

## Longevity 681

Chapter 681 Three People Walk into the Zen Monastery Quiet Room, Ten Lifetimes of Resentful Couples Play with a Beautiful Corpse

But last time, the woman who called herself "Miao Shan, disciple of Kongchan Arhat", led a group of monks and nuns to present gifts and impart Dharma.

She had assumed that the Buddhist couple before her would either react indifferently or be concerned about the Buddha Treasures and the Sublime Dharma Powers.

To her surprise, it was neither; this Buddha's son and Bodhisattva merely stared at her.

She became full of doubt, thinking to herself:

"Could it be that they have seen through me?"

"That's impossible. This transformation of mine is a '[Illusion]' personally cast by my Master. Unless these two also attain the Ultimate Happiness Realm's cultivation level, there's no way they could see through to my true form."

"Could it be that this couple is taken with the appearance I've transformed into?"

"Hmm, that might actually be true. This appearance was created specifically for this Wu Gou Buddha Son; he's bound to like it. And this little bitch pretending to be a Bodhisattva, calling herself Miao Yin—

it's possible she's also into this... It's curious that she isn't annoyed at her husband staring so intently at me; could she be into it as well?"

"If that is indeed the case, I, as a Bodhisattva, wouldn't mind a merry threesome; the pleasure would be even greater."

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From these rather outrageous thoughts, it was clear.

This nun named Miao Shan was none other than the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva in disguise.

What a Female Demon, still not giving up despite being publicly scolded by Yunrong and losing face.

Knowing that the two were honored guests and that it wasn't wise to use brute force, she switched tactics.

She asked her master to cast a spell and found a legitimate reason to visit, under the guise of "gifting ritual", yet she intended to do something less savory.

What she didn't realize as she pondered,

Was that the Buddhist couple before her were also communicating telepathically.

First, Yunrong teased Tao Qian, saying,

"Dear brother, it seems I'll have to use some Secret Techniques to disguise your desires in the future, lest others see your weakness and specifically create such an appearance to put your mental fortitude to the test. You might resist once or twice, but I fear if it happens too often, you will give in."

"The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva has always been proud and arrogant; whatever she fancies, she attempts to seize for her own pleasure. Although she and Bai Qin Demon Monk tricked her once in Southern Yue, it was only her flesh that was damaged, her Primordial Spirit might have benefited from the disaster, and now she has reincarnated. Her nature doesn't seem to have changed; if trouble comes again, she surely won't be able to escape it." Thank you for reading.

After Tao Qian replied,

He suddenly thought of Zhen Buchi and had an epiphany:

"It seems the three bald thieves from the Demon Buddha Temple are all cut from the same cloth. Kongchan took Zhen Buchi as a shield against disaster and doted on this Love Monk, letting him follow his desires."

"Now it seems the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva also has this intention, probably considered by Lian Sha Arhat as a shield against disaster."

"Now she is pestering me again, and I doubt there's anyone here with a heavier burden of tribulation energy than me; she is doomed to perish by this calamity."

"In that case, there's no need to rush to expose her; let's see what kind of tactics she'll employ to snatch you away from my side."

"Hmph, I took the false name of Miao Yin, yet she has the audacity to directly appropriate the name 'Miao Shan' and tack it onto herself."

With that assessment from Tao Qian, Yunrong immediately followed with two sentences,

Her mind full of fighting spirit.

These complex exchanges actually took only a moment or two.

In the meditation hall, right after Miao Shan finished speaking, the one who appeared as innocent as a true Bodhisattva, Miao Yin Fairy, suddenly gave a warm smile and affectionately walked over.

She took Miao Shan's arm, then spoke soothing words that made her lower her guard.

"How coincidental, Daoist, you are called Miao Shan and my Dharma name is Miao Yin, truly fated."

"It's also kind of you to come and present treasures and impart Dharma to my husband. Please feel free, Daoist, and tell us, my husband and me, what sort of treasures and sublime Dharma you've brought."

With those two sentences, the atmosphere returned to normal.

The Beautiful Corpse slightly relaxed and began to introduce her offerings.

Her arrival to seduce Wu Gou Buddha Son was genuine, as was her intention to give treasures and impart Dharma.

Actually, the latter was the real deal; the Three Arhats wanted to give substantial benefits, to fully win over Wu Gou Buddha Son, but it wouldn't be appropriate for them to approach directly and eagerly offer gifts, so sending the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva was most fitting.

One could only hear in the courtyard, as pieces of cloth flew up and the treasure light filled the meditation hall, the Beautiful Corpse spoke in a voice brimming with self-praise:

"This humble nun comes bearing ten vats of '[Human Heart Filth Mud]' for the Buddha Son, which collect nearly all the evil and Demon Thoughts of this world. Both righteous and Evil Cultivators smeared with this black mud would meet disaster, though if combined with my Demon Buddha Secret Method, it can expedite the maturation of the Demon Buddha Evil Lotus that the Buddha Son obtained in the Evil Country, allowing him to possess a usable Demon Buddha Lotus Platform."

"Additionally, there is an '[Acquired Life Root]'—a rather rare item, hard to come by. The Buddha Son surely discovered an Infinite Life Spring on Hidden Mountain, but it is full of turbid lifespan mist. Though consuming it can extend life, it involves a poison that comes at a great cost. Just plant this root into the spring and the murky mist will immediately turn into a clear spring, granting the Buddha Son a genuine Infinite Life Spring, from which a single drop can extend a Mortal's life by ten years, or even a hundred."

"This is called '[Six Poison Buddha Sand],' an even scarcer item, unique to the Demon Buddha Temple, nowhere else in the world to be found. The Buddha Son must have acquired a Demon Mirror in the Joyful Forest, but that mirror is hazy and unclear, unable to reflect all Life. With just this dish of poisonous sand for polishing, that Demon Mirror will instantly acquire Divine Power, sealing the six senses of anyone as if it were nothing."

"This is called '[Water of Worry-free],' also a unique treasure from the Demon Buddha Temple, simple in its use, but must be combined with the Eight Sufferings Paste. The Buddha Son got an Ultimate Happiness Buddha Bowl in Emancipation City, and if you put this water into it and blend joy with sorrow, it becomes a pure Demon Buddha Exotic Treasure, the Worry-free Buddha Bowl. Then, the Buddha Son need only take a willow twig, dip a bit of the paste from the bowl, and sprinkle it onto the Human World, raining down sweet rain. Whether Mortals or low-level Cultivators who drink just a little will have their future joys and sorrows controlled by the Buddha Son."

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The Beautiful Corpse finished speaking about the four treasures and their refining methods, deliberately pausing for a moment before turning to the couple.

Sure enough, she immediately saw surprise flash across both of their faces.

"This Buddha's son, although he has a decent foundation and mountain to lean on, and his innate mana is indeed extraordinary,"

"he is, after all, a country bumpkin from the South Sea, with no experience of the depths of our Demon Buddha Temple. Having previously acquired five Buddha Treasures, he must have been delighted, and now, upon hearing that the Buddha Treasures can be further advanced, his heart must be filled with utmost joy."

"With a bit more manipulation, success should not be difficult."

"Accomplishing this task and enjoying the company of both a handsome Buddha's son and Beautiful Bodhisattva at once wouldn't be a loss either."

The thoughts of the Beautiful Corpse were half right and half wrong.

Tao Qian and Yunrong were indeed surprised, only slightly differently so.

"Dear brother, the Demon Buddha Temple does indeed have profound resources. We originally thought that your five Buddha Treasures were mere semi-finished products and not very usable. Now we've come to know that the Demon Buddha Temple has had a follow-up refining method all along. However, these treasures also contain deep demonic nature. Can your Yu Ding handle the continued refining?"

"It shouldn't be difficult, after all, they are of the same origin. Buddhism and Demonism share a body, so once the reversal technique is obtained, everything will naturally fall into place."

"The Beautiful Corpse spoke of the four treasures and their refining methods, yet she forcefully refrained from taking action, seemingly waiting to reveal her true intentions on the fifth."

"Let's see what tricks she plays. If given the chance, you and I could also take the opportunity to play her... As long as we do not kill her, those three dead thief monks cannot do anything to us."

The two communicated their thoughts seamlessly and formulated their strategy without a word.

Yunrong complimented her, signaling to Miao Shan to continue speaking of the fifth treasure and its refining method.

This time, the mature and charming yet gentle and amiable Dharma teacher suddenly became shy.

