

Longevity 621

Chapter 621 Youyang Soul Capture, Gao Yang's Plot

The wonderous Buddha statue of the Joyful Buddha fell into the hands of Tao Qian.

Before even delving into it, Xiao Qian had already a hunch about the nature of the Buddhist Law that this treasure held within, stemming from the Da Zhao Temple.

Upon touching, the Record in his mind exploded.

Indeed, just as he thought:

"Little Desire Heaven Joyful Zen Embodiment Secret Method!"

"Again, this method?"

"Years ago, Bai Qin claimed to have won it in a bet against the monks of the Da Zhao Temple; now Gao Yang claims to have found it on a corpse after killing in self-defense."

"Well, it works fine. The monks at the Da Zhao Temple obviously have much better techniques of spreading their Magic Skills than other fishing men."

Tao Qian couldn't help but complain inwardly while holding the Buddha statue.

Of course, the Buddha statue wasn't just a carrier of the secret method from the Da Zhao Temple — it also had other profound effects that could help a Human Cultivator in cultivating the Yin Yang Dao.

If it were the former Tao Da, a fledgling, there'd be no use for it.

But now, it was indeed a good item.

As for the price of using the Buddha statue: after several uses, one would develop a heart of reverence for the Buddhist Law of the Da Zhao Temple, becoming devoted to joining the Da Zhao blindly.

For Tao Qian, that was hardly a concern, dispensed with a mere blink of an eye.

With that thought, he naturally wouldn't refuse the gift.

The plan to visit the Steamed Buddha City was initially to infiltrate the Gao family, to gain trust and, even better, to be entrusted with significant responsibilities.

Thus, everyone saw Master Wu Gou receive the Buddha statue into his treasure bag with a smiling face and say,

"Excellent treasure!"

"Given by Senior Gao, I dare not decline."

After he spoke, he mused on the temporary allegiance of True Lord of a Hundred Demons and laughed out loud.

Then, beside him, Yang Demon True Monarch Gao Wei suddenly reached into the treasure bag, groping for something and threw it over.

Tao Qian looked again and saw that the object's shape was particularly evil.

It was a short stick of a strange material, purplish-red all over, with more than a dozen odd elves carved on the outside and a hollow construction inside. Dark and gloomy was one thing, but it kept emitting dense fog of Exotic Fragrance.

Even more so, an Evil Light that incited turmoil within one's blood and qi spurted from the tip, sweeping across all directions.

In the Void, a series of subtle and weird sounds echoed, like the whispers of lovers or the murmurs of a love-struck pair.

Compared to the Buddha statue, this object was even more eye-catching.

Gao Wei, also proudly introduced,

"Young nephews, as elders when you join the Gao household, how could we not show a gesture?"

"This is called the Youyang Soul Capture Stick, might sound unimpressive, but it is indeed an ancient marvel."

"Even can be said to be a Daoist Magical Instrument, not some Side Door Heterodoxy or Devil's Deceitful Object."

"Not only does it have the effect of yin and yang balance, it can also summon some useful Devilish ghosts and spirits for couple's entertainment."

"It already has bound spirits such as Moon Lady Essence, Brother Gao Yang, Sheep Head Spirit, Swallowing Demon Little Straight Spirit and the like."

"I have plenty of beloved wives and concubines under my command and have no need for this; I give it to you as a wedding gift."

As soon as Yang Demon True Monarch finished speaking, Tao Qian had no time to respond.

In his arms, Yuan Gong already started laughing loudly.

Had he not lacked a physical body, he might be rolling on the ground, laughing uproariously at this moment.

"Ha ha ha... boy, weren't you the one desperate to approach the Gao family in the guise of a monk? Are you satisfied now?"

"One gives you a posture guide, and another gives you an excitement stick."

"These two, they truly live up to the Gao family's name."

"Quick, see what Gao Zhan, the beast, is going to give you?"

Yuan Gong wasn't the only curious one.

The Demons lurking in the shadows, observing from a distance, also cast their gazes.

After the previous earth-shattering struggle between the Ultimate Happiness Strong People, these Evil Cultivators now knew the status of the Buddhist couple.

Even the Tao Da of the Ultimate Happiness Realm were keen to court them.

It was enviable indeed, who wouldn't envy the backing of a ferocious monk like Qingjing Zen Master?

After two consecutive Ultimate Happiness Realm strong people gave their greeting gifts, which Tao Qian felt were beneath him, but didn't want to rudely refuse, he quickly thanked them and tucked them away into the treasure bag.

But in the eyes of all demons, they were truly fine items, real treasures.

Publicly saying nothing, in secret they were all cursing,

"Pah, so-called right yet wrong, supposedly with a dignified appearance, clearly they're just lecherous monks."

"Looking so decent, yet they mingle with us Demons."

"The Dharma Cakra Temple and Great Freedom Temple, these so-called Major Sects of the Buddhist Sect, are said to also harbour filth. Close as he is to Qingjing, the Qingjing Zen Master and his disciple's behavior seem like the rumors are not unfounded."

"Soon the South Sea territory might see the emergence of a new branch similar to the Demon Buddha Temple, a great temple of demon monks."

Just as the Demons were murmuring and curiously looking over,

The Jade Demon True Monarch Gao Zhan, who attracted everyone's attention, wore a distinctly nauseating smile on his demonic, enchanting face.

He seriously sized up Tao Qian and said with undisguised malice,

"What a handsome little monk, do you wish for a greeting gift?"

"I have nothing for you now, wait for me to prepare something."

"The saying goes, the master's debt is paid by the disciple; little monk, rest assured and wait."

After this statement,

With a wave of Gao Zhan's sleeve, a muffled sound of flesh and blood bursting and a soul passing away could be heard.

All Demons looked towards the source of the sound, shuddering.

It was Gao Ruyi, who after being slapped three times by Tao Qian, had his Evil Zombie Origin forcefully scattered, regaining his senses but also severing his Dao path.

As Gao Zhan's own son, he only managed to look over with an utterly resentful gaze and let out a cry, "Daddy..."

Then, he exploded and died.

After killing his own son, Gao Zhan didn't bother with anyone else, snorted coldly, and walked away.

Chapter 622 Youyang Soul Capture, The Scheme of Gao Yang_2

All Demons witnessed this scene and immediately stopped envying Master Wu Gou.

Anyone who wasn't blind could see what Jade Demon True Monarch intended to do.

"Over, that Evil Monk Wu Gou is probably in a dire situation now."

"The disciple first forcefully crippled the son of Jade Demon True Monarch, and then the Master came from the South Sea and gave Jade Demon True Monarch a brutal beating. With such a huge grudge,

Qingjing Zen Master actually feels safe to leave. Doesn't he realize Jade Demon True Monarch will make things difficult for Master Wu Gou?"

"It's more than making things difficult! Looking at True Monarch's eyes, I can guarantee that if Master Wu Gou stays in Steamed Buddha City, within three hours, he'll surely be assassinated."

"Ha-ha, all fools, have you all forgotten the other two True Monarchs?"

"If Qingjing Zen Master is confident enough to leave, it's naturally because he has made a deal secretly with True Lord of a Hundred Demons and Yang Demon True Monarch. One of them has power above Jade Demon and the other is no weaker than him. Protecting Monk Wu Gou is a piece of cake for them."

"No need to beat around the bush, I just want those two treasures. They look very rare and precious, and they seem quite useful."

...

Even the onlooking Evil Cultivators could see Gao Zhan's malice, and so obviously did Gao Yang and Gao Wei.

Furthermore, as the current head of the Gao family, True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang already had plans.

He directed the flying boat, carrying Tao Qian, Yunrong, Gao Buxi, Duan Yuhong, Qu Zhongyuan, Li Fengxian and others, into the tent of the Hundred Demon Army.

And then he kept Tao Qian and his wife behind, although it was their first time in Steamed Buddha City and their first meeting with him.

But Gao Yang's countenance and gaze were filled with trust.

He, named 'True Lord of a Hundred Demons,' had also been an Emperor. His demeanor was a bit mad and unruly, but his wisdom was second to none.

Such trust naturally came from multiple verifications.

He had peered into the couple with various Secret Techniques; though their Dharma Images were somewhat concealed, they were not spies.

One technique, called "Hundred Demons Heaven Splitting Earth Shattering Soul Illuminating Technique," was even his trump card.

Gao Yang pondered: With his Cultivation Power, using this technique, even if someone mastered the Secret Demon Transformation Technique or the Great Freedom Illusion Technique, such top-notch magic, they couldn't escape his Dharma Eye.

After verification without discrepancy, and having conducted a Soul Search on Gao Buxi as well,

It was clear that there was nothing untoward about this Buddhist couple becoming involved.

According to fate, corresponding to the opportunity.

"It seems Heaven is helping me too. Before the troops are dispatched, they sent me a strong reinforcement."

"If managed well, not only can I snatch that little wench Yuan Mingzhen, but also secure the Spring and Autumn Chariot and perhaps even take over Qiantang Province."

After this thought flashed through Gao Yang's mind,

A smile appeared on his lips, and he turned to Tao Qian and said,

"Nephew Wu Gou!"

"I believe you've also noticed, my Brother Zhan is extremely proud and loves his child. Both you and your master have offended him, making this grudge difficult to reconcile."

"Of course, it's not really a big deal. If you and your wife are willing to join me, Gao Yang, can't I protect you?"

"Don't listen to Brother Zhan and that boy Gao Wei, who go on all day with their 'We, We, We,' just satisfying their own lips."

"In the Gao family, aside from our old ancestor, only I, Gao Yang, am the true Emperor."

"I vow to protect both of you, and no one will be able to kill you, trouble you, or cause you any harm."

With these words, he demonstrated unparalleled dominance.

