

## Longevity 91

### Chapter 91: Peach Blossom Spring, the Place of Retreat

In the warmth of a room filled with a strange milky fragrance, Master Xiao, who once fiercely battled the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, now wore a look of astonishment, uncommonly losing her composure a bit.

Tao Qian completely understood Master Xiao's thoughts at the moment, for the sinister plan she revealed was utterly beyond belief.

Therefore, Tao Qian did not respond further but instead took a step back and pointed to Hong Youhu, whose life and death were not his own, saying, "Master, please cast your spell; within his Divine Soul, there may be more secrets."

In fact, before Tao Qian even spoke, Master Xiao had already taken action.

With just a thought, the 'meatball-like' Hong Youhu began to float up; the merciless Master Xiao, devoid of any gentleness and filled only with killing intent, touched a point on his forehead.

"Infant Spirits Soul-searching Technique!"

The familiar name of a Divine Skill came from Master Xiao's mouth.

Tao Qian had once seen the Immortal Infant Tong Dudu use this technique, but at that time, it could only capture some minor Evil Cultivators.

Now, Tao Qian saw the true power of this method.

Hong Youhu, who was restrained, woke up in an instant, but he couldn't do anything before a pair of brutal hands seemed to invade the inside of his soul, tearing it into many fragments.

Irrelevant memories dissipated into nothingness, while memories related to the conspiracy transformed suddenly into vivid and detailed scenes, instantly filling the room.

Even the dialogues in these scenes were revealed, more detailed and closer to the nature of the conspiracy than the Extraordinary Perception Tao Qian had triggered.

Tao Qian and Master Xiao began to watch and listen simultaneously.

The more they saw and heard, the angrier and more astonished Master Xiao's expression became.

Tao Qian, on the other hand, appeared as if his eyes were opened to new sights; after witnessing phenomena in the Cultivation World like "Ghost Country's Royal Marriage," he now saw some cultivators' cold and brutal pursuit of their interests.

Of these, what most caught Tao Qian's attention were naturally the two main culprits:

The Governor of Southern Yue, Ji Xianxian, who was also the popular favored concubine "Concubine Ji's" brother and the Third Prince's uncle and a Sealed Territory Governor leading hundreds of thousands of modified troops capable of slaughtering Immortal Gods.

The Mysterious Saint, Qin Wuxiang, Ji Xianxian's current strategist, who had also handed the peculiar Great Lifebook Scripture to the former to gain absolute trust. Even in Hong Youhu's memory, Ji Xianxian was actually controlled by Qin Wuxiang, and all plans were orchestrated by him.

The former had an unexpectedly ordinary appearance, even somewhat short and unattractive, but a pair of dark, hawk-like eyes left a deep impression on Tao Qian.

As for Qin Wuxiang, his face was unseen; even in the memories of his loyal subordinates, he constantly wore a bronze mask that blocked all prying eyes, merely revealing a vague figure of a young man with an upright posture and an extraordinary air about him.

"Collaborating with the Devil God Army... to nurture reputation and foster strength from within chaos, causing great turmoil throughout Southern Yue, and millions of common people suffering disasters, all to restore the long-lost Great Lifebook Scripture 'Emperor's Shocking Book'... So that's how it is, Ji Xianxian with his wolfish ambitions, coaxing that fool Third Prince to join the Ten Thousand Infant Sect, just to lull us."

"This guy's real aim is to monopolize Southern Yue, using it as a base in chaotic times, and to compete with other Sealed Territory Governors and the Chaotic Army Demon Party."

"Where did that young devil Qin Wuxiang emerge from, a Saint of a mysterious sect... Joining the mortal world with other Saints, picking individuals with Dragon Qi to train as Emperors? Which sect in the Cultivation World possesses such ambition and strength?"

Before Tao Qian could summarize for himself, Master Xiao, who had watched all the conspiratorial scenes in Hong Youhu's Divine Soul, couldn't help but mutter to herself, summing it up roughly.

Although there were still many secrets unknown.

For instance, the specific details of the cooperation with the Devil God Army, the specific roles of the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattvas, and the origins of the mysterious Qin Wuxiang, among others.

Nevertheless, it was enough for Master Xiao to see clearly the source of the current chaos in Southern Yue.

The next moment, she saw Master Xiao raise her hand to collect.

All the scenes in the room transformed into a small orb of light and fell into her jade hand.

With this "evidence," Master Xiao's expression did not improve much.

Although Tao Qian, with his low Cultivation Realm, could not intervene in such high-level contention, it did not take much thought for him to reach a conclusion: Ji Xianxian's collusion with the Devil God Army

had thrown Southern Yue into total chaos, and the Ten Thousand Infant Sect had completely lost the initiative. Unless the Ten Thousand Infant Sect possessed the power to annihilate those two forces, they could only temporarily swallow this bitter fruit.

Of course, all this was temporarily irrelevant to Tao Qian.

He, relying on his abnormal soul, accidentally glimpsed this conspiracy, and by passing it to Master Xiao, had already exerted great effort.

Master Xiao thought the same.

After putting away the evidence, her expression softened slightly, and with an unusually serious look, she turned to Tao Qian again.

There was a rare eagerness in her eyes, but ultimately it turned into regret.

"You, junior, are indeed peculiar. You have good talent and it seems your chances and fortune are also extraordinary."

"It's a pity your Dao Heart is already firm; indeed, there is no fate between us as master and disciple."

"I am aware of your plans, but unfortunately, I cannot inform you of the location of the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate, nor can I directly send you away from Southern Yue."

"As for why I cannot? Once you advance to the Qi Refining Realm through the Sublime Dharma, you will naturally know the reason."

"However, you have indeed accomplished much merit and have greatly aided me, so it would not be right for me to be too stingy."

"Thus, I give you two choices: one is to gift you a powerful Magical Treasure that can slay those in the Foundation Establishment and even the Transcend Mortality Realm; the other is to provide you with an excellent and absolutely safe place for seclusion, which can allow you to quickly enter the Qi Refining Realm."

As soon as Master Xiao's words fell, Tao Qian smiled and made his choice.

Had it been another cultivator, most would have chosen the first option.

But Tao Qian did not even hesitate, firmly saying, "Return to Master, Tao Qian wishes to enter the Qi Refining Realm this time."

Hearing this, Master Xiao seemed to have anticipated it, and she gently smiled, extending her slender jade fingers into her bosom.

When he re-emerged, he was holding a smooth oval stone, egg-shaped and emanating an extraordinary aura.

Before Tao Qian could express his confusion, he heard Master Xiao say,

"This is the 'Infant Mother Fetus Stone,' a unique treasure of the Ten Thousand Infant Sect."

"After you obtain it, you can visualize a peaceful place of your own, imprint it inside this stone, and then throw the stone. The stone will give birth to the place you envisioned, merging it with reality. In the face of this illusory and real blend, even cultivators of the Cavernous Mystery Realm won't detect it immediately. If combined with the Infant Mother Origin Pearl I gave you earlier, you should be able to enter the Qi Refining Realm within half a month."

"If you seek perfection, it is best to first find a pre-existing place to visualize. Just make sure never to choose a location within Seeking Immortal County where there are crowds, to avoid mortals accidentally entering your cultivation site."

"This treasure can only be used once, and its effect lasts for thirty days."

"How to use it, you must consider for yourself."

During these words, accompanied by a soft, warm touch, Tao Qian found the smooth stone already in his hand.

Simultaneously, he and the two youngsters were ushered out of the warm room by a sweep of Master Xiao's sleeve.

The last thing he heard was a piece of advice, "This master is in urgent need to return to the Mountain Gate, hence I will not keep you any longer. The chaotic era is approaching, and your Tao heart is quite robust. Your nature is different from those cultivators who cultivate without compassion or humanity. I hope that on the day you attain Dao, you will not perish halfway."

...

The next morning, dawn had not yet broken.

Tao Qian officially closed Chengyou Bookstore and said goodbye to the shop owners Jia Qiang and Li Sanyu, as they took their families on separate paths.

The two shop owners were taking their families on an early morning ferry to Southern Yue Province to seek refuge with relatives.

Initially, when Seeking Immortal County was sealed off by the Demon Suppression Army during the "Human-faced Worm Disaster," no one could leave, but after Xiao Meiniang led a group of righteous experts to a triumphant second raid on Iron Buddha Temple, the blockade was lifted.

Although Seeking Immortal County seemed safe now,

anyone with connections was trying to evacuate, mostly heading to the provincial city.



Especially after hearing that various areas in Southern Yue had fallen into chaos and even into the hands of the Chaotic Army Demon Party, many wealthy families rushed to relocate to the provincial city.

Everyone knew that other areas in Southern Yue might face great disasters, but the provincial city was mostly safe.

Tao Qian knew internal conspiracies but was powerless to determine the safest place within Southern Yue.

From Hong Youhu's memories, it could be known that the entirety of Southern Yue would fall into chaos and face great disasters. Only Seeking Immortal County and the provincial city, due to their different utilities, should maintain some order of peace before the final battle began.

As for what would happen to the provincial city after the final battle?

Even Tao Qian couldn't guess. He also couldn't offer better advice, such as fleeing to other major provinces—who else knew if other major provinces didn't harbor conspirators or brutal great demons like Ji Xianxian, Qin Wuxiang, Tang Xianzong, and Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva?

"The chaotic era is impending. Not just this large province of Southern Yue will soon be void of peace."

"According to those loose cultivators who travel far and wide, even the territories of the Imperial City are filled with strange happenings and frequent disasters."

"Who knows how long the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty can last? But everyone knows, there aren't many good years left."

As he pondered these, Tao Qian, leading Little Age and Lian Jing'er, arrived in the mountains outside Seeking Immortal County.

He avoided both populous areas and places teeming with demons, continuously scanning for the most suitable place to seclude himself in cultivation.

Initially, his goal was the old place, Tiger Worry Gully.

However, as they approached, the three realized that the territory had truly been occupied by a nest of tiger demons and a "Jiao Demon" that had mutated from a human cultivator. The two groups seemed to have conflicts and frequently fought, causing quite an uproar.

With no other choice, Tao Qian had to lead the two youngsters elsewhere.

Because they needed to avoid both human and demon presence, their options were indeed very limited.

The wealthy families in Seeking Immortal City were fleeing, but the people from surrounding counties and towns believed this area had just defeated demons and had a large military presence, so it was extremely safe. Thus, they moved their families here to take refuge.

The roads and official roads in the mountains were teeming with people, bustling with activity.

In the wilderness of the mountains, due to the "Summoning Demons Order" issued by Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, often came evil cultivators, magicians, and various kinds of demons, employing all sorts of divine skills.

Tao Qian and the two youngsters nearly got discovered several times.

Tao Qian originally wanted to use the soft jade given to him by Master Xiao earlier, which could continuously wield the Small Innate Nascent Soul Escape Technique and head deeper into the mountains. However, that was risky. After all, from Hong Youhu's memories, he knew that Tang Xianzong's Devil God Army was hidden among those endless mountains.

What if, by great coincidence, Tao Qian and the two little ones ran straight into the Devil God Army?

Would they survive? Probably not.

Just as Tao Qian's thoughts drifted, his gaze inadvertently glanced over, and the sight he caught made him stop in his tracks.

It was a hidden area, quite inconspicuous—a not very tall mountain distanced from Seeking Immortal County and even further from Iron Buddha Temple. Within a hundred miles, there was only a village long abandoned and uninhabited.

A stream flowed out from the mountain, narrow at first but gradually widening, with no cluttered trees on either bank, just patches of peach blossom forests, fresh grass, and falling blossoms.

A burst of spiritual light suddenly surged up, irresistibly occupying Tao Qian's mind.

Even in his mind, there appeared chanting voices from his previous life.

"The most suitable place for Tao Qian to visualize and cultivate in seclusion seems to have been found."

Tao Qian suddenly smiled slightly and declared resolutely.

Chapter 92 Xuan Yin Formless, Promoted to Qi Refinement

Outside Seeking Immortal County, above the stream in the mountain valley, between the peach blossom forests on both banks.

