

Longevity 51

Chapter 51 The True Form of the Immortal, Tao Qian Startled

The aromatic vapors billowing from the large iron pot on the Martial Arts Training Square stirred the cravings of a horde of Evil Cultivators riding on the back of a black centipede Demon, such as the Bone Tumor Deer Demon, who drooled carelessly.

Amidst the noisy clamoring, they urged the black centipede Demon to descend into the once-renowned Zen's Iron Buddha Temple.

As a vile, sweetly rotten stench spewed out, the centipede Demon suddenly disappeared, replaced by a debauched old man with a scruffy beard, disheveled hair, and loose, sagging skin. He was dressed merely in a cloak-like garment that barely covered a large patch of his chest, abdomen, and lower body, including a lump.

The rest of him was equally blotched and filthy, as if he had not bathed in a decade or two.

Tao Qian had now gleaned some background on this group of demons—their origins were quite complex. Some were mutated from humans like the Deer Demon, others were fortunate beasts or birds that had gained intelligence, and some were born as alien, or like the Mountain Spirits.

Lastly were those Magicians who still resembled humans. Though their clothes and faces seemed normal, their fierce gazes and hidden deadly aura inadvertently revealed a terrifying, inhuman essence, further disgusting Tao Qian.

Regardless of their origins, since they all responded to the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva's summons to wreak havoc in Seeking Immortal County, their allegiance was clear.

The group of Evil Cultivators had just settled in the temple when they swarmed towards the food.

They were all blocked by a few Pig Demons wielding bone-cutting knives. The leading Yellow-maned Pig Demon, baring its tusks and bulging its big belly, swung a massive pot spoon so fast it was impenetrable, his vigorous power surging as he roared, "A bunch of greedy fools, the feast hasn't even started, and you want to eat everything. I'll be the one hung if anything goes wrong!"

"If you're really craving, lick the skeletons hanging on that tree to quench your thirst for a while..."

Tao Qian didn't listen any further, nor did he mingle with this group of demons any longer.

After some thought, Tao Qian followed the memories ingrained in his mind and left the Martial Arts Training Square on his own, heading into the temple.

The Iron Buddha Temple was a genuinely large temple in its region. Aside from the thriving incense offerings, it was said that the monks had received the Body Refining Technique and Golden Buddha Power transmitted by the Major Sect, Vajra Temple. If this world had been one of martial arts and chivalry, they might have even been overlords.

Unfortunately, the masters here were Cultivators, Demons, and Alien Species.

The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva arrived with a group of Great Demons and effortlessly slaughtered the monks and pilgrims, seizing the temple.

The Treasure Hall and several large side halls naturally fell into the possession of the Bodhisattva and Great Demons.

Situ Fei's Master, Nongyu Immortal Pan Hongniang, a summoned Evil Cultivator in the Foundation Establishment Stage, also occupied a courtyard with several elegant Zen Rooms due to her considerable cultivation standing amidst this mass of demons.

Tao Qian roamed through courtyards and cloisters, encountering numerous Demon Magicians and unknown Alien Species, witnessing scene after scene of disturbing horrors, yet he did not reveal any flaws.

Before long, he arrived outside a serene courtyard lush with pine and bamboo.

Tao Qian knew that this courtyard housed many people, but the truly threatening and exceedingly dangerous one was only his body's master, titled Nongyu Immortal, the Foundation Establishment Stage Evil Cultivator Pan Hongniang.

The effects of the "Corpse Mother Blood Pearl" were extremely potent. Once used, the Filth Blood pervaded the body then dissipated invisibly, leaving no trace or evidence behind.

From his records, those trivial habits and even the quirks during intimate moments could be expressed naturally, without Tao Qian needing to act deliberately.

Thus, even if Pan Hongniang was Situ Fei's Master, she likely wouldn't notice.

However, since this was his first time attempting such a feat, Tao Qian was not very skilled.

With a slight tug at the corner of his mouth, Tao Qian stepped into the courtyard.

Upon entering, his eyes immediately reflected a rather rare sight:

There were seven people in the courtyard, six men and one woman.

All possessed exceptionally fine physiques, cold and radiant, handsome and dashing, each with their own unique charm.

They were engaged in various leisurely activities, some playing chess, others composing poetry.

One muscular man, his robust chest bared, danced with a sword under the trees, moving to the rustling of pine and bamboo, his heroic posture captivating. Anyone who saw him would undoubtedly praise his strikingly handsome appearance.

If someone stumbled upon this scene, they might assume they had entered a mysterious sect gathered with heroes.

Who would have thought?

These seven individuals were all Pan Hongniang's favored male courtesans.

Of course, they were also disciples.

Situ Fei was among them, holding the highest rank.

As he stepped in, the others ceased their activities and, with varied tones, called out, "Senior Brother!"

Tao Qian let the Puppet Body react naturally according to past habits, giving the seven a cold nod.

Then, he directly strode towards the main house.

As soon as he moved, the courtyard's only woman, clad in just a thin layer of purple gauze, leaned against a man in white, giggling provocatively, "You brothers are too bad, not even giving Senior Brother a heads-up. Master specifically instructed that she isn't to be disturbed when cultivating."

The pretty, charming woman had barely finished speaking when a man in black beside her interjected:

"Junior Sister, you've just joined us and don't understand Senior Brother's status. We would be punished if we disturb Master's cultivation, but Senior Brother will face no such consequence."

"Just a reminder, don't think about sharing Senior Brother's bed. It will lead to trouble."

After saying this, he fell silent.

The others remained indifferent and continued with their activities, leaving the purple-gauze-clad young woman's expression to flicker uncertainly.

Tao Qian didn't know what was happening behind him, he crossed several rooms and was about to reach the large house in front.

He first passed a half-opened window, and the scene glimpsed from the corner of his eye immediately made him stop in his tracks.

Inside the room, red silk was spread out, and exquisitely beautiful peach blossoms were blooming almost to the ceiling beams, with pink miasma flowing like smoke and mist, all of which set off a large banner in the center that seemed to be made from the most delicate and heart-stirring fabric in the world.

Embroidered on it were five nude gods and demons, which at just one glance swayed the spirit, giving rise to lustful thoughts, making it hard to control oneself.

That soft, bright red banner surface undulated and extended, astonishingly supporting a delicate girl with snow-white skin and picturesque features.

The girl lay on her back, her hands spread out and her fingers erect.

Soon after, pink radiance flashed, and several "Peach Blossom Spirits" about half the height of a person, covering their key parts with peach blossom petals, charming and enticing, flew out.

Two of them came out from the middle, each sitting on the girl's hands, and then two more covered the girl's feet.

Then from the girl's mouth, nose, chest, abdomen, and lower body, three more each covered those areas.

The remaining Peach Blossom Spirits then began frolicking and playing inside the room as they waited.

It was unclear what the girl did, but suddenly strange noises erupted, and the Peach Blossom Spirits on her body began to wither rapidly.

In the blink of an eye, they transformed from beautiful spirits into shriveled monsters.

The other Peach Blossom Spirits immediately swarmed up, replacing their quickly drained sisters.

This scene left Tao Qian dumbfounded.

"Truly... They know how to enjoy themselves."

Just as this thought arose in his mind, Tao Qian also felt an extremely strong throbbing sensation.

As Tao Qian thought about taking the opportunity to make contact and uncover some secrets of "Nongyu Immortal Pan Hongniang"...

Suddenly, his vision blurred.

That enviable, highly erotic scene abruptly began to rotate, twist, and change.

In a blink, the Pink Peach Blossom Miasma and the large banner were still there, but the picturesque girl unexpectedly transformed into a monster with the upper body of a rotten corpse and lower body consisting of dozens of pink tentacles. It continuously oozed pus that flowed like a stream from its sores, and in its facial and abdominal areas, several half-closed eyeballs were embedded.

Those "Peach Blossom Spirits" also turned into some kind of squeaking pink insects, intertwining with those tentacles, their abdomens bulging as if they were secreting something to feed the monster.

The whole scene was noisy yet harmonious, yet filled with a bone-chilling horror.

Had it not been for the message "Exemption granted!" appearing in Tao Qian's mind at that moment...

He might have already succumbed to a puppet body mutation, declaring his undercover mission a failure.

Nevertheless, even so, the sudden sight made Tao Qian breathe more rapidly.

In a moment, those dozen or so eyeballs opened simultaneously.

Fortunately, just before that, Tao Qian blinked quickly, and the terrifying scene switched back to the erotic image.

As the monster opened its eyes, a ferociously terrifying aura was about to erupt like a tide, but it suddenly saw that it was its beloved disciple, "Situ Fei."

All malice disappeared instantly, and the door flung open widely, accompanied by an intensely rich peach blossom fragrance, a sweet and naive voice carried out.

"Fei'er is back, come in quickly."

"Although our separation as master and disciple was only for a few hours, my heart aches constantly. I wish I could stick Fei'er to me and never suffer the agony of separation again."

Had Tao Qian not seen that scene just before, he might not have reacted much to these words.

But now, if it weren't for his great willpower suppressing it, Tao Qian just wanted to shiver violently.

He had only one feeling, that was... sheer dread!

From Situ Fei's memories, Tao Qian knew.

He had heard such love talk countless times; initially, Situ Fei also enjoyed it until he resented it after being drained too much and being stuck in the Energy-Introducing Realm for too long.

Tao Qian had thought that this was a normal "misguided master-disciple relationship."

But now, Tao Qian felt there might be more hidden secrets to it.

With so many thoughts flashing through his mind, it didn't prevent Tao Qian's puppet body from instinctively responding:

"Yes, Master, Situ Fei has returned."

Somewhat unexpectedly, yet very reasonably.

Situ Fei's attitude toward Pan Hongniang was rather indifferent.

While responding, he stepped into the house at a normal pace.

Chapter 52: Realistic Performance, Backstabbing Jade Face

In the grand chamber of the Iron Buddha Temple, pink peach blossom miasma and delicate elves alike returned to a magical treasure known as the "Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner."

Situ Fei had a deeply ingrained memory of this treasure, its power terrifying, constituting a good portion of Pan Hongniang's combat strength.

With those filths gone, only a fair-skinned, red-dressed girl remained in the room, baby-faced and so adorable one might think her a child.

Who would have thought?

This seemingly frail girl, who looked as if she could be knocked down with a single punch, was actually Nongyu Immortal Pan Hongniang, a respectable figure amongst evil cultivators.

At that moment, she lay on a bed draped in red silk, extending her delicate hand, beckoning her beloved disciple over.

Tao Qian entered the room, walking step by step, his eyes fixed on the innocent-looking girl, striving not to think about the images flooding his mind.

Meanwhile, he analyzed the plans brewing in the original owner's memory.

Today, demons had provoked the town of Seeking Immortal County, yet neither mid-level demons like Pan Hongniang nor Lan Qing'er had gone, only great demons and others meant to harass and incite panic among the citizens had.

It was precisely this opportunity that Lan Qing'er took to clandestinely hand the "Corpse Mother Filth Blood Pearl" to Situ Fei.

Their plan was simple: as soon as Situ Fei returned, Pan Hongniang was sure to summon him to her side, and during their intimate moments, he was to cast the "Jade Demon Chaos God Skill" to take control of Pan's spirit.

Despite their difference in cultivation, control wouldn't last long.

But a few breaths' time would be enough, for the Filth Blood Pearl would take effect and signal Lan Qing'er, the Jade-faced Lady in the temple, to arrive immediately.

Together, they could perfectly seize Pan Hongniang's foundation.

"The plan is crude and venomous."

"It seems there's a significant chance it could succeed."

Tao Qian finished reviewing and offered his evaluation.

He could tell, the way Pan Hongniang treated Situ Fei was indeed distinct from her other disciples.

If he acted abruptly, it might just work.

However, there was one problem.

Situ Fei was still here, but the Filth Blood Pearl was gone.

How should the plan proceed now?

Tao Qian suddenly felt a bit overwhelmed, his mind flashing with these thoughts while the puppet body, following old habits, naturally climbed onto the soft, warm, red silk bed.

As Tao Qian internally screamed "Don't," he pulled the young girl Pan Hongniang into his arms.

Indeed!

From the outside, this scene might actually look quite charming.

Though according to normal circumstances, what might have happened next was best shielded from the eyes of outsiders and children.

Deep down, Tao Qian desperately wanted to push the girl away and flee.

He wouldn't mind embracing a real girl, but could the one in his arms be genuine?

Not to mention her actual age of "one hundred fifty years," just her real identity alone was enough to cause Tao Qian to lose his appetite for days.

Unfortunately, Tao Qian was currently cherished as a beloved disciple and lover, unable to push her away and instead needing to hold her even tighter.

The only consolation, or rather, Tao Qian's moment of triumph.

Despite it being just the puppet body, contact was made and his divine soul within was triggered, effortlessly initiating Extraordinary Perception.

Perhaps it was because of Pan Hongniang's visibly unusual state, or perhaps their physical contact had crossed a certain threshold.

This time, Tao Qian astoundingly perceived a significant amount of hidden information about this demon of several ranks higher than him.

Though the information gleaned came in fragments.

[Name: Pan Hongniang.]

[Record Type: Demon.]

[Record: A native of Xiangxi... entered the Dao 130 years ago, cultivated the "Five Lusters Enchanting Immortal Scripture"... Spent ten years gathering hundreds of young girls, brutally killing them and burying them deep within the Peach Blossom Miasma Forest, eventually crafting the magical treasure "Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner"... Outwardly innocent like a girl, but inwardly twisted and ruthlessly ferocious...]

[Note 1: During her cultivation years ago, she experienced complications which led the demon to backlash, causing mutations in both body and soul, preventing her from advancing to the next realm.]

[Note 2: At the time of the backlash mutation, Pan Hongniang should have died on the spot... as fate had it, she encountered a person born with a captivating and lascivious nature, forcibly seized his pure essence blood to save her own life... due to accidents during the absorption, she developed a deranged affection for this man, possessing an uncontrollable strong desire to own him.]

