

Longevity 651

Chapter 651: Cheng Arhat Wishes to Imitate the Buddha, Master Tao Goes Fishing Too

Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda, within the Central Buddha Tower.

Master Tao Qian of the Secret Demon Sect turned out to be an old monster, Red Eyebrow Sword Demon, Yuan Gong, his remnants of the soul hidden in a statue, listening helplessly to the exchange between a "master and servant" outside—from madness to normalcy.

"The True Master, you yourself are from Spirit Treasure Sect, the only direct disciple of Duobao True Monarch. How do you plan to deal with Spirit Treasure Sect, as well as Taishang Dao, Primordial Sect, Free Temple, Dharma Cakra Temple, Taishang Demon Sect..."

"The various Immortal Sects of this world, their control over Extraordinary Power is too dreadful for Mortals, and yet they are unbound and often Mutate and become Fallen, leaving the billions of the Human Clan utterly powerless."

"If we can't deal with them, we'll just observe for now. However, I already know the outcome of three—Xing Wen Daoist, Fire Jade Monarch, and Beast King Demon Path, all of whom perished in the struggle of the Absolute Immortal, with not even scraps left."

"The True Master, what about the likes of the Ruxiu Family, Si Family, and the Zhang Family, these thousand-year-old Great Family Gate? Is there a way to deal with them, preferably root and branch?"

"We can't deal with them either, let's just observe for the moment."

"True Master, what about the Alchemists then, is there a technique similar to the 'Yang Sui Uprising' that can eliminate them in one fell swoop?"

"No such thing, the abolition of the imperial rule can only be used once, but I've already dispatched a spy among the alchemists."

....

Master Yuan felt somewhat relieved halfway through listening. Tao Qian this fellow spoke nicely with grand ambitions of changing the heavens and earth, yet now when asked, he said he would not do this or that.

Somewhat comforted, he thought to himself,

"I knew it, this kid, though somewhat too kind-hearted, is still thick-faced and black-hearted by nature, quite similar to that old tortoise, Duobao."

"Don't loft the eagle before you see the rabbit, and even more when you get the treasures, you have to turn into a Pixiu, that 'only entry, no exit' nature, just like Duobao, how could he go mad just because of a few words from that peculiar mad junior. It must be a trick."

"But it's not good to delay any longer. Although it's kind of fun to accompany this kid around and continue to live on, the important matters take precedence."

"Today I shall force the kid to learn all of my 'Sacrifice Sword Skill.' Although I, Old Ape, shall thus turn to dust, I can take the opportunity to lure Old Lady Jiang here."

"With her scheming, she will surely trick the kid into joining Secret Demon Sect, with his talent he might as well be the reviving leader of my Secret Demon Sect..."

As Master Yuan contemplated this.

That peculiar master-servant conversation continued.

This time, Tao Qian was the one who spoke,

"Don't aim too high when the current struggles haven't been resolved yet. You're thinking of moving distant high mountains, how could that be possible?"

"This realm has too many secrets. Although we can see the plight of the Human Clan and know some of the problems, our Cultivation Realm is still too low. We certainly can't see the big picture, so we can't do too much for the time being."

"For now, the best plan is to solve the crises of Tiannan and Qiantang provinces first."

Upon hearing this, Zheng Yin immediately became interested.

He had thought Tao Master had come here solely for Qiantang Province or for the Spring and Autumn Chariot, but to his surprise, Tiannan Province was also part of his calculations.

"How will you solve it?"

"Right, a great disaster is about to happen in Qiantang Province."

"Cheng Arhat, that fat monk, not content with merely being the nominal Lord of Buddha Country, borrows a treasure from Kongchan Arhat called the 'Demon Buddha's Magic White Bone Glaze Tower'."

"He plans to enter Zen Meditation inside for forty-nine days, absorbing the Heart Soul Wish Power of a million believers, mimicking the Buddha in a vain attempt to reach the Ultimate Happiness Realm overnight."

"Although this method is a shortcut, Cheng Arhat managed to get the support of Han Mountain Temple and Demon Buddha Temple, he indeed has the Wisdom Root Buddha Heart."

"With the support of Kongchan, Shipi, and Lian Sha, the Three Arhats, perhaps he might really make it."

"I've planned to look for an excuse to go to Qiantang City, gather my Magic Slaves who are common Mortals not detectable or predictable by magic, and just wait for him to show up, then kill him through the air with the 'Life-taking Curse'."

Hearing of a new secret, Tao Qian's expression changed slightly, and soon after, he pondered seriously for a moment.

Then he spoke again, the first sentence revealing yet another secret.

"The Gao Family of Tiannan Province is secretly allying with Demon Buddha Temple and Cheng Arhat, who sold the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen and the rest of her faction, including the Spring and Autumn Chariot, to the Gao Family."

"Right now, they're in Steamed Buddha City, where the Three Ultimate Happiness Masters of the Gao Family each lead the Hundred Demons, Jade Demon, and Yang Demon armies, waiting to strike."

"The Gao Family has clearly been tricked."

"Demon Buddha Temple and Cheng Arhat, their ambitions are enormous."

"They deliberately trapped Yuan Mingzhen in the old site of Han Mountain Temple, using her as 'bait,' drawing various warlords and strong people there, wanting to craft the mighty Buddha Treasure 'Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva.' Once it's crafted, not only would Qiantang Province be secured, they could also take the opportunity to swallow Tiannan Province."

"This situation is excellent, a perfect opportunity for us to move, playing off one against another, reaping the benefits like a fisherman."

Not only Zheng Yin, but even Master Yuan grew curious upon hearing this.

He took a serious look, this was the first time Tao Qian showed "ambition."

Moreover, he eyed two big provinces at once, both with formidable rulers.

Everyone here is trustworthy; Tao Qian didn't bother with defenses and mused aloud,

"Many of the warlords and strong people here are not worth worrying about for now. Neither the Demon Buddha Temple nor the Gao Family will let them off the hook."

"The Gao Family has Three Jile, so does the Demon Buddha Temple."

"If there is a way to make them turn against each other, the most crucial part would then fall upon those Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendence Bodhisattvas."

Hearing this, Zheng Yin couldn't help but voice his doubts.

Because this strategy seemed useful but was actually far-fetched.

"Master, you must know that once you enter the Ultimate Happiness Realm, it is very hard for such betrayals to occur."

"Whether Buddha or demon, once someone's cultivation reaches the Ultimate Happiness and extends their life by a thousand years, almost every one of them cherishes their life immensely. Even if their relatives die out or their Daoist couple passes away, they do not wish to die themselves."

Tao Qian nodded at these words and added,

"Indeed, during the upheaval in Demon City, I lured Kongchan over to fight with Lingwa Master. Their hatred for each other was deep as the sea, yet in the end, both got away unscathed. This shows how much cultivators in the Ultimate Happiness Realm value their lives."

"However, if there are matters that are a matter of life and death, then they will have no choice but to fight for survival."

"The Gao Family from Tiannan is also part of the alchemist faction; their ancestor Gao Huan divided several provinces as their territory to extract resources from."

"Because of me, they have lost several provinces and only have Tiannan Province left."

"Gao Huan is actually one of the weakest among the strange alchemists. If we can find a way to lead three Arhats and their monk soldiers from the Demon Buddha Temple into Tiannan, to slaughter the

descendants of the Gao Family and uproot their foundation, cutting off the blood connection between Gao Huan and Tiannan Province... Gao Huan would be gravely injured, and the Three Jile Monarchs of the Gao Family would similarly be heavily hit."

"Even more so, it's very possible that other old monsters among the alchemists will divide Gao Huan up amongst themselves."

"Such secretive information is being leaked by the Gao Family?"

"It's not difficult. Inside the Gao Family, I've also placed a spy. In fact, I can arrange for that Gao Family person to be the guide, lead the Demon Buddha's army to the Gao Family ancestral land, kill off Gao Family offspring, and destroy their blood source array."

"When that time comes, Gao Yang, Gao Zhan, Gao Wei, these three would not want to fight for their lives but will have to."

Hearing up to this point, Zheng Yin's face showed even greater shock.

He subconsciously wanted to ask: Master, how many families have you planted spies in?

Who would have thought, in the next moment, Tao Master Tao would volunteer the information,

"To carry out this strategy, we need someone whom both sides heavily trust, to pass the secret back and forth, causing the two sides to miss each other first."

"It just so happens, I can do this."

"The 'Master Wu Gou' I pretend to be comes from Steamed Buddha City; in the eyes of the Gao family, I am an ally of True Lord of a Hundred Demons Gao Yang, even saying that I'm kin wouldn't be too far."

"As for my relationship with the Demon Buddha Temple, it could be closer; another move or two should be made."

Having said this, Tao Qian suddenly raised his hand.

He pointed at the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda under his feet and continued,

"This object, is that 'Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva'."

"Today I wish to refine it and also use it as bait."

"I'll first lure over 'Bu Chi Buddha's Son,' a disciple of Kongchan. I intend to merge into the Demon Buddha, to gain the trust of those three thieving baldies, and this person is a good pretext."

...

Zheng Yin considered himself clever but still felt somewhat dizzy with Tao Qian's words.

In his mind swirled only words like spy, bait, double agent... these peculiar terms echoing.

But soon, he had thoroughly pondered and his complexion instantly became elated.

The plan Tao Qian spoke of seemed a bit rough upon closer inspection, but mysteriously, it felt feasible.

And in Tao Qian's heart, Master Yuan, who knew even more, after careful consideration, couldn't help but exclaim that this was bad.

"This kid... since when has he had such abilities? Such ambitions?"

"Is he only planning to trap and kill the Gao Family? It is clear he wants to play all the Gao Family three beasts, the three baldies of the Demon Buddha Temple, the monks at Free Temple, and the many warlords and strong people of the two provinces in the palm of his hands."

"Could it be he's learned all this directly from Duobao? When he saw that little thieving baldie named 'Shenxiu,' did he start scheming then?"

"What next, what will he do?"

"After swallowing Tiannan and Qiantang provinces, become an emperor, marry that Devil Concubine?"

Chapter 652: List of World Governors, Not Learning Sword Technique

Zheng Yin had previously acted excessively obstinate and disdainful of the world, but much of it was a pretense.

He had experienced so much and was a truly clever person; how could he not realize that his "Art of Assassination" was not even a shortcut but merely a temporary fix?

It wasn't that he was unwilling to form an organization similar to the "National Salvation Congress" or the "Ancestor Dragon Society" and control a large army, but rather, he couldn't.

He couldn't cultivate any Great Lifebook Scripture, had no backing, and could only maintain his force of magic slaves because the Zheng family had some assets to consume.

His curse killing technique was incredibly potent, but it wasn't without its limits; otherwise, he would have long ago completely eradicated all the demons in Qiantang Province.

The most crucial issue was that he couldn't reveal himself to others.

One limitation led to another, forcing "Zheng Yin," a strange man, to remain hidden and continue his assassinations.

But now, upon meeting Tao Qian and hearing the plan,

It seemed as though Zheng Yin had been awakened. Although his face remained composed, his eyes were filled with excitement, and he immediately said,

"This plan is feasible!"

"It's tough for a true master to play the double agent, deceiving both sides. Once these two great demons are trapped and killed, the control of both Tiannan and Qiantang provinces will become vacant."

"But there will still be trouble afterward. The Tiannan Gao Family might not be a concern, but what about the Demon Buddha Temple? Even if it is severely hurt by taking out the Three Arhats — Kongchan, Shipi, and Liansha, there's no telling if the Demon Buddha Temple won't seek trouble later."

"Hmm? It could be possible to draw 'Li Ren' to our side; the person is capable, and his Han Mountain Army is a formidable force."

"It's just a pity that Han Mountain Temple is no match for the Demon Buddha Temple, and likely won't withstand..."

Before Zheng Yin could finish, Tao Qian gave a mysterious smile.

He raised his hand to summon the phantom of Master Shenxiu and pointed, saying,

"People only know of that day in Yinping City when I posed as the Wu Gou Monk, overpowering Shenxiu Monk and obtaining the Buddha Treasure."

"Little do they know, it was I who agreed with Shenxiu Monk to set up that gamble, each deploying skills, looking to solve the trouble in Qiantang."

"Han Mountain Temple may not stop the Demon Buddha, but it's different if replaced by the Free Temple."

After Tao Qian finished speaking, Zheng Yin clapped his hands and exclaimed in approval,

"This method sounds reasonable. If it truly can be achieved, then Qiantang will be free of worries."

"However, precaution is necessary in all things. Should we perhaps first find suitable candidates, form a core staff, so that when the time comes, we can handle the governance without causing too much upheaval that would allow powerful families and corrupt gentry to seize power, thereby continuing to irritate the common people."

"And these candidates should be especially proficient in practical affairs."

"The people previously associated with you in 'National Salvation Congress' and 'Ancestor Dragon Society' are all beings of immortal stature, skilled in slaughtering and divine powers, but they lack the knowledge of governance."

Tao Qian could now clearly see that although Zheng Yin possessed means not inferior to those of strong individuals like Zhong Ziyang and Chen Xiyi,

His status was indeed that of a noble family scion.

Yet his stance was entirely on the side of the common folk.

Admiring the mana of the immortal talents, but he quite disdained their wisdom in managing practical affairs.

Thinking it over, what he said did hold some merit.

Thus, after listening, Tao Qian nodded in agreement, praising while also asking, "Indeed, this is an important matter. Do you have any recommendations for people?"

It seemed Zheng Yin had been waiting for exactly this question from Tao Qian and promptly gave his response.

He didn't have extraordinary power and couldn't summon phantoms or illusions.