Tao Qian was leading Little Age and Lian Jing'er, two refined alien species, with a round pebble suspended in front of him, emitting a luminescent jade light.

Tao Qian looked at the fresh and pleasant scenery before him, then began to recite and visualize from the depths of his heart:

"...Along the creek, forgetting the distance of the road. Suddenly I came upon a peach blossom forest, hundreds of steps along the banks, with no other trees, fresh beautiful grass, and falling colorful petals... At the end of the forest where the source of the water lies, a mountain appears, with a tiny opening, seemingly with some light. I abandoned the boat and entered through the opening. Initially, it was very narrow, barely passable by one person. Walking a few dozen steps further, it suddenly opened up..."

As Tao Qian recited each word from his heart, the soft surface of the pebble began to shed fragments that, with a gentle breeze, drifted away, gradually revealing a tranquil, peaceful image.

At this moment, the "Infant Mother Fetus Stone," even not being a magical treasure and lacking that abnormal aura, could still fetch a good price in the mortal world just from the bas-relief on its surface.

Those nobles who favored the reclusive style, like the proverbial 'Man who loved dragons,' would surely go mad over it.

"It's done!"

When Tao Qian reopened his eyes, delighted by what he had achieved, his mind moved accordingly.

The stone suddenly shot forward, crashing into the depths of the mountain stream and peach forest.

In an instant, Tao Qian saw the stone strike the void and with a "pop," ripples spread across the water, and the stone completely merged into this territory.

Afterward, everything seemed unchanged.

The stream remained the same, as did the peach forest.

But at this moment, Tao Qian revealed a smile, leading the two little ones to land on the surface of the stream, nonchalantly on top of a fishing boat that appeared.

"Although it might be a bit of a quirky taste, this secluded spot for cultivation is indeed very fitting for my name."

"At least, the lessons from my childhood were not recited in vain."

With these satisfied words, Tao Qian and his two companions began to travel along the creek.

Soon they entered deep into the peach forest and arrived at the source of the stream, suddenly coming upon a very hidden cave entrance.

After disembarking, Tao Qian led Little Age and Lian Jing'er into the cave.

It was initially narrow, just wide enough for one person to pass through, but after walking a few dozen steps, it suddenly widened dramatically.

In front of them lay a flat, open secret realm.

At the far end of the secret realm stood a simple, solitary wooden hut.

Tao Qian looked very pleased with this secret space, balancing reality and illusion. He could have envisioned more settings such as "hut, good fields, beautiful pond, mulberries and bamboos, chickens and dogs," and so on.

But after all, he came here for secluded cultivation into the "Qi Refining Realm," not truly to escape the world and create a paradise.

Moreover, as his cultivation would take some days, he had no time to care for the two little ones.

This open space was just right to give them something to do.

Tao Qian thought for a moment, then pulled Little Age and Lian Jing'er closer, pointed at the vast secret realm in front of them, and specifically entrusted them:

"I will need a few days for secluded cultivation, which must not be interrupted. I'm giving you a task for this period."

"With such a large area, you can decorate and arrange it however you like. After I finish my retreat, I will come and check your work."

"How does that sound?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Tao Qian saw the two little ones.

Their eyes, like gemstones, both lit up, Taisui Baby nodding furiously, while the odd bronze robot, Lian Jing'er, responded with his mechanical voice: "Task accepted... Task accepted!"

With such a harmonious atmosphere, Tao Qian was very satisfied.

He let the two little ones freely express themselves, heading towards that wooden hut.

"Raising kids isn't as hard as I imagined, even though they're just two refined little aliens."

Mumbling this to himself, Tao Qian entered the secluded wooden hut.

Having obtained the "Innate Dao Seed," Tao Qian was often astonished by his own cultivation speed. Though he had just stabilized the Life Seed not long ago, the accumulation of Spirit Treasure Source Qi in his body was already impressively vast and restless.



There were no elaborate decorations in the hut, apart from a meditation cushion, nothing else, making it a truly simple room.

Tao Qian sat down cross-legged, aware that the two little things had already busied themselves, he smiled and sealed the hut.

However, Tao Qian did not start his cultivation right away; advancing into the "Qi Refinement" stage was not simple, and haste could not be afforded.

As he adjusted his state, he spat out the Mustard Seed Talisman Seed gifted to him by Lin Xiaohua.

His Divine Thought delved in, beginning to inventory the various items; in a way, this was also a sort of inheritance.

Lin Xiaohua had said: The talisman seed contains resources for Tao Qian to cultivate up to the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Now quickly checking through, the elder Lin Xiaohua had been somewhat modest.

It contained elixirs, talisman papers, Spirit Food, magical artifacts, and such, neatly arranged on two wooden shelves.

Tao Qian assessed the time, concluding that if he was economical, perhaps even after advancing to the Foundation Establishment Realm, he would still have plenty to use.

Beyond that, Tao Qian also saw a surprise prepared for him by Lin Xiaohua.

Right in the center on the table, a small treasure chest.

Inside, there were two items: a stack of particularly textured talisman papers, seemingly made from some sort of grass leaves, blackish-green in color, and a Sword Elixir.

As Tao Qian opened the treasure chest, he immediately heard Lin Xiaohua's voice left inside the box, which unusually this time, carried a tinge of melancholy.

"Brother Tao, these two items are respectively one hundred and eight sheets of Xuan Yin Invisible Sword Talismans, and a Hundred Refinement Sword Pill."

"The latter will allow you to unleash the full power of the Secret Demon Sacrifice Body Sword Technique. Should you encounter a formidable enemy in the future, you may slay them with a single strike."

"If you can't cut it, you can use these one hundred and eight sword talismans, activated by Source Qi to instantly deploy the 'Xuan Yin Invisible Sword Array'. It's ferociously incomprehensible, even a cultivator at the Foundation Establishment Realm, if caught off guard, might not die but will certainly be grievously injured. As for cultivators at the Qi Refining Realm, even if dozens were thrown into the array, none would survive."

"This talisman array was originally prepared by me to compete for the position of a 'True Cultivation Disciple'. Master has always treated me kindly, yet I've repeatedly embarrassed him. I hoped to secure a true cultivation position to make him proud too, but fate played tricks on me. Not only did I fail to become a true cultivator, but I was also expelled from the sect, truly a disgrace to him."

"Sigh."

With that final sigh falling, Xiao Hua Daoist's voice also disappeared.

Tao Qian also sighed, then reached out to touch those two items.

In his mind, indeed, the information on the alien items appeared in greater detail.

The power of these two items, according to Lin Xiaohua's description, was even stronger by three parts.

Tao Qian had guessed that the slaughter treasure Master Xiao intended to offer him was probably the same. Unfortunately, he had chosen the Infant Mother Fetus Stone in a hurry to leave this stormy area and head to the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate.

Little did he know, this regret was compensated for by a surprise prepared by Xiao Hua Daoist.

"Master Xiao was right, my fortune is indeed excellent, and my judgment in friends is also exemplary."

After muttering this with some self-satisfaction, Tao Qian stowed the treasure box away.

Just then, feeling that his state was sufficiently adjusted.

Tao Qian's divine thought withdrew from the talisman seed, he swallowed it back into his belly, and was about to begin preparations for a breakthrough.

What is Qi Refinement?

The essence of this realm lies in the character "refine". When a cultivator is confident enough, they can fully open themselves up and let endless Source Qi enter their body unceasingly to cleanse them. The cultivator must treat their own physical body and life seed as a crucible to refine the Source Qi entering their body into the True Spirit Qi of the basic method they cultivate.

If not even a thread of the basic method's true Qi can be refined, then it's an empty effort and indicates a failed breakthrough.

If true Qi can be refined, then the cultivator should try to refine more to strengthen the foundation and control more extraordinary powers.

However, during the refining process, accidents often occur resulting in the cultivator's physical body and life seed being mutated and uncontrollably altered, leading to instant death on the spot.

Even within the Twelve Major Daoist Sects or Buddhist Temples, many disciples die this way.

"This realm must be advanced with a surge of effort, and one cannot repeatedly grind back and forth, wasting divine soul vitality."

After a flash of insight regarding the breakthrough experience once advised by Lin Xiaohua, the guide, crossed Tao Qian's mind,

He immediately cleared all distractions from his mind, focused his spirit attentively in an unprecedented manner, completely immersed within himself, and began to recite the 'Spirit Treasure Nine Truths Diagram' word by word.

Perhaps the time was right, as on the very first recitation, Tao Qian completed it flawlessly without any error or omission.

He didn't even need to rest. Under the fortune of an inspired mind, Tao Qian continuously started the second, third, fourth recitation...

Time began to pass swiftly.

Tao Qian fully entered the state of cultivation. As he successfully recited the diagram repeatedly, the air in this humble room grew increasingly dense with the natural Qi of clear spirit, although there were no external items or elegant decorations. Yet, if anyone were here, they would undoubtedly feel as if they were within a secret realm of the Daoist.

One day!

Two days!

Three days!

Tao Qian had long lost any sensation of the outside world and had no concept of time. His divine thought and spirit seemed completely integrated into the surging Spirit Treasure Source Qi like a vast river.

Master Xiao had once declared that Tao Qian, if he used the "Infant Mother Source Pearl," could enter the Qi Refining Realm within half a month.

Her judgment as a heterodox expert was indeed sharp, yet she still underestimated Tao Qian.

On this third day, when Tao Qian should have awakened to timely consume that Source Pearl and enter the risk-free state of transitioning from Acquired to Innate,

However, Tao Qian did not do so.

The Infant Mother Source Pearl was indeed an exotic treasure that could aid a cultivator in refining Source Qi, but it was also a shortcut.

Relying on such a treasure might allow one to break through, but the cultivator would fail to deeply comprehend the mystery of "refining". Any cultivator with a bit of ambition would avoid using it if possible.

Moreover, Tao Qian was currently in a state of profound enlightenment, having long forgotten about the likes of the Infant Mother Source Pearl.

When he recited the 'Spirit Treasure Nine Truths Diagram' once again, suddenly, a dramatic change occurred in the humble room.

Accompanied by a booming sound, a light seed the size of a baby's fist suddenly leapt from Tao Qian's crown and directly struck the void, forcefully opening a hazy portal.

Boom!

A more vigorous and powerful rush of Spirit Treasure Source Qi than Tao Qian had ever experienced in any previous cultivation session enveloped his body and life seed completely, pouring down like inverting the Heavenly River.

In that instant, Tao Qian should have been crushed directly by this powerful Source Qi.

But as the Innate Dao Seed swirled and bobbed, not only did Tao Qian survive, his physical body and life seed suddenly underwent Light Transformation, completely merging with the deluge of powerful Source Qi.

Subsequently, inside the humble room, impurities and demon thoughts mixed with black-red Source Qi began to continuously drift.

During this process, the expression on Tao Qian's "Light Transformed" face showed not pain but a joyful smile that only comes with enlightenment.

Thus, the washing and refining continued, and Tao Qian's Light Transformation grew even more complete.

Unknown how much time had passed, suddenly, Tao Qian, in the midst of it all, opened his eyes, uttered a Dao Formula, and formed a Dharma Seal.

His Inner World seemed to explode, and amidst a muffled booming sound, a stream of pure, natural Qi imbued with Daoist charm was born. It seemed to have its own consciousness, moving unimpeded through the powerful Spirit Treasure Source Qi.

As this Qi emerged, the dark and humble room was suddenly filled with light, fragrant breezes, and echoing Dao sounds.



"Three days of cultivation, and he entered the Qi Refining Realm."

"Do not stop, cannot stop."

As Tao Qian voiced this joy, he did not even take a moment to perceive the sublime nature of that thread of Daoist infused Qi, but simply closed his eyes again and, bolstered by the Innate Dao Seed, continued refining Qi.

Chapter 93: The Three Calamities Refine the Heart, Spirit Treasure True Cultivation

Cultivators entering the "Qi Refining Realm" typically first accumulate energy over the course of half a month, or even longer, before making a concerted effort to break through their gates and refine the True Spirit Qi of their Basic Method.

Just refining a single strand is considered a successful advancement, but this only designates one as a low-grade cultivator.