[Note 3: Although Pan Hongniang has no chance of advancing to the next realm, her combat power has not declined but improved. If she disregards the mutation, she will become even more ferocious.]

...

The puppet body continued to venture over the girl.

Tao Qian himself, however, was a bit stunned.

To be honest, due to the gap in cultivation between him and "Pan Hongniang," Tao Qian wasn't able to perceive very detailed information.

But the perverse relationship between the original owner and Pan Hongniang was inexplicably clarified.

Evidently, that so-called innately captivating and lascivious person was none other than Situ Fei.

Realizing this, Tao Qian fell deep into thought.

A myriad of ideas surged within him.

Without the Filth Blood Pearl, the original owner's plan was naturally void, but due to the collusion with the Jade-faced Lady, he couldn't just overlook this matter and needed to find a solution.

Initially, Tao Qian couldn't think of an appropriate method, given that the original owner's betrayal was imminent.

To erase evidence and future troubles was indeed difficult.

Tao Qian saw a possibility:

"With Pan Hongniang's abnormal, distorted love for the original master Situ Fei, if I voluntarily leak secrets and reveal the grievances of the original master, this fierce immortal might not only not harm

me, but may also feel guilty, try to make amends, favor me, and even help me break through to the Qi Refining Realm."

"Of course, the first thing she would do is probably kill that Jade-faced Lady, Lan Qing'er."

"Pan Hongniang might endure other matters, but her possessiveness towards Situ Fei has reached a pathological level, Lan Qing'er is definitely a provocation."

"For the sake of refining the Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner, Pan Hongniang caused the death of hundreds of young girls, practiced cultivation for over a hundred years, and relying on the power of that banner, committed countless sins."

"And that Lan Qing'er, also a brutal evil demon, specializes in the Confusing Gods and Hearts Skill, takes pleasure in manipulating people's hearts, like directly bewitching mortals to turn against their kin, or confusing generals who command military forces, to massacre villagers... Her cultivation of over a hundred years has also caused countless deaths."

"Letting these two kill each other, there's nothing to hesitate about."

These thoughts settled, Tao Qian immediately made a decision.

Unconsciously, his movements grew forceful.

However, he heard a tender cry from his arms, the naive red-dressed girl had already opened her clothes.

Pan Hongniang, looking at her beloved disciple, tearfully said, "Fei'er seems troubled today, did you encounter problems in Seeking Immortal County, those ant-like creatures, actually making my Fei'er unhappy, I will go and slaughter them now."

That said, the girl was about to get up.

Tao Qian immediately used both hands to press her down, then acted on the thoughts in his mind.

Without even thinking to change his posture, Tao Qian opened his mouth, reciting the mnemonic of cultivation.

But what came out was not any part of the Peach Blossom Enchanting Immortal Scripture.

Instead, it was a magic skill that felt very familiar to Pan Hongniang.

Tao Qian had just recited halfway when Pan Hongniang, originally naive and charming, suddenly turned ice-cold, her lively eyes filled with terrifying killing intent.

"Boom"

In an instant, as the pink peach blossom miasma surged out, countless peach blossom petals, sharp enough to slice mountains, shot out wildly.

Pan Hongniang, completely enveloped in pink demonic Qi, stared deathly at Tao Qian, coldly said, "Jade Demon Chaos God Skill, the Demon Woman Lan Qing'er's magic skill, how did you learn it?"

Tao Qian knew that a wrong answer at this moment would lead to a terrible outcome.

However, having understood Pan Hongniang's uncontrollable "distorted love and possessiveness" for her disciple, Tao Qian was not worried.

He just gave Pan Hongniang a cold laugh, then leaned to her ear, and began whispering.

He revealed all his sinister dealings with Lan Qing'er.

After finishing, Tao Qian did not bother with Pan Hongniang's shocked expression, as if resigning himself to fate, he raised his hand and pointed at the face of the woman known as the Nongyu Immortal, cursing, "I told you these cunning and poisonous plans, not because I, Situ Fei, feel guilty and want to show my loyalty to seek your forgiveness."

"I, Situ Fei, since entering your Peach Blossom Immortal Valley, have managed your foundation and never slacked off."

"But you, as a master, did not plan for my cultivation, nor helped me climb to higher realms, which is one thing."

"Who would have thought you would be so insatiable, coveting my body day and night for replenishment, causing my essence blood to constantly be in deficit; even with some talent and desperate hard cultivation, I was firmly blocked from making any progress in the Energy-Introducing Realm."

"This time, my voluntary disclosure of secrets is just to repay your initial kindness in taking me in."

"You may kill or slice me as you wish."

"Come on, kill me; my life, Situ Fei, should perhaps have ended in that broken temple where I met you."

At the end, Tao Qian's facial muscles trembled, his eyes reddened, looking extremely fierce.

This realistic performance naturally was not from Tao Qian.

Each sentence was actually the true feelings of the original master.

However, because of this, after he finished shouting,

Pan Hongniang was initially extremely furious, seemingly about to strike down the sinful disciple before her.

But in that moment, the distorted love and intense possessiveness that had almost become her "Heart Demon" resurfaced and firmly occupied her spirit.

Suddenly, her furious expression tenderly softened.

First, she reached out both hands, holding Tao Qian's face, gently caressing it, her eyes full of compassion.

Afterward, with a voice that made Tao Qian shudder again, and brought goosebumps all over his body, she said:

"Fei'er... your master... and Red Lady didn't realize you had so many grievances all these years."

"Don't be annoyed, it's all Red Lady's fault, it's Red Lady who was just enjoying pleasure with you and forgot about your cultivation."

"Fei'er, just wait here for a moment, let Red Lady deal with that demon woman and come back, then we can talk properly."

"Don't worry, Red Lady won't let you suffer any grievances."

With these words falling, without waiting for Tao Qian's response,

Pan Hongniang suddenly raised her hand, her fingers like white scallions, touching the point between Tao Qian's eyebrows.

Instantly, all the Source Qi and Divine Skills in his puppet body lost response, and his whole body also stiffened on this red silk bed.

And Pan Hongniang, after leaning in to kiss his lips,

Stood up, put on her red clothes, and the Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner standing in the room immediately fell into her hands.

With a wave of her hand, the doorway opened wide, and she transformed into a ghost-like shadow and flew out.

And then with a "bang" the door closed.

Without a doubt, she was off to kill someone.

Chapter 53: Blessing in Disguise, Secret Demon Refining God

Tao Qian watched as Pan Hongniang left with a terrifying killing intent, not even having time to respond.

His cultivation and divine skills were all sealed, obviously because the latter was afraid Tao Qian would try to escape.

What the Nongyu Immortal did not know was that Tao Qian, under the guise of Situ Fei's body, was on an undercover mission, aiming to gain benefits and intelligence. He would not easily leave before achieving his goal.

Although his body was sealed, fortunately, his senses remained intact.

Tao Qian lay disheveled on a soft bed of red silk, turning his ear aside, listening to the sounds from outside.

"If my provocation works, Pan Hongniang will certainly not listen to Lan Qing'er's explanation, and the latter won't be able to explain anything either. These two Foundation Establishment Stage demons will soon start a bloody fight."

"Considering the gap in their cultivation and the timing of their movements, the likely winner will be..."

This thought had just sprung up in Tao Qian's mind.

Suddenly, from a distant direction outside the house, a loud noise erupted.

It was also accompanied by Pan Hongniang's chilling voice, brimming with murderous fury.

"Ha ha ha... Lan Demon Lady, you ask me why I ambushed you?"

"Weren't you planning to attack me tonight, and you still ask me why."

"You wanted my Immortal Valley and planned to snatch my Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner, come on, here it is for you..."

"Boom!"

Soon, these voices were drowned out by the loud sounds produced by the fighting.

The noise from the fighting began abruptly and ended even quicker.

Apart from the sounds of the fight, Tao Qian also heard various sounds of evasion lights and forceful shots.

Clearly, the internal strife between the two Foundation Establishment Stage demons would attract many onlookers inside the Demon Cave of the Iron Buddha Temple and might even draw some Great Demons.

Not long after the fight ended, across a vast distance, Tao Qian suddenly heard a verdict:

"This fault lies with Lan Qing'er, Pan Hongniang has won, thus she will only be lightly punished as a warning."

"Remember this, do not let it happen again. Tonight, a life-or-death stage will be opened within the temple; those with grievances can come forward and fight to the death."

"Any further private fights, do not blame us for being harsh."

...

"The rules are quite strict; are these demons planning to stay in the Iron Buddha Temple permanently?"

"Bam"

As Tao Qian was internally criticizing, suddenly the door burst open again and banged shut.

Seeing Pan Hongniang, who appeared furious and was holding the body of a woman in front of the bed, Tao Qian immediately knew that his little provocation had caused a Foundation Establishment Stage demon to lose her life.

Although the corpse was horribly mangled, one could still vaguely recognize the once beautiful face and figure, which was none other than the Evil Female Mage known as "Jade-faced Lady Lan Qing'er."

The perpetrator, Pan Hongniang, had clearly paid a significant price as well. Tao Qian perceived an extremely unstable aura, and a sickly sweet scent of blood dispersed in the air.

Additionally, her once adorable and cheerful appearance was ruined.

It was covered with whip marks, and the flesh was lacerated.

It must have been the work of the Great Demon who made the verdict. Pan Hongniang was the victor and was not severely punished, but some method was used to destroy her face.

It was unclear whether this disfigurement was temporary or permanent.

However, at the moment, Pan Hongniang had no means to restore her once lovely face.

If an ordinary mortal saw this scene, they would inevitably retch completely.

Yet Tao Qian showed no difference in expression; after all, he had even seen the real mutated form of Pan Hongniang.

This scene was merely child's play.

Unexpectedly, this attitude deeply moved Pan Hongniang.

She had assumed that once her appearance was destroyed, she would be despised and rejected by her lover. She had even prepared herself for that.

But to her surprise, her lover looked at her with the same "deep affection" as before.

Casually throwing down the body of Lan Qing'er, Pan Hongniang, very agitated, climbed onto the red silk bed and undid the seal on Tao Qian.

At such a moment, Tao Qian was not planning to cause trouble.

Whatever "reaction" was needed, he left it up to the puppet to decide spontaneously.

That is to say, even though he still controlled the body, he was essentially a spectator.

Then Tao Qian found himself staring at Pan Hongniang's ruined face, his hands trembling as if wanting to touch, yet fearing he might cause her pain.

Pan Hongniang seemed to fully understand her lover's sentiment, her eyes brimming with tears, she squeezed out a bitter smile and casually explained, "It's nothing, just a mark left by a magical treasure, it will dissipate in three days."

After she spoke, due to the previous conversation, they both fell into silence again.

Especially Tao Qian, who involuntarily turned his head away, seeming somewhat uncomfortable, unwilling to continue communicating with Pan Hongniang, nor willing to soften and speak sweet words.

This scene, watching it made Tao Qian somewhat heartbroken.

He faintly understood why this master and disciple had developed such a "perverse affection".

Evidently, this was their usual way of interacting.

Fortunately, before long, Tao Qian felt the timing was nearly right.

Taking control of the puppet body, he pointed at the corpse of Lan Qing'er in the room, sending a conciliatory signal: "Jade-faced Lady was after all a Foundation Establishment female cultivator; you killed her but did not forget to also snatch her belongings, right? Or were they taken by the Great Demon who made the verdict?"

With the topic at hand, communication became possible.

While Pan Hongniang succeeded in her attack on Lan Qing'er, she also sustained some injuries and seemed unable to suppress her obsession, which had turned into a heart demon.

Seeing her beloved willing to reconcile and not seek death any longer, Pan Hongniang immediately showed a smile and then took out a black jade bracelet with numerous talisman engravings from her bosom.

She handed it directly to Tao Qian, while disdainfully saying,

"Lan Demon Lady, a Loose Cultivator without any significant foundation, what rare and valuable treasures could she possibly have on her? Nothing but a heap of useless junk, so poor it clinks; the elder inspected it and didn't fancy it at all, so he returned it to me."

"Fei'er, if you want these books and alien items, they're all yours, but you'll need to return the bracelet to me later. It carries the scent of Lan Demon Lady, better to destroy it."

Tao Qian clearly discerned the possessiveness hidden in Pan Hongniang's words.

Thus, while nodding in agreement, he curiously sent his spirit into the jade bracelet.

This was a Storage Treasure Bag of a Great Demon at the Foundation Establishment Stage, not slain by Tao Qian's hand, but manipulated by his schemes.

However, his current form was utterly impoverished and his Cultivation Realm was low, so there really wasn't much to criticize.

"The world is becoming increasingly dangerous and terrifying, and now I'm also a Loose Cultivator, one as poor as can be."

"If there's an opportunity to acquire books of techniques, Divine Power, or Extraordinary Treasures, I must seize it."

"They say fortune comes with risks, yet little did I expect that by borrowing this body of Situ Fei and infiltrating the Demon Cave, I would have my first gains so swiftly."

These thoughts flashed by.

Tao Qian's Divine Thought had already entered the Storage Space inside the jade bracelet, almost as large as a great room.

He briefly inspected it and found that Pan Hongniang had already cleaned out everything that carried Lan Qing'er's scent, such as clothing and jewelry.

Tao Qian didn't mind; his attention was immediately captivated by the items in front of him, all exuding an extraordinary aura.

"This stroke of luck, a direct path to wealth?"

The Puppet Body maintained a normal expression.

Meanwhile, far away in Seeking Immortal County, inside Chengyou Bookstore, his original body's mouth corners were uncontrollably curling up.

Tao Qian didn't care about the origins of this black jade bracelet.

All he knew was that he had now acquired the possessions of a Great Demon at the Foundation Establishment Stage, and with this, he had struck it rich.

