

## **Longevity 641**

Chapter 641 - Refining the Bodhisattva, Zhen Family Treasure Ship\_3

He resorted to such a clumsy disguise for a reason.

Tao Qian used the Human Dao Destiny to predict and search for opportune pathways, and his inspiration told him to fish for people here.

As for whom to fish for? That remained unknown.

Watching those evil cultivators who abducted and mutilated people for cultivation and refined Demonic Qi, struggling to restrain themselves, about to kidnap people in broad daylight.

Suddenly, the pier was abuzz with commotion accompanied by the exclamation of laborers and porters.

On the river, a resplendent ship, as if carrying a palace, approached abruptly.

This treasure ship had five levels.

All the people on it were Buddhist practitioners, not one of them weak.

Especially in the upper-level rooms, each fresh and elegant, more than a dozen young ladies radiated their own charm and extraordinary beauty. Not only did each of them resemble the Heavenly Girls of legend, either pure and stunning or exquisite and lively, they all emitted at least the aura of Foundation Establishment Realm Buddhist practitioners.

Any cultivator in the province with the slightest common sense could immediately conclude upon seeing this scene: it must be a prestigious family from Qiantang.

In fact, it was indeed so.

The ship belonged to the largest prestigious family in Qiantang, the Zhen Family.

In the past "Arhat Rebellion," many great clans were wiped out by Cheng Arhat's Demon Buddha Temple for choosing the wrong side.

A few were on the right side and thus rose even higher.

The Zhen Family was different; their eldest son, Zhen Buchi, was born with a Buddha Heart and was taken as a disciple by an old monk who came to their door at a young age.

That old monk was none other than Kongchan Arhat, a revered figure in the Demon Buddha Temple.

His True Inheritor could naturally be called a Demon Buddha Son.

Because of this Karma, the Zhen Family prospered like never before, taking direct control of the only city in the province that could rival Qiantang City... Suzhou City.

With the family business so prosperous, the Zhen Family had no worries.

Especially this group of young ladies, at their whim, they would take the family treasure ship, utilizing the accessible Water Veins to tour the province.

Sometimes, in high spirits, they would even leave the province.

Their strength was already formidable, and with the "Bu Chi Buddha" and the prestige of the Demon Buddha Temple, no one dared to provoke them.

As time went by, these ladies grew increasingly arrogant.

Today, the Zhen Family Treasure Ship passing through Lingyun Pier initially did not intend to dock.

But at that moment, several servant girls who were accompanying the young ladies in their cultivation for entertainment glanced unintentionally toward the pier.

In an instant, as if they saw a treasure, they exclaimed in amazement:

"Wow, such a divine couple, truly enviable."

"It's just a pity, with such good appearances, they seem to be favored by the Fortune of Source Qi, why haven't they stepped on the path of cultivation?"

"Born with celestial allure and extraordinary Dao Rhyme, they even outshine us."

"There are rumors that some expert predecessors like to hide their cultivation and disguise themselves as mortals to experience the Mortal World, perhaps these two are of that kind."

"You've read too many of those Longevity Chronicles and immortal tales, haven't you? Experts spend their time refining Divine Skills and making up for the price paid; they wouldn't be so idle as to wander aimlessly in the Mortal World."

The exclamations of the servant girls suddenly made several young ladies interested, and they also looked toward the pier.

Among them, "Zhen Ci'en," considered the eldest young lady of the Zhen Family, also looked over.

Almost instantly, when she saw the outward appearances of the two, her expression first stilled, and then she revealed a look of delight, instructing:

"White Lotus, Red Lotus, quick, both of you hurry down from the ship and invite those two Daoists aboard."

After speaking, she felt it was inappropriate and quickly added:

"Never mind, never mind, the two are revered experts."

"I shall personally welcome them to avoid any discourtesy."

Before her words fell, she suddenly rose to her feet, gathered her skirt, and stepped onto thin air, with delicate and colorful lotus flowers springing up beneath her feet, carrying her down towards the pier.

Chapter 642 - Bright Heavenly Maiden Scripture, Tao Qian Plays with the Girls

Lingyun Pier suddenly witnessed the descent of a Heavenly Girl.

She was a mature woman with a fair visage, snow-white skin, and a shapely figure, dressed in a rainbow-colored celestial robe, arriving on a lotus.

In other provinces, such a scene would have drawn crowds and perhaps even bold, foul-mouthed comments.

But in Qiantang Province, the mortals had plenty of experience.

At a glance, they knew better than to blaspheme, for any slight disrespect could result in a fate worse than death.

Suddenly, the entire pier prostrated in unison.

Calls of "Greetings to the Heavenly Girl" and "Welcome, Female Bodhisattva" were endless.

The low-ranking evil cultivators who previously wanted to attack Tao Qian and Yunrong didn't even have a chance to struggle or beg for mercy; they were inexplicably struck by lotus flowers.

Accompanied by a series of "bangs," they all burst and died.

Despite quietly killing so many, the young girl neither looked nor cared, simply settling before Tao Qian and Yunrong and then respectfully bowing.

Her eyes conveyed a joyous respect and a hint of intense eagerness, well-hidden as she softly said:

"Younger generation Zhen Ci'en, the eldest daughter of the Zhen family from Suzhou, Bu Chi Buddha is Ci'en's elder brother."

"Seeing you two Daoists today is my fortune."

"Earlier Ci'an received a message from my brother, saying if by luck we encountered you two, we must treat you well and not dishonor the reputation of the Zhen family and my brother."

"May I ask if you two Daoists could give Ci'en this opportunity?"

After speaking, Zhen Ci'en quietly awaited their response.

If possible, she would have eagerly taken them aboard the ship.

But she also understood, not just by herself, but even if the whole crew of sisters on the treasure ship, along with the family servants and protectors, all tried, it would still be impossible.

Correct!

She recognized at first sight Tao Qian and Yunrong's "true identities"—they were the famed Buddha's son and Bodhisattva from the South Sea, now known throughout Qiantang Province.

And as the Zhen family's eldest daughter, she knew far more.

"Last night my brother emphasized their backgrounds."

"Whether disciples of the high-ranking Qingjing Zen Master, having completed the Cavernous Mystery Profound, possessing mana that touches the sky, defeating the Free Buddha Son, Master Shenxiu, or even taking an important Buddha Treasure from the Demon Buddha Temple... these matters are of no concern."

"It's only that these two Buddha's son and Bodhisattva were reportedly Ten Lifetimes of Resentful Couples, now aspiring to achieve Mahayana together."

"Such a marvelous matter is truly intriguing and desirable."

Zhen Ci'en cleverly waited, but her mind was restless.

Based on the cultivation realm, she should address them as seniors.

But harboring the intention to become familiar and inquire about their story, she purposely brought up her brother "Bu Chi Buddha" to equate them as Daoist comrades.

Little did she know? Both Tao Master and Yunrong could discern the thoughts of others.



Particularly Yunrong. Although emanating from the Jade Ring Mountain heritage, which wasn't strictly on the Daoist and Buddhist righteous path, her Sublime Dharma was unmatched.

With a flicker in her enchanting eyes, upon hearing Zhen Ci'en's thoughts, she smirked inwardly and conveyed to Tao Qian:

"Dear brother, this young lady's cultivation is decent, her body ripe like a juicy peach, yet her heart remains immature."

"Right now, she's all intent on prying into the stories of our previous nine lives as resentful couples."

"It seems, big sister, I must start crafting some tales. How painstaking, aside from joyful anecdotes, there seems to be no other source of inspiration."

Assuming the role of a Majestic Female Bodhisattva, Yunrong's next transmitted message shifted to that of a charming Female Demon.

By nature, Kitten didn't intend it, but her enchanting whisper continuously tempted Tao Qian to enforce the righteous Dharma on his sister on the spot.

Left with no choice but to suppress his urges through casting, he inwardly exclaimed:

"Damnation!"

"Fortunately, I, Tao Master, possess extraordinary resolve, otherwise I'd likely be entangled with Yunrong day and night, never leaving the bed."

Tao Qian inwardly scoffed at himself, then suppressed his wandering thoughts.

Seriously, he eyed the mature and coquettish lady of significant background before him—Miss Zhen of the Zhen family.

He had intentionally come to Lingyun Pier to fish for this woman.

Of course, just as a stepping stone.

Now that the fish was on the hook, Tao Qian naturally wouldn't waste more time.

After hearing her words, he gave a faint smile and nodded in response:

"My wife and I wander as we please, meeting you all must also be Karma."

"The reputation of the Zhen family, and the renown of Bu Chi Buddha, are well known to this poor monk; thus, we will indeed impose."

After saying this, Tao Qian looked towards Yunrong.

The couple smiled together and then said "Amitabha" together.

Instantly, Lingyun Pier witnessed a rain of heavenly flowers and a bursting of Earth's Golden Lotuses, with Buddha Light surging and enveloping the nearby Lingzhi City.

Furthermore, a mysterious sweet rain of flowers began to fall from the sky.

Touched by mortals, all diseases were cured.

Touched by cultivators, mana increased.

Millions of people on the vast pier and in the city benefited from this.

Everyone was stunned, clearly not expecting such a windfall from the sky.

It was known that receiving such "benefits" typically required offerings to demon monks beforehand, either lighting human incense or sacrificing souls while reciting blessed scriptures.

For a moment, cries of gratitude echoed.

However, this scene did cause much discontent among the ladies and servants on the Zhen Family Treasure Ship.

Although constrained by politeness from making a fuss, it didn't stop them from muttering to themselves:

"These monks, coming from who knows where, completely disregard protocol."

"Yes, if everyone started doing this, how would our Buddhist practitioners obtain offerings in the future? It's simply improper."

"Not taking benefits first, but giving favors, is just too hypocritical."

"What are you all muttering about? Haven't you seen the eldest sister lowering herself to welcome those two? They must be esteemed experts from another province. Anger either of them and you'll regret it."

"Hush, keep quiet, the guests are boarding."

...

The next moment, Zhen Ci'en led Tao Qian and Yunrong onto the treasure ship.

First, she glared sternly at a group of boisterous sisters and then, with a solemn expression, admonished:

"Have you forgotten the rules of the Zhen family? How dare you behave so recklessly and spout nonsense in front of esteemed guests?"

"These two are Buddha's son and Female Bodhisattva who have come from the South Sea, both close to attaining their enlightenment in True Cultivation."

"You all know the Free Buddha Child Shenxiu. Even our elder brother was defeated by him. Just yesterday, that ugly monk suffered a setback at the hands of Master Wu Gou."

"With such noble people before us, you should seek their wisdom rather than gossip. Such actions show your lack of blessings."

After saying this, Zhen Ci'en turned back and apologized to Tao Qian, mentioning that her sisters were usually spoiled and arrogant.

Tao Qian simply waved his hand, indicating it was not a problem.

However, a mischievous thought struck him as his gaze intensely swept from one end to the other.

The dozen young ladies, each beautifully and nobly born, possessed unique charms.

Yet clearly spoiled, although they had all achieved Foundation Establishment with pure life energy, it was unstable. It was evident that none had seriously cultivated; they treated cultivation as a means for eternal youth and manipulating Extraordinary Powers.

