

## Longevity 591

Chapter 591 Devil Concubine Escapes South to Qiantang Province, Various Monsters Revel in Guangping City

The Ancestor God Treasure actively sought help; this was also the first occurrence at Tao Qian's place.

Previously, whether it was Yu Ding or Valley God Gui, they appeared when the time was ripe.

But like the "Spring and Autumn Chariot," to send a call for help was rare indeed.

However, after Tao Qian's divine travel for three days, he had understood the reason behind: Alchemists were the culprits; their "Recreate Ancestor Dragon" plan had turned the world even more chaotic, Human Dao Fortune nearly boiling over, forcing all Ancestor God Treasures to descend, actively seeking help was to be expected, some treasures even actively chose their masters.

The content of the Record truly surprised Tao Qian.

"Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen?"

This name suddenly brought some memories to his mind.

"If I remember correctly, this woman should be a descendant of the former Imperial Family, possessing the Taiyin Heavenly Girl Body, having close ties with the Xie Family and Guanyin Temple, even could be claimed as the talent cultivated by the two families."

"She is actually the biological older sister of Senior Sister Lingji, that Lingzhu Daoist, who had also been arranged to stay by her side."

"This woman's Life Chart was originally that of an unparalleled Devil Concubine."

"But when she entered the Imperial City, just as the Zhu Dynasty was being uprooted by me, it turned out she unexpectedly acquired the Dragon Qi, forming the semblance of an Empress. Previously when I met with Daoist Lingzhu, there was also news of her, it was said that she had taken control of the areas surrounding the Imperial City, effectively having a lineage to continue, although this right of succession is precarious, hardly recognized by many."

"How could a sinking ship still maintain a fraction of its nails, how has it come to this?"

"What about the Xie family? The Guanyin Temple? Daoist Lingzhu?"

Tao Qian's thoughts raced, and soon there was another flicker of light and shadow in front of him.

It was the Divine Treasure that appeared simultaneously with the Record, casting a shadow from a far distance.

Inside, there was only one person and one object.

What first caught Tao Qian's eye was not the Spring and Autumn Chariot, which was clearly a Divine Treasure.

Rather, it was the figure of the woman on the Emperor's Chariot who, despite her disheveled appearance, still carried an extraordinary demeanor.

This woman, actually wearing a regal and majestic Empress robe, appeared much thinner than when he had last seen her, but this did not diminish her allure, instead making her more sharply commanding, enough that most people wouldn't dare even look her in the eye.

The mole below her eye mixed with the Devil Concubine's charm and the Empress' ferocity created an aura that could drive everyone in the world mad.

Men and women alike.

Anyone who saw her would involuntarily have an inexplicable feeling.

Conquer her!

Or, be conquered by her.

Noticing this, Tao Qian immediately asserted, "Although this woman's plotted great cause has temporarily failed, her Life Chart and Fortune have only increased, not decreased. Now she is like a Hidden Dragon in the abyss, if a suitable opportunity arises, she might just transform overnight and become a flying dragon in the sky."

After seeing the captivating image of the Devil Concubine, Tao Qian then looked at the war chariot that carried her.

Cast from bronze, its design was ancient. In front, it was pulled by nine pure-blooded Dragon Beasts, above were nine Qingluan Heavenly Phoenixes circling with shrill cries, and at the very back fluttered a supremely ornate, divine light-radiating golden flag. That flag was embroidered with numerous complex characters, each imbued with Extraordinary Power.

With Tao Qian's current experience, he too couldn't recognize what kind of text it was? What were its meanings? What kind of Extraordinary Power did it possess?

Fortunately, the Divine Treasure "Spring and Autumn Chariot" being sentient, knew it had to rely on Tao Qian, the Child of Fortune, to save its temporary master.

Not delaying, it disclosed some secrets.

"Yuan Mingzhen, backed by the Xie Family and Guanyin Temple, but due to her special Life Chart, the Lifebound Scripture she cultivated did not originate from these two powers."

"Her cultivated Great Book, called 'Holy Emperor Supreme Dao Scripture.'"

"Although this scripture is neither Daoist nor Demon nor Buddha, nor is it heresy and heterodoxy, its origin is by no means lesser than major Daoist Script, rumored to be transmitted by the Ancient Three Emperors, it is the most suitable Lifebound Scripture for an emperor to cultivate."

"Within the Great Book exists a method to refine 'Secret Divine Chapter,' allowing cultivators to sense Profound Mysteries, create various secret texts, each character possessing extraordinary Divine Ability... If characters can be assembled into text, texts combined into a book, books merged into scriptures, the attained height can rival the Ancient Three Emperors, at least those three having reached the Tribulation Immortal Rank."

"Quite the Devil Concubine, inheriting the legacy of the Zhu Dynasty and ascending the position of Empress within such a short period, she has already refined thirty-six Secret Divine Characters."

"No wonder she was successively betrayed by alchemists and Great Freedom Temple and pursued by an alliance of eighteen armies, yet still managed to preserve her life, escaping to Qiantang."

"Only it's a pity, although Qiantang Province isn't far from the Southern provinces, her special Fortune, combined with the Life Chart irresistible to all Hidden Dragon Talent, and the Ancestor God Treasure Spring and Autumn Chariot... Unless unforeseen, I fear she will not be able to escape back to the south."

...

Despite being in the Wutong Temple of Tiannan Province, based on the information transmitted by the Spring and Autumn Chariot, Tao Qian still made a clear judgment.

What he referred to was another recent incident that had shaken the world.

Under the incitement of alchemists, numerous Hidden Dragon Talent were devouring each other.

Yuan Mingzhen, who controlled the Imperial City, was once again attacked by the allied armies, and this time several major powers from the Cultivation World were involved.

The Imperial City was being divided, and Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen had no choice but to flee southward.

Tao Qian thought, "The Spring and Autumn Chariot, Yuan Mingzhen must not fall into the hands of alchemists, but how to save her?"

If it were just a matter of sleight of hand or thievery, it might be cheaper.

But given the current situation, rescuing a Devil Concubine under a siege of demons is next to impossible."

As he was deep in thought, suddenly outside Immortal Crane Mountain, there came yet another change.

This time, it was a transmitted message.

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Notably, there was more than one visitor.

One after another, three voices sounded, none particularly polite, making no effort to mask the greed and disdain within.

Tao Qian's gaze pierced through the Forbidden Technique, and he saw the first person to arrive was shockingly a bald old figure.

This person was clearly a water Devil, with wrinkled skin and a body covered in slime, clad in a set of black armor gleaming with a cold light, each hand wielding a large hammer.

Particularly disgusting was the fact that his scalp was riddled with dozens of holes, from which bright red snakes wriggled out like water weeds, swaying in the air, releasing an overpowering sweet, fishy scent that could make one retch.

At a glance, the Devil's origins were clear.

Turtle Demon of the Wujiang River, Deng Xuechao.

This Devil's muddy red eyes stared at Immortal Crane Mountain and shouted,

"Wutong Old Monster, your grandfather has arrived! Won't you quickly open your mountain and welcome me? I've heard you've sealed off the mountain for nearly half a month now, your pile of toad piss and shit has fermented, and the stench is so strong it could drift a hundred miles in the wind—even my Wuling River has caught the scent."

Right after he finished shouting, another young Devil Cultivator by his side spoke.

This one resembled a young man, still bearing traces of his Devil nature, half-human half-dog with hair tied up with a wooden hairpin, wearing a washed-out white Daoist robe that revealed a love for cleanliness and a heart eager for Daoist ascension.

He had a defiant look in his eyes and frowned as he looked at the Immortal Crane Mountain in front of him, inwardly cursing the Wutong Old Monster for wasting such precious resources, speaking in a rather bright voice,

"Wutong!"

"Are you still alive? If you're not dead, let's fight once more. If you lose, you will hand over this Spiritual Mountain and the Treasure Bead on your person to me, and I shall spare your life."

This statement naturally revealed his own identity.

The Mountain Master of Dog Immortal Mountain, three hundred miles away from Qiantang Province.



His name was "Li Fengxian."

He was not considered an especially malevolent Devil, just wildly unruly, with a heart yearning for the Dao, wanting to snatch the inheritance of Wutong Temple.

Immediately following him, the third person also made themselves heard.

This was a middle-aged man with dark skin, dressed in short worker's attire, as if he were a dockworker.

But a second glance would reveal that he was a formidable Evil Cultivator, which no dockworker's family would have—tattooed all over with ghostly patterns, with six bright red Ghost Eyes on his face, and underfoot, dozens of green-faced Devils with tusks and rotting bodies that crawled around like hounds.

Behind him, an aura of ghostliness and resentment swirled, faintly revealing a small Ghost Country.

The country seemed to be a forbidding, mysterious village, with rows of coffins placed inside. The soft, low whispers of the dead could be heard, chilling one's soul and causing livers and gallbladders to split with fear.

His identity: The village chief of Qu Family Village in Qilu Province, Qu Zhongyuan.

This person spoke quite normally on ordinary occasions, and among the three, he was the only one to refer to serious matters.

Taking a step forward, he hoarsely said,

"Wutong Master!"

"I believe you've also received the invitation from Lord Gao of Guangping City. Tonight is the joyous day of his concubine's introduction."

"If you are willing to go, perhaps you could travel with us."

"Do not miss the appointed hour and offend Lord Gao needlessly."

With this reminder from Qu Zhongyuan, Tao Qian finally recalled something.

Three days ago, a fellow named Gao Wanchou from a nearby great sect came to deliver a wedding invitation, and at the same time dropped off a Warrant for Master Tao.

Tao Qian, absorbed in his Cultivation, had lost himself for three days, and had thus put the matter out of his mind.

Now that these three fierce neighbors had come to extend their invitation, Tao Qian's expression shifted slightly, but then he remembered something else Gao Wanchou had said: the banquet was just a facade, and the true intent was to discuss important matters. If successful, great rewards were promised, and one's Dao Path could be promising.