Tao Qian struggled to withdraw his Divine Thought from those "alien items," then focused directly on a Jade Table at the center.

On it rested various books of different thicknesses.

"Cultivation Techniques!"

Whether it was his original body or the Puppet Body, both of their eyes lit up.

Without any hesitation, Tao Qian took out all four books from the table.

He didn't even care that Pan Hongniang was right in front of him; he immediately began reading them with the Puppet Body's eyes.

The first thick book, unsurprisingly, was called "Jade Demon Scripture," clearly the Basic Method and Lifebound Scripture of Lan Qing'er.

Upon touching it, Extraordinary Perception emerged.

Tao Qian briefly scanned the Jade Demon Scripture, noting it specialized in the spirit aspect, suitable for sneak attacks and ambushes. Because of this, its power fell short compared to Pan Hongniang's "Peach Blossom Enchanting Immortal Scripture," no wonder she looked down on it.

Besides the Lifebound Scripture, the remaining three books were "Power Demon Mountain Opening Technique," "Secret Demon Refining God Skill," and "Demon Eye Shadowing Technique."

Tao Qian skimmed the covers and titles but hadn't yet delved into the insights triggered in his mind.

However, the immortal in front of him, Pan Hongniang, thoughtfully provided an explanation ahead of time.

Letting out a snort, she pointed at the "Power Demon Mountain Opening Technique" and explained,

"The 'Jade Demon Scripture' that Lan Demon Lady practiced contains many Divine Power Techniques, all relying on Jade Demon Origin Qi. To mine jade from underground and mountains and absorb the Origin Qi, she had to learn this Power Demon Mountain Opening Technique."

"Unfortunately, she's not a traditional Demon Cultivator from the Major Sects but rather a Loose Cultivator who chanced upon some luck, lacking various methods to subdue Demons. Thus, every time she summoned Power Demon, aside from food, she also had to offer her own body for the Demon's enjoyment to quell its violent nature, willing only then to follow her commands."

Pan Hongniang's description of the scene was all too vivid.

So much so that Tao Qian involuntarily conjured up related fantasies in his mind and had to shake his head to dispel those unclean images.

After mocking the first book, Pan Hongniang then pointed to the second book.

This time, however, the secrets she revealed stimulated excitement in Tao Qian's original body far away in Seeking Immortal County.

"Speaking of this 'Secret Demon Refining God Skill,' its origins are not insignificant."

"This comes from the old Demon Sect, the 'Secret Demon Sect,' a part of the formidable book 'All Heavens Secret Demon Scripture,' belonging to the volume of God, one of several dozens of Refining God."

"This would be considered a rare and precious Technique."

"Sadly, it's too fragmented, containing the methods of Refining God but missing the crucial annotations to mitigate and reduce the cost."

"Someone practicing according to this Technique would perish within days."

"Such fragmented books are quite common in the Cultivation World, bearing significant reputation but actually useless, and any remotely experienced Cultivator wouldn't practice it."

"Only naive young ones who believe in their exceptional talent would forcibly train in it, only to die horribly."

"Fei'er, don't be misled by the words Secret Demon. If you wish to refine your Divine Thought and mind, better to practice the methods from my 'Peach Blossom Enchanting Immortal Scripture.' The effects are fairly decent."

...

Pan Hongniang talked on and on, greatly disparaging the Secret Demon Refining God Skill.

But at this moment, Tao Qian's excitement only grew.

Chapter 54: Jade Demon Killing Blade, Iron Buddha Devil Banquet Begins

Seeking Immortal County, Chengyou Bookstore.

Tao Qian sat cross-legged on the compartment bed, his eyes sparkling with spirit light, barely concealing his excitement.

Separated by the puppet body, Tao Qian heard two pieces of delightful information from Pan Hongniang's explanation.

First was about the numerous fragmented books in the Cultivation World lacking details on reducing costs, which were not valued by others, and Tao Qian, coincidentally, was not particularly concerned about those costs.

Second naturally was about the "Secret Demon Refining God Skill" from the Secret Demon Sect, which, in Tao Qian's view, was fate—he had previously cultivated the "Sacrifice Sword Skill" of the Secret Demon Sect, and now he stumbled upon a Refining God Skill, which was precisely what Tao Qian most lacked at the moment.

Although Tao Qian had transformed the Bo Dragon Driving Origin Qi into the Daoist Spirit Treasure Origin Qi, his sturdy physique forged by the Bo Dragon Bloodline remained unchanged; tearing apart tigers, leopards, or lower-ranked demons was not a problem at all.

But that was worth mentioning.

For the rest, godly and demonic attributes, or other auxiliary Magic Skills and Divine Skills.

Tao Qian was completely "lacking" in all.

After all, he was not only a loose cultivator but also a newcomer to the Cultivation World.

Having nothing to rely on and lacking everything was normal.

For this reason, Tao Qian needed to seize the opportunity that presented itself.

"Distinguishing cultivators between Daoist, Buddhist, Demon, and others mostly revolves around the Basic Method aside from sect-related factors."

"Although various schools typically prohibit cultivators from practicing methods from different sects unless it's not the Basic Method and highly compatible with one's disposition, then sectoral prohibitions wouldn't be so strict."

"Hence, there often emerge Great Cultivators who practice both Daoist and Buddhist Cultivation, or Dual Demon and Buddhist Cultivation."

"Similarly, many Great Cultivators create their own Cultivation Techniques, although the methods they refer to might not belong to their own sect; it's quite possible for a high Buddhist monk to develop a Demon Dao Technique."

"In any case, let's see if this Refining God Skill has any major problems? Can the costs be exempted?"

"Even if the main body cannot practice it, if the costs are smaller, perhaps this puppet body could practice it."

Tao Qian desperately needed the Refining God Skill, but he was not too hasty or reckless.

Still utilizing the puppet body for perception, the related information of the book immediately sorted itself into a wonderful format in Tao Qian's mind.

[The name: Secret Demon Refining God Skill.]

[Type: Alien Object.]

[Record: This volume comes from the 'All Heavens Secret Demon Scripture', a subsidiary volume for divine techniques, one of several dozen Refining God Techniques, also the most straightforwardly brutal and dangerous one. Back in the days when the Secret Demon Sect clashed with Daoist and Buddhist sects, quite a few Secret Demon Cultivators relied on this technique to refine their durable primordial spirits, brazenly withstanding attacks from such Divine Passage Skills of both Daoist and Buddhist sects. One Secret Demon Great Cultivator had even directly embarked his primordial spirit out of his body and shattered the 'Great Reincarnation Heavenly Dragon Zen Chanting Demonic Destruction Array' at Dharma Cakra Temple, which claimed to obliterate all divine souls, showing the formidable power of this method. Sadly, this volume is severely incomplete, only the Refining God part remains, lacking the Dissipation Method, making cultivation surely lethal.]

[Note 1: This technique uses "Outer Realm Demon" to refine one's own primordial spirit, intending to entice the demon to descend, but first requires sacrificing one's own primordial spirit as bait, making this method extremely dangerous. Any minor mistake during cultivation immediately results in demon invasion, losing both spirit and soul.]

[Note 2: Since this technique lacks the commentary to eliminate the costs, once it draws the demon to devour and refine, but without the power to remove the impure demon thoughts, the divine soul will surely mutate, becoming non-human within days and potentially violently expiring.]

[Note 3: This method can coexist with other Refining God Techniques, and if successful, can even benefit most Divine Skills related to the divine soul.]

[Note 4: Costs of demon invasion and impure demon thoughts can be exempted, but there is a limit; if greed overwhelms and consumes too many demons in one go, madness and mutation are inevitable.]

...

At this moment, Tao Qian knew even without looking in the mirror that his face was displaying joy.

For most cultivators or demonic entities, this "Secret Demon Refining God Skill" was profoundly flawed.

Once practiced, death was certain.

But for Tao Qian, it wasn't so terrifying; he could exempt the two severe costs.

Even the restrictions of this technique weren't as stingy as the Sacrifice Sword Skill, which, once practiced, forbade cultivating a second type.

If the timing weren't inappropriate, Tao Qian would very much like to flip through the volume right now and see what the Refining God Technique looked like.

At the same time, Tao Qian also wanted to reflect a bit:

"There are far fewer Demon Sects in the Cultivation World compared to the Daoist and Buddhist sects. I don't know if it's just a coincidence, but every Demon Sect seems exceedingly formidable."

"For example, this Secret Demon Sect, according to the record, with the power of one sect, successively defied several major Daoist and Buddhist sects. Although it eventually perished, it could still be regarded as glorious in defeat."

Tao Qian reflected internally.

Meanwhile, the puppet body continued listening to Pan Hongniang's explanations.

To ease the tension between her and her lover, this immortal lady completely set aside her master's demeanor.

At a glance, she appeared like a knowledgeable yet naively charming young woman, showing off her knowledge to her lover.

If it weren't for the fierce scars on her face, the scene would be quite harmonious and beautiful.

"The Refining God Skill cannot be practiced, but the Demon Eye Shadowing Technique is something that Fei'er could possibly cultivate."

"This technique can develop a pair of 'Demon Eyes'; once the divine power is released, it can detect all movements within several miles. With deeper cultivation, this range can even be expanded."

"Tonight, perhaps because Bodhisattva and other Great Demons are in the temple, the Lan Demon Lady didn't dare make a move, which is why she didn't use the Demon Eyes, allowing me to ambush and slay her."

At this point, Pan Hongniang seemed to recall something.

She reached out to take the jade bracelet from Tao Qian's hand and casually touched him in the process.

Afterward, he used his Divine Thought to extract an Exotic Treasure from the bracelet.

It turned out to be a small, exquisitely fine jade flying knife, radiant green, and strikingly alluring—truly fashioned from the finest jade in this world.

However, on the blade of the flying knife, there inexplicably ran a bloodline that made one feel uneasy upon sight.

Pan Hongniang snapped her fingers, and the flying knife emitted a clear ring.

Yet within that pleasing sound lingered an almost bursting aura of terrifying slaughter.

"Indeed, its power is still acceptable."

"This is the 'Jade Demon Killing Blade,' a treasure of slaughter mentioned in the Jade Demon Scripture. The Lan Demon Lady spent over a decade refining it. She boasted greatly, claiming that once this blade was complete, it could transform at will and slaughter all living beings with its mystical powers. Unfortunately, it still lacks that touch of Cavernous Mystery Understanding and can only be considered among Magic Artifacts."

"However, among Magic Artifacts, this blade carries an extremely heavy aura of slaughter. I actually had my eye on this blade for a long time, intending to give it to you for self-defense."

"But I had never found a good excuse until now, and just in time. Fei'er, keep this blade well; if in the future you encounter tough enemies, throw out this blade. Even skilled practitioners in the Qi Refining Stage could accidentally meet their demise."

During the conversation, Pan Hongniang directly stuffed the jade flying knife into Tao Qian's hand.

Her small, fair hands then grabbed Tao Qian's, seemingly unwilling to let go.

A pink peach blossom miasma spread, and the atmosphere instantly became ambiguous again.

It seemed as if they were going to continue where they had left off before.

Having received the Cultivation Manual, Tao Qian was very happy.

Having received those stacks of alien items, along with this Jade Demon Killing Blade, Tao Qian was also very happy.

But thinking of having to offer up his body, even if it was only the body of a Puppet, Tao Qian immediately felt not so happy.

Deep inside, he furiously complained:

"That Filth Blood Pearl, though its effects are covert and not easily detected by Great Cultivators, the cost of shared sensations is too heavy. Although it has been weakened, it is not completely gone."

"If the Puppet Body is forced later, to be harvested again."

"Though my original body is unharmed, I will also be forced to endure all those sensations."

As these thoughts flashed through his mind, Tao Qian let the Puppet Body move as it wished, prompting new actions.

Tao Qian's body shivered slightly, seemingly fearful of Pan Hongniang's physical contact.

His originally affectionate face, after taking a deep breath, tightened with a hint of reluctance but still spoke firmly:

"Master, it's not that I disdain your current disfigured appearance, I have already made a decision."

"From today forth, I will completely seal my energy pathways. Until the day I step into the Qi Refining Stage, they shall not be opened again."

"Master, think about it. With my talent and abilities, why have I been stuck in the Energy-Introducing Realm for so many years? If this continues, even my junior brothers and sisters will surpass me."

"How can I face being the senior disciple then?"

"I admire you, Master, but please do not forget my cultivation matters."

"If Master really intends to hinder my Dao Path, letting me waste away in this initial stage until my lifespan is exhausted and I perish, then it would be better for Master to kill me now."

These harsh words immediately dispersed the romantic atmosphere.

Pan Hongniang instantly took two sharp jabs; one was about her temporarily ruined appearance, and the other, a reminder of her beloved Situ Fei's incessant harvesting.

If it were the usual cruel and decisive Nongyu Immortal,

Someone speaking to her in such a manner, even if it were her disciple, she would have immediately turned hostile and killed them.

But Situ Fei was different.

The Heart Demon of abnormal affection had merged into her soul through mutation, especially as she was also injured, which she could not restrain.

Perhaps she had also realized that now, in front of her lover, she was acting just like a blindly infatuated girl from the Mortal World.

But realizing it was useless, she couldn't control herself.

She had no choice but to withdraw her hands, reluctantly glancing at Tao Qian's disheveled body, somewhat unwillingly saying, "Alright... Master... Master agrees, so don't seek death anymore."

The conversation left the atmosphere somewhat awkward again.

Just at that moment,

Outside the house, throughout Iron Buddha Temple, suddenly rang the loud sound of gongs.

Along with the sound of the gongs came those little demons and monsters responsible for conveying messages, hopping about the mountains.

Passing by this courtyard was a Pig Demon covered in a yellowish miasma emitting foul smells, occasionally spouting excreta.

This creature, entirely unclothed, was seen springing here from afar, flapping its large ears, its corpulent body stark naked.