Having erred earlier and hearing of the formidable capabilities of this Buddha's son, and seeing his handsome features up close, while being seriously regarded by this spotless monk:

Instantly, the cheeks of the young ladies flushed with embarrassment.

Just as they were about to speak softly or even attempt to use the Zhen family's influence to bypass this incident and tease the monk instead,

Suddenly, Tao Qian spoke up.

First, a sigh full of regret, causing the ladies to feel uneasy.

Then the monk, with a stern face, said to Zhen Ci'en:

"Misses, it seems you have been practicing the 'Bright Heavenly Maiden Scripture' from the Demon Buddha Temple."

"This scripture is indeed an excellent Buddhist Secret Book, but its cultivation requires enduring worldly trials to achieve any gains.";

"It seems you were born too privileged and have strayed in your practice. Although you have established foundations, you've also accumulated many hidden ailments."

"Not only will your cultivation not advance, but within ten years, your bodies will show signs of decay. If not addressed promptly, you may deeply regret it."

If it were someone else who said these words, even someone with higher cultivation,

The ladies of the Zhen family would have dismissed them.

But this individual was the monk who had overcome the Free Buddha Child, an accomplished monk from the South Sea.

His words were undoubtedly credible.

Especially when the monk added next:

"Zhen Daoist, since my spouse and I plan to impose upon you for a few days, we ought to offer some benefits lest we seem rude as monks from the South Sea."

"Close your eyes and concentrate; let me help you."

No sooner had he finished speaking than Zhen Ci'en instinctively complied.

The other ladies saw Tao Qian form a Buddha Seal and strike their elder sister's forehead.

Following a muffled 'thump', an eerie transformation occurred.

Zhen Ci'en shook violently as her body suddenly exuded copious amounts of dark mud and pus, with warts, blisters, wrinkles, and white hairs emerging and then falling away.

When Zhen Ci'en regained consciousness, she seemed completely transformed.



Her face glowed brilliantly, her body emitted a pleasant fragrance.

Rainbows and rosy clouds surrounded her as if stepping out from dust.

Her appearance closely resembled the Heavenly Maiden described in the scripture.

Clear for all to see!

After enduring the strike, not only had Zhen Ci'en's inner ailments been removed, but her cultivation had also significantly increased.

Most importantly, she looked gorgeous.

Though still not as beautiful as the 'Miao Yin Bodhisattva,' she had become many times more beautiful than before.

It was evident to everyone, and Zhen Ci'en, fully aware, hastily offered her thanks:

"Ci'en deeply thanks you, Master, for your help. I never thought I'd attain such spiritual insight."

"In that moment, by your Buddhist Law, I glimpsed the bounds of Buddhist principles. The insight is vast. Should Ci'en ever reach the Cavernous Mystery Realm, it will all be thanks to your generous gift today."

Tao Qian then waved his hand again, looking towards the other women.

Generously smiling, he said:

"Do not worry; this was the Nirvana Seal, cleansing and transformative."

"The rest of you young ladies are still low in cultivation, thus cannot use it. But for my spouse and I, it's merely a simple effort."

"Meeting is destiny, so let us assist you all as well."

Upon hearing this, the young ladies of the Zhen family overwhelmed with joy, rushed forward.

And so, in the next moment, the protectors and servants on the treasure ship witnessed a baffling scene: their young ladies crazily squeezed in front of the young monk, not to take advantage but to receive his impactful seal.

Even more perplexing was what followed.

After being struck, each young lady turned quite unattractive.

Some became bloated, others had crooked mouths and eyes, some broke out in bloody blisters, and some were covered in warts, looking monstrous.

Yet, despite their shock, none reacted with anger but returned to their rooms joyfully out of sight.

Their tolerance and understanding stemmed from the exceedingly handsome and potent monk's reassurance:

"Ladies, your cultivation is not as profound as Zhen Daoist's, so after receiving the Nirvana Seal, you'll need a few days to transform."

"The longer the impurities remain, the stronger the effect, and the more beautiful you'll become after the transformation."

Chapter 643 - Taizhen Yun Yu, outside Suzhou City

But the Zhen family's group of young ladies, while on an outing, unexpectedly encountered fortune and invited two Buddha's son and Bodhisattva onboard, who had come from the South Sea.

The treasure ship followed the great river, heading straight for Suzhou City.

In a warm flower room on the top deck of the building boat, which was nicely arranged with a golden plate and treasure mirror, soft cushions and beaded curtains, previously used by Zhen Ci'en for meditation during Cultivation, was now naturally offered to Tao Qian and Yunrong.

It was not easy to meet such experts. Originally, all the young ladies wanted to get close and seek teachings.

They hoped to gain the joy of this Buddhist couple, receive some treasures, and learn Divine Skills.

Unexpectedly, as soon as they met, Master Wu Gou granted them a favor.

But to assimilate this favor, they needed to stay in their own rooms.

Of course, if they were willing to wander about with an "ugly body," that was also possible, but which girl would want that?

Suddenly, this gave Tao Qian, who was just tagging along, some peace.

Of course, Master Tao was also pleased earlier than usual.

As they entered the warm room, Yunrong, posing as a Female Bodhisattva, could not endure the exterior appearance, and with a flash of radiance, she transformed back into a sable named Kitten.

A cold fragrance wafted over as she nestled into Tao Qian's arms and cooed softly,

"Good brother, you truly understand the hearts of young ladies."

"Having heard that there are many immortal concubines and beautiful female fairies within your Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, have you recognized any aunts or sisters?"

Before Tao Qian could reply,

The Yuan Gong Statue in his arms began to tremble again, clearly indicating Master Yuan was laughing hysterically.

Laughing but momentarily, Tao Qian's mind moved, and he promptly collected his Second Master into the People Species Bag, exactly letting Master Yuan also discipline Shan Jiu, Little Age, and Lian Jing'er, these three youngsters.

And Yunrong did not delve deeper, aware of most of Tao Qian's experiences.

Knowing he hadn't been in Penglai Sea for long and still possessed a chaste body, it meant he didn't have those.

The reason she directly mentioned "aunts and sisters" was due to her natural blood talent, requiring no probing, as a single word could reveal others' preferences.

Her good brother, it seemed, did not favor younger ones but had a preference for older ages.

Yunrong found a comfortable position, rubbed and licked, and then casually conversed,

"This Zhen family, that group of servants and protectors bear deep sins. These arrogant young girls, having received benefits from the Demon Buddha, though not committing evil themselves, have had their natures transformed, contaminating them with considerable Karma."

"Your punishment, too, counts as a chance for them."

"Which is so called Nirvana!"

"It's both the body and the Heart Soul."

"In the days to come besides physical filth and Mutated changes, they will likely also endure some karmic debts and hardships in their dreams, facing the myriad poisons of earthly existence."

"If they awaken in time, there's still salvation."

"If they do not, I fear not one will end well."

After Yunrong finished, Tao Qian immediately smiled.

Hugging his wife's warm and fluffy sable body tightly, he praised, "Good sister, you truly know me."

Having said that, Tao Qian then embraced Yunrong onto the soft couch, and after seating himself in meditation posture as if remembering something,

He raised his hand to gently caress his sister, then directly asked,

"Sister knows much of my life, but Tao Qian does not understand sister's life on Jade Ring Mountain. Now that we are at leisure, why not tell me about it."

"Alright."

Yunrong responded with a word, shifted her position, and then began to softly narrate.

First about Jade Ring Mountain, though unable to visit in person, one could only listen to Yunrong's words and view the scenes she conjured, but Tao Qian gained some insights once more.

To say it was a Human World of Immortal Realm, an elegant holy place, was not at all an exaggeration.

Even the islands of Penglai Sea could not compare to this.

Then, about Yunrong's usual life, Don't look upon her charming and alluring beauty, beyond compare in this world, she actually had not been worldly, only mingling with a throng of Flower Demon Spirits and Feng Niang and Xue Gu on the mountain.

Only when destined romance arrived, following the name of her Master, did she descend the mountain into the human world, to seek her destined person.

Talking further about her Master, inadvertently, she revealed a secret.

"My Master, with the Daoist name 'Grandma Taizhen,' is one of the notable female fairies in the world."

"The Great Lifebook Scripture that Grandma cultivates is her own enlightenment."

"Grandma once said: Our Jade Ring Mountain lineage transcends worldly affairs. Whether it's Daoist and Buddhist Families, heresy and heterodoxy, or even mortal dynasties, none can govern us."



"I, then naive, asked: If major Sects attack Jade Ring Mountain, and even Grandma cannot withstand them, what should be done?"

"Grandma scoffed and replied: Though Jade Ring Mountain does not expand, it still has strong roots and backing. No matter which major Sect comes as an adversary, if they really mean to trouble us, their end will inevitably be obliteration."

"When I further inquired about who this backing was, Grandma did not explicitly say, only mentioning that it was just subordinate to the likes of the Taishang Dao Ancestor and Lingbao Tianzun."

Hearing this, Tao Qian could not help but become curious.

Suddenly, he very much wanted to take out Master Yuan from the People Species Bag to consult further.

And just then, Yunrong suddenly jumped out of his arms onto Tao Qian's shoulder, cooing into his ear with a tender lick, issuing an invitation.

Yet within each word, there was underlying concern.

"Good brother, although Yunrong has just entered the world, having only been in Demon City for a short while, the strange and bizarre nature of this world is already well understood."

"Grandma also once said, the filth of this world cannot be changed by human efforts."

"From the time of darkness and ignorance, how many talented and outstanding figures have arisen, yet ultimately they cannot withstand the fate of perishing or mutation, among other ends."

"Even though your Talent is strong, how can you contend against the entire world?"

"Why not return to Jade Ring Mountain with your sister? The mountain is tranquil, unlike Penglai Sea with crowds of Ten Thousand Immortals worshiping, nor contaminated by dust. The myriad karmic debts and poisons of earthly existence cannot penetrate."

"We could live carefree, have many children. Not to mention a life of a hundred years, even a thousand or ten thousand years, it seems to be no problem."

Tao Qian had guessed beforehand what Yunrong would say, yet still quietly listened to her until the end.

Chapter 644 - Taizhen Yun Yu, outside Suzhou\_2

Then, he thought seriously for a while.

Actually, Tao Qian also wanted to find a peaceful place to cultivate and refine his technique, to live freely for a few thousand years.

Unfortunately, after he came to understand his true nature, he knew it was not possible.

With his experiences from past and present lives, and now having cultivated the "Scripture of Salvation," withdrawing from the world to cultivate in seclusion would inevitably lead to a mutated and fallen outcome.

Therefore, he could only shake his head and refuse Yunrong.

He was about to explain the reason,

But the next moment, he saw flashes of celestial light and an exotic fragrance assaulted his senses, as if a scene from a plum blossom immortal realm appeared.

Yunrong transformed into mostly a human form and approached hurriedly, blocking Tao Qian's mouth.

Immediately, she murmured softly, "No need for more words, as siblings, as spouses, we understand each other's hearts. I only asked you to show grandma, when I mentioned her name, she must have sensed it, and who knows, she might be watching us with the 'Haotian Divine Mirror' right now."

Hearing this, Tao Qian thought that Yunrong would revert to a serious Female Bodhisattva the next moment.

Who would have thought? He guessed wrong.