With this groundwork laid and his early understanding of the mysteries tied to Fortune and fate,

Suddenly, a guess formed in his mind:

"The Devil concubine's escape to the south! An event attracting the attention of the entire world."

"Whether it's the 'Yuann Mingzhen True Heavenly Phoenix Body,' the 'Spring and Autumn Chariot,' or the 'Holy Emperor Supreme Dao Scripture,' each is a tremendous temptation."

"If she has fled to Qiantang, how could the close-by Tiannan Gao Family resist getting involved?"

"Could it be that the Lord of Guangping, Gao Buxi, has received orders from the Gao Family to recruit local Evil Cultivators and demons, joining forces with other powers to compete for Yuann Mingzhen?"

Honestly, Tao Qian's speculation lacked concrete evidence.

Yet he was quite convinced his guess would prove right.

To verify it wouldn't be hard; he just needed to attend the banquet.

"I had intended to settle down on Immortal Crane Mountain for a retreat, digesting the benefits of my Breakthrough before heading to the neighboring Qiantang Province."

"There lies Yellow Cloud Mountain, home to a toad demon boasting a Toad Pearl, exhibiting its ferocity—a treasure rightly mine for the taking."

"But now, there seems to be no rush. Perhaps I'll first visit this grand banquet at the Guangping Gao Family?"

"An Alchemist's open schemes are indeed hard to disrupt."

"And those Exotic Treasures capable of reconstructing the 'Ancestor God Forbidden Techniques' may not all acknowledge Tao Qian alone."

"Well, it's not good to let the Spring and Autumn Chariot fall into the hands of an alchemist,"

mused Tao Qian, as a decision formed in his mind.

With the supernatural power he possessed after his Breakthrough, it was astonishing—to say the least. To deal with merely four from the Cavernous Mystery Realm was nothing to him. He was confident he could handle even a dozen of them.

Of course, if it were Zhong Ziyang or Chen Xiyi, inheritors of Great Sects from the Cavernous Mystery, that would be a completely different story.

As for Loose Cultivators and demons?

To Tao Qian, they were nothing more than chickens and dogs, utterly incapable of seeing through his Secret Demon Transformation Technique.

Watching the three noisy devils in front of the Mountain Gate, he couldn't help but grin mischievously.

After secretly sending a message to Yunrong and the three little ones, Tao Qian flew out while replying to the Three Demons,

"Here I am, here I am."

"Ah, I'm afraid I've made my fellow Daoists anxious."

"Wutong has recently had some realizations in his cultivation and has been immersed in refining—I'm afraid this has caused some delay."

"Since my fellow Daoists have come to invite me, how could Wutong refuse—let's go! To Guangping City, to drink to Gao Daoist's happiness."

Tao Qian's words and actions were perfectly in line with the persona of Wutong Master.

None of the Three Demons suspected anything and approached upon hearing him, each with their own intent—some to challenge him to a fight, others to take him away.

How could they know?

Wutong was no longer the same Wutong.

What happened to Gao Wanchou three days ago was about to repeat with them.

As the Mountain Gate opened, the resplendent, multicolored clouds suddenly surged out.

Tainted clouds produced by Little Age, Lian Jing'er, and Shan Jiu were something even Tao Qian couldn't completely avoid, much less them.

"Ugh!"

"Blech! Blech!"

Their faces suddenly changed, and they bent over to vomit.

Symptoms like black spots, pustules, and hair loss rapidly appeared.

The old trick worked again, and Master Tao was quite delighted. Enduring the foul smell, he started moving forward to babble some more.

But the Three Demons were resolute. Without exchanging glances,

they all turned simultaneously, with sickly green faces, and flew towards Guangping City.

Behind them, Tao Qian summoned the Devil Fog to follow, waving his hands and calling out, "Eh, my fellow Daoists, don't fly too quickly, wait for Wutong."

It wasn't hard to detect the schadenfreude in his voice.

It was, after all, Master Tao's intention to probe the Gao Family's true conditions, following the Three Demons to the joyful banquet in Guangping.

In no time, the four of them, as the most formidable demons in the vicinity, descended upon Guangping City amidst clouds and Demon Fog.

One would expect the city to be bleak and pitiful, given that it was under the control of the Gao Family.

Yet at this moment, the Four Demons saw something unexpected.

The city was brightly decorated and bustling with life.

Uninformed individuals witnessing this scene might assume the City Lord was a talented and compassionate official who cared for his people.

Qu Zhongyuan, known as "Devouring Ghosts Master", seemed to be in the know.

Upon seeing this, he scoffed and said,

"My fellow Daoists need not be surprised; this scenario is merely a farce and cannot last long."



"It originates from the new concubine that Gao Daoist has taken in."

"I've heard that the lady is a Loose Cultivator who, besides being extremely beautiful, is also kind-hearted and considered righteous."

"Gao Buxi was so enchanted at first sight that he played the benevolent City Lord just to win her over and marry her."

"But we all know Gao City Lord's temperament—he can't keep up this act for long. I'm afraid tonight, once he gets what he wants, after consummating the marriage, his true face will be revealed."

No sooner had Qu Zhongyuan finished speaking, and before Tao Qian and the others could respond,

suddenly, from within a magnificent palace in the depths of the city, a hearty laugh resounded.

"Ha ha ha... Qu Daoist, we haven't seen each other for days, why do you tarnish my reputation as soon as you arrive?"

"Who in Guangping City doesn't know that I, Gao Buxi, am a City Lord who loves his people as his children?"

"Of course, since the citizens are my children, their lives, wealth, and even wives and daughters are also mine."

"This is the principle of the Gao Family."

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"Love the people as your own children, and therefore their wealth, goods, wives, and daughters are all his?"

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Should Gao Buxi's tyrannical fallacies have been uttered in the southern provinces, within the Ancestor Dragon Society, or at the National Salvation Congress's territories, he almost certainly would have been slain by the furious Righteous Cultivators.

Yet here, it was met with a round of applause from everyone inside the governmental office's palace.

Tao Qian, the Four Demons, not a word from the Dog Demon Li Fengxian, sardonic snickering from Qu Zhongyuan, but it was the Old Turtle Demon known as Deng Xuechao who was the most excited.

Top his head, dozens of parasitic worms, swaying like aquatic plants, became even more animated as he praised enthusiastically,

"Lord Gao speaks well, splendidly indeed."

"This reasoning is the ultimate truth."

"These lowly mortals should obey and be grateful for it."

A grand feast was already laid out in Gao Buxi's mansion, gathering a large number of Demons and Ghosts, Evil Cultivators, Alien Evil Spirits, and those animals from the Gao Family—never-heard-of flattery and sycophantic language incessantly resounded.

However, these people's Cultivation and skills were all quite ordinary.

Those truly worthy of notice around Guangping City were only the Four Demons who arrived just now.

Hearing Deng Xuechao's praise, Gao Buxi was in a great mood and proceeded to cast a spell.

Jade Fragments flew all around, condensing into a crystal-clear jade bridge in the Void, one end anchored at Guangping City Lord Mansion, the other stretching to the feet of Tao Qian and the other three.

"Having the Daoists here pleases me greatly,"

"Hurry and join the feast, have a cup of mild wine."

"After the banquet, I'll inform you of an important matter. Should it succeed, I assure you will all have a chance to step into the Ultimate Happiness Realm."

The last line was spoken telepathically by Gao Buxi.

The temptation of the words "Ultimate Happiness Realm" was irresistible, even for True Disciples from the Daoist and Buddhist Major Sects, let alone these Loose Demons.

Normally, for a Loose Cultivator to step into the Cavernous Mystery Realm was already a stroke of great fortune.

Most would be stopped at the "Divine Communication Barrier."

Step into Ultimate Happiness?

Almost impossible.

Now suddenly hearing Gao Buxi's offer, no amount of vigilance would help; they uncontrollably took the bait.

Old Turtle Deng Xuechao's ugly face bloomed like a chrysanthemum with his grin.

Originally somewhat indifferent, Qu Zhongyuan and Li Fengxian also revealed looks of anticipation.

Tao Qian, still seriously playing the part of the Wutong Master.

The Four Demons exchanged looks and then stepped onto the jade bridge together.

A flash of brilliance, and they entered the mansion.

The scene before their eyes validated what Qu Zhongyuan had said; Gao Buxi favored his new female cultivator concubine to an extreme.

A perfectly good Demon Cave City Lord Mansion was now exquisitely decorated, happiness stickers everywhere, a riot of competing flowers.

Just that, although there were beautiful scenes, there were no good people.

Saying nothing of Tao Qian and the Four Demons, those in the pavilions and on the platforms indulging in the feast were all kinds of bizarrely shaped, malevolent, fierce Demons and Ghosts, and Alien Life.

One side devouring flesh and blood with big gulps, the other burying their heads drinking exquisite nectar.

Some Devils, in high spirits, simply began mating with partners right there at the table, wildly copulating.

Male corpses seeking female corpses, male demons pairing with female ghosts.

In just a few breaths, the City Lord Mansion returned to its usual grand scenery.

What place was this?

Nothing more than a Demon cave that has lost human relations and human nature.

Tao Qian was still better off, having wandered the south and been involved in various major events; he had seen such scenes too often to be surprised anymore.

However, Qu Zhongyuan, Deng Xuechao, and Li Fengxian, these Three Demons, were witnessing such a nature-releasing Demon Banquet for the first time and showed shock.

Still, the one who truly had his heart stirred and couldn't wait to join was still only Deng Xuechao.

Not to mention Li Fengxian's haughty nature, but since he cultivated the "Spirit Dog Ascension Scripture," he had long become half-human half-dog; only another Dog Immortal, and moreover, a female, could arouse his passion and make him willing to offer his Primordial Yang Demon Body.

