

Longevity 611

Chapter 611: Yuan Gong Inquires Tao Master about the Ignorant Monks in Steamed Buddha City

Entering first sets the standard, deep-rooted and unshakable.

Regarding the captivating Buddha's son and Bodhisattva before him, Tao Da felt a sense of profound understanding in the depths of his heart.

On the other side, while there was still time.

Tao Qian and Sister Yunrong leisurely strolled through Guangping City, step by step.

Pretending to be a Buddhist couple vain of reputation, yearning for fame, and amassing merit, they continually displayed their saintliness, casting spells to rescue those in difficulty.

"After this battle, all Demon and Evil Cultivators with a bit of influence around Guangping City have been eradicated by me,"

"With Li Fengxian, Qu Zhongyuan, and I (Gao Buxi) also leaving temporarily, a glimmer of life has emerged."

"I'll first choose someone with leadership talents and, in secret, bestow a Secret Technique upon them, guiding them to lead the citizens to seek refuge with the Ancestor Dragon Society in the neighboring province."

Tao Qian's arrangement was flawless and meticulously planned.

However, it was at this moment that Yuan Gong suddenly spoke up.

Tao Qian's Second Master still dwelled on the previous matter of Tao Qian's spiritual enlightenment, and coupled with the current situation, Yuan Gong couldn't help but sense some ominous premonitions.

After pondering for a while, he now asked,

"Young man, now that the immediate troubles are over, you should be able to tell your master what kind of Dao path you actually seek."

There was no hiding the worry in Yuan Gong's telepathic message.

Tao Qian found it a bit strange, but he responded candidly,

"Nothing else, for I have saved myself, and now I must save others."

"Coming from the mortal realm, and having witnessed all suffering, this world with tens of billions from the Human Clan, by right, should belong to the Human Dao."

"And yet, so many people, not only can they not control their own destinies, but they don't even have the slightest strength to resist. Their lives are as insignificant as weeds, which should not be the case."

"This principle is wrong."

The last sentence Tao Qian articulated was extremely determined, leaving no room for negotiation.

Perhaps because of this talk on nature, Tao Qian thought for a moment and then said,

"The matter of the Ying Qingdi is preposterous, a play of fate."

"But those books he authored, they are not entirely without reason. Take the 'Immortal and Mortal Scripture,' for example. Since all these Immortals, Buddhas, Demons, and Ghosts originated from the Human Clan, then the Human Clan ought to have some self-preservation strength."

"Be aware that water can carry a boat but can also capsize it. This is the simple truth."

Tao Qian was both answering and questioning.

At the same time, this allowed Yuan Gong to clearly hear his disciple's heartfelt thoughts.

Sighing inwardly, he thought to himself:

"No wonder the Sect Master commanded me to reside in mountainous seclusion and diligently practice swordsmanship, forbidding me from descending lightly. The mortal world indeed carries poison, its truth undeniable."

"This good disciple previously intended to return to the Penglai Sea to cultivate, but now he has embarked on this path."

"Through the ages, the corpses of talents that have been buried on this path number not in the hundreds of thousands but surely in the tens of thousands."

"It seems my foolish disciple will also lay his bones among them."

Yuan Gong felt heavy-hearted, convinced that Tao Da was beyond saving.

However, considering he was his most satisfying and proudest disciple, and keeping in mind that Tao Qian was also Duobao's beloved pupil, who was looked upon differently by Lingbao Tianzun as the true inheritor, perhaps there was another opportunity or path for him?

After some thought, Yuan Gong unceremoniously said,

"Young man!"

"Do you know that the distinction between immortals and mortals has persisted for many years? From ancient times until now, countless sages and great saints have proceeded one after another, yet even the Ancestor Dragon who created the 'Ancestor God Forbidden Technique,' speaking from results, cannot be considered successful."

"Our Secret Demon Sect had an ancient ancestor known as 'Heavenly Killing Demon Lord,' who also came from the Human Clan, and saw the Human Clan as the head of all life forms, believing that other races should serve the Human Clan, not causing chaos or resorting to cannibalism."

"These thoughts nonetheless earned him the title of a demon, due to his murderous nature. He saw the downfall of the Human Clan in beings such as Demons, Ghosts, Evil Spirits, Immortals, and so on... Thus he cultivated the Heavenly Killing Technique, seeking to create a slaughtering barrier, completely cutting off transcendence, severing the flow from the Source Sea, leaving only the Human Clan to rule this realm."

"Eventually, he failed, and the disaster that befell our Secret Demon Sect was partly due to the trouble this ancestor left behind."

"You have astonishing talent and some wisdom, but you are still far from those sages."

"What can you do?"

"I'm afraid you don't even understand the crux of the problem."

Tao Qian took the rebuke in stride, with not a hint of shame visible on his face.

His mind, surprisingly, was exceptionally peaceful.

The next moment, upon finding a temporary leader in the city originating from the slums yet possessing unexpected charm, a trace of joy flickered in his eyes.

After casting a spell to plant the idea of leading the citizens to seek refuge with the Ancestor Dragon Society, Tao Qian finally replied to Yuan Gong,

"Master Yuan, this disciple does not yet know how to save the world's people. I only plan to roll around in this mortal world, while seeking enlightenment and alleviating suffering. As my cultivation grows and I see more, I will slowly gain some insights."

"However, as for what lies at the heart of the Human Clan's downfall, I do have some conjectures."

"Immortals, Demons, Buddhas, Devils, Alien Strange Objects, Extraordinary Source Power... none of these are the real reason."

"The true gate lies in that iron rule."

"Iron rule? The necessity of a price for cultivation? What crux could that be?"

Tao Qian's unexpected answer took Yuan Gong by surprise.

His interest piqued, he asked back.

The next moment, a hint of an unusual look flashed in Tao Qian's eyes, as his gaze wasn't fixed on Guangping City before him, nor on this world.

He seemed to be looking beyond this realm, into the Outer Realm, into the endless, all-encompassing Great Abyss Origin Sea.

With absolute certainty, he telepathically responded,

"The cost of cultivation isn't the issue."

"The real problem is that the price is too high, so high that every cultivator from the Human Clan ends up losing their humanity in the end, turning against their own people."

"The weak, once they step onto the path of cultivation, are no longer human, only transformed into Demons and such."

"The strong, the higher their cultivation, the less human they become, and the greater the harm they cause."

"Cultivation shouldn't be this way, yet in this realm, it is inevitably so."

Yuan Gong had anticipated many possible answers from Tao Qian, but this one was indeed rare.

At first, when he heard it, Master Yuan immediately wanted to retort.

But soon, it was as if he had been enlightened, and after the statue trembled a few times, it fell into silence, with only some murmurs coming through:

"Cultivation has a price, this is the ultimate principle of the Heavenly Dao, the supreme rule; where could there be a mistake?"

"However, the calamities that befall the Human Clan are mostly self-inflicted, those world-ending disasters, the slaughtering of the Human Clan by Great Demons, the ambition-driven madmen, all come from the Human Clan themselves."

"If there were a way to completely sever the path of cultivation, wouldn't the Human Clan then be free from disaster?"

"No, they'd die even faster, as any casual Outer Realm Evil God that intrudes could annihilate the world."

"Moreover, these paths of cultivation like Immortals, Buddhas, Demons, heterodoxy, etc., all originated from the dark and ignorant times when the Human Clan, to survive amidst countless Deceitful Objects and Evil Spirits, each generation desperately groped for answers. If not for these paths, the Human Clan would have been annihilated during barbaric times."

"Is this, going back in circles again?"

"Unless there is a way to lighten the price for all Cultivators?"

"But is there? If there really were, I'm afraid the sages would have discovered it long ago..."

Tao Qian, however, hadn't expected that he'd actually entangled Master Yuan with just a few words.

With a sense of irony, he could only hurriedly transmit a message to interrupt:

"The crux of the matter lies at the source, which has already become a Dao circle that no one can untangle; thinking more is useless."

"Master Yuan, don't worry, do you not know me, Tao Qian? I'm not that kind of reckless person."

"Even if I wish to save people, I take a cautious approach, like I feel that rebuilding the 'Ancestor God Forbidden Technique' is also a secure path; at the very least, it can grant the Human Clan in this realm another two thousand years of respite."

"In addition, concerning the matter of cultivation, I will first ascend to the higher levels. Who knows, I might be able to Peep at the Truth of secrets...?"

Master Yuan originally wanted to persuade Tao Qian not to indulge in wishful thinking, to either honestly return to the Penglai Sea to cultivate or to compete with others for the position of revival leader within the Secret Demon Sect.

However, after the exchange, he couldn't help but ponder and question the ironclad laws of the Cultivation World that had been propagated for ten thousand years.

He had no idea why Tao Qian had those thoughts; they were different from ordinary people.

For one thing, the soul of Master Tao was not from the Human Clan of this realm; in his previous life, he had heard of another worldview of cultivation, even though he knew that might well be a mere fantasy.

Secondly, the soul of Master Tao was indeed Abnormal; it seemed that the ultimate truth did not quite apply to him, or should it be said that its effect was not so severe?

Because of these, he had given rise to such fanciful ideas.

However, as he said himself, he had merely entertained the notion and had not recklessly acted on it.

"Ha, I'm not in the Ultimate Happiness Realm, nor have I undergone Daoist Transformation, even less a Tribulation Immortal; what is a mere Cavernous Mystery?"

"To do great things, one must be a big shot first, plain common sense."

Tao Qian murmured to himself in his heart.

Meanwhile, on one hand, he gently held the Bodhisattva's gentle hand of his sister Yunrong, while on the other, he continued taking action, utterly disregarding the strange looks from the civilians within Guangping City.