He saw Yunrong maintaining the Kitten's ears, tail, and her furry limbs, her enchanting body on that delicate face, three red blushes visible on each cheek, first struck a charming pose in the air, then directly sat in Tao Qian's embrace, holding him tightly.

With a flick of her finger, the clothing on both of their bodies disappeared.

The next moment, a plum blossom scented mist that concealed everything wafted around.

By Master Tao's ear, his wife whispered tenderly,

"Naughty brother, you're still pure at heart, yet filled with all these bizarre fantasies."

"It's also because sister is pregnant and desires flare up, otherwise, she would not indulge you."

After saying these two sentences, just when Tao Qian was about to transform into a beast,

From within the mist, Yunrong's extremely enchanting, yet quite complacent voice came through:

"Let brother know that our Jade Ring Mountain also has the Sublime Dharma of joy. I never had the chance to pass it on to you, but now is the perfect time."

"This technique is called 'Taizhen Yun Yu Map', as long as the affection between husband and wife is true and their minds are in sync, using this Sublime Dharma to cultivate not only will they achieve ultimate happiness, but also their cultivation will soar, mana will double, and there are no disadvantages or costs involved, far superior to those deliberately transmitted techniques by the bald monks of Da Zhao Temple."

"Brother, don't move recklessly, let sister tell you the secret technique first..."

This warm floral chamber, with doors and windows forged from Heavenly Treasure Glaze, possesses Forbidden Techniques to shield prying eyes, while also allowing one to appreciate the many beautiful sights outside the Treasure Ship.

The speed of the Zhen Family Treasure Ship was fast, who knows where it has sailed to at this moment.

In view was a vast expanse of snow, dense water mist, distant mountains like ink, and nearby waters misty, a scene so beautiful it would make anyone exclaim in awe of the beauty of the human world.

It would be fitting to indulge in spiritual wine, sip divine tea, and drown in exquisite music, only then would it not be a disservice.

Fortunately, the two inside this room were engaging in the most joyous affair under the heavens, not only did they do justice to the scene, but they also enhanced its wonder, and the beauty of the human world.

It was truly a time of passionate love, fiery emotions, and unceasing tender moments, they had to enjoy to the fullest.

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In the blink of an eye, it was the next day.

Although there were many young ladies on the Treasure Ship, none wished to return home at this moment.

After all, each had flaws in appearance, too ugly to face others,

But Zhen Ci'en did not care about these, even though she was also proud, she knew that compared to the matter of welcoming the two Buddha's son and Bodhisattva back to the Zhen Family, everything else was just minor details, not worth mentioning.

Especially after she sent a message back, she quickly received several urgent replies from the Zhen Family Master.

"Dear daughter, you are about to achieve a great accomplishment, they all say Ci'en you have deep blessing, it really is true."

"The widely discussed matter in Qiantang Province actually contains a secret, the Buddha Treasure that Master Wu Gou snatched is extremely important to Demon Buddha Temple, and Kongchan Arhat has commanded that whoever recovers the treasures will be handsomely rewarded."

"Although your brother is greatly favored by Kongchan Arhat, he still has several brothers competing with him, and recently, due to his temperament, he accidentally offended Shipi Arhat."

"You know the consequences of this matter, if he cannot achieve a great accomplishment to make Kongchan Arhat go out of his way to protect your brother, I fear for his life."

"Retrieving that Buddha Treasure is a great accomplishment."

"This matter is extremely important for your brother and our Zhen Family, you must handle it well."

"If you can win the heart of Master Wu Gou, your father will allow you to do anything, and you may use all the resources at home."

"By the way, if you want to back out of that marriage agreement, your father also agrees... perhaps I should go find that young man now and take back the marriage contract."

From this, it was clear that the Zhen Family Master almost wished he could instantly bring Master Wu Gou and Miao Yin Bodhisattva back home and negotiate with them to take the [Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva] from their hands, allowing his son, Zhen Buchi, to establish a great accomplishment and further raise his status within the Demon Buddha Temple.

However, Zhen Ci'en advised again that this matter should happen naturally and not be forced nor deliberate.

The Zhen Family Master listened to the advice, and since his daughter had already won the favor of the two, it was best to let her orchestrate it.

Thus, the Treasure Ship continued its journey slowly along the great river, passing through many places and cities in Qiantang.

Zhen Ci'en often sought the couple, both for guidance and to curry favor.

When she felt that their relationship had gotten closer, the Treasure Ship finally arrived outside Suzhou City.

And on this early morning, as the Zhen Family Treasure Ship reached the outskirts of Suzhou City.

The dock was already prepared for a big event.

Apart from the Zhen family, it seemed that all the nobles and high officials of the city had also arrived, with continuous chanting and Buddha Incense filling the air, a significant indicator of a ceremony to welcome Buddha, clearly meant for Tao Qian and his wife.

This scene did startle Tao Qian who was observing the situation in and around Suzhou City.



When did his alias hold such influence?

This was, after all, the territory of Demon Buddha Temple.

"Could it be that in order to cheer for me, to sway the Master playing Qingjing Zen Master, the bald monks of Demon Buddha Temple are even willing to expose themselves?"

Tao Qian, unaware of the situation of Bu Chi Buddha, naturally could not comprehend the scene before his eyes.

At that moment, he stood with Yunrong at a high point on the Treasure Ship.

Her merciful eyes, however, overlooked nearly everyone on the dock.

Following only the Human Dao Destiny within him, she gazed solely at a young man among the crowd.

To the outside, he looked like a scholar from a humble family.

Handsome and proud, solitary.

Though he was among the officials and nobles, he held his head high, his eyes devoid of regard for others, making others appear no better than mud pigs or scoffed dogs, while he stood out like a crane amongst chickens.

Such demeanor would provoke resentment in anyone who saw it.

But in Tao Qian's eyes, it was a completely different scene: an immensely vigorous Human Dao Destiny that was lurking behind him in the Void, lively and about to elevate this man to the Nine Heavens.

Chapter 645 - The Prodigal Son Harbors a Secret, Master Tao Exposes the Fraud Publicly

Tao Qian and Yunrong, having both cultivated the "Taizhen Yun Yu Map," naturally reached a state where their hearts resonated as one.

Seeing her husband looking over at the young man, Yunrong immediately transmitted a message explaining:

"An hour ago, Zhen Ci'en came to seek me out, with pleasant gestures seeking advice. I applied the Sublime Dharma and secretly probed his thoughts, which conveniently allowed me to learn more about the Zhen Family's situation and the state of affairs here in Suzhou City."

"This person, named Zheng Yin, is the Young Master of the Zheng Family, an esteemed lineage of Suzhou."

"This man is extraordinarily handsome, with high natural Talent. He and Zhen Ci'en have been childhood sweethearts and betrothed from an early age."

"However, in recent years, since this man started to take charge of the Zheng Family affairs, the family's wealth mysteriously and swiftly declined, losing more than half of its billion-dollar fortune, leading many noble families in Suzhou City to regard him as a profligate son."

"Therefore, Zhen Shiliang, the Master of the Zhen Family, secretly harbored intentions of breaking off the engagement. It was only due to Zhen Ci'en's repeated objections that it did not happen."

"As for that Zhen Shiliang, he's nothing but a short-sighted fawner."

"Now that Cheng Arhat and Demon Buddha Temple have turned Qiantang Province into an Earthly Buddha Country, to show his loyalty, he has given himself a moniker: 'Buddha Slave Layman.'"

"In all of Suzhou, behind his back, they all call him Zhen Nu'er."

"Of course, no one would dare to call him that to his face, for the Zhen Family wields great power. Furthermore, Zhen Buchi, their only son, has taken Kongchan as his teacher, making the city of Suzhou almost synonymous with the Zhen Family."

With a few words from Yunrong, Tao Qian instantly understood the situation with Suzhou and the Zhen Family.

His gaze then naturally turned to the figure at the very front of the crowd, a majestic-looking middle-aged man.

This man, having fathered a group of daughters with exceptional beauty like Zhen Ci'en, naturally had an extraordinary appearance himself.

With a visage fair as jade and a dignified and refined demeanor.

Dressed in a magnificent embroidered robe, he held a wooden fish Magical Treasure in his hand, chanting Sanskrit incantations in sync with his thoughts.

After glancing at these two, Tao Qian also took a moment to survey the entirety of Suzhou City and its surroundings.

Quite to his surprise!

The city bustled with people coming and going in orderly fashion, with the cries of street vendors never ceasing.

The docks outside the city were even livelier, with merchants from all directions gathering and conducting trade. On the river, one could see fishing boats as well as mechanical boats adorned with images of Buddha and Arhats, ceaselessly coming and going.

These scenes of prosperity, showing no sign of calamity, were starkly different from what Tao Qian had seen previously in the New Moon and Tiannan Two Provinces.

Despite this, there was no trace of Joy in Tao Qian's eyes. He thought to himself:

"Qiantang Province indeed now bears the title of an 'Earthly Buddha Country,' which looks better than the crude ways of families like the Gao Family, but only by so much."

"Prosperity is merely a facade. In secret, it is still the same as what I saw in Changle Village previously. The Demon Buddha monks can freely demand from the people, enjoying the best dushin and devouring souls."

"Or there are those nobles and high officials attached to Cheng Arhat and Demon Buddha Temple, spirit monsters posing as merchants, who still manage to deceive Mortals and exploit them without limit due to their Extraordinary Power."

While these thoughts crossed his mind, the young ladies and maidens of the Zhen Family had already disembarked from the Treasure Ship.

In the past, they would have had to put on a show.

Now, embarrassed by their ugly appearances caused by Tao Qian, they all rushed into their palanquins, urging the bearers to take them home.

Tao Qian and his wife, who were none other than the child of Buddha Wu Gou and Miao Yin Bodhisattva, a divine couple proficient in the deep Buddhist Law and heaven-reaching Mana, were being

escorted by the Zhen Family people together with all the city's nobles, urged to board a Hundred Treasures Incense Chariot, built at great expense using countless spiritual material treasures.

This chariot was not only pulled by more than a dozen Dragon Beasts, it also showcased a spectacle of bright rainbows and auspicious clouds, with sweet rain generously falling. Atop it waited several Heavenly Girls with solid and dignified bodies, ready to welcome the two "True Buddhas."

Neither Tao Qian nor Yunrong had ever experienced such a parade.

Therefore, they both showed a hint of surprise on their faces.

In fact, both of them had underestimated the reputation and strength of their current assumed identities.

Having reached Profound Cavernous Mystery, they were able to take Buddha Treasure from within the Black Bo and Flower Staff under the protection of a host of demon monks, with a True Master behind them who was on the verge of a Daoist Transformation. Master Shenxiu, the Free Buddha Son, would serve as a stepping stone for them.

In the eyes of the crowd in Suzhou City, they truly were great pillars to rely on.

If they could please them, the benefits would likely be substantial.

After Zhen Ci'en introduced various individuals to them, her father Zhen Shiliang stepped forward, complimenting them with a smile, and then said:

"Yesterday my daughter informed me that she had encountered a stroke of luck and met with the two True Buddha Bodhisattvas. She received guidance and gifts from you. It is truly a Blessing for my Zhen Family and the entire city of Suzhou that you have chosen to stay here."