And that Qu Zhongyuan was even stranger; his natural Alien Species bloodline had gradually lost his humanity, but along with it, he discarded these desires he deemed useless.

After a few glances and some derisive comments, he mockingly said,

"Cultivation or refining demons, if you can't even control your own desires, letting your 'Ape Mind' run wild, and your 'Horse Will' gallop unrestrainedly, you're just a bunch of garbage dominated by animal nature."

"Gao Daoist, what kind of guests have you invited to this happy banquet, who qualifies to sit at the same table as us?"

Goodness!

No one expected Qu Zhongyuan to suddenly launch a broadside.

Instantly, all the Demons and Ghosts in the mansion glared over.

A tumultuous wave of curses mixed with killing intent surged as if to drown the four of them.

Alas, these demons indeed were inferior.

With just a cold snort from Qu Zhongyuan, six blood-red eyes upon his face opened simultaneously, terrifying blood light instantly filled the entire City Lord Mansion, and behind him, an enormous fierce Fierce Ghost loomed, even larger than a mountain.

The purgatorial maw opened wide as if it would swallow everyone on the spot.

Even Tao Qian couldn't help but glance sideways.

He was just about to take advantage of the proximity of the two, to rub against it and peek into its secrets with his Record.

Suddenly, from his arms, Yuan Gong's voice transmitted,

"Are you curious about this person's foundation?"

"Actually, it's not such a secret; he is not a Ghost Dao Practitioner, but rather an unorthodox Alien Species."



"In recent times, a great number of fierce ghosts appeared on the land, accompanied by some inexplicable Divine Abilities. This ghost disaster took the lives of at least tens of millions from the Human Clan."

"At that time, some Human Clan ancestors investigated various methods to dispel the disaster. Among them, one method: a Human Clan woman uniting with a Fierce Ghost could give birth to a special bloodline called the 'Devouring Ghost Curse Body.'"

"Those born with this bloodline, without the need for cultivation, capturing Fierce Ghosts would suffice, whether to consume or to control, they could possess Transcendent power."

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"However, this kind of bloodline inherently has defects, not only will it gradually erode your humanity and desires, but it will also prevent you from ever stepping foot into the Daoist Transformation Realm."

"And moreover...they are extremely easy prey for other cultivators, to be used as spiritual materials."

"Not to mention anything else, you can summon 'Outer Heaven Flame Essence,' and with the Valley God Gui in your possession, you only have to throw these people into the gui and refine them to obtain 'Taiyin Hundred Ghosts Elixir,' 'Heavenly Ghost Demon Pill,' and 'Ten Thousand Ghosts Spirit Ointment'—these holy elixirs of the Ghost Dao."

"Have I heard that you have a good friend who has married into a Ghost Country?"

"Isn't this just perfect? Refine these fine items and send them to your friend, and he will surely win the favor of his mother-in-law."

Yuan Gong teased Tao Qian while sharing the new secret insights with him.

Yet at the banquet, Qu Zhongyuan's prestige failed to hold sway.

Suddenly, a ferocious roar was heard; above Guangping City, a massive blade shadow appeared, and a dense Xuan Yin cold energy pressed down, causing heavy snow to fall in an instant.

And that snow was a crimson red.

As it fluttered down and froze in mid-air, everyone who saw it felt a premonition of death: any life covered by it could be sliced to death.

Qu Zhongyuan's Ghost Eye Dharma Realm was instantly shattered by the blade light.

His Fierce Ghost Dharma Image, too, was slashed by the crimson snowflakes, cracking all over and wailing incessantly.

"Xuan Yin Blood Frost Saber!"

"Good, as the rumors say, it truly is an extraordinary treasure."

"With Gao Daoist relying on this saber, ordinary cultivators of the Cavernous Mystery Realm are no match for you."

"If your cultivation progresses further, tsk tsk, the four of us might have to join forces to withstand you."

The speaker was the Old Turtle Demon of the Wuling River.

Though cunning and shameless, among the Four Demons around Guangping City, his nature was the most normal.

After flattering Gao Buxi, he turned to pull Qu Zhongyuan along, giving him an out by saying:

"Qu Daoist has simply misunderstood, with our level of cultivation, how can we possibly sit at the same table as these juniors?"

"Not to mention our affections, just the Qi emanating from our bodies is too much for them to bear."

"Look, Gao Daoist has specially arranged a banquet for the four of us."

"Come, come, come, it has been a long time since we met, Old Deng has been missing Gao Daoist and the Medicine Slaves you've been raising."

Following the direction pointed out by the Old Turtle Demon, the Three Demons looked towards the inner room.

Indeed, within the main hall, suffused with radiant jade light, was another small banquet, where two figures were seated at the head of the table, one of them smiling at the four guests.

Qu Zhongyuan's temperament was sometimes bizarre, sometimes normal.

Previously he was petulant, insulting the group of demons.

Yet after being struck by the blade light, he reverted to normal, withdrew his mana, and joined Tao Qian, the Old Turtle Demon, and Li Fengxian to take their seats at the banquet.

Once seated, their solemn gazes turned towards the host of this place, the Lord of Guangping, Gao Buxi.

To Tao Qian's surprise, this Gao Buxi looked nothing like his bestial kinsman "Gao Wan."

Handsome in appearance, dressed in a purple robe, with three strands of beard, he seemed like a refined middle-aged scholar.

It was only when making eye contact and seeing those eyes filled with lasciviousness that one could judge: This man, too, was a beast.

At that moment, he slowly retracted a small dagger covered in crimson frost back into his mouth, and then as though nothing had happened, he saluted the four with a bow:

"Daoist Deng, Wutong Daoist, Qu Daoist, Li Daoist."

"It has been a long time; I, too, have missed you all greatly."

"Just in time for this joyous banquet, I invited you all to catch up."

"Oh, and this is Duan Yuhong, my newly wedded concubine. She is a disciple from the Mystical Water Palace of the Overseas Immortal Island. We met some time ago, and it was love at first sight, so we privately pledged ourselves to each other for life."

If one were to just listen to these words, anyone would think Gao Buxi was normal.

Truly having found love and mutual affection.

But looking over, Tao Qian and the others saw a beautiful woman dressed in a bridal gown sitting there, not only with tears streaming down her face but with an expression full of anger and regret, clearly visible.

With their sharp eyes, the four could readily see through the facade.

Talk of mutual affection?

Talk of pledging lifelong commitment?

This woman was clearly under Gao Buxi's spell, rooted to the spot, to be slaughtered at will.

Qu Zhongyuan, still annoyed about losing face earlier, scoffed at Gao Buxi after guessing the truth:

"Love at first sight?"

"Judging by Daoist Duan's expression, she probably wishes she could devour Gao Daoist's flesh and blood."

"They say a melon forced off its vine is never sweet, and I've heard of the Mystical Water Palace. Although it's mostly female immortals, their power is not negligible. If Gao Daoist does not wish to invite trouble, it would be best to release this woman."

No sooner had Qu Zhongyuan finished speaking than Gao Buxi burst into loud laughter.

He seemed to pay no heed to Qu Zhongyuan, instead staring at Duan Yuhong with obsessed fervor, reaching out to affectionately stroke her cheek.

He whispered, seemingly confessing his love yet actually speaking in a way that sickened those around:

"I haven't deceived any of you. At first, Yuhong was very much in love with me, after all, I played the part of a benevolent City Lord quite convincingly."

"She came from overseas and knew nothing of my Gao Family's reputation. If I could've kept up the act, Yuhong would have forever been kept in the dark."

"Alas, as you know, I have two little hobbies."

"One, is to lust after other men's wives and daughters."

"Two, is to eat delicate brain marrows."

"The first hobby, I've temporarily given up."

"But the second, when I crave for it, I must indulge, not realizing a few days ago Yuhong saw me."

"She cursed me as an animal, a beast."

"Well, since I cannot pass as human, I shall live as a beast."

"Free and happy."

"Isn't that right, Yuhong? Tonight we shall enter the Cave Mansion, and after I take your virgin Yin, I will use magic to turn you into the 'Jade Demon Yin Concubine.'"

"Not only will this spell keep you forever young, but it also won't affect your fertility. I want you to bear children for me, litter after litter."

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"You say, is it good or not?"

Gao Buxi was completely immersed in his own perversion, utterly unaware that he had lingered at the brink of the Ghost Gate countless times.



Tao Qian's killing intent nearly solidified into substance in his heart.

He was even more resolved: after finding out the true state of the Gao family, he would make Gao Buxi experience the most cruel and painful punishment in the world.

This villain was even more disgusting than his brother Gao Wan.

It wasn't just Tao Qian who couldn't stand him; even the other Three Demons looked displeased after listening to Gao Buxi's declaration.

Deng Xuechao, the sleazy Old Turtle Demon, couldn't even bother to flatter Gao Buxi anymore.

Li Fengxian, who had been silent until now, suddenly interrupted:

"Lord Gao!"

"What exactly did you call us here for?"

"If you keep playing coy, I'm not interested in sticking around. After finishing this drink, I'm heading to Immortal Crane Mountain to kill the Wutong Old Monster and seize his base."

The Dog Demon, having said this, directly looked at Tao Qian.

Clearly, he genuinely liked Immortal Crane Mountain, even though he knew that it had been turned into a cesspool by the Wutong Master under the influence of the filthy blood cloud.

Gao Buxi, seeing that the Four Demons were impatient with his sorrowful act, didn't feel offended.

In his eyes, the four in front of him were vulgar demons who couldn't appreciate the subtleties of romance, while he was a lofty member of the Gao family. By throwing them some bait, he could easily make these four willingly serve as his cannon fodder and laborers. A master should not concern himself with those destined to die.

With a few contemptuous thoughts, Gao Buxi called over a few trusted maids and had them take Duan Yuhong away.

Then, he raised his hand to set up a concealing Forbidden Technique before he seriously began to speak.

...