The higher the grade of the True Spirit Qi refined, and the quantity refined at the time of advancement, will to a certain extent determine one's Dao path, as well as their combat power amongst fellow cultivators of the same level.

Which of the true cultivation disciples from the great sects or major schools would be content with producing just a single strand of True Spirit Qi?

Tao Qian entered the realm of Qi Refinement in just three days, even when compared with those talented disciples, he was not to be outdone.

Therefore, at this time, he did not stop for a moment.

Boom!

Over and over, as the "Dao Seed" spun, more tremendous Source Qi was drawn forth, simultaneously aiding Tao Qian in its refinement.

Those sounds of a furnace exploding, like thunder, echoed continuously within this dark chamber.

Then, mouthful after mouthful of Spirit Treasure True Spirit Qi surged forth and, together with the first mouthful, began to weave through Tao Qian's body. They seemed to have their own consciousness, leading Qi with Qi, helping Tao Qian to refine even more.

Time began to swiftly lapse, it was unknown how much had passed.

When Tao Qian sensed a feeling of fatigue in his Divine Soul, without the slightest hesitation, he decisively halted his cultivation.

Lin Xiaohua once warned in her three lessons: One must not overdo the practice of cultivation, you must always be vigilant or risk mutation and losing control.

The moment Tao Qian interrupted his cultivation, he subconsciously practiced Inner Vision.

Almost instantly, his eyes revealed a look of surprise.

He saw within his slowly "Light Transforming" body, ninety-nine strands of True Spirit Qi spiraling and entwined, shuttling and wandering ceaselessly through his body.

Since they were already within his body, Tao Qian only needed a thought, a perception, and he immediately knew the function of these True Spirit Qi as well as the gains from his advancement to the Qi Refinement Realm.

"This is the Spirit Treasure Nine True Immortal Spirit Qi!"

"Born from the Spirit Treasure Source Qi, a mouthful of Immortal Spiritual True Qi is equivalent to all the Source Qi in the body of a Life Embryo Stage Spirit Treasure Cultivator."

"Does this mean that if I were to cast 'Selfless Sword' again, consuming a mouthful of Immortal Spirit Qi, I would be able to slay a cultivator in the early stages of the Qi Refinement Realm?"

"If I were to consecutively cast ninety-nine swords, could I not slaughter my way in and out of a large group of cultivators of the same level, leaving none in my wake?"

"Even, would it not be a trivial matter to fight with loose cultivators in the Foundation Establishment Realm?"

Upon realizing this, Tao Qian's face could not hide his astonishment.

In that moment, Tao Qian understood even more deeply why the disciples of the major sects had such an exaggerated difference in combat power compared to those rootless loose cultivators—it was as if it was predetermined from the very beginning.

Those loose cultivators, despite practicing myriad Basic Skills with their bizarre effects,

no matter what, could never obtain "Innate Dao Seeds," "Spirit Treasure Nine True Immortal Spirit Qi," and other such Innate Divine Abilities or high-level Source Qi.

What was more astonishing was that the utility of the Immortal Spirit Qi was not only as such.

"With Spirit Treasure Nine True Immortal Spirit Qi within me, I only need to move my thoughts to activate it, and with a little practice, I can ride clouds and mists. Although it's not as specialized as flying or escape skills, and cannot compare with some Exotic Beasts Demons that have related bloodlines, it has the advantage of the enduring power of Immortal Spirit, ceaseless and inexhaustible, allowing flight for thousands of miles without fatigue."

"Additionally, as long as I have one mouthful of Immortal Spirit Qi inside, I can resist all poisons, be unharmed by water and fire, and even increase my lifespan by eighty years."

"And so many other benefits which inferior Source Qi cannot compare."

"But Lin Xiaohua also once said, even disciples of major schools upon advancing to the Qi Refinement Realm, cannot refine too much True Spirit Qi in one go. Ordinary disciples can typically refine about a dozen strands, those with decent talent can refine tens, as for more than that, they would directly be categorized as 'geniuses'."

"I could refine ninety-nine strands; perhaps it's largely because of that Innate Dao Seed."

Upon thinking of this, Tao Qian then remembered that the Dao Seed had yet to be retrieved, he silently operated the ninety-nine strands of Spirit Treasure Immortal Spirit Qi which naturally and sprightly sprang from the crown of his head, twining around the Innate Dao Seed, dragging it back into his body.

This was the moment, perhaps because it was his first time operating Immortal Spirit Qi.

Suddenly, inside Tao Qian's mind, there came a violent tremor.

Tao Qian once again saw that unfathomable Innate Divine Being within the Yellow Room of Yanxi Cloud Palace, behind the Seven Treasures Veil.

In that moment of eye contact, Tao Qian felt the world spin around him, his body and soul were extracted and thrown into an infinite vortex twisted from the heavenly constellations. Then, many scenes that seemed to only exist in myth and legend flashed by like fleeting lights and shadows, the cosmos of all heavens seemed to invert and overlap in Tao Qian's eyes.

When his Divine Soul returned to his body, a destination that he had not known before was added to his memory.

Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate!

Although he had long known that this would happen after advancing to the Qi Refinement Realm, now that it had finally come to pass, Tao Qian couldn't help but feel a thrill in his heart, and even in that instant, he had plotted out more than one route in his mind, deciding when to take transportation and when to use escape skills, all planned out.

But at this moment, the Innate Divine Being that had given Tao Qian the directive to the Mountain Gate was gradually blurring and fading away.

Before it completely dissipated, it suddenly uttered several majestic Dao sounds that suddenly resounded in Tao Qian's mind:

"On your way to Spirit Treasure, you must encounter calamities."

"Survive one calamity, and you may enter the Mountain Gate."

"Survive two calamities, and you shall obtain Sublime Dharma."

"If you survive all three calamities, you may become one of our true Spirit Treasure practitioners."

"Boom,"

As the information accompanying these Daoist tones emerged, Tao Qian truly felt as if he had been struck a heavy blow.

Before this, when Master Xiao gave Tao Qian the recommendation letter, she mentioned that she couldn't use magic to bring him to the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate and said that once Tao Qian advanced to the Qi Refinement Realm, he would naturally understand the reason.

Now, Tao Qian indeed comprehended the cause.

It turned out that although the Spirit Treasure Sect had spread their Basic Method throughout the Cultivation World for anyone to acquire, practicing it to the Qi Refinement Realm would allow one to sense the location of the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate.

However, this Major Sect wasn't truly accepting disciples unconditionally; to enter the Mountain Gate, one must first pass through the "Three Calamities Mind-Tempering" trial.

This seemed to be a form of rule-based, terrifying power, which meant:

No matter where you were, as soon as you entertained the thought of heading to the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate and acted upon it, you would certainly encounter calamities.

If one couldn't survive, one would undoubtedly die a physical and spiritual death.

If one could endure one calamity and arrive, one would be able to join the Spirit Treasure Sect smoothly.

If one overcame two calamities and arrived, not only could they join the Spirit Treasure Sect, but they would also be directly taught Divine Powers and Sublime Dharma.

If one survived all three calamities, upon arrival, they would instantly leap from being a Loose Cultivator to a True Cultivation Disciple of the Spirit Treasure Sect, truly ascending to the heavens in a single step.

This power of rules was there to prevent cheating; anyone attempting to employ underhanded tactics would find the calamities escalating crazily, intensifying to a lethal degree.

For example, if someone asked a Great Cultivator to use a magic skill like instant shift over ten thousand miles to send them to the Spirit Treasure Sect, then it's very likely that right before reaching the Mountain Gate, they would encounter a fearsome Demon head-on and be killed on the spot.

"So this is why if I had asked Master Xiao to send me to the Spirit Treasure Sect back then, even if she agreed, the most likely outcome would've been that just as we left Seeking Immortal County, we would be directly confronted by the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva."



"Master Xiao would have been in trouble, and I certainly would have been doomed. In that case, the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva would have been accounted for as my First Calamity."

"No wonder, I thought, how could the disciple recruitment process of the Cultivation World's top Sects be so simple? Turns out they were waiting right here."

"At first glance, it indeed seems that the Spirit Treasure Sect accepts all beings, with teachings for every class, but the truth is, they also have a threshold, just a more subtle one."

"A Loose Cultivator who obtains the Spirit Treasure Basic Technique, advances to Qi Refinement, and then braves mountains and rivers to reach the Mountain Gate, enduring calamities along the way... this way, it can be basically ensured that the new disciple, in terms of talent, aptitude, and blessings, will surpass most cultivators in the world."

As these thoughts settled, Tao Qian fully understood this disciple selection mechanism of the Spirit Treasure Sect.

Even Tao Qian himself was somewhat surprised that he felt no anger, nor did he feel deceived; perhaps it was the shock brought about by the Innate Dao Seed and the Spirit Treasure Nine True Immortal Spirit Qi that allowed him to calmly accept this twist of fate.

"I don't wish to cultivate those easy-to-obtain, easy-to-practice pamphlets or the Basic Method."

"The Ten Thousand Infant Sect is indeed large, but it is extremely incompatible with me; I also do not wish to pursue their path."

"Therefore, there's really no hesitation,"

"Only, I wonder how many calamities will I encounter on my way?"

Having posed these questions to himself, Tao Qian suddenly stood up.

Ending his three-day cultivation, he went outside the abode.

Having accepted the task from Lin Xiaohua, Tao Qian was also deeply concerned about those two little things.

While this Secret Realm was safe and secure, it was still better to check on them.

With a "creak," Tao Qian opened the wooden door and naturally looked towards the inner scene of Taoyuan.

Although the Infant Mother Fetus Stone possessed no powers of slaughter, it indeed was an Exotic Treasure, allowing the living beings residing within to imagine any scenery they desired.

Therefore, this was a great test of one's imagination as well as their own experiences.

After all, if you have never seen something, you can't imagine the details; and without details, isn't that sheer pretense?

Having been in seclusion for three days, Tao Qian was also very curious about what the two little things had turned this paradisiac land into.

With anticipation, he opened the door, and in that moment.

Tao Qian's expression completely froze.

He didn't know what he saw but blinked, as if he couldn't believe he wasn't dreaming.

Accompanied by a "bang," Tao Qian first shut the wooden door.

Then he opened it again, with the scene unchanged before him.

Still as shocking, as unbelievable.

His actions naturally drew the attention of the two little things, who, after playing madly for three days, ran to him, one from the left and the other from the right.

On the left, was Little Age, this chubby little thing giggling as it ran, and behind it revealed a world akin to a bizarre fairy tale, with terrain that should have been flat now riddled with caves and grottos, and a variety of extremely colorful mushroom-like, jelly-like objects all over the area, the flowing transparent mucus forming streams, and the bursting tiny spores in the air congealing into colorful clouds...

On the right, was Lian Jing'er, this creature made of bronze, cast iron, and bones that charged over, and behind it unfolded a towering miniature city, within it orderly ancient buildings abound, as well as a multitude of terracotta warrior-like beings, various bronze artifacts, and all over the city, one could see an array of colossal bone monsters...

The two little things ran up to Tao Qian, each craning their heads up, one pair of eyes like rubies, the other like green gemstones, sparkling as they looked at Tao Qian.

Clearly, they were waiting for Tao Qian's praise.

But Tao Qian, facing the full, bizarre, magnificent, and completely different styles that had nothing to do with "paradise," had a particularly complex feeling.

Chapter 94: Ten Thousand Transformation Technique Achieved, Fishing for Heavenly Demon Again

"My own Paradise..."

Tao Qian stood in front of the simple wooden hut, glanced at the eerie fairy tale to his left, then at the Bronze Terracotta City to his right, and sighed inwardly.

However, on the surface, Tao Qian revealed a smile, praising the hard work of the two little ones in setting everything up.

Although both Sui and Lian Jing'er had mysterious origins, they were essentially still children; when praised by an adult, Sui, who could show emotions, was overjoyed, hopping and jumping about.

Lian Jing'er's pair of ruby eyes flashed, using this to express his emotions, and mechanical voice spit out, "Task complete... task complete..."

This interaction seemed to dissolve the last vestiges of a subtle divide between Tao Qian and the two peculiar youngsters.