However, Tao Qian did not think highly of them.

While nodding with a smile on the surface, internally he harshly thought,

"The Gao family members are sufficiently twisted, but when it comes to playing dumb, striking poses, and being overbearing, they're far from matching my bargain Master."

"It seems nobody can pretend better than him."

"He crafts an opening poem for himself when he descends, and another when he leaves."

"I've learned again."

Gao Yang had no idea what Tao Qian was thinking; feeling that he had behaved appropriately, he was convinced he had intimidated the inexperienced little monk.

With a dominant smile, he continued,

"But, nephew, while it's easy to protect you and your wife, doing so will limit you."

"Qingjing said you two are here to seek opportunities. If I forcefully keep you two by my side, it may ruin your important matters."

"Besides, my Gao family's ancestor set a rule: Reward according to Merit."

"I wish to bestow a great favor upon you and your spouse, but if the two of you have no meritorious service to show for yourselves, it wouldn't be proper for me to do so."

Upon reaching this point, Gao Yang's face conveyed a show of difficulty.

Tao Qian despised him inwardly but replied cooperatively, "Senior need not feel troubled. Please just speak plainly. Wú Gòu certainly believes Senior."

Hearing this, Gao Yang's face immediately lit up with a smile.

"Good!"

"Nephew indeed has received Qingjing Zen Master's true inheritance. A Buddha body naturally achieved and a wisdom heart keen—far stronger than those incompetent offspring of mine."

"Listen carefully, nephew. I have prepared a task for you and your spouse, one that should be an easily achieved great merit."

"Nephew has probably already heard from Gao Buxi about Qiantang Province, currently under the control of Cheng Arhat, and behind him is the Demon Buddha Temple. They negotiated to lend me Steamed Buddha City, promising to help me defeat all other warlords and cultivation forces, to capture that Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen."

"And the price? Merely that my Gao family must send a million strong populace to Qiantang Buddha Country every few years, along with an alliance oath, ensuring mutual non-aggression, and so on."

"Ha ha ha..."

Speaking to this point, the True Lord of a Hundred Demons suddenly burst into laughter.

His demeanor and expression somewhat suggested the shadow of a wise Emperor.

"Cheng Arhat and those bald monks from the Demon Buddha Temple are going too far, thinking my Gao family is full of naive and greedy fools who can't see such an obvious trap."

"It is unexpected, though, that the Demon Buddha Temple's monks have such grand ambitions. Not content with seizing Qiantang Province from Han Mountain Temple, they still covet my Gao family's Tiannan Province—wishful thinking."

"However, while I see through it, I still need to swallow this enticing bait. Yuan Mingzhen, this great beauty, I am too fond of..."

As Tao Qian listened, he felt utterly bewildered.

This old lecher's mental state seemed somewhat off, often immersed in some fantasy, mumbling to himself, half-awake, half-in a dream.

Suddenly, before Tao Qian, a red-glowing, drooling, twisted middle-aged man's face drew close.

Staring at Tao Qian, his eyes filled with infatuation.

But his obsession wasn't with Tao Qian himself but with Tao Qian's body—whole, handsome, a Human Clan's beautiful young man.

Muttering to himself, "Such handsome features, such a clean body, just like my prematurely deceased brother..."

Seemingly touching upon some trigger word, the beast regained consciousness.

He chuckled, returning to normalcy, and continued:

"To know your enemy and know yourself means victory in a hundred battles. Although I see through the Demon Buddha Temple's plans, I am completely ignorant of the various conditions within Qiantang Province."

"The divining powers of those bald monks are indeed formidable. Taking control of Qiantang for just a few days, they have already turned the province into an impenetrable Earthly Buddha Country. All the scouts and secret agents I sent out have been eliminated."

"It's just as well, considering that my nephew and his wife have arrived."

"The two of you are also part of the Buddhist Sect and have Qingjing Zen Master as your powerful backing, so even if you are found out, the Demon Buddha Temple would still have to give you some face."

"How about this? As long as my nephew and his wife are willing to make a trip and help me to thoroughly investigate the reality within Qiantang Province."

"This great achievement, the first and foremost, shall belong to my nephew."

"After the task is completed, not only will I give the two of you two honorable positions atop the Ten Thousand Marvels Sky-reaching Treasure Banner, but I also promise my nephew access to the Gao family's Treasure Vault one time, allowing you to freely choose three treasures and two volumes of the Secret Book."

"Furthermore, if my nephew needs any cultivation resources, whatever they might be, whether human slaves or souls, just mention it and I will agree."

"How about it?"

After Gao Yang finished speaking,

Tao Qian and Yunrong immediately felt as if a huge pie had been thrust towards them.

Without a doubt!

The conditions were extraordinarily generous.

Just for the two of them to enter Qiantang Province and act as spies?

Indeed, it doesn't seem difficult at all. Even if they were really exposed, as long as they do not admit it, the Demon Buddha Temple, considering Qingjing Zen Master, wouldn't likely resort to Soul Search, so their safety should be worry-free.

As for how complete they need to render this task?

Tao Qian suspected that even if they just went through the motions, the rewards and awards could be obtained.

As expected, after finishing those words, Gao Yang added in a whispered message:

"Nephew need not worry about your life; the task isn't really important. You and your wife just need to stroll around Qiantang Province, which also conveniently avoids the malice of my Brother Zhan."

"Also, I might ask you in the future to pass a message on my behalf. I want to kill my Brother Zhan and need assistance. If your honored master is free at that time, perhaps he could come and help me."

Chapter 623 Burning Incense Buddha Mantra Nurtures Demon Monk, Wu Gou Buddha Son Performs Lion's Roar

Tao Qian and Yunrong, disguised as Wu Gou Buddha's Son and Miao Yin Bodhisattva, did not stay long in Steamed Buddha City.

Less than an hour after entering the city and stirring many storms, the two left under the concealment of a Forbidden Technique Array and headed directly for Qiantang Province.

This meant that Tao Qian had accepted the mission given by the True Lord of a Hundred Demons, Gao Yang—it was a walk-through with great benefits, and only a fool would refuse.

From Gao Yang's perspective, to avoid exposure and because Tao Qian also had the same intention, he agreed to proceed accordingly.

Before leaving, Tao Qian and Yunrong made arrangements mainly to ensure the safety of Duan Yuhong's life.

Should any change occur, this South Sea female cultivator could escape in an instant.

Of course, it was just a precaution.

Now, Gao Buxi was deeply poisoned and beyond saving.

To pose a threat to Duan Yuhong, it was necessary first to slay this direct descendant of the Gao Family, who was also greatly favored by Gao Yang.

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Steamed Buddha City was a created settlement, located in a mountain range called "Emancipation Ridge."

It was unknown what mystique of the land had led the demon monk of the Demon Buddha Temple to choose this place to settle the lives of the hundred monks of Han Mountain Temple.

However, the eerie nature of this ridge was soon felt by Tao Qian and Yunrong.

The rugged mountains and secluded forests were dotted with Buddhist temples and towers.

Although most were crudely built, one could imagine how thriving the incense offerings were in the past.

The inhabitants of the dozen or so surrounding cities and counties likely all came here to pray and worship the Buddha, hence the name Emancipation Ridge.

Unfortunately, that was in the past.

Now the ridge, scarcely visited and devoid of life, fittingly represented desolation.

The cause was the local weather, which was excessively extreme.

At times, sad clouds and howling black winds prevailed; at others, heavy snow blanketed the sky, and ice fell like rain. There were also nameless gusts, fierce flames, sinister lightning, Fierce Ghosts, resentful souls, and other objects, including some Alien Strange Objects even Yuan Gong couldn't recognize.

Let alone mortals, even Demon Cultivators, without some formidable protective means, couldn't traverse this mountain.

The constantly changing harsh scenery was somewhat similar to Meiling when the Xuanpin Heavenly Gate Ten Absolute Array was laid out, but Meiling was temporary, whereas here it was constant and relentless.

Fortunately, both Tao Qian and Yunrong were Great Divine Power practitioners; otherwise, they really couldn't have crossed Emancipation Ridge.

"First there was Changliu Mountain, and now this Emancipation Ridge."

"The erosion from the Outer Realm onto this territory seems to be intensifying."

On the final leg of the journey through Emancipation Ridge, atop a barren, black-peaked lone mountain ravaged by various natural and strange catastrophes, a Buddha's Son and a Bodhisattva, travel-worn, hurried along.

The former furrowed his brows and looked back, sighing inwardly.

Tao Qian's thought was not a needless worry.

In fact, many ambitious individuals had already sensed the troubles.

Within the seventy-two provinces of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, permanent geographical changes seemed to be accelerating, turning the sea into mulberry fields and enhancing many unexplainable mysterious phenomena.

Incidents like the mutation caused by a Divine Corpse falling on Changliu Mountain, and the peculiar climate inside Emancipation Ridge, were actually not that unusual anymore.

The real challenge lay in those inexplicable phenomena.

Rumors said that even the cultivators from the Great Sects of Daoists, Buddhists, Demons, and Devils couldn't solve them.

After reflecting, the two crossed the mountain range and formally set foot in the heart of Qiantang Province.

Continuing forward, passing through several large markets and dozens of smaller county towns, they would reach the capital city of Qiantang Province, Qiantang City.

Speaking of which, Qiantang City was also an ancient capital.

That wasn't surprising anymore, as currently, in Tao Qian's world, Emperors were the least valuable.

"My lady, according to Gao Yang, Qiantang Province has now been completely transformed into an Earthly Buddha Country by Cheng Arhat in collusion with the Demon Buddha Temple."

"The local customs and scenes here are quite different from other provinces, but they do facilitate our movements."