However, he did not know that the taken and locked Duan Yuhong, in utter despair,

suddenly saw the figure of the "Red Lady Demon" in her mind.

This charming little girl demon pulled Duan Yuhong's Primordial Spirit towards herself, gazing at her with drooling mouth while smiling cheekily:

"Little girl, don't cry, you're lucky."

"My master pities your situation, and soon he will come to rescue you."

Duan Yuhong, not expecting this turn of events, suddenly felt hopeful, and her dim Primordial Spirit glowed brightly once again.

Yet, knowing the terror of the Gao family, not even the mysterious person controlling the demon could save her—even if her entire sect tried.

Therefore, shaking her head, she pleaded with the Red Lady Demon:

"No, don't come."

"The Gao family are all monstrous and extremely powerful. Gao Buxi mentioned his family's ancestor is a monster at the Daoist Transformation Realm and he himself is favored by a few ancestors of the Ultimate Happiness Realm. He has a Xuan Yin Blood Frost Saber for protection."

"Little girl demon, I can see that you have the ability to devour humans. Eat me instead."

"I'd rather die in your mouth than be tortured by those beasts as a 'Jade Demon Yin Concubine'."

"Give me a swift end. I don't blame you. I only regret that I, Duan Yuhong, couldn't see the true nature of these beasts from the start."

Duan Yuhong was right; the Red Lady Demon did have the ability to grant her a swift end.

If it were the previous little girl demon or a wild Red Lady, she might have listened to her suggestion.

But this one, having been nurtured by Tao Qian, had become choosy.

Hearing this, her little head wobbled like a rattle drum, pouting as she refused:

"No, no!"

"Don't think that just because I'm drooling, I'm craving you. Think again."

"Your cultivation is mediocre, your Taoist body is lax, and you lack an Innate Dao Seed or any such rare thing. Can the flavor of your flesh, brains, and Primordial Spirit compare to my master's Demon Pill?"

"Far from it, okay? I won't eat it."

"Besides, if I really ate you, my master would skin me alive."

"Look at you, little girl, what a disgrace. What is the Gao family in the grand scheme of things?"

"Never mind the Gao family, even ten Gao families aren't a match for my master."

"Just wait obediently. Once my master makes a move, you'll be able to avenge any grudges you hold."

"Right, you don't even know what my master is capable of, do you? Come, come, come. Red Lady Demon is in a good mood today, let me tell you about it..."

Before long, under the Red Lady Demon's zealous bragging, Duan Yuhong gradually became confused.

Only one thought floated and bobbed in her mind.

"Could it be that I, having come from overseas, am indeed ignorant and unaware that such a talent has emerged in the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty?"

...

Skipping Duan Yuhong, who was being bamboozled by the Red Lady Demon, at the banquet, Gao Buxi was also using his eloquent tongue to rally Qu Zhongyuan, Wutong Master, Deng Xuechao, and Li Fengxian to his cause.

He didn't bring up the main issue right away but rather beat around the bush.

One issue after another.

He disclosed all the major events currently unfolding within the seventy-two provinces of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty.

Even the slowest among them could tell that this was a world undergoing transformation.

The entire world, both the mundane and the Cultivation World, could undergo drastic change at any moment.

Tao Qian listened with relish, but the other three were quite impatient.

Just as they were about to interrupt, Gao Buxi suddenly shifted the topic, striking directly at the Four Demons' weak points.

"Four Daoist friends! You are all in the Cavernous Mystery Realm, before the stages of Preserving Essence and Absorb Qi."

"Each has had their experiences and cultivations according to the Great Lifebook Scripture. Surely I don't need to remind you."

"Unless there's no accident, you geniuses will still be unable to Breakthrough the 'Divine Communication' stage and step into the Realm of Ultimate Happiness."

"In the coming decades or even a century, the four of you could roam freely, perhaps finding a safe place where you might live another two to three hundred years. Unfortunately, the current state of the world allows no such places."

"So, the most likely outcome for the four of you: surviving various inexplicable calamities for decades before ultimately being killed or dying from mutation and corruption."

"Four, have I spoken any falsehoods?"

At these words, the Four Demons were suddenly silent.

Gao Buxi didn't give them time to ponder either, his voice suddenly rising passionately.

"Independent cultivators in the wilderness rarely achieve Breakthrough into Ultimate Happiness, because they lack a mountain to ensure their safety in the Source Sea."

"But, there are exceptions."

"Gentlemen, join my command, join the Gao family."

"My ancestor recently acquired a treasure in the Outer Realm, precisely the kind that can help independent practitioners from Cavernous Mystery step foot into Ultimate Happiness."

"Such a treasure would not typically be shared, but since the Gao family is in need of people, this opportunity has arisen for the four of you."

"I won't plead; the choice is yours, to miss this chance and barely survive a few years before your path fades."



"Or, will you join my command and become part of the Gao family?"

Gao Buxi had not lied; he had not used any Divine Power of speech.

He was very confident, not needing those, for the mere temptation of a realm Breakthrough and the chance to extend life was enough to make these wild cultivators lose their bearings and fall at his feet.

Chapter 596: True Lord of a Hundred Demons Kidnaps the Devil Concubine, Joyful Demon Exerts Unfavorable Pressure.

Gao Buxi threw out bait, and sure enough, the Old Turtle Demon, Dog Immortal, and Qu Zhongyuan all changed their expressions, as an uncontrollable desire surfaced in their eyes.

What is the purpose of cultivation?

Nothing else, but to witness longevity and eternity.

There wasn't a single Loose Cultivator who could resist the temptation to set foot in the Ultimate Happiness Realm.

But they were not foolish, for in this Cultivation World, there was no such thing as pie falling from the sky.

If there was, it had to be fishing, it had to be a trap.

Including Tao Qian, who was disguised as the "Wutong Master," none of the Four Demons responded but were silently contemplating.

Gao Buxi seemed to have anticipated this reaction and chuckled, deciding to lay all his cards on the table:

"That treasure from the Outer Realm, as well as the conditions to obtain this opportunity, were not meant to be divulged by me."

"But since all four of you are my friends, I'll spill the beans ahead of time; should you choose not to accept, you mustn't disclose this to anyone else, or else the wrath of the elders in my clan will be more than you can bear."

"The treasure is called the Ten Thousand Marvels Sky-reaching Treasure Banner, an artifact inscribed with the Ten Thousand Marvels Sky-reaching Divine Spell from the Outer Realm, capable of suppressing any Mutated beings in the Source Sea."

"Inside this Treasure Banner, there are thirty-six venerable positions, each usable once every century."

"My Gao family already occupies twelve positions, and the remaining twenty-four will be selected from among the Guest Elders and those paying Tribute to my family."

"Once under my command, as long as your contributions are sufficient, I, Gao Buxi, can assure you at least four venerable positions."

These words finally piqued the interest of the Four Demons.

The Old Turtle Demon, Deng Xuechao, was the most eager, asking quickly, "Oh? And what counts as a sufficient contribution?"

Following closely, Qu Zhongyuan shed his disdainful demeanor and asked urgently, "Is Lord Gao's position in the Gao family really so high? You should know that this is an opportunity for a Breakthrough. Is it so easily obtained?"

Sensing the loosening resolve of the Four Demons, Gao Buxi, confident of victory, laughed heartily and began to answer one by one.

"Just so that the four of you are aware, my great-ancestor was 'True Lord of a Hundred Demons', and in our family, four Ultimate Happiness Masters follow his lead."

"I committed an indecency against my aunt in the provincial city and yet I wasn't killed for it, just feigned a punishment and got demoted to this Guangping City. Why? Simply because my ancestor dotes on me the most, and no one can kill me. If I can achieve merit and my subordinates can become strong people, these mere four venerable positions, my ancestor will surely grant them to me."

"As for what counts as a meritorious deed?"

Gao Buxi paused there to give the Four Demons time to digest the information.

At this moment, Yuan Gong's voice transmitted to Tao Qian's mind, filled with disdain.

"True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang, this person is the most absurd; he almost never considers any rules or reasons, especially disregarding human relations."

"However, his character does surprisingly align with the 'Hundred Demons Mad God Scripture' he cultivates, and indeed, he has made a name with it."

"The boy isn't lying; the four Ultimate Happiness Masters of the Gao family, with Gao Yang at the helm."

"But that so-called Ten Thousand Marvels Sky-reaching Treasure Banner surely has something fishy about it, heh, even your Spirit Treasure Sect doesn't have such an assurance that someone can reach the Ultimate Happiness Realm with it, let alone a mere Gao family. Even if it really all comes to fruition, afterward, you'll surely become the Gao family's dogs."

While Yuan Gong clarified Tao Qian's doubts, Gao Buxi continued to tempt the Four Demons.

And next, his words fully confirmed Tao Qian's previous feelings and guesses.

He spoke with a conspiratorial air, "Have the four of you ever heard of the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen?"

Upon hearing this, the Old Turtle Demon's expression suddenly revealed lewd and vulgar desires, chiming in:

"I've heard, I've heard; I've heard that she was trained by Guanyin Temple to be a top female Bodhisattva, possessing the Heavenly Phoenix Body and, combined with her Empress Fate Chart, anyone who unites with her could receive untold benefits; scaling to heaven in a single step wouldn't be an exaggeration."

"That aside, what truly tempts is that this woman could be called a true beauty, exceptionally enchanting. To possess her body... tsk tsk, would be absolutely wonderful."

The old demon drooled as he spoke.

His bald head, with a bright red parasite wriggling gleefully, disgusting viscous fluid dribbling from his mouth, turned his respectable area into a sticky mess.

With someone to play the straight man, Gao Buxi became even more passionate.

He too chuckled and continued:

"Daoist Deng speaks truly, Yuan Mingzhen, she is indeed a rare beauty in this world."

"If not so, how could she have caught my great-ancestor's eye?"