It was only because the civilians had received his favor that they did not spit on him for his blasphemous act.

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At dawn, two Monster Demons returned, both wearing an unsatisfied look on their faces.

Clearly, neither the excrement from Immortal Crane Mountain nor the Turtle Essence Dew from the Blood Nest Water Mansion had satisfied them.

On the other hand, Gao Buxi, though still pale and lifeless, was in a great mood.

He reached into his personal treasure bag and pulled out a small treasure. With a surge of Mana, it instantly transformed into a massive flying boat made entirely of White Jade Spirit Stones.

"This treasure is the 'Feathered Demon Boat,' a unique artifact of the Gao Family."

"It can travel thousands of miles a day, and today we can reach the border of Qiantang Province, Dagan County, where my Gao Family's forces are stationed."

"Gentlemen, please."

As Gao Buxi finished speaking, they saw in front of the flying boat dozens of Snake Demon sculptures with wings, ferocious faces, and bodies covered in green scales come to life.

Once everyone was aboard, these monsters let out shrieks and began pulling the flying boat toward Qiantang Province.

Conveniently,

This flying boat had just traveled around a hundred miles.

A cloud scroll came flying from the direction of Qiantang Province, shooting into the boat. After Gao Buxi read it, he excitedly shared while whipping the Snake Demons to go faster:

"Hurry, hurry, the good news has been moved up."

"The Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen is actually trapped at the old site of Han Mountain Temple, a major Buddhist sect in Qiantang."

"Two warlords, unable to resist the Devil Concubine's temptation, have started fighting prematurely at the mountain's base. Early this morning, it turned into a river of blood. The cloud scroll says the river beneath Han Mountain Temple, called the 'Ming King River,' has been blocked by corpses and cut off, and the rest of the warlords and major Demon Sects are also eager to act."

"Cheng Arhat and Master Kongchan of the Demon Buddha Temple have sent messages urging my great-grandfather to hurry."

"To conceal our movements, they have borrowed a hidden path for us, allowing us to pass through the 'Steamed Buddha City' and directly enter the heart of Qiantang, waiting for those fools to fight it out. Then, my Gao Family will reap the benefits as the fisherman watches the snipe and the clam."

"Let's change course to Steamed Buddha City."

After issuing this command,

Remembering the strange name of the city and seeing the Wu Gou Buddha Son and Miao Yin Bodhisattva from Buddhism present,

Gao Buxi felt a bit showy.

With a chuckle, he said to Tao Qian and the others:

"You two come from the South Sea, so you must be quite unfamiliar with Qiantang, let alone the story of Steamed Buddha City."

"Do not rush; I shall enlighten you."

"It's hardly a secret; it involves a dispute between two major Buddhist sects."

"Previously, the Great Governor of Qiantang Province was Cheng Arhat, backed by Han Mountain Temple."

"This man's mind was corrupted by power, and he turned against Han Mountain Temple, which allowed the Demon Buddha Temple to seize the opportunity."

"That night, the two temples clashed, and although Han Mountain was not as strong as the Demon Buddha Temple, it was not far behind, especially using the terrain to its advantage, theoretically able to hold out for months."

"Who expected that the Demon Buddha Temple had a ruthless individual who bet a debating of scriptures with the monks of Han Mountain, discussing the matter of disaster relief and problem-solving?"

"It's unclear how that monk managed it..."

"In the end, he actually built a city-large steamer, invited the monks of Han Mountain inside, and turned their flesh and blood into minced meat, steaming them into buns, distributing them to the civilians of Qiantang."

"Thus, the monks of Han Mountain won the scripture debate but lost their lives."

"Hahaha... truly a group of stupid monks who chanted till their brains turned to mush."

Chapter 612: Shipi Arhat, Nonsense Buddhist Scripture

"Gao Buxi, shut your mouth. What nonsense are you spouting?"

Miss Duan Yuhong angrily shouted and raised her hand to give Gao Buxi a smack on the back of his head.

Clearly, Miss Duan had deeply immersed herself in the role, perfectly embodying a fierce matriarch. Seeing Gao Buxi blunder, she didn't hesitate to give him a piece of her mind.

Witnessing this scene, the Dog Demon Li Fengxian and the Devouring Ghost Qu Zhongyuan kept a straight face, but deep down, they were bursting with laughter.

"A Buddha's son stands before us, a Female Bodhisattva too, and yet you spew out scriptures and spoil your brains, foolish monks" they joked, pointing at the monks and scolding them bald. "You deserved that hit."

"It's also the cycle of karmic retribution; payback's a bitch. Who could have guessed that a man like Gao Buxi would end up marrying a shrewish wife and be utterly whipped? Now that's a strange and wondrous thing."

These two enjoyed watching Gao Buxi's misfortunes and muttered endlessly in their hearts.

Gao Buxi, who was thoroughly chastened by Duan Yuhong, begged for mercy while heaping compliments on Tao Qian and Yunrong:

"Eh, Wife, don't be angry. It was but a slip of the tongue from Buxi."

"Master Wu Gou and Miao Yin Bodhisattva are clearly high-level practitioners from the Buddhist Sect, who aspire to reach the Mahayana. Naturally, they are beyond compare with those monks from Han Mountain Temple."

"Though this journey cost me the Wutong Old Monster, having the Master and the Bodhisattva join us is really a blessing in disguise."

"Now, with an inevitable siege upon Steamed Buddha City and a gathering of ten thousand Cultivators, the Cavernous Mystery Realm might not count for much."

"But I, Gao Buxi, dare to assert: none of the Cultivators recruited by others from my family can hold a candle to the Master and the Bodhisattva. When the time comes, you will definitely dominate the scene. Perhaps my ancestor will even entrust you with a great responsibility and offer you a fortune."

As usual, Gao Buxi was drawing a big pancake in the air.

Yet, he had no idea how soon his last words would become reality.

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Compared to Mortals, Cultivators of Immortals, Demons, Buddhas, and Devils who possess Extraordinary Power can cover a thousand miles in a day with ease.

Even though the territory of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty's seventy-two provinces is vast, it can't hinder these Cultivators' ability to travel freely and swiftly.

When the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique first shattered, it was indeed the case, especially for those from the Great Freedom Temple who practiced the "Heart Light Escape."

However, as time went on, the land of Longevity began to display many abnormalities:

Battlefields of Gods and Demons!

Unexplainable mystic phenomena!

Unknown calamities!

Corpses falling from Outer Realms!

Any one of these could injure a Cultivator, with death or dissolution of their cultivation not being unusual.

Just like when Tao Qian and Zhong Ziyang had to avoid the pursuit of the "Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan," fleeing from Gao Ren City, they specifically chose the path through Changliu Mountain.

The reason?

In that mountain lay the corpse of an Evil God from the Outer Realm.

Both of them, along with Gao Zhan, narrowly escaped with their lives.

Would any other Cultivator who accidentally wandered in there still be alive?

There was no choice but to detour around it.

The flying boat controlled by Gao Buxi followed the same principle, mostly flying over mountains and crossing rivers.

However, on occasion, it too had to make a detour.

The incident at Changliu Mountain involving the Divine Corpse also had a follow-up:

Zhong Ziyang and Tao Qian both asked for help to share the loot, and the one called by Master Tao, naturally, was his cheap Master Duobao. With him involved in the sharing of treasures, there was hardly any other possible outcome.

It was said that afterwards, an expert from the Taishang Dao, furious with Duobao's shamelessness, almost went on a killing spree to Penglai Sea.

Of course, this had nothing to do with Tao Qian.

Several hours later, the flying boat entered Qiantang Province, heading towards a rather peculiar territory.

Steamed Buddha City!

Everyone on the boat, including Tao Qian, had already been briefed by Gao Buxi.

This city was conjured out of thin air, solely to steam the high-ranking monks from Han Mountain Temple into meat buns.

Having heard this story, how could they not be curious about what the city looked like?

The next moment, they all saw it.

Before them stretched thousands of miles without a trace of humanity, nothing but barren mountains and dark waters, except for a large city situated in the middle.

Lone and desolate, gloomy and dim.

The city walls and gates seemed to be forged from cast iron, rough and cold, full of edges and cracks, and plastered with "talisman" papers of various sizes and lengths.

Upon closer inspection, one could see that these were rough pieces of paper covered in scribbled and insane gratitude of the common people.

"Thank you to the monks for the meat buns, may the masters all achieve enlightenment."

"How shall we live without such delicious meat buns in the future? Alas, truly sorrowful."

"Just one? I have another mouth in my belly. Hurry, give me two."

"I've always said those masters do nothing but eat vegetarian meals and recite scriptures all day, fattening themselves up. That meat must be incredibly tender. Now that I've tasted it, it's indeed as I expected."

"The meat buns from Han Mountain Temple are unparalleled in the world."

Everyone on the boat, with their exceptional vision, could easily see the crooked writing on those pieces of paper.

At first, all seemed well, with no changes.

Especially for Li Fengxian and Qu Zhongyuan, they were quite entertained.

But soon, they noticed that hidden beneath these writings were immense amounts of resentful power and Demon Thoughts. Those who immersed themselves in them would surely be compelled to become monks and subsequently fall into the Demon Path.

Tao Qian and Yunrong, being highly accomplished Cultivators, were naturally unaffected.

Nevertheless, both of them furrowed their brows now, shifting their gaze from the papers to the city itself, focusing on a giant iron plaque above it that read: Steamed Buddha City.

On either side were lines of a Buddha's verse:

All things are impermanent, this is the law of birth and death.

When birth and death are extinguished, Nirvana is bliss.

