

Longevity 81

Chapter 81: Undying Blessing, Bizarre Flesh

Tao Qian had wanted to stay away from Shan Jiu, but his puppet body's cultivation was still weaker than that of a wild leek demon from Wild Man Mountain.

He was promptly pulled into that hidden Zen Room amidst the bamboo forest by Shan Jiu.

Inside, there was already an occupant: a Pig Demon with four large heads, big ears, gleaming mane, and covered in the stench of excrement, huddled together for warmth, trembling with indescribable fear of the terrifying slaughter and chaos of the outside world.

Such lowly demons had nothing but their fatty flesh and brutal strength smeared with filth and mud; they possessed neither Divine Power Skills nor magic artifacts.

If they had a master to rely on, it would be somewhat better, but without one, they were the bottom of the food chain in the Demon Realm. Unless they could cultivate some spectacular Innate Divine Ability, they were doomed to eventually become meat on someone's roasting spit.

However, although these Pig Demons had not much cultivation, their tempers were quite sizeable.

Perhaps out of excessive terror, or fearing that other little demons would fight for this concealed Zen Room, the four dirty, yellow-maned, fat pigs charged at Tao Qian and Shan Jiu without even seeing who the newcomers were.

Tao Qian had wanted to take action, but Shan Jiu beat him to it.

This diminutive youth had somehow drawn a green, oily vine whip from somewhere and, with loud cries, went to meet the four Pig Demons. A whip for each one, flaying the skin off their backs and eliciting pitiful howls of agony.

Tao Qian keenly perceived that the vine whip was a magic artifact that affected not only the body but the soul as well, which was why the four Pig Demons were howling so miserably that they almost passed out. And then, they defecated and urinated uncontrollably, turning a once-clean Zen Room into a pigsty that seemed never to have been cleaned.

After driving the Pig Demons away, Shan Jiu didn't even mind the mess. He dragged Tao Qian to the one corner that remained uncontaminated.

One human and one wild leek demon squat down in a very unbecoming manner, staring at the center of the Zen Room.

It was strange, at first, that what filled Tao Qian's nose was the stench of pig excrement, which was several times more foul than that of wild or domestic pigs, almost making one want to vomit.

But as time passed, that stench gradually faded until it completely disappeared, replaced by a peculiar smell that was both fragrant and foul, like that of green grass.

Tao Qian blinked in surprise, then glanced thoughtfully at the squatting Shan Jiu beside him.

Seeing Tao Qian looking over, the youth might have thought his new friend was getting impatient. He scratched his messy green hair and hurriedly explained, "Daoist, don't rush. You have to believe me, just wait a little longer, just a little while longer, and I'll let you choose first."

Almost at that moment, as Shan Jiu's panicky words fell...

A violent gust of wind came from above, followed by a "thud" as the tile roof was pierced by a fist-sized hole. Something that glowed with a thick blood light fell through the roof, smashed into the ground, creating a pit and became embedded in it.

The visible radiance and the distinct sense of an abnormal aura.

All indicated that this item was indeed an alien.

"Could it really be?"

At that moment, Tao Qian felt a profound shock.

Even though he had already known that this "wild leek demon" had some inexplicable fortune and always managed to pick up treasures, he thought it was a passive effect, unbelievable but still acceptable.

"But now, this Wild Leek Demon told Tao Qian that his fortune in finding treasures could be activated proactively."

In Tao Qian's mind, terms exclusively used in web novels he had been addicted to in his previous life suddenly emerged.

"Could it be that this Wild Leek is what legends describe as a 'Heir of Heavenly Destiny?' A protagonist's life chart?"

"If one could casually find Basic Methods, Great Books, Mystical Artifacts, True Devices, and so forth... who would still bother to cultivate? If you become friends with this Wild Leek and follow behind it to pick up treasures, wouldn't that be enough?"

Fortunately, Tao Qian's will was still relatively firm, and his own fortune was not too shabby either, which is why he could hold on.

If it had been someone else who had sought the Dao and cultivated for many years without gaining anything, witnessing this scene might have caused their Dao Heart to collapse.

Meanwhile, as Tao Qian was pondering, Shan Jiu had already dug out the alien object that had fallen into the pit.

Cradling it in both hands, he presented it as if offering a treasure.

The object was a bloody large tooth, likely belonging to some monster of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

It was probably knocked out by one of the four Daoists, still wrapped in blood and flesh, quite disgusting.

Tao Qian glanced at it but showed no interest.

Many demon creatures' "flesh" and "organs" possessed abnormal powers, including this tooth. If it were the Tao Qian who had just started on the path of cultivation, he might have thought of forging it into a weapon or simply selling it. However, he was now entirely unimpressed by it.

So, Tao Qian shook his head, indicating that Shan Jiu should just keep it for himself, then couldn't help asking, "Mr. Shan, does your fortune to actively find treasures trigger often? Other than these flesh and organs, have you found any other books or scripts among the treasures you've picked up, like the 'Fire Plate' you gave me earlier?"

Seeing that Tao Qian was not interested in the meat tooth, Shan Jiu didn't stand on ceremony and took out a small, flat, emerald wallet from his bosom and stuffed the meat tooth inside.

This scene made Tao Qian feel somewhat frustrated, as the palpitations from the wallet were very strong, indicating it was a pretty good Storage Treasure Bag.

It was apparent that Shan Jiu had a bit of a "hoarding habit." Although the meat tooth was disgusting and seemed to have no use, he still carefully tucked it away.

Afterward, he seriously answered Tao Qian's questions.

The green head shook, saying,

"It doesn't trigger very often, sometimes it's once every few days, or sometimes once every few months. But I've found that the more people or demons there are, the more treasures I find."

"Most of the time, it's these kinds of demon flesh and organs. Occasionally, I also find some fun treasures, but they aren't very powerful. If I brought them all out, they should be able to hold their own against cultivators from your human race at the Foundation Establishment Realm."

"As for stronger cultivators from the Transcend Mortality Realm and demons, I can't beat them. I've been killed by them several times, but fortunately, I can resurrect, so dying doesn't matter."

"But I rarely find books or scrips. After coming out from Wild Man Mountain, I've only found that Fire Plate and another thin book. However, I later made a new friend, and he took it from me. He was so excited at the time, kept shouting 'Blood God Scripture Fragment,' 'I've found the Blood God Scripture Fragment,' then he stopped paying attention to me and ran off on his own."

"A few days later, I saw him again, but he seemed to have gone mad, skinned himself completely, and when he saw me, he even blamed me, saying I had deceived him, claiming that the book was fake."

"But, you know, I can't read. I even said that I just picked up the book."

"This has happened so many times before, and it's clearly not my fault."

As he spoke, Shan Jiu seemed to withdraw into himself.

Clutching the emerald wallet, he squatted back in the corner with a face full of grievance.

Seeing this, Tao Qian felt slightly relieved, yet his mind couldn't help but recall the incident that had occurred during the banquet in the side hall.

That female fairy named "Mei Xian'er" also said she wanted to be friends with Shan Jiu, but in reality, she was coveting the treasures carried by the Wild Leek Demon.

As a result, she was tricked.

"Which means, if you don't sincerely befriend this Wild Leek Demon but do so out of greed, there is a high probability you'll be duped."

"Just like that Mei Xian'er, that Evil Cultivator who cultivated the fake 'Blood God Scripture Fragment.'"

"Furthermore, the alien treasures that Shan Jiu has picked up clearly have some sort of limit."

"And, can Shan Jiu be revived?"

After silently analyzing, Tao Qian also felt a bit withdrawn.

Because he realized that although this Wild Leek Demon could not be considered the Heir of Heavenly Destiny, with the attributes of "Blessing" and "Undying," his path in the Dao was inherently much easier than other Cultivators.

Although Tao Qian could also be undying to some extent, the two were actually entirely different.

With a sorrowful sigh of envy, Tao Qian also squatted back in the corner.

A man and a Wild Leek Demon, staring intently at each other, waiting for treasures to smash through the roof like sitting ducks.

It seemed that to compensate for the withdrawn Shan Jiu, the whooshing sound of the wind came again after not too long.

This time, there were three of them.

Thump, thump, thump!

Three dull thuds later, the tile roof had three more holes of varying sizes.

And on the ground, there were also three more pits.

Tao Qian quickly looked up and saw that this time, what had fallen were all chunks of flesh and blood.

Moreover, each piece emitted an extremely intense peculiar aura, obviously all of significant origin.

With his wealth of experience, Shan Jiu seemed excited about these three chunks of flesh and didn't wait for Tao Qian to make a move before his figure flashed a few times.

The next moment, there were three strange pieces of flesh and blood in front of Tao Qian.

They were a segment of a cow's thigh, half a skull containing brain matter, and a lump of blood about the size of an infant's head, irregular in shape and dark.

The cow's thigh must have come from some powerful Cow Demon, and it was unclear what kind of Magic Skill it had practiced; even though the thigh was chopped off, the flesh and sinews inside were

still actively wriggling, as if trying to return to its owner. Alas, Shan Jiu was kneeling on it, pressing it firmly in place.

As for the brain, it was half a skull filled with brain matter, but the brain matter appeared to be composed of hundreds of disgustingly gray-white parasites, congealing and dispersing, emitting a dizzying hiss, yet unable to escape the confines of the skull.

Lastly, the lump of blood, seemingly quiet, but when Tao Qian looked closely, he suddenly felt giddy, as if his blood was about to freeze solid in an instant, almost killing him on the spot.

If it weren't for his quick recovery, he might have really died.

Tao Qian clicked his tongue in amazement, thinking, "These three chunks of flesh must come from three extraordinarily powerful Demons. I have no idea what sort of background and origins they have, to be so bizarre."

As Tao Qian pondered, he suddenly saw Shan Jiu's face wrinkled in conflict.

In those narrow eyes, there was a look of hesitation.

At the same time, his gaze darted back and forth between the three pieces of flesh.

As he looked, he swallowed saliva voraciously.

Tao Qian heard it loud and clear, and immediately began to speculate.

It was at this moment that Shan Jiu timidly spoke up, "Daoist friend, it seems that you're not fond of Demon flesh. How about I take all three pieces?"

After speaking, he appeared worried that Tao Qian, his new friend, would have a lower opinion of him. After all, it was he who had first promised to let Tao Qian choose first, one turn each.

With his body still pressing down on the cow's thigh that wanted to escape, he hurriedly gestured at the many treasures on his body and said to Tao Qian, "Daoist friend, please don't be upset. Including that meat tooth from earlier, we split everything evenly. I've taken it all, so how about I compensate you with two treasures?"

"Just tell me which two on my body you like, and I'll take them off for you."

Tao Qian saw the green-haired youth panicking, and yet, his saliva wouldn't stop flowing.

It was just like a gourmet who sees delicious food in front of him but can't immediately pick up his chopsticks, making him sweat profusely in impatience.

Curious, Tao Qian gestured with his hand, "Let's not rush this. I have no interest in Demon flesh. They are all yours."

"Really?"

"That's great!"

With this burst of joy, Tao Qian suddenly saw a chilling green light flare up in the narrow eyes of the green-haired youth before him.

Then, the next moment, Tao Qian caught a glimpse of this self-proclaimed youth "who attained the Dao among the Wild Leek on Wild Man Mountain," revealing a somewhat terrifying other side.

Chapter 82: Surprising Gains, Jade Navel Evil Child

In the depths of the quiet bamboo forest, amidst the secluded Zen rooms, Tao Qian was witnessing a very peculiar eating scene.

Despite his bizarre appearance, the green-haired youth Shan Jiu, who was cute by some standards, was now smiling broadly with shimmering saliva streaming down his cheeks.

Between the narrow slits of his eyes, a dismal green light spilled out, casting the Zen room in an eerie glow akin to a haunted house.

Then, from beneath his emerald Daoist robe, there came a rustling sound as tender, fresh, snow-white whiskers, emitting the fragrance of soil and grass, wriggled and surged forth. They were densely packed, exuding a formidable vital essence that made Tao Qian envious.

These fine whiskers split into three groups, and the first to suffer was the big cow thigh. The devil meat, tough enough that only a Magical Treasure could harm it, was pierced as easily as tofu when the tender whiskers stabbed into it.