Hesitating for a while, she simply sent all the monks and nuns out of the Chan hall.

Her originally pure and extraordinary face turned visibly flushed, her eyebrows filled with shyness, and her pristine white, jade-like hands fumbled with the hem of her clothes in an apparent struggle to find a place for them.

After maintaining this act for a few breaths, she pointed to a needle hanging in the air that was alternately thick and thin, bursting with golden light and spoke softly:



"The Buddha's son must have acquired a Bird Demon Buddha Robe in Corpse Mud Ridge. The marvel of this object is not in the incomplete Buddhist Scripture carved on it or the Divine Power Skills, but in the Buddha Nature contained within the Bird Demon's skins, coming from the bodies of many Arhats, Bodhisattvas, and Buddhas."

"This treasure, though only a semi-finished product, is not something that ordinary people can withstand."

"No matter how strong your mind is, once you wear it, you will be overwhelmed by the many Buddha Natures on it, washing over your Heart Soul. Within ten breaths, you will become a dazed Buddha Slave Puppet, forever unable to break free."

"To properly refine it, you must use this 'Ten Thousand Buddha Golden Needle.'"

"You need to find a quiet room, the Buddha's son must disrobe, put on the Buddha Robe, and then I, as a humble nun, will hold the needle and use the Demon Buddha Secret Method to help the Buddha's son to subdue the many Buddha Natures within. Once it is done, the Buddha's son will immediately possess a Demon Buddha Treasure Robe. With just a thought, you can summon the various demon bird illusions from the treasure robe to fight and defeat any enemy."

Almost immediately after Miao Shan finished speaking, Yunrong's face revealed a deep and meaningful smile.

She circled around Miao Shan twice, sizing her up with a clicking sound from her mouth:

"What treasures, what a method."

"However, if I'm not mistaken, when the master assists my husband in refining, I'm afraid she also cannot wear clothes and must face each other with openness, right?"

"Mm."

This single affirmative response came quickly from Miao Shan.

At this moment, she seemed convinced that this Buddhist couple was also up to some trickery.

Especially the next moment when she heard Yunrong ask, "When the master assists my husband, may I observe?"

Instantly, the naive and confused beautiful face of Miao Shan burst into vibrant color, emanating an alluring Divine Light that would make almost any man salute upon sight.

She radiated with a smile, very cheerfully nodding her head:

"Of course!"

"Miao Shan, couldn't ask for more."

"Good!"

"Don't delay, let's go into the room and start refining."

With this conversation, the Chan hall embarked on an unusual development.

The beautiful and enticing Dharma teacher, followed by the couple, headed to a quiet room in the courtyard.

Still along the way, the three drew closer, almost sticking together as if glued.

Upon entering the quiet room, Master Tao moved swiftly.

Chanting a Buddha mantra, his clothes fell off in an instant, and the robustly sculpted, flawless body of the Buddha's son was revealed.

Miao Shan!

Oh no, the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva.

Her eyes immediately sparkled, first examining the upper body and then moving lower... But alas, just as she was about to look at the crucial part, the Wu Gou Buddha Son conveniently shook out the [Bird Demon Buddha Robe] and, as if by fate, covered that particular area.

Nevertheless, she did not mind; a hazy cover made the atmosphere even better.

As the Buddha's son voluntarily stripped, the last bit of suspicion in her heart vanished.

Her clothes came off just as quickly, piece by piece.

Then, an even more delightful scene unfolded for the Beautiful Corpse.

The Miao Yin Bodhisattva, who was supposed to be just watching, took the initiative to come forward, took her garments as they were shed, and extended a pair of delicate hands, feeling and teasing around on her body.

Originally she had thought that this woman known as Miao Yin, the female Buddhist practitioner, would be someone not well-versed in the matters of joy and a straight-laced person.

Little did she know, it was the complete opposite.

Within just a breath or two, after being teased a few times by the female Bodhisattva, the Beautiful Corpse began to tremble.

Her white body turned crimson, waves of pleasure flooding in.

With incredulity on her face, she pleaded repeatedly with Yunrong:

"Dear sister, please slow down for a moment."

"I am hardly able to bear it, and there is still plenty of time before the Dharma assembly. There are several hours for the three of us to enjoy ourselves to the fullest..."

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Beautiful Corpse was speaking when suddenly her merriment ceased abruptly.

She immediately regretted if she had spoken too harshly, but upon opening her eyes, she felt something was amiss.

She saw that Miao Yin had not only taken her clothes but had also stealthily stolen all the treasure hairpin, golden bracelet, anklet, and other such items capable of storage from her body through several touches.

Then, she handed them all at once to Wu Gou Buddha Son, who had, unbeknownst to her, redressed by her side.

With a mischievous smile full of malice, she sweetly said,

"Good little brother, you've done well."

"Unless she has a personal treasure bag hidden even deeper, she's definitely lost face this time."

"She doesn't even reflect upon her own status; how dare she covet my Miao Yin's husband?"

Before the words were finished, Beautiful Corpse saw the previously complacent Wu Gou Buddha Son now wearing the same cunning smile on his face.

Her heart immediately sank, and she thought to herself that something was wrong, quickly shouting, "You two are courting death; my master is Lian Sha Arhat, who favors me the most..."

Before she could finish, before she could use any Divine Skills,

Tao Qian then waved his sleeve and first stuffed Beautiful Corpse into the People Species Bag, releasing her shortly thereafter, and threw her beyond the Zen garden.

To prevent anyone from seeing or hearing, Tao Qian also thoughtfully summoned a cloud of auspicious cloud to support her bare and graceful body, carrying her around in the sky before finally descending.

At the same time, Yunrong, using Miao Yin Bodhisattva's voice, sharply cried out,

"Beautiful Corpse Daoist!"

"This is your first lesson; out of respect for Lian Sha the elder, my husband and I won't hurt you."

"Just hope you grasp the severity of your actions and refrain from troubling my husband again. Should there be a next time, do not blame us for ruthlessly crushing the flower."

This voice echoed far and wide.

Besides the dozen or so monks and nuns already present, many guests were drawn out to watch.

Just in time, they saw Miao Shan, disguised as Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, with her bare body, limp and powerless, crumpled on the ground.

Coupled with hearing Yunrong's voice, she was overwhelmed with shame and anger, almost spitting out blood.

Just as she was about to lose control and burst out in rage,

Suddenly, various garments and some treasures flew out from the Zen garden, and the auspicious cloud above her also rose in mist, covering her alluring body, allowing her to dress.

If that were all, she still wouldn't have given up so easily.

But soon, she saw among those treasure hairpin, golden bracelet, and anklets, there was a Buddha Treasure quite unlike any other—a Mechanical Bodhisattva image resembling the Thousand-Handed Guanyin.

"Due to a serendipitous opportunity, I acquired this item, pondered its essence for several days, and profited immensely."

"Now returning the item to its original owner, please convey my and my spouse's regards to the Three Arhats."

"Daoist, please control your anger. It's not that I'm insensitive to romance; my heart belongs to another and I must not harbor any delusions; otherwise, my wife and I must be reincarnated to rectify our karma—when will we then comprehend Mahayana?"

These three secret messages, along with the most important Buddha Treasure,



Immediately forced Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva to hold her tongue. Even though resentment lingered in her heart, she momentarily didn't know what to say or do.

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The Buddha Treasure that Tao Qian returned was, of course, the Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendent Bodhisattva.

There was no other way about it; his and Yunrong's teasing of Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva was merely a harmless prank.

After all, the two of them had the persona of Ten Lifetimes of Resentful Couples, and it was common knowledge that no third party should intervene.

But the five Exotic Treasures of the Demon Buddha and the refining techniques, he absolutely had to reclaim them all.

The ownership of the [Great Transcendence Bodhisattva], which he had for several days, must also be returned, or else he couldn't fool the three old thieves.

Fortunately, when Tao Qian previously refined the Bodhisattva, he summoned the Outer Heaven Flame Essence, ingenious and unrivaled, which did not damage any of the Forbidden Technique settings within the treasure.

Afterward, with the help of Lian Jing'er, he subdued the true core within the Mechanical Buddha Treasure and planted the Creation Virus; he was unconcerned that the Three Arhats would discover the internals had been tampered with.

Chapter 684 - Buddha Fragrant Meat, A Father's Love is as Solid as a Mountain

This realm's Cultivation Method veins, aside from the mainstream Daoist, Buddhist, Demon, and Devil ones, also include a vast number of heterodoxies, numbering in the tens of thousands.