Tao Qian realized that these verses must have been written by a high-ranking monk from Han Mountain Temple. Each word was infused with Buddhist teachings and Zen intents, as if to admonish someone to understand the nature of life, death, and Nirvana.

And who was this someone? The answer came quickly.

Bold, blood-red characters appeared above the city gate: Nonsense!

Seeing this eerie yet vulgar response, the people on the boat were all stunned, because within this vulgar street language, profound Buddhist teachings were harbored.

Chapter 613: Shipi Arhat, Nonsense Buddhist Scripture_2

Gao Buxi suddenly showed off again, and said,

"Do not underestimate these four characters; they were written by the [Shipi Arhat] of the Demon Buddha Temple."

"It is said that he is the senior brother of the Kongchan Arhat, a first-class strong person in the Demon Buddha Temple. With his extraordinary supernatural powers, he single-handedly created this city. He minced the flesh of a hundred monks from the Han Mountain Temple and made them into meat buns that the people ate."

"The Shipi Arhat is nearly achieved enlightenment, so these four characters naturally have their mysteries."

"I heard that a highly insightful little devil once contemplated these words and conceived a 'Nonsense Scripture.'"

This was clearly to boast about the Shipi Arhat.

Unexpectedly, Li Fengxian, this Dog Demon, couldn't discern the good from the bad and only picked up on the parts related to dogs.

His mind being simple, anything related to dogs was related to him. Excited, he was about to revert to his true form and under the city gates, contemplate and develop a new 'Nonsense Scripture.'

It took quite an effort to stop them. Just then, as their flying boat approached the city, the amused Gao Buxi took out a token and shook it.

A dazzling radiance flashed, and the protective Forbidden Technique in front suddenly opened.

At the same time, Tao Qian also timely heard from Yuan Gong.

Whenever faced with the older generation of strong people, Tao Qian did not have to ask as Yuan Gong would automatically answer,

"Boy, if you encounter Kongchan, you can handle him."

"But if the Shipi is also there, you need to be very careful, and make sure not to reveal any trace of your origin."

"Huh? Does this Arhat have a grudge against my master?"

"Not really a grudge, but calling Shipi a big trouble is not an exaggeration."

"He is one of the Demon Buddha Temple's most hopeful candidates for attaining the status of a Tribulation Immortal. His situation is quite similar to Duobao's, both deliberately suppressing their realms, firmly stuck in the Perfect Ultimate Happiness without seeking enlightenment. Once they succeed, it won't take many years for them to achieve the status of Tribulation Immortal and then go to the Outer Realm to play with those Evil Gods."

"That's also why ordinary cultivators in the Daoist Transformation Realm don't dare provoke Duobao or Shipi—they are simply afraid of death."

"And the latter is even more troublesome. Duobao likes to scheme behind people's backs, whereas Shipi does the opposite. If he targets you, he will cling to you, using all kinds of methods to kill you—a true annoyance to gods and ghosts alike."

"Indeed, Shipi's magical power is high; even in a direct fight, Duobao might not be able to defeat him."

"Duobao used to treat Kongchan like a fool to toy with but has never deceived Shipi, perhaps fearing that he would stubbornly harass him at the Penglai Sea."

In just a few words, Tao Qian felt like he had already met a troublesome Arhat Demon Monk.

He became apprehensive and decided not to provoke him if they met.

As he thought this, the flying boat entered the city.

In an instant, a scenery quite the opposite of the desolate and empty outside world came into view.

The city was brightly lit, bustling with people.

The smoky mist was colorful, reminiscent of the Imperial City.

All around, one could see Demons and Ghosts, heresy and heterodoxy, as well as other cultivators. In this city, they all seemed to have settled as civilians, bustling about, extremely lively.

Moreover, in the east, west, and south parts of the city, there were three large Arrays exuding magnificent vital energy, their brilliance surging, covering all scenes within.

Before anyone could ask, Gao Buxi discreetly transmitted his voice again to boast,

"Do not look randomly. The Demon Buddha Temple has lent this place to our Gao Family, and the Sumeru Great Prohibition was arranged long ago."

"Within the three Great Prohibition Arrays, there are three armies respectively—the [Hundred Demon Army] controlled by my great-grandfather, as well as the [Jade Demon Army] of Elder Gao Zhan, and the [Yang Demon Army] of Elder Gao Wei."

"The camp of the great-grandfather should be in the East City, but the military camp is a sensitive area and not easy to enter."

"I will first lead you, my Daoist friends, to the inner city, where all the Guest Elders and tributes of my Gao Family are currently located."

"Speaking of which, there is a fine sight there. After Shipi Arhat steamed the Han Mountain Hundred Monks to death, besides this city, he also left behind the steaming basket, which is said to be an extremely marvelous device; let's go check it out together."

While speaking, Gao Buxi controlled the flying boat, passed through various restrictions and barriers, and soon arrived in the inner city.

As soon as he drew near, Tao Qian already sensed a large number of powerful auras.

He immediately saw, nested between the palaces and artificial hills, a massive, oddly-shaped device that loomed like a mountain.

Indeed, this device resembled a steamer.

Made from some kind of bronze spiritual material, ancient and robust.

The lower half was constructed in layers, with a bottom of a large flattened boulder perforated with many holes, also engraved with numerous Magic Spells capable of triggering Buddha Fire Poison Flames; the top was a huge round lid, featuring altogether eighteen bronze tubes, able to spew out dense smoke and Demon Fog.

In addition to this, the device had many grooves and cavities, which apparently had originally been embedded with relics, Pattra Leaves, gemstones, Buddha Beads, etc., but were later pried away.

As it should be after Shi Pi Arhat finished steaming buns, this device should have been left vacant and deserted, as it really isn't considered a treasure, and is merely a large steaming basket.

But at this moment, the device was in operation.

A large number of Evil Cultivators were gathered around this "steaming basket."

Great Demons who had reached the Cavernous Mystery Realm, both Daoist and Buddhist experts, were either feasting and making merry, or sitting quietly in the four corners, commanding a view.

The less significant ones were busy.

Adding firewood, kindling flames, invoking talismans.

Accompanied by "whirling" sounds, streams of incredibly vibrant mist spurted out, forming clumps of auspicious clouds in the air, as if someone here had achieved enlightenment and wished to ascend to heaven.

The city was thereby filled with a certain exotic fragrance that made one's soul tremble.

Whiffing this would lead to extreme salivation and an opened appetite.

"Hey, we arrived just in time; we too are fortunate enough to snack on some meat buns."

Gao Buxi had barely finished speaking.

The little demons surrounding the huge steaming basket simultaneously made their move.

Starting with those announcing the offerings, several demons who had cultivated tongue-related divine skills, despite the saliva flowing from their mouths, shouted slickly:

"The basket is opening!"

"Meat buns, freshly steamed meat buns, meat buns steamed from the steaming basket crafted by Shi Pi Arhat."

"No fighting, line up nicely, highest bidder gets them."

"Ah, what filling would you like? Pig Demon with large scallions, coming right up."

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One could see those little demons shouting about, one familiars wearing filthy aprons, tusks protruding, dark bristles sparkling, pulling out tray after tray of bronze giant boxes, extracting meat buns the size of millstones and small tables, still steaming with radiant heat, taking the money, and distributing them to those uncanny-looking diners.

From the slowly approaching flying boat above, Tao Qian and Yunrong, each disguised as a Buddha's son and Bodhisattva, watched expressionlessly this bizarre scene, one of the most peculiar on earth.

Listening to the inquiries about the fillings by their ears, Tao Qian also realized that there was no need to ask questions; the fillings surely included certain kinds.

Even occasionally, he glimpsed some demons who, regardless of the scorching heat, greedily swallowed, occasionally revealing severed limbs and broken arms.

Although Tao Qian had a premonition before coming here.

The Gao Family, as well, were beasts.

The gathering places of this family's people could never offer any pleasant sights.

Just like the previous Iron Buddha Temple, the previous Fragrant Meat Collection, the same principle applied.

But knowing this, the scenes before him still made Tao Qian struggle to suppress the unnamed fury in his heart.

Just then, he seemed to think of something.

Without hesitation, not concealing his and Yunrong's figures, he joined his palms and loudly declared: "Amitabha Buddha!"

This place was Steamed Buddha City.

These demons were using the device that initially steamed the monks from Han Mountain Temple to death to cook meat buns.

At this critical moment, suddenly, a Buddhist chant echoed, naturally drawing the attention of all Evil Cultivators.

Most of them had been recruited from various places by the likes of "Gao Buxi" who were descendants of the Gao Family, mostly Wutong Masters, Old Turtle Demons, Deng Xuechao, and the like, greedy, bloodthirsty, and unrestrained.

If they were the ugly, mutated Demonic Monks or Evil Bodhisattvas, they could have merged with them without an issue.

However, unfortunately, the characters Tao Qian and Yunrong were impersonating were a pair of Pure Buddhist companions, untouched by filth, whose elegance and demeanor could be deemed unparalleled.

When these demons caught sight of them, the "slurping" sound instantly resonated everywhere.

Initially, they were craving the meat buns.

But at this moment, they began to lust after the body of Master Tao.

It took less than a moment of silence for the place to burst into noisy roars.

"Such a handsome monk, such a beautiful Bodhisattva, are these two specially prepared by the Gao Family to entertain us with a surprise?"

"Chop them up and onto the steaming basket? We too will learn from the grand deed of Shi Pi."

"Not good, not good, such beautiful bodies, how can we squander them by steaming them like ordinary buns, that's too vulgar."