"We two will use our identities as South Sea Buddhist Practitioners, worshiping at every mountain and entering every temple we encounter, heading straight for the Demon Buddha Temple in Qiantang City."

"There's a place along the way called Yinping City. It has a mountain called Yellow Cloud Mountain where a toad demon claiming to be the 'Swallowing Heaven Great Saint' resides, and we'll seize its life and retrieve the Toad Pearl."

Hearing this, Yunrong had no objections.

As soon as she heard the word "my lady," she smiled warmly, took her husband's hand—the father of their kitten servant's cub.

Summoning an auspicious cloud shaped like a lotus, the pair, resembling a couple from the Western Pure Land, ascended into the sky toward Qiantang City.

But neither of them had expected that just as they started moving,

The auspicious cloud drifted only a dozen miles before a commotion arose from the land below.

With Tao Qian and Yunrong's vision, they could see clearly with barely any effort.

Below was a Human Clan gathering spot.

Three or four small villages surrounded a small town.

Situated by the mountain and water, the resources seemed good; Tao Qian even spotted a silk factory outside the town.

It seemed a festival celebration was underway in the town; even during broad daylight, fireworks could be seen rising, and confetti floated, with at least ten thousand people gathered, cheering something.

Within the crowd, some sharp-eyed individuals spotted Tao Qian and Yunrong and immediately exclaimed in delight.

In one swift motion, ten thousand people knelt down.

The movement was not only uniform, but these ten thousand people also simultaneously showed fervent expressions, beginning to recite some sort of scripture.

Before Tao Qian and Yunrong could clearly hear, a bizarre scene unfolded:

Smoke began to rise from the heads of esos uomini**.

Chapter 624 Burning Incense Buddha Mantra Nourishing the Demon Monk, Wu Gou Buddha's Son Performs the Lion's Roar_2

"This is...?"

Both people showed shock on their faces.

Yunrong naturally resisted with a spell, and Tao Qian frowned as he pinched a thread of it.

In his mind, the Record burst forth:

[Name: Human Incense.]

[Record Type: Alien.]

[Record: This substance is the incense of the Human Clan and Buddha, originating from the Secret Book "Burning Incense Scripture" of the Demon Buddha Temple. There is a Buddha's verse in the scripture, stating that any life, as long as they're sincere in their heart, chanting that Buddha's verse can ignite themselves to emit Buddha Incense. This fragrance, created by kneading the soul, essence, and qi, is beneficial to any Buddhist Practitioner, especially for those monks from the Demon Buddha Temple, who, upon smelling it, can increase their cultivation.]

[Note 1: To consume Human Incense, one must fulfil the wish of the human, otherwise, the intense toxins of greed, anger, ignorance, and hatred contained within will backfire due to the karma.]

[Note 2: The desires of mortals are nothing more than mundane things like wine, beauty, wealth, and power; once fulfilled, one can unimpededly consume the Human Incense, continuing until the "incense master" dies. The faster the incense burns, the faster the master expires, all the while experiencing no pain, indulging in pleasures, offering their very beings for the nurturing of Buddhist Practitioners, truly seeking only the Ultimate Happiness in this life, not looking forward to Taiping in the next.]

[Note 3: The monks from the Qiantang Branch Temple of the Demon Buddha Temple deliberately spread the Burning Incense Buddha Mantra, with the most collections attributed to "Kongchan Arhat," who has been supported by millions of incense masters and has now cultivated the Demon Buddha's Magic White Bone Glaze Tower. Today, his supernatural power far exceeds that of his time in the Demon City.]

[Note 4: A total of 9,873 "incense masters" have sent offerings and requests... exempt from all costs!]

Merely a wisp of Buddha Incense, yet it contained such complex and shocking secrets.

At this moment, Tao Qian felt not only an increase in knowledge but also fully understood why Kongchan Arhat, despite his outwardly good appearance, was associated with the temple known as the "Demon Buddha."

These two words could not be more precise.

The anger on Yunrong's majestic face became even clearer after becoming aware, saying:

"These people, be they men or women, as well as the old and children, are all seeking pleasure from you and me."

"Money, beauty, food, power... their thoughts are filthy, unbearable to witness."

"Let's go down and take a look."

Tao Qian, seeing the means of the Demon Buddha Temple for the first time, was both angry and curious.

The two of them descended upon the small town of thousands of people.

As they approached, the layered chanting of the Buddha's verse grew clear:

"Burn my body, Heart Soul, for the Buddhas in all directions."

"To eradicate karma and break barriers is a fine method, together we ascend to the joy of Ultimate Happiness."

These four lines echoed over and over.

Standing on the Lotus Platform, Tao Qian listened to the Buddhas' verse and observed the various scenes in the town below.

This town was called [No Suffering Town].

The characters on the archway were quite new, presumably recently renamed.

If one didn't see the twisted, insane expressions on the faces of the nearly ten thousand people, just looking at the scenery would make Tao Qian believe that this was a village town devoted to worshipping and respecting the Buddha.

Buddha Incense, scriptures, Buddha Bells, and Buddha statues were everywhere, and even most of the town's people were directly dressed in monks' robes.

Before this, their festivals might have been Bodhisattva Day or Arhat Festival.

Statues of Bodhisattvas, Arhats, and Vajras of various sizes filled the streets.

Tao Qian's appearance now, needless to say.

Miao Seng, Buddha's son!

That dignity and grace, naturally accompanied by the Buddha Light charm, had already driven the townsfolk mad.

Nearly ten thousand people, just like that, all at once.

They simultaneously lifted their heads with an extremely crazed look of worship, staring fixedly at Tao Qian.

But, there were no grand gestures.

They just looked on like this, and the sound of chanting the Buddhas' verse from their mouths grew more intense, more devout.

Yet, what Tao Qian heard in his mind was a multitude of jumbled thoughts:

"We've succeeded, we've made it, this time we actually attracted a Buddha's son, a Bodhisattva, we are blessed, Buddha's son, Bodhisattva, please consume my incense, and then grant me wealth, One thousand taels of silver coins, that's all I ask for, beg the Buddha's son to have mercy."

"Hahaha... fantastic, all-powerful Buddha's son and Bodhisattva, please consume my incense, I want beauties, one, no, at least two great beauties, just like the widow and her daughter next door."

"Mine, mine, Bodhisattva quickly consume my incense, I want gourmet food, let me eat for three days and nights straight without running out."

"I hope this Buddha's son and Bodhisattva who came this time are stronger than the last few, consume all my incense, I want to experience wealth and beauty, I am willing even to die if my wish is fulfilled."

"Seeing the style, this must be stronger, the last few weak monks only consumed incense for just an hour, fulfilled a few dozen people's wishes and couldn't bear it, dropping dead on the spot, their flesh and blood covering the Bodhisattva Arhats' statues, and it took us so long to clean up... eat mine, I wish

to live only three more days. In these three days, I want to be intertwined with a Fox Demon, to die happily, and at the moment of death, regardless, I must be joyful."

"I, I want to be a high-ranking officer, to be the Emperor, even if just for half a day."

"Goddess of Mercy, please enjoy this believer's Buddha Incense. I don't ask for much, just that I no longer go hungry, no longer suffer from the cold, no longer fall ill, and no longer endure the abuse of others..."

"Buddha's son above, please eat my incense. You can take most of it, just leave a little so I can live for a few more months, then please return my father and mother to me, so we can live together again for a few more months."

...

Tao Qian concentrated and listened intently, while also opening his spiritual vision, carefully observing and covertly applying the Secret Technique, Soul Search.

Soon, he understood what had truly happened in this so-called "No Suffering Town."

The town was originally named Changle Town.

Although it was small, it was nonetheless located in the rather prosperous Qiantang Province. Compared to fellow members of the Human Clan in other provinces, the townspeople's lives were rather passable.

They were not wealthy but could barely assure food and clothing and had just encountered a good new mayor who had returned from studying abroad.

First he built schools, then set up factories; they watched as their days gradually improved.

But then calamity struck!

Cheng Arhat, the Great Governor of Qiantang Province, established an Earthly Buddha Country.

Within the province, everything underwent tremendous change.

The "Burning Incense Buddha Mantra" had few believers when it first spread.

But soon, monks from the Demon Buddha Temple travelled all over the province, demonstrating Miracles.

Simply chant the Buddha verse, and whatever you want, you would have.

If one could obtain things without effort, who would still wish to toil?

Even the ambitious, passionate new mayor, "Wang Jinyin," after an experimental recital seeking the Cultivation Method and getting a response, rapidly fell from grace.

Today's Changle Town is in decline, with prosperous businesses failing, fields lying fallow, fishing and farming neglected, not to mention the newly built silk-reeling factories outside of town.

Everyone participated in various Buddhist festivals, reciting the Burning Incense Buddha Mantra, eager for passing high monks and Bodhisattvas to visit.

To eat their incense, to grant their wishes.

Even those few whose wishes were not so greedy seemed to have lost their willpower.

For the most basic needs—food and clothing—they thought to rely on the Buddha verse.

The cost? The cost was themselves.

The original population of Changle Town was 31,000. After more than a month, only 9,873 remained.

"What a Demon Buddha Temple!"

"Foolish children, awaken quickly."

After Tao Qian sighed, he suddenly took action.

He shouted loudly, and amidst the surging Buddha Light, the Lion Roar that could terrify hundreds of animals and calm the hearts of all beings echoed throughout the town.

This Divine Skill originated from the Buddha Bird Protector, the Blue-furred Lion. Master Tao could borrow it for a moment.

It was not like the original version, but his Mana was immense.

Nearly ten thousand people affected by the [Lion Roar] immediately showed expressions of pain, clutched their heads and wailed, and black pus flowed from their seven orifices, falling to the ground where it spontaneously combusted and vanished without a trace.

With the Karma cleansed, they awoke.

