

Longevity 671

Chapter 671 - Heroes Gather in the Provincial City, Heavenly Eunuch Proclaims Himself as Immortal Monarch

""Three consecutive voices reverberated through the sky.

The Sky-reaching Floating Pagoda came to a halt mid-air, followed by the emergence of two more individuals, besides Gao Tianci, who had been exposed and belonged to the Great Commander Zhang Mazi of the Northern Land.

The first was a Great Man, not as big as Gao Tianci but not much weaker either, dressed even more flamboyantly.

He was seen wearing a golden crown, dressed in gold and silver armor, holding a Fangtian Halberd with fierce aura swirling, and seated upon an Alien Species Demon Beast with three heads, jet-black scales, and a pair of large black wings beneath its ribs.

His appearance was quite martial, and he seemed more like an ordinary dynasty's Great General rather than a Cultivator from the Cavernous Mystery Realm.

A third eye was on his face, which oddly didn't lie between the brows on the forehead but rather on his chin.

It wasn't clear what grudge he held against monks, but even before meeting Tao Qian, he cursed him as a country bumpkin.

Following the general with the chin-eye was a young commander.

The young commander had starry eyes and handsome features, dressed in a yellow robe and armor, with a treasure sword in one hand and a Divine Bow in the other. The Escape Skill he employed was mystical, and right after his words fell, several apparitions of celestial soldiers and Divine Generals disappeared around him, revealing it to be a Spell for summoning Divine Generals to transport oneself.

Each of these three, resembling generals, did not fit the typical appearance expected by Mortals of a Cultivator.

Yet, the aura emanating from their bodies reached straight for the heavens, all having achieved the Perfection of Cavernous Mystery and broken through the Divine Communication Barrier.

Each one of them had said something, their statements seemingly conflicted.

Tao Qian Yunrong, who stepped out of the Buddha Tower, was confused, but Zhen Ci'en, who had wide connections, transmitted a message:

"Master, Grandmaster, these three men are all great generals from the warlords of other provinces."

"The ugly brute riding the meat mountain is called Gao Tianci, known as the Blood Soul Demon Lord, one of the main commanders under Zhang Mazi, the largest Warlord of the Northern Land. It's said he cultivates from the Ancient Demon Secret Manual 'Blood Soul Scripture', refining two extremely

powerful Demon Treasures, the Ten Thousand Soul Banner and the Blood Pus Blade, feared throughout the North for his bloodthirstiness."

"The general with the eye on his chin is called Yelü Baoshan, known as the Devil Eyes General, the sworn brother of the Great Commander of Desert North, Yelv Lushan. Rumor has it he practices both Demon and Devil methods, in addition to his Demon Divine Power, he also refined a Primordial Demon Capturing Life True Eye, but mistakenly placed the devil eye on the wrong spot during refining, which resulted in his abnormal appearance."

"As for the young commander, he should be considered a Daoist Cultivator, named Shi Zhongsheng, known as the Worry-free Immortal. Originally a remnant of the Taiping Army, he cultivated the Taiping Dao Scripture, and was recently subdued by the rising Talent Hidden Dragon Si Xixin. He's a naturally born Daoist seed, said to have been sought after by Elders of both Canxuan Sect and Nanhua Sect to join, but he refused them all, determined to help Si Xixin conquer lands."

"These three, as well as their armies, seem to all have received invitations from the Demon Buddha Temple to attend the Buddha Birth Ceremony in the Province City."

"We're only three hundred miles away from the city; no wonder we've encountered them."

As Zhen Ci'en finished his transmission, Tao Qian immediately understood the origins of the three outside the Floating City.

His gaze first fell upon Gao Tianci, seated atop the meat mountain.

Tao Qian didn't care about what sort of demon he was. At this moment, his thoughts inadvertently drifted back to another Talent he had interacted with in Tiannan Province, Gao Ren City—the true inheritor of the Star Leader Sect, Li Fulian.

"Although Li Fulian is a disciple of the Heterodox Sect, he is upright, known for his chivalry, and was even close to becoming a disciple of the Shaoqing Sect."

"Such a person, willing to assist Zhang Mazi for sixty years, suggests that although the warlord is cunning and ruthless, he must have some redeeming qualities."""

"Yet you have accepted Gao Tianci, such an abnormal fiend. How will you explain that?"

"Has Li Fulian witnessed this fiend's evildoing? If you see him and don't strike him down, can you overcome the barrier of your Heart Demon?"

Tao Qian pondered inwardly.

Changes arose again in the outside world; before the Wu Gou Buddha Son appeared, three warlord generals arrived instead.

The fourth person seemed to have a feud with the warlord called "Yelü Baoshan."

Before the person appeared, a voice that was both sarcastic and cunningly spilling secrets about others' past injuries transmitted over:

"Brother Shi might not know this, but Yelü Daoist does not merely disdain Wu Gou Buddha Son; he looks down upon all Buddhist Practitioners."

"It's said that when Yelü Daoist was young, he encountered a scabby-headed devil monk who lured him to a decrepit temple in the mountains to serve as a slave. Not only did he have to light fires and cook, but he was also occasionally abused and used to satisfy lustful desires."

"Yelü Daoist has a tenacious character as well. After enduring in silence for years, the moment that devil monk Mutated and Fell into Demonhood, he sent him to the west with a firewood hatchet and seized a volume of the 'Poison Body Scripture,' thus stepping into the Cultivation World. That's how he later met Yelü Lushan, who took a liking to him and made him a sworn brother..."

"Yelü Daoist, now accomplished, has never changed his views on the Buddhist Sect, calling Wu Gou Buddha Son a mere earth-shaking monk from the South Sea is already giving face."

"Silence!"

The reopening of childhood wounds sent Yelü Baoshan into a sudden rage.

For a moment, no one could pinpoint the other's location.

But soon, everyone saw in one direction, a surge of Innate Essence and Pure Spirit Immortal Qi shooting into the sky. Even hundreds of miles away, it was clear to see that within that Immortal Qi, there appeared a middle-aged Immortal Sect Cultivator.

This person was dressed in a black and white Daoist robe, had a fair complexion without a beard, and his appearance was quite handsome, save for the ever-present smirk at the corner of his mouth that became increasingly unpleasant the longer one looked.

Yet no one would underestimate this Taoist. His embodiment of the Immortal Sect's Daoist Charm alone was enough to intimidate anyone.

Almost instantly, the messages transmitted by Zhen Ci'en and the angry shout and attack of Yelü Baoshan occurred simultaneously.

"This person is Zhu Xun, self-proclaimed 'Qingxu Immortal.' He is a remnant of the Zhu Dynasty, who, having failed to seize power in Yongzhou Province, fled here."

"Not long ago, he announced to the world that he just wants to abduct the 'Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen,' and other treasures like the Spring and Autumn Chariot, he would not compete for. Anyone who stands against him, he vows to fight relentlessly until death."

"This person is rumored to be an Abandoned Disciple of one of the Twelve Daoist Sects, the Lou Guandao, yet for some reason, his Cultivation and the Great Book were not reclaimed. Not much else is known, except it's said he is a Heavenly Eunuch, who turned misfortune into a blessing and cultivated the normally unreachable 'Qingxu Dao Body,' and his Divine Powers are incomparable to ordinary cultivators."

"Ci'en once heard from a travelling merchant that Zhu Xun and Yelü Baoshan had a fight not too long ago, hence the enmity between them."

After hearing all this, Tao Qian couldn't help but sigh again.

The Cultivation World nowadays is quite ostentatious; indeed, the strength of these warlord generals is not to be underestimated, and in any territory, they could be deemed Overlords.

But these Daoist titles still seem too much like self-aggrandizement.

Especially this Zhu Xun!

What a "Qingxu Immortal."

Be aware, even someone as powerful as Duobao Daoist doesn't dare to claim the title of Immortal Monarch.

And who exactly are you to be boasting in such a manner?

While Tao Qian muttered to himself, the outside of the Floating City had already burst into action.

Yelü Baoshan, whose old wounds had been brought to light, slapped the devil beast's behind, unfurled its large wings, and in a blink of an eye approached, cursing angrily:

"Eunuch Zhu, what are you, daring to judge this general?"

"Not long ago, I heard you shamelessly broadcasted to the seventy-two provinces, claiming you would snatch the Devil Concubine and restore the Zhu Dynasty... Hahaha, it's truly ridiculous to the extreme. You, a Heavenly Eunuch, even if you were given Yuan Mingzhen, so what?"

"With a beauty before you, your worthless thing remains soft as a tiny worm."

"Tsk, tsk, if I were you, I'd rather just take my own life than live without dignity in this world."

These few angry retorts not only served to vent his rage, but also to divert attention.

In fact, before Yelü Baoshan even opened his mouth, the devil eyes on his chin had already sprayed out a dense green light.

In an instant, it divided into millions and formed a Life Capturing Demon Light Array, intending to grind Zhu Xun into pieces.

His sneak attack was indeed unexpected.

Regrettably, Tao Qian knew all too well that it was in vain.

In Tao Qian's eyes, it was clear: Zhu Xun's strength surpassed that of Yelü Baoshan.

Or rather, of the four people present, Zhu Xun was the strongest.

Followed by Gao Tianci, then Shi Zhongsheng, and lastly, Yelü Baoshan.

Indeed, the crowd then saw Zhu Xun, who had also had his scars exposed, merely laugh it off lightly.

He made no grand gestures, but instead, with his Daoist Body, confronted the dense and swiftly approaching "Life Capturing Demon Light". The Daoist Charm Immortal Qi within him erupted, also dividing into millions effortlessly, shattering the array.

Then, with a casual flair, he plucked the treasure sword hanging from his waist and flicked it with his finger, emitting a hundred thousand bursts of sword light, enveloping Yelü Baoshan within the Sword Array.

"Yelü Daoist is still as enthusiastic as ever, and just in time; I, Zhu, have recently refined a new technique—the Taiyi Splitting Light Sword Skill."

"I was worried about finding no one to test my sword with, and here you are, offering yourself willingly, for which I am most grateful."

"Please be careful and don't end up dissected by Zhu."

"Heavenly Eunuch, come if you dare. If I, Yelü Baoshan, ever express fear, then I'm no better than a eunuch myself."

On the surface, Zhu Xun appeared to be a True Practitioner of the Daoist Sects, but in reality, his mind was dark and crafty.

Had someone else been addressed with terms like "eunuch", "eggless", or "pale-faced thief", they would have already been driven to a rage beyond containment.

However, he merely chuckled, and as he went to kill Yelü Baoshan, he replied with a chuffed loud voice:

"In cultivation, everything comes at a cost; this is an ironclad rule."

"Which cultivator in the world would not envy Zhu for having paid a great cost at birth and then received great fortune—the Qingxu Dao Body such as mine? It seems Yelü Lushan Daoist hasn't even taught you this much. Clearly, he doesn't truly consider you as a sworn brother and just taught you all those powerful and horrifying Divine Powers all at once."

"Once you've learned them, you'll be sent to the front to fight, and when the time comes, you'll be abruptly killed."