"We were unprepared for this occasion, but fortunately, Shipi Arhat once graced Suzhou and bestowed upon my Zhen Family a 'Hundred Treasure Buddha Chariot.'

"We have never used it before, but now it serves a perfect purpose."

"If the two True Buddha Bodhisattvas don't mind, please board the treasure chariot, so that millions of mortals in the city may get a glimpse of the Buddha's countenance."

After he finished speaking, an old monk with a face full of wrinkles and a sycophantic smile stood out beside him.

His monk's robe was of a peculiar style, bearing traces of both the Buddhist Sect and remnants of the old dynasty's official wear.

This person was the Lord of Suzhou City, Zhou Xiangrui.

According to his official rank, he was in charge of including Suzhou City, three large cities, and more than a dozen markets and counties. His position in Qiantang Buddha Country was not low.

However, here, he too had to wait for Zhen Shiliang to finish speaking before he could continue.

"I, Zhou Xiangrui, a humble monk, am honored to see the face of Buddha today."

"Kongchan Arhat has already decreed that whoever meets the two True Buddhas must provide them with proper hospitality and not be negligent."

"It is also heard that the two of you have entered the world looking for talented individuals to take under your wing."

"This coincides nicely, as Suzhou City is a historically renowned city in the Northern Land, a land of exceptional people. Since ancient times, it has been a treasure land that produces Talents."

"Many noble families within the city, known for their piety towards Buddhism, have sent forward their most distinguished offspring to welcome the True Buddhas."

Chapter 646 - The Prodigal Son Hides a Secret, Master Tao Exposes the Fake in Public\_2

"Both of you, take a look. If you can worship under the True Buddha Sect, it would indeed be an unparalleled opportunity for these little ones."



"If not, no matter. Just command, my True Buddha Bodhisattva, with millions of people around Suzhou at your disposal to choose from."

...

As soon as the two of them finished speaking,

Tao Qian exchanged a glance with Yunrong, their hearts filled with greater shock.

Master Tao, who was treated as an important figure for the first time, muttered to himself at this moment:

"I must ask clearly later how Master managed to deceive that old baldy Kongchan."

"In just a single day, how did I, a monk from the South Sea, suddenly become a honored guest at the Demon Buddha Temple, in the Earthly Buddha Country?"

"You know, the Great Transcendence Bodhisattva that I snatched is still lying inside the People Species Bag, not yet returned."

As Tao Qian thought about learning how to deceive people like Duobao,

Zheng Yin in the crowd, seeing a group of nobles frantically flattering Tao Qian and his companion and ingratiating themselves to the extreme, tried to hide his feelings, but his heart couldn't help but breed loathing.

However, he was very good at enduring, so his face showed no signs of abnormality.

He even bent his proud figure a bit, showing a pleasing and respectful demeanor, hardly different from the other young men and women waiting to be selected.

Little did he know that Master Tao, with the power of the Bai Qin Relics, could borrow various Buddhist Divine Powers from several Buddha Bird Protectors.

One of which was telepathy.

And Yunrong also had other Sublime Dharma.

Thus, at this moment, the couple heard that prodigal son called Zheng Yin scolding them in his heart:

"Ptui!"

"What True Buddha? What Bodhisattva?"

"To mix with the Demon Buddha Temple, to be specifically greeted by that old bald thief Kongchan, must also be birds of a feather, clearly Evil Demons and Heretics and Fallen wicked people, yet insisting on cloaking themselves in Buddha Skin."

"As if by wearing that hypocritical outward appearance, they could pretend as if they have never consumed humans."

"That Hundred Treasure Buddha Chariot, the eighteen Dragon Beasts pulling the chariot, each one's food ration consists of the heart and liver of devout believers; the treasures and bead curtains on the chariot are woven from the drained essence blood of countless deceived believers in their sleep; the gold paint used for printing Buddhist Scriptures was made by boiling the fat and blood of tens of thousands of believers..."

"Riding in that chariot means elevating oneself above all people, becoming nothing but a two-faced blood-sucking monster."

"Just endure a bit longer, for now I still need to lie low."

"Last time Shipi passed by and almost saw through me, but this evil couple probably doesn't have that capability..."

Zheng Yin's thoughts churned vigorously, completely unaware that Master Tao and his wife's expressions were slowly turning strange.

Yunrong was okay, just following her husband's lead.

Tao Qian, on the other hand, became more intrigued.

In Yinping City earlier, Tao Qian's accumulated Human Dao Destiny became more powerful due to many past experiences, three days of spiritual wandering, and the existence of the Scripture of Salvation, eventually comprehending the first application of the wonderful method of Human Dao Destiny: Searching for People.

Zheng Yin!

He was the first person Tao Qian sought, hence Tao Qian was curious.

Why would Human Dao Destiny determine that Zheng Yin could solve the problems of Qiantang Province, and perhaps even larger dilemmas?

"This young man seems like a prodigal son on the surface, only practicing some basic spells."

"But in my Innate Spiritual Vision, there's an Abnormality; the mixed Source Qi in his body is actually forged by a personal treasure."

"His true body... does not possess any cultivation?"

"Let that be, why does this young man still give me a very dangerous feeling?"

"You know, even Master Shenxiu never made me feel threatened."

With this judgment, Tao Qian's interest grew even greater.

No need to guess, there must be some big secret within Zheng Yin.

And now was a perfect opportunity to make contact and investigate.

Tao Qian made up his mind and immediately responded to the Suzhou City Lord, the Monk Official named Zhou Xiangrui.

"Agreed!"

With that single word, expressions of joy appeared on the faces of everyone present.

Especially the group of young men and women, who quietly puffed out their chests, hoping to be favored by the True Buddha and Bodhisattva.

As a distinguished and influential family, especially being in Qiantang Province,

the first choice naturally was Demon Buddha Temple.

In fact, after the Demon Buddha took over Qiantang, activities such as disciple recruitment events had occurred, and any child with rare talents had been picked long ago.

Now, these were considered inferior.

In the forefront stood a youth of imposing height, broad and robust, with a face full of whiskers, more a bandit than a gentleman.

Born with such a figure, his mind belonged to the sly; his constantly shifting eyeballs betrayed him.

Tao Qian had just looked over when Zheng Shiliang introduced him:

"Master Wu Gou, this boy is named Wang Chao, a long-time friend of the Zhen family, and the eldest son of the prestigious Wang family of Suzhou. He possesses a 'Red Fire Dao Body,' but for some reason, he has been unable to develop its power, and has temporarily cultivated a volume of the Fire Attribute Secret Manual that came from the Canxuan Sect."

"Should the master be fortunate enough to take interest, this child would willingly destroy his current cultivation and convert to the South Sea Buddhism."

As Zheng Shiliang spoke, the youth called Wang Chao also harbored much hope.

"My foolish younger brother was lucky enough to be accepted by Demon Buddha Temple, and now, he has surpassed me in status at home, which I detest."

"These two Bodhisattvas from the South Sea, even if their backing isn't as great as the Demon Buddha's, are not too far off, and these two hold obviously high positions. If I could enter their sect, my path could be promising."

This person, he thought splendidly.

Unfortunately, Tao Qian was not particularly benevolent either. With his spiritual vision activated by his fortune, he saw many wrongdoings committed by this man, not only him but several others of the same bloodline in the area, revealing a jumble of auras and wrapped in resentments; various unsightly mutations were evident in Tao Qian's eyes.

Thus, hearing this wishful thinking, Tao Qian responded by pouring cold water over it.

He not only shook his head in refusal but also cruelly added insult to injury.

"This child, has no fate with Buddha."

"As for why he cannot unleash the power of the Dao Body, it appears because this child is not a true Red Fire Dao Body."

"The poor monk observes that this child might have accidentally consumed some fire-element spiritual object in his youth, or possibly a Poison Fire Elixir, causing a thread of Red Fire Source Qi to blend with his essence blood, leading to his misidentification."

"This child originally possessed remarkable talent, but alas, it was ruined by a single Spirit Pill."

"It's the timing and fate, truly pitiful."

"Phew!"

Tao Qian had just finished speaking.

Wang Chao of the Wang family, who had harbored secret hopes, suddenly changed color, quickly turning pale, then blue, and finally a dark red, before spitting out a big mouthful of foul-smelling fresh blood.



He then abruptly turned his head, glaring deathly at another elder in brocade, crawling over while wailing:

"Father! Father!"

"You must stand up for me, father! I knew it, why could Wang Ming, born of the same father as me, join Demon Buddha Temple, while I couldn't even properly cultivate a mere volume of Fire Scripture."

"My child... my child has been harmed, surely that wench took advantage of my ignorance in childhood, fed me a Poison Elixir, and completely destroyed my path for the sake of paving the way for Wang Ming."

A moment before, he was a rough, strong man.

Now, he cried like a mistreated child.

The elder, whose trouser leg he was clutching, looked extremely embarrassed.

His instinct was to deny it, but as if thinking of something, he found himself at a loss for words.

The surrounding families, watching, didn't even think twice, directly believing Wang Chao's claim.

There was no special reason, except that such things were as common as eating and drinking among these influential families.

"Alas, Brother Wang fails to manage his household strictly, thereby inviting this disaster. Fate decreed it, what can he do?"

Zheng Shiliang, twisting his wooden fish, watched as the head of the Wang family dragged Wang Chao away, sighing righteously.

He then promptly introduced the next candidate to Master Wu Gou.

This time, it was a fairly handsome young man in a white robe.

Not waiting for Zheng Shiliang to speak, Tao Qian, already determined, shook his head first: "This child, too, has no fate with Buddha."

Had he heard this earlier, the young man in the white robe might have felt discontent.

But with the unfortunate "Wang Chao" as a comparison, he found it easier to accept.

In fact, he even breathed a sigh of relief, muttering:

"At least nothing worse was said, my Dao Body may not be much of a talent, but at least it's better than the common folk. If it were fake, I might as well not live."

Chapter 647 - Double-Faced Spy, Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda (

"Miao Yin Bodhisattva, this girl's name is Shen Yushan, the daughter of the Suzhou Shen Family. She has exceptional talent but is temporarily cultivating a volume from the Heterodox Secret Book called the 'Secret Scripture of Containing Pearl'. Yet she has always been devoutly inclined to Buddhism, never wishing to undergo Foundation Establishment, which has delayed her progress until now. If she could be accepted as a disciple of the Female Bodhisattva, she would surely be willing to give up her cultivation level and follow you to the South Sea."

"With me, she has no fate with Buddha!"

...

"Bodhisattva, this girl is Jiang Chunfeng, who harbors a strand of Qingluan Blood in her body. She hasn't formally begun her cultivation yet but is currently using the 'Bloodline Reversal Technique' to gather more of the Qingluan Blood. If she fully completes her Taoist Body, her future potential is limitless."

"With me, she has no fate with Buddha!"

...

"Master Wu Gou, this child is named Han Zhuguang, also from a prestigious family in Suzhou. He possesses the 'Absorbing Star Marvelous Body', and from childhood, he could absorb the Cycle of Stars Power to temper his body. Because he has not found a suitable Great Book, he has never formally practiced cultivation but has developed a body that is out of the ordinary, capable of consuming nine cows and one horse daily without difficulty."