Indeed, as Lin Xiaohua had said, they were innately spiritual, instinctively drawing close to Tao Qian.

The only trouble was that they were not yet ready to contribute in battles, somewhat of a burden for Tao Qian at this stage.

But, it was only temporary.

Lin Xiaohua had judged Sui and Lian Jing'er's talents and potential based on her knowledge.

Whereas Tao Qian had judged based on his intuitive perception, thus he knew all too well the terrifying potential the two alien species possessed.

In the Record, there was not much information disclosed about them.

Each had only a short comment:

Innate alien species, essence of flesh and blood, if it finds the fitting Basic Method, it can step into the path of flesh in an instant, swallowing everything to nourish itself.

Acquired alien species, bearing a piece of ancient secret heritage, if it can retrieve its fragmented divine soul, it can restart the ancient Dao lineage in this world.

Besides these two Records, Tao Qian could not delve deeper into more information.

But from these comments alone, it was clear, both Sui and Lian Jing'er possessed extremely formidable talents.

"The only problem, it's hard to realize."

"Even Lin Xiaohua can't find a suitable Basic Method for 'Taisui Baby's cultivation, where should I search for it temporarily?"

"As for Lian Jing'er, that's even more absurd, there are no clues or opportunities whatsoever."

"Lin Xiaohua entrusting these two little things to me, she perhaps also had her plans, after all, Spirit Treasure Sect discriminates the least against alien species in the Cultivation World and is a very powerful sect; if they join the sect with me, their chances of finding the Dao indeed increase significantly."

"If both of them truly find the Dao within Spirit Treasure Sect, not only would the world have two less Great Demons, I would also gain two significant helpers."

"But these are matters of a distant future, the primary issue I face now is how to survive the calamity?"

"I am bound to face a disaster en route to Spirit Treasure, and given the increasingly perilous situation in Southern Yue, although I have entered the 'Qi Refining Realm' and my combat strength has greatly increased, even counting Lin Xiaohua's legacy, venturing out still poses substantial risks."

"Why not take advantage of the safety of this Secret Realm which still lasts for half a month longer, and bolster some Protecting Dao measures?"

"Lin Xiaohua also mentioned before, if there truly exists a cultivator in this world who fears no cost, then whether it's absorbing Source Qi or refining divine powers, more is always better."

These tumultuous thoughts flickered through his mind, and Tao Qian quickly made a decision.

He called the two little ones over again and repeated his old trick, instructing them:

"Sui, Lian Jing'er, the inner scenes you've arranged are quite extraordinary, but still lack some details, not lively or interesting enough; I still need some time to refine my methods, so keep improving it, and when I leave the retreat, I'll check your results again."

"How about that?"

Sure enough, nothing unexpected.

After Tao Qian spoke, he again saw two pairs of gem-like eyes light up, both excitedly accepting the new assignment.

Imagining constructing their own little worlds, even adults can hardly refuse, let alone two alien children?

As Tao Qian turned and headed back to the wooden hut, he said somewhat smugly to himself, "Raising kids is really quite easy."

Oblivious to the fact that he'd once again set a precedent, Tao Qian habitually sealed the hut and sat down cross-legged.



In his mind, he immediately started calculating the cultivation manuals and divine power techniques he currently possessed.

Those like the "Earth Element Manual" and "Mad Demon Sword Skill" that he obtained earlier, which were weak and incomplete, Tao Qian naturally didn't consider them.

He was equally reluctant to cultivate the evil techniques he obtained from Pan Hongniang.

His thoughts rapidly shifted, and Tao Qian found his target.

He composed himself, and in a moment, entered meditation.

Breathing in and out, Tao Qian's primordial spirit was seated on the familiar Secret Acupoint Platform.

In his hands, he was pinching a piece of black jade bone, carved with hundreds of tadpole-like obscure characters.

This object was the Heavenly Demon Bone, carrying a major divine power technique called "Secret Demon Transformation Technique."

And this was precisely the Protecting Dao technique that Tao Qian wanted to refine now.

"According to the Record, the Secret Demon Transformation Technique is quite formidable, once refined, even the Daoist and Buddhist Major Sects would have headaches."

"Before, I was concerned that refining this technique would make me antagonistic to the Daoist and Buddhist Sects, but since both Lin Xiaohua and Master Xiao said that the Secret Demon Sect had spread the technique throughout the world, even the true disciples of Daoist and Buddhist secretly practice one or two of them."

"Having refined it, there's no significant repercussions."

"Only, this technique is different from other divine powers, it's intricate and difficult to understand, primarily relying on perception, though I can exempt the cost, it's still not guaranteed that I can refine it."

"But, why not give it a try?"

In the midst of his speech, Tao Qian suddenly clasped his hands together in a snap.

The black jade bone immediately turned into a beam of black light, entering Tao Qian's forehead.

Instantly, Tao Qian's primordial spirit felt dragged into a dark space, in front of him hundreds of eerie tadpoles were swimming around, every time Tao Qian tried to clearly see a character, to decipher its meaning, he would feel a daze sweeping over him, directly disrupting his focus.

It took a long time, but Tao Qian had only managed to discern dozens of near-hundred characters, indicating a slow progress.

And what was fatal was that the training of the Secret Demon Transformation Technique was also a one-shot deal.

If one could cultivate it, then they would!

There was no such thing as repeatedly studying and pondering.

It was no wonder that even the original Secret Demon Sect had very few cultivators who could master this technique, as it was extremely difficult.

Just as those "tadpole characters" were about to fade and disappear, Tao Qian was about to sigh in lamentation that he would miss this method.

Suddenly, the primordial spirit of Tao Qian shuddered.

He saw the "Innate Dao Seed" wrapped in ninety-nine streams of Spirit Treasure Immortal Spirit Qi abruptly leap into Tao Qian's primordial spirit, hanging there like a white sun, continuously moving and churning above the tadpole characters.

As the light imbued with the Dao rhyme of the immortal spirit spilled down, these obscure characters were fixed in place.

Although it lasted only for a few breaths, it was enough for Tao Qian to fully comprehend the reasoning behind all the remaining characters.

"Boom."

Almost instantly, all the tadpole characters transformed into black light and merged unimpeded into Tao Qian's primordial spirit.

Subsequently, inside the real wooden house, Tao Qian suddenly opened his eyes, a nearly uncontrollable itching and intense pain engulfing his entire body, almost causing him to let out a howling scream.

But this was only the beginning.

At this moment, if someone were also inside the house, they would see the original young Daoist, who looked like a scholar, begin to undergo a crazy transformation. His black and white distinct eyes turned completely black, and densely packed black lights and tadpole characters crazily emerged as if they were alive... As these scenes unfolded, Tao Qian's body also began to change, gradually merging into a bizarre mixture of blood, bones, skin, organs, and brain matter.

Each flash of black light intensified the itch and pain, and Tao Qian's body randomly transformed into different life forms.

Thus, in this house, with the flashing of the black light, a multitude of humans, demons, and alien species began to appear, including his original identity, the Executioner who chopped off his head, the girl loved by the scholar's original identity, Miss Zhou, both bosses, Black Maggot Demon, Pan Hongniang, Pig Demon, Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, and so on.

Crucially, although each transformed being did not possess the same internals, their external forms and temperaments were impeccable.

During this process, Tao Qian felt "life-threatening danger" over a hundred times.

This could either be the collapse of the divine soul or becoming permanently fixed as a certain life form.

Thus, while enduring the itching and intense pain, Tao Qian also shook uncontrollably, shivering hundreds of times.

Each shiver!

It represented an exemption cost for the peculiarities of Tao Qian's soul.

He had experience with this and had grown accustomed to it.

No one knew how much time had passed when suddenly a particularly dazzling black light flashed violently.

When it stopped, the terrifying changes inside the house also abruptly came to a halt.

Upon the meditation cushion, Tao Qian, looking slightly pale, sat peacefully.

"Secret Demon Transformation...success!"

The moment he joyfully uttered those words, Tao Qian casually envisioned a mirror inside the room.

Then, his body shook on the spot, and visibly, he transformed from a scholar-like Daoist into a young prisoner dressed in dirty prison clothes, covered in stench, suffering torment to the extent that scars and wounds were everywhere, even his tongue had been mostly pulled out.

After thinking it over, he changed thoughts again and his body shook.

This time, he transformed into the half-human, half-dragon body he had once used, with the temperament and appearance, even details, identical to before, without a single flaw.

Until the third change, which was merely a brief acquaintance, swiftly appearing and then disappearing the Daoist known as "Gu Zhichang." The record stated that he was a true disciple of the Shexiao Sect who later left due to circumstances and sided with a group of heroes to resist the court's tyranny.

Although Tao Qian's recollection was accurate, at least through the mirror, he could see four to five major mistakes, and the temperament also differed significantly.

One didn't need to be overly familiar with that Gu Zhichang; just a few meetings were enough to see through Tao Qian.

To this, Tao Qian was not surprised, his body shook again, returning to his own, while he thought to himself:

"The Secret Demon Transformation Technique is indeed mysterious and magical, but it is not omnipotent."

"To transform perfectly, one needs to master the subject completely. It's not easy to achieve this with someone else's body."

"However, this is just the beginning. With continued cultivation, one day I might reach the level of those Secret Demon Cultivators who once stirred chaos in the Daoist and Buddhist Sects."

"In those days, those great cultivators of the Secret Demon Sect could even transform into high monks and Dao Masters of the enemy camp, swaggering into their mountain gate's forbidden lands."

"If it weren't for those Daoist and Buddhist Sects coming up with countermeasures later, the Secret Demon Sect might have really turned the tables and secured a victory."

"My transformation technique has just been completed, and I am naturally far from that level."

After muttering this.

Tao Qian seemed to think of something, his mind moved, and he saw the Innate Dao Seed leap out again.

Unable to hold back, Tao Qian smiled.

"Fishing, once you've done it once, you think about a second time."

"Now that I've mastered the transformation technique, I might as well change my appearance, rise from the Secret Acupoint Platform again, embrace the Dao Seed as bait, and combine it with the Secret Demon Refining God Technique, to fish for some Outer Realm Heaven Demons."

"If luck is indeed good, perhaps I can gather some Divine Power Skills of the Secret Demon Sect."

"At the very least, I can consume some Heavenly Demons to nourish my own Primordial Spirit."



"These days of arduous cultivation, and the weary refining of this new divine power, my divine soul has long been starving."

As these thoughts settled, Tao Qian's primordial spirit, now embracing the fragrant Dao Seed, had already changed its appearance, and he quietly sat back on the Secret Acupoint Platform.

With a thought, the sealed Secret Acupoint opened on its own, resonating with the Outer Realm.

The fragrance of the Dao Seed began to spread out, thread by thread.

Chapter 95: Sunv Replenishes the Prime, Vajra Soul Destruction

Above the unobstructed secret acupoint platform, Tao Qian's primordial spirit sat upright, cradling the innate Dao seed in his arms, a spitting image of a true Daoist practitioner.

To the outer-realm heavenly demons, he appeared as a primo furnace, enough to make countless demons weep with craving.

The last time he baited demons, Tao Qian simultaneously cultivated and waited for the fish to swim into the net.

But this time, Tao Qian was determined to be more cautious. With a different cultivation realm, the level of demons he came in contact with during cross-dimensional interaction also varied.

During the Energy-Introducing Realm, he mostly attracted inferior demons with little other than their innate tricks and not a shred of divine skills, completely at Tao Qian's mercy to be molded or squashed.

Now, as a Qi Refining Realm cultivator, Tao Qian contemplated that if he baited again, he might attract some slightly higher-level demons.

Fortunately, in addition to the "Secret Demon Refining God Skill," Tao Qian's soul was extraordinary too, completely exempting him from the costs of heavenly demon invasions. So, this bad habit of fishing might as well stick.

The Innate Dao Seed truly deserved its reputation as a highly coveted talent for genuine Daoist disciples.

The fragrance was refreshing and delightful, holding a hint of the mysterious Dao rhyme. Coupled with the aura of immortal spirit emanating from Tao Qian himself, it was like laying out a pair of irresistibly tempting feasts for any demon that detected it.

