

Longevity 961

Chapter 961 - Blessing Rain, Ascension Dust (Cultivation)

"The Heart Soul gives birth to demons, seeking rebirth on its own for liberation. This is the Great Tribulation birthed by Heaven and Earth, unsolvable by gods and demons."

When this final annotation flashed through Tao Qian's mind.

Three breaths of time had quickly elapsed.

Even Tao Qian only had time to awaken the two, great and small, and, together with the female general Shi Beiniang, teleport above the Liang Country Imperial City.

In that instant, Tao Qian seemed to sense something, his expression suddenly changing.

Between heaven and earth, there seemed to be an intangible and insubstantial "strange tide," coming from an unknown place, sweeping across the entire Liang Country along with several surrounding regions. Then, about one-tenth of the life within these territories fell into a stupor at that moment.

Subsequently, it was a kind of desperate struggle, making their facial features twist into ugliness.

In the next instant, it turned into despair.

After that, there was a shocking upheaval that left Tao Qian terrified and pale.

These beings "caught in the tribulation," whether human or beast, or something else.

Without exception, they began to end themselves in various ways.

Right before Tao Qian's eyes, at that moment, he looked down from above the sky at the sudden outbreak below, chaotic beyond compare, a scene of human tragedy.

Just as the chaos arose, Great Demon Tao intervened to stop it.

Two-pronged attack!

First, borrowing the identity of the Peach Blossom God, he transmitted his voice into the Heart Souls of these believers, sternly commanding:

"My believers!"

"The Heart Demon comes attacking, recite with me the 'Peach Blossom Scripture' to exempt from this disaster."

Though it was called the Peach Blossom Scripture, what Tao Qian was actually chanting was a spell specifically targeting Heart Demons from the Secret Demon Sect.

So many reciting together, with the lead being Tao Qian, a Secret Demon Child with Perfect Ultimate Happiness, if it were truly a "Heart Demon" among the Outer Realm Heaven Demons, even if a Demon Lord came, it would be hard to fare well.

Unfortunately, this time, it was not so.

The power of the spell lasted less than three instants, leading to the chaotic disaster that filled even Tao Qian with despair.

No matter that he continued to intervene, using Great Divine Power to control the citizens who were about to commit suicide, it was still useless.

He cast immobilization spells, God Suppressing Techniques, Secret Demon Great Handprints, and such divine skills, able indeed to temporarily control hundreds of thousands of citizens, and even with some spare capacity.

But this only controlled their bodies; the changes deep in their Heart Souls, he could not manage.

Even when he used heavy-handed methods, knocking tens of thousands unconscious, the result remained unchanged.

What followed were all sorts of unexpected strange ways of death.

Such as "ending one's life in a dream," "dying with a single thought," "bleeding from all seven orifices"... Tao Qian might be able to stop one or two, but there was no way he could simultaneously stop hundreds of thousands.

No matter his flustered efforts, it was so.

"This can't be possible!"

"What kind of disaster exists in the world like this?"

At this moment, Tao Qian also looked disbelief written on his face.

With his knowledge, for a time, he could not at all comprehend the cause and origin of this disaster.

He frowned, quickly observing the citizens below, their bodies, Heart Souls, even all corners.

Muttering incessantly under his breath:

"Heart and soul without distractions, no technique can invade."

"These beings have clearly turned into corpse-like forms completely saturated by 'Suicide Obsession.'

"Even my Secret Demon Method, let alone, should a high monk of great virtue from the Buddhist Sect come, they might not be able to save a few."

These few words from Tao Buddha's son seemed to be a prophecy.

The second wave of the tide!

Came.

Another tens of thousands were caught in the tribulation.

Tao Qian had no choice but to try again, and this time he even took out some of his bottom-box means.

Such as wielding the Evil-slaying Sword, alternating with casting Slaying Strange, Evil Extermination, Evil Extinguishing sword moves, yet this strange disaster called Rebirth Heart Demon did not belong to these categories, and the Supreme Secret Demon Sword Technique was also useless.

Then he released the All Heavens Demon Net, trapping the citizens in the net, refining their obsessions with Demon Fire, letting Hunger Demons devour the Heart Demons, and still, it was useless.

Finally opening the Ten Thousand Demon Gourd, releasing a million demons, letting them employ various methods to prevent success for rewards.

The responses he received were as such:

"Master, this time we've seen a ghost, even with my Decree Technique, I can't move them."

"Master, master, I can't parasitize either, they are clearly ordinary people, why can they resist my Parasite method?"

"Master, this time I can't get the reward, my Demon Mirror can't reflect any distractions from their hearts, truly strange."

"What kind of tribulation is this? Even in the Heavenly Demon Great Realm, with countless disasters and tribulations, nothing like this has been seen."

"Master, master, these people seem to have no self, only the thought of their souls returning to heaven and earth, yet they are even gaining the protection of the Heavenly Dao... Unless there is a power to directly confront this realm's Heavenly Dao, it might not be stopped."

...

Hearing these, Tao Qian finally also showed an expression of helplessness and fatigue.

His comprehensive means turned out to be all futile.

Previously fighting with the incarnations of the Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, Emperor Heavenly Talisman, Red Rope God, and these Outer Realm Demons wasn't as powerless as this.

Thus, whether Tao Qian rested or not doesn't affect the upcoming tragedy of life withering within the realm of Liang Country.

Starting from this capital city, men and women, old and young spared none.

Men with scythes slit their throats, women with hemp ropes hang from beam pillars.

The elderly stagger into dry wells, young drink cold poisoned water.

Even birds and beasts, cattle, and sheep livestock, all went mad, lining up to seek death.

Several tens of breaths!

In this short hour, just within this Liang Country Imperial City, tens of thousands died.

Tao Qian couldn't imagine the situation in other county cities, how would it be at this time?

The Divination Worm, sensing the need, automatically conveyed those harsh scenes:

Because these waves of Heart Demon tides did not attack simultaneously, they came separately within an hour.

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Thus, life became even more miserable.

The common folk first witnessed their family members inexplicably attempting self-destruction, crying out in despair to stop them:

"Mother, what are you doing? This must not be done, no, no..."

"Father, why are you getting up? Why are you going to the well? Father..."

"Heiwa, are you getting up at night? Oh, you want to drink water, what are you looking for everywhere? What are you doing with the rat poison in the middle of the night?"

"Son's mother, it's not yet dawn, it's not time to cut pig grass, why are you holding a sickle?"

...

Tao Qian was powerless to stop it, let alone these ordinary citizens.

After expending all means yet still witnessing their family members dying tragically one by one, they fainted from crying in grief. Then, the second wave, third wave, fourth wave... Heart Demon tides struck, and the survivors also were caught in the tribulation... The human world tragedy repeated once more.

Above the sky of the Imperial City, Tao Qian's complexion was more unsightly than ever.

Meanwhile, Jiang Caiping, Jiang Caiyun, and Shi Beiniang, these three women, were utterly shocked and could only stare blankly below.

Before long, tears streamed down their faces, crying out in sorrow and blood:

"What on earth has happened to this world? What kind of vile plague is this? Are we not beings nurtured by heaven and earth, why are we treated this way? Endless and utterly irresistible natural disasters, torment from evil forces and wicked gods are one thing, but why such calamities?"

"Even gods and demons cannot solve this doom, the heavens want to annihilate our Human Clan."

"This damned world, spawning endless tribulations, is destined to collapse in an apocalyptic catastrophe, returning to chaos. There's no hope for peace in this life, perhaps in the next life."

When the voices of the three women's mournful cries reached the ears.

In Tao Qian's mind, once again appeared the terrifying scenes relayed by the Divination Worm from the surrounding countries of Liang Country.

Beyond that, its insect silk could not extend for now.

Liang Country!

Wu Country!

Within the Search God Realm's Ten Thousand Gods Continent, just two medium-sized countries with nothing rare or special, both suffered from [Bone Melting Wind and Dew] and [Rebirth Heart Demon], two exceedingly bizarre calamities.

The other countries were not spared either.

"Zhou Country, a great nation, with a population exceeding three hundred million, is now suffering from one of the ten tribulations [Ten Thousand Wood Marvelous Birth], a tangible catastrophe where a gentle breeze suddenly arises between heaven and earth, within which countless mutated seeds transformed from the wood essence of the earth fall to sprout, gradually growing into original trees with boundless wonders."

"However, in this world, the wood essence is already mutated, full of corruption, craving the blood, flesh, soul, and spirit of life... Wherever it descends, it devours all life instantly, transforming into 'Wonderfully Growing Spiritual Trees', standing amidst heaven and earth."

"This nation, rich in resources, abundant in spiritual materials, has thus attracted the covetous eyes of numerous god and demon avatars, clan offspring, and Daoist inheritors. Now found are the traces of Chaos Demon Ancestor, Ancestor of All Techniques, Ancient Demon Emperor among the descendants of gods and demons, and the tracks of Daoist inheritors from the Primordial Sect, Shenxiao Sect, Nanhua Sect."

"Everyone has made a move, using all means to save their believers and clan, but all techniques were futile, and divine skills were in vain."

"Within 15 minutes, over a hundred million people perished in Zhou Country, transformed into Wonderfully Growing Spiritual Trees, swaying in the breeze."

...

"Tang Country, not weaker than Zhou, has a population of four hundred million, with thirteen major counties."