"Hmm? That sounds like a good deal to me."

"Stop talking out of your ass..."

"Hiss"

The onlookers immediately realized looking at the scene before them.

Forget about supernatural powers, just in terms of verbal sparring, Zhu Xun completely overwhelmed Yelü Baoshan.

His words were even more ruthless and aimed to destroy the spirit.

Most people also guessed: Zhu Xun was probably right.

...

While the two were locked in combat, drawing everyone's attention.

Tao Qian stood atop the Floating City, his Innate Spiritual Vision activated, surveying his surroundings, and scanning the distance.

The Capital City of Qiantang Province was already in sight. No wonder they had encountered these military generals along the way.

And aside from Gao Tianci, Yelü Baoshan, Shi Zhongsheng, and Zhu Xun, Tao Qian's eyes also reflected large armies rushing in from all directions, including the forces of these four, as well as other various armies.

Like a swarm, like a tide!

Their murderous aura reached the sky!

It almost seemed as though a colossal clash among warlords was about to erupt in the city of Qiantang Province.

As Tao Qian watched, he also felt more and more prying eyes sweeping toward him, many of whom were no less powerful than the four men in the arena, some even stronger.

Tao Qian thought for a moment, smiled slightly, and, carrying Yunrong and accompanied by the siblings of the Zhen Family and a group of female cultivators, stepped forward.

He first greeted Gao Tianci and Shi Zhongsheng:

"Amitabha!"

"Poor monk Wu Gou, greeting all the Daoist friends."

Then, without waiting for a response, he turned to look at the fiercely fighting Yelü Baoshan and Zhu Xun.

Speaking again: "Fellow Daoists, could you consider the poor monk's face and turn your hostility into peace?"

Chapter 672 - Wu Gou Buddha's Son Shows His Ferocity, Who Is the Father and Who Is the Son?

Tao Qian appeared, and immediately, a myriad of gazes, both bright and stealthy, swept over him, all emanating a sense of amazement at his outer appearance.

The first to exclaim was the Taiping Army's young general Shi Zhongsheng, who had been subdued by Si Xixin and was known for his loyalty.

"The Master's dharma body is harmonious, naturally endowed with the aura of the Buddha, untainted by dust, free from wicked filth, and not even the slightest trace of mutation is present."

"I, Shi Zhongsheng, have seen many a Buddha's son, but such a high monk and Buddha's son as the Master is truly a first for me. No wonder he has such a reputation."

This young general, holding a treasure sword and divine bow, spoke flatteringly, but his expression was sincere, and one could hear that he meant what he said.

His exclamation was also what others felt in their hearts.

It couldn't be helped!

Who else but Tao Qian, who had mastered the art of sponging off others and clinging to powerful backers, could borrow the Haotian Divine Mirror for his use?

Even if Tao Qian wanted to pose as Buddha or an Arhat, judging by appearances alone, there would be no flaws to pick out.

However, appearances were just that, appearances.

That he had extinguished five anomalies in Evil Lands was a feat of his past exploits.

Among those present, who wasn't cruel and powerful?

Without a personal bout, they would never believe in his strength.

Thus, at this moment, his attempts to mediate the fight were utterly ineffective.

The two fiercely battling individuals each responded in turn.

The Devil Eyes General Yelü Baoshan, unapologetically sarcastic, shouted, "Country bumpkin from the South Sea, what sort of thing are you to ask me to stop? Why don't you call me 'Dad'? Then your Master Yelü might listen to his dutiful son for once."

Qingxu Immortal Zhu Xun, on the other hand, was different. While easily fending off Yelü Baoshan, he shouted, "Master, please wait a moment. I, Zhu Xun, will first subdue Yelü Daoist, then come and meet with you."

In the midst of speaking, Tao Qian also heard waves of battle cries and two very terrifying auras of warfare.

Looking down towards the great earth, it was two Extraordinary Armies embroiled in battle.

A closer look revealed they were the armies of those two generals.

Well now!

Had he arrived just in time to witness the outset of a free-for-all?

As Tao Qian was thinking this, suddenly an intense hostility exploded in front of him. The fearsome aura congealed as if real, turning the area into a field of blood strewn with the wails of ten thousand resentful souls and the dripping sound of pus and blood. He then saw the one riding atop a mountain of flesh, named Gao Tianci, the Evil God, who was now staring fiercely at Tao Qian.

Demon Blade raised in hand, pointing at Tao Qian, he sprayed out furiously:

"Stinking monk!"

"You don't appreciate kindness."

"I, old Gao, have finally learned a thing or two about speaking elegantly to show you respect, yet this stinking monk not only fails to come out at once, but also sets up airs against me."

"Come, fight with me. I really want to see if you, monk, can remain smug under my Blood Pus Blade – you truly deserve a thrashing."

After spouting all this, Gao Tianci suddenly thought of something amusing.

He pointed towards a location on the great earth where another Extraordinary Army appeared, sinister and dreadful.

At the same time, in front of the army was a county with a population of about ten to fifteen thousand people.

Gao Tianci then loudly ordered his army, "My children, do you see that county before us? The ban is lifted, kill if you wish, loot if you wish, there are no taboos!"

Upon these words, the army, comprised of Magicians and Demon Soldiers, erupted into cheering.

Like a swarm of crazed beasts pouring out, they surged towards that county.

This scene greatly satisfied Gao Tianci, who turned to Tao Qian with a smug expression, saying:

"Stinking monk, I hear your Buddhist Sect preaches about karma. I, old Gao, tell you clearly that it's because of you that I ordered my children to slaughter the city. Watch closely now, realize that the deaths of those ten to fifteen thousand Mortals will be because of you."

"Tsk, tsk, truly tragic."

As Gao Tianci spoke, he was completely oblivious to the fact that the Wu Gou Buddha Son before him had his expression turn cold and dangerous in an instant.

Tao Qian hadn't said anything when Yelü Baoshan had taken advantage.

However, when that Blood Demon army, composed of Magicians, was about to massacre the city, a flash of killing intent crossed Tao Qian's eyes.

His form vanished on the spot, and when he reappeared, it was startlingly right in front of the county known as "Zhaolu County."

Looking at the incoming army, those who had long lost their human form, distorted and grisly, their bodies covered in blood, Tao Qian uttered indifferently:

"Om Mani Padme Hum!"

"You've all mutated to such an extent that your suffering must be unbearable."

"Since I have witnessed this, it is only right that I deliver you from your pain."

As the words left his mouth, Tao Qian had already untied the People Species Bag from his waist and tossed it forward.

Under the gaze of countless eyes, as the mouth of the bag opened, it directly absorbed an army of a full hundred thousand.

This act shocked not only the many onlookers

but also made Gao Tianci, who had come to kill Tao Qian, utterly furious. He bellowed, "You rascal, you're looking for death!"

Immediately exerting his True Spicy Hand, he first shook the Ten Thousand Soul Banner, summoning up to ten thousand resentful souls that had been cultivated to possess fierce Divine Skills and were difficult to kill. Their wailing filled the air, instantly creating an area overrun by Ghosts, lunging towards Tao Qian.

He then raised the blade known as Blood Pus Blade and let loose a sticky crimson blade light at an astonishingly fast speed, slashing towards Tao Qian's neck.

As if these two methods were still uncertain of victory, Gao Tianci also urged his mount, the flesh mountain. The hands, feet, and limbs unfurled with a flutter and, like a Heavenly Girl Scattering Flowers, bombarded towards Tao Qian's position.

These multiple methods in an instant crushed that area into dust.

An ordinary Cavernous Mystery Cultivator would likely not even withstand the Ten Thousand Soul Banner.

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"This object specifically attacks the Three Souls and Seven Spirits."

"The Blood Pus Blade, on the other hand, can completely destroy various Daoist Bodies and Dharma Bodies."

"With these two treasures, added to his entire repertoire of Demon Divine Power and overwhelming mana, it's only natural that Gao Tianci has been able to wreak havoc for so many years."

"Unfortunately, this time he is destined for disaster."

"Tao Qian had long anticipated Gao Tianci's rage."

"As Gao Tianci made his move, Tao Qian revealed his sanctity first."

"All that was heard was a thunderous boom; the sky trembled, the earth shook, and accompanied by ten thousand feet of Buddha Light, the Dharma Image of a True Buddha with three heads and a hundred arms appeared."

"The origin of this divine skill is the Buddha Bird Relics."

"The relic was integrated into the Spirit Treasure Sublime Body, expending Mana to reluctantly stir up the Buddha Nature inside, barely managing to manifest it."

"With the sublime body as cover, and the Power of the Haotian Divine Mirror, even high monks from the Free Temple wouldn't be able to discern the details."

"As for the Three Arhats from the Demon Buddha Temple, they would only think that this Wu Gou Buddha Son had snatched away the [Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva] and gained inspiration from this Buddha Treasure, refining the divine skill."

"Tao Qian revealed the Dharma Image and easily turned the People Species Bag, sweeping away the ten thousand resentful souls along with that flag into it."

"He formed the Immovable Ming King Seal, sitting fixedly in the Void, allowing the Blood Pus Blade to hack towards him; it clanged and clashed, bursting forth streaks of blood light, yet it ultimately failed to break through Tao Qian's Buddha Light of his Dharma Image."

"The numerous arms and limbs, including the wings, all wielding Buddha Treasures and forming Buddha Seals, were smashed away one by one."

"Having dealt with each counter, Tao Qian turned to Gao Tianci and spoke with a loud laugh,"

"A small pearl also emanates luster?"

"Daoist, perhaps you should also take a trip inside my People Species Bag."

"Upon hearing this, Gao Tianci knew the situation was dire."

"Not having time to mourn his captured Ten Thousand Soul Banner, he attempted to retrieve the flesh mountain and Blood Pus Blade, to flee from this stinking monk."

"But at that moment, a sudden Buddhist chant of 'Ding' resounded in his ears."

"And just like that, his body froze for an instant."

"Looking again, that exceedingly bizarre and torn cloth bag had conveniently turned its opening to suck his body inside."

"..."

"Hiss"

"From afar and near, both openly and secretly, the sound of sharp intakes of breath was unending."

"Before the fight began, most people favored the renowned Wu Gou Buddha Son by a little."

"But they also agreed: the odds should be around sixty to forty."

"Who would have thought it would end so easily?"

"In just about a dozen breaths, Gao Tianci lost, and his hundred-thousand-strong Blood Demon Army with him."

"If it weren't for the undeniably exhibited Perfection of Cavernous Mystery cultivation of the Wu Gou Buddha Son, having witnessed that scene, everyone might assume that this Buddha's son had already set foot in the Ultimate Happiness Realm."

"However, before long, numerous reasonable analyses began to spread:"

"It was that cloth bag's doing, a valuable treasure, definitely more than a rank higher than the Ten Thousand Soul Banner and Blood Pus Blade as a Buddha Treasure."

"There was already a rumor that the Wu Gou Buddha Son was the only True Inheritor of the South Sea Qingjing Zen Master, gifted a Buddha Treasure named [People Species Bag], that could collect all things under heaven, and even had the power to enlighten and transform lives; now seeing this, it certainly seems true."