It opened its stinking mouth, tusks still hanging suspicious pieces of flesh, seemingly a leftover piece of scalp.

In a muffled tone, it shouted to the area:

"The banquet has begun, the banquet has begun, the lords have ordered: whoever misses the feast will be turned into the feast itself."

Chapter 55: The Secret of Longevity Lies Outside the Treasure Hall

The buzzing Iron Buddha Temple seethed instantly due to those stench-ridden messaging Demons and the continuous, echoing chimes of the bell.

Demon aura and demonic qi, along with some abnormally corrupting breaths that could sully one at a mere glance, twined together, soaring skyward.

A Demon Cave!

A true Demon Cave would be no different.

In a large room in the courtyard of the temple, a man and a woman got out of the bed and dressed themselves.

Tao Qian tidied his clothes in just a few moments and saw Pan Hongniang covering her destroyed face with a thin veil.

It was as though he remembered something, or was making idle conversation, he asked casually,

"Master, do you know what the grand matters those few old masters will announce later? We gather here at Iron Buddha Temple, and tonight we again ravage Seeking Immortal County, could it be we intend to make enemies with those Major Sects and Longevity Heavenly Dynasty?"

"Master, you once cautioned me not to get involved in the chaotic world of demons and Devils, once their numbers grow too large, one might inexplicably be obliterated entirely. How is it...?"

Upon hearing Tao Qian's question, Pan Hongniang hesitated, but then she heard the unceasing announcements of the banquet outside.

Thinking that the answer would soon be known to all, there was no need to keep it veiled any longer, so she slightly parted her cherry lips and immediately explained,

"In the past, I forbade you from participating in the chaos wrought by demons and oppressing mortals because there exists a terrifying forbidden Technique called 'Longevity Barrier' in this world, a ban that is everywhere, seemingly enveloping the entire Longevity Heavenly Dynasty's territory."

"Once too many Demons enter the Mortal World, the Barrier would activate and eradicate all those demons."

"This rule has persisted for a good two thousand years."

"When I stealthily captured mortal women suitable for their birthdays to refine the Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner, I was always worried about being obliterated, but thankfully I never mixed with those demons and therefore never triggered that fearsome forbidden Technique."

"However, when the Bodhisattvas and masters summoned us here, they said that this rule... was going to change."

"That grand matter they refer to is this."

"If nothing unexpected happens, during tonight's feast, the Bodhisattva will fully disclose this matter and issue a wide call to summon more demons, Evil Cultivators, and Alien Species."

"Fei'er, you should know, including myself, your master, we don't count for much in the Cultivation World."

"For a massive secret like this, we are surely the last to know."

"It's likely that top Cultivators from Daoist, Buddhist, and Demon circles knew this secret in advance, behind them must be countless schemes and arrangements."

"In this world, there isn't just 'Southern Yue Province'; the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty's territory is vast, holding six or seven dozen provinces similar to Southern Yue. Affairs like the ravage of Seeking Immortal County that you will execute tonight are probably already happening in succession."

"This is the Great Era, the true era of great conflict."

"In the past, I hindered your cultivation, but Fei'er, don't rush. Now that the Mortal World has been completely opened to us, our Cultivators' chances will greatly increase; everywhere there is fodder. Soon, I will help you enter the Qi Refining Realm and spend some time making a Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner for you..."

As she spoke, Pan Hongniang began to express her affection in a tender and watery manner.

She directly took Tao Qian's hand, and the master and disciple walked out like a couple of Immortals.

Tao Qian ought to have resisted, but he did not.

The reason?

Naturally, it was the sudden revelation of this great secret, both his Puppet Body and his real body were immediately stunned.

Especially the true body in Chengyou Bookstore in Seeking Immortal County.

His eyes widened in shock.

"The Longevity Barrier... a ban that covers the world... demons can now enter the world on a large scale..."

Several keywords caused a surge of thoughts in Tao Qian's mind.

The doubts he had since his rebirth seemed to find answers now, and his mind involuntarily filled with many speculations.

And this news that Evil Cultivators, Demons, and Alien Species could enter the world in large numbers made Tao Qian's feelings even more urgent.

"This world is too dark; the Mortal World was already pitiful with that Barrier in place, being oppressed by the Feudal Dynasty to the point of breathlessness, with rebel armies of destitute refugees everywhere."

"And now, with that Barrier gone, these demons will be joining in... do mortals still have a way to survive?"

"And me, given the current situation, the 'Cultivation' of this world seems to be different from what I imagined."

"So do I still cultivate to become an Immortal?"

At this thought, Tao Qian shook his head, and the answer immediately became clear.

Cultivate!

Of course, he had to cultivate for a way to live, for the possibility of attaining Longevity, transcending this world.

If he did not cultivate, that would truly be the path to death.

Muttering to himself at heart, Tao Qian then expelled all distracting thoughts and refocused his Spirit back to his Puppet Body.

Following Pan Hongniang out of the room, in the courtyard, they immediately encountered his seven disciples.

"Master!"

"Big Brother Senior Disciple!"

The six men and one woman all greeted with respect, and regarding the unusually intimate demeanor between their Master and their Big Brother Senior Disciple, all seven of them seemed voluntarily blind, turning a blind eye.

Despite this, there was an unexpected occurrence.

It was the Little Sister Disciple, draped only in a thin layer of purple gauze, arguably wanting to curry favor upon learning of the "Big Brother Senior Disciple's" incomparable status from her Senior Brothers. Her greeting did not show a seducing air, but she subconsciously used a whining voice.

If only Tao Qian were present, this would have presented no issue.

Alas, Pan Hongniang was also present, and she was in no state to fully suppress her monstrous obsession with her lover.

Her possessiveness over her lover had long since reached a frenzied state, tolerating not even the slightest hint of interest from others, even if it was just some insignificant trace.

Thus, the moment that coquettish voice came out, it was immediately followed by a fierce shout,

"You little whore, what do you think you're doing? Are you looking for death?"

Beneath Pan Hongniang's veil, her expression was ferocious.

As she shouted, her fair palm shot out vehemently, along with the surging Pink Peach Blossom Miasma, and struck directly atop the girl's head in the purple gauze.

With a "crack," the girl didn't even have time to wail or struggle before her head was smashed into her chest cavity, and with a thud, she fell to the ground, dead in an instant.

Still not satisfied, Pan Hongniang then raised her hand to summon a large swarm of pink moths.

They densely covered the girl's corpse, sucking hungrily like on nectar, voraciously draining every bit of moisture and Essence Blood from the tender body.

In the blink of an eye, there appeared a piece of dried meat on the ground.

The slightest breeze came and it shattered instantly, turning into a flurrying powder.

The six individuals nearby immediately knelt down thumpingly, facing Tao Qian, and kowtowed frantically, begging the eldest apprentice brother to spare their lives.

Clearly, although they did not know what their Master was insane about, they understood who to truly plea to for help.

Just then, Tao Qian's Divine Soul returned, taking over the Puppet Body.

Regarding the death of the girl in purple gauze, Tao Qian didn't feel any pity, according to the original host's memories.

That girl surnamed Ye was a viperous beauty, ruthlessly hearted and skilled in manipulating people's emotions, her hands stained with the blood of many innocents. She was a new disciple collected by Pan Hongniang while travelling, admired for her ruthless nature and beautiful body and often toyed with and trained by her.

The fact that she had just met such an end at the hands of Pan Hongniang could be seen as destiny.

As for the six distinctive young men on the ground, the original host's memory only contained images of them competing for favor and striving to seduce the Master. Their wicked deeds were few, merely six of Pan Hongniang's favored male courtesans.

"Let's go, the feast has started."

Tao Qian didn't respond to the six individuals but simply patted Pan Hongniang's hand, and the master-disciple pair left the courtyard and headed towards the temple.

On the way, Tao Qian looped arms with Pan Hongniang, encountering numerous Demon Cultivators, flooding the area just as they had covered Tengshe Mountain the previous day. There, there had been many Righteous or neutral Cultivators, but here, the air was thick with the stench of bloodthirsty, horrific Demon Cultivators.

In a daze, Tao Qian suddenly recalled descriptions from supernatural novels he had read in a past life. It was truly more demonic than a Demon Cave.

Listening to the tumultuous noise and sniffing the strange odor born from the mix of countless different scents, as they approached the main hall up ahead, Tao Qian suddenly pulled Pan Hongniang to a stop.

Just moments before, Tao Qian had learned from the chattering of the filthy Pig Demons:

The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva and other Great Demons had leveraged their influence; ever since the edict was issued, Demons, Evil Cultivators, and Alien Species rushed from all sides.

Thus, tonight's banquet was exceedingly grand and lively. It was also quite normal that there was a clear divide in hierarchy.

At the center of the banquet, of course, was Iron Buddha Temple's main hall.

Then came the side halls.

Afterwards, according to the strength of one's Cultivation, they were seated outwards.

If one was a lowly Evil Cultivator or a powerless Little Demon, they might even be banished to the middle of the mountain.

Nongyu Immortal Pan Hongniang, being a Foundation Establishment Stage Evil Cultivator who had recently killed a fellow cultivator of the same rank, the "Jade-faced Lady Lan Qing'er," though punished, had somewhat gained notoriety. Thus, she had obtained a secondary seat at the back of the main hall.

As Pan Hongniang's first disciple, Tao Qian, if shameless, could also blend into the main hall, sitting with the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva and a multitude of powerful Demon Cultivators.

If it were the original host, perhaps he would have tried to sneak in.

But Tao Qian?

He pulled Pan Hongniang close, whispering into her ear with such intimacy that immediately made Pan Hongniang blush, showing a girlish demeanor in front of the crowd.

But the next words from her lover's mouth made her feel reluctant to part.

Tao Qian started speaking, making sound and logical arguments:

"Master, you've slain Lan Demon Lady, establishing some renown in this temple. Now it's the perfect opportunity to curry favor with those prestigious gentlemen."

"If someone of my lowly Cultivation were to enter, I would undoubtedly hinder your reputation, subjected to condescension by those jealous-hearted Evil Cultivators and Demons."

"Moreover, I already witnessed the Bodhisattvas' formidable presences tonight. Their aura is truly not something a minor Energy-Introducing Realm cultivator like me could endure up close. If I really were to mingle in, I'd be on edge and anxious, unable to enjoy the food or drink."

"Thus, it's better for me to sit in a side hall. It's also an opportunity to mingle with other Cultivators and Demons, broaden my horizons, and see if I can rally some support and allies for our Peach Blossom Immortal Valley."

"The feast will last at most a few hours. We can stand to be apart that long."

After Tao Qian made his speech, Pan Hongniang couldn't help but be taken aback.

Beneath her veil, her face was filled with reluctance, wanting to say something.

But as she opened her mouth, she realized the impeccable logic of his words, leaving no ground for argument.

Especially those first few sentences, each one was considerate of her, as the Master.

It was her own fault that her lover had such low Cultivation and couldn't ascend to the high hall.

Thus, after hearing this, Pan Hongniang felt an overwhelming sense of guilt. After a moment, she said:

"Fei'er, rest assured, Hongniang will not covet your body until you break into the Qi Refining Realm."

"The foundation of this Peach Blossom Immortal Valley will be yours in the future, and even I, Hongniang, belong to you."

With that, Pan Hongniang beckoned over a somewhat cleaner looking Pig Demon.

She ordered it to arrange a decent place for Tao Qian in one of the side halls, but not to prepare a maid.

Afterward, the extremely vicious Nongyu Immortal, though quite off-kilter, looked back at her lover three steps at a time, following the welcoming Demons into the once majestic, now blood-churning great hall.

Chapter 56 Vine Ghost Elephant Demon, Bai Qin's Secret

"Daoist, follow this old pig, the immortal has commanded it, we must find you the most suitable seat."

The one who spoke, nearly nauseating Tao Qian with his breath, was a slightly cleaner pig demon, yet similarly unclothed, stark naked without a shred of shame.

A greasy fat face was turned towards Tao Qian, a flattering smile on display, ears like winnowing fans, flapping from time to time, shoos flies drawn to the sweat and dirt on its body, and a curled tail sweeping under its buttocks, faintly visible.

Tao Qian was somewhat curious whether this creature had been a demon that gained spiritual wisdom, or a human mutated into a pig demon.

If one wanted to know the answer, it was indeed just a matter of reaching out with Extraordinary Perception.

However, upon reflection, he decided to let it be. The least uncommon things in this place were such lower-ranking demons and alien creatures, not worth the bother to investigate.

It wasn't long before Tao Qian was led by the pig demon into a side hall.

As soon as he stepped inside, a complex array of smells hit him like a tide.

The aroma of food and drink, the stench of demons, the odd scent of aliens, and a variety of smells whose origins he couldn't even begin to identify... all mixed together, strangely alluring, making one want to plunge in and join upon a single whiff.

Like the pig demon up ahead, once inside the hall, it greedily eyed the food and the female demons, swallowing saliva and saying,

"Marvelous, absolutely marvelous."

"When could we have ever enjoyed such a scene before? A large gathering in the human world might have seen us disappear without reason."

"The king is right, our world has finally come."

The pig demon sighed, not forgetting its duty.

Having brought Tao Qian into the hall, it seated him at the middle-lower part of a row of tables.

The table was already set with various dubious meat dishes, fragrant wines and liquors, some fruits, and some food emanating an abnormal aura.

Simultaneously, two half-human, half-fox demons, wearing only chest wraps and exuding an air of seduction, crouched on either side of the tables.

Seeing this, the pig demon's eyes immediately gleamed with lust, and it sidestepped to reveal Tao Qian standing behind it.

Then, it addressed the demon cultivators already seated at the other tables, "Esteemed predecessors and masters, this one is a favorite disciple of Nongyu Immortal."