However, few are related to "machines," at most being those like Heavenly Mechanism Building, Puppet Sect, and the Lu Family, which follow the path of ancient ingenuity. These still slightly differ from the Mechanical Species.

Demon Buddha Temple refines the Great Compassionate and Merciful Transcendence Bodhisattva, which in reality is merely treated as a Demon Buddha weapon in the refinement process, not truly specializing in this path.

On the other hand, under his Tao Qian's command was Lian Jing'er—a bona fide Mechanical Species life form.

Mysterious origins!

Mystical methods!

After he had subdued that Alien Species from the Outer Realm, he successfully planted the Creation Virus.

"According to Lian Jing'er, as soon as the Bodhisattva Image integrates, the virus will immediately take effect. With his remote command, even if all the Bodhisattvas cannot be seized, at least a third, or even half, can be taken."

"Moreover, Zhen Buchi's Heart Soul also has memories describing the plans of the Three Arhats: taking advantage of the Dharma Assembly to gather the precious materials, and refining the remaining Bodhisattvas all at once will save much effort. Adding the unrefined Wu Gou Buddha Son into the mix will make things even more convenient."

"Now, we merely await the start of the Dharma Assembly."

"The first two days, Debating Scripture and Demonstration will occur, seemingly uneventful on the surface, but underneath, all are plotting."

"The third day, the confrontation between Cheng Arhat and Great Abyss Zen Master will also be the moment when all parties act, deciding the fate of Qiantang Province, Tiannan Province, and the allegiance of Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen."

"Nowadays, the number of Extraordinary Armies inside and outside the provincial city likely exceeds two million... of course, all merely material for refining treasures."

"The real contest, it appears, is only between Demon Buddha Temple, the Tiannan Gao Family, and me hidden in the shadows, with Great Freedom Temple just tagging along."

"The first day I will merely watch, and on the second day, I will make arrangements to drive Demon Buddha Temple to attack Tiannan..."

Inside the Buddhist Temple, Tao Qian, who had just played a trick on Yunrong with the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, was pondering deep in thought.

Suddenly, at this moment, a shock of change occurred in his Inner Human Dao Fortune, a stirring sensation transmitted.

It turned out to be a message from the merged Zheng Yin within the Heavenly Track: the gathering of the people had been achieved, but a meeting was still required to awe them with his presence as a True Master, to clearly demonstrate his resolve and recruit them as comrades.

Upon receiving the message, Tao Qian paid no heed to the various comments about the Beautiful Corpse's figure from those outside the temple.

Taking Yunrong, he quickly returned to the quiet room as a cover and soon responded to Zheng Yin's Heavenly Track Secret Technique.

With a flash of light, Tao Qian's form silently disappeared from inside the quiet room.

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When Tao Qian went to meet those comrades from the secret party, outside the Buddhist Temple, the Beautiful Corpse, embarrassed and annoyed by the couple's ruse, rapidly put on her garments, her mind vowing:

"Darn it, if not for this body of mine being hastily matured, unable to restore that Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Dharma Form in a short time, I would grind that ignorant, lustful couple to dust."

"Hmph, this matter isn't over! I, as the Beautiful Corpse, have always gotten whatever I desire; when have I ever suffered such a disgrace?"

With those thoughts, she hurriedly made her way towards the summit of Golden Light Spiritual Mountain.

There, the place of meditation and enlightenment for the three Arhats, also served as a core place for discussions among all the key figures of the Qiantang Branch Temple of the Demon Buddha Temple.

Previously, when Master Tao heard the name of this temple, he was quite speechless.

But such encounters were too frequent; he had long since become used to them.

That Buddhist Temple named after the auspicious cloud... Little Leiyin Temple.

For others to enter, they must undergo many checks.

But the Beautiful Corpse, being the beloved disciple of Lian Sha Arhat, passed smoothly.

The many demon monks and Monk Officials on Golden Light Mountain had actually all witnessed the embarrassing ordeal of the Beautiful Corpse, but fearing her influence, none dared to speak up, not even in private discussion.

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But while they dared not, it did not mean that some guests wouldn't.

—Many were the crude kind, though not openly proclaiming, the murmured comments were inevitable, all piercing into the ears of the Beautiful Corpse:

"Click, who would have thought, such a pure, naïve nun, to actually be such a person?"

"Fooled, weren't you? Whatever wise Miao Shan, clearly it was that Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva in disguise, who had just tried to seduce Wu Gou Buddha Son unsuccessfully and was reprimanded by Miao Yin Bodhisattva; to think, unyielding in her crooked intentions, she then changed her approach to play a throuple courtship, yet again to be made a fool—why bother at all?"

"Heh heh, this old Daoist actually understands the Beautiful Corpse ancestor. Look at those two; a handsome Buddha Son and a dignified Bodhisattva, to mix in with this couple for a bit, I'd gladly give ten years of my life for that."

"Ptui! Take a look at yourself in a puddle of urine, you an ugly Demon Cul..."

Chapter 685 - Buddha Fragrant Meat, Father's Love Like a Mountain\_2

Some posed as Vajras, others transformed into Gates, and there were nuns, laymen, and so on.

If a mortal strayed into the hall, the first impression would be that this place was indeed the True Buddha Treasure Hall in the Western Heavenly Bliss.

The Beautiful Corpse, of course, paid no attention to the others, focusing only on the four esteemed seats at the head.

Kongchan and Lian Sha being Arhats there was nothing out of the ordinary.

But that "Cheng Arhat" also had a place, which would surely shock any outsiders who saw it. After all, Cheng Arhat was originally nothing more than a Mortal World warlord. How had he reached the same level as the Three Arhats of the Demon Buddha Temple so suddenly?

The Beautiful Corpse knew the reason, which was not complicated.

Only one: Cheng Arhat possessed the Talent to achieve the Status of Arhat.

The Demon Buddha Temple's principle of accepting disciples was quite similar to the Spirit Treasure Sect, with no prohibitions and refusing no one.

The Beautiful Corpse paid her respects in turn, especially to the old monk sitting in the center, who was exhibiting bizarre behavior, showing him the utmost respect.

This old monk was dressed in blue Buddha's Robe.

Only it was worn quite loosely, revealing a good portion of his belly and ribs.

His face beamed with recklessness, brimming with joy and smiles.

At the same time, he held a small knife, carving away at his own flesh.

With each slice he cut, his smile deepened, as if this were some joyous affair.

As slivers of flesh fell to the ground, there were no wounds, no blood flowed; only a flash of Buddha Light, and then it healed again.



Except for the next moment, when the old monk, seeing the Beautiful Corpse approach to pay her respects, cut off a larger piece with a gleeful expression, the flesh dripping with blood and emitting an extremely rich fragrance, the cut-place bursting forth with Buddha Light, so enticing it made one's mouth water.

The old monk passed the slice of flesh to the Beautiful Corpse, speaking at the same time,

"Niece, would you like to taste your uncle-master's flesh?"

"Just cut it off, it's extremely fresh."

Just as she was full of anger, pondering over making a complaint, the Beautiful Corpse's spirit suddenly calmed down, almost breaking out in a cold sweat.

What kind of joke was this?

Who in the Demon Buddha Temple didn't know that the flesh of Shipi Arhat was of great significance?

Indeed, called "Buddha Fragrant Meat," it was known for being unmatched in delicacy, and consuming it had great benefits.

But the consequence was also simple; even with one bite, no matter if it was the body or the soul, even if reincarnated to Cultivate anew, one would never escape Shipi Arhat's palm.

Who would dare to eat such flesh? Who would want to?

The Beautiful Corpse quickly gave a dry laugh, shaking her head and declining: "Uncle-master's kindness is too much for me to refuse, but the Beautiful Corpse has just been resurrected and cannot yet partake in meat; I need to eat vegetarian for a few years."

After being refused, Shipi Arhat pouted childishly and stuffed the slice of flesh into his own mouth, his forty large white teeth tearing and chewing.

Juices splattered, the meaty aroma intensified.

As Shipi chewed, he complained,

"If niece doesn't appreciate it, that's one thing, but at least put some effort into your excuses."

"You can't eat meat, but you're aching to get that handsome monk into bed; one slap in the face wasn't enough for you, so you're eager to offer up a second chance."