"Tch tch, If I had such a treasure, I could have subdued Gao Tianci too."

"What a Buddha Treasure! From this item alone, one can gauge the power of the Qingjing Zen Master."

"Not just that, the mana of the Wu Gou Buddha Son is also extraordinary, enough to crush other Perfection of Cavernous Mystery Cultivators, even those from the Daoist and Buddhist Sects."

"..."

"Tao Qian could also hear these noisy transmissions, but paid them no heed and didn't care."

"To a certain extent,

he defeated Gao Tianci indeed by relying on the People Species Bag."

"Of course, if he did not need to conceal his identity and could make his move with full strength, what he would rely on would not be just the People Species Bag; Toad God Tile, Nine Toad Bead, Yu Ding, Valley God Gui... which one wasn't enticing?"

"If I can throw Gao Tianci into the Valley God Gui to simmer him, perhaps I could refine some Immortal delicacies like Blood Tofu or Blood Sausage."

"Now, he is just experiencing the agony of human nature changing."

"Muttering to himself under his breath, Tao Qian's three-headed, hundred-armed Dharma Image did not retract."

"Instead, he shifted his gaze to Yelü Baoshan and Zhu Xun, who were fighting each other."

"Hands joined together, he spoke aloud again:"

"Fellow Daoists wish to resolve old grievances through combat; this matter originally has nothing to do with this poor monk."

"However, the vast armies beneath you continue to fight like this, causing disturbance among the people, and this monk cannot bear to witness such scenes."

"Unfortunate as it is, I will have to invite both of you to cool down inside my People Species Bag for a while."

"Before the sound of his words fell, the crowd saw that terrifying People Species Bag turn in another direction."

This time, however, it was Yelü Baoshan and Zhu Xun who were being sucked in.

The latter, quick to see an opportunity, first transformed into a wisp of Daoist Charm Immortal Qi and fled, then loudly responded to Tao Qian:

"Buddha's son, do not be hasty!"

"I, Zhu Xun, will cease hostilities."

Seeing him capitulate first, Yelü Baoshan felt indignant.

He smirked at his foe, then also shouted:

"Little monk, don't mess around, although I, this great general, am brave and invincible, I was born with one ailment—I utterly disdain gloomy places."

"Don't take me with that cloth bag of yours; take someone else."

"Good!"

Hearing this response, Yelü Baoshan's smile broadened.

Believing he had escaped a minor disaster, he secretly mocked in his heart, "They say that a gentleman is deceivable because he is straightforward. I never expected this simple monk from the South Sea to be strong yet so easily fooled. This is good, after this ordeal, I shall flatter him, and perhaps I will have the chance to coax that treasure away from him."

Just as Yelü Baoshan was feeling smug, he suddenly caught sight of the mocking expression on his archenemy Zhu Xun's face, as well as the various exclamations from around them.

His heart sank in a moment.

Instantly sensing something, he abruptly looked up, only to see the Wu Gou Buddha Son's hundred-armed Dharma Image behind him, all the Buddha's palms closing together, merging into one from the sky, descending rapidly toward him.

It was too swift and powerful to dodge.

Then he heard a "boom," a thunderous noise, right in the territory not a hundred miles from the provincial city.

Yelü Baoshan, known in the entire Cultivation World as the "Devil Eyes General," was just like that, suppressed on the ground by a simple monk from the South Sea.

When the dust settled, everyone immediately saw:

Beneath the mountain-like Buddha's Palm, Yelü Baoshan was pinned down, with only his filthy head sticking out.

As he was clueless about his situation, Tao Qian began explaining:

"Yelü Daoist dislikes darkness, hence this poor monk used Five-Finger Mountain to suppress you instead, allowing you to see the daylight."

"By now, Daoist should understand, between the two of us, who is the elder and who is the younger."

As Tao Qian finished these words,

Yelü Baoshan was completely dumbfounded.

His face turned a soy-sauce color even more rapidly, a colorful mix of green, white, and black, quite splendid.

Rage combined with humiliation appeared together, he almost wanted to fight back desperately.

However, for some reason, the Mana within his body seemed imprisoned, unable to move a single bit.

This realization finally made him understand the gravity of the situation.

This seemingly handsome but ordinary monk was terrifyingly strong.

That final jest also had an effect.

All around, chuckling sounds could be heard, including all sorts of laughter.

The most exaggerated among them was Zhu Xun.

This refined man, who appeared to be a True Practitioner of Louguandao, had abandoned all pretense of observing the situation, and began to laugh heartily in mid-air. While laughing, he took out a Spirit Stone capable of recording images, capturing Yelü Baoshan's current disgraceful state, and called out loudly:

"Yelü Daoist!"

"Answer quickly, the Buddha's son is seeking audience with you."

"If your answer satisfies him, perhaps you'll be able to leave from beneath the Five-Finger Mountain."

...

Zhu Xun wore a mocking expression as he looked at Yelü Baoshan but refused to step closer to Tao Qian.

At that moment he seemed to reveal his true nature, yet deep down inside, he thought something else, feeling incredible shock:

"What a formidable monk!"

"No wonder those three bald old thieves at Demon Buddha Temple promoted this lad; such Divine Skills, such means, probably only those Buddha Sons coming from the super Buddhist Temples like Great Freedom Temple, Dharma Cakra Temple, Da Zhao Temple, and Vajra Temple could compete with him."

"Judging from this monk, we can infer that his master, Qingjing Zen Master, must also be a figure no weaker than Kongchan, Shipi, perhaps even stronger."

"Demon Buddha Temple has really had a stroke of luck, gaining such a strong supporter."

"If only I could win over such a master-disciple pair, after decades of arduous scheming, the hopes for restoration would indeed be possible."

Zhu Xun felt both caution and envy, and once again thought about matters of restoration and recovery of his nation.

Meanwhile, the various strong and vicious onlookers, while ridiculing Yelü Baoshan, were also muttering among themselves:

"Such a strong monk, yet his heart doesn't seem very broad."

"Not only is it not broad, but I fear he is a Buddha's son who holds grudges, with Yelü Baoshan's mockery once, now suppressed under the Buddha's Palm, even if he doesn't wish to be an 'elder,' it's now beyond his control."

"Yelü Baoshan deserved it, he was venomous and had a sharp tongue, offending countless people for no reason. In the Desert North, he had Yelü Lushan's protection, but now that he's on his own abroad, he has finally hit a hard knot, losing face and pleasing everyone."

Chapter 674: The Ugly Monk Shenxiu Issues a Challenge, Who is Righteous and Who is Evil

However, last time, Master Tao manifested the Three-Headed Hundred-Armed True Buddha Dharma Image and first captured Gao Tianci, the Blood Soul Demon Lord, along with his army of one hundred thousand soldiers, then employed the Five-Finger Mountain Divine Power to suppress the Devil Eyes General Yelü Baoshan beneath his palm, flaunting his formidable might.

For a moment, all eyes were on him.

Invisible and visible, numerous cultivators could not help but submit.

Meanwhile, Yelü Baoshan, who was being suppressed, found himself somewhat envious of Gao Tianci, who had been taken into the People Species Bag.

At least that fellow had not lost face as severely as him.

What made Yelü Baoshan even more anxious was the growing sense of impending danger in his mind—feeling that at any moment this monk might play a foul trick on him.

Even though this monk, known as the Wu Gou Buddha Son, appeared righteous, Yelü Baoshan dared not take the risk.

His face was ashen, and in his mind, he frantically thought:

"The more righteous a monk appears, the more likely he is to be an Intermediary."

"This bald thief with a thick face and black heart, so petty, yet with strong supernatural powers, I have offended him in front of everyone. Now that I've been captured, could I possibly meet a good end?"

"I've heard that within the Buddhist Sect, there are numerous Enlightenment Methods, capable of refining a person into something like a Buddha Slave..."

The more Yelü Baoshan thought about it, the more intense his sense of foreboding became.

Soon, his gaze was filled with panic, his body sweating profusely.

Of course, he was overthinking it, scaring himself with his own suspicions.

The effect was quite evident, without Master Tao needing to say anything, everyone heard Yelü Baoshan shout:

"Venerable monk spare my life, Yelü Baoshan surrenders."

"It was I who was blind and ignorant, I failed to recognize the venerable monk's capabilities, my words have been offensive, please allow me to make amends."

"If the Venerable Monk wishes, Yelü Baoshan is willing to call you 'Father.'"

After he finished shouting, the territory fell into dead silence.

Including the enemy Zhu Xun, all cultivators stared at Yelü Baoshan with astonished eyes.

There was no mockery on their faces, quite the reverse, there was a hint of wariness.

"It is said that Yelü Baoshan is exceptionally good at biding his time. Now it seems to be true."

"Not only is he a great general in Desert North Province, but he also possesses Cavernous Mystery Cultivation and commands an army of one hundred thousand... Such an existence is willing to call a fellow cultivator 'Father,' truly considering face as worthless."

Suddenly a father, Master Tao also glanced at this sudden 'son' and said, "He's a character."

Then, he planned to actually lay some dark tricks to prevent sparing the guy only to be backstabbed or sneak-attacked later on.

However, just at that moment, Master Tao sensed something and abruptly looked towards the Void ahead.

The next instant, the territory burst into cicada sounds.

Though the owner of the sounds had yet to appear, from every direction, behind every corner, between the white clouds, within the breeze, from deep inside the mountains, from the cities below, many cultivators of varying appearances revealed themselves, their sheer number causing even Master Tao to secretly purse his lips. Were they all peeping toms?

After hearing that cicada sound, these cultivators had no choice but to reveal themselves, exposing not only their looks but also the Source Qi mechanism within them.

In Master Tao's mind, a familiar Record burst forth:

"Listening to the Kongchan Buddha's voice, it can enhance mana and mental state cultivation, but the cost is one cannot conceal their own origin, foundation and so on... Exemption granted!"

Following his perception, he saw a Buddha Light paving the way ahead and a rainbow bridge suddenly forming.

An old monk with kind eyes and a good-natured appearance approached, holding a Seven-forked Bodhi Branch.

With his chest bare and eyes wide, a high nose, and his head covered with fleshly protuberances, even the least discerning person would realize: this is an Arhat.

"Amitabha!"

"This humble monk, Kongchan, greets everyone present."

With this greeting from the old monk, all cultivators became frantic as they returned his greeting.

It was without question that Kongchan was a demon monk.

But for those in the Cultivation World, he was a genuine Arhat, an existence of the Perfect Realm of Ultimate Happiness capable of killing everyone present in a short period of time.

"Greetings, Arhat!"

"Greetings, Kongchan Arhat!"

"Greetings, Elder!"

...

Master Tao, mixed among them, also performed a Buddhist salute and said with respect, "Junior Wu Gou greets the Arhat."

Everyone here had obviously been invited to attend the upcoming Buddha Birth Ceremony in the provincial city. As host, Kongchan maintained a smile on his face, greeting each guest individually.

Then, he turned to Master Tao with a serious look.