Chapter 614: Tao Qian Strikes the Giant Infant with Three Palms, Duobao's Song Rhymes Subdue the Jade Demon

"You're so lofty, so cultured, then tell me, what use is there for Buddha's son and Bodhisattva apart from steaming buns?"

"Obviously for that matter, the Buddha's son is so beautiful, and the Bodhisattva is so handsome, if they could be brought together, even if it required me to die on the spot, it would be worth it."

"You think quite extravagantly, but you've forgotten that Buddhist practitioners are adept at the White Bone Skill. If it were to come to that, they would cast spells at the crucial moment, ensuring you understand the principle of 'Form is Emptiness.'"

"Let's just steam buns then. Look, these Buddha's son and Bodhisattva seem to be a pair. Why don't we chop them up, have a bit of 'you in me and me in you,' and journey to Huangquan, and ascend to Ultimate Happiness together."

...

A chant of the Buddha's name made Tao Qian the focus of countless eyes.

All these demons were lawless, believing that on the Gao Family's territory, even Buddhist practitioners were as helpless as fish on a chopping board, for them to slaughter at will.

Yet, many speculated that this Buddha's son and Bodhisattva might also be protectors recruited by the Gao Family.

But who cared?

If they could provoke them into action, incidents of them accidentally slaughtering someone were to be expected.

They unabashedly scrutinized Tao Qian and Yunrong, even discussing methods openly.

Unknown to them, Tao Qian harbored the same thoughts.

He and Duobao had decided early on the timing and manner of their entrance.

The current scene was already within Master Tao's calculations.

His gaze automatically ignored those demons with insufficient cultivation, locking onto only those above the Cavernous Mystery Realm.

The collective aura of the demons gathered here far surpassed that of the Iron Buddha Temple back then.

And surely, there were plenty that caught the eye.

Such as a completely smooth-skinned Female Demon, who at a glance, and with the activation of Tao Qian's spiritual vision, revealed countless tapeworms, clearly from the Naked Sect.

Or an old woman with a face so foul and tough, declaring 'no entry for fresh humans,' but more astonishing was the constant emergence and disappearance of Yin Thunder around her. Any demon who happened to stray too close or was shoved in, couldn't even struggle before being cleanly obliterated by the Yin Thunder.

There was also a young Daoist as handsome as the Wu Gou Monk Tao Qian was portraying. With sharp brows and starry eyes, dressed in a snow-white Daoist robe, one might think him a True Disciple from a Great Daoist Sect if they ignored his current position, lying coquettishly in the arms of a slimy, tentacle-covered fleshly blob.

Or a child crawling on the ground, wearing only a red bellyband, so tender and untouched. Despite the freshness of such a young Human Clan child at this place, none of the surrounding demons dared to approach, who wouldn't take another look?

...

Too many, far too many.

As Tao Qian watched, his heart also filled with surprise.

The number of demons and Evil Cultivators here who surpassed the Cavernous Mystery Realm had exceeded twenty, and few were weak.

Devouring Ghosts Master, Qu Zhongyuan, and Dog Demon, Li Fengxian, also had solemn expressions.

They were both prideful and domineering, regional overlords within the territory of Guangping City.

But both were clear-eyed enough to see.

Though they were also of the Cavernous Mystery Realm, here they were really nothing special, quite ordinary.

After scanning the surroundings, Tao Qian thought to himself:

"It seems my disguise is indeed peerless."

"To stand out more, even stepping stones must be carefully chosen."

With this thought, Tao Qian's gaze, full of murderous and malicious intent, landed on the most formidable Dao Body present.

This person was clearly a giant.

His features were still rather heroic, about thirty feet tall, completely hairless, his skin covered in rotting patches.

His attire was unusual.

It consisted of items like leather hats, loincloths, Mang Shoes, but none were made from any beast's skin, but rather all from the skin and fur of two-legged sheep.

Around him, a large number of Gao Family Soldiers, their bodies completely clad in armor—even their eyes embedded with Curse Jade—were serving him.

They were moving massive round table-sized stone plates before him, neatly arranged, each filled with freshly steamed meat buns, hearts of men and women still pulsating, lengths of steaming intestines, blocks of coagulated blood bricks... He stood there, occasionally sampling from one plate, then another.

When moved, he both cried and laughed.

He even pounded on his chest and abdomen, emitting shrieks that no Human Clan member could.

Or squatting down, hands covering his face, making unintelligible whimpering sobs.

And when he was most delighted and began to dance, all the nearby demons had to seal their ear acupoints and eye acupoints, yet still, each of them bore an expression of pain.

Tao Qian also watched that dance, a rhythmless, indescribable ancestral dance that made the ground tremble, utterly barbaric and primal.

Every Life that had seen or heard of it, be they Human Clan or demon.

Instantly felt an impulse: to go forward, let him eat me, let him eat me, and I would be liberated, would achieve Ultimate Happiness.

And indeed, some of the Gao Family Soldiers, or some Little Demons, couldn't endure.

They suddenly became stupefied, jumping like zombies toward him.

Directly beheading themselves, letting the blood gush forth.

And the giant then extended his claws to grab, biting down with joy and satisfaction, starting to suck greedily.

Seeing all this, an entry instantly formed in Tao Qian's mind:

[Undergoing the invasion of the Extraordinary Power from the Ancient Divine Power "Evil Corpse Demon Dance"...can exempt.]

Almost the moment this Record formed, Tao Qian's gaze received a response from the Evil Zombie Giant.

It was an almost child-like innocent gaze, but in a blink, it turned into a bone-chilling evil.

"Good... so tasty."

"Quick, I... I want those two."

When the giant shouted these two sentences,

All the demons present retracted their covetous gazes from Tao Qian and Yunrong, considering them as good as dead.

Chapter 615: Tao Qian Strikes the Giant Infant with Three Palms, Duobao's Song Rhymes Subdue the Jade Demon_2

At the same time, Gao Buxi's extremely anxious telepathic message reached Tao Qian's ears:

"Master Wu Gou, hurry, do not keep watching him; this is the path to certain death."

"He is also one of the Gao family, named Gao Ruyi, the biological descendant of our ancestor Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan."

"From birth, he received the teachings of an Outer Realm Evil God and cultivated a volume of the 'Heavenly Evil Zombie Scripture.' Although this led him to madness, losing his senses, the slaughter divine powers he possesses are no ordinary matter."

"Even Loose Cultivators who have reached the Perfection of Cavernous Mystery stand little chance against him."

"Moreover, he is the beloved grandchild of our ancestor Gao Zhan. Whatever he asks for, he receives. Even if you defeat him, you will surely offend our ancestor, and even if I plead with my great-grandfather, I may not be able to save your life."

Gao Buxi's admonishments could truly be described as earnest and well-meaning.

At this moment, he was also feeling extremely annoyed with this Buddha's son before him. Seeking what kind of glory is this?

Even if he wanted to stand out, why not provoke some other demon or devil?

Why must he trouble Gao Ruyi?

"The common saying that 'family on the wife's side is the most trouble' indeed holds profound truth."

"I managed to summon four Cavernous Mystery Tributors with great difficulty, and now, in an instant, I am about to lose two of them. If I am not careful, I might even offend our ancestor Gao Zhan, how troublesome."

Gao Buxi grumbled secretly to himself.

He hadn't realized something was amiss, which was at odds with his true character.

Had he faced such a troublesome matter normally, he would not have advised Tao Qian, but instead would have directly abandoned the two men involved.

Of course, his advice was not only ineffective, it even had the opposite effect.

Upon hearing his telepathic message, a spark of brilliance flashed in the depths of Tao Qian's eyes.

"Descendant of Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan?"

"All the better."

Thinking this, Tao Qian immediately took action.

A discreet yet challenge-laden gaze met the chaotic and evil eyes of Gao Ruyi.

The previously 'giant baby'-like Gao Ruyi, who had been waiting for the soldiers to catch him food, suddenly flew into a rage and acted on his own.

With a thunderous boom, the earth trembled violently.

Gao Ruyi kicked off the ground and charged fiercely towards them, and in a blink, he was about to leap onto the flying boat to capture the Buddha's son and the Female Bodhisattva to eat them.

But in the next moment, he was faced with a setback.

"Namo Amitabha!"

All the demons heard another Buddhist incantation, and then they saw a palm glowing with ten thousand feet of Buddha Light forcefully slap Gao Ruyi across the face.

The giant zombified infant was instantly sent flying backward.

Mid-flight, his face swelled significantly.

Seemingly by coincidence, or perhaps with precision,

Gao Ruyi's massive body crashed right into the steaming basket, reducing it to piles of debris.

In an instant, all the demons' mouths hung wide open, unable to hide the shock on their faces.

After all, there were a considerable number of powerful Cavernous Mystery Cultivators present, each with sharp eyesight, and they could tell that the casually delivered palm strike was a highly adept Buddhist Divine Power.

In the next moment, this speculation was confirmed.

The immaculate, bright, and dazzling Miao Seng, having slapped Gao Ruyi away with one palm, immediately descended from the flying boat, continuing towards the giant infant.

With each step he took, lotuses sprouted beneath his feet, celestial flowers fell in disarray, and the sound of chanting echoed all around.

Such presence and poise immediately subdued everyone present.

"Namo Amitabha, this divine power is known as the 'Great Demon-suppressing Divine Palm.'"

"Beyond its use in demon suppression, it has the marvelous effect of restoring one's senses."

"Meeting is destiny, and seeing that this Daoist friend is besieged by a Heart Demon, I wish to save you."

As Tao Qian's voice fell, he used his divine power again.

No one in the crowd, including Gao Buxi, could react or dare to intervene in time.

