

Longevity 741

Chapter 741 - Creation Poison Body Seizing, Spirit Treasure Ten Thousand Immortals Defending Their Own

After layering on five layers of armor and hoodwinking the Toad God Tile into taking the hit from the Miraculous Tree Jade Branch using the "Postponed Payment Technique," Tao Qian finally managed to break into the Merit Pool.

In front of him was the Mechanical Demon Buddha, which for others represented unparalleled danger, but for Master Tao, it was almost defenseless.

If he had followed the original plan, simply to destroy without seizing the body, remote action would suffice, with a ninety percent chance of success.

To seize the body, however, he would need to be present himself.

This turn of events had occurred very abruptly.

Moments before, the audience from the Seventy-two Provinces and the forces of various Mountain Gates had all been watching as the three Arhats from the Demon Buddha Temple successfully forged a Mechanical Demon Buddha using despicable means.

Many warlords and powerful figures from the Northern Land had already accepted the reality that the pattern was about to change drastically once again.

They believed that Qiantang Province and several neighboring provinces would fall into the hands of the Demon Buddha Temple and be forcibly transformed into an Earthly Buddha Country.

But they hadn't expected that at the birth of the Demon Buddha, the situation would suddenly reverse.

And this time, a true "big shot" had emerged to disrupt their plans.

Master Tao was either carrying out some great plot, or he was just a naturally troublesome character.

Upon entering the Merit Pool, he revealed his true form.

In a twist, he transformed from a Wu Gou Buddha Son back to the appearance of a true disciple of the Spirit Treasure Sect.

His face was immediately captured by a multitude of Spirit Mirrors and Crystal Balls and then displayed before the eyes of the entire world.

In an instant, all Seventy-two Provinces were thrown into an uproar.

Since the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique Longevity Barrier had malfunctioned, this world had entered an era of great change, with daily new developments, grand waves, great heroes, and talent hidden among dragons, all crazily emerging.

Old monsters undergoing Daoist transformation and divine beings from the Outer Realm were difficult to compare, but as for that group of Talents, the owner of this face was now in contention for first place.

Even compared with Yu Yanshi, Si Xixin, Hong Fu, and Zhang Jinluan—the four considered most likely to seize the Human Emperor title—Tao Qian, Master Tao, was by no means inferior.

"My heavens, it's actually him; looks like there's a good show coming up."

"A big event! This is absolutely another mind-boggling big event; it might well be a new Yang Sui Uprising or New Moon Rebellion and so on."

"Spirit Treasure True Inheritor, the Duo Bao's first disciple, the number one Talent of the Daoist Sect, rumored to be involved in incidents such as the Demon City incident, the Yang Sui Uprising, the New Moon Rebellion, and so on."

"Ha ha ha... I knew it! For such a big affair, Master Tao's presence is indispensable. Given his compassionate yet trouble-making nature, there's no way he'd sit idly by and let those thieving baldies from the Demon Buddha Temple continue their villainy. What's stealing treasures? Master Tao even let the Mountain and River Map collapse; why would he care about a mere piece of iron?"

"Such boldness! It should be noted that not long ago, this person was wanted worldwide by terrifying forces such as the Demon Buddha Temple, Free Temple, the Xiu Family, Evil Sect, Alchemists, and so on,

with a whole host of Ultimate Happiness Realm powerhouses seeking his trouble. Who would have thought he'd sneak into Qiantang and stir up such a huge commotion?"

"This talented individual from a Great Sect is wholly different from other Great Sect disciples, possessing an exceptional ability to cause trouble. It's said that he's skilled at plotting and excels at treasure-snatching. Even the greatest forces can fall into his traps and be defeated by his strategies."

"Heh heh, I was there in New Moon Province, watching from the sidelines, and I personally witnessed how even Ying Qingdi, along with his Outer Realm Evil God father, were defeated by Master Tao; it was truly unbelievable."

...

When Tao Qian, this celebrity of the world, appeared, the onlookers only knew there was a new spectacle to see.

But to the various warlords of the Northern Land, it represented a problem much greater than the Demon Buddha Temple.

A demon monk could conceivably be conspired with.

Looking at Master Tao's past behavior and the various opinions about him, even Si Xixin understood.

To any warlord in the Northern Land, they were nothing but "scum" in Master Tao's eyes.

Discuss collaboration?

It was impossible not to be plotted against by him.

Therefore, at this moment, despite the fact that these warlords had not yet met Tao Qian, they had reached a consensus: "Big trouble! We can only hope that the three Arhats have sufficient means to deal with this guy on the spot and prevent him from causing a catastrophe in the Northern Land."

Indeed, Kongchan, Shipi, and Lian Sha were all thinking the same.

Initially, when they saw Tao Qian burst into the Merit Pool unexpectedly, Kongchan Arhat was subconsciously panicked.

But they quickly came to their senses and shouted:

"Duobao's little thief, you're seeking your own death."

"I've heard that your body is the top-ranked Dharma Body of the Spirit Treasure Sect; it's perfect for the Demon Buddha's first snack after his descent."

"Demon Buddha, please help yourself!"

With Kongchan's declaration,

The inconceivably huge Demon Buddha, at this moment, opened its eyes.

Instantly, innumerable Buddha Lights burst forth, and everything in the world dimmed within these golden radiance.

Even the crimson sun hanging in the sky was overshadowed by the Buddha Light.

Yet, this spectacle was only the beginning.

As the Buddha Light spread, each of the eighteen thousand Buddha Arms began to move, each one slightly smaller than the Ten Thousand Marvels Sky-reaching Treasure Tower that had pierced through the world before.

These Buddha Arms formed seals, casting spells, waving treasures... In an instant, numerous Buddhist Array Techniques merged with Outer Realm mechanical secret arts, creating an inconceivable "Light Net" that could envelop both sky and earth, capturing all life within it.

The world had changed.

The Province City?

No, the entire Qiantang Province.

Any place with a Buddha fragment or where Buddhist Scriptures were being chanted,

Seemed to switch to another world, where all the people were stupefied on the spot.

In a daze, one could hear the supreme Buddha voice declare: "This realm is my Buddha Country. Chant my name, enter with your Heart Soul, and henceforth be free of all sufferings such as birth, aging, sickness, and death. Enjoy Ultimate Happiness and Longevity, everlasting peace and health."

...

This scene within Qiantang Province immediately frightened all the spectators.

When has there ever been such a world?

Some with weaker wills even began to yearn for it.

Tao Qian, of course, knew what was really going on and let out a cold laugh, looking straight at the mechanical Buddha Arms that were reaching for him from above.

Under the command of the three Arhats, they initially sought to take Tao Qian's life.

However, in the next instant, a flash of bronze burst forth, and by his side appeared a Mechanical Species.

Forged from bronze, Cast Iron, Ancient Wood, and Bai Gu, with the Creation Treasure Wheel hanging behind its head and wielding a three-pronged bronze divine fork—Lian Jing'er had arrived.

"Flesh is weak; machinery is eternal."

"Creation from life; heed my command."

This mechanical voice seemed to be some kind of extraordinary secret order.

After ringing out, that newly born Mechanical Demon Buddha seized control of the Mechanical Demon Buddhas of the entire Qiantang Province in an instant and became frozen in time.

Then, accompanied by a grating noise that made tens of millions of people grind their teeth, the Demon Buddha began to move erratically.

Its terrifying body twisted and writhed.

More than ten thousand arms, some completely still, others began attacking each other.

During this process, large chunks of colored glaze began to peel off from the Dharma Body of the Demon Buddha.

Thus, everyone could see the transformation that was already in progress within the Mechanical Demon Buddha, which at this moment had reached its climax.

Two glimmers of light were contending for territory within it.

One was the NirvanaBuddha Light, and the other the Bronze Divine Light.

Once this scene emerged, the puzzle unraveled, and everyone had a vague idea.

The Three Arhats, who possessed control over the Mechanical Demon Buddha, were directly driven to laughter, momentarily befuddled, no longer recalling who was righteous and who was evil.

Kongchan, most annoyed, most hateful, and most enraged, flew over holding the Miraculous Tree Jade Branch and shouted angrily,

"Smart little thief!"

"I thought you seized the treasure on a whim, but now it's clear this has been a long plot."

"First, you took one Great Transcendence Bodhisattva, added ingredients, tampered with it, and then deliberately got close to my good disciple to earn my trust."

"All for this moment, right?"

"Such tactics have always been this monk's expertise, but I didn't expect to be taught a lesson by you, the junior, today."

"However, your subordinates, the Mechanical Species, can only cause some destruction at most. If you think you can take possession of the Demon Buddha, you must be dreaming."

As he spoke, the Three Arhats were already closing in.

Before the last sentence was finished, the Three Arhats planned to strike ruthlessly together and encircle and kill Tao Qian.

Indeed, it did not sound good for three seniors of the Ultimate Happiness Realm to gang up on a junior.

But at this juncture, the three were not concerned at all.

Unfortunately, it was at this time

A set of Song Rhymes that Tao Qian was extremely familiar with and quite moved by suddenly rang out:

"At the cliff of the South Sea fishing for dragons and ao, inherently pure, cultivating the Buddhist path."

"How can I bear to see Arhats hurt my child; let's have another round with all of you."

The familiar rhyme, the familiar scene, altered by only a few words.

Buddha Light burst forth, the Qingjing Zen Master dressed in golden kasaya, toting the Blessing Divine Mallet, emerged, positioning himself right before the Three Arhats.

In the art of "making an appearance,"

Duobao claimed first place, and Tao Qian could only resign to second.

At this moment, he became the center of everyone's attention.

Why?

Aside from this old monk looking like a True Buddha, naturally coming with his entrance poem, but also because of his identity and his conversation with the Three Arhats.

"Duobao! Daoist!"

Quite uncommonly, Kongchan Arhat lost his composure.

The demon monk's face twisted, staring deathly at the Qingjing Zen Master, and sprayed insults like a common hustler,

"Shameless old thief, you finally dared to show up."

"The little thief has already reverted to his true form, and you, this old bastard, still put on airs?"

"What South Sea Qingjing Zen Master, you're clearly the shameless Thief of the Spirit Treasure Sect."

"This master teacher of yours is abhorred by gods and ghosts alike; the little brat is even more shameless than you."

"Today is good, both you and your disciple will die and vanish from the Dao right here."

Despite being sprayed in the face with saliva, the Qingjing Old Monk still wore a smile.

Stamping his foot, his dharma body split into three.

Each held a Demon Cleansing Divine Mallet and confronted the Three Arhats.

At the same time, shaking his head, he corrected them,

"Kongchan Daoist, what you say is incorrect. Poor monk is indeed Qingjing and not the Duobao Daoist you're looking for."

"He is he, I am I, they should not be confused."

Without finishing these simple two sentences, accompanied by several dull thuds,

The three "Qingjings" were already battered and bruised, suffering no light injuries.

In a one versus three, they had taken a beating at the first encounter.

Yet curiously, none of the three incarnations had dissipated.

And the old monk seemed not to perceive any danger, instead deeming it more important to clarify his identity.

While blocking the three, he suddenly cast a gigantic Round Light Technique.

Above the sky, a large mirror appeared.

When the audience of the seventy-two provinces saw the scene in the mirror, everyone's mouth hung open, stupefied in place.

What was in the mirror?

For Tao Qian, it was nothing out of the ordinary.

But for everyone else in the world, it was an image that should only exist in mythical and strange tales:

The Penglai Sea!

The Biyou Palace!

The Spirit Treasure Ten Thousand Immortals seemed to have gathered, filling the Heavenly Venerate Daoist Field, led by a shaggy-legged True Monarch at the forefront, watching everything unfolding in Qiantang Province City through the Round Light Mirror.

Leading the group, Duobao True Monarch chimed in smilingly,

"Daoist Brother Qingjing is correct in his words, he is he, I am I, please do not confuse the two."

"The Three Daoist Brothers needn't mind me, Duobao, and definitely should not misunderstand the situation because of this scene."

"I, Duobao, along with these fellow teachers, true disciples, and the divine immortals...are not here to support the junior Tao Qian. We have gathered only because we heard there was excitement to watch in Qiantang, just to take a look. Please do not misunderstand; we will not all emerge from our retreat."

"The mundane world is most boring, and what we Spirit Treasure Ten Thousand Immortals dislike most is leaving our retreat to squabble and fight with others."

Chapter 742 - Daoist Transformation Sui Chaozi, Tribulation Immortal Tianzhi Gong

Duobao's words, through the Spirit Mirror Crystal Balls, resonated across the Seventy-Two Provinces.

When people heard his speech and saw his sincerely "earnest" expression, added to the fact that the Spirit Treasure Sect indeed had no large-scale interference in the secular world recorded in history, some naive viewers actually believed.

However, it wasn't long before the audience saw and heard some interference in the Round Light Illusion Mirror:

"Big Brother, you don't love this path, don't drag us into it. I, Scorpion Daoist, relish in dueling and fighting most, and besides, I owe Nephew Tao a small karmic debt; if he calls me to aid in formation, I must go."

"That's right, Big Brother, though you love to stay motionless, don't stop us from supporting Nephew Tao. Today, we'll see who dares to take his life; and one day, we'll flatten their mountain gate together."

"I, a poor Daoist, just visited Nephew Tao's Ascending Immortal Island a few days ago and harvested a lot of Immortal Peaches, which I enjoyed. Should Nephew Tao encounter difficulties, I am naturally obliged to help."

"No matter whether Tao Qian cares or not, with you Big Brother to support him, my home's Shan Jiu must not run into trouble; otherwise, I, Xue Ming, will exclusively target your Demon Buddha Temple monks from now on."

...

Before people could be shocked by the responses of these strong individuals from the Spirit Treasure Sect, someone more formal immediately responded.

Suddenly standing next to Duobao was a young and handsome Daoist who pronounced distinctly and in a loud voice:

"I am Xu Xun, the True Inheritor and eldest disciple of the Spirit Treasure Sect."

"Tao Qian owes me his life. If there are offenses this time, I hope the three seniors will not injure him too severely, much less take his life; otherwise, this gratitude would turn into enmity, all falling upon the three seniors. Right now, I am unable to contend with the Arhats, but in a hundred years, I am afraid none of the seniors might be a match for me."