"Those two youngsters may not be Buddha's sons and Bodhisattvas from the old rivals like Free Temple, Dharma Cakra Temple, and Guanyin Temple, but their strength isn't much less, and their backing isn't worse than yours, even better, in fact."

"Just take that monk called Wu Gou, his master, Old Man Qingjing... damn it, I've heard of this old man before but never expected him to be such a brutal figure. With one swing of his Blessing Divine Mallet, he nearly smashed my skull. Luckily, I'm no slouch myself and just managed to fight back."

"That old man is willing to hand over the two youngsters to us, which means he must be determined to enter the Demon Buddha Dao. In that case, they're as good as our own."

"Niece, you might as well hold off on that thought of complaining. I, your uncle-master, won't take action. Kongchan the trickster won't help you either. Your master dotes on you, but alone, he certainly can't go against Old Man Qingjing."

"If you have the skills to lure that handsome monk into bed, nobody can say anything."

"If you expect Lian Sha to help you catch him, strip him and deliver him to you... Tsk tsk, it could happen now, but think about the consequences. Maybe Old Man Qingjing will come to kill you instantly, knocking you on the head with that Divine Mallet, giving you a taste of what it's like to be Buddha, haha."

If there were outsiders present at this moment, they would certainly be surprised to find that Shipi Arhat, who had not made an appearance before, was quite the chatterbox.

Furthermore, his disposition and speech carried a childlike innocence, as if he had already reached the state of returning to the truth.

Who knows what was so amusing, but the entire hall echoed with the laughter of this Arhat.

He succinctly laid out the situation with his words.

Indeed, even though she looked to the onlookers above with pleading eyes, holding the Blood Lotus, hoping for the Rohan's help,

Her usually doting Master shook his head and said,

"Your senior uncle speaks the truth. We cannot employ force against those two children."

"That Old Man Qingjing from the South Sea is currently experiencing the Daoist Transformation Tribulation. He came by earlier and struck a deal with us, taking some volumes of the Demon Buddha Scripture. After his tribulation ends, he'll start a new branch, and our Demon Buddha Temple will gain another powerful Magic Veins."

"Even my Cultivation skills and methods are not a match for Old Man Qingjing."

"If I forced the issue, Qingjing might well retaliate, and could end up killing both you and me, my disciple."

"You thought highly of your skills and assured me there would be no mistake, which is why I helped you transform. Now it seems that your Heavenly Demon Secret Technique cannot separate the couple bound by hate through ten lifetimes."

At those words, the Beautiful Corpse felt utter despair.

She had just recently returned to life, her body artificially hastened in its growth, and she was still unaware of the worldly changes.

Though the time had been short, the situation was no longer the same as when she ran wild in Southern Yue.

Back then, in the Cavernous Mystery Realm, especially as a disciple of such a great sect, she could dominate an entire province, stirring chaos.

But now, Cavernous Mystery heroes were everywhere.

All kinds of old monsters had also come out into the world.

Why had things changed so drastically?

Put simply, the Forbidden Technique had completely shattered, not even its residual power or traces remained, leaving only a few desolate Heavenly Tracks, utterly useless.

The Cultivation World was almost merging with the Mortal World.

Not to mention, the Great Abyss Domain from the Outer Realm was also slowly merging in... The future of this realm, even adept calculators like Duobao might not be able to predict accurately.

Seeing the Beautiful Corpse's defeated look, Lian Sha couldn't help but feel sorry for her.

He truly adored and spoiled the Beautiful Corpse, promptly offering another idea through a whispered message:

"My good disciple, don't be upset. As the saying goes, good things come through hardship."

"Those two are the 'couple bound by hate through ten lifetimes.' They have already accumulated a tremendous amount of mysterious tribulation energy over their past nine lives. If you could gain their assistance, you'd have a better chance of attaining the Bodhisattva Status someday."

"However, getting entangled with such a hounded couple through multiple lifetimes is no easy task."

"For now, make friends with the two of them. Once I return to our temple, I'll expend some resources to ask the Great Joyful Demon Buddha for a favor, to bestow a treasure and cast an Evil Fate Secret Spell on those two from afar. Then, I'll implant the curse root into your womb... This way, the destiny and tribulation energy of you three will become entwined. You cannot resolve the spell without jointly experiencing joy."

"Everyone will benefit from this eventually, and Old Man Qingjing won't be able to say much."

...

After Lian Sha finished speaking, the Beautiful Corpse, who was initially downcast, suddenly displayed a brilliant radiance on her face.

The disciples and Elders, who had been secretly sneering and watching her embarrass herself, witnessed this change and a common thought arose among them: It must be Lian Sha Arhat's intervention, but what sort of idea did he come up with that made the Beautiful Corpse confident about her success?

While ordinary disciples were clueless, Kongchan Arhat, who was Lian Sha's fellow disciple, immediately guessed the answer.

"To forcibly get involved with the couple bound by hate through ten lifetimes, apart from seeking the Great Joyful Demon Buddha's endowment of treasures and methods, there is no second possibility."

"But who doesn't know that the Great Joyful Demon Buddha has the biggest appetite? Lian Sha might have to pay a hefty price this time."

As these thoughts settled, Kongchan's gaze swept between the master and disciple pair.

Then, turning to his disciple Zhen Buchi, he chuckled quietly to himself:

"To pass through tribulation, one must first enter into tribulation. For tactics and fortune in planning to ward off tribulation, my junior brother is far behind me."

"I found a promising candidate like Zhen Buchi, but he had no choice."

"The greatest threat to my junior brother's Daoist Transformation Tribulation is the 'kinship tribulation,' so once he recognized the Beautiful Corpse as someone to guard against tribulation, he treated her as his daughter."

"Their father-daughter bond couldn't be truer, but by the looks of it, when the tribulation eventually erupts, my junior brother Lian Sha might not have the heart to kill his daughter. Instead, he might take his own life, using his lifelong cultivation to fulfill this young girl's fate."

"I know this, and Elder Shipi sees even clearer, but it just so happens we both forgot to remind Lian Sha."

"Even though my junior brother is destined to die, this is the price he pays for enjoying familial bliss and the father-daughter relationship."

Chapter 686 - Master Tao Has a Place to Come From, Aunt Yunhua Sends a Message

.....



But the story from before tells that after Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva was publicly mocked by the couple, she sought her Master's guidance and received a Sublime Dharma, which spurred her to action, already preparing to insert herself as a third party.

On the other hand, Tao Qian utilized Zheng Yin's Heavenly Track Secret Skill to meet with a group of those holding secret meetings.

Tao Qian originally assumed that the meeting place would be concealed.

After all, they were a group plotting to overthrow the Qiantang Branch Temple of the Demon Buddha Temple and the Tiannan Gao Family, and it seemed fitting for them to keep a low profile.

Yet, to Tao Qian's surprise, the next moment he opened his eyes, his gaze was met with the bustling, lively scene inside the capital city.

Surveying his surroundings and himself, only then did he understand where he was.

Demon Buddha Temple had transformed Qiantang into an Earthly Buddha Country, especially within the capital city's territory where numerous abnormalities and demonic Buddha scenes could be found at every turn, now vastly different from the mundane world of the past.

Just like that golden river running through the city, which was actually far from ordinary.

In its waters, aside from the Golden Light River, thrived a multitude of life forms.

Strange and wonderful, each with its peculiar flavor.

But these couldn't simply be scooped up from nowhere; one had to use a specially made rod, combined with the Desire Worms dug up from the Buddha Land, to have a certain chance of catching them.

The Demon Buddha Temple had set up many rental points along both banks of the Golden River, where both the rod and the worms could be rented to entertain visitors from afar.

To attract business, those demon monks, some handsome, some fierce, bellowed like mundane peddlers:

"Honorable guests, come and rent Buddha rods and Desire Worms from this little monk, last time right here a predecessor caught a Golden Dragon Fish, which was a baldy from Vajra Temple transformed by the Cavernous Mystery Realm, after cooking, the fragrance spread through several streets not to mention, it even produced a Golden Dragon Relic, truly a business that reaps great profit."

"Come on, come on, just an hour ago, a Daoist rented both items from this monk and fished an ancient Buddha Bird with a scroll of ancient sutras on its shell out of the river, containing several Great Divine Powers, who would want to miss such an opportunity?"

"Wow! Right now, this very moment, three Daoists here have caught their fish; let this monk take a look, tsk, a water Beast on the cusp of Transforming into Dragon, a Buddha Slave Merfolk, and a Water and Fire Strange Ape with Buddha Nature... good fortune, good cultivation, if you're confident in your fishing skills, you're welcome to come and try your luck at this monk's spot."