But with an exceptional memory, he could describe orally.

"I've surveyed the province in dreams along the Heavenly Track, and my magic slaves are scattered throughout all of Qiantang, precisely knowing which individuals in the province stand out."

"Zhao Gongda, although this person bears the surname Zhao, has no ties with the millennia-old famous Zhao family, being an orphan who picked up a roll of the 'Lotus Falling Skill' and entered the Dao. Later he cultivated many heterodox Daoist Scriptures by reciprocal cancellation method and reached Transcend Mortality at the age of seventy-six, thoroughly severing his path to further Dao."

"Though poorly skilled in cultivation, his talent is sharp, and he is just and incorruptible, skilled in the art of governance. The former Zhu dynasty was debauched, but under his magistracy, Qiantang territory was quite peaceful. If not for your fatal blow to the Zhu Dynasty, he might have been promoted."

"Having backed the wrong side during the 'Change of Arhats,' he was demoted to a mortal and nowadays resides outside Suzhou, in Three Immortals Town, pretending to be a school teacher. If he is brought out, he could serve as a governor."

...

"Next is Meng Shoudao. This man is a disciple of one of the Twelve Daoist Sects, the Pure Yang Sect, with a chivalrous spirit and a wide network of contacts ranging from inheritors of Daoist and Buddhist teachings to peddlers and runners, or even those of heterodox practices. He has considerable repute within Qiantang territory... Summoning him could temporarily keep Qiantang free from many intrusions and allow for recuperation."

...

"Guo Huchen, this man is a son of famine-stricken commoners who joined Cao Gang to fill his stomach, receiving part of the 'Blood River Scripture' due to his innate divine strength. Later, unwilling to assist tyrants, his cultivation was destroyed by his master, yet he awaited death at the wharf until, by chance, he met a strange person that night and was given a roll of 'Martial God Scripture.' Within hours, he accomplished the Foundation Establishment, and within months, entered the Cavernous Mystery."

"Who knows what divine support he has, but now in Qiantang Province, one of the few cultivation sects not eradicated by the Demon Buddha Temple is the Martial God Temple he founded himself."

"Summoning him, along with Li Ren's Han Mountain Army, could well protect the myriad people of Qiantang from the harassment of evil demons."

...

Inside the Buddha Tower, Zheng Yin spoke, and Tao Qian listened.

The matters these two discussed were indeed about replacing the current Cheng Arhat and the Demon Buddha Temple with another set of officials to govern Qiantang.

Anyone listening would say these two were delusional fantasists completely lacking in self-awareness.

But the lone eavesdropper, Yuan Gong, somehow felt that the two might just be capable of accomplishing it.

Especially after Zheng Yin mentioned many governors and expressed concern about still needing many core personnel,

Tao Qian then applied a Sublime Dharma, directly using "Human Dao Destiny" as a medium to select thousands of suitable names from the tens of millions of people in Qiantang Province.

Combining these thousands of people with those approved by Zheng Yin, such as Zhao Gongda, Meng Shoudao, Guo Huchen, and Li Ren.

Within days, a meticulous and disciplined official hierarchy could be established, ensuring it wouldn't follow in the footsteps of the National Salvation Congress or Ancestor Dragon Society.

As soon as the list was finalized, Zheng Yin was thoroughly convinced.

Not just him, Yuan Gong also hadn't expected that Human Dao Fortune could be used in such a way?

After the two agreed on the details, Zheng Yin, unable to contain his excitement, rushed off to act on his own.

Tao Qian repeatedly tried to retain him, offering to create opportunities for him to spend time with Zhen Ci'en, but Zheng Yin declined them all.

Before leaving, he dropped a line,

"Personal matters, let fate decide."

"How can I delay when there is a good remedy to save the mortals of Qiantang?"

"If we delay further, millions of people will generate 'Buddha Incense' which will end up completely feeding those thieving bald heads at the Demon Buddha Temple."

Having said that, Zheng Yin left via the powers of the Heavenly Track from the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda.

...

He had just left when Yuan Gong's mocking laughter emanated from Tao Qian's arms.

"Lazy brat, you should take note, this lad, together with Yu Yanshi, Ying Qingdi, and others you've met who take matters into their own hands, are the true saviors who are likely to rise to the occasion, avert chaos at the last moment, and stabilize the collapsing edifices."

"You roam around yet don't forget to indulge in romantic affairs, impregnating that Kitten, but what kind of image does that show?"

"In my opinion, you're not cut out for that, honestly cultivate, quickly breakthrough to Ultimate Happiness, step onto the Daoist Transformation, and achieve the Tribulation Immortal—that is the proper thing to do."

"Let's not talk about others, you've delayed this long, isn't it time to learn my 'Sacrifice Sword Skill' in full?"

After Yuan Gong finished, he expected Tao Qian to at least agree to learn the technique of 'Destroying Buddha.'

However, he quickly got his answer.

Tao Qian shook his head and said, "I won't learn it, I won't learn it."

The Yuan Gong Statue trembled with anger and sternly rebuked,

"Why won't you learn? Could it be that now you have enough treasures and Divine Skills, you no longer value my Sacrifice Sword Skill?"

"Pah, that's because you're shortsighted. Although you now have treasures and Divine Skills, you lack a truly formidable method of slaughter. Any Ultimate Happiness Cultivator could trouble you and take your life."

"If you mastered the complete Sword Technique, especially the tenth form, not to mention Ultimate Happiness Cultivators, even if you encountered an Outer Realm Evil God someday, you could still slash them down with a single sword."

"Besides, learning the Sword was a promise you made long ago, what now, are you planning to break your promise?"

After Master Yuan blurted out, Tao Qian fell silent.

After a moment, he scratched his chin and reluctantly replied,

"Master Yuan, don't be upset!"

"It's not that your disciple intends to break his promise, but just that I'm temporarily not learning it."

"The last time Master Yuan took me to the Outer Realm, we retrieved some heritage from the Rootless Demon Lord, including secrets like the Secret Demon Buddha Corpse Transformation Technique, the All Heavens Demon Net, the Ten Thousand Demons Slaying Immortals, and the Great All Heavens Invisible Demon Flame—these overwhelmingly powerful secret demon powers are sufficient for my current Cultivation. Once I've mastered them, I'll come to learn the Sword from Master Yuan."

No sooner had Tao Qian finished than the statue shook even more violently.

Yuan Gong flew into a rage and inadvertently spewed,

"Nonsense!"

"Not to mention the other techniques, to refine that 'All Heavens Demon Net,' you need to capture no less than forty thousand Outer Realm Heaven Demons and consume countless Treasures. Even now that you've attained Ultimate Happiness Realm, you'll need at least a hundred years to succeed."

"Once you've refined that net, my old bones will have turned into ash by then..."

At the last phrase, Yuan Gong finally realized, and then also sank into silence.

Moments later, bits of crimson smoke flew out, condensing into Yuan Gong's external form.

His eyebrow furrows as he stared at Tao Qian, "When did you know that teaching the Sword Technique would turn me to ash?"

Tao Qian chuckled awkwardly and replied, "I'm not blind, sir. The last time you slashed the Rootless Demon Lord, your soul almost dissipated instantly. Plus, from your usual nagging, it wasn't hard to guess."

Yuan Gong couldn't help but show a resigned expression before he sternly said, "Don't worry about my life and death, you promised to learn the whole Sword Technique, and afterwards I have my own arrangements. If you truly recognize me as your Master, then contribute more effort when we rebuild the Secret Demon Sect later."

Despite hearing this, Tao Qian remained unmoved and continued shaking his head.

After a moment, he outright laid his cards on the table,

"Master Yuan, we have been together for so long, do you not know what kind of person your disciple is?"

"If learning the full Sword Technique would lead to Master Yuan's complete death, I, Tao Qian, would likely mutate and fall transforming into an Evil Demon right then and there."

"So, this Sword Technique, I really can't learn it, I just can't."

After Tao Qian spoke these sentences, Master Yuan was left unable to argue further.

He knew well that these words were true.

If it were any other Secret Demon Sect disciple, perhaps they would see things differently, such as fulfilling the Master's wishes and so forth.

But Tao Qian would certainly not view it that way.

People differ, and so do their principles.

After pondering for a while without a solution, Yuan Gong had no choice but to wave his sleeve, shouting angrily, "Duobao this fellow, what kind of troublesome disciple did he find me, ruining my heritage."

Then he coldly glanced at Tao Qian, morphed back into crimson smoke, and withdrew into the statue.

Seeing this, Tao Qian couldn't help but curl his lips, muttering some strange words like "blatant hypocrisy" and "prickly proud hypocrite."

Chapter 653: Refining the Bodhisattva with Outer Heaven Flame Essence, Mechanical Essence Subduing Alien Species

"Last time," Tao Qian turned the stolen "Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva" into a sky-reaching Floating Pagoda, suspended above Suzhou City.

Such a miraculous sight shocked millions of mortals, and with the news of taking in disciples, it even sparked huge waves.

Starting from Suzhou City and spreading to the surrounding areas, countless people came to behold the Floating Pagoda. Millions, regardless of whether they were talents or possessed any spiritual aptitude, old or young, all squeezed into the city, chanted a Buddha's name, and were then guided by the Buddha Light of the Floating Pagoda to experience the joy of flying to the heavens.

Strikingly, among the millions desiring to enter the pagoda, there were not only young talents but also those naturally endowed with Buddha Seed.

Also, since Master Wu Gou had previously said that one could become a disciple even with learned skills,

many wilderness Loose Cultivators, heresy and heterodoxy practitioners, and those who'd become Buddhist Practitioners halfway through life, all rushed to Suzhou to seek entry to the sky-reaching Floating Pagoda.

Because of the propaganda spread by the Demon Buddha Temple, everyone in Qiantang knew:

There was a Hidden Cultivator in the Buddhist Sect of the South Sea, known as Qingjing Zen Master.

He was to undergo a Daoist Transformation and open a new lineage.

His strength was even stronger than that of the Arhats Kongchan and Lian Sha.

His True Disciple, Master Wu Gou, after embarking on a worldly experience and setting foot in Qiantang, had even clashed with Buddha's son Shenxiu Master from Great Freedom Temple, pressing him hard.

Who wouldn't want to join such a Mountain Gate?

Regrettably, despite many trying, one after another, not a single person succeeded.

For a while, many demon monks and Cultivators in Qiantang Province half-enviously, half-surprisedly said:

"The threshold of this Clear Lineage is so high?"

"Not a single person in Qiantang Province can catch the eye of Wu Gou?"

"Don't tell me they're just toying with us, I don't believe it. Millions crowd in Suzhou, and not a single one can become a monk at Fishing Cliff."

"Look at this sky-reaching Floating Pagoda, tsk tsk, even the Demon Buddha Temple doesn't have such a grand spectacle. It seems the bumpkins from the South Sea really want to step right over our threshold."

"It must be that Qingjing Zen Master is too proud and aloof. He does not accept ordinary disciples, only those truly talented Buddhists, those who possess top-level Buddhist Practitioner talents such as the Bodhi Heart, Vajra Body, Bright Dharma Body, and so on."

"Heh, if they truly have such talents, why should they go and worship him? Demon Buddha Temple, Free Temple, Vajra Temple... even Guanyin Temple, wouldn't they be free to choose?"

Despite the sourness, it did not prevent the name of Master Wu Gou, whom Tao Qian was impersonating, from becoming increasingly renowned.

Seeing that the timing was about right and to prevent anyone from taking advantage to stir up trouble and damage his reputation, affecting the plan,

Tao Qian, accompanied by Yunrong, began to bestow blessings.

Hence, in the following several hours, Suzhou, both inside and out, was in complete uproar.

First was Miao Yin Bodhisattva!

She displayed her Dharma Image, sprinkling willow branches, and suddenly sweet rain descended from heaven and Sanskrit filled the air.

Mortals who received it were cured of all diseases, and Cultivators found their Spirits at peace.

Then came Master Wu Gou!

He preached and demonstrated, making flowers fall from the sky and Earth Bursting Golden Lotus emerge, not to mention that at each event's end, there would mysteriously appear cracks and pits that spewed out all kinds of treasures and baits.

Those Cultivators and mortals who had some understanding of the secrets of Buddhist Practitioners all knew that these miracles could only be performed by a true Buddha or high monk.

Thus, the reputations of the two grew even greater.

Even if a few discontented sour voices arose, they were immediately drowned out by the shouts of the many mortals and Cultivators who had received the duo's benefactions.

Of course, outsiders could not know that these Buddhist miracles were actually created by Tao Qian and Yunrong using other Divine Skills.

Like the treasure bursting from the earth, while it would be somewhat difficult for other cultivators of Cavernous Mystery or even Ultimate Happiness Realm to accomplish, it was extremely simple for Tao Master.

Inside his People Species Bag, mountains of gold and silver were already piled high.

If he felt it wasn't enough, he could even take that Toad God Tile and tap it against his own forehead to receive a reward from the Toad God.

Of course, he wouldn't actually do that—it would be too undignified.

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After making a scene, Tao Qian saw that he still had some time to spare and thought it would be best to consume the bait himself before the fish bit, lest it be dragged away to his great loss.

With this thought, he no longer delayed and, taking Little Lian Jing'er with him, headed straight for the deepest part of the Floating Pagoda.

It seemed like a Secret Realm, yet also like an Exotic Realm.

The dark Void was filled with myriad Buddhas standing tall.

From within each Buddha Body extended a thread of blood as thin as cow hair, densely packed and converging towards the center.

Upon closer inspection, one could see that those blood threads were actually made from a blend of Essence Blood, Source Qi, and mechanical filaments.