"By then, there might be a tribulation."

These three sentences from Xu Xun instantly caused an uproar throughout the world.

Oh boy!

A mere junior cultivator, in front of the many powers of the Seventy-Two Provinces, threatening the three Arhats of the Ultimate Happiness Realm from the Demon Buddha Temple?

For a moment, everyone thought this junior was incredibly arrogant, and his tone too grand.

But quickly, information relevant to Xuu Xun appeared within many Spirit Mirror Crystal Balls: [Xuu Xun, the current True Inheritor and eldest disciple of the Spirit Treasure Sect, a naturally gifted genius destined to enter the Ultimate Happiness Realm soon, recognized by the Sect Master of the Spirit Treasure Sect as having the potential of a Tribulation Immortal. His master is the highly prestigious attendant immortal of the Spirit Treasure Sect, Ma Yi Immortal, who has used the Sleeve Universe Divine Technique to transport the entire population of the Imperial City and experts from the Six Sects, possesses the Sea and Field Transformation Technique, with an extensive lifespan and boundless mana.]

As some details about Xuu Xun leaked out, many had to admit that he indeed had the capacity to threaten the three Arhats.

However, he still appeared somewhat arrogant when the three Arhats, sneering, were about to rebuke.

Suddenly, a dense fog emerged in the mirror, and an Immortal Island appeared dimly. At the forefront of the island stood an ancient black tree with an ancient female fairy with a snake's body lying on it, staring through the cool air.

Yet, she didn't look at the three Arhats but focused on Tao Qian, who was busy with a body seizing task, her voice cold and puzzled:

"If there's life-threatening danger, why not call me to help?"

"I can't beat these three bald men, but if I wanted to take you away, they couldn't stop me."

"Or are you afraid I'll ask you to sleep with me? It's only for a twelve-hour span; if it's too long, I can reduce... it by half."

The moment Aunt Bai Yin spoke, Tao Qian, who was already on the arm of the Mechanical Demon Buddha, staggered.

Worse still, after Bai Yin had finished speaking, he felt a chill down his spine.

Clearly, Sister Yunrong was watching him closely.

Fortunately, just at this moment, an even louder and more shocking voice came from the mirror, causing the three Arahts' scalps to tingle too.

The speaker was from the grand Spirit Treasure Female Immortals' faction at the forefront of Biyou Palace.

The female fairy in the five-colored immortal skirt grinned at the Three Arhats and then said straightforwardly,

"Sister Yunhua had instructed us before she left the house that if Little Tao'er encountered any trouble, we should not wait for him to seek help; we sisters must proactively lend our assistance."

"If our power is insufficient, Sister Yunhua also left numerous tokens with us, allowing us to seek help from Guanyin Temple, Heavenly Consort Palace, Daughter Palace, Infant Sect, and other territories."

"However, if it really comes to that, I think it will be enough for us sisters to come down from the mountain together. There is no need to trouble relatives and friends outside the sect."

"Although Nephew Tao has not been with Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate for long, he is of good nature and a child who endears himself to others. If there have been any offenses, I hope the three of you Arhats will not take it to heart, let alone take his life, as we sisters might have a difficult situation with your temple."

Silence!

Whether it was the territory of Qiantang Province City or the other seventy-one provinces' viewing areas, all fell into silence.

At the beginning, when Duobao Daoist appeared and spoke some courteous words, many took him seriously.

Now, only a fool would still believe it.

All the viewers in front of the spirit mirrors and crystal balls were furiously criticizing internally, even powerful warlords like Si Xixin, Zhang Jinluan, and Hong Fu, who enjoyed high status and massive support, couldn't help but feel jealous of Tao Qian.

"What sort of arrangement is this? Could it be that this child has already been designated as the next Sect Master? Why else would he be so favored?"

"This is abnormal. It shouldn't be like this. Even if he's designated as the next Sect Master, there should be competitors and detractors within the sect. How can he be so pampered by the entire Spirit Treasure Sect?"

"There were rumors earlier that Master Tao Qian left the sect to walk in the Human World because he couldn't compete with Master Xu Xun. Now it seems that those rumors are completely baseless."

"Such a terrifying threat, these three Arhats must be credited for their strong cultivation base and the Spirit Treasure Sect's backing. This allows them to remain composed at this moment. If it were us, we might have already kneeled and begged for mercy."

"The Three Arhats may not be able to hold on either. If I remember correctly, this is the first time the Spirit Treasure Sect's Ten Thousand Immortals have actively appeared to issue a threat just for a True Disciple?"

"Tsk, tsk, a major upheaval in the layout of the seventy-two provinces is about to occur."

"Oh, how so?"

"Need you ask? Master Tao Qian is clearly striving to compete for the position of Human Emperor. If he were alone, he wouldn't pose a threat. But if the Ten Thousand Immortals of the Spirit Treasure Sect assist him in the world, I can't think of who could stop him, whether it's Yu Yanshi from the south or those three from the north. No one could be a match for Master Tao Qian, unless Taishang Dao also intervenes."

"Heh, stop thinking about it. Even if Taishang Dao were to intervene, they would only side with Master Tao Qian. Given the New Moon uprising, Taishang Dao has good relations with Master Tao, and I've also heard that the people of Fangcun Mountain hold him in high regard."

"So, if Master Tao merely calls for support, the position of Human Emperor is almost undoubted?"

"Exactly!"

...

Master Tao Qian couldn't hear the myriad discussions from the other seventy-one provinces.

However, similar thoughts in the area were all perceived by him.

The voices from in front of the Biyou Palace, Tao Qian heard them all distinctively.

He was both touched and alarmed.

Earlier, he and Yuann Mingzhen had met in a dream and decided on that "Coercing the Alchemist" great plan. After which, his sensitivity to Human Dao Destiny and impending fates deepened.

It was for this reason that he truly understood why the Spirit Treasure Sect never interfered in the "contest for the Human Emperor."

He might now drag the Sect into trouble because of himself. How could this be tolerated?

Yet he found himself unable to refuse.

His original plan indeed involved using the Sect's fame as a shield.

Simply borrowing the reputation of the Spirit Treasure Sect, he had created the illusion that he could call upon the help of Ten Thousand Immortals at any moment to put pressure on the Alchemist.

Now, it seemed not only could he borrow the tiger's skin, but even faking it into reality was merely a thought away.

Fortunately, there were still boundaries.

"Enough, it's at the limit."

"Just this level of show is sufficient. We absolutely cannot let the Ten Thousand Immortals descend from the mountain, not Xuu Xun, not Aunt Bai Yin, not a single person."

Once his mind was set, Tao Qian moved quicker.

At this moment!

Lian Jing'er, controlling about a third of the Mechanical Demon Buddha, used the Buddha's arm to transport them to the top of the Buddha's head.

The two acted almost simultaneously.

Lian Jing'er took out the bronze divine fork, and immediately a socket appeared under his feet, resembling the ancient Bronze God General. As he issued complex commands in a mechanical voice and inserted the long fork into the socket, green-rusted divine light spread, and the already disadvantaged Creation Poison once again surged wildly.

Tao Qian, on the other hand, stomped fiercely and directly summoned the "Outer Heaven Flame Essence," mentally commanding: Refine the Buddha.

As millions of tiny light orbs were summoned from the Outer Realm.

Instantly, the situation reversed.

The originally chaotic Mechanical Demon Buddha began to be completely corrupted by the Creation Poison and totally controlled by Lian Jing'er.

This significant commotion immediately woke the Three Arhats from the threat.

Seeing the Mechanical Demon Buddha could change hands, even the ever-unperturbed Shipi Arhat finally showed a look of panic on his face.

This Demon Buddha!

Not only was it refined by the hard work of them three, but it was also the designated mechanical incarnation of the Nirvana Demon Buddha.

If this task was botched, all three would face dire consequences.

Compared to this outcome, the threat of Ten Thousand Immortals from the distant Penglai Sea suddenly seemed negligible.

Realizing this, Shipi Arhat immediately stepped forward, sternly saying,

"Two junior brothers, hold off Qingjing. This poor monk will personally take care of that little thief."

"No need to waste words. If your Spirit Treasure Sect's Ten Thousand Immortals are not afraid of the poison of fortune and the miasma of the Human World corroding the roots of your sect, then come into the world."

After finishing his words.

Shipi Arhat shook off Qingjing Old Monk and directly charged towards the Merit Pool.

Still on the way, he gazed at Tao Qian standing on top of the Buddha, looking as if he viewed him as an unlucky fellow already doomed.

His voice was ice-cold:

"Thief stealing treasures, this time you chose the wrong treasure."

"This Buddha is the assigned incarnation of our temple's Nirvana Demon Buddha. It walks this world in place of our Buddha, only achieving merit perfection after converting hundreds of millions. How can such a divine treasure be defiled?"

"Even if this poor monk does not kill you, the Nirvana Demon Buddha itself will wish for your death at the moment of your Body Seizing. Say not that your master Duobao is not here; even if he were, he could not protect you."

"If you know what's good for you, withdraw quickly. This poor monk promises not only to spare your life but also to present various benefits as a respectful escort out of the territory."

"How about it?"

As Shipi Arhat approached, an oppressive feeling surged like mountains and oceans.

Together with his few words, they made Tao Qian sense an intense foreboding of death.

Was his time of death approaching?

At this moment, he and Lian Jing'er were at a crucial moment of Refining Treasure and Body Seizing.

Choosing to believe what his master had said earlier, he blocked his ears and completely disregarded the nagging of Shipi.

Indeed!

Just then, Duobao Daoist, who had been silent so far, suddenly, at this moment, chuckling while rubbing the mud on his body, joined in the conversation:

"Shipi, you bald thief, don't speak nonsense."

"Others might fear your persistent nagging, sticking like dog excrement, do you think I, Duobao, am also afraid?"

"If you dare to harm a hair on my disciple today, I, Duobao, will immediately become a monk and join you in baldness."

"Pah!"

Not feeling satisfied with just rebuking, he even spit at Shipi.

Then, without waiting to see Shipi's reaction, he focused on the Mechanical Demon Buddha in the Void and shouted across the distance:

"Sui Chaozi, stop hiding and watching the excitement."

"With your speed, you should have been here an hour ago."

"I'm telling you, Tianzhi Gong has already taken the Mysterious Corpse Divine Arm I, Duobao, provided to make gloves."

"If your slow actions cause my disciple any harm, Tianzhi Gong will have to compensate me generously, and then you'll be in trouble you can't handle."

...

"Sui Chaozi? Tianzhi Gong?"

These two names confused not only Tao Qian but virtually all the spectators.

In the Cultivation World, were there such individuals?

But the reaction of Yuan Gong in Tao Qian's arms was very intense.

Amidst his trembling like a statue, Yuan Gong's excited telepathic voice rang out.

Chapter 743 Tao Qian's old man, Shipi's robbery

Tao Qian sensed movement from Master Yuan and initially thought that these two must be old acquaintances of Master Yuan.

However, Master Yuan spoke thus:

"Tsks, Duobao that fellow, wanting both to save your life and keep the second-generation patriarch of the Spirit Treasure Sect from being tainted by karmic miasma, finally is willing to pay a significant price."

"A single Evil God arm is enough to move most of the second-generation patriarchs in your house to action, yet he chooses to seek external help. His vision is indeed vicious, having chosen the most suitable person."

"Tianzhi Gong was an ancient Tribulation Immortal who attained the Dao before the Ancestor Dragon established the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty. He left for the Outer Realm early, settling in the depths of the Great Abyss, making enemies of various Evil Gods and establishing a transcendent Dao lineage. It is said that he has seized not just one Mechanical Evil God's Divine Qi Origin. The Nirvana Demon Buddha, that old meat bangzi, is probably no match for him."

"Sui Chaozi is a junior disciple of this senior, also a strong person in the Daoist Transformation Realm."

"Moreover, Sui Chaozi, unlike other Daoist Transformations residing in the Outer Realm, has many incarnations in this realm. Should he choose to make a move, even if his original body cannot enter, Shipi the bald thief indeed can do nothing about it."

Almost immediately as Master Yuan's voice fell.

There was a turn of events in the scene.

A voice, mysterious and gentle, yet instilling a sense of ancient familiarity in Tao Qian, resounded throughout the place.

"Duobao Daoist, don't wrong a good person; I too just arrived."

"As they say, 'taking a person's money and helping them avert disaster,' since my master covets wealth and has accepted benefits from you, as a disciple, I naturally have to do his bidding."

"Speaking of which, I and Tao Qian, the young friend here, are also old acquaintances. I certainly cannot stand idly by."

Before the last sentence fell, audiences from the seventy-two provinces all saw countless rainbows flying from all directions.

Within the rainbow lights were similar entities.

Books!

Such as bamboo scrolls, grass papers, animal skins, stone steles... and so on, large books made of various materials flying with bizarre speed across provincial boundaries, arriving here.

In each book appeared scenes that drove the world mad.

A tremendous overflow of text and images encompassing all, as if the whole world could be seen within the books.

Countless Secret Books, Lifebound Scriptures!

Secrets of this realm!

Knowledge from the Outer Realm!

It seemed that all doubts in this world could find their answers in these books.

Eventually, all of these glowing texts transformed into figures known as "Book Spirits," emerging from the books.

They varied in appearance and attire.

But their energies originated from the same source.

Finally, merging layer upon layer, they completely integrated together into an old man with an ugly face and a large cranium, yet with eyes of wisdom, standing outside the Merit Pool.

Just so, blocking the path of the Shipi Arhat.

Obviously, facing a fearsome demon monk whose name struck terror across the world, this old man was calm and composed, his eyes showing no fear.

Even had the leisure to turn his head to look at Tao Qian.

The two made eye contact, and Tao Qian was slightly stunned.

Indeed an old acquaintance!

No wonder, when hearing that voice earlier, Tao Qian felt a strangely familiar sensation.

Long ago, before Master Tao had made his mark and started on his cultivation journey, he had gone to Tengshe Square to seek treasures and texts.