These shouts echoed along both banks of the Golden River.

The ordinary Mortals eyed the scene with envy at all times.

Desire gleamed in everyone's eyes.

But they all had a sense of their limitations, realizing that Mortals and even low-level Buddhist Practitioners couldn't enjoy such good things.

Forsaking the horrifyingly heavy Demon Buddha rods, which Transcend Mortality Cultivators could hardly lift, let alone cast and fish.

The most dangerous of all were those "Desire Worms."

They were about the length of a baby's arm, with a human head and insect body, squealing and twisting incessantly.

Placed within separate Buddha Bowls, they wriggled and intertwined, sending shivers down one's spine.

Despite that, each fishing spot along the banks of the Golden River was crowded with people.

Everyone dared not speak and watched the distinguished cultivators fishing from all sides, creating quite the lively scene.

...

And at that moment, unnoticed by all.

A big fish appeared in the river, plump and vigorous, with shimmering Golden Scales, very lively.

And around it, were already gathered four other water beasts, all seemingly Alien Species.

Seeing their brilliantly alert eyes, Tao Qian instantly realized that these were the few individuals acknowledged by Zheng Yin.

This was the meeting place.

Not some secluded Cave Mansions or hidden Secret Temples, but right in the middle of the capital city's Golden Light Buddha River.

On both banks, the crowd numbered more than a million.

"Such boldness, such inspiration."

While marveling, Tao Qian suddenly felt a strange familiarity with this scene.

"Could the inspiration for Li Wanshou's Immortal Fish Pond have come from this Golden River of the Demon Buddha Temple? Or from the Merit Pool of the Great Freedom Temple?"

As he pondered, he looked at the fish and insects around him.

Seeing Tao Qian's curiosity, one inconspicuous black catfish bubbled and burst, and a voice entered the ears of both Tao Qian and the others present.

"True Master, fellow Daoists."

"This river is known as the Demon Buddha Golden Soup, also called the Hua Sheng River."

"The various fish, shrimp, and water beasts in the river, along with Alien Insects and Buddha Birds all have backgrounds and are either prisoners of the Demon Buddha Temple or cultivators who could not withstand the consequences of Mutation and plunged into this river, seeking a glimmer of hope... of course, once in the Golden Soup, it's difficult to leave, and even if one manages to, they can only join the Demon Buddha Temple afterward."

"The capital is too bustling now, so it's impossible to find a secluded, quiet place, and after much consideration, this place is the most convenient."

"Great secrecy hidden within the open, where no one could possibly detect us."

"My Heavenly Track Secret Skill also happens to ignore the constraints of this Golden Soup, leaving no hidden dangers."

Clearly, the catfish was transformed by Zheng Yin.

As soon as he finished speaking, an aged turtle next to him, which still had a strong body despite its old age, also bubbled forth and added:

"I know of the Demon Buddha Golden Soup!"

"Most of the fish, insects, and water beasts in the river are cultivators, Demons, and Alien Species that have been domesticated by the Demon Buddha Temple."

"Half of them die justly, and half are wrongfully accused."

"But the truly most wrongful and pitiful are the muddy sediments at the bottom of the river; every handful, every clump, has transformed from the flesh and blood of the dead Mortals."

As these words were uttered, Tao Qian and the others fell into silence.

But Tao Qian also clearly saw that including the "old turtle," the eyes of the others were filled with anger, killing intent, but not a trace of despair.

On the contrary, each one's eyes brimmed with an excitement pushed to the extreme, a fervor that bubbled deep within, ready to do anything to alter their current state.

Chapter 687 - Master Tao Has a Place to Come From, Aunt Yunhua Sends a Message\_2

Zheng Yin spoke up at this moment, introducing his companions. He pointed at an old turtle and said, "True Master, this is Senior Zhao Gongda, skilled in governing political affairs. If our covert plans succeed, the stability of Qiantang Province will rely on Senior Zhao."

After finishing, another whisker pointed toward a golden crab of an alien species and said, "True Master, this is Meng Daoist. He has methods that could sway many cultivation forces both inside and outside Qiantang Province to our side. Though it's not a decisive force, once we gain the upper hand, we can avoid infighting and fend off external invasions, allowing all people to rest and recuperate in the least amount of time."

As his voice fell, a third whisker pointed toward a green dragon emitting a fierce and aggressive aura, and he said, "True Master, this is Guo Daoist. He has secretly formed a Martial God Army. Although they can't deal with the Three Arhats, cleaning up those demon monks scattered throughout Qiantang Province afterward would not be difficult."

After the introductions, Zheng Yin, transformed into a catfish, turned his body and swam directly to Tao Qian's side.

Bubbling, with excitement in his voice, he said:

"Three Daoist friends!"

"The name of True Master Tao of the Spirit Treasure Sect, I presume you have all heard of it."

"I won't hide it from you, my original plan was just to eliminate Cheng Arhat, this cancer, during this assembly. Although I have received some favor from the 'Heavenly Track,' I am also aware of my limitations. This curse killing technique, destined to only operate in the shadows, can only patch up the order to some extent and does not greatly help the situations or livelihoods of the people."

"It was not until I recently met True Master Tao."

"I originally thought, though the True Master has repeatedly done good deeds and has even initiated major events like the Demon City Incident, the Yang Sui Uprising, and the New Moon Rebellion, there were rumors that the True Master came to this world to overcome his cultivation tribulation, and these many deeds weren't for the weak lives of the mortal populace but for his own cultivation challenges."

"Although that's also commendable, such a person could not truly become a leader for Zheng Yin, nor fit to fall into the mundane world, and will eventually leave... To wholehearted support such an individual might end in vain."



"However, just a few days ago, during a question and answer session with the True Master, a mysterious connection arose within me."

"I'm not sure how to express it, why not share this feeling with the three of you while we are gathered today."

As he spoke, not only the three individuals but also Tao Qian were perplexed.

However, they quickly saw Zheng Yin's three tentacles all began to glow, sharing a certain perception.

Moments later, the eyes of Zhao Gongda, Meng Shoudao, and Guo Huchen simultaneously showed surprise, and they looked at Tao Qian, bowing together, beginning to speak.

First was Zhao Gongda, who almost made Tao Qian believe his greatest secret had been revealed with his first sentence.

"Odd, very odd. True Master Tao, such an exalted person of Heaven's Pride, willing to save the world and its people, should normally stand on the ground of Gods and Buddhas, merely pitying and aiding the mortals; however, the Heavenly Track perception passed by Zheng Yin bizarrely indicates that the True Master stands above the stance of the ant-like mortals, truly puzzling."

"Indeed, it's mysterious. Any cultivator, no matter how destitute before cultivation and more wretched than ants, would change their stance once they obtain extraordinary power. The few of us are oddities, freakish even; I thought Zheng Yin's stance was the most bizarre and extreme among us, yet True

Master Tao's is even more radical. You should be aware that you are a Spirit Treasure True Inheritor, and rumors even suggest you will be the future Sect Master of the Spirit Treasure Sect."

"The first talent of Daoism, a future Sect Master of the largest sect, harboring deep desires to change the rules of this world, seeking to help tens of billions considered as mere spiritual materials and provisions to stand up. Truly preposterous, True Master Tao, if Lingbao Tianzun knew of your intentions, you might not sit upon that esteemed position in the future."

"But with such an explanation, those inexplicable madness-induced actions of True Master Tao in the past seem reasonable."

"Only a madman would shatter treasures like the 'Mountain and River Map,' just to dissolve the parasitic alchemists that have drained the mortals for thousands of years."

"True Master, do not hesitate, this bow you truly deserve, truly do."

...

As these people spoke, Tao Qian gradually felt relieved.

Clearly, Zheng Yin and his companions had not discerned Tao Qian's biggest secret, merely vaguely sensed his innate stance because of "Heavenly Track" and the Human Dao Fortune.

Normally, such a thing is overlooked.

After all, conventionally, once cultivation begins, an individual immediately transforms from Human Clan into another life form, changing stances naturally.

Even while doing good deeds!

Even while saving the world and the nation!

No matter the great deeds or how many people are saved, the stance remains that of Gods, Buddhas, Immortals, or Demons.

Should there be an issue concerning fundamental change, good and evil could reverse in an instant.

Even Yuan Gong and Duobao would incline likewise, indisputably.