Having said this, the pig demon then turned back to Tao Qian, "Daoist, please sit here. To have table maidens at your service, one must at least be a Qi Refining Realm demon cultivator."

"But for a Daoist like you, reaching Qi Refinement is merely a matter of a couple of days, so this seat is just right."

"As for these two sly foxes, I'm truly sorry, but the immortal has given orders that cannot be disobeyed, so this old pig will take them away first."

With that, the creature actually took one fox demon by the hand, and quickly left with a thudding of its feet, as if afraid that Tao Qian would insist on keeping the two fox girls.

Seeing this, Tao Qian felt somewhat suffocated – as Mr. Tao, he was a person of integrity; would he be the type to care about whether or not he had fox girl attendants?

No maidens, then so be it. Tao Qian's trip was about expanding his horizons, as well as unveiling the hidden agenda.

He leisurely took his seat, all the while surveying the entire side hall.

After all, this had once been a grand temple rich with incense, its beams and rafters finely carved, solemn and stately.

However, the beams and red pillars were now smeared with all manners of filth and blood; clearly, after slaughtering the temple, the demons had also deliberately defiled and vented their rage.

The statuary of Bodhisattvas and Arhats was likewise damaged, some even soaking in feces and urine.

Apart from the dozen or so tables in the center, the rest of the space was taken up by demons and Evil Cultivators, sitting on the ground, gathered in groups, either eating and drinking, copulating, or engaging in mundane games of chance.

The most eye-catching were naturally the demon and Evil Cultivators before Tao Qian, with "Qi Refinement Realm" achievements.

With a cursory glance and judging by the strength of their energy, Tao Qian quickly identified the four most powerful figures.

They were: an evil ghost with green face and tusks, armored; an alien with wrinkled old skin, seemingly with an endlessly extendable neck; a wretched figure in tattered clothes, hair covering its face, holding a rotten fish half the height of a person; and a female cultivator with painted horns on her head, scantily clad, with bells tied around her breasts.

Including these four, the group of Qi Refinement Realm beings initially showed discontent at the inclusion of an Energy-Introducing Realm cultivator like Tao Qian.

However, upon hearing the name "Nongyu Immortal," they swallowed the insults that had almost reached their lips.

Clearly, the recent forceful assassination of Foundation Establishment Realm Evil Cultivator Lan Qing'er by Pan Hongniang had earned significant renown.

Tao Qian's lips curled slightly, enduring the oppressively potent air filled with corrupting and mutating fumes, and took his seat directly.

After settling down, suppressing discomfort, he ignored the large porcelain dish in front of him, filled with the utterly fresh, uncooked hearts and livers.

Instead, he looked at another basin giving off a bizarre aura, holding fat white worms as thick as a baby's arm, jelly-like undefined objects, ugly, wailing little people pinned to the basin with knives, still alive, and a pile of distinct, fragrant black beads... Such exotic items were only found on the tables, whereas the demon and Evil Cultivators eating on the floor only had cooked meat soups and chunks.

Tao Qian reached out a finger to touch one of the small people, and immediately a realization emerged in his mind:

[Record Name: Vine Ghost.]

[Record Type: Alien Species.]

[Record Description: In the deep wilderness, whitish strange vines occasionally strangle travelers to death, absorbing their flesh and blood. Upon slicing open the vine, one might find one or several tiny noodle-like people inside, thumb-sized, that incessantly wail and curse at the sight of fresh humans. They can be consumed, tasting spicy and making every food taste sweet like honey for three days afterwards, with no other uses.]

With this intel, Tao Qian felt no desire to eat.

Just then, a cultivator below him leaned over – an elder that made Tao Qian extremely uncomfortable.

His clothes were extremely tattered, revealing purple-black skin beneath, oozing pus-filled sores that burst with movement and even spewed forth black maggots.

His face, however, looked much like that of a common elderly mortal, except for his eyes, which shone with a ghostly, blood-red light.

Seeing that Tao Qian had no appetite, he pointed with his withered, blood-clotted fingers at a few dishes in front of Tao Qian and croaked,

"Younger brother, not much of an appetite tonight?"

"If you don't mind, why not share some with me? The flesh and organs in these plates belong to the fat and satisfied pilgrims, not to be compared with the stinking monks who practice Golden Buddha Power—truly more tender and fresh than any other."

"And these Vine Ghosts, meat worms, Treasure Freeze, human-faced spider sand—such delectable and miraculously effective items."

"If you aren't eating, then let me have it..."

As this Evil Cultivator, clearly fallen onto the Demon Path, spoke, his ghoulish hands involuntarily reached out.

Just as Tao Qian was considering whether to chop off the old creature's claws,

suddenly, the welcome chant of two Pig Demons came from the outer chamber.

In the next breath, the entire side hall trembled from the sound.

Then an unexpected sight occurred, as the guests invited in by the Pig Demons turned out to be... a monk.

Of course, this was a devil monk.

As soon as he stepped into the hall, a surge of blood-red Demonic Qi visibly stormed in, causing all the Demons and Evil Cultivators to turn and stare.

This devil monk appeared as a rosy-lipped, white-teethed youth, dressed in ornate yet comfortable monk robes, clearly made of luxurious fabric from the Mortal World.

His half-exposed chest had a necklace of suspicious bones strung together as Buddha Beads.

But what truly horrified everyone was not him but his mount.

It was none other than an Elephant Demon, its thick legs stomping on the ground. Its muscular arms wielded a pair of Bronze Giant Hammers, and as it nearly dragged its trunk across the ground, whipping it back and forth, the whistling wind roared, its menacing tusks were like a pair of long spears capable of completely shattering the side hall.

And its face still retained some human traces, oddly enough.

In its eyes that glowed green, there was a recurring look of struggle.

The Old Ghost beside Tao Qian seemed intent on showing off his knowledge or perhaps because he wanted to scrounge some food from Tao Qian, he saw the shock and confusion on Tao Qian's face, heh-heh'd with a smile, revealing a mouthful of stinking black teeth, and then his lips moved subtly, sending several messages directly into Tao Qian's ears.

The secrets contained within made Tao Qian's real body all the way back in Seeking Immortal County skip a heartbeat.

"Hey, younger brother, don't be intimidated by this devil monk."

"Despite the surging Demonic Qi on his body, his combat power may all be inferior to that 'Elephant Demon' he rides."

"Yet, this monk is indeed a lucky and ruthless fellow. It's said that most of the Bai Qin Scripture that caused so much trouble back then was destroyed by the Great Freedom Temple."

"Who knows where he found the Elephant Game and actually chose the right person to tempt with the promise of longevity. He probably intentionally provided them with Spirit Elephant Blood for cultivation, waiting until they achieved something before inducing them to break their vows. And thus, a mighty and effortlessly controllable 'Elephant Demon' was born."

"Tch, tough as this monk may be, he's still not as fierce as Bai Qin from back in the day..."

Tao Qian himself had not expected it either.

In this hall swarming with Demon Cultivators and Evil Cultivators, he would inadvertently hear such shocking secrets about the "Bai Qin Play Fragment" once more.

And so astonishingly.

Based on what the Old Ghost said and compared with what he had learned not long ago in Tengshe Square, Tao Qian's mind almost immediately conjured up a terrifying speculation.

"So, was the Bai Qin Scripture created as part of a conspiracy from the very beginning?"

"Given that this devil monk can use Elephant Game to create a powerful Elephant Demon for himself,"

"could it be that the calamity that left Tuo County nearly deserted, the 'Chaos of Bai Qin,' happened because of the same thing?"

"Someone deliberately spread the Bai Qin Scripture and secretly provided the cultivators of this scripture with various bird bloods... when the time was right, encouraged these cultivators to break their vow... without much effort, a vast number of powerful and controllable Demons could be obtained."

"In the end, it was the Great Freedom Temple that sent powerful forces to resolve it. All the Demons became Dharma Protecting Beasts, and the ultimate beneficiary was indeed the Great Freedom Temple."

"By normal logic, the mastermind behind the scenes would likely be..."

Tao Qian was inclined to suspect the Great Freedom Temple as the mastermind, yet he could only make such conjectures based on logic, as there still wasn't enough evidence.

For instance, the most crucial individual, "Bai Qin Elder," was still yet to be definitively linked to the Great Freedom Temple.

Nonetheless, this prompted Tao Qian to resolve:

To hold onto that Bai Qin Play Fragment for the time being and not to practice it.

Although he need not worry about breaking a vow and transforming into a Demon, this fragmented book apparently involved no small conspiracy and implicated the Great Freedom Temple furthermore, once he practiced it and revealed any trace of it, what should be done if the mastermind paid attention to him?

Now that he had this Puppet Body and was taking advantage of it, having just infiltrated and gained the "Secret Demon Refining God Skill" and a great many benefits, he did not need to be anxious about practicing the fragment.

As he pondered, a new sentiment arose in Tao Qian's heart.

"This Ghost World makes for dangerous cultivation."

"The so-called Righteous Path doesn't seem very righteous, and the Evil Demons are even more horrific and bizarre than one could imagine."

Chapter 57: Wild Leek in the Mountains, Gestation Purifies the Blood

Tao Qian sighed, while the other devilish Evil Cultivators and Alien Species were all feeling discontent.

The devil monk who rode in on an "elephant demon" was extremely flashy and instantly stole the spotlight from everyone.

However, in the Cultivation World, it has always been that the strong are revered.

The devil monk, with a beautiful shell of a body, looked down from above with a smile that wasn't quite a smile. The arrogance on his body was fully displayed.

Yet his cultivation couldn't be faked, as he was directly led by the greeting Pig Demon to the seat of honor, next to that mysterious Demon with black hair covering his face, holding a "rotten fish" in his arms.

Just as all the Demons and Evil Cultivators were casting their gaze upon the monk,

suddenly, accompanied by a clang of "ding ding dong dong," many abnormal auras mixed together and were conveyed over.

Everyone, including Tao Qian, turned to look at the second guest being welcomed into the hall.

As soon as their gaze met the person, they were unable to look away.

It was also a youth!

Compared to the devil monk with rosy lips and white teeth, this new arrival was much uglier.

He was fairly pale, but his body was a bit short, with messy emerald green hair, small eyes that shrunk into slits when he smiled, and a sausage mouth that made him look simple and naive, yet comically ridiculous.

What truly captivated everyone's attention was the "treasure aura" emitting from the youth.

The emerald green Daoist robe on his body, the accessories on his ears, the bracelets on his hands, the chains on his feet, the jade pendant hanging from his waist, the golden ring floating behind his head... each one emitted a strong aura of alien nature, and any Demon or Evil Cultivator with a slight discernment could recognize them.

These weren't simply alien objects; each one could be considered a Magical Treasure.

At the very least, they were all "Magic Artifacts," not merely items with Abnormal Traits.

For a moment, all the Demon Evil Cultivators looked at each other, uncertain of what to do.

If this green-haired youth had encountered demons in the outside world in this manner, a mass attack to kill and rob would probably have erupted by now.

The actions of this green-haired youth were akin to a child, with golden ingots in his grasp, passing through a bustling market.

Even in this temple where private fights were forbidden, there were some Demons and Evil Cultivators who could hardly contain their nature and were itching to move.

Murder!

Robbery!

These thoughts lingered in the minds of the Demon Magicians with green light in their eyes.

Until the next moment, the greeting Pig Demon led the youth to the seat of honor above Tao Qian.

The other Demons in the hall showed both an inevitable and disappointed look, knowing that even if this "green-haired youth" was a prey, he likely belonged to those Qi Refining Realm Demons and Evil Cultivators.

They, the insignificant ones, couldn't touch him.

As soon as the green-haired youth took his seat, whether it was Tao Qian, the devil monk, or the Old Ghost, everyone in attendance couldn't help sniffing, and they all smelled a strong scent that was like the smell of fresh grass but also somewhat stinky.

While everyone was guessing about the youth's origin based on this scent, unexpectedly, he volunteered the information himself.

The youth, with a worldly air, cupped his hands towards the others and cheerfully said, "Fellow Daoists, my name is Shan Jiu. I was originally a Wild Leek on Wild Man Mountain. One night, countless glimmers of light traversed the sky, and all things on the mountain grew wildly, with birds, beasts, plants, and trees merging, yin and yang changing, and life ceaselessly evolving. I too was thus enlightened and entered the Dao."

After exposing his background, the youth with the small eyes eagerly awaited the others' self-introductions.

However, apart from Tao Qian, the greenhorn, who wasn't cunning? Why would they reveal their origins for no reason?

Thus, in the expectant eyes of the green-haired youth, all he saw were faces with forced smiles and a series of "hehe" laughter.

However, after the perfunctory responses, this group of Demons and Evil Cultivators began eagerly making conversation again.

They all knew this "Wild Leek Demon" had no cunning or craftiness about him, not even bothering to hide his nature as he directly inquired about the origins of his various Magic Artifacts.

The youth didn't know whether he was genuinely naive or pretending to be.

Seeing everyone's curiosity, he happily pointed to each Magical Treasure on his body and introduced them one by one.

Tao Qian listened for a while and summarized a pattern: This guy seemed to have good luck, with all his Magical Treasures falling into his hands through various coincidences.

After showing off in this manner, the green-haired youth suddenly looked troubled and puzzled, and said to the Demon Cultivators, "Fellow Daoists, Shan Jiu is just a Wild Demon; many common knowledge secrets of the Cultivation World are not known to me. I came here after hearing that the Iron Buddha Temple was summoning a powerful being, hoping to broaden my horizons."

"If you do not disdain Shan Jiu, please enlighten me."

As soon as he finished speaking, more than a dozen Demons and Evil Cultivators behind the desk were about to speak.

However, the one who took the lead was a female cultivator with two horns on her head and almost no cloth on her body. Her voice was a bit hoarse, but it was itchy pleasant to the ear, and when looking at her almost perfect body, desire immediately surged.

