## Longevity 471

Chapter 471: The Talents Desire to Seize Power, the Nine Toad Bead Finally Has a Whereabouts
Tao Qian looked over the expressions of the gathered talents and quickly discerned the nature of the place.
He confirmed that this place was not only the belly of the Nine Sons Ghost Mother but also a Senluo Treasure Palace invisible to the Mortal World and unreachable by the calling of Daoist and Buddhist Sects.
And he, Master Tao, had been pulled here by the spirit ghost dressed as a young girl and was directly seated at the head of the table.
Upon looking around, he saw the stern faces of the nine people sitting on either side.
The corner of Tao Qian's mouth twitched as he silently thought,
"This place is used for a secret assembly, and while its secrecy is deemed sufficient, and the atmosphere is certainly intense, no matter how you look at it, it feels like the 'Ten Halls Yama.'"
"What is this, am I considered King Qinguang now?"
As his thoughts wandered, Tao Qian also observed the other nine people.

Besides Lin Bujue, Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, Qi Daozhen, Shen Ruolan, and the Shazhei Monk, there were three slightly unfamiliar faces.
Two men and one woman, named "Qin Ming," "Dai Feipeng," and "Liu Yuying."
Each had their own background, and although their cultivation wasn't comparable to the first six, they had also reached the Perfect Transcend Mortality and held important positions in the Ancestor Dragon Society; what caught Tao Qian's attention were Dai Feipeng and Liu Yuying.
Dai Feipeng looked quite ordinary, wearing a plain Daoist robe, and used a blunt iron sword to tie his hair, which could easily mislead one to think he had no strong background; however, upon eye contact, one could sense an overwhelming sword aura lurking in his eyes, stabbing into one's soul.
He had never hidden his background: he was a disciple of the Shaoqing Sect, one of the Twelve Major Daoist Sects. He came from the same sect as Shi Yingqiong, the Daoist he had met at the National Salvation Congress.
Liu Yuying, the female cultivator, looked vigorous and also possessed a charm. Dressed in an Eight Diagrams Immortal Robe and holding a jade turtle shell, she was undoubtedly in possession of an Exotic Treasure. Her background was no less distinguished, as she was a disciple of the famous Independent Cultivator Female Immortal, Lady Miao Zhen, from the Cultivation World.
As Tao Qian finished examining, the others had also fully absorbed the horrible truth.

With a sigh, Zhong Ziyang stood up, bowed deeply to Tao Qian, and then expressed his gratitude,
"The fortune of inviting Mr. Lin Daoist to join our society this time is now apparent. Without you, Daoist, I fear we would have been continuously deceived by Ying Qingdi, and not only would we fail to save the tens of millions of people in New Moon Province, but we would also become criminals."
"Daoist, please accept my bow!"
Zhong Ziyang's gesture was indeed whole-hearted.
At the same time, he sighed to himself,
"It's often said that Toad Sect disciples have unparalleled fortune; seeing it now, it indeed seems so. Ying Qingdi is underhanded and secretive; being beside him for so long, we've failed to see through him. Mr. Lin Runiu Daoist has just arrived and uncovered the secret overnight, it's timely."
"The great mistake has not yet been made, there is still time, still time."
Without any doubt, Zhong Ziyang had completely accepted Tao Qian, that is, Lin Runiu, as a True Disciple secretly cultivated by the Toad Sect.

Now he was filled with regret, anger, and deep disappointment; his emotions were extremely complex.
Yet, harboring great aspirations, after realizing the "Bright Lord" he had been eager to support was actually a demon, an emissary of the Outer Realm Evil Gods, Zhong Ziyang quickly adjusted his mindset.
After paying respect to Tao Qian, he turned and paid his respects to the other eight one by one.
Then, with a look of apology and talking somewhat at length, he said,
"The Ancestor Dragon Society has gained such power and misled so many hero companions; I, Zhong Ziyang, cannot escape blame."
"Initially, I admired Ying Qingdi, who, despite repeated defeats, battled on, gradually developing his own ideals on governance, possessing a demeanor like that of a Human Emperor; thus, I willingly supported him, gathering friends and aiding him, until the Ancestor Dragon Society gradually rose to power yet, to think the truth is such."
"Ying Qingdi has sinister ambitions, that's one thing; but the Divine Spell he wielded seems not of this world and is probably granted by an Outer Realm Evil God. Ying Qingdi's true identity must be an agent of the Outer Realm Evil Gods in this world."
"If we allow him to use the Ancestor Dragon Society to bring in Evil Gods, we will all become the culprits."





If it weren't for this reason, he wouldn't need to act under an alias every time.
Upon knowing that the Evil Curse could be lifted, all the talents in the room heaved a sigh of relief.
What they feared the most after knowing the truth was that Divine Spell, for if it couldn't be lifted, they would have no choice but to massacre their former comrades when the time came to show their true colors.
Now with the Perfect Method, they could proceed with planning against Ying Qingdi with full force.
The Ancestor Dragon Society has its prestige today!
Ying Qingdi, of course, deserves the greatest credit, being the overt symbol and leader.
But the contributions of the others were also considerable.
Like Chen Xiyi, who was suspected to be a True Disciple of Fangcun Mountain, he had not been in the society as long as Zhong Ziyang.
However, his control over the Ancestor Dragon Society was second only to Ying Qingdi, making him the de facto second-in-command.

At this moment, he suddenly spoke up, nudging Zhong Ziyang slightly, "Mr Zhong Daoist need not worry, we established the Ancestor Dragon Society together with Ying Qingdi, although it brought about disaster, it might not necessarily be unable to turn into a blessing."
"Mr Bu Jue and Mr Lin Daoist's proposals are very reasonable, with the New Moon rebellion imminent, affecting the lives and deaths of tens of millions within the province, we should not act rashly at this time."
"Pretending ignorance, pushing for reform with the flow of events, until the day of victory, that's when we'll get rid of Ying Qingdi."
"I control the strategy and calculation within the Ancestor Dragon Society, Brother Ziyang and Daozhen handle the medical and elixir matters, Shazhei brothers lead a Buddha Army, Sister Ruolan is in charge of the Assassination Hall, Brother Qin Ming and Brother Fei Peng manage the Magical Treasures and weapons, Sister Yuying presides over the Calculation Hall, Brother Bu Jue handles part of the intelligence, along with Mr Lin Daoist's newly acquired position as Grain and Grass Officer"
"Gathered here together, we could strip Ying Qingdi of his emperor's guise in an instant."
As he got to the end, Chen Xiyi became impassioned, and his hometown's coarse language spilled out.
After a pause, as if he had remembered something, he turned to Tao Qian and bowed, "Speaking of which, I also have to thank Mr Lin Daoist, if not for Daoist's reveal of Ying Qingdi's true colors, I, Chen Xiyi, would have no face to meet others if we were exposed later."

"Considering your background and Divine Power, none are inferior to mine, and at the moment, I can't think of any worthy gift for you, so why not give you a piece of news instead."
As the last word dropped.
In Tao Qian's mind, suddenly sounded Chen Xiyi's voice transmission:
"Mr Lin Daoist, I know that your Toad Sect has lost an Exotic Treasure, the 'Nine Toad Bead', and I happen to know the whereabouts of one of them."
"Go to Yinping City in Qiantang Province, there lies Yellow Cloud Mountain, where an old toad demon resides, calling itself 'Swallowing Heaven Great Saint'. It has a great reputation, with powers not to be underestimated, ordinary Cavernous Mystery Realm cultivators are not enough to fill the gaps in its teeth, and what it really relies on is indeed one of your Toad Sect's Nine Toad Beads."
"I passed by that mountain before and fought with it, ending in a stalemate after half a day, and we had to call a truce."
"If Mr Lin Daoist feels uncertain, you can call on me when the time comes, and the two of us will besiege that old toad, making sure to strip it of its stinking skin."
Hearing this, Tao Qian felt both surprised and pleased and got to understand Chen Xiyi a bit more.

He's somewhat eccentric and proud, highly values brotherhood, and does not like to owe others favors.
Benefiting from Tao Qian's reminder, he immediately provided a piece of highly valuable secret intel in return.
Although he mistook Tao Qian's true identity, his accidental insight was exactly what Tao Qian wished for.
Tao Qian smiled, nodded at Chen Xiyi, and silently noted the territory, planning to go there when he had the chance, to use the 'fishing toad technique' to hook the old demon's Nine Toad Bead and enhance the power of his own Toad Pearl.
Within the Senluo Treasure Palace, listening to Chen Xiyi's previous words, the rest of the talents each added their thoughts.
Like Qi Daozhen, the old brother still in his woodcutter guise, uttered wise words, "Brother Xiyi's words hold some truth, indeed, with a few of us, we can hollow out much of Ying Qingdi's authority."
"But under his command, there are still people like Pei Hong, Linghu Ying, and others, plus armies like the Devil God Army, Taiping Army, and many other external members, if we cannot lift the curse in time even if the New Moon succeeds in reforming, the Ancestor Dragon Society will be greatly weakened."
"As the saying goes, even a lion uses its full strength when hunting a rabbit, while we push for reforms, we each must apply our methods and continue to prepare, until that critical moment, join forces to kill

Ying Qingdi, to prevent him from getting desperate, using some Secret Technique to introduce Outer Realm Evil Gods into this realm, bringing calamity to the people."
"Excellent!"
"It must be done this way!"
Qi Daozhen finished speaking, and the other Talents unanimously agreed.
Chen Xiyi did the same. He nodded his head and waved his feather fan decisively, following up with, "Great! Elder Brother Daozhen is right, we can't give this scoundrel any chance to struggle. Once we turn back, I will send a secret message back to the mountain and call for a fellow sect member to come here. Although he is my junior, his ability to slaughter in battle far surpasses mine. An ordinary Cavernous Mystery Realm Cultivator would turn to dust with just one strike from him."
Zhong Ziyang also nodded his head, then added, "Similarly, when I ask Mei Su to come, I will beg him to bring a Magical Treasure from my Master, which, even if a Cultivator of the Ultimate Happiness Realm were to suffer a hit, would still be injured."
Shen Ruolan, clad in a red dress with a murderous aura, also spoke, "I have prepared the Cloud Scroll. If the timing is not right, I will ask my Master to come. Even if an Evil God from the Outer Realm invades, she dares to draw her sword and fight."
The Shazhei Monk clasped his hands together and chanted a Buddha's name, "My Beichan Temple's foundation is here; there is nowhere to flee. When the time comes, the entire temple is ready for battle."