"He's a good child, but alas, he has no fate with Buddha and should instead pay homage to a Daoist of the Star Leader Sect."

...

"Master Wu Gou, this child is named Zhu Wei, a young descendant of our family's longtime friends, the Zhu Family. Due to a fortuitous event, he consumed a demon heart, causing an abnormality in his body, and had no choice but to turn to the Demon Path for cultivation. He is presently refining a volume from the 'Plague Bamboo Five Poison Scripture'. This child is indeed pitiable. Master, if you could take him in, transform him from a demon to a Buddha, it would be a great merit."

"I have no teacher-student karma with him, but if he wishes to eliminate the demonic nature within his body, I am willing to help."

Once Tao Qian finished speaking these words,

Zhen Shiliang had nothing more to say, and the room fell into silence.

If it were not for the fear of the terrifying cultivation level of this couple before them, perhaps every one of the great families' heirs would have burst into anger.

Even so, few looked pleased, all thinking similar thoughts:

"What audacity this bald monk has, to bully us thus."

"He refuses one, he refuses another, clearly mocking us."

These nobles and gentry, although all were self-aware and knew that their children were but the leftovers of the Demon Buddha Temple, and real experts would surely not favor them,

you could at least put on an act. To accept none truly makes for an ugly scene.

At this moment, even Zhen Shiliang's face bore a helpless expression. He did his best to praise these heirs, but alas, both Master Wu Gou and Miao Yin Bodhisattva were born with eyes of Buddha, and the true talents of these heirs could not be hidden.

Now, he had no choice but to smooth things over by saying:

"No matter, no matter!"

"These are only a few children who have made their appearance. Do the fellow families only have these few offspring? Children born out of wedlock, as well as other nephews and nieces, they can all be brought forth, for fate should not be missed."

"Masters, Bodhisattvas, since there are no promising talents before you now, why don't you first stay at my home to rest and recuperate?"

"My child, Bu Chi, should be able to hurry here by tomorrow."

As soon as he finished his words, he saw Master Wu Gou and Miao Yin Bodhisattva both showing smiles.

Then came two pieces of good news, one after the other.

First was Miao Yin Bodhisattva, who gazed upon Zhen Ci'en, his eldest daughter, and directly said:

"I have already met many of your daughters in advance, most of whom have no fate with Buddha."

"Only Ci'en has some understanding of karma, and though she has already established her foundation early, fortunately, she cultivates the 'Bright Heavenly Maiden Scripture', which makes it convenient for her to switch to our Buddhist Law."

"If Ci'en is willing, she may become my first disciple."

After Yunrong finished speaking, Zhen Shiliang was immediately overjoyed.

He had previously received a message from Zhen Bu Chi: The Female Bodhisattva accompanying the Wu Gou Monk also had a powerful Buddhist Practitioner behind her, presumed to be Bao Xian, who was guessed by Kongchan Arhat to be equally renowned as the South Sea Qingjing Zen Master within the South Sea Territory.

If his son became a disciple of Demon Buddha Temple and his daughter to be the disciple of Bao Xian, wouldn't the Zhen Family be thoroughly prosperous?

With this thought, Zhen Shiliang, without any regard for others, kept signaling Zhen Ci'en to kneel and kowtow to acknowledge her teacher.

At this moment, however, the eldest daughter of the Zhen Family showed hesitation on her face, her eyes frequently sweeping towards Zheng Yin.

Clearly!

It was not that she was unwilling to acknowledge a teacher, but the thought of going to the South Sea to cultivate, which meant leaving her beloved, made her reluctant.

Seeing this, Zhen Shiliang was so angry that his face turned crimson. He was about to send a secret message to that boy Zheng Yin to insult him and request that he take the initiative to cancel the engagement when suddenly,

Tao Qian laughed loudly once more, chanting a Buddha's name:

"Amitabha!"

"My Master once said: 'Romantic ties and karmic entanglements are especially vexing.'"

"I and Miao Yin have been resentful couples for ten lifetimes, entangled through nine previous lives, only to realize Mahayana in this existence."

"It seems that even accepting disciples carries the same fate, truly the work of destiny."

Having said this and ignoring the astonishment on everyone's faces,

Tao Qian's gaze turned and suddenly fell upon Zheng Yin, the prodigal son who had not uttered a word all along, then he asked a question that made all the heirs of the noble families present envious.

"I am Wu Gou, a Buddhist Practitioner of the South Sea Territory, disciple of Qingjing Zen Master."



"My Master will soon achieve the fruit of enlightenment and will open a new temple to pass down the teachings."

"If you are willing to acknowledge me as your Master, you will be considered my direct lineage, and in the future, whether achieving the status of an Arhat or Bodhisattva, you will be able to certify it."

"You need not worry about having to part with Ci'en; if she acknowledges Miao Yin, later on you and she will be neighbors."

"Living together, flying together, jointly cultivating the Great Dao, it will be up to the two of you."

"How about it?"

When Tao Qian's words concluded, the head of the Zhen Family, Zhen Shiliang, was already overjoyed to the point of delirium.

How could he have imagined that there really was such a thing as a pie falling from the sky?

Feeling the envious glares of those fellow families upon him, he began calculating in his heart:

"Opportunity, a great opportunity."

"Let me think - my son to be the true inheritor of Kongchan Arhat, the staunch disciple of Demon Buddha's son, my daughter to be the disciple of South Sea's Bao Xian, and my son-in-law to be the disciple of South Sea Qingjing Zen Master... My goodness, after today, let alone Qiantang Province, even within the Northern Land Provinces, who would dare to provoke my Zhen Family?"

"Never would I have imagined that my Zhen Family could obtain such an opportunity, perhaps using this chance to transform into a millennia-old clan akin to the Zhang Family, Xiu Family, Si Family, and Li Family."

Zhen Shiliang's pride and ecstasy were visible to the naked eye.

His radiant face almost seemed to reflect upon those around him.

For fear of any unforeseen changes, Zhen Shiliang promptly took one in each hand, not caring that the two were not yet married, and had already thrown away thoughts of annulling the marriage from his mind.

Dragging Zhen Ci'en and Zheng Yin before Tao Qian Yunrong, he said beamingly,

"Will you do it? Of course, a hundred, a thousand times yes."

"It seems destined by fate that my daughter and her husband should take the two true Buddhas as their masters."

"Spreading such news would certainly make for a beautiful story."

...

With Zhen Shiliang's manipulation, the matter of taking them as masters was settled.

Zhen Ci'en, seeing she could cultivate alongside her beloved, was overjoyed and paid no mind to the prospect of leaving home to gain knowledge in the South Sea.

Zheng Yin, who had considered Tao Qian Yunrong a deceitful couple, originally wanted to reject this arrangement.

But for some reason, he found himself inexplicably unable to voice his rejection, and by the time he came to his senses, the connection had been established.

The Zhen Family was overjoyed, and though the other leading families were displeased, they still managed to stiffly offer their congratulations.

Full of pride, Zhen Shiliang responded to the gestures, while inviting Tao Qian and Yunrong to step onto the "Hundred Treasure Buddha Chariot."

At the same time, he discreetly signalled his servants, instructing them,

"Do not skimp on expenses while welcoming the true Buddha to the Zhen Mansion; let Gold Mountain and Silver Mountain be scattered."

"Today, the master is happy, and shares his joy with the people."

"I want the entire city to know just what sort of future the Zhen Family will have."

"Yes, sir!"

Just when the Zhen Family was stirring with excitement,

they suddenly realized that neither the true Buddha nor the Bodhisattva seemed willing to board the treasure chariot.

Just as Zhen Shiliang was about to inquire, Master Wu Gou gazed directly at the various scenes and citizens of Suzhou City.

After experiencing events such as the destruction of the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique, the introduction of Western studies, the abolition of the imperial system, and the Arhat's transformation,

Suzhou City bore ancient designs, mechanical factories, and added images of the Buddha Country, resulting in a style that could be described as strange and bizarre.

At that moment, Tao Qian was contemplating adding yet another sight to this city.

Before acting, he felt a strange sentiment bubbling within him:

"When I first entered Qiantang, I thought to act cautiously and adapt to circumstances."

"But ever since Master joined in, everything has changed. I walk openly and upright, and now, my actions could be called wanton."

"How did Master persuade them?"

"Now the Gao Family regards my master and me as allies, and even Demon Buddha Temple is willing to spread my fame without urging me to return the treasures."

"I seem to be a double agent who pleases both sides..."

"A forked road, I fear it is indeed a forked road."

Though Tao Qian had such qualms, it did not hinder his next action, which would shock the entire city of Suzhou.

Master Wu Gou did not board the Buddhist chariot, nor did he go to the Zhen Mansion.

Instead, he suddenly spoke out, his Buddhist chant echoing throughout Suzhou.

"Poor monk Wu Gou, a Buddhist practitioner from the South Sea."

"Entering the ancient city of Suzhou today, I find it fitting to borrow this blessed land."

"To erect a towering "Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda" here!"

"Anyone, who simply chants a Buddhist name within the city, will be guided by Buddha Light."

"If they are destined with Buddha, they may enter the three cities and twelve gates, and join Buddha in cultivation."

These words stunned all the leading family heads at the scene.

They then saw Wu Gou Monk abruptly take the torn cloth bag from his waist.

They had long known that this bag was a treasured item of the Buddhist Sect, called the People Species Bag, capable of containing all things.

As the bag opened, a stream of treasure light flew out.

Inside was the figure of a thousand-handed Guanyin statue, seemingly cast from machinery.

It swelled upon contact with the wind, and in a moment, it was as large as a mountain. Its thousands of arms, each holding different treasures such as the Yang Branch, White Feather, Treasure Vase, Counting Beads, Skull Treasure Staff, treasure mirror, Treasure Conch, copper pipe iron cannon, fortress towers, mechanical spheres, and so forth, spread out, covering the entire city of Suzhou.

The pressure, as if the sky had collapsed, rendered the city's million inhabitants speechless.

Fortunately, the giant Buddhist figure began to transform soon after.

As the Buddha light surged, Buddhist chants filled the air, coupled with the peculiar sounds of gears moving.

Gradually, a massive mechanical pagoda, hanging in the sky like the sun, took shape.

In an instant!

The compassionate Buddha Light of universal salvation enveloped the entire city of Suzhou, and the city unexpectedly began to experience a Mandala Flower Rain.

The millions of Mortals, alarmed at first, then plunged into joy.

Listening to the Buddhist chants and bathed in the flower rain, they felt an unprecedented sense of peace and serenity.

And soon, these mortals remembered the previous announcement and began trying.

The next moment, a chorus of Buddhist names resounded throughout the city.

One after another, the mortals were enveloped in Buddha Light and lifted into the air...

Seeing this spectacle, the family heads were shocked, and Zhen Shiliang, who relied on powerful allies, was delighted.



Only Zhou Xiangrui, somehow serving as the City Lord and also a Monk Official of Demon Buddha Temple,

looked very unhappy, thinking to himself:

"This must be reported. Who would have thought a country monk from the South Sea could pull off such a showy move to recruit followers?"

"Compared to the Free Temple and Dharma Cakra Temple, these crooks seem to play the game even better."

"And this Floating City Tower, turns out to be the "Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva," this Wu Gou Monk must have stolen this treasure from Yinping City."