Next was the skull. The gray-white filariae sensed danger and screeched, launching an attack on the whiskers, but to no avail. Seemingly endless, the whiskers grew tirelessly amidst the fragrance until, having fed all the parasites, the newly grown tendrils slowly enveloped the entire skull.

The blood clots were the easiest, pierced directly through without any difficulty.

In the space of a few breaths, the flesh, blood, and brain matter all dissolved, turning into strands of pure essence qi that were swallowed by the whiskers.

During the process, Shan Jiu maintained a silly smile on his face, with drooling and green light mingling in a peculiar, eerie way.

Tao Qian finally understood why, at the earlier banquet, this youth had been indifferent to the fragrant roasted meat and fine wine.

"It's not that he doesn't eat," Tao Qian realized, "it's that he dismisses those lower grade meats."

"His diet consists of the flesh and blood of all higher-grade demons... no, possibly of all high-level life forms?"

At this thought, Tao Qian's expression grew more solemn.

It was precisely at this moment that the satiated Shan Jiu's foolish face regained its liveliness.

The crystal-clear saliva at the corner of his mouth was "sucked" back with a swish, and he smacked his lips twice, commenting with lingering satisfaction, "Delicious, they were all delicious, especially the worms. They've got a nice chew to them."

Seeing Tao Qian looking at him, he mistook it for his new friend wanting him to fulfill a promise.

He was just about to introduce the many Magical Treasures he wore, when suddenly a new question was thrown at him.

"Mr. Shan, your way of eating seems quite convenient. What are your usual culinary preferences, and have you ever eaten a human?"

Tao Qian asked nonchalantly, but who would have expected Shan Jiu's face to change dramatically upon hearing the latter question.

The comical expression instantly turned to one of panic, and he waved his hands frantically, saying, "Human? You can't eat that stuff, man. Shan Jiu wants to try everything, but the only thing he can't eat is humans."

As if to lend credibility to his claim, Shan Jiu leaned in close and whispered mysteriously:

"Let me tell you a secret, Daoist friend; once upon a time, there was a Master on Wild Man Mountain who had really high cultivation, but one day, a half-dead person fell from the sky, and the Master, having a big appetite and being stingy, refused to share with us; he just gobbled it up in one bite."

"Then something very terrible happened—the Master exploded."

"That day, it rained red flesh all over Wild Man Mountain."

"Shan Jiu was still young at the time, but he will never forget that scene. It scared the life out of me."

"From that day on, many of us Little Demons on Wild Man Mountain resolved never to eat humans. But it's strange; after leaving Wild Man Mountain, I discovered that some humans mysteriously turn into demons or Alien Species. Then I could eat them again, and they were quite tasty."

After Shan Jiu finished speaking, Tao Qian was at a loss for words for a moment.

The green-haired youth seemed to speak in riddles, and his story was certainly odd.

But upon deeper reflection, it made sense.

The reason he didn't eat humans was probably that as a child he had witnessed that horrendous scene, leaving a psychological scar.

As for the "Wildman Mountain Master" exploding into a rain of blood after eating a human, perhaps it was simply bad luck that he had consumed a Great Cultivator who was about to Mutate or become Fallen Demon?

But after the explosion of the Master, capable of causing meat rain over an entire mountain, how large must his original form have been?

Tao Qian was pondering this when he was mistaken by Shan Jiu for having no interest in the jingling treasures he carried.

The youth was anxious—how could this be allowed?

Shan Jiu always treated friends with equal respect and fair-mindedness; he could not take advantage of his Daoist friend.

Thinking this way, Shan Jiu suddenly moved closer to Tao Qian again, reluctantly handing over a small green wallet with gritted teeth, saying:

"Daoist friend, if you don't fancy the treasures on my person, then take a look at the contents of my Leek Bag. These are all items that I have collected over many years. There are treasures from the outer world, food that I have stored for a long time, and special products from our Wild Man Mountain... You may take two items, only two, no more."

Upon hearing this, Tao Qian wanted to decline once more.

By now, he could see that this Wild Leek Demon, though very peculiar, was not inherently bad, and given his strong hoarding instincts, taking his belongings would undoubtedly pain him.

However, upon hearing the key phrase "special products from Wild Man Mountain," Tao Qian's interest was piqued.

Anyone who repeatedly heard the Wild Leek Demon mention it would find Wild Man Mountain quite fascinating.

Curious to discover the special products, Tao Qian reached out to take the verdant wallet, and as soon as his divine thought entered, his mind was triggered to perceive:

Record Name: Leek Bag.

Record Type: alien.

Record Description: Originally a small pouch on the Wild Leek Demon "Shan Jiu." When he achieved his path, this object came into existence with him, hiding a small world inside that changes according to Shan Jiu's will and grows with his cultivation realm. Any non-living matter may enter, but if living beings do, they risk Mutation.

"Boom"

As Tao Qian had only scanned the description superficially and was about to be amazed, a miniature version of a colorful mountain landscape suddenly appeared before him.

An enormous space that could nearly accommodate the entire Iron Buddha Temple was engulfed in darkness.

Only in the center was there a mountain of unparalleled splendor; its irregular shape could only be described as peculiar. It had valleys and streams, countless cavities, and rugged strange rocks, interspersed with swathes of pitch-black forests, yet none of these caught Tao Qian's attention.

What truly captivated one's gaze was the radiant glow enveloping the mountain, where myriad colors intermingled, gushing and flowing like liquid, as if the stars of the heavens had been ground into dust and dispersed into the Tianhe, then cascaded down upon the mountain.

With the Record in his mind, Tao Qian almost immediately had a clear realization: this mountain was the very likeness of Wild Man Mountain.

Or rather, it was the image of Wild Man Mountain from the depths of Shan Jiu's soul.

At this moment, a voice came from outside, carrying Shan Jiu's proud and mischievous tone.

"Mr. Shan, if you want to get treasures, you'll have to rely on your eyes. I've hidden many treasures all over the place inside, remember you can only take two, don't take more than that."

"Between friends, we must be honest."

Upon hearing this, Tao Qian looked intently.

As expected, he saw that on the brilliant mountain, in various caves, within the forests, in the valleys, and even beside the mountain paths, there were plenty of muscled, alien objects, and Magical Treasures hidden.

Tao Qian could almost picture a green-haired youth hiding things all over the mountain, and he honestly thought that finding anything valuable on this mountain would indeed be difficult.

However, that was for other Cultivators.

Tao Qian did not need to exert much effort; he just had to follow that varying sense of "throb," and he could find the most valuable items.

Thus, just a few breaths later, Tao Qian locked onto two targets. After clearly discerning their shapes and hiding spots, a smile couldn't help but appear on the corner of his mouth. He retrieved the items with Divine Thought and immediately left the strange space.

The next moment, within the dilapidated Zen Room, brilliant twilight light flashed brightly, then faded quickly.

In Tao Qian's palms, there was now an additional object in each hand.

One was a coal ball mixed with many fine red crystals, and the other was something like a bubble pack. Within a layer of membrane, it seemed to condense and wrap around billions of twilight rays, making it difficult for one to shift their gaze away once they looked at it; clearly, this object was the source of the brilliant light just now.

Shan Jiu came over, curious to see which of his treasures had been taken. Seeing it was these two items, he couldn't help but beam with joy and said with relief, "Phew, thank goodness, you didn't find my real treasure."

As he spoke, the green-haired youth carefully took back his emerald wallet and reverently placed it back inside his body.

Tao Qian looked at him seriously and did not say much.

Equally solemnly, he put away the two objects in his hands, but his eyes could not hide a flicker of delight.

Clearly, such findings were beyond his expectations.

Just as Tao Qian was thinking about whether to give up the rights to all "fallen objects" that would come next, and instead trade for treasures from Shan Jiu.

The green-haired youth in front of him seemed to sense something, suddenly looking disappointed.

He tugged at Tao Qian and headed outside the Zen Room, shouting as they ran:

"Quick, we must leave this place."

"We need to find a place to hide. Not only will there be no treasures to pick up tonight, but something terrible is also going to happen."

"If we don't hide well, it's very likely we'll lose our lives. I'm not afraid of dying, but I'm worried about you, Mr. Shan, being so weak. If you're not careful, you could be killed, and then I, Shan Jiu, would be friendless again."

Before Tao Qian could retort that it's very easy for Shan Jiu to be friendless with that way of speaking,

They stepped out of the Zen Room and were immediately met with a terrifying sight:

The entire Iron Buddha Mountain was nearly demolished.

Everywhere was scarred and battered, the corpses of Evil Cultivators and Alien Species lay everywhere. Some of these creatures had Mutated into even more terrifying forms after death and then were killed again. Thus, the original Buddhist ground had become indistinguishable from the Human World's Purgatory.

However, at this time, the demons' momentum was gradually recovering because those four dreadful Taoists had finally been intercepted by several Masters who had also become fierce.

Especially the "Naked Saintess", who, unbeknownst to when, had revealed her true form.

The infinite and endlessly squirming fresh red tapeworms enveloped Iron Buddha Mountain. Combined with several other Great Demons, they blocked all the attacks from the four Taoists.

At the same time, the damaged "Hundred Demon Embryo Blood Refining Array" was also crazily extracting the blood and Essence Qi from the perished demons, rapidly recovering.

The giant troll baby demon, while fighting the Great Cultivator with wind and thunder wings alone using strange Escape Skills and terrifying strength, also didn't forget to shout to the Cultivators of the Foundation Establishment Realm and below on Iron Buddha Mountain:

"My little ones, don't be afraid anymore."

"Just wait another twenty breaths. Once the Big Array recovers, we can refine these stinking Taoists to death."

"And that skanky Xiao Meiniang, I will make sure to... "

While the infant demon was boasting and venting,

Suddenly, the four Taoists seemed to be enraged. After exchanging glances,

The only female cultivator among them, a mature and beautiful woman from Tianhe Sect, cast a cold glance at the infant demon, and then suddenly took out a "Jade belt" from her bosom.

The Jade belt was about several feet long, crystal clear, and spiraled. An intense life essence Qi overflowed from it.

But more astonishing was the killing intent it contained.

Even the group of demons being sheltered on Iron Buddha Mountain could clearly feel the danger of that Jade belt at this moment.

The infant demon, who had just been bragging, suddenly showed a look of terror on its ugly face and then turned its head to shout towards the direction of the Naked Saintess:

"Saintess, quick, stop that Jade belt!"

"That's the 'Killing Life Navel' with hundreds of Evil Children inside who have killed countless lives."

"If you can't stop it, all the little demons on the mountain will be slaughtered."

"Xiao Meiniang has truly gone mad, even giving this thing to that woman ahead of time. She's determined to wipe us all out."

Before the infant demon could finish those words, the female cultivator from Tianhe Sect was already coldly throwing the Jade belt towards Iron Buddha Temple.

Boom!

The jade light, filled with malevolence, pierced through the tapeworm's defense circle, plummeting towards Iron Buddha Temple like a falling meteor.

Chapter 83: The Peach Blossom Banner is Destroyed, Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother

The exotic treasure known as the "Killing Life Navel" fell, and immediately a surge of jade light could be seen; then, astonishingly, there leapt out a hundred children only clad in red loincloths, each holding a sword, looking as if they were purely carved from jade and were half the height of a human.

These children all had their eyes blindfolded with a red sash, and their faces were devoid of any expression, only cold killing intent gathering and erupting forth.

In an instant, they spread throughout Iron Buddha Temple and, without speaking a word, swung their swords to slice at any Demon they encountered.

Each Evil Child possessed an eerie Escape Skill that left no trace, and merged with their swords, they became over a hundred indestructible "sword lights," beginning to scurry chaotically over the mountain.

Wherever they passed, a large number of Demons were slashed into minced flesh with a "sizzling" sound.

In just a moment, the Purgatory for the Demons reappeared.

Although these Evil Children were not as imposing as the four Daoists, the scene was even more bloody and brutal.

The sight reflected in Tao Qian's eyes: sword lights rampaged and swept across Iron Buddha Mountain, blood and remains could be seen everywhere,

They had gone mad with killing!

At that moment, Tao Qian finally understood the horror that Shan Jiu had spoken of.