Even though many demons possessed far greater wisdom than those inferior demons.

But demons were still demons, adept at manipulating mortal desires, yet unable to resist their own.

Time began to pass.

On the surface, the spirit platform was clear and tranquil, showing no abnormalities.

However, Tao Qian, appearing to meditate, had been silently counting from the bottom of his heart since fifteen minutes ago:

"One!"

"Two!"

"Three!"

...

These numbers were clearly an indication of the quantity of demons that had taken the bait.

As Tao Qian silently counted, he also sensed the surroundings.

Based on the intensity and direction of the pulsations, he assessed how many and how strong the fish caught in the net were.

As he had anticipated, the demons attracted by his "Qi Refining Realm" level of cultivation were much stronger and more cunning than the last time.

Even though Tao Qian had counted up to "ten," those demons lurking in the spirit platform had remained concealed, none jumping out to seize his body.

Until a certain moment, just when Tao Qian's own patience was nearly exhausted, a new fish swam over without any concealment or disguise, arriving directly inside the spirit platform.

Tao Qian opened his eyes to see flowers blooming in profusion, surrounded by the sounds of immortal music. Dozens of heavenly girls and strongmen encircled a richly adorned and precious covered incense carriage, arriving through the sky. On it, a dark-skinned bewitching witch lay indolently, scantily dressed, with golden bracelets on her wrists and ankles, and a pair of horns on her head.

Such an entourage reminded Tao Qian of the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva.

Seeing Tao Qian's surprised look, the witch on the carriage stretched out boldly, looked around Tao Qian's clear platform, and with a voice slightly hoarse but more enchanting, said, "Little Daoist, your mental cultivation is not bad, eh? An empty spirit platform, pure and clear, without a single speck of dust—it looks quite comfortable."

"You needn't be nervous. I am the daughter of the Red Star Demon Lord from the Outer Realm. According to the customs of your mortal world, you can call me Jin Ling'er."

"Princess here enjoys forming bonds with mortal cultivators like you, especially a handsome little Daoist like you. Come, accompany me to the Red Star Demon Realm. If you read more Daoist and Buddhist scriptures, you'll know—there are lots of benefits."

While speaking, the witch stepped down from the carriage.

Like a sprightly elf, innocent and lively, she ran towards Tao Qian.

Her suggestion did indeed remind Tao Qian of stories Lin Xiaohua had told him.

Trillions of outer-realm demons, most of them fierce and terrifying, but some exceptionally wise beings, did not seize cultivators' bodies but instead made alliances with them.

Indeed, many cultivators during meditation had accidentally established contacts with some "big shots" from the Outer Realm, like being invited to tour someone's Demon Realm, and then being endowed with an abundance of divine powers, outer-realm strange objects, and mysterious magical treasures.

To some extent, this was also considered a stroke of luck, a kind of serendipitous encounter.

Was that what Tao Qian had come across now?

Looking at Jin Ling'er, the Demon Lord's daughter by his side, trying to take his hand,

Tao Qian, who had altered his appearance to that of a handsome young Daoist, showed a shy smile. After successfully holding hands, he refused, saying, "I can't, I can't. My Master warned me that outer demons are the most skilled at changes, bewitching hearts and minds. One must never trust them too easily. Moreover, you are clearly a charming heart demon, so how can you claim to be Jin Ling'er?"

Perhaps because Tao Qian's tone had shifted too suddenly, revealing the truth so abruptly,

The female demon that made contact with his primordial spirit and was about to seize his body was momentarily stunned.

Unfortunately for her, that moment spelled her doom.

As Tao Qian spoke, his other hand had already formed the Secret Demon Refining God Seal and landed a blow on the forehead of the female demon.

Boom!

It was as if a storm had suddenly swept through.

The blossoming flowers, the immortal music, the heavenly girls, the covered incense carriage... all dissipated cleanly.

The so-called Demon Lord's daughter who was holding Tao Qian, her alluring shell vanished without a trace, replaced by a naked, hunchbacked old figure with sparse hair, skin like ancient pine, no mouth or nose, and a single great eye on her face.

Her existence was incredibly brief; recognized and struck with the Dharma Seal, with a wail in an instant she turned into a black and red orb of light.

#### Chapter 96: Sunv Replenishes the Prime, Vajra Soul Destruction\_2

After killing the demon, Tao Qian looked directly at various places on the spirit platform.

With roars and howls, demons of no low status appeared with all kinds of disgusting and bizarre forms that destabilized the mind and shattered the spirit.

Sadly, at this moment the demons suddenly fell into disarray, half charging at Tao Qian, the other half frantically trying to escape.

Numerous demon thoughts rampaged like a storm inside the spirit platform.

"Secret Demon Refining God Skill? Is it a little demon from the Secret Demon Sect?"

"No, the Secret Demon Sect no longer exists, this guy is a crafty demon cultivator, coming for us."

"It's a trap, escaping is useless, we have a chance to live only by seizing his body."

"Even if it's a trap we must escape. Should we just charge and die? Can you endure the Refining God Seal?"

"Demon, human demons are the most shameless."

...

Tao Qian seemed to find these demon thoughts too noisy, his brows furrowed and when his mind moved, a vast divine light swept over.

Suddenly, the heavenly demons, cut off from their sympathy and many strategies, were like hitting a storm, whether fleeing or surrounding to kill, were swept into a vortex.

In the midst of chaos and inversion, they all saw the handsome little Daoist leisurely tossing the glowing orb, which the "Charming Heart Demon" had turned into after death, into his mouth.

Then, with a cold shiver, visibly impure demon thoughts were expelled.

This scene terrified all ten demons to their core.



It was then that they saw the handsome little Daoist, smiling at them, saying,

"Since you've entered my net, if you can still escape, then my Secret Demon Refining God Skill would have been cultivated in vain."

"But there is no need for you to be overly fearful, I am a true cultivator of the authentic Daoist tradition, certainly not as cruel as those demon cultivators."

"Let us skip the process and go straight to the trading phase."

"I'm currently not very hungry, only interested in Divine Power Skills, and it just so happens that your demon thoughts sometimes yield some extraction."

"Today, let's see how my luck fares?"

While speaking, Tao Qian couldn't help rubbing his hands together, obviously eager to start the draw.

The ten demons were inclined to spit out words of refusal, but remembering the scene just now, they submitted one by one.

The only consolation was that this terrifying little Daoist was willing to swear a Daoist oath with them.

Thus, a somewhat familiar and quite disgusting scene once again emerged within the spirit platform.

A huge writhing mass of flesh, comprised of ten demons slightly higher in rank than inferior demons, materialized fragments of text, symbols, and mnemonics, out of the chaotic and complex demon thoughts, as mist rose and light flickered.

For other cultivators witnessing this scene, it would be dizzying and utterly impossible to extract any essence.

But Tao Qian, after silently waiting for a moment, suddenly reached out.

With a familiar "sizzle", when he withdrew his hand, Tao Qian held a black date pit.

At the touch, a sense arose spontaneously.

Then, Tao Qian's expression suddenly changed, and he couldn't help but mutter, "Ill Omen."

It was the first time he obtained a Divine Power spell, yet his mood had not improved, but rather worsened.

It turned out that the spell contained within this date pit was the "Sunv Yin Zao Bu Yuan Spell," an extremely ancient and brutal Demon Path spell, with extreme cruelty and violence, and yet of little use except as an obscure method for maintaining eternal youth and unchanged appearance.

Tao Qian didn't think too long and applied pressure with his fingertips, grinding the pit back into demon thoughts and dissipating it into nothing.

Although he was somewhat of a "hoarder," he had absolutely no interest in collecting such spells.

Fortunately, it wasn't long before he felt the familiar stirring sensation once more.

Tao Qian timed it perfectly and reached out again. With the splattering of blood and flesh, the demons wailed in agony.

He suddenly produced another object in his hand, this time a gold bead tinged with pink, resembling a Buddha bead or something like a Shariputra.

"Hmm?"

Having extracted an alien object from the flesh and blood of the Outer Realm Demon, Tao Qian couldn't help but become intrigued.

Yet as soon as he began to sense it, he couldn't help but think to himself, "This is bad luck."

Indeed, it was a Shariputra, but it was not any ordinary Shariputra.

Within it was a Magic Skill called the "Charming Vajra Soul Destruction Technique," which originated from the Demon Buddha Temple and was an Absorb Technique.

Practicing this technique allowed one to transform into a Charm Vajra with a Yin Yang Body, similar to the Yin Yang Elder, able to switch genders at will. It could seduce both male and female cultivators, offering them soul-destroying sensations and thereby seizing the opportunity to absorb essence and enhance oneself.

However, even when practiced deeply, such a spell had limited utility, and one would be easily slaughtered when encountering a powerful foe.

"Have I just poked a hornet's nest of an Absorb Demon?"

"Sure enough, I can't expect to be lucky every time, drawing Divine Skills that I like and can use."

"Most of the time, it's probably just 'thanks for coming', with the occasional disgust thrown in."

After Tao Qian finished his mocking commentary, he crushed the Shariputra as well.

The mass of flesh also finished evolving, quietly splitting apart without any further disturbances.

The ten demons manifested themselves, alarmed and uncertain, then noticed the disgruntled look on the face of the fearsome little Daoist.

All Demons realized this little demon probably hadn't obtained the Cultivation Technique or Divine Skills he wanted and was seething with anger.

Without waiting for them to speak, the previously sealed Spirit Platform Secret Acupoint opened up once again.

Tao Qian, while gesturing for them to leave quickly, closed his eyes and began to meditate, clearly preparing to cast out his second line and throw his second net.

Seeing this scene, the ten slightly injured demons exchanged glances, simultaneously seeing the renewed greed appearing in the eyes of the rest.

If they honestly left like that, they would not deserve the name of Outer Realm Heaven Demons.

Almost immediately, they feigned departure but simultaneously turned around and pounced towards Tao Qian.

Due to their shared empathy reemerging, the tricks they displayed at this moment were at least several times stronger than before.

In the thunderous noise, the originally clear Spirit Platform was instantly contaminated.

A Demon Thought Storm nearly tore the Secret Acupoint apart, washing over the little Daoist and restraining his Primordial Spirit, preventing him from closing the acupoint again.

Then came the terrifying Divine Powers of over ten different demons.

"Hahaha... Such a foolish little Daoist. When have our demon oaths ever been effective against us demons?"

"With the empathy of the Outer Realm reborn, this is our true strength."

"Bearing Dao Seed, such a wonderful body shall be mine, all mine."

"What does it matter if you practiced the Secret Demon Refining God Skill, you've still fallen into our clutches."

...

Just as the demons' thoughts were surging, the handsome little Daoist Tao Qian unexpectedly opened his eyes.

He formed a Dharma Seal, smiling cheerfully at the ten attacking demons.

Only this time, he didn't unleash the Secret Demon Refining God Seal but instead proclaimed loudly:

"To let you die with understanding, I am truly not a Demon Cultivator, but a bona fide Daoist Cultivator."

"If you do not believe it, then taste this Divine Skill of mine."

As he spoke, a surge of Spirit Treasure Nine True Immortal Spirit Qi leaped within Tao Qian.

Then, for the first time using this Immortal Spiritual True Qi, he unleashed a Divine Power that was even more terrifying to beings like the Outer Realm Heaven Demons than the Refining God Seal.

Chapter 97: Acquiring Another Sword Technique, The Summoning Demon Technique

The spirit platform was wide open, and a horde of demons was upon it.

Tao Qian, however, was calm and composed, as his primordial spirit circulated that stream of immortal spiritual Qi, and he spat out the Nine True Spirit Sound from his mouth.

This was a sound attack divine power that Tao Qian had acquired by chance, which fit incredibly well with the Spirit Treasure Method he practiced. Against demons and malevolent spirits, the Spirit Sound was akin to a catastrophe, let alone the fact that it wasn't the Spirit Treasure Source Qi Tao Qian was utilizing now, but the supremely powerful Nine True Immortal Spirit Qi.

Completely suppressed, the demons had no power to resist.