They knelt and bowed their heads. This time their movements were not neat, but they thanked Buddha's son and Bodhisattva for saving their lives with all kinds of disordered voices.

However, at that moment, Tao Qian heard a telepathic message from Yuan Gong:

"Young man, what you're doing here might only be a temporary solution, not addressing the root cause."

"Do you know why the Demon Buddha Temple, with only one faction's power, can withstand the encirclement of other great temples like Guanyin Temple, Great Freedom Temple, Dharma Cakra Temple, etc.? Aside from that Demon Buddha who will not perish even after countless calamities, the real reason lies in those ever-emerging, extremely troublesome Demon Buddha Secret Methods."

"The Burning Incense Buddha Mantra is just one of them."

"You've temporarily cleared the filth from the hearts of these Mortals with the Lion Roar, but while external toxins can be removed, inner demons are harder to eradicate."

"Especially in today's world, where Mortals live in uncertain times, plagued by unpredictability. Rather than struggle to survive, many would choose to enjoy a period of bliss and pass away peacefully."

"Once you and Yunrong leave, it won't take many days before these people recite the Burning Incense Mantra again, igniting themselves to offer to passing demon monks."

Chapter 625 Shanyu Demon Monk, Transcendence Bodhisattva

"This is exactly the trouble with those monks from Demon Buddha Temple, the magic skills they spread mostly target the 'Inner Demon Addiction Poison.' In this regard, their attainments surpass even those of the monks from Great Freedom Temple and Dharma Cakra Temple."

"Especially in times of chaos, among the lower echelons of mortals, the Demon Buddha Dharma is truly unmatched."

"When the time comes to eliminate demons and prolong Buddha's influence, if it were a one-on-one combat of magic, Demon Buddha Temple could suppress any Righteous Buddhist temple, including Great Freedom Temple."

"If you really want to save these pitiful people, there is only one method that might work..."

Before Master Yuan finished speaking, Tao Qian had already guessed.

Almost simultaneously, he spoke four words: "Stabilize the chaotic world!"

Seeing that Tao Qian understood, Yuan Gong said no more.

The underlying logic was actually not complex.

Even going directly back to what Tao Qian had previously mentioned:

"Price!"

"As long as the chaotic times disappear, the price will tend towards balance, life and death, pleasure and suffering will be better managed. At that time, although some people will still chant the Burning Incense Buddha Mantra, there will not be many, their will not strong, but the price high, the monks of Demon Buddha Temple will find it as useless as chicken ribs, unwilling to respond or spread it, and thus the disaster resolves itself."

"Unfortunately, who dares to claim that they can end the chaos of today?"

Once again, Tao Qian felt powerless.

However, he was not despondent.

Merely looking at the nearly tens of thousands below, anxious and helpless, he thought to himself:

"While a permanent cure is absent, there is a temporary solution."

With that, Tao Qian blinked and from among the townspeople pulled out a thin middle-aged man wearing monk robes and sporting three strands of beard.

This man was Wang Jinyin, native to Changle Town. He had left home in his youth, studied abroad, and returned to his hometown wishing to fulfill his ambitions, to lead his fellow townspeople out of poverty and suffering.

Unfortunately, as a mere mortal, he could not resist the Demon Buddha Secret Method, and fell to corruption not long after his struggle had started.

Unlike the other townspeople, he did not seek money or beauty, but the Cultivation Method.

Previously, a monk from Demon Buddha Temple had given him a scroll of the Captivating Heart and Indulging Desire Technique, allowing him to perform exotic skills like hypnotism, barely qualifying as a cultivator.

Of course, having chanted that Buddha's verse, no cultivation was useful; most of his essence, along with his soul, had been dedicated to that demon monk, leaving him only a few days to live.

When he first met Tao Qian, what he sought had turned into a method of Life Extension.

At that time, he was crazed and greedy, hardly human.

Now that he had regained clarity, some wisdom appeared in his sunken eye sockets.

He was dripping with sweat, trembling all over, but it was not because he feared the Buddha's son in front of him who would destroy him as a Fallen Demon.

Rather, he was terrified and filled with regret.

Approaching, he knelt down, his hoarse throat shouting: "Buddha's son and Bodhisattva above, Wang Jinyin, the mayor of Changle Town, Qiantang Province, thanks you for the great kindness of saving lives and saving the people."

At this moment, the middle-aged man, with his days numbered, shouted while continuously kowtowing forcefully to the ground.

Tao Qian let him kowtow a few times before suddenly placing a palm on his skull.

The man immediately spit out a mouthful of blood, his cultivation completely ruined.

However, the next moment, Tao Qian passed a stream of mana into him, healing his injuries. He then selected from his mountainous collection of treasures a scripture meant to enlighten and see one's true nature, to destroy disasters and cure diseases called "Medicine Buddha's Talks on Porridge," and a wooden fish considered a low-level Buddhist device, and handed them over.

Immediately afterward, he instructed telepathically:

"Although this monk has cleared the filth and addiction from your minds, the inner demons can still grow and trouble you."

"If you are willing, use the Cultivation Method and treasures this monk has given you to chant the sutras every night to clear the townspeople's recurring addiction."

"This Changle Town has a small population and is near Emancipation Ridge, so as long as you don't actively chant that 'Burning Incense Buddha Mantra,' it should be difficult for the demon monks to find you."

"With this, you should be able to maintain peace for a while."

Tao Qian's method, though it sounded laborious.

But hastily considered, there was no better option.

Firstly, Changle Town was located in Qiantang, far from New Moon Province; it was not feasible to repeat the old trick of sending them to join the Ancestor Dragon Society.

If that were done, these nearly ten thousand people, not killed by the demon monks, would most likely die on the way.

The Buddhist scriptures and treasures that Tao Qian gave to the mayor were neither rare nor could he afford to give anything rare, nor could he offer Daoist spells and magic artifacts, lest he invite trouble unnecessary.

He also had another arrangement that Tao Qian did not voice; when he and Yunrong left, he would cast a spell to erase from these thousands of people's minds any memory related to them, only planting one obsession in the mayor's mind:

Every single night!

He would go from door to door, chanting the Buddha's verse to eliminate the addiction.

Laborious, indeed, and somewhat eerie.

But the lives of ten thousand were surely saved.

Just after he had explained, a smile appeared on the man's face, followed by what seemed like a determined resolution.

Once again, he fervently kowtowed, saying as he did:

"Buddha's son is merciful, this arrangement is extremely good."

"Changle Town is indeed remote, usually no Cultivation monks visit, the past few demon monks were all invited by us at great cost, and almost all were itinerant demon monks who would stop for a bite and then seek bigger and better meals elsewhere, disdaining our small village and town."

"However, to avoid causing trouble for the Buddha and Bodhisattva, please, when you leave, erase the memories related to this matter from our minds, and also entrust someone else with the task of chanting the Buddha's verse."

"Your disciple Wang Jinyin, wishes to undertake a different task."

"Other demon monks will not come, but one monk is an exception."

"This monk, known as 'Shanyu,' is the lowest-ranking Precept Monk of the Demon Buddha Temple."

"Unable to compete with the other demon monks, he was exiled nearby, within a hundred miles, and established Heibai Temple to settle down, considering several nearby villages and towns as his source of Blood Food, with my Changle Town included."

"Every few days, he comes to harvest us, previously unable to resist his lure, I fell to demons, paid a heavy price, and learned a Demonic Secret "@/Method STDMETHODCALLTYPE from him."

"If he doesn't die, I fear Changle Town cannot avoid catastrophe," he said.

"Being compassionate, Female Bodhisattva, could you please implant a Buddha Flame and Buddha Light inside me before you leave, so I can perish together with that demon monk?"

"I understand, disciple knows that all cultivation has its price."

"I am willing to pay with my remaining lifespan, as well as my Three Souls and Seven Spirits."

This middle-aged man, called Wang Jinyin, the mayor of Changle Town, although he hadn't proved his determination and sincerity to Tao Qian by dissecting his heart and abdomen.

There was no need, as Tao Qian had already used a secret technique earlier to see his life story.

Ever since he had participated in the New Moon uprising, Tao Qian knew that this world was not beyond hope.

There were many degenerates, but also not a few heroes.

"Fine! I shall fulfill your wish."

"But only the first part, as for the demon monk called 'Shanyu,' I have uses for him."

"Rest assured, he won't come this way again."

Having said these words, he did not wait for the man or the nearly ten thousand townspeople to react.

Tao Qian directly began casting spells: erasing memories, instilling obsessions.

After the nearly ten thousand people blinked, the so-called Son of Buddha and Bodhisattva was no longer in sight.

Only their town mayor remained, who suddenly shouted with great vigor:

"What are you all staring at, continue worshiping Buddha."

"Right, no need for anyone to close their doors early and sleep tonight, your town mayor has obtained a new Buddha's verse, which I will recite to you later."

"Although this Buddha's verse is simple, it contains profound Buddhist principles, and after chanting, there will be no disasters or illnesses, and it will also satiate hunger. It's truly marvelous."

...

A hundred miles away from Changle Town.

There was a pitch-black Gushan with a temple atop it, and in front of the temple grew a row of sinister dark cypress trees.

These trees, known as [[Wild Monk Evil Pine]], are a type of demon that requires human hearts, human blood, and human fluid to nourish, best with virgins.

For those Buddhist Practitioners fallen demon, it is extremely useful, similar to the Bodhi Tree and Qingjing Bamboo of the Righteous Buddhism, but its rank is very low, and hardly any powerful demon monks would care for it.

However, for the master of this mountain and temple, the demon monk known as Shanyu, these low-level demon trees are crucial for his Breakthrough and Foundation Establishment.

Indeed, this monk originated from the Demon Buddha Temple.