For the Evil Cultivators and Alien Species who were Demons on this mountain, this was indeed terrifying. And most crucially, Tao Qian's Puppet Body was also one of them.

These "Evil Children" clearly had no Spiritual Wisdom and wouldn't listen to your explanations of "I am a good person" or the like.

Their purpose in descending was to hack to death all living beings on this mountain that could breathe.

Not only was Tao Qian terrified, Shan Jiu at his side, seeing these Evil Children who slaughtered any Demon they saw all over the mountain, was similarly stupefied.

"So ferocious, so ferocious, I'm scared to death."

"Quick, Daoist friend, let's find a place to hide. Against such a ferocious treasure, I would have some confidence if it were one-on-one."

"If two of them came at once, I would die, let alone you."

As Shan Jiu spoke, he was again pulling Tao Qian towards some rough crags.

But just then, Tao Qian suddenly heard a series of worried and anxious calls by his ear.

The two turned towards the sound and saw a cloud of pink Peach Blossom Miasma drifting from afar.

Above the clouds, Pan Hongniang was holding her "Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner," and her playful girlish face was now entirely filled with sorrow and concern; she was worried about her lover's life.

As a Cultivator in the Foundation Establishment Realm, she did not fear the hacking of the Evil Children, but her lover wouldn't stand a chance and would likely be severed in half in a single encounter, with his intestines and viscera spilling out, bringing his life to a close.

Inside Pan Hongniang's heart, regret gnawed at her like insects, eating away at her spirit, as she kept muttering to herself:

"Fei'er, you mustn't have anything happen to you, Hongniang was wrong, I should not have indulged your body and caused you to be unable to break into the Qi Refinement Realm, not even having the power to protect yourself; if you die, Hongniang won't live either..."

With such emotions, Pan Hongniang completely ignored the hundred Evil Children rampaging and killing Demons all around, her gaze frantically searching below among the ruins for a particular figure while she shouted loudly:

"Fei'er, where are you?"

"Fei'er, oh where are you?"

During the process, she drew the attention of at least five Evil Children by exposing such a huge target.

Terrifying sword lights formed a sword net in midair, slashing murderously towards Pan Hongniang.

But all were blocked by the miasma released by the Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner, which indeed could judge the strength of these "Killing Evil Children"; each was between the levels of the Qi Refinement Realm and the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Slicing those lowly Demons seemed like cutting vegetables, the Energy-Introducing Realm took a bit more effort, and some Demons in the Qi Refinement Realm, when pairing up, could hardly fend off an Evil Child.

But this could not stop the Evil Children's frenzied slaughter.

Their Evasion Light was too fast, and their bodies were extremely hard, making them difficult to destroy.

Pan Hongniang, despite being a loose Cultivator in the Foundation Establishment Realm, single-handedly fended off five Evil Children as her gaze strenuously scanned her surroundings, and finally noticed Tao Qian in the distance.

"Fei'er!"

Along with an incredibly excited voice, almost crying with joy, the Peach Blossom Miasma shot towards them.

Just at this moment, Tao Qian and Shan Jiu were simultaneously spotted by two blindfolded Evil Children.

With two clangs, two sword lights crisscrossed towards them.

Fortunately, Tao Qian and Shan Jiu were not wooden stakes to be mindlessly chopped; Shan Jiu let out a strange cry and drew out a Green Vine Whip, lashing it out directly and binding the sword lights firmly in midair, forcing them back into an Evil Child state.

As for Tao Qian, he reached into his bosom and took out a Jade Flying Knife, tossing it towards the sword lights.

This was the Magic Artifact taken from Jade-faced Lady Lan Qing'er before, the Jade Demon Killing Blade, which was not included among the "Mystical Artifacts" for some reason, but was first-class among Magic Artifacts. Accompanied by clanging sounds, this Flying Knife, which had been simply cultivated by the Puppet Body, fought on par with the Evil Child.

Seeing this, Pan Hongniang, who had been intently looking forward to saving her lover from being split in half, breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Immediately, she charged even more furiously, smashing through any obstacle in her way to bits.

Just as Tao Qian controlled the Jade Demon Killing Blade, he suddenly smelled a familiar Exotic Fragrance, and then a warm soft body crashed into his arms.

Wrapping his arms tightly around her, he almost wanted to blend that Puppet Body completely into her embrace.

And those two Evil Children were struck and sent flying by Pan Hongniang in her charge.

Watching the two figures blend as one, Shan Jiu blinked with a puzzled look on his face.

What was his Daoist friend and his Master doing?

Just as Shan Jiu was about to ask, he suddenly sensed something and his comical face instantly showed a look of horror.

His small hands began frantically pulling at Tao Qian's sleeves, while his fingers trembled and incessantly pointed at the surroundings.

Tao Qian struggled to lift his head, his complexion changing drastically in an instant.

He saw among the corpses and ruins around them, several "Evil Children" suddenly showing their true bodies, their jade light dimmed, but their killing intent even more intense, almost condensing into something tangible.

The Source Qi stored inside them seemed to have been depleted, and they no longer had the strength to transform into sword lights to kill.

Their heads turned as if searching for something.

Quickly, after a bout of slaughter, the remaining more than eighty Evil Children split into five groups, each grouping together.

Unfortunately, or perhaps precisely because of Pan Hongniang's immense presence,

a total of seventeen Killing Evil Children singled them out, rushing toward where the three of them were located.

When this scene unfolded, whether it was Tao Qian, Shan Jiu, or Pan Hongniang, they all simultaneously felt an incredibly strong premonition of danger.

Especially the weaker Tao Qian, who felt a tingling sensation on his scalp.

Above the heads of all demons, the frantic words of the infant demon came once again: "Everyone avoid these Killing Evil Children, they have exhausted their Source Qi, and they are about to self-destruct next."

Upon hearing these words, the demons cursed in secret, why didn't they receive this crucial information sooner?

In a frenzy of terrified screams, the demons fled.

But for some, it was already too late.

Tao Qian, Shan Jiu, and Pan Hongniang, in their vicinity, all the demons had been slaughtered.

Thus, it was only natural for the Killing Evil Children who had slain those demons to converge towards them.

Those covered-eyed, gloomy-bodied creatures, resembling ghostly children wielding swords, directly surrounded them and hurled themselves at their target.

The terrifying energy, from brewing to exploding, lasted only for a moment.

"Boom!"

When the first deafening explosion arrived,

Tao Qian couldn't help but wear a gloomy expression, silently thinking: "It's over, this puppet body is going to be lost."

As the thought emerged, reflected in his eyes were the scenes of the Killing Evil Children self-destructing, the destructive jade light spreading, completely filling the area, turning everything it touched—bodies, buildings, or whatever else—into jade fragments that danced with the white light.

The loud noises blended with the dead silence perfectly.

But at that very moment, an anomalous scene appeared.

A peach tree!

Without any warning, an exceedingly seductive, gigantic peach tree suddenly burst out from beneath the soil, branches extending, roots bulging, with petals fluttering everywhere, and amidst the overwhelming surges, pink Peach Blossom Miasma erupted like a storm together with countless pink moths fluttering in it.

In an instant, an unimaginable clash was born.

When all the dust settled, that area was almost completely leveled.

Except for that now terribly damaged peach tree. Under that tree, three figures remained unharmed.

Tao Qian was still being tightly held by Pan Hongniang, their bodies almost fused together, the latter apparently very worried that Tao Qian would suffer even the slightest injury.

Shan Jiu frantically felt around with both hands, confirming he was alright and that he wouldn't have to waste the delicious meal he had just eaten to resurrect, his face immediately showing joy.

Then, he turned to look at the "Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner" floating in the air next to him, now tattered and with its treasure light dimmed.

Showing a look of regret, he muttered, "It's completely ruined by the blast, turning a good treasure into a useless one."

Tao Qian likewise recognized the reason his puppet body had survived: Pan Hongniang had sacrificed her protecting treasure, the Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner.

This object was a genuine "Mystical Artifact," many times stronger than the Jade Demon Killing Blade.

But now, it was half-destroyed by the self-destruction of more than a dozen Killing Evil Children.

Tao Qian hugged Pan Hongniang with one arm while with the other, he let his original heart be at ease, soothing his own master.

Meanwhile, he looked up at the current state of Iron Buddha Mountain; this famous mountain near Seeking Immortal County was thoroughly ravaged, full of ruins, pits, and scattered limbs and chunks of flesh and blood everywhere.

And in the sky above, including the "Naked Saintess," several Great Demons were still being suppressed in battle by four Daoists.

"It seems the demons and Taoists are about to lose."

"Has Master Xiao's second campaign actually won?"

No sooner had this thought arisen in Tao Qian's heart than his face suddenly stiffened.

An "alarm" expression, which he had never experienced since coming to Iron Buddha Mountain, took over his entire face.

Even the original body of Tao Qian, far away in Seeking Immortal County,

at the same moment, wore the same expression.

He sensed an intensity like never before, as if someone was directly hammering his brain and heart—that kind of palpitation.

Whether the original body or the puppet body,

both stood rigidly, looking towards the direction a distance away from Iron Buddha Mountain and Seeking Immortal County.

There, a massive sword energy surged towards the sky.

And at that moment, within that formation,

an unimaginable figure, like a gigantic creature of heaven and earth, was becoming real from the void, where ten thousand feet of Buddha Light and tremendous demon qi were blending perfectly; a duet born in an instant amidst the Buddha chants and the soul-crushing demonic roars.

Whether it was the Loose Cultivator disciples startled within Seeking Immortal County or the demons on Iron Buddha Mountain who survived,

they all witnessed the monumental Lingxiao Demon-suppressing Sword Array, capable of trapping and killing Great Demons, being burst apart while the enraged screams of the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva echoed through the land.

Right at the moment the Demon Suppression Sword Array shattered, everyone saw.

Among the dark mountains, a giant Dharma Image suddenly appeared.

At the base of that Dharma Image was unexpectedly a massive golden peacock, with countless plume feathers with eyes rising and then spreading out; and amidst the ten thousand feet of Buddha Light, seated on the lotus throne was not the Buddha Mother Ming King of the legends, but an extremely twisted, bizarre figure.

Despite still wearing the Treasure Crown, having hair up in a high bun, draped in a large cloak, donning a long skirt, and adorned with earrings, arm bracelets, and bracelets, the horrible flesh that swelled and surged forth, the countless white skulls wailing within it, those fresh red eyeballs... all these things had nothing to do with the compassionate Buddha Mother.

Seated on that lotus throne was not a Buddha, not a human, but an extremely grotesque, devouring devil body.

No matter who it was, no matter their level of cultivation or mental state,

at this moment, upon seeing this "Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Dharma Form," everyone fell into a state of terrified silence.

Some of the weak-willed cultivators or demons,

in that instant, went mad.

Chapter 84: In those days, Bai Qin wanted to enter the Bodhisattva's belly.

Deep, dark night amid the mountains.

Ten thousand feet of Buddha light illuminated the area as if it were an Earthly Buddha Country, the towering, sun-blocking Golden Big Peacock, and atop the lotus seat, the twisting, swelling, and howling devil body, all held one's gaze captive.

Because of this, the number of Cultivators and Demons within the Iron Buddha Temple who were going insane increased.

Tao Qian had also been staring intently when suddenly a pair of gentle hands covered his eyes, and a voice filled with worry and a hint of tense fear rang by his ears,

"Fei'er, don't look. That's the 'Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Ming King Dharma Form.' She forced the cultivation of Cavernous Mystery to refine the Peacock Ming King Dharma Image, which originally was bound to fail."

"I don't know where she found the Heavenly Demon Secret Technique to forcibly transform into the Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother, whose power is even more fierce than the original Peacock Ming King."

"But this combination of Demon, Buddha, and Devil into one method is unprecedented."

"The Bodhisattva herself probably can't control it, although she marches forward undeterred; should anyone obstruct her, they are likely to become a corpse beneath her devil body before the Bodhisattva herself perishes."

"Lady Meii is also very capable, if it weren't for the life-and-death moment, the Bodhisattva wouldn't have shown this incomplete Dharma Image."

"However, this time, Lady Meii and those Righteous experts accompanying her are probably going to lose their lives."