"Why didn't Kongchan Arhat personally take it back and kill this boy, but instead issued a decree, to treat him well?"

"This warm welcome has allowed him to run rampant on my turf. Desplicable."

Chapter 648 - Defeated Immortal Dharma Body, King of Assassinations

Ancient and modern interchanges, Suzhou City with its odd styles has another unbelievable spectacle added today.

Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda!

Although Qiantang Province had become an Earthly Buddha Country, a Buddha country giant of such magnitude and wonder had never appeared before.

Not even in the Capital of the Buddha Country, Qiantang City.

"Such divine skills are unprecedented; the master truly deserves to be a revered Buddha, overpowering the Shenxiu Monk of Free Temple."

"What a Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda, only upon seeing this do I realize how much time I've squandered."

"If this humble monk could enter to cultivate, then my life would truly not be in vain."

"Our Buddha is merciful, universally saving all living beings."

Hearing praise after praise from the various family heads, Monk Official Zhou Xiangrui, who knew the inside story, felt even more frustrated.

Fortunately, Tao Qian knew when to stop and didn't chat with these people, only saying:

"Please forgive me, Lord Zhou and everyone."

"The humble monk bears the command of his teacher, so he took the opportunity to bump into the karma of Suzhou City, to see whether he can gather more disciples."

"All hundreds of thousands in this city can try, including your nephews and servants."

"Those who can enter the Floating Pagoda can become disciples."

Having said this, Tao Qian spoke no further to them.

Instead, he waved his robe, and the four transformed into a stream of Buddha Light, directly entering the Buddha Tower in the center of the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda.

The family heads and Zhou Xiangrui all had their own thoughts and departed one after another.

The city's populace, having gradually dismissed Demon Buddha Temple from their minds, kept chanting Buddha's name. Though temporarily unable to enter the Floating City, they still managed to enjoy themselves.

The news of "Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda" and "South Sea Buddhist Practitioner accepting disciples" spread wildly around Suzhou City, and indeed throughout the entire Qiantang Province.

When the Gao family in Steamed Buddha City heard the rumors, they too showed disbelief.

In their eyes, Master Wu Gou was a spy, a scout.

And yet, was a spy truly capable of such an act after scouting across the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, through all seventy-two provinces?

...

Amidst the external chaos, Tao Qian himself was unconcerned, for he now faced a more pressing matter.

Four people entering the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda, which was transformed by the Great Transcendence Bodhisattva, quickly split into two—Yunrong took Zhen Ci'en away to pass on the teaching.

She didn't lie, indeed intending to take Zhen Ci'en, not as a South Sea Divine Nun, but planning to abduct her to Jade Ring Mountain.

Tao Qian, however, met alone with Zheng Yin.

Both landed in the Buddha Tower, paying no attention to the solemn sights crafted around them, their gazes looking directly across.

Tao Da had seen countless young talents and extraordinary heroes in his past, like master brother Xu Xun with his exceptional talent, or Zhong Ziyang with his compassion for the world, Ying Qingdi by accident, and Lin Bujue full of hot blood—aren't all of them astoundingly brilliant?

Tao Qian pondered: There shouldn't be many people he couldn't see through.

But this "Zheng Yin" in front of him was indeed very special.

On the outside, he had a natural pride, yet inside, there was a heart intent on saving the world?

Clearly born into nobility, a prodigal son of a prestigious family, yet he wished to walk with mortals, to do something for this corrupt world?

These were one thing, but what truly intrigued Tao Qian was: "This person has no cultivation—what can he do? How did he achieve it?"

As doubts about the heart arose, record after record burst forth in his mind:

[Record Name: Zheng Yin.]

[Record Type: Human Clan.]

[Record: This person is from the local prominent Zheng Family of Suzhou City in Qiantang Province, originally a debauchee mingling among maids and servants. However, one day, this person stumbled upon a chance and inadvertently entered into a "Heavenly Track" left by the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique during his sleep. Using the power of this Heavenly Track, he traveled through the seventy-two provinces in his dream, and his heart soul fell into hundreds of mortal bodies, experiencing various lives. Most of these personas were street beggars, wandering starved commoners, brothel women, and fallen rangers; hence his temperament transformed, resolved to change the corrupt ways of the world.]

[Note 1: As his mortal body connected to the Heavenly Track and underwent a mutation, he has attained one of the rarest Taoist Bodies on earth, the "Defeated Immortal Dharma Body". As a price, Zheng Yin can no longer cultivate any Cultivation Technique Scripture, even if the "Taishang Daoist Collection" or "Spirit Treasure Daoist Collection" were brought to him—he simply can't cultivate any of them.]

[Note 2: The Defeated Immortal Dharma Body is specifically aimed at cultivators and acts as a medium. Zheng Yin can cast Curse Killing on almost all cultivating beings—Dao, Buddha, devil, demon, alien, god...none are exempt.]

[Note 3: This Dharma Body can grow until Zheng Yin fully merges with that "Heavenly Track", at which point he can cast Curse Killing on beings of the Daoist Transformation Realm.]

[Note 4: This Dharma Body is originally intended for solitary use, but Zheng Yin has taken an alternative path, developing Magic Slaves via entering dreams in secret techniques. These Magic Slaves, though

weakened, have similar divine abilities when infused with his curse power and can form a Defeated Immortal Curse Killing Array with him, greatly magnifying its power.]

[Note 5: Because of his dream experiences, Zheng Yin only chooses Human Clans bursting with aspiration from the lowest ranks as his Magic Slaves. He does not snatch their minds or restrict their freedom, and they refer to each other as brothers and sisters. To date, Zheng Yin commands 280 Magic Slaves, dispersed throughout the entire Qiantang Province.]

[Note 6: Although Zheng Yin has no large army, he has the Heavenly Track for guidance. It allows him to discern beings affecting Qiantang Province negatively or positively, thus he adopts the method of "assassination" to maintain the superficial order of Qiantang Province, reducing Human Clan suffering.]

[Note 7: To date, Zheng Yin, along with his Magic Slaves, has assassinated thousands, including strong beings of the Cavernous Mystery Realm...his next target is indeed the Lord of Buddha Country in Qiantang Province, Cheng Arhat.]

...

As these detailed and stunning records flowed by,

Tao Qian, who considered himself experienced and broad-minded, even having dealt with Outer Realm Mixed Blood like Ying Qingdi, couldn't help but be shocked, feeling that his knowledge had greatly expanded.

While observing, he sighed internally:

"I have also borrowed the power of the Heavenly Track, but never imagined someone could directly fuse with a Heavenly Track."

"Although unable to cultivate any Great Book, the power of the Defeated Immortal Dharma Body is terrifyingly excessive."

"Without cause, unknown cause of death, he had cursed and killed thousands."

"Well, he certainly deserves the title 'Assassin True Monarch.'"

While Tao Qian was looking at these records, Zheng Yin was also watching Tao Qian, although naturally he could not make out anything.

He just felt it was rather strange; this monk seemed both righteous and evil, highly unpredictable.

However, soon he noticed the monk's complexion slightly change, then he looked at him with an expression mixed with "astonishment" and "incredibility."

Having himself assassinated thousands, Zheng Yin was clearly no novice.



Upon this eye contact, he immediately realized:

"Is my cover blown?"

"I've heard the Buddhist Sect possesses a rare technique called 'Destiny Communication,' which can reveal the past karma of all beings and the reasons for their current or future retributions."

"Could this monk, who even subdued Master Shenxiu of the Free Temple, truly possess this Divine Skill and then see my past?"

"This monk, involved with the demon monks and having seen my secrets, should by rights be killed."

"But for some reason, I cannot detect any details about him."

"No matter, I'll first cripple this person, then negotiate."

Meeting Tao Qian for the first time, Zheng Yin could not think of a flawless strategy, so he chose to attack first.

He first closed his eyes, then opened them again.

In an instant, a proud noble's son, though his appearance had not changed, his aura and temperament seemed transformed.

He became more seasoned, more resilient.

Anyone who looked him in the eyes would feel they were facing an elder who had experienced life deeply, still loved the world, and harbored some aspirations.

To him, the passage of time meant nothing.

"Such transformation; the Green Emperor from the past also had a similar aura, but compared to this person, he seemed rather immature and pretentious."

Tao Qian had just finished admiring this when a catastrophe that even he couldn't imagine, signs of mutation, suddenly descended.

Zheng Yin!

He had just glanced at Tao Qian.

Tao Qian's body shuddered, suddenly feeling a sense of fatigue, then he felt an even more alarming drain of Essence Blood, moving towards dispersing his divine soul and dirtying his marrow.

In his mind, a record surfaced:

"Currently suffering from the curse killing of the 'Defeated Immortal Dharma Body.' This is the 'Lustful Spell,' cast by Zheng Yin who had previously used this technique to curse kill Zhu Youyang, a local warlord of Qiantang and brother-in-law to Cheng Arhat. Even with the involvement of Lian Sha Arhat from the Demon Buddha Temple, the cause of death remained undiscovered."

"Zheng Yin did not exhaust the Curse Power; normally, cultivators hit by the curse would die, but currently, at most, the one cursed is heavily injured... Due to the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body and Human Dao Destiny, completely exempted!"

After reading these pieces of information.

Tao Qian's face involuntarily stiffened, a hint of dissatisfaction appearing in his eyes.

You cast a spell, but why choose this damn Lustful Spell??

Now having acted, Tao Qian no longer wished to play dumb in this private setting.

The next moment, something Zheng Yin could not have anticipated occurred.

The apparently bald thief suddenly spoke:

"Slow down, Brother Zheng. This fine curse of yours should be directed at the fat monk, Cheng Arhat."

"Throwing it at me is simply a waste."

As he spoke, Tao Qian first released a flash of Divine Light within his body, erasing all signs of mutation.

Then an overwhelming surge of Human Dao Destiny emerged, countless times greater than what Zheng Yin possessed or had ever seen, instantly pushing back all the Curse Power he had released.

That wasn't all.

As Zheng Yin stood there, dumbfounded, Tao Qian transformed, revealing his true form.

With a wave of his sleeve, out leaped the Yu Ding, Valley God Gui, and other Ancestor God Treasures.

To further increase recognition, Master Tao also took out the long-unused Toad God Tile and Nine Toad Bead.

Suddenly, the tower was filled with a Spirit Treasure Daoist surrounded by All Treasures, Divine Light surging, accompanied by Fortune.

Zheng Yin, completely stunned at the scene.

Then saw Master Tao bowing towards him, smiling and asking:

"Brother Zheng!"

"Having traveled through the Heavenly Track in dreams so many times, have you ever heard of my name, do you recognize who I am?"

Chapter 649 - Conflict of Paths, Nothing Stands without Breaking

Zheng Yin was not very old, actually a few years younger than Tao Qian himself.

But having encountered the chance of the Heavenly Track, he wandered through dreams and experienced the lives of hundreds of mortals, which aged his spirit much more than that of Master Tao.

He was momentarily stunned when he saw his true form revealed, but quickly recovered and withdrew his curse power.

Then he scrutinized Tao Qian closely, lingering the longest on the two Ancestor God Treasures before replying,

"No wonder I felt that Master Wu Gou was quite off; it turns out to be Spirit Treasure Tao Master in disguise."