Qin Ming, who had the appearance of a noble Great Man, nodded as well and then said with a somber face, "Although I cannot summon powerful mentors, I have a secret Demon-Subduing Technique. When that moment comes, I am prepared to fight with all my might."
Dai Feipeng's expression was cool as he simply uttered one brief sentence, "My master is very fond of me. If I send a message, he will come and behead Ying Qingdi."
Tao Qian, at the head of the table, found himself at a loss the more he listened.
The Talents, from initially seeking reinforcements, were now speaking of jade and stone burning together and heroic sacrifices.
He really wanted to say that this was a bit inauspicious. Even though Ying Qingdi was a great hazard and an Evil God sympathizer, his Cultivation was there for all to see. Now that their conspiracy had been forewarned, it seemed unlikely that he would be able to stir up any trouble.
The current plan should not be to discuss such matters but rather something else.
For example, what systems should be implemented after a successful reform? What philosophy should be used for governance?

Or perhaps, these Talents gathering here in secret should consider taking a different name outside of the Ancestor Dragon Society, such as the New Moon Society or the Longevity Association?
Seeing that no one wanted to discuss platforms or new names,
Tao Qian was contemplating whether to remind them when suddenly, a spirit ghost with a chicken's head and a human body burst into the hall.
Without looking at the others, it let out loud screeches.
Lin Bujue came to realization and immediately said,
"Ladies and Gentlemen, the day is about to break."
"It won't be long before the Ancestor Dragon Conference is held on the mountain, to discuss the details of the revolution and reforms. To avoid exposure, we should return quickly."
Although everyone felt that there was still much to discuss and many issues were unresolved, they knew what was at stake and got up one after another, allowing the Child Ghosts to come again and tug and pull them back to their quiet rooms.

Beside Tao Qian, the girl who enjoyed watching monks and nuns fight naked appeared once again, grabbing Tao Qian and ready to dash away.
But just at this moment, Chen Xiyi, whose Divine Soul was nearly dissipated, seemed to remember something. He turned his head and shouted at Tao Qian:
"Brother Lin, the Ancestor Dragon Conference will start in one hour."
"Some brutes and fools, knowing that you have obtained an Ancestor God Treasure, will intentionally trouble and provoke you."
"There is a mix of good and bad in the Ancestor Dragon Society, and fools are abundant. You must not hold back or give them face and should teach them a harsh lesson."
Not long after, under the girl's pulling and dragging, Tao Qian's Divine Soul returned to his true body.
He reopened his eyes, in which a trace of curiosity emerged.

With his current methods, uncovering the mysteries of various secret realms, small worlds, and Grotto Heavens was not difficult.
However, having gone in and out of the Nine Sons Ghost Mother, he still hadn't deciphered its mysteries.
He only knew that Lin Bujue's origins were indeed extraordinary.
If that was true of him, he thought of Chen Xiyi, Zhong Ziyang, Qi Daozhen, Shen Ruolan, Dai Feipeng, and the powers behind them.
Involuntarily, Tao Qian mourned for Ying Qingdi.
"If this scoundrel had not been exposed by me, and had spent a few more years gradually influencing others, corrupting people like Pei Hong and Linghu Ying, his Great Plan might have succeeded."
"It's just a pity that he was unlucky enough to be seen through by me. Soon he will face the encirclement and suppression of a whole host of terrifying forces."
"Tsk, he deserves it."
Chapter 473: Lin Runiu Takes Office as Grain and Grass Officer, Yin Susu Wants to Seize the Valley God Gui

The best talents had gathered hurriedly within the belly of the Nine Sons Ghost Mother and the Senluo Treasure Palace, only to disperse shortly after and wait for the opening of the Ancestor Dragon Congress.
An hour, neither long nor short.
Tao Qian had not waited long when he received a message from Little Age, Lian Jing'er, and the other young ones.
"Hidden Dragon Mountain has a Great Prohibition, unable to merge inside for now."
"Shan Jiu mentioned that Shangyang City has treasures to be picked up; we are heading to the city first."
Tao Qian promptly replied, instructing Yunrong to take care of it.
If it were someone else mentioning profits to be gained elsewhere, one might consider it a deceit.
But Shan Jiu was different, the Wild Leek Demon's fortune was peculiar; he never lied.
Tao Qian had personally experienced this in the Iron Buddha Temple; if Shan Jiu said there were treasures, there definitely were.

"However, unlike me and the disciples of the Nine Toad Sect, the opportunities Shan Jiu encounters always come with the disaster of bloodshed."
"This further proves that shortly after the Ancestor Dragon Congress, Shangyang City will plunge into war With Yunrong looking after things and the three half-grown children who are no easy pickings themselves, there's no need to worry about their safety."
With these thoughts settled, a good half an hour flew by.
Then, in the next moment, a "clang clang clang" sound resounded directly throughout the territory of Hidden Dragon Mountain.
"The hour has come!"
Tao Qian stood up and pushed the door open.
Despite having some expectations, he knew today's Hidden Dragon Mountain Ancestor Dragon Hall would be exceptionally splendid.
Yet at first sight, he was still surprised.

It was just a few hours, and he didn't know how the Yellow Robed Eunuchs had managed it.
What should have been a territory of fire and gloomy winds was now filled with auspicious clouds and floating auspicious light.
Tao Qian, along with other visitors from all around the mountain, left their chambers and along the way saw fluttering flags, flying treasure covers, vases filled with immortal flowers, furnaces burning sandalwood, freshly served fruit on red platters, and piles of colorful candy If that was all, it was merely a luxurious Daoist Field, nothing extraordinary and unworthy of gathering heroes and Daoists from all over.
Moving ahead, one could see corridors and pavilions interspersed with the Green Jade Square, every thirty feet marked by a thick yellow flag.
The flags were embroidered with golden letters, and upon closer inspection, they were powerful and provocative slogans pulled from texts like "Immortal and Mortal Debate," "Longevity Strategy," "Green Emperor's Uprising," and "Ancestor Emperor's Dao Validation Song," among others.
These flags were clearly well-refined and had become magic artifacts.
The small golden letters not only shimmered but seemed to have gained a life of their own, able to detach from the flags and recite themselves.
Such a grand scene indeed triggered reactions.

Many passionate, fiery cultivators immediately chose nearby spots to discuss, confirm, and even debate with each other.
This, in turn, brought forth even more astonishing phenomena.
Flag after flag seemed to absorb the intense emotions and energies released by the cultivators, with the treasure light growing more turbulent, gradually refining, and even in some of the most fervent flags, figures leaped out naturally to join the debates.
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Even with his vast experiences, Tao Qian was taken aback at this moment.
What initially seemed like a luxurious Daoist Field upon closer inspection turned out to be a place of revolution.
In front of Ancestor Dragon Hall, inside and outside, it seemed everywhere was filled with impassioned heroes and reformers, buzzing with voices, extraordinarily lively.
In a daze, it made one feel like this corrupt era might finally be saved.

Just like now, an old cultivator from the Transcend Mortality Realm with white hair and resembling a dying tree stepped forward, grabbing Ying Qingdi's hand, shaking it vigorously, his voice hoarse as he shouted,
"Mr. Ying Daoist, with so many difficulties in the mortal realm and storms brewing, after you save the New Moon Province, do not forget us [Hanxi Province]."
"I was the first Hanxi monk to join the Ancestor Dragon Society. For this New Moon reform, our Qingyun Sect is willing to offer years of accumulated resources and treasures, striving with all our might to help the Ancestor Dragon Society conquer New Moon Province. We only hope that after saving New Moon, the Ancestor Dragon Society can also fully support us Hanxi monks to initiate a Hanxi uprising, saving millions of locals."
Hearing these words, Tao Qian's brow furrowed slightly.
A strong sense of déjà vu arose, along with an unsubstantiated judgment.
This old man was an opportunist.
And the so-called "Qingyun Sect" probably was too.
Merely a small sect, a weak force, yet willing to gamble and optimistic about the prospects of the Ancestor Dragon Society joining them, hoping to use this connection to rise in status. Skillfully seizing the opportunity, it was quite possible that within decades, Qingyun Sect could leap to become a Great Sect; there were numerous success stories from ancient times to now.

and women	y, another striking female cultivator stepped forward; due to the difference between me n, she did not grasp Ying Qingdi, but instead clasped her hands in salute, her face showing as she said emphatically:
Chapter 474 Gui_2	4 - Lin Runiu Takes Office as Grain and Grass Officer, Yin Susu Wants to Seize the Valley G
youth, I me cultivation (	huixian, a native of Tiandu Province, without the teachings of any Sect," he declared, "As rely found a Lifebound Scripture in the mountains and have blundered through my until now. Recently, I obtained a scroll of the 'Immortal and Mortal Debate' and was deep he precious ideas you articulated, Daoist. Thus, I purposely joined the Society."
"I wish to re	emain in New Moon Province and join my peers in initiating a revolutionary reform."
	efforts succeed, I'll return to Qing State to establish a branch of the Ancestor Dragon Soci eople in Qing Province might also be swiftly rescued."
The elderly	man, and this female cultivator, seemed to have started a trend.
•	tives of Society members from various provinces began to speak out one after another, grievances and declaring their aspirations.

