

The Journey of Flower - Volume 01

Table of Contents

1. [001](#)
2. [002](#)
3. [003](#)
4. [004](#)
5. [005](#)
6. [006](#)
7. [007](#)
8. [008](#)
9. [009](#)
10. [010](#)
11. [011](#)
12. [012](#)
13. [013](#)

001

There were not any stars or moon in the sky, complete darkness like a bottomless black hole, difficult to know up or down, it seemed as if a mistaken step could lead to falling into the hole.

“Namo Amitabha, Namo Amitabha.....” A girl about 12 years old walked quickly on the road, her right hand held prayer beads while she chanted continuously, her left hand held a lantern made out of oil paper.

Her walking was more like running, the things following her did not get too close because of the prayer beads. It was complete darkness, only a small light from the lantern floated visibly above the ground. Everywhere was eerie silence, even the sounds of water flowing or insects chirping could not be heard.

The village was near, the child kept telling herself that she would be safe once she could be in the village even though her face was pale and her body covered in cold sweats. Her right hand constantly pulled the cloak made from the skins of eight black dogs more tightly to prevent the fragrance of her body from seeping out.

But at the stone bridge in front of the village, the child froze. A woman holding a paper umbrella stood on the bridge facing her, embroidered on the umbrella was a bright red peach blossom, likewise on her white gown. The umbrella was held low so the face was hidden. It was hot because there was not even a breeze, but the skirt kept whipping back and forth.

The child was scared and could not move, her legs trembled. It was over, the evil spirits finally appeared.

“Namo Amitabha.....” She continued chanting in a low voice, her body twisted away as she walked to the other end of the bridge, looking down and pretending not to see the woman. However, the woman appeared in front of her in the blink of an eye. The white shoes embroidered with delicate flowers were covered with mud, next to her feet was a puddle of water as well as green algae and seashells. The child saw clearly now, on the woman’s skirt was not a peach blossom, it was

blood.

The soft yellow light in the lantern mysteriously turned blue and then red, as if filled with blood. The atmosphere was filled with the pungent smell of rotten flesh and blood.

“Namo Amitabha.....” Firmly pushing the prayer beads forward, the female apparition fell back two steps, the child walked forward two steps. When she almost reached the other side of the bridge, a horrifying laugh rang out.

The face of the female apparition cracked, her body disintegrated into pieces as if sliced abruptly, filling the ground with blood and maggots.

The child was scared, she almost threw away the prayer beads and the lantern to run away, her legs shook violently.

She suddenly saw a round object rolling out from under the umbrella, it was wrapped in black hair, upon closer look it was the head of the female apparition. Her body felt as if encased in ice, she could not move. The voice in her head kept shouting, run away run away, but her legs could not move even a little.

The head was like a ball, rolling around and around aimlessly, bouncing back if it hit the parapets of the bridge. It promptly rolled to the child's feet, scaring her to the point she almost fell to the ground.

Staying still for a moment, the child looked at the head near her feet, her heart almost jumped out of her throat. The head unexpectedly rolled closer, now the child could see the woman's face. There were two large dark holes in the face, her eyes were ripped out, who knew what happened to one eye, the other eye was stuck to blood vessels, nerves and tissues covering half of the face, dangling, the eyeball swiveled to stare at her. The woman's lips were mutilated as if eaten by the fish in the river, quivering as if wanting to say something to the child but could only whisper like wind passing through wooden doors.

The child held back the urge to vomit, running forward across the bridge, ignoring the arms on the ground she just stepped on. Her leg was caught suddenly, it was half of the right hand, the fingers submerged too long in water were swollen, rotting and white. At the cutoff of the hand, bones could be seen sticking out.

In her horror, the child quickly discovered the head had bounced her way, opening its mouth to bite into her right leg. Pain mixed with the bitter cold instantly spread all over her body.

The child waved her prayer beads to hit the female apparition, hearing hissing like raw meat frying on a red hot iron, it took a long time before the head reluctantly rolled away. The child began to run but heard something being crushed, feeling her feet had stepped on something. When the child lifted up one foot to look, it was the other eye of the female apparition she had inadvertently stepped on, it burst open full of pus and maggots.

The child heaved dryly while running swiftly off the bridge, one hand surprisingly still held onto her ankle, the head rolled on the bridge, the top and bottom teeth knocking against each other, crying out: "My hand, my hand, my hand....." The wailing was miserable and horrible, but the female apparition could not get off the bridge or give chase. People who died in the water, their souls would be trapped there forever.

The child struggled to pull the other hand away from her leg and threw it back toward the bridge. Then she turned and ran. Her scared face was drained of colors.

The people in the village were sleeping at this time, it was so silent that even chickens and dogs were not heard. The child ran wildly to an apothecary and pounded on the door, but it seemed as if everyone had died in their sleep, there were no reactions, not even a light could be seen. The child continued pounding on the door until someone answered some time later.

"Who is it....."

"Physician Zhang, Physician Zhang, I'm Xiao Gu! Quickly, come save my father, he's dying!" Xiao Gu anxiously cried out.

"Oh, Xiao Gu, don't worry, let me dress and pack my things. It'll be quick, it'll be quick....."

Soon, an old man with his head half covered with grey hair carrying a medicine box walked out, rushing to her side.

"How could you come out at night! Did you encounter anything?"

“Just now on the bridge..... There’s no other way, my father suddenly felt very sick.....” Xiao Gu held onto Physician Zhang’s clothes, hiding behind him, limping along, her body still trembling. When nearing the bridge, she stuck out her head, the rotten body and crushed eye were gone. It was as if nothing happened.

Her [Ba Zi](#) was rare, her yin qi too strong, her constellation would harm everyone close to her, this combination had not appeared in hundreds of years. When she was born, her mother died from complications of childbirth, a mystical fragrance covered the village, it was a beautiful spring but flowers withered in a moment, thus she was called Hua Qian Gu.

Her father was a scholar who failed the examination many times, his life was hard because he tried to care for her up to now. However, she easily attracted evil spirits, often bringing trouble to the village so they had to live in a wooden hut near the river that passed by the village.

Her father invited a wandering monk to come for exorcism and change Hua Qian Gu’s fate, but the monk only shook his head, giving Hua Qian Gu the prayer beads he carried for many years and used the skin of eight black dogs to make a coat to cover the mystical fragrance that evil spirits could detect from her body. He said after sunset, Hua Qian Gu should not go outside, because of this, she managed to live to the age of twelve.

Physician Zhang pitied her young age, filled with so much fear and suffering. He especially took care of the father and daughter. He was a physician, whose hands determined the lives of many people, contaminated with the survival and death of people, his energy was somewhat heavy so evil spirits usually did not provoke him. Physician Zhang held Hua Qian Gu’s hand to go to the hut, on the way trouble never appeared.

Scholar Hua was very sick, spending these years with Hua Qian Gu, he could not escape the side effects that came from evil spirits, he was less than forty years old but looked fifty or sixty. Physician Zhang kept shaking his head, it was doubtful he would survive tonight.

Hua Qian Gu ran in and out to boil water, simmering medicine, wiping sweats for Scholar Hua. She was afraid to sit down and rest, probably she already guessed so she felt fearful. In this world, her father was her only family.

Scholar Hua could not make it until morning, while dying, he worried for Hua Qian Gu after his death. Physician Zhang comforted him and promised to care for Hua Qian Gu, but Scholar Hua did not want to bother him and was also afraid he could not protect Hua Qian Gu for long. Thus he told Hua Qian Gu to go to Mount Mao to study with a teacher of mystic arts. Once successful, she would not be afraid of evil spirits.

Hua Qian Gu held tightly onto her father's hand, which gradually became cold, and felt desolate, her father was gone, she was alone in the world, what was the point of living? She forced herself not to cry, from the time she was little, the only thing her father was stern about was not letting her cry. She knew that if she cried, strange things would happen, and her father could not be with her forever so he forced her to be independent and strong.

Physician Zhang treated the injury on her leg, wiped away the blacken blood, sprinkled a little ash, applied cream made out of animal fat then bandaged the leg. It was a little poison from a corpse, nothing serious.

The next day, Physician Zhang and a few willing villagers helped her organize a simple funeral. Physician Zhang thought she was too young, she could not wander out by herself, wanting to take her in, at least until her leg healed. However, she was determined to leave as soon as possible, obeying her father's wish to study at Mount Mao. Physician Zhang could not persuade her, he helped her sell the valuables in the house and also gave her some of his money.

When darkness came, Hua Qian Gu wore the dog cloak, listened to the wind blowing and howling violently, laying on a wooden board in the empty hut with her eyes wide open all through the night. Her head was filled with grief and confusion about her future. Early next morning, she said goodbye to the villagers to journey toward Mount Mao.

After two months of difficult traveling, Hua Qian Gu reached the foot of Mount Mao. She was dressed like a boy in the dog cloak, on her hip was an old sickle. No matter how hard she tried to go up the mountain, she was hopelessly lost. It began to rain so Hua Qian Gu took shelter under a tree and ate bread to fill her stomach.

When the rain stopped, she continued walking again. Suddenly, she stepped on a human leg bone. Feeling sympathy for the dead person having to lie out in the wilderness, Hua Qian Gu gathered all the bones she could find, dug a grave to bury the bones and used a piece of wood to mark the grave.

Hua Qian Gu continued to wander around but could not find a way up the mountain. Night came so she went into a cave to rest. Nearing sleep, she saw a Taoist priest walking into the cave.

He said his name was Lin Sui Yi and thanked her for burying him. He was a disciple of Mount Lao and sent by his teacher to deliver a few things to Taoist Priest Qing Xu of Mount Mao. Unfortunately, he was attacked and killed by the demon Chun Qiu Bu Bai. There were many mystic traps on Mount Mao so Lin Sui Yi suggested for Hua Qian Gu to go to Yi Xiu Ge to ask how she could go up the mountain. It was said that the successor of Yi Xiu Ge called Yi Xiu Jun knew everything.

It took two more days, but Hua Qian Gu managed to find Yi Xiu Ge. She paid the gatekeepers with radishes and was allowed inside. After walking around and around, she discovered a room with the doors slightly opened. She peeked in and asked if anyone was inside, but no one answered. Hua Qian Gu stepped into the room and screamed out loud. She saw thousands of human tongues hanging by red threads from the ceiling.

Hua Qian Gu saw thousands of human tongues hanging by red threads from the ceiling. The tongues were in all conditions, all shapes, all sizes. She screamed and turned to run out but bumped into someone. This person wore a large, black cloak and a demonic mask covered his face.

“I’m not edible! I’m dirty and smelly, please don’t eat me! I’ve walked many days without taking a bath.”

Hua Qian Gu leaned sideways to sneak away, but he blocked her.

“You broke through the mystic trap, you’ve discovered Yi Xiu Ge’s biggest secret, do you think you can leave easily?”

Hua Qian Gu wanted to cry, who would want to see a horrifying scene of human tongues hanging! She took two steps backward, using the pale sunlight on the walls, she looked down and saw the shadow of the person in front of her, thank goodness, thank goodness, not an evil spirit, not an evil spirit.

“I didn’t mean it, I promise I won’t say anything, I’m very forgetful, I’ll forget everything as soon as I walk out of here! You must believe me!”

“Oh? I can believe you but based on what? Why should I believe you?”

“I, I, I promise! If I break my promise, I won’t die peacefully!”

The person in front of her suddenly took out a knife and held it before her.

“Ah! Do you want to kill me to silence a witness?”

“Leave behind a drop of your blood.”

“Huh? What?”

“Leave behind a drop of your blood.”

“Just one drop, oh, that’s easy.” Hua Qian Gu gritted her teeth, made up her mind to prick her index finger, then squeezed out a drop of blood. It dropped into something shiny held by him.

“I can leave now, right?” On her head were human tongues, in front of her was a terrifying stranger, this was all too horrible.

“Didn’t you come here to ask something? Well, you haven’t asked anything but want to leave already?”

Hua Qian Gu was stunned: “You’re Yi Xiu Jun?”

“Yes!” The reply was drawn out, sounding cynical. Ha Qian Gu never thought the legendary Yi Xiu Jun would look like this, but she was less scared than before.

“You like radishes?” Suddenly feeling curious, she could not help but asked.

The person coughed drily two times, Hua Qian Gu felt he was laughing behind his mask.

“This is what you want to ask me?”

“Ah no, no, there’s something more important. I want to ask, I want to go up Mount Mao to study with a teacher, but I always got lost, is there a way up?”

Yi Xiu Jun thought for a moment.

“Do I need to pay for the answer? Do you want more blood? I have a lot!” Hua Qian Gu courageously rolled up her sleeves.

“This matter is simple, you don’t have to pay with blood. You only need to tell me when and where you were born, the more details the better.”

