a surge of bloodthirsty aura rolling towards them.

This kind of aura, impure and dominated by a crimson hue of blood,

could be recognized by any cultivator as that belonging to fierce soldiers from a battlefield, those who had killed many.

Lin Bujue was a step behind Tao Qian, but she sensed it clearly too.

She frowned, about to say something,

when the source of the malicious aura reached the dock. It was a group of soldiers in tattered armor, each with bodily mutilations and a fierce, evil presence. They laughed heartily, casting iron chains glowing with sinister blood-light, which they used to pull over a dozen beautifully decorated boats closer to the shore.

At the forefront, a hideous soldier missing an eye, an ear, and even his nose, bellowed with laughter, addressing all the flower boats,

"Listen up, you whores! Whoever bought 'Xia Xinlan' that bitch, hand her over immediately."

"Our general wants her now, right now. Anyone who hides her and refuses to comply will be put to death without mercy."

Chapter 467 - The Girl Summons the Corpse from the Water, Tao Qian Solves the Poison of the Yellow Robe

In the cabin, Tao Qian and Lin Bujue exchanged glances, both revealing a bitter smile.

Lin Bujue moved quickly, flipping open the small window on the side to take a look outside. He saw that on the dock, in addition to a group of soldiers who had obviously cultivated some life-draining Evil Technique, there was a general surrounded in the center. The man was riding a beast that resembled a horse, covered in Red Flames, wearing a crimson Armor, even his hair and beard were red.

If this man had been better-looking, his attire would have appeared even more imposing and domineering.

But the general was unbearably ugly, his face covered with fleshy bumps and pus-filled sores, making one want to vomit their dinner from the night before.

After a quick glance, Lin Bujue let the curtain fall and said with a troubled expression,

"So it turns out, the great disaster awaiting this young lady was destined to occur here."

"The person outside is called 'Chen Tiande,' the son of the Chen Family in Shangyang City, also the ex-fiancé of Xia Xinlan. However, he has been brutal and cruel by nature since childhood. After Xia Xinlan learned of his temperament, she forced a breakoff of their engagement with a hunger strike, thereby antagonizing the Chen family."

"At the time, because the Chen family was not as powerful as the Xia family, they suppressed their anger. Later, it was said that Chen Tiande found some opportunity and was taken in by Black Evil Sect to cultivate abroad."

"I am also aware of the Black Evil Sect. It's a minor demon path sect within New Moon Province, practicing the way of soldiers and evil spirits. The sect is full of brutes."

"Looking at Chen Tiande's appearance, I fear he has come for revenge. If he manages to take the young lady away, she will certainly be tortured to death. It's inevitable even her body and soul will be refined into some evil object, unable to find release."

"What a disaster indeed!"

"The Spirit Coffin Lamp is really playing hardball. No wonder it was confident that a single possession would assure the elimination of the price. It was waiting here for me."

While Lin Bujue complained, she immediately began to take action.

With the situation critical, indeed there was no time for delay.

She was unceremoniously quick, biting her pale delicate finger and drawing blood.

As the blood flowed out, she crouched down and began painting some sort of Array.

While drawing, she explained to Tao Qian, who was hiding nearby,

"The abilities I can use after possession are limited, and this Corpse Summoning Technique is one of them."

"It might seem somewhat eerie and bizarre, but the Forbidden Technique, including its ritual forms, has been modified by my master, and its violent energies have been expelled.

"Even when casting with a mortal's body, it doesn't hinder me from directing them in action."

Hearing Lin Bujue say this, Tao Qian understood very well; she was worried that he would misunderstand her after witnessing the strange phenomena to come.

That was understandable. People like Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, and Qi Daozhen, each of them was a True Practitioner.

Just by cultivating, without revealing their identities, anyone could tell they were from Righteous Great Sects.

But Lin Bujue was different. Commanding an array of gods and ghosts, indeed if you weren't favorably biased, it could easily be mistaken that she was from the Evil Path, Demon Path, or someone belonging to Heterodox teachings.

Tao Qian shook his head and chuckled, then directly sent a telepathic message,

"Daoist, there's no need to worry about any misunderstanding on my part. I have been traveling and gaining experience for many years; I never judge people by sight. You can cast your spells without concern, Mr. Lin Daoist."

"Good!"

As they finished speaking, Lin Bujue stepped into the blood-painted Array using Xia Xinlan's body.

At that moment, the outside world was becoming increasingly chaotic.