In that workshop, there was an Eating Book Elder.

Tao Qian spent a piece of Joyful Money and received advice from the elder.

At that time, Tao Qian knew the Eating Book Elder was a being of the Daoist Transformation Realm, but his true body was hidden in another realm, leaving many similar "Eating Book Elder" incarnations scattered within the many similar workshops across the seventy-two provinces.

Seeing him now, the puzzle was solved.

The true name of the Eating Book Elder was "Sui Chaozi," a strong individual in the Daoist Transformation Realm, his master even being the ancient Tribulation Immortal Tianzhi... truly a powerful support.

Coming back to his senses, Tao Qian quickly bowed and greeted:

"Tao Qian greets the senior!"

"In the workshop years ago, as a disciple, I once received the senior's kindness. I never imagined that upon meeting again, I would still rely on the senior's capabilities to save my life..."

Before he could finish speaking, Sui Chaozi promptly waved his hand to interrupt.

An ugly face revealed a smile, eyes filled with mystery and wisdom sweeping over Tao Qian and Lian Jing'er.

Particularly the latter, seemingly extremely satisfied with Lian Jing'er, Sui Chaozi subtly nodded.

"No need for thanks. You, and this Mechanical Species under your command with us, share not a shallow karma connection."

"Moreover, your master Duobao has already provided benefits in advance. My master has decreed, today no one shall harm you."

"Just quietly do what you must, and leave the Shipi Daoist to me."

With that, Sui Chaozi calmly turned and faced the nearly distorted face of the Shipi Arhat.

It was, speaking strictly, a case of the strong bullying the weak.

After all, Sui Chaozi was a genuine Daoist Transformation Realm, while Shipi was still in the Ultimate Happiness.

The only "variable" was that Sui Chaozi could not come in person, and what was present here was a collection of his avatars.

But even so, Sui Chaozi seemed to believe he had Shipi Arhat thoroughly under control.

He casually raised his hand, gently caressing his irregular head, resembling a large winter melon in the farmland, while chuckling and saying,

"Shipi Daoist, I have been cultivating for more years than you, and my Dao Heng is higher than yours too."

"Even if my true body isn't here, you should know you are no match for me, even if you fully unleash and summon the 'Shipi Buddha' Dharma Image, you will still be suppressed by me."

"Dao doesn't differentiate between high and low, but cultivation does, and as long as you don't enter the Daoist Transformation, you are not my opponent."

"But you also know that I, Sui Chaozi, least enjoy battling and fighting with spells."

"Why not this, let me resolve a cultivation doubt for you, and if you listen, consider it your loss, how about that?"

A piece of advice that sounded naive and laughable came from Sui Chaozi's mouth.

At this critical juncture of life and death, how could a Demon Monk, in all his dignity, easily give up?

Especially since from the other side, Kongchan and Lian Sha were both shouting for Shipi to go all out.

If the 'Mechanical Demon Buddha' was lost, the Nirvana Buddha would certainly be blamed.

Yet everyone made a judgment based on the expression on Shipi Arhat's face: everything Sui Chaozi said was true.

This Demon Arhat displayed a seldom-seen expression of deep conflict.

The speed at which he was cutting his own flesh had significantly slowed.

Tao Qian and Lian Jing'er were using the "Creation Poison" and "Outer Heaven Flame Essence" to forcibly seize the Mechanical Demon Buddha.

Even so, there was still enough leeway to watch the duel.

There was no helping it; it was simply too enticing.

Sui Chaozi! A minor disciple of Tribulation Immortal, a Daoist Transformation Expert.

Shipi Arhat! A disciple of Buddha, Perfect Ultimate Happiness.

Such high-level confrontation was undoubtedly something no one wanted to miss.

Tao Qian was also very curious, wondering what the scene would be like if the two were to engage in battle.

But at that moment, he heard Master Yuan communicating telepathically:

"Forget about it, they won't fight."

"Although Sui Chaozi is a minor disciple of Tianzhi, he has received his true inheritance of the Great Dao and harbors great love, disliking conflicts and battles."

"Good books, good writings, good secrets."

"And even though Shipi the bald thief is naturally despicable, with a personality sticky as a dog-skin plaster, he is devoted to Buddha and aims at becoming Buddha, not minding whether it's right or reversed cultivation. If now a Buddha from Free Temple or Dharma Cakra Temple were to seek him out, directly granting him a Buddha Status, Shipi would certainly sell that old meat, Nirvana Demon Buddha, immediately."

"Sui Chaozi said he wants to resolve his cultivation doubt, equivalent to giving him instruction, a big favor indeed—with Shipi's temperament, how could he refuse? Just watch."

No sooner had Master Yuan finished speaking than the result was apparent.

Shipi Arhat indeed did not make a move.

Just a moment ago, he was raging, ready to unleash his Lifebound Dharma Form, to break into the Merit Pool to ruthlessly kill Master Tao.

But in this instant, he suddenly grinned, not caring that hundreds of millions of viewers were watching, and straightforwardly said:

"It is said that Elder Sui Chaozi is highly favored by Tianzhi, and once wandered through the Great Abyss, knowing the secrets of this world and the Outer Realm."

"Since the elder intends to give guidance, how could a humble monk like me refuse?"

"I just have one question for the elder, how can I break through the tribulations and achieve the Buddha Status?"

The moment the question was asked,

Immediately, everyone who knew the situation or was a peer of Shipi couldn't help but curse.

For instance, Master Yuan, who burst out: "Ha, shameless Shipi, his next realm is clearly Dao Heng, the Bodhisattva Position, but he directly jumps and asks for the Buddha Position, truly greedy."

Hearing the question, everyone thought Sui Chaozi would ignore it and only respond to breaking through the Daoist Transformation Tribulation.

But unexpectedly, the old man actually pointed out the pieces of flesh on Shipi Arhat's body.

Quite seriously, he not only resolved his cultivation doubts but also abruptly revealed a big secret, a massive conspiracy on Shipi.

"Bodhisattva or Buddha, it all depends on a single thought from the Daoist."

"Daoist, you reverse cultivate Buddha's 'Sacrificial Flesh Dharma,' turning your own flesh into a poison of thousands of Buddhas, feeding it to beings around the world, planting Buddha Poison."

"Immortals, ghosts, mountain spirits, tree demons, beastly devils, bird demons, evil spirits, wicked devils... these beings consuming your flesh have all gained tremendous benefits, each with good future prospects, good cultivation, good Buddha Nature."

"Counting up, among the 3800 Buddhist temples, most have Buddha's sons under your command mixed among them."

"This method is much more advanced than that of Kongchan and Lian Sha."

"Daoist Transformation Tribulation is nothing to you; in a few years, you can break through and become Shipi Bodhisattva.stashop

Chapter 744 Turning Shipi, The Alternative Volume of Mountains and Seas

"As the secrets not to be illuminated were revealed, everyone could imagine what kind of emotions Shipi Arhat must have felt at that time."

"Anger, suffocation, and helplessness."

"If anyone else dared to expose his schemes and calculations in front of the whole world, with Shipi's fierce nature, he would have crushed them to dust and not spared even a wisp of their soul."

"But it just happened to be Sui Chaozi who did it."

"Even if it was just a convergence of clones, compared to Sui Chaozi, Shipi Arhat, the world-famous demon monk, still found himself at a disadvantage."

"In terms of Taoist power, Sui Chaozi crushed Shipi by a whole major realm."

"In terms of longevity, Sui Chaozi had lived even longer."

"In terms of backing, Sui Chaozi's master, Tianzhi Gong from the Outer Realm, a Tribulation Immortal, was said by Master Yuan to be unbeatable by Nirvana Demon Buddha if a real fight broke out."

"Under such circumstances, Shipi Arhat's frightful face became as unsightly as a wrinkled eggplant."

"Fortunately, Sui Chaozi's visit was not to infuriate Shipi to the point of a reckless fight to the death; after delivering a covert blow, he immediately offered up a sweet date."

"Disregarding the expression on Shipi's face, he continued pointing out,"

"Your method of Buddha Cultivation through overcoming tribulations is indeed top-notch in the Demon Path, and I can assert that with this method, you have a 90% guarantee of reaching the Bodhisattva Position and a 10% chance of reaching the Buddha Position."

"I will bestow upon you another method that can help you rectify the chaos and ensure your entry into the Bodhisattva Position, with a 30% chance of reaching the Buddha Status."

Hearing this, Shipi's expression relaxed slightly, and his Buddhist eyes shone.

"A 30% chance of achieving Buddhahood?"

"In the Cultivation World, this was an enormous temptation."

"Not a single cultivator could resist it, for it was the equivalent to the Realm of Tribulation Immortal."

"Shipi's previous elaborate and ambitious plan only had a 10% guarantee according to Sui Chaozi, and this sudden increase to 30% was more than satisfying."

"All the observers were also intrigued, listening carefully."

"The next moment, they heard Sui Chaozi say:"

"The method is extremely simple, since you are emulating the Buddha, why not directly turn from inversion to correctness."

"You only need to sever your connections with the countless Shi Pi Buddha Seeds and disperse the Buddha Poison, no longer seeking returns from those Buddha's sons who have eaten your flesh, and the Great Dao can be obtained in an instant."

"Those Buddha's sons have received your gifts and bear your karma, the higher their achievements in the future, the greater the benefits you receive."

"It's possible that your chance of ascending to Buddhahood could even be greater than 30%."

"This is the True Skill, yet it is superior to the methods you have used before."

"After these words, Shipi Arhat was dumbfounded on the spot, his mind thundering as if it had been struck hard."

"And the people of the Seventy-two provinces were all caught up in heated debates."

"Properly Practicing Buddhism or inversely practicing, each cultivator has their own view, a matter of Dao contention."

"Tao Qian also pondered and speculated about Shipi Arhat's choice."

"Most people believed Shipi would not take Sui Chaozi's advice; the 'Properly Practicing Buddhism' seemed to increase the chance of entering the Tribulation Immortal Realm, but that was merely Sui Chaozi's side of the story. Who could know the truth?"

"If this Outer Realm powerhouse was setting a trap, wouldn't that be a major mistake?"

"However, Tao Qian subconsciously felt that Shipi would most likely listen, and the reason?"

"As he was about to sort that out, Master Yuan directly transmitted a message and revealed the answer,"

"Tsk tsk, Sui Chaozi, as a disciple of Tianzhi Gong, didn't use any Divine Power, yet with just a few words, he could make Demon Buddha Temple lose a Bodhisattva, maybe even a Buddha."

"Boy, don't think too much, Shipi Arhat's aspiration is to become a Buddha, he doesn't care whether it's the correct way or the inverse."

"Sui Chaozi has already shown him a clear path; as long as he's not foolish, he will definitely choose it."

"Especially since Shipi's original poisonous plan was exposed, if he doesn't choose this new path, once the Buddhist Temples start investigating the Buddha's sons who have eaten Shipi's flesh, he might not even be able to attain the Bodhisattva Position, let alone the Buddha Position."

"Just watch, Shipi will not only choose that method, but he will also conveniently backstab the Demon Buddha Temple."

"As if to prove Master Yuan right,"

"No sooner had the words fallen than Shipi Arhat, who had just been showing a face full of angry entanglement,"

"Suddenly his aged face animated, and he burst into a hearty laugh."

"The next moment, his previously leak-free Arhat Dharma Body suddenly became porous, and the intensely concentrated Demon Buddha light condensed into ink-like liquid, gushing out."

"This scene startled many people."

"Provinces erupted into chaos, temples agitated."

"Kongchan and Liansha, who were present, were both shocked and angry, feeling a loss of control over the situation for the first time."

"Disperse their power? Shipi Arhat actually severed the connection and dispersed the Buddha Poison?"

"Not just that, his action was akin to the saying 'Lay down the butcher knife to instantly become a Buddha,' possibly converting all his Demon Buddha's Divine Power into orthodox Buddhist Law."

"Such an act, was it without cost?"

"How could it be? The price was too great; at the very least, his realm would drop from Perfect Ultimate Happiness to the Beginning of Ultimate Happiness, and many problems would follow him after, at least the Demon Buddha Temple would not let him go."

"Such a distinguished Arhat, to make such a foolish choice? To disperse his divine abilities just based on someone else's persuasion."

"..."

While these many discussions continued, a few moments later, the dark light dissipated.

Where there had been a demon monk, there now stood a benevolent and kind-eyed monk, shrouded in the aura of the Buddha but looking quite weak and aged.

This old monk, without hesitation, first addressed all the Buddhist Temples observing from the Void:

"Venerable ones, I have previously strayed into the wrong path, plotting against your temples' Buddha's sons."

"Now I have destroyed my Demon Skill, severed connections, all Buddha Poison has gone, and I hope you do not blame those Buddha's sons; each one is a natural Buddhist Practitioner, who have gained some benefits from me and, I believe, will all make great achievements in the future, which can also be considered one of my meritorious deeds."

"Namo Buddhaya!"

"Excellent, excellent!"

Having said these words, Shipi Arhat paid no heed to the response from the large Buddhist Temples and bowed respectfully again to Sui Chaozi.

Thereafter, he sincerely thanked him,

"Thank you, elder brother, for your guidance. This favor feels like being reborn."

"I only have one more small favor to ask..."

Given that his Taoist power was superior to Shipi's, Sui Chaozi did not wait for him to finish speaking before reaching into his robe and pulling out an ancient Buddhist scripture.

He threw it forth, and amid the shimmering Buddha Light,

a mottled ancient small temple appeared out of thin air.

Inscribed on the front of the temple were Buddhist verses in Outer Realm script, which no one could understand.

The temple doors slowly opened, revealing an auspicious light and colorful mists, as over a dozen Arhats and Bodhisattvas appeared to come forth, each with a strange and extraordinary form and a unique Buddhist charm, none of which belonged to the Human Clan, and all were beckoning Shipi to come over from afar.

As Shipi hesitated, Sui Chaozi timely introduced:

"In the Outer Realm Abyss, there are also many life forms that admire Buddhism, but due to differing philosophies, they have never entered the three thousand eight hundred temples for cultivation, nor are they willing to dwell in the Buddhist Temples' Secret Realm."