After a good look, the smile on his face widened, and the cicada sound became even more joyous.

This sign was so evident that everyone thought to themselves: it seems that Kongchan Arhat is quite fond of this Buddha's son from the South Sea. Is the lineage of Qingjing Zen Master joining the Demon Buddha Temple all but certain?

As everyone was speculating, they saw Kongchan Arhat speak to Wu Gou Buddha Son:

"No need for such formalities, Wu Gou nephew. The humble monk and Qingjing Daoist hit it off at first sight; truthfully speaking, you should be considered my close junior."

"This Gao Tianci, as well as this Yelü Baoshan, are both guests at my Demon Buddha Temple."

"Could you please do me a favor and release them?"

As soon as Kongchan appeared, Master Tao naturally slipped into his role.

Hearing this, he laughed and replied:

"How could Wu Gou dare not comply with the Arhat's instructions?"

Having said that, he first withdrew the Five-Finger Mountain.

Then he took off the People Species Bag and released Gao Tianci and his army of one hundred thousand soldiers.

Immediately, ten thousand and one tumbling gourds appeared on the ground.

After that, a series of shocking events unfolded:

The army of ten thousand, consisting of magicians and soldier demons, as they came out of their daze, seemed to have a moment of enlightenment, regret evident on their faces as they sat down, simultaneously bringing their hands to the tops of their heads and striking down.

Together, they shouted, "For all the misdeeds of the past, I bear the karmic consequences, may my soul return to the void."

Accompanied by a series of thudding sounds, not a single one of the ten thousand soldiers was left alive, all met their demise.

Gao Tianci, having stronger cultivation, resisted a bit longer, using the Ten Thousand Soul Banner for support, while with one hand, he held the Blood Pus Blade at his own neck, hesitating.

Chapter 675:

His expression was in a daze, his mouth constantly muttering, "I was wrong, I have done too much evil, I deserve to die, I should pay with my life..."

Seeing Gao Tianci, who just moments ago had been awe-inspiring like a reborn fierce demon, now fallen into this state.

The crowd, all with changed expressions, looked towards the Wu Gou Monk, who seemed like a true Buddha, with eyes filled with fear.

Such bizarre methods, was this child a Buddha or a demon?

Yelü Baoshan, who had finally gained freedom, initially complained in his heart that Kongchan Arhat had come too late; had he arrived a little sooner, perhaps he would not have had to lose face by calling that thief "bald daddy."

At this moment, looking at Gao Tianci's plight, the warlord with three eyes on his chin immediately felt both relief and fear.

"Good monk! Good Buddha's son!"

"Does he belong to the Demon Buddha Temple or Great Freedom Temple?"

This thought, in fact, was a consensus among the cultivators present.

Enlightening demons, turning evil into good should belong to Great Freedom Temple, but no one was naive enough to just assume.

The essence of these divine powers: it lies in enlightenment.

The key is not just turning demons into good, but also making them end themselves afterward.

Just this point alone made it clear this child was not from Great Freedom Temple.

"Great Freedom Temple, Great Reincarnation Temple, these orthodox Buddhist Sects, although very skilled at enlightening demons,"

"after enlightening, they want to take them in."

"Demon, Divine Spirit, Alien Species, Evil Cultivator... they are indiscriminate, once enlightened, they bring them back to the Mountain Gate to serve as protectors or otherwise, Bai Qin of earlier years is a clear example."

...

As the cultivators indulged in fearful and wild speculations, suddenly, the sounds in the area increased in urgency.

In an instant, Gao Tianci came to his senses.

He looked at himself, then at the Blood Pus Blade in his hand, his expression extremely unwell.

But he knew then, to provoke further was only to disgrace himself.

Fortunately, Kongchan Arhat gave him a face-saving way out.

"Good divine skills, nephew!"

"But since it was all a misunderstanding, why not let bygones be bygones."

"Daoist Gao shouldn't harbor resentment, it was just a small tribulation, I'll take your 100,000 troops for now and with my Demon Buddha Magic, refine them for thirty-six hours; in three days, I'll return to you an army of Corpse Demons, but you will need to pay for the spiritual material treasures required in between, is that acceptable?"

"Good! I'll follow the Arhat."

Having been beaten badly, Gao Tianci was also quite clever; seeing an out, he immediately took it.

After settling the matter, Kongchan nodded his head in satisfaction and once again turned to Tao Qian, his face full of appreciative smiles, generously speaking in praise:

"Earlier when I met with Daoist Qingjing, he proudly claimed his only true disciple, Wu Gou Monk, was a naturally born Buddha's son with a clear Buddha Heart, inevitably achieving the status of Arhat and maybe even Buddha if lucky."

"I thought he was merely boasting, but now having seen for myself, I realize Daoist Qingjing was indeed being modest."

"I, as well as my fellow brethren under Shipi's command, including those from the Demon Buddha sons and unworthy monks, compared to you, nephew, are simply not worth mentioning, all incompetent."

"It looks like when I meet Daoist Qingjing again, I must genuinely seek his guidance on the method of accepting disciples."

"I can assert: as long as you cultivate Mahayana Buddhism, you will definitely achieve the status of a Buddha in the future."

"Ssss!"

As Kongchan finished speaking, all the cultivators were shocked.

Tao Qian once again became the sole focus.

Truly the center of "all eyes on him," his prominence was unmatched.

Earlier, he had shown sainthood, proving his combat power with overpowering divine skills.

Now, an Arhat from Demon Buddha Temple, renowned for many years, was personally promoting him, vouching for him, even stating he would definitely achieve the Buddha status in the future.

One should know that Kongchan Arhat was no ordinary demon monk!

With such a high status, he had a certain level of Saying and Following, touching upon causality.

Since he had said so, he would also bear some consequences in the future.

In that moment, from the Seventy-two provinces and different territories of the Cultivation World, cultivators from various forces felt both amazement and doubt.

Amazement at the potential of this Wu Gou Monk!

The suspicion was why Kongchan Arhat personally came to welcome a South Sea Buddha Child and even praised him aloud?

In reality, it wasn't just the cultivators who were puzzled.

Tao Qian himself was also pondering:

"This old bald thief, has he actually been fooled by my master?"

"It shouldn't be this way, even if they wanted to win over both my master and myself, speaking privately and offering many benefits should have been enough."

"To come welcome me in public and with such nauseating praise, there must be a catch."

"But this bald thief is indeed skilled in rhetoric, claiming that I will definitely become a Buddha in the future, yet craftily setting the prerequisite that I must practice Mahayana Buddhism."

"Hehe, who doesn't know that in the Cultivation World, only the Demon Buddha Temple claims that they possess Mahayana within their Mountain Gate?"

"This is tantamount to implying: I must join the Demon Buddha Temple to achieve the status of Buddha."

As Tao Qian was pondering, Yuan Gong suddenly transmitted his voice.

"Young man, be cautious, Kongchan old thief is deliberately flattering you to death."

"There must be a trap or disaster ahead."

As if to verify Yuan Gong's words.

Suddenly, hundreds of miles away, in another direction of the province city, opposing this territory.

Suddenly at this moment, a familiar Buddhist chant came drifting over:

"I am Shenxiu, a kitchen monk from Great Freedom Temple."

"I've long heard that there are three Arhats at the Demon Buddha Temple, planning to hold a Buddha's Birthday Dharma assembly and expound Mahayana Buddhism to enlighten the common people."

"As an unskilled monk, I have learned several volumes of the true scriptures, which also includes the Mahayana Buddhism, and today I come with several Daoists from Vajra Temple, hoping to debate the scriptures and discuss the Dharma with the Daoists from Demon Buddha Temple."

"I heard that here are Daoists from all seventy-two provinces, with millions of mortals present, serving as witnesses, so as to let the people of the world know."

"Your Demon Buddha Temple, my Free Temple, who is righteous and who is evil."

...

These words reverberated, completely stirring up the vicinity of Qiantang Province City.

The local cultivators first looked at Wu Gou monk strangely and whispered, "Do powerful Buddha Children all love to talk like this? This Shenxiu Monk may not be calling those Three Arhats his father, but the effect is almost the same."

Then, looking at Kongchan Arhat, surprisingly, there was no anger on the face of this challenged Arhat.

Instead, he laughed heartily and continued saying:

"Indeed, there are talented people emerging in every generation. I've heard that this Shenxiu little monk is among the top three Buddha Children of Free Temple, and seeing him today, he truly stands out."

"Come, come, come, let all Daoists join me to see something rare."

"Let's see whether this Shenxiu Monk is formidable, or if my nephew's techniques are stronger."

After saying this, the old monk actually took the initiative to lead everyone towards the city.

A step behind, Tao Qian, seeing this scene along with Yuan Gong's reminder, suddenly had a vague guess about the intentions of the three old bald thieves.

Before long, all the cultivators and warlords reached one end above Qiantang City.

Looking up, a grand scene immediately appeared on the opposite side:

Half the sky was filled with pure Buddha Light, inside which there roared many Heavenly Dragons. There was also a rain of flowers, chanting of Buddhist hymns, and blooming lotuses transforming this Demon Buddha Territory into a likeness of the Western Heavenly Bliss Pure Land.

In the Buddha Light stood a monk wearing a patchwork Buddha's Robe with a strange lump on his forehead, looking ugly. Behind him stood a hundred or so half-naked golden-bodied, awe-inspiring powerful Vajras.

This side also had many figures of warlords and cultivators, many of whom were not weaker in aura or might than Gao Tianci, Yelü Baoshan, Shi Zhongsheng, Zhu Xun, etc.

But at this moment, the limelight was completely taken by the Buddha Child from Free Temple.

Just as previously, Wu Gou monk Tao Qian impersonated had also stolen the limelight.

And here too, an Arhat had come out to meet him.

This Arhat wore a Ten Thousand Lotus Kasaya, sat atop an Evil Lotus lotus platform, and held in his hand a Red Lotus carved from Blood Jade, looking archaic as if always having an angry expression.

Everyone knew: This must be Lian Sha Arhat, whose Divine Powers and temple status were not inferior to Kongchan Arhat.

And for Tao Qian, this Arhat had another identity: the Master of his old nemesis, the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva!

"Previously, from Zhen Buchi's Heart Soul memory, I knew that Beautiful Corpse, although disastrously set up by Bai Qin, still managed to preserve his Primordial Spirit after the battle in Southern Yue."

"I don't know what the current condition of that Beautiful Corpse is, but if there's a chance, I still need to strike him secretly, as I still remember his persecution against me from those years."

As Tao Qian murmured to himself, at the other end of the city, Lian Sha Arhat had already disdainfully addressed Shenxiu Monk along with those hundred or so Vajra Monks.

Chapter 676: Seeing the Beautiful Corpse Again, Jealousy and Rivalry

"Shenxiu, you lead such a group of Vajra Monks into Qiantang, isn't that seeking death?"

"Do not listen to others' flattery, calling you the Free Buddha Son, unmatched in Buddhism and so on. And these one hundred Vajra Monks, I know that they specialize in the Vajra Demon Suppression Secret Technique. Together, they might form the Great Sumeru Vajra Demon Suppression Array and hold out for a few breaths under my hands, but what use is that?"