Ingeniously unparalleled, eerily indescribable.

At this moment, Yuan Gong, who had been snubbing Tao Qian out of spite, could not help but contact him upon seeing this bizarre scene.

Before he could offer guidance, he started by naming a string of Buddha's titles, as if listing dishes:

"Namo Amitabha Buddha, Namo Shizi Buddha, Namo Xiangji King Buddha, Namo Xiangshou Buddha, Namo Akasagarbha Buddha, Namo Ratnaketu Buddha... Tsk tsk, those bald thieves from the Demon Buddha Temple really know how to play."

"This method cuts the Buddha Nature from myriad Buddhas and concentrates it into one Wisdom Demon."

"The ghostly thing refined in this way is truly fierce, and subduing an ordinary Ultimate Happiness Cultivator would probably not be difficult."

"No wonder they had to use an Outer Realm Mechanical Seed, which indeed is a Life but lacks Karma and desire, naturally embodying emptiness on all four fronts, perfectly able to bear the Buddha Nature of myriad Buddhas. If it were a member of the Human Clan or another Devil Species, they would explode on the spot."

After listening to Yuan Gong, Tao Qian understood even more how peculiar the means of the Demon Buddha Temple were.

Before long, entering deep into the Void of myriad Buddhas, he saw a majestic Buddha Image holding many Buddha Treasures and Mechanical Species, with closed eyes, at the center.

Between its twin breasts, in front of the chest and abdomen, there was an "alien heart" roughly the size of a millstone, throbbing boom boom boom, with more than a billion mechanical blood threads extending into it.

On its surface was a face of compassion.

Male or female was unknown, capable of a thousand manifestations.

Yet it seemed devoid of true intelligence, mechanically chanting:

"Great Compassion! Amitabha Buddha!"

"Great Compassion! Amitabha Buddha!"

"Hiss"

Seeing this, Tao Qian couldn't help but inhale sharply, also muttering curses under his breath.

"Damn bald thieves, really know how to play."

"Lucky I seized it, otherwise if this inhuman thing was refined, big trouble would ensue."

As he said these words, the Human Dao Destiny surged within Tao Qian's body, spontaneously bringing forth a perception, and immediately he fell silent again.

The Demon Buddha Temple had been plotting the creation of this "Great Transcendence Bodhisattva" for a long time—the Silver City was but one of its manifestations.

The reason why Kongchan, Shipi, and others were not anxious to reclaim it, besides Duobao's deception,

A more important reason: They had already refined not just one statue.

Not long after, Tao Qian regained his focus and, along with Lian Jing'er, approached the compassionate heart that glowed crimson all over.

Without a word from Tao Qian, Lian Jing'er's "Creation Treasure Wheel" rose from behind his head, casting a profound divine light that swiftly swept through the entire Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda.

And immediately after, a mechanical voice delivered the detailed plan into Tao Qian's mind.

"This object has interlinked prohibitions and must be refined simultaneously to prevent the escape of the Mechanical Seed."

"After you have trapped the Seed within, you may domesticate it."

In the blink of an eye, Tao Qian pinpointed the critical gates.

Without further questions, he sat down cross-legged in front of the compassionate visage.

Closing his eyes, he connected with the Outer Realm.

When that mysterious Secret Realm of the Exotic Realm within the Great Abyss opened up, an endless array of fine specks of light appeared before Tao Qian.

Each speck of light represented a being of wisdom.

They were incredibly pure, chirping and chattering, rushing toward him like countless children.

Outer Heaven Flame Essence!

Truly dangerous beings.

Tao Qian originally wanted to refine some Elixirs but unintentionally made a connection with them.

"If it were just refining Elixirs or using them like when subduing the Eight Hundred Fire Demons on Ascending Immortal Island, there wouldn't be much danger."

"But now, to refine these tens of thousands of mechanical blood threads in an instant is extremely perilous."

"One possibility is destroying the Great Transcendence Bodhisattva, and another is allowing the Outer Heaven Flame Essence to escape."

"Keep in mind that a single Flame Essence can cause great destruction."

"If tens of thousands of Flame Essences enter this world through me and burn mountains and boil seas, it would likely be no small matter."

"If I truly cause this catastrophe, I will have to bear the consequences."

"It's like when Sun Wukong kicked over the Furnace of Eight Trigrams, and the Mortal World got a Flame Mountain."

While contemplating, Tao Qian's spirit fully immersed itself in the Flame Essence Secret Realm, patiently communicating with each Flame Essence until he was sure they had a "heart-to-heart understanding" before allowing them to pass.

It sounds simple, but it's extremely difficult.

These Flame Essences often have childish temperaments.

They would sometimes tease Master Tao.

One moment they were burning his Taoist Body red hot, the next scorching off his eyebrows and hair, and then roaring incessantly...

It forced Master Yuan Gong to fly out, assembling from a red mist, half in awe and half complaining:

"In the Cultivation World, there are some who borrow Outer Heaven Flame Essence to refine Elixirs, tools, and Divine Skills."

"But one would be hard-pressed to find such a refining method, nor had I ever heard that the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body can have such an effect."

"However, the Fire Star Body is rumored to have this miraculous power."

After Master Yuan Gong finished speaking, another hour passed.

Tao Master, wholly charred black and pathetically disheveled with all hair burnt off, finally came to his senses at that moment.

Opening his eyes, he made a move.

His body turned from the inside out into a gem-like fire jade, with tiny spheres detaching from it.

In the blink of an eye, their number reached hundreds of thousands.

They were supposed to be chirping and creating a ruckus, but remarkably, they didn't.

These Outer Heaven Flame Essences obediently followed Tao Qian's intention, silently filling the entire Void.

Then, at a certain breath.

"Refine!"

In an instant, it was as if hundreds of thousands of children cheered in unison.

Dark Void turned to bright light.

Those thin, sticky, and icy cold blood threads, as fine as cow hairs, were simultaneously engulfed by the Flame Essences. Like meeting their nemesis, they transformed from sanguine red to crimson red, turning the blood threads into jade silk.

In this abrupt change, the compassionate visage mechanically chanting "Great Compassion, Amitabha Buddha" in front of Tao Qian suddenly froze.

The heart seemed about to burst, an alien entity attempting to break out.

With a sizzle, Lian Jing'er, holding a bronze divine fork, stabbed into that visage.

Dazzling divine light poured into it.

The alien shrieked an ear-piercing screech.

Lian Jing'er paid it no heed, continuously repeating:

"Detecting in progress... Target confirmed as a Great Abyss Mechanical Species."

"Altering the life source essence... Domesticating in progress... Domesticating in progress... Domestication successful."

Suddenly, a long cry echoed in the Void.

Tao Qian and Master Yuan Gong both saw the compassionate visage above the heart come to life.

The link with Wisdom Mother was now complete.

But for some reason?

The visage now bore a striking resemblance to Lian Jing'er.

...

Despite having foreseen success earlier, Tao Qian still found the scene marvelous.

Master Yuan's gaze lingered solely on Lian Jing'er, his face thoughtful as he muttered to himself:

"How strange, how strange!"

"I had thought this little thing was related to the legacy behind the Heavenly Mechanism Building, but now it seems unlikely; could it be connected to what the Ancestor Dragon once held...?"

He fell silent halfway through, annoyance flickering across his face.

He often forgets that he has long perished, now just a residual soul lingering in a statue, struggling to survive.

He's only reminded of his severe memory loss every time he realizes it.

Looking at the incomplete red mist, he said with a touch of melancholy:

"A long-dead ghost, who's there to blame?"

"At least I had my moments back in the day, having defeated Duobao, cleaved through Xuandu..."

Then losing interest in his own words, Master Yuan no longer paid attention to others, dived straight into his statue, and returned to Tao Qian's embrace.

Chapter 654: Bu Chi Buddha Enjoys the Scenic Beauty, Desiring to Write a Love Letter for Tao Qian

Let's talk about what happened last time. Master Yuan posed as half a riddle man and lamented that he was one destined to die young.

Though his few words before the statue did boast his former renown quite prominently.

"Slashing Duobao, cleaving Xuandu... Well, originally I dared not speak the name of my true master, lest I invite his enemies."

"Now, it's probably not good to boast about your second master, either. While the Demons might not dare provoke, it might inadvertently invite a host of Righteous experts and strong people."

"Add to that the troubles I brought upon myself, the number of enemies has only grown."

Master Tao sighed as he spoke, his gaze fixed on his follower, Lian Jing'er.

The child entrusted to him by Daoist Xiao Hua had also grown over the years.

Little Age was still manageable, but Taisui, with his high talent, was bound to be a great help if he continued his cultivation.

And Lian Jing'er, this Mechanical Species, was even more so.

However, various signs along the way suggested that Lian Jing'er carried some secrets.

But the secret remained elusive for now; he still had to wait for this Mechanical Species' life to reach a certain stage.

"In this world, who doesn't carry some secrets?"

"After all, it's me who painstakingly raised you. Might be that I'll have to rely on you to save me someday."

Master Tao, who had got someone pregnant and was gradually entering the path of setting up a family, languidly stroked Lian Jing'er's mechanical cranium.

In response, Lian Jing'er swept a divine light of confusion and reported his taming results.

A series of mechanical sounds and a barrage of half-ancient, obscure words flooded his ears.

Fortunately, after spending a long time with Lian Jing'er, Tao Qian quickly grasped the essence.

"You mean to say, you have subdued and tamed the Outer Realm Source Species, and implanted a Secret Technique called 'Creation Poison' within it?"

"If this bodhisattva merges with other Bodhisattvas, could it use the power of creation to corrupt the 'Namo Nirvana Demon Buddha' that might be formed, or even outright destroy its incorporation into a Demon Buddha?"

After Tao Qian finished speaking, Lian Jing'er nodded in agreement.

Somehow, after pondering the matter, Master Tao found this method feasible and strangely familiar.

"Is the source of inspiration for this technique... me?"

"Indeed, according to the analysis of Brother Tao's many past successes, this method is most covert. There is roughly a three percent chance of corrupting the Demon Buddha during fusion and seizing its body, while the chances of breaking the merge of the eighteen Bodhisattvas into a Demon Buddha are over ninety percent."

Lian Jing'er's response suddenly choked Tao Qian.

Clearly!

This mysterious Mechanical Species had been gradually corrupted by the great Master Tao himself.

If such was the case with Lian Jing'er, Little Age and Shan Jiu were likely not spared either.

For now, the other two weren't found to have shown their potential.

"That's also good news!"

"A three percent chance is not low, considering the opponent is a Demon Buddha."

"Still, it might be best to employ the second method. Just ruining that Nirvana Demon Buddha, leaving only the Great Transcendence Bodhisattva untouched, wouldn't amount to much trouble after all."

While Tao Qian was pondering these matters, he suddenly heard Yunrong whispering nearby.

It was his sister, using the Heart Seal Technique to transmit her message, simply saying:

"The fish you've been waiting for has bitten the bait."

"Zhen, that Buddha's son who had the empty cicada as his master, has returned from Qiantang City with a flock of women and is now outside the Floating City seeking an audience."

Hearing this description, Tao Qian couldn't help but feel curious and puzzled.

Zhen Buchi was indeed a Buddha's son, but what did she mean by a flock of women surrounding him?

Even if he followed a demon monk, his entourage should be Heavenly Girls, Desire Slaves.

However, Tao Qian soon saw the reason for himself.

As he, Yunrong, and Zhen Ci'en left the Buddha Tower, he saw above Suzhou City a giant lotus pod emitting rainbow lights and exotic fragrances.

On it, there were around seven or eight women and a passionate Miao Monk.

These women, all cultivators as seen from their aura, came from distinguished origins.

Either True Inheritors of Great Sects or daughters of influential families, including Daoists and nuns from the convents.

Their dresses varied in color—red, green, yellow, blue—their eyes flickering with emotion, seemingly infatuated with the young monk at the center.

This monk, judging just from his appearance, was not inferior to Tao Qian's portrayal of "Wu Gou."

Dressed in a bright red kasaya, his skin was fair and his features beautiful.

His face shone like the moon, his eyes held autumn dew, his lips as if glossed, and a cinnabar mole adorned his brow—handsome and peculiar, captivating all beings.

Such attire, if seen by Evil Cultivators, would undoubtedly lead to ridicule, calling him a devil monk, a "rabbit lord."

Of course, the weaker demons might not dare for this fetching monk only appeared fragile; a creeping aura from within hinted at his cultivation.

Cavernous Mystery Realm!

His appearance, cultivation level.

His origins and identity were self-evident, undoubtedly that of the Zhen Family's young master, the Unconcerned Buddha's son.

This person indeed had an extraordinary reputation in Suzhou City; seeing him arrive, the whole city shouted his name.

However, at this moment, what entered the ears of Tao Qian, Yunrong, and Zhen Ci'en were the words of the female cultivators atop the giant lotus.

Apparently, despite some dissatisfaction among them, there was no hint of hostility, no underhanded ruthlessness, just some sarcastic banter.

"Brother Bu Chi, why are you staying so far from me today? Could it be that after having your way with me yesterday, you've grown tired?"

"Brother Zhen, there's no need to coax me. Having more years on you, Miss Chi would not stoop to such pettiness."

"If Zhen has moved on from there, then don't come over here. You say you know my heart, but how could you forget that I despise the powdered scent on the Wang family girls the most? I detest osmanthus, so common and overpowering, yet she adores those flowers, it's utterly vexing."