Tao Qian, the Great Master, was truly an anomaly.

No wonder these people, even though it was their first encounter, bowed respectfully just like Zheng Yin.

However, they did not realize that this incident also caused Tao Qian to be momentarily startled, and he thought subconsciously in his heart,

"If I were a mortal of this realm, a mere scholar turned cultivator, my stance would gradually change as well."

"Yet, I am not, and if I were to assimilate gradually and transform into such, I would eventually forget who I was and where I came from..."

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, Tao Qian's expression moved, showing a hint of surprise.

Due to the current stirrings of his heart and soul, Tao Qian, despite being a whole major realm away, sensed in advance the tribulations that awaited him in the future.

Not too many, and not too clear, just a few fragments.

But there was no doubt they were the tribulations of Daoist Transformation.

Sensing these, Tao Qian felt joy instead of fear, because both Yuan Gong and Duobao had said: the ability to perceive one's tribulations offered a potential step towards Daoist Transformation, and the earlier one sensed them, the greater the possibility of overcoming these tribulations.

Most cultivators only start to perceive their tribulations after stepping into the Ultimate Happiness Realm and then make preparations.

Those who could sense them in the Cavernous Mystery were almost guaranteed to step onto the path of Daoist Transformation.

Tao Qian did not dwell on this fortunate matter for long, knowing time was pressing. After exchanging pleasantries, he immediately began discussing the details of significant matters with Zheng Yin, Zhao Gongda, Meng Shoudao, and Guo Huchen.

With thousands of names provided by Tao Qian, combined with these four who were extraordinary individuals,

they soon established many key strategies in a short period of time.

During this conversation, Tao Qian secretly thought in his heart,

"These four, whether in cultivation or backing, are far less than the National Salvation Congress and Ancestor Dragon Society."

"Yet, the provincial governance strategies they have agreed upon are extremely meticulous and more pragmatic. Without any accidents, as long as the Demon Buddha Temple is eradicated, Qiantang

Province will regain good order in a short time, possibly even better than the previous governance under the Zhu Dynasty when the Ancestor God Forbidden Techniques were still collapsing."

As Tao Qian reflected, Zheng Yin and the others were even more satisfied.

At this point, they should have parted ways and proceeded as planned.

However, at this moment, Zheng Yin seemed to sense something and suddenly blurted out,

"True Master, fellow Daoists."

"The one in charge of the Han Mountain Army, Li Ren, has just accepted my invite to join us, but he has one condition."

As soon as he finished speaking, everyone looked over.

Yet Zheng Yin suddenly turned to Tao Qian, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes, and then continued,

"It turns out Li Ren had pledged himself to the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen, who is also a hero in her own rights. I didn't expect Yuan Mingzhen to have the capabilities to subdue him."

"He initially wanted to reject me, but not long ago, the Great Freedom Temple and Vajra Temple jointly headed to the old site of Han Mountain Temple, wanting to collaborate with Yuan Mingzhen to demand her to surrender her fortune, Spring and Autumn Chariot, and other secrets to help elevate the Great Abyss Zen Master to the throne."

"The Free Temple also aims to establish an Earthly Buddha Country, only they consider themselves more upright than the Demon Buddha Temple."

"Although Li Ren is somewhat a Buddhist practitioner, his aspirations and ideals are not of this nature, therefore, he chose to support us."

"And he brought a piece of information about Yuan Mingzhen, who seems to have no power to resist, but actually holds an extremely powerful trump card."

"Li Ren said: behind Yuan Mingzhen, there is support from the head of the female fairies of the Spirit Treasure Sect, Yunhua Immortal."

Chapter 688 - Tao Qian Forms an Alliance through Marriage, Southern Army Campaigns Northward

Zheng Yin's last words left everyone astonished.

Especially for Tao Qian, this was the first time he had heard any news of Aunt Yunhua since leaving the Spirit Treasure Sect to dwell among mortals and save people.

Previously, after the "Absolute Immortal Congress" at Penglai Sea, Auntie had departed from the sect even earlier than Tao Qian in search of saving Senior Sister Lingji. Before she left, she gave him a token, telling him that if he encountered any difficulty, he could summon her for rescue, and neither a thousand mountains nor ten thousand years could hinder her.

But who could have expected to encounter her like this?

In a flash, a guess emerged in Tao Qian's heart:

"Aunt Yunhua is solely concerned about Senior Sister Lingji, how could she help Yuan Mingzhen without reason?"

"Unless the Devil Concubine is a split form of Senior Sister?"

Though this speculation seemed reasonable, Tao Qian strangely felt that this was not necessarily the case.

He had once entered Yuan Mingzhen's bridal phoenix chariot and observed the Devil Concubine up close, knowing some of her background and secrets.

The Ancestor Spirit within the Mountain and River Map had even suggested that Tao Qian use her to escape.

Despite finding Yuan Mingzhen somewhat similar to Senior Sister Xie Lingji at the time, it was only similarity, nothing more.



"I still have a thread of 'Innate Spiritual Sensing' bestowed by Senior Sister Lingji within me."

"If Yuan Mingzhen were Senior Sister's split form, I should have felt a connection at that moment, shouldn't I?"

"Of course, there's another possibility that the remaining two split forms of Senior Sister are completely independent, even life force and True Spirit Sensing are all separated, hence the sensing can be shielded."

"However, there's no need for more guessing; Master surely knows Aunt's whereabouts, I will know once I ask after returning."

With these thoughts whirling and settling, Tao Qian currently couldn't take out the Golden Radiance Token to ask Duobao and decided to ask after returning.

Now facing the questioning eyes of the four people—Zheng Yin, Zhao Gongda, Meng Shoudao, and Guo Huchen—Tao Qian directly replied:

"My Aunt Yunhua is indeed traveling abroad, but as far as I know, she has important matters to attend to and shouldn't participate in the world's struggle for power unless the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen has an extraordinary relationship with my Aunt Yunhua and my Spirit Treasure Sect."

"The truth of this matter can be easily confirmed. I can verify with Master after my return."

"However, since it's not easy to gather everyone together, let's solve another issue. Fellow Daoist Zheng, please use the Heavenly Track Secret Skill again and invite General Li Ren here to hear his conditions."

"Agreed!"

Zheng Yin responded and immediately his catfish body turned into bubbles and dissipated, vanishing into the Buddha's Golden Soup with an inexplicable and traceless method.

In no time, the radiance flashed again.

Apart from Zheng Yin's return, there was now an additional strange fish.

Completely white, with a demeanor of peace, yet its head was abnormally large with a rounded lump on the forehead.

The experienced mortals on both banks of Golden Soup River would have exclaimed in admiration upon seeing this fish: "What a splendid 'Buddha-headed white fish'; so close to becoming a Buddha, what a pity it is."

Needless to say, the one transformed into this fish was the commander of the Han Mountain Army, General Li Ren.

As soon as Li Ren arrived, his gaze swept over everyone, lingering the longest on the Jin Lin fish that Tao Qian had transformed into.

But in the end, he focused on Zhao Gongda, who had become an old turtle, and with a flash of Buddha Light on his lump, he blew a bubble and said:

"Fellow Daoists, time is of the essence, so I will not bother with niceties."

"I was fortunate to be invited by Fellow Daoist Zheng, and have heard of your ambitions. I hold immense respect and am very willing to join."

"However, I believe there is a significant flaw in your grand plan."

"Without addressing this flaw, even if we give our all, it may turn out to be nothing but a fleeting illusion, a vain effort."

"Ah, do tell."

Although everyone knew that these words were Li Ren's prelude before revealing his conditions for joining,

they still asked upon hearing his remarks.

Including Tao Qian, none of them thought there was any flaw in their plan.

At least from Tao Qian's experience, rich with many battles in various places, he considered this sparsely populated governing team—this band of rebels—to be more pragmatic and reliable than the National Salvation Congress and Ancestor Dragon Society that came before.

Especially after providing a list of several thousand names, Tao Qian was convinced that as long as those three old bald thieves from the Demon Buddha Temple were eliminated, the circumstance of millions of commoners in Qiantang Province would greatly improve.

Li Ren was straightforward and spoke candidly:

"Fellow Daoists Zheng, Zhao, Meng, Guo, and the Wu Gou Buddha Son from South Sea, without exception, you all are heroes and the chosen of Daoist and Buddhist worlds."

"But haven't you realized that you truly lack a definitive leader amongst you?"