Such a grand title, yet after practicing for many years, he hadn't achieved Foundation Establishment, hence he was ostracized here by his peers.

If not for his cunning, he would have long been devoured by his fellows in the temple.

At this moment, he would rather risk returning to the temple, where perhaps there was still a glimmer of hope.

The reason was simple!

His doom had arrived.

Just looking at this monk, indeed he was wasting the good name "Shanyu"; he was fat with large ears, full of horizontal flesh on his face and a scar stretching from the center of his eyebrows to his chin, truly hideous and ferocious.

In his murky eyes, there exuded a nauseating, unmistakable lasciviousness.

At this moment he was almost half-naked, kneeling inside the temple and frantically knocking his head towards the front.

Around him, a dozen Human Clan women were sobbing.

Just a moment ago, this monk intended to have a grand indulgent ceremony in this Heibai Temple.

After the pleasure, he would have killed these pitiful women and used their flesh and blood to water the evil pines outside the temple.

Now he was incapable of carrying out his plan, as he knelt there weeping bitterly, pleading:

"Seniors spare my life, Great Compassionate and Merciful Female Bodhisattva spare my life."

"I am called Shanyu, deceived into practicing in the Demon Buddha Temple, and because I still harbored good thoughts, I chose this magical name for myself. Little did I know this would cause me to be bullied and ostracized by many of my peers to this desolate area."

"Buddha and Bodhisattva see clearly, although I have committed minor wrongs due to practicing the Demon Buddha Dharma and its side effects, I truly haven't killed excessively, my body doesn't bear unresolved sins that can be transformed into merits, there's truly nothing blocking any disaster or calamity."

"Ha"

Hearing this, Tao Qian suddenly burst into laughter.

Mocking this shameless, cunning demon monk who insulted the name 'Shanyu':

"You sly and shameless demon monk, whose perception is extremely sharp too, knowing from the moment my wife and I arrived that you weren't our opponent, you didn't even resist and just knelt to beg for mercy."

"But despite your cunning, you have got the direction of your pleading wrong."

"Judging others by your own standard, you thought I was the kind of Buddhist Practitioner who depended on slaying deeply sinful demon monks, converting those merits to shield ourselves from disasters."

Upon hearing this, Shanyu demon monk, felt killing intent that chilled him to the bone.

In that instant, he knew he was about to die without a trace.

Even now, he didn't understand why he had suddenly faced this disaster?

He couldn't even guess who this couple of Buddhist Practitioners before him, whose mana seemed boundless and utterly inscrutable, actually were.

The only thing he knew was that if he didn't struggle or try his hardest, it was really going to be over for him.

With his will to live erupting, he loudly exclaimed in his last moments, rapid-fire like a barrage:

"Wait, wait, don't kill me, I still have value."

"Grandpa Buddha and Grandma Bodhisattva, you must have come to Qiantang Province for those [[Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendence Bodhisattvas]] that my Demon Buddha Temple is cultivating."

"I have a way to let Grandpa Buddha and Grandma Bodhisattva obtain one, I assure you can get one."

"Just spare my life, and I will obey your commands from here on, turning from evil to righteousness."

Chapter 626 Zhu Xun Restores His Position, Second Fishing for Toad Pearl

"Shanyu, this monk, at the age of forty, belongs to a vicious and bloodthirsty cunning breed."

Unlike other cultivators who cherish their reputation, he is the most shameless of all, even willing to dispense with his dignity.

He well knew that the Buddhist pair before him were both very young.

But to save his own life, he started calling them 'grandpa' and 'grandma,' willingly debasing himself to be like a grandchild.

Had he encountered someone else, some practitioner of heresy and heterodoxy or a Buddhist who does not distinguish between right and wrong, he might have been able to deceive them, especially since he threw out a lure at the very last moment.

He also complacently thought: This young pretty-faced monk is extremely ferocious, with mana reaching the heavens, must be from one of the Buddhist Major Sects, though powerful, his experience and knowledge are certainly limited, with my glib tongue and a keen mind, I can surely fool and preserve my life, and if I play my cards right, maybe I can even use him to kill others and get rid of this pretty-face.

Shanyu thought his scheme was foolproof, unfortunately, he encountered Master Tao.

Tao Qian, upon hearing the term 'Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva,' raised his eyebrows but soon ran out of patience.

After a few words, he had figured out what kind of monk he was dealing with.

Opening his mouth, he then applied the Secret Technique.

Using the True Word Secret Decree, he asked:

'Tell me all that you know about the situation in Qiantang Province, all the secrets, let me hear them all.'

Upon hearing this question, Shanyu immediately felt a surge of joy in his heart.

He thought to himself that this pretty-face really was a naive Buddhist's son from a righteous path to interrogate secrets, not using methods like 'Soul-searching and Soul-capturing' or 'Enslave Soul' but just asking outright.

Not even a fledgling, only a downright fool.

As Shanyu was thinking this, in the next moment, his expression revealed an incomprehensible and unimaginable terror.

He was a monk from the Demon Buddha Temple alright, but only from the lowest ranks.

How could he have ever seen or heard of the 'True Word Secret Decree,' such a Supreme Method?

Completely unable to resist, he obediently opened his mouth to reply:

'Grandpa,'

'You asking me is like asking the right person, nowadays the whole Qiantang Province is under the control of our Demon Buddha Temple, tight as a drum, naturally it is our Demon Buddha monks who know the most, and your grandchild happens to be the best at finding out these things, I guarantee you won't be disappointed.'

'Let me first talk about the situation, at present, all checkpoints throughout Qiantang Province have already been opened.'

'Any person, any army, can march right in, even the tariffs are not being collected, all we wish is that more armies come, the more warlords, the better.'

'In these days, Zhang Mazi from the northeast provinces, Great Commander of Desert North Yelü Lushan, Qilu Province Wu Shaozu, Hong Fu, the Female Demon... Nearly all the big strong people from the Northern Land have sent people over, although most of them are not in person, but at least they are tens of thousands, or even one hundred and fifty thousand commanders of extraordinary forces.

'Particularly worth mentioning, and most laughable, are the remnants of the Zhu Dynasty.'

'There's a guy named 'Zhu Xun' who was an elder prince from the previous generation of the Zhu Dynasty, has been cultivating with the 'Louguandao,' one of the Twelve Daoist Sects, and luckily escaped disaster in the Imperial City.'

'Afterward, he defected from Louguandao, rallied a large number of Zhu's remnants, assembled an army, proclaimed himself emperor, and took over much of Yongzhou Province.'

'Hearing that the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen was trapped in Qiantang, he recklessly led his army, racing overnight from Yongzhou all the way here.'

'Presumably for the Devil Concubine's Heavenly Phoenix Body, the remaining Fortune of the Zhu Dynasty upon her, and the Ancestor God Treasure 'Spring and Autumn Chariot,' thinking that if he could seize these, he had a chance of restoring the glory of the Zhu Dynasty.'

'Ha, a fool's dream, he doesn't even consider how many strong people and how many warlords there are in Qiantang Province now, where does he fit in?'

At this time, the dozen or so women and wives that Shanyu had captured in the temple temporarily forgot their fears.

All had puzzled expressions, looking at the demon monk that was obviously not right.

His face was full of pain and distortion, but he continued to speak passionately.

Even though they were all ordinary women, they guessed that this damned demon had fallen for the Buddhist son's Spell and was willingly leaking the secrets of his sect.

This kind of ability, making people confess voluntarily upon opening their mouths,

is actually quite strange.

But it also depends on who is casting it—when the ugly demon monk uses it, it's an Evil Technique.

If it's performed by a beautiful, untainted wonderful Buddhist's son, then it naturally becomes a sublime Divine Ability.

Having made fun of Zhu Xun, Shanyu continued:

'However, no matter who comes, no matter how many warlords, they're all destined not to get the Devil Concubine.'

'Not just the Devil Concubine; anyone who enters Qiantang is like a clay Bodhisattva crossing a river, unable to save themselves.'

'Letting them into the province is precisely the decision of the high monks of our Demon Buddha Temple.'

'To trap the Devil Concubine in the old site of Han Mountain Temple is the same, she is a lure.'

'They covet the Devil Concubine's body, and we covet their bodies, their armies, like catching turtles in a jar, to refine the Buddha Treasure.'

'So Grandpa knows, that treasure is truly extraordinary.'

'It's called the 'Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva.'

'It needs a Mechanical Secret Technique from 'Buddha' retrieved from the Outer Realm by our Demon Buddha Temple, combined with the true essence of Demon Buddha, to be refined.'

'But what is the Power of this Bodhisattva-shaped Buddha Treasure? How is it refined? How many can be refined? What is the intention after refining?'

'Although your grandchild is very curious, these are things I do not know, completely unable to find out.'

'The fact that I learned the name of that Buddha Treasure is only because I used a can of Buddha Incense Blood Wine to get Master drunk.'

After saying all this, Shanyu still felt it wasn't enough.

Thinking for a moment, he immediately sought to curry favor by adding:

'Grandpa, if you have any interest in that treasure, there is an opportunity right now.'

Chapter 627 - Zhu Xun Restores His Position, Fishing for the Toad Pearl Again

"Eight hundred miles from here, there is a great city called Yinping City," Tao Qian began. "Last time, I got Daoist Shan Zhi drunk, and from his lips, I learned a secret: several Elders are refining treasures there."

"Moreover, recently a few warlords have arrived there, occupying the area; presumably, they have all become materials for treasure refining."

"Counting the days, I don't know how many Great Transcendence Bodhisattvas this makes; they should be in the midst of refining one right now."

"If grandfather hurries now, he should make it in time."

...

After hearing all the situations and secrets, Shanyu's face had completely collapsed.

He knelt there, trembling all over, with filth running from his bowels, as if even his soul was about to be scared away.