"This country is suffering from one of the ten tribulations [Ascension Dust], a disaster lying between the tangible and intangible. Smoke and dust suddenly appear between heaven and earth, like clouds and seas, appearing and disappearing. When visible as smoke, it poses no harm, yet when hidden, it becomes the intangible Evil Dust that can cause any living being to ascend to death."

"This dust does not fall on the body, but enters the soul. Whether mortal or god, demon, or spirit cultivator, once this intangible dust enters the soul, they instantly become like a dust-coated mirror, devoid of any luster. Flesh, blood, heart, and soul dissolve, merging into the sea of dust, wholly returned to this world."

"This country, richer in resources and spiritual materials than Zhou, initially occupied by Lou Guandao, Taishang Dao, and other Daoist inheritors, later attracted All Heavens Buddhism. Numerous Bodhisattvas and Buddhas descended, establishing their doctrines. Thousands of temples mushroomed, and though many Buddhas and Bodhisattvas fought and expounded doctrines, they collectively excluded other forces, including the Daoists from the nation."

"To save the believers, a group of Arhat Bodhisattvas united, attempting to disperse the intangible Immortal Dust."

"Unfortunately, Buddhist Law was equally ineffective."

"After 15 minutes, more than a hundred million people perished within Tang Country."

...

"Ming Country, with a population of over two hundred million, is not weaker than Zhou or Tang, with nine major counties."

"This country is suffering from one of the ten tribulations [Blessing Rain], a visible calamity, a sweet rain covering all territories of Ming Country, originally a sign of auspiciousness, wherein the rain, once touching a living being, could merge with it, granting blessings and life extension."

"Yet the heavenly origin has already mutated and corrupted, such auspiciousness cannot be spared, mutated into this bizarre calamity. Half of the sweet rain has degraded into ordinary rainwater, the other half has become Blessing Sewage. Once touched, not only does it fail to grant blessings and life extension but instead, reversely, robs the original blessings and life of beings, even a single splash of Blessing Rain can cause instant death due to complete loss of blessings and life."

"This country also has abundant spiritual materials and resources, hence it was early invaded by many God and Demon avatars, giving rise to several powerful sects, each showcasing their Divine Skills."

"Yet, though there are many Gods and Demons, they are all just avatars, similarly unable to cope with the Blessing Rain."

"In fifteen minutes, eighty million perished."

...

These descriptions alone are ruthlessly cruel to hear.

With the cooperation of the Divination Worm, Tao Qian directly witnessed it, even experiencing it firsthand, in a sense.

Fortunately, it was Tao Buddha's son in this realm, not Tao Qian's original self.

Otherwise, with Tao Qian's original mindset, witnessing such scenes, his Heart Soul would undoubtedly stir; even if he could suppress it, the "Dao Nightmare" would likely intensify.

Tao Buddha's son also saw these for the first time, showing a look of extraordinary shock on his face, while pondering in his mind.

Although he had yet to see all of the "Ten Tribulations," he was gradually gaining insight through the Divination Worm's glimpse into the Heavenly Dao Origin.

"The collapse of the Search God Realm... must have been accelerated."

"Even if the Heavenly Dao Origin had retained some Spiritual Wisdom, it would surely activate a self-rescue program in such a desperate situation."

"The Ten Tribulations of World Annihilation! That is the first level."

"Spontaneously arising, releasing these bizarre and terrifying disasters, reclaiming a portion of the vast living resources and vitality scattered across the world to fill part of the Heavenly Dao's deficit."

"Now, at least one billion have died; it sounds immense, but the Search God Realm is not a small, ordinary world; it is a grand world compared to the Longevity Realm, the Earth Immortal Realm, and the Mountain and Sea Realm."

"The blood and vitality of one billion people are but a drop in the bucket to the Heavenly Dao Origin."

"The Heavenly Dao will never be satisfied, and there may be a second method..."

Tao Buddha's son pondered while also letting the Divination Worm proceed with the prediction.

But after all, it was the mystery of a realm's Heavenly Dao self-rescue, and it was naturally not something that could yield results quickly.

Yet at this moment, a change arose, making Tao Qian's face even grimmer:

Suddenly, within the borders of Liang Country.

The Heart Demon tide, which had gradually ceased, unexpectedly rolled back.

The four individuals, including Tao Qian, who had always been unscathed, were swept by the tide—he was unharmed, and so was Lady Bei.

But Jiang Caiyun and Jiang Caiping, the twin sisters, suddenly shuddered and then showed dazed expressions.

Seeing this scene, Tao Qian immediately knew that they were facing a calamity.

The earlier sequence experienced by the mortal populace—first dazed, then twisted in struggle, followed by insane self-destruction—would also befall the two women.

However, holding the identity of [Peach Blossom Goddess], their bodies, transformed multiple times by the Source Qi within Tao Qian, had long surpassed the ordinary, vastly different from typical life forms.

Therefore, amid the change, both women exhibited signs of struggle.

Intuitively adopting a pious posture, as they recited the "Peach Blossom Immortal Scripture," a peculiar transformation unexpectedly arose.

It must be known that the Immortal Scripture was concocted by Tao Buddha's son, not an authentic God Demon Rites scripture and incapable of truly establishing a Spiritual Response with the so-called "Peach Blossom God," actually the Spirit Treasure Subduing Evil Lord, Tao Qian, far away in the Penglai Sea.

But at this moment!

This world's Search God Realm unexpectedly resonated with the Longevity Realm.

"Huh?"

Accompanied by a faint exclamation.

Tao Qian's original, in the midst of Ascending Immortal Star Acupoint, truly heard the prayers and chants of Jiang Caiyun and Jiang Caiping.

It was also at this moment that Tao Qian guessed the second method of self-rescue by the Search God Realm's Heavenly Dao Origin.

Immediately, he cursed loudly:

"Oh, you shameless Search God Heavenly Dao, evidently blind and ignorant, yet still so despicably vile?"

Chapter 963 - The Thieving Heavenly Dao Extorts All Gods, Black Golden Cicada Preaches on the Westward Journey

Customs of the Search God Realm, or rather the rules of cultivation.

Once a God Demon Spirit Cultivator establishes a Spiritual Response with the "God Demon" they follow and believe in, they can use rituals to request and exchange various benefits, or they can become a vessel-like channel, allowing Outer Realm Demons to descend. As long as they are willing to pay the price, sometimes they can even squeeze half a body of an Outer Realm Demon into the Search God Realm.

This is almost impossible in other Great Realms.

In the Longevity Realm, only after receiving nourishment and the entire realm elevating could it gradually accommodate Daoist Transformation Realm experts entering.

The uniqueness of the Search God Realm is naturally due to the need for self-rescue.

But now, even these rules are not enough.

The Heavenly Dao Origin spontaneously added new rules: it began to use unsolvable natural disasters to force all God Demon Spirit Cultivators within the realm to open communication with all Outer Realm Demons who have invested in or have causality with the Search God Realm.

This is the moment the Jiang Sisters are experiencing.

God Demon Spirit Cultivators in other nations and other territories are also experiencing this.

As the "victim", Great Demon Tao at this moment felt greatly broadened.

"If I didn't know the Search God Realm was already suffering incurably, now I might determine that the Heavenly Dao Origin wants to seek help from the Great Abyss Gods."

"Unfortunately, that must not be the case."

"Forcibly connecting all Gods, even the 'Peach Blossom God' I created is not spared, forcibly using Great Realm's mighty power to find the true master, the scheme must be great."

"Perhaps this foolish Heavenly Dao intends... to blackmail all Gods?"

This thought arose, and Tao Buddha's son did not think any further, directly confident that he guessed correctly.

And indeed, as a matter of fact, it was so, but more than Tao Buddha's son's guess.

As the original body, Tao Qian, while listening to the two women's prayers, was also infused with a large amount of Secrets from the Search God Heavenly Dao.

Though incredibly chaotic and messy, they did not trouble a strong one like him.

In the blink of an eye, he deciphered them all.

"The Search God Realm may collapse within a century, and at that time will shed a large amount of Heavenly Dao Spiritual Materials, enough to let countless Life achieve 'Daoist Transformation Realm', and can let many Life step into 'Tribulation Immortal Realm'; if swallowed in one bite, stepping into 'Chaos Realm' is not impossible, which constitutes a banquet."

"But to participate in such a banquet, the recognition of the Heavenly Dao Origin is needed."

"Must further invest in resources within the Search God Realm, re-transmit Daoist Skills, and even bring avatars or oneself personally... the more one pays, the more can be shared in the banquet later."

"If unwilling, at this moment, they will be expelled by the Search God Heavenly Dao Origin, and the prior investments like avatars, Clan, Daoist Skill inheritance, and other resources shall be completely confiscated and not returned."

...

Having understood these later.

Tao Qian's original body and Buddha's son avatar both sank into silence.

In their hearts, the same lament was: such shamelessness.

Especially Tao Buddha's son, who simply couldn't suppress his full indignation, opened his mouth to curse:

"Declared foolish and mindless, but really knows how to play."

"First, forcefully seizing all profits earned by the Great Abyss Gods and various Daoist Lineages over the years, then using unsolvable natural disasters to intimidate all investments of the remaining Gods, if non-compliant, directly confiscates them all, then supplemented by the Big Pancake Technique, throwing out the so-called [Heavenly Dao Banquet], seducing Great Abyss Gods to invest further... Tsk tsk, certainly stronger than simple extortion of protection fees."