"These Daoist friends sought out my master, and together they built this 'Different Buddha Temple.'"

"Though it is but a small temple, it can accommodate you to take refuge and cultivate; you don't have to worry about the Buddhas from the Demon Buddha Temple finding and killing you with ease."

Once Sui Chaozi had finished speaking,

both Kongchan and Liansha, filled with rage,

and others around grew more astonished, while Shipi Arhat was filled with joyous victory.

Tao Qian also thought to himself: "What a move, offering a refuge and swaying allegiance in one fell swoop; Shipi Arhat owes a great debt to Tianzhi Gong's lineage. If he indeed becomes a Buddha one day, and Tianzhi Gong asks for his help, he would likely find it impossible to refuse."

This realization was not just Tao Qian's alone; others, and even Shipi himself, came to the same understanding.

But still, he willingly went inside, thanking them continuously, "Good! Very good!"

Having finished, this old monk about to switch allegiances prepared to enter the small temple.

Witnessing this scene, both Kongchan and Liansha could no longer hold back. They exchanged glances and saw a shared frustration in each other's eyes.

This rapid turn of events truly frustrated both Arhats,

as the favorable situation crumbled effortlessly.

It stemmed, after all, from the shameless actions of the master-disciple duo, Tao Qian and Duobao. Their elaborately prepared Mechanical Demon Buddha was being tampered with and was under the threat of Body Seizing.

Their strongest battle force had been easily swayed by the outside support invited by the other party.

If things continued this way, their culpability would be tremendous.

At this moment, both shared an understanding, one shouting to stop the other, while the other seamlessly began casting, seeking support from the Nirvana Demon Buddha, their backer.

"Shipi elder brother, please think thrice before acting."

"There's still a chance to remedy our situation, but if you truly hide in the Outer Realm, and one day the Buddhas from the temple find you, perishing in your pursuit will be the least of your problems; a fate worse than death will be the truth."

"Besides, do you truly believe that decrepit small temple offers any chance for becoming a Buddha?"

"Becoming Buddha is an arduous endeavor; how could simply switching paths lead to attainment?"

"Sui Chaozi must be deceiving you."

Kongchan's admonishment was earnest and heartfelt,

which was unfortunately met with a merciless scoff from his former senior brother, Shipi, who was half inside the temple, looking back with a smile:

"Junior brother Kongchan, no need to persuade further; you do not have the enlightenment to understand your senior brother's thoughts."

"We three have been brothers for many years; your senior brother would not easily abandon the two of you."

"When I have found the Way, I will come back to enlighten both of you."

"You..."

Even as eloquent and skilled in debate as Kongchan was, he found himself at a loss for words due to Shipi's retort.

However, in the next moment, the other one, Liansha, suddenly shouted angrily:

"We disciples lack the ability, allowing the birth of Buddha to be ruined by the lineage of 'Tianzhi Gong' from the Outer Realm."

"I call upon Namu Nirvana Buddha to subdue this fiend with the Supreme Dharma."

Liansha, infuriated to the extreme, sounded rather like a vulgar bully as he spoke.

Before his words had even finished, a ten thousand feet torrent of Buddha Light surged upward, suddenly revealing a rift above the Merit Pool.

Following the rift, the Nirvana Buddha's Sect's Secret Realm appeared.

This presence, which caused everyone's hearts to tremble, pervaded the entire area.

Even Shipi, who was about to enter the 'Different Buddha Temple,' found himself frozen in place for a moment.

Sui Chaozi, as if he had anticipated this all along—or perhaps was waiting for it—

simply smiled and reached into his robe, pulling out another book.

This tome was chaotic and brimming with divine ability.

Inscribed on its cover, in Ancient Divine Text, were but three characters.

Without waiting for recognition from the onlookers, Sui Chaozi tossed the book into the air, where it unfurled with a rustling sound, conveniently covering the rift that led to the Nirvana Buddha's field.

"The wrath of the Buddha is something I cannot withstand; it must be my master who confronts this."

"This book is called the 'Classic of Mountains and Seas'; within it lie endless mountains and seas, and also an incarnation of my master."

"If the Buddha's divine power can break my treasure and destroy my master's incarnation, I, Sui Chaozi, will withdraw immediately, and then it will be Mr. Duobao's turn to confront the situation."

Chapter 745 Governance Divine Machine, Human Emperor's Presence

"Everyone thought the tides were about to turn again with Lian Sha Arhat shedding his face to ask Buddha for support.

After all, he is a Buddha!

Even if the main body couldn't come, nor the incarnation project its presence, just sending some treasures and Divine Powers, in everyone's view, was enough to take care of Sui Chaozi, Tao Qian, and Duo Bao Master and Disciples.

But who could have anticipated that Sui Chaozi was actually waiting for this exact scenario?

If it were any other time, the scroll of 'Classic of Mountains and Seas' that Sui Chaozi produced, filled with endless divine and strange secrets, would have been the center of attention.

But now, everyone, including Tao Qian, was thinking about something else.

Heaven Venerable's incarnation!

Good Heavens, its power level soared to such an extent.

From Cavernous Mystery all the way up to Tribulation Immortal?

Tao Qian, who was in the midst of refining and seizing the body of the [Mechanical Demon Buddha] with Lian Jing'er and Outer Heaven Flame Essence, finally realized the extent of the disaster he had caused.

And to protect him, Duo Bao True Monarch had to avoid the involvement of Spirit Treasure Sect's Ten Thousand Immortals, creating a remarkable scene.

'Although it's all illusory, incarnations and projections, the duel itself isn't in this world.'

'But without a doubt, both Nirvana Buddha and Outer Realm Heaven Venerable are of Tribulation Immortal Level.'

'Master, in order to mobilize the latter, offered a Mysterious Corpse Divine Arm; yes, it should be the one my fellow True Disciples and I used as bait when we cut it off on Eight Immortals Island.'

'Generous!'

'What a heavy price!'

'It's no wonder Master said that the three Arhats of Demon Buddha Temple really don't count for much.'

'According to Master, inviting [Heaven Venerable] serves not only to contend with Demon Buddha but more importantly, to exchange benefits, allowing me to face the upcoming Human Dao Catastrophe...'

Seeing that Senior Sui Chaozi had sealed the entrance to Buddha's Dojo with his Lifebound Treasure, Tao Qian immediately knew the crisis had been averted and couldn't help but think of other matters.

It was at this moment that the previously chaotic Mechanical Demon Buddha, caught in self-inflicted slaughter, suddenly came to a halt.

'It's done!'

A wave of joy surged up in Tao Qian's heart.

At the same time, the mechanical voice of Lian Jing'er began to ring out:

'Creation Poison spreading degree... now Perfect.'

'Mechanical Seed taming degree... now Perfect.'

'Detecting a new mechanical wisdom database... merging... merging... merge successful.'

'Initiating new detection verification... Confirmed, the target is [Mechanical Divine Machine Embryo].'

'This item possesses multiple evolutionary paths, now available choices are Ten Thousand Buddha Divine Machine, Taishang Divine Machine, Blood and Flesh Divine Machine, Primordial Demon Divine Machine, Governance Divine Machine...'

As Lian Jing'er provided a report, infusing a wealth of secret information, a gleam instantly flared in Tao Qian's eyes, growing ever brighter.

...

Meanwhile, the audience from the Seventy-two provinces, having their fill of excitement, also felt regret: everyone knew that within the 'Classic of Mountains and Seas', two Tribulation Immortal level powerhouses were clashing; it's a pity that no one had the fortune to witness it firsthand, and could only await the outcome.

And the ending came swiftly.

In just a few breaths, Sui Chaozi suddenly smiled, reached out his hand, and the scripture flew back to him.

The rift leading to the Buddha's Daoist Field quickly closed up.

Buddha Light swept across the Void, over the Mechanical Demon Buddha, and directly gathered Kongchan, Lian Sha and all the remaining Demon Buddha Temple Disciples into the Daoist Field.

Only Shipi Arhat was left out.

Seeing this unfold, far from being annoyed, he instead expressed delight on his face.

Without saying much, he simply chuckled, 'Disaster turns into a blessing, my time for entering the Dao is near.'

With that, he dove into the small temple.

At the same time, audiences from all Seventy-two provinces and many great powers instantly understood who was the victor between Nirvana Buddha and Heaven Venerable.

This bewildering and tumultuous drama that no one could predict the course of had reached its conclusion.

To everyone's surprise, the victor was... Tao Qian.

Of course, it wasn't necessarily a total victory.

At this very moment!

Everyone could clearly see that although Tao Qian and his Mechanical Species under his command had successfully refined and seized the body of the [Mechanical Demon Buddha].

Before closing the Daoist Field, Nirvana Buddha, through the Buddhist Divine Powers, retrieved all the Divine Treasures, Secret Techniques, and Buddha Treasures related to the mechanical behemoth.

Moments ago, it was a formidable and domineering creature that could unite five or six provinces at the Daoist Transformation level.

Now, it's left as a huge mechanical lump, taller than a mountain, larger than a city.

Although it still exudes a terrifying aura, it can't really compare with the Mechanical Demon Buddha with its eighteen thousand Buddha arms and countless Buddha Treasures, and endless Buddha's Divine Powers.

Whether from the south or the north, or those ambitious powers, they all reassessed the 'object's' threat level.

Especially Zhang Jinluan and Si Xixin from the Northern Land, they felt significantly more at ease.

'That [Mechanical Demon Buddha], fused with Outer Realm Mechanical Seed, Buddha's Secret Methods, and copious amounts of blood and flesh, as a mechanical creation, need not worry about Daoist Transformation backlash, able to wield Daoist Divine Might in the world, was indeed an enormous threat.'

"Now that the key Demon Buddha Secret Method has been lost, it can only be considered a mechanical treasure, still powerful, but its threat is reduced by ninety percent and is not worth worrying about."

"Tao Qian, that little thief, is still wanted by many major powers, and his whereabouts have already been exposed. It won't be long before a large number of Ultimate Happiness Realm experts will encircle and suppress him. As soon as Sui Chaozi leaves, his death is imminent."

"And what about the Spirit Treasure Ten Thousand Immortals?"

"Ha, it's all just posturing. Who in the world doesn't know that the Spirit Treasure Sect's Magic Skills shun the karma and fortune-poison of the Human World? It's impossible for the Spirit Treasure Ten Thousand Immortals to come down from the mountain in full force to help a junior disciple compete for the throne of the Human Emperor, even though this junior seems extremely favored and is also a disciple of Duobao True Monarch."

"Exactly, don't be intimidated by the Ten Thousand Immortals. If they were truly willing to come down from the mountain together, why would they go to great lengths to invite the strong from the Heaven Venerable lineage to help? Can't a single second-generation ancestor compete with the Nirvana Buddha?"

"Once that little thief dies, we will seize that mechanical divine object. We are sure to gain a significant advantage and will take the opportunity to occupy several more provinces."

...

Just when the various northern warlords began thinking about taking over Tao Qian's legacy after his death.

In Qiantang Province City, the originally departing Sui Chaozi suddenly turned his gaze back to Tao Qian.

And then, he said aloud in front of everyone:

"Junior Tao Qian, you have made quite a few enemies. I sense there are many strong individuals rushing here, wishing to take your life."

"But this time, at the request of Duobao Daoist, I shall ensure your safety."

"Once this matter here is concluded, follow me, for it's a good opportunity to visit the Penglai Sea."

Upon hearing these words, countless people sighed in disappointment.

Especially those strong individuals who were currently en route like the Alchemists, the Ultimate Happiness Realm monsters, the Xiu family, the Evil Sect powerhouses, the Taishang Demon Sect strong people... and so on.

While any of them could be from the Ultimate Happiness Realm, they had all seen the methods of Sui Chaozi.

Killing Tao Qian in his hands would likely be exceedingly difficult.

It was at this moment that everyone saw the so-called "First Heavenly Pride of the Daoist," the instigator of the Yang Sui Uprising, and the New Moon uprising, the one who laid to rest the empire's name and imperial system, seem to make a certain decision, and a resolute expression filled his face.

He shook his head, word by word he said: "I... won't go."

Anyone could see that Tao Qian was in an extraordinary state at this time.

As if in resonance with the mysterious fortunes of the Human Dao, every word he uttered carried the flavor of a great vow.

Those who heard his words became a sort of witness.

Even Sui Chaozi had to adopt a serious demeanor.

Before he could ask, Tao Qian glanced at the mechanical god under his feet, which had been stripped of the essence of Buddha. The option of "Ten Thousand Buddha Divine Machine" immediately disappeared from his options.

Fortunately, this choice was never in his consideration, so it had no impact.

Now that the decision had been made, there was no hesitation.

Tao Qian pointed to the divine object under his feet and spoke again, revealing a secret known to few:

"Elder!"

"I have heard that the Ancestor Dragon once obtained a complete Outer Realm Mechanical Divine Inheritance, and with that inheritance, created a mechanical army and a Ancestor Dragon Divine Machine, sweeping the eight wastelands with such power and successfully establishing the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty."

"And that inheritance, a copy also lies with Heaven Venerable. Is this true?"

With just these few words, Sui Chaozi, who was a remarkable talent, had already guessed what Tao Qian was implying and planning to do.

A private sigh rose from within: "Duobao Daoist really has a strategy without fail; this young friend is indeed a stubborn mule, and it seems that he cannot be pulled back. This time, the Alchemists and those old bugs are sure to go mad."

After the sigh, Sui Chaozi too made a decision.

He simply nodded his head in response:

"It is true. That mechanical god was originally an Outer Realm Evil God named Golden Star God Monarch. After it accidentally fell in this realm, my master took its source, leaving the complete inheritance to Ancestor Dragon. His ability to establish the Heavenly Dynasty and create Forbidden Techniques indeed benefited from that inheritance."

The audiences of the Seventy-Two Provinces, thinking the excitement was over, and the many major powers were not expecting to hear such secrets again, turned their attention back.

What Tao Qian wanted was precisely this, so he continued to speak.

This time, he made a request to this strong individual from the Heaven Venerable lineage that seemed exceedingly presumptuous to others.