Previously, he had been making calculations and plotting to be cunning.

But now, he finally realized: the individual before him, who seemed as tender as a young Buddha's son, was in fact a demon even more demonic than the demons themselves.

This sort of method to control people was unheard and unseen by him.

His face turned the color of death, awaiting judgment.

Having heard all these secrets, Tao Qian had gained an approximate understanding of Qiantang Province and the Demon Buddha Temple.

The fog before his eyes had cleared somewhat.

He had planned to slay this demon monk immediately, but upon further thought, a better method presented itself.

With a thought, he summoned demons like the Decree Demon and the Heart Demon and instructed:

"Thoroughly change his nature, make him atone for his own sins."

"As a demon monk, secretly protect the villages and towns around Heibai Temple, as well as these girls."

"After everything is done, settle your own account."

"Yes, Master."

"Master, rest assured, this will be easy."

Amidst the flattery of the demons, Shanyu's eyes widened in disbelief.

Thinking of his impending doom, for the first time, the monk began to feel a sliver of remorse for his evil deeds.

All was arranged!

Tao Qian took Yunrong by the hand and left Gushan, heading for Yinping City, eight hundred miles away.

With their Subterranean Evasion Speed, it did not take long to arrive.

Only to see another great mountain blocking the path ahead.

This mountain was quite abnormal, with a huge yellow cloud covering the sky above, and below was a rugged peak, sheer cliffs and deep ravines, valleys everywhere in sight, with crevices filled with gloomy

ancient woods that did not reach high, and dark low bushes in complex layers. Even from afar, one could smell a wave of rot and dampness wafting over.

Seeing this, Yunrong frowned and said:

"This mountain is filled with Source Qi; it is a place for Communication with Ghosts."

"Coupled with its dampness, darkness, and decay, typical devil beasts and demons likely would not wish to cultivate here, only those snakes, insects, rodents, and ants, those evil objects and demon heads that love darkness and dampness, would see this place as a paradise, a blessed land."

"Looking at that yellow cloud that covers the sky, this must be the so-called Yellow Cloud Mountain."

"That secret cave should be the Swallowing Sky Cave, there's a devilish aura hidden within the mountain, perhaps it's that so-called Swallowing Heaven Great Saint, the toad spirit."

"Husband, what do you plan to do? Do you want your sister to cast a spell to catch that toad?"

Tao Qian, hearing her switch between calling him brother and charming husband, was rather helpless.

But the hand that was holding hers never let go.

The two of them were playing the part of a devoted couple, but they were also truly a devoted couple, and the state of their infatuation and passionate love was genuine.

Tao Qian shook his head and pointed at the Yellow Cloud Mountain:

"Although this mountain's filth cannot compare with Immortal Crane Mountain, it's not much better; how can I let sister go there and get sullied by it?"

"That yellow cloud is called the Earth Filth Yellow Cloud, which is a treasure for evil cultivators, born from the condensation of the earth's yin energy, vapor, and filth."

"Daoist Chen Xiyi once told me that the toad spirit, known for its vast aura, likes to lie on the mountain peak and absorb the clouds and mist to cultivate. Now, acting so cautiously and hiding within the mountain, it must be frightened by the presence of many strong people and warlords in the nearby Yinping City, fearing that its Toad Pearl and even its life might be taken."

"Daoist Chen has also mentioned the arrangements inside the mountain belly, where there is a large pool-like puddle connected to the earth's underground rivers. Should it sense danger, that toad can jump into the river and escape."

"However, this toad spirit has a very bad habit."

"Once startled, it will immediately spit out the Toad Pearl to strike at people."

"That Bead, having been cultivated by it to move at will, is indeed untouchable by ordinary cultivators."

"Too bad, it happens to meet me, so what can it do?"

As his words fell, Tao Qian was already on the move.

First, he casually sent a few demons into that dark secret cave in the mountain's belly.

Then, with a low shout, he commanded:

"Toad Monster, your doomsday has arrived, come out quickly and meet your death."

...

Indeed, inside the mountain belly, just as Tao Qian had said, there was another Grotto Heaven.

Next to a large puddle of water lay a big, yellow-skinned toad, as big as a small hill, covered in bumps, rotten flesh, black spots, and small flesh thorns, among other things. Its pair of swollen, jaundiced eyes, filled with a sinister hue, were half-closed, as if sleeping but not quite asleep.

What was particularly strange was that this toad demon also had a pair of leathery wings, torn and tattered like a large piece of yellow cloth ripped apart.

Dangling in front of its body, it looked at them and a flash of arrogance crossed its eyes.

These leathery wings were a kind of Divine Skill from Alien Species called Yellow Cloud Sky Wings.

With just a flap, it could fly thousands of miles in an instant.

While it couldn't compare with the Cultivation World's most famous Free Heart Light Escape Technique, it wasn't too far behind either.

"Back in the day, I, Huang Baoming, was just a physically disabled commoner, deaf and hunchbacked, making a living by raising toads and selling them in taverns and markets."

"Who would have thought that one day, I would witness my wife's infidelity, only to be killed by her and her lover, who then threw me into the toad pool."

"But my fate was not yet sealed, and I unexpectedly got hold of a treasure, the Toad Pearl. After devouring that adulterous couple, I embarked on the path of cultivation."

"My hump, upon reaching Foundation Establishment, transformed into a pair of strange wings."

"However, the world of cultivation is indeed dangerous; the slightest carelessness could lead to death, and one can never have too many ways to protect oneself."

Chapter 628 - Zhu Xun's Restoration, Fishing for the Toad Pearl Twice

"Yinping City is currently embroiled in warfare between warlords, Evil Demons lurking everywhere, and even those bald monks from the Demon Buddha Temple roaming about. It's only right for this Great Saint to be cautious. As long as I hide in this cave, no matter what kind of enemy comes, I don't have to fear anything. Even if I'm surrounded, as long as I dive into the dark river and choose any exit at random, I can escape and fly away on wing. Who could possibly catch me?"

Huang Baoming was naturally reclusive, and after being betrayed, he became even more perverse.

From a human turned into a Great Demon, he still trusted no one, which is why there were no little monsters or little wizards serving under him.

Being alone for a long time, he had grown used to talking to himself.

Just as he was indulging in his thoughts, suddenly, a provocative, insulting voice penetrated the cave.

By the sound of it, it seemed to be the Buddhist Divine Power of the Lion Roar.

Amplified through the belly of the mountain, in an instant, the voice pounded inside him like a war drum.

With his ears ruptured and blood flowing from all facial orifices, it made him howl and roll in agony.

Before he could do anything, suddenly, dozens of Demon heads barged in, chattering incessantly, attacking his spirit and soul.

"Hey, you mangy toad, our Master has summoned you to come out and die. Why are you dragging your feet?"

"What an ugly Toad Monster, hurry up and follow us out, peel off your disgusting pustule-ridden skin and finish yourself off. Don't dirty our Master's hands."

"Eh? This monster wasn't born a toad spirit but was transformed from the Human Clan, its soul fallen to the Beast Path. No wonder it reeks so foully; even I can't stomach it."

"If Red Lady won't eat, I will, I as the Body Demon, relish in the stench the most."

This group of Outer Realm Heaven Demons, having followed Tao Qian for quite some time, had been tamed early on. Each had taken on their Master's temperament and flaws, which made them not only difficult to deal with but also particularly noisy and disturbing when gathered together.

Huang Baoming was already tormented by the Lion Roar, and now with the Demon Sound pouring into his ears.

Almost subconsciously, he let out a "quack."

A putrid yellow cloud burst forth, and within it, hidden, was a Toad Pearl glowing with Divine Light and the tremendous strength of Mountains and Seas.

"Die, all of you die!"

In a roar of rage, the Nine Toad Bead was hurled out.

At that moment, Huang Baoming thought: these Demons are too annoying, but the one outside casting the Lion Roar I probably cannot defeat. I'll kill these Demons and then flee into the dark river.

His plan was good and would normally succeed.

Unfortunately, with the arrival of True Master Tao, nothing would go normal.

Outside the Swallowing Sky Cave!

Tao Qian, hearing the echo and sensing the Toad Pearl leave the toad's mouth, immediately smiled.

He reached into his sleeve and pulled out a silk thread, employing the Fishing Toad Technique.

A burst of brilliance, and the silk line instantly stretched without limit, becoming a "Ten Thousand Feet Silk."

On it were strung nine Luck Money coins.

At the end, a Heavenly Toad Treasure Pearl served as bait.

With a flick of his hand, the silk line, as if alive, eagerly burrowed into the Swallowing Sky Cave.

Inside the mountain belly, the Toad Pearl that was about to smash the Demons.

Upon seeing the silk line, immediately changed direction; after a croak, it transformed into a Three-legged Golden Toad gleaming with treasure light.

Without even a glance at the bleeding, screaming Huang Baoming behind, it gave a shake, kicking off the filthy yellow cloud, and directly bit the bead bait.

"Come out!"

As this voice came from outside the cave,

a scene that would break Huang Baoming's heart and drive him insane appeared.

The Toad Pearl that he regarded as his second life was simply fished away like that.

"No!"

"Give it back to me, my Treasure Bead, that's mine."

"Whoever you are, I beg you, please return the Treasure Bead to me."

With his prized possession seized, Huang Baoming no longer cared about escaping.

Crying out, he chased after the fishing line.

Behind him, membrane wings flapped wildly as his large mouth gaped open, yearning to snatch back the Toad Pearl.

However, this Swallowing Heaven Great Saint, Huang Baoming's situation was almost identical to that of Wutong Master Liu Lean.

All his cultivation power originated from the Toad Pearl.