As if to confirm Pan Hongniang's words, the vast Sword Array in the mountains collapsed, and a total of nine figures along with countless fragmented sword lights were sent flying.

One of them, while in mid-air, forcefully swallowed the backlash force, and the graceful figure with a warm chest spit out a large mouthful of Essence Blood and stopped.

Still holding the "Ten Thousand Infant Life Extending Scissors," her treasures that originally hovered around her were shattered or dimmed, and her beautiful dress was tattered.

She forcibly endured the pain caused by directly looking at the "Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Ming King Dharma Form." Blood streamed from her eyes, dyeing her coquettish and maternally radiant face red.

Her eyes, still leaking blood beads, constantly swept over the Devil Body twisting on the lotus seat, frantically expanding outward.

Wrapped in a fresh red, skinless sac, the continuously expanding chunks of flesh, the bottom-most layer of endless skulls, the eyeballs gleaming with evil light, and the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva's frantic howls, all inflicted severe damage on the body and Divine Soul of Lady Meii, who was too close.

Yet even so, she covered her head, enduring the pain.

Finally, her eyes, almost overwhelmed with blood, probably going blind, suddenly locked onto the lower part of the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva.

Among the piled-up chunks of flesh, there were several 'Meat Ambers.'

Inside one of them was Immortal Infant Du Du.

"Du Du!"

Lady Meii exclaimed and was about to cast an Escape Skill to go and rescue him.

Just then, the other eight Daoists shot over, each blocking the surging Evil Light as well as the dozen or so pure flesh arms that the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva suddenly grew. These arms, covered with evil eyes and wriggling vividly, were wielding Vajra Pestles, Magic Bells, Magic Conchs, Human Skin Drums, and other Magic Artifacts, smashing wildly around.

The eight Daoists, already suffering from the backlash of the bursting Sword Array, now came to rescue Lady Meii but struggled to cope.

They had no choice but to drag Lady Meii away while urging,

"Master Xiao, first be calm, do not fight this Demon head-on at this moment."

"The Beautiful Corpse is brazenly fusing Demon, Buddha, and Devil secret techniques, having embarked on a path to death."

"That's right, Master Xiao, let's retreat first. When the wild aura of the Beautiful Corpse recedes, she will have to pay an unimaginable price. Mutated explosion and death aren't out of the question."

"When that happens, we can use a spell to rescue Du Du from that Physical Body Prison. With your Nascent Soul Escaping Skill, this shouldn't be difficult."

The collective persuasion of the Daoists finally calmed Lady Meii down.

She wiped the blood beads from her eyes and was about to flee with the eight Daoists.

Unfortunately, it was precisely at that moment.

The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva regained a trace of Mind. Her Devil Body abruptly settled, seated atop the Golden Big Peacock, and the giant, fresh-red, eerily demonic eye on her forehead suddenly opened, directly locking onto the nine about to flee.

Then, the peacock feathers on her Dharma Image's back transformed into countless streams of bizarre Demon Light, sweeping down.

Although Lady Meii and her companions were Righteous experts,

at that moment, all were frozen in place by this "Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Demon Light."

Their bodies and Divine Souls were both immobilized.

"Lady Xiao, and all the Daoist friends, you've worked hard to use the Lingxiao Demon-suppressing Sword Array to subdue me, how can you think of fleeing now?"

"Just now wasn't enough closeness, how about entering my Physical Body Prison, merging with me as the Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother, wouldn't that be delightful?"

"Wow!"

After the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva uttered this soul-exploding statement, her mouth suddenly began to tear open, then she violently vomited towards the nine.

Accompanied by a thunderous sound, a torrent of "Meat Ambers" surged forth.

This scene unfolded, driving many Cultivators and Demons outright insane.

This moment seemed to symbolize the outcome of "Lady Meii's Second Attack on Iron Buddha Temple."

Righteousness fell, and fell utterly.

But for those in the Iron Buddha Temple, the still-living Demons and Evil Cultivators weren't particularly pleased.

Many cowards had already started planning their escape.

Why?

No one dared to be sure about the mental state of the "Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva" at the time; if she completely lost her mind, wouldn't staying here mean getting swallowed by her as well?

This atmosphere could be described as both Righteous and Evil being mute, all subdued under the terrifying, indescribable Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Ming King Dharma Form.

Chapter 85: That year, Bai Qin wished to enter the belly of Bodhisattva_2

Until the next moment, Tao Qian, still blinded, suddenly felt a trembling sensation in his mind, emerging without warning, similar to the one before.

In Seeking Immortal County, Tao Qian's astonished gaze was met with a majestic and compassionate voice that suddenly transmitted from thousands of miles away.

"Amitabha Buddha!"

"Boom"

There was no chanting of scriptures, no sound of Buddhist music.

Just one Buddhist chant echoed through the area.

In an instant, the tide of Meat Amber that was about to engulf Xiao Meiniang and the others suddenly began to dissolve.

They were halted, dissolved by a figure wrapped in a faint golden Buddha Light.

This ethereal figure, unbeknownst to when, now stood in front of Xiao Meiniang.

He was an old monk!

An old monk cloaked in a patchwork robe, hunched and so aged he seemed on the verge of passing away any moment.

He stood there, his presence initially as ephemeral as a ghost, his voice coming from a thousand miles away.

But as the "Buddha" word was uttered, the monk's figure turned from illusion to reality, as if he had been standing there from the start.

Such a sight stunned countless onlookers.

What terrified the Demons and Evil Cultivators even more was the disappearance of the ominous contamination that radiated from the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, which, just like the Meat Amber, was cleansed away bit by bit because of the old monk's arrival.

Though the Buddha Light emanating from the old monk could only illuminate three feet around him, fully incapable of comparing to the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva's ten thousand feet of Buddha Light,

Strangely, everyone's gaze was involuntarily drawn towards the old monk.

Beside Tao Qian, Shan Jiu, who had been pretending to cover his eyes, sighed in amazement after seeing the old monk, "This old master is so powerful, and so fast."

After he spoke, the fearful voice of Pan Hongniang also rose, "The Great Freedom Heart Light Escape Technique? Oh no, it's a monk from Great Freedom Temple."

Inside Iron Buddha Temple, Tao Qian could clearly sense the fear emanating from the depths of the hearts of the Demons and Evil Cultivators, a fear even denser than when facing the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva.

It reminded Tao Qian of the words an old man from the books had once said about that temple: "Of the three thousand eight hundred temples of the Buddhist Sect, only the Great Freedom Temple is the most terrifying."

Seeing the reactions of these demons now, it seemed there was truth to those words.

However, not all demons feared the old monk; the giant Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva was unafraid.

Her peculiar Demon Eye shifted its focus away from Xiao Meiniang and the others, instead locking onto the old monk.

The Charm of the Bodhisattva echoed through the mountains.

"Heart Light Escape, Great Freedom Protective Buddha Light... old monk, it seems you hold a high rank in the Great Freedom Temple. Have you come to hinder my enlightenment?"

Upon hearing this, the old monk's face, full of wrinkles, showed a smile, and his clear eyes displayed not a hint of disdain towards the current form of the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva.

As if such an appearance bore no repulsiveness to him.

Even though in terms of her dharma name, Divine Skills, and Basic Method, the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva was defiling the Buddhist Law.

The old monk once again uttered a Buddhist chant and performed a Buddhist salute, addressing both the Beautiful Corpse and everyone present, revealing a title that caused Tao Qian and many others in the vicinity to feel a jolt in their hearts.

"I am Bai Qin, and I have come here guided by Buddha's Finger."

"There are two tasks that need to be done."

"First, 'Hui Xin', Buddha's son of our temple, has fallen into the hands of Mr. Yang. I kindly ask that he be handed over to me. Hui Xin is the future disciple of my elder monk brother and the future Hui Xin Bodhisattva of our temple, an important responsibility not to be taken lightly."

"Second, I have committed grave sins in my early years. Although my elder brother has enlightened me and I have practiced the Great Freedom Dharma, I still need to atone for those sins. As for how to atone, I need the help of Mr. Yang."

"Boom"

As the old monk spoke these words in a gentle tone, one by one,

Anyone who was aware of the "Bai Qin Play" incident of Tuo County was thrown into shock.

They realized: A huge secret was suddenly being unveiled.

And it was none other than the instigator himself revealing it.

The Bai Qin Elder, who had created the Bai Qin Play that led to the desolation of Tuo County, had actually joined the Great Freedom Temple as a high-ranking monk?

This secret was immensely shocking.

So much so that most people subconsciously ignored the little monk called Hui Xin, who might one day attain the Bodhisattva Status.

Also overlooked was the surname of the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva revealed by the old monk.

The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva herself showed surprise at the monk's identity and his revelation of the secret.

Her lower devil body squirmed even more violently, becoming a living flesh hell, while her upper half remained the beautiful Bodhisattva body, giving a charming smile. The brilliant Buddha Light from the

thousands of Buddha Mother Peacock Feathers intensified, and her attention seemed fully fixated on Bai Qin Old Monk.

As if to tease or challenge, she said, "So it's Bai Qin from that time. You know my name, and I know some of your roots. My esteemed master from Demon Buddha Temple has spoken about you, praising you as an unparalleled genius of the Demon Path. Sadly, you strayed and ended up in that Great Freedom Temple playing the fool."

"You wish to save someone and also want me to help you atone."

"In that case, I have the perfect solution here."

"Why not do this: First, relinquish your cultivation and remove that Buddha Light protecting you, and step into this Physical Body Prison."

"Once I devour you, I can show compassion and release all the prisoners confined herein, allowing the little monk Hui Xin to live, and also allowing Miss Xiao's Immortal Infant to live."

"What say you?"

The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva spoke while slowly extending her long, fleshy arm.

Gradually, she peeled back the terrifying layers of flesh from her lower half, exposing a dark, yawning orifice.

Within, lay dozens of Meat Amber.

Chapter 86: That year, Bai Qin wished to enter the belly of Bodhisattva_3

Aside from Hui Xin, the little monk, and Immortal Infant Tong Dudu, several other handsome young men were imprisoned.

As she spoke to the end, that fleshy arm also assumed a welcoming gesture, beckoning towards the gash.

The implication was: the old monk invites you in.

Bizarre, terrifying, and it left one feeling endlessly nauseated.

Any listener would interpret Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva's suggestion as an deliberate provocation towards Bai Qin, the Old Monk.

Yet who would have thought that from the beginning, Bai Qin seemed to have been waiting to hear these words.

Almost immediately after Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva finished speaking, the old monk nodded his head with great pleasure.

"Good!"

"What?"

Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva's Demon Eye widened in disbelief.

Then, Bai Qin, the Old Monk, showed a gentle smile and continued nodding:

"What Mr. Yang has said is very much to my liking."

"So be it, let it be settled this way."

This reply plunged Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva into a state of shock and rage.

Ten Thousand Feet of Buddha Light burst forth once more, the devilish flesh began to wriggle again, and billions of peacock feathers transformed into "Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Demon Light," slashing down at the old monk.

At the same time, there were continuous howls.

"Bai Qin, you dare to toy with this Bodhisattva?"

"When you had not yet entered the Great Freedom Temple, you were a sly Demon. Have you, now as a monk, still not changed your old ways?"

Seeing this, the old monk was not at all surprised, merely shaking his head with a smile:

"Mr. Yang is inherently suspicious, and you have misunderstood this poor monk, but never mind. As that arrangement came from the mouth of a Bodhisattva, it is naturally settled that way and is not open to change."

"Although Mr. Yang is a heaven-sent genius who uses the Demon Buddha's Root Method to refine the Buddha Mother Ming King Dharma Form, and to offset the backlash of the cost, you also cultivate the Heavenly Demon Secret Technique, and you have indeed refined this [Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Ming King Dharma Form], which is much more impressive than the methods this poor monk used back in the day."

"It's just a pity that even with you embracing three methods, there are still some costs that you cannot pay, and there is still a long way to go before this Dharma Form is truly refined."

"This old skeleton of mine can still handle it."

Having said that, the old monk seemed not to care about the Demon Light that was about to bring down the mountains, he turned to Xiao Meiniang and the other eight and made a Buddha greeting, saying: "Fellow Daoists, please leave this dangerous place first, the matter of saving others will fall upon this poor monk, and it shall be settled soon."