"Eat everyone clean, bones and all?"

"It's both a shadowy scheme and an obvious plot."

"If considered carefully, unless a stubborn fool God Demon who won't bend, all will probably agree to this trade."

"Including me!"

Tao Buddha's son and the original body had thoughts like this.

Helplessly, Great Demon Tao is now basically a hostage.

The Heavenly Dao Origin found the "true master", Buddha's son avatar thus exposed, automatically identified as Peach Blossom Demon's avatar; if God Demon original body does not wish to trade, the avatar will be taken as a prior investment and be reclaimed by the Heavenly Dao Origin.

Tao Buddha's son, in Perfect Ultimate Happiness, with many methods, though a powerful Secret Demon Child, even capable of using cunning strategies to subdue and tame one of Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva's avatars [Fish Basket Guanyin].

Even so, in front of the Heavenly Dao Origin, no different from an ant.

Bone Melting Wind and Dew, Rebirth Heart Demon, Ten Thousand Wood Marvelous Birth, Blessing Rain... any of the ten tribulations, he cannot handle.

Cannot resist, besides "conform", where else is there a method?

...

At the same time, other God Demons within the Search God Realm, each Daoist Inheritor, also understood these.

Their feelings ran deeper than Great Demon Tao, for Tao Qian is lustful and newly entered the Search God Realm, although commanding a kingdom, only developed two and a half God Demon Spirit Cultivators, the threat is very limited.

Those God Demons are entirely different.

They have developed within the Search God Realm for thousands of years, or at least hundreds.

Almost approaching harvest time.

Countless strong Clan under their command, countless Spirit Cultivators following and believing in them all over the nation, now if these mature fruits are all taken by the Search God Heavenly Dao, the Great Abyss Gods probably would spit blood in anger.

For a moment, the curses of countless God Demons echoed throughout the Great Abyss Origin Sea:

"Such shamelessness."

"Such disgrace."

"Deserves to collapse."

"Why called the Search God Realm, better to rename it the Tribulation God Realm, of the plunder tribulation."

Cursing aside, still have to accept reality.

Almost no God Demon chose to forfeit all capital and centuries of hard work and exit the Search God Realm, instead all accepted trading.

Of course, it is not that God Demons are foolish, willingly accepting the extortion of the Search God Realm.

Indeed the "Big Pancake" is too seductive, sharper-minded, stronger ones, can even already smell the Exotic Fragrance within, all eagerness began to spring forth.

Chapter 964 - The Thieving Heavenly Dao Extorts All Gods, Black Golden Cicada Preaches on the Westward Journey

The more frenzied the Search God Realm becomes, the harsher the extortion.

This implies that the Heavenly Dao of this realm is closer to collapse and is beyond salvation.

The feast is nearly upon us.

"The Heavenly Dao Banquet will open, and those who consume a small piece will enter the Daoist Transformation."

"Those who consume a large piece will enter Tribulation Immortal state."

"If one can devour it completely, Chaos can be expected."

"Who can resist such temptation? Not only will these God Demons inside the realm refuse to leave, but in the last century, there will be more covetous entities from the Outer Realm, coming one after another in an unending stream."

As Tao Buddha's son muttered, his true form was silently signing a contract with the Search God Realm's Heavenly Dao, making a transaction.

The process was very simple.

Tao Qian responded to the prayers of the two women, preserving their lives while solidifying his identity as the Peach Blossom God, registered by the Search God Realm's Heavenly Dao.

As for the so-called "additional investment," Tao Qian did not act impulsively, contemplating to first observe and then decide.

Although he now had a title of Peach Blossom God, he was not a legitimate Outer Realm God Demon.

Whether it was his true form or avatar, he couldn't truly compare to the real Gods and Demons in terms of possessions and foundation.

If it came down to resources and foundation, he would surely lose.

While he refrained from action, other countries, Gods, Demons, and Daoist inheritors were all taking actions one after another.

With the "Heavenly Dao Banquet" as a lure before them, no one cared about the extortion scenes orchestrated by the Search God Realm for self-rescue; they all started plotting their moves.

...

After the ten Tribulations of world destruction, the Search God Realm was a wasteland with cries of despair everywhere, and the incense dwindled.

However, this tragic scene lasted for less than a day.

Once the Great Abyss Gods acted, the scene changed drastically.

One powerful God Demon clan after another, carrying resources and treasures bestowed by their backing Gods and Demons, arrived from all parts of the Great Abyss. A vast number of God Demon avatars and offspring bloodlines also descended.

The Dao veins of All Heavens also took action, such as the Taishang Dao, Primordial Sect, All Heavens Buddhism, Evil Sect Demonic Path, heresy and heterodoxy, and other powerful forces, adding resources immensely.

Clearly, each side understood.

Though the feast is grand and the benefits numerous, the competitors are also vast.

Even to win a small portion of the Heavenly Dao Spiritual Materials, one must pay a significant price.

The chaotic scene in the Search God Realm in the decades leading up to its disintegration is almost predictable.

War!

An unprecedented, high-intensity God Demon war.

The grandeur and terrifying cruelty of the scene will surely surpass the previous "Great Tribulation of the Human Dao" experienced by the Longevity Realm.

Common forces or less known and less powerful Gods and Demons will surely be crushed to bits in such a tribulation.

But that is the future; as of now and in the coming years, the scenes are entirely the opposite and peculiar.

Under the efforts of the Great Abyss Gods and All Heavens Dao veins, the once devastated Search God Realm was rapidly repaired.

Its prosperity has even surpassed that of the past.

One month!

In just one month, the Great Demon Tao felt as if he was seeing hallucinations, believing the scenes transmitted by the Divination Worm to be an illusion.

What he saw and heard was rare even in the Longevity Realm.

"The Human World flourished and prosperous, desires fulfilled, everyone clothed, bellies full, without lack or regret."

"The Spiritual Cultivation Transcendent Realm is teeming with vitality, all requests are met with spiritual response, all arts circulate freely, and the strong emerge in great numbers."

"Tsk tsk, such scenes are rare to witness."

"Among the thousands of worlds in the Great Abyss Origin Sea, perhaps only the Mountain and Sea Realm, Earth Immortal Realm, and a few other Great Realms can witness these. Even the current Longevity Realm can't match it for the time being."

"Is this the power of the Great Abyss Gods and All Heavens Dao veins?"

"Once they combine efforts, do they effortlessly satisfy everyone's desires?"

"If the Heavenly Dao Origin of the Search God Realm could swallow all this, could it replenish most of its own depleted vitality...?"

This doubt in Tao Buddha's son's mind was soon answered.

On this day, the Search God Realm underwent another change.

However, this time, it was not a disaster tribulation but a rare and wondrous event.

Heaven and earth suddenly trembled for a moment, and then an intangible, formless warm breeze swept through every corner of the Search God Realm.

Even within the borders of Liang Country, it was unavoidable.

Tao Qian witnessed with his own eyes as Liang Country, originally rebounded and recuperating, suddenly flourished with spring-like renewal, all things revived, vegetation grew wildly, and vitality surged.

The Jiang Sisters and Lady Bei suddenly arrived together.

Evidently unscathed by the [Ten Thousand Desires Yin Yang Pillow], yet each person's face was flushed, eyes brimming with spring water.

Though their spiritual wisdom remained clear, once they spoke, it seemed like nonsensical prattle:

"Peach Blossom, my lord, I plead for your blessing, to unite with me and birth descendants."

"Me too."

"And me."

These words, these desires and aspirations.

At the same time, resonated throughout various places in the Search God Realm.

In short!

Have children!

And have them in abundance.

Hearing this nonsense, Great Demon Tao was momentarily stunned, then his mind was inundated with visions transmitted by the Divination Worm, including scenes from within the borders of Liang Country and neighboring realms.

Somewhat jarring, images of the resurgence and rampant proliferation of all things.

Before he could give rise to doubt, the description from the Divination Worm arrived.

"This is the will of the Heavenly Dao!"

"Due to the Great Abyss Gods and the All Heaven Dao Veins, the Heavenly Dao of the Search God Realm has received immense nourishment."

"To hasten repair and swiftly save itself, it has unleashed such a proliferation phenomenon, very difficult to resist when inside the Search God Realm."

"Under this will, all living beings will undergo prolific reproduction in a short time."

"Within a year, the number of life exterminated by the ten tribulations will be replenished and restored."

"Within ten years, the number of life within the Search God Realm will be several times or even ten times what it was before."

"Twenty years from now, it will be incalculable."

...

After seeing all this, Great Demon Tao was once again stunned.

With his wisdom, he instantly recognized the danger within, far from as favorable as it seemed on the surface.

Reproduction and growth, a population explosion.

To the ear, it sounds like a sign of "great prosperity," but in truth, it's the flair of boiling oil and flowers strewing brocades, ultimately heralding a great calamity.

At the same time, it also proves that even with increased investment from the Great Abyss Gods and the All Heaven Dao Veins, it still cannot make up for the deficit in the Heavenly Dao of the Search God Realm, unable to save its mutated collapse.

"The Heavenly Dao Origin uses this intense, irresolvable 'proliferation method', clearly intending to create a final prosperity, again luring the gods and All Heaven Dao Veins to join."

"If it were moderated a bit and spread over a longer time, say ten thousand years, perhaps there would truly be hope."