"If I wish, I could capture all of you now and refine you into Buddha slaves."

As soon as the words of Lian Sha Arhat fell, he immediately took action. The Scarlet Blood Lotus in his hand silently bloomed, red light pervaded, shattering the sky filled with Buddha Light, halting the

chanting of Buddhist hymns. The various lotuses withered, and those protector Heavenly Dragons trembled and wailed, their flesh and bodies sprouting "Blood Lotuses" as their Essence Blood Source Qi was rapidly drained. The sky bloomed with Blood Lotus, surrounding Master Shenxiu and the Vajra Monks.

With casual ease, Shenxiu monk was brought to a life-and-death situation.

Indeed, the Power of a demon monk of the Arhat Level was terrifying.

Tao Qian put himself in their shoes: against Lian Sha Arhat, the People Species Bag couldn't collect him, the Toad God Wa Dang couldn't hit him, the Nine Toad Pearl, Yu Ding, and other All Treasures were also ineffective.

"Not an opponent, and if a conflict arises, the outcome wouldn't be much better."

"However, since Shenxiu dares to come, he must have a backup plan."

And immediately, two Dao Heart Thoughts landed.

Surrounded by Blood Lotus, Shenxiu Buddha's son looked at the Scarlet Buddha Lotus with a face full of compassion and said, "When the little monk came, my master once said: What Lian Sha Arhat has cultivated is 'Sutra of the Lotus of the Sublime Dharma', which is also the Buddhist Law of our Great Freedom Temple, yet it was stolen by your temple and perverted into this form."

"Buddha Lotus transformed into Evil Lotus, devouring all things, is the path of Evil Demons."

After speaking, he once again recited the Buddha's verse:

"The source water is always pure, gradually becoming murky as it flows."

"Greedy hearts become devious over time, wishful thoughts lead to a muddled nature."

"Does the Arhat know, you have strayed from the path, and if you awaken now and turn to cultivate the True Mahayana Buddhism, there's still a glimmer of hope."

"Although the little monk is dull, he too has perused the Lotus Sutra. Allow the little monk to recite it for the Arhat..."

Saying this, Shenxiu did not avoid anyone.

In front of everyone, he began to recite the Great Lifebook 'Sutra of the Lotus of the Sublime Dharma' from the Free Temple.

Instantly, within and outside the city, regardless of what forces or Cultivation sects the cultivators belonged to, their eyes lit up and they listened intently.

After hearing just a few sentences, everyone knew: it was the real deal.

This also included the many demon monks within the provincial city, who started to listen seriously.

In a moment, flowers fell chaotically from the sky, Golden Lotus burst from the earth.

Almost everyone seemed to have gained some understanding.

Yet the Buddhist Scripture was ultimately profound, and even with Buddha's son reciting, it was not possible to gain great benefits, except for those who already were powerful Buddhist Practitioners.

For example, Lian Sha Arhat.

He considered himself to have strong Cultivation and profound Buddhist Law, and listened with great interest. He even quickly gained some insight, and his face showed even greater delight.

Until a short while later, an abrupt change occurred.

Centered around the ugly monk Shenxiu, strands of golden vapor spread, merging into the Blood Lotus, transforming them into Golden Lotus, and slowly began to envelop Lian Sha Arhat as well.

Realizing this, Lian Sha's expression drastically changed, and he bellowed:

"Silence!"

A Blood Buddha's apparition appeared in the sky, unimaginable Mana bursting forth.

It not only instantly disrupted Shenxiu's recitation but also seemed to be on the verge of suppressing him. Fortunately, over a hundred Vajra Monks quickly formed an array, protecting Shenxiu within.

Above the provincial city, Lian Sha was furious:

"The Great Auspicious Bright Cloud!"

"Good, really good."

"Auspicious, that bald thief dare not give up on trying to convert me. That string of Auspicious Buddha beads must be on you, right? He doesn't dare to come himself but lets a junior sneak attack me, shameless to the extreme."

Lian Sha spoke in such a way that everyone could hear that this involved enmity between Lian Sha Arhat and another Arhat from the Great Freedom Temple.

And on Shenxiu's body, there indeed was a Buddha Treasure that could target Lian Sha Arhat.

Tao Qian's mind also echoed with Yuan Gong's explaining voice, only to hear him laughingly say:

"Lian Sha, this foolish baldy, always arrogant, thought he could take advantage of the young, just now if Shipi Kongchan hadn't been watching and secretly messaged him, he almost capsized in the gutter. Although absorbing the Auspicious Bright Clouds won't result in being Enlightenment, he would have definitely suffered a loss in Cultivation and faced a great embarrassment."

"The Auspicious Arhat he mentioned is another interesting baldy from the Great Freedom Temple."

"When he was young, for some reason, he took a liking to Lian Sha. Seeing him committing evil and slaughtering a city, he made a grand vow, saying he would not undergo Daoist Transformation until he converted Lian Sha."

"That sounds nice, but in Lian Sha's view, the Auspicious Arhat regarded him as a stepping stone for the Daoist Transformation Tribulation, and they became true enemies with a mortal grudge."

"But if Auspicious really came, I'm afraid only Shipi in this city could fight him. Look, now Lian Sha is shouting so happily, but if they were to really face off alone, he would definitely be converted by Auspicious."

...

A secret history straight into the ears.

Also at this moment, Shenxiu, unfazed by the failed sneak attack, as if he had known it would happen, smiled and said:

"Arhat speaks incorrectly!"

"There are Three Arhats in the provincial city. Although the little monk is dull, he knows it is impossible to sneak attack the senior, and reciting the 'Sutra of the Lotus of the Sublime Dharma' is truly sincere, only hoping the Arhat can understand the True Skill."

"As for Auspicious, my senior brother, he also instructed before he left: Kongchan, Shipi, and Lian Sha, all three seniors are monks who comprehend Buddhist principles deeply. If there's a Dharma meeting, they certainly wouldn't reject the little monk's request for a Scripture Debate."

"My master also said: If the little monk could defeat your temple's Demon Buddha Son and prove that our Free Temple is the Buddhist True Dharma, then this Earthly Buddha Country should also be taken over by us, the Free Temple."

"How do the Three Seniors feel about this proposal?"

Chapter 677 - Seeing the Beautiful Corpse Again, Jealousy and Rivalry_2

"If the three of you feel this is inappropriate," my master, Long Meng Arhat, my senior, Auspicious Arhat, and my uncle, Shanjian Arhat, can all arrive within half a day using the Heart Light Escape

Technique to contend with the three seniors in a Dharma battle. Should it come to this, the Earthly Buddha Country – which is currently peaceful and intact – may be destroyed, which would indeed be most regrettable," Shenxiu finished, shocking both inside and outside of the city.

It was not that people considered the ugly monk's words to be particularly brilliant; on the contrary, everyone was just puzzled.

Where did this ugly monk get the nerve to think that by relying on "Debating Scripture," he could seize the entire Qiantang Province? Isn't that just a fantastic tale?

In an instant, everyone felt that this Free Temple disciple must have gone mad.

If the three Arhats from the Free Temple were here, there might be a possibility.

But with only a solitary group of youngsters by his side, how could he utter such brazen words?

The crowd was convinced that the next scene should involve Lian Sha Arhat becoming furious and directly subduing him along with those hundred Vajra monks to refine them into Buddha slaves.

Amongst the crowd, only Tao Qian had a different idea in mind:

"Good gracious!"

"It seems Great Freedom Temple is also aware of Demon Buddha Temple's conspiracy by the Three Thieves. Although the specifics are unknown, at the very least they understand that this Dharma assembly must be held; the warlords and strong cultivators from within this province must not be scared away... By threatening the three Arhats, they want to force them to personally admit, to decide the rightful belonging of the Earthly Buddha Country in Qiantang Province in terms of Dharma lineage through a scripture debate."

"If Lian Sha and the others refuse, the Free Temple will immediately have three Arhats arrive within half a day... No, not even half a day, who knows? Maybe those three Arhats are already lurking in the dark, ready to jump out at any moment."

Upon realizing this, Tao Qian's expression turned grave.

In his heart, he vaguely understood another matter and secretly cursed:

"I, Tao Qian, really am too straightforward!"

"I should have guessed earlier that Great Freedom Temple has always liked to meddle in the affairs of the world and to lay plans across the Seventy-two provinces."

"How could a disciple of Buddha of Shenxiu's caliber appear in Qiantang Province by accident?"

"This ugly monk must be a scout sent to find excuses."

"And my challenge issued by chance afforded the Free Temple a perfect pretext."

"Could it be that Great Freedom Temple has come to snatch Qiantang Province from Demon Buddha Temple, reaching for the peaches?"

In an instant, Tao Qian understood the causes and consequences and reached a conclusion.

As he silently scolded in his heart, he also heightened his vigilance towards Great Freedom Temple.

He knew that the three directly threatened Arhats must have known even earlier, and they seemed to have been aware of this impending situation.

Upon hearing the words, neither Kongchan nor Lian Sha showed any change in expression.

At the same time, the next moment brought about a change that made Tao Qian curse the Three Thieves for their shamelessness in his heart.

Who could have expected this twist?

The Lian Sha Arhat, who had been filled with a look of rage, suddenly burst out laughing:

"Excellent!"

"My elder brother had long predicted that the Buddha Birth Assembly would not be without turmoil, and indeed this is an opportunity for transformation of our Buddha Country."

"Debating and fighting with the Dharma to establish the True Skill perfectly aligns with our Demon Buddha's intentions."

"Little monk, since your Free Temple has come to provoke and challenge us, once Demon Buddha Temple accepts the challenge, shouldn't the method of debate be decided by us?"

Saying this, Lian Sha did not give Shenxiu a chance to object.

He went straight on to say:

"Such matters of Dharma lineage cannot be taken lightly. Debating, Demonstration, saving the world... None can be omitted."

"Three rounds, then; let us determine the victor through three rounds."

"Starting with tonight's assembly, the first will be Debating Scripture."

"Tomorrow, the second round, Demonstration."

"The day after tomorrow, the third round, saving the world."

"How about it?"

"It should be so!"

Shenxiu Monk, as if also having been instructed beforehand, quickly responded and then asked for the participants.

The warlords and strong people from many other provinces, who did not realize they were already like meat about to be stewed in a pot, were thoroughly enjoying the spectacle; they were also curious about how the combat between the two great Buddhist temples would unfold.

Only to see Lian Sha Arhat smile proudly and say:

"The first round of debating scripture shall be undertaken by my disciple, Beautiful Corpse. In her past, she suffered from disaster and tribulation, lost her Dharma Body, and after her Primordial Spirit reincarnated and re-cultivated, she had a great enlightenment. She has integrated the methods of Heavenly Demon, Guanyin, and Demon Buddha into one and is perfectly suited to experience the Sublime Dharma of your Free Temple's Buddhist Scripture."

"My dear disciple, I know you adore handsome disciples of Buddha and splendid monks. This one called Shenxiu is not worth considering, but these hundred or more Vajra monks should indeed be a feast for your eyes."