Some were sincere, while others had ulterior motives.
"My name is Xiang Bazhong, from South Lake Province, a disciple of the Heavenly Gang Sect. No, now I must say I am the only surviving disciple. In order to protect the people of Nantian Province, my entire Sect had no choice but to engage in a desperate battle with the great warlord Li Luxian. In the end, everyone except for me perished. I am determined to give my all in this uprising, only hoping that after the New Moon reformation, the Society can assist me in returning to Nantian to rebuild the Heavenly Gang."
"My name is Liao Wuchang, a native of Dong'e Province. I bear no personal vendettas or sufferings, but right now, the mortals of Dong'e suffer from the calamities brought by 'Alchemists.' They have propped up the great warlord Pang Xun as a puppet, training a Gu Army under his banner. They roam about brutally consuming mortals, claiming to be cultivating Gu Demons and other such terrifying creatures through the method of nourishing Gu. I wish to aid the Society's Daoists in saving New Moon, and only ask that afterward, you also save Dong'e."
"My name is Huang Gui, a native of Pan Jia Province and also a soldier of the [Scorched] rebel army. Now in Pan Jia, across a hundred cities and counties, there are skies filled with the stench of blood, streets overrun with wild dogs, and ceaseless strife among various warlords. Whether it's strapping men or women and children, the casualties rise daily. All I hope for is that the same Daoists will achieve overnight success with the reformation of New Moon and then also come to aid the people of Pan Jia."
Tao Qian stood in the hall amongst a group of cultivators and heroes, observing these developments, listening to their words.

He was already aware of the conditions of various provinces from when he hung the sky lanterns.
Now, as he listened, it seemed that the majority had worsened.
The representatives from various provinces calling out were mostly Loose Cultivators with low cultivation or from small Sects.
The really influential members of the Society, like the few princesses from the Devil God Army, a general from the Taiping Army, or the concubines of some great warlord from a neighboring province, they all remained silent.
They needn't say anything—Chen Xiyi had leaked it the night before.
Ying Qingdi and these great power Society representatives had made secret deals and alliances long ago; their presence here was merely a formality.
The lower-tier Society members, who knew nothing of these dealings, placed their hopes on such earnest appeals.
Yet, as they beheld these scenes, Tao Qian, Lin Bujue, Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, Qi Daozhen, Shen Yulan, and others exchanged glances subtly, as if it was only now that they really understood.

The Ancestor Dragon Society!
This organization had swelled to such an extent in such a short time.
Though the revolution had not yet officially started, upon closer examination, it was already a vast entity that had extended its influence into at least a dozen provinces.
"Those touched by the Divine Spell, they aren't just the ones on the mountain; there are probably even more."
"Just wait for Ying Qingdi to make the call. Using New Moon Province as a base, he might quickly gain control over the Northern Land Provinces, forming a north-south alliance with the National Salvation Congress supported by the Primordial Sect."
"Although these demons act in secrecy, could those old monsters among the Alchemists really be completely oblivious?"
Suddenly, this thought struck Tao Qian.
Questions surged in his mind, yet he had no time to verify anything.

At that moment, inside the Ancestor Dragon Hall, Ying Qingdi was putting on an act, perfectly playing the role of a qualified revolutionary leader, attending to each province's representative, listening to their demands. After almost an entire hour, he managed to soothe all the members.
When the auspicious time arrived, he commanded his Yellow Robed Slaves to light incense and beat drums to gather the crowd.
Including Tao Qian, everyone entered the hall, found their name tags, and took their seats.
At this moment!
If an outsider were present, they would surely be struck speechless by the scene.
One reason was the hall full of heroes; another was the delegates representing over a dozen provinces
Even more astonishing were the gatherings of promising talents and representatives of major forces.
People like Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, Shen Ruolan, Linghu Ying, Shazhei Monk, Dai Feipeng, Liu Yuying Each of these young talents was famous in the Cultivation World, with each background being a Major Sect dominants of their region, even entities such as Taishang Dao, Fangcun Mountain, and Shaoqing Sect.

Or people like Yin Susu, Pei Hong, and Xu Wenkai, who represented great powers currently vying for the world.
Gathered together, these individuals were bound for significant events.
Indeed, Ying Qingdi stepped onto the central jade platform, faced the crowd, and directly exposed the information Tao Qian, Zhong Ziyang, and Lin Bujue had discovered.
Everyone in the hall knew of New Moon Province's unprecedented prosperity, on the brink of transforming into a "flesh and machinery kingdom."
The Devil Pill Demon Ointment produced in New Moon had gradually become a nationwide bestseller.
Who could have expected?
Behind it all lay such shocking secrets.
Even the mere existence of the "Seven Evil Divine Machine" had instilled fear in everyone present.
"Gentlemen, the timing of our uprising, as initially planned, still requires some days of waiting."

"Now that we are aware of the conspiracy of the Seven Evil Sects, I've decided to hasten the uprising, to take place tomorrow. Every city and county within the province must act."
"The Ancestor Dragon Society must make New Moon Province change its ruler overnight."
"Gentlemen, are you willing to follow?"
With everything set in motion, the outcome was almost a foregone conclusion.
In the next moment, the Ancestor Dragon Hall resounded with unanimous responses.
"Willing!"
"Kill!"
"Annihilate the Seven Evils!"
"Slay the Alchemists!"
"Save all people!"

Even Yin Susu, the daughter of a Devil God, was roaring with fervor.
Tao Qian silently followed along, finding it somewhat absurd.
Ying Qingdi, however, basked in the moment, striking while the iron was hot. He began exercising his leader's authority, detailing plans, issuing orders, and distributing official positions.
The entire list had been previously discussed with core members like Zhong Ziyang and Chen Xiyi.
Beyond core members securing crucial roles, powerful allies such as Yin Susu, Xu Wenkai, and Pei Hong also received important official positions.
Most members had no objections.
Until Ying Qingdi mentioned the name "Lin Runiu."
"A fellow Daoist recently joined our society, Lin Runiu."
"A nobly upright hero, a True Practitioner, who has already saved two hundred thousand people in Gao Ren City and has secured the recognition of the Ancestor God Treasure [Valley God Gui]. This treasure

can produce the essence of the five grains, sufficient to supply the entire rebel army of the province and avert the risk of food shortage."
"Therefore, my intention is for Daoist Lin to take charge of the grain supply affairs. The Demon Trap Pit, Ten Thousand Meat Field, Immortal Ganoderma Forest, and other such places within our society should all be governed by Daoist Lin"
"Hold on!"
Before Ying Qingdi could finish, someone abruptly interrupted with a challenge.
Without even pausing for breath, they spat out a lengthy statement.
"Leader, no objections to the other matters you've decided, but this particular issue requires further consideration."
"The matter of grain and supplies is of the utmost importance. How can it be entrusted to someone who has just joined our society?"
"Moreover, this Daoist Lin Runiu has never revealed his origins. How can we trust someone with such unclear background?"
"What if he is a spy?"

"An Alchemist? From the Demon Sect? Both are possibilities."
"I think the position of Grain and Grass Officer should be given to an old member of our society, not to a newcomer who hides his true identity."
"As for the so-called master-acknowledged [Valley God Gui], we need not worry. I possess a Secret Technique that can compel the treasure to reselect its master."
Despite having been warned by Chen Xiyi the night before, Tao Qian knew that today someone would make things difficult for him, even attempting to snatch the Valley God Gui.
Still, when he saw who was the first to make a move, Tao Qian couldn't help but be taken aback.
What do they say about enemies often crossing paths?
This was a prime example.
The one trying to usurp his position and steal his treasure was none other than his old nemesis, Yin Susu.

The Devil God Army Princess, enchanting and reckless, now stood up amidst many Cultivators wishing to save their country and the world, righteously accusing Tao Qian of being a spy.
Remembering again the atrocities committed by her husband in Southern Yue, Tao Qian was struck by a world so bizarre where right seemed wrong. His annoyance grew strong, and just as he was about to act,
In the hall, one figure after another stood up.
Each one spoke words of grandiose righteousness while turning their gazes toward Tao Qian.
Despite their efforts to conceal it, Tao Qian's senses were exceptionally sharp. He felt as if he were being watched by a pack of greedy beasts, all eager and drooling.
Chapter 475 - Heavenly Demon Sucking Marrow, Wa Dang Strikes the Girl
Inside the Ancestor Dragon Hall, Yin Susu initiated the confrontation, and other beasts and birds soon followed suit.
Their motives were easy to understand—in the society, individuals like Zhong Ziyang and Chen Xiyi held strong foundations, mastered Divine Skills, and wielded Mana that was mysterious and unshakeable.
Only the "Lin Runiu" seemed to be an unknown nobody.
At first glance, he appeared to be an old farmer or a frail scholar, with a calm yet not robust Qi, likely a Lucky Loose Cultivator who had fortuitously stumbled upon treasures, easy to bully indeed.