"But in just a mere hundred years, the more life forms, the more resources, ultimately it might all be used as fuel, oil, adding to the final great fire."

"The Heavenly Dao makes calculations, do the Great Abyss Gods and All Heaven Dao Veins not?"

"I fear before the reproduction and prosperity end, the Search God Realm will begin mutual warfare, seizing territories, the slightly weaker forces will be the first to be eliminated..."

"Hmm?"

At this thought, Great Demon Tao immediately realized something, his face involuntarily broke into a wry smile.

Before the ten tribulations upheaval, his fabricated "Peach Blossom God" ruled over Liang Country, which counted as a moderate nation.

Not considered strong, but couldn't be called very weak either.

But after the ten tribulations, once the Heavenly Dao's will extorted the gods, the situation was vastly different.

Like before when smaller countries like "Wu Country" were annexed early on.

Great Demon Tao immediately slipped down to the bottom tier.

Especially when all the gods and Daoist inheritors increased their investment and he remained indifferent, further cementing his place as the weakest of the weak, completely becoming the most vulnerable force.

As the saying goes!

To pinch, choose the softest persimmon.

Undoubtedly, he, Great Demon Tao, was the softest persimmon among the nations of the Ten Thousand Gods Continent.

Realizing this himself, naturally, the powerful neighbors around him were also aware.

What surprised Tao Qian was the timing of the encroachment; he originally thought it would take a few years, waiting for the population explosion and for major forces to expand before they took action.

Unfortunately, he overestimated himself.

Only half a year!

Intruders arrived within the borders of Liang Country.

Great Demon Tao was originally pondering what reasons the god and demon forces of the surrounding countries would use to invade him.

When he saw it this day, he laughed in exasperation.

There came a team composed of Buddha's sons and demons, a "Scripture Collection Team," arriving from Tang Country.

Chapter 965 - All Heavens Buddhism's Great Plan, Merit Buddha Presses Down True Monarch

At the time when the Heavenly Dao was cultivating everything, and all things were converging, the Search God Realm was thriving.

Ten Thousand Gods Continent, Tang Country.

This country, governed by All Heavens Buddhism, with Bodhisattva Temples and Buddha Halls everywhere within its borders, suddenly dispatched a rather large scripture collection team.

They are now crossing the vast desert at the border, stepping into their first stop: Liang Country.

Stretching for several miles are peculiar, strange, and terrifyingly powerful Demons, most of whom are in the Ultimate Happiness Realm, and they all seem to have extraordinary bloodlines.

Among the team is a Great Man, half-human and half-devil, wearing Mystic Yellow Scale Armor, with the head of a Golden Winged Kun, and Star Eyes and Leopard Eyes. His true form is clearly the ancient strange beast [Golden Winged Dapeng], and his Daoist Realm appears to be Ultimate Happiness. But if there were a real fight, only a Half-step Daoist Transformation Talent could overpower him.

Then there is another devil, with Phoenix Eyes and Golden Eyes, rough yellow teeth, thick legs, a long nose, and silver fur. Its true form is an old elephant demon.

Tao Buddha's son can share his original memory, and upon seeing these Demons, he couldn't help but recall the earlier sight of [Fangcun Mountain Disciple Sun Xiaosheng]. Although he descended from a Buddhist and Daoist sect, his true form is also a devil. If he were in that team, he might not have gained much advantage.

Demons with such solid foundation and deep cultivation could build a temporarily strong and overwhelming devil country elsewhere.

Yet in this team, they hold roles such as protectors, servants, and subordinates, a truly astonishing sight.

Leading the front are eighteen Talent Buddha Sons.

Each possesses "Perfect Ultimate Happiness" or even more powerful cultivation like Half-step Daoist Transformation. Journeying together, earth bursts with golden lotuses, and heavenly flowers cascade everywhere, resembling the descent of the Buddha Country, with Ten Thousand Buddhas on parade.

This scene, seen through Divination Worm's perspective, surprised Tao Qian.

"My goodness!"

"What a grand scene! All Heavens Buddhism truly has its eyes on the [Search God Realm]. Their input is enormous, not weaker than the Secret Demon Sect. Each Buddha Son seems to be of the Five-direction Demon Child, Changhen Demon Child, Original Sin Demon Child level. Are they here to conspire together?"

"Speaking of which, the little demons of the Secret Demon Sect must be making moves too, undoubtedly leading a country or a realm."

"It's a pity Divination Worm still cannot leave the Liang Country territory; otherwise, none could escape my Dharma Eye."

"Hmm?"

As Tao Qian muttered, the so-called scripture collection team began dispersing after leaving the desert.

Each Buddha Son took some demons and went in different directions.

Before departing, some words floated into Tao Qian's ears:

"Amitabha! Fellow brothers, travel well. This journey is both scripture collection and a mission to save the world. If it must be abandoned, only saving All Living Beings cannot be delayed. Within the Search God Realm, each country and place must be reached, allowing the suffering to hear our Buddha's Miao Yin, to dissolve the catastrophe a hundred years hence."

"Golden Cicada senior speaks truth, we have noted it."

"Auspicious, auspicious!"

"Greatly auspicious!"

"This realm is already in deep trouble, further disrupted by Great Abyss Gods. Though we possess some Extraordinary Power, how can we rival the power of All Gods? We simply do our best, without shame."

"Wuxin junior speaks truth; we do our best in preaching."

"Elsewhere is difficult, but Liang Country is ruled by a God Demon named [Peach Blossom God]. This God was previously unknown, without fame in the Great Abyss. It is said that their primary Magical Treasure is Ten Thousand Desires Yin Yang Pillow, belonging to Outer Realm Innate Gods and Demons [Yin Yang Elder], a Lustful Treasure. This might reveal their foundation as under Yin Yang Elder's command. Golden Cicada senior should not ignore it. Perhaps subdue it when passing."

...

Tao Qian, while observing the Buddha Sons and demons, pondered their so-called scripture collection and preaching's Great Plan.

Finally, he realized his presence after hearing the words.

Of course, the evaluation wasn't very favorable.

After some conversation, the Buddha Sons parted ways, leaving the leading Buddha Son [Golden Cicada] with seven Great Demons, waiting at the border between Liang Country and Tang Country.

Tao Qian first observed the obviously leading Golden Cicada, curious about his origin, able to control these Talent Buddha Sons and many Great Demons.

He saw this Buddha Son as a 18 or 9-year-old child, carved in powdered jade, resembling a celestial being. Draped in Seven Treasures Kasaya, wielding the Precepts Zen Staff, and a Ten Thousand Buddha Golden Wheel behind his head... These are nothing extraordinary, normal for a grand Buddha Son from All Heavens Buddhism.

What truly filled Great Demon Tao with dread were a few phenomena around Golden Cicada that Tao Qian couldn't perceive.

Apparently... many "God Demons," "Alien Spirits" lurked in the dark, seemingly guarding this Buddha Son.

Tao Qian even developed an incredible premonition:

"Even a strong Daoist Transformation realm might find trouble, possibly encountering danger?"

"This child, what is his origin?"

As he questioned himself, Divination Worm unhesitatingly began researching secrets.

The worm cares not for Buddha Sons or Daoists, even if Daoist Transformation Immortals or Buddhist Bodhisattvas are present; it continues without fail.

The countless threads in the Heavenly Dao silently slipped beyond the border, drilling into the Buddha Son and Great Demons.

Indeed, Divination Worm's foundation proved harder.

Even the peculiar Buddha Son and seven Great Demons remained unaware upon the thread's entry.

Soon enough, secrets causing Great Demon Tao's brows to furrow dived into his mind. Golden Cicada's origins were most mysterious, initially revealing success in uncovering, was the seven Great Demons.

Chapter 966 - All Heavens Buddhism's Great Plan, Merit Buddha Presses Down True Monarch

It so happened that the Golden Winged Dapeng Bird, which he first saw, was among them, along with the Yellow Toothed Elephant, as well as the Green-haired Lion Demon and the Nine Tribulations Dragon King, and five other demons of comparable strength, all possessing Ultimate Happiness Spiritual Cultivation, each with their own unique skills, not one to be taken lightly.

From the secrets provided by the Divination Worm, it is known: if these seven Great Demons attacked together, even with Tao Qian's current strength, though he could maintain a draw, achieving a complete victory would be extremely difficult.

Soon after, the secret within the powerful Buddha's son was finally unraveled.

"Golden Cicada!"

"The second disciple of the contemporary Buddha Venerable of All Heavens Buddhism, destined to be the Merit Buddha, possessing great fortune and having cultivated Grand Divine Skills, once engaged in acts of salvation across all the heavens, benefiting over a billion lives, the fortune and merits contained within his Dharma Body are so abundant that even in the entire Great Abyss Origin Sea, few can match him."

"Due to his merits, he attracted numerous invisible gods and demons, and alien spirits from the Source Sea, willingly protecting him from evil demon interference."

"Yet, before achieving Buddhahood, he must undergo one tribulation to be complete, which is crucial to a great plan of All Heavens Buddhism."

"Thus, ten years ago, he was sent into the Search God Realm, and when the time is right, he is to traverse Search God, preaching and spreading doctrines."

"If this plan succeeds... All Heavens Buddhism shall flourish..."

Upon seeing this, suddenly Tao Qian noticed something unusual.

Despite there being no command, the Divination Worm instantly retracted all the insect silk.