When Tao Qian made his move, a deep and profound mana was revealed even to a blind man, making it clear that this Buddha's son with a fair face was undeniably a fierce monk.

The scenes that followed further confirmed this notion.

Gao Ruyi, having been slapped away, realized that the "fragrant meat" in front of him was tough to chew and instinctively used his divine power.

In the ruins once again, there was crying and laughing, wailing and screaming, dancing and stomping.

Suddenly, the sky and earth changed color.

Streams and tufts of chilly evil qi emerged from the ground.

Almost all demons touched by the evil qi instantly howled in agony, turning into rotting and zombified beings, beginning to dance with Gao Ruyi.

Even Transcend Mortality Cultivators were not exempt.

"This is bad!"

"Master Wu Gou, flee from there quickly! This is Gao Ruyi's 'Evil Corpse Refining Technique.' No one below Cavernous Mystery can be spared."

"Even Cavernous Mystery Cultivators caught in it will suffer from the poison, sustaining heavy injuries..."

Gao Buxi's telepathy was not yet finished when another incident occurred on the field.

"Daoist friend's Heart Demon is indeed fierce."

"No matter, I can subdue it."

This humbly-spoken yet self-satisfied statement had barely been uttered when everyone saw the Buddha's son respond with a smile and not only did he not retreat, but he forced his way into the dense evil qi. The ten thousand feet of Buddha Light bursting from within him immediately scattered the evil qi filling the sky.

Tao Qian then moved in front of Gao Ruyi, formed the Great Freedom Nirvana Seal, and unceremoniously pounded it onto his face.

One would expect the strike to be aimed at the forehead, but perhaps it hit off-target?

In any case, Gao Ruyi was hammered away once again.

This time, however, the other side of his face was swollen, creating a symmetry that made him closely resemble a Pig Demon.

Two consecutive hits!

To onlookers, it did not seem like severe damage.

But in reality, the damage was massive.

Gao Ruyi, already in mental disarray, now in extreme pain, unleashed his strongest techniques without any restraint.

Upon getting up from the ruins, he began furiously stomping his feet with thumping crashes, and with that, his body began to rapidly expand. In an instant, he grew to tens of feet tall, quickly reaching over a hundred feet, and looked as though he might touch the protective Forbidden Technique covering Steamed Buddha City.

Chapter 616: Tao Qian Strikes the Giant Infant with Three Palms, Duobao's Song Rhymes Subdue the Jade Demon_3

Even more astonishing was the display of the "Dharma Image."

As he materialized it, every territory within Steamed Buddha City began to grow cold, not a blade of grass could grow, and everything wilted as if all life's essence qi was being plundered.

Gao Buxi transmitted his voice again.

However, this time his voice contained no panic, instead, there was a hint of encouragement.

"Master Wu Gou, this is Gao Ruyi's 'Yin Stiff Dharma Form.'"

"It can Swallow Heaven and Devour Earth, absorbing the essence of all things to nurture itself."

"Due to his erratic mind, Gao Ruyi is not particularly favored in our Gao Family, if Master can break this, it might impress my great-grandfather."

Upon hearing this, Tao Qian was not surprised, for he had anticipated it.

He silently chuckled to himself, not delaying for a moment.

He directly raised his hand to take the dusty old cloth bag from his waist, tossed it into the air, and immediately said aloud:

"Daoist, your Dharma Image is too powerful, I am unable to assist you."

"Why not enter my 'People Species Bag' to shrink a bit and sober up before we speak again?"

Before his words had even finished, all the Demons saw the mouth of the cloth bag open.

An unimaginable suction force emerged, and with a miraculous gray flash, it actually swallowed Gao Ruyi's hundred-foot Dharma Image into the bag.

The cloth bag flew back, and the Miao Seng shook it.

Then, he threw it onto the ground, and Gao Ruyi, back to his normal body, landed.

He staggered to his feet, and when he looked at the Miao Seng again, a look of terror appeared on his face, as if he truly had come to his senses?

He roared suddenly, then turned and ran frantically toward an army camp in the city.

Along the way, he wailed and shouted, "Dad, dad save me."

Unfortunately, Tao Qian still did not let him go.

With a smile, he spoke loudly again, "Do not panic, Daoist, one last move and you will be healed."

Then, all the Demons saw the Golden Light Buddha Palm swing out, instantly capturing Gao Ruyi again.

With a thud, the giant infant fell to the ground, his body trembling, emitting a vast amount of cold, viscous, foul-smelling poison—the stench of the zombie juice...

Seeing this scene!

All Demons were utterly terrified, unable to hide the fear in their eyes.

They were not fools; they did not truly believe this was a kind treatment.

"It's over, Gao Ruyi's Dao Heng is ruined."

"This monk, has he scattered Gao Ruyi's Evil Zombie Origin?"

"Quick, flee this place, there are three True Monarchs of the Gao Family in the city, especially Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan, Gao Ruyi is his son."

"With his son ruined, this Ultimate Happiness Realm True Monarch is likely to go mad."

...

Just as this group of Evil Cultivators was frantically trying to flee, it was already too late.

From the military camp in the West City, a furious shout suddenly resounded.

"Who? Who dares to hurt my son?"

Before the voice could fade, jade light shot into the sky.

The whole of Steamed Buddha City suddenly began to turn to jade, causing disaster for everyone.

Among the sky full of Jade Fragments, a bizarre figure appeared that was indescribable—a look was enough to Mutate and Corrupt.

The next moment, Tao Qian felt himself locked by a familiar malice.

Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan!

Others might not know, but Master Tao had already had dealings with him.

But before he could act, a huge object descended.

It was a Meat Pillar, large enough to crush the steaming area, its front embedded with dark yellow eyeballs and a blood-rimmed mouth, a viscous red tongue, and precise tusks, drooling sinister saliva... charging towards Tao Qian.

Instantly, Master Tao's expression changed.

The reason was simple; he had seen this creature before.

Not only this creature, but he had also previously seen Gao Zhan laying eggs in Changliu Mountain.

At that time, Tao Qian was at Transcend Mortality Realm, and now he was in the Late Stage of Cavernous Mystery, having broken through the Divine Communication Barrier.

However, he was well aware that he was still no match for Gao Zhan.

Yet in his eyes, there was not a trace of fear.

The reason was simple; the robe he donned also had its own backer.

The next moment, the true Ten Thousand Feet of Buddha Light burst forth, and within that Buddha light, a faint figure appeared.

The person sang out loud:

"At South Sea Cliff, I fish for dragons and turtles, my nature Qingjing, cultivating the Buddhist path."

"How could I tolerate the Jade Demon harming my child, let's have a showdown with all present."

Chapter 617: Infamous Qingjing, Blessing Divine Mallet

The Song Rhymes resounded through Steamed Buddha City, startling everyone, including Tao Qian and Master Yuan.

Master Yuan was better off, only cursing Duobao for his shamelessness, as he always did so unabashedly.

Tao Qian, on the other hand, wished he could confront and verbally spar with his opportunistic master then and there. You wanted to make an entrance, sneaking in your own opening poem was bad enough, but what's with the "my son"?

"Master, if you want to show off, go ahead, but don't take advantage of me."

"Who took advantage of you? Isn't a disciple also a son? Stop your yammering, play your role as Buddha's son and marvelous monk. I can protect you, but the moment your cover is blown, you'll have to flee, and that Devil Concubine sister of yours will be out of your reach."

Duobao's quick rebuttal left Tao Qian speechless.

He didn't have time to refute, as the shockingly thick meat pillar was smashing down.

The might of the Ultimate Happiness Realm strong people was indeed terrifying.

Especially since Gao Zhan, seeing his son in trouble, was furious and held nothing back.

Just when All Demons thought the Wu Gou Buddha Son, who was still awe-inspiring just a moment ago, would be crushed into a meat paste,

alongside the Buddha Light Song Rhyme, an old monk who resembled a True Buddha, stepped forward.

This monk wore a Violet Hair Crown on his head and was wrapped in a golden kasaya, sitting lotus style upon a Big Lotus.

A white light shone between his brows, illuminating all directions and realms.

Before the sky-darkening thick meat pillar, the monk was neither afraid nor annoyed, only offering a faint smile. He casually formed a Buddha Seal and pushed it toward the pillar.

The next moment, the entire Steamed Buddha City heard a sound like a loud bell or drum.

Most of the meat pillar turned to ash within the Buddha Light.

The old monk's hand, however, turned partially jade-like and oozed with yellow-white pus.

Seeing this, All Demons surmised in their hearts:

"The newcomer must be the father or master of that Buddha's son."

"He must also be from the Ultimate Happiness Realm and even stronger than Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan."

Even bystanders could tell, let alone the three Ultimate Happiness Realm strong ones within the city.

Three exclamations of surprise sounded from each of them.

At that moment, the old monk who had appeared from nowhere merely thought, and his jade-like hand returned to normal.

"Amithaba!"

With the call of the Buddha, the Big Lotus rose into the air, drawing everyone's gaze.

It had to be said, Duobao's imitation of "Qingjing Zen Master" really couldn't be ignored by anyone.

Even the high monks from Free Temple, Vajra Temple, and Dharma Cakra Temple, if present, would have paid their respects.

For lower-ranking cultivators and Demons, he would be regarded as the existence of a Buddha.

The old monk looked not only toward West City but with his Dharma Eye radiating Buddha Light, he brought the three Ultimate Happiness Cultivators, Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan, True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang, and Yang Demon True Monarch Gao Wei, into view.

He was neither servile nor overbearing, even threat-laden in his speech:

"Poor monk Qingjing has been cultivating at South Sea Hooking Turtle Cliff."