Those who ran flower boats in this place, which family didn't have backing? Which didn't keep some Martial Artists, strange persons, or even low-level Cultivators and Magicians?

Chen Tiande seemed troublesome, but with a joint resistance from a dozen families, who was there to fear?

Especially the matron who had purchased "Xia Xinlan," who was willing to hand over an unopened Money Tree to be played with until death?

Urged on by the matron's vigorous encouragement, the bosses of all the flower boats and pleasure barges quickly ordered a resistance against the group of savage soldiers and bandits.

A fierce battle immediately ensued.

All sorts of Evil Talismans, evil objects, Demon Skills... a myriad of forces clashed.

But Tao Qian had seen too many powerhouse battles, naturally disregarding these minor skirmishes.

He then chuckled again, looking at the young girl in front of him who seemed to be having a seizure.

Lin Bujue, was this how you used someone else's body, Xia Xinlan's?

In the circle, her hair disheveled, she danced and pranced about like a madwoman.

At the same time, she chanted mnemonically, "White Bones Receiving Energy, rotten corpse's soul returning to life, Nine Earths Clear and Pure, Earth Official Peace, Salvation of All Living Beings... Earth Corpses of this place, heed my command, come forth quickly."

After chanting it once, she continued to dance and chant a second time.

After hearing it three times, Record exploded in Tao Qian's mind:

[You have learned the mnemonic of the "Corpse Summoning Technique." This technique is from the Record of Nourishing Character and Extending Life in the Seven Secret Chapters of the Mysterious Corpse, part of the Great Book from the Outer Realm. Having only the mnemonic and lacking the rest of the Secret Technique, you cannot cast it. Forcibly casting it would result in backlash... However, some protections are exempted! The summoned corpses may not obey the caster's commands.]

Looking at this Record, Tao Qian's eyebrows rose.

Coming here to save someone, incidentally witnessing a unique Magic Skill, and even learning a new Divine Skill.

While he was contemplating whether he should seek Lin Bujue afterward to demand the Corpse Control Secret Technique,

Suddenly, Tao Qian's Divine Soul trembled, and a new sensation emerged.

Without any extra movements, he merely stamped his foot, and his invisibly Divine Soul sank beneath the boat. He then saw an extremely horrifying sight:

In many rivers and lakes near large cities, corpses are typically found at the bottom.

Lanshui, a land of fireworks and pleasure, was the same.

On ordinary nights, whether there were corpses or ghosts, buried in the mud and unnoticed.

But tonight was entirely different, as Lin Bujue activated the Corpse Summoning Technique.

At this moment, beneath the waters of Lanshui, all kinds of corpses were writhing from the mud and watery caves, converging in swarms, extending their rotten claws towards the flower boat.

Chapter 468 - The Girl Summons the Corpse from the Water, Tao Qian Solves the Poison of the Yellow Robe - Part 2

Among the horde of corpses, there were some rare types, such as Water Ghosts, Precept Corpses, and Resentful Corpses.

These Alien Species Corpses possessed Innate Divine Powers and could battle cultivators without falling behind.

They were also the fastest. Just as Xia Xinlan finished chanting for the fourth time, three figures immediately shot out of the water, as if they had prior agreement or received orders. They silently entered the cabin and knelt directly in front of Xia Xinlan.

These three figures revealed their true forms, which were unexpectedly all different.

The first was a Rotten Corpse, its body decayed beyond repair, filled with silt and waterweeds, and even had catfish and leeches squirming inside, gnawing on the rotten flesh. It had no legs, probably eaten away long ago. A pool of filthy water supported its remaining body. Its original appearance was gone; now, it had only a grotesquely swollen face with one remaining eye emitting a dreadful green glow, rich with resentment.

The second was a Charming Corpse, inhabiting the body of a gorgeously dressed female corpse. Its eyes shimmered with mesmerizing, multicolored lights, alluring to behold. If seen in the wilderness, one might even think a precious treasure was about to appear.

The third was a strange corpse, seemingly a long-dead cat that had grown wings. Its body was skin and bones, with wings extended. Its slowly writhing tail resembled a crimson blood snake, hissing as it flicked its tongue.

Tao Qian had extraordinary knowledge but still a long way to go before he could recognize all the Transcendent Beings in the world.

After a few glances, he made one judgment: all were formidable Corpse Monsters capable of fighting against cultivators at the Foundation Establishment Realm. If they joined the formidable group of corpses currently gathering under the water, handling the soldiers and bandits on the docks should not be difficult.