It was this request that definitively announced his ambition.

Officially carved the name "Tao Qian" brusquely into the hearts of people everywhere.

Officially standing before all, igniting the North and South, Seventy-Two Provinces, into a complete uproar.

"Elder, I have an impertinent request and hope you can assist me," Tao Qian said.

"Speak!"

"I, Tao Qian, wish to request the assistance of the Heaven Venerable lineage in forging this object into a 'Governance Divine Machine.'"

"This Divine Machine must possess supreme wisdom, the capability to govern, and the might to kill."

"Tao Qian wants to use this object to first liberate the provinces of Qiantang, Tiannan, and New Moon..."

Word by word, even without explicit detail, the meaning was nearly the same.

Anyone with a little bit of wisdom, who had some understanding of the world's big picture, could guess what Tao Qian was after.

Was this First Heavenly Pride of the Daoist, the future Sect Master of the Spirit Treasure Sect and the first disciple of Duobao True Monarch, finally stepping into the limelight to compete for the throne of Human Emperor against other talents of the world?

At this moment!

No talent of the North or South could remain composed.

Even Yu Yanshi and Si Xixin's expressions solidified.

Chapter 746 - The Devil Concubine Comes on Her Own, Sponging off Master Tao

After the Yang Sui Uprising, the national title and imperial system were abolished, and the world fell into chaos, naturally giving rise to numerous power contenders vying for supremacy.

The heavenly prides desiring to snatch the new position of Human Emperor can be described as a continuous stream, never ceasing.

Most of them wouldn't amount to much, at best they could only dominate a local area as a warlord, and those slightly stronger were nothing more than having a larger territory, a few major cities, or perhaps a dozen counties.

To be recognized across the world and accepted by all people and the cultivation world as having the potential to be Human Emperor, one at least had to seize control of a province.

Otherwise, who would look up to you? Who would join you?

Such heavenly prides and warlords could be counted on one's fingers.

Special sects like the Divine Ear Sect, Ting Di Sect, Ten Thousand Miles Sect and others jointly launched related leaderboards and records.

The Primordial Sect also had many experts assess the heavenly prides of the seventy-two provinces, which were recorded in the "Primordial Human Record".

At the current stage, the four believed to be most likely to seize the throne of Human Emperor were:

Yu Yanshi!

Si Xixin!

Zhang Jinluan!

Hong Fu!

The fourth, namely the Devil God Third Princess, had seemed powerful, but with the rapid fallout from the marriage news with Si Xixin, her support had drastically fallen off a cliff.

Of course, her chances still far outweighed those of brutal warlords like Song Tiecheng and Yelü Lushan, since she controlled more than one province, not to mention a host of formidable powers backing her.

As for the other three, each of them controlled more than five major provinces and were backed by the Twelve Daoist Sects and super-sized Buddhist temples.

Everyone had already accepted that the new Human Emperor would arise from among these three.

However, in a fleeting moment, when Master Tao Qian put forth his request to Sui Chaozi, everyone understood.

A new twist had unfolded for the destiny of Tian Chao.

Tao Qian!

The significance this name represented was absolutely extraordinary.

One could say that the current situation of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty was almost single-handedly pushed by this individual.

Once everyone realized this, those Spirit Mirror Crystal Balls exploded with billions of thoughts.

"Huge news! Truly massive news!"

"Quick, send this urgent message to the seventy-two provinces, 'The number one heavenly pride of the Daoist world, Master Tao Qian, is about to join the world and seize the Human Emperor throne.'"

"No need to fight, no need to compete anymore, if Master Tao Qian is willing to step forward, there's no second thought about who the Human Emperor will be."

"Well said, in terms of territory, Tao Master begins with three prosperous major provinces... in terms of support, if Spirit Treasure Sect decides to make a move, who in the world could resist... in terms of personal talent and wisdom, starting from the Demon City incident, followed by the Yang Sui Uprising, the New Moon Rebellion, Tao Master has long since proved himself."

"It should've been this way earlier, I've long considered that the most suitable person to be the new emperor in this world is none other than Master Tao Qian."

"Tao Master's reputation is known to all; not to mention the year he forwent the great malice of the Zhu Dynasty, sacrificing the supreme treasure 'Mountain and River Map' with great determination. Every major event he participated in afterward, was aimed at saving all people, such disposition within both the cultivation world and the secular world, is truly rare."

"If Master Tao Qian were to make a call to arms, regardless of north or south, the response might far exceed the other heavenly prides."

"There are indeed many shortcomings. Tao Master started too late, and just on the aspect of 'army', this alone might be enough to stump him."

...

The turmoil outside did not affect the ongoing conversation in the province city.

Hearing Master Tao Qian's request, Sui Chaozi turned to look at him, and his seemingly murky eyes easily penetrated Master Tao Qian's inner thoughts.

He did not expose these thoughts, however, and instead nodded gravely, responding accomodatingly:

"My coming here was originally to ensure your survival, but if you wish to substitute it with this request, it can also be done."

"This object is a fine artifact embryo; it is conceivable that my teacher would also be willing to take action once."

"After the old man received the origin of the 'Golden Star God Monarch', his blessing deepened, and then he successively obtained the Divine Origin Qi of several Mechanical Evil Gods; if he were to craft another Governance Divine Machine, perhaps its power and utility would even surpass the one the Ancestor Dragon crafted."

"Not to speak of managing three provinces, even ten provinces or a dozen or so provinces, there should be more than enough ability."

Having said these few sentences,

Sui Chaozi's gaze shifted and unexpectedly fell upon Lian Jing'er.

He nodded and also revealed a secret:

"We share no small fate, now that you have made a decision, I will grant you another benefit."

"When the Ancestor Dragon swept across the wilderness and vanquished divine tricksters, his mechanical army was highly meritorious. Although I cannot offer you an army of that caliber, it is not difficult for me to help you obtain some of the Ancestor Dragon's legacy."

"Before the Ancestor Dragon left this realm, he scattered and buried the army, with many falling into the hands of Alchemists, a few obtained by those with affinity, and some experienced mishaps."

"This Mechanical Alien Species from your command named 'Lian Jing'er' indeed comes from one of the Ancestor Dragon Tombs, which still holds an intact Bronze Divine Army. Since this little thing has attained Dao and activated its Wisdom Spirit God, if I give it another portion of Divine Qi Origin, it will naturally be able to restore its wisdom library, return to that tomb to subdue the army, and then come to assist you."

After Sui Chaozi finished speaking, it was like adding fuel to the fire—the world was once again fiercely excited.

Everyone was in shock and awe.

Just how favorably did Tianzhi Gong's lineage view Master Tao Qian; offering not just one Governance Divine Machine but also a Bronze Divine Army, a remnant of the Ancestor Dragon?

While everyone thought this was Master Tao Qian's starting point to vie for supremacy in the Central Plains,

suddenly, an additional significant commotion emerged at the scene.

A series of shrieks sounding as if from ancient times echoed, emanating from the previously much-anticipated and later neglected old site of Han Mountain Temple.

Atop Han Mountain, the Biwu Divine Tree.

There, the Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen—bird-bodied and human-faced—let out a stirring cry.

She then easily broke free from the "Jiangshan Xiangyun Cage," a treasure that the Gao family had used to trap her. With a spread of her wings, she soared into the sky, quickly reverting to her human form, transforming back into the world's greatest beauty, the final Empress.

She, adorned in a phoenix robe, came to Tao Qian's side with her bewitching grace.

Then, in a clear voice, she uttered the kind of words that made both men and women under the heavens green with envy.

"Brother Tao!"

Just these three words, this form of address, was enough to send shivers down most people's spines, leaving them overwhelmed with emotion.

They could not help but wish to replace "Brother Tao" with their own names, or terms of endearment like "darling brother."

The words that followed were even more infuriating to those warlords and demons who wanted to snatch the Devil Concubine away.

"Although Mingzhen was far off in the Imperial City, her divine communion with Brother Tao had long been established."

"Now that we have met, I also understand Brother Tao's aspirations; Mingzhen has no further regrets and deeply knows that you and I are truly kindred spirits."

"The talk of the Devil Empress concubine ends here."

"From today onward, Mingzhen wishes to serve by True Master's side, to embark on great endeavors together, and to protect all people."

...

When her voice, which was incomparably soft and captivating, ceased,

The seventy-two provinces were in total uproar.

Compared to other major events, what still drew the most attention were the romantic scandals.

Even though Mingzhen had resorted to using the proper title of "True Master" in her last sentence,

But with her previous words, calling him "brother" this and "brother" that, who could not be perplexed?

Most would not ponder the implications of the Devil Concubine's alliance with Tao Qian, or the ties behind it.

They saw this scene and only entertained two thoughts:

First, Master Tao was extremely fortunate.

Second, Master Tao truly was destined to receive such fortune, being one with great destiny, and thus fit to possess a beauty of the Devil Empress concubine's caliber.

Logically, in such a blessed situation, he, Master Tao, should be joyful and enjoy it.

Sadly, that was not the case.

When Mingzhen emerged to make her presence felt, Tao Qian knew something was amiss.

Her speech had indeed been arranged in advance.

But those calls of "brother" were most certainly not part of the plan.

Tao Qian had just sensed trouble when his premonition proved true.

Suddenly, in the assembly, the ringing of bells echoed throughout, and then, the sky changed as a series of soul-shuddering pale rainbow lights burst forth.

That tinkling Spirit Sound, using the Spirit Mirror Crystal Ball as a medium, spread across the seventy-two provinces.

Everyone trembled to their core, drenched in cold sweat.

In a daze, they all saw that by Master Tao's side, a mysterious woman had appeared out of nowhere.

This woman's aura was so dreadfully enigmatic and terrifying that it compelled Mingzhen to give up a place by his side.

Then, the woman spoke.

Surprisingly, while dominating, her words once again kindled jealousy towards Master Tao.

"My name is Yunrong, of the Kitten lineage from Jade Ring Mountain, and I am also the wife of Tao Qian."

"Whatever my husband wishes to do, he shall do."

"My Jade Ring Mountain will fully support him; if anyone under the heavens disagrees, they can come to Jade Ring Mountain and speak to my Master, Grandmother Taizhen."

Upon the final word's echo, an uproar ensued.

Nothing else, the statement was extremely dominating.

As more and more powers tuned into the events at Qiantang heard this, their expressions turned solemn.

Especially those Ultimate Happiness Realm experts rushing to confront Tao Qian, they couldn't help but halt in their tracks.

Ordinary people might not grasp the significance of the names "Jade Ring Mountain" or "Grandmother Taizhen," but those from major forces were crystal clear.

They understood that Jade Ring Mountain was not a force to be trifled with lightly.

The Cultivators from the Divine Ear Sect and Ting Di Sect, responsible for overseeing the Spirit Mirror Crystal Ball, as if fearing the world wouldn't know the weight of the Kitten Demon who had just stepped forward, immediately spread the secretive news.

"Jade Ring Mountain!"

"A Cultivation World lineage that is quite detached, neither Daoist nor Buddhist, neither demon nor part of any heresy and heterodoxy."

"That mountain belongs to a special female fairy, Grandmother Taizhen."

"This female fairy is not only extremely powerful, possessing the Supreme Treasure, Haotian Divine Mirror, but behind her is a terrifying lineage rumored to be from an Ancient Tribulation Immortal, an Innate Divine Spirit, of the Outer Realm."

"Even forces like the Twelve Daoist Sects, if not necessary, would not provoke Jade Ring Mountain."

As these messages spread across the provinces,

People's view shifted from admiration to jealousy of the Great Master Tao.

Not to mention the Tianzhi Gong lineage, assumed to be Master Duobao convening support from behind.

And what to make of Devil Concubine Yuan Mingzhen voluntarily offering allegiance, even seemingly propositioning herself?

That aside, yet another from Jade Ring Mountain, claiming to be Tao's rightful consort, emerged, offering full support and even dragging her own formidable Master into the fray.

In just a few breaths' time, the audience's opinion of Tao Qian began to shift.

Terms like "hero" and "patriot" remained, but slurs like "pretty boy" and "sponger" were rapidly on the rise.

Chapter 747 - In Charge of Two Provinces, Buddha's Son Comes to Join

Amidst the restlessness caused by the speeches of Yuan Mingzhen and Yunrong among the seventy-two provinces,

Tao Qian was somewhat panicked due to Yunrong's declaration, not because of her posture in expelling Yuan Mingzhen as the rightful consort, but because she had publicly involved Jade Ring Mountain, which was rather inappropriate.

Although he had made a decision, he had never intended to involve Jade Ring Mountain.

Even Spirit Treasure Sect he was reluctant to drag into this, let alone others.

Just as he was about to inquire, Yunrong, in tune with his thoughts, transmitted a message first, saying,

"Dear brother, don't panic, those words were not spoken by Yunrong on her own accord."

"Grandma had already instructed before, since you married someone from Jade Ring Mountain, naturally, you are also a part of Jade Ring Mountain."

"Though grandma dislikes meddling in idle matters, she is fiercely protective, and anyone who dares to bully you, Jade Ring Mountain will certainly not let it rest."

As Yunrong finished speaking, Tao Qian sighed again.

This is indeed a sweet gig, no wonder Xiao Hua Daoist hesitated just briefly before succumbing that very night.

Although it was somewhat beyond expectations, Tao Qian thought it over and did not deny it.

In his heart, however, he was thinking, "Now Jade Ring Mountain stands out conspicuously, but it will not be so in a few days."

With his mind settled, Tao Qian proceeded according to plan.

Accepting the "good little sister" Devil Concubine, he handed over the Divine Machine Embryo to Sui Chaozi to take to the Outer Realm Heaven Venerable for refinement; in passing, he also sent Lian Jing'er along.

With great fanfare, without any concealment.

At this time, the whole world had come to know that it would not be long before Master Tao Qian's ranks would be joined by a Governance Divine Machine capable of easily managing several, or even up to a dozen, provinces. Moreover, there would be an additional mechanical army such as that once used by the Ancestor Dragon.

Seeing this, there were still many warlords and major forces who sent mocking messages.