No sooner had the words fallen, when a startling scene unfolded in the assembly.

They saw Lian Sha Arhat throw out the Blood Lotus in his hand; as the bud opened, there lay inside a beautifully carved, only-red-diaper-wearing baby girl.

She giggled and flipped over, stepping out of the Blood Lotus.

Step by step, Buddha Light diffused, and a shower of flower petals fell like rain.

In the blink of an eye, she began to grow, one year, two years, three years... In the flash of an eye, a young girl adorned in a white robe, draped in thin Buddhist gauze, with a halo hanging behind her head, and a figure both charming and alluring, her appearance enchanting, her eyes pure, had fully grown.

In a daze, everyone had different illusions.

Some thought the girl was a demoness, seducing all living beings.

Others saw her as an Outer Heaven Witch, awakening in them many desires.

Yet, many more felt she was clearly a "Young Guanyin," sacred and pure, yearning to kneel before her.

The girl's startling appearance, recognized by many as the Young Guanyin, first followed the guidance of Lian Sha Arhat to look over the hundred or so Vajra Monks.

But after only a few glances, a look of annoyance quickly surfaced on her face, and she said in a charming voice,

"Master, why do you underestimate your disciple so?"

"These muscle-bound oafs, so ordinary in appearance, their qi pure but so stiff, utterly lacking in taste, not even as good as that ugly monk."

Having said that, the Beautiful Corpse girl followed her perception.

Suddenly, she turned her head and her gaze, with uncanny accuracy, automatically locked onto Tao Qian.

In an instant, Tao Master inwardly cursed.

While the Beautiful Corpse girl licked her tender pink lips, exclaiming in surprise,

"What a handsome little monk, such pure Buddhist charm."

"Master, Master, I want him."

As she called out these sentences,

Tao Qian felt Yuan Gong inside the statue in his arms laughing hysterically.

And Tao himself nearly lost control, almost taking out the Toad God Tile to throw at her, shattering her skull.

However, the first to react was Yunrong.

The bell sounds that startled the entire territory of Qiantang suddenly echoed, and an extremely eerie pale Buddha Light rolled out like an aurora at the poles. The Female Bodhisattva in the midst of it stared straight at the Beautiful Corpse girl, a smile on her face but an ice-cold voice declaring,

"What a shameless little whore!"

"Say that again, if you dare."

...

This scene caused an uproar, with an atmosphere even more fervent than when they heard about the Demon Buddha Temple and Great Freedom Temple preparing for a showdown.

A chaotic scene?

No matter whether male cultivators or female cultivators, Evil Demons or the Righteous, seeing such a spectacle sparked interest, and who could have expected such a turn of events?

Not even Lian Sha Arhat himself had anticipated it.

Originally, he wanted to stop the Beautiful Corpse girl's moves immediately, as after all, Wu Gou was considered one of their own, with a backing that was by no means weak; it wouldn't do to offend him.

But before he could speak, Yunrong's impolite scolding came forth.

They say when you hit a dog, you must watch its owner.

The Beautiful Corpse was his most cherished disciple, and in such a public place, how could he allow her to be insulted like this?

Even if the Beautiful Corpse was in the wrong first, it shouldn't be the case.

Kongchan Arhat, seeing his brother's intentions, chuckled secretly while inwardly reprimanding,

"Brother needs to change his show-off nature. If he's to choose someone, choose someone, but why cast a spell at this moment to hasten the ripening of the Beautiful Corpse?"

"Doesn't he know this girl inherently possesses a lustful soul, upon seeing Wu Gou, such a handsome little monk, how could she restrain herself?"

"If this little monk had no daoist couple, so be it. Smooching around and achieving a good deed would also bring Qingjing Zen Master over to our side."

"But the problem is that he does have a daoist couple, and I've heard that Qingjing has said in private that behind Miao Yin is Bao Xian, a nun even more mysterious than Qingjing. Why provoke them for no reason?"

Having settled his thoughts, Kongchan Arhat immediately took action.

He began by shaking the Bodhi Branch, and at once the pleasant cicada sounds filled every corner, calming everyone's spirits and also incidentally dispersing the strange Buddha Light emanating from Miao Yin Bodhisattva.

The old monk stood out with a smile, signaled to the Beautiful Corpse girl to hold her tongue with his eyes, and addressed Shenxiu,

"As the little monk has seen, the first round of Debating Scripture will be participated in by my niece, Beautiful Corpse."

"And for this second round of the showdown, my other niece Wu Gou will take the stage."

No sooner had the old thief bald spoken, he pointed at Tao Qian.

Almost immediately, Master Shenxiu showed a look of surprise.

But Tao Da, who had anticipated it, cursed again internally.

Chapter 678 - Ritual Ceremony Highlight, Devil Concubine Performs a Dance

When Kongchan Arhat's voice fell, Tao Qian suddenly fully realized the reason why Demon Buddha Temple had boosted his fame earlier and given him five evil lands and five Buddha Treasures for free.

The main reason was, of course, to win him over, and this current event was a secondary cause.

"Those three old thieves probably had already predicted that Free Temple would come seeking trouble and had made arrangements in advance, drawing me into their schemes."

"It's also because I showed too much formidable power, making those three crafty bald heads convinced that I could defeat Shenxiu."

"Indeed, even with the Master intervening to trick them, it's not easy to take advantage of those old schemers."

While Tao Qian was cursing inwardly, Kongchan Arhat's telepathic message suddenly came.

"In haste, there was no time to discuss this properly with my wise nephew."

"However, I have also consulted with Qingjing Zen Master, and Daoist said, 'Since my disciple has entered the world, he has never been defeated. A mere Free Buddha Son could be defeated single-handedly.'"

"If so, I would trouble my wise nephew to make a move."

"We're all from the same sect, and I will surely not let my wise nephew suffer a loss. I will give you some fine items later. You'll be satisfied."

Hearing these words, there was nothing Tao Qian could do except nod.

Well, it seems that this involves Duobao as well.

I wonder if everywhere outside, Master boasts about me, Tao Da Zhenren, like this.

But on careful reflection, it really is so.

Since my coming to this world, whenever facing peers or equals, I have never been defeated.

Even powerful figures like Ying Qingdi have tasted defeat at my hands, so such boasting is not unreasonable.

Tao Qian, worried about being exposed and unable to refuse, had to agree.

He exchanged glances with Shenxiu across the distance!

Their hearts communicated, both understanding that the wager continued.

Although Shenxiu was surprised to see Master Wu Gou suddenly appearing in the Demon Buddha Temple's camp, he was very confident in his Buddha Heart and wise eyes, thinking, "Master Wu Gou must have cultivated the 'Ksitigarbha Sutra,' emulating my resolve of 'not entering hell, who will?' intending to become a demon first and then save this Fallen Demon Buddha Country?"

As he marveled, within Qiantang Province City, suddenly a wild laughter broke out.

The next moment, an impressive spectacle appeared that surprised all the warlords, celebrities, and strong men present.

Visible were flowers raining disorderly from the sky, a Demon Dragon dancing, a nun leading the way, and Heavenly Girls surrounding a treasure that resembled a Buddha chariot and also a Dragon Chariot, emerging from a myriad of Buddha's illusory shadows, flying from within a radiant golden light.

On that chariot sat a fat, bloated monk.

He looked precisely like a lump of meat brimming with grease, wearing a golden Heavenly Dragon Kasaya, hanging Skull Buddha Beads around his neck, a Golden Gourd at his waist, with a treasure turning into a halo behind his head, his face always maintaining a beaming smile, unchanged.

Lying in the chariot like a Buddha of laughter, he was enjoying the service of those Heavenly Girls.

Except for Kongchan and Lian Sha, the two Arhats, he hardly noticed anyone else.

Buddha Light, nobility, and Dragon Qi mixed into a murky column of qi rising into the sky, indirectly revealing the identity of this fat monk.

Cheng Arhat, the Lord of the Earthly Buddha Country in Qiantang Province.

He appeared almost squeezed into a crevice by his fat, laughing as he looked at Shenxiu and the hundred Vajra Monks, he asked boldly:

"You are monks, practicing Buddha."

"As such, seeing me, the Lord of Buddha Country, why do you not bow?"

Such domineering words were voiced, instantly drawing sideways glances.

How domineering!

An overlord transformed from a warlord, yet demanding a Free Buddha Son to kneel before him?

It was known that even during the era when the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty's imperial regime was unabolished, even the Emperor of the time dared not do such a thing.

However, he did not wait for Shenxiu's response. The ugly monk looked at him, his eyes showing little unusual color but a peculiar pity, as if he regarded him as a Demon to be saved and purified.

As Cheng Arhat was about to rebuke, the Array formed by the Vajra Monks suddenly parted.

A figure appeared, startling everyone present, including Tao Qian.

The surprise was not due to this person's cultivation level or fame per se.

But rather, it was the incredible aura about him that even Shenxiu had to bow to show respect as this person stepped forward.

This was a monk about fifty years old, dressed in blue and white monk robes, clearly once handsome but now lean and weathered due to severe ascetic practices. Anyone who met his gaze felt a pure Buddha charm.

Tao Qian, disguised as Wu Gou Monk, was untouched by any impurity.

And this person seemed to be a mirror that had been through worldly matters, covered in dust, which was then all brushed away to reveal its original clarity.

There is no need to peer into this person's cultivation level; his aura alone made it clear that he was an extraordinary high monk.

Several signs proved this:

After this monk appeared, both inside and outside the city, many impurities and Demon Buddha glows began to dim.

It was as if, invisibly, threads of pure radiance were falling, spontaneously purifying this territory.

Be it Demons or Alien Species.

Even powerful demons like Gao Tianci and Yelü Baoshan, did not want to look at him.

Not from fear, but because it inexplicably felt blinding.

Worrying that looking too long would cause defects in one's own mental state.

At this moment, Yuan Gong's voice transmitted to Tao Qian's ears:

"Such a perfect state of mind!"

"Worldly toxins refine the Buddha's body, a full moon illuminates the heavenly heart."

"Boy, this monk is incredible. He's cultivating the Path of Salvation and is nearly perfectly accomplished."

"If he succeeds, even the Daoist Transformation Tribulation can't stop him."

"Such a person, it's unlikely he comes from Great Freedom Temple; even though that monk's nest is strong, it couldn't produce someone like this."

Tao Qian was surprised that Yuan Gong had such a high opinion of this suddenly appearing monk.

Just as he was guessing the monk's identity, the answer quickly came.

Cheng Arhat, lying on the Dragon Chariot, still maintaining his laughing demeanor, seemingly completely unaffected, only retorted with a question:

"That monk, what sort of thing are you?"

"A humble monk Da Yu, just a commoner."

"I came to Qiantang for nothing else but to save you and this Fallen Demon Buddha Country."

Like an immaculate full moon, the old Monk Tao Da had no qualms about exposing himself fully.