"They say Tao Master is the first talent of the Daoist sect, and now that I see you, it is indeed so."

"Alchemists - two Daoist Transformation Realm old monsters, the Great Freedom Temple, the Demon Buddha Temple, the Xiu Family, Devil Gods, the Evil Sect... so many forces have issued warrants for the True Master, especially since many strong people have gone to New Moon, like Evil Sect's Zhuge Qingyi and Xiu Family's Xiu Zhonglin, who are still in New Moon Province searching for the True Master's whereabouts."

"The True Master is quite bold to have disguised himself as a South Sea Buddha Child, infiltrating Qiantang."

"Be aware that Qiantang is now the territory of the Demon Buddha Temple, guarded by Arhats Kongchan, Shipi, and Lian Sha."

"Especially Lian Sha Arhat, True Master, you must know you have quite a grudge with him."

At this point, Zheng Yin deliberately paused.

Seeing a look of curiosity arise on Tao Qian's face, he continued,

"Lian Sha Arhat has a beloved disciple called 'Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva,' who practices a combination of Buddha, Devil, and Demon arts. Lian Sha Arhat considers her his successor, even planning to use her body to overcome the Daoist Transformation Tribulation."

"But the fruit was not yet ripe when Master Tao and Monk Bai Qin spoiled it together."

"The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva was reduced to a mere husk, and though her Primordial Spirit was saved, the cost of switching cultivation is significant. If Lian Sha Arhat finds out that Tao Master is here, I fear he would stop at nothing to kill you."

"However, True Master's Divine Powers are vast, and I imagine you are not afraid of Lian Sha. The technique you used to probe the depths of my foundation just now, is it the Buddhist Sect's 'Destiny Communication'?"

Suddenly hearing an old secret, Tao Qian raised his eyebrow.

He replied,

"Not so, just another Sublime Dharma."

"As for Lian Sha Arhat, my karma with him was settled in Southern Yue. If he insists on killing me against his destiny, I fear he will reap his own karmic consequences."

No sooner had Tao Qian finished speaking than Zheng Yin's gaze flickered over the two Ancestor God Treasures.

He spoke directly, asking, "True Master, have you come here for the 'Spring and Autumn Chariot' brought by the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen?"

Tao Qian's expression changed subtly, but he still replied, "It is and it isn't."

After listening, Zheng Yin's expression grew more somber and he followed up with another question.

And this time, it was quite a lengthy and complicated one.

"The one currently in temporary control of Qiantang is that Cheng Arhat, along with the Demon Buddha Temple behind him."

"There's a rebel army called 'Han Mountain Army' causing trouble on the border, led by Li Ren, who is the present Buddha Child of Han Mountain Temple. Though Han Mountain Temple was defeated by the Demon Buddha Temple, it has now gained the support of another major sect, the Vajra Temple, and has the strength to make a comeback."



"Recently, nearly ten major warlords and dozens of minor ones have sent strong forces into Qiantang, including Zhang Mazi, Hong Fu Demon, Song Tiecheng, and Si Xixin."

"Also, a group of about three hundred thousand refugees has entered from the east, led by 'Heavenly King Gao' who claims to have inherited secret techniques from the Outer Realm, shouting about toppling mountains and temples, and annihilating gods and Buddhas."

"In addition, the Gao family from the neighboring southern province of Tiannan also seems to be stirring."

"I wonder, Tao Master, who do you think should end up with Qiantang in the future?"

...

Hearing this, Tao Qian could detect the hostility in Zheng Yin's words.

At first, Tao Qian was curious:

Although he had never met Zheng Yin in person, their ambitions and goals were somewhat aligned, and since he recognized him, why the hostility?

Zheng Yin's line of questioning clearly painted Tao Qian as one of those deluded people who "think themselves grand, treating the world affairs as a chessboard to be trifled with at will."

But on second thought, Zheng Yin was quite different from the various forces and people Tao Qian had dealt with in the past.

Like the National Salvation Congress and the Ancestor Dragon Society are both large organizations.

With a host of like-minded partners, armies under them, and support from many major sects.

Yet Zheng Yin had nothing.

Just himself and a legion of mortals who, like him, could not cultivate any magic skills.

Without Tao Master's near-cheating means of discernment, acting in extraordinary ways, being cautious, and even extreme, was only normal.

"To others, it seems that wherever I go, I stir up trouble and then pick an organization to clean up the mess."

"Demon City saw the National Salvation Congress, New Moon Province the Ancestor Dragon Society."

"Does Zheng Yin think that I'm following the same pattern in Qiantang, choosing an organization to use as my puppet?"

"Those accustomed to assassination tend to see conspiracies in all world affairs... but not without reason."

These thoughts flashed through his mind, and Tao Qian quickly understood what Zheng Yin was thinking.

Understanding was one thing, but patience for explanations was not in Tao Master's nature. Moreover, seeing Zheng Yin's steely resolve, even if Tao Qian explained with heartfelt caution, it would likely be in vain.

However, Tao Qian soon thought of a solution.

He did not respond to him but instead concentrated and acted upon his thoughts.

The next moment, Yu Ding and Valley God Gui, these two Exotic Treasures, turned into Divine Light and flew out simultaneously, each arriving before Zheng Yin's ears.

At the same time, they emitted a competing chant, and Zheng Yin immediately felt a series of images flooding into his mind, all reasons why the Exotic Treasures had chosen Tao Qian as their master.

Zheng Yin, who couldn't cultivate the Great Lifebook Scripture, possessed terrifying Extraordinary Power, all of which stemmed from that one Heavenly Track.

To some extent, he and Yu Ding, Valley God Gui were of the same origin.

With this infusion, he had to believe, even though he was unwilling.

Thus, his face soon showed a hint of sheepishness, and he offered an apologetic look, bowing in a salutation as he said:

"I, Zheng, have wrongly projected my petty thoughts onto a noble heart, mistaking a True Master for someone who seeks cheap fame, deceiving people and using crises for selfish cultivation."

"The True Master's path, the True Master's aspirations, I now understand and deeply admire."

"Even just for the Yang Sui Uprising, the True Master's name will be passed down for a thousand years without end."

"It is also mostly thanks to the True Master's virtue that the Alchemists were dealt such a heavy blow."

"The people of the Seventy-two provinces, including all in Qiantang, owe their thanks to the True Master."

Upon hearing one high praise after another from Zheng Yin, Tao Qian immediately guessed that Zheng Yin must have a 'but' to add.

Sure enough, the next moment, Zheng Yin continued determinedly:

"The True Master may have great virtue, but this method of quickly overturning the order and remaking mountains and rivers, I am afraid, cannot succeed."

"I do not know what the future will bring."

"I only know that the territories that the True Master has overturned have not seen much improvement in the lives of the mortals and common folk."

"Take Demon City, for example; after the True Master disrupted the Taishang Demon Sect and Alchemist's sinister plans, the National Salvation Congress took over for a month, but soon had to give up and retreat to the southern provinces due to harassment from the Taishang Demon Sect, the Evil Sect, and several surrounding warlords. Naturally, Demon City fell back into the entanglement of war."

"A while ago, in one of my dream travels, I fell into the body of a woman in Demon City called 'Su Siyan,' who was a secret prostitute. A year ago, although she lived in poverty, she could barely get by, but now that Demon City has been changing hands among various warlords, not to mention the heavy taxes and miscellaneous levies, there is often chaos caused by soldiers and bandits, and Devils are devouring people. The money she earns as a secret prostitute still cannot fill her household's hungry bellies."

"Then there's New Moon Province; within the Ancestor Dragon Society there are many notables, but since the death of Ying Qingdi, no one has the ability to lead. Headless dragons with strong enemies lurking around, and the Alchemists secretly instigating trouble, even the local Sects like Xuan Dao Sect and Beichan Temple have their complaints... New Moon Province has already started infighting."

"Just three days ago, I happened to dream travel into a refugee. This person, because of infighting between two members of the Ancestor Dragon Society that led to his entire family's death, felt resentment. When the Seven Evils Sect was in power, he could still sell himself to support his little household, but now alone, living day by day, isn't it even harder?"

"I am completely convinced by the True Master's Divine Power, and even if I were to use all my Curse Killing strength against you, it might not succeed."

"But if the True Master intends to repeat the same methods, to overthrow Qiantang's order and have another organization take over, although I am unable to stop you, I cannot cooperate with the True Master either."

"Of course, if the True Master is willing to stay in Qiantang, not to mention calling me to address you as Master, even supporting the True Master as Emperor, I would willingly do so."

These heartfelt words, despite lacking any blame, still left Tao Qian stunned.

Then, without thinking twice, he closed his eyes instantly.

He awakened the vast Human Dao Fortune within him, using it as a medium to start sensing the state of those two territories.

This method, seemingly ordinary, was actually rare, and not something Tao Qian would usually employ.

It didn't take long for Tao Qian to know the result, and his tensed expression eased slightly.

He was about to instinctively exclaim, "All People are suffering," but swallowed the words and sighed instead.

Then, he said to Zheng Yin:

"There is more than one way to run a household, and disputes are to be expected; how much more so for a method to save the world?"

"I, Tao Qian, might have decent Cultivation Power, but I'm not quite someone who can make decisive decisions and govern all things."

"Ever since I joined the mortal world, I have merely dealt with injustices as I saw them."

"If I can resolve a crisis, then I resolve it."

"If I can save a few, then I save those few."

"Whether it was Demon City or New Moon Province, if I had not taken action at the time, not just a million people would have died; perhaps tens of millions would have been killed."

"The ensuing turmoil was not my desire. Just now, when I used magic to spy, I saw that the dispute in Demon City should come to an end, temporarily falling into the hands of Si Xixin. Although he is also a kind of warlord, his current temperament appears to be that of a normal person, who should understand the principle of treating the people kindly."

"As for New Moon Province, Lin Bujue and his brothers have already stepped forward. While his leadership is not as great as Ying Qingdi's, his passionate dedication is commendable, and with the decision by Daoist friends Chen Xiyi and Qi Daozhen to give up returning to their Sects and fully support him, the situation is gradually stabilizing."

As he said this, Tao Qian came to a realization.

The Human Dao Fortune within him suddenly boiled, as if it was staring at Zheng Yin, and at the same time, at Qiantang behind him, and even the whole Longevity Heavenly Dynasty beyond Qiantang.

"Brother Zheng, your method of salvation is already known to me."

"Forgive my candor: although it may not be self-deception, I fear it's not very effective."



"You have no vast army under your command, only that curse killing technique, cutting away those who threaten Qiantang's destiny to maintain a semblance of prosperity and order."

"While this seems effective, it actually immerses you in a decaying society."

"Those countless bloodsuckers, can you kill them? And how could you possibly kill them all?"

As he spoke, Tao Qian waved his sleeve, directly presenting the many absurd scenes he had witnessed upon setting foot in Qiantang, such as "Human Burning Incense," one by one before Zheng Yin.

Regardless of the latter's increasingly tensed face, at this moment, a seed that had long existed in the depths of Tao Qian's heart suddenly began to germinate.

He then heard Tao Qian's incredibly firm low shout:

"Nothing can be established without being destroyed first!"

"If we don't shatter this old order, this old world, merely patching things up will be useless."