"Is there really no price for using such Secret Techniques with a mortal's body?"

This thought had just emerged in Tao Qian's heart.

Suddenly, above his head, there came a sound like thunder.

Looking up, he saw a mass of dark clouds gathering.

Lin Bujue's expression changed abruptly, and he quickly gave orders:

"The Water Resentment Corpse, with your Water Manipulation Divine Ability, take command of the Corpse Soldiers and annihilate those soldiers and bandits."

"Strange Cat Corpse, you have the ability to discern evil and understand human hearts; you decide who should be killed."

"Charming Corpse, you have the capability to obscure and confuse; clear the traces afterward, and do not create panic."

With the last command given, Lin Bujue, without hesitation, jumped into the water.

A Water Ghost took over underwater, dragging his body ashore.

Immediately, she ignored the great battle that erupted behind her and the young girl's body she was possessing, striding boldly towards a specific direction.

She had hardly run a few steps when the dark clouds caught up, and a blazing white thunderbolt, like a snake, struck down directly onto Xia Xinlan.

Common sense would dictate!

A mere mortal girl struck by such a blow would undoubtedly die.

But now controlling that body was Lin Bujue, who bore all the damage himself.

Xia Xinlan only felt some of the aftermath; her hair was blown apart, and her face was scorched black.

A well-styled young lady turned into a beggar-like figure.

Despite being struck by lightning, Lin Bujue kept running.

Before long, a second thunderbolt struck, followed by a third, fourth, fifth... In the next half an hour, Lin Bujue, in Xia Xinlan's body, ran furiously, although every few moments, he was struck by lightning.

Initially, Lin Bujue could bear it, enduring the pain.

But after being struck repeatedly, he let himself go and began to cry out in anguish.

At this moment, those flower boats and dockside soldiers and bandits were all forgotten, deemed insignificant.

Under the moonlit night, in the wilds, a beautiful young girl was running frantically.

Dark clouds loomed overhead, periodically striking her down with thunder.

Tao Qian followed in the rear, gaining some insight:

"Indeed, everything has a price."

"This Spirit Coffin Secret Technique also doesn't allow Lin Bujue to cheat his way through possession and solve difficulties effortlessly, erasing the price while increasing cultivation."

"The price of using that Corpse Summoning Technique with a mortal girl's body is this lightning punishment."

"A chain of consequences to wear down?"

While he was contemplating, down below, Lin Bujue finally ceased to be tortured.

The dark clouds dispersed, and the young girl's body suddenly straightened up.

Her head trembled slightly, and Lin Bujue's Divine Soul drifted out.

The young girl, Xia Xinlan, regained her freedom and immediately knelt down, crying out:

"Military master who saved me, Xinlan is endlessly grateful and wishes to serve by your side, begging you to provide shelter."

"It won't work, it won't work, your fortune isn't with me," he said. "Your great peril has just been resolved, and in the coming days, your luck will be favorable. You just need to follow this path, and you will surely meet noble people along the way to help you. Within a day or two, you should be able to leave New Moon Province, and if all goes well, you might be able to join the neighboring Daoist Great Sect, the Qingluan Sect."

"Hurry on your journey, and do not delay."

Xia Xinlan had originally planned to become a disciple under Lin Bujue to learn divine skills and ultimately avenge her family.

She hadn't expected that after just a few words, she was directed to leave.

Being intelligent and astute, even though Lin Bujue's explanation seemed far-fetched, she thought it over briefly and still complied with the advice to leave.

Not until she had walked a few hundred meters and reached a small stream, did she realize by the moonlight why she had been hurried away, seeing her disheveled and embarrassingly filthy appearance.

...

Back at the original spot, Tao Qian, whose divine soul had merged with Lin Bujue's, also started seeing the hints.

A disaster relief and also offering a fortune guidance? Could there be such good things in this world?

Lin Bujue knew he couldn't deceive a powerhouse likely from the Nine Toad Sect and immediately explained:

"She who the Spirit Coffin Lamp senses is not only a person plagued by calamity but also a destined person of mine."

"I inhabit her body to resolve her calamities while directing her to her fortune... If I ever seek something from her later, she cannot refuse. This is the cause, and it is also the price."

After saying this, a look of helplessness appeared on Lin Bujue's face.

"I didn't know about this hidden aspect in my cultivation before my Master tricked me into refining it."