"Husband, don't come close to me either. Earlier, my sister asked you to play 'Phoenix Seeking Phoenix,' but you claimed your heart wasn't in it and couldn't strum that jade-stringed qin. Yet last night, you were quite in the mood, entertaining Sister Bai Que'er with your flute for hours on end, so joyfully."

"The sisters should be content. Luckily, Brother Bu Chi failed to marry the Devil Concubine and instead angered Shipi Arhat; otherwise, where would we stand?"

...

Previously, these coquettish female cultivators' remarks were hardly lethal.

Until one stern-faced nun suddenly spoke up, causing Bu Chi Buddha's complexion in the center to stiffen.

Then it shifted to a sorrowful hue.

Abruptly, he tore the nine-colored agate jade Buddha beads from around his neck, letting each bead fall, and sat himself down, ringing out a profound and resolute declaration.

"That's enough."

"I, Zhen Buchi, am but a worldly object that should have rotted away long ago, how could I let my mistakes incite resentment among you sisters, disturbing your peace?"

"I shall dissolve into nothingness right here, that is the only proper course."

"I only wish that after my death, this useless body, this vulgar soul, may emit a trace of Buddha Incense, forever accompanying these beauties."

"With this, I, Zhen Buchi, would be content."

Before the echoes of his words faded, a peculiar sound was heard.

To Tao Qian's amazement, a blaze of Red Lotus Karma Fire unexpectedly erupted from within Zhen Buchi, truly beginning to consume his Daoist Body Dharma Body.

In a flash, a translucent skeleton emerged.

It was clear to anyone that if the burning continued, Zhen Buchi would undoubtedly die.

Was he serious? Was he truly planning to end it all right here?

Tao Qian could see it, and the other female cultivators didn't even need to look.

As he made his move, as if experienced in such a situation,

they promptly executed their Sublime Dharma.

Here, the female cultivator nuns joined forces to extinguish the fire, and their sisters smeared medicine ointment. There were cries and consolations, the scene was a frenzy, almost performing the Yin Yang Joyful Path.

This spectacle left Tao Qian and his wife Yunrong completely stunned.

This whole family!

Were they here as guests?

Or were they flaunting these amorous affairs?

By Yunrong's side, Zhen Ci'en, blushing with embarrassment, could only telepathically communicate with them:

"Master, Great Master."

"Please do not blame us, my brother Ci'en is foolishly infatuated with love affairs, following the 'Love Monk' Path, hence these eccentric and foolish behaviors."

"These acts are all part of their path of cultivation."

"Just wait for a few moments, and they will come to their senses."

Indeed, as soon as Zhen Ci'en finished,

Zhen Buchi, now calmed by his sisters, restored his Taoist Body and traveled up into the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda.

Though it was their first meeting, this monk, along with the women around him, stared at Tao Qian and Yunrong with an intense, admiring gaze.

Then, with palms pressed together, Zhen Buchi exclaimed,

"Monk Bu Chi, at your service. I've long admired the name of Daoist Wu Gou and Daoist Miao Yin."

"Had my master not delayed me for a few hours, I would have hurried back to Suzhou yesterday, fearing that even a moment's delay would have made me miss meeting you both."

"If it is convenient for you both, could you share with Bu Chi the love story of Ten Lifetimes of Resentful Couples?"

"Please do not misunderstand, it's not that Bu Chi wishes to pry into your secrets, but such exquisite tales of this world should not remain unknown amid the waves of the South Sea, they deserve to be known by all."

"If you are willing to share, Bu Chi will personally take up the pen to chronicle your story."

"To question what love is in this world, that compels one to vow life and death to each other."

"If the book can be accomplished, it should be titled 'Ten Lifetimes of Fate,' and should be printed in a million copies, a billion copies, spreading throughout the seventy-two provinces."

"You both must know, the cultivators' so-called defying the heavens to change fate, extending life by a thousand years, growing old with the heavens, are all nonsense, misfortunes come, the body dies and the Dao disappears, even if one was famous in life, a few decades after death are enough to be completely forgotten, not even a trace remains."

"But such a romantic masterpiece is different, not to mention ten or a hundred years, even a thousand years can preserve it."

"To inscribe 'Zhen Buchi' on it would be a tremendous fortune for me, please accept a bow from Bu Chi."

...

Throughout his journey, Tao Qian had encountered countless bizarre cultivators, grotesque beings.

He thought himself immune, able to handle any situation casually.

But this handsome monk named "Zhen Buchi" left Tao Qian unsure of how to respond for the first time.

His first instinct was to consider pulling out the Toad God Tile and smacking it against this monk's shiny forehead, for surely the Toad God would reward him heavily.

Fortunately, before Tao Qian could act, Yunrong telepathically stepped in.

"Dear brother, this fish was unlucky to be caught by you."

"Other demon monks might pose a challenge for me, but those who madly follow the 'Love Monk' path are powerless against our Jade Ring Mountain's Taizhen Miao Method."

"Whether you decide to squash him round or flatten him, it's all up to you, brother."

Chapter 655: Buddha's Son Gets Drunk on Immortal Wine, Tao Qian Peeks into All Secrets

Yunrong's voice transmission came through, and Tao Qian put aside the thought of "striking Zhen Buchi on the forehead with the Toad God Tile in the tower a moment later as a reward."

With a feigned smile, he guided the Big Lotus into the Buddha Tower.

Feeling she had embarrassed her older brother in front of their Master and father, Zhen Ci'en took initiative to lead away a group of sisters-in-law to attend to guests, and as the lady of the house, Yunrong naturally had to go as well. Before leaving, she quietly passed two items to Tao Qian.

Sneaking a peek, he found one was a Glazed Wine Jug, the other a delicate Jade Pot.

The jug was half-filled with Jadescent Nectar, while the pot held a cup of warm tea. Both seemed to emit a divine glow, piquing his curiosity.

Yunrong's voice transmission came once more:

"Dear brother, both of these items are the exquisite specialties of our Jade Ring Mountain."

"That Immortal Wine is brewed from The Pistils of Hundreds of Flowers, the juice of ten thousand woods, blended with Dragon Marrow Ferment and The Melody of Phoenix's Nectar. It has the effect of stealing one's soul and intoxicating one's senses, causing one to let go of all concerns and drop all defenses."

"After giving him a few cups, all his secrets will be visible to your eyes, my husband."

"Afterward, make him drink the Immortal Tea, which will erase his memory without leaving a trace, undetectable by anyone."

Hearing this, Tao Qian knew that these were indeed fabulous items well deserving their "Immortal Wine" name.

Quickly, he heard Yunrong continue: "But make sure you don't drink it, my husband. This wine is far too intoxicating. It suits someone like Zhen Buchi who's mad with romantic infatuation, but it's not for you."

With that, she led a flock of gorgeously dressed ladies somewhere else.

The two men were left alone, with a hint of a strange color appearing on their faces.

Zhen Buchi thought to himself: "The Master wants me to reclaim the [Great Transcendence Bodhisattva] from this person. How should I proceed? As the rumors say, Master Wu Gou is untouched by worldliness, his purity shines bright, and at first glance he's the picture of a graceful and heavenly True Buddha, rightfully deserving of those treasures. As for Flower Staff and Hei Bo, my brothers, with their inept methods and narrow minds, they deservedly suffer some loss at Master Wu Gou's hands. Well then, it's often said that there's no trouble a drink cannot drown. In a moment, I'll bring out my treasured Drunk Dust, share a few cups with the Master, and then subtly raise my request. Success or failure, let it be decided by fate."

In his heart, Tao Qian thought: "While these items are indeed marvelous, why does it sound so much like some sort of 'Truth Telling Potion'? I, Tao Qian, an upstanding and bona fide practitioner of the Spirit Treasure Dao, when have I ever done such a thing? This is quite troubling."

Although these two handsome monks with excellent appearances had different thoughts, they somehow ended up on the same page.

Once inside the Buddha Tower and after sitting quietly for a while, they almost simultaneously voiced their intentions:

"Daoist, how about we drink and discuss the Dao?"

"Master, do you abstain from alcohol...?"

"Hahaha, the moment Bu Chi saw the Master, I felt a close kinship. It seems now that you and I truly are connected by karma."

"Come, come, come. This drink is called 'Drunken Red Dust,' brewed from sensational ingredients like virgin's floral essence, the poison of the love flower, and water from the bitter abyss. Drinking it allows one to comprehend the wonders of the mundane world, which is very beneficial to one's Mental State and cultivation. To be honest, as someone practicing the way of the Love Monk, I can't do without such marvelous aid."

Clearly valuing appearance and vital energy, Zhen Buchi, despite not knowing much, already considered Wu Gou a kindred spirit just by appearance.

During their conversation, he waved his hand and brought out a jade stone table, an incense burner, a warm lamp, and a table of light and delicate dishes.

What grabbed attention was a Jade Pot containing pale green liquor, which must be the aforementioned 'Drunken Red Dust.'

Not wanting to arouse Zhen Buchi's suspicions, Tao Qian didn't decline. His lips touched the liquor, his Record burst forth, verifying it was poison-free and not mixed with anything else, its effects as described by Zhen Buchi.

After confidently drinking a cup, memories of past experiences surfaced, and he couldn't help but sigh.

"Good wine!" praised Tao Qian.

Then, smoothly, he also took out the Glazed Wine Jug, and fabricated on the spot:

"I too have a fine drink. This wine has no name, but its mysteries are extraordinary—especially for someone like you, Daoist, who cultivates passion. You mustn't reject it."

"Oh, there's such a wonder? Bu Chi must try it."

Zhen Buchi was indeed intrigued.

The next moment, he opened the jug, filled a cup; as the fragrant and refreshing aroma wafted out,

The Bu Chi Buddha's son was instantly entranced.

Then, practically without acknowledging Tao Qian, he raised the cup to his lips and downed it in one gulp.

Following a loud "clanging" sound as the cup hit the floor, they observed Zhen Buchi.

Now, he truly seemed bewitched.

Tears streaming down his face, dazed, he murmured incessantly, as if reciting some romantic poem.

As he reacted this way, rainbow mist and illusory lights suddenly steamed out of his body, little by little, scene by scene, reflecting Zhen Buchi's entire life.

"What...?"

Even Tao Qian was stunned.

He had initially thought the Immortal Wine to be something like a 'Truth Telling Potion' from what Sister Yunrong had said.

But who could have expected this?

It didn't just reveal secrets; his entire life story was laid bare before his eyes, allowing Tao Qian to peruse at will.

"Even Evil Techniques like Soul-searching and Soul-capturing can't achieve such an effect."

"My True Word Secret Decree couldn't do this either."

"Just two local specialties, yet so potent. Is the lineage of Jade Ring Mountain this fearsome?"

As Tao Qian marveled, he also heard Yuan Gong's gleefully menacing voice.

"Heh heh, are you scared now?"

"I've told you before, although the lineage of Jade Ring Mountain doesn't follow Daoist and Buddhist paths, nor does it belong to Heterodox Sects, it's an eminent and detached Magic Veins, very powerful indeed."

"If it weren't for that, why would Duobao use such a Beauty Trap with you, wanting to tie [Grandma Taizhen] to his chariot of war?"

"Be careful, and hide those aunts and sisters well, or else one day that little fox slave might catch you in the act, and you could be in big trouble."

Chapter 656 - Buddha's Son Gets Drunk on Immortal Wine, Tao Qian Peeks into All Secrets_2

"Master Yuan, do not tarnish my innocence," said Tao Qian, "Besides, my wife is truly understanding."

Master Tao reflexively contradicted, and at the same time, it also dawned on him.

Previously, Yunrong had clarified that the Immortal Wine only worked for cultivators like Zhen Buchi. For other cultivators like Tao Qian who drank it, it should have no such effect.

With this thought in mind, Tao Qian was reassured and decisively began to probe for secrets.

"According to what Zhen Ci'en said, and the proud thoughts of his father Zhen Shiliang."

"Although the disciples of Kongchan Arhat are numerous, the one he truly valued was indeed Zhen Buchi."

"Even if Zhen Buchi somehow offended Shipi Arhat, Kongchan still protected him."

"With such a status, he must know many secrets. There should be something to gain this time."

...

As the thought arose, Tao Qian began to review the life of Zhen Buchi. Those light and rainbow mists allowed him to display different scenes at will.

After all, he was a child of Buddha not swayed by passion. Most of his life involved the woes of lovelorn men and women, and the debts of love and affection.

After a long while, Tao Qian's expression shifted, and he learned of the first great secret.

In the light before him, a familiar figure appeared.

It was Kongchan Arhat, holding the Bodhi Branch, his face full of compassion, looking at the infant Zhen Buchi and saying:

"In your past life, you were a strong expert, tired of the ways of cultivation; thus you obscured your True Spirit and chose to reincarnate, once again becoming a human."

"Such an act by my predecessor, Kongchan admires. However, having encountered the Reincarnation Body of my predecessor, if I do not make good use of it, would it not be a waste of heavenly gifts?"

"In this life, you must block a tribulation for me once."

"With the strength of my predecessor's True Spirit, helping me pass the Daoist Transformation Tribulation should not be difficult."

"As compensation for my predecessor, and as part of the price, Kongchan will allow my predecessor to live freely in this life, to experience the karma and poisons of the secular world, and I must ensure that my predecessor does not die before I overcome my tribulation."

"In this way, Kongchan thanks my predecessor in advance."

When this scene unfolded, Tao Qian and Yuan Gong were both shocked.

Who would have thought such a huge secret would be so carelessly revealed.

Of course, even Kongchan Arhat could not have imagined this.

How could he know that Zhen Buchi would later drink a cup of Immortal Wine from Jade Ring Mountain, awakening his Heart Soul, with no secrets left hidden.