Hua Qian Gu frowned in bewilderment, could he be checking her origin? Letting him know should be all right so she decided to answer honestly.

Yi Xiu Jun nodded, then gave her a necklace with a pendant that was translucent like dew. Hua Qian Gu accepted the clear string that glistened like tears. A hint of blood appeared inside the pendant, which looked like a closed flower. Was this the drop of blood she just gave up?

“This.....?”

“This is called Tian Shui Di, made out of phoenix tears. If you wear it, you can go up Mount Mao.”

“Oh! Really? So simple? Thank you!”

“No need to thank me, this is as it should be. Nothing is free in this world, your

payment to see me were the radishes. If you want to know the truth or news about something, you have to pay a price. You've paid me, I've given you an answer, isn't this fair?"

"Of course, does this mean I can ask whatever I want? Can you tell me if I can find a teacher who will accept me and how long I'll live?"

"I'm not a fortune teller, your future is in your hands, I can't know everything unlike what people have said about me. I only know what happened in every dynasty, as well as countless things buried by the dusts of time, but I still don't know what people will do."

"Oh..... but how can you know so much?"

"Do you see all the tongues hanging here?" Yi Xiu Jun pointed upward, Hua Qian Gu immediately bowed her head, afraid to look up.

"My hobby is to collect people's tongues."

Hua Qian Gu paled.

"All of these tongues, some were brought here by my predecessors, some were recently brought here by me. All of them, belonging to men, to women, to children, even emperors and also beggars..... Which type is your favorite?"

Hua Qian Gu bit her lips together and shook her head.

"Know what? There are thousands and thousands of creatures in this world, whether flying in the sky or running on the ground, there's not a single one without a tongue. Nevertheless, the most important reason for the tongue to exist is not to taste but to speak."

"Speak?"

"Whatever you want to know, tongues will tell you. The more tongues you collect, the more you'll know. For so long, how can Yi Xiu Ge know everything and has the largest, most secretive intelligence network? It's because we gather tongues from everywhere."

"These tongues can speak?" Hua Qian Gu trembled.

"Of course, these tongues can also sing, come here, I'll tell this tongue to sing for you."

Hua Qian Gu saw the tongue starting to move, she stepped back in alarm.

“No need, no need!”

“These tongues are very obedient, sometimes they need to be watered, sometimes they need to soak up sunlight.” Yi Xiu Jun looked at the variety of tongues, his voice softened as if speaking lovingly about his children.

Hua Qian Gu swallowed nervously.

“When you ask, they will know?”

“”If it’s something they’ve seen or experienced, they will know. If they don’t, they will discuss among themselves to find the best answer.”

Hua Qian Gu could not imagine thousands upon thousands of tongues talking to each other, this was too horrific.

“Where did you find so many tongues?”

“Some were cut off from dead people, some belonged to people who came to Yi Xiu Ge to ask something and this was the payment. When they’re about to die, someone from Yi Xiu Ge will appear before they take the last breath to cut off the tongue.”

“But won’t that hurt a lot? Why not wait until after people die?”

“There’s a difference between the tongues of people who are alive and people who are dead. Tongues from dead people, you can only ask one question, they will answer one time and wilt. Tongues from people still alive, as long as you diligently water them, they can answer many things. Of course, only one question can be asked each time, after the tongues have said everything they know, they’ll die. Look at those tongues up there, some are still fresh from just being cut, the dark ones are used often, they’ll die soon.”

“This, this.....” Hua Qian Gu did not know if she wanted to say this sounded awful or amazing.

“Do you know why everyone in the world is afraid of Yi Xiu Ge?”

“Wh.....Why?”

“Because they’re afraid Yi Xiu Ge have cut off the tongues of people close to

them or people who died knowing their secrets. This is why for a long time in the royal palace and sects, not wanting Yi Xiu Ge to know their secrets, they cut off the tongues before burying the dead or put nails in them so the tongues can't divulge any secrets."

"But you can capture a person who's still alive and knows the secrets and cut that person's tongue off."

"The problem is whether you can find out the truth whenever you want, tongues from people still alive have a will of their own, harder to deal with compared to tongues from dead people. This is why a contract will be drawn up, people need to agree to give their tongues to Yi Xiu Ge before dying."

"How horrifying..... Thank goodness....." If not, Yi Xiu Ge would probably cut off everyone's tongues.

"Be a good girl, stick out your tongue." Yi Xiu Jun suddenly said softly, but his voice can cause another person to break out in a cold sweat.

"Why?" Hua Qian Gu stuck out her tongue but quickly retracted it because she was afraid it could be cut off.

"Oh, very good color, do you want to enter into a contract with Yi Xiu Ge? Whatever you want to know, I can answer you!"

"Never!" Hua Qian Gu refused immediately.

"Perhaps one day, you'll beg me."

"Never! Who wants her tongue cut off! Everyone has secrets, and they should. You're not a deity, you shouldn't know everything or you can interfere with fate."

"Haha kid, you're cute, but your tongue is cuter."

Hua Qian Gu covered her mouth, not letting him see it anymore.

"But....." Yi Xiu Jun suddenly leaned down and looked at the girl half his height, he smiled darkly, whispering softly into her ear: "If my tongue touches someone else's, that person's tongue is under my control in the time an incense stick burns off."

Hua Qian Gu felt goosebumps all over her body and took two steps back: "Why

would I let your tongue touch mine? Can I leave now? I need to go up Mount Mao to find a teacher.”

“Of course, you’re welcome to return!” Yi Xiu Jun said cynically, making a “please” gesture.

Hua Qian Gu did not dare to look back at the room with human tongues hanging everywhere, quickly hurrying out, she took two steps before returning.

“This is embarrassing, but how can I leave?”

“Always turn left if you see a corner, that’s the way out.”

“Oh, thank you.”

“All right, this reluctant thanks is your payment to me for asking how you can leave.”

Hua Qian Gu was speechless, what a calculative person.

Yi Xiu Jun stood in front of a railing, watching the small figure disappeared. He took out a radish and bit into it, how sweet!

The hand holding the radish was slender and white like jade.

Hua Qian Gu wore Tian Shui Di on her neck and found it easier walking up Mount Mao this time around. Suddenly, she heard someone yelling. Fearing evil spirits, Hua Qian Gu hurried away from the racket, but wherever she went, the yelling followed her. She turned and headed to where the yelling seemed to be coming from to see what the trouble could be. After a while, Hua Qian Gu saw a boy about fourteen years old hanging upside down from a tree yelling loudly at no one in particular. He twisted in circles until he saw her.

“Hey! Who are you? Jerk, stop pretending! Kill me if you can, if not, I’ll cut off the meat on your body to make soup!”

Hua Qian Gu looked innocently at him swinging in the air, suddenly reminded of a spider dangling from a ceiling beam.

The “evil spirit” stared at her for a long time, she had an mysterious aura but did not seem like an immortal, an evil spirit or a demon, probably just an ordinary human passing by. He breathed a sign of relief, raised his eyebrows and ordered loudly: “Hey kid! Let me down!”

Hua Qian Gu stepped cautiously: “You’re an evil spirit?”

The boy was exasperated: “Uncle, of course I’m human! Hurry up, let me down!!”

Hua Qian Gu slowly took two steps forward then narrowed her eyes to find his shadow, but the ground was covered by the shade of the large tree, nothing could be seen.

“Brat, why are you scared like a girl? If you don’t come here, I’ll kill your entire family!!”

Hua Qian Gu became angry, turned and walked away, huh, you can be human or an evil spirit, you still cannot do anything to me hanging from a tree.

“Hey! Hey!” The boy was anxious, someone finally appeared in the forest, he could not help but softened his voice.

“Don’t go! Let me down!!”

This caused Hua Qian Gu to stop and turn around to solemnly look at him, her hands on her hips. He should act that way, asking for help should be like that, hehe.

The boy gritted his teeth, thought to himself he would show the boy a thing or two once he was free.

Hua Qian Gu walked back, then slowly circled him several times.

The boy cursed inwardly: “Why don’t you hurry up and let me down?”

Hua Qian Gu looked at his angry face and wanted to laugh, she could not resist and jabbed at his face with her fingers.

Warm, definitely human.

The boy was furious, annoyed that he could not bite off her fingers. This kid dared to be so disrespectful!

Hua Qian Gu promptly clambered up the tree, she looked at the knot of the rope and worried.

“Hurry up and let me down!”

“I’m thinking how I can let you down, this knot is hard to undo.”

“Are you an idiot? Don’t you have a sickle?”

“Oh, that’s right!”

Hua Qian Gu took out her sickle and chopped the rope.

“Ow!” The boy plunged down, laying flat on the ground, mumbling to himself.

“Are you all right?”

“Uncle! Why didn’t you warn me! You didn’t even do it correctly, you should’ve untied my hands first!” The boy awkwardly stood up from the muddy ground, his neck was twisted, oh Heaven, his head hit the ground first, his neck was now twisted and it hurt.

“Don’t move!” Hua Qian Gu walked up and grabbed his head.

“Ah! Don’t!”

He did not even finish, there was a cracking sound. His head twisted abruptly to the other side.

This is it, this is it, his neck was broken. His arrogant life finished off in the hands of a little bumpkin. He Dong! Father! You must avenge me!

“Can you try to move it to see if you’re better?” Hua Qian Gu clapped her hands, looking triumphant. She often hurt herself from being mischievous or falling from trees, Physician Zhang treated her this way! Hehe!

The boy tried to move his neck. Huh? Nothing. Let’s try again. Ah? Still cannot do it.

He kicked Hua Qian Gu’s bottom.

“How is this better? My neck was twisted to the left, now you’ve twisted it to the right!”

“Um……” Hua Qian Gu chewed her fingers, “It’s all right, your neck looks better twisted to the right than to the left!”

The boy wanted to strangle her, what is the difference? He tried to walk a few steps with his neck twisted to one side, oh Heaven, he could not let anyone see this or his reputation would be ruined!!

“Hurry up and untie my hands!”

“Oh, all right, should I use my sickle to chop at it?”

“Ah! Don’t! What if you chop off my hands too? Slowly cut it, dummy!”

Hua Qian Gu got rid of the rope, she squatted down to brush off the dirt from his clothes, she had never seen such excellent quality clothes. He was probably a wealthy landowner’s son!

Hua Qian Gu looked up at him, he appeared childish and had a foul mouth but his noble bearing was apparent. He was the handsomest boy she saw, Hua Qian Gu could not help but stared at him.

“Why were you hanging from a tree?”

“Mind your own business, don’t ask!”

“Oh, all right, take care. I’m busy, see you later!”

Hua Qian Gu said goodbye then retrieved her things to leave, she needed to hurry to make it up the mountain!

“Hey! Hey! Where are you going?” The boy asked anxiously, limping to keep up, “You’ve saved me, tell me, what do you want? Gold and silver, beautiful women, official ranking, you choose!”

Hua Qian Gu kept walking, shaking her head: “No need, it was nothing.”

“No, I don’t want to owe anyone anything. If you’re in trouble and need help, just tell me.” The boy stood in front of her to block her.

“No need to make a big deal.....” Hua Qian Gu silently looked at his stubborn face, not knowing what to say, “Well, you look like a nice person, let me ask you something, do you know the Taoist priests on Mount Mao? Can they fight evil spirits? Can they fly in the air like deities?”

“You want to go up Mount Mao?” The boy squinted at her.

“Yes, I want to find a teacher.”

“A small kid like you want to find a teacher?”

“Yes.”

“Do you have a referral?”

“What’s a referral?”

“What I mean is a letter of recommendation! A letter of recommendation, dummy! Right now, demons run rampant, you think anyone who wants to become a disciple can become one? Not just paying money, a letter of recommendation is also necessary!”

“What’s a letter of recommendation? What’s it for?”

“It assesses your traits and ability by a distinguished person who has achieved enlightenment, it also explains the reason for the referral, et cetera, et cetera. Ah, it’s using the backdoor to be honest.....” The boy tried to remember what his teacher told him.

“Is that necessary?”

“Of course, you can eat and sleep in a Taoist sect, you can learn martial arts

and cultivate to become immortal, if a referral isn't needed then beggars on the streets don't need to beg for food, they can come here to study with a teacher."

"I have 30 pieces of silver, I'm not a beggar."

"You say you're not a beggar with that, but that's nothing to me."

"Ah! But I don't know anyone, where can I get a letter of recommendation?"

"Letter of recommendation? Easy. Beg me, beg me, if you beg me, I'll write you a letter."

"You? You're a distinguished person who has achieved enlightenment?" Hua Qian Gu pointed at his crooked neck and laughed out loud.

The boy paled: "Huh, you better believe me, my teacher Huan Xi Tian You Luo He Dong is famous. If he gives you a referral, entering Mount Mao is a piece of cake, guaranteed you can become Taoist Priest Qing Xu's disciple, you might even get a bell."