"Helping others resolve their calamities is my wish, but asking them for something in return is not what I desire."

"So, nothing much about it, if I ever face calamities later, I will not seek her out."

When Lin Bujue spoke, his eyes were filled with sincerity.

Tao Qian also knew that this was his heartfelt truth.

He did not contradict Lin Bujue but merely nodded with a smile, thinking to himself:

"So this is how it is!"

"The profoundness of this method indeed entwines one loop with another."

"It serves not only as a method to mitigate the price but also as a cultivation method, and as a Cultivation Tribulation Technique. In the future, when Lin Bujue faces any calamities or difficulties, those he has helped, driven by the reciprocal cause and effect, will come to his aid."

"Lin Bujue's reluctance is irrelevant; his Master probably planned this long ago."

Seeing through the reality, Tao Qian had no intention to expose it.

Within the Ancestor Dragon Society, among many talented and distinguished figures, Lin Bujue wasn't very noticeable, and his background seemed quite ordinary.

But now, it seemed that everyone had underestimated his foundation.

His mysterious Master was clearly a powerhouse, no weaker than Master Duobao, particularly in strategic manipulation.

Should Tao Qian rashly disrupt their plan of nurturing the disciple, he would certainly be marked.

Moreover, there was Lin Bujue himself, a gentleman.

The beings he had saved gathering around him because of the repayment might not be a bad thing after all.

With his thoughts settled, Tao Qian immediately returned to his urgent matters.

Casting aside all distractions, he strode forward adeptly performing the Summoning Demon Technique, while saying,

"Daoist, do you know why I avoided the people of Hidden Dragon Mountain and followed you alone down the mountain?"

"Why?"

"You also know that I practice the Summoning Demon Technique from the Secret Demon Sect. Tonight, when I was practicing our magics skills, one of my rarer Invisibility Heavenly Demons accidentally discovered a huge secret within the Ancestor Dragon Society—this secret concerns the lives of all its members and the future well-being of millions of people in New Moon Province."

"If you believe me, do not resist, and you shall see for yourself."

During this conversation, Tao Qian had once again summoned that Invisibility Demon.

Upon receiving his command, the demon immediately transformed into intangible Demon Light and struck Lin Bujue's head.

The latter hesitated for a moment but did not defend himself.

The next instant, the Demon Light exploded. Inside, the two "Yellow Robed Eunuchs" slowly merged into Yin Juejun and Duan Qiu's bodies, the horrifying scene of their corruption unfolding was suddenly made known to Lin Bujue without any prior indication.

Tao Qian watched as this young man, gentleman-like in his demeanor, first froze, then disbelief cascaded into an ultimate fury after his faith was shattered.

Simultaneously, within his Divine Soul, along with a hissing sound, tenuous strands of dense yellow aura drifted out, gradually dissipating into the void.

Chapter 469 - 9 Child Ghosts in the Ghost Mother's Belly, Ancestor Dragon's Spine Joins the Great Plan

Outside Yulan City, in the wilderness on a moonlit night.

Lin Bujue's mind was in turmoil after the Invisibility Demon had left with satisfaction, having received rewards from its master, returning to the Outer Realm.

Lin Bujue, who had just learned the horrifying truth, was unable to snap back to reality for a long time.

Although his time in Ancestor Dragon Society was short compared to old members like Zhong Ziyang, he was still a veteran member and held great admiration for Ying Qingdi, the founder of the society.

In times like these, he was almost the only person who preached "equality between Immortals and Mortals."

He had joined because of a shared vision, never expecting it to be a scam.

Lin Bujue recalled the surge of excitement and reverence he felt when reading the "Longevity Strategy" and other books, which detailed Ying Qingdi's many rebellions and relentless battles. In an instant, he felt cold shivers and his Divine Soul trembled uncontrollably, as a sense of nausea welled up inside him, impossible to suppress.

If it weren't for the fact that he was now a Divine Soul Body, he would probably be vomiting dryly.

"The scoundrel is shameless!"

"A monstrous lie, a wolf's ambition, no, I must expose this beast..."

Enraged, Lin Bujue subconsciously planned to let his Divine Soul return to Hidden Dragon Mountain to expose Ying Qingdi's true face.

Tao Qian did not immediately stop him, but waited.

Sure enough, Lin Bujue was not a rash man.

After taking just one step, the blind rage that clouded his mind was quickly suppressed. His brow furrowed, he began to contemplate.