These childhood memories were not even remembered by Zhen Buchi himself, leaving only some remnants in his Heart Soul.

Now, however, they were seen by the master and disciple Tao Qian.

Before Master Tao could say anything, Master Yuan exclaimed in admiration:

"What a lucky bald monk, his fate is good, and he truly knows how to play."

"This prodigal child must have been at least a Daoist Transformation Expert, or even a stronger expert, in his past life, only it's not clear why he had such a death wish to terminate himself and obscure his True Spirit to be reincarnated."

"Ordinary people might get completely extinguished in one reincarnation."

"But such beings, even if they cannot awaken their innate wisdom, can ensure reincarnation over and over."

"By chance, he was discovered by Kongchan, who took him as a disciple, but planned to use him as a shield for tribulation, to help himself break through that Daoist Transformation Tribulation."

"There's no need to investigate further; he must succeed."

After Master Yuan finished speaking, Tao Qian responded reflexively and adamantly with two sentences:

"Not necessarily!"

"Before, it might have been possible, but after meeting me, it's no longer certain."

While saying this, Tao Qian continued to consult Yuan Gong.

For example, could he possibly know the background of this high-predecessor? Could he unveil the obscurity of his True Spirit?

The answer was unsurprising and all negative, leading to Yuan Gong's ridicule:

"Let's not even mention whether that predecessor is Daoist Transformation or a Tribulation Immortal; even if it's just Daoist Transformation, you and I can do nothing about it."

"Don't look at it as just one realm higher than Ultimate Happiness, but the difference between them is vast like that between heaven and earth."

"Also, don't regard Daoist Transformation cultivators like Li Wanshou and Gao Huan, who progressed through bloodsucking, as proper Daoist Transformation cultivators; they too are far apart."

"A proper Daoist Transformation, like those second-generation patriarchs of your Spirit Treasure Sect, each one is exceptionally strong."

"Just take one example: your deceased master, Duobao, once he can overcome the tribulations... my goodness, I dare not even think about it."

Master Yuan's teachings made Tao Qian understand how terrifying a genuine Daoist Transformation Expert could be.

He could only commit the matter of "Zhen Buchi's past life" to memory for now, pressing it down to be revisited when an opportunity arose later.

Knowing this secret explained some of his previous doubts. Love this story? Show support at [MV2LEMPYR](#).

"No wonder Zhen Buchi, who clearly isn't suitable to be a Demon Buddha's Son, has such a stable position, and even when offending Shipi, he remains undying."

"As the Reincarnation Body of Kongchan, unless he faces life and death, Kongchan would never abandon him."

Thinking of this, Tao Qian's face showed even greater anticipation.

Such a status!

In his heart and soul, there must be all kinds of secrets.

Quite excited, Tao Qian continued to read on.

Indeed, secrets and Secret Techniques unknown even to outsiders, let alone disciples of the Demon Buddha Temple, were laid bare before Tao Qian's eyes without reservation.

For a while, he reveled in the exhilaration, attracting Master Yuan himself, who emerged in a red misty form to watch along with him.

After several more hours, they finally reached the part that truly interested Tao Qian.

It was the secret matter related to the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen.

He also understood how this profligate son had offended Shipi Arhat.

"Yuan Mingzhen possessed the [Spring and Autumn Chariot]; she could have easily crossed Qiantang and fled to the Southern region."

"Shipi himself took action to intercept, trapping her at the old site of Han Mountain Temple."

"Planning to use her as bait, he aimed to lure various warlords, strong people, and even the Tiannan Gao Family into his trap."

"To prevent the Devil Concubine from escaping, he trapped her and set up an Array, sending All Demons, monk, and Buddha's sons to guard her."

"There would have been no issue here if not for the day Zhen Buchi took over; being foolishly infatuated with beauty and good beauties, he couldn't find anyone more beautiful than Yuan Mingzhen. Upon his arrival, he began to make small talk and even started to affectionately call her Primordial Consort Sister."

"Although Yuan Mingzhen was defeated in the battle of the Imperial City and lost her foundation, it wasn't her fault; it was merely a vast difference in power. This woman is both enchanting and domineering, and when her Heavenly Phoenix Destiny revealed itself, she truly was an Empress like no other."

"It was effortless for such a presence to subdue Zhen Buchi."

"A few days later, Zhen Buchi indeed made a move, destroying the Buddha Array, entangling a group of demon monks to let his heart's Primordial Consort Sister escape."

"Had it not been for Kongchan's instantaneous arrival, the Devil Concubine would have really succeeded."

"After this incident, Shipi was determined to kill Zhen Buchi, but Kongchan paid a great price to save him."

...

"Unexpected, yet makes perfect sense."

This was how Tao Qian commented on the process of this secret matter.

Knowing what kind of person Zhen Buchi was, Tao Qian had guessed as much in his heart.

Beyond the process, Tao Qian inadvertently glimpsed another matter.

It wasn't a secret, just unexpected.

"Yuan Mingzhen, after her defeat in the Imperial City and being dethroned, nearly saw her forces dispersed."

"Yet she had the backing of the Xie Family and Guanyin Temple, still possessing the power to rise again."

"Unexpectedly, the Xie Family gave up on her halfway, taking back all their servants and soldiers, even insisting that Daoist Lingzhu also return home. Only Lingzhu refused, and to this day, she still follows and guards Yuan Mingzhen, willing to live and die together."

"The attitude of Guanyin Temple remains unknown; some Bodhisattvas sent from the temple have already perished in the Imperial City."

Having read this, Tao Qian couldn't help but sigh.

When he first saw Yuan Mingzhen, she was decked in phoenix crown and cloud robe, ready to enter the Imperial Palace in grandeur, seize fortune, and ascend to Empress.

He had previously met Daoist Lingzhu, who warmly invited him and his counterfeit body, heavy with the lore of the Secret of the Toad Sect, to assist the Devil Concubine in the Imperial City and share in a great undertaking.

Now, as he was about to meet her again, she had fallen to become bait.

Tao Qian sighed and continued reading.

Soon, several of the most recent secrets that he was very interested in were revealed:

"The Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva has now cultivated eight, with one still lacking the [Wisdom Mother], fallen into the hands of Wu Gou Monk from the South Sea, hurry to Suzhou, befriend that person, and retrieve the Buddha Treasure."

"In three days, the Demon Buddha Temple will hold a [Birth of Buddha Dharma Assembly] in Qiantang City, where many great matters will be conducted: first is to use a Secret Technique to make Cheng Arhat attain Ultimate Happiness Realm; second is to use the Great Transcendence Bodhisattvas to set up half a Big Array, refining all visiting warlords and Ultimate Happiness Cultivators together, creating the remaining nine Venerable Bodhisattva Treasures; third is to fully deploy troops, invade the neighboring province, and annex Tiannan."

Chapter 657 - The Buddhist Sect Has an Evil Land, Qiantang Five Strange Phenomena

Continuing from the last part, Tao Qian had filled Zhen Buchi's cup with Immortal Wine from Jade Ring Mountain, causing him to fall into the Taizhen Illusion Realm, fully opening his Heart Soul.

With this, all secrets about him and the Demon Buddha Temple were laid bare before Tao Qian.

Thus, Tao Qian, an outsider, became the first to know about the schemes of the Three Arhats of the Demon Buddha Temple.

"As for Kongchan Arhat, needless to say, that crafty and cunning old bald thief easily entangled Lingwa of the Taishang Demon Sect back in the day."

"Then there's Shipi, whom Master Yuan rated as stronger and more troublesome than Kongchan, with higher mana, and even more likely to achieve the status of a Tribulation Immortal in the future."

"Lian Sha Arhat, though less renowned, could possibly train a figure like the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, showcasing formidable strength."

"These three ruthless figures together, along with Cheng Arhat, indeed have a great appetite, not only planning to refine Eighteen Great Transcendence Bodhisattvas but also intending to swallow up Tiannan Province."

"Such wild ambitions, utterly insane."

Inside the Buddha Tower, Tao Qian pondered deeply.

He and Zheng Yin had devised a great plan, but with such strong enemies, he had to consider every possibility to ensure absolute preparedness.

Seeing that the time was almost right, Tao Qian then took out that Immortal Tea and gestured it into the mouth of Zhen Buchi.

Immediately, all the mist disappeared.

The bewildered Zhen Buchi slowly came back to consciousness.

His face showed no unusual expression, still streaming with tears, sorrow unequalled, he choked up and said, "What is the love of this world that it commands one to vow life and death to it?"

After a while, Zhen Buchi gradually recovered.

He intended to continue asking for more wine, but Tao Qian pointed at the empty glazed wine jug, making him realize that he must have drunk it all during his frenzy.

Without waiting for Tao Qian to say anything, Zhen Buchi suddenly stood up, grabbed the jug of "Drunk Dust" from the table, and smashed it to the ground, shattering it.

Amid the fragrance of the wine, he cursed:

"What kind of Drunk Dust is this—compared to the Master's Nameless Spirit Wine, it's barely drinkable. Just smash it, smash them all."

After cursing, the pretty monk waved his hand and summoned a large number of Jade Pots from his treasure bag.

It looked like he indeed planned to smash them all.

Seeing this, Tao Qian hastily intervened, persuading him with good words and bad, and even promised to give him several recipes for Immortal and Buddha Wine, finally stopping him.

As for that Nameless Spirit Wine, only one jug remained, and once drunk, it was gone.

Having gained something good, Zhen Buchi recalled his earlier mad behavior, and his face immediately showed a look of shame.

He bowed deeply in apology, almost prostrating, and said with full remorse:

"I, lost to wine, behaved disgracefully, which is highly inappropriate. I hope the Master can forgive me."

"No worries at all."

"That Spirit Wine is extraordinary, likely only for immortals to drink. Such a heavenly item should not remain nameless. If the Master doesn't mind, may I name that Immortal Wine?"

"Feel free to do so."

"Having drunk that wine, I felt as if I had fallen into an illusion, seeing beauties with tragic fates, everything sorrowful. Why not call it ... 'Beauty Shared Among All'?"

"If you like it, then it's good."

Tao Master's perfunctory attitude was naturally noticed by Zhen Buchi immediately.

He didn't take it as Master Wu Gou neglecting him, but after the drink, he thought the Master lacked the mood for discussion.

Usually, he would have already seen a chance to excuse himself.

But now things were different; Zhen Buchi suddenly remembered that he came under his Master's orders.

His face flushed, he looked left and right, and after a while, he pointed at the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda under his feet, hesitantly saying:

"Master, if I'm not mistaken, this Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda should be the transformation of a Buddha Treasure from my Demon Buddha Temple."

"In my view, since this treasure has fallen into the Master's hands, my brothers, Flower Staff and Hei Bo, shouldn't pursue it any further, let alone threaten me to come here."

"But I couldn't defy my Master's order, I had no choice."

"I wonder... I wonder if the Master might consider returning this treasure to my Demon Buddha Temple."

"There's no need to return it right now, after all, there is no one here to receive it. This Bodhisattva still lacks one part, the 'Wisdom Mother,' needing someone with a ruthless heart to refine it, but I'm not capable."

"My Master's thought: since the Master plans to travel everywhere, why not carry this Buddha Treasure, along with me and my many lady friends, and also my sister Ci'en, all the way to Qiantang City, and return it to my Master there."

"As payment, my Master Kongchan Arhat has prepared various gifts, and invites the Master to attend the 'Birth of Buddha Ceremony' at Qiantang City three days from now."

"My Master said, it will certainly satisfy the Master."

Clearly Zhen Buchi had memorized all these lines, he said them all in one breath while blushing.

Then he took out a Buddha Token invitation from his treasure bag.

On the Buddha Token, there was a message from Kongchan Arhat, asking him to come and so on.

Attached was also a piece called "Western Heavenly Sound Cicada Chanting Technique," a Demon Buddha's Divine Power. If one could refine and deepen this technique, it could be used to soundly defeat a large army of a hundred thousand. Help us out by reading on M|V|LEM5PYR.

Upon verification, there were no hidden doors inside, no added substances, truly an exquisite spell.

Evidently, this was the little sweet date Kongchan Arhat had given beforehand.

But after speaking, Zhen Buchi's face was still full of nervousness, waiting for Tao Qian's response.

In his mind, another command from his own Master echoed:

"My good disciple, that Great Transcendence Bodhisattva is after all a rare Buddha Treasure, not comparable to a single Divine Power."

"If that Wu Gou monk is greedy, and unwilling to hand it over, he might just flee, and if it comes to it, he might even have to kill you."

"When the time comes, you'll cast the spell and invite my incarnation to descend. Even if we can't subdue that little monk, we can easily snatch back the Buddha Treasure," he said.

"Doing so would mean burning bridges, but if he escapes, Uncle Shipi will personally capture him and bring him back to the temple for punishment."

If it were anyone else, Zhen Buchi would not care about their life or death.

However, the Wu Gou monk before him was different. His charm and temperament were not inferior to his own, and he had even drunk the Nameless Immortal Wine from him. Added to that the influence of the "Ten Lifetimes of Resentful Couples," Zhen Buchi would rather have his own kin face disaster than have his Master take action to capture and torture the Great Master.

So, he thought for a moment and then indirectly reminded him:

"Great Master, have you heard that Buchi has a master named Shipi Arhat?"

"His Divine Powers are stronger than those of my master, but he has a terrible temper. If he is angered, even if you have mastered the Divine Feet Power, you would hardly escape from his blockade in Qiantang Province."

"Though the Buddha Treasure is valuable, it might not be better than the gift my master has prepared for you in the provincial city."