After speaking, he did not wait for a response from the nine people and directly waved his hand to send them out of the area.

As for himself, he showed a look of remorse on his extremely wrinkled face.

The next moment, a scene that shocked everyone emerged:

The Great Freedom Protective Buddha Light on Bai Qin, the Old Monk's body, indeed slowly faded away, and in its place rose Demonic Qi.

With a "rumble," it became clear that the monk's robe, embroidered with "beasts," was releasing boundless Demonic Qi from within the old monk's body. A cursory count of the beasts told you that it numbered exactly one hundred.

It was this very robe that released the immense Demonic Qi within the old monk in an instant.

And amidst the soaring Demonic Qi, there were one after another, incredibly terrifying Bird Demons.

Boom, boom, boom!

The mountains began to shake wildly, the Ape Demon hammered, the Elephant Demon stomped, the Pig Demon charged, the Snake Demon coiled... When the hundred demons converged, Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva's already incomplete "Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Ming King Dharma Form" was immediately in trouble, being forcefully overturned under the watchful eyes of all the Evil Cultivators.

Then everyone saw Bai Qin, the Old Monk, suddenly merge into an Ape Demon, reaching out with a large hand to violently extract dozens of Meat Ambers from within Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva's belly and tossed them towards Seeking Immortal County.

Having done all this, the now utterly mad Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva began to resist furiously.

The terrifying flesh hell surged upwards, attempting to devour the hundreds of Bird Demons completely.

In the face of this attack, Bai Qin, the Old Monk, gave up all resistance.

"Amithaba!"

"All phenomena are illusory."

As the chant was spoken, the horde of Bird Demons scattered like bubbles.

And the "Bai Qin" Old Monk, under the gaze of all, sat down in meditation then and there and passed away.

His life force extinguished in an instant, and that already ancient body was suddenly consumed by a mysterious "Buddha Fire" that appeared out of nowhere.

Only a mottled Shariputra fell into the belly of Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, deep within the layers of the Physical Body Prison.

Chapter 87: Beautiful Corpse Opens Meridians, Thunder Evil Crystal Pill

"All appearances are but illusions."

This Buddhist verse seemed to carry supreme mana.

It not only extinguished the hundreds of Bird Demons that trampled over the mountains, but also, as the patchy Shariputra descended into the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva's Physical Body prison, gradually dissolved the millions of Peacock Demon Feathers and likewise the Ten Thousand Feet of Buddha Light.

The crowd only saw the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, who had returned to her original form, collapsing back onto the lotus throne.

Her peerless beautiful face was filled with resentment and hatred.

With both hands clutching her abdomen, her chilling howls echoed, "Bai Qin, Great Freedom Temple, if this vengeance is not avenged, I, the Beautiful Corpse, will never enter the realm of the Demon Buddha."

As this vow was made, the lotus throne was already shooting towards Iron Buddha Mountain.

As the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva's thoughts moved through the air, and with the mountain covered with dead demon bodies and suffused with blood energy, the "Hundred Demon Embryo Blood Refining Array" that Xiao Meiniang had disrupted once again rose up.

Many Evil Cultivators hesitated at this moment, with quite a few considering this an opportunity to flee.

To follow the "Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva," get a free ride, and perhaps even establish an Earthly Demon Buddha Kingdom to wantonly consume Blood Food was naturally a good prospect.

But now it seemed that this Great Demon of a notorious reputation could not always blaze with demon flames.

Just when they had finally turned the tables and were about to suppress the Righteous led by Xiao Meiniang, out of nowhere Bai Qin appeared. Although he came and went quickly, their confrontation undoubtedly had Bai Qin gaining the upper hand, severely cutting down the Beautiful Corpse's reputation.

If the ones above could not maintain control, it was perfectly normal for the underlings to think of escaping.

As for the fierce Daoists from Fire God Temple, Wind Thunder Cliff, Taisu Sword Sect, and Tianhe Sect, they had already fled when the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva manifested the "Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Ming King Dharma Form."

Tao Qian had no time to react. Pan Hongniang, who had been closely holding on to him, suddenly leaned over and whispered, "Do not act rashly; this is not the right moment."

After all, being an Evil Cultivator who had cultivated for over a hundred years, this Nongyu Immortal also had exceptional insight.

Some Evil Cultivators taking advantage of the reactivation of the array barely escaped from the dilapidated Iron Buddha Mountain, and just as their faces showed relief from their narrow escape, their bodies burst one by one, their flesh and life essence directly refined by the Array.

The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, seated on the lotus throne, did not even glance at it and went straight into the main hall.

The Naked Saintess, the giant troll baby demon, the Wolf Demon, the Python Demon, and the Yin Yang Elder, among a group of Great Demons, all followed closely behind.

A moment later, a new edict from the Bodhisattva echoed,

"Reconstruct Iron Buddha Mountain, and issue a new Demon Summoning order!"

"All demons from within and outside of Southern Yue are welcome to come."

"In half a month, this Bodhisattva desires to establish the Earthly Demon Buddha Kingdom and open the lineage of the Beautiful Corpse."

"At the time of establishing the lineage, you will all have the opportunity to become my disciples and practice the Sublime Dharma of the Beautiful Corpse, where the Great Dao can be expected."

"Boom!"

As expected, as soon as the edict was announced, the previously tense atmosphere on Iron Buddha Mountain instantly erupted into cheers.

Most of the surviving demons and Evil Cultivators on the mountain were core forces of the Qi Refinement and Foundation Establishment Realms.

They had some strength but no backing, and their futures were bleak.

This new edict from the Bodhisattva, however, gave them hope—just as those Righteous Loose Cultivators all wished to join the Twelve Major Daoist Sects and the great temples of the Buddhist Sect.

Evil Cultivator Magicians also thirsted to join in the terrifying Demon Buddhist Temples and the Evil Sect.

But in the past, they had no way in.

Now, with the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva possibly introducing them, who could resist?

Though the Beautiful Corpse had just lost face to Bai Qin, it also indirectly proved that the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva had been recognized by the venerable monks of the Great Freedom Temple, as a Great Demon who had mastered the secret techniques of demons, Buddhas, and devils combined.

Tao Qian even saw that Pan Hongniang, who had initially thought of secretly fleeing with his Puppet Body, now also showed hesitation and temptation in her eyes.

She glanced at the half-ruined Five Lustful Peach Blossoms Banner and finally sighed with resignation,

"Fei'er, let us, master and disciple, stay for now. If the Buddha Master really opens the lineage of the Beautiful Corpse, we will also have a chance to switch to cultivating those Supreme Methods from the Guanyin Temple and the Demon Buddha Temple, which would indeed be an excellent path."

"Although the Dao Path of Hongniang has little hope, I cannot hold you back. The Five Luster Enchanting Immortal Scripture may also be a splendid method, but even if you successfully cultivate it, not to mention encountering a Bodhisattva like that, even those four Daoists, that Xiao Meiniang, could easily kill you with a hand wave."

Listening to this heartfelt confession, Tao Qian found himself speechless for a moment, simply returning his body to his original self, allowing it to act as it wished.

...

As the commotion ended, Xiao Meiniang, leading the experts from the Great Sects within Southern Yue, announced the results of their second expedition against the Iron Buddha Temple.

Although Master Xiao and the others, except for the fierce four Daoists, had been injured by the counterattack of the Beautiful Corpse, they had rescued people and slaughtered their way through Iron Buddha Mountain, which could be considered a great victory.

The process had been full of twists and turns. Although Tao Qian was in Seeking Immortal County,

His sense of involvement was in no way lessened.

After all, he had provided the key information that had allowed Master Xiao to break the Blood Refining Array at the start.

Taking advantage of his "Puppet Body," Tao Qian had also fully participated in the subsequent battles.

At this moment, Tao Qian was meditating in a quiet room within the Star-picking Pavilion.

He sat cross-legged, his eyes slightly closed, his mind examining the details of the two treasures he had gained tonight.

The Puppet Body was far too feeble to have obtained them through battle.

The two items that surprised Tao Qian had both come from the Wild Leek Demon—

One a red crystal coal ball and the other a twilight light bubble.

Of course, both had proper names, and their origins were not ordinary.

"The black lump is called a 'Thunder Evil Crystal Pill,' born from the feces of an Exotic Beast in Wild Man Mountain. That beast often ventures to a malevolent place beyond the realm to consume the thunder evil qi. If it overeats one day, it will expel the indigestible, most ferocious thunder evil qi, occasionally forming stable crystal pills containing the rampant essence of thunder evil. Triggered by Source Qi, they possess terrifying destructive power."

"The egg sac is known as 'Evil Star Essence,' also a unique product of Wild Man Mountain. Within it, countless glimmers can cause essentially all living beings, including the Human Clan, to actively mutate

and fall into degeneracy. If a creature is already undergoing mutation, this item can greatly speed up the process. Once the egg membrane is torn, it will contaminate all living beings nearby, even inanimate objects."

"Both items seem to be those kinds that harm both others and oneself."

"However, in Tao Qian's eyes, if used correctly, these two items could bring about great effects."

"They are treasures indeed; I must find an opportunity to retrieve the two from the Puppet Body."

Tao Qian mumbled to himself in his heart.

"If it were any other time, Tao Qian would have been even more delighted, for acquiring these two items had been effortless, as if they had simply been there for the taking in a corner."

"But now, Tao Qian was not in the mood for it."

After quickly scanning through this information, Tao Qian suddenly started to formally review everything he had witnessed tonight:

"Let's not mention anything else; just the techniques of Master Xiao alone were enough to terrify."

"His strange method for breaking formations, the terrifying power of the 'Ten Thousand Infant Life Extending Scissors,' his furious battle with the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, as well as the makeshift demon extermination plan that wasn't particularly refined but hastily put together, and those Killing Life Navels that struck down evil children everywhere across the mountains... All of these showed Tao Qian the fierceness of a Great Cultivator."

"In comparison, the infinitely gentle and magnanimous beautiful woman he had encountered several times before... Tao Qian could only sigh at the deadly contrast."

"Then there was the formation set by the nine experts encircling the Beautiful Corpse, the four brutal Daoists, and lastly the seemingly ordinary, yet utterly shocking entrance of the Bai Qin Old Monk."

"The Divine Skill known as the 'Great Freedom Heart Light Escape Technique,' which Tao Qian could tell the Old Monk used to assist Master Xiao from a thousand miles away in defending against the Meat Amber deluge and the Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Demon Light."

"By all accounts, at such a distance,"

"Even the fastest Subterranean Evasion Speed should not have been fast enough to take action."

"But the Old Monk managed it, his escape technique was so fast it was akin to 'thought becomes action.' It was truly the epitome of speed."

"Then came his reveal of a shocking identity, and the fight with the Beautiful Corpse that started quickly and ended just as swiftly."

"These scenes echoed in Tao Qian's mind."

"Judging from what the Bai Qin Old Monk said about himself, he was indeed the mastermind behind the disaster in Tuo County years ago."

"Deliberately spreading the 'Bai Qin Play' and secretly providing the Bai Qin Spirit Blood, creating many Bird Demons artificially. He was likely refining for tonight's show of that terrifying Divine Skill that overturned the Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Ming King Dharma Form."

"But afterward, he was converted and taken in by the monks of the Great Freedom Temple, entering the Buddhist Sect."

"The old man in the book, wrapped in a tattered kasaya and holding a broken Iron Bowl, must have been the senior brother mentioned by Bai Qin."

"I just don't understand what brought him here today?"

"Saving Hui Xin was one thing, but could the second be to imitate the story of Buddha and the Peacock Ming King, to burst open his belly and become a Buddha on the spot?"

"But that's wrong. The Buddha of yore did not enter the Peacock's belly as a Shariputra. The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva who betrayed Guanyin Temple would surely know of this tale, so how could she allow Bai Qin Old Monk to use herself as Cultivation Resources?"

"Under the scrutiny of all, Bai Qin most certainly reached nirvana on the spot..."

As Tao Qian's thoughts flashed to this point, he shook his head and stopped.

"Although I have been 'schooled' by Lin Xiaohua and my cultivation knowledge has greatly improved,"

"Such profound secrets are naturally beyond my capacity to conjecture, and Lin Xiaohua too would be incapable."