Tao Qian glanced at Yin Susu, who remained dressed as she had been in the past.
In a red robe, her allure was matchless.
Those eyes still held the power to bewitch souls, heaven knows how many men had become enslaved by her charm.
Seeing Tao Qian looking her way, Yin Susu cast a seductive smile, her stunningly enchanting figure twisting slightly as the joy of spring was reflected in Tao Qian's eyes, she then licked her red lips before speaking.
"Big brother, don't be mad at me, what I said just now was only a precaution, not meant to target you on purpose."
"I'm also quite interested in the Valley God's Granary, would big brother be willing to indulge me?"
As these few sentences rang out, at least half of the male cultivators in the hall couldn't help but show a pained expression, their bodies bending slightly.
Those with weaker willpower even gave in on the spot.

In Tao Qian's mind, the Record surged:
[Subject to the Heavenly Demon Essence-Sucking Secret Technique erosion exemption possible!]
No need for a second thought.
The Secret Technique that Yin Susu was using couldn't even break the defenses of the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body.
Her rash actions had instead angered powerful female cultivators like Shen Ruolan and Liu Yuying.
Especially Shen Ruolan, who despised evil, how could she tolerate such an unfettered demoness?
She was ready to spit out her sword Elixir and slash at Yin Susu across several seats.
But at that moment, Tao Qian stopped her with a look, hinting that he was unharmed, he then wryly smiled and spoke aloud,
"I've long heard that among the Devil Gods over a hundred daughters are all crafty and lascivious, easily offering their bodies in exchange for the labor of a hundred thousand soldiers. I originally thought these rumors were false, but now, seeing for myself, could they be true?"

"However, Daoist, don't use your Sorcery on me, though I don't shy away from the joy of Yin and Yang, have a bit of a cleanliness obsession, I'm afraid I cannot enjoy being called 'good brother' by a daughter of the Devil God."
Tao Qian spoke these words softly, with Mana.
The very Ancestor Dragon Hall quivered, echoes reverberated, and the enchanted Daoists quickly came back to their senses.
Before they could grow angry, the four Devil Goddesses were already livid.
"Audacious worm!"
"How dare you insult us!"
"You're looking for death!"
The four women stood up, furiously glaring at Tao Qian.

Their Qi entwined, and the silhouette of a dark world manifested behind them, seemingly about to unleash upon the mountain and devour all living beings present.
Just as a dispute seemed imminent, Ying Qingdi suddenly slammed his hand on the table at the head of the hall.
A magnificent radiance shone, directly suppressing the four Devil Goddesses back to their seats.
Simultaneously, an angry roar was heard:
"What kind of behavior is this?"
"This is the Ancestor Dragon Hall, not a place for you to battle your magics."
"The four Daoists from the Devil God Army should show some restraint. Members of the Ancestor Dragon Society do not concern themselves with rank, once you join the society, you are equals."
"Mr. Lin Daoist, who has been introduced by Mr. Zhong Ziyang as a True Practitioner achieving the Dao path, deserves no insult from you four, nor should you forcefully demand his Valley God Gui. Where in the world is there such reason?"
Emperor Ying Qingdi, in terms of cultivation and prestige, was actually not enough to deter the four daughters of the Devil God.

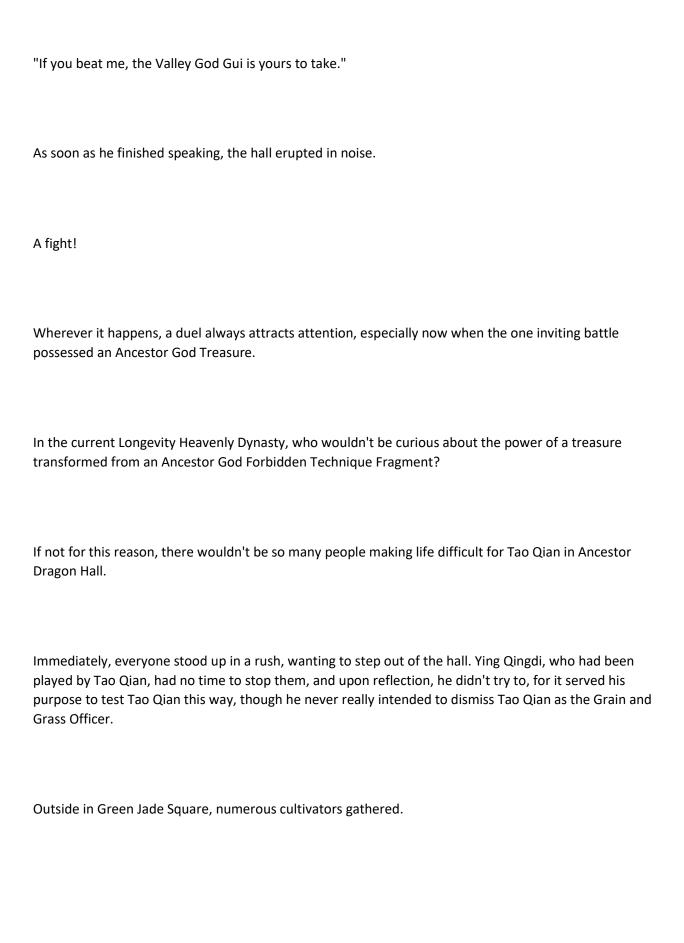
But for some reason?
After hearing him, the four women just pouted and then sat back down with resentment.
Tao Qian, ready to take action, paused and quickly surmised something.
Sure enough, the next moment, a middle-aged scholar member stood, clasped his hands, and loudly said:
"It was indeed rash of the four Daoists from the Devil God Army. Mr. Lin Daoist may be new, but it is not right to falsely accuse him of being a spy for the Demon Sect or the Alchemist without proof."
"However, Mr. Yin Daoist was correct about one thing—the matter of grain and supplies is crucial to the entire rebel army of the province and cannot be taken lightly."
"Since Mr. Lin Daoist is unwilling to reveal his lineage and is also reluctant to hand over the Valley God Gui, there might be some hindrance. It is better for us to be cautious and not, due to one moment of neglect, fail in our undertaking of reform, leaving our life and death and the Dao path as trivial matters, but if this causes the hope of millions in the New Moon to be lost and fall into Purgatory,"
"Then we are all sinners."

As the man finished speaking, most of the society members in the hall reacted, nodding subconsciously in agreement.
Was there merit in what he said? Of course, there was.
From ancient times to the present, indeed no successful organization would let a member who had just joined for one day take charge of the grain and supplies.
The others had been preoccupied with gazing upon Yin Susu's fair ample bosom and failed to realize this.
Now that the middle-aged scholar had exposed the issue.
And Tao Qian, after hearing this, said nothing, only silently observed Ying Qingdi, internally sighing, "Indeed, he hasn't wasted his surname. We have not even accomplished the task, and the games of imperial intrigue have already begun."
The position of Grain and Grass Officer was clearly bestowed to Tao Qian by Emperor Ying Qingdi himself in front of all core members at the Observing All Living Beings Pavilion just the day before.
Today, however, he had arranged for Yin Susu and the middle-aged scholar to perform a double act to "weigh" Tao Qian's strength?

One person takes the lead, all under the guise of righteousness.
The followers naturally increased rapidly.
Before Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, and the others could speak, a multitude of voices in the Ancestor Dragon Hall targeting Tao Qian suddenly formed a wave.
"Brother Sun is right, the position of Grain and Grass Officer is an important post and cannot be entrusted lightly."
"We agree with all other arrangements, but this matter still requires discussion."
"The Heart Inquiry Forbidden Technique outside the mountains is indeed not bad, but it may not necessarily stop all spies, the humble Daoist knows that some can avoid it, like the Taishang Demon Sect or the Secret Demon Sect's Demon Child."
Chapter 476 - Heavenly Demon Sucking Marrow, Wa Dang Strikes the Woman_2
"The leader only wants to use the Valley God Gui to transform places like the Demon Trap Pit, Ten Thousand Meat Field, and Immortal Ganoderma Forest into military provisions, which is naturally excellent. However, the candidate doesn't necessarily have to be Mr. Lin Daoist. Why not choose a more seasoned member instead and let Mr. Lin Daoist be the deputy?"
"This is an excellent plan!"