"Ah! Really?" Hua Qian Gu happily grabbed his arm and swung it side to side, "What bell?"

"Oh that..... bells, flowers, jades, feathers..... there are other types, they represent cultivation levels, each type is divided into different colors, usually worn on the hip. They represent ranking, each type, each color and the amount mean cultivation status, power level, which of the five elements, et cetera..... I can't remember the other things..... Anyway, there are lots of Taoist priests on Mount Mao, based on your ability, before you can go near enough to touch a bell you're already tossed to a random Taoist priest to be his disciple!"

"How complicated! Why is it so hard to become a Taoist priest? I only want to find a quiet place to study, it doesn't matter who's my teacher."

"You should care. Mount Wang Wu, Mount Wei Yu, Mount Kuo Cang, Mount Kun Lun, Mount Tian, Mount Wu Dang, Mount Qing Cheng, Mount Long Hu, Mount Qi Yun, Mount Mao, Mount Lao, Mount Tai Bai, Mount Wu Yi, Mount Gui Ji.....there are also Hai You Yu Zhou Peak, Peng Lai Island, Mount Chang Liu, all of these famous places are known for cultivation with hundreds of large sects and thousands of small sects, too many to count. It's normal for sects to secretly compete with each other for better standing. Mount Mao is known for helping

the weak and being kind to people, its disciples study briefly then go down the mountain to fight demons and evil spirits, this is why it's praised and well-known. Based on strength, it's not even in the top 10."

"Huh?" Hua Qian Gu was stunned, the boy thoroughly enjoyed her reaction.

"I've been to many places already! I even went to the peak of Mount Mao, Taoist Priest Qing Xu is a good friend of my teacher! Last year, I followed my teacher and met him. He's a kind and gentle old man, much better than Wu Yue San Ren, Ni Shui Qian Fan or whatever."

"So what's your sect?"

"Mine?"

The boy scratched his head, his teacher was invited by his imperial father from somewhere, belonging to no particular sect, based on origin, would it be Tai Bai? Um, might as well invent his own sect.

"I belong to the Invincible Tai Bai Sect, my teacher is the Sect Leader, I'm the Deputy Head, do you want to join and become my disciple?" The boy tempted his first possible follower.

"No, I want to become a Taoist priest on Mount Mao." All of this information was new to her, "Can you ask your teacher to write me a letter of recommendation?"

"Fine, fine, an honorable man keeps his promises, I said I'll help you so I will!"

"Where's your teacher? Why were you hanging upside down from a tree by yourself?"

"Don't remind me, my teacher and I were fighting demons around here. It's my fault that I was impulsive and chased after a turtle demon and fell into its trap. Otherwise, it could never beat me. Don't worry, my teacher is very powerful, he'll be here soon! I'll ask him to write you a referral!"

"Ah! Thank you so much! You can have this bread!" Hua Qian Gu was excited and thrilled.

The boy looked at the hard bread, not wanting to eat it but his stomach growled, he reluctantly accepted it and bit into it.

“Oh right, what’s your name?”

“Hua Qian Gu.”

“Qian Gu? What a weird name! I’m Xuan Yuan Lang. Since you saved my life, asking for a letter of recommendation is nothing, let me give you this hook jade, if you’re in trouble in the future, you can ask for help from local officials. When they see it, they’ll obey you.”

“What a spell..... how amazing! Even officials can be controlled! Thank you, Lang gege! Hahaha!” Hua Qian Gu accepted the hook jade Xuan Yuan Lang took down from his neck and put it around her neck, slipping it underneath her shirt beside Tian Shui Di. This boy had a foul mouth, but he had a good heart, even giving her a gift! But why are people giving her pendants lately?

Xuan Yuan Lang scowled at her, is this kid a dummy?

“Lang gege, I spit, now I’ve become Lang gege! Are you a girl? You speak timidly, your skin is soft, make sure to study well on Mount Mao. Don’t lose the jade, it can ward off evil, it’s an ancient treasure my father gave me.”

“Ah! It’s too expensive, I don’t need it, I’ll give it back to you!” She thought it was like those amulets worth a few pennies sold outside temples.

“Huh, my family has a lot! Don’t be long-winded! Oh right, where are we going, why do I feel like we’ve returned to the tree? Look, isn’t that mark where the rope was chopped off?” Xuan Yuan Lang looked around, the sky was turning dark.

He saw Hua Qian Gu, thought the Qi Xing Mi maze was broken, if it was not, how was she able to enter?

Hua Qian Gu and Xuan Yuan Lang walked until sunset, but they could not find a way out of the forest. He explained the turtle demon he fought earlier had set up Qi Xing Mi maze so people on the outside could not go in while people inside could not go out. Hua Qian Gu showed him Tian Shui Di given to her by Yi Xiu Jun, thinking perhaps the pendant enabled her to walk into the maze.

Xuan Yuan Lang warned Hua Qian Gu to get rid of the pendant and stay away from Yi Xiu Ge. The royal palace viewed the secretive organization more threatening than demons. His imperial father had ordered that if people died in the palace possibly knew any secrets, their tongues would be cut off and burned to ashes before they were buried. The decree applied to everyone, from the emperor himself to concubines to eunuchs to maids. Even Xuan Yuan Lang's mother was not spared from this.

Tired from walking around all day, Hua Qian Gu and Xuan Yuan Lang decided to rest for the night. Xuan Yuan Lang caught and grilled pheasants over a fire. The two of them became good friends as they ate and chatted about each other.

The next morning, Luo He Dong destroyed the turtle demon's shell outside the maze. The maze disappeared, enabling him to find his lost disciple. Xuan Yuan Lang told his teacher about Hua Qian Gu and her wish to be a Taoist priest on Mount Mao.

Luo He Dong agreed to give Hua Qian Gu a referral, but he did not know how to write so he recorded a message into a snail's shell, asking Taoist Priest Qing Xu to accept Hua Qian Gu as a disciple. Luo He Dong and Xuan Yuan Lang needed to leave immediately for the royal palace because Xuan Yuan Lang's father had sent an urgent request for help. Xuan Yuan Lang and Hua Qian Gu made a pact to be sworn brothers.

Luo He Dong expanded his wine gourd until it was big enough for him and Xuan Yuan Lang to sit on, and they flew off. Luo He Dong recognized Hua Qian

Gu was a girl but decided to let his wayward disciple continue thinking Hua Qian Gu was a boy. He warned Xuan Yuan Lang to stay away because Hua Qian Gu was cursed. Xuan Yuan Lang said arrogantly that he could be friends with whomever he wanted because everything in the world was under his control.

Hua Qian Gu continued up the mountain. She did not encounter any more problems, but strangely, she began to feel something was not right. Not a single person or bird can be seen. To her horror, she finally realized there were no signs of life on the mountain. The smell of death lingered in the air.

Finally, Hua Qian Gu reached Jiu Xiao Wan Fu Palace on top of Mount Mao. The main hall was magnificent and imposing but completely empty. It seemed like a destructive battle had occurred, and fires still burned.

Hua Qian Gu walked everywhere until she reached the main square. There was a giant hole in the ground, as if a huge meteorite had dropped down from the sky. When she stepped closer, the acrid smell of blood was evident. She looked down into the hole and screamed in terror.

The hole seemed like hell on earth. It was filled with hundreds of dead bodies, all of them wearing Taoist clothes, from the old to the young. The bodies were missing arms, legs, intestines, eyes, fingers and soaked in blood. On top of the abundance of dead bodies laid an old man with his arms chopped off and a large hole in his chest. He weakly called out to Hua Qian Gu.

He said he was Taoist priest Qing Xu. Unknown to him, his eldest disciple Yun Yi had turned demonic. Yun Yi secretly linked up with demons to destroy Mount Mao, and they had stolen the Shuan Tian chain. They sealed off the mountain with spells so no one can know what had happened. Hua Qian Gu was able to walk up the mountain probably because of Tian Shui Di. Taoist priest Qing Xu asked Hua Qian Gu to go to the Qun Xian feast on Mount KunLun and alert the immortals there so they will carefully guard the other 15 holy instruments. All caution must be taken to prevent the Demon God from being born or the world will descend into chaos.

Taoist priest Qing Xu transferred his internal energy to Hua Qian Gu to thank her for carrying out his last requests. He cannot teach her anything because he was dying. He thought the best place to study would be Chang Liu. He

whispered into the snail's shell Luo He Dong had used, asking Chang Liu's esteemed immortal Feng Shuang Yi Jian Bai Zi Hua to take in Hua Qian Gu. Bai Zi Hua had achieved the highest level of enlightenment amongst the immortals. If she can become his disciple, she would be most fortunate. However, Bai Zi Hua was very strict and might not agree to the request.

Taoist priest Qing Xu made Hua Qian Gu his successor, telling her to take the white, palace feathers worn on his hip. The feathers symbolized the position of sect leader of Mount Mao. Hua Qian Gu refused because she did not feel she was worthy, but he said she can relinquish the position to his trusted disciple Yun Yin later if she chooses. In addition, he told her the hiding place of two manuals – the first one would always be given to the new leader of Mount Mao and the other one consisted of information he collected over the years about the six realms.

Hua Qian Gu climbed out of the hole. Taoist priest Qing Xu's body burst into a cool fire, growing steadily until it engulfed everything. The ashes turned into glowing, white sparkles and floated to the sky.

Hua Qian Gu knelt and bowed two times before the hollow hole. She found the manuals, tucked them inside her shirt and set out for Mount KunLun. Her goals were clear: go to the Qun Xian feast on Mount KunLun, tell everyone there that a traitor from Mount Mao had stolen the Shuan Tian chain, turn over the position of sect leader of Mount Mao to Yun Yin, then beg Bai Zi Hua to take her in as a disciple so she can follow him to Chang Liu.....

Having new goals energized Hua Qian Gu. She walked down Mount Mao, asked people for directions to KunLun then walked west. Strangely, evil spirits stayed away from her. She did not know if this was because of Tian Shui Di or the hook jade.

Hua Qian Gu came upon a clear stream one day. Feeling dirty, she took off her clothes and jumped into the water, swimming happily like a fish. She suddenly felt Tian Shui Di heating up. Lately, the pendant sometimes glowed and became hot.

Hua Qian Gu ran out of the stream and sat under the sun to dry off. When she put on her clothes, she heard someone yelling out in surprise. She looked and saw a scholar with his back to her. He probably saw everything when he came to get water.

The scholar apologized profusely. Hua Qian Gu said it was nothing. She was only 12 years old so there was nothing to see anyway. The scholar appeared earnestly innocent and had a captivating voice. He asked if she was betrothed to someone, and after Hua Qian Gu said she was not, he insisted that he would marry her after he was done taking the examination at the capital.

Hua Qian Gu tried to run away, but the scholar followed her everywhere. He said his name was Dong Fang Yu Qing. When night came, Hua Qian Gu started a fire and sat down to rest. She tried to ignore Dong Fang Yu Qing, who sat down next to her.

“Do you want this?” Dong Fang Yu Qing handed her a pastry, Hua Qian Gu looked at his warm smile and accepted it against her will. It was hard not to deny that his smile was soothing and had a healing effect, if he could not speak he would be perfect, oh how unfortunate.....

“What’s your name?”

“Hua Qian Gu.....” She put the savory pastry into her mouth, muttering

discontentedly. It was so soft and sweet!

“How old are you?”

“Twelve.”

“Are you betrothed to someone?”

“No.”

“Where are your parents?”

“..... There’s only me left.”

Hua Qian Gu suddenly felt lonely. She thought if she could find a teacher, she would have a place to live. She did not expect things to turn out this way.

“It’s just you?” Dong Fang Yu Qing frowned, “Where are you going by yourself? Are you looking for your relatives?”

“No, I don’t have any family or friends. I went to Mount Mao to look for a teacher but was not successful. I have to go to Mount KunLun now.”

“Mount KunLun? That’s very far from here. Sounds dangerous!”

“I have to go to the Qun Xian feast.” After she said that, Hua Qian Gu covered her mouth, why was she telling a scholar going to the capital to take the examination everything?

“The Qun Xian feast? You said you wanted to study at Mount Mao but couldn’t. Why not? What happened?”

“Mount Mao was destroyed, Taoist priest Qing Xu asked me to go to the Qun Xian feast and tell the immortals there what happened.” Hua Qian Gu looked at Dong Fang Yu Qing in surprise, it was not that she had a loose tongue, for some reason she felt compelled to answer Dong Fang Yu Qing. Oh heavens, is it because of his voice?

“Mount Mao destroyed? Has it started already?” Dong Fang Yu Qing frowned and muttered to himself, “Did Taoist priest Qing Xu say anything else before he died?”

Hua Qian Gu covered her mouth and shook her head. She should not talk so much to a stranger!

Dong Fang Yu Qing slid closer, anxiously gripping her hands.

“What happened afterwards? Mount Mao’s holy instrument, the Shuan Tian chain, was it protected?”

Hua Qian Gu was surprised and pulled her hands away, staring at him with wide eyes: “How do you know about that?”

Was he not just an ordinary scholar going to the capital to take the examination?

“Of course I do know, I’m well-educated, I know the history of the six realms. You think I’m a bookworm who only read the classics?”

“Are you cultivating to become immortal?”

“No, but I know some immortals well, I’ve been interested in these things from when I was little so I’ve read a lot of history books. What’s happened to the Shuan Tian chain?”

“It was stolen.....” Hua Qian Gu bowed her head, in the end, what is this instrument that so many people died to defend it?

“How unfortunate.” Dong Fang Yu Qing reluctantly shook his head, it seemed that his trip this time was for nothing, he would have to return.

“Hua Qian Gu, no one has noticed you yet so you shouldn’t be in danger, but your constitution is special so you must be more careful. I need to go back home to take care of an urgent matter, it appears I can’t go with you to Mount KunLun.”

“Who wants to go with you! Don’t you have to go to the capital to take the examination?” Hua Qian Gu tilted her head and looked critically at him, how could he know about her unique physique? Also, why is he nervously rushing home, is there also a holy instrument in his home he is afraid demons would steal?

“.....That’s not important, I’ll take care of everything and try again.”

“What happens if a holy instrument is lost? Why are you so nervous?”

“Taoist priest Qing Xu didn’t tell you?”

“There wasn’t enough time, he only spoke a little bit and then gave me a manual about the six realms to read.”

Dong Fang Yu Qing explained to Hua Qian Gu that the world was divided into six realms consisting of humans, spirits, monsters, demons, immortals and gods. It would be dangerous to assume that humans, immortals and gods were good while spirits, monsters and demons were evil. For example, people can die and become spirits or cultivate and become immortal. Everything, from animals to plants to objects, can become demonic. As long as the heart could not be free from maliciousness and obsessions, the probability of becoming evil would always exist.

Hua Qian Gu asked about the gods. Dong Fang Yu Qing replied that gods can be reincarnated, but they had disappeared.

Hua Qian Gu felt being humans was the most difficult, but Dong Fang Yu Qing said not necessary since humans had the advantage of being the most numerous.

Finally, Dong Fang Yu Qing talked about the nine levels of immortality. Hua Qian Gu realized that Bai Zi Hua had achieved the highest level while Taoist priest Qing Xu was only at one of the lowest levels. Dong Fang Yu Qing said attaining the highest level would be extremely difficult and only four immortals had done so.

Hua Qian Gu asked in excitement about Mount Chang Liu. Dong Fang Yu Qing indulgently looked at her.

“Mount Chang Liu is the ideal place to cultivate, it is the best sect, it has the most disciples. Not only that, outstanding disciples from other sects occasionally stop by for training. Right now, one-third of immortals originate from there. Mount Chang Liu has the best martial arts and spells gathered from all sects, not to mention the largest number of best fighters. Most immortals look toward it for guidance.”

Pausing a bit, he continued: “But most importantly, even the Jade Emperor doesn’t dare to offend Chang Liu’s Sect Leader High Immortal Bai Zi Hua.”

Hua Qian Gu listened and began to worry.

“Is he very powerful, very difficult to get along with?”

“Definitely the most powerful. There aren’t a lot of talents in the immortal realm, in terms of opponents, he’s definitely the most dangerous. As to his difficult personality, rumors shouldn’t be believed, you should find out for yourself. Although I don’t like him, you’re truly blessed by your ancestors if you can become his disciple.”

Hua Qian Gu increasingly grew to admire Dong Fang Yu Qing. How can he know everything? Can he be just an ordinary scholar?

“You sound like you’ve met him.”

“Of course not, I don’t have that ability. My greatest skills are knowledge and interpretation. My habit is to analyze carefully and completely, if you don’t know something, you can always ask me.”

“Can you tell me what I should do if he won’t accept me as his disciple?”

“It’s hard to know someone’s heart, I don’t know, you should wish for the best!”

“But..... I’m so nervous. Oh yes, you haven’t told me what the Demon God is, why is the immortal realm worried?”

“The truth is no one actually knows, it’s called the Demon God because its ability is as powerful as gods with the potential of enormous destruction. Not only can it absorb the essences of the sun and the moon over thousands of years, it also combines evil, hatred, wars, lusts and all bad things to transform into a demon. When the Demon God is born, the portals of hell, the spirit realm and the demon realm will open, wars will occur, people will experience hardships, everything will be destroyed.”

“There’s no way to stop it? The immortals are very powerful!”

“The previous time stopping it, 16 holy instruments were used, they’re then divided in all directions to seal it. However, as long as evil exists in the heart, it can’t ever be destroyed, it’s just waiting for an opportunity to come out to cause chaos and destruction.”

“Heavens, no wonder the Shuan Tian chain is very important. If all the holy instruments are assembled together, can the Demon God be reborn?”

“That’s right.”

“Where are the other holy instruments?”

“They’re protected by various sects, they’ve become specialized weapons the sects use to defend themselves. However, demons always want to steal the holy instruments to resurrect the Demon God.”

“Chang Liu has a holy instrument?”

“Of course.”

“But it should be all right, there are 15 other holy instruments, it wouldn’t be easy to gather all of them. The immortals are very powerful. Even if the Demon God is resurrected, there are a lot of immortals so how can they not defeat it? Just seal it off like before.”

Dong Fang Yu Qing smiled at her, but the smile that should be joyful was strange and mysterious.

“Qian Gu, in this world, there aren’t any more gods!”

“Hua Qian Gu, there are no longer any gods left in this world!” Dong Fang Yu Qing replied

Hua Qian Gu, was shell shocked. What did he mean by there not being any gods left in this world?

A world without gods...

“The ancient god tribes often fought amongst themselves and there were few left to begin with. At last with the birth of the Demon God, in order to exterminate the many demons and monsters and seal the demon gods, the gods became extinct. The last god sacrificed herself and used her flesh and blood to repair the ruins of this world that had been devastated by the war” Dong Fang Yu Qing explained

Qian Gu, do you know how frightening the evil in human hearts are, that the demon god that is born of this evil cannot even controlled gods. Why does the birth of the demon god incite so much terror? It is because even if the human and immortal realms join forces, it cannot possibly match the tremendous power of the gods. Hence the birth of the demon god is equivalent to the the coming of the end of the world. It cannot be avoided and it cannot only be delayed day by day as people try their best to delay it and devise new . And the 16 ancient instruments of the gods are the crux of the crux.

Hua Qian Gu, raised her head and looked at him. She did not understand a lot of things yet, but suddently, she felt all the goosebumps on her body rise. Just one demon god could destroy the entire realm of gods. This meant that now the six realms were only left with 5 realms. They always referred to gods and immortals together. However this world did not have gods anymore, only immortals who were cultivated from humans.

“Then-then doesn’t that mean that there could be wars anytime soon?”

“Yes, at the fastest, it could begin next month.It could also take a few years or decades. It depends on how well the various immortals sects protect the various instruments of the gods. But the will of heaven cannot be defied..... the demon

god will be born sooner or later.”

“How scary.....”

” Even though this is true, it is impossible that humans would just accept their fate. Tomorrow, I need to urgently rush back and I cannot send you further. It is impossible for you to reach the Immortal’s Feast on time by foot. You better go on horseback.”

“Ah ? But I don’t know how to ride a horse.....”

“I will teach you tomorrow.”

“You seem to know everything!” Hua Qian Gu looked at him with a face of adulation.

“Ke-ke, if there is anything you don’t know, you can ask me.”

“Right, this.” Hua Qian Gu suddenly recalled and removed the pendant she was wearing, “This was given to me by Yi Qiao Jun who said it could be used to break curses and spells. Recently, it is always emitting heat and sometimes it even glows at night. What’s happening. Lang gege asked me not to wear it anymore and said it wasn’t something good. I don’t know myself. Can you help me look at it.....”

“ The Heaven’s Droplet right? Its heating up?” the edges of dong fang yu king’s mouth curled up as he held it in his hand. It should be almost done.

“Can you see the red thing inside?”

“I see it...”

“This is a ling chong(sacred bug?) that Yi Qiao Ge grew for you using secret arts”.

“Ah ? Bug ? Like placing a parasite”

“No, this is different from a parasitic bug. It has more uses and there are more types. Yi Qiao Ge sometimes implants it directly into the human body to gather information. Other times, they use it to kill.

“How scary.....” Hua Qian Gu was scared she stumbled back two steps. To think that she had carried it around for so long.

“Its alright. This is just an ordinary ling chong. It is grown using your blood and absorbs your essence to take its form and it will only listen to you. It has a little powers but it isn't really very formidable. Since you are always alone, it can be a travelling companion and a pet. Do you have a knife”

“Ah ? Why ? I have a scythe.” Hua Qian Gu removed the scythe hanging at her waist.

Dong Fang Yu Qing laughed and made a cut on Hua Qian Gu's arm.

“Ouch.....”

Dong Fan Yu Qing dripped the blood on the Heaven's Droplet (Tian Shui Di). The blood quickly seeped in.

“With this, the bug can quickly hatch and emerge.”

Hua Qian Gu peered hard at the Heaven's Droplet. Could this really hatch a worm?

In a moment, the surface of the Heaven's Droplet which had already turned bright red started to show cracks. Like the hatching of a chick, a transparent worm that was thinner than a small thumb laboriously crawled out. There were tiny streaks of blood on its body as it struggled forward.

“Ah ! It has come out ! Oh my ! ” Hua Qian Gu could not believe her eyes as she looked at the tiny worm. She was so excited she couldn't keep still. This was her little worm! She had a pet of her own!

The little worm lay on the rock panting as it rested. Its round body was cottony soft, giving people an irresistible urge to pinch it. Its entire body was clear and gleaming. It was really pretty. After a short while, it laboriously raised its head and opened its small eyes. It turned around and looked at the two people in front of it and suddenly called:” Papa mama... ”

“Ah!!!” Hua Qian Gu screamed. She staggered back and fell butt first to the ground. It can even speak!

Dong Fang Yu Qing was laughing so hard he was heaving at the sides. He extended a finger as fair and as luminescent as white jade and stroked the little worm's head. This child had such good foresight, he thought to himself.

“How ? How can a worm speak?” Hua Qian Gu was still shocked by this scene.

“Its a demon. Of course it can speak.”

“But.....but, why did it call me Mama ! I didn’t give birth to it, I am not a worm either.”

“But you were the one who hatched it. Furthermore, it is basically your flesh and blood.”

Looking at Hua Qian Gu’s helpless expression, Dong Fang Yu Qing laughed so hard that his face was cramping up.

“I-I became someone’s mother.....” Hua Qian Gu was speechless as she stepped forward and stared so closely at the tiny worm on the rock that her nose almost touched it.

The worm adorably gave a lazy stretch and a small yawn. It pouted before climbing onto Hua Qian Gu’s nose.

“Mama, I am hungry...”

“Ah.....” Hua Qian Gu did not dare to move and shot distressed looks at Dong Fang Yu Qing. Its on my nose, what do I do?!

Dong Fang Yu Qing chuckled as he lifted the tiny worm off by its neck.

“Papa ? ”the worm innocently raised its head and looked at him.

“You scared you mom, silly child ! ” Dong Fang Yu Qing lovingly placed the worm in his palm.

* Cries “What do i do now that it says its hungry? It can’t possibly want me to feed it milk? I don’t have any” Hua Qian Gu nervously clutched her chest and and sweated nervously.

Dong Fang Yu Qing was trying so hard to hold in his laughter that he was going to suffocate.

“ If you find that you have too much blood and you don’t know where to use it, you can feed it a drop everyday to raise its powers. Otherwise, you can just feed it leaves, petals and any plants. ”

“How about buns ? ” Hua Qian Gu carefully pinched a bit and placed it in Dong

Fang Yu Qing's palm.

"It may eat it, depending on its appetite"

They watched the worm climb onto the bun and take a bite. Pui-pui.. The bun was so tough.

Che, what a picky fellow. Hua Qian Gu speechlessly plucked a tender blade of grass and placed it in front of the worm. The small worm happily grabbed it and munched on it. In a moment the leaf had been chewed up.

"Haha, how cute." Hua Qian Gu felt all fuzzy inside. She suddenly remembered the snack that she was eating and took a small bit to feed it. It happily finished it all.

"Mm, It can accompany you from now on."

"Will I accidentally squash it? Its so small!" Hua Qian Gu plucked up courage and stretched her finger towards it. It endearingly hugged her finger.

"Its a demon. How could you kill it so easily. Why don't you name it?"

"Ah ? Name it ? I have never name anything before. Hmm... Its so small and so cute. I shall call it Tang Bao (糖宝 = Tang means candy or sweet while Bao can be translated as precious)

"Tang Bao"

"Tang Bao ! Tang Bao ! Tang Bao Bao!" Hua Qian Gu placed Tang Bao on her palm and gave it a kiss.

"You shall be called Tang Bao from now on ! "

Tang Bao giggled. Its voice sounded like a child.

"I am called Tang Bao! Papa! Mama ! "

"I am your mother but he is not your father. " Hua Qian Gu corrected her.

"Papa, Papa ! " Tang Bao smiled at Dong Fang Yu Qin.

"Why am I not her father? Once I am done with my business I will take you as my wife. I will be responsible for you."

Hua Qian Gu gave a helpless expression. Why were they back to this topic

again!

Hua Qian Gu and Tang Bao happily played for one night. The next day, Dong Fang Yu Qing bought two quick horses in the market. Dong Fang Yu Qing whispered something inaudible to the horses and the originally tempestuous beast suddenly became much more docile.

Hua Qian Gu learned very quickly and happily rode the horses in rounds. Now her travelling speed would be much faster and the journey would be a lot less tiring. “Tang Bao, you must help Papa take good care of Mama ok?”

“Mm! I know!” Tang Bao sat in Hua Qian Gu’s ear and held a strand of Hua Qian Gu’s hair as she tearfully bid farewell to Dong Fang Yu Qing.

Dong Fang Yu Qing patted Hua Qian Gu on the head. The gentleness of his expression and the elegance of his smile and his elegant smile was so mesmerising it left Hua Qian Gu momentarily stunned.

“Take care! Train hard under your new teacher. When the time comes, I will naturally find you and take you as my wife.” As he said that he placed the repaired Heaven’s Droplet on Hua Qian Gu’s neck.

Even though she had wordlessly listened to him nagged many times, this time Hua Qian Gu did not know why she felt her face redden. She did not agree nor protest as she quickly rode her horse away.

Anyway guys, here are some edited clips from the youtube preview that lidge has kindly helped to edit!

www.youtube.com/embed/6YahXN3cmHc?rel=0

www.youtube.com/embed/VzQnOisWi2U?rel=0

Hua Qian Gu continued travelling west. She was now travelling at more than twice her previous speed. The journey was much more enjoyable with Tang Bao's company. When she was bored, there was someone to talk to. When she was resting there was someone to play with. When she walked along the streets, others would think that she was insane with her constant mutterings to herself as she talked to Tang Bao who was sitting in her ear.

"Tang Bao, you are not allowed to call me Mama anymore! Others will misunderstand! You can call me Qian Gu!"

"But you are my mother." Tang Bao lethargically lay in Hua Qian Gu's ear, clutching a small crumb from a bun as her pillow.

"En, but you should at least stop calling me that in front of outsiders."

"Then I shall call you Gu Tou, (骨头(Gu Tou) means bone in chinese) I like Gu Tou!"

"You are a worm not a dog, why would you like Gu Tou(bones)?"

"I am not a worm. One my powers increase, I will transform!"

"Transform? Transform into what? A butterfly? Isn't that still an insect?"

"En, I don't know either. But at that time I will be able to fly! I won't have to crawl around everyday."

"Yes, you really are slow. If I am like you, I won't reach Kun Lun Mountain even in my next life."

"Relax. We will reach soon. Tomorrow, we should be able to reach the foot of Kun Lun Mountain. The Feast of the Immortals (群仙宴 *i.e.* qun shan yan) will only take place three days later. I know the way there. We definitely can make it in time."

"How do you know the way?"

"I am a demon from Yi Qiao Ge which specialises in collecting and passing on information. How can I possibly not know!"

“You really are something!”

“Haha, of course!”

“Oh yes, if I acknowledge Bai Zi Hua as my teacher and he wants to subdue you, what should I do? Should I hide you?”

“There is no need. I am not formed using any evil arts, just some secret arts. Furthermore I don't really have much powers. There are a lot of weirder demons and sprites in this world. Kind and small ones like me are so lovable. There aren't any immortals who would bear to subdue us. Trees and mountains all have their own guardian spirits!”

“Oh, that's good. In the past, I always thought that demons, monsters, ghosts and spirits were all bad.”

“Its just that things exist in different forms. There isn't any clear line between what is good or evil. Gu Tou Mama, I am hungry again”

“Why is it that the only things you do all day is sleep and eat? Are you a worm or a pig?”

“I just hatched . I am still very weak!”

Hua Qian Gu, picked a leaf from the tree and stuffed it into her left ear. “Grab on to it!”

“Hehe. Just nice. This can double up as my bed!”

The next day, the two of them reached the foot of Kun Lun Mountain.

“Tang Bao, will i be unable to enter the mountain, like how I couldn't enter Mount Mao the last time?”

“Don't you have the Heaven's Droplet? You should be able to enter into any barrier or formation.”

“Is that so? But the last time Lang Ge Ge and I were unable to escape from the Wang Ba Jing's (roughly translated as Tortoise Spirit) formation.

“I don't know either. Maybe its because barriers are fixed using spells, while a formation is constantly in motion and changing. The way into a formation and the way out is different. Currently, the Heaven's Droplet's power are not strong enough to totally break the formation. In addition, the Wang Ba Jing's formation

is the most formidable among the demon and sprites!”

“Oh, that’s how it is. How complex.”

Hua Qian Gu slowly climbed up the mountain. The scenery here was totally different from that on Mao Mountain. A huge mountain range was surrounded in many places by clear jade green lakes as though they were pearls that had been scattered among the mountains. The reflections of the mountains in the water made one feel like one had stepped into a painting. Flocks of water fowl gathered: some soaring above the surface of the lake, some playing in the water. All around, there was a thin veil of white mist. The entire scene was surreal. This was truly a paradise on earth. A slight breeze blew past. Bright sunlight splayed across the scene. This was truly a scene of harmony and peace.

The Yu Xu Peak, Yu Zhu Peak were covered in a sheet of white snow. Cloud and mist shrouded the mountains. This was a holy ground that many went to cultivate and train.

Tang Bao saw that Hua Qian Gu was so mesmerised that she had forgotten where she was, and incessantly reminded her to continue walking.

“Many of the rivers originate from Kun Lun Mountain. Water from the Gu river pour south into Wu Da river. The red waters flow east into the waters of Si Tian. The waters from Yang flow southwest into the waters of Chou Tu. The black waters flow northwest into Da Yu. Legend has it that the Kun Lun Spring which often receives snow in June is used by the ancient goddess Xi Wang Mu (Roughly translated into Queen Mother of the West) to brew the spring waters that is said to grant immortality (Qiong Jiang Yu Ye *i.e.* the legendary brew from jade that is said to grant immortality) . The place we are heading to now is the Pool of the Immortals. Even though Xi Wang Mu is gone, the Immortal’s Feast of Peaches is still carried out there. The legendary annual Feast of the Immortals is held right here. At that time, all the immortals will be here including the Jade Emperor and the Heavenly Empress. The objective of this meeting should be to discuss the birth of the demon god. We don’t have any invitations, hence we will definitely be stopped by the heavenly guards if we enter via the main entrance. The Four heavenly kings (they are considered to be the 4 great generals of the heavens) can’t be reasoned with. Hence, the best way is just to sneak in.

“Ah? Sneak in? How do we sneak in? You can easily crawl in without anyone noticing. But I am so big, I definitely can’t enter the feast. Why didn’t Priest Qing Xu give me an invitation?”

“You don’t have any immortal rank. Even if you have a normal invitation, they won’t let you in. Recently, demons and monsters have been rampaging everywhere. Security throughout the immortal realm has been fortified. Furthermore, the Immortal’s Feast is a big event used to discuss countermeasures. Nonetheless, since we have no evil aura, as long as we change our forms, it should be quite simple to sneak in. There are rare beasts all over Kun Lun Mountain. Why don’t you transform into a worm and crawl in with me.”

“Transform into a worm? How do I do that? I am not Sun Wu Kong! (A monkey god who can transform into 72 different forms)”

“I will sneak into the Peach Garden first. There should be a lot of rare fruits inside. I will steal a few out. If you eat it, you can transform.”

“Once I wait for you to crawl in and out, the whole feast will be over!”

*Faints “Even though I am a worm, I am a worm with powers. Among the demons, I am ranked quite high! Stop looking down on me ok? I don’t just know how to crawl! Even though using my powers will consume some of my energy, it should not pose a big problem. Alright, lets stay here. The waterfall can mask our scent and voices, and prevent any passing immortals from discovering us. It is quite a big deal for a human to come into the immortal realm. I’ll go steal the fruits now. You wait here for me ok?”

Tang Bao grabbed on to a leaf and muttered a spell. Soon the leaf sailed into a sky like a small boat.

Hua Qian Gu anxiously waited. On one hand, she was worried that Tang Bao would be discovered. On the other hand, she was afraid that Tang Bao would be eaten by other beasts

After the time taken to burn an incense, Tang Bao finally returned.

“How did it go? How did it go?” Hua Qian Gu opened her palm to let Tang Bao’s little leaf boat land.

“Hehe, of course it went without a hitch. I not only plucked a Lu Xu Flower,

while I was at it, I also stole some Kai Ming fruit, Bao grass and some Sha Tang. Too bad, the the peaches were really too huge. I got really exhausted trying to carry it. I was also scared that people would notice a peach floating in mid air.”

“What are all of this?” Hua Qian Gu looked at Tang Bao who was beaming with pride.

“If you eat the Lu Xu flower, you can transform into anything you want. The length which you can maintain the form is more or less correlated to the user’s powers and the difficulty of the object you are transforming into. Even though you have no powers, you should be able to maintain the form of a worm for a long. Meanwhile, eating a Kai Ming fruit will allow you to discern all lies in this world. The Bao Grass will remove fatigue. As for the Sha Tang, it allows you to breathe underwater. Even though they don’t have any use for now, we may need them later.”

“Oh” Hua Qian Gu nodded her head, “Are you very tired? Tang Bao!”

Tang Bao lethargically lay on her palm and rolled around.

“Of course! I am dying. Worms are used to climbing, not flying!”

“En, Dong Fang Yu Qing said my blood can be used to raise you powers, do you want to try a mouth or two?”

Tang Bao’s eyes immediately transformed into heart shapes.

“Yes!” With that she grabbed on to Hua Qian Gu’s thumb and bit a small hole before drinking it. She resembled an infant drinking milk.

“Is it pain? Gu Tou Mama!”

“Nope, its not pain. Its like a small prick. Drink up! You need to drink your fill in order to have energy to fly with me into the Immortal Pool!”

Once Tang Bao was satiated, Tang rubbed her round tummy and burped. Hua Qian Gu couldn’t resist the urge to poke at her meaty little tummy and squeeze it.

“Let’s go in first. The feast is starting soon. We need to sneak in when there are very little people. Eat the Bao grass and Lu Xu flower first.”

Hua Qian Gu couldn’t bear to eat the fruits as they were immortals fruits after

all. But she carefully placed the Kai Ming fruit and Sha Tang in the bosom and quickly threw the Bao grass and Li Xu flower into her mouth.

But why wasn't the Lu Xu flower fragrant at all and why does eating the Bao grass feel like I am chewing on an onion. Nevertheless she felt really energetic and all the fatigue in her body was gone!

“Crap”

“Why, crap?”

“If I transform into a worm, what will happen to all these things? And my clothes! Will I be naked when I transform back?!”

” You can place the items in my Xu Ding. You don't need to worry about items carried on you as they will be transformed with you.

“What is a Xu Ding?”

“ Most of those who cultivate their powers will have their own Xu Ding. With training, it can be expanded or made smaller. It exists in another dimension with one's will and consciousness, and it can be used to store one's treasures since most people can't steal from it. You saw how Priest Qing Xu's heart and lungs were dug out. He probably placed the Quan Tian Chain in his own Xu Ding and refused to hand it over even on death. A powerful demon can obtain objects from Priest Qing Xu's Xu Ding by using his hearts and lungs.”

“Oh. Then Tang Bao, you can hide me in your Xu Ding and bring me in too!”

“Do you really think I am so powerful? Being able to hide so many items in my Xu Ding is already very difficult. Furthermore, legend has it that Xu Ding and Gui Xu (It is a legendary abyss in the middle of the sea where all the waters of the world gather) are linked and it is not usually used to store living creatures because they could be trapped inside. I am not clear about the specifics since I have not used it before.”

“Ah! My body seems to be shrinking!”

Once Hua Qian Gu returned to her senses, she had already transformed into a small worm like Tang Bao.

“Ah! We look exactly the same!”

“That’s because you wanted to become a worm when you were transforming, but the only mental image you had of a worm was me. Ok, quickly get up.” Tang Bao stretched out a tiny leg (or hand?) and hoisted Hua Qian Gu onto a leaf while she placed everything else into the Xu Ding.

“Onward we go!”

The leaf flew up. Hua Qian Gu happily cheered as her chubby worm body happily danced on the leaf. This was her first time flying. Even though she was flying as a worm, she was really ecstatic.

As she looked down from the side of the leaf while lying on it, a droplet from the waterfall hit the leaf and nearly flipped the small leaf boat over. Hua Qian Gu stared at the blue sky and the seven coloured rainbow hanging across.

In a moment, the leaf flew into the clouds and glided amount the clouds. Hua Qian Gu stretched her tiny legs to grab the clouds. She was suprised to find that the clouds were soft and fluffy like cotton candy.

As she was happily playing in the clouds, she suddenly heard a loud shout from Tang Bao. “Crap!”

A giant shadow covered them

What was that? Hua Qian Gu raised her head and suddenly saw a large bird the size of a hornet speeding towards them.

*Cries. The worms are about to be eaten by a bird!

“Hold on tight!”

Tang Bao concentrated hard as she steered the leaf. They twisted and turned to avoid the bird’s attacks. However, the bird attacks were furious and vicious. The bird’s cries were shrill and there was a large sting on its tail. It attacked their leaf boat and opened its mouth waiting to swallow them once they fell off the boat.

“Gu Tou! Hang on!” Tang Bao quickly steered the leaf into the clouds when she saw Hua Qian Gu slowly slide off the leaf.

Suddenly, they hear another melodious bird cry that resembled a phoenix’s song. Hua Qian Gu and Tang Bao looked up and saw a big bird fly towards them.

Its ember red feathers glowed in the sunlight.

“A Chun bird! (Something like a quail according to google lol) We are saved!” Tang Bao laughed happily.

Hua Qian Gu was gaping at how the bird that had chased them moments ago now turned tail and ran. However it was still a step slower than the ember red bird which swallowed it in one mouth.

The ember red bird looked at them and let out a cry before flying away.

The traumatised Hua Qian Gu lay flat on the leaf, all her little worm legs were stiff.

The life of a worm is so sad. To think I was bullied by a bird and nearly eaten.
*Cries

“Phew!” Tang Bao was sweating profusely. “The bird that chased us is called Qin Yuan. Normal animals will die if they are stung. Even if it stings a tree, that tree will wither. Humans that meet it are probably goners as well. The ember red, phoenix looking bird that saved us is called a Chun Niao. It is the natural enemy of the Qin Yuan.”

Hua Qian Gu then realised that even the Kun Lun Mountain in the immortal realm was fraught with dangers.

“We are here ! ”Tang Bao excited called out.

Hua Qian Gu raised her head. What greeted her was a colourful pool filled with five coloured waters, reflecting what seems like with beams of rainbow . The sight was breathtaking. To the east of the pool, stood a giant peach forest covered heavily in layers of layers of peach blossoms. The pink flowers stretched as far as one’s sights could reach and stood in stark contrast with the blue sky as though they were pink clouds, billowing in the light breeze

“I-Its’s beautiful!” Tang Bao landed her leaf on a peach blossom. Hua Qian Gu looked up at the pink sky and the rain of petals that dancing in the air. She happily hugged Tang Bao. Tang Bao caught a petal and started chewing as she offered another to Hua Qian Gu.

“Gu Tou, do you wanna try?”

Hua Qian Gu, bit down on the petal that was now few times larger. A light fragrance filled her mouth and the sweet dew-like juice flowed down her throat. It was a few times more delectable than Tao Hua Su (桃花酥: A chinese pastry)

She looked down at immortal servants who had finished setting up the feast- each was pleasant to the eye and well dressed.

Suddenly she heard the ringing of the Bian Zhong (A chinese brass instrument shaped like a bell) and the sound of music playing.

The immortal's feast was beginning.

“Ah! Tang Bao, I discovered a serious problem!” Hua Qian Gu suddenly looked at the petal in her hand. She was so agitated that she nearly cried.

“Ah, what is it?” Tang Bao climbed into a peach blossom and began drinking the nectar. Its fragrance and sweetness was intoxicating.

“I can touch flowers now! I can touch flowers!! It didn’t wilt! It didn’t wilt at all!” Hua Qian Gu suddenly realised. Her two legs trembled as she grabbed on to the flower petal that was now bigger than her. She agitatedly rubbed her face on the soft peach blossom petal which was as smooth and beautiful as silk. Hua Qian Gu gave an excitedly rolled on the petal and wrapped herself in it. It was so fragrant and so comfortable.

“You couldn’t touch flowers in the past?”

“Of course. Why else am I called Hua Qian Gu (Hua= Flower, Qian Gu= Thousand Bones) , Since I was born, I am a jinx to flowers. There has never been a flower that was unscathed in my hands. Why can I touch flowers now? Why?”

“I think this had probably something to do with the Heaven’s Droplet or due to the Gou Jade (Tear Shaped Jade), especially the jade. Even though it looks ordinary, its powers are actually many times greater than the Heaven’s Droplet. It has completely masked the scent from your body that attracts demons, ghosts and spirits.”

“Ah ? No wonder since I parted with Lang Ge Ge, there hasn’t been any ghost harassing me.!” Hua Qian Gu happily climbed from one flower to another.

The number of immortals in the forest slowly increased. Tang Bao was practically salivating as she looked at the tables that were brimming with jade brew, immortal fruit and other delicacies.

“Say, if I jump down from here onto the peach on the table, will I be discovered?”

“Not only will you be discovered, you may even be eaten by the immortals.” Hua Qian Gu laughed. “How many immortals are coming? Why are there so many

seats being set up?”

“There are many immortals in this world. However, there are not many who can attend the feast. Those who are powerful are almost all gathered here. Besides the leaders of the various immortal sects, some famous immortals who don't belong to any sect are also invited by the Queen Mother who governs Kun Lun now. There should be a total of around 400-500 immortals attending.”

In a moment, the music began to sound and the immortals began to stream into their seats.

There were immortals of every kind: Unearthly ones, breathtaking beauties, priestly ones, imposing ones, fearsome ones. Hua Qian Gu was momentarily dazed by how many different immortals there were. Other than the Jade Emperor and Queen Mother who was seated at the highest seats, she did not know any of the other immortals.

Tang Bao introduced them to her one by one.

“Those seated there are the Three Immortals of Peng Lai and the Gods of Fortune, Prosperity and Longevity. The one in red with a goatee who is lavishly looking at the female immortals is the God of Wealth. The one sitting beside him drowning himself in drinks is the God of Fortune. The one with the white beard and hair, with a small boy seated beside him is the God of longevity.

“The ones seated over there are the respective leaders of the Mt Lao sect, Mt Tian sect and Mt Wang Wu sect. Its such a pity that Priest Qing Xu of Mt Mao is no longer around.....”

“Which one is the leader of the Mt Lao?” Hua Qian Gu stretched out her neck and looked for him as she suddenly remembered that she had to convey the message to Lin Sui Yi's shifu on his behalf.

“There, under that tree, the one with white hair who is sitting quietly with his eyes tightly closed . Do you see him?”

“Oh, I see him!”

“En, those over there are easy to recognise. Those over there are the various Budhas. Those on the left in plain clothes with bald heads are the 18 Luo Han. Those a little further back, are Mei Yin, Fan Yin, Tian Gu, Song De, Guang Mu and

so on. They are the 18 Jia Lan (Basically guardians of the Buddhist Temple according to wikipedia). Look closely at Miao Tan, she is the most beautiful of the 18. She can even match up to Chang E (Moon Goddess who is supposed to be one of the most beautiful goddesses). The one who looks the most weird is Lei Yin.”

” Over there towards the eastern side are the 20 Zhu Tian (20 guardian gods in buddhist legend) – Ri Tian, Yue Tian, Da Fan Tian, Di Shi Tian, Yan Mo Luo Wang and so on. Their powers are all first class but their tempers are pretty bad too. Most people don’t dare to offend them.”

“The ones who are facing each other off in chess are the 6 lords of the Southern Dipper Stars and 7 lords of the Northern Dipper Stars. Whenever the 13 of them come together, they will play chess tirelessly with no regard of whether its day or night. Their chess pieces are all the stars in the sky and it can make the best weapons in this world.

“On the other side, the four who are raising their voices and seem to be quarrelling are the Dragon Kings of the Four Seas.”

“Ah? There is actually a girl among them? How pretty!” Hua Qian Gu looked at that astounding face and even though she had seen many beauties today, she was still amazed by how the red haired dragon king could laugh so heartily yet not lose the elegance and attractiveness of a lady.

“Yep. She is the newly appointed Dragon King of the Northern Seas. She is also one of the best drinkers, one of the most capable and one of the most beautiful immortals.”

“The one in front is Yuan Shi Tian Zun, Ling Bao Tian Zun and Dao De Tian Zun.”

“How about the one holding the white Fu Chen?” (Horsetail Whisk: It looks like a stick with with a giant horsetail at the end. You always see nuns and eunuchs carrying it around in period dramas.)

“That is Dao De Tian Zun which is also Tai Shang Lao Jun. He is a cunning and opportunistic fellow. You can only trust half of what he says.”

“The ones over there are the Southern Guan Yin (Goddess of Mercy), and the Eastern Cong En Emperor. The other three didn’t come. They probably are busy fighting off the rampaging demons.”

“Ah? Guan Yin?”

Hua Qin Gu looked at the Goddess of Mercy who was sitting in the lotus made of purple gold. She almost wanted to kneel down and kowtow a few times to the goddess.

There was an air of peace around Guan Yin and the kindness in her eyes and the serenity around her. Her faces flitted from one image to another and one could not discern which was her true face. However, all these instead reminded Hua Qian Gu of her poor mother that she had never met. Suddenly she felt a sharp ache in her heart.

” Stop looking. The Buddha has a thousand hands and faces representing the different forms of all living things. If you look too long, you will start seeing illusions.”

“You should have heard of many of those there. Many of those were given titles by the Jade Emperor after they became immortals. Er Lang Shen, Tai Bai Jin Xing, Chi Jiao Da Xian (Chi Jiao means Barefooted, Da Xian = Great Immortal) , Wen Qu Xing and Wu Qu Xing, Thousand Li Eyes, Shun Feng Ear, Wind God, Rain God, Thunder God and Lightning Goddess. The ones presenting a dance on stage now are the Seven Goddesses. While the one serving wine to the various immortals is the Goddess Chang’E. The icy beauty who is sitting in a corner quietly without a smile is Jiu Tian Xuan Nv (Roughly translated as Goddess of the Nine Skies)

Hua Qian Gu raised her eyes. At her age, she did not really know how to appraise beauty or understand what this word meant. She only knew that the Jiu Tian music was pleasant to the ears but she did not know how to explain why or how it was different from the music in the mortal realms. She looked at the rainbow clouds that floated in mid air against the blue backdrop of the sky and how the seven goddesses who were dressed like rainbows sang and dance in the air. Their bare ankles were as beautiful as jade. Each ankle was adorned with an intricate silver bangle. The countless silver bells that hung on the bangles tinkled in the wind as the goddess danced, their colourful ribbons twirling in the air. As for the Goddess Chang E and Jiu Tian Xuan Nv, one was so a captivating beauty that would cause cities to rise and fall for her. The other was an untouchable beauty as cold as ice. They were so beautiful that Hua Qian Gu was

starting to suspect whether she was really a female like them.

“The one who is emitting flames all over his body and nobody dares go near is Lie Huo Xing Jun (roughly translated as Lord of the Fire Star). He has a fiery temper. Nobody in the immortal realm dares to offend him. Most immortals can't be bothered with him either.” One closer inspection, Hua Qian Gu realised that he was actually a handsome youth of 16 to 17.

“The sunny and handsome guy over there is the Green Dragon, Lord Meng Zhang. The small beauty beside him is Lady Zhu Que. (A legendary red bird covered in flames. if you play pokemon, it kinda looks like moltres) It is rumoured that they are on good terms with the demons and monsters and seem to have some intention of rebelling. They have many troops under them, hence the Jade Emperor is very troubled by this matter.”

“Wah! Tang Bao, you really are something!”

“Heh heh, as Yi Qiao Ge's little demon sprite, the purpose of my existence is to collect and provide information to my master. I have the enormous database of Yi Qiao Ge behind me!”

When Hua Qian Gu thought of how most of what Tang Bao knew came from what a bunch of hanging tongues had told her, she involuntarily shuddered.

“So, Yi Qiao Ge knows not only about the affairs of the palace, it even knows the happenings of the immortal realms so clearly?”

“Of course, there are historical records of the happenings in the six realms.”

“If that's the case, does Yi Qiao Jun know any way to stop the demon god from being born?”

“I am not very sure either. My powers are still very low and the things that I know are limited. What I can access is merely the first layer of information in the database of Yi Qiao Ge.”

“Yep. I really envy those immortals. I don't even know how long it will be before I will be able to find a master and learn a bit from him. Oh yes, why haven't we seen elder Bai Zi Hua yet? Is he not coming?”

“I don't know either. May he was delayed. The immortal realm is currently very chaotic and full of internal discord. The Buddhist and Taoist are battling for

power both in the open and secretly. The various sects are resorting to underhanded methods to make their own sects stronger. Even the heavenly soldiers and generals are fighting to the death just to gain small advantages. The Jade Emperor and the Queen Mother only have empty titles but no real power. The Lord Buddha and the Goddess of Mercy have ceased to care about secular matters. In the immortal realm now, only the High Immortal of Chang Liu Mountain, Bai Zi Hua has the highest powers and commands the greatest respect. All the immortals also see him as their leader. He will not be absent for the discussion of such a big matter like the birth of the demon god.

Hua Qian Gu couldn't understand these messy politics or why after becoming immortals, they still had such hunger for power and why they would fight so hard for power. No wonder Dong Fang Yu Qing hated immortals so much.

“That is the High Immortal Dong Hua. He and Bai Zi Hua have always been on friendly terms. But the other two High Immortals have weird tempers. They are absent almost every feast.” Hua Qian Gu stared at the otherworldly man who was like the wind. The expression he wore was like a smile yet not a smile. He was stunningly elegant yet paradoxically seemed so weak he could barely bear the weight of the robes he was wearing.

“There are many other wandering immortals and immortals who are scattered throughout the realm. The woman with a head full of curly hair who looks like a snake spirit is Ni Shui Qian Fan (Roughly translated as the thousand Sails that goes against the water), Qing Shui Ying. The one who is now conversing with her and wearing a veil is Huan Xi Yan. Her identity is a little more mysterious. The one with a huge potbelly is Wu Yue San Ren. Anybody who is unlikely enough to be mixed up with him will be nagged to death by him. The one beside him with a pained expression is Du Bu Qian Jun (Du Bu means one step, Qian Jun means a thousand soldiers), Nan Ling Han. He was previously one of the 5 regent immortals. However because his brother Dou Lan Gan was exiled to the Wild Plains for protecting a demoness, Nan Ling Han left the Jiu Xiao Palace in a rage to become a wandering immortal.

“Tang Bao, have you heard of Huan Xi Tian You, Luo He Dong?”

“Of course I have heard of him. His powers are extremely high, but his temper is even more formidable. Even though he is invited every year to the Immortal's

feast. He hates all the formalities and hypocrisies in the immortal realm and never comes. Many people in the immortal realm hate him, especially the fourth goddess of the Seven Goddesses. I don't know how he offended her, but she really hates him to the core. Everytime she sees him she is practically wants to slaughter him.

“The other immortals scattered among the other tables are the 12 Shi Chen (Note that the chinese day is divided into their “shi chen” each shichen has its own name and is roughly equated to 2 hours), the 28 Constellations and the 36 Heavenly Generals-I won't point them out to you individually. There are a lot more people present this year compared to previous years. There are many that I don't recognise. If you really become Bai Zi Hua's disciple, whether you have an invitation or not, you may even be able to openly attend the Immortal's Feast with him. I can also openly come to eat good food at the feast. Ahaha!” Tang Bao was salivating as she thought about this.

Even though Hua Qian Gu had not seen much of the world, she was someone with very little desires and did not have very drastic emotions either.

Even though each of these immortals who were breathtakingly beautiful in the eyes of mortals, Hua Qian Gu quickly got used to looking at them. Few were as intriguing as Yi Qiao Jun, while few could match Xuan Yuan Lang in terms of looks. In terms of aura or poise, few could match Dong Fang Yu Qing, while few were as scary and fearsome as Luo He Dong.

Even during her father's death, Hua Qian Gu managed to hold back her tears amidst her sorrow. Even faced with the good looks of Xuan Yuan Lang and Dong Fang Yu Qing, she was merely stunned momentarily. As terrified as she was, when faced with the fearsome Luo He Dong and the countless ghosts, she held back her fear.

She didn't have many desires nor emotions. She had her own kind of persistence yet took everything in her stride and did not really know how to reject others.

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(This is one of my favourite chapters in the book! I hope the translation has done it justice! Enjoy!)



While Tang Bao was still excitedly looking at all the immortals and collecting information on them, Hua Qian Gu's anticipation and curiosity towards Bai Zi Hua had already far surpassed her interests in all the other happenings at the Immortal Pool.

Finally, Hua Qian Gu heard someone outside announce "The High Immortal of Chang Liu has arrived –". All the immortals rose to greet him.

.....

That person who will be her master...

.....

He descended slowly from the sky, a light gust of wind underfoot.

.....

Fragrance floated from the sea of flowers and the five coloured Immortal's Pool rippled quietly, it was a scene that had been unchanged for over tens of thousands of years. The breeze swept up layers of tiny ripples on the pool and the falling flowers seemed to form a rain that shined in every hue and shade.

Hua Qian Gu lightly turned her body. The light that was as pure and calming as moonlight seemed to pierce in front of her eyes. It was so brilliant that she could barely open her eyes.

As Bai Zi Hua slowly made his way towards her, it seemed as though flowers seemed to open with step he took and each movement he made stirred up a slight storm.

A pale silver light enveloped him. His pure white robe was intricately embroidered with beautiful silver patterns. A few pink peach blossoms petals softly landed on his shoulder. At his waist the Gong Yu (The token of authority that signifies the rank of a immortal. A Gong Yu is the token of the sect leader of immortal sects and it is a token of the highest ranked immortals. It is shaped like a feather), which was so flawless that it was almost transparent, danced in the wind, making him seem even more otherworldly and ethereal. The immaculate white tassel on his sword touched the floor and seemed to flow and ripple like water with each step he made. His knee length jet black hair luxuriantly and grandly swept across his body.

All the surrounding immortals reverently bowed to him. Even the sea of peach blossoms billowed as they followed his each and every step, as though they were forming pink clouds under his feet. A pure white lotus, clean and bright blossomed underfoot with each step he took.

Hua Qian Gu, did not know why she was getting so flustered. She breathed heavily, fearing that she would suffocate because she had forgotten how to breathe. But her eyes did not leave that white figure and ethereal figure.

Absolute silence had descended on the feast. It was as though this was no longer the Immortal's Feast anymore. There was only Zi Hua who had walked out of a painting, surrounded by tens of thousands of pink clouds as he made his way forward. He was the only immortal present there and his presence so powerful that it suppressed even the winds and the clouds.

His beautiful visage could not mask the aloofness and otherworldliness in his face. His thin lips were pale and the bright red mark of the sect leader shined between his brows. His calm yet cold gaze was as beautiful as the moon. His gaze piercing into Hua Qian Gu's heart. She unknowingly felt a sudden ache in a heart. Why did she feel that way, she wondered.

He was beyond what mere words and phrases could describe.

His elegance, his calmness, the iciness in his gaze and the coolness that

seemed to emanate from his very core made him seem so ethereal and otherworldly, placing him beyond anybody's reach.

Tiny blossoms danced in the air and a fragrance wafted the air. A light fragrance carried on a breeze brushed gently across her nose leaving a slight tingle that seemed to travel down to deepest recesses of her heart.

The world was covered in a sheet of silver white.....

The world was covered in pitch black darkness....

The world was covered in a sheet of gold light...

The world was covered in the soft light that shone off the waters of the pool, reflecting and refracting the tiny ripples on the water surface.....

.....

Bai Zi Hua, on the Path of Death (Hua Quan Lv literally translated as Yellow Spring Road), at the River of Forgetfulness, beside the Stone of Three Lives, at the head the Nai He Bridge (This is a bridge that all souls have to cross when they die to cross the River of Forgetfulness before they are reincarnated), have I ever seen you?

Hua Qian Gu was in a daze for a long while before realising that he was sitting under her tree.

A large gust of wind blew past and all the peach blossoms on the tree seems to leap as they were blown into the wind. In that moment, the tens of thousands of flying petals seemed to dance and float in the golden light.

As she lightly twirled a few rounds in mid-air, Hua Qian Gu saw a flustered and shell shocked Tang Bao looking at herself, She turned around puzzled. When she finally returned to her senses, she was already floating down the tree with the peach blossom petal she was seated on.

It was as if she was riding a sail, she gracefully twirled and sailed in the air before landing right in the middle of Bai Zi Hua's wine cup.

Hua Qian Gu dazedly lay on the petal which drifted lazily on the surface of the wine like a tiny raft. The fragrance of the wine was intoxicating.

Bai Zi Hua lowered his head and looked at her. A small glint of amusement

shone in his eyes and the edges of his lips curled up ever so lightly. That was probably the greatest display of emotion he was capable of.

Hua Qian Gu felt her entire body shudder and felt more afraid than she had ever been in a life – even more than when she had seen ghosts or other more horrifying scenes.

Bai Zi Hua looked at the small worm that had mistakenly fallen into his wine cup and excitedly stretched out two fingers to pick her tiny body up from the cup.

I am gonna die, I am gonna die.....

Hua Qian Gu shut her eyes as she repeatedly muttered this in her heart.

He actually used his fingers to touch her. She did not need to wait for him to squish her to death. Her heart was beating so fast that she would die of a heart attack even before he did that.

He placed the tiny worm in his left palm. Bai Zi Hua looked at her closely, He found that her small body was translucent and shiny. Finding her irresistibly adorable, he couldn't resist using his fair and slender finger to gently pet her a few times.

Hua Qian Gu bit her lip tightly and her body gave an involuntary shudder. She felt as if her soul gave an involuntary shudder as well. As she felt the gentleness and warmth in Bai Zi Hua's touch, it was as though her entire being was about to melt into a pool of water. A strange tingling seemed to erupt from the deepest recesses in her heart like magma from a volcano, occupying every corner in her being and soul. She could no longer see anything before her. The comfort and joy she felt was so intense she almost wanted to cry.

This was too scary! If only she could just die there and then.....

Examining Bai Zi Hua's face at such close proximity, the tip of his nose seemed to be within an inch from her. Hua Qian Gu could not hear her heart beating or feel the flowing of her own blood.

Bai Zi Hua slightly pinched her stiff body. He could not help but give a small smile. In that moment, time stood still.

Hua Qian Gu did not think that such a person was capable of smile. Those eyes

that looked on lovingly at her seemed suddenly become dazzling beyond measure, like ancient constellations, like a setting sun, like a grand fireworks, like a bouquet of flowers, so dazzling and spectacular that she could not resist the urged to fall deep into his gaze.

All the nervousness and unease in her heart was quietened. Such a gentle and benign smile could reach the softest corners of the human heart. Time and space seemed to cease as everything turned to a blank. Like the rolling thunder and the billowing waves, this scene among the rain of peach blossoms dancing in the sky would become the greatest trial in her lifetime.

“Did you accidentally fall down?” He moved his lips and let out as a voice as melodious as shattering jade (sorry I really don't know how to translate it, it literally means shattered jade in Chinese, it's supposed to describe a very nice voice)

As he said this, he lifted his cup and drank the clear wine in one gulp— including the peach blossom petal that was still floating in the wine.

Hua Qian Gu was stunned when she saw that not a drop had been left in the cup.

Bai Zi Hua lowered his head and blew a breath at her. The clear fragrance of Wang You (Wang means to forget, while You means troubles) wine engulfed her.

Hua Qian Gu felt as if her soul had been stolen away. As she looked at the slight dampness at the corner of his mouth, she felt the sudden urge to lick it. Was she drunk from the scent of the wine?

She felt her body slowly ascend. Suddenly, she did not want to leave the warmth of his palm and she stretched out her hands to grab on, but failed as she felt her body fly higher and higher.

As she saw herself drifting further and further away from the figure under the tree, she suddenly felt a stinging sensation in her nose.

Once again, she was safely and securely on the tree branch lying in a peach blossom. However she felt as though a lifetime had went past.

Hua Qian Gu was no longer the Hua Qian Gu that belonged to herself.

013

“Gu Tou! Are you alright?”

Tang Bao finally heaved a sigh of relief as she climbed beside Hua Qian Gu and patted her small face. Tang Bao looked at how she was entirely dazed and wondered if she had received too much of a shock. Luckily, she had run into Bai Zi Hua. If had been a hot tempered deity like Lie Huo Xing Jun, she would have been squished a long time ago.

“I.....” Hua Qian Gu moved her lips and felt as though neither her body nor her throat belonged to her and could not speak for a long time. She fought to recover her “lost soul” and finally felt her eyes focus. She realised that the person was Tang Bao and not the immortal who had smiled so alluringly at her earlier.

“Bao, I, I think I am a little drunk. I am so tired.....” Hua Qian Gu’s eyelids were fighting with her.

“Ah, Gu Tou, don’t sleep. If you get drunk on Wang You wine, you will be in dreamland for three to four years! I can’t wake you then!” as she said this, she aimed a few pinches at Hua Qian Gu. It was so pain that Hua Qian Gu kept wincing.

She shook her head hard and tried hard to regain consciousness. She still had important things she had not done and couldn’t just fall sleep. But, she really wanted to sleep soundly in his palm for a lifetime!

“So he is Bai Zi Hua? I thought that he was an old grandfather like Priest QingXu.”

“Typically, whatever an immortal looks like when they become an immortal, is what they will look like forever, unless the person is willing to age further.”

“Tang Bao, I, I suddenly am a bit afraid. I would find it much easier to get close to him if he was a kindly old grandfather. Will he reject taking me in as a disciple?”

“I don’t know either, Stop worrying. If he refuses, we will pester him until he

agrees.”

“Keke, now that everyone is here, should I transform back and go down to explain why I am here?”

“Don’t be rash first. Let’s wait until they start discussing this matter before deciding.”

“Oh.” Hua Qian Gu used two feet to support her chin. She completely did not listen to what the surrounding immortals were discussing. The only thing she was looking at was Bai Zi Hua who was sitting under the tree. Each and every gesture he made tugged tightly at her hearts.

“I agree with what everyone has said. The portals that have been forcefully opened between the demon, monster and nether world and the human world will be sealed by the 20 Zhu Tian. The only thing that is slightly worrying is that Priest Qing Xu has yet to arrive.” the Jade Emperor stroked his beard as he looked at the immortals as though he was hoping that someone would step out and explain this.

Given the chaos and unending strife in the world now, there were many immortals absent without reason from the Immortal’s Feast. Why did he only asked solely about the Leader of Mt Mao? Most of the immortals gave a bewildered expression. Only a small minority knew that Priest Qing Xu was one of the guardians of the Instrument of the Gods and they had been uneasy from the start of the feast.

The leader of Mt Lao suddenly stated: “ Since Your Majesty mentioned it, the disciple that was sent by me to send a letter to Mt Mao has yet to return. Could something have happened at Mt Mao?”

“Has Yun Ying arrived?” the Jade Emperor looked around anxiously.
“No. He sent a message saying that he was midst in exterminating demons and cannot excuse himself.”

“Not a single disciple from Mt Mao Sect has arrived?” the Jade Emperor knitted his eyebrows. Typically even if a sect leader is busy, he will send some disciples to come to the feast.

Tang Bao gave Hua Qian Gu, who was still looking smittenly at Bai Zi Hua, a good kick.

“Quick! It’s time for you to make your entrance!!”

Tang Bao silently chanted as Hua Qian Gu rolled down the tree. Hua Qian Gu transformed into her human form in mid-air and crashed pathetically on Bai Zi Hua’s table. Hua Qian Gu inwardly sighed at her failed entrance. If only she had fallen into his embrace.

All the immortals flew into a great panic. How could a mere mortal suddenly appear at the Immortal’s Feast! It was precisely because she was too ordinary without any powers that nobody noticed her presence.

Hua Qian Gu flusteredly caught the topped wine cup, afraid that she would accidentally stain the white clothes of the person in front of her.

A lot of things are falling from the sky today, Bai Zi Hua thought wordlessly to himself.

He looked at the red faced child who had crashed all fours on the table before him. The child was dressed shabbily, her messy hair like a bird nest. Nonetheless, even though an object with strong powers has suppressing it, he could still feel the unique and strange aura emanating from her. He really, really did– not, like, it.

The child’s jet black pupils were glistening as though it was the brightest crystal encompassing the entire starry sky. At this moment, she was flusteredly looking all around. Even though her nervousness was written all over her face, there was no fear even under the scrutiny of the various immortals.

As she clumsily tried to salvage the mess on the table, it was as though she was purposely hiding from his gaze and did not dare to look himself at all.

“Where did this wild child come from!” Lei Yin suddenly gave a great shout and strode forward. Her voice was so loud that Tang Bao nearly fell off the tree. Crap! Gu Tou Mama, quickly speak, quickly speak!

Hua Qian Gu raised raise her head and stared at his two heads stunned. Was this person an immortal or a demon?

Suddenly, she felt her entire body being lifted into mid-air. He had grabbed her collar and lifted her like he was lifting a tiny chick. She struggled as hard as she could, but she merely looked like she was swimming in mid-air. Her posture and

actions were hilarious.

“You are too bold. To think you actually dare to cause trouble on the Heavenly Feast!” Both mouths on both heads shouted out at the same time.

“I.....I was asked to come by Priest Qing Xu!” Hua Qian Gu shouted out loudly.

“Old Priest Qing Xu?” the surrounding people were stunned. Lei Yin was shocked as well, “Why did he ask a small rascal like you to come?”

“Lei Yin, quickly put that child down and listen to what she has to say.” Queen Mother reprimanded.

Only then did Lei Yin throw Hua Qian Gu on a patch of grass at the side. Hua Qian Gu rubbed her aching back. She climbed up and stood straight. It was still easier to communicate with immortals compared to demons.

“This is what happened.....” Hua Qian Gu explained in detail how she kept meeting ghosts, went to Mt Mao to learn skills, how she obtained the Heaven’s Droplet from Yi Qiao Ge because she unable to enter the mountain, and went up the mountain to find that the entire Mt Mao Sect had been massacred. She then went on to explain how the dying Priest Qing Xu tasked her with bringing a letter to the feast. When she reached the part on how the Quan Tian Chain was snatched, everyone present drew a deep breath.

Bai Zi Hua’s brows tightened. It looks like the demon and monster realms have already joined hands in order to bring about the birth of the Demon God.

“What you are trying to say, is that you, a little rascal are now the leader of the Mt Mao Sect?” Lei Yin was fuming while another head of his laughed loudly.

“En.....” Hua Qian Gu looked awkwardly at the kindly Queen Mother, “What I can do is limited, can I please request that Your Majesty helped me gather the members of the Mt Mao Sect so I can help to restore the sect?”

“This is natural. You deserve great credit for traveling vast distances and going to great lengths to deliver this letter to the Heavenly Feast despite your young age. Priest Qing Xu sacrificing himself to protect the God Instrument really pains me. We must snatch the Quan Tian Chain back so that Priest Qing Xu and his disciples did not die in vain. You do not need to worry about anything that happens after this. We will make appropriate arrangements.”

“Thank you your majesty!” Hua Qian Gu did not expect it to be so simple. She quickly turned and ran in front of the Mt Lao Sect leader and said. “Priest, on my way up to the mountain, I met your disciple Lin Sui Yi’s spirit. He even asked me to bring a letter to you. His body was destroyed by Chun Qiu Bu Bai. The item that you tasked him with carrying has been snatched as well. He asked me to seek forgiveness and regrets not training hard usually. His soul is currently trapped on Mt Mao while his body has been buried on the side of the road the road that leads towards the Peak of Mr Mao. Please bring him his body back to Mt Lao.”

A tear glimmered in the eye of the elderly white haired man in front of her. He gave a soft sigh. He wished that Lin Sui Yi delayed returning to the mountain because of his usual playful nature. However today when he saw that Priest Qing Xu had failed to arrive, he knew that something had gone wrong.

“Thank you.”

“ This Chun Qiu Bu Bai doesn’t give any regard the people of the Immortal Realm at a;;! He must have participated in the theft of the Quan Tian Chain. Your majesty, please give a warrant of arrest!” the leader of Mt Wang Wu was livid.

The Jade Emperor nodded, but Tai Shang Lao Jun said “I think that the greatest threat now is the the demon with the fire red eyes, Sha Qian Mo. That demon’s powers are so powerful that he stole divine medicine from the Jiu Xiao palace as though there was no one guarding it. Even in the past few great battles, we couldn’t trap him and instead, he totally played out all the heavenly generals and soldiers as though they were monkeys. Furthermore, he is the leader of the demons and monsters. If we can kill him first, the strength of the demons and monsters will be greatly weakened.”

“En, what you say makes sense. The remaining immortals who are guarding the Instruments of the Gods need to be extra careful. There must not be another tragedy like what happened at Mt Mao. I don’t think anyone is in the mood to continue with the feast. If there is nothing else, today’s feast shall end here. Everyone should offer up an incense for Priest Qing Xu when they return. Everyone return to your respective matters. Leader (Zun Shang), is there anything else you want to say?” The Jade Emperor looked at Bai Zi Hua. His eyes were filled heavily with an expectation that he could entrust everything to Bai Zi

Hua.

Bai Zi Hua understood the Jade Emperor's expectations of him: "Nothing else."

"That's good. Everyone you may leave now."

The immortals were all in a gloomy mood. They understood that the massacre at Mt Mao was only the beginning. The rounds of killings over the Ancient Instruments of the Gods to bring about the birth of the Demon God would soon continue to replay itself over and over again. At this point, the only thing to do was to build up their own respective strengths.

The Queen Mother bestowed some divine items on Hua Qian Gu and comforted her, telling her to go back to Mt Mao first. If there anything, someone would be sent to inform her.

At the edge of the Immortal Pool, the immortals quickly left. This could be described as a happy entrance and dejected exit.

Hua Qian Gu walked somewhat unnaturally in front of Bai Zi Hua. She did not have the eloquence she demonstrated in front of the immortals previously when she was explaining or answering queries.

"Bai, Bai....." what should I call him? Elder Bai? Teacher Bai (Bai Shi Fu)? Immortal Bai? *Puke....

"Priest Qing Xu said that this was very important and told me to hand it over to you. Al.....Also, can you please take me in as your disciple!"

Ah, she finally said it out! Hua Qian Gu lifted the Sound Transmitting Conch in front of Bai Zi Hua and kneeled down.

Bai Zi Hua knitted his brows. This gesture made him seemed even more ethereal and otherworldly. However that expression seemed to be here yet not yet there. His expression reflected the calmness and coolness that was gained from years of experiencing many bloody scenes and battles. It was completely different from the expression and smile that she saw when she was a worm.

"I never take in any disciples" He uttered these few simple words as he took the conch, just before he turned around with a sweep of his sleeve and left.

"Bai, Bai....." Hua Qian Gu broke into a small run as she chased after him. Tang

Bao also quickly descended onto Hua Qian Gu's shoulder from a tree in a tiny leaf boat.

"Please, I beg you. I have nowhere to go. Priest Qing Xu said that I could perhaps become a disciple of your sect."

"Priest Qing Xu?" Bai Zi Hua stopped and Hua Qian Gu pointed at the conch.

Bai Zi Hua placed his hand on the topmost portion of the conch's spiral. First Luo He Dong's lion like roar transmitted in through Bai Zi Hua's fingertips. Then he heard Priest Qing Xu's dying words, the secrets about the Quan Tian Chain and so on. And finally, he heard Priest Qing Xu repeatedly beg him to take in this child in front of him, who was only a high as his waist, as his pupil.

"Luo He Dong, Priest Qing Xu, and next me. You really know how to push yourself from one person to the next." Bai Zi Hua did not have a choice. He examined Hua Qian Gu. Born with this kind of fate and a girl at that.

"What is your name?"

"Hua Qian Gu!" Hua Qian Gu excitedly grinned at him, flashing her tiny white teeth.

"Even your name is so inauspicious....."

"The fortune teller said that my name must be as inauspicious as possible. Father tried to find people to change my name and fate, but all these ended in heavy casualties. After this there wasn't any other solutions. Hence I want to learn skills under a master so as not to cause trouble for those around me!"

Bai Zi Hua was silent for a moment before saying " From now on, I will call you Xiao Gu (Little Bone)."

As he said this, he turned around and continued walking forward. His robes fluttered in the wind. At that moment, he was so dashing that words could not describe it.

Hua Qian Gu was so spellbound that she was rooted to the spot and did not react for a long while. Only when Tang Bao pinched her hard, did Hua Qian Gu ecstatically quicken her steps to catch up.

"Thank you, Shi Fu (means teacher in chinese)!!!"

“I didn’t say that I would take you as my disciple.” Bai Zi Hua did not even look at her.

“Then.....”

“You can return with me to Mt Chang Liu as an ordinary disciple. As for becoming my disciple, you have to follow the rules. Within a year, if you can learn well and perform well at the Xian Jian Da Hui (roughly translated as a pugilistic meet between the immortals), and meet my expectations, then I may consider taking you as my disciple.”

“One year?” Is Shi Fu testing her?

“Ok! That’s a deal! I will do my best!” Hua Qian Gu happily promised. She will definitely become Bai Zi Hua’s disciple!