At the same time, an answer came: "To peek a moment longer, to predict a second more, would have been noticed by the contemporary Buddha Venerable of All Heavens Buddhism, receiving severe punishment, even implicating the main body."

Seeing this, Tao Buddha's son could not help but click his tongue.

"The second disciple of the contemporary Buddha Venerable... future Merit Buddha...."

"Almost forgot, there's also that boundless merit, and the gods and demons attracted by the merit."

"What kind of foundation is this? What kind of monstrous talent?"

"If truly compared, I'm afraid even the main body is inferior by a bit, in terms of status, it seems to fall short of this Golden Cicada? Compared to merit, also losing some."

"However, when it comes to followers willing to submit, perhaps the main body could win once, as long as he is willing to release the Dao Nightmare, countless evil beings would flock from the Great Abyss Origin Sea, becoming an Evil God instantly, then the Spirit Treasure Subduing Evil Lord would personally descend to put things in order."

Great Demon Tao was astonished, yet did not forget to tease the main body's significant troubles.

But immediately, he again saw through the worm's vision, witnessing that child-like Golden Cicada, suddenly furrowing his brows, as if he had discovered something, saying:

"Huh?"

"Why does my spirit suddenly feel uneasy, could it be someone is spying on me?"

As the Buddha's son spoke, the treasure behind him called the [Ten Thousand Buddha Golden Wheel] suddenly emitted Buddha Light.

From the wheel emerged a mirror, swiftly illuminating the Nine Heavens and Ten Lands, all scenery within thousands of miles was reflected like in a mirror, any anomaly was unavoidable.

Fortunately, within Liang Country, there was an exception, to which the Divination Worm explained:

"The Ten Thousand Buddha Golden Wheel is a great Exotic Treasure within All Heavens Buddhism, blessed by ten thousand Buddhas, it can transform into a Buddha Mirror, illuminating the Nine Heavens and Ten Lands, spying into the past and future... yet alone cannot trace the marks of Divination, even when in front of the mirror, also like a foolish blind."

While the Divination Worm was boasting, the Buddha's son, having found no result, was about to perform another spell.

Suddenly, he paused, looking ahead.

The next moment, a Buddha sound first came from within Liang Country:

"Amitabha Buddha!"

"After waiting nine years, the Saint Monk has finally arrived."

Even before the words fell, the Buddha Light flashed, and an old monk, looking quite disheveled, stood in front of Golden Cicada.

Upon standing firm, the old monk still shook off the aged dirt from his body.

He was quite peculiar, entirely pitch black, shining black, yet wearing a white robe, with two additional lumps of flesh sprouting above his forehead extending sideways, with the tips embedded with eyeballs, wherein mystical Buddha Light flickered, seemingly seeing through everything in the mundane world.

Tao Buddha's son immediately recognized the old monk was employing the well-known Buddhist Divine Power [Heart Light Escape Technique], refined much better than Bai Qin back then, without a trace of secular air, almost like an innate bloodline technique.

In fact, it was indeed so.

Golden Cicada could not detect, yet the moment the old monk appeared, he could no longer escape the Divination Worm's observation.

"The Buddha Cicada Monk, was initially a golden cicada that descended and was released upon the world, originating as a drop of Buddha's Blood. After entering Liang Country, it transformed into the Buddha Cicada, hibernating deep beneath Liang's land without any leakage of energy, thus it was previously undiscovered. These types of Buddha Cicadas amount to several hundred within the Search God Realm."

"This monk is blessed with innate Dharma, naturally endowed with a pair of [World-Viewing Buddha Eyes], allowing him to observe any changes within the borders of Liang Country without stepping outside."

"A few breaths ago, he awoke upon sensing the scent of the Golden Cicada, and upon breaking through the ground, he also realized many Divine Passage Skills, coming to meet the Buddha's son... The master had previously ordered to do all possible to conceal one's roots and secrets, and I tried my best to erase whatever he had glimpsed concerning the master during his awakening... The hour was too short, succeeding in only one-tenth or two-tenths."

...

For illustrative purposes, the Divination Worm sent over an image of the old Buddha Cicada Monk breaking through the ground: a pitch-black old monk, laboriously emerging from underground, and upon reaching the surface laughed heartily, rubbed his hands together in excitement, and rushed to the border of Liang Country.

The scene appeared quite comical; who would have thought this amusing old monk's combat strength might surpass even that of the "Bai Qin" of old."

Tao Qian, after seeing this, immediately cursed:

"How insidious indeed is the Buddha's son, meaning that this damned Golden Cicada, while still nursing in Tang Country, had already planted a massive network of spies in the Search God Realm."

"Without even stepping outside, he can monitor the entire Search God Realm."

"And combined with that so-called 'Great Plan,' though unable to guess the secrets and details within, even with a mere foot's worth of contemplation it is obvious, that All Heavens Buddhism probably wants to swallow the entire [Search God Realm]? What an immense appetite."

"Damn it, this old monk spent nine years watching from underground before emerging, naturally seeing everything I did before."

"The worm erased only one-tenth or two-tenths of secrets, who knows which were leaked and which were kept hidden."

"Regardless of the quantity, I fear the advantage has slipped away somewhat."

Tao Da, realizing the gravity of the situation, observed as Golden Cicada listened quietly to the monk's report.

Not long after, a subtle expression slowly crept over the Buddha's son's face, which was terrifying in all aspects.

"Hmm?"

"Are you saying that the God Demon known as the [Peach Blossom God] managed to successively defeat the three great God Demons of Emperor Heavenly Talisman, Red Rope God, and Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva?"

"And that the well-renowned avatar Fish Basket Guanyin of the Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva was even tamed and subjugated by this God Demon?"

"That is indeed strange. Even disregarding Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, Heavenly Talisman and Red Rope are not ordinary God Demons; they have substantial reputations even in the Great Abyss, and even if they only sent avatars without any reliance into the realm, they shouldn't have been defeated by a nameless wild god."

"Not to mention Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, though she has fallen into the Demon Path, her supernatural power is greater than before, and even I would have to expend some means to subdue her with her avatar; what does this Peach Blossom God rely on?"

"Therefore, it seems this god should not be under the command of a deity like Yin Yang Elder."

Upon hearing this, Tao Da the Great Demon subtly relaxed.

His actions after entering Liang Country were mostly observed by the old monk.

Yet, the most crucial part, the "identity and origin," was successfully hidden.

The Golden Cicada only knows him as an avatar of the Peach Blossom God, unaware that he is also the Secret Demon Child, and even more oblivious that his original body is the Spirit Treasure Subduing Evil Lord.

Thus, in terms of knowing one's roots, he still holds the upper hand.

As Tao Qian was thinking this, an unforeseen change occurred the very next moment.

It was still the Golden Cicada, silently summoning the Ten Thousand Buddha Golden Wheel to his front, then extending a Buddha's Finger to touch the surface of that mirror.

From his mouth emanated the Buddha's voice saying:

"I am the Golden Cicada, residing in the Search God Realm, requesting an audience with Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva."

As soon as the words fell.

Buddha light surged within the mirror, and following this, reflected across countless worlds to reveal the Seven Slaughter Secret Realm.

At its center crouched an incomparably majestic and towering giant God Demon, who was also a Bodhisattva of great renown.

Instantly, Tao Da the Great Demon's face nearly turned green.

"What the hell?"

"The orthodox and eminent Buddha's son of All Heavens Buddhism, yet suddenly meeting with the reckless traitor who stole the Buddha Tooth? Could there be some underhanded dealings within?"

Chapter 967: The Demon Child Learns the Fishing Ruse, Future Buddhist Law Deceives the Golden Cicada

Great Demon Tao rejoiced at concealing his origins, but soon saw Golden Cicada openly summoning the Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, the "aggrieved party," for a meeting.

Previously uncalled for, now it was a sudden demand to meet, obviously not for reminiscing.

This Buddha's son must be intending to inquire about the roots of [Peach Blossom God] from Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, so he can employ methods to subdue.

Tao Qian was still speculating when the Buddha's son and Bodhisattva were already face to face.

These two!

In terms of supernatural power, the Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, striving to break through tribulations and reach the Tribulation Immortal Realm, was assuredly superior.

However, comparing their identities, Golden Cicada did not lose at all, and seemingly due to some secret reasons, Golden Cicada's aura even overshadowed Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva's.

It was quite unexpected that the one to speak first was Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva.

She was seemingly unsurprised by Golden Cicada's presence in the Search God Realm, delivering a terrifying half-Buddha, half-demon divine sound:

"Golden Cicada, you have finally left Tang Country."

"You couldn't hold back after only ten years of hibernation? Huh? No, the timing is not yet right, your forced actions will certainly bring numerous changes, still knowing this, you insist on initiating that Great Plan, isn't there a major upheaval within the Search God Realm?"

"Has the day of collapse come earlier?"

Golden Cicada, upon hearing this, did not conceal anything and directly nodded in acknowledgment.

"The Bodhisattva's prediction is correct, for unknown reasons, the Search God Realm has become even more fragile."

"Just recently, I activated the origin, summoning [Heaven and Earth Ten Tribulations] into the world; if not for some calculations, it would have slaughtered all life within the Search God Realm."

"My Buddha saves all living beings, how can this delay any longer?"

Not speaking of these things was fine, but upon mentioning them, Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva instantly became furious.

The cold and majestic God Demon Body began to move, stomping and leaping within the Secret Realm, the disturbance akin to an apocalypse. She shouted angrily:

"Hypocritical Buddha Venerable, what is this talk of saving all living beings?"