Boom!

In an instant, the utterly pure and true rhythm of the Spirit Treasure Dao, like a storm, swept out ferociously.

Such power was more terrifying than any previous instance.

The divine powers unleashed by the ten demon lords were utterly shattered, and their very bodies were frozen in place, unable to even circulate their demon thoughts.

In the last moment before being immobilized, their final thought startlingly was: Was the little Daoist speaking the truth? Is he really a Daoist cultivator, and moreover, a disciple who has received the true teachings?

Unfortunately, their regret at that moment was in vain.



Tao Qian then stood up from the spirit platform and shook his head, saying,

"If it weren't for your excessive greed, with that Daoist oath in place, I would have had no means to deal with you."

"Now that the oath has been broken, you can hardly blame me."

As he spoke, Tao Qian still used the Refining God Seal, moving it to hammer the ten demons, slightly higher than the inferior demons, into demon light sugar pills, throwing them one by one into his mouth. With each chill, his primordial spirit began to grow stronger.

Once one comprehended the crux of this Secret Demon Refining God Skill, it was just this simple and brutal.

Of course, if it weren't for Tao Qian's ability to exempt the cost, he wouldn't be able to practice this way; the risk of falling into demonism and mutation was too high.

After doing all this, Tao Qian once again sat back on the spirit platform.

Embracing the Dao Seed as usual, only changing the position, he silently waited.

Don't be disheartened, the second rod, the second net, even if the divine power skills desired aren't obtained, these demon heads can still serve as primordial spirit resources and not be wasted. After all, this is all cultivation... Such thoughts flickered in the depths of Tao Qian's heart.

Perhaps it was his Qi Refinement Realm body that was too tempting, or perhaps the fragrance of the innate Dao Seed was too strong.

Not much later, within Tao Qian's seemingly empty spirit platform,

there were already a dozen different shapes of demon heads silently hiding. There were not only inferior demons but also those of slightly higher rank capable of unleashing divine powers.

They came into the net without any coordination, especially those inferior demons that had no restraint on their desires. As soon as they entered, they couldn't help revealing themselves, chaotically surging forward, all wanting to devour Tao Qian's primordial spirit and snatch his excellent body, to go to the bustling human world and seek the path of cultivation.

Tao Qian couldn't be bothered to talk more, after gauging the right measure, he sealed the secret acupoints and once again unleashed a "Nine True Spirit Sound" at the group of demons.

After freezing the demons, he thaws them again, then randomly selects an inferior demon and hammers it into a sugar pill with the Refining God Seal.

First, a big stick, then a sweet date.

Seeing this scene, these ferocious and evil demons all behaved themselves.

Now when making a deal with the demons, the process was unbelievably smooth.

So, very quickly, another moving, wailing mass of flesh appeared in front of Tao Qian.

The previously disgusting sight, now upon a second glance, seemed much more endearing.

With a heart full of anticipation, Tao Qian began extracting once more.

Unexpectedly, his luck was even worse this time. Until the group of demons separated, Tao Qian had not perceived a complete sensation of a pulse.

That is to say, even if the demon thoughts of this group merged with one another, they couldn't constitute even a slightly complete divine power skill, and naturally, they couldn't condense any sort of alien item.

"Emptied?"

Although he was mentally prepared, faced with such an outcome, Tao Qian still looked disappointed.

He waved his hand and let the group of demons leave.

But completely as expected, when the spirit platform was opened again and the outer realm awareness arose again.

The group of demons that had only endured one beating, like those heavenly demons before, had their hearts once more taken over by inflated greed; most screeched and turned back around to encircle and try to kill Tao Qian once again.

Tao Qian was also very familiar with this process, and after a sigh, he alternated between unleashing the Nine True Spirit Sound and the Refining God Seal.

These demons were only slightly stronger than those he encountered during the previous refining. How could they compete with Tao Qian, who had unknowingly gained several more techniques and whose realm had jumped a whole major layer? No matter how they bared their teeth and claws, unleashing techniques that would scare loose cultivators senseless, they all ended up as cultivation resources for Tao Qian to consume.

In a short while, his primordial spirit had grown considerably stronger.

So it went!

Repeated several times!

Tao Qian's primordial spirit became increasingly robust, but his mood was not particularly good.

Because the past several extractions either resulted in trash or were empty.

And, at this very moment, as Tao Qian who was sitting in meditation on the spirit platform appeared to be entering deep concentration, he suddenly opened his eyes.

Without even a pretense of concealing it, he directly sighed to the hidden demons woven throughout the secret acupoints, this time a good fifty in number, saying,

"All who enter my spirit platform are guests, I can only hope this time you can bring me a stroke of good fortune."

"After all, my Primordial Spirit is nearly satiated, and I must not be too greedy."

No sooner had he finished speaking, Tao Qian did not wait for the group of demons to materialize and respond.

He went through the motions of activating the Spirit Sound Seal with a practiced ease that one couldn't help but pity.

The stronger his Primordial Spirit grew, the more potent the power of both became.

Regrettably, none of this could change fate or blessings.

Not everyone has the bizarre luck of the Wild Leek Demon "Shan Jiu" who could simply lie down and stumble upon treasures.

As it had been several times before, the demons had no objections to the transaction.

In front of Tao Qian, this time appeared an unprecedentedly large, writhing mass of flesh, infused with disgustingly textured skin, tusks, bloody fluids, and tumors, which along with the light, shadow, and demon fog, brought a chaotic barrage of text and symbols simultaneously to Tao Qian's eyes.

By this point, Tao Qian had somewhat resigned himself to fate.

Thinking to himself, if this attempt were fruitless,

then he would just collect the network and stop fishing for demons, turning instead to refine other techniques for protecting the Dao.

Just as Tao Qian was casually extracting them, he suddenly sensed something.

Could it be that fortune had come back around?

The next moment, he heard the familiar "sizzle" sound not once, but three times in succession.

In Tao Qian's hands, three more objects appeared, each imbued with different Divine Power Skills.

They were a chunk of sticky and blood-soaked intestine, a pale bone whistle, and a footlong tusk that looked so familiar it brought a smile to Tao Qian's face.

In an instant, records and annotations surfaced in his mind.

The intestine carried the technique known as "Yin Demon Intestine Drawing Skill," a particularly cruel Demon Divine Power that was extremely difficult to practice. It required one to first mutilate their own intestines, a process so brutal and painful that even among denizens of the Demon Path, few could bear it—much less Tao Qian, to whom it seemed utterly worthless.

But the following two items, and the techniques they carried, caused Tao Qian to involuntarily reveal his joy.

First was the tusk—everything about it, from its shape and aura to the familiar throbbing sensation, made Tao Qian guess even before his perception was triggered that it must be another technique from the "Secret Demon Sacrifice Body Sword Technique."

And indeed, it was so.

"This new sword technique is called 'Demon Cleansing,'" explained Tao Qian, "and is the most bizarre technique within the Sacrifice Sword Skill as it targets practitioners of the Demon Path exclusively. If practiced to completion and used against Daoist and Buddhist Practitioners, its power is pathetically minimal. But if it is unleashed in response to sensing Demon Thoughts, it possesses an extraordinarily terrifying power."

"Legend has it that the Great Cultivator of the Secret Demon Sect who created the Sacrifice Sword Skill was an exceedingly arrogant being. Dissatisfied after creating the Immortal Slaying Technique, he went on to create this technique with the notion 'As I can slay immortals, so too can I cleanse demons.'"

"When the Daoist and Buddhist factions laid siege to the Secret Demon Sect and breached the Mountain Gate, some powerful Demon Cultivators thought to seize the opportunity and snatch the sect's inheritance. However, they did not anticipate that amidst the remaining Secret Demon Sect Cultivators present was one who had mastered the Sacrifice Sword Skill. Laughing heartily, he turned back amidst his fight against the Great Daoist and Buddhist Cultivators and unleashed a sword strike at the opportunistic demons. That day, the grandiose Sword Intent swept across the lands, afflicting all Demon Cultivators within a thousand miles with calamity."

"Like the Immortal Slaying Technique, this sword technique requires prior cultivation; the longer the Sword Intent is harbored, the more horrifying the power becomes."

"Likewise, falling into my hands, its difficulty can be exempted."

As these thoughts flashed through his mind, Tao Qian didn't hesitate to clap his hands together and learned this new technique, Demon Cleansing.



Completing the third style of the Sacrifice Sword Skill brought Tao Qian immense joy.

Unexpectedly, the first-time-seen pale bone whistle was an even bigger surprise.

Furthermore, the technique it contained also originated from the Secret Demon Sect.

[Record Type: All Heavens Demon Summoning Secret Technique (fragmented books).]

[Record Type: Alien.]

[Record: This Secret Technique comes from the great book "All Heavens Secret Demon Scripture" of the Demon Path, and is one of the three summoning methods in the auxiliary volume dedicated to summoning. After refining this technique, with a mere thought, endless demons from the Outer Realm can be summoned for one's use, be it battling enemies with Demon Control, indulging in demonic pleasures, or utilizing for Cultivation. However, this is only a fragment; the rest, such as the most crucial Control Demon, Resistance, and refine demons methods, and even the critical annotations for mitigating or reducing the cost, are all missing.]

[Annotation 1: This Secret Technique is extremely easy to master; even those with low innate talent can summon Outer Realm demons. However, the key methods for Demon Control and refining are extremely difficult, attainable only by those of great resolve. If one summons a Heavenly Demon but fails to control it, the Cultivator will suffer a backlash and die instantly, which is why this technique has been one of the leading causes of death among Secret Demon Sect Cultivators.]

[Annotation 2: If someone completes the entire technique, they will possess unmatched combat prowess. During the great war, the Major Sect Vajra Temple's monks summoned a hundred thousand Protecting Dharma Vajras hoping to flatten the Secret Demon Sect Mountain Gate, only to be blocked by ten Great Cultivators of the Secret Demon Sect who had mastered this technique. Together, they cast the spell and summoned a million Heavenly Demons, resulting in a grand battle where the sun and the moon lost their shine.]

[Annotation 3: The original technique was complete, but the Secret Demon Sect deliberately split it up, hiding each summoning technique within the Demon Thoughts of various demons in the Outer Realm, while the key methods were concealed elsewhere, attainable only by True Inheritors of the Secret Demon lineage.]

[Annotation 4: It allows for exemption from demonic backlash, but only for Heavenly Demons of equivalent rank, and there is a limit to the number.]

...

When Tao Qian first understood the function of this "Summoning Demon Technique," his eyes nearly lit up with excitement.

Only to have his enthusiasm dampened upon reading the subsequent annotations: The most crucial techniques, whether Control Demon, Resistance, or the annotations for mitigating or reducing costs, were entirely missing.

Although the fourth annotation offered slight reassurance, Tao Qian still felt as if a bucket of cold water had been poured over him.

At the same time, the third annotation confirmed Tao Qian's earlier suspicion:

"Had the Secret Demon Sect spread the techniques among the Cultivation World while keeping an escape route, always ready to rise again?"

Chapter 98: Wishing to Go to Spiritual Treasure, Earth Devil Country

These records, annotations, and contemplations, though complex in narrative,

were in fact merely a few surging thoughts in Tao Qian's mind. After learning that "Demon Cleansing" sword technique, Tao Qian took an interest in the Summoning Demon Technique, especially the "Ten Thousand Demon List" contained within. This kind of strange and ancient book that could broaden one's horizons was exactly the sort that pleased Tao Qian the most.

As he was about to peruse it, he remembered something and looked up.

Indeed, dozens of ugly and terrifying faces were looking in his direction, huddling close with ingratiating smiles.

Though they all very much wanted Tao Qian to honor the Daoist oath and release them, none dared to speak first for fear of the ferocious Nine True Spirit Sound and Refining God Seal.

Their appearance was pitiable indeed.

Unfortunately, Tao Qian had seen such a sight all too many times. Demons are cunning and fickle by nature; if you truly took pity on them, death wouldn't be far behind.

The mingling of dozens of demons allowed Tao Qian to extract three Divine Power Skills, two of which were ones he urgently needed and could use to enhance his battle strength with Protecting Dao Skills.