Even individuals like Song Tiecheng, Yelü Lushan, Li Siming, Guo Zhanlong went so far as to send backhanded congratulations through those crystal ball projection arrays at this time, or simply issued warnings.

Like at this moment, a colossal Spirit Mirror floated across the sky.

In the mirror, an image akin to a wild savage bear or an ancient Demon General appeared.

Ferocious, with tusks exposed, and Demonic Qi reaching for the heavens.

Staring directly at Tao Qian, he then burst into laughter, thanking him:

"Master Tao, I am Yelü Lushan, I have long admired your great name."

"To speak the truth, a wild demon like me was able to gain the power I have now, thanks in part to you, Master Tao. And it's not just me; all the warlords in the world were once picking up scraps behind Master Tao."

"We were all originally very grateful to you for dismantling Zhu Dynasty and exposing that bunch of old Alchemists, creating chaos under the heavens, giving us rough folks a chance to indulge in imperial authority."

"But this time, you've gone too far, most illustrious Daoist First Heavenly Pride, why stoop to contend for the throne with us? It's quite unbecoming."

"You, Master, should return to the Penglai Sea and live carefree, enjoying longevity..."

Yelü Lushan, the spitting image of a Human Demon.

Yet once he began speaking, he turned into a chatterbox.

His lead, however, set off the other warlords to join in, all shouting from afar.

"Yelü barbarian speaks the truth, Master Tao, with your esteemed identity, why stoop to compete with us for scraps?"

"Master Tao, please return to the mountain, as long as you do not contend for the world, we will all remember your kindness. The Northern Lands' dozens of provinces will leave their gates open to you, wherever you go, you will be an honored guest, we will ensure your complete satisfaction."

"Master, do not think that conquering and governing the land is an easy task. The difficulty here is even greater than cultivation; such a talent like yours should not be wasted on these mundane matters. Besides, the poison of fortune and the sin of the human world will undoubtedly hinder your cultivation, I'm afraid if you get stuck in it, you will not be able to attain the Dao."

"Master, you should know your own nature, you are certainly not cut out to be a Human Emperor. Furthermore, you lack both the team for governing and a program for ruling the land; relying solely on a mechanical contraption might just backfire."

"Without mentioning other things, how do you, alone, intend to subdue the provinces of Qiantang, Tiannan, New Moon, merely with a loosely organized and ineffective Ancestor Dragon Society?"

"Master, you also shouldn't forget, right now there are a large number of Ultiama Happiness Realm evil people after you, with Sui Chaozi departing, your life is in great danger."

...

This subsequent scene once again left the onlookers from the seventy-two provinces stunned.

Such a situation was indeed rare.

It should be noted that the warlords who are now urging with civility are all ferocious demons and devils.

Ordinarily, to see them show such a lowly demeanor was impossible, let alone to speak kindly.

But in front of Tao Qian, they became so docile?

This, of course, was a façade.

The ferocious warlords from the North, each one a non-human existence, cultivating Sorcery and refining demonic bodies, twisted in heart and mind, gradually bereft of humanity, how could they truly respect Tao Qian?

It was simply because they felt another big crocodile encroaching on their territory, hoping to dissuade Tao Qian through non-warfare means.

It couldn't be helped, though the North was vast, resources were no longer sufficient to share.

Zhang Jinluan, Hong Fu, and Si Xixin were all aggressively shrinking their living space.

Add one more Daoist First Heavenly Pride, Tao Qian, to the mix? Who could stand it?

Although these warlords' attitudes were indeed unsightly.

After listening, people had to admit they made sense.

Compared to other Talents and warlords,

Tao Qian's timing to enter the fray was indeed ill-suited. In the short term, he simply could not take over the three provinces, let alone handle complex administrative affairs.

By the time he slowly sorted everything out, it would probably be too late.

These thoughts were not wrong at all.

Unfortunately, they were soon proven otherwise.

Before everyone, Tao Qian scoffed coldly and reached out to perform the Grand Round Light Technique.

In the blink of an eye, the mirror reflected the current situation of Tiannan and Qiantang, two provinces.

To everyone's expectation, these provinces had first been exploited for many years by the Alchemist Gao Family and the Demon Buddha Temple, then underwent relentless changes and were ravaged by war.

At this point, they should have been engulfed in war smoke, utterly chaotic.

But the scene that revealed itself at this moment was the complete opposite.

In the two provinces, many large cities, towns, and even villages were all recovering peace.

A large number of extraordinary and talented individuals, cultivators and heroes, emerged from nowhere and took over the provinces with lightning speed.

Leading them were Zheng Yin, Zhao Gongda, Meng Shoudao, Guo Huchen, and others.

With the help of the "Heavenly Track Secret Skill", they formed an extremely efficient and unimaginable team.

Under their leadership, the two provinces began to clean up the mess left by the Gao Family and the Demon Buddha Temple, restoring production and order.

Now, both Tiannan and Qiantang provinces were the focus of widespread attention.

After seeing this, and comparing it to the condition of other provinces in the Northern Land, a conclusion sprung up in everyone's minds:

"Goodness, Tao Master must have been prepared a long time ago, having cultivated such a vast governance team in silence."

"These people, whether cultivators or mortals, certainly aren't mediocre, and though they have just taken over the two provinces, their condition is already catching up with the provinces under the governance of Zhang Jinluan and Si Xixin. If given more time, they might even surpass them."

"Indeed, Master Tao Qian, there is nothing he can't do if he sets his mind to it."

...

Now, no one, including those warlords ferocious as Demons, could deny that Tao Qian had provided too many surprises.

Governance team!

Army!

Territory!

Divine Treasures!

These were all things that required a long period to accrue.

Yet in Tao Qian's case, they seemed to have been resolved as soon as he stepped into the limelight, with no traces revealed beforehand.

It was as if that team had materialized out of thin air.

Then, there was a little episode:

After everything was settled, the surviving cultivators from all sects in Qiantang Province City, along with representatives from other provinces who were about to leave, including the master-disciple pair of Shenxiu and Long Meng Arhat, as well as over a hundred Vajra Monks.

But unexpectedly, there was a hiccup related to Shenxiu Buddha's son.

This renowned Buddha's son, who was said to be among the top three in talent and strength among the disciples of the Free Temple, publicly refused his own master.

Everyone saw him chant a Buddhist phrase and then, using the Heart Light Escape Technique, he moved in front of Master Tao Qian.

He bowed deeply and said,

"Amitabha!"

"Turns out, the Wu Gou Buddha Son was also Master Tao, no wonder he was so certain he could resolve the calamity in Qiantang, no wonder the fortune of All People recognized him."

"This humble monk is willing to admit defeat and is here to serve under the true master."

"If Qiantang is not at peace, this humble monk shall not leave."

Having said this, he didn't give Tao Qian a chance to refuse.

Then, turning to Long Meng Arhat, he continued,

"Please return, Master."

"My fate and karma are tied to Master Tao."

To onlookers, the actions of Monk Shenxiu were simply those of someone fulfilling a lost bet, nothing extraordinary.

While it was somewhat awkward for a distinguished son of Buddha like him to serve under the banner of a Daoist pride, considering Master Tao Qian's reputation, stature, and Divine Powers, it seemed not that unusual.

Up to this point, whether Daoist, Buddhist, Demon, and Devil, or Heterodox,

Tao Qian might not be at the forefront of each category when comparing Cultivation Realms, supernatural power, reputation, and temperament.

But if one were to evaluate comprehensively, there was no young talent who could match Tao Qian for the time being.

Monk Shenxiu also seemed reasonable in his defeat.

However, for some unknown reason, as soon as Long Meng Arhat heard this, he immediately showed anger and firmly stated,

"No!"

"Shenxiu, do not spout nonsense, your Auspicious Master earlier made a Prediction that might have been influenced by Duobao True Monarch, thus leading to a mistake."

"Now that Tao Qian has stepped forward, it's clear your fate and destiny do not lie here. Once this matter is concluded, you must return to the temple with me immediately."

With these words, even cultivators of lower realms could see the tension in Long Meng Arhat's eyes.

It seemed he was worried about something.

As people were wondering, Tao Qian chuckled lightly and straightforwardly explained,

"Daoist Shenxiu, you need not take that bet to heart, at that time it was merely a small trick of mine to entice you into the play and distract the attention of the three Arhats from the Demon Buddha Temple."

"Now that I have decided to come forward and protect the three provinces, and perhaps do more... it seems manageable, but in reality, it's extremely perilous."

"The Evil Demon's words are not wrong, with the troubles I've caused previously, the Evil People from the Ultimate Happiness Realm coming to kill me now probably number more than a dozen, and even those old monsters from the Alchemist's Daoist Transformations are watching me from afar."

"In such a situation, if you accompany me, your life could be at risk too."

"Go back!"

"That bet is invalid."

Chapter 748 - Provinces Explode, Tao Qian Summons Treasure

Upon receiving this reminder from Tao Qian, everyone came to their senses.

Master Tao, now quite imposing, still had his life hanging in the balance.

He could have been safe before, with the strong Sui Chaozi himself promising protection.

But he took it upon himself to change the conditions, asking for the lineage of Tianzhi Gong to help craft the Governance Divine Machine.

Though Sui Chaozi offered a great favor in return, providing a Mechanical Divine Army, most thought the trade was not worth the cost.

Compared to life and death, everything else naturally became trivial.

The audience also understood why Long Meng Arhat panicked upon hearing that Shenxiu Monk intended to join Tao Qian's command and be at his disposal.

Clearly, the Arhat knew the stakes involved.

He even believed that Master Tao was destined to die.

And indeed, it was true; Long Meng Arhat, not skilled in prediction, had a brother, the Auspicious Arhat, who excelled in such methods and had previously sent a message saying,

"Brother, leave Qiantang quickly with Shenxiu."

"Due to Duobao's intervention, my predictions went awry, and only just now have I cleared the fog to see the truth."

"Great disaster! Great tribulation!"

"That disciple of Duobao, truly reckless, wishes to use his own power to forcefully dissolve or shorten what should have been a hundred-year calamity that would cost over a billion lives in the Human Dao."

"Whether he succeeds is another matter, but first he must survive the brush with death. There are indeed too many who wish to take his life, he is almost certainly in a situation with little hope of survival."

"Shenxiu was careless to bet with him, and though breaking a wager might sound bad, it's certainly better than losing one's life."

Knowing the divine abilities of his elder brother, Long Meng Arhat responded with panic for the first time.

Thus, he decided to take Shenxiu away.

He had thought it would take some effort, even force.

But Tao Qian unexpectedly spoke up, nullifying the bet, which surprisingly warmed Long Meng to him.

On closer inspection, though Shenxiu reverted to wearing the garb of a Daoist disciple, the inexplicable natural Buddhist charm within him couldn't be concealed from an Arhat like him.

Right away, he openly praised,

"What a True Practitioner who has obtained the Dao. Though naturally a Spirit Treasure Daoist, you have deep karmic ties with Buddhism."

"If you manage to preserve your life this time, come visit the Free Temple someday, and this poor monk can introduce you to a Buddha to dissolve the karma from when you obtained the Buddha Bird Relics."

The promise made by Long Meng Arhat was profoundly significant.

After all, it was well known in the Cultivation World that only the Free Temple poached treasures and opportunities from others. If someone took something from the Free Temple, hiding at the ends of the earth was futile—their horde of great monks would hunt you down.

Just as Long Meng thought he could smoothly take his beloved disciple away,

he saw the ugly Shenxiu Monk preempt Tao Qian, speaking first:

"Master, Daoist Tao."

"No need for further words, even if it means death and the annihilation of my Dao, Shenxiu won't leave."

"I've already sensed it; opportunity, tribulation, and the Great Dao all reside in Daoist Tao. With my whole heart, Shenxiu wishes to liberate others, the world, and myself despite death without regret."

These words instantly solidified Long Meng's expression.

The Arhat highly valued his disciple and knew him well.

Hearing these few lines, he immediately realized that there was no turning back.

After pondering deeply, Long Meng had a sudden epiphany and understood the past and the consequences.

Unable to help himself, he stamped his foot and cursed bitterly,

"Foolish child, truly a foolish child."

"Bewitched by tribulation energy, you doubted the Free Dharma, leading you astray."

"In this life, you have no hope of becoming a Buddha; it will have to wait for the next."

"In the next life, I will come to save you again."

After saying this, Long Meng Arhat sighed with resignation, caring no longer for his favorite disciple.

He swiftly used the Heart Light Escape technique and left the provincial city without looking back.

This interlude didn't affect Tao Qian.

Even the grand commotion caused by the terrifying enemies attacking from afar couldn't make Tao Qian pay them any more attention.

On the contrary, the audience from the seventy-two provinces, who thought the excitement had ended, found their attention forcibly drawn back.

Sects such as the Divine Ear Sect and Ting Di Sect, which specialized in such matters,

were aware that, although others thought the excitement was over, they knew "Master Tao" deliberately making his whereabouts known without any intention of hiding would cause a huge stir.

Therefore, they had set up relevant Forbidden Techniques in anticipation.

As expected, not long after Sui Chaozi and Long Meng Arhat left, within the massive Spirit Mirrors, brilliance flashed.

One powerful figure after another, each with a formidable background, appeared.

Inside Qiantang Province, the energy of the Source Qi mechanisms started to boil in every direction.

The noise was so great that it even surpassed the battles that had just concluded.

Rainbows of demons cut across the sun, clouds of sins covered the heavens, and black waters surged... Every newcomer brought a terrifying aura with them.

This time, there was no need for introductions or descriptions.

Anyone with a bit of knowledge could guess who the individuals were.

Those leading the front, such as the Taishang Primordial Demon True Monarch Lingwa, Evil Sect Elder Zhuge Qingyi, Xiu Family Elder Xiu Zhonglin, generals under the Devil God, Arhats belonging to the lineage of the Hundred Birds of the Free Temple... These people arrived the fastest and were more conspicuous.

But quickly following these strong figures, suddenly, more Demon Cultivators from the Ultimate Happiness Realm appeared.

Although most people don't recognize the numerous Tao Qians, Yuan Gong was able to name each one.