"If so, why not save me once, only telling me about fate as if I should peacefully sit in dissolution, truly laughable."

"Now, I replace Buddha Heart with Killing Intent, feeling so joyful, who wants him to save?"

...

Under normal circumstances, Golden Cicada, as the second disciple of the contemporary Buddha Venerable of All Heavens Buddhism, upon hearing such "rebellious" words, would surely retort.

But at this moment, he did not.

Golden Cicada merely smiled faintly, choosing not to respond. Instead, he asked:

"Requesting Bodhisattva's presence this time is to resolve a confusion."

"Golden Cicada first left Tang Country, and now resides within Liang Country's borders, hearing that Bodhisattva once revealed Buddhist traces in this country, even descended an avatar, passing on a lineage... But later, for some unknown reason, the burgeoning foundation was usurped by an obscure wild god called [Peach Blossom God]."

"Even the avatar was lost."

"Having battled with this God Demon, Bodhisattva ought to know its origins, could you reveal something?"

"In return, Golden Cicada is willing to lend a helping hand to assist Bodhisattva's avatar [Fish Basket Guanyin] in liberating from leaving the world."

A transaction swiftly laid before Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva.

She discloses Great Demon Tao's background, and Golden Cicada aids her in reclaiming the avatar.

In the Great Abyss Source Sea, where "transactions" are involved, deception, intrigue, and exchange abound, with Buddhist practitioners especially skilled.

A figure like Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, capable of stealing Buddha Tooth without consequences, is self-evident in such aspects.

Golden Cicada knew this, thus was prepared, ready to engage in verbal banter with Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva for a contest.

But to everyone's surprise, after listening to him speak, Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva was first astonished, then immediately burst into laughter.

"Hahaha... You don't know the background of that brat?"

"This is exciting, I do remember there are many Guanyin Temples within Tang Country, which you occupy."

"Hmm?"

Golden Cicada frowned upon hearing her words.

Then, surprisingly, Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, without reservation, revealed all the background details and the previous battle's secrets.

The Divination Worm could erase Buddha Cicada Monk's memory, yet couldn't cross so many worlds to erase Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva's; moreover, with her Taoist power and mana, even with the Divination Worm before her, it couldn't affect her.

"The brat is no [Peach Blossom God], just a cunning Secret Demon Child."

"Feigning gods and ghosts, he swallowed my foundation in the Search and Shooting Realm, initially not a match for my avatar, but utilized some blame-shifting poison schemes, driving tigers to swallow wolves, consecutively attacking the avatars of Emperor Heavenly Talisman and Red Rope God, later somehow partnering with Compassionate Travel Guanyin."

"That wretch sent an avatar to assist that Secret Demon Child in taming my Fish Basket Avatar."

"Both her bloodline and heart soul were thoroughly severed; I presume that Secret Demon Child has already planted a [Soul Seal] within my avatar. If you wish to assist her, it's simple: go now, cast a spell and eliminate that Secret Demon Child."

"Buddha's son subduing a demon is right and proper."

"Go swiftly, don't delay, hahaha."

Having said this, Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva then actively severed the connection, no longer entangling with Golden Cicada.

This scene left the seven Great Devils behind Buddha's son in confusion.

Yet Tao Qian, hidden in the shadows, immediately understood the reason:

Regarding the Fish Basket Avatar and Seven Slaughter Army's foundations, Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva had already accepted losses, and a soul-sealed avatar, even if saved, might be too risky for her to reclaim.

Now she did not conceal, nor ask for benefits, but actively leaked information, only to sow "discord."

Causing dissension between Golden Cicada representing All Heavens Buddhism and Compassionate Travel Guanyin.

"Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva only knows me as [Secret Demon Child], yet doesn't know I'm backed by Spirit Treasure Subduing Evil Lord."

"Seeing I could invite Compassionate Travel Guanyin's avatar, she likely thinks Compassionate Travel Guanyin has connections with Secret Demon Sect. This is understandable; in Daoist, Buddhist, Demon, and Devil, heresy and heterodoxy, all heavens Dao lineage... Which sect doesn't have strong figures betting in all directions?"

Chapter 968: The Demon Child Learns the Fishing Scheme, Future Dharma Deceives the Golden Cicada (Part 2)

"What a pity, he thought wrong this time."

"Guanyin Master completely disregards my identity as a Secret Demon Child. The one who invited him here is the true Master Tao Qian."

With this thought, Great Demon Tao showed no sign of relief or relaxation.

Because the Golden Cicada began casting spells again, and the one he communicated with this time was indeed Guanyin Master.

The latter seemed to have been waiting, and as the Buddha mirror opened, the Buddha sound came through:

"Golden Cicada, is it that you wish to inquire about the details of that Peach Blossom God of Liang Country?"

"There's no need to hide much, this person appears to be a Secret Demon Child, but in truth, he is people of the Righteous and has some karmic connection with me. His background is formidable, and I dare not share too much to avoid being blamed."

"You need not worry too much, subdue when necessary, and act as needed... Your preaching and quest for enlightenment are destined to become trials for many powerful individuals, and that person is no exception."

"Go ahead."

After speaking, Guanyin Master also actively severed the connection.

Golden Cicada showed no surprise on his face, his doubts significantly reduced.

Combining the words of the Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva and Guanyin Master, the puzzle was solved.

"Thinking about it, that so-called Peach Blossom God was created by a Secret Demon Child. It's heard that the Secret Demon Sect is selecting a Sect Master, and many Talent Secret Demon Children are rushing into those worlds on the brink of collapsing, merely to seize the World's Spiritual Materials and forge the Secret Demon Nest."

"This child likely shares the same purpose."

"But behind him stands a mighty figure from the Daoist and Buddhist realms or some Righteous Daoist lineage, seemingly plotting something."

"To enlist Guanyin Master's assistance, the background must be significant; could it be scheming for a 'Secret Demon Sect Master' position?"

"I initially thought he was a luck-driven Wild God who seized a country, but now it seems he is a prominent pawn. Very well, let's meet him; if he can still hide his secrets in front of me, I can temporarily yield the land of Liang Country to him."

"If he can't hide it, then I'll take it."

...

With these few words, Golden Cicada startled Tao Demon.

From these two conversations, one can get a glimpse of Golden Cicada's character and style of conduct.

Perceptive and fearless, acting directly—using spells to break spells, using force to subdue force.

With such a person, playing tricks of ghosts and spirits would likely yield no gain.

Tao Demon even suspected that Golden Cicada's last words were deliberately spoken for him to hear.

The purpose?

To use power to suppress others, clearly telling him, "I intend to subdue you."

Whether to be subdued or to engage in battle, decide quickly.

The Divination Worm immediately provided him with the answer: what he thought was correct, Golden Cicada had indeed guessed he was watching from the shadows, and the last sentence was indeed spoken for him.

Tao Demon's brows furrowed instantly, contemplating the disparity between their strengths and strategizing.

This adversary is entirely different from those he faced before.

Without needing much thought, he knew that if a fight broke out, not only would there be no chance of victory, but escaping unscathed would be impossible; even if he invited all the Secret Demon Sect's elders from the ancestral lands, the outcome would be the same.

Not to mention those many Talent Buddha Sons, the Ultimate Happiness Realm Great Demons stretching for miles, alongside a group of Bodhisattva Arhats flickering in and out, and even numerous Buddhas.

Just Golden Cicada alone is already slightly superior to him.

"If this child truly wishes to subdue me, whether through direct confrontations or covert maneuvers, there will be no effect."

"All Heavens Buddhism sent such a large group of Talent Buddha Sons, and dispatched numerous Ultimate Happiness Realm Great Demons to follow orders. The leader being the disciple like Golden Cicada of the Buddha Venerable... Such immense force is feared to require all Daoist lineage descendants within the Search God Realm or all Secret Demon Children to unite to counteract it; unfortunately, these Daoist lineages lack the unity of All Heavens Buddhism."

"One move from the Buddhist Sect's Great Plan—whosoever obstructs dies, not enough demonic or divine avatars to fill the gap, let alone a mere Secret Demon Child."

"Even a praying mantis blocking a chariot is not as tragic as this; what to do now?"

Mumbling, Tao Demon suddenly had his eyes light up.

No righteous strategies, but he has plenty of crooked plans; with a flicker of Spiritual Resonance, he again communicated with his body alone within his Heart Soul:

"Since we can't beat them, why not join them? What do you say?"

"Oh, how do you plan to join? They are the second disciple of the Buddha Venerable, and you, a Secret Demon Child, are you planning to convert?"

"No, no, I can join temporarily, but I can't join as a servant or subordinate. It would not only disgrace both of us, but I'd also fall victim to their Buddha Seed Soul Seal and such trickery."

"Judging by the nature of this Buddha's son, he must be a formidable person who cannot be easily deceived. If you don't want to be a servant, he probably won't trust you... The All Heavens Buddhism has significant ambitions and won't reveal its tusks at the start, lest it attracts the encirclement of Daoists, Demons, Devils, and those Great Abyss Demons. Thus, if you show just some of your cards, surviving won't be difficult, but blending in would be impossible."

"Since you aren't in this realm, you cannot grasp the subtle interplay between this Buddha's son, the Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, and the Master Guanyin. The Divination Worm also says this child has come to complete a tribulation, to step into the Search God Realm and achieve greatness, aiming to become the [Merit Buddha]. Such a person must have a team uniquely belonging to themselves."