Their value was essentially drained, though he could still wait for them to break their oaths and then crush them into sugar pills to consume.

But Tao Qian's Primordial Spirit was satiated, and it wasn't worth doing so.

Therefore, without further conversation with the group of demons, he waved his hand and a repulsive force arose from the Secret Acupoint Platform, expelling them back to the Outer Realm and closing off the moment in the process.

The group of demons only had time for one last whiff of the "Innate Dao Seed" fragrance before they were unable to gather and attack.

After sending away the demon lords, Tao Qian clapped his hands together, and the ghastly Bone Whistle transformed into a white light before merging into his Primordial Spirit.

In the blink of an eye, he had mastered the "Secret Demon Summoning Technique"; indeed, as the records had said, all the essential skills were missing, leaving only the basic summoning spell and the Ten Thousand Demon List.

Tao Qian was quite intrigued by the latter and immersed himself for a moment.

"Demons of the Outer Realm are limitless and bound by their own laws."

"However, this book merely describes their types, abilities, and preferences, among other characteristics."

"The lowest-tier inferior demon is born from desire, and although it can invisibly penetrate a cultivator's spirit platform, it lacks significant methods; a small measure of willpower is all it takes to block or even extinguish it."

"Then there are somewhat higher-ranked demon lords, who are craftier, wiser, and possess more flexible and varied methods. They even begin to have names, such as Charming Heart Demon, Illusion Demon, Enchanting Demon, and so on."

"Moving up a rank, there are Heavenly Demons with not only names but also Divine Skills and the ability to perform certain types of cultivation, like Power Demon, Eye Demon, Scorpion Demon, Night Demon, Death Demon, and so forth."

"Further up are those who are more accomplished in their practice and can control their own desires. Some even actively make contractual oaths to engage in barter with mundane cultivators for resources, like Five Directions Demon, Jiu Pan Demon, Soul-devouring Demon, Yin Yang Demon, Thousand Needle Demon, Heart Piercing Demon, and others."

"Ascending further, one finds Demon Generals and Lords, and even Demon Kings and Gods. These Outer Realm Great Demons are more terrifying than powerful cultivators in the Cultivation World and cannot be summoned with mere Summoning Demon Techniques."

"With my current Cultivation in the Qi Refining Realm, I could perhaps summon a Charming Heart Demon, but to command it, I would first need to make the vow with the Secret Technique, and each summons would require a Heart Refining Demon Pill; however, both of these methods have been concealed by the Secret Demon Sect... Hm?"

While pondering, an inspiration suddenly struck Tao Qian.

Although the Secret Demon Sect had hidden the Secret Method of gates, there were other ways to tame demons to heed one's command.

Tao Qian now knew of a second method, which was the one used by the Jade-faced Lady Lan Qing'er.

"The Summoning Demon Technique states that to command a summoned Power Demon, besides making an oath, one must also offer a 'Powerful Demon Pill' each time. Lan Qing'er once obtained the 'Power Demon Mountain Opening Technique' and could also summon Power Demons. Although she did not have any Oath Demon Elixirs to offer, she found another way by surrendering her body to dissipate the hostility of the Power Demon, which also allowed her to command it."

"I am immune to backlash from demons of equivalent rank; next time, I could experiment a few times to see if I can find a Demon Control Technique."

"If truly successful, my battle strength could greatly increase, and I might even be able to do some marvelous things."

"Keep in mind that within the Ten Thousand Demons, aside from the Power Demon skilled in combat, there are also Charming Demon, Yin Demon, Divine Movement Demon, Gui Cang Demon, and other special-function demons; to summon them to my command, wouldn't that be splendid?"

"Only, I seem to be increasingly proceeding in the direction of demon cultivation. Fortunately, I have also cultivated the Spirit Treasure Root Skill to an excellent level. With my Immortal Spiritual Qi and Dao Seed apparent, there should be no risk of being misunderstood."

With a few flashes of thought, Tao Qian formed a Dao Seal with his hands, cradled his Dao Seed, and in the guise of a true Daoist disciple, finished his session of Refining God.

Within the wooden hut, Tao Qian opened his eyes.

He felt his body light and his eyes brimming with Spirit Light, naturally producing Dao Rhyme. Moreover, his Primordial Spirit was full and pure, untainted and flawless. Fueled by the ninety-nine streams of Immortal Spiritual Qi, he felt as though he could take to the skies at any moment like an immortal.

Tao Qian intended to get up and conclude this period of reclusive cultivation.

Before that, however, another thought came to him, and he spat out the Mustard Seed Talisman Seed. With a flourish of light, the talisman seed spit out a round object as well.

It was a silver-whitish sword Elixir, roughly the size of a pigeon's egg. It looked ordinary on the surface but contained an intense sharp essence within.

Tao Qian wasted no time and pressed out a drop of Essence Blood imprinted with his Divine Soul into the Elixir.

He then began the refinement process using the method given to him by Lin Xiaohua.

As it was a new technique and a genuine Magical Treasure,

he lost track of time, and several days passed before Tao Qian finally completed the nurturing of the sword Elixir.

Opening his eyes once more, Tao Qian then had the thought, and saw a silver light in front of him that constantly transformed. Eventually, it took on the appearance of a fish swimming around his body fluidly.

Chapter 99 Desire to Go to Spiritual Treasure, Earth Devil Country\_2

"This Hundred Refinement Sword Pill, although just a magic artifact, if it were to fall into the hands of a proper sword cultivator, is an absolutely terrifying weapon of slaughter."

"However, using it myself isn't a waste either, even though I don't know those myriad and profound sword techniques. It can serve as a disguise as a clumsy sword cultivator, to lower an enemy's guard. When they get close enough, I can directly intimidate them with the Nine True Spirit Sound. Following



that, whether I use the 'Selfless' technique, the 'Immortal Slaying,' or even 'Demon Cleansing,' it would certainly be lethal."

With that thought in mind, Tao Qian nodded to himself, satisfied, and concluded his secluded cultivation.

Before rising, he silently estimated the time in his heart.

Adding the original three days, he had cultivated in hiding for a total of ten days.

"All goals have been achieved, and there were even some surprises. It's the perfect time to set out for the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate."

Thinking with a hint of anticipation, Tao Qian got up and went outside the house.

Having had one experience, before opening the wooden door this time, Tao Qian prepared himself mentally a bit.

After all, the Taoyuan Space is only so large. What further mischief could two kids get up to?

With a "creak" the door swung open, and Tao Qian glanced up, realizing in an instant that his previous thoughts were too naive.

Before him, was it still that jelly-like mushroom world and Bronze White Bone Terracotta City?

Yes and no.

Clearly, it was because Tao Qian had asked the two little ones seven days ago that, while the world was nice, the details were lacking.

And so, in these seven days, Little Age and Lian Jing'er had "filled in" those details.

At this moment, when Tao Qian looked, there were conspicuous traces of civilization within the two small worlds.

Within those mountain and karst caves on the left, many mushroom-like, jelly-like little people and various strange creatures resembling clouds and mists had emerged, and on the right, within those bronze and white bone cities, the terracotta soldiers had come to life, working in well-organized roles, beginning to manage their city.

If it were only this, Tao Qian could actually accept it.

But at a certain moment, an immensely impassioned horn and drumbeat echoed simultaneously within both small worlds.

All those little jelly people and white bone soldiers, who had previously been playing or working, stopped to gather noisily into armies. Under the command of the suddenly appearing Little Age and Lian Jing'er, they roared, and with the narrow path in the middle as their frontier, they began a battle-like struggle.

Despite the scene looking, to Tao Qian, much like two children playing with toys,

The reality was that, at this moment within the Taoyuan Space, the sound of weaponry clashing, shouts of killing, and the thunderous noise of war horses could be heard without end.

Gooey, crystalline blood, resembling jelly, entangled with bronze, cast iron, and white bone, the latter revealing its sharpness, in return, tearing those blood flesh little people to shreds. Limbs and body parts flowed together into streams, spores burst forth clouds... The scene was eerie and terrifying, yet possessed a kind of strange beauty.

Tao Qian now understood even more what Lin Xiaohua had said about if Little Age and Lian Jing'er were left to drift in this dark and chaotic age, should these two little ones be lucky enough not to die but instead grow step by step, then two extremely terrifying Great Demons would indeed emerge in the world.

If an outsider were in this Taoyuan, they'd probably be so frightened they couldn't speak.

After going outside, one could not avoid writing a long "Taoyuan Chronicles" to describe the incredible sights here.

The leaders of the battling little ones quickly noticed Tao Qian. With a wave of their hands, they brought an immediate stop to the conflict. All the fighting tool-like little people simultaneously returned to their positions, forming two eerie formations on either side of the Taoyuan Path, standing off against each other.

Their leaders came bounding joyfully toward him, just like seven days prior—each holding their heads high, emerald and ruby eyes shining brightly, waiting for Tao Qian's new round of evaluations.

Tao Qian scrutinized seriously and after admiring two detailed small worlds for a moment, an obvious look of appreciation appeared on his face. He gave each of the little ones a big thumbs up and lavishly praised them.

Later, he even spent half a day to conjure some toy figurines and played with them several times.

Only after the two little ones were satisfied did Tao Qian propose to leave this place, but those delicate small worlds could not be taken along.

The Pregnancy Stone, though wondrous, was indeed a one-time magical treasure.

Once used, regardless of whether the one-month period was full or not, as soon as the user left, everything here would inevitably turn into a mere illusion and dissipate.

Hearing this, both little ones were, of course, very reluctant to part.

Little Age kept muttering, "I am the Lord of Taisui, my subjects, oh..."

Lian Jing'er, with her gemstone eyes flashing red light, also repeated, "Flesh bodies have weaknesses... Predicting my nation could defeat Taisui Country after three thousand six hundred and ninety-four attempts... Unforeseen circumstances intervening... This prediction is invalid..."

...

A moment later, they were still above the mountain stream and the peach forest.

Tao Qian led Little Age and Lian Jing'er, watching as an iridescent bubble in the void "popped" and shattered, the gleaming fragments dancing in the air, as the bizarre and inconceivable scenes inside also disappeared.

"Though there are still a good twenty days of usage time left, at any other time, it would be nothing to spend another half-month in deep cultivation."

"The scary thing is that if that son-of-a-gun Tang Xianzong, Qin Wuxiang, and the forces of Ji Xianxian clash and turn Southern Yue into a land dominated by Earth Devils."

"By the time I come out, there would be nowhere to run."

"While there's still time, it's best to leave this dangerous territory."

As these thoughts flashed through his mind, Tao Qian led the two little ones and was about to use the Small Innate Nascent Soul Escape Technique to leave.

However, the direction he chose was neither through the mountain ranges, nor Seeking Immortal County or the province city, but rather a more secluded direction.

Tao Qian planned to first head east, make his way to the large province neighboring Southern Yue, and then follow the route all the way to the vast and boundless Penglai Sea of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty.

The sense that he had cultivated during the Qi Refining Realm was guiding Tao Qian to search for the entrance to the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate above the sea.

Thinking this way, it indeed felt very much like seeking the immortal path and inquiring about the way.

But no sooner had this feeling arisen and before Tao Qian could launch his Evasion Light, suddenly, just over a low hilltop,

Tao Qian and the three of them abruptly heard "crackle and boom," a mix of gunfire and thunderous noise, and then they saw a large number of refugees crying and running frantically appearing on the nearby mountain trail and official road.

They seemed to be fleeing disaster, with large and small bags, entire families in tow, and among the ordinary civilians, many wealthy households were mixed in, so most people were walking on foot or dragging hand carts and rickshaws, but some were even riding bicycles or driving small cars in their escape from calamity.

This scene once again dragged Tao Qian back into the complex atmosphere of the Mortal World.

Until the familiar sound of gunfire roared again from behind them, and this time, it was also mixed with the roars of a multitude of Demons and the Demonic Qi visibly rising and obscuring nearly half of the mountain top.