His face was full of anger and worry as he muttered to himself:

"The Ancestor Dragon Society has been established for a long time and has many members. Who knows how many have been contaminated by this Evil Curse? Is there a way to lift it?"

"If I rashly expose it, the Ancestor Dragon Society will fall apart at once, that much is certain, but I fear those Daoists who have been contaminated will be the first to suffer... yet I cannot simply not expose it, as those books have spread far and wide. Not to mention other places, many fellows on Hidden Dragon Mountain are at risk of contamination at any moment..."

"If I test each one individually, there's the risk of alerting them. What should I do?"

Unsurprisingly, Lin Bujue also found himself in a dilemma.

Indeed, the situation was difficult to resolve.

Fortunately, Tao Qian thought for a moment and then directly addressed the first problem.

"Mr. Lin Daoist, who on Hidden Dragon Mountain has been contaminated, who has not, and to what extent?"

"These things, I all know."

"Hm?"

Lin Bujue was deep in thought, trying to find a solution, when he suddenly heard this and immediately showed a look of surprise.

Then, as if realizing something, he abruptly turned to the Invisibility Demon, asking incredulously, "Was that demonic disaster earlier caused by you?"

Tao Qian smiled and nodded, saying half-truthfully:

"I saw Ying Qingdi harming people with the Evil Curse, and I have some skills, enough to glimpse the origins and roots of this curse. Wanting to save people, I took advantage of Kuang Fusheng's hands to brew a demonic disaster, using it to sift out those who have not yet been contaminated, who can still be saved, faithful Daoists."

"Mr. Lin Daoist, you are the first."

"That is why I insisted on coming out with you. Right now, Hidden Dragon Mountain is full of Forbidden Magic Gates and Ying Qingdi's spies; it is really inconvenient to act."

"By the way, you need not feel sorry for Kuang Fusheng. I have already investigated him; though also a pitiable person, he is deeply demonized. His method to atone involves refining the 'Five Organs of the

Good' into an Elixir for consumption, and he has harmed no less than hundreds of people. He deserved to die."

After saying this, Lin Bujue couldn't help but show surprise on his face, along with a rising admiration in his heart.

This Brother Lin not only had extraordinary Divine Powers, but his thoughts were also much more meticulous than his own.

As the thought emerged, Lin Bujue was about to bow in gratitude for the life-saving grace, but he saw Tao Qian's face show a troubled expression, as he continued to say:

"Knowing Ying Qingdi's plot, we naturally cannot let him continue to contaminate our fellow Daoists."

"However, after the demonic disaster on Hidden Dragon Mountain, the Outer Realm Heaven Demons cannot easily act. Moreover, inside the Ancestor Dragon Society, it is a mix of fish and dragons, including the Devil God Army Princess, Taiping Army Remnants, and others. Although I know who has not been contaminated, I do not know among these people whom I can trust and whom I cannot."

"Moreover, the uprising of the Ancestor Dragon Society is imminent, and although this unexpected event has occurred, it still has great value, especially for the tens of millions of the New Moon People."

"Perhaps we could enact the 'Cuckoo Occupies the Sparrow's Nest' plan, borrowing Ying Qingdi's strength to save the New Moon People, and after that, kill Ying Qingdi, eliminate the extensive rottenness, which would be another kind of reform."

As soon as Tao Qian finished speaking, Lin Bujue's expression brightened, and his eyes gleamed.

The despondency and rage following the betrayal by Ying Qingdi faded away, replaced by a soaring fighting spirit, and he quickly said:

"Brother Lin, do not worry, I can handle this matter."

"I have been a member longer than you, Brother Lin. Give me the list, and I will do the sorting."

"Also, among the Secret Techniques I cultivate, there exists one called 'Demon Capturing Talisman', which can summon Outer Realm Heavenly Ghosts to heed my command. Among them is one called 'Nine Sons Ghost Mother', who after entering this world can give birth to nine ghosts each day, each with its own mystery, bridging the real and the unreal, beyond the Five Elements, and beyond Yin and Yang. No matter how sophisticated Ying Qingdi's monitoring methods are, he couldn't possibly detect them."

"Not only can I deploy these spirit ghosts to expose the truth, but I can also use the Ghost Mother's connection to the Void, which can hide a small world within its belly, for us to discuss important matters."

"Exquisite, just do that. Now that you and I know the truth, we must not let Ying Qingdi ruin the great cause of reform."