Chapter 650: A Question and Answer Settles Master and Servant

Tao Qian had a sharp exchange with Zheng Yin, which deepened his own understanding of the Dao.

But as soon as he uttered those words, they were immediately met with the ridicule of Zheng Yin.

This man, overtly a wastrel but secretly a master assassin, didn't care at all about Master Tao's grand reputation. As if he had heard the funniest thing in the world, he laughed loudly:

"Ha ha ha... Master Tao, such spirit, such a heroic gall."

"If I remember correctly, Master was once a Loose Cultivator in Southern Yue with exceptional talent. You cultivated the scattered Spirit Treasure Daoism to fruition and made a name for yourself in Southern Yue and even alarmed the future Sect Master of the Spirit Treasure Sect, Duobao True Monarch, who sent three Immortal Treasures to bring you in."

"After that, everything went smoothly for you, whatever you did succeeded, and now the supernatural powers you possess are enough to make your peers die of shame."

"But why would such a high and mighty Spirit Treasure Daoist utter such words?"

"Is it simply because you cultivate the 'Scripture of Salvation'?"

"It's not that I don't believe in your aspiration to save the world, but you have never suffered the hardships of the lower classes, nor have you ever been one of the common Mortals. How could an Immortal-like being truly understand what kind of order the All People of this realm desire?"

For some reason, even though Zheng Yin had been infused with two Ancestor God Treasures and knew what kind of person Tao Qian was, he spoke more rudely and more aggressively than before.

However, Tao Qian looked straight into his eyes and instantly understood his thoughts.

Not at all annoyed, he replied word by word: "I understand!"

These three words seemed light and casual.

But inexplicably, Zheng Yin felt completely unable to utter any words of skepticism.

It seemed that the Immortal-like Spirit Treasure Daoist sitting before him was even more certain of the answer to the question than he was.

At this point in their sharp exchange,

both Tao Qian and Zheng Yin had a clear realization that they were caught up in a situation they had created and found difficult to escape.

Therefore, Zheng Yin didn't give up and changed the topic as he continued:

"You, True Master, talk about smashing the old world order, others might be convinced by your words, but it's hard for me, Zheng, to believe."

"The old world order is not just about a mere Alchemist."

"My existence is merged with Heavenly Track, and I have glimpsed many secrets of this realm. Now, it's time to share them, to enlighten you as to how wildly arrogant your claims are."

"Let's start with the Alchemists. More than a dozen Daoist Transformation Realm old monsters, a whole bunch of Fallen descendants, have been leeching the legacy of the Ancestor Dragon, blood-sucking over two thousand years in the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty. True Master, you struggled hard and paid the Mountain and River Map as the price, but that's just saving Li Wanshou from one fishhook. If you want to fight them, not even ten lives, a hundred lives, would be enough."

"Next, let's talk about the powerful families, starting with the Xiu family and continuing with the Si Family, the Zhang Family, the Li Family, the Qin Family, the Wang Family, and so on. Take the Xiu Family, for instance. You may think that they just exploit the Mortals in the usual way that powerful families do, but you'd be terribly wrong—they possess an even more ruthless method that completely erases roots."

"The bloodline of this family is strange. Whenever there's someone born with outstanding Talent in their domain, regardless of their surname and how their parents raised them, once they become conscious, they must join the Xiu family, almost without exception. Just like Elder Xiu Zhonglin, who was pursuing you, had good intention by nature, but in one night, his heart and soul came to recognize himself as a member of the Xiu family."

"That is merely one of the Xiu family's many horrors."

"If the Xiu family is like this, the equally notorious Si family and Zhang family must be just as terrible."

"These families have existed for thousands to tens of thousands of years, even longer than the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty."

"Do you, True Master, consider this the old world order? Do you wish to smash it?"

At this point, Zheng Yin seemed to have become enthusiastic, intending to reveal all the secrets he had buried deep inside.

Despite asking, he didn't wait for Tao Qian's response and continued:

"Having discussed the powerful families, let's talk about the Immortal Sects."

"There are thousands, if not millions of ways of Cultivation in this realm. Take for instance, the Twelve Daoist Sects, Buddha demon sects, Side Door heterodox sects, and so on."

"Although many great and venerable Spirit Ancestors have gone to the Outer Realm to protect this realm from dangers, there are countless unworthy descendants who run amok, forgetting that they were once part of the Human Clan; they simply regard the Mortals as livestock and servants, playing with them and exploiting them as they please."

"Because these people have Extraordinary Power, the disasters they cause are many times greater than those blood-sucking Alchemists."

"What about purposely spreading defective scriptures to lure countless Human Clans into Cultivation, or considering Mortals' bodies and souls as spiritual materials for refining and consumption? These things are everywhere, and I don't want to bring up even more examples. You must have seen plenty on your journey too, True Master."

"However, it's also important for you to know the truth."

"Have you ever heard of the 'Xing Wen Daoist Exterminates Four Cities,' 'Fire Jade Monarch Burns the Western Mountains,' or 'Beast King Demon Path Strikes Four Seas'?"

"These calamities all occurred before the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique shattered, and they were perpetrated by three Elders of your Spirit Treasure Sect."

"At that time, these Little Demon and little demons feared the power of the Forbidden Technique and dared not do evil, but the likes of your Great Sect knew the loopholes in the Forbidden Technique and ended up harming many of the Human Clan."

"Even now, since you've come out of the Penglai Sea, can you deny that there are no such beastly Evil Demons within your Mountain Gate?"

"If the Spirit Treasure Sect is like this, what about the other Great Sects?"

"And what about the so-called compassionate sects like the Free Temple?"

"You tell me, True Master, do these count as the old world order? Do you also want to smash them?"

...

When Zheng Yin uttered these words one by one,

Before Tao Qian could answer, the Yuan Gong Statue in his arms trembled, and a voice transmitted to him:

"Young man, do not engage with him."

"This man appears to be mature at heart, but he is incredibly extreme, attributing all the world's injustices and the disastrous fate suffered by the Mortal Human Race to the matter of Cultivation."

"If you respond to him, you'll truly fall into his trap. Even if you were Lingbao Tianzun reincarnated, how could you fight against the entire Cultivation World?"

Master Yuan had just sent this message through, and quickly realized it was to no avail.

Because of Tao Qian, he had suddenly entered an incomparably bizarre realm.

Zheng Yin's radical shouting, all that about "Alchemist," "Noble Family," "Immortal Sect" churned in his mind, gradually corresponding with some memories from his previous life.

If it could be said that before, he wandered for three days and came to realize some of his own ideas about saving people.

Then now, the thin veil of fog that was before his eyes had been completely lifted.

Tao Qian's mouth immediately revealed a bitter smile as he muttered to himself,

"This path... it's both difficult and long, and most likely there isn't a happy ending, being able to have a walk on Absolute Immortal Island would already be fortunate."

"However, this path is indeed more suitable for me, at least compared to simply cultivating, a refiner being a refiner is not really human is somewhat better."

As these thoughts flashed through his mind, Tao Qian had his answer.



Then, under Zheng Yin's gaze, which was akin to looking at a madman, he nodded his head and immediately spat out one word:

"Smash!"

"Have you gone mad, now that you harbor such mighty Human Dao Fortune? Once you speak those words, your Dao Path cannot be changed anymore. Although you are a Talent, you simply cannot oppose those that I spoke of; I was merely deliberately making things difficult for you."

"Enough already, spend some fortune and take those words back; whatever you want to do in Qiantang, I'll help you with it. It would be a good way to replenish some of your Fortune."

Hearing this, Tao Qian laughed.

By now, he had understood why the Human Dao Fortune had led him to seek out Zheng Yin.

Such a vast Longevity Heavenly Dynasty!

There probably weren't many who could say such words.

Those sentences, which seemed to be questioning and making things difficult, but when they entered Tao Qian's mind, they clearly became pleas for help.

"Zheng Yin's words are indeed biased, but at the same time, they offer a description of this world."

"This world has twisted to the extreme, and the Human Clan has suffered to the extreme... the unprecedented turmoil of the Human Dao Fortune is actually the cry for help emitted by the billions of people in the Human Clan from the depths, it's unknown how far it can spread, it's unknown how many will respond."

"I believe many have previously responded, and I, Tao Qian, being extremely insignificant, unfortunately, couldn't help but respond as well."

"Perhaps, as Master Yuan said before, my fate is to be buried halfway through."

"The Dao Path is set, it's no use blaming anyone now; to do good deeds without asking about the future is the way it is."

"To talk about opposing the entire Cultivation World, that's thinking too much. Whether I can even overthrow that group of old monsters, the Alchemists, is unknown. It's possible that halfway through the fight, I find out I can't win and have to hide back in Penglai Sea, crouching and cultivating until Daoist Transformation before coming out to fight again."

"I, Tao Qian, after all, have practiced so many Great Methods; living a few hundred or a thousand years isn't too excessive."

Tao Qian replied to Yuan Gong.

Thereafter, ignoring Zheng Yin's last two sentences.

He seemingly suddenly became intrigued by his "Defeated Immortal Dharma Body" and directly began to inquire:

"How many types of spells do you have? At most, how many people can you Curse Kill now? What's the highest cultivation level you can handle? And what's the price?"

Seeing Tao Master changed the topic, Zheng Yin originally did not want to answer,

Yet, unexpectedly, in the next moment, he took the initiative to speak, revealing rather obediently:

"I have ten types of spells in this Defeated Immortal Dharma Body."

"The one I used to curse you earlier is the first type, called the Lustful Spell, its power is average."

"The strongest is the tenth type, Life-taking Curse, meaning to cut off life itself."

"The number of enemies I can Curse Kill alone depends on my cultivation level; if it's Cavernous Mystery, I can kill three at once, and by assembling my Magic Slaves, I can kill one more."

"If it's Foundation Establishment or Transcend Mortality, then even several hundred can be killed at once."

"The price is lifespan; to Curse Kill a Cavernous Mystery, I will lose ten years of life."

"However, Human Dao Fortune can replenish lifespan; by secretly maintaining order in Qiantang, with the nourishment of returning Fortune, not only have I not lost lifespan, I have actually gained quite a bit more."

Unconsciously speaking all this, Zheng Yin finally realized he had caused trouble.

More precisely, he had dug a hole for himself, and then in front of Tao Qian, he jumped right in.

He did not understand the mysteries of Human Dao Fortune, even less did he know his own body melded with the Heavenly Track.

Although still a member of the Human Clan, he was strikingly similar to many Ancestor God Treasures.

He himself stirred the Fortune to ask questions, forming a mechanism similar to a "test."

Tao Qian's uttered word was undoubtedly a pass.

Thus, at this moment, the relationship between Zheng Yin and Tao Qian became quite odd.

Although Tao Qian couldn't dictate his life or death, Zheng Yin found he couldn't refuse Tao Qian's requests at all.

A casual inquiry would prompt his earnest answer.

To a certain extent, it could already be considered... master and servant?

Realizing this, Zheng Yin's expression was not only untroubled, but instead, it revealed a color of excitement.

After answering, he immediately clasped his hands together and bowed, muttering:

"Madman, madman, there really are people in this world who share the same thoughts and aspirations as me."

"Good, this is really too good."