"All of this is provided by their teacher. Now, if they encounter someone like me, whose background is obscure, whose heart and soul are independent, yet possesses the world-unique 'Wisdom Root Buddha

Heart' of a Secret Demon Child, will they cherish the talent? Would they think of enlightening someone for oneself?"

"Regarding the [Wisdom Root Buddha Heart], I may lack it, but you possess it. Let me borrow it for use, so this Merit Buddha towering over you can experience the future Buddha's might."

After all, we are fundamentally one.

As soon as the Great Demon Tao finished speaking, Tao Qian far away at the Ascending Immortal Star Acupoint instantly understood his plan.

With an odd expression, he remarked sarcastically:

"By the hour of birth calculation, you rascal are still a fledgling, actually learned such a fishing trick from my memory?"

"Such a method, if used by others, is doomed to fail, even if they had the cooperation of Master Guanyin of the Buddhist Sect's great power."

"With my assistance, there is a slim hope for success."

"But you must still be cautious. In the Longevity Realm, I acted with great care so the All Heavens Buddhism wouldn't notice the future Buddha inheritance within me; don't reveal my secret here."

"With your borrowed Wisdom Root Buddha Heart, along with Divination Worm's assistance, surely we can outsmart this Golden Cicada without worry."

...

The true form's avatar devised a plan, and without delay, immediately put it into action.

Thus, not long after, the Golden Cicada, who had just led seven Great Demons into Liang Country's territory, had only time to let the Great Demons under him transform into their human forms, before even preaching and casting benefits, they were immediately met with grand welcome.

A direct envoy from the Imperial City approached respectfully and asked:

"Are you the Saint Monk from Tang Country?"

"My lord has decreed, respectfully inviting the Saint Monk to the Peach Blossom temple for a discourse."

"My lord has instructed, having admired the Buddhist Dharma for a long time, also having heard of the Saint Monk's achievements, knowing of the Saint Monk's immense merit, we must not treat you casually."

These words entered his ears.

The Golden Cicada's face showed an involuntary strange expression, whereas the seven Great Demons behind him, and those gods and demons secretly protecting him, all had a calm, unperturbed demeanor.

Clearly, they all recognized the power behind the name of Golden Cicada; such scenes were all too normal.

In their view, given the achievements and great works the Golden Cicada has created, he was bound to claim the Merit Buddha Venerable position, and such respect from others was only fitting.

The so-called "Peach Blossom God" was no exception.

The Golden Cicada wasn't arrogant, merely reflecting inwardly:

"This Peach Blossom God who can summon [Fish Basket Guanyin], must have extraordinary roots, likely not far inferior to mine."

"Previously, I deliberately revealed a phrase seemingly heard by them. Now they invite me respectfully; maybe they want to establish good relations?"

"If so, this might be somewhat difficult to manage."

"Let's first see, what is the actual origin?"

With his thoughts flashing, the group led by Golden Cicada, who should have caused considerable commotion according to the original plan, found themselves peacefully invited into Liang Country's Imperial City.

Not long after, inside the Peach Blossom Temple.

Amidst the incense rising like a sea of clouds, the Golden Cicada saw the Peach Blossom God seated on the divine platform, who was indeed the Great Demon Tao.

With only one glance, he was stunned.

He should've seen divine radiance, or the aura of Secret Demon.

But now, he clearly saw the Buddha Light, dazzling almost to the point of being blinding, the Buddha Light.

Chapter 969 - Lavish Golden Cicada, Generously Bestows Three Treasures

The cultivation of Golden Cicada, the deep Buddhist teachings, and the profound merit completely overshadowed Tao Qian.

The path of exotic skills and divine power was equally unmatched.

He has refined a pair of [Unobstructed Heavenly Eyes], capable of seeing through all illusions and warding off endless evil corruption. If he truly becomes the Merit Buddha, when his heavenly eyes open, he can see the past and future, a truly formidable power.

Though his merit is not yet perfect, even the mere appearance of the body cannot block his gaze.

Yet, this glance yielded unexpected results.

Golden Cicada originally thought he could see through the "Peach Blossom God's" appearance, discern the true form, and guess its origin.

Who would have thought?

In one glance, he saw Buddha Light soaring to the sky, exotic signs deeply hidden.

Others looking at the Peach Blossom God transformed by the Great Demon Tao would only see a god-demon with a beautiful appearance.

But Golden Cicada saw through the surface and saw a "monster" covered with countless strange black membranes.

This fetus seemed to be in gestation.

Like a lump of flesh curled up, its surface covered with peculiar Buddha patterns, growing small lumps like Bodhi seeds, with hands folded in prayer and head bowed slightly, faintly transmitting Brahma sound... If only seeing this, anyone would think this is an Arhat, Bodhisattva, or incipient Buddha, waiting for birth to be perfect.

But upon closer inspection, abnormal deformities and eerie demonic qi are found all over the monster, mixed with evils. The layers of black membranes are not simple, clearly transformed by various powerful heritages of the Secret Demon Sect.

Densely wrapping around the monster, suppressing its golden heart beating inside, blocking golden Buddha's blood from pumping, obscuring the rich Buddha Light seeping out...

Golden Cicada's extensive knowledge far surpassed Tao Qian.

Even if these abnormalities piqued his interest, he remained composed, secretly chanting the Buddha Venerable's name, revolving deep Buddhist teachings within, allowing the many god-demon alien spirits secretly protecting him to empower, propelling the heavenly eye's power to another level.

In the next moment, he saw the past of the Peach Blossom God.

Though incomplete and intermittent, it made Golden Cicada confident he uncovered the opponent's background and reliance.

Indeed, Golden Cicada believed even the Secret Demon Child before him knows less about him than he does.

"The strange Tao that all Bodhisattvas and Buddhas speak of, the Great Abyss Origin Sea, has everything."

"I thought my knowledge of all realms was sufficient, no scene could stir my heart, yet I underestimated."

"In the world, there truly is the saying of an [Innate Buddha Son]."

"Having it is one thing, but joining the Secret Demon Sect?"

"This child is endowed with natural wisdom, with a Buddha Heart, and once read Buddhist scriptures in childhood. If enlightenment came in time, another Bodhisattva would arise in All Heavens Buddhism within mere centuries... Alas, the child's fate was twisted, discovered by a Secret Demon Sect second-generation Elder, taken as a disciple, suppressed the Buddha fetus within by many underhanded means."

"Hm, a good demon must be plotting to reverse Buddha to demon, finally devouring to increase cultivation."

"Yet, the righteous forces aiding this child in the dark, who can it be? Inviting [Guanyin Master] means perhaps a person from our Buddhist sect?"

"I can see the Buddha Heart on this child, certainly, Guanyin Master and that mysterious force see it too, why not transform it for salvation?"

"Could there be hidden truths within?"

Golden Cicada's mind flashed thoughts, eyes increasingly bright, fervently inquisitive.

At this moment, the Great Demon Tao on the divine platform revealed a naive smile, warmly stepping down to welcome.

First, he pressed hands together in a Buddha greeting, then said apologetically:

"The Saint Monk must be aware of my previous peeking, relying on divine skills, offending you, I hope the Saint Monk will not blame me."

"I have long admired the profound Buddhist principles of All Heavens Buddhism since arriving in this realm, always wishing to visit Tang Country."

"I cultivate the Peach Blossom Divine Dao, yet also favor the Buddhist path, frequently reading Buddhist scriptures, occasionally masquerading as a 'Peach Blossom Monk' to journey through various realms."

"But my master instructed me not to chant Buddha's name or enter Buddhist temples, so encountering a Buddhist talent like the Saint Monk is a first for me."

In all aspects, the Great Demon Tao is a fledgling, but at birth, he also obtained performance talent from the main body.

Now portraying an innate Buddha son mistakenly entering the demon path, it is executed with finesse.

He showed an innocent but wicked smile, warmly pulling Golden Cicada towards a seat in the temple.

At the same time, he transmitted a message quietly:

"To inform the Saint Monk, the customs of Search God Realm are unique, though my master cannot detect immediately, beyond an hour, you risk being noticed. So unless the Saint Monk desires a bout, within an hour, you best depart Liang Country."

"Although time is short, I do have some doubts on Buddhism to inquire of the Saint Monk."

"May I ask if the Saint Monk is willing to grant convenience?"

"Originally, I might ask this [Fish Basket Guanyin], yet she is merely a fragment of the fallen and mutated Seven Slaughter Bodhisattva, having exceptional divine skills but less proficient in Buddhist philosophy, not as knowledgeable as I."

"Guanyin Master is skilled, yet instructed me of future Buddha fates and such, truly unsatisfying."

While he transmitted, the Fish Basket Girl transformed by Fish Basket Guanyin strolled out alongside.

This first contact left Golden Cicada with an impression of Tao Damao as somewhat magnanimous.

And Golden Cicada, at this moment, developed a new conjecture:

"The Innate Buddha Son is both true and false."

"This child may have far more distant past lives, and once was a Great Divine Power in our Buddhist sect, yet after reincarnation, never enlightenment, the countless past life memories masked by the fetal mystery... Only in this life, wisdom root and Buddha heart emerged, nurturing the innate Buddha fetus."