"It's good to consult with each other on most matters."

"However, for major and perilous matters, a 'leader' is essential to oversee the overall situation."

"None of you, fellow Daoists, have the aura of a Human Emperor."

Initially curious about the flaw he would point out,

upon his words, the five of them were taken aback, Zhao Gongda and the others showing a touch of ridicule, while the elder Zhao Gongda seemed to have a contemplative expression on his face.

Li Ren didn't wait for their response and quickly continued:

"Fellow Daoists, don't be annoyed, just hear me out."

"Today, nearly each of the seventy-two provinces is embroiled in war, ushering in new and old sovereigns. Like you, many virtuous heroes emerge, disapproving of this decaying world, using their passion to rise up, eliminate devils, protect all people... but not many are truly successful."

"The very few forces that I, Li Ren, recognize—"

"Such as the National Salvation Congress, the Ancestor Dragon Society, with a little inquiry, it becomes clear that these established forces, besides gathering many willing heroes, all possess an extraordinary leader."

"Yu Yanshi of the National Salvation Congress has a huge reputation in the southern provinces."

Chapter 689 - Tao Qian Forms an Alliance through Marriage, Southern Army Campaigns Northward\_2

"The Ancestor Dragon Society's Ying Qingdi, though perished due to his bloodline and ancestry, is succeeded by Lin Bujue Daoist, who gradually asserted himself with the air of a sovereign."

"An example of the contrary is the Great Unity Society, that professes the ambition for 'universal harmony'. Because of this aim, they insisted on discussing everything collectively, only to be suppressed within a month, returning the impoverished masses back into the clutches of Demons."

This ascetic seemed to have found his flow, eager to pour forth all that was in his heart.

He paused for just a moment before continuing,

"Li Ren does not necessarily believe that those who initiate uprisings must showcase an Emperor to lead their side, setting up a state and so on after rebellion."

"That set of decrepit measures has been spat out by those of us with a shred of conscience since the Yang Sui Uprising."

"Though we can do without an Emperor, a leader is essential."

"The Master Shenxiu from the Free Temple wished to save the entire Qiantang Province, hence summoning his master, in alliance with the Vajra Temple, and God knows from where they summoned

the Great Abyss Zen Master—a True Buddha who cultivated the Path of Salvation. I have seen the Great Abyss Zen Master, and should he ascend to the throne, he would indeed make an excellent Emperor, infinitely better than the likes of Cheng Arhat."

"Nevertheless, even so, it cannot change the fact that his realm would essentially be an 'Earthly Buddha Country.'"

"As long as it's a Buddha Country, the most revered and fundamental would be the Buddha, not the mortals and ordinary people. Although I admire the Great Abyss Zen Master, I do not wish for such a thing."

"Therefore, I have come to consult with fellow Daoists. But first, have a look at the Governance Scripture which Li Ren approves of. Should you find the owner of the scripture able to aid Qiantang, let her join us."

"Moreover, Li Ren believes that if she were to become the leader, she could attract the support of the many intelligent people throughout the world, as well as gain the approval of both the obscure Human Dao Fortune and numerous Ancestor God Treasures... By then, we could save more than just Qiantang Province; there is hope for the Northern Land Provinces."

...

Although Li Ren was verbose, the groundwork was extensively laid for the final statement.

However, the next moment, when he frantically spat out bubbles, he managed to recount, in oral form, a thick volume called the "Mingzhen Governance Scripture."

Several individuals waited patiently and skimmed quickly through it.

From the name of the scripture, it was clear that its author was none other than the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen.

Who would have thought?

The Devil Concubine, inheriting the legacy of the Zhu Dynasty and ruling as Empress for a brief period, managed to write such a governance scripture while being hunted down.

Most who saw this would instinctively laugh derisively.

Though they did not laugh, they did not take it too seriously either.

Unexpectedly, including Tao Qian, after reading the scripture, admiration appeared on everyone's faces.

Especially Zhao Gongda, who exclaimed in continuous amazement, clicking his tongue in appreciation.

He immediately reached a verdict, saying,



"I've heard before that the name 'Devil Concubine' is a slander; in addition to possessing the Heavenly Phoenix Body, Yuan Mingzhen Daoist has the talent for governing a nation. When the empire fell into her hands, there was harmony and rest for all people. It was only due to the overwhelming disparity when the empire got conquered by the eighteen rebel armies, a tragedy not of her doing."

"Now it seems, the rumors were true."

"The numerous strategies in Daoist Yuann's scripture are thorough, addressing everyone from the commoners to Demon Cultivators and Major Daoist and Buddhist Sects, with each plan being robust and above average."

"In my opinion, if Daoist Yuann had been born in an era when the Ancestor God Forbidden Techniques were still intact, she might have become a thousand-year Empress, ensuring a hundred years of prosperity for the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty."

"Even in this era of great strife, if she had sufficient support, she could still vie for the position of Human Emperor."

"There is no doubt that this scripture is capable of governing Qiantang Province."

"But..."

"But what?"

Upon hearing most of it, Li Ren's eyes brimmed with joy.

He knew what kind of person Zhao Gongda was—a Great Sage highly esteemed in Qiantang Province. Such recognition of Yuan Mingzhen from him implied validation for Li Ren's choice.

There's a story behind it, too.

Li Ren, a distinguished individual of his time and heir to the lineages from both Vajra Temple and Han Mountain Temple, also commanding the Han Mountain Army, encountered the Devil Concubine by chance. Ultimately, he was so taken by her extraordinary wisdom and ambitions for governing the world that he deemed Yuan Mingzhen as a potential savior, deserving of the role of a millennium Empress.

His opposition to the plans of the Free Temple and the Vajra Temple, and to the Great Abyss Zen Master becoming the Emperor, included these considerations as well.

Hearing Zhao Gongda's praise, he had originally thought he found a like-minded ally.

The great undertaking could succeed, Yuan Mingzhen's life could be saved, and they could even make a comeback, establishing a nation in Qiantang Province and once again vying for supremacy under the heavens.

Who would have expected to hear an "however" in the end, Li Ren subconsciously asked.

Someone responded immediately, but it wasn't Zhao Gongda, it was Zheng Yin.

He was straightforward and began by saying,

"However, there is a slight misunderstanding on Li Daoist's part, we are not a group of dragons without a head."

"We follow Wu Gou Buddha Son as our leader, and likewise, Spirit Treasure Tao Master is our leader."

Before his words had faded, Zheng Yin, using the Heavenly Track Secret Skill, transmitted all the prior images of Tao Qian's exploding identity along with the question-and-answer exchange between them to him.

In a moment, the Dhutadharma Fish that Li Ren had turned into seemed as if struck by lightning, freezing on the spot.

In his mind, a single thought echoed: Wu Gou Buddha Son was Spirit Treasure Tao Master?

But soon, he was stunned by the images of Tao Qian's revealed mad boldness and that unbelievable stance for the mortals.

In a daze, his impression of Tao Qian in his heart rapidly shattered and reformed.

It took a long while for him to come to his senses.

His face full of conflicting emotions, it was evident he had fallen into a dilemma.

For a while, he seemed unsure of who to support.

However, it didn't take long for Li Ren to come up with what seemed like a brilliant plan, his expression suddenly brightened.

The stiff fish body became animated, he immediately paid his respects to Tao Qian and said,

"I had no idea I was speaking to Tao Master in person, Li Ren was out of line."

"To let the True Master know, although Li Ren is a Buddhist Practitioner, I don't worship Buddha; I only admire and respect the heroes in my heart."

"There are not many, and Tao Master you are the first one."

"In the Yang Sui Uprising, True Master dug out the roots of those old beasts, the Alchemists; it can be said your deeds will be remembered for all eternity."

After finishing his flattery, not waiting for Tao Qian to return the pleasantries.

This young Buddhist general then continued with words that caused Tao Qian to stiffen, giving rise to thoughts among the others present.

"If this great undertaking is overseen by you, True Master, it is already half accomplished."

"Li believes that the tens of millions of people in Qiantang have hope of salvation, but this is not enough, you must know that several of the Northern Land provinces have suffered calamities, of which Qiantang has seen the least."

"The other provinces have almost all fallen into the hands of those utterly evil warlords."