"This child is my disciple Wu Gou, along with his wife Miao Yin, the two headed north in search of opportunities. I ask my fellow Daoists for a favor."

"It's only right for the young to compete among themselves. All of you being elders, how can you bully the young?"

"If you desire a contest, please come to find this poor monk."

Such revelation of one's background could only imply two circumstances.

Either a fool.

Or a strong person.

Clearly, this old monk belonged to the second category.

Even if All Demons didn't know of Qingjing Zen Master's reputation, they could still sense by instinct how fierce the monk was.

The three Ultimate Happiness of the Gao Family were different; they had vast intelligence networks and knew secret tales of the world. In an instant, they recalled what kind of person Qingjing Zen Master was.

Then, lights surged from three directions, solidifying in the Void.

Three awe-inspiring figures, each emerging from a stern military encampment, appeared.

The first was about thirty years of age, dressed in Emperor's Robe, with a heroic face and eyes full of red light; behind him, the Void twisted, and massive Demon Shadows like mountains roared, as if ready at any moment to break forth and devour everything in the world.

The second was very tall, also in Emperor's Robe, with unruly arrogance; around him flickered red Demon Flame, and behind his back hung a colossal red sun, sending down thousands of fine, hair-like Demon Lights which, upon prolonged viewing, could cause even those in the Transcend Mortality Realm to perish and those in the Cavernous Mystery to be wounded.

The third was the most striking: dressed in a purple and black crown, with an androgynous beauty suggestive of both male and female, leaving gender indeterminate; behind him faintly emerged a Jade Transformation Secret Realm, with Jade Fragments fluttering all over, making the Void ooze yellow-white pus, causing revulsion.

Without a doubt, these three were True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang, Yang Demon True Monarch, and Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan.

Although it was well-known that all members of the Gao Family were beasts,

it was also undeniable that the Gao family had an exceptional selling point.

Among the Demons, there were many female cultivators and Female Demons, who at this moment were dazzled and thrilled, twisting their bodies, wishing they could offer themselves.

Only Tao Qian, looking at Gao Zhan's Human Clan body, suddenly recalled what Zhong Ziyang had said about the Jade Demon True Monarch, "Completely abandoned the Human Clan's physique, combining male and female, confusing Yin and Yang, truly deserves death."

Since Gao Zhan had abandoned his Human Clan body, it followed that Gao Yang and Gao Wei were not far behind.

As for the ancestor of these three, one of the old monsters of the Daoist Transformation Realm, Gao Huan, there was even less to say.

With this thought, Tao Qian suddenly grew curious and decided to open his spiritual vision again, to glimpse the true form of these Three Demons.

Meanwhile, above, the Three Demons had already begun a verbal clash with Duobao.

If it were an ordinary cultivator, with the Gao Family ancestor's dominance, they would have struck earlier to kill.

But Duobao's disguise carried a substantial deterrent, coupled with the sensitive timing, has caused hesitation.

Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan, originally seething with rage, was about to attack, but he was quickly stopped by the other two.

Chapter 618: The Infamous Qingjing, Blessing Divine Mallet_2

Gao Yang, as the foremost among the three ancestors.

He turned and first glanced at Qingjing Zen Master, then, promptly laid eyes on the flying boat below, along with Gao Buxi on it, a strange light flashed in his eyes as he immediately sent a telepathic message to this most favored offspring.

At the same time, he addressed Qingjing Zen Master with a clasped hand salute and said,

"Your name, Qingjing Zen Master, I have also heard of."

"However, it is said that although the Zen Master has not entered any temple of the Buddhist Sect, the path of your cultivation seems to differ from that of our Gao Family."

"What is your intention in coming here?"

Gao Yang's question also reflected the intentions of the other two ancestors.

Clearly, the three of them could not possibly believe Duobao's words: that he had sent a disciple here merely to seek opportunities.

Judging others by themselves, all three ancestors of the Gao Family determined that Qingjing Zen Master had motives and schemes.

If it conflicted with their Gao Family's plans, they would unite to eliminate him.

"Big brother, why bother with words, the notorious reputation of Qingjing baldy in the South Sea Territory is formidable, but however fierce, he is still of the Ultimate Happiness Realm."

"Not to mention that right now it is just a clone that descended borrowing treasures, even if it were his true body here, wouldn't we three together be able to kill him?"

This telepathic message clearly came from the intensely murderous Gao Zhan.

At this moment, as he looked at Tao Qian's feet, at his "son" who had been rid of the zombie fluid and restored to a normal Human Clan body, his heart felt as if it were being wrenched by a knife, in unbearable pain.

It wasn't that he was filled with paternal love, or that maternal love overflowed, there were other reasons.

It was a Gao Family legend that Gao Ruyi had outstanding talent, which is why he had received a scripture titled "Heavenly Evil Zombie Scripture" from the Outer Realm Evil Gods at birth.

The truth was that Gao Zhan, in pursuit of power, had taken an alternative path, often using his hermaphroditic Dao Body to resonate with the Outer Realm. Meanwhile, he applied the "Jade Demon Conception Technique," with a chance to capture certain Evil God thoughts and essence of Deceitful Objects from the Outer Realm. When combined, it could result in the birth of extraordinary offspring with innate talents and legacies.

Gao Ruyi was among them.

That so-called "Heavenly Evil Zombie Scripture" originated from an Evil God zombie of the Outer Realm.

In Gao Zhan's original plan, an offspring like Gao Ruyi, with remarkable potential for growth, might have stepped into the Ultimate Happiness Realm in a hundred or two years. Due to his lineage, he could have been entirely at Gao Zhan's command.

By then, his knees surrounded by a plethora of powerful Descendants, the great authority of the Gao Family would inevitably fall into his hands.

If luck was on his side, he might even contend for the position of the family patriarch.

But now, Gao Ruyi had been crippled.

That incredibly rare yet fragile "Evil Zombie Origin" was shattered by Tao Qian's consecutive three palms. As a result, Gao Ruyi reverted to a human body but was utterly ruined, how could this not enrage him?

...

"Grandfather is wise. In such a delicate time, we cannot act rashly."

"Especially this Qingjing Zen Master, who is a malicious figure fluctuating between right and wrong—it's not necessarily the case that he is an enemy with ill intent. The three of us together could indeed kill his clone, but if we provoke this vicious monk to rush here in his true body, it could ruin our plans."

"But neither can we show weakness. This concerns the dignity of the Gao Family, and it won't look good if the ancestors find out."

"Especially since Ruyi was crippled by that monk, father will not swallow this grievance. Perhaps we should let father and this Qingjing Zen Master have a fair battle of magical prowess."

"With father's true body and the Zen Master's clone, father is sure to win."

While Gao Zhan sent his telepathic message, Gao Wei also communicated telepathically.

The relationship between the two was quite mysterious; both were Ultimate Happiness Realm ancestors of the Gao Family and were father and son.

However, unlike Gao Ruyi and other offspring, Gao Wei had early on separated from his father's control and assumed great authority, known as Yang Demon True Monarch.

His suggestion seemed very fair.

But anyone who wasn't a fool could detect the malice hidden within it, saying a father's kindness and filial piety was no exaggeration.

As Gao Yang smirked inwardly, he suddenly heard Gao Buxi's telepathic message:

"Ancestor, do not be angry, all of this is a misunderstanding, like a flood that swept through the Dragon King Temple."

"These two individuals happen to be from the maternal family of my wife, willing to enter our Gao Family as Guest Elders, not only for the sake of my face as your darling grandson but also because this Qingjing Zen Master has some plans."

"Master Wu Gou and Miao Yin Bodhisattva are Ten Lifetimes of Resentful Couples."

"This lifetime, the destinies of the two are intertwined, seeking to realize Mahayana together."

"Qingjing Zen Master also intends to use the two's Blessing to recruit some good Disciples within the Seventy-two provinces."

"Though not explicitly stated, my guess is that Qingjing Zen Master probably plans to establish his own Sect in the South Sea. This vicious monk is ruthless and brutal to any enemy without exception, leaving no survivors, and Master Wu Gou is even more so. Such a new sect formed by this master and disciple will definitely not be tolerated by the Righteous."

"I imagine it would be something akin to a sect like the Demon Buddha Temple, which turns against Buddhism in favor of the Demon."

"Because of my wife's sake, such a sect would naturally become a strong ally of our Gao Family. We should consider it a powerful support, not to be lightly offended to death."

"However, I think the ancestor already has a plan in mind, which can easily resolve this, and I hope you won't blame your grandson for being too talkative."

If this message were broadcasted publicly, everyone would understand why Gao Buxi was most favored by Gao Yang.

There's nothing to it, just flattery.

"A darling grandson" here, "wise ancestor" there.

However, Gao Buxi received the intelligence indeed just in time. The moment Gao Yang heard it, a strange light appeared in his eyes.

As if thinking of a cunning plan, a sinister smile surfaced at the corners of his mouth, not waiting for Qingjing Zen Master to reply.

He immediately gestured for Gao Wei to release Gao Zhan and then declared loudly:

"Since the Zen Master's disciple and my dear grandson are good friends, then you and I are naturally considered so."

"I should have given the Zen Master a proper reception, but instead, some misunderstandings arose."

"However, it doesn't matter. We, who are cultivators, live carefreely. Since we have borne grudges, let's resolve them with a duel."

"May I trouble the Zen Master to spar with my Brother Zhan."

"No matter the outcome, let's wipe the slate clean of grievances, shall we?"

As he spilled these words, Gao Yang simultaneously transmitted the intelligence to Gao Zhan and Gao Wei, father and son.

The latter, naturally, was fully supportive.