Chapter 970 - Lavish Golden Cicada, Generously Bestows Three Treasures

"It's a pity that halfway through, another second-generation ancestor of the Secret Demon Sect appeared, intending to carry out a devouring act."

"Did Guanyin Master intervene because they had a connection with that Great Divine Power?"

...

If Tao Qian and the Demon Child body could hear the thoughts in the mind of Golden Cicada at this moment, they would probably laugh until their bellies burst.

However, if you consider it seriously, Great Demon Tao's vigorous performance, combined with the Buddha Heart and Buddha Embryo nurtured by Tao Qian using Future Dharma, along with the Divination Worm using the Power of Heaven to emulate a past life... it's perhaps difficult to deceive those slightly weaker powerhouses.

But to deceive Golden Cicada, who is invincible in cultivation and exceptionally intelligent, it happens to work.

Because, apart from the story being false, all the other "props" are true.

Even if the contemporary Buddha Venerable of All Heavens Buddhism were to come, they would recognize the Buddha Heart and Buddha Embryo within Great Demon Tao as genuine.

Of course, if the Buddha Venerable really were to come, the Future Dharma would be exposed, and the true body wouldn't be able to escape either.

With Golden Cicada having determined some of the truth, they quickly formed a plan:

"Let's test further to see if he truly possesses Bodhisattva or Buddha potential."

"If indeed he is a hidden talent of a Talent Buddha's Son, he should receive my Golden Cicada's Marvelous Method and enter my sect. When I become the Merit Buddha in the future, this child can also obtain a Bodhisattva's status."

As these two thoughts arose, Golden Cicada once again used the Unobstructed Heavenly Eye to assess the potential of Great Demon Tao, as well as what the future might hold.

With this insight, he was immediately very satisfied.

Slightly nodding, he secretly praised:

"Even with a Buddha Embryo cultivating the Secret Demon Method, he can still refine such a violent Source Qi, reaching Perfect Ultimate Happiness, seemingly hiding the All Heavens Demon Net, Ten Thousand Demon Gourd, and Evil-slaying Sword, all of these Secret Demon Treasures... If this child clears his roots and turns to cultivate the Buddhist Path, with one thought he could enter Daoist Transformation, and there's hope for him to become a Tribulation Immortal."

...

Said to be a mutual attraction, under the circumstance of each having their own plans, this Buddha's Son and Secret Demon Child happened to see eye to eye.

Each took their own seat, then promptly began debating scripture and discussing Buddhism.

Tao Demon Child raised various complex problems of Buddhist philosophy for Golden Cicada to solve.

As the second disciple of the Buddha Venerable, he was naturally proficient in countless scriptures of All Heavens Buddhism; even if Guanyin Master, Manjusri Bodhisattva, or Manjusri Bodhisattva were to challenge him, he could answer with ease.

But soon, he was both pleasantly surprised and somewhat disconcerted to find that he was mistaken.

The Buddhist philosophical doubts coming from the Secret Demon Child's mouth were almost all novel and tricky, rarely seen even in the vast surfeit of Buddhist scriptures.

Even he expended considerable mental effort to answer them.

This bout of scripture debate further solidified Golden Cicada's speculations in his heart.

The desire to recruit was becoming increasingly strong.

So much so, that he had already thought of a future Bodhisattva name for Great Demon Tao.

"I am the destined Merit Buddha, and under my command, there should be Ten Great Wise Bodhisattvas. This child can take one seat, to be that [Peach Blossom Pure Land Bodhisattva]."

"However, since this child is presently in the Demon Path, favoring me deliberately and asking for Buddhist teachings is not genuinely seeking Buddhism, but likely to refine divine skills, adding more cards up his sleeve... From the previous scenes revealed by Buddha Cicada, this child is clearly an adept in the art of combat and magical battles."

"With my abilities, along with the Seven Protectors under my command, capturing him poses no problem, but it would take quite some time."

"Therefore, provoking the second generation ancestor behind this child isn't much; evoking the Buddha Venerable Dharma Image would suffice to drive them away, but it might instead alarm the rest of the All Heavens Gods and Demons, spoiling our sect's great plan."

Upon changing his mind, Golden Cicada had to suppress the idea of taking action.

But soon, he thought of a more suitable plan.

It was seen that he took the initiative to stand up and say goodbye, but just before leaving, he suddenly said earnestly:

"It is good to let Daoist know that I, along with a number of Buddha's sons from Tang Country, are traveling this time to preach our Buddha's truths to the masses and all living beings, with great compassion and divine skills, to save beings from suffering and prevent them from succumbing to disasters, evil, and calamity. Even if we perish because of this, we will have no regrets."

"Daoist governs Liang Country skillfully, but previously suffered from the Great Heart Demon Tribulation, where many evil remnants reside in the region, and the people have yet to recover. Poor monk should have lingered a few more days, performing compassionate deeds and saving those in need, but out of concern for Daoist's master, I am unwilling to cause more incidents."

"Even so, I still wish to form a good karma, leaving you some Buddhist objects, to exert my heart and efforts."

After speaking, Golden Cicada waved his hand.

In the next moment, Buddha Light surged out from the Peach Blossom Temple, full like the sea.

In the halo, three Buddhist objects were floating, firmly attracting the attention of Great Demon Tao.

They were a Kasaya glittering with golden light, a scroll of Pattra Leaves Buddha Scripture, and a Purple Gold Buddha Bowl.

If speaking of the strength of the Qi, the Buddha Bowl was undoubtedly the strongest.

And the Buddha Scripture gleamed with the light of great wisdom.

But Great Demon Tao didn't look at the two treasures, he only looked at the Kasaya with an expression of delight.

The reason was simple—it was embroidered with gold threads in various wonderful postures, utterly free from lewdness, merely depicting the ultimate bliss of the harmony between heaven and earth.

Seeing his expression, Golden Cicada was not suspicious; instead, he became more convinced he could win over this person.

Smiling, he began to introduce:

"This Kasaya is called the [Joyful Buddha Robe]. The origin you can guess, it is the most treasured item from the line of the Joyful Buddha within our All Heavens Buddhism. Since you favor the Yin Yang Harmony Path, this item is most suitable for you."

"That Buddha Bowl is also a good item, capable of holding the power of the Five Lakes and Four Seas. It contains five hundred merit monks and five hundred merit nuns, capable of reciting thousands of Buddhist scriptures from our All Heavens Buddhism. If you're ever in doubt, listen quietly and it will help you."

"This scripture is the 'Great Treasure Merit Scripture', penned by this humble monk. It contains some minor truths, which you may view at your leisure."

"These three items are given to you, Daoist, for good cultivation. When disaster strikes, they may be of great use."

"I hope that when we meet again, Daoist, you will have broken through the confusion of the Dao in your heart and achieved great fortune."

Upon Golden Cicada finishing his words, Great Demon Tao was momentarily stunned.

Although he and his true body initially intended to deceive and fool this Buddha's son, they never expected that with just a bit of trickery, Golden Cicada would freely gift the three great Buddhist treasures.

Seeing him thus, Golden Cicada couldn't help but laugh heartily, saying:

"Daoist, are you perhaps puzzled as to why this humble monk is so generous? Great Buddhist treasures, profound Buddha scriptures, given so freely, is there not some hidden motive?"

"Daoist need not think so. This time, the Buddha's sons set out from Tang Country to offer salvation to all living beings. As long as we succeed, even if we exhaust all the Buddhist treasures on our persons and send out all our scriptures, it will be worth it."

"After Liang Country, there is Zheng Country, which has suffered greatly from disasters. The water source is polluted, I'm afraid only by exhausting all my Buddha's blood can it be remedied."

"I shall leave now, Daoist, no need to see me off."

After speaking, Golden Cicada indeed waved his monk robe, and with his seven Great Demon protectors, he used the Great Shifting Divine Power to leave the borders of Liang Country in an instant.

...

Within the Peach Blossom Temple, Great Demon Tao learned from the Divination Worm that Golden Cicada had indeed left Liang Country, and he felt a sigh of relief in his heart.

Although confident in his ability to conceal and deceive, this Buddha's son was still too strong.

If it had truly failed, and they had turned against each other, his Demon Child body would have been finished.

Even if the true body rushed over, it probably wouldn't withstand the "Second Disciple of the Buddha Venerable's" three punches and two kicks.

Though he had left, he left behind three Buddhist treasures.

Tao Qian did not reach out to touch them, he merely used his mind to have the Divination Worm probe them first.

While waiting, he communicated with his true body's mind, saying:

"Tsk tsk! Look at this, Joyful Buddha Robe, Purple Gold Buddha Bowl, Great Treasure Merit Scripture... what generosity, even if I had become his disciple on the spot, this would be the treatment, right?"

"Seeing the way Golden Cicada was, it's apparent he did not care about giving away these fine items, truly a luxurious Buddha's son."

"You, Spirit Treasure Subduing Evil Lord, Duobao Daoist's only disciple, you might have lost to him in terms of Divine Skills and Dao, but even when it comes to luxury and treasures, you can't compare."

"Why not truly pledge to him, take a cheap Master, and earn so many treasures, it wouldn't be a loss."

"Ha, don't let your mind wander, see clearly you are a Secret Demon Child, the effectiveness of the Wisdom Root Buddha Heart is only an hour, should you truly enter under his tutelage, reveal your skin, and have no Buddha Heart, only a pitch-black Secret Demon Heart, you would probably be slapped to death by this destined Merit Buddha with one palm."