"And among them, quite a few warlords are dogs raised by the Alchemists. I have heard that the Alchemists are initiating a plan called 'Hidden Dragon Devouring to Nurture the True Dragon', deliberately allowing those warlords in the Northern Land to fight against each other. The victor will be bestowed the Ancestor Dragon Bloodline by the Alchemists and not only receive the teachings handed down by the Ancestor Dragon but also use Secret Techniques to recall the Ancestor God Treasures scattered across the seventy-two provinces."

"For the chance to obtain this, an unprecedented war is brewing in the Northern Land provinces, such as beasts like Song Tiecheng, Yelü Lushan, and Wu Shaozu, will not be mentioned."

"Even somewhat reputable figures like Zhang Mazi, Hong Fu, and Si Xixin have been tempted."

"And Great Abyss Zen Master has brought a still secretive piece of information: Hong Fu, who has complete control over the Devil God Army and occupied two whole provinces, has decided to marry Si Xixin, who has the support of many powerful forces including the Si Family. After their union, their combined strength will immediately surpass Zhang Mazi."

"If nothing unexpected happens, the victor of the upcoming Central Plains chaos will be either Si Xixin or Zhang Mazi."

"Whoever it is, will accept the Alchemists' bestowal of bloodline and also aim to reestablish the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty and its imperial rule."

"Upon hearing this, Li was utterly despairing, seeing no glimmer of hope."

"But now knowing Tao Master is here, hope has sprung up within me."

"If Tao Master you can stand forth, and announce an alliance with Yuann Mingzhen Daoist... whether it is the inherited teachings, the Human Dao Destiny, or something else, you can suppress Hong Fu and Si Xixin."

"I have heard that you, Tao Master, have a great relationship with the Southern National Salvation Congress. If you only call upon them to march north to purge the demons, uniting North and South, the world can be settled."

Li Ren spoke more and more excitedly, feeling as if he had found a path of survival for the chaotic and demon-plagued seventy-two provinces.

Looking at him, one would think he wished he could broadcast the good news across the country right now.

Chapter 690 - Aunt Immortal's Trace, Duobao Teases

Before Li Ren arrived, the strategy considered by everyone involved the livelihood of tens of millions of mortals in Qiantang Province and perhaps adding Tiannan Province at most.

Once he arrived, aside from wanting to make Yuann Mingzhen the leader, he further expanded the plan to encompass the entire Northern Land, covering dozens of major provinces.

Although the scope was instantly broadened, his strategy nevertheless vexed Tao Qian.

Good heavens!

Was this how he, Master Tao, was clearly arranged?

If this plan could indeed succeed, and truly save this corrupt world, it might have been acceptable; however, his idea appeared incredibly naive to Tao Qian.

Without even a moment's hesitation, Tao Qian directly shook his head saying,

"This method is inappropriate; this path is unfeasible."

"You once despised the method proposed by Free Temple to establish an 'Earthly Buddha Country', yet how come you are now directly replicating the alchemist's plan?"

"Can the union of Hong Fu and Si Xixin unify the Northern Land Provinces, and my union with Yuann Mingzhen guarantee the conquest of the entire realm?"

"Yuann Daoist, having authored the 'Mingzhen Governance Scripture,' must be exceptionally wise and will surely not agree with your method; it seems you did this on a whim."

"I am not the key, nor is Yuann Daoist."

"Nor are the magic veins and Human Dao Fortune important, for once Zhang Mazi or Si Xixin is transformed into having the Ancestor Dragon Bloodline, who beneath the heavens could compete with them for the magic veins and fortune?"



"What you truly have in mind is to involve the Spirit Treasure Sect behind me and the Primordial Sect behind the National Salvation Congress, gathering the strength of these two top Daoist Great Sects to unify the realm."

Tao Qian unapologetically exposed Li Ren's true intentions.

The others also came to a realization.

Among them, Zhao Gongda, the oldest and most experienced in governance, was first to shake his head, continuing Tao Qian's words, he also denied,

"This plan is simple and crude, seemingly feasible but certainly doomed to fail."

"The Spirit Treasure and the Primordial Sects might be strong, but not strong enough to suppress the entire Cultivation World, even if the Taishang Dao is involved, how about that? Especially considering the opposing side still has the Demon Buddha Temple, the Evil Sect, the Secret Demon Sect, the Taishang Demon Sect, the Great Freedom Temple, the Dharma Cakra Temple, the Da Zhao Temple, the Xiu Family, the Si Family, the Zhang Family, the Li Family... and so on, this does not even account for the other Daoist Great Sects and the countless heterodoxy."

"These so-called hidden dragon talents, which one does not have the support of a great sect or great family? It is still continuous chaos, with no time of stability."

Li Ren, having his thoughts seen through, showed no annoyance on his face.

He was a forthright person and laid his cards on the table saying,

"Indeed, this is a whimsical idea of mine, but I feel there's a substantial chance it could succeed. In the past, when Ancestor Dragon unified the Nine Provinces, the main supporters were also the Three Daoist Sects."

"Although there are numerous magic veins in the Cultivation World, the majority of cultivators at the Cavernous Mystery Realm, Daoist Transformation Realm, and Tribulation Immortal Realm belong to the Three Daoist Sects."

"Especially the Spirit Treasure Sect, where you, True Master, are located, whose prestige of hosting the Ten Thousand Immortals is known to all."

"I have studied your many past experiences, True Master; in Penglai Sea your reputation is extremely high, and upon entering the world you have profound relationships with the descendants of the Primordial Sect, Shenxiao Sect, and Shaoqing Sect, even capable of commanding the Primordial Hidden Immortal. In New Moon Province, you also have ties with the Taishang Daoist Son. True Master, you possess an immense Human Dao Destiny as well as the Yu Ding and Valley God Gui, two Ancestor God Treasures."

"Undoubtedly, True Master, you are the Child of Fortune, the person destined for this crisis."

"With just one call from you, True Master, inviting ten thousand immortals out of seclusion, coupled with the support from the southern Primordial Sect, the Void Supreme Dao and the backing of Human Dao Fortune, and supported by the peoples' will... a great number of cultivators from the Cavernous Mystery Realm and Daoist Transformation Tribulation could emerge before the other sects could react, unifying the realm in one fell swoop, and crushing the alchemists would be effortless."

"True Master, you need not become the Emperor; a different title could suffice, perhaps establishing an unparalleled Immortal Dynasty."

"These signs have been unmistakably revealed; this is the reason for your entering the world, and it is inevitable."

"You were pursued but did not retreat to Penglai Sea; rather, stepping onto Qiantang, and meeting Yuann Mingzhen Daoist, who possesses a 'Heavenly Phoenix Body', is yet another clear proof."

...

When Li Ren spoke these words.

How could the others not understand that this young general, besides being a follower of Yuann Mingzhen, was also Tao Qian's.

In his view, Tao Qian was destined to be the True Dragon Emperor, destined to unite with the Heavenly Phoenix Empress, establish an Immortal Dynasty, and save all people.

If an ordinary cultivator were to hear his passionate and seemingly rational discourse, they would likely be swayed and indeed believe him.

But here, no one was easy to fool.

It was still Zhao Gongda!

This old man entirely disregarded those rumors, analyzing once more,

"Li Daoist, do not indulge in fantasies any longer; this method is still unfeasible."

"Setting aside other factors, according to what this old man knows, the Daoist Transformation and Tribulation Immortal Realm cultivators will hardly be able to easily enter the mortal world."

"As for the reason?"

"In my early years of study, I once saw a book of secrets and odd records from the 'Near Ancient Miscellany', which documented the consequences of a few suspected Daoist Transformation Realm cultivators lingering in the mortal world from an even more ancient era."

"Whether intentional or unintended... ultimately, due to them, the death toll of the lower Human Clan ranged from at least hundreds of thousands to millions."

"The cultivators who have attained 'the Dao' are regarded as gods to the Mortals."

"Merely being in their presence, let alone directly looking at them, means death."

"They may even permanently change some landscapes, giving rise to bizarre scenes."

"When Ancestor Dragon founded the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty and established the 'Ancestor God Forbidden Technique', signing a contract with the Cultivation World, this was probably the main reason."

"It is said that during the dark and ignorant times of the ancient era, the Human Clan experienced rapid cycles of life and death, with global disasters occurring periodically."

"After enduring many disasters, the establishment of the Longevity Dynasty and the implementation of the Forbidden Technique resulted in a population explosion across this vast land to nearly a hundred billion...adding all the states and foreign regions of the outer domains, i.e., the Heavenly Dynasty together, could not compare to us; such is the power of the Forbidden Technique."