With the jingling of bells and a captivating sound, the female cultivator suddenly appeared next to the green-haired youth, snuggled up to him and said,

"Little brother Shan Jiu, sister won't disdain you."

"In fact, the common knowledge in the Cultivation World is just a few points, such as the Nine Cultivation Realms, starting with Energy Introduction, then Qi Refinement, Foundation Establishment, Transcending Mortality, Cavernous Mystery, Ultimate Happiness..."

"As for Magical Treasures, that's even simpler."

"The lowest level are those 'Mutated' items due to various causes, with varying powers and the largest quantity, referred to as Abnormal Devices."

"Then there are Magic Artifacts, refined to possess different powers and functions."

"Above Magic Artifacts are Mystical Artifacts, which can change at will and have attained profound true meanings. Each Mystical Artifact has extremely strong power, and for us Cultivators, having one would be enough to rely on as a Protecting Dao instrument, truly invaluable."

"As for treasures above Mystical Artifacts, they are not something we can covet or comment on."

The female cultivator led the topic to Magical Treasures, obviously with a purpose.

While speaking, she deftly extended two fingers and took down the golden ring floating behind the green-haired youth's head.

Then, in a soft, pleading tone, she said,

"Little brother Shan Jiu, sister was born with a frail body, and my cultivation is also very average, I really need a Magic Artifact to protect myself."

"I see this ring of yours is all shiny and pretty, how about gifting it to sister?"

"You won't be treated unfairly, the Cultivation Technique sister practices is top-notch in the Yin Yang Dao, you don't even need to make any effort, sister has ways to let you enjoy Ultimate Happiness."

As they spoke, the female cultivator's soft, fragrant body was almost rolling into the arms of the boy, occasionally breathing hot breaths into his ears.

Seeing this, Tao Qian did not doubt that if the boy was willing, the two could instantly put on an unseemly display right there and then.

Yet who could have imagined that in the next moment, the boy with the green hair suddenly showed a puzzled look, and with eyes as innocent as a child's, asked,

"Big sister, what is the Yin Yang Dao?"

"Shan Jiu is a Wild Leek entering the Dao, without gender, you know, and I am still a child, not very understanding."

"As for this golden ring, if sister wants it, just take it, I picked it up from a barren valley, it was so scary inside, the ground strewn with skins of devil beasts and spirit monsters, I don't know which picky creature did it, only eating the meat but not the skin, in our Wild Man Mountain, that would be called wasteful by everyone."

"However, this ring is very wild, I also don't know if sister can subdue it..."

As he spoke, the boy reached out and wiped the golden circular ring.

In an instant, the gold faded, and an extremely dazzling blood light surged forth.

Following that was the female cultivator's scream; as her pale, tender hand came into contact with the ring, in a flash, her arm was drained dry, leaving only shriveled skin and brittle bones that would fall apart upon touch.

With a snap, the boy who was still buzzing with excitement retrieved the ring, patted it, and said with a troubled face,

"As expected, this ring is too wild, even big sister can't handle it. "What's called a 'Blood-sucking Ring,' I think it should be called 'naughty ring,' deserves a spanking."

Having said that, the boy seemed dissatisfied, and patted the bloody ring a few more times.

This scene looked like a child causing a ruckus.

But at the scene, everyone had gone silent without anyone noticing.

Originally, the looks those Evil Cultivators gave the boy with green hair were covetous and mocking.

Yet now, no one dared to look at him that way.

Including the devil monk who had arrived riding on an "elephant demon," at this moment, even his gaze towards the comically green-haired boy carried a sense of gravity.

What kind of Wild Leek in the mountains?

This... was surely a cunning, youthful demon pretending to be a pig to eat a tiger, wasn't it?

Even the sole victim, the female cultivator who tried to steal the golden ring, did not immediately retaliate for revenge.

She almost flashed to distance herself from the boy, and with her movement, the sound of bells resounded throughout the hall.

"Good, very good."

"I, Mei Xian'er, did not expect to be blinded today by the chick I tried to prey on."

"Your skills are formidable; I concede defeat."

As she spoke, this female cultivator named Mei Xian'er had already returned to her seat and took out an elixir from her bosom to swallow.

As the blood light surged, accompanied by a soft grunting, the female cultivator's severed hand regrew.

Everyone in the hall, including the Demon Cultivators, thought this back and forth scuffle had ended.

The female cultivator was at a disadvantage; the green-haired boy should be showing his true colors with pride.

But that didn't happen.

Stared down with fear and gravity by the crowd, and reproached by the female cultivator who had just been affectionately calling him "big sister," the green-haired boy looked full of grievance, holding the blood-colored, spooky ring, mouth agape, on the verge of tears, as if he wanted to explain something, but didn't know what to say.

All he could do was bow his head in frustration, muttering, "Here it comes again, Shan Jiu is really a good kid, I didn't mean to do it..."

Tao Qian, Old Ghost, and the others nearby, upon hearing the green-haired boy's mutters, all were speechless.

Just as the atmosphere in the hall had grown somewhat silent due to this small incident.

Suddenly, Tao Qian's expression changed slightly.

He felt an intense "thrill" that then turned from virtual to real.

From within the main hall, there emanated an extremely terrifying voice, covering the entire Iron Buddha Mountain and even a vast surrounding area, both sacred and alluring,

"The guests have all arrived; let the banquet begin."

"Boom, boom, boom!"

Following the voice, the roofs of all the halls filled with demons, cultivators, and Alien Species were torn apart by a mighty power.

After a whole night of turmoil, the hours passed by, and it was now dawn, with daylight about to break.

Although the demons did not all fear the sunlight, and most were not afraid, they all preferred the night over the day.

At this very moment, before the Evil Cultivators could voice their displeasure,

Suddenly, from within the main hall, over a hundred streams of black and red demon energy and Demon Light shot straight into the sky, directly hitting the heavens and obscuring the morning sunlight that was just about to shine down.

The darkness, which all the Evil Cultivators found comfortable, once again enveloped the Iron Buddha Temple and the surrounding area for miles.

Even the living beings and plants in this area began to wither and fade.

A whiff of gas that could mutate and drive people mad began to spread.

From the top of the Iron Buddha Mountain, the powerful voice of the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva came again:

"This is the Hundred Demon Embryo Blood Refining Array!"

"With this array in place, external forces will struggle to enter, and evils will not leak out; it is perfect for us to confront Forbidden Immortal Hall and various sects in the coming days."

"Guests, do not panic, I have summoned you here for a major matter, and I have a tremendous opportunity for all of you."

"From today on, the rule that we cannot invade the Mortal World on a large scale... will be completely abolished!"

"Boom!"

Tao Qian had foreknowledge of this secret, and the other rootless demons, Loose Cultivators, and Alien Species were hearing this astonishing news for the first time.

So in an instant, the entire Iron Buddha Mountain boiled with excitement.

Chapter 58: Mad Demon Sword Skill, Exotic Fire Elixir Scroll

Iron Buddha Temple, in a side hall.

Tao Qian's ears were nearly deafened as he truly witnessed what a dance of demons looked like.

In this roofless side hall, including over a dozen Qi Refining Realm Evil Cultivators and demons behind the desks, all exhibited excited expressions.

Those of higher cultivation managed to maintain some composure, while the lesser demons fully revealed their true natures.

Tearing their already minimal clothing, they ran around naked, heedlessly starting to roar and dance, clutching wine jars to guzzle, or simply relieving themselves on the spot, or even gathering in groups of threes or sevens to engage in primitive exchanges of bodily fluids to vent their excitement.

It was truly disgusting and bizarre, a vision most fitting for a Demon Cave.

Some old demons and evil cultivators, with saliva flying wildly, excitedly shared with each other:

"Finally, are those terrible rules finally gone?"

"The Bodhisattva masters, to gain our trust, first gathered to slaughter at Iron Buddha Temple and then held this banquet. It's been so long—if that terrifying Forbidden Technique were still in effect, we wouldn't be alive, and probably this entire Iron Buddha Temple would have been erased by that nameless great power."

"Hahaha... this is wonderful, truly wonderful. After entering the Dao, I even took my family of little ones to cultivate together. They've tasted human flesh once and never forgot, but I dared not take them down the mountain. But now the rules have changed, we can feast every day."

"The mortal human world is the most fun. We can completely descend the mountain and occupy a city to proclaim ourselves kings and ancestors."

"Think back to the ancient barbaric times. We demons and alien species were the true sovereigns of this world, not those mere two-legged sheep."

...

Tao Qian coldly observed the chaotic and mad scene before him.

For these demons, it wasn't surprising, as everyone knew this pretty boy was the favored main disciple of the Nongyu Immortal, probably forewarned, and thus unfazed by the chaos.

More than one piece of good news had arrived, hence the ruckus among the demons and evil cultivators in the hall wasn't brief.

To sum it up, that terrifying Forbidden Technique had vanished, and the terrifying Longevity Barrier along with it.

Whether demons, monster species, or cultivators, all could now enter the mortal human world on a large scale. No matter what they did, they wouldn't be erased.

Next was the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva initiating the Hundred Demon Embryo Blood Refining Array, enveloping Iron Buddha Mountain and its surroundings within it.

At the same time, a summoning decree was issued.

It ordered the mountain's demons to widely disseminate news, informing more demons, evil cultivators, and alien species to come here.

Iron Buddha Temple would provide all kinds of Blood Food and would hold... a Beautiful Corpse ritual gathering.

Every day there would be a "Transcend Mortality Realm" Great Demon or Great Demon delivering sermons, and there were even life-and-death arenas among other games, allowing the multitude of

demons to freely slaughter each other—the Bodhisattva masters might even bestow benefits to the winners.

This series of messages was equivalent to telling those demons and evil cultivators within Southern Yue.

There would be a grand gathering of evil demons here, not to be missed.

No wonder the demons in the hall were so ecstatically frenzied.

However, Tao Qian, after hearing these news, couldn't help but ponder:

"The Beautiful Corpse, along with a host of Great Demons and Tang Xianzong, clearly had the power to directly take over Seeking Immortal County and even slaughter the surrounding counties cleanly."

"Why? Why only occupy Iron Buddha Mountain and hold this Beautiful Corpse ritual gathering, as if attempting a tug-o-war with the Forbidden Immortal Hall and the Ten Thousand Infant Sect?"

Tao Qian thought only briefly before reigning in his thoughts.

Who was he?

A nameless nobody.

Let alone having the power to intervene, based purely on peripheral news, it was impossible to guess the conspiracies behind it.

"First and foremost is to enhance my strength!"

The thought emerged in Tao Qian's mind, and he immediately took action.

In his mind, he recalled what Pan Hongniang once mentioned about those Cultivation Secret Manuals like the "Secret Demon Refining God Technical" that were greatly renowned yet fatally flawed. Such books were plentiful in the Cultivation World and went unvalued by cultivators and evil demons.

And Tao Qian, needed exactly such books.

Given the information gap, it was suitable for securing benefits, especially against a group of unfilial cultivators and demons, Tao Qian wouldn't be polite.

With a "thud, thud," Tao Qian rapped his hand on the desk.

Drawing the attention of those present, he smiled and then said:

"Before the ritual gathering starts and today's preacher has not yet arrived, why don't we exchange what we have?"

"I happen to have gathered some useless alien objects, which could be traded with you all."

"I favor the Cultivation Secret Manuals the most. The bigger the background, the better. Whether they include key annotations to reduce the cost isn't a problem. I like to collect such books."

Saying this, Tao Qian suddenly took out a Peach Blossom sachet and slapped his palm.

A pink glow emerged, and a large quantity of items emitting an unusual aura flashed and disappeared.

Although in terms of quality, it couldn't compare to the green-haired youth like Duobao Child.

Yet in quantity, Tao Qian actually won.

Not only did the dozen or so Qi Refining Realm cultivators and demons reveal their desire to possess after seeing this, but demons from other areas similarly drooled.

Tao Qian started, and what followed was logical.

The Old Ghost by his side responded first, though his voice sounded somewhat sarcastic:

"Young brother is truly deserving of being the most favored disciple of the Nongyu Immortal. The entire fortune of that Jade-faced Lady Lan Qing'er has actually been bestowed to you."

"It so happens I have a scroll from the Sword Sect called 'Mad Demon Sword Skill'. Although it's a fragmented book, its background is indeed boundlessly vast. I'd like to exchange it for three pieces of Blood Essence Jade from you, young brother."

As these words sounded, the Old Ghost also tossed over a thin book.

Still in mid-air, the book emitted a sharp Sword Intent and a mad, strange aura.

Tao Qian reached out to catch it, and after a moment, his expression shifted slightly. He nodded slightly and then a look of disappointment appeared in his eyes.

However, as if seeking a good beginning, Tao Qian still put away the fragmented Sword Technique scroll and instead handed three palm-sized, blood-red jades to the Old Ghost.

Could this trade even be possible?

There were many knowledgeable people in the hall, and upon seeing this, they all showed a look of surprise.

During the banquet, an Evil Cultivator who seemed to be at odds with the Old Ghost, or perhaps just wanted to give Tao Qian, the high disciple of the Immortal Lady, a sarcastic slap in the face, said in a reminding tone,

"Little brother, don't be deceived. The 'Mad Demon Sword Skill' in Old Black Maggot's possession is terribly fragmented. Not only does it lack a method to mitigate its consequences, but it also fails to impart the comprehension of Sword Intent and sword moves. Everyone who has practiced it has gone mad and self-harmed to death within days. It's not worth three Blood Essence Jades that could nourish the soul."

Upon these words, the Old Ghost sitting below Tao Qian immediately grew angry.

Until Tao Qian laughed heartily, presenting an image of a complete fool, and waved his hand, "Thank you for your concern, my friend, but don't worry, I've said before, I like to collect such manuals. As for their value, I can judge it myself."

With this statement, the area around Tao Qian's table suddenly became lively.