Had he not acted so impulsively, expelling the Toad Pearl after just one attack, and instead relied on his supernatural power to fight and tangle with Tao Qian,

It might have been possible for him to hold out in a battle once or twice.

But just like Liu Lean, he fell for Tao Qian's cunning scheme.

Of course, one couldn't really blame Huang Baoming.

He was just a slightly luckier wilderness Loose Cultivator Demon; how could he know that there existed techniques such as the "Fishing toad technique" in this world?

In any case, once he lost the treasure, he was immediately reverted to his original form.

As he flew, his massive body rapidly shrank, and the so-called alien species, the Yellow Clouds Reaching Heaven membrane on his back, also shrank frantically.

In the blink of an eye, he transformed into an ugly toad, about the size of a cartwheel, with a body riddled with rot, hunchbacked and deaf.

A pair of fleshy bony little wings limply clung to his sides.

He could only watch with wide eyes as the Treasure Bead drifted away, while he himself plummeted downwards.

Mid-fall, his broken body was hit by the residual power of the Lion Roar.

With a loud "bang," he exploded into pieces.

Transforming into a sky full of shredded flesh, it rained down into the puddles below.

Swept away by the tide, he mingled with the readily found human skeletons in the puddles and disappeared without a trace.

This person, indeed, had a death that was richly deserved.

It wasn't much of an atrocity to consume adulterers and seductresses when entering the Dao.

But afterward, he developed the habit of "pairing and eating humans." Once he occupied Yellow Cloud Mountain, he would, on a whim, summon the Yellow Cloud Demon Fog, pillaging the surroundings, with a particular fondness for married couples, only feeling comfortable after snatching them and consuming them together.

...

Outside the Swallowing Sky Cave, Tao Qian led Sister Yunrong by one hand, clutching the newly acquired treasure in the other.

The third Nine Toad Bead!

Since he acquired the Toad Pearl from Uncle Jade Toad, Tao Qian had gathered two more in just a few short months, and without much effort.

"The Fishing toad technique truly is handy, those cultivators who are not of the Toad Sect have virtually no resistance against this technique when they obtain the Toad Pearl; it's almost unfair."

"Of course, that's good news for me."

"It's a pity that the disguise from the Toad Sect's secrets has been lost for now, otherwise I could not use it any longer. Now with three Nine Toad Beads in my possession, in addition to the Toad God Tile, and my current mana level... tsk tsk, below the Ultimate Happiness Realm, I am invincible."

Master Tao was quite pleased with himself for successfully fishing for toads.

It was at this very moment that he and Yunrong suddenly changed their expressions.

Swiftly, they teleported, appearing at the peak of Yellow Cloud Mountain.

Looking up and far off towards Yinping City.

In the next moment, screams filled with murderous intent soared high into the sky, echoing in all directions.

Outside Yinping City, a vast plain stretched out.

There were two armies facing off against each other, and as soon as the command was given, they began to clash, with dense blood qi billowing forth.

Even more peculiar was that, while the armies fought outside the city,

Inside, another wave of sound also surged upwards.

But it was not the sound of battle, nor was it wailing or roaring.

Instead, it was the sound of reciting scriptures, wave after wave of fervent chanting of Buddhist Scriptures, filling the thousand-mile territory. Blossoms fell in disarray, lotuses bloomed everywhere, it was as though at any moment it could summon the Buddha Bodhisattva to descend upon this world.

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Outside the city, warlords fought and killed each other in a chaotic battle, flesh and blood flew in all directions, and the cries of killing shook the heavens.

The citizens inside the city recited scriptures with religious fervor; sonorous chants of Buddhism rained down like blossoms.

The contrast between the two was so marked, who wouldn't find it bizarre?

And what was even more abnormal, making one feel bewildered after seeing it and feeling like they had fallen into another world, was the sight of Yinping City at that very moment.

Tao Qian had memories of his original body and the Human Dao Fortune; he had even once hung the Heavenly Lantern.

He might not know the Seventy-two provinces and their cities and towns like the back of his hand, but he was roughly familiar with them all.

Yinping City!

A major city within Qiantang Province, though not as significant as Qiantang City itself, it boasted a rich reputation with its Three Mountains and Five Lakes and abundant resources, quite a wealthy place.

In recent years, many strange and lewd techniques had come from the western Outer Domain, leading to a multitude of factories being built around Yinping City. As they watched the city grow richer and stronger, a sudden "Cyber Buddha Country" incident occurred. Cheng Arhat became the King, and millions of people throughout the province turned to Buddhism, devoted exclusively to the Demon Buddha Temple.

The monastic community did not engage in production, naturally leaving the labor to the common people.

It was already extremely difficult before, suffering the exploitation by both the Zhu Dynasty and the local gentry. After the transformation into the Buddha Country, their plight worsened as they had another burden to bear.

Even including the gentry and the officials, they also had to offer everything to support the monks, the Demon Buddha, rendering wealth, fragrant oil, food supplies, and even their lives, all for the sake of a few days of joy and a night of relief.

Thus, inside Yinping City, anything related to Buddhism—whether it be palaces or temples—each and every one was imposing and awe-inspiring, demanding one to look up.

Tao Qian and Yunrong stood at a high vantage point, observing closely:

The most conspicuous sight by far were statues towering a hundred zhang tall, whether they be Bodhisattvas, Arhats, or Vajras. Beyond that, there were temples flourishing with incense... and most were not built of wood, brick, stone, or tile, but rather of machines, bronze, ancient rainbow lights, Bai Gu, and other Alien Species materials.

Among these colossal buildings, slums sprawled out in every direction.

Inside, there were masses of people with yellow faces and thin muscles, clad in tattered clothes.

Despite visibly living in suffering, all of them wore devout expressions, sitting in the mud, chanting scriptures.

With neon lights filling the city and Buddha Incense curling around, all the people lived in misery—it truly was a bizarre and dazzling sight.

And in the innermost part of the city stood an ancient temple blended with modern structures, inscribed with three large characters: "Treasure Vase Temple." It was an ancient temple that had lasted through several dynasties, whilst not comparable to Han Mountain Temple, it was nevertheless not small.

However, the interior had been greatly transformed, and machines could be seen everywhere. Gears were hidden inside the bell tower, the glass lanterns had been replaced with electric lights, and hundreds of demon monks sat chanting, shaking their mechanical prayer wheels—one on top of another—resulting in a vast but monotonous chant that broadcasted far and wide, audible within a thousand miles.

...

As Tao Qian looked at the scenes within Yinping City, he too felt a bit dazed.

After staring blankly for a moment, a thought suddenly came from the bottom of his heart:

"Cyber Buddha Country?"

With that thought settling in, Tao Qian turned his gaze to the outskirts of Yinping City.

Two huge armies, each wielding Extraordinary Power, were engaged in a frenzied slaughter, numbering tens of thousands of soldiers.

The great plains had turned into a mire of ground meat.

Corpse Mountain and a sea of blood were being created bit by bit.

The first army appeared to be composed of savage Magicians who consumed raw flesh and blood; they were nearly naked, their bodies covered in grotesque and sickening tattoos, and most showed signs of transformation into beasts, their eyes nearly devoid of humanity and filled only with the instincts to kill and devour.

Their main force, or rather their heads,

adopted combat methods that were unmistakably Heterodox, belonging to Evil Demons and Heretics.

Nearly a hundred Magicians pulled objects from their personal treasure bags that appeared to have been just snatched from bloodied waters, skins of Devils.

All kinds of beasts and Devils were present.

As they draped these over their bodies, the hundred men simultaneously let out heart-wrenching cries of pain.

The skins merged with their flesh, rooting themselves like Parasitic Worms.

In a moment, nearly a hundred "evil objects" that stood between Devils and Beast Demons were born, unleashing an aura of death that swept across the entire battlefield, startling even Tao Qian.

Tao Qian found these evil objects unfamiliar, and the leading warlord, a middle-aged man with a rat-like face, was also unknown to him.

Though he did not know, Lian Jing'er, who quietly copied the "Primordial Human Record" from the National Salvation Congress, did.

Hearing Brother Tao's question, he immediately communicated through a psychic transmission:

"...Still comparing."

"After consulting, the target consists of over fifty thousand people, all from the Pi Mao Army from Xiangxi Province, led by Liu Guangyuan."

"His Master is the Loose Cultivator 'Lord of Pi Mao' from Xiangxi, a man of great renown; it is said that he even has relations with the Devil God, with Devil God Princesses such as Hong Fu and others calling him uncle."

"Liu Guangyuan, under the guise of his Master's reputation, was once a major warlord within Xiangxi, rife with evil deeds and innumerable acts of cannibalism."

"Later, unable to withstand the rising warlord Tang Renfeng of Xiangxi and his Master also defeated by Xiangxi's most powerful force, the Poison Immortal Sect, Liu Guangyuan had no choice but to lead his remnants to flee Xiangxi, wandering everywhere."

After hearing the introduction, Tao Qian turned to look at the other army.

Similarly, tens of thousands of people, with soldiers of both genders, and they were very succinct—to the point of wearing not a shred of clothing.

Their bodies, coated in some sort of powder, were riddled with wormholes.

Parasitic worms that looked exactly like the "Pork tapeworm" surged forth.

Their leader turned out to be a woman.

Dashing and good-looking,

but her face was frosty, and her eyes also showed no hint of humanity.

She wore the armor of a general, seemingly a Female Warlord.

However, with clouds and mist swirling around her and the sounds of worms echoing, her identity became clear to Tao Qian in an instant.

"Still comparing!"

"After consulting, the target consists of over sixty thousand people, likely from the Naked Army of Dayun Province, led by He Jinxiu."

"The Naked Sect belongs to the Side Door, powerful and formidable, having already taken complete control over Dayun Province."