Counting them carefully, they were truly a diverse mix, the Daoist and Buddhist, Demon, and Devil, heresy and heterodoxy, Divine Beings, and Alien Species all included.

Those "old acquaintances" in front were yelling and fighting, still using the same old phrases, avenging sons, disciples, former lovers, etc. Although they came fiercely and desperately, they lacked creativity.

But those from the Ultimate Happiness Realm behind were quite different.

It seemed that each of them was very fierce, but the source of their hatred was clearly not Master Tao.

"Old Thief Duobao, many years ago you slaughtered my Devil Clan in the North Sea, accruing a huge debt of evil, and I heard you've taken a treasure of a disciple. Today happens to be your day in Qiantang putting on airs, so I've come to join the fun. I'll capture this child, eat their flesh, drink their blood, skin them for clothing, and use their skull for a cup... Oh what joy, what joy."

"Mr. Duobao, two hundred years ago you stole my treasure for becoming an Immortal. I have calculated that today your disciple will repay a bit of that debt for you. After I've had my fun with them, I'll return their True Soul to you."

"Thief, back then you sneaked into my lair and stole the treasure I had nurtured for a thousand years. Today I will do unto you as you did unto others. I'll kidnap this child, turn them into my child, my husband, and raise a new progeny from them, then I could even return it to you."

"Duobao Daoist, a hundred years ago, to accumulate merit for your ascension, you plotted against my clan with shameless Magic Skills, tragically driving my clan nearly to extinction. Today, I wish to smash your disciple into dust and ash, considering it half-repayment of your debt of evil."

...

Accompanied by these voices and commotions, the vast Qiantang Province seemed to be hosting a Congress of Ten Thousand Immortals.

The magnitude of the event far exceeded the so-called Buddha Birth Technique conference.

Here a strange mist and wild wind was stirring, within which seemed to be a ten-thousand-feet Devil Dragon writhing and roaring; there, yellow sand was swirling, obscuring the sun, on which sat a bizarre Alchemist, naked with eyes all over his body; one could also see another part of the sky covered by eerie white flesh, sometimes appearing as breasts, sometimes as other objects, with the face of a woman that made one's soul tremble emerging in the middle...

It was indeed a bizarre and indescribable scene.

Just one glance revealed there were more than a dozen arrivals, each one a significant figure in the Cultivation World from the Ultimate Happiness Realm.

Their purpose was shockingly consistent: to capture Tao Qian.

Some were indifferent to whether he was alive or dead, while others certainly wanted him alive to torture him back at their base.

Such scenes!

Truly too startling.

By now, everyone understood why Long Meng Arhat said that Monk Shenxiu was beyond help in this lifetime.

Dying along with Tao Master, facing the siege of these dozen or so powerhouses from the Ultimate Happiness Realm, how could he possibly have survived?

Take note that the formidable Demon Buddha Temple's demon monks previously numbered only three.

Tao Qian had coped only by relying on the avatar of Duobao True Monarch, [Qingjing Zen Master], as well as the timely arrival of Senior Sui Chaozi at a critical moment.

What about now?

How to cope?

Faced with this situation where the inhabitants of the Ultimate Happiness were roaming everywhere, even Tao Qian, who had been eager to set off a grand fireworks display, couldn't help but pause.

There was no need to summon with the Golden Radiance Token; his gaze went straight to an old monk at his side, and he said somewhat helplessly,

"Master, who was it before that said I'm too good at getting into trouble, to the extent that even Duobao True Monarch doesn't dare claim he's my Master?"

"You, Elder, are truly hidden and profound. Where on earth did all these Demons and Ghosts come from?"

"Don't tell me you didn't calculate this scenario?"

Hearing this, Qingjing Zen Master, who was holding the Blessing Divine Mallet, showed no shame on his face.

Instead, he replied confidently,

"It's nothing significant. They're just some Evil Spirits that I offended in the past. They don't dare to seek trouble with me in Penglai Sea and have been incited by the Alchemist to come after you."

"It's no big deal. Whether it's a single sheep or a herd of sheep, it's all the same herd."

"If those who came were a group walking the Righteous path, those who haven't paid a great price to reach the Ultimate Happiness Realm, I would make sure to immediately grab you and escape."

"These people, heh, are all bullies soft-hearted when resisting aggression, driven into desperate straits, and extremely afraid of dying."

"Just wait until you set off that big fireworks display. Each of them will run faster than rabbits. They won't hinder your grand plan."

The old monk had just uttered the last sentence.

Suddenly, as if sensing something else, his expression changed abruptly.

"Act quickly!"

"Gao Huan, that old creature, has been divvied up and eaten by the other twelve monsters."

"They are now drunk on wine and meat, dazed and lost in delusion. If you want your mad plan to succeed, now is the only time for action."

Having heard this, Tao Qian immediately grew serious without hesitation.

He turned his head to look at Mingzhen.

She immediately understood and passed over the Ancestor God Treasure [Spring and Autumn Chariot].

During the process, this Devil Concubine also infused all the Human Dao Destiny within her into it.

At the same time, two rays of Divine Light flew out from Tao Qian's body, representing two other Ancestor God Treasures: Yu Ding and Valley God Gui.

The three treasures each displayed their Divine Treasure true forms, arraigned in front of Tao Qian.

As those three incredibly dazzling Ancestor God Radiance beams shot straight into the sky, a grand and mighty voice, without the aid of any Spirit Mirror Crystal Balls, resonated throughout the seventy-two provinces in this unprecedented conjunction of Human Dao Destiny. Every corner could hear it at that moment.

"My name is Tao Qian, and today I make a great vow."

"With my body and life, I hereby reestablish the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique, the Longevity Barrier, to protect tens of billions in this realm, this nation, and their Peace."

"All Treasures with spirit, please come to assist me."

...

As the explosive grand vow resounded through the provinces, everything burst forth.

Everyone then understood why Tao Qian, knowing that showing up would result in being besieged and hunted, had deliberately chosen not to leave.

He was not, in fact, trying to seize the throne of the Human Emperor!

In reality, he had bypassed all the supremely Talented, and with his immensely vast Human Dao Fortune, had begun to exercise the Human Emperor's authority directly.

Chapter 749 Sun God Drum, Measuring God Ruler

History records that when the Ancestor Dragon established the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty and cast the Forbidden Law Barrier, it was only after completing his conquest, gathering resources from all over the world, and with the assistance of many great sects from the Cultivation World that he succeeded.

Logically, if a new Human Emperor were to rise again, they would also need to accomplish such a grand feat.

Tao Qian was well aware that if he was prepared to go all in and drag the Spirit Treasure Sect into the fray, and then compete with other talents for a hundred years, he indeed stood a chance of succeeding.

But even if success was possible, it would consume a lengthy period of time and cost the lives of countless mortals. If the intensity of a Transcendent war were higher, an additional number, the death of ten or even billions would not be considered unusual.

This was a calamity, the great tribulation of Human Dao.

Tao Qian, who practiced the "Scripture of Salvation," was the most sensitive to the great tribulations of Human Dao. Added to that, among the present talents, he possessed the most overwhelming Human Dao fortune. Plus, the inspiration he received from the Alchemist, Yuann Mingzhen, and the Ancestor God Treasure made him inadvertently come up with a mad plan.

"With the Human Dao fortune I possess now, even if I'm just making a show of strength, it should be enough to start a wave," he thought.

"Once the momentum builds, it may sweep through the mortal world and the Cultivation World. At that time, if those dozens of old monsters from the Alchemist faction don't want to die, they'll be forced to follow, and the great task could be accomplished."

"Indeed, it is the time when Heaven and Earth join forces!"

As these thoughts surged, all seventy-two provinces were thoroughly in an uproar.

Tao Qian!

Since the Barrier had collapsed, merging the mortal world with the Cultivation World, and the world was thrown into chaos, this name had already been etched in people's hearts.

Everyone knew that whenever Tao Qian appeared, there must be an event significant enough to affect the major trends of the world.

This time was no different.

All eyes were turned towards Qiantang, waiting for something.

Those warlords and major powers had diverse thoughts, few hoping that Tao Qian could succeed.

But most mortals and a large number of cultivators and heroes were excited and expected Tao Qian to succeed in one fell swoop.

This naturally triggered an unimaginable resonance of fortune.

Only to hear a "boom" inside his head, Tao Qian saw the world before him change abruptly, his soul soaring as if he was in a vast and boundless sea of fortune.

The thoughts and wishes of billions from the seventy-two provinces, with strands of fortune converging, were vaguely sensed by Tao Qian.

Among them, numerous fragments of light flickered like stars, each connected to others, resembling a shattered Zhou Heavenly Network.

Seeing this, Tao Qian immediately understood:

"These lights, each point of light, represents an Ancestor God Treasure."

"Though scattered in all directions after the fragmentation, they still connect."

"As long as the price paid is sufficient, it is possible to reassemble the Forbidden Law Barrier."

At this thought, joy sprang up in Tao Qian's heart.

And the change that pleased him even more happened in the next moment.

Because he had continuously dissolved the calamities of Human Dao since starting in Southern Yue, and once even promoted the great deeds beneficial to the nation and people such as the "Yang Sui Uprising," now that he had made a Great Vow, he was extremely conspicuous in that sea of fortune, attracting those points of light strongly.

In that instant!

In Fengtian Province of the Northern Land, a booming bell resounded suddenly.

A divine light shot out from deep within the earth.

As it crossed the sky revealing its true form, it turned out to be a mottled, ancient bronze bell covered with divine patterns.

Upon its appearance, everyone who heard the bell's sound felt a jolt in their souls, their minds cleared, and they gained insight into their true nature.

As if it had a predestined target, the bell headed towards Qiantang without hesitation.

Any devils and demons in its path were cleansed away by the sonorous bell sound.

Fengtian, the territory of the Northern Land's talent, Zhang Jinluan, saw the ancient bell emerge and naturally tried to intercept it immediately, shouting:

"Demon Cleansing Bell!"

"Such a treasure, rumored to be crafted by an Immortal, the 'Demon Cleansing Immortal,' from materials of the Outer Realm specifically to suppress Demons, is unrestrained by any demon's power."

"I did not expect this treasure to be hidden in my Zhang's domain, it should rightfully be mine."

Before he had finished speaking, the hasty hand he stretched out to intercept the ancient bell was blasted apart at the slightest touch.

And the treasure known as the Demon Cleansing Bell wavered for a mere moment before transforming into an invisible divine light disappearing into the sky above.

As for its destination?

At this moment, at this juncture, anyone with sense could guess where the Divine Bell was headed.

Zhang Jinluan, in his own residence, beat his chest and stamped his feet, exclaiming:

"Damn it, damn it!"

"The bell is a fine treasure, yet it's as if it's blind, shunning a fine master like me, Zhang, and instead actively offering itself to that pretty boy, Tao Qian."

"It infuriates me, truly infuriates me."

...

As a hopeful for the Human Emperor, Zhang Jinluan played the role of a background character just this once, which naturally attracted even more attention.

Under the gaze of people throughout the world, just three breaths after Tao Qian made his Great Vow, the first of the Ancestor God Treasures, which was also one of the Twelve Artifacts of the Nine Provinces, the Demon Cleansing Bell, crossed mountains and seas to come over.

Through its journey across many provinces, numerous strong people attempted to intercept the treasure.

Unfortunately, an Ancestor God Treasure is completely different from common treasures; originally being fragments separated from the Heavenly Track, boosted by the fortune of Human Dao, they could totally disregard all obstacles.

In just a few breaths, space before Tao Qian split open on its own, and the Demon Cleansing Bell leaped out of it.

Quite sensibly, it first fell into Tao Qian's hand, emitting a Divine Light to recognize its master.

Then it joined the lineup, converging with the Valley God Gui, Yu Ding, and the Spring and Autumn Chariot—four treasures of the same origin among the Twelve Artifacts, now reunited and extraordinarily close.

Inside Qiantang Province, a fourth beam of Divine Light soared to the heavens immediately.

In it, Tao Qian also underwent some changes.

With his "Great Vow" as a medium, evoking the resonance of the fortune of all people, standing amongst it, he called upon the treasures to come forward.

Every time a treasure is cast, it's like a stone thrown into water, creating ripples and splashing droplets.

But these ripples and droplets, to a cultivator, especially those in a negative state, are all poisonous.

The poison of fortune!

Or, it could also be called the resentment of all people.

In small amounts, it's still bearable.

But once it becomes too much, it can be lethal.

Seeing this scene, those Ultimate Happiness Realm strong people who were coming to kill had their expressions change rapidly.

While others couldn't sense the danger, they could feel it instantly.

Even so, these strong people didn't shy away but felt an urgency, attacking even more ferociously.

As the avatar of Duobao, Qingjing Zen Master laughed out loud, initiating the confrontation and threatening,

"Fellow daoists, don't be impatient, don't be impatient, this is only the first treasure."

"The splash of karmic poison is nothing; soon there will be a second, third, fourth. Let's wait for the Nine Provinces' Twelve Treasures to be complete, then you all can taste the mature flavor of the karmic poison."

As if to prove Duobao's words.

Just as the Demon Cleansing Bell settled down, another province in the Northern Land underwent sudden change.

In Heavenly Fire Province, the sound of drums thundered.

Another Divine Light appeared in the world, and in a fleeting glimpse, everyone saw it clearly.

It was an ancient bronze drum, three persons tall, with ancient Sun Star patterns engraved upon it. Without anyone beating it, it resounded on its own.

Each drum sound sent out billions of Sun Star rays as fine as cow's hair, terrifying in power, melting mountains and boiling seas as mere trifles.

This time, there were few who dared to intercept it.

A few Great Demons that didn't believe in curses were struck by the bronze drum and immediately died, without even their soul or True Spirit remaining.

"Sun God Drum!"

"An Ancestor God Treasure, one of the Nine Provinces' Twelve Treasures."

"This item has a significant origin. It was obtained when Ancestor Dragon used a great army to capture a passing star from the outer realm with billions of Divine Ropes, extracting its stellar core, and then commissioned an ancient Qi Refiner, Red Sun Duke, taking several decades to refine this treasure."