"In the past, this woman held power in the Imperial City and obtained part of the legacy of the Zhu Dynasty, as well as the protection of the Xie Family and Guanyin Temple. Even my ancestor could not do anything to her."

"But a little while ago, the various warlords invaded the Imperial City, and this delightful phoenix fell into distress."

"My ancestor sent a secret missive; this woman, using the power of the Ancestor God Artifact 'Spring and Autumn Chariot,' managed to escape and will reach the neighboring province, Qiantang, soon."

"All the groups of demons, major forces, and warlords want to snatch both the woman and her treasure."

"My ancestor also has this intention, thus he commands us descendants to recruit troops, waiting for the right moment to raise the army of the entire Tiannan province, make a move on Qiantang, and distract the other forces. Then, as Cavernous Mystery Cultivators acting as special forces armed with Exotic Treasures, we will take her by storm and present her to my ancestor, to secure a complete victory."

"With such merit, a Ten Thousand Marvels Venerable Position is readily at hand."

Having said that, Gao Buxi was very smug.

He explained in detail the plan of his great-ancestor, True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang; and indeed, as someone who has access to valuable resources, even Tao Qian had to admit that Gao Yang was likely to succeed.

The other Three Demons made the same assessment.

For a moment, all were tempted beyond measure.

Had it not been for the sliver of Mind that remained sane, they might all have already kowtowed in fealty.

Gao Buxi indeed stopped pressing; he just stared at the Four Demons, with a sly smile and said in a seemingly friendly manner:

"Daoist friends!"

"I have disclosed to you all the secrets of my Gao family; I hope to receive your responses by tonight."

"Take your time to consider it, enjoy a few more drinks."

"I am anxious to enter the bridal chamber, so I shall accompany you no longer."

With that, the beast did not wait for the four to respond, nor did he remove the Forbidden Array.

Chapter 597: True Lord of a Hundred Demons Kidnaps the Devil Concubine, Joyful Demon Exerts Unfavorable Pressure

"Merely raising his hand, he summoned a group of descendants who looked like dogs, and asked them to join his four uncles for a drink."

"He himself laughed heartily and went to search for the bridal chamber of Daoist Yuhong from the Overseas."

"Tao Qian and the Three Demons glanced at each other, all seeing the helplessness in each other's eyes."

"Unwittingly, they had all fallen into the trap."

"Given the current situation, they had no choice but to agree."

"They had already heard True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang's plan; if they did not comply, wouldn't it seem like they were leaking secrets?"



"It seems that after tonight, the four of us will all become members of the Gao family."

"Actually, that's not so bad. If we can really accomplish something and step into the Ultimate Happiness Realm with the 'Sky-Reaching Treasure Banner,' this deal is well worth it."

"Being a Loose Cultivator is not a long-term strategy anyway. Whose dog isn't it to be, the Gao family isn't bad either."

"Gao Buxi is also treacherous; we've been very careful, and yet we still fell into the trap."

"Come, let us toast to the four uncles, congratulating the uncles on joining the Gao family."

"Uncle Li Fengxian, I heard that you like nine-tailed spirit dogs the most. Fortunately, my junior recently obtained a nine-tailed spirit dog with the bloodline of the Ancient Fox Clan. If top-grade Transformation Elixirs are used to enlighten it into a human, she will definitely be an exceptional beauty unparalleled in this world. Tonight, I shall send her and the Elixir into your room."

...

"To outsiders, that feast in the inner hall with the Gao Family descendants and the four Cavernous Mystery Demons seemed joyous and lively."

"However, no one knew that among the Four Demons, Wutong Master had earlier cast a Blinding Technique using the 'Rainbow Bone Relics' as a medium, creating an empty puppet to deal with everyone."

"His true body, however, had taken a step ahead of Gao Buxi and appeared in the bridal chamber."

"Inside the room, wearing a bride's wedding attire and covered with a red bridal veil, Yuhong was anxiously waiting."

"Suddenly, in her mind, the little girl demon known as Red Lady leapt up and shouted excitedly:"

"My master is here."

"Little girl, you are saved."

"Before her voice fell, the veil in front of Yuhong was suddenly lifted."

"Unbeknownst to her, a strikingly handsome and divinely charismatic young Daoist now stood in front of her."

"This innocent immortal from overseas had been tormented by the beastly words of Gao Buxi these past few days and was already somewhat delirious from fear."

"At the sudden sight of such a stunningly beautiful and divine-like Daoist, she momentarily lost her composure."

"Though she could not speak, a flush rose to her cheeks, and her spirit whispered, 'If this Daoist friend would marry me, I wouldn't necessarily refuse.'"

"Having spoken, she instantly came to her senses."

"Before she could be embarrassed, footsteps suddenly approached from outside the door."

"Gao Buxi was coming!"

"Realizing this, Yuhong was immediately worried."

"At this moment, she even forgot to worry about her own life, only fearing that the Daoist who wanted to save her might lose his life because of her."

"Just as this thought arose, the Daoist in front of her flashed her a grin and softly said,"

"Daoist Duan, do not panic!"

"Let Tao Qian show you how it is done. I assure you will remain intact, and your life will also be without worry."

"As for Gao Buxi, that beast, he must be properly punished."

After Tao Qian spoke, his body suddenly vanished, and the red bridal veil lifted by itself and floated back onto Yuhong's head."

"Next moment!"

"The door was pushed open, and Gao Buxi, with a lecherous smile, entered."

"This man was indeed a lustful beast."

"Upon entering the room, he began stripping his clothes, finding it troublesome to do it one by one, he simply pinched a Seal and called forth Demon Flame, incinerating his outer garments, leaving only a Magic Artifact undergarment that had protective properties."

"Then, rubbing his hands together and advancing with a sense of ceremony, he used a Jade Ruyi to lift Yuhong's red veil."

"Utterly infatuated and with a twisted face, he admired her for a moment and then eagerly moved to act."

"Just then, he remembered something and raised his hand to undo a layer of Secret Technique sealing on Yuhong's body, allowing her to speak."

"On this night of our wedding, how could we do without a little romance?"

"Now, Yuhong, you may start cursing and wailing. The louder you scream, the more joyous your husband will be."

"Quickly, start."

"After speaking, the beast lunged towards her."

"He expected Yuhong to curse wildly as she had on previous days, but to his surprise, that scene did not occur."

"Instead, Yuhong seemed to undergo a strange transformation."

"She first stared steadfastly at Gao Buxi, her eyes full of shame and anger, and then her beautiful face showed despair, and later it seemed as though she accepted her tragic fate."

"Gao Buxi, being stronger and more perceptive than Yuhong, was overjoyed upon seeing this, thinking to himself, 'Could it be that Yuhong is willing to accept me now?'"

"Just as this thought arose, Yuhong finally spoke.

Indeed, as Gao Buxi had anticipated, the surprise had arrived.

He saw Duan Yuhong gazing at him with a complex expression, sighed, and then said,

"Up to this point, I, Duan Yuhong, seem powerless to resist marrying you, a brute."

"Although I am utterly unwilling, I also find it hard to go against fate."

"However, I still want to ask you one thing, Gao Buxi, do you just want a soulless shell, or do you truly desire the heart of Duan Yuhong?"

"If it is the latter, you need to agree to a condition from me."

"As long as you are willing to comply, after I marry you, I will follow the common woman's path, follow the chicken with the chicken, follow the dog with the dog, devoting myself solely to the Gao family, never harboring dual intentions, able to offer you counsel and also bear your children."

Hearing this, Gao Buxi was already ecstatic.

He had been obsessed with Duan Yuhong from the beginning, and what he had wanted the most was this woman's heart.

Only after his true intentions were exposed did he turn to seeking other things.

Now, seeing a turning point, he naturally followed without hesitation.

So, the brute hastily nodded, hurriedly saying,

"Agreed, agreed! Yuhong, speak. Even if it's not just one condition but ten or even a hundred, Gao Buxi will comply with them all."

"Fine, my condition is simple. You shall now announce the divorce of all your wives and concubines at home and vow never to marry or take concubines again."

"You must know that I, Duan Yuhong, am a true disciple of the Mystical Water Palace in the South Sea, and my status is high. Could I not possibly be the worthy mistress of the Gao family?"

Upon hearing this, the expression on Gao Buxi's face relaxed even more.

He laughed loudly and replied,

"Only this? And here I thought my wife was going to make things difficult for me."

"This is as it should be. Had you agreed to me earlier, you would have already been the mistress of this Guangping City, the rightful consort of the Gao family. There would have been no need for me to use that Forbidden Technique to seal your body and soul, sadly losing all the fun."

"It's not difficult, not difficult. Your husband will go and come back shortly."

After speaking, Gao Buxi turned and went to the doorway.

He did not go out but instead burst into loud laughter, his voice echoing through the entire mansion,

"Please, everyone, be witnesses."

"I, Gao Buxi, take Duan Yuhong today as my lawful wife, and I will never take any concubines hereafter. All other wives and concubines in the house, please leave quickly and do not delay."



These two loud sentences immediately caused cheers and flattery to sound from every part of the mansion.

If there had been any new guests, they might have mistaken the City Lord Gao for a man deeply in love.

Flattered by a barrage of sycophantic compliments, Gao Buxi returned and hurried back like a wild boar eager to press himself against Duan Yuhong's delicate body.

Yet, in his ears, he heard Duan Yuhong's tender voice again:

"Husband truly keeps his promise. In that case, Yuhong will give you a sweet treat."

"I, a true disciple of the Mystical Water Palace, practice a unique Magic Skill. Anyone who merges with practitioners like us can experience sublime pleasures."

"The taste is as wonderful as merging with dozens or hundreds of Joyful Demons."

"Of course, my husband must not indulge too much, otherwise, you might not be able to get out of bed tomorrow."

Already impetuous, Gao Buxi almost glowed upon hearing this.

Unaware, he had fallen into a Daoist Skill he would never unravel.