Zhen Buchi originally thought that after speaking, Master Wu Gou would still need some time to ponder before replying.

But, unexpectedly, the next moment he saw the Great Master smile and casually say.

"That's okay!"

"This item was indeed picked up by me, and it should rightfully be returned to its original owner."

"Being able to contemplate it for three more days is already an added benefit."

With that said, the host and guest were both satisfied.

Zhen Buchi even began to think that Master Wu Gou was willing to hand over the Buddha Treasure perhaps out of respect for him.

Little did he know.

Master Tao had already peeked into his Heart Soul and seen all his thoughts.

Knowing that if he declined, Shipi and Kongchan, those two old bald thieves, would come to kill him, so he promptly agreed.

Of course, it was also because Tao Qian knew that there was no real danger inside.

One reason was that Duobao True Monarch, disguised as Qingjing Zen Master, had already paved the way. As long as Tao Qian was flexible, it wouldn't be hard to make the Kongchan Arhat and others see him as an ally from the South Sea Hooking Turtle Cliff.

Another reason was that the Great Transcendence Bodhisattva had secretly been refined by him, with added ingredients from Lian Jing'er. Even if returned to Kongchan Arhat, it could still disrupt their integration with the Nirvana Demon Buddha at a critical moment.

As for Qiantang City, where the Demon Buddha Temple was located, and many warlords and the Tiannan Gao Family were heading there... The Devil Concubine Spring and Autumn Chariot was also there, so Tao Qian had no choice but to go.

Thus, he readily agreed.

Zhen Buchi was unaware, only thinking that his own face was highly regarded, and immediately held Wu Gou in even higher esteem as a close friend.

Upon briefly returning home, he did not forget to boast to his father and a group of powerful family heads and wealthy young masters:

"Previously, I thought that this world was either filled with worthless as dirt or boring cultivators; such a lack of interest in the Human World!"

"But having met Master Wu Gou, I now know that there are such marvelous monks and Buddha's sons in the world, even overshadowing me, Zhen Buchi."

"He truly is an Immortal unaffected by the mortal world, and to befriend him is Buchi's fortune."

It was fortunate that Zhen Buchi's cultivation was formidable, and he had powerful backing.

Otherwise, upon uttering such words, his father, Zhen Shiliang, would have broken his legs first.

There's a way to praise someone, why drag others down?

Fortunately, the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda and Wu Gou monk left that day.

Mentioning that "our karma has ended," they scattered sweet rain and treasures from the sky, heading directly towards Qiantang City.

...

Shortly after the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda flew a hundred li from Suzhou City, Tao Qian, Yunrong, Zhen Buchi, Zhen Ci'en, and numerous female companions were all seated in the Buddha Tower plaza, overlooking the earth.

The scene was filled with cultivators, who theoretically should be discussing profound Buddhist philosophies.

However, Zhen Buchi, from the beginning, had Tao Qian make minor adjustments to control the pagoda's direction to explore other places.

"The birth of the Buddhist Law is still three days away; we are not in a rush. Arriving too early might just lead us to be assigned tasks; better to first explore other territories in Qiantang Province."

"Talking about myself, although I am from Qiantang Province, I have rarely traveled far."

"However, my sister Ci'en has frequently traveled abroad; this time, she can act as a guide."

"It's not good to wander aimlessly like headless flies; rather, let me point out some interesting places."

"Back in the temple, I've heard those ferocious and ugly demon monks often talk about how Qiantang Province has turned into an Earthly Buddha Country and additionally, five Strange Phenomena have emerged."

"The so-called Five Strange Phenomena refer to the unusual occurrences in the territories of Hidden Mountain, Evil Country, Emancipation City, Joyful Forest, and Corpse Mud Ridge."

"These demon monks discussed it enthusiastically, and it has piqued my curiosity considerably."

"Now that we're here, Ci'en, please lead the way. Let's first explore one of these Strange Phenomena and see what it's like."

Tao Qian and Yunrong heard Zhen Buchi's words without sensing anything unusual.

As soon as he finished, however, the expression of Ci'en and the other women drastically changed, falling into silence.

Ci'en, in particular, looked troubled and resistant.

Biting her lip and sighing, she then communicated telepathically to her Master and teacher:

"Master, Great Master."

"My elder brother may be called 'not foolish,' but in reality, he's extremely naive."

"I do not know why he had the karma to be accepted by Kongchan Arhat. Why did the Arhat only teach him Divine Powers and the ways of Love Monks, yet did not educate my brother to understand the world, to distinguish right from wrong? There might be some hidden reasons, after all, Kongchan Arhat is also a high monk of the Demon Buddha Sect."

"My brother mentioned the Five Strange Phenomena, but these are actually the Evil Lands of Buddha Country, not good places at all."

"Although my brother possesses the cultivation of Cavernous Mystery Realm, his character is far too weak. Seeing the grotesque form of the Demon Buddha might scare him to madness."

Chapter 658 - Wu Gou Wishes to Destroy the Evil Country, Jialan God Greatly Opens the Convenient Gate

Tao Qian had already guessed the ominous nature of the sites when he noticed the sudden, ugly change in the faces of Zhen Ci'en and the other beauties.

Combining their strange names, he realized those five strange phenomena must not herald anything good.

But Zhen Buchi remained oblivious. Seeing his sister disobey, he turned to urge the nun beside him to speak.

Unable to resist the persistent questioning of her lover, the nun had no choice but to say:

"Zhen doesn't know that these five strange phenomena are not places to visit."

"Even though they've only recently emerged less than a year ago and haven't spawned powerful Demon Buddha evil creatures yet, they're not something we should approach or provoke."

"I don't know much either, only about that Evil Country."

"Inside this territory, it is filled with the worst people from all directions."

"No matter what sin one commits or how massive the evil thoughts in their heart, as long as they go there, run for miles, and shout 'I wish to lay down the butcher's knife' they can enter that secret realm of evil, never to leave again."

"It is said that one's status within that country is determined by the strength of their evil thoughts, but even the lowest citizens there must be utterly devoid of humanity."

"Even if we have evil thoughts in our hearts, at most they are petty envies and resentments, never having lifted the butcher's knife, and even if we shouted that sentence, we could not possibly enter the Evil Country."

"Why make the trip in vain?"

Once the nun started, the other beauties chimed in one after another.

To dispel Zhen Buchi's idea, they all spoke of the great horrors.

At the same time, Tao Qian received a telepathic message from Yuan Gong:

"What these girls are saying is more or less correct. The Demon Buddha Temple stole the Buddha's secret methods, practicing and mixing them in perverse ways, resulting in these demonic territories spawning strange phenomena. Each place has its origin."

"For instance, Hidden Mountain corresponds to Da Zhao Temple's Bright Mountain."

"The Evil Country corresponds to Dharma Cakra Temple's Good People Country."

"These lands of evil sprung up with the rise of the Demon Buddha, and since Qiantang has become an Earthly Buddha Country, the emergence of these strange phenomena is normal."

"Indeed, they are not good places to visit, and I would advise others to avoid them."

"But for you, boy, my advice is useless, and I suspect upon hearing this, you'll certainly go."

After Yuan Gong finished, he fell silent.

Indeed, almost immediately, a change occurred within Tao Qian.

Ever since Tao Qian and Zheng Yin agreed on their plan, his Human Dao Destiny within him had been active.

At this moment, it suddenly boiled over.

Various visions transmitted to him.

Inside him, the "Yu Ding" and "Valley God Gui" stirred, wishing to refine all Demons and Evil Spirits.

In an instant, Tao Qian understood what these five strange phenomena truly were, as well as their causes and the disasters they might cause. This copy was generated from content at MV|LEMPYR.

His eyes instantly became cold, and killing intent condensed within them.

After considering the situation and his own combat strength, Tao Qian quickly made a decision.

He then said to everyone, including Zhen Buchi:

"It seems fate has arrived."

"I had wondered why my wife and I were trapped in Qiantang."

"Now I know, aside from the connections with Ci'en and Zheng Yin, it is also because of these five strange phenomena."

"I need to visit these five lands to confirm what I have learned."

"Sorry for the trouble, everyone. With this Floating City to protect us, there should be nothing to worry about."

Since Tao Qian put it that way, no one else would object, and they all agreed.

Zhen Buchi, in particular, felt even better.

He was an expert at understanding women's thoughts and could tell the beauties were trying to scare him on purpose, so he didn't take those strange phenomena to heart.

Especially after Tao Qian spoke, he felt all the more convinced of this.

As such, his heart showed no concerns, as he looked out from the Floating City at the swirling clouds and passing mountains, sighing in his heart:

"This is true cultivation; with a group of beautiful companions, and close friends and kin, soaring through the sky and earth, wandering the worldly society, from Eastern Danqiu to West Taihua, wander the North Sea in the morning and Cangwu by dusk... Truly joyful indeed."

Alas, Zhen Buchi's romantic notions were soon completely lost.

Not just that, but within half an hour, this Bu Chi Buddha Son became completely stupefied by the scenes unfolding before his eyes.

It was as if his whole being had shattered.

...

The Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda had arrived at Qiantang Province, Lingtian City.

The city, situated by the mountains and lakes, was still prosperous, populated with over three hundred thousand Mortals.

Although most of the warlords and rebels lured into Qiantang were seen as consumables and treasure materials by the Demon Buddha Temple, there were also some who slipped through the net.

Just a few hours ago, a rebel army known as the "Blood Tile Army" came to this central province.

Their leader was named Fa Zhao, an Evil Monk who practiced Dual Cultivation of Demon and Buddha, and commanded several thousand monk soldiers who were beasts in human form, all dressed in bloody robes, topped with red tiles, relentlessly violent and bloodthirsty, and insatiably greedy... Defeated in external provinces in the struggle for power, they fled to Qiantang. Having ties with a high-status demon monk within the Demon Buddha Temple, they were allowed into the province.

Unexpectedly, Fa Zhao was severely injured, mutated and fallen, killed his old friend, and his beast-like monks instantly lost control, seizing the opportunity to begin attacking nearby cities.

Lingtian City, unfortunately, was chosen.

At this moment, the scene that met Tao Qian and the others' eyes:

A city in ruins, with demon flames everywhere, and ditches along the roads filled with bones and mutilated limbs, with remains strewn all around...

Thousands of red-robed devil monks rampaged through the city, immersed in slaughter, searching every household for loot, while dragging beautiful women or handsome young men by their necks, forming a string, as if they were trophies of war.

The most eye-catching was the "Huge Monster" rampaging through the city, destroying all Forbidden Techniques.

This creature, humanoid in shape, wearing Mang Shoes, wielding a Zen Stick, its muscles coiled, its body, already beginning to rot, stood three meters tall. Half-dressed in armor and half in a Kasaya, with a huge

head and a ferocious face, its mouth full of smelly, yellow-black tusks, and on its forehead, an additional, madness-filled, crimson Blood Eye.

On its chest hung a necklace of human skulls.

This person, although fierce, had already mutated and fallen, and his body bore many wounds emitting Demon Flame, showing deep Buddha Palm Seals and Prayer Bead Seals embedded in his flesh and organs.

Clearly, he had been badly injured in a fight with someone.

This might be why, at this moment, his body hunched over, and on his back, there was a large horse saddle, upon which sat three Transcend Mortality Demon Monks.

One chanted a certain Buddhist scripture, each character radiated light, transforming into a Dharma Seal that drilled into the monster's body.

Another used a secret technique with a steel spike to pierce through the back of its brain, constantly stirring the brain inside, causing it to wail, while simultaneously controlling the direction it moved forward.

Another brandished a steel whip flashing with lightning, carrying out punishment.

In these scenes, anyone could tell what was happening.

Tao Qian swept a glance, overflowing with killing intent, yet did not immediately strike these devil monks dead.

That would have been letting them off too cheaply.

Instead, he suddenly said aloud, "Amitabha Buddha!"

The Buddha's name resounded, and the Floating City descended.

A terrifying pressure fell, instantly suppressing everyone in the city other than the common folk, all the red-robed devil monks were pressed to the ground, their kneecaps shattered, prostrating in the filthy mud.

Even the Mutated devil monk was no exception.

"Devil monks and evil ghosts, committing such atrocities, you all deserve to die."

"Before you perish, this monk will have you first endure the punishment of Karmic Fire burning your souls."

Before the words fell, Red Lotus Karma Fire floated down from the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda.

Finding a devil monk each, it began to burn them.

In the next moment, agonizing wails resounded throughout the city.

Compared to the pain of being sliced by swords and axes, or other cruel tortures,

Karmic Fire burning the soul was more painful by not just a hundredfold, but a thousandfold.

Just a short time ago, the Blood Tile devil monks who had been cruel and bloodthirsty like beasts, were now all contorted in the face, howling desperately for mercy:

"Spare our lives, please spare us."

"Kill me, I beg you Great Master to kill me."

"Quick, do it — kill us. We are beasts; we are the scum of the earth; now is the best time for revenge, kill us."

"Kill me, as long as you kill me, I'll give you anything."

Despite the devil monks' frenzied shouts, nobody wished to make a move to end their suffering.

This province had become an Earthly Buddha Country, and the people had gained some understanding, knowing the power of the Buddhist Sect's Karmic Fire.

Killing these devil monks would, in fact, be letting them off too easily.

Despite these scenes, the city had not much genuine gratitude, as most commoners did not dare to look up at the Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda.

Those with greater courage also held a look of fear in their eyes.

Seeing this scene, everyone was puzzled.

Tao Qian, who could comprehend the hearts of men through the Human Dao Destiny, naturally could see this.

But he did not explain, and simply descended from the Floating City.