And Gao Zhan, despite being extremely reluctant, also knew he could not defy them.

Being able to pull a strong ally for the Gao Family meant that even if the lawsuit reached the ancient ancestors, Gao Yang would win.

He did not argue with statements like "Was my son beaten for nothing?"

In the Gao Family, such arguments were pointless.

Of course, that didn't mean he would meekly comply.

"Hmph, I'll first destroy this old bald monk's avatar, then find an opportunity to capture those two youngsters and torment them."

"Forming an alliance? That's wishful thinking."

With his mind made up, Gao Zhan didn't reply.

Instead, he just sneered and step by step approached Qingjing Zen Master.

During the process, he began clearing the field; all Evil Cultivators had to distance themselves to watch the battle.

The area began to undergo frenzied Jade Transformation, forming a beautiful yet exceedingly strange secret realm battlefield. If not for Gao Yang and Gao Wei controlling forbidden techniques to contain it, the entire Steamed Buddha City might have been Jade Transformed by Gao Zhan.

Meanwhile, the Qingjing Zen Master, seated upon the Big Lotus, saw this unfold.

His face showed no surprise, only shaking his head and chuckling:

"I've also heard of the name Jade Demon True Monarch."

"Having seen now, your cultivation is passable, but your Divine Skills are quite ordinary."

"Although it's just an avatar that has come, it just so happens I've brought my personal weapon."

"Most of my infamy comes from this item."

"Gao Daoist, you should be careful not to be killed by me."

As he uttered these sentences,

The entire city resounded with gasps of shock.

All the Demons' eyes bulged, unable to hide their astonishment.

Goodness!

This Qingjing Zen Master, clearly just an avatar that has descended, why was his imposing attitude even grander than the Jade Demon True Monarch's real body present here?

While others were astonished, Gao Zhan was furious.

"Old bald donkey!"

"Come, if you don't kill me today, I, Gao Zhan, will soon visit you in the South Sea."

As these harsh words were released, within the Steamed Buddha City, suddenly rang a strange, thunderous sound.

The sky and earth changed color, Jade Light soared to the heavens.

Gao Zhan's enchanting Human Clan body suddenly exploded, replaced by an infinitely expanding mass of pus and rotten flesh, teeming with maggots, flesh spikes, and covered in coarse hair.

This mass of rotten flesh did not need to unleash any astonishing Divine Skills; its mere expansion caused everything nearby to undergo Jade Transformation.

Then, all things were devoured by the rotten flesh.

Everyone had thought the true body of Jade Demon True Monarch must be outrageously shocking, yet they never imagined it to be so terrifying.

Just when every Demon thought the old monk's avatar would perish, suddenly within that battlefield, another Song Rhymes echoed:

"Don't be swayed by the Demon's Light that reaches high,"

"It cannot withstand our Demon Cleansing Mallet's strike."

Before the chant was finished, the Demons saw Qingjing Zen Master pull out a Divine Mallet pulsating with Divine Light from somewhere.

He stepped down from the Lotus Platform, walked unhurriedly towards Gao Zhan's true form, and swung the mallet down.

Meanwhile, he said: "Daoist, please reveal your true form!"

Chapter 619 True Monarch Bestows a Treasure, Joyful Buddha

In Steamed Buddha City, Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan revealed a Dharma Image akin to an Outer Realm Evil God, swelling ceaselessly and writhing without end, jade transforming everything and allowing the pus-filled Demon Light to pervade every corner of the region.

Amid this frightful sight, an elderly monk, smiling, descended from the Big Lotus, holding the Demon Cleansing Divine Mallet as he walked.

With each step, a lotus blossomed; continuous were the chants of Buddha's name.

Despite the drastic difference in their stature, one large, the other small, resembling an ant trying to shake a towering tree

Yet, when the monk's Divine Mallet struck down, Gao Zhan's massive Dao Body began to tremble, the widespread jade light shattered, eliciting a mournful wail from Gao Zhan, who twisted his form as though truly obeying the commands of the old monk, seemingly about to reveal his true shape.

If he really did so, the outcome of the victory or defeat would go without saying, Gao Zhan would first face a great loss of face.

Between powerful contenders, showing weakness in such a manner is most taboo.

One can lose, but being struck once with a Mallet and revealing one's foundation, that was absolutely unacceptable.

Gao Zhan had earlier underestimated Qingjing Zen Master's incarnation, believing that as long as he revealed his Dharma Image, he could directly crush him with overwhelming Mana.

Regrettably, he didn't expect Duobao to be so unreasonable.

In terms of Mana, this incarnation indeed fell far short of Gao Zhan's true body.

However, Duobao's Daoist title wasn't for naught.

Others only knew of the Heavenly Punishment Sword, the Ruyi Ring, and the Returning Immortal Mirror, the three treasures in Duobao True Monarch's hands, but Cultivators who were truly familiar with Duobao knew that the number of treasures equivalent in rank that this guy possessed was beyond counting.

Moreover, he was not limited to the Daoist way.

Various Buddha Demons, early-age rare treasures, and ancient Exotic Treasures alike.

Within Duobao's Golden Radiance Arena, there was no lack of anything.

At this moment, an insidiously envious message transmitted from Master Yuan entered Tao Qian's mind:

"That treasure is called the Demon Cleansing Divine Mallet, also known as the Blessing Divine Mallet, a Buddha Treasure from Dharma Cakra Temple."

"The Buddha Nature within it can be said to be invincible and can destroy all delusions, internal demons, and obstructions created by All Demons and heterodox ways."

"Gao Zhan has really fallen into a wretched state this time; if it was a cultivator from another Ultimate Happiness Realm, they might not have been restrained, but it just had to be him—with his neither high nor low Demon Path, getting hit by a Demon Cleansing Divine Mallet even once, many of his Demon Secret Techniques will become ineffective and he could even be forced to reveal his true form, losing face massively."

"There once were rumors in the Cultivation World that Dharma Cakra Temple gifted this treasure to Qingjing Zen Master, signifying he was preordained as an Arhat of extremely high status."

"Damn it, who could have thought? Qingjing Zen Master was actually an act put on by that old Duobao?"

"Could this guy truly be in cahoots with Dharma Cakra Temple?"

"Youngster, you should quickly report this to your Heavenly Venerate; your Master seems to be contemplating defecting to the Buddhist Sect to become Buddha."

Master Yuan's instigating message was of course made in jest.

But when it fell into Tao Qian's ears, it inexplicably made his face show a hint of tension.

Fortunately, it was quickly dismissed.

"The differences between the two realms are too great to be forcibly aligned," he muttered to himself and continued to watch the battle.

Inside the jade-transformed region, as Master Yuan had said, Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan gradually couldn't withstand the restraint of the Demon Cleansing Divine Mallet.

Not wanting to reveal his foundation, he had no choice but to transfer the "Demon Cleansing Buddha Nature" within the treasure elsewhere.

Crisp cracking sounds emerged as a massive Secret Realm trembled into view behind Gao Zhan.

Inside, it appeared to be another world.

This realm was probably as big as half a province, within it many cities, mountains, and strange landscapes.

The most eye-catching were countless lifelike exquisite Jade Carvings that seemed endless.

No reminder was needed for the watching All Demons and people like Tao Qian; they all understood the truth: all the Jade Carvings were real people.

Tao Qian even recalled Xiu Zhonglin boasting in his presence long ago: "Gao Zhan enjoys playing with people's hearts, once deliberately spreading the Jade Demon Scripture in the Southwest Skyfire Province, causing an entire city of more than a hundred thousand people to turn into Jade Carvings overnight, which he then took away to appreciate in his Secret Realm."

Within the Secret Realm before them, there were more than a hundred thousand Jade Carvings?

Cities and mountains, wild valleys, and Hidden Valleys.

Wherever one's gaze fell, there were figures of Jade Carvings used as playthings in total disarray.

For a moment, All Demons were also shocked.

Master Yuan sighed as well, sending a message while cursing:

"The cultivators of the Ultimate Happiness Realm, although mostly no longer human, there are few as vile as this."

"The Gao family even resemble Demon Sect Cultivators more than we do from the Secret Demon Sect."

Tao Qian, seeing this, showed no expression on his face.

There was no need for deliberate messaging to Duobao; when it came to Master and disciple, there was their own understanding.

Sure enough, with the emergence of that harrowing scene,

Qingjing Zen Master first paused, then opened his mouth to utter a Buddha's name, announcing loudly:

"Amitabha!"

"Gao Daoist's fondness is rather excessive."

Though temporarily at a disadvantage due to the treasure's constraint,

Gao Zhan was not one to easily concede.

While enduring the strikes of the Divine Mallet, he scornfully said:

"Hahaha... Old bald donkey, stop acting the good guy; I've heard that in the South Sea Territory, you frequently kill until blood forms rivers and corpses pile onto islands, your actions resemble those of the baldies from Demon Buddha Temple."

"You and I both belong to the Demon Path; don't tell me you want to convert me?"

"If that's what you're thinking, then come, try to emulate the Shansu King from the Great Reincarnation Temple and let me swallow you whole. Who knows, at the final moment, I might understand the Buddhist Law and follow you to the monastery to become a Protecting Dharma Vajra."

Gao Zhan's mockery also contained a trace of expectation.

It's widely known in the Cultivation World that Buddhist Practitioners will occasionally do some incomprehensible things.

Offering oneself up to death is not considered too unusual.

However, the Qingjing Zen Master in front of him was nothing but a façade; beneath the surface was Duobao True Monarch.

Upon hearing this, the Divine Mallet swung even more vigorously while Duobao simultaneously employed Sublime Dharma and spoke aloud:

Chapter 620 True Monarch Bestows a Treasure, Joyful Buddha_2

"I am merciful by nature," the Buddha says, "and those who wish to, come of their own accord."