At the same time, he looked at Cheng Arhat, his face showing compassion as he suddenly spoke, lifting the very secrets of Cheng Arhat like lifting his underpants,

"Your Excellency was kind-hearted in your youth, afraid to sweep the ground for fear of harming the life of ants, cherishing moths on lampshades, a good child indeed."

"Later, your entire family died in a war calamity, and you sought refuge in a small temple where you barely survived. Your master, Master Zhishan, initially did not wish to transmit the Divine Powers to you. It was your three days and three nights of kneeling and your great vow: willing to sacrifice all your flesh and blood to save the world and its people, that finally earned you a scroll of the 'Withering and Flourishing Scripture' from the Zen Master, thus leading you to the path of cultivation."

"Before the Zen Master's transformation into nirvana, he led you to Han Mountain Temple, marking the beginning of Cheng Arhat."

"Regrettably, the Zen Master failed to see clearly that although your Buddha Heart was extensive, the demonic nature within you was even more potent. Before cultivation, you were willing to use your body as a price to save the world, but after cultivation, you saw the world as a price for your own gain."

"You have committed too many sins, which even I cannot enumerate."

"To not speak too much of others, I slightly know a thing or two about your end, you will suffer a lingering death, fall into the path of animals, and not be liberated for ten lifetimes."

"Bang!"

No sooner had Great Abyss Zen Master finished speaking than Cheng Arhat, enraged, raised his hand and smashed the Dragon Chariot.

At the same time, his body began to grow wildly, visibly enveloped in black ink-like demon Buddha glow, which instantaneously dyed the provincial city into a true Demon Buddha Kingdom.

As Cheng Arhat displayed his Dharma Image, he fixed his stare on the Great Abyss Zen Master, incessantly chanting from his mouth as if reciting a scripture:

"Why do you not bow upon seeing the Thus Come One?"

"Why do you not bow upon seeing the Thus Come One?"

"Why do you not bow upon seeing the Thus Come One?"

Unexpectedly, the two began to compete in their powers.

What was even more surprising was that Cheng Arhat, considered a warlord by everyone, possessed such advanced cultivation and terrifying Divine Powers.

His ever-growing Dharma Image was taller than a mountain.

In contrast, Great Abyss Zen Master seemed like a mere ant.

After hearing this, the Zen Master simply chuckled and retorted,

"Do you really want me to bow?"

"Quickly bow to me!"

As their dialog concluded, the Zen Master was eager to kneel in worship to Cheng Arhat.

However, at that moment, Lian Sha Arhat, who was closest, sensed something and his expression drastically changed.

"Wait!"

He had moved behind Cheng Arhat and struck him down with a palm stopping the rampant growth of his Dharma Image.

At the same time, with a sweep of his robe sleeves, a Blood Lotus bloomed, halting Great Abyss Zen Master's act of bowing.

Looking at the old monk, a look of admiration appeared on his face, he gave a Buddhist salute and then said,

"Great Abyss Daoist, you also possess great perseverance."

"My senior brother transmitted a message to me saying: Daoist friend, you were born with a Bodhi Heart, a clear body, truly a top-notch Buddha's son in the world. If you could cultivate in Great Freedom Temple or Dharma Cakra Temple, you would eventually achieve Buddhahood, much stronger than my Lotus Buddha Body."

"Daoist friend, in your youth, you had a chance, as Taixu Arhat from the Free Temple once came searching for you. You felt it and closed the door, refusing to meet him, and for decades did not cultivate any Divine Powers, allowing numerous toxins into your heart and all kinds of filth to refine your body, utterly wasting your incredible talent."

"But unexpectedly, you were cultivating the Path of Salvation."

"Having remained inconspicuous for the first half of your life, rolling in the secular world, you finally decided to leave the world. The first tribulation you chose was our Qiantang Province, truly an honor for us."

Great Abyss Zen Master exposed Cheng Arhat's flaws.

Lian Sha Arhat reciprocated by revealing the origins of the Great Abyss Zen Master.

He was also honest, explicitly stating it was calculated by Shipi Arhat.

After speaking, he paused and then continued,

"Daoist friend, you also know that the time is not yet right."

"If you had bowed to Cheng Daoist, I fear it would lead to mutual injury, which would be rather unsightly."

"Since there is already an established accord, there is no need for further words. On the third day of the Path of Salvation, our representative will be Cheng Daoist, and for Free Temple, it is you, Daoist friend."

"When the time comes, all will be revealed."

"Good!" This copy was generated from content at *.

Ever since Great Abyss Zen Master appeared, it was always he who spoke for the Free Temple side.

Since he had agreed, Shenxiu and the over a hundred Vajra Monks naturally had no objections.

Meanwhile, many warlords and famous individuals, although somewhat regretful that the ultimate outcome was not achieved, were thrilled to have witnessed this spectacle.

They had seen gossip and witnessed a magical duel.

Moreover, this Dharma assembly was set to continue for three days, offering them a chance to see three more Scripture debates and magical performances, as well as a confrontation between Demon Buddha Temple and Free Temple.

Had the following conversation not occurred just then, these warlords would almost have forgotten the real reason they entered Qiantang Province.

Lian Sha Arhat and Kongchan Arhat stood together, inviting everyone from the Free Temple with a smile,

"Zen Master, little monk, although it is not yet night, a grand feast and many fine entertainments are prepared in the city, are you willing to enter the city first to thoroughly enjoy them?"

"Besides, whether it is Great Abyss Daoist or Shenxiu, our young friend, as well as the over a hundred Vajra Monks, all still retain their Primordial Yang, having never experienced the joy of Ultimate Happiness, it is truly a pity. You do not know the pleasure within, how can you speak of 'Form is Emptiness, Emptiness is Form'? Come, come, enter the city and experience it first."

Unexpectedly, Lian Sha Arhat of such status would do such things.

His enthusiastic demeanor was quite like that of an old matchmaker.

"No need!"

"We already have a place to stay, we are about to head to Han Mountain Temple."

Shenxiu Monk's words immediately changed the expressions of the enthusiastic crowd of warlords, casting hostile and dangerous glances.

Just as Shenxiu was about to say "Free Temple intends to protect Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen," these monks would instantly become public enemies.

At that moment, Kongchan Arhat added,

"You may go to Han Mountain Temple, but do not activate the Big Array or use any means to rescue the Devil Concubine."

"Be aware that many Daoist friends here, as well as guests continuously arriving from the Seventy-two provinces, are here for the Devil Concubine."

"Our hosting of this Dharma assembly, one of the biggest attractions, is the Devil Concubine."

"She has also agreed that the day after tomorrow, she will display her Heavenly Phoenix Dharma Form and fly from Han Mountain Temple into the city, wearing nothing, not draped in anything, to offer all present... a dance."

After old thief Kongchan finished speaking, inside and outside the city, everything boiled over.

All the warlords, demons, alien species, even the soldiers or cultural and powerful figures from the Seventy-two provinces showed excitement.

Some less reserved ones even distorted their faces with saliva dribbling down.

Chapter 679 - Earthly Buddha Country, Nun Bestows the Dharma

Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen, this great beauty, the Empress of the dynasty's last days, what was her position in the Northern Land Provinces?

By merely observing the disgraceful acts of those demon army warlords and evil cultivators, one could infer a thing or two, even without seeing anything yet; it was only upon hearing Kongchan mention that "the Devil Concubine will perform a dance" that everyone became agitated.

Some were howling here; others were snickering there; apart from a few like "Shi Zhongsheng" along with his cultivators and army, the rest revealed their true colors.

Upon reflection, it seemed quite normal.

You should know that in the Northern Land Provinces, it's difficult for the more righteous forces to get ahead.

Those capable of dispatching troops and strong individuals to Qiantang, attempting to kidnap Yuan Mingzhen back, were all major demonic forces and army warlords—such existences were not adept at governing troops or the world.

However, not all were so!

At the sub-temple of Qiantang Demon Buddha, the Three Arhats were organizing a "Buddha Birth Technique," mainly aiming to trap all the warlord forces entering Qiantang to refine the Great Transcendence Bodhisattva, but if it were merely for show, it would be easily seen through.

Thus, the three bald old thieves were genuinely holding this ritual. They even grandly sent out many invitations.

Whether it was the Cultivation World or the mundane Seventy-two Provinces, many famous figures had received invitations.

Now, in Qiantang Province City, celebrities gathered, a sight anyone would proclaim a grand event.

Celebrities and strong individuals looked down upon those soldiers and evil demons, and seeing such a chaotic scene, all showed displeasure.

"Ladies and gentlemen, please enter the city."

"In the next three days, have no concerns, just enjoy yourselves to the fullest, as this is the merit of our Buddha's birth."

The speaker was Cheng Arhat.

He seemed to have completely forgotten the humiliation he had received from the "Great Abyss Zen Master" just a few breaths ago.

Still dressed in dragon robe monk clothes, fiddling with skull Buddha beads, he spoke to everyone as if he were a true Emperor, a ruler of a nation.

Accompanied by that demonic, enticing chant of Buddhist hymns, the province city returned to its earlier hustle and bustle.

Many celebrities, warlords, and strong individuals began entering the city.

During the process, they inevitably discussed the recent confrontation between the two great Buddhist Temples.

Those with a strong gambling spirit started setting up private betting.

"Exciting! Truly exciting! Although it was predictable that the Demon Buddha Temple would hold the Buddha Birth Technique, clearly stating the succession of the Dharma, it was bound to be targeted by other Buddhist temples. At first, I thought it would be Han Mountain Temple making a comeback, or the closely related Vajra Temple, but who expected that it would be Great Freedom Temple, the leader of the Buddhist Sect, to make a move."

"Shenxiu Buddha's son, over a hundred Vajra Monks, Auspicious Arhat, Long Meng Arhat, Shanjian Arhat... Geez, Free Temple seems to be getting serious."

"Hey, guess who will win?"

"Why guess? It must be Demon Buddha Temple! After all, Qiantang Province has been in their hands for many days, they have the advantage, how could they lose?"

"How could there not be? First, let's talk about debating scripture; which temple's monks or nuns can debate like those from Great Freedom Temple? Besides, that so-called Beautiful Corpse, a witch, doesn't seem to be good at talking, probably unable to withstand a few sentences from Shenxiu Monk and would just give up, and as for the second round of Dharma combat, that Wu Gou Buddha Son who came from the South Sea, although rumors say he once prevailed over Shenxiu Monk, it's merely hearsay, not to be taken as truth."

"As for the third round, no need to mention, that Great Abyss Zen Master is bound to become a Buddha."

"Well said, facing him, I even feel an impulse to bow in respect, he must be a true Buddha."

"I don't care who wins, I just know that Yuan Mingzhen must belong to our Great Governor. Whoever competes, I'll kill."

"Haha, quite the boastful talk, but may I ask, what if the Three Arhats intervene?" The most up-to-date version is on

"The Three Arhats want to conduct the ritual, seek friendship with the major forces of the Northern Land Provinces, and manifest the legitimacy of the Dharma, how could they possibly offend everyone over just a single Devil Concubine... Even if they do intervene, it's merely Ultimate Happiness Realm; do you think I couldn't invite some experts from Ultimate Happiness?"