He did not use any light-weighted technique, allowing his pure feet that did not touch any filth to land into the bloody mud.

This action by Tao Qian turned Zhen Buchi, who was previously in a state of numbness and breakdown, back to his senses.

This deluded person subconsciously shouted,

"No!"

After shouting, he realized it was not right.

But he had no intention of taking it back, only a full face of sorrow, incessantly sighing,

"Why has it come to this? Why has it come to this?"

"Great Master, if you wanted to save those in suffering and adversity, a display of Sublime Dharma Powers would suffice, why should your pure Wu Gou Buddha Body be tainted with the filthy blood of the mundane world?"

Tao Qian, of course, ignored Zhen Buchi. Once in the city,

Looking at the devastation in front of him, he took a deep breath, said nothing, but simply rolled up his kasaya, and started helping the city dwellers as though he were just another common person: rescuing the injured, burying the dead, cleaning up the filth, and repairing houses.

At first, although the commoners were astounded by the actions of this Buddha's son, who seemed as if a true Immortal Buddha had descended to the earthly realm,

The fear in their eyes, and even the hatred, did not diminish in the slightest.

Wherever Tao Qian went, the people avoided him as if he were a snake or scorpion.

It wasn't until 15 minutes had passed, and seeing that he had no pretense and even the multitude of immortal concubines and Female Bodhisattvas from the Floating Buddha Treasure had also come down to assist in disaster relief without any deceit, that the people gradually approached.

After another thirty minutes, because Tao Qian did not use any Divine Powers, even voluntarily blocking the dust-free effect naturally provided by his Spirit Treasure Sublime Body,

Tao Qian gradually was covered in mud and blood, his body covered with sweat and dust, looking wretched, with many cuts and bruises all over. He looked nothing like the figure of a Wu Gou Buddha Son, but more like a dirty monk who had rolled in the mire of corruption.

These changes made Zhen Buchi, who still refused to descend from the Floating City, even more saddened, continuously crying out phrases like "wasting God's gifts," "a vessel of purity defiled."

But the city dwellers, on the other hand, let down their guard.

The leader among them stepped forward, an old monk official worn with age.

His body frail, his face etched with sorrow, his white eyebrows seemingly forever furrowed.

He bowed to Tao Qian with shaky respect and uttered the Buddha's name.

Then, he inquired,

"From where has the Buddha's son come? Where does he wish to go? What does he intend to do?"

Tao Qian seemed to have been waiting from the start for this old monk to appear and ask.

Now hearing this, he immediately responded with all due respect.

Then he began to speak, answering and, at the same time, revealing the old monk's background.

"I am Wu Gou, from the South Sea."

"Venturing into the mortal world for cultivation, to save myself and to save others."

"I come to this precious land with no other purpose but to single-handedly eradicate the Evil Country, allowing the wicked to first pay their karmic debts and then taste the fruits of their evil actions."

"I ask Jialan the protector for a convenience, to open the gates and allow this monk to enter."

"After the destruction of this country, if Jialan the protector has nowhere to go, this monk could introduce you to some options. Whether it's Free Temple or Guanyin Temple, I have some influence."

The utterance of these sentences instantly revealed surprise on the faces of Zhen Ci'en and the multitude of women from complicated backgrounds.

Chapter 659 - In the Evil Country, In Front of the Evil Mirror Plat

Tao Qian's remarks startled the women.

The monk official before them looked old and frail, drowsy, seemingly devoid of any mana, yet he was a Jialan Protector God? One should know that such dharma-protecting divine spirits could only be nurtured by profound Buddhist Sects. Among the 3,800 Buddhist temples, only places like Great Freedom Temple, Dharma Cakra Temple, and Vajra Temple would clearly have a "Jialan God".

And there was one in Qiantang, an ordinary city?

Just as they were filled with doubt, Tao Qian continued,

"Evil Country is a blight of the Buddhist Sect, thus naturally capable of spawning Jialan Protector Gods."

"To enter, evil people merely need to shout, 'I am willing to lay down the butcher's knife.'"

"Good people, however, require the Protector God to open a Convenient Gate."

"The poor monk knows some secrets and understands that Lingtian City, being adjacent to Evil Country, must frequently suffer from the blight of Buddhahood. Elsewhere in Qiantang at the sight of Buddha they bow, but only the citizens of this city grow resentful, scared, and fearful at the sight."

"That's why the poor monk revealed his true form as a member of the Human Clan to show that he is not a Buddhist evil demon."

During this conversation, Tao Qian pointed to the Blood Tile Army still being consumed by karmic fire.

The women now understood, the old monk before them was originally the gatekeeper Jialan of Evil Country.

But for some unknown reason, he was devoid of mana.

Tao Qian, of course, understood why: the old monk was a "Divine Spirit" who cultivated Fortune and Wish Power. Without people offering incense to him, naturally, he would be frail and weak, and it was already strange enough that he could even manifest physically.

Naturally, if this Jialan Protector opted for some pretense, intimidating the surrounding mortals to build a "Jialan Temple" for him, he could quickly possess impressive mana.

But he was a Good God, and had not done such things, and thus he remained weak.

That is why Tao Qian did not use his Drive God Divine Power.

He could have simply stomped his foot and summoned the old monk official directly.

Logically, by now, this old Jialan should have opened a Convenient Gate for Tao Qian.

Yet, after listening, the old potato-headed monk shook his head even more earnestly, his face filled with even deeper sorrow, and refused, saying,

"Buddha's son, don't blame me. It's not that I fail to recognize goodwill, but I truly do not wish for such a good person as you to send his life away in vain."

"I may be visually unclear, but I can still see that Buddha's son's cultivation should be around Cavernous Mystery. Although the Evil Country is not old enough to be too ferocious, it is still not something that a mere Cavernous Mystery can overthrow, even with this Bodhisattva by your side, once you enter that country, you won't be able to oppose those heartless brutal demons."

"Just so you know, before you came here, three Cavernous Mystery Buddhist Practitioners had already perished there."

"And each time, it was I who opened the gate."

"I can't bear to do it again this time."

The old monk's words sounded reasonable.

However, upon hearing this, Tao Qian suddenly smiled and boasted,

"Old Jialan hasn't smelled good incense for a long time, and your Dharma Eye is obstructed, so it's no wonder you failed to see my foundation."

"It's also good for you to know, old Jialan, that I am a disciple of Qingjing Zen Master, a Hidden Cultivator from the South Sea. I cultivate the Sublime Dharma of the Buddhist Sect and have mastered demon-subduing techniques. I have suppressed the Free Buddha Son Shenxiu Monk and made all demons cower before me. I possess divine powers that can gather sweet rain and amass gold and silver, and I have a treasure that can capture an army of a million God Demons."

Before he finished speaking, Tao Qian began to show off like the great True Master, suddenly raising his hand and casting a spell.

He first summoned a sweet rain to cleanse the afflicted Lingtian City, then casually brought mountains of gold and silver to the city.

Then, he took off the cloth bag from his waist and in a sudden move, packed the whole Lingtian City, including the townspeople and the Jialan Protector God, inside.

Half a moment later, he released them all.

The townspeople were all in disbelief, as if they had witnessed a tremendous miracle.

At that moment, they heard the Wu Gou Buddha Son ask the old monk:

"Old Jialan, look again, should this poor monk go to Evil Country or not?"

"Go, you should go!"

The old monk official, previously full of sorrow and compassion, finally showed a smile, repeatedly responding.

Old Jialan had no mana, but after all, he was a Divine Spirit.

His eyes were still good, and once Tao Qian boasted and showed his saintly powers, he immediately knew this Buddha's son had significant origins.

"This Buddha's son has a Divine Mysterious Body, both internally and externally unified, unparalleled in divine powers, and that cloth bag treasure is even more mysterious, making me want to kneel before him."

"If he goes, perhaps he could really destroy that Evil Country."

"If it could be achieved, even if I am reduced to ashes, I would be willing."

Once his mind was set, Old Jialan still did not immediately open the Convenient Gate.

Instead, he offered another gesture of respect and telepathically questioned Tao Qian,

"Buddha's son, do you know that Qiantang Province is under the rule of Demon Buddha Temple?"

"Whether it's Evil Country or other strange blight lands, they are all faces of the Demon Buddha, related to the foundation of the Buddha Country."

"If Buddha's son destroys this country, although it will not harm the Demon Buddha Monks, there will be some mystical responses, creating obstacles."

"If so, the several Arhats of Demon Buddha Temple might become discontented."

Hearing this, Tao Qian immediately smiled and decisively replied,

"The poor monk understands."

"Old Jialan, do not worry, not just the Evil Country, the poor monk also intends to eradicate the other blight lands."

"There is also a wonderful plan in place to keep those few Arhats from being able to harm me."

Hearing Tao Qian speak thus, the old monk official no longer hesitated.

His heart filled with joy, he sat cross-legged, his weathered face beaming with a smile, and his body emitted a Buddha Light.

His body faded away, gradually transforming into a golden gate.

Behind the gate was a small Secret Realm, not clearly visible.

Tao Qian did not delay, he spoke briefly to Yunrong, saying, "I'll be back shortly."

Then he teleported inside.

No sooner had he walked away than everyone seemed to sense something and looked together at the several thousand Blood Tile Army.

Unbeknownst to them, their cries of agony had ceased, and the thousands of Beastly Monk Soldiers, versed in Evil Techniques, including hundreds in the Energy Introduction and Refining Realm, and dozens in the Foundation Establishment Realm, as well as the leading Fa Zhao Evil Monk in the Transcend Mortality Realm, could not withstand the burning of karmic fire, and all dissolved into puddles of pus, dead to the last.

Seeing this, the city dwellers of Lingtian City clicked their tongues with a relieved expression on their faces, silently thinking, "Good, that's well killed, if Buddhist monks treated the evil with such killer instincts, then this Buddha deserves some respect."

...

Tao Qian, naturally, was unaware of the simple thoughts of the townspeople as he surveyed his surroundings.

When he first heard of Evil Country, he assumed it to be a chaotic, foul-smelling place.

However, what entered Tao Qian's eyes was an apparently prosperous city. Outside the city, dense fog swirled in all directions, murky and unresolved, the inside was pulsing with rainbow lights, as if nurturing even more things.

Standing in the city, Tao Qian saw wine houses, song halls, color shops, tea houses—all there should be, as if some festival was being celebrated. The streets and markets were adorned with lanterns, bustling with people—an extremely lively scene.

Just by the view, one would think this was a prosperous southern city during a peaceful era.

Looking further at the people in the city, whether men or women, old or young, each had a calm appearance, showing no sign of malevolence.

Tao Qian had yet to act when his arrival caused some noise, and now voices reached his ears.

"Look quick, another newcomer."

"Time to eat, come on, send him up."

"What a handsome monk, could he be here to drive out demons?"

"There aren't that many Buddha's sons seeking death. Most likely another lascivious, flower-picking monk; such scoundrels, foul yet intriguing are somewhat chewable."

"Wonder if he's a mortal or a cultivator? How evil is he? Can he help Master Mijia reach the fifth level?"

Amid such talk, five or six burly men and women came laughing toward him.

They bombarded him with questions about whether he was a cultivator or here to drive out demons.

Tao Qian shook his head and replied with a strange smile,

"I only know some spells and have introduced Source Qi but have never refined Qi."

"Having offended a mighty enemy with nowhere to run, I ended up seeking refuge in Evil Country."

"Since everyone here is senior to me, please teach me well."

With these words, the whole street erupted in joy. They didn't restrain him but merely jostled him towards the deeper parts of the city.

There, two striking buildings emerged straight from the ground.

One was a patchy, foul-smelling tower with eighteen levels, reaching into the clouds, grand and towering.

The other was a cold stone platform, ten zhang high, on which hung an ancient mirror facing east, with the words: No good person stands before this Evil Mirror.

At this moment, a crowd had gathered in front of the palace and high platform.

A pathway was left clear for the evil newcomers to approach.

As Tao Qian was nudged forward, another person had already climbed the stone stairs and stood before the Evil Mirror.

The man, quite handsome, once he stood before the mirror, dark light surged, and the evil deeds of his life began to flash scene by scene.

His body and soul separated, and his true nature was suddenly revealed—as a disgusting mass of flesh with meaty tendrils and oozing putrid yellow slime.

After the reflection ended, his mutated soul was pulled into the mirror.

In the next instant!

A burst of black light erupted, threads of black vapor streamed from the Evil Mirror, and everyone in the city got a share.

Thick and thin, long and short.

Most of it streamed toward the glazed palace, swallowed by nearly a thousand figures inside.

From the first to the fourth level, there were cultivators.

The first level had the most—mostly those in the Energy Introduction and Refining Realm, the number decreased further up, but the cultivation was higher.

The one sitting at the highest point was also a young monk. Wearing only a kasaya on his lower body, his build was robust and his face rugged, possessing three heads and six arms, surrounded by nine dark blue Demon Flames—a veritable Great Demon.

As Tao Qian observed, the explanations of those burly men and women filled with malice reached his ears.

They undercut each other, but it gave Tao Qian an understanding of the arrangement here:

In short, Evil Country, recently formed, currently had only this one "Evil Mirror City."

To enter this country and city, there wasn't just one way.

After all, it was a bizarre land of evil, with portals and secret paths throughout all of Qiantang, though none guarded by divine spirits.

Some evildoers were even forcibly brought here.

Now, the city housed about tens of thousands of evildoers, mostly mortals or lowly cultivators who knew only one or two evil techniques and hadn't even managed Energy Introduction.

With nearly a thousand cultivators who had reached the Energy Introduction Realm, they could reside in the glazed palace, where they could cultivate and enjoy various pleasures.