Here Tao Qian was replaying everything, in fact, still shocked by the scenes he had witnessed tonight.

"He had seen battles of magic and fighting before, but such a level, appearing almost mythological, still made Tao Qian yearn."

"With such remarkable power, indeed, Immortals are worth cultivating toward."

"I seek longevity, as well as mighty power."

"After fixing this Daoist will and intent, Tao Qian silently made up his mind: Tomorrow, he would see Lin Xiaohua again for the last lesson."

"Then, borrowing the 'Infant Mother Origin Pearl,' he would find a secluded place to go into retreat, to see if he could step into the Qi Refining Realm in one fell swoop, get the roadmap to the Mountain Gate, and take Master Xiao's recommendation letter."

"If he could then enter the Spirit Treasure Sect, would the Great Dao not also be within reach?"

"..."

While Tao Qian was indulging in his daydreams, back at the Medicine King Temple,

Bang!

"The leader of the Changchun Society was once again stepped on by a pair of black-faced boots."

"This time, not only did his eyes lack any trace of resentment, but they were also filled with extreme fear, as if his whole body began to tremble."

"You fool, damned fool."

With that insult, another fierce stomp sent him flying.

"Yet bizarrely, after spewing a mouthful of blood, he bore the pain and ran back."

He fell to his knees, crawled to where Hong Youhu was standing in his Daoist robe, looking unusually demonic, and with his tongue licked frantically at Hong Youhu's somewhat dirty boots.

"Before he could clean them, another kick came, and with a 'snap,' his shoulder was shattered, sending him flying like a rag doll."

"While still in mid-air, they heard Hong Youhu's exceedingly dangerous voice:"

"I ordered you to monitor any movements of Xiao Meiniang and to immediately relay any changes, to maintain the balance of power between the two sides."

"But you, you fool, had no idea that Xiao Meiniang was planning to attack the Iron Buddha Temple tonight again, nor did you know that the crazy woman had secretly called on the 'Lingxiao Demon-suppressing Sword Array' from the Wudang Sect, forcing the Beautiful Corpse to reveal her Heavenly Demon Dharma Body. You're even dumber than a pig."

"Tell me, what use do I have for you?"

"Ah, you tell me."

Chapter 88: Saint Heir Plan, Bestowing Fortunes

If you only looked at the outward appearance and demeanor, the sinister and ruthless leader of the Changchun Society seemed obviously far more dangerous than Hong Youhu, who resembled a young Daoist.

Yet at this moment, facing the furious Hong Youhu, the former didn't dare utter a single word in defense.

Falling to the ground, spitting blood, the face pale as he crawled back like a dog, still going to lick Hong Youhu's boots.

While licking, he kept banging his head with a "bang, bang, bang," until his forehead was bloody and mangled, and his whole face was becoming unrecognizable.

This scenario, if seen by someone unaware, would likely elicit sympathy for the leader's plight.

"Bang"

This time, he couldn't lick. Instead, his head was again stepped on by Hong Youhu's boot.

This unkempt, half-crazy young Daoist now looked at the Changchun Society leader beneath his foot with a reminiscent gaze and commented:

"Humiliation, abandoning dignity, such a familiar scene."

"Back then, in fear I fled from my foolish father, wandering through hardships, although I had the protection of my mother's resentful soul-turned-abnormality, which kept me from losing my life, I still had to rely on myself to make a name, and did as you did, serving as a dog for others, as a slave for those vile people, trading my body and even my soul, to reach where I am today."

"You fool, it seems you're not without redeeming qualities."

"Too bad, it's still not a reason for your survival."

Hearing a slight thaw in Hong Youhu's tone, the Changchun Society leader seemed to sense an opportunity and quickly began to explain himself.

"Your Honor, please understand, Xiao Meiniang's expedition against the Iron Buddha Temple did not utilize the Demon Suppression Army, nor even the scattered cultivators she recruited, not even the young disciples, which is why I was unable to receive any news."

"Judging from the many happenings on the mountain tonight, Xiao Meiniang must have had her own secret information channels, perhaps planting spies in the Iron Buddha Temple, or employing an expert skilled in 'Divination Techniques,' allowing her to completely target the Iron Buddha Temple, trapping the Beautiful Corpse and slaughtering the demons."

"If my guess isn't wrong, it's very likely those two strange cultivators that day, especially the loose cultivator who posted the notice to attract Xiao Meiniang, if he wasn't confident about uncovering the secrets within the Iron Buddha Temple, where would he get the courage to deceive Xiao Meiniang...?"

The leader's utterances, one after another, were entirely correct guesses.

From this, it's clear he indeed wasn't at fault.

Unfortunately, when he finished his defense and looked at Hong Youhu's face with difficulty through the corner of his eye.

What he saw was a face increasingly filled with disappointment, and eyes flashing with fierce killing intent.

Hong Youhu's fingertips moved slightly, the soul rope pulled, and a huge shadow emerged in the darkness, a mix of intense blood energy and stench emanating.

The leader felt the two arms he had just repaired beginning to ache again.

Just when he thought he had no chance of survival and was ready to fight desperately.

Suddenly, Hong Youhu's earlier words flashed in his mind, a bitter inspiration emerged with it.

Fortunately, he was also ruthless, realizing this might be the only way to live.

With a gritty resolve, he made his move.

"Ah"

No one knew what the leader did, but he suddenly let out a shrill scream.

Immediately, accompanied by strange sounds, his scalp split open, and amid the glow of blood, a wisp of grayish breath leaped out, floating straight into Hong Youhu's hand.

The weak voice of the Changchun Society leader came at this moment: "Subordinate admires Your Honor's authority, please accept this thread of my true heart and soul, to serve as slave and servant in the future, obedient to Your Honor's orders."

At this scene, the always cold-faced Hong Youhu suddenly burst into neurotic laughter, first releasing the leader, then casually taking the wisp of soul energy to play around his fingers.

At the same time, he patted the leader's bloody head and, for the first time, spoke praise: "Good, good, you useless fool might not be competent, but at least you have some insight."

The leader heard this, realizing his life was finally spared.

Quickly bowing in joy, eager to demonstrate his value, he hurriedly said: "Your Honor, that Beautiful Corpse being forced by Xiao Meiniang to reveal her devil body might alert the Ten Thousand Infant Sect behind her; this could hinder our plans. Should we report to the Saint Heir and start sooner..."

He was immediately interrupted.

Hong Youhu, using that thread of soul energy, teased the Blood Beast squatting at his feet, speaking indifferently:

"The Ten Thousand Infant Sect is the most powerful sect within Southern Yue, that's true, but unfortunately their vision is short-sighted, thinking that accepting the Third Prince would make Southern Yue belong to them."

"Yet they overlook Ji Xianxian, the governor, a mortal world's sealed territory official, who, having tasted secular power and desires, cannot resist the temptation of longevity and domination!"

"The Saint Heir chose this man, confident that he has the chance to rise in this chaotic world and ascend to that throne, and thus became his strategist, offering the Great Lifebook Scripture, fully controlling him. If ordered west, he won't go east."

"Even if Xiao Meiniang really grew vigilant, wanting the Ten Thousand Infant Sect to intervene, she can't bypass Ji Xianxian and the Third Prince, she just offended the Third Prince, it can't be done."

At this point, Hong Youhu seemed to remember something, frowning slightly.

He retracted the soul energy and, with some seriousness, said:

"However, the appearance of Bai Qin Old Monk from Great Freedom Temple tonight was peculiar."

"If the terrifying monks of Great Freedom Temple have plans, the Saint Heir's and Tang Xianzong's plans might indeed fail."

"Anyway, since the arrow is already on the string, all our arrangements are nearly in place, just waiting for the plan to commence. Once Southern Yue plunges into chaos, Seeking Immortal County and the provincial city will be the best stages, convenient for Mr. Ji to establish merit and ascend according to the Saint Heir's arrangement."

"Now that unexpected events have occurred, I will hurry to the provincial city and inform the Saint Heir of all the details from tonight, to let the Saint Heir decide."

"As for that Taisui Baby, don't move recklessly; tomorrow night I'll personally take action to seize it, using it to exchange with the Saint Heir for all the resources I need to advance to the Transcend Mortality Realm."

Saying this, Hong Youhu picked up the mist rope, ready to leave with the Blood Beast.

Only before leaving, this somewhat manic young Daoist suddenly turned and patted the leader's bloody and mangled face.

Then, grinning, he said:

"The Saint Heir commanded me to lead the Seven Killings Pavilion, yet recently, he began to value the Changchun Society, which has extensive interactions with the secular world. He says this organization is of great use, even planning to sacrifice some interests to exchange for all the regional branches from other 'Saint Heirs.'"

"The Saint Heir once observed your fortune, thought of you as potentially valuable, so you might soon be heavily used, managing a larger Changchun Society for the Saint Heir."

"At that time, the two of us brothers must collaborate sincerely, to help the Saint Heir defeat the other Saint Heirs and seize the top spot."

"The saying goes, 'When one achieves the Dao, even chickens and dogs ascend to heaven.' We might also achieve longevity results."

"Hahaha..."

In the midst of insanity and laughter, Hong Youhu vanished into the darkness.

Only inside the Medicine King Temple, the leader of the Changchun Society, having lost a wisp of his heart and soul, meaning he had given up everything, remained with a sinister expression, bloodlight flashing in his eyes.

...

The next day, Tao Qian had just exited the quiet room when a variety of celebratory noises immediately reached his ears.

Even though it was early morning, many people were already feasting inside the Star-picking Pavilion.

Evidently, both the recruited loose cultivators and the young disciples were aware of Master Xiao's successful campaign against the Iron Buddha Temple last night.

Although they didn't participate, it didn't stop them from celebrating.

Especially with influential figures from the Fire God Temple, Lingxi Temple, Wind Thunder Cliff, Tianhe Sect, and other major sects all appearing at the Star-picking Pavilion.

For cultivators, this was considered a grand meeting.

And the hundred thousand civilians in Seeking Immortal County, who had been living in fear, also received the good news, the oppressive atmosphere vanished, though it was not the season, many people set off fireworks or hung lanterns to celebrate.

In this lively atmosphere, Tao Qian, having participated throughout and experienced it intensely, felt a sense of hidden merit and fame.

He smiled, then headed towards Lin Xiaohua's residence.

In the past, due to Lin Xiaohua's impending death, the atmosphere was always filled with grief.

Until, thanks to Tao Qian's indirect reminder, Lin Xiaohua realized the truth; he would indeed perish once, but he would also usher in his marriage.

Though the guy still reluctantly shouted "Help me up, I don't want to get married" and such, inadvertently, kept talking about "Nian Nu, ah," "Mother-in-law is so scary" and such nonstop.

Even the little ones realized he no longer carried that deep deathly stillness.

Thus, the gloomy atmosphere was long gone.

As soon as Tao Qian stepped in, he heard the old unrefined man boasting about his glorious past to the two cunning alien species.

Even with Tao Qian's arrival, he didn't stop, still propping his mummified-like body, endlessly gloating, his face full of pride.

And the final lesson for today was spent in such an environment.

Lin Xiaohua, after all, was a disciple of the Heavenly Talisman Sect, one of the Twelve Major Daoist Sects, and at the age of thirty-nine, he definitely had rich experience.

The many things he spoke of seemed like boasting, but in fact, they were priceless experiences.

Tao Qian naturally listened intently, knowing that while they didn't touch upon specific cultivation techniques or divine skills.

But for a loose cultivator like him who had just entered the cultivation world, it was invaluable.

Until dusk, when a very weak voice suddenly sounded in Tao Qian's ear as he listened intently:

"In these three days, though you didn't travel outside, you've gained insight far beyond other loose cultivators or new disciples of major sects."

"But the Dao Path is arduous, and this Heavenly Talisman Sect's abandoned disciple, being taken away halfway, can't guide you further."

"Speaking of which, I, Lin Xiaohua, have lived in vain for thirty-nine years, always living reckless according to my temperament, and so did not make one or two friends. Unexpectedly, as this shell is about to perish, I made a new friend in you, Brother Tao."