He suddenly stiffened his body, the protective garment and Magic Artifact also falling off, and shouted, "Wife, I'm coming."

Immediately, he rushed forward to strip Duan Yuhong of her wedding dress.

The scenes and feelings that followed were exactly as he had fantasized.

The exquisite pleasure made even him, a powerful Cultivator, emit strange sounds repeatedly, marveling again and again,

"Wife didn't lie to me!"

"Beautiful, too wonderful."

"With a wife like this, what more could a husband ask for."

"Wife from now on is my life, Gao Buxi. If you bid me go east, I shall never go west."

...

"Tsk tsk, truly a simpleton, with a weak Primordial Spirit and unstable will."

"Fortunately, this man hasn't cultivated the Heavenly Demon Secret Skill; otherwise, with such a mindset, let alone these dark-skinned dolls, even any casual Heart Demon or Substitute Demon could take everything from him."

Beside the bridal chamber, two figures stood side by side, with Duan Yuhong in her intact wedding dress and Red Lady Demon perched on her shoulder.

The little girl demon watched the scene on the warm bed and could not help but comment.

That scene was indeed as Gao Buxi had fantasized.

Sadly, he was not as valiant as he imagined himself to be and was entirely incapable of battling the specialized Outer Realm Heaven Demons.

Within less than three breaths, he was overwhelmed.

Like a dead fish, he was unable to move.

Chapter 598: Yuhong Joins the Group, the Jealous and Poisonous Woman

Inside the bridal chamber of the Guangping City Lord Mansion,

Tao Qian revealed his true form, conversing with the female cultivator Yuhong Duan who had come from overseas.

The background noise to their conversation was rather abnormal.

Tao Qian raised his hand to cast a spell to shield them, then addressed Yuhong Duan,

"Daoist Duan, leave this vile creature to me for disposal, and you may leave in peace."

"Head south, do not go north any further. The Northern Land Provinces are currently smoke-filled battlefields with warlords in chaotic warfare, and Evil Demons rampant. Given that you come from the Mystical Water Palace and are so kind-hearted, once you reveal your base, you're bound to be targeted by dark schemes."

Tao Qian had accidentally touched the woman's veil earlier and had verified it with the Record.

Yuhong Duan was a good person.

He had also heard of the Mystical Water Palace, one of the Overseas Immortal Islands, gathered by a group of loose female cultivators into a faction, whose practiced Magic Skills largely belonged to heresy and heterodoxy, but their actions classified them as part of the Righteous path.

There was a Ling Yu Elder in the Penglai Sea, who was also one of the palace's Elders.

Tao Qian's intervention also had this reason behind it.

But as soon as he had finished speaking, Yuhong Duan did not depart, not even moving a foot.

Staring at Master Tao, her eyes Flashing, it seemed she recalled something, first showing an expression of sudden realization, followed by joy.

"The Spirit Treasure True Inheritor, the First Heavenly Pride of the Daoist, Master Tao?"

This woman exclaimed excitedly, revealing Tao Qian's true identity.

Admiration immediately filled her eyes. Before Tao Qian could respond, she excitedly continued.

"The sisters in the palace would never believe that I have met Master Tao on this journey."

"Tales related to Master Tao have already reached all Immortal Islands in the South Sea. Except for a group of the Devil Clan who, because of Duobao True Monarch, bear hostility towards the Master, everyone else holds great reverence for you."

"One sister even attended the Immortal Peach Banquet you hosted not long ago. Not only did she eat a few Immortal Peaches but also secretly brought back peach cores to plant. Unfortunately, only one grew, and although the harvested peaches had some effects, they were sour and astringent, terribly hard to eat..."

Upon hearing this, Tao Qian immediately understood the girl's hint.

Luckily, he indeed brought with him quite a few Longevity Immortal Peaches when he left the Ascending Immortal Island.

If we go into the details!

Master Tao's relationship with Sister Yunrong progressed so quickly partly due to the Immortal Peach's contribution.

When idle, he often fed Peach to Sister Yunrong, naturally causing her favorability to skyrocket daily.

When the time was ripe, the good deed was done.

Now, to dismiss this little admirer before him, Tao Qian flipped his palm, and a Longevity Immortal Peach with Exotic Fragrance appeared.

In Gao Buxi's presence, Yuhong Duan was cold and haughty.

But with Tao Qian, she reverted to her true nature as a young girl.

Her small stratagem a success, she did not bother with pleasantries and grasped the peach, not to eat but to stash it in her bosom, clearly with the intention of returning to the Mystical Water Palace to show off in front of her good sisters.

At the same time, upon hearing the idolized True Master Tao Qian saying "leave quickly and head south," her body subconsciously began to obey and depart.

However, she quickly came to her senses.

Turning back to face Tao Qian, her face filled with indecision, she inwardly muttered:

"Master Tao is now considered the First Heavenly Pride of the Daoist, with countless Exotic Treasures on him, and his Daoist Field on Ascending Immortal Island in the Penglai Sea, which is even better than all our Mystical Water Palace's subordinate Immortal Islands combined."

"Besides, the sisters all say that although Master Tao is a disciple of Duobao True Monarch, his character differs greatly from his master's, uncaring whether he acquires or loses treasures, even willingly disintegrating such great treasures as the Mountain and River Map. It seems unlikely that he would covet a Water Mansion whose value is yet unknown to me.""

"Why not candidly confess, and if possible, to follow closely by the True Master's side, to glean some merit and fortune, wouldn't that be the best of both worlds?""

Having thought it through, Yuhong Duan made her decision.

Then, she said:

"If I am not mistaken, Master Tao, you are likely assuming the identity of this beast from the Gao Family to do something for the Mortals, right?"

"If so, may Yuhong also take part in it, to contribute?"

"Do not reject me immediately, Master. Yuhong is not one of those women seeking fame or acting arrogantly and impulsively. The reasons I wish to do this are, first, I cannot bear to see Mortals here suffer under the Gao Family's tyranny and second, I sense an opportunity for entering the Dao within."

At this point, Yuhong Duan paused.



Then she took something out of her personal treasure bag: a token crafted from some sort of Spiritual Shell, coursing with water light and rich in Immortal Qi.

"This item is known as the Sweet Spring Spirit Talisman, the Command Token for the core of a nearly ancient Water Mansion at the bottom of the South Sea."

"Some days ago, I left the palace to gather materials such as Merfolk Pearl, Shell and Jade to refine a Water Technique, but unexpectedly, fortune struck, and within the corpse of a whale that must have been dead for at least a hundred years, I found a Secret Book and this token."

"The Secret Book is called 'Bi Xu Immortal Origin Scripture,' left behind by the widely known Overseas Wanderer Immortal, Master Bi Xu, nearly a thousand years ago. And within the Secret Book, it is said that the Master also left behind a 'Sweet Spring Water Mansion' filled with numerous resources and treasures that could lead later generations to successfully enter the Dao.""

"My Mystical Water Palace cultivates with freedom, not limiting our paths, thus Yuhong has decided to switch and cultivate this Immortal Origin Scripture.""

"However, to enter that Water Mansion, you must first grind open the Forbidden Technique on the token, which requires something specific: merit and fortune.""

"Because of this, Yuhong has been traveling north, wholeheartedly doing good deeds and saving Mortals, in hopes of accumulating enough fortune to open the mansion and cultivate the scripture.""

Yuhong Duan spoke sincerely.

At the same time, she perfectly explained why a female cultivator from overseas would take the trouble to come to the large Northern Land province to endure hardships.

She, too, was a Seeker.

After listening, Tao Qian did not suspect the genuineness of her excuse. The woman was not deeply cunning, had a good nature, and seemed to be a determined and lively female cultivator.

What Tao Qian instinctively doubted was the so-called opportunity.

"Fortune coming to the door?"

"Both the Great Lifebook Scripture and a Water Mansion prepared with provisions and treasures, could it be another fishing ploy?"

Evidently, Master Tao had become somewhat reactive to such events.

On one hand, he communicated telepathically asking Yuan Gong if he had ever heard of this Bi Xu True Master, while on the other, he reached out to Yuhong Duan and said:

"Daoist Duan, if you trust me, may I take a look at that Command Token?"

"Of course, there's no problem."

Before Yuan Gong could respond, Duan Yuhong had already stuffed the Command Token into Tao Qian's hand.

Afterwards, the transmitted messages of the former and the Record of the latter burst forth in Tao Qian's mind at the same time.

"He really exists!"

"Bi Xuizi is a representative figure among the Overseas Wanderer Immortals, with a cultivation at the Daoist Transformation Realm, extremely adept in Water Techniques. It's rumored that in combat, he could easily harness the power of a good half of the Southern Sea to inundate cities and submerge nations; he's ferociously brutal."

"What's even more incredible is that this person became a Daoist through being a Loose Cultivator, truly a heaven-sent prodigy."

"Regrettably, his ability to take in disciples is truly terrible; his numerous disciples are either useless or ingrates."

"After he died facing his calamity, he didn't leave a proper Daoist lineage behind, only his good friend Jialan Bodhisattva once said: 'Bi Xuze has arranged for the inheritance of his lineage, which can emerge after hundreds of years.'"

"If this rumor isn't wrong, it seems it should manifest in this young girl."

"Learning from his lesson, Bi Xuze set up a test of merit and fortune to select a hearted kind-hearted heir of the next generation, which seems reasonable."

"At first glance, this girl's talent and aptitude seem quite ordinary, but upon closer inspection, it's clear that she possesses the Water Destiny Life Chart and also has certain perseverance and indomitable spirit, indeed fitting to inherit Bi Xuze's Daoist lineage."

The Record that Tao Qian scrutinized was almost no different from what Yuan Gong was saying.

This Duan Yuhong, what good fortune she's stumbled upon.

Stepping outside and picking up a Daoist lineage.