Evidently including the speaking Evil Cultivator, one by one, they came forward, taking out Cultivation Manuals that they deemed met Tao Qian's criteria and then shamelessly inflated their prices, attempting to swindle the so-called fool.

Unfortunately, Tao Qian was not a fool.

His comment about judging the value himself was genuine; the books these people brought out indeed had significant backgrounds, either from major Daoist sects, Buddhism, or powerful heterodox forces.

However, almost all were extremely fragmented.

The fragmentation was to the extent that Tao Qian couldn't help but lament; his Alien Soul could exempt him from cultivation consequences.

But the precondition was that the technique must be cultivable; without the ability to cultivate, there could be no exemption.

Thus, apart from accepting one fragmented "Incomplete Annotated Manual of Secret Realm of Blessed Land," Tao Qian turned down all the rest.

Although the incense bag full of Aliens was gained by sponging off others.

Once it was in his possession, it was his property, especially since the previous owner was a Foundation Establishment Stage Evil Cultivator, and it was all valuable material not to be squandered.

Seeing this "pretty boy" wasn't really a "fool," all the Evil Cultivators and Demons were quite disappointed.

They turned back and then following the heated atmosphere just now, began initiating their own trade meetings.

It was quite rare in the past for so many Demons and Evil Cultivators to gather, now with the opportunity, everyone wanted to exchange necessities for their Cultivation.

For a time, this originally chaotic side hall gradually resembled a gathering in the Mortal World.

As the "instigator," Tao Qian, however, was quite disappointed.

He thought to himself, "There's little gain in this side hall. Should I try initiating a trade meeting in another side hall too?"

Just then, Tao Qian suddenly saw a flash of green light in front of him.

Looking up, he saw a comical young man called "Shan Jiu," with green hair, wearing a green Daoist robe, and smiling radiantly at him.

Tao Qian certainly wasn't going to underestimate him, especially after witnessing the earlier episode.

Just as he was about to speak, the young man reached into his robe, rummaged around, and actually pulled out a book.

Specifically, it was five thinly sliced, blood-red stone plates, bound together by some metal wire—a Stone Scroll.

As soon as it was taken out, the surrounding air ignited nearly explosively, exhaling a breathtaking aura.

Not until the young man's palm pressed down, did the fiery aura diminish.

"This fellow Daoist, this book has no name, I call it 'Fire Plate.' I picked it up near a volcano, and it is filled with ghost talismans that I can't understand at all."

"But, you know, in the wild, it's really, really comfortable to use for starting a fire or cuddling while sleeping."

"Take a look, if you need it, I'll exchange it with you."

During this conversation, the green-haired young man also showed a reluctant expression, as if what he held was an extremely rare Cultivation Secret Manual.

Unbeknownst to him, Tao Qian in front of him had already entered a tense state.

He couldn't help but feel this way, although Tao Qian hadn't planned on fleecing anything good from this bizarre Duobao Child.

But he couldn't help but feel nervous due to the young man's actions and words.

"Fire Plate... Picked up near a volcano... Using for fire, cuddling to sleep... Are these even human words?"

"And if I'm not mistaken, that 'Blood-sucking Ring' you used to scam that female cultivator earlier, you also said was picked up outside."

"If you're going to scam someone, at least change the script."

Tao Qian complained inwardly.

He was considering to refuse but then thought it over, following the strong throbbing intuition in his mind.

Slowly reaching out, he took the Stone Scroll at the instant of touch.

The moment he touched it, an Extraordinary Perception burst forth in Tao Qian's mind, and the familiar template of information was clearly organized.

Immediately, a secret joy appeared in Tao Qian's eyes.

[Record Name: Exotic Fire Elixir Scroll Fragment.]

[Record Type: Alien.]

[Record Description: This is an Ancient Object. During the tumultuous inner conflicts of the Human Clan in the Ancient era, one marginal tribe was expelled to a region full of volcanoes under harsh conditions. In order to preserve their lineage, the tribe attempted to harness Extraordinary Power from the volcanic crust. After decades of attempts, pooling the entire tribe's effort, they actually predicted a set of related Cultivation Technique called 'Exotic Fire Elixir Scroll.' This technique could summon Exotic Fire from beyond the heavens, refining many wayward, terrifying, and bizarre entities into Elixirs, ingestion of which could bestow Extraordinary Power.]

...

The first Record Description emerged, and Tao Qian couldn't conceal his joy.

Undoubtedly!

This Stone Scroll was rare and precious.

It was for this reason Tao Qian couldn't help but mutter:

"No, something's off, be vigilant. Remember the tragic fate of the female cultivator with the bell attached to her chest."

"There are no pies falling from the sky. Could this Wild Leek Spirit really be offering me a slice?"

Chapter 59: Breakthrough Life Extension, Saintess Nest

Within the roofless side hall, a chaotic dance of demons filled the air, thick with the stench of decay.

Tao Qian exchanged a wide-eyed stare with a Wild Leek Demon, whose slender eyes brimmed with anticipation.

Clearly, this green-haired youth hoped to strike a deal with Tao Qian.

For this "leek" who sought eagerly to offer itself, Tao Qian felt dubious in his heart.

In his mind's eye, he continued to peruse the subsequent record information.

The Record triggered by the "Exotic Fire Elixir Scroll" was undoubtedly tempting to Tao Qian, but more crucial were the annotations.

[Annotation 1: To cultivate this scroll, one must first send their Divine Soul out of body to the Outer Realm to gain recognition from the "Outer Heaven Flame Essence" within. Only then can one beckon the Exotic Fire. However, not all Cultivators are compatible with the Flame Essence. If not recognized, the Divine Soul will be incinerated instantly, resulting in death on the spot. Since the creation of this scroll, few have mastered it, with most Cultivators perishing in the Outer Realm.]

[Annotation 2: The power of this scroll lies entirely in the "Flame Essence Strange Fire." However, each summoning might not call forth the same Flame Essence, resulting in Elixirs of varying quality and, at times, effects. Many Cultivators have died from consuming the wrong Elixirs; this was one of the causes for the destruction of that clan.]

[Annotation 3: This scroll originally contained over a thousand Elixir recipes, but they all share one common trait: each contains a poison. Some poisons are temporary, while others are permanent.]

[Annotation 4: Only five pages of this scroll remain. The first page outlines the method to summon the Exotic Fire, the next three pages serve as a table of contents, and the last page lists ten Elixir recipes.]

[Annotation 5: The price of death can be exempted!]

...

As Tao Qian pondered the information revealed to his mind, he fell into a silence.

With a complicated gaze, he looked at the green-haired youth, Shan Jiu, and thought: "Indeed, there are no pies falling from the sky, nor do leeks truly present themselves willingly."

Were it not for the annotations, anyone would consider this ancient scroll's recipes to be top-notch Cultivation Techniques.

However, with the annotations, the value of the ancient scroll plummeted.

The costs were many and severe.

Even if Tao Qian acquired it, he would only be exempt from the "sudden death price."

In other words, he would still face other consequences like subduing the Flame Essence, summoning the Exotic Fire, and the poison, among others.

Nevertheless, not all was lost.

When Tao Qian casually flipped through to the fifth page and saw two of the recipes, he couldn't help but become immediately intrigued.

What Shan Jiu referred to as "ghost talismans" were actually an ancient variant script.

Tao Qian, guessing and deducing, could recognize them.

The two recipes that caught his interest were named "Breakthrough Elixir" and "Life Extension Elixir."

The effects of the Elixirs were as straightforward as their names suggested.

One was for Breakthrough, increasing the chances of a Cultivator moving on to the next realm, effective up until the Foundation Establishment Realm.

The other was for Life Extension, increasing a Cultivator's lifespan. Depending on the quality, the number of years could vary, but its utility also ended at the Foundation Establishment Realm.

"Whether it's for Breakthrough or Life Extension, both Elixirs are exceedingly rare and precious."

"At certain moments, they can save a life."

"So this Elixir Scroll need not be cultivated immediately, but it can be taken into possession first, as long as this Wild Leek Demon brother doesn't trick me."

With his mind settled, Tao Qian then seriously addressed the green-haired youth, asking, "Mr. Shan, what do you want to exchange for this scroll?"

Shan Jiu, who had been anxious until now, suddenly brightened up.

The words at the tip of his tongue now came forth, "I wish for Daoist to spend a few days with me!"

As this sentence rang out, everyone around, whether it was Tao Qian or the other surrounding Cultivators and demons,

All were stunned, with faces full of surprise.

Just as Tao Qian was about to refuse coldly, the green-haired youth continued with a pained expression on his face:

"Daoist might not know this, but Shan Jiu comes from Wild Man Mountain, where the mountain breezes are pure and the people live in harmony and friendship. Since I descended from the mountain, I have continued to uphold the ways of Wild Man Mountain and make friends, whether with humans or Alien Species. Shan Jiu doesn't discriminate, treating all equally."

"Yet, for some reason, I always end up making a mess like I did with that good sister earlier. It's been so long since I descended from the mountain, and not a single friend have I made, which is very embarrassing."

"If Daoist is willing to spend a few days with Shan Jiu to explain some common knowledge of the Human World, regardless of whether we become friends in the end, this 'Fire Plate' is yours."

The sincerity in the green-haired youth's words was apparent on his face.

Based on intuition alone, most people would believe him.

Tao Qian indeed did not sense any malice, but the encounter with the female cultivator still lingered in his mind.

After some thought, Tao Qian suddenly extended a hand, informing the green-haired youth that it was a new handshake greeting popular in the Mortal World.

The latter's wide mouth broke into a grin, amiable and radiant as he reached forward to grasp Tao Qian's hand.

In an instant, Tao Qian's mind was flooded with new perceptions.

[Record Name: Shan Jiu.]

[Record Type: Abnormality.]

[Record: Initially a Wild Leek in Wild Man Mountain who entered the Dao for an unknown reason, becoming some sort of Abnormality, genderless by nature, with a simple and straightforward personality. Possessing an extremely powerful life force, to some extent nearing the "Undying." There is a special fortune about this being, always mysteriously stumbling upon treasures...]

...

With limited information, Tao Qian grew even more puzzled after seeing it.

The things this individual had said earlier, which everyone thought were to mock the female cultivator, were, in fact, all true.

He truly was a Wild Leek who had entered the Dao, without a gender, his treasures all found rather than obtained.

After a quick feel, Tao Qian confirmed some things, but there were still many questions.

However, it gave Tao Qian some assurance, and after a few moments of reflection, he quickly formed a plan.

Withdrawing his hand, he then smiled at the green-haired youth:

"Daoist Shan Jiu's request is known to me, and I can agree, even make it better," Tao Qian said.

"After the banquet is over, Daoist can come back with me. Although I am too busy to accompany Daoist myself, I have six disciples, all of whom are paragons of virtue and knowledge, past and present. I trust they can certainly become friends with Daoist Shan."

"How does this arrangement sound?"

"Good, too good," Tao Qian had barely finished speaking when the young man with green hair excitedly responded.

Looking at the expression on his face, he was obviously very happy and pleased.

It was understandable, after all. Originally, he had only thought of making one friend, but now it had turned into six, feeling as if he had made a fortune.

The young man was laughing. Tao Qian put the Elixir Scroll in his bosom and also revealed a brilliant smile.

Just at the moment when the atmosphere was harmonious and beautiful, the familiar bell on Iron Buddha Temple Mountain suddenly echoed again.

Following that, a voice rose that excited all the Evil Cultivators and Alien Species.

"The banquet is temporarily over; the Beautiful Corpse Dharma Assembly officially begins."

"The teachings on the first day will be given by a senior expert, the Naked Saintess. The Saintess is not skilled with words, so I will pass this information to everyone on her behalf. What she will talk about are 'Parasite' and 'Qi Eating' techniques—it will not involve True Scripture Skills, only essential techniques for the gates. It is our hope that all guests will combine their own Cultivation with the teachings to gain some insight, some enlightenment."

As the announcement finished, all the Evil Cultivators witnessed what seemed to be the most beautiful silhouette in the world.

It was a female cultivator!

Her entire body was naked, her skin white as snow, glistening like jade, truly deserving of the title "Saintess."

However, when Tao Qian saw that beautiful body, he immediately did not feel well. His pupils contracted, and an intense desire to flee back to his dwelling arose.

Just as Tao Qian was about to do so, the incredibly holy female cultivator...

She exploded.

Literally exploded—her snow-white naked body burst apart, accompanied by blinding red light, and countless elongated, magnified versions of pork tapeworms poured down like a red and white waterfall.

They were extremely vivid, with sticky blisters on their flat bodies, but their heads were spherical with four suction-cup-like mouths, emitting a creepy "hiss" that made one feel physically ill and one's Divine Soul disordered.

Their speed was too fast, covering nearly half of Iron Buddha Mountain in an instant.

All the nooks and crannies, all the side halls.

Without exception, were filled with these red and white meat worms.

They roamed at will, secreting fluids, making a hissing noise, turning Iron Buddha Mountain into some kind of creepy insect nest.

Their spherical heads squirmed and gnawed at the brows of the Evil Cultivators.

Those who were gnawed on immediately rolled their eyes back, and their bodies shook wildly.

Afterwards, they all entered a special state with smiles on their faces, as if they had really grasped the Dao, or were comprehending some Sublime Dharma Techniques.

The side hall where Tao Qian was, experienced the same scene.

Weird!

Disgusting!

Clearly, this was the unique teaching method of the not-so-eloquent "Naked Saintess."

Nevertheless, Tao Qian was slightly comforted to know that these red and white meat worms seemed to have a keen perception, and they would not gnaw on you if you were unwilling.

Aside from him, there were still seven or eight Cultivators and Demons who refused.

Like Old Ghost, like the Devil Monk who came riding the Elephant Demon, or Shan Jiu.

The handsome Devil Monk looked around and said indifferently, "Poor Monk has cultivated the true law and should not comprehend the Parasitic Arts of the lady Saintess. I shall go and rest first."