"After tonight, I will give up the talismanic path and turn to cultivate the Ghost Path. Nian Nu claims I am a genius in the Ghost Path, so I might as well try it."

"The Ghost Path is strange, and all my external possessions will be useless, so I'll leave them all to you."

As he spoke, Tao Qian saw Lin Xiaohua reaching into his bosom with difficulty.

Then, he shakily took out a Primordial Pearl of unknown material, seemingly wrapped in countless talismanic scripts layered together, and handed it directly to Tao Qian.

Lin Xiaohua evidently cleared his Divine Soul's imprint in advance; at the moment it entered Tao Qian's hand.

Tao Qian's eyes suddenly widened with a "boom," revealing a space almost half the size of Shan Jiu's Leek Bag, suddenly appearing in his gaze.

And in this space, a myriad of alien objects, treasures, and books were neatly placed.

Any cultivator upon seeing it would know, this was undoubtedly a storage treasure bag that only a cultivator with significant backing and lineage could possess.

Lin Xiaohua's weak, yet slightly proud and boastful voice, sounded again:

"Brother Tao must be stunned, hahaha, this is the Mustard Seed Talisman Seed. It was a storage treasure bag my master once used, later gifted to me, causing quite a stir of envy among my fellow disciples."

"Once you have refined it, it can be hidden within your body, allowing your Divine Soul to control it, ensuring it won't be taken away."

"Inside are all the accumulations I've gathered throughout my cultivation years. As long as you don't squander, it will suffice you until the Foundation Establishment Realm."

"Plus, there are some secret technique books from the Heavenly Talisman Sect; feel free to read, though refrain from cultivating them. I trust you, just find a chance later to return these things to the Heavenly Talisman Sect for me."

"Oh, and there are some surprises inside, should you encounter a strong enemy, using them might save your life."

Chapter 89: Marrying in Ghost Country, The Secret of Wuxiang

Tao Qian accepted the Mustard Seed Talisman Seed, originally planning to store it and cultivate it later.

But Lin Xiaohua wouldn't have it, declaring that this was a handover, a legacy.

When he had received this talisman seed years ago, he couldn't wait to cultivate it right in front of his master, and now that it had come into Tao Qian's hands, he had to perform it again.

Tao Qian gave him a look, thinking, "You're not trying to take advantage of me, are you? Just three days of lessons, and you want to be my esteemed teacher?"

However, considering that Xiao Hua Daoist truly was his guide, and now that his physical body was about to decay and his soul was to be taken to the "No Food Ghost Country" to marry into, he didn't make a big deal out of it and spent several breaths to successfully cultivate the talisman seed.

Then he saw the talisman seed transform into a speck of light, hopping into Tao Qian's mouth and hiding inside his body.

It truly was controlled by the divine soul, moving as one wishes, extremely convenient.

"Never thought the first real storage magic artifact I'd get would be a gift from someone else, complete with such a great fortune."

Tao Qian lamented inwardly.

Seeing Tao Qian fully cultivate the talisman seed, Lin Xiaohua seemed to have fulfilled a wish, exhaling satisfied.

Then, with difficulty, he turned his head and said to the two little beings beside him:

"Little Age, Lian Jing'er, you both are naturally spiritual; you should both sense that Brother Tao is of exceptional character and nature, not of the common sort. Following him, I won't worry about you getting corrupted or distorted by the increasingly terrifying world."

"Little Age is a treasure all over, and although endowed with rare talents, the path of entering the Dao and cultivation will be tough, finding the Basic Method suited for you will be hard; Lian Jing'er, your origin is mysterious, perhaps related to those ancient ruins, only your soul is flawed, your Dao path is also lost for now."

"These responsibilities should have been mine, Lin Xiaohua, to handle, but now I entrust them all to Brother Tao."

"Paths of humans and ghosts are different, if I truly manage to convert and succeed in the Ghost Path, perhaps one day I can resolve the karma, and we will have a chance to meet again."

The last two lines were said to Tao Qian.

At this moment, his eyes brightened, as if he was in a returning light moment.

Tao Qian understood then that asking him to cultivate the talisman seed and pass on his fortune was indeed Lin Xiaohua's formal act of entrusting his legacy.

After saying all this, his corpse-like body also ran out of the last bit of strength and immediately collapsed.

His already dry eyes gradually dimmed, losing all their light.

Little Age and Lian Jing'er, being alien species, had the keenest senses.

Both sensed in an instant that their long-relied-on human uncle was about to die.

Taisui Baby immediately started crying loudly, and Lian Jing'er, with eyes like rubies, shone brightly again, his voice resuming. Yet, it wasn't announcing a scanning result, but rather solemnly repeating a kind of admonition in a sad tone: "Flesh and bone have weaknesses... Flesh and bone have weaknesses..."

Tao Qian sighed softly, looking outward.

Indeed, it was night now.

Star-picking Pavilion towered into the clouds, starlight scattering into the quiet room through the window.

Amid such a beautiful and peaceful scene, Tao Qian and the two little ones watched as Lin Xiaohua, the Langdang Daoist, gradually lost the last breath of life essence in his horrifying body.

The cries of Little Age and the murmuring of Lian Jing'er were sounds of farewell.

Tao Qian had intended to leave some time for the two little beings to properly send off Xiao Hua Daoist, but recalling Lin Xiaohua's words about possibly causing a big disturbance when he died, he thought it over and decided to stay within the room.

Just then, Tao Qian's ears suddenly filled with strange and ancient sounding chants, as if countless voices of men, women, old, young, and children overlapped, singing a chant neither Tao Qian's past nor present lives had ever heard.

Strange and somber, it suddenly seemed to transport one to a desolate wilderness encircled by thousands of graves under a vast fog, yet half-way through, the chant inexplicably turned jubilant.

Even celebratory.

At that moment, Tao Qian suddenly snapped awake.

At the instant he opened his eyes, everything had changed.

The festive and debating sounds of the loose cultivator disciples outside the room, the celebrations of the hundred thousand people in Seeking Immortal County, all these sounds had vanished without a trace.

Outside the window, what spilled in was no longer starlight or moonlight but a black-red light from a huge black-red moon.

At some point, Seeking Immortal County seemed to have been forcibly dragged into another realm.

When the black-red moon hung high, although the town still had thousands of household lights, whether it was people, wild animals, insects, demons, alien species... all fell silent.

No, more accurately, they were frozen.

The only three exceptions were Tao Qian, Little Age, and Lian Jing'er.

As the bizarre chant continued, the door to the quiet room creaked open, Tao Qian's mind throbbed, and numerous indistinct ghostly figures entered one by one, nodding at the three of them before moving directly to busy themselves around the "Lin Xiaohua's corpse" on the bed.

Washing and cleansing the body, dressing it in wedding clothes, drawing the eyebrows, applying makeup... Time passed without knowing how long, under the stunned gaze of Tao Qian and the two little ones.

Now dressed in bright red wedding robes, Lin Xiaohua reappeared looking handsome and dashing, supported by a group of ghostly figures, walking outward. Whether it was an illusion or not, in that moment, the three even saw Lin Xiaohua turn his head and flash a brilliant smile at them.

It was this smile that changed the scene once again.

This time, the three found themselves atop Star-picking Pavilion, beside an extremely luxurious bridal sedan that in no way was inferior to the black-red moon.

With the night wind fluttering, the small curtains on the sedan lifted occasionally, revealing the dignified figure seated inside.

"Is this a departure for a wedding?"

Tao Qian thought absurdly to himself.

Suddenly, the festive ghost music began to swell insurmountably. Tao Qian glanced up and realized that not only the area of Seeking Immortal County, but even more distant places were also enveloped by that "black and red great moon". In the blink of an eye, he could see another realm overlapping with this one.

That realm belonged to the Ghost Country.

Countless ghost fires could be seen drifting across the fields, and a hundred thousand red umbrellas soared upward. Ghost fire lanterns stood against the sky, illuminating the flowing Huangquan Ghost River below, and the mysterious, unknowable black cities inhabited by endless spirits. At this moment, all were bowing their heads, chanting the celebratory song.

At the peak of the singing and ghost music, a formidable troop surged forth from the depths of the Ghost Country.

All the ghost fires, red umbrellas, and lanterns gathered, all eyes could not help but gaze at those riding the terrifying Strange Beasts, their attention focused solely on the figure at the forefront, mounted on a horse erupting with ghost fire.

When Tao Qian and his two companions saw this, they simultaneously recalled Lin Xiaohua's prior description.

White as snow!

Cold and stunningly beautiful!

Existing uniquely beyond this world!

The gaze of the No Food Country Princess "Pei Niannu" remained fixed on the palanquin until she approached, then she nodded to Tao Qian and his companions.

At that moment, a sharp yet bizarrely joyful voice echoed through this overlapping world:

"The auspicious time has arrived!"

"Prince Consort, take your place!"

"Boom"

Suddenly, everything before their eyes began to fade, as if a mirage was shattering.

When Tao Qian came to again, the three had returned to the room, as if all that had just happened was merely a dream.

However, Tao Qian knew it was not a dream but a real and transpired event.

"Xiao Hua Daoist was right; it indeed was a big commotion."

"Can No Food Ghost Country actually move across the land, overlap with the real territory, and freeze the life in this place? Such domineering power, can it be that the Seeking Immortal County and Iron Buddha Mountain, including that Beautiful Corpse, have no opinion, letting the No Food Ghost Country Princess marry using this land?"

"How fierce must the master of No Food Country be, an Ultimate Happiness Realm, or Daoist Transformation Realm?"

These thoughts flashed by, and fascination filled Tao Qian's eyes.

Others might be unsettled by such a sight, but not Tao Qian. He was eager to witness many such phenomena in the Cultivation World.

After seeing this, his desire for seeking immortality and longing for longevity solidified even more.

"Hmm?"

Just as Tao Qian was processing this information, he suddenly sensed something.

As he looked up, a stiff body fell from nowhere, accompanied by a chilling voice penetrating his ears.

"The Princess has commanded; when the Prince Consort meets his demise, you three are to take care of him. This man harbors malicious intentions towards you; it's good to capture him and return the karma."

The ghastly voice gradually deepened until it disappeared.

Tao Qian could only gauge a rough direction based on the throbbing sensation, then turned around in astonishment to see a figure clearly still alive but crippled of any cultivation, now a mere invalid.

It was a young Daoist, disheveled and immersed in evil qi.

At first, Tao Qian found him somewhat familiar, but suddenly, a name he had heard in passing flashed through his mind.

"Hong Youhu!"

Tao Qian's brows knitted instantly. Back at Seeking Immortal Pier, the scenes orchestrated by this frenzied Daoist, including spouses consuming each other, children offered as meat, and fathers and sons killing each other, were horrifying.

But what did this man have to do with him, Sui, and Lian Jing'er?

As the question arose, Tao Qian didn't delay.

Others might need to interrogate him, but Tao Qian didn't.

He merely stepped forward, touched him, and immediately gained insight into his mind.

Perhaps because Hong Youhu had been so severely beaten by the ghost soldiers, despite his cultivation realm being much higher than Tao Qian's, many secrets about him were now triggered and revealed by Tao Qian.

His initial perusal of a few record notes was still manageable, but as more annotations emerged, Tao Qian's expression abruptly changed.

[Name: Hong Youhu.]

[Record Type: Cultivator.]

[Record: This person is a native of Seeking Immortal County in Southern Yue. In his youth, he witnessed his father consuming his mother, which led him to flee Seeking Immortal County in extreme fear. After

his mother's death, she was deeply worried about him and her lingering spirit turned into a ghostly aberration attached to him, protecting him at life-and-death moments. Yet he was still so young and, to survive, he sold everything, be it his body or soul, eventually twisting his personality. Outwardly, he seemed a normal Daoist but had actually fallen into madness and demonhood. His last master was one of the worldly walking Saint Heirs of a mysterious organization, "Qin Wuxiang".]

[Annotation 1: Hong Youhu recognized Qin Wuxiang as his master and was given the Great Book "Red Blood Seven Killings Scripture". After resolving his "Heart Demon of Blood Vengeance", his cultivation soared to Foundation Establishment Realm, earning Qin Wuxiang's trust. He was appointed to control the assassin organization Seven Killings Pavilion's Southern Yue division and another organization, the "Changchun Society", in Southern Yue.]