After pondering for a moment, Tao Qian returned the Command Token to Duan Yuhong, nodding as he said:

"Daoist Duan is a person of fortune, this Command Token is indeed left by Master Bi Xu."

"That you've picked it up is also the arrangement of this senior; as long as you can pass the test, not only will you be the master of the Sweet Spring Water Mansion, but you will also be the keeper of the Bi Xu Immortal Origin teaching."

...

Although Duan Yuhong had received an opportunity, she had her doubts about its authenticity.

But now, having the endorsement of the First Heavenly Pride of the Daoist sects, she no longer doubted it and was overjoyed.

At this moment, thoughts tumbled in Tao Qian's mind, and he started strategizing rapidly.

The current situation!

The group of demons in Guangping City, the Gao Family, and this Gao Buxi... Tao Qian could kill them all in one night, leaving none behind, if he desired.

But what would happen after that?

The Gao family members had a bloodline sensing ability; if Gao Buxi died, it would surely alarm the True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang, and then he could only continue to flee.

But where would he flee to?

Return to the Mountain Gate?

Hide in the Penglai Sea, cultivate in peace, proceed orderly to Ultimate Happiness, then achieve Daoist Transformation?

If he had done this after finishing his business in the Demon City, it indeed would have been feasible.

But now, it was no longer possible.

The reason was simple, Tao Qian had already comprehended the Dao.

Throughout his journey of cultivation, he had successively received the Innate Dao Seed, Nine Extreme Immortal Spirit Qi, Spirit Treasure Taishang No Leaking Body... and then the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body.

Undoubtedly, he possessed extraordinary talent beyond ordinary cultivators.

But his cultivation had not been for long, and he had already caught up to his senior brothers and sisters like Xu Xun and Yang Jie, who had been practicing Dao for many years; in terms of mana, he was even surpassing them, which no matter how abnormal the talent, could not be achieved in such a short time.

The secret lay in the deeds that Tao Qian had performed in the past, the miracles created, and the fortune gained.

Not long ago, upon successfully comprehending the Dao, Tao Qian vaguely understood:

When he would set foot into the Ultimate Happiness Realm.

And when he could advance into Daoist Transformation.

With all these responsive feelings, Tao Qian also had a vague goal in mind; his actions had their own logic, no longer aimlessly drifting with the flow.

But before truly "saving people," he still needed to cultivate and prepare, waiting for the opportune moment to mature.

Just like now, he wanted to first gather the Nine States' Twelve Treasures, and then save the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen.

"The name of the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen is known throughout the world."

"With the Heavenly Phoenix Body and the Spring and Autumn Chariot as bait, by that time, Qiantang Province will likely gather a plethora of powerful demons. To say 'Cavernous Mystery walks everywhere and Ultimate Happiness as plentiful as dogs' would be an exaggeration, but there will surely be more than a handful of Ultimate Happiness Realm strong people gathered, not to mention the numerous warlords, and more than one Extraordinary Army."

"I now have some Divine Skills, but to snatch Yuan Mingzhen and the Spring and Autumn Chariot out of that situation would be a fool's dream."

"The situation is different from New Moon Province; that is just an ordinary province, with a weak presence, and the Ultimate Happiness Realm powerhouses exist only in the Seven Evils, Beichan, and Xuan Dao sects, restraining each other."

"Qiantang Province will catch everyone's eyes, with powerful individuals converging."

"If I am to act and have any chance of success, apart from creating an unbeatable new persona, I also need to borrow a mighty power, use others to eliminate enemies, and ultimately reap the benefits of a fisherman."

"It's not easy to save from surrounding demons, so I'll blend in with the group of demons."

"In that case, there could be no more convenient way than to join the ranks of the Gao Family."



Having settled his thoughts, Tao Qian's gaze swept back and forth between Gao Buxi and Duan Yuhong.

Within Duan Yuhong's excited demeanor, Master Tao gave a nod, agreeing to let her join.

Only the plan was quite surprising.

With full apology, Tao Qian spoke:

"I was originally planning to use the group of demons under my command, coupled with some other means, to control this Gao Buxi."

"Since Daoist Duan is willing to join, that's even better, and more flawless."

"Yet I must impose upon you somewhat; not only will you have to act as the public wife of this beast, but you will also have to play the role of a vicious and jealous woman who has turned from Dao to Demon."

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Tao Qian's final words left Duan Yuhong's expression momentarily stiffened.

Just as she was about to ask for details, from the warm bed over there, Gao Buxi's voice, which had become hoarse, suddenly came through:

"Dear wife, have mercy."

"I surrender; let's cease hostilities for now."

Such barbaric words immediately made Duan Yuhong blush with shame.

Meanwhile, Tao Qian took advantage of the moment to make his move.

He walked straight to the bedside, where Gao Buxi, with his last ounce of strength, had summoned a magic artifact to cloak himself in a gown, only to then collapse like a mound of mud onto the spot, pallid and emaciated, with his legs trembling non-stop—a clear sign of someone drained of both qi and blood, unable to sustain any more blows.

Scattered around on the bed were a host of voluptuous and gracious Joyful Demons, each with a look of distaste on their face.

Their expression was as if they had been starving, ready to eat, but were only allowed to smell the aroma of food, whetting their appetite with nothing more.

Upon seeing Tao Qian approach, the Joyful Demons promptly paid their respects, chattering all at once.

"Master is here!"

"Master, next time you summon us, please choose someone more robust. This man's entire Transcend Mortality Cultivation is hollow, bolstered by elixirs, offering no real substance."

"Exactly, he couldn't even last three breaths. What a waste of a fine vessel."

"If only Master would personally spar with us..."

"Don't daydream. As much as we respect the Master, we cannot alter our demonic nature. It's one thing to brush against Master's Immortal Qi, but coming together with him would invoke the automatic protection of the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body, summoning the Innate Spiritual Treasure Dao Flame that would incinerate us in the blink of an eye."

"Alas, what a pity."

...

Tao Qian ignored the nonsense from his subordinate demons and simply looked at Gao Buxi.

Aside from being ruthlessly exploited, this man was still under the influence of an illusion.

He couldn't see the "truth" inside the bridal chamber.

After all, Master Tao had taken no chances. In addition to arranging for Joyful Demons, he simply ordered Heart Demons, Illusion Demons, Brain Demons, and other demonic generals to participate.

One could say that Gao Buxi had received treatment other cultivators could only dream of, with the Demons specially tailoring a private Ultimate Happiness fantasy service just for him.

Had his Dao Heart been steadfast, this ruse may not have succeeded.

Unfortunately, he was nothing but a wastrel who flouted the rules, indulged in wine, women, wealth, and was adept at flattering his great-grandfather.

Despite this, Tao Qian still added a safeguard.

Silently circulating the "True Word Secret Decree," he said aloud:

"Gao Buxi has been infatuated with Duan Yuhong, becoming even more compliant after marriage, daring not to disobey."

By common sense!

Tao Qian's words were not excessive and should have been a statement of fact.

After all, the depth of feeling Gao Buxi displayed was somewhat genuine.

But in that instant, Tao Qian's body still lost about one-tenth of his mana, indicating he had paid a significant price to make that statement come true.

Seeing this, Tao Qian was not the slightest bit surprised.

"Gao Buxi, who killed his own uncle and laid hands on his aunt, is a beast."

"Such a person, whether the depth of feeling or obsession, is but a fleeting illusion. Once fulfilled, before long he will grow tired and cast it aside like worn-out shoes."

Having settled his thoughts, Tao Qian raised his hand to take out a large, yellow-gourd he usually used for storing demons.

Passing it to Duan Yuhong, he then said:

"Daoist Duan, I leave these demons under your control for now."

"They each have their uses, ensuring your purity and safety when dealing with the beast Gao Buxi, and life without worries. Coupled with the secret technique I just applied, he won't be able to harbor any rebellious thoughts against you in the future."

"Now, I shall undo the illusion he's under, and we can verify it together."

"And along the way, we can also discreetly learn the essential information."

While he spoke, Tao Qian's figure vanished again.

This was one of the divine skills he possessed, called the "Invisibility Technique."

Unless one's magic realm was much stronger than his, it would be impossible to see through him.

Almost simultaneously, Duan Yuhong was also handling the Demon Soul Gourd, ordering the demons back into their places.

After cleaning up the traces, she suppressed her disgust and woke up the dizzy, weak, and utterly drained Gao Buxi.

A cultivator who had achieved Perfect Transcend Mortality and who wielded the Xuan Yin Blood Frost Saber seemed even stronger than the usual Cavernous Mystery.

Yet now, he looked haggard and could only slowly wait for the blurred figures in front of him to gradually become clear.

Soon, he saw his dear wife Duan Yuhong.

The beautiful and gentle South Sea Fairy was sitting dignified and pure at the head of the wedding table, looking at him.

It was strange: Why was his wife sitting so far away?

But quickly he remembered something, and his eyes showed gratitude, shame, reluctance, and other complex emotions.

He took a bottle called the "Supplementing Marrow and Nourishing Essence Pill" from his treasure bag and without bother to take one at a time, he downed them all.

Desperate and rushed, he quickly started to refine them.

Moments later, his pale complexion showed a hint of rosiness, and his skeletal frame inflated a bit like a balloon.

Regaining vitality, Gao Buxi didn't dare act rashly or provoke his wife further, managing only an embarrassed smile, still unwilling to concede defeat:

"Dear wife, your Mystical Water Dao Body is truly extraordinary, it really has been an eye-opener for me."

"However, don't misunderstand me, my love. Tonight... I simply drank too much, which left me fatigued and powerless, unable to satisfy you fully."

"Just wait a few more hours, let me sober up, and I shall challenge you again."

Gao Buxi blustered aloud, unwilling to admit defeat.

Internally he was terrified, silently pondering:

"This time it's tough. What exactly is my wife's mysterious Dao Body?"

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"I have also heard of the Mystical Water Palace, but it is merely an assemblage of casual female cultivators, hardly the kind of ferocious inheritance that people talk about."