"When this drum sounds, it's like the Sun Star descending, capable of incinerating all things."

"Among the war drums in the Ancestor Dragon Army, none is mightier than this one. As long as the drum resounds, Ancestor Dragon's warfare has never seen defeat."

Accompanied by descriptions that made others utterly envious.

The fifth Ancestor God Treasure traversed many provinces and ended up in Tao Qian's hands.

Everyone had seen the bronze drum with their own eyes, burning one Great Demon after another, as huge as mountains, along its way.

But once in Tao Qian's palm, it transformed into a tiny, exquisite drum, very well-behaved.

With the Divine Drum joining the queue, it seemed to signal something.

The next moment, still in the Northern Land, but this time several provinces experienced abnormalities.

Fengcang Province, Dingzhou Province, Hanxi Province.

All three provinces showed soaring Divine Lights, each revealing a treasure.

A pot, a banner, a ruler—judging from their styles, they were ancient objects, astounding in power, shaking heaven and earth.

This time, without any reminder, everyone looked at the Spirit Mirrors simultaneously, and sure enough, the cultivators of the Divine Ear Sect and Ting Di Sect had considerably manifested the necessary secrets.

"Demon Refining Pot, an Ancestor God Treasure, one of the Nine Provinces' Twelve Treasures."

"This item has an enormous history; there is no detailed record of its refining, but many texts state that Ancestor Dragon personally obtained this treasure from a reclusive Tribulation Immortal. At that time, the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty had just been established, and the borders were plagued by Demons, innumerable, unceasingly emerging."

"Once Ancestor Dragon acquired this treasure, he sucked all the Demons into the pot, refining them into Spiritual Liquid, sustaining countless lives."

...

"Ten Thousand Gods Banner, an Ancestor God Treasure, one of the Nine Provinces' Twelve Treasures."

"Also, at the establishment of the dynasty, divine spirits arose within the realm, good and evil tangled, acting wildly, disrupting the balance between Yin and Yang."

"To differentiate human from divine spirits, Ancestor Dragon led an assembly of Qi Refiners and his army to refine this object, consuming thousands of types of spiritual materials. Its surface is even etched with Secret Techniques of Refining God from many major sects, with an innate restraint against 'Divine Spirits.'"

"Upon the motion of this banner, all Gods must submit and obey commands."

...

"Measuring World Ruler, an Ancestor God Treasure, one of the Nine Provinces' Twelve Treasures."

"It was also at the founding of the dynasty, as practices varied from place to place within the realm, making it difficult to achieve unity, which led to chaos and frequent disasters."

"Ancestor Dragon measured all laws and rules personally, spending ten years to refine this treasure, equalizing discrepancies, with the 'Ninety-nine Returns to One.'"

"This treasure is harmless to Righteous beings and even beneficial, but if one practices Evil Techniques with a chaotic heart and soul, upon being measured by this ruler, they will instantly have to settle the price, with no chance of survival."

"Violence is just a minor function of this treasure; its greatest use is in ruling the world."

...

Following the Sun God Drum, three more treasures came flying one after another.

Spectators from Seventy-two Provinces watched with surging excitement, wishing they could stand right next to Tao Master.

But for those Ultimate Happiness Realm strong people plotting to surround and kill Tao Qian, this was seriously bad news.

Given that the splash of karmic poison was becoming increasingly intense.

Especially the eighth treasure, "Measuring World Ruler," instantly made the savage Demons stop in their tracks.

They might be from the Ultimate Happiness Realm, but not all were in good condition.

If their body and soul were measured by that ruler in Tao Qian's hand, it might indeed cost them their lives.

Chapter 750 12 Emperors of Alchemists, Liu and Li Compete for the Son

Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, seventy-two provinces.

Those capable of observing the changing times, be they immortals or mortals, be they from the Human Clan or other lifeforms, were all now watching one place, watching one person.

Qiantang Province, Master Tao Qian.

Unexpected changes, unexpected major events.

Previously, everyone thought that the seventy-two provinces in the north and south would experience chaotic wars for at least dozens to hundreds of years. The Cultivation World and even various great powers from the Outer Realm, each supporting their own agents, thus gave rise to all sorts of warlords who blurred the lines between good and evil.

Warlords emerged one after another, first engaging in chaotic battles to determine the Hidden Dragon Heavenly Pride.

Then, they would form alliances and battle again until a new Human Emperor emerged, ending the chaos and restoring peace.

But who would have expected, on this ordinary day, a great upheaval to occur?

That person, reportedly only in the world to face his Cultivation Tribulation, the first Heavenly Pride of the Daoists, Spirit Treasure Daoist Master Tao, suddenly announced his intent to formally step into the limelight and seemed to be preparing to contest for supremacy with other Heavenly Prides.

And that was just the first major change.

Immediately following, a second reversal occurred.

Master Tao, who clearly had the support of Tianzhi Gong's lineage, promising to refine a Governance Divine Machine for him, and had acquired a mechanical army.

He also had a reliable team under his command, as well as the territories of Tiannan and Qiantang provinces.

Furthermore, if one considered it, New Moon Province governed by the Ancestor Dragon Society could also be counted under Master Tao's command.

Amongst the various warlords contesting for supremacy, such a force was second only to Yu Yanshi, Zhang Jinluan, Hong Fu, and Si Xixin.

Just when everyone thought that Master Tao was about to commence a conquest battle.

He unexpectedly made a declaration of a grand vow that was hard to imagine, leaping out of the fray of warlords and directly exercising the power of the Human Emperor, wishing to change the heavens and earth once again and rebuild the Forbidden Law Barrier.

The whole nation was in uproar, with all eyes focused on him.

Civilians, who already saw Master Tao as a savior, all prayed that the scattered Ancestor God Treasures across the lands would go to Master Tao.

"Treasures, all the treasures in the world, if you truly possess spirits, hurry to Master Tao, we do not seek longevity or transcendence, only to restore the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique and expel these man-eating demons and mutated humans."

"Peace, we, the common people, only seek peace."

"This man-eating era, please end quickly."

"Previously, although we civilians had hardships, we still had a chance to live; now, we are living worse than death."

"Are we still human? No, we are mere food, two-legged livestock for others to use."

"Valley God Gui, Yu Ding, Spring and Autumn Chariot, Demon Cleansing Bell, Sun God Drum, Demon Refining Pot, Ten Thousand Gods Banner, Measuring World Ruler...eight treasures already, and the other of the Nine States' Twelve Treasures, other Ancestor God Treasures, please, hurry to Master Tao."

...

What is meant by the will of the people? This is it.

As the Cultivation World merged with the mundane, a lot of transcendent secrets became widespread, and thus many ordinary mortals also knew some common cultivation knowledge.

In the eyes of a few, especially those who had luckily embarked on the path of cultivation, the shattering of the Longevity Barrier may not necessarily be a bad thing.

But for most mortals, it was clearly a great disaster, a curse.

The old times: where a commoner suffered from much exploitation, but their life could be preserved, and if lucky, in most provinces they could survive and thrive, raise children, and propagate.

The current times: demons rampant, frequently culminating in city slaughters, even if one's fate was good and these were avoided, the internal tribulations of the Human Clan could not be prevented, entering cultivation was easy, but preventing mutation was difficult, once mutated, killing and cannibalism was inevitable, living in such a world, everyone's life was uncertain, circumstances dire.

Incidents like "children who cultivated the Secret Book mutated and cooked their parents for food," "mortals slaughtering relatives to cultivate demonic divine abilities," "cultivators spreading Fishing Scripture to raise food and consume them" ... and so on.

These numerous tragedies and disasters, every moment, in every province, every city, every county, every village... in every household, were occurring.

Everyone like a dragon?

No, absolutely impossible.

If it were normal, or the kind of cultivation path like Tao Qian's former life, perhaps everyone could be like a dragon.

But the cultivation in this world was fundamentally twisted, mutated.

Those leading in cultivation, even the immortals, only a few could stay on the Righteous path.

Most, while transforming into monster evil gods themselves, also mutated into beings like "fishing men," continuously plotting to kill more of the Human Clan.

Tao Qian could hardly imagine, if such a world continued for another hundred years, what would it become?

Most likely, the world would be filled with twisted demons.

It was foreseeing these that led to Tao Qian's current drastic actions.

As treasures came to him, the foul fortune of the emitted qi thickened.

The first major crisis facing Tao Qian, being surrounded and attacked by several Ultimate Happiness Evil People, also showed signs of easing.

These cunning evil demons feared the backlash of the evil fortune, hiding themselves, no longer approaching.

But before disappearing, each carried a sneering mockery:

"Old Thief Duobao, your disciple indeed has some methods, but alas, too naïve, merely a Cavernous Mystery Cultivator, commanding nothing but a few cats and dogs, and even with your Spirit Treasure Sect Ten Thousand Immortals not daring to descend the mountain to aid, he foolishly dreams of re-establishing the Longevity Barrier alone, would it not be considered that the Ancestor Dragon is nothing but trash?"

"Daydreaming must face backlash; we'll just wait and see, let alone all Ancestor God Treasures, this child probably can't even gather the complete Nine States' Twelve Treasures."

"This child has accomplished a lot, possesses the leading Human Dao Fortune of his age, but he is not overwhelming to other Heavenly Pride Hidden Dragons, whence comes such courage thinking all Ancestor God Treasures will come to him?"

"Hahaha, Duobao, aren't you proficient in divination? How come you indulge such a foolish disciple? We, who vaguely understand the destiny of cultivation, do not see that Human Dao Tribulation is barely beginning, this child's intent to shorten that century of tribulation, how is it different from seeking death?"

...

The mockery and derision from the evil people, Tao Qian simply ignored.

Still with eyes tightly closed, immersed in the prayers of all people, calling together with all mortals below the heavens for all divine treasures to come forth.

After about a few dozen breaths, great disturbances occurred in the three provinces of Desert North, Tiandu, and Hanxi.

Again, three ancestor god treasures crossed mountains and seas to come forth.

They were a bow and arrow, a longsword, and a divine pen.

Like the previous eight treasures, these three also had significant origins.

They were respectively called Qiankun Bow and Sky-shooting Arrow, Emperor's Sword, and Creation Pen.

Their power and utility, all divine.

By now, out of the heaviest of the [Nine States' Twelve Artifacts], Tao Qian had successfully summoned eleven.

Eleven divine lights surged to the sky, enveloping Tao Qian within them.

The resulting tremor was not just in Qiantang Province.

All over the Northern Land, no one was unaware, no one was not shocked.

Even without the protection of Duobao's avatar at this moment, those evil demons from the Ultimate Happiness Realm dared not come to kill him.

The treasures around him were simply too numerous.

And all were human dao divine treasures; killing their master, even if just one backlash occurred, would not be bearable, let alone eleven together, which would cause immediate mutation and death upon impact, even in Ultimate Happiness.

Moreover, amid the daze, everyone seemed to witness an incredible scene: an imposing figure recognized by all people standing atop the Spring and Autumn Chariot, Yu Ding enhancing his fortune, wielding the Creation Divine Pen, his waist hung with the Emperor's Holy Sword, nurturing the people with Valley God Gui, governing the country with Measuring World Ruler... truly as if the Ancestor Dragon had been reborn, the Human Emperor had arrived.

By this stage, one would say Tao Qian's plan should be successful.

Alas, cruel progress followed swiftly.

The eleven artifacts were gathered, but that most crucial twelfth artifact did not appear.

Waiting left and right, there was no movement.

Without all twelve artifacts, let alone the other ancestor god treasures?

Far from the re-establishment of the barrier.

At this moment, Tao Qian received mockery from a real formidable enemy.

From the outer realm, suddenly, a terrifying projection appeared before Tao Qian.

Shockingly, it was a withered, drained cancer secret realm, within which twelve incomparably huge, indescribable shadowy monsters lay sprawled in disarray.

It seemed as if they were all in a state of drunkenness.

Dazed, unable to sober up.

"Alchemist!"

"Twelve Transformed Emperor Kings!"

In just a moment, Tao Qian recognized the identities of these twelve shadows.

As it turned out, this was their first encounter, and there should have been a thirteenth figure—the Gao Family's Ancestor, the Divine Martial Emperor Gao Huan.

Unfortunately, his luck was not very good, encountering Tao Qian unexpectedly and being tricked by him into a deadly pitfall.

Of course, Gao Huan was ultimately a Daoist Transformation.

Being tricked leading to his roots being severed, he could have still struggled to survive for another century without a problem.

However, his companions couldn't endure, sensing that he had been gravely hurt, they directly barged into his Daoist secret realm and voraciously devoured him.

Gao Huan's flesh, infused with endless dao power, naturally also carried horrific contamination.

Ordinary cultivators, even those in Ultimate Happiness Realm, would surely die explosively upon ingestion.

But for those in Daoist Transformation Realm, the reaction wasn't so severe; at most they would be dazed for a while.

Such was the scene at this moment!

Twelve emperors, all drunk.

In between, they likely had a few snacks, such as Gao Yang, Gao Zhan, Gao Wei, and others from the Gao Family who had also been emperors.

That terrifyingly contaminated projection, vanished in an instant.

Yet, the ramblings and chaotic drunk words of those twelve emperors turned into a series of rustling, indescribable whispers and murmurs that drilled into Tao Qian's ears.

"Tao the little thief... thank you for your hospitality, I've craved Gao Huan's flesh for a long time."

"Thoroughly enjoyable, thoroughly enjoyable, my heart is greatly comforted. Once we catch you, we can spare you the death penalty."

"Little things, do not struggle, although you have the support of some ignorant people, you fundamentally do not understand how much human dao fortune is needed to summon all Forbidden Technique Fragments, and after gathering them, to fuse them together to rebuild the barrier, how much treasure and provisions are needed, unless you can convince your Spirit Treasure Sect Master, it's impossible, merely futile."

"Tao Qian, I like you very much, once you fail, I will bestow you the Li surname and adopt you as my foster son."

"Tao Qian, I am Emperor Liu of the Liu Family, I also like you very much, once you fail, I won't kill you, and might even marry my daughter to you, you can call me father now."