"Good!"
Although the noise of approval was rising, many heroes saw it as an act of bullying by those in power.
They agreed that the position of the Grain and Grass Officer shouldn't be easily granted, but they didn't approve of forcibly seizing Tao Qian's Valley God Gui.
Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, and Qi Daozhen had anticipated disputes but hadn't expected the situation to escalate like this.
All three showed their anger, ready to speak up.
However, Tao Qian gestured for silence and turned to look at Ying Qingdi.
The two exchanged glances, Ying Qingdi's face revealing difficulty.
Tao Qian knew this fellow was waiting for him, Lin Runiu, to offer a way out, so he could take advantage and do something else. Tao Qian could have done so, but his wicked sense of humor kicked in at that moment.
Resisting the urge to comply,

he simply looked at Ying Qingdi with the silent stance of an honest man.
While others thought this Loose Cultivator was being bullied, who could have imagined he was actually enjoying the spectacle, laughing to himself.
After an awkward stare for a moment or two, Ying Qingdi indeed couldn't hold back
and was about to speak, smooth or not.
However, at this very moment, Tao Qian abruptly stood and moved to the entrance of Ancestor Dragon Hall.
He then turned around and with an unconcerned smile said to Yin Susu, the middle-aged scholar, and the rest of the cultivators who coveted his Valley God Gui:
"The doubts you all have are nothing more than about my ambitions and strength."
"This matter is easy to solve. Anyone who doesn't accept me, come and fight with me first, then we can talk further."



They circled around two parties—one with only Tao Qian, the other a messy crowd of dozens, including strong figures from the Cavernous Mystery Realm as well as many Transcend Mortality Cultivators.
After a bout of argument, most stepped back into the crowd with unwilling faces.
Everyone knew that leveraging righteousness to force a lucky Loose Cultivator with an Ancestor God Treasure into a fight, gave an excuse to borrow the Valley God Gui if victorious.
In the Cultivation World, "borrowing a treasure" often meant never returning it.
Unfortunately, this place was Hidden Dragon Mountain, where the act of ganging up to kill for treasure couldn't be done.
Following the rules, in the end, only four Cavernous Mystery Cultivators stepped forward.
They were the Devil God Army Princess Yin Susu, Taiping Army General Xu Wenkai, Poison Heart Immortal Zheng Zhongxiong, and the Six-eyed Demon Child Xiao Ling'er.
These four stood apart from one another.
Despite containing most of their aura, the bit that leaked was already frightening.

"Mr. Lin Daoist, I hear from Mr. Zhong Daoist that you possess Cavernous Mystery Cultivation. Thus, the four of us challenging you to a fight would not be considered bullying,"
"However, to be fair, you may choose to fight any one of us."
"The rest will have no objections."
"There's no need for a fight to the death in this duel, just a slight encounter to reveal our respective strengths."
The one who spoke up was none other than Poison Heart Immortal Zheng Zhongxiong,
the same middle-aged scholar who had first broached the subject in the Ancestor Dragon Hall.
They selected four Cavernous Mystery Cultivators, leaving the choice to Tao Qian.
"It does sound quite fair."
The audience, all cultivators watching the fight, were all curious: who would Tao Qian choose?

Among the four, the one with the most renowned reputation was, without a doubt, Yin Susu.
Not to mention that her father was a Devil God.
Even the true inheritors of the Great Sects like Zhong Ziyang wouldn't dare to boast with certainty about defeating Yin Susu.
After all, no one knew whether the Devil God would bestow upon her some powerful Exotic Treasures or Secret Techniques.
Logically, Tao Qian should pick the easiest target among the other three.
The weakest in terms of energy was the Poison Heart Immortal, Zheng Zhongxiong.
This man, although a Cavernous Mystery Cultivator, was also a Loose Cultivator with no powerful lineage or backing, having reached this level of cultivation solely through a "Poison Immortal Scripture" he had chanced upon as a child.
Lacking in powerful Magical Treasures and Divine Skills, he was an easy target.
Just when everyone thought Tao Qian would choose the scholar, he merely smiled faintly.

This man, who seemed to be an old farmer, yet also a scholar, looked at the four and said with a matter-of-fact tone:
"Since the battle will end upon touching and will not harm friendship, naturally we should go one by one."
"I am extremely interested in all four, and cannot afford to miss even one."
His last sentence was cryptic and abrupt.
Except for Zhong Ziyang, no one in the crowd understood him.
As everyone was still baffled, Tao Qian had already looked directly at Yin Susu, the Devil God's daughter, and said with a polite smile, "In the Mortal World, ladies first, so why not start with Daoist Yin Susu."
Although it was unclear what he was up to, Yin Susu laughed coyly upon hearing his words.
"Well chosen!"
"Susu has long known that no man in this world can resist me."

"My dear brother says I'm lascivious and cunning, yet he still seeks me out first for play."
As she spoke, Yin Susu shed her red robe, revealing her enchanting figure in full view.
Visible in the flesh was a figure naked as the day she was born, pure white, performing the Heavenly Demon Dance, instantly stirring up wisps of crimson veils like clouds. Anyone who glanced at them would lose their soul to her, unable to see the terrifying long needle moving stealthily within the red veils.
As this scene unfolded, Chen Xiyi, Qi Daozhen, Shen Ruolan, and a few others who knew the danger of Yin Susu, grew anxious and were about to warn Tao Qian.
Simultaneously, they saw him leisurely take out an archaic, divine light-imbued round tile from his bosom.
Although they recognized this treasure as extraordinary, how could it withstand the Devil God's daughter?
It wasn't until the next moment that they suddenly saw Zhong Ziyang at their side, wearing a cheeky smile, and heard him transmit a message:
"Don't rush, let's see Mr. Lin Daoist's abilities."

Almost the moment Zhong Ziyang's voice fell
Tao Qian hesitated not a moment longer, threw the tile across the distance with a flick of his hand.
Then he shouted out loud:
"Hit!"
As soon as the tile left his hand, it vibrated eagerly and instantly turned into an invisible Divine Light.
Without any courtesy, it burst into the cloud of crimson veils, looped around, and darted straight for the back of Yin Susu's head.
As a daughter of Devil God, Yin Susu not only had powerful Divine Skills but also had treasures for protection, and shouldn't have been easily caught off guard.
However, the Toad God Tile was no ordinary object.
This treasure was exceptionally tricky, defendable only with full precaution.

Yin Susu, always contemptuous and arrogant, couldn't imagine being fully on her guard against an unknown Loose Cultivator, thinking only of swiftly ending this unsightly person who dared speak against her. She couldn't predict what would happen next.
Accompanied by a dull "thud," Xin Susu, who was showing off her figure, suddenly felt her head explode with noise.
In an instant, her vision went dark, and without even a struggle, she swiftly fell unconscious.
The audience expecting a splendid battle saw nothing of the sort; in the blink of an eye, it had ended.  Chapter 477 - The True Inheritor of the Toad Sect Exposed, Tao Qian Alone Defeats Four Cultivators
In front of the Ancestor Dragon Hall, the Green Jade Square.
A crowd of Immortals, Demons, and Devils, Cultivators and Heroes, had found themselves convenient spots to stand and watch the magic battle.
Those who were able to participate in the uprising were all formidable foes.
Ordinary fights naturally couldn't pique their interest, but if both sides of the battle were of the Cavernous Mystery level, that was a different story altogether. Moreover, with individuals like Yin Susu, who had extraordinary origins, the crowd was eager to witness both the power of the Ancestor God Treasure and the divine skills of the Devil Godess's daughter.

As the conflict began, everyone thought they were in for a spectacle.
Yet, who would have predicted that in the blink of an eye, Yin Susu would fall?
Most didn't give a second glance to her fair and graceful form; their gazes instead turned to Lin Runiu, who looked part old farmer, part scholar.
Everyone guessed that it was the peculiar round Wa Dang that had taken down Yin Susu.
But the origins of that Wa Dang? Its extraordinary powers? No one knew.
What they did know now was that this treasure had a terrifying might and it was not one of the Nine Provinces' Twelve Treasures, the Valley God Gui.
Prior to this, everyone had thought Lin Runiu was just a lucky Loose Cultivator who, due to a righteous act of salvation, had temporarily received the acknowledgment of the Ancestor God Treasure. Given his unremarkable background, he shouldn't have qualified to use the treasure. It was only with the behind-the-scenes manipulation of Ying Qingdi that such a turn of events had occurred.
Now, those clamoring to take the treasure and strip Tao Qian of his position as the Grain and Grass Officer felt as if their faces were burning, as though someone was slapping them across the distance, utterly humiliated.

But even more astonishing was yet to come.
After Tao Qian had knocked down Yin Susu, he didn't even glance her way; his gaze suddenly shifted, locking onto the next one.
It was Xu Wenkai, the second strongest among those four, a remnant of the Taiping Army.
This man was the illegitimate son of the Taiping Heavenly King. After the cataclysm of the "Heavenly Capital Incident," with the Taiping Army suffering heavy casualties, not only had he escaped, but he also took with him the first volume of the Great Book "Taiping Dao Scripture." From a dragon in shallow waters, he instantly became a force to reckon with, albeit a young one not favored by many. Now, with an army under his command and formidable personal strength, he was an important ally of the Ancestor Dragon Society.
His background was no less than Yin Susu's. After Tao Qian had chosen Yin Susu, he too was furious, realizing he had lost the opportunity to seize the Valley God Gui.
But the scene that unfolded next, along with Lin Runiu's malicious glance, sent shivers down his spine.
"Not good!"
The moment the words left his lips, he subconsciously summoned his treasures.

But not in front of him; he called them to protect the back of his head.
Those watching the battle were not surprised; by now, even the slowest of observers had caught on.
"Such a sinister treasure. Its origins are unknown, but it seems that a blow to the head is certain to render one unconscious, not even the Devil Godess's daughter could withstand it."
"Earlier, Mr. Lin Daoist mentioned an interest in not sparing even one; he must be after the back of their heads."
"Mr. Lin Daoist really doesn't know the art of cherishing beauty; considering Yin Susu's status alone, her exceptional looks didn't warrant such rough treatment."
"Heh, you're probably just disappointed you didn't get to watch her dance more."
"Eh, look quickly, Xu Wenkai has also fallen."
As the Cultivators exchanged messages among themselves while watching the battle.
The second person whom Tao Qian had picked had also fallen in an instant.