Having said this, he spurred the Elephant Demon to carry him away, the first to leave the assembly.

Seeing this, Tao Qian gave Shan Jiu a meaningful look and then said with a respectful tone, "I already have a beloved Master and should not cultivate other techniques. I ask for the Saintess's understanding."

Then, he, too, stood up to leave. Following behind him was Shan Jiu, who seemed to have an unexpectedly high resistance to the terrifying scene before him.

Still with an honest smile on his face, he quickly followed Tao Qian's departure.

The two carefully circumvented the red and white meat worms, avoiding soiling their clothes with the fluid, enduring the hissing sound, and quickly returned to the courtyard assigned to them in Peach Blossom Immortal Valley.

Someone was already there. It was Tao Qian's handsome and strong disciples.

But there were not six, only three, all with faces full of terror, trembling together.

Apparently, they were quite frightened.

Seeing Tao Qian appear, the three hurried over as if they had seen a savior, murmuring in low voices:

"Eldest disciple brother, it was... it was terrifying."

"The third, fifth, and seventh disciples couldn't get out. They were gnawed on the head by those horrifying worms."

"What should we do? Eldest brother, shall we ask for Master's help?"

As the three kept talking, Tao Qian somewhat impatiently gestured for them to stop.

He then pointed at the large quantity of red and white meat worms wriggling and twisting above Iron Buddha Mountain and said directly:

"Don't spout nonsense. This is the unique way of teaching by the senior Naked Saintess. If you three are also willing to receive it, you may surely comprehend some Parasite and Qi Eating techniques."

"Now it's too late for you; you've all missed the chance."

"But there is another opportunity. This Daoist Shan Jiu is a new friend I have made, and he possesses an abundance of Magical Treasures and Techniques."

"I've just been struck by inspiration and am going to go into seclusion to Cultivate. The responsibility of hosting falls upon you three."

"Don't neglect Daoist Shan Jiu, otherwise, don't blame me for being heartless."

After saying this, Tao Qian didn't pay any more attention to the green-haired Shan Jiu or the three unlucky disciples.

Flipping his robe sleeve, he headed straight for the quiet room to retreat.

Chapter 60: Spiritual Treasure Destiny Defining Fetus, Innate Dao Seed

Tao Qian threw the somewhat abnormal Shan Jiu to his three junior brothers and then entered the cultivation quiet room alone.

Ditching responsibilities was true, and needing to cultivate was also true.

It was just that the entity needing cultivation was not his puppet body, but his original body.

Whether it was the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva casually setting up the greatly powerful "Hundred Demon Embryo Blood Refining Array," or the scene of the Naked Saintess releasing endless red worms engulfing Iron Buddha Mountain, all deeply stimulated Tao Qian.

Power!

That was what Tao Qian needed most now.

Though he had successfully entered the Dao and was currently in the Energy-Introducing Realm, at the Blood Fusion Stage.

In terms of the realm reached corresponding to his cultivation time, Tao Qian was confident that he was definitely considered fast in the Cultivation World.

But what of it?

Whether the cultivators he currently encountered or the demons, except for the likes of the "Four Beasts of She County" who were not considered strong,

any one of them could instantly kill the current Tao Qian.

Tonight, he was in the Demon Cave, and everything he saw, heard, and felt

made his Qi within surge and unexpectedly gave rise to some inspiration.

Although he was merely a novice cultivator, with the enlightenment, he immediately knew that this state was most suitable for cultivation.

That's why he took the opportunity to leave the banquet, return to this quiet room, hang the sign and activate the forbidden technique set up by Nongyu Immortal Pan Hongniang for her beloved disciple.

As the Filth Blood Pearl completely integrated into the puppet body, even if his Divine Soul returned, he would follow his will and cultivate on his own; others definitely couldn't notice anything wrong, but the efficiency would be very low, after all, the difference between being willing and unwilling was huge.

Tao Qian himself didn't mind; he had intended to randomly manipulate this puppet body anyway.

...

In Chengyou Bookstore, Seeking Immortal County.

His Divine Soul returned, and in a dark compartment, the body of Tao Qian sitting in meditation immediately opened his eyes.

Although only most of a night had passed, the bizarre and chaotic scenes he had witnessed were too many; returning from the Demon Cave to the Mortal World made Tao Qian vaguely feel as if he had been transported to another era.

Feeling the gradually boiling Qi within, Tao Qian was not impatient.

Although he wanted to cultivate right there, he also knew that after last night's "incident," Seeking Immortal County was temporarily unsuitable as a place for cultivation.

Thus, Tao Qian stood up and left the bookstore.

It was the early morning, and if it were a normal day in Seeking Immortal County, it would present a thriving and beautiful sight.

However, now, in Tao Qian's view, everywhere there were broken walls and ruins; even though it had been a night of crying, the sounds of wailing still intermittently came.

One could even see many horse-drawn carriages passing through the streets, the drivers with numb expressions, and under the covered straw mats appeared arms or smashed heads; the streets were stained with blood traces, filths, and even some suspicious and unidentifiable chunks of flesh.

The remnants of blood Qi, demonic Qi, and Devil Qi mixed together, rising in various places in the county.

Under the sunlight, it appeared even more bizarre and foul.

How tragic!

How sad!

This was the scene left after the demons and Evil Cultivators had rampaged through.

Although last night in this county, there were groups of young cultivators from the Cultivation Sects, and thousands from the Demon Suppression Army stationed outside the city.

Sadly, they could neither prevent the invasion of the demons and Evil Cultivators nor even protect themselves.

Tao Qian also took action last night. Perhaps choosing the right target, he managed to save eight young maidens, killed an Evil Cultivator of Peach Blossom, and obtained an outer puppet.

But that was all he could do.

Silently observing for a few moments, the impatient Qi within him not only did not weaken but grew even stronger, seemingly about to burst forth.

Tao Qian could no longer restrain himself, quietly left the city, and found a secluded path heading towards Tiger Worry Gully.

Thinking it over, this was still the suitable place for cultivation.

At that gully, after carefully sensing and confirming there were no Transcendent alien objects nearby, Tao Qian leaped down.

He still used a large rock to block the entrance, crossed the puddle, and sat down on the dry high platform.

At this moment, the "Spiritual Resonance" within Tao Qian seemed as if it was going to leap out of his body, and with blessings coming to his mind, he didn't engage in any useless rituals or hesitate about which Cultivation Technique to use.

In such a crucial time, it was naturally the Basic Method.

Thus, Tao Qian directly closed his eyes, concentrated his mind, and then immersed himself in chanting the Sublime Dharma "Spirit Treasure Nine Truths Diagram."

This method was in a thick volume, with every word and sentence having special implications, and if even one word was wrong, one would have to start over.

Even a genius could not complete a full chant in a short time.

But this time, Tao Qian truly gained inspiration; at the start of his chant, his mind and speech were somewhat slow, like he might mess up the words at any moment.

However, as the mysterious, Spirit Treasure Dao Rhythm-filled mnemonic was chanted by Tao Qian, the Spirit Treasure Source Qi within him seemed to find a mystical lure, like a great river, and began to surge along a mysterious path.

During the process, Tao Qian's body was continuously refined.

Various impurities and alien substances were cleared from his body.

Tao Qian felt more spirited and clear-headed, his mind's chanting gradually sped up, and towards the end, he even began to verbalize, emitting the Great Dao divine sounds, "Managing the celestial spine in the cavernous gate, the five Qi rotating the three subtleties. The purple portal exhales jade decrees, the golden gate absorbs divine radiance..."

As Tao Qian turned the virtual into reality, verbalizing the Dao sounds and nearing the completion of this full chant.

Suddenly, a loud "rumble" resounded by Tao Qian's ear.

In front of him, the light was dazzlingly bright.

Soft yet vivid Dao Rhymes spilled out from Tao Qian's body, above his head, it seemed as though a gate of the Great Dao had opened, and wondrous spiritual light poured down like a waterfall, which Tao Qian's surging Spirit Treasure Source Qi rose to meet fiercely.

When the two collided, Tao Qian felt the most wonderful and unimaginable sensation in the world.

He looked down slightly only to see himself seemingly transformed into a being of light.

It was as if every corner of his body, no matter how minute, was now filled with Spirit Treasure Source Qi.

Deep within Tao Qian's spirit, he suddenly realized, "I have succeeded, still in the Energy-Introducing Realm, but after the Blood Fusion Stage, today I shall enter the Fetus Stabilization."

No sooner had this thought occurred, Tao Qian sensed something and abruptly looked up.

Within the mystical waterfall of spiritual light, unbeknownst to him, a baby-fist-sized "Light Seed" had appeared, currently being supported by Tao Qian's own Spirit Treasure Source Qi and was slowly being absorbed into his body.

Tao Qian could not describe his feelings upon seeing the Light Seed. He only knew that it was extremely important to him, far more important than any magical skill or divine power he possessed.

In his mind, like the deafening sound of a great bell, eight characters thunderously resonated:

Innate Dao Seed!

Mystical and profound!

What followed was exhilaration from the depths of his soul.

When Tao Qian had initially switched to cultivating from "Spirit Treasure Nine Truths Diagram," it was not only because this basic method had a clear path forward. More importantly, if a cultivator from the Daoist and Buddhist Sects could successfully practice their methods, the "Special Ability" they gained would far exceed those from heresy and heterodoxy and those disreputable paths of evil demons and heretics.

Those lower basic methods might allow entrance to the Energy-Introducing Realm, or the Qi Refining Realm, but the swallowing and refining of mixed Source Qi could grant abilities like night vision or body odor, which were of little consequence.

However, the basic methods of the Daoist and Buddhist Great Sect could grant formidable divine powers.

The first threshold to gaining divine power was the "Fetus Stabilization Stage" of the Energy-Introducing Realm.

As the saying goes, once life is settled, divine powers will emerge.

Yet, Tao Qian had not expected the divine power he would gain to be this Innate Dao Seed, which was a surprise beyond belief.

"The diagram states that a Spirit Treasure Cultivator can obtain hundreds of varying divine powers during the Fetus Stabilization Stage, and these are divided into three grades: top, middle, and low."

"Like 'sweet rain' and 'riding cloud,' these belong to the low grade."

"Whereas 'Entering the Micro' and 'Refining Treasure' belong to the middle grade."

"And lastly, top-grade divine powers like 'Spirit Treasure True Eye' and 'Immortal Flesh and Bone,' which even the genius true disciples of the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate rarely obtain."

"The Innate Dao Seed is even rare among the top-grade divine powers."

"This divine power has no force of attack, but it possesses infinite wonderful uses and can be paired with 'Spirit Treasure No-leak Body', allowing one's cultivation to progress far beyond other cultivators."

"With this Dao Seed, it is enough to prove that Tao Qian's talent far surpasses ordinary people. In the future, he will certainly become a True Immortal, no, mere adherence to Daoist paths would not satisfy

me. I should cultivate the Buddhist, Demon, and even the methods of heresy and heterodoxy as well, assimilating the essence of all paths, to forge what has never been before..."

These thoughts were reasonable at first, but when the last idea surged forth.

Tao Qian almost immediately changed expression, a sudden shock in his heart.

Then, gritting his teeth, he exclaimed word by word, "Outer Realm Heaven Demon."

No sooner had he spoken, an extremely bizarre scene unfolded in the cave, as a black lump suddenly swelled at Tao Qian's neck and then burst open with a bang, splattering fluid everywhere as a head with the same features as Tao Qian, but filled with malevolent evilness and a grimacing smile, emerged.

Its neck could stretch indefinitely, ignoring the surging Spirit Treasure Source Qi, it wrapped around Tao Qian, casting a greedy gaze at the "Innate Dao Seed."

It came face to face with Tao Qian, sneeringly said,

"Look at what I have found, an undefended, young Spirit Treasure Cultivator about to establish a Destiny Defining Fetus, yet ignorant of even this common knowledge."

"Such a foolish cultivator yet obtained an Innate Dao Seed, today, I reckon I am extremely lucky."

"Just by seizing your juicy, promising body, this demon might one day attain immortality and achieve the Dao, hahaha..."

This Outer Realm Heaven Demon, unknowable in origin or time of invasion into Tao Qian's body, was cackling wildly.

Suddenly, it sensed something amiss.

Normally encountering a "Body Seizing" attack, not just new cultivators, but even some Great Cultivators would experience some panic.

But the young fledgling in front of it showed no trace of fright in his eyes, only an icy coldness that terrified it.

Just as it was about to make its move and seize the body directly.

Out of nowhere, Tao Qian's voice emerged, "The notorious Outer Realm Heaven Demon seems not so clever."

This deeply insulting remark fell, followed by a mystical Dao sound that utterly froze its body and shattered its soul.

"Nine Heavens Truth, The Great Mystery!"

Like Situ Fei and other Evil Cultivators, suddenly facing an attack by Tao Qian's Nine True Spirit Sound, would instantly lose control over their souls.

And this pure Evil Demon would fare even worse.

After all, an Evil Cultivator still had a body to rely on; it was merely a soul and spirit.

Had it been one of the higher echelon Outer Realm Heaven Demons, it might have had means of resistance.

But it wasn't; it was just a lowly Heaven Demon that took advantage of weaknesses, possessing only the Body Seizing ability.

Thus, upon hearing the Dao sound, it felt an overwhelming Great Dao power ruthlessly destroy its soul and spirit, unable to struggle even for a moment before being annihilated.

All it could do, in its final moment before death, was to roar,

"Don't be smug, you deceitful human. The Innate Dao Seed is irresistibly tempting to us to the extent that it's unbearable. Even if you absorb it into your body, it will still exude its fragrDOWNLOAD SPACEBAR PRESSUREsrance for three days."

"During these three days, you will be besieged by a group of demons. Without a Master to protect you, your wild cultivator's fate has run its course, you are undoubtedly doomed, hahaha..."