"Heh heh, isn't that so, our family's elders didn't come forward, only out of deference to the Three Arhats, but when necessary, I too can invite someone from Ultimate Happiness."

"Me too!"

"And me!"

...

Tao Qian, accompanied by Yunrong, the Zhen siblings, and a group of female cultivators, were also in the procession entering the city, naturally they heard these murmurs and comments.

In any other place, they certainly would have laughed at these people's ignorance and bluffing.

But not here.

Tao Qian looked up, admiring the provincial city with gates open to guests from all directions.

Beneath, the crowd surged like a weaving loom, the air graced by flying Buddha and Immortals.

For a moment, it felt like the Western Pure Land was hosting a ritual festival, inviting heavenly immortals, evil demons, devilish creatures, and alien elves.

Earlier, halfway through the journey, encountering Gao Tianci, Yelü Baoshan, Shi Zhongsheng, Zhu Xun, and others who, although being warlords with substantial backing, blended in among many celebrities and strong figures, they did not stand out much.

After the performance of the play involving "Wu Gou Shenxiu, the two Buddha's sons," and "decreeing the three rounds of the ritual," Kongchan and Lian Sha, the two Arhats, were no longer so enthusiastically hosting him, Master Tao.

Instead, they sent a few Demon Buddha Sons along with Zhen Buchi to guide Tao Qian to his residence in the city.

Yuan Gong, though encapsulated within a sculpture, had secret techniques to peer into the external world, and at this moment, he transmitted a sigh:

"A world of great contention, truly a world of great contention."

"Boy, keep your Dharma Eye alert, while I haven't seen any old acquaintance, the energy connections allow me to discern many major forces."

"Visible or hidden, most you can provoke at will, some you'd better be cautious about... Of course, this all pertains to your identity as the Spirit Treasure True Inheritor, by virtue of being part of a Great Daoist Sect, you shouldn't make enemies everywhere."

Chapter 680 Earthly Buddha Country, Nun Offers Dharma_2

"But as for your identity as a Secret Demon Disciple, you needn't have any concerns. Offend whom you wish, trap whom you wish, the All Heavens Secret Demon has never feared any power."

"Just take that girl called Beautiful Corpse, if I remember correctly, she was your old flame when you started out in Southern Yue. Don't worry about her Demon Buddha Witch or Lian Sha Disciple identity, it counts for nothing. You just quietly capture her, then use the 'Secret Demon Buddha Corpse Transformation Technique' to transcend her. You'll immediately get a Female Bodhisattva with a holy exterior and lustful soul inside. Whatever variety you want..."

This speech seemed normal at the beginning, but the latter part instantly revealed Master Yuan's intent to ridicule Tao Qian.

He had laid the groundwork for a long time, just to mock Tao, the Great Master.

"Forget it, Master Yuan has significant backing. If someone were to notice, I wouldn't be able to maintain this disciple identity."

"Master Yuan might be inconvenienced a bit, let's stay inside the bag for a while longer."

As soon as these words were spoken, before Master Yuan could curse his unworthy pupil, Tao Qian had already recalled the sculpture back into the People Species Bag.

Then, he looked earnestly towards the city.

The original appearance of Qiantang Province City was unknown to Tao Qian.

At this moment, his expression instantly turned to astonishment, full of disbelief.

The city was densely packed with neatly arranged golden brick stone houses. Each house, its bricks, eaves, and tiles bore traces of the Buddhist Sect, either engraved with scriptures or featuring Arhat Dharma Images, Bodhisattva statues, or Buddha figures, with Scripture Banners standing tall everywhere. Nearly every corner reverberated with the sounds of bells, wooden fish, and scripture recitations—a multitude of Buddhist sounds transmitted here.

In the city, there were monks, lamas, nuns, Dharma-protecting gods, Buddha beasts... all reciting the Demon Buddha Scripture and extolling the Demon Buddha's name.

A golden river flowed through the city.

Tracing its source, one could see a towering high mountain with clouds at the peak shining golden light over the city.

On the mountain walls, one could see various large and small Buddha statues carved.

On the flat land were countless Buddha Towers, a thousand? Perhaps tens of thousands?

At the highest point, there stood a Zen monastery.

That auspicious cloud of golden light was precisely emanating from this monastery.

Posted on both sides of the monastery were a pair of couplets:

"On the Dharma Door to the Pure Land, rare and valuable, rebirth immediately achieves the Buddhist Way."

"Life in this world, life and death matter greatly, why not hasten to recite the Buddha."

...

"What a Pure Land Buddha City, what an Earthly Buddha Country."

The Demon Buddha Sons assigned to welcome Tao Qian, whether fat, thin, or sleazy, were originally displeased at this bumpkin from the South Sea.

Now hearing his exclamations, they saw his look as if a country bumpkin had entered a city.

They laughed to themselves, feeling less hostility.

They took turns speaking, boasting about themselves.

Their words were flowery, yet they were utterly unaware.

Although Tao Qian was astonished, the killing intent deep in his eyes grew increasingly intense.

With his fierce insight, how could he fail to see that under the thin layer of golden light soil in this magnificent land, reminiscent of the Earthly Buddha Country, lay buried countless mortals' corpses.

It didn't even need to be concealed.

Now, with Tao Qian's spiritual vision activated, he could clearly see that those golden bricks, Buddha soil, gold powder, bells and drums, Buddha Towers... were all cast from the bones and essence blood of the Human Clan mortals.

On the surface, this was a Buddha Country grand city like the Western Heavenly Bliss Land, but it was actually the largest place of strange phenomena and evil land within Qiantang Province.

All that was seen was sin.

To entertain esteemed guests from the seventy-two provinces, the city already had Physical Bodhisattvas, Clothesless Heavenly Girls, believers' flesh and blood, kind people's good hearts, etc., all refined and sacrificed.

Tao Qian expended great energy to suppress the raging killing intent in his heart.

Even so, many thoughts rushed wildly in his mind:

"The Heavenly Track guidance received by Zheng Yin is indeed the true wish of All People."

"I absolutely cannot allow 'Cheng Arhat' to set foot in Ultimate Happiness Land. Those old beasts of the alchemists acting as Emperors do indeed see the people as fish and meat, extracting as they wish, but at least they understand some sustainability, not overstepping too much."

"If that perverted meat monk succeeds, expanding this Buddha Country to Tiannan and other neighboring provinces, I fear the Human Clan would truly have no way to live."

"This Earthly Buddha Country, compared to the blood-sucking nation of the alchemists, although both feed on people and drain blood."

"But when truly compared, the former is more terrifying, more shameless."

"Vampire Kingdom, where the masses still know pain, still wail, still know how to save themselves."

"Buddha Country is different, all people are numb, paralyzed by the Demon Buddha Scriptures, Buddha Light, and Buddha Incense, like puppets, sacrificing everything."

"If I don't destroy this Buddha Country, I fear it will hinder the smooth flow of my Dao heart."

...

Those several Demon Buddha Sons, whose saliva flew chaotically, had no idea that the Wu Gou Buddha Son, with an impressive demeanor and tempting appearance, was contemplating exterminating them deep in his heart.

Outwardly very respectful, they led the Buddhist pair to their residence, which was a tranquil Zen monastery planted with Bodhi trees and You Tan flowers, also covered in the soil of Golden Light Buddha Land.

Although these few Demon Buddha Sons had reported their names, Tao Qian couldn't be bothered to remember, each casually dropping a sentence saying,

"Dear Daoists, please rest for a while, gather some energy, for the ritual gathering starts tonight at the time of Hai."

"If you cannot rest, you may call upon the Manager Monk to guide you around the city, where there are many wonderful things and goods which you may freely enjoy."

"You could also go to the Various Treasure Halls, Treasure Platform, where a grand feast is prepared for the guests from various provinces, and there are platforms for competition and demonstration of Dharma, or even the secret markets where exchanges occur."

After speaking, the few Demon Buddha Sons withdrew.

Zhen siblings, along with the group of female cultivators, also made their leave.

After these people left, Yunrong still clung tightly to Tao Qian, even more infatuated than ever.

Seeing Tao Qian's puzzled look, this kitty Bodhisattva confidently said,

"Little brother husband must be careful."

"I see that shameless little bitch has completely set her sights on you."

"Though she cultivates Buddha, the lust emanating from her soul, even tens of miles away, I can smell, such a witch, once she sets her eyes on a prey, will not rest until she has employed every means to get you into bed."

"If she really were your old flame, Yunrong might tolerate it for a bit; but clearly, she is nothing but dirty and stinking. Yunrong will never allow her to touch my husband."

As Yunrong spoke, a dangerously bright gleam clearly flashed in those bewitching eyes.

Tao Qian, hearing this, couldn't help but silently mourn for the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva.

"Turns of fate, one day one way, another the next."

"The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva who once oppressed me, now perhaps cannot compete with the good wife of Tao."

"In terms of divine powers, in terms of backing, Yunrong completely surpasses the Beautiful Corpse."

Tao Qian thought this in his heart, but outwardly he was quick to agree with Yunrong not to go out.

Meanwhile, he also conveyed his self-praise:

"Dear sister, there's no need to worry, back in Southern Yue, there were many who coveted my body."

"Be it the Beautiful Corpse or Yin Susu, neither succeeded."

Having just finished boasting, Tao Qian, meeting Yunrong's meaningful gaze, then felt that something was slightly amiss with his last two statements.

Just when he was feeling awkward, a knock on the door suddenly came from outside the monastery.

Tao Qian and Yunrong allowed the visitor to enter, and the next moment, a breathtakingly beautiful nun, leading a group of robust demon monks and nuns, entered the monastery, each holding an item covered with cloth that faintly emitted treasure light and fragrance.

The nun seemed a bit older than Yunrong, with a graceful figure. Despite wearing a flowing black robe, her mature and alluring figure was not completely concealed.

And yet her face carried a kind of naive demeanor, like a naturally dumb mature nun.

Anyone who saw her would inevitably give her a few extra glances.

Tao Qian did, and Yunrong did even more so.

In fact, Yunrong looked even more intently, her eyes glowing as if wanting to strip the clothes off the nun's body.

As the two of them examined the nun, they saw her put her palms together in greeting, respectfully saying,

"Poor Nun Miao Shan, by my master's command, comes to offer some Buddha Treasures and Sublime Dharma to the Wu Gou Buddha Son."

"My master instructed, saying Buddha Son, with unmatched divine powers, unparalleled Dharma Eye, having successively destroyed the Evil Country, Joyful Forest, Hidden Mountain, Emancipation City, and Corpse Mud Ridge these five evil lands, must have acquired the treasures hidden within these evil lands."

"To inform Buddha Son, these five Buddha Treasures, while all splendid items, are all innately formed and still uncarved, thus incomplete."

"To complete them, one must utilize our Demon Buddha Magic to refine them."

"Poor Nun is here to bestow upon Buddha Son five methods, to aid Buddha Son in refining treasures, so when the day comes for Qingjing Zen Master to establish a separate branch of the Buddhist Sect, these five treasures will be of great use."