Upon closer inspection, Xu Wenkai was even stronger than Yin Susu.
Once Tao Qian had set his eyes on him, he not only summoned various magical tools to protect his head but also scattered at least tens of thousands of talismans, in an instant, weaving a talisman array to trap Tao Qian. He then took out a handful of yellow Jade Beans from the small cloth bag on his waist and, upon scattering them, they instantly transformed into dozens of powerful Yellow Turban Warriors capable of moving mountains and filling seas.
Based on such preparations, Xu Wenkai should have been the victor.
Unfortunately, his actions were slightly too late.
And the intelligence he had was flawed.
Who said the Toad God Tile could only strike the back of the head?
"Gotcha, gotcha, gotcha!"
Three low shouts could be heard consecutively.

Immediately afterward, a tragic scene unfolded.
First, a loud "crack" echoed from Xu Wenkai's knees, clearly indicating they had shattered, causing his body to immediately topple. A "thump" was then heard on his handsome face, and his prominent nose almost flattened from the blow, the broken nasal bones causing unbearable pain.
As Xu Wenkai managed to cry out "The pain is killing me," he revealed a weakness, and the Wa Dang circled to the back of his head, breaking through defenses such as the Golden Bell, copper mirror, and flags, and with a solid thump, it struck true.
Xu Wenkai instantly stopped howling; darkness overtook him as he blissfully lost consciousness.
On the outskirts of the square, the Cultivators were again dumbfounded.
Could such a thing really work?
A simple three-strike combo had knocked out a Taiping Army General?
And by the end, who had actually seen how that object resembling a Wa Dang had struck its victim?
Shouldn't a magical artifact in action emit some glimmer or radiance?

But this object left no trace. It was exceedingly cunning.
Although reluctantly, the truth was before their eyes, undeniable.
Those merely watching were shocked; the remaining two participants were even more terrified.
Particularly Poison Heart Immortal Zheng Zhongxiong, who knew it must be his and the Six-eyed Demon Child's turn next. Wanting to directly concede but recalling the secret orders from their leader, he gritted his teeth and decided to strike first.
Feeling that going alone was not safe, he discreetly communicated with Demon Child Xiao Ling'er.
"Mr. Xiao Daoist, this man's treasure is savage. If you don't want to lose face, let's coordinate an attack."
"It could appear as coincidence. If we pin him down or wound him first, it's better than being struck in the head by that peculiar Wa Dang and losing face in public."
"Alright!"
Xiao Ling'er had the appearance of a big-headed child, with not only a pair of ordinary eyes but also two rows of green eyes on his forehead.

Six Demon Eyes lined up neatly, continuously shooting out Demon Light.
Chapter 478 - The True Inheritor of the Toad Sect Exposed, Tao Qian Alone Defeats Four Cultivators_2
He hailed from the Ten Thousand Poison Demon Sect, one of the Great Demon Sects in the Ten Thousand Great Mountains of the Southern Border. Although not as infamous as the Evil Sect or Demon Buddha Temple, its reputation was not weak amongst the Southern provinces. As one of the current True Inheritors of the Demon Sect, Xiao Ling'er did not consider her abilities any less than those of Yin Susu and Xu Wenkai.
However, now that both of them had fallen, she wasn't arrogant enough to believe she could triumph.
Her desire for the Valley God Gui had lured her into this fight, little did she know it would end with public embarrassment.
Upon hearing Zheng Zhongxiong's invitation, the two immediately hit it off without even a glance at each other.
It was as if they didn't even know that the other would make a move, almost simultaneously announcing aloud:
"Nice technique, I'll give it a try."
"Mr. Lin Daoist's methods are truly extraordinary, I would also like to experience them. Let's see if your treasure can knock me unconscious as well."

When Cavernous Mystery Cultivators competed in magic, their actions were always much faster than their words.
Especially these two, one with the title involving 'Poison Heart' - clearly crafty, and the other a Demon Child - surely no cleaner.
As the first word was uttered, they were already in action.
First to look at Zheng Zhongxiong, like Xu Wenkai, he also summoned protection first. With a slap to his forehead, a miserable green Primordial Pearl flew out, and instantly transformed into a green all over Poison Dragon, roaring as it fell and coiled tightly around Zheng Zhongxiong without revealing a single flaw.
At the same time, he unleashed several Divine Skills and Magic Artifacts on Tao Qian. For instance, with a breath, a storm surged with copious amounts of ghastly green poison mixed within, wailing like ghosts and howling like gods, tormenting the soul.
Or a net-like Magical Treasure, once spread, encompassed where Tao Qian stood, releasing countless scorpions, centipedes, snakes, spiders, and Golden Cicadas from within the mesh, crawling out to reduce Tao Qian to bones.
With such ruthless methods, Zheng Zhongxiong hypocritically reminded:

"Mr. Lin Daoist, be careful. My 'Poison Immortal Yin Wind' and 'Seven Emotions Poison Net' possess some power. If Daoist cannot resist, cry out 'I submit' and it will suffice."
With Zheng Zhongxiong's words said,
Tao Qian had not yet had the chance to respond when among the spectating cultivators, many true heroes outright denounced the man's shamelessness.
In contrast, though Xiao Ling'er also showed ruthlessness to save face, her actions were more straightforward, at least not attacking from afar, instead, engaging in the fight personally.
This Demon Child came from the Ten Thousand Poison Demon Sect, but his path was not one of poison.
He did not release any Divine Skills, nor did he throw any Magic Artifacts or treasures towards Tao Qian, instead, he revealed his true form.
All heard a frightening roar, and on that jade stone plaza, a figure wildly expanded.
In a moment, it turned into a fleshball wrapped in crimson flesh membrane, resembling a small mountain.

Then, it exploded instantly, and in the blink of an eye turned into a puddle of colorful flesh mud. The surface of this flesh mud was embedded with numerous emerald green eyes, bright as Luminous Pearls, counting roughly in the hundreds.
Each eye emitted a terrifying Demon Light.
The very next moment, Tao Qian's location was fixed by Demon Light Shield, the area as green as if the Demon Realm had descended.
The flesh mud surged upward, enveloping Tao Qian.
Although Zheng Zhongxiong and Xiao Ling'er's simultaneous strike seemed uncoordinated, creating an appearance of an inability to restrain their power,
such an act could only deceive the blind or the foolishly naive.
Most of the observant cultivators who watched spoke out:
"It is unforeseen, Fellow Daoist Zheng is so shameless."
"How come Xiao Ling'er, who usually displays boldness and spirit, is acting so despicably now?"

"Two Cavernous Mysteries ganging up on Mr. Lin Daoist alone, that's quite unfair."
"Mr. Lin Daoist, be cautious. Xiao Ling'er's Secret Technique is from the Southern Border Demon Sect, a toxic demon united, harming both your Taoist Body and Divine Soul."
"I do understand the actions of these two a bit; it's simply that Mr. Lin Daoist's treasure is too enigmatic. Four respectable figures in the field are invited to a duel, and to walk away only to be knocked unconscious by a hit to the head is indeed a disgrace. Under such circumstances, it's better to try and strike with full force."
The whispers of the crowd had yet to cease, when Tao Qian, who was being besieged.
No, it should be Lin Runiu.
This person still blended into that character, unemotionally looking at the situation before him, with no delay whatsoever.
He wasn't being reckless either; the Toad God Tile was vicious, but a sneak attack was paramount. To break through the present horrifying scene, robust power was required.
He was fortunate that Tao Qian's mana was far more profound than an ordinary Cavernous Mystery,

plus the Nine Toad Bead had been nourished by the Wa Dang for some time and had regained much of its power. Now it was ready to be utilized.
"Quack!"
Without warning, a toad's croak echoed over Hidden Dragon Mountain.
When Tao Qian released the Toad Pearl, summoned the bright moon, and manifested the enormous Three-legged Golden Toad,
every spectator instantly guessed his "background."
"Nine Toad Sect!"
The ones shocked, were none other than the cultivators themselves.
Zheng Zhongxiong and Xiao Ling'er both realized they had kicked an iron board upon seeing the Three-legged Golden Toad.
"Damn, is this person a True Inheritor of the Toad Sect?"

"No, it's worse, this lad not only possesses a Nine Toad Bead but also wields a mysterious Wa Dang. Even the first-ranked True Inheritor of the current generation doesn't have such might. Could he be a secretly nurtured strongman of the Toad Sect?"
Xiao Ling'er was from the Southern Border Demon Sect, which was somewhat close to the Nine Toad Sect's mountain gate, and there was interaction between them.
Therefore, he understood the significance of the Nine Toad Bead even more, and as soon as he saw the appearance of the Three-legged Golden Toad, he immediately wanted to concede defeat.
But was there time for that?
"Quack!"
Accompanying yet another croak, the Demon Light released by Xiao Ling'er was blocked by the sky-filled auspicious Golden Light, and his enormous flesh-blob body was bumped by the Golden Toad, staggering backwards and just so happened to block the Seven Emotions Poison Net and other magic artifacts thrown by Zheng Zhongxiong.
The gnawing of countless poisonous creatures had Xiao Ling'er emitting a wail, but he knew what really mattered wasn't this.
Instead, it was the encounter to come after losing the initiative.