In the midst of the Demon Qi, a wild laugh came through, "What use is your struggle? This king has received the Devil God's decree; from now on, Wending County shall be the domain of my Earth Devil Country. As a Sword Cultivator for over a hundred years, what's wrong with being a minor king and feasting on tender human flesh? It's all because you Human Clan lost the Ancestor God's Forbidden Technique, the Longevity Barrier, hahaha..."

Chapter 100: The Might of the Red Sun, Enthronement of the Devil God

The roaring of muskets and cannons, demons aspiring to be ruler, refugees fleeing calamity; these scenes together made it difficult for Tao Qian not to pay attention.

But Tao Qian didn't plan to recklessly reveal himself by charging into that battlefield. What if this was his fated calamity? To rush in without observing the situation clearly and fulfill such a disaster would be a wrongful death... With that in mind, Tao Qian led Little Age and Lian Jing'er, channeling the Immortal Spirit Qi within his body. He instantly took to the wind, ascending up the mountain stream, and with the help of the Gang Wind Cloud Qi, landed on the peak of this unnamed mountain.

Taking advantage of some cover, he looked towards the end of the refugee queue that was avoiding disaster, the two sides engaged in battle.

One side was clearly a group of Demon Magicians, led by a Demon who seemed to have mutated from a human.

It was completely wrapped in a big cloud of stinking, black-red Demonic Qi, with the upper body vaguely resembling that of a seductively handsome man, with a gaunt face, scales embedded in it, fish gills, hollowed-out ribs, and only a pale bone armor protecting the throbbing dark red heart, while the lower body was a ten-meter-long Jiao Demon's tail.

It was unclear whether the decay covering it was due to his Cultivation Technique or a mishap in cultivation, but there were hints of rot everywhere, and even large maggots sporadically burst out, as if they were laying eggs, littering the route with maggots and contaminating an expanse of land.

And this Jiao Demon's subordinates were nothing more than lowly Evil Cultivators and Mutated Demons. Their main force consisted of over a hundred Warlock Demon Soldiers, donned in bizarre hemp cloth, faces smeared with blood, tusks exposed, wielding Demon Weapons, and eyes brimming with ferocity.

In Tao Qian's eyes, they were easy to kill, but their opponents were having trouble.

Unexpectedly, the other side was not Cultivators nor the Demon Suppression Army, but rather seemed like local group of soldiers, with not a single standard uniform between them, yet somehow, they had acquired muskets and cannons, and given their familiarity, had clearly drilled with them often.



Although their leader was a middle-aged Great Man, Tao Qian, at a glance, could see that the true strategist of these several hundred soldiers was a heroic-looking young man standing next to the middle-aged person, covered in dust.

It was rare to see him wearing a modified military uniform, sporting a buzz-cut, and whether it was with a gun or a cannon, he handled them with ease.

Unfortunately, however impressive the firepower, it couldn't harm those sorcerers refined by the "Jiao Demon" using a Secret Technique.

Tao Qian, with his extraordinary vision, could tell that beneath the layers of hemp, were bodies akin to zombies, impervious to the "bang, bang, bang" of gunfire. What did it matter if their flesh was torn and tattered?

They were dead to begin with; let their bodies lie in ruins, they would only get up and charge again.

However, this group of soldiers wasn't entirely without support. The heroic young man and a few subordinates were jointly operating a cannon that appeared extremely refined, covered in many Exotic Realm symbols and radiating light, exuding a threatening aura.

It seemed to be this cannon that kept the Jiao Demon from charging directly.

The young man glanced behind him, where the people of Wending County were still running for their lives.

But with families in tow, how could they escape quickly?

Thus, the bustling procession stretched along the mountain path, trying to flee to the neighboring county, but their speed was painfully slow. Not to mention comparing them with the Jiao Demon, they couldn't match the pace of those zombie sorcerers.

In contrast, a few wealthy households with their struggling automobiles disappeared in a puff of smoke.

He clenched his teeth and then called out to the Jiao Demon, "What exactly do you want, you Demon? We have already given up Wending County to you. Whether you want to be King or just a county head, go on and do it. Why must you chase us to the brink of death?"

He would have been better off not speaking. As soon as he did, the Jiao Demon burst into a piercing laugh.

Hiding within that foul-smelling Demon Cloud, he stuck out a disheveled head and screeched, "Hahaha... Drive to the brink of death? Youngster, you misunderstand, how could this great king bear it? A hundred years of cultivation cannot all be for naught; this great king has read many books and understands the importance of subjects."

"If I killed all of you, how could I still be King of Wending? You all are my subjects, quick, go back home."

"Rest assured, this Great King doesn't have a huge appetite either. Only on festivals and auspicious days do I occasionally crave something fresh. At that time, this Great King will employ a very fair lottery system which treats both the rich and the commoners equally."

"Young man, I see you are a person of talent. Why not serve under this Great King and I'll grant you the position of Prime Minister of Wending, how about that?"

These words that were said had made Tao Qian, who was communicating with his Puppet Body to get the latest news, also turn his head in surprise.

Good heavens, where did this Demon come from?

It was enough that he was so blunt, but he also knew the profound saying of sustainable development.

You see, other Demons, upon seeing so many fresh and tantalizing humans, would have lost patience long ago, pouncing to take a bite here and there, feasting first before anything else.

This Jiao Demon, however, was already considering these people as his subjects. He intended to be frugal with his meals, not to devour them all at once and end up as a King without a nation.

Tao Qian was astonished, but the leader of the local troops was enraged. Seeing the Jiao Demon's head so close, believing the opportunity was not to be missed, stepped forward, signaling his men to light the fuse while he himself blocked the Jiao Demon's line of sight.

"In your dreams!"

With a roar to catch the Jiao Demon's attention, he counted silently for two breaths before sharply stepping aside.

Then, a blaze as intense as the sun erupted from the cannon, accompanied by a thunderous 'boom.'

Visible to the naked eye, a slantingly projected beam as thick as a millstone smashed the cluster of demonic clouds along with the Jiao Demon inside it to smithereens.

Flames burst across the sky, and smoke and dust rained down.

"We hit it, excellent! The elders of the Western Study Society didn't deceive me. The power of this 'No.1 Red Sun' is enough to blast down those so-called Immortals, let alone a rank fishy Jiao Demon."

"Dad, we don't have to leave home anymore. From now on, the safety of Wending County will be protected by me, Zhang Zhenwu..."

"Bang!"

The valiant young man's words were cut short when suddenly, the ground beneath them violently upheaved. A massive creature burst from the soil, sending the Village Soldiers flying, and a wickedly thin

face with long Jiao body emerged, its mouth tearing open to an extreme width, dripping with sticky, foul-smelling saliva with corrosive poison.

As everyone watched in shock and astonishment, the Jiao Demon actually caught the magic artifact known as "No.1 Red Sun" from the West in its mouth.

With a gulping sound, the still-smoking cannon disappeared into the Jiao Demon's belly.

He reared his body proudly against the fierce sun, baring a wild grin and looking down at the helpless Village Soldiers, his voice hoarse:

"Young man, you're too arrogant. This Exotic Realm Magic Artifact has a commendable might, but you as the wielder lack insight, failing to see through even such a shallow illusion."

"Do you think, because I am a member of the Demons, that although I possess strength, I am so foolish I can't detect such a simple trap?"

"Alright, enough fuss has been made, and enough running has been done, my subjects, follow this Great King home."

"If you don't comply, this Great King might just start feasting now..."

Having said that, the Jiao Demon slammed its tail fiercely, only to see a large number of maggots fall off and instantly transform into tens of thousands of grotesque flies, as large as a baby's fist. In the booming buzz that exploded, they formed a fly storm that blocked all the fleeing civilians in place.

Those wealthy families who thought they had escaped far enough by car were out of luck, directly devoured clean by these flies.

Amidst the storm, there were incessant cries of sorrow. The people of Wending County seemed to foresee their miserable future.

As members of the Human Clan, they would have to acknowledge a demon as their King, and during festive occasions, auspicious days, they would also have to offer up fresh human beings as sacrifices for it to eat.

Who could have imagined such a thing happening just a few months ago?

Even in dark and chaotic times, it shouldn't come to this.

Similarly envisioning the terrifying future, the leader of the group of soldiers known as "Zhang Zhenwu" collapsed to the ground, mumbling: "It's over, all is over."

Just as the clouds of despair gathered, not far from a mountain.

Tao Qian, leading Little Age and Lian Jing'er with his Puppet Body, had just taken advantage of this convenience to inquire clearly about the many changes that erupted within Southern Yue during the ten days of his secluded cultivation, as well as the current situation across the entire region.

Inconceivable?

No, it was far worse than that.

Even before his seclusion, due to the matter with Hong Youhu, Tao Qian had vaguely glimpsed the plans of ambitious men like Tang Xianzong, Ji Xianxian, and Qin Wuxiang, aware that a major upheaval was coming to Southern Yue.

But now that he truly understood, he was still shocked beyond belief.

Southern Yue!

This populous Southern province of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty was almost completely overrun by demons.

And it all began with an overlord of the Devil God Army within Southern Yue territory, Tang Xianzong.

This scoundrel had made an extremely shameless and mad decision.

Even though Southern Yue had yet to be occupied by the Devil God Army, he went ahead and sent out "Enfeoffment Decrees" bearing the Devil God Seal to all the big and small demons in the surrounding area, who had not yet come out to create trouble.

In other words, this scoundrel had preemptively divided Southern Yue up.

Great Demons might get a city and several counties, or outright a dozen counties; the Little Demons could get a single county, or several prosperous towns.

It was because of this strategy that these big and small demons, who were still hesitating which province to go to, all poured into Southern Yue in droves.

Dark and chaotic times?

No, by this time, Southern Yue was almost indistinguishable from a ground-based Demon Country.

Devilish Qi and demonic miasma were everywhere, with some arrogant Great Demons taking over markets and counties and promptly setting up Demon Arrays on the spot, forbidding foreign demons or cultivators from passing through.

The Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, as the collaborator of Tang Xianzong, was also the most prominent demon in Southern Yue at present.



The territory she was enfeoffed was so huge it was astonishing, including places like Seeking Immortal County and Wending County.

In order to manage conveniently and to win over her subordinates with sweet rewards, the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva also carried out an enfeoffment within the Iron Buddha Temple.

Pan Hongniang, Tao Qian's cheap master within his Puppet Body, also received control over a county.

As for the Jiao Demon that had been granted Wending County, its background, roots, personality preferences, and so on were naturally all inquired into by Tao Qian without any effort.

Hearing all this, Tao Qian's expression remained calm, but his mind was a whirlwind of towering waves.

So many doubts surged up.

With Southern Yue turning out like this, why was there no action from the Righteous Sects led by the Ten Thousand Infant Sect?

What about Master Xiao, hadn't she gone back to report the situation? Could she have run into trouble?

Ji Xianxian wanted to become the Overlord of Southern Yue, so why hadn't she made a move, allowing Tang Xianzong to run amok?

...

Even though his mind was filled with shock and confusion, Tao Qian also made his move.

Having witnessed the recent battle and carefully weighed both sides' strength, Tao Qian knew his enemy as well as himself, leaving no room for hesitation.

Glancing at the land engulfed by devilish Qi and demonic miasma, Tao Qian told Little Age and Lian Jing'er to stay put.

His body then swayed, transforming into an unremarkable, plainly dressed sword cultivator emitting a sharp aura.

To make it more realistic, Tao Qian took out the Hundred Refinement Sword Pill and tossed it forward.

With a "whoosh," the sword pill immediately burst into dazzling light, streaking like a meteor toward the Jiao Demon's location.

Deliberately stimulated by Tao Qian, this Pill, which could only be considered a magic artifact, at this moment emitted the radiance that only a "True Device" could possess.

Even in broad daylight, it was scintillating enough for even mortals to recognize.

This object must be a precious treasure.

And Tao Qian, riding on clouds, wobbled along behind it.

Chasing after the sword pill, he shouted towards the multitude of civilians, village soldiers, Evil Cultivators, and the Jiao Demon ahead:

"Hey, hey, make way for me, this is my treasure, not yet fully refined, do not block the way, careful not to be hurt by it, I, this True Master, will not be held responsible, ah."