After speaking, Lin Bujue excitedly dragged Tao Qian back into the Spirit Coffin Lamp Flame.

The grey-white lamp flame flickered for a moment, and they were instantly back on Hidden Dragon Mountain.

In the process, Tao Qian and Lin Bujue decided on the members they would save and persuade to their cause.

Many people atop the mountain had not been tainted by the "Evil Slave Summoning Spell," like Yin Susu and others, who, like Master Tao, were newcomers with high cultivation levels and naturally would not be so quickly ensnared.

Chapter 470 - Nine Child Ghosts Within the Ghost Mother's Belly, Ancestor Dragon Bone Discusses the Great Plan_2

But these people couldn't all be saved, nor could the truth be revealed to them immediately. That would certainly alert the enemy and lead to the collapse of the Ancestor Dragon Society.

After discussing, they only confirmed about ten people.

After returning to Lin Bujue's courtyard, Tao Qian didn't continue to stay but left without any fuss.

In his own chamber, he silently waited.

He also took the time to inform Yuan Gong about the events of the past hour.

Tao Qian was still curious about Lin Bujue's background, especially the master behind him who seemed to possess extensive divine skills.

What surprised Tao Qian was that Yuan Gong still couldn't figure it out.

"Spirit Coffin Lamp... a path of dispelling disaster and granting enlightenment... these methods do sound familiar, but I can't think of them right now."

"In that case, there are only two explanations. One is that those memories aren't in this remnant divine soul of mine; the other is interference, the ability to do that suggests that kid's master is at least in the Daoist Transformation Realm."

"Since you said that kid could summon the Nine Sons Ghost Mother, it must be the latter."

"You should know that the Nine Sons Ghost Mother isn't something that just any Tom, Dick, or Harry can summon, even if you've mastered the Demon Capturing. She is an extremely rare and powerful Heavenly Ghost, her true body is in the Outer Realm, and even if I hadn't met my demise, I wouldn't have been able to defeat her."

"The boy speaking of summoning her, it's likely just an incarnation."

"Even so, it's enough to show that his background might not necessarily be weaker than yours."

Yuan Gong paused after transmitting his thoughts, then his tone shifted, asking:

"Kid, do you really trust this Lin Bujue?"

"You alone indeed find it hard to achieve anything, but behind you still stands the Spirit Treasure Sect, this huge entity. If you wish, you could completely take over this Ancestor Dragon Society. Why entrust the task of connecting them to that strangely originated young fellow?"

"You're so lackadaisical, completely lacking the ambition of a hero. Let alone being a founding emperor, you can't even live up to the name 'Hidden Dragon'; you really embarrass Duobao."

Hearing these words, Tao Qian couldn't help but show a smile.

Without a second thought, he immediately replied:

"When did the disciple ever say he wanted to be a founding emperor? I am devoted to cultivation, desiring longevity; but I have never thought about holding that position and enjoying glory and riches."

"Moreover, I have personally abolished the imperial system of this country. Not just me, no one in the future will be able to sit on that dragon throne."

As he uttered the second sentence, Tao Qian involuntarily became solemn.

His voice was firm, brooking no contradiction.

Of course, Yuan Gong, after hearing it, said nothing, only transmitting a scoffing laugh, seemingly mocking his ambition.

Until Tao Qian remembered something, questioning with a hint of doubt:

"Since entering this world, Master Yuan, you seem to frequently tempt and provoke me to be some ambitious emperor."

"What's this, does your Secret Demon Sect also want to support an emperor? And you even chose me so unwisely?"

"Tch!"

"Don't flatter yourself; even if our Secret Demon Sect falls into ruin, we wouldn't, like those failures from the Taishang Demon Sect, support an emperor from the mortal world."

After roaring out these words, Yuan Gong didn't continue.

However, that sculpture in Tao Qian's arms, with its vermillionish eyebrows flickering, was actually Yuan Gong inwardly feeling dejected, thinking:

"This kid is indolent and kind-hearted; if it were 'Old Lady Jiang,' she could turn his nature around, tempting him to join my Secret Demon Sect."

"With this child's talent and blessings, perhaps he could revive the Secret Demon Sect."

"I, Old Ape, am honest and can't drive someone to turn demon like that."

"Let's wait and see. If after some time the kid doesn't give in, Old Ape will have to secretly call Old Lady Jiang... even if this is Duobao's scheme, I can't care about that, at most let these old foes continue to clash, after all, I, Old Ape, am already dead, why worry so much?"