"If it were a common True Inheritor of the Toad Sect fighting me, even with a Nine Toad Bead, they might not defeat me swiftly."
"But this person is different, he also has a mysterious Wa Dang; if I get hit by it once, where would my face be?"
With these two thoughts flashing in his mind, Xiao Ling'er immediately spoke up.
"Fellow Daoist Lin, Xiao Ling'er acknowledges—"
"Thud!"
A familiar low shout interrupted his words of surrender.
After that, the eagerly awaiting Toad God Tile descended with excitement.
It was a wonder how this treasure found Xiao Ling'er's skull within that mass of flesh.
The crowd only heard the low shout followed by a muffled sound.

The Demon Light emitted from the flesh-blob abruptly congealed, quickly retracting, revealing Xiao Ling'er's Daotong body, which now seemed drunken, groggy, and shaky as he tumbled down.
Tao Qian didn't bother with him. Riding the massive "Three-legged Golden Toad," he leapt down fiercely, enveloping the Poison Heart Immortal Zheng Zhongxiong. The third leg, which seemed capable of kicking Taiyin Star aside, directly aimed at the pitiful green Poison Dragon protecting Zheng Zhongxiong.
That Poison Dragon was actually a rare treasure.
Called the "Poison Dragon Soul Pearl," it was a wondrous object forcibly extracted from the body of a thousand-year-old poison dragon. Full of marvels, it had been refined into Zheng Zhongxiong's second Primordial Spirit.
Unfortunately, as rare as it was, it still paled in comparison to the Nine Toad Bead.
The two treasures collided!
Zheng Zhongxiong heard a "crack," and the Poison Dragon defending him let out a mournful cry, instantaneously reverting to its Primordial Pearl form, which had dimmed an unknown amount, evidently suffering heavy damage.
Seeing his own treasure like this, Zheng Zhongxiong's heart also shattered.

But he had no time for rage or wails, as a face of an honest man appeared before his eyes.
Only this face carried a mischievous smile.
"Daoist Lin, please hold on, I am willing to acknowledge—"
Xiao Ling'er couldn't accomplish his end, much less Zheng Zhongxiong, who Tao Qian found most annoying.
This time, Tao Qian himself held the Wa Dang, ruthlessly slapping it across Zheng Zhongxiong's face.
"Bang"
It seemed like Tao Qian had flattened out everything protruding on the face.
Seemingly, holding it by hand produced the best effect; this time, even the skull was spared.
Zheng Zhongxiong gave a howl and fell back on his face, swiftly fainting away.
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One after another, four people passed out on the ground.
The sky full of miracles and the brilliance of magical treasures naturally dissipated cleanly.
Upon looking again, people could only see Tao Qian still standing atop the Three-legged Golden Toad.
Tao Qian held the Toad God Tile, looking sincerely sorry as he gazed at the four lying on the ground.
As if noticing the astonished gazes of all the surrounding immortals, demons, cultivators, and heroes, Tao Qian looked around and revealed his harmless smile.
He then raised the Wa Dang in his hand and explained:
"This treasure is called [Toad God Tile]. Holding it makes one itch to smash someone's knees, face, and the back of the head."
"My cultivation is still insufficient, and I am overpowered by this treasure. I owe an apology to the four Daoist friends."
Chapter 479 - Outer Realm Toad God Rewards Ingot Pearl, Divine Tablet Before Ancestor Dragon Hall Accepts Heavenly Patterns

Tao Qian was craftily masquerading behind the image of the Ancestor Spirit.
From appearances alone, he was indeed quite persuasive.
Moreover, in the Cultivation World, the rarer treasures often came with ineludible costs, the more powerful they were, the more this held true.
Hence, when he spoke in such a manner, most cultivators believed him.
Even some benevolent heroes who were disgruntled by his earlier besiegement now opened their mouths to console him:
"Mr. Lin Daoist should not mind, those four daoists might also be happy to see this, as it's said, 'stop at just enough to keep things harmonious.'"
"Exactly, exactly, all four were unharmed, merely unconscious on the ground, nothing could be more appropriate."
"This treasure of yours is indeed rare and formidable, by its name, could it possibly be an Exotic Treasure from the secret vault of the Nine Toad Sect?"
"Most certainly, you see, my Sect has some relations with the Toad Sect, and I heard that the Nine Toad Sect has many Supreme Elders who choose to secretly nurture disciples externally, not vying for the

position of True Inheritor within the Sect itself—so it seems, Daoist friend, you must be one of those Toad Sect Elders' disciples."
"With such skills and demeanor, Mr. Lin Daoist, you seem even more powerful than Liu Chengyan, the foremost True Inheritor of the contemporary Toad Sect."
While the gathering was consoling Tao Qian,
he courteously reciprocated while slipping into his own quandary.
At that moment, he was still holding the Toad God Tile, which trembling slightly, conveyed a premonition to him.
"What? Just by striking myself, I could be granted the powerful divine powers of the Toad Sect?"
Tao Qian instantly understood the premonition, then fell silent.
He clenched the tile, itching to act.
In a haze, he seemed to see a mysterious gaze from somewhere in the Outer Realm, encouraging him, tempting him to strike himself.

"Strike! Just once, and instantly reap great benefits, an uncommon return on investment."
"Though there will be pain, there will be no injuries, you can gain divine powers and exotic treasures."
"It's too good a deal."
"Ptui, who do they think I, Master Tao, am? I won't strike."
After cursing sotto voce, Tao Qian exerted an immense amount of willpower, and his distinctive soul, to very difficultly turn down the request.
Almost at that very moment, the tile ceased trembling, and that indescribable gaze was withdrawn.
But what shocked everyone present at Hidden Dragon Mountain, overturning their prior views, was a miraculous spectacle which suddenly occurred:
Everyone saw over Lin Runiu's head a void suddenly and violently rip open.
From within it came incessant "quack quack quack" sounds, immediately followed by an incredibly dense surge of auspicious golden light.

Once this golden light entered the world, it instantly transformed into numerous Pure Gold Ingots, each engraved with a three-legged Golden Toad, and several pearls imbued with a faint aura of blessings.
With a massive clattering sound, like a waterfall, like a small mountain, they buried Lin Runiu.
Everyone!
Including strong characters like the Green Emperor, Ziyang, and Chen Xiyi.
Were stunned by this abrupt scene for a moment.
What was this?
As the crowd was filled withboth shock and doubt, many cultivators who were quite knowledgeable about the Nine Toad Sect began to exclaim and solve the puzzle.
"There's a rumor that if a disciple of the Toad Sect gains favor with the Outer Realm Toad God, they might occasionally be granted divine powers or Golden Ingots."
"I thought it was merely a fictitious tale, but now, it clearly appears to be true."

"There's no doubt about Mr. Lin Daoist's identity now, he must be a secret disciple of an elder of the Nine Toad Sect, and moreover, he has caught the eye of the Outer Realm Toad God, truly envy-worthy."
"These treasures and money beads might seem useless to a high-level cultivator like Mr. Lin Daoist, but little by little, they add up to a considerable stash of cultivation resources."
"No wonder it's said in the Cultivation World that disciples of the Toad Sect are never short of money, today's event proves it so."
"Indeed, but don't be mistaken, I know that there are not many in the Toad Sect as wealthy as Daoist Lin."
The discussions in front of Ancestor Dragon Hall grew several degrees more intense than earlier.
It was easy to understand, Tao Qian's use of the Wa Dang to conclude the battle earlier was hardly spectacular.
Unlike now, where everyone present, floored by the brilliance of the Pure Gold Ingots and Blessing Pearls, nearly had their eyes dazzled.

Because of the iron principle that "every aspect of cultivation carries a price," the many cultivators in the cultivation realm, who belong to numerous factions, have a common trait—most have some peculiar habits, or put another way, deficits.
The most frequent among these is being poor.
Now, seeing Tao Qian suddenly gifted with a mountainous, waterfall-like array of Gold Ingots, their eyes became slightly red. Simultaneously, no one doubted Lin Runiu's background any longer.
Although the Toad Sect is considered part of heresy and heterodoxy, its reputation is better than some of the Righteous Sects, and moreover, he had also gained the favor of the Outer Realm Toad God and recognition from the Ancestor God Treasure. No one thought him to be a spy from the Demon Sect or Alchemist anymore.
But Tao Qian who was nearly buried by the Golden Ingot Pearls was now sinking into regret.
Within Treasure Mountain, right in front of him, he could see only the phantasmagoria visible to him, slowly dissipating.
These phantasms!
They were either Divine Passage Skills or exotic treasures from the Outer Realm.

Tao Qian did not have time to take a closer look, for just the first item alone made his eyes turn red.
That item seemed to be a copper coin with wings on either side, and its surface engraved with mysterious inscriptions, clearly a rarer treasure than the Toad God Tile.
"Treasure Money!"
With all the phantoms gone, Tao Qian reluctantly perceived some information about that treasure.
He regretted even more.
Holding the Toad God Tile, he muttered silently:
"If I strike myself now, could I get the treasure?"
Having said that, the tile did not move.
Undoubtedly, the answer was no.
Tao Qian realized, he had inadvertently missed an opportunity.