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"All people within Qiantang Province are viewed by the Naked Sect as cultivation resources, cherished with caution yet often plundered."

"He Jinxiu is one of the Naked Sect's Saintesses, who, possessing military prowess, has been granted authority over an army independently."

"Her incursion into Qiantang must be for that Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen... Rumor has it the leader of the Naked Sect deems the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen most suitable as her crucible, to aid in achieving the Dao."

Tao Qian had spied out the foundations of the two great armies and naturally had no intention of meddling in their affairs.

Neither party was good; it was just a case of dog eat dog.

However, Tao Qian also knew that the current spectacle must be instigated by the Demon Buddha Temple in the background.

What he didn't know was how those demon monks had managed to do it?

Since they were warlords, none would be foolish.

How could they so easily enter such a state of mortal combat with other warlords?

Just one glance made it clear: the outcome of this great war would be mutual destruction, both sides utterly devastated.

Harboring doubts, Tao Qian immediately investigated.

Soon, from the chanting, the fluctuating minds of the hundreds of thousands within the city, the logistics areas of the two armies, the surroundings outside the city including various counties and villages... and so on, he gleaned insight into the causes and consequences.

"Besides the main city of Yinping, there are several counties such as Red Kiln, Zhaolu, Shangan, and more than a dozen towns and villages."

"Now, these territories are mostly desolate, with the common people slain to decline, all by the hands of the Pi Mao Army and the Naked Army, even turned into rations for the two armies."

"All of this is, of course, deliberately condoned by the Demon Buddha Temple."

"Yet, the ordinary people are unaware, their hearts filled with resentment and boundless wish power pouring out, collectively chanting Buddhist Scriptures, praying for the Bodhisattva to descend and punish these cruel warlords."

"This is Earthly Buddha Country during such a time."

"So many believers wishing together creates resonance in a moment, directly bewildering the minds of these warlords."

"Willing or not, they must kill each other until none are left alive."

The look on Tao Qian's face was very unsightly.

Even without interrogating Shanyu, the demon monk, Tao Qian could guess: there was a conspiracy at work here.

Now, he surmised even more.

"The Demon Buddha Temple deliberately allowed the invasion of Qiantang by the armies of many Northland warlords, even letting them massacre the believers, all for the purpose of refining the Demon Buddha Exotic Treasure [Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva]."

"But how to refine it?"

"That Shanyu monk stated: in Yinping City, a Bodhisattva will be born."

"Where?"

Tao Qian kept asking himself, and then he had a certain perception.

Without any hesitation, he directly activated "Innate Spiritual Vision" and saw in the fetid quagmire of carcasses and plasma, wisps and tendrils, invisible to the naked eye, of extremely fine blood essence, essence qi, wish power... and other alien items.

Beyond that, there were the toxic substances of the mortal world such as greed, anger, ignorance, hatred, and malice, which converged into a tide of Void.

Rushing towards the depths of Yinping City, towards Treasure Vase Temple, where hundreds of demon monks' backs were turned to the Void.

That place was, originally in emptiness.

Yet now, within Tao Qian's gaze emerged an incredibly strange, incomprehensible scene:

Behind the demon monks, there appeared a layer of an immensely huge "fetal membrane," almost touching the sky and spanning the earth.

At first, that fetal membrane was a milky white.

Like varnish, yet like cow's milk.

Pure and sacred.

As the myriad of alien Source Qi and mortal toxic substances streamed in, the fetal membrane began to discolor.

Turning pitch black, becoming filthy.

Yet it seemed to draw spiritual sustenance from this, and within the membrane, the contour of a great, sacred, and somewhat familiar figure began to emerge.

"Bodhisattva?"

"What kind of refining is this?"

Shocked and puzzled, Tao Qian had no clue.

Although he posed as Buddha's son, his proficiency in Buddhist Law was merely average.

Without any embarrassment, he directly sent a telepathic message to Master Yuan in his arms to inquire.

The next moment, he received an answer.

Master Yuan seemed astonished by the Demon Buddha Temple's actions and first recited:

"With the seed of a faith superior vehicle, the Buddha is born along with the Wisdom Mother of the Dharma."

"Within the place of joyous chants and a nurturing mother's tears, there follows the birth of the Bodhisattva alongside the Buddha."

"This verse means, to birth a Bodhisattva, it's necessary to gather the four major causes: the seed, the Wisdom Mother, the place of the fetus, and the nursing mother."

"Although I do not know what Evil Technique those baldies from the Demon Buddha Temple have brought back from the Outer Realm, they cannot escape these four causes."

"The fetal membrane you've seen ought to be where the Bodhisattva is being conceived."

"The so-called 'Pi Mao Army' and 'Naked Army' ought to be considered as nursing mothers."

"I just don't know what the 'Wisdom Mother' and 'seed' are, but undoubtedly they're not anything good."

"The baldies at the Demon Buddha Temple are the very best at distorting the true meaning of the Buddhist Law, yet somehow, every time they manage to make it sound plausible; in their domain, twisted reasoning becomes the Great Dao."

With this reminder from Master Yuan, Tao Qian's eyes cleared of much of their confusion.

He stared at the battlefield, his thoughts flashing.

"Qiantang Province, I'm afraid, has been regarded by the Demon Buddha Temple as a testing ground."

"The so-called Great Transcendence Bodhisattva is clearly being crafted as a weapon."

"Those four causes that can lead to the birth of a Bodhisattva, the demon monks are artificially creating them."

"That 'Wisdom Mother,' I fear, might be the souls of hundreds of thousands of believers within Yinping City."

"The only thing I don't understand is the 'seed'."

As he pondered this, a stroke of inspiration suddenly emerged in Tao Qian's mind.

That Shanyu Demon Monk had said: aside from the Demon Buddha Dharma, the Bodhisattva that the Demon Buddha Temple wishes to forge also requires a Mechanical Secret Technique brought back from the Outer Realm by a Buddha ancestor.

Could that secret technique possibly be what is referred to as the 'seed'?

"Mechanical... seed..."

At this thought, a light shone in Tao Qian's eyes.

He was about to summon Lian Jing'er to do something when, suddenly, the slaughter within the battlefield ceased.

It turned out!

Unbeknownst to them, the "Pi Mao Army" and "Naked Army" had all perished.

And at the last moment, the two warlords, Liu Guangyuan and He Jinxiu,

Both regained consciousness for a momentary flash, their faces showing expressions of shock and furious anger.

Alas, it was too late for resistance; what was done was done.

"Namaste Buddha!"

"Namaste Buddha!"

Following these two utterances of the Buddha's name, both men were struck at the back of their heads, their skulls shattered and they died.

Two demon monks revealed their figures.

One was draped in a golden kasaya with a face like a red date, a smile at the corner of his mouth, holding a Hei Bo in his hand.

The other was dressed in a patchwork robe with bare chest and exposed breasts, long ears drooping to his shoulders, with a wooden staff in hand.

Tao Qian had previously asked Shanyu, and so he recognized these two monks.

"Hei Bo Venerable, Perfection of Cavernous Mystery, Demon Buddha Temple Elder, cultivates the 'Infinite Life Scripture,' specializes in Subduing Divine Power, with unparalleled killing prowess."

"Flower Staff Venerable, Perfection of Cavernous Mystery, Demon Buddha Temple Elder, cultivates the 'Demon Buddha Nirvana Sutra,' also proficient in the row of killing and subduing."

After the two monks killed, they looked upon the Corpse Mountain and the blood sea, the muddy Purgatory, and both revealed pleased expressions on their faces.

With a stomp of their feet, a burst of black and golden Demon Buddha light erupted, tracing out a huge and constantly expanding Array formation in the earth and sky above.

Behind them, in Yinping City, the chanting sounds suddenly increased manifold.

Hundreds of thousands of citizens simultaneously entered a state of 'sudden insight.'

Joy and the color of wisdom surfaced on each person's face, as if they had attained enlightenment and transformed into Buddhas on the spot.

Above the city, the endlessly repeating chant of "Namaste Buddha," was somewhat ironic, as one after another, reputed Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, Arhats, and Vajras esteemed by all Buddhist practitioners began to appear.

Although all were illusions, the spectacle was still shocking.

And that expanding Array had, in the blink of an eye, reached Yellow Cloud Mountain, not far from Yinping City, incorporating this great mountain within the Array.

Naturally, Tao Qian and his wife were also enveloped by the Array.

Upon contact, a Record emerged instantly in their minds:

[Name: Demon Light Ten Thousand Buddha Verification Bodhisattva Array.]

[Record Type: Array.]

[Record: This Array originates from the Demon Buddha Temple, modified from the Great Freedom's Ten Thousand Buddha Formation. Once included within it, one will be perceived by the host of the Array and come under the suppression of ten thousand Buddhas. However, the power of this Array is far less than the original version, the cultivation of the Array's host is the upper limit of this Array's power. The true function of this Array is to forge the Demon Buddha's treasure, the 'Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva'.]

[Note One: One of the Demon Buddha Temple's Buddha ancestors, 'Namo Nirvana Buddha,' has brought back the Mechanical Seed from the Outer Realm. Combined with the Demon Buddha Secret Technique, it can forge the Buddha Treasure weapon, the Great Transcendence Bodhisattva.]

[Note Two: The forging of one such Buddha Treasure can subdue an Ultimate Happiness Cultivator, the forging of two can subdue the second Ultimate Happiness Cultivator, until eighteen are forged, all the Transcendence Bodhisattvas will merge into a Mechanical Species version of the Namo Nirvana Demon Buddha.]

[Note Three: This Mechanical Nirvana Demon Buddha can sever Daoist Transformations. As it is not a Life, it does not generate Karma, and there are no consequences to its creation; once forged, it can move unhindered through this territory.]

[Note Four: Exemption from being perceived!]