...

Tao Qian, of course, was unaware of Master Yuan's inner calculations and continued to wait in the room for about several dozen moments.

Suddenly, Tao Qian's head trembled, and a new sensation arrived.

He slightly turned his head only to see the void ripple and a strangely shaped little ghost, ignoring his set Forbidden Technique, slipped out.

The ghost appeared to be a teenage girl around sixteen or seventeen, dressed in luxurious robes, with a collar around her neck and a bell in her hand. A golden halo hovered behind her head, making her look less like a ghost and more like a little protective deity from a major Buddhist sect.

As soon as she materialized, she leaped forward, bypassing Tao Qian's Taoist Body, and tried to drag away his Divine Soul while shouting,

"Big brother, hurry, hurry, I was sent to call you."

"I got delayed watching the monks and nuns next door fighting stark naked, don't delay, if we're late it'll be my fault."

It was fortunate that it was Tao Qian she was dragging.

Had it been someone else, a ghost ignoring everything and attempting to drag away a cultivator's Divine Soul would surely have sparked a confrontation.

Tao Qian, in the midst of their contact, learned the details about her.

This girl was one of the [Nine Sons Ghost Mother's] offspring.

Her summoning of Tao Qian indicated that Lin Bujue's mission was complete.

They had previously agreed on a list of names, including their own, which totaled ten people.

Lin Bujue was set to cast spells to connect them and then discuss how to use the power of Ying Qingdi to annihilate the Seven Evil Sects, how to purify the Ancestor Dragon Society, and how to save the New Moon People, among other things.

Tao Qian hadn't expected Lin Bujue to act so quickly.

But looking at the girl dragging him, obviously a ghost yet giving Tao Qian a sense of danger, indeed verified what Master Yuan had said – Lin Bujue's background was not simple.

"I wonder if this Nine Sons Ghost Mother has any connection to Xiao Hua Daoist's mother-in-law?"

As Tao Qian pondered unknowingly, his Divine Soul got up with the spirit ghost.

Letting the girl drag him, he swiftly entered the Void.

Their destination?

According to what Lin Bujue had previously said, it should be the Inner World of the Nine Sons Ghost Mother.

Tao Qian had thought that being inside the belly of a terrifying ghost creature, the environment would also be extremely harsh, possibly filled with severed limbs and decayed souls.

At first, it was an unpleasant sight.

Tao Qian was led by the girl's cold little hand through an extremely long corridor of flesh and blood, where many ghost talismans were carved on the surface, seeming to be a naturally formed Forbidden Technique. Occasionally, some debris would flash into existence, only to be dissolved by the Forbidden Technique into types of Origin Qi, drifting away like clouds or fog.

"This place? Could it be the ghost mother's esophagus? Or her intestines?"

Just as this thought occurred, the next moment opened up spectacularly before them.

In Tao Qian's eyes was the reflection of a staggeringly beautiful, towering palace with turquoise tiles, and ahead he saw myriad streaks of colorful clouds and thousands of red mists, as if entering the Netherworld's hell, the Senluo Treasure Palace just ahead... Before he could take a closer look, he was pulled by the girl straight through the mists into the palace.

In the blink of an eye and upon looking again, Tao Qian found himself sitting upright on the most prominent throne in the Treasure Hall.

Facing the Senluo Treasure Hall, there were several enigmatic Treasure Chairs on either side, nine of which were already occupied.

Tao Qian focused his gaze and recognized many familiar faces.

Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, Qi Daozhen, Shen Ruolan... Goodness, nearly the core members of the Ancestor Dragon Society all caught in one net.

If Ying Qingdi were here and saw this scene, he might explode with rage.

He founded the [Ancestor Dragon Society], not merely to conquer a single New Moon province but aimed at the entire Longevity Heavenly Dynasty's seventy-two provinces and even the entire world.

To achieve this, relying solely on him and his group of Yellow Robed Slaves would certainly be impossible.

Thus, he disguised himself as such to attract the major sect's talents with ambitions and ideals.

These individuals were the first wave.

And to Ying Qingdi, they were the most crucial, the foundation of his venture.

Now, here they were, brought stealthily to this place by Tao Qian and Lin Bujue.

And the expressions on these people were very much aligned—anger, disappointment, and killing intent mixed together.

Clearly, they had all realized the truth.

If Ying Qingdi were really here, he might well suffer mobbing by these Daoist and Buddhist prodigies.