Chapter 480 - The Toad God of the Outer Realm Rewards the Ingot Pearl, and the Divine Tablet in Front of the Ancestor Dragon Hall Receives Astronomical Observations_2
"Just now, I borrowed the identity of a disciple from the Nine Toad Sect and used the Nine Toad Bead and Toad God Tile to consecutively knock out four strong people."
"This performance won the appreciation of the Toad God from the Outer Realm, and that is why he bestowed so many Golden Ingots upon me."
"However, these treasures are but a minor reward, the real grand prize still requires me to smash them myself."
"Those collapsing phantasms, they're like a catalog of Divine Power Treasures, if I take one at random, will I get one?"
With these thoughts tumbling through his mind, Tao Qian instantly understood the disposition of the Toad God from the Outer Realm.
Wealthy and loves to watch live broadcasts, no doubt about it.
"Good heavens, if I smash it, will he become my top sponsor?"
Tao Qian, having lost a valuable treasure, could only grumble to himself.

He quickly snapped out of it.
Noticing the envious and admiring glances around him, he couldn't help but smirk. There were gains to be had.
He had originally planned, after dealing with Yin Susu, Xu Wenkai, Zheng Zhongxiong, and Xiao Ling'er, to pull out the Valley God Gui, activate this treasure, and reveal his ambitions to remove any suspicions.
But now, he was completely validated as a disciple of the Nine Toad Sect.
If the Toad God had dropped treasures like the "Toad God Tile" or "Treasure Money," Tao Qian would have hated to part with them.
But mere Golden Ingots, he did not value them.
In the past on Ascending Immortal Island, when he refined the Nine Toad Bead, these were just byproducts.
Allowed for minor Demons and low-level disciples to pick up, the situation remained the same now.

Without even a second thought, Tao Qian, in front of everyone, waved his hand, and piles of Golden Ingots instantly formed into a splendid Golden Mountain that flew towards Qin Ming and Dai Feipeng.
These two were just in charge of the treasures and affairs of the Ancestor Dragon Society.
At the same time, Tao Qian's voice was heard:
"As for such wealth, it is useless to me. I donate it to the society for everyone's use."
This scene unfolded, causing everyone to retract their envious glances.
Their expressions changed, and they began to praise generously.
"Mr. Lin Daoist is so generous!"
"Truly a disciple of the Toad Sect, treating money and possessions as nothing. He is a role model for our generation."
"Admirable, admirable, I am not as capable as Mr. Lin Daoist."

"With such an amount of wealth to aid, it can save at least several hundred thousand people of the New Moon, the majority of the merits should go to Mr. Lin Daoist."
"Humiliated, humiliated. I previously doubted Mr. Daoist, I should be embarrassed."
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Everyone, talking one after another, elevated Tao Qian immensely.
For a moment, Yin Susu, Xu Wenkai, and the other four Cavernous Mystery strong people were forgotten.
It wasn't until Ying Qingdi stepped forward and called back all the heroes and cultivators to the hall.
"With what has happened, I believe no one will doubt Brother Lin's qualifications as the Grain and Grass Officer anymore."
"We are pressed for time, we cannot delay, let us quickly move on to the next order of business."
He set the agenda decisively, and no one objected.

Yin Susu, Xu Wenkai, Zheng Zhongxiong, and Xiao Ling'er, after waking up, all felt ashamed. Each had been knocked out one by one by the hidden cultivator known as "Lin Runiu" from the Toad Sect, and though they felt humiliated, it was not sensible to seek trouble with Tao Qian again; they all agreed to skip over the recent conflicts and continued to discuss the many details of the uprising in the New Moon Province.
Several hours later, after numerous arguments, they finally settled all matters.
At this time, the daylight gradually dimmed, nearing dusk.
The representatives of the Ancestor Dragon Society were supposed to disperse and, the next day, simultaneously launch insurrections in each city and county of the New Moon Province, destroy each of the Seven Evils Divine Mechanisms, and then seize control, aiming to capture the vast New Moon Province as quickly as possible and collectively kill the Seven Evil Sects.
A quick battle was crucial, not giving the Seven Evil Sects a chance to bring reinforcements.
However, just when the meeting was about to end, Ying Qingdi stopped everyone again, then with a serious face, turned to all the Immortals, Demons, and cultivating heroes in the hall and bowed respectfully:
"I, Ying Qingdi, was nothing but a good-for-nothing, failed multiple times, yet now, thanks to everyone's trust, I have been nominated as the leader to establish the Ancestor Dragon Society and rescue the people."

"I want my brothers to know that the Green Emperor had tried to reform countless times in the past, always ending in failure but always surviving."
"It's not that I am afraid of death; rather, I feel a great responsibility on my shoulders and dare not die.
"The Green Emperor carries the bloodline of the Ancestor Emperor and during my childhood in a night dream, our ancestor not only passed down an 'Emperor's Scripture' but also took my Divine Soul on a night journey through the Outer Realm All Heavens, Great Abyss Worlds, obtaining many treasures, refining some Divine Skills. These childhood opportunities are why I was able to survive many dangers.""
"This time, the Great Book had sent a portent, regardless of success or failure, this must be my last time undertaking such a revolutionary rebellion."
"If successful, that would be just fine."
"If not, let not my brothers save me. It would be just as well if I, Ying Qingdi, were to die. Such is my fate."
"I only wish that my path will not vanish, but be passed on to you all. Do not let this nation, this world, fall into the hands of those Demons and Ghosts."

As these words were spoken, those in the hall immediately showed expressions of astonishment.
If no one had misremembered, this should be the first time.
Ying Qingdi, revealing his own secrets.
Ancestor's dream granting the Emperor's Scripture?
Taking his Divine Soul on a journey through the Great Abyss?
Inside the Ancestor Dragon Hall, everyone was surprised by Ying Qingdi's sudden honesty.
At the same time, they murmured among themselves a secret tale shared in both the Cultivation World and the Mortal World—about the Emperor's death and life?
Many had affirmed that the Ancestor Emperor had perished.
A few, however, believed that the Ancestor Emperor had not only survived but had also ventured into the Outer Realm, even achieving the status of a Tribulation Immortal, or perhaps even a higher realm.

Now, the words of Ying Qingdi seemed to support the latter conclusion?
Thinking this, many in the hall started to get excited.
However, Tao Qian, Lin Bujue, Zhong Ziyang, Chen Xiyi, and others among the ten did not think so.
These ten, upon hearing this, could only coldly sneer to themselves, all inevitably thinking: This rascal is probably plotting some malignant scheme again.
"What is this guy up to?"
"That even core members like Zhong Ziyang and Chen Xiyi are unaware of?"
As Tao Qian pondered, as expected, Ying Qingdi continued to speak.
"Last night, while I cultivated the 'Emperor's Scripture,' not only did I receive that portent, but I also obtained a treasure."
"That item, it's called the [Ancestor God Tablet]."

"This treasure appears as if predestined, descending from the heavens."
"You all are aware that the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique has long since broken down, with most fragments plummeting into the Mortal World where they transformed into Exotic Treasures, like the Valley God Gui obtained by Brother Lin."
"Some, however, were lost to the Outer Realm, merging there with alien entities from the Great Abyss, thus giving birth to new treasures, and the tablet is one such item."
"Last night, as I cultivated the scripture and thought of my brothers rallying at the Ancestor Dragon Hall and of the hope now held by the New Moon People and even all beings desiring Longevity, I inadvertently generated this sympathetic connection that caused the tablet to detach from the Great Abyss, now heading for the Hidden Dragon Mountain."
"Look, it's here."
Almost at the moment Ying Qingdi's voice fell,
from the heavens above suddenly came a terrifyingly loud noise, like the sound of tearing fabric. Immediately afterward, everyone saw a vast gash appear outright, and within it, an extremely vast, boundless, and mysteriously perilous world; everyone, including Tao Qian, instantly recognized that this gash must indeed lead to the Great Abyss.
As everyone strained to see more, in the next moment, a scintillating Divine Light erupted and leaped from within.

Anyone in the vicinity who was illuminated by this Divine light instantly felt their Heart Soul tremble and an inexplicable perception arose: "a Divine Treasure from the Outer Realm!"
This thought, seemingly innate and unalterable,
The only exception was Tao Qian.
His mind erupted with a Record: [Experiencing corrosion by the divine light of the Yellow Heavenspartial exemption possible!]
The words "only partial exemption possible" alone were enough to illustrate the terror of this so-called Divine Treasure.
Keep in mind that he now possessed a Spirit Treasure Sublime Body combined with an Abnormal Soul; even the contamination of the Daoist Transformation Realm might not necessarily trouble him.
Yet now, he could not fully endure even this beam of Divine Light?
As Tao Qian considered this, the Divine Light had already plummeted directly onto Hidden Dragon Mountain.

With a "boom," the Divine Treasure from the Outer Realm Abyss landed precisely on the Green Jade Square.
Everyone's eyes were drawn to a roughly thirty feet tall Divine Tablet standing there.
This tablet appeared to be cast from bronze, with a large blank space in the middle while the sides were covered with dragon seals, phoenix scripts, leech writings, and even many Heavenly Dao Runes inscribed upon it, captivating everyone at first glance. Instantly, all gained something, be it in terms of cultivation or Divine Skills, all making progress.
Some heroes stuck at certain gates of cultivation actually began to meditate right there, breaking through on the spot.