"If Daoist Gao wishes to abandon your ancestors of the Gao family and turn to the Dharma Cakra Temple, I could vouch for you. I'd let the teaching Monk impart you with a scroll of the 'Dharma Cakra Saint King Scripture' and ensure your physical body attains Buddhahood."

"As a token of gratitude, I just so happen to be in need of some Merit Power. I would borrow those [jade carvings] from you for a bit."

"It is difficult to save demons, but easy to save humans."

"And yet, I, the Qingjing Monk, prefer the easy over the hard."

Before his words faded, all demons saw Qingjing Zen Master stretch out his Buddha's Palm.

Suddenly, Ten Thousand Feet of Buddha Light reappeared, piercing through the gate of the Secret Realm, beginning to abduct a massive number of jade carvings.

In an instant, over a hundred thousand jade carvings fell into that enormous Buddha's Palm.

This scene made bystanders green with envy.

Such supernatural power!

Such mana!

This was the panache that a strong person from the Ultimate Happiness Realm ought to have.

Even Tao Qian, at this moment, exclaimed in awe, "Is Master so ferocious? Is this merely his avatar?"

Master Yuan, who couldn't stand to see Duobao stealing the limelight, immediately revealed the truth:

"Kid, don't be fooled by Duobao."

"It's not that Duobao is fierce, but that Gao Zhan is too worthless."

"His divine skills are completely suppressed by that Demon Cleansing Divine Mallet. The [Demon Cleansing Vajra Divine Palm] naturally comes with the treasure. Duobao just triggers it, and the Dharma Cakra Temple really went blind, giving such a Buddha treasure to Duobao for what?"

"The notion of seduction also lacks reason. This old turtle has already been predetermined to be your Spirit Treasure Sect's third-generation Sect Master hundreds of years ago. If the Lingbao Tianzun was willing to let him go, it would be a ghostly story."

Listening to Master Yuan ramble and trying to sling mud on Duobao, Tao Qian once again raised his valuation of the Demon Cleansing Divine Mallet as a treasure.

From many descriptions, this thing's equivalent is simply higher than even the Heavenly Punishment Demon-Slaying Sword—those three treasures. It really was inconceivable.

While Tao Qian was still pondering, Duobao continued to act fiercely.

Yet, as the number of "playthings" within the Secret Realm crazily decreased, Gao Zhan finally couldn't restrain himself anymore.

"Bald donkey, asking for death!"

That mass of endlessly expanding, covered with flesh spikes and rough hair burst apart.

At its core, a speck of jade light was Flashing.

At first, it was only the size of a bean.

But in a blink of an eye, countless, very dense, and all-contaminating white jade brilliance surged out.

That area—no, the whole Steamed Buddha City, as well as the territory thousands of miles outside the city, was about to be covered by the Demon Light.

This divine skill was known as [Jade Demon Origin Qi Transformation Divine Light], which amounted to Gao Zhan's ace in the hole.

Once deployed, it could summon the Original Divine Qi.

Wherever the God Demon brilliance passed, it would cause a jade transformation.

No one below Ultimate Happiness could withstand it.

Even Ultimate Happiness Cultivators, resisting head-on, would suffer considerable damage.

Seeing this, Qingjing Zen Master changed his expression, and with that Divine Mallet, jabbed harshly at Gao Zhan, interrupting his casting while moving towards Tao Qian.

Then unhurriedly shouted,

"Daoist Gao has gone mad, disciple, let's go. We won't get involved in this matter."

In terms of acting, Master Tao was afraid of no one.

He immediately responded, then took his Bodhisattva wife by the hand and turned to flee.

Just at that moment!

The other two Ultimate Happiness figures, who had been onlooking, finally made their moves.

Especially True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang, who was the most urgent.

Not to mention that the "reinforcement" being pressed into leaving was already set in stone, Gao Zhan's chaos would reveal the Gao family's military deployment plans in Steamed Buddha City.

Now, within Qiantang Province, warlords were converging, and All Demons were slaughtering each other.

Though the strong people's attention was mostly on Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen, they weren't blind. Once the Demon Light appeared, they would know that people from the Gao family had come.

With this thought, everyone saw Gao Yang, along with Gao Wei—both Ultimate Happiness Masters—act at the same time.

"Brother Zhan, stop!"

"Father, calm your anger!"

Despite the chaotic relationships, they indeed all were close.

But as close as they were, their actions were quite ruthless.

Gao Wei went first; behind him, that wheel of red sun suddenly swayed, emitting a fiercely toxic light that seemed capable of melting all things. Its Yang Flame Demon Light enveloped down, actually temporarily withstanding that raging [Jade Demon Origin Qi Transformation Divine Light].

Followed by Gao Yang, who let out a low shout, and a secret realm also opened behind him. Larger than mountains, the shadowy figures of Demon creatures leaped out unceremoniously and began a group beating.

With this scene unfolding, everyone stopped their fleeing figures.

Suspicious arose in their eyes, silently wondering: This brother and father-son duo might have considerable personal grievances against each other.

...

After dozens of breaths, the commotion inside Steamed Buddha City quieted down.

The three Ultimate Happiness Masters from the Gao family each resumed their human forms, their auras slightly disturbed.

Master Qingjing, who had intended to escape, along with the Miao Seng Buddha's son and his wife the Bodhisattva, also stayed behind.

They were conversing in front of the flying boat.

The watching demons, though secretly relishing the spectacle, were now quite respectful, each keeping a considerate distance.

Even those unruly and overbearing Cavernous Mystery Demons also stayed away.

What the demons feared was none other than Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan.

This nobleman was known for his pettiness.

The demons had seen his embarrassment and had witnessed that ferocious monk from the South Sea strike him with the Buddha's Mallet, even snatching more than a hundred thousand jade carvings from his Secret Realm.

At this moment, it was better to keep their distance; who would want to become an unwitting target of his frustrations?

In front of the flying boat, Master Qingjing, who had previously asserted his might, now wore a benign expression as he first glanced affectionately at his disciple and then addressed the three Gao family Ultimate Happiness Masters with a bow,

"Given the circumstances, our two parties can be considered as having formed a bond through conflict; it is fate, as well as opportunity."

"My disciple Wu Gou shall temporarily join Daoist Gao's ranks and serve; I hope the three Daoists will look after him on account of Master Qingjing's face and take good care of him."

"Should I be fortunate to open a new Buddha Lineage one day, the three Daoists must come to witness the ceremony."

After Qingjing spoke,

Gao Yang and Gao Wei, the two demons, voiced their agreement.

Though Gao Zhan looked displeased after losing the magic confrontation, he still managed to show an agreeable expression, nodding in assent.

His ulterior motives, however, were transparent to all.

Master Qingjing simply gave him a brief, indifferent look, not mentioning the tens of thousands of jade carvings he had taken from another's Secret Realm.

He then sat back on the Big Lotus, and with a jab of the Divine Mallet, Buddha Light surged again in the void before him.

As Master Qingjing entered the light, he suddenly chanted the Buddha's name and recited the Song Rhymes,

"Spreading the Dharma of Qingjing, my heart fills with joy."

"I shall become a Buddha, revered by gods and humans."

"Amitabha, this monk departs!"

After finishing the verse, the Buddha Light dimmed, and the fierce monk returned to the South Sea.

The scene fell silent for a few moments.

All present, including Tao Qian, had similar thoughts.

This old monk had made grand statements upon his arrival.

And now that he was leaving, his claims were even grander.

However, also due to this, coupled with the terrifying supernatural power previously displayed by Master Qingjing, True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang valued the Buddhist couple even more.

Such a powerful support, almost like a windfall, was not to be missed.

He even restrained his lustful thoughts; under different circumstances, with other demons and nuns like Miao Seng Bodhisattva before him, he would not have spared a single one.

Of course, another factor played a role.

Before departing, Master Qingjing had transmitted a secret message to him, reminding him that the wife of his disciple, known as "Miao Yin" Bodhisattva, had a Master whose supernatural power was no less than his own.

Just one Master Qingjing, Gao Yang felt, was an equal match.

If there were another, it would be quite a headache for him.

But if he could win them both over, then it would be excellent news, ensuring his continued dominance over the Gao family.

With this thought, Gao Yang wasted no time.

He gave a benevolent smile to Tao Qian and Yunrong, assuming the posture of an elder, and started rummaging through his treasure bag. After a moment, he pulled out an item and tossed it toward Tao Qian.

As soon as the item appeared, Buddha Light surged, and treasure aura soared to the sky.

Everyone looked and saw it was a solid gold Buddha statue, intricately carved and mystically crafted.

It depicted a male monk seated in lotus position, with a female nun facing the monk, her legs open and pressed tightly against him, the two in an intimate embrace.

Seeing this peculiar object, Yunrong inwardly scoffed when Gao Yang proudly introduced it,

"This treasure is known as the 'Joyful Buddha,' from Da Zhao Temple."

"It was in the hands of a high monk from Da Zhao Temple who wanted to subdue me but was killed by me instead; his treasure then fell into my hands."

"Contained within is a scripture of the Joyful Dharma, which not only bestows the sensation of Ultimate Happiness but also enhances Cultivation Power. I do not practice the Buddhist path, so it's useless to me."

"Today, it's my gift to you and your wife."

"You, little monk, wield mighty Mana and might one day catch up to your Master. But your wife is somewhat weaker."

"If you both cultivate with this Buddha statue to balance your strengths and weaknesses, you may create an inspiring tale and thus increase my own merit."