[Annotation 2: Because he originated from Seeking Immortal County, Hong Youhu was tasked by Qin Wuxiang to control the atmosphere and order of the place. Once the plan between Qin Wuxiang and the Devil God Army launched and Southern Yue fell into chaos, Hong Youhu would activate the Changchun Society to constantly build momentum, singing the praises of the Governor of Southern Yue, Ji Xianxian, making him increasingly reputable. This would make millions of people look to him for salvation, thus aiding Ji Xianxian in cultivating that...??]

[Annotation 3: Recently, Hong Youhu had informed Qin Wuxiang about a battle at Iron Buddha Temple, prompting the latter to initiate the plan prematurely. The territories of Southern Yue would soon be in chaos... In an attempt to acquire resources for the Transcend Mortality Realm, and after his return, Hong Youhu intended to capture the Taisui Baby and offer it to Qin Wuxiang but was discovered by the No Food Country Princess, who commanded a ghost general to cripple him and imprison him.]

Chapter 90: The True Master Recruits, Tao Qian Leaks Secrets

In the quiet room where Lin Xiaohua got married, Tao Qian's complexion changed several times.

He originally thought that this "Hong Youhu" was just like the leader of the Changchun Society, merely an evil cultivator coveting the body of Little Age.

But unexpectedly, he suddenly discovered such a huge conspiracy.

"There's a 'Saint Child' from a mysterious organization who stays as an advisor near Ji Xianxian, secretly colluding with the Devil God Army under Tang Xianzong, intending to cause chaos across Southern Yue. Their goal seems to be to help Ji Xianxian cultivate some magic skill? The ultimate aim appears to be to place Ji Xianxian on the Dragon Court?"

"On the official side, both the Seven Killings Pavilion and the Changchun Society are controlled by that Saint Child and Ji Xianxian. On the demon side, the Beautiful Corpse and a group of Great Demons within the Iron Buddha Temple are under Tang Xianzong's control. Both parties are colluding, and the only victims are the millions of common people in Southern Yue."

"And, has this plan been prematurely initiated?"

Realizing this, Tao Qian's expression became very solemn, and he couldn't help but stare at Hong Youhu.

This evil person had reached the Foundation Establishment Realm, and Tao Qian had seen his bizarre and terrifying combat methods at the Seeking Immortal Pier. Unfortunately, his evil clashed directly with an evil ghost, and now he was in a pitiful and desperate state.

Not only were his limbs folded together, his cultivation was crippled, and it seemed that even his divine soul and thoughts were frozen by some method used by the Ghost General, truly unable to live or die.

When Tao Qian made eye contact with him, he seemed to understand the last thought in his mind and said with a sneer,

"You're thinking if I want to interrogate you, I must release your restraints, and then you can use your hidden sinister methods against me or simply end it all yourself."

"Unfortunately, I'm not going to do as you wish."

Having said that, Tao Qian planned to take this man to see Master Xiao and the group of righteous experts.

The secret he had glimpsed was too great, and Tao Qian felt that he, with his minor abilities, had no right to be involved.

After throwing this hot potato to Master Xiao, he could take Little Age and Lian Jing'er and leave this place.

No, leaving Seeking Immortal County wasn't enough.

Now, with Southern Yue being the center of the storm, they had to leave the entire province.

As these thoughts just surfaced in Tao Qian's mind, suddenly, a familiar, gentle voice entered his ears—it was Master Xiao summoning him.

Clearly, Master Xiao wanted to see him after the "Ghost Country wedding" ended.

Tao Qian frowned slightly, turned his head towards Little Age and Lian Jing'er hugging and crying together, and sighed inwardly, recalling what Lin Xiaohua had once told him about these two little things' misfortune in the mortal world.

Without any hesitation, Tao Qian took Hong Youhu and then extended a hand to each of the little ones, gesturing for them to hold on.

Little Age and Lian Jing'er, just as Lin Xiaohua had described, were naturally perceptive.

Each sensed a whisper of emotion in Tao Qian's heart, held hands with him with sniffles and sobs, clearly still immersed in the sadness of losing "Lin Xiaohua."

Tao Qian led them toward the top level of the Star-picking Pavilion.

They were still ushered by the Yellow Robed Maid; however, this time, Tao Qian met Master Xiao in a warm room.

This warm room was filled with a kind of fragrance that could relax anyone.

And the cultivation within the body was also receiving a somewhat exaggerated boost.

But Master Xiao, sitting formally on a soft, fragrant couch at the head of the room, appeared rather haggard despite a faint smile on her face, indicating a good mood.

Tao Qian's puppet body had witnessed the great battle at the Iron Buddha Temple last night up close and knew the cause.

Though Master Xiao had almost fallen victim to the Beautiful Corpse's deadly grip, fortunately, at the critical moment, the Bai Qin Old Monk appeared, saving both her life and the child, and the slight injuries naturally couldn't spoil her mood now.

"I wonder if the terrible news I bring will spoil Master Xiao's good mood,"

Tao Qian thought to himself, while preparing to bring out Hong Youhu from the talisman seed.

But at that moment, Master Xiao unexpectedly spoke first, casting a scrutinizing look at Tao Qian, then nodding in satisfaction, she asked, "Tao Qian, would you be willing to give up the Spirit Treasure Method and switch to cultivating the Basic Method of the Infant Sect?"

Upon hearing this, a look of astonishment immediately appeared on Tao Qian's face.

Master Xiao had anticipated his surprise, and her gentle voice continued without pause,

"The No Food Country Princess just forcibly took your friend, the abandoned disciple of the Heavenly Talisman Sect. It's not that I, as your senior, was unwilling to stand up for your friend."

"The circumstances here are quite complicated. The marriage between your friend and Pei Niannu is destined and unchangeable. Moreover, your friend deep down is quite willing to become the Prince Consort of No Food Country. I really have no reason to intervene."

"Of course, I also admit that even if I rashly intervened, I would not be a match for the No Food Country Master, not to mention the Beautiful Corpse on Iron Buddha Mountain who also didn't dare to act just now."

"She considers herself a talented genius, maybe someday achieving the Dao. She's usually overbearing, but when facing an invincible enemy, she's even more frightened than a turtle withdrawing into its shell, afraid to anger the No Food Country Master and be beaten to death."

After explaining this and subtly belittling her opponent,

Master Xiao then looked at the two Alien Species held by Tao Qian, without any greed in her eyes.

Then, Master Xiao suddenly became serious, and addressing Tao Qian formally, she said,

"You odd junior, have aided me numerous times to considerable merit. Now, you've been entrusted with these two little things, and you might not yet realize your situation will be somewhat difficult."

"I have already reviewed your talent, you can cultivate Dao, Demon, and Heterodox methods, though all are extremely incomplete divine skills, they undoubtedly represent an outstanding talent."

"To thank you, I will make you a promise, if you wish to join the Infant Sect, I will personally take you in."

"If you do not wish to worship me, I can also find you a mentor among the elders in the sect, as long as you diligently cultivate day and night, you might eventually compete for a position among the True Cultivation Disciples."

"Consider this carefully and do not answer impulsively."

After uttering the last two words, Master Xiao fell silent, clearly giving Tao Qian time to think.

At this moment, Tao Qian was indeed somewhat shocked.

He had not expected to suddenly receive an olive branch extended by an elder of the Ten Thousand Infant Sect, and from Master Xiao's tone, it seemed that once Tao Qian joined, he would be highly regarded by this Great Cultivator.

If Tao Qian were still a fresh Loose Cultivator, new to the Cultivation World,

he would have agreed without hesitation.

The Ten Thousand Infant Sect, although perhaps not as strong as the Twelve Major Daoist Sects, was definitely not far behind.

Unfortunately, after listening to three lectures by Lin Xiaohua, Tao Qian was very clear about his own condition.

Choosing the Basic Method was a critical checkpoint for all Cultivators.

Only by choosing the most suitable could there be a chance of achieving the Dao later.

Tao Qian originally chose the Spirit Treasure Method due to inspiration and compatibility, even going so far as to wash away the powerful Bo Dragon Bloodline, unexpectedly acquiring a new Divine Power, "Nine True Spirit Sound," and after securing the Life Seed, he further obtained the "Innate Dao Seed," a top-tier talent even rare among True Cultivation Disciples of Great Sects.

Various signs and Tao Qian's own insights were all indicating that the Spirit Treasure Method was most suitable for him.

To switch to the Infant Sect Method just as he was about to advance to the Qi Refining Realm, despite seeming beneficial, was merely a flower in the mirror, a moon in the water, especially since Tao Qian's heart had always resisted it.

After contemplating seriously for quite some time, Tao Qian couldn't help but smile inwardly.

"I seek great power, longevity, with the Dao Path already at my feet, why should I waver and choose another?"

"Following one's heart, it should be so."

This idea, in fact, began from the start, dominating Tao Qian's mind.

Then, Tao Qian directly bowed to Master Xiao and said, "Master Xiao, Tao Qian thanks you greatly for your regard, but as for the Dao Path, this junior has already made a decision; indecision is not what I desire."

Having said that, Tao Qian paused for a moment, then simply spit out the plan he had considered earlier:

"My good friend indeed entrusted these two little ones to me, because of this, I must make early plans."

"Soon, I intend to leave Seeking Immortal County, find a safe place to first advance into the Qi Refining Realm, then take them to the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate."

"With an elder's referral letter, plus the sturdiness of my intention to pursue the Dao, I might be able to secure a place for myself within the Spirit Treasure Sect."

As soon as Tao Qian finished speaking, he immediately saw a mix of amusement and annoyance appear on Master Xiao's face.

First, he sighed with regret, then extended his pale jade-like finger, pointing at Tao Qian and said, "This junior, you are reminding this True Master not to forget your merits, your reward then. Well, the pursuit of cultivation exactly stresses the law of cause and effect, it seems there is no master-disciple fate between us."

Having said that, Master Xiao seemed to recall something, and his eyebrows gently furrowed.

"Your idea is good, advancing to the Qi Refining Realm early, and entering the Spirit Treasure Sect early, you can also cultivate and pursue the Dao early."

"But I fear your plan is unviable, I will not hide it from you, just today, across various cities and counties in Southern Yue province, for some unknown reason, chaos has emerged, various small-scale riots and displaced peoples are one thing, but many demons and monster species have also appeared and started causing trouble, and even signs of the Devil God Army and White Lotus Sect forming rebel armies have emerged."

"The latest military reports say that in the southwest and the southeast regions of Southern Yue, over a dozen cities and counties have fallen into the hands of rebel armies and demons, affecting over a million civilians."

"Although the neighboring provinces are also not peaceful, none have a chaos like that in Southern Yue, I used the 'Infant Spirits Restoration Divine Skill' to make predictions, and amazingly discovered someone is concealing the heavenly mechanism, disturbing the fate..."

While Master Xiao was speaking, Tao Qian suddenly showed a realization.

He abruptly stepped forward, and then took out from the "Mustard Seed Talisman Seed" the folded, frozen body of Hong Youhu.

With a bang as it hit the ground, Tao Qian's voice filled with personal feelings also began:

"I did not have time to inform the True Master, but now is the perfect opportunity."

"After my friend's affair was over, a Ghost General suddenly appeared at my door and dropped this man in front of the junior."

"And explicitly stated that this scoundrel, coming from an organization called the Seven Killings Pavilion and obeying orders from someone called 'Saint Child Qin Wuxiang,' is involved in some dark dealings, secretly colluding with the Devil God Army and Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva to disrupt the entire Southern Yue, seeking personal gain."

"This is a secret I extracted from this scoundrel's Divine Soul using magic by that Ghost General brother, this junior does not know the truthfulness, just right to hand this man over for the True Master to deal with."

"Boom!"

As Tao Qian dropped Hong Youhu's pitiful body, succinctly revealing the malicious plan.

The next moment, Master Xiao, who was originally sitting on the fragrant couch, seemed as if struck by a heavy blow, his expression suddenly froze, and he quickly stood up.

"What did you say?"

With a tempting fragrance, Master Xiao instantly moved in front of Tao Qian like teleportation, his eyes filled with disbelief and shock.