The higher one went, the greater the benefits.

Currently, the strongest in Evil Country was an evil monk named Master Mijia.

Reportedly, a true inheritor of Han Mountain Temple, after betraying his sect, although he received rewards from Shipi Arhat and his cultivation neared the Realm of Ultimate Happiness, his mutation intensified—which would inevitably lead to his destruction in the outside world, violently perishing on the spot, thus he had no choice but to hide in Evil Country.

Every time a newcomer arrived, they must walk before the Evil Mirror, reflecting their true nature of their soul, pledging it inside the mirror, and their lifetime of evil thoughts would be shared among the citizens.

Only then would they truly become "a citizen of Evil Country."

In other words, the tens of thousands here were all vile, inhuman beasts, either having no way to survive outside or unable to endure the mutations and having no choice but to come.

During the mirroring, the people below would evaluate the newcomers' lifetime of evil deeds.

Like now, various voices drilled into Tao Qian's ears:

"Hey, this kid is quite interesting. Originally a beggar, he was taken in as a foster son by a wealthy family, and he hid well in his youth. But after he came of age and accidentally found a volume of the Yin Gathering Technique, his true nature was fully exposed. Not only did he drug and violate over a dozen female family members, but after his deeds were exposed, he even killed his foster father and the whole family... His evil thoughts are the most savory, he should indeed enter our Evil Country."

"This couple is not bad either. The man is a beast, the woman is licentious. They opened a black shop selling buns, trapping and murdering passersby—not to mention they also engaged in trafficking infants. This could indeed be called utterly inhuman. If they hadn't cultivated any spells, they should have entered the Evil Tower."

"Still, this general's evil thoughts are the most delicious. His soul is filled with only one instinct: to kill. In his youth, he killed domestic poultry and small animals. When he grew up, he killed his parents and relatives, killed his comrades and enemy soldiers in the army, and when mad, even his own wife and children weren't spared. It's unknown whether it's his nature or because he cultivated the Killing Heart Technique... Wow, directly to the third level, truly formidable."

...

"It's your turn, handsome monk, come show us your life."

"Talking about offending a major enemy, seems like you've done too much flower-picking evil and have nowhere left to run."

"Go up quickly, you're the last one today."

"Master Mijia is just one step away from reaching the fifth level; perhaps your evil thoughts are what he needs. If successful, Master Mijia will surely reward you."

Amidst the shoving, Tao Qian, now expressionless, slowly walked onto the so-called Evil Mirror stage.

Chapter 660 - Tao Qian Encounters Treasure, Master and Disciple Conspire

Tao Qian took the stage and immediately there were gasps of surprise, as many eyes turned towards him.

Even inside the Glazed Palace, a group devoid of humanity, those Evil Demon beasts, all looked at Tao Qian.

It was none other than because Monk Wu Gou's appearance was overly handsome.

Below the stage, ordinary mortals and evildoers, unaware of the secrets of cultivation, were only amazed by the youth's appearance and harbored covetous thoughts. Some were for love and joy, others for gluttonous desires.

But the cultivators inside the palace were all greatly horrified.

They could all see with their clear eyes, that someone with such a demeanor and beautiful flesh, was definitely not a desperate villain or a demon cultivator about to undergo mutation due to unbearable costs.

Most likely, he was a Buddha's son come to subdue demons.

Only for a moment did the interior of the palace freeze, then a wave of furious roars was about to erupt.

However, quickly, the evil monk Master Mijia, standing on the last jade step of the fourth floor of the palace, let out a cold snort and suppressed the impending riot of the Evil Demons.

Immediately after, this three-headed and six-armed evil monk shifted his position and landed on the Evil Mirror Platform.

After scrutinizing carefully, he seriously bowed to Tao Qian and then asked the two questions previously posed by Old Jialan.

"Buddha's son, where are you from, and what do you seek?"

Tao Qian looked at him in return.

His dharma body was powerful, cultivating a fierce type of Demon Flame Divine Skills.

He possessed many treasures, his six arms each holding a treasure sword, spear, copper bell, wooden fish, scripture banner, and Buddha beads, all of which were extraordinary spiritual objects.

Demon Buddha Temple had only recently taken control of Qiantang Province, and the Evil Country was newly founded, so there were not many notable demons in this Evil Land,

Except for this old monk from Han Mountain Temple known as Master Mijia, who posed a slight threat.

But that was minimal.

At this moment, Tao Qian was not being arrogant or proud, but after stepping into the Late Stage of Cavernous Mystery and breaking through the Divine Communication Barrier, his combat power had increased tremendously.

He had claimed to have subdued Shenxiu Monk, even though it was picking on the poor ugly monk who couldn't refute in his absence.

But Tao Qian knew: if they truly fought, Master Shenxiu would be no match for him.

Even Zhong Ziyang, the Daoist friend whom Tao Qian used to find difficult to defeat, if still alive, would also not win against him now.

Those individuals, Tao Qian dared to claim he could defeat, let alone just a Mijia Monk?

Because of this, Tao Qian did not immediately respond to the evil monk in front of him. Instead, he took a step forward and instantly appeared in front of the Evil Mirror, reaching out to touch it.

Here, only this object truly piqued Tao Qian's curiosity.

He touched the mirror, and the mirror naturally reflected his image.

Initially, the mirror was empty, but soon divine light burst forth, and even projected Ten Thousand Feet of Buddha Light.

Seeing this scene, the whole city was shocked.

"This is bad, he is not a villain, he is a Buddha's son, he has come to subdue us."

"There is no sin seen, only Spirit Light; how is this possible? Even if a real Buddha's son came, he couldn't possibly have a heart free of any malevolent thoughts."

"A true Buddha? Is there really a true Buddha in this world?"

"Who exactly is this child? We've never seen such a person in Qiantang Province."

"It doesn't matter who he is, even if he is a true Buddha, we can kill him; it's the perfect opportunity to eat Buddha Meat, drink Buddha's Blood, and end the Buddha lineage."

...

Amid the cries of tens of thousands, a vague figure in the depths of the Buddha Light was about to be revealed.

But suddenly, with a "crack" sound, the Evil Mirror seemed unable to withstand the presence of that figure, and broke apart.

At that moment, a detailed Record burst forth in Tao Qian's mind.

He didn't know what he saw, but a look of surprise appeared in his eyes.

At the same time, behind Tao Qian, tens of thousands of demons attacked.

The broken mirror reflected a scene enough to faint anyone, no matter how tough-minded, incapable of directly facing these tens of thousands of ugly, twisted, and crazed souls.

As if the most disgusting things in the world were all gathered here.

Faced with this horrifying assault, Tao Qian suddenly thought, "This scene might only be comparable to the ugliness Senior Sister Xie has seen from childhood."

Yet his face remained calm as he chanted a Buddha's name.

Lion Roar!

With overwhelming mana displayed, the demons withdrew.

Even more than ninety percent of the mortals vanished in an instant. The r@efe&renc#e! v\$ers\$io%n!
of t^hi-s^ c.h*apte-r@ is on M%*V&*+L-EM#P+Y&R..

But quickly, with evil thoughts surging and dark light sweeping across, they all revived.

Each grimacing, they attacked again.

With foul words and dirty sights filling the air.

The Mijia Evil Monk finally made up his mind, roaring with his ten-feet tall, three-headed and six-armed Dharma Image wreathed in Demon Flame and evil wind, and charged.

"If you won't drink a toast, you must drink a penalty!"

"You probably think as a Buddha's son from some grand temple, with decent cultivation and Divine Skills, you came here to subdue demons."

"Your Master certainly didn't teach you well, not telling you that in the Evil Country, all demons are Undying and Indestructible."

"It's not just you, a novice monk, even if the Arhat Bodhisattvas from the Great Freedom Temple or Great Reincarnation Temple entered this country, they'd be like fish on the chopping board, ready for us to devour."

Mijia Monk might have been better off not saying these things.

As soon as he finished, Tao Qian burst into laughter.

"Hahaha...you devil monk, what big talk you spout."

"You asked me what I seek, I might as well tell you."

"I have come here only to teach you all a lesson."

"Whether it's among mortals or in the Cultivation World, there's a common saying: everything comes with a price."

"You all have committed countless sins, each of your souls twisted beyond recognition, unable to even reincarnate. Did you really think just shouting, 'I am willing to lay down the butcher's knife,' would allow you to linger here, aloof from the world?"

"That wouldn't work, absolutely not."

"I, the monk, am the calamity you face."

Tao Qian, smiling as he spoke with certainty, employed an old trick and removed the cloth bag from his waist.

With a surge of mana, he tossed it directly.

The People Species Bag swelled in the wind, and its mouth opened wide, just after a command "Retrieve."

Including the Mijia Monk, all Ten Thousand Demons fell into the bag.

Instantly, Evil Country was emptied.

"Now that looks better."

Tao Qian, observing the city adorned with festive lanterns and glittering glass, now devoid of those inhumane beasts, was very pleased.

Afterwards, Tao Qian did not engage in other matters.

Instead, he suddenly took out the "Golden Radiance Token" and summoned the Yuan Gong Statue, touting his previous encounter with the Evil Mirror as his own insightful discovery and reporting it to both his masters.

Almost simultaneously, exclamations of surprise came from both ends.

Duobao laughed loudly from one end:

"Well done, boy. You just walk around and encounter rare treasures, truly inheriting the style of our Duobao Lineage."

"That object is known to everyone, but rare are those who can guess where it might be found. Yet, you stumbled upon it."

"But you went too early, I guess getting a bud wouldn't be bad, don't expect to find the Lotus Platform and lotus seed for you."

Tao Qian, upon hearing these words, shook his head.

Then, he retorted to his master, "Not early, rather a bit late."

Knowing his disciple's temperament and thoughts, Duobao was not annoyed after listening.

After pondering for a moment, he transmitted his voice again:

"If you're planning on saving people and the world, you shouldn't have taken that object, lest you anger Kongchan, Shipi, and Liansha, those three dead thieves."

"However, the opportunity is rare, and coupled with the Buddha Bird relics, it would be greatly beneficial for you. It would be too pitiful to miss it."

"Well, it seems that after this, I will need to discard this secondary false body."

"I will now use my doppelgänger to search for Shipi and the others, promising to open a new branch of the Demon Buddha Temple... With such a great contribution, those dead thieves will definitely be delighted and won't mind your treasure-snatching behavior, as we'll all be one family by then."

"Don't hold back, just go all out. Directly head to the remaining Evil Lands. Since there's a Black Lotus in the Evil Country, other places likely contain some natural spiritual objects too, just take them all."

...

After Duobao finished speaking, both Tao Qian and Yuan Gong were shocked.

His plan was simple and ruthless.

The South Sea Qingjing Zen Master, already quite renowned, was rumored to be stepping into Daoist Transformation and opening a Dharma Vein.

Many major forces were watching covetously.

Dharma Cakra Temple was considered closest, since Qingjing Zen Master had once received their teachings.

Secretly, the Tiannan Gao Family already considered themselves allies, and Kongchan also felt quite close.

Now, Duobao planned to personally visit and confer such great benefits directly onto the heads of Shipi, Kongchan, and Liansha, the Three Arhats, proposing to integrate their ways into the Demon Buddha Temple. Once the Magic Vein was opened, they would directly become part of the Demon Buddha Temple.

These benefits, no one could refuse.

Compared to that, Wu Gou, who merely wandered around Qiantang Province and accidentally acquired some Demon Buddha Treasures, would seem blameless.

After all, why let the water flow into others' fields?

As for being exposed afterwards, by then, Shipi, Kongchan, and Liansha might have already clashed with the Tiannan Gao Family.

Not to mention having no energy left, even if they had, how could they contend against this master-disciple pair?

Certainly, they couldn't storm up to the Penglai Sea. If their attempts failed and they were manipulated, it would be even more embarrassing for the Three Arhats.

The only problem was whether Duobao's tactics could deceive the Three Arhats.

Kongchan was cunning, Shipi was formidable, and Liansha was sinister, none of them were easy to fool.

Hearing Tao Qian question this, on the other end of the Golden Radiance Token, Duobao swung his two big hairy legs and retorted furiously:

"Young man, don't listen to those derogatory words about your master from that redhead."

"That old monkey is used to boasting about himself and belittling his peers, if you believe him, you are a fool."

"You think the cultivation of so many years was in vain? Not to mention just deceiving them, if pushed, your master could indeed split off a doppelgänger and open a Dharma Vein in the Demon Buddha Temple without difficulty."

Since Duobao had spoken thus, Tao Qian could not refute.

Thus, the master and disciple discussed a bit longer to finalize the details, and then proceeded with their individual tasks.

When the commotion over the Golden Radiance Token subsided, a sigh came from within the Yuan Gong Statue:

"Stuck with this master-disciple pair, whether it's the Gao Family's three beasts or the Demon Buddha's three thieving baldies, truly, it's like being cursed."

"But Duobao is not wrong, that item, along with the Buddha Bird relics and your quasi-Daoist, quasi-Buddhist treasure cloth bag, as your cultivation grows, you could possibly pass off as a True Buddha Ancestor someday."

"If your destiny is sufficient, you might really carve out a new Buddhist Dharma Vein."

"That rascal Bai Qin has schemed half his life, yet ended up enriching you."

"Boy, how do you feel about the title Bai Qin Buddha? Sounds quite imposing, doesn't it?"

Listening to Yuan's ramblings, the corner of Tao Qian's mouth twitched.

Bai Qin Buddha, imposing what?

Master Yuan certainly has questionable taste, also a failure in naming.