"However, she indeed is a peerless beauty, a supreme pleasure, the Ultimate Happiness."

"I must hide my lady well, we absolutely can't let the ancestors find out."

"But how can I satisfy my lady?"

"In the future, I'm afraid I will have to treat Soul-destroying Powder and Replenishing Essence Pills like candy beans, otherwise, my marital duties will surely falter."

As Gao Buxi was pondering this, he was oblivious to the fact that his status was gradually changing.

He had first been ravaged by dozens of Joyful Demons and then subjected to Tao Qian's secret skill, and quite naturally, he had changed.

Just as he was worried that he would not be able to satisfy his lady and fulfill his responsibilities as a husband,

the aforementioned Duan Yuhong was very understanding and deftly steered the conversation past this subject, softly saying:

"Husband, there's no need to explain, I believe you."

"Now that I have married into the Gao Family and am the Mother of Guangping City, it is only right that I am informed of all matters concerning the Gao Family, which will also facilitate my management of household affairs in the future."

"Husband, you agree, don't you?"

Upon hearing that his lady was not dwelling on their private affairs, Gao Buxi was very pleased.

He quickly agreed, saying, "Right, right, right, my lady is correct."

Speaking of the Gao Family, a source of great pride for him, Gao Buxi suddenly displayed more vigor.

Lifting his head high in self-satisfaction, he said:

"Let my lady know that including this Guangping City, the vast Tiannan Province, as well as many Spiritual Mountains, Devil Caves, God Demon Dojos around, all fall under the rule of my Gao Family."

"And our Gao Family's reliance is none other than the Shenwu Emperor Gao Zu."

"His cultivation has reached the Daoist Transformation Realm and he is one of the significant elders among the alchemists. In truth, Tiannan Province is his territory. All lives here, be they Human Clan, Demons, or wild beasts and livestock, Gods and Buddhas, or Alien Species... They all belong to Gao Zu."

"However, since Gao Zu is not in this realm, the four elders of the Ultimate Happiness Realm usually govern this province on behalf of our Gao Family."

"Oh? Who are they?"

Duan Yuhong's casual inquiry hit the right spot for Gao Buxi.

His head held even higher, he said with pride:

"The four elders are led by my great-grandfather, True Lord of a Hundred Demons, Gao Yang."

"Then follow Hidden Demon True Monarch Gao Yan, Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan, and Yang Demon True Monarch Gao Wei."

"All four elders are equally skilled in cultivation. Originally, each of them governed a province without interfering with each other, since Gao Zu has more than just Tiannan Province as his territory."

"But later, a cursed Spirit Treasure Daoist ruined the favorable situation, and most territories were lost. Only Tiannan remains. The other three elders came back to Tiannan, causing internal struggles and intrigues within the Gao Family."

"Fortunately, my great-grandfather possesses the strongest supernatural power, and Gao Yan, who is quite hypocritical, originally from the Demon Path but leaning towards the Righteous, is not well-received by most of the Gao Family. The only two opponents my great-grandfather currently has are Gao Zhan and Gao Wei."

Secrets of the Gao Family, unknown to the common people, were easily divulged by Gao Buxi.

Not to mention Duan Yuhong, even Tao Qian, who was hiding nearby, found the conversation intriguing.

At this moment, Yuan Gong inside his arms also transmitted a message, commenting only on Gao Yan, revealing some secrets:

"I've also heard of Gao Yan. Despite being of the Gao Family, he indeed follows the Righteous Path, making him an exceedingly rare normal person amidst the beastly Gao Family."

"He is a genius with innate talent, rumored not to practice the cultivation technique passed down by his ancestor Gao Zu, but rather relies on a Nameless Heavenly Book he stumbled upon, penetrating Cavernous Mystery, entering Ultimate Happiness, and also possesses extraordinary combat power."

"However, his explanation is just to mislead others. Who doesn't know that he practices the 'Primordial Cave Truth Heavenly Book'? His Master is a well-known second-generation ancestor of the Primordial Sect, not only skilled in Daoist Transformation but also in calculations and killing."

"If it weren't for the backing of the Primordial Sect, the old monster Gao Huan would have already killed this unfilial descendant."

...

With just a few simple questions, Gao Buxi divulged many of the Gao Family's secrets in just a few words.

Seeing the timing was right, Tao Qian let Duan Yuhong speak again, guiding Gao Buxi to reveal the detailed plan for the "Abducting Demon Concubine."

The latter, of course, had no reason to refuse, and again began to speak self-satisfactorily:

"Yuann Mingzhen has many advantages, attracting the attention of the world, and is bound to cause a storm of blood and violence."

"Under normal circumstances, even if my great-grandfather personally planned it, he might not have a fifty percent chance to snatch her."

"But now, an excellent opportunity has presented itself."

"My great-grandfather has anticipated: The Northern Land Provinces are brewing a 'Central Plains War', sweeping across many provinces, involving many warlords, many Cultivation World Great Sects."

"Zhang Mazi, who has taken control over many provinces, Desert North's Lu Lushan, as well as Song Tiecheng, Wu Shaozu, Guo Zhanlong, and the recently most prominent Devil God Third Princess Hong Fu, along with Si Xixin, who has garnered the full support of the Si Family... all these warlord Major Sects have the ambition to fight for dominion over the Central Plains."

"And with Alchemists instigating, it won't take long before armies are raised for a great war, and mutual devouring ensues."

"At that time, although there will still be plenty of strong people from the Ultimate Happiness Realm and Demons vying for Yuan Mingzhen, those strong ones my great-grandfather admits he cannot handle are likely too occupied to spare the time."

When Gao Buxi reached this point,

Tao Qian, who was hiding on the side, immediately felt a reaction within himself.

Especially the four words "Central Plains Great War," which instantly caused the already restless Human Dao Destiny to churn anew.

In a trance, Tao Qian seemed to see an endless battlefield, an infinite Corpse Mountain and sea of blood.

In his heart, he couldn't help but sigh.

In fact, Tao Qian had also anticipated this, especially after he had successfully comprehended the Dao and his spirit had roamed for three days; he was more convinced than ever.

Now, it was just one more piece of corroborating evidence.

Regaining control of his spirit and casting aside distracting thoughts, he continued to listen to Gao Buxi's leaking of secrets.

"Our great-grandfather has long planned to take Yuan Mingzhen as a concubine, hence the strategy has been set."

"Any day now, the Devil Concubine will be besieged in Qiantang Province by various warlords and strong characters."

"The Xie Family and Guanyin Temple, despite being trapped by the remnants of the Zhu family and the Great Freedom Temple, should have no problem protecting her for a brief period, especially since those warlord aggressors will also consume each other in the process."

"My Gao Family will simply wait by the tree for the hare, resting to prepare for action."

"Our great-grandfather has already negotiated terms with Cheng Arhat, the current ruler of Qiantang Province, and the Demon Buddha Temple behind him, agreeing not to intervene and even to allow us passage."

"Just waiting for the right moment, when the great army of Tiannan sets out for Qiantang."

"The extraordinary forces brought by the warlords from various provinces will be dealt with by the Hundred Demon Army, Jade Demon Army, and Yang Demon Army."

"The strong cultivators and demons from the Ultimate Happiness Realm will be confronted by our two old ancestors Gao Zhan and Gao Wei, with the high monks from the Demon Buddha Temple."

"The remaining cultivators and demons will be fought by a large number of Cavernous Mystery demons recruited by our younger generation. Speaking of which, I must be able to recruit four Cavernous Mystery beings this time, sufficient to win a glance from our great-grandfather. Should we succeed, a hefty reward for me is certain."

"Yet what will truly settle the matter is still our great-grandfather himself."

"It is said that he personally pleaded with Gao Zu and was granted a Spiritual Treasure that could abduct the Devil Concubine along with the Ancestor God Fragment [Spring and Autumn Chariot] beneath her."



...

A rather complex, yet seemingly simple strategy, fell completely into Tao Qian's ears without omission.

He had not expected to hear the name of an old acquaintance again.

Kongchan Arhat!

Had Gao Buxi not mentioned it, Tao Qian would have almost forgotten.

He had briefly glimpsed when he hung the Heavenly Lantern, that after the Yang Sui Uprising, a new overlord emerged in Qiantang Province.

An alchemist-turned-warlord named "Cheng Arhat," who was a monk command Buddha Soldiers.

Aware of the Yang Sui Rebellion, he quickly showed his true colors, first slaying the Prince of the Zhu family and then expelling tens of thousands of Zhu family members from the province.

He wished to establish an Earthly Buddha Country and rule as king.

The Major Sect of the Buddhist order that supported him, Han Mountain Temple, refused, as did other major Buddhist Sects.

Unexpectedly, Kongchan Arhat saw an opportunity and swiftly drove Han Mountain Temple away, allowing the Demon Buddha Temple to take over Qiantang.

Though the encounter in Demon City had been brief,

Tao Qian prided himself on his incisive gaze and already fully understood what kind of person Kongchan Arhat was.

"That cunning old demon monk, would he really be so kind as to let go of Yuan Mingzhen, this precious morsel, to True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang?"

At this thought, Tao Qian was about to draw his conclusion.

However, Yuan Gong in his arms was already trembling, bursting into laughter:

"Ha ha ha... This kid is either too naive, or it's that scoundrel Gao Yang who has fooled this fool."

"Kongchan, that treacherous old turtle, not to mention being stingy beyond measure, is one to pluck a feather from every passing goose."

"Would he kindly lend a path to the Gao family? And allow the armies of the Hundred Demons, Jade Demon, and Yang Demon into Qiantang?"

"Tsk, tsk, could it be that he plans to turn the table and swallow up Qiantang Province and the Gao Family?"

"Others might fear alchemists and the Gao family, those lawless monks of the Demon Buddha Temple, but he wouldn't be scared in the least."