

A JOURNEY TO THE SOUTH: THE MAKING OF HEAVENLY KING RESPLENDENT
LIGHT

By: Yu Xiangdou

Translated by: Peter Pan

Edited by: Monkey Servant

CONTENTS

Title Page.....	1
Preface.....	3
Character Profiles.....	4
Chapter 1 The Jade Emperor Starts a Treasure Contest Named Thoroughly Bright Gathering.....	5
Chapter 2 Spirit Light Reincarnates in the Dipper and Bull Palace.....	15
Chapter 3 Spirit Flare Serves as Imperial Assistant for the Dragon-Dispatching Gathering.....	21
Chapter 4 Spirit Flare Wreaks Havoc on the Jade Flower Gathering.....	25
Chapter 5 Resplendent Light Wreaks Havoc on the Heavenly Palace and Burns the Treasure Virtue Barrie.....	30
Chapter 6 Resplendent Light Manifests His Divine Powers in the Thousand-Field Kingdom....	36
Chapter 7 Madame Ganoderma in Xiao's Family Village.....	45
Chapter 8 Huaguang Reincarnates in Xiao's Family Village.....	46
Chapter 9 Heavenly Ministers Request the Capture of Huaguang.....	55
Chapter 10 Resplendent Light Occupies Mount Coolness.....	63
Chapter 11 Nezha Raises an Army to Subdue Huaguang.....	71
Chapter 12 Resplendent Light Marries Princess Iron Fan.....	79
Chapter 13 Resplendent Light Wreaks Havoc in the Dragonfly Temple.....	86
Chapter 14 Resplendent Light Wreaks Havoc in the East Mountain Temple.....	94
Chapter 15 Resplendent Light Wreaks Havoc in the Underworld.....	96
Chapter 16 Resplendent Light Burns the East Mountain Temple.....	99
Chapter 17 Resplendent Light Makes Three Trips to the Ghost Capital.....	102
Chapter 18 Resplendent Light	112

PREFACE

After killing a havoc-wreaking Single-Flame King, Manjusri is banished by Tathagata to reincarnate into Spirit Light as a son of Mount Horse-Ear King, endowed with five accesses to natural elements and a heavenly eye.

During his trip to the Spiritual Void Palace, Spirit Light frees two ghosts by stealing a golden spear, but he is killed by Purple Subtlety Heaven Emperor. He again reincarnates as Three-Eye Spirit Flare in the family of Blazing Darkness Heavenly King. He steals from his master Wonderful Joy Celestial Being a golden broadsword, to make it into a triangular golden brick as his divine weapon.

Later, he wreaks havoc in the Jade Flower Gathering in the heavens and assumes the title of Huaguang, but he is subdued by Black Sky Heaven Emperor. Afraid of being punished by the Jade Emperor, Huaguang reincarnates again into Xiao's Family Village, where he subdues demons and evil spirits with his divine power. Considering his meritorious deeds, the Jade Emperor grants pardon to him.

Huaguang has no idea that his mother is a man-eating monster named Ganoderma who is later detained by Dragon Auspice King in Fengdu, the demon capital.

Searching around for his mother, Huaguang cheats the Goddess Jade Ring for her pagoda, intending to melt it as his weapon. He meets her daughter Princess Iron Fan and takes her as his wife. He continues to subdue more demons and evil spirits.

Still missing his mother, Huaguang learns she was in the underworld and ventures there without hesitation.

Could Huaguang save his mother? Could he prevent his mother from eating humans again? What stories occur between Huaguang and the legendary Monkey King? What is the fate of Huaguang himself after his undulating reincarnations?

Read on to know more about the making of Heavenly King Resplendent Light, a renowned divine figure in Chinese mythology.

CHARACTER PROFILES

Huaguang 华光 - Resplendent Light: Also known as Manjusri, Spirit Light, and Spirit Flare. A disciple of Mount Spirit, a lamp before the Dharma Hall of Tathagata, a fire spirit.

Mount Horse-Ear King 马耳山大王 - Father of Huaguang in his first reincarnation, killed by Iron-Trace Dragon King

Mount Horse-Ear Queen 马耳山娘娘 - Mother of Huaguang in his first reincarnation

Three-Eye Bhiskut 三眼比丘 - Eldest son of Mount Horse-Ear King, Elder Brother of Huaguang in his first reincarnation.

Red-Beard Blazing Darkness Heavenly King 赤须玄天王 - Father of Huaguang in his second reincarnation

Wonderful Joy Celestial Being of Utmost Benefit and Mercy 大惠慈妙乐天尊 - First master of Huaguang.

Light Buddha 火炎王光佛 - Second master of Huaguang

Elder Xiao 萧长者 - Father of Huaguang in his third reincarnation

Madame Ganoderma 吉芝陀圣母 - Mother of Huaguang in his third reincarnation. A ferocious man-eating yaoguai who returns to the right way after her abdominal habit is reversed by Huaguang.

Madame Xiao 萧太婆 - First spouse of Elder Xiao, eaten by Ganoderma. Tortured in the underworld, her soul is sent by Huaguang for her reincarnation.

Princess Iron Fan 铁扇公主 - Daughter of Goddess Jade Ring of Mount Phoenix, wife of Huaguang

Xiao Clever 萧显聪 - One of the five-access embodiment of Huaguang, with gold-wheel internal organs.

Xiao Bright 萧显明 - One of the five-access embodiment of Huaguang, with silver-wheel internal organs.

Xiao Just 萧显正 - One of the five-access embodiment of Huaguang, with bronze-wheel internal organs.

Xiao Ambition - One of the five-access embodiment of Huaguang, with iron-wheel internal organs.

Xiao Virtue 萧显德 - One of the five-access embodiment of Huaguang, the primordial body of Huaguang, with resplendent-light internal organs.

Jade Lady 琼浆 - Reincarnation of the jade flower, sister of Huaguang, later enlightened by the Great Way.

CHAPTER 1

The JADE EMPEROR STARTS A TREASURE CONTEST NAMED THOROUGHLY BRIGHT GATHERING

Dwelling on the thirty-third heaven, the Jade Emperor started a treasure contest. A jade decree was issued, ordering deities in the three realms and Buddhas in Western Heaven to attend the contest in the Golden Temple with their own treasures.

On the third day of the third month, the Heavenly Gate was wide open. Tathagata Buddha of the West Sky and the Jade Emperor took the front seats, while other gods filed into the palace. After offering their salutes, the gods stood as per their ranks.

The Jade Emperor issued another jade decree, "Since I ascended my throne, I haven't officially met you, officials. Now I set up this meeting named the Thoroughly Bright Meeting of Three Realms. As each of you has treasures, please attend the contest to show what divine powers your treasures have."

The gods agreed in unison.

In the first echelon, the immortals from the Eight Major Heaven Caves stepped forward.

Han Zhongli took out a feather fan and presented it on the imperial table.

"What's the wonder of this treasure?" the Jade Emperor asked.

"This fan extinguishes the fire," Han Zhongli said, "halts the wind, and thwarts evil spirits. Changing endlessly, it can change into a ship across the sea. It can also cloud the sun and shade the moon and gather fog and spurt clouds."

The Jade Emperor was delighted at his report.

Elder Zhanquo fetched a tin baton and offered it before the Jade Emperor, "This treasure of mine can raise Mount Tai. It splits water and cracks the earth. It is also limitlessly changeable."

Imperial Uncle Cao offered a scepter, "This treasure of mine transmits news to all three realms. If it's opened, it is used simply with a call. It gathers and subdues ghosts. It closes to trap evil spirits. It's endowed with great divine powers."

Lu Dongbing offered a male sword and a female sword, "My swords can fly thousands of miles. They cut off demons and kill evil spirits. They can reach each other, however far they are separated from each other. They can part water."

Lan Caihe offered a gold-thread basket, "Let the basket fly midair and it can take in the whole world. Unripe vegetables and fruits, if gathered in the basket, ripen naturally. A man will be invisible if he sits in the basket."

Iron-Crutch Li presented a gourd, "In this gourd of mine are wind and fire," he said, "Whatever I need, such as wind, fire, gold, and silver, can be fetched from it. Inside are also my own mind and body. I can direct the gourd to fly in whichever direction. It can be used in every possible imaginable way."

Immortal Woman He offered an iron cover, "This cover can cover the sun and the moon, preventing them from emitting light. If swung, the cover can change the positions of stars and constellations. Sitting inside, one is impenetrable by water or fire."

Han Xiangzi offered a fish drum, "If this fish drum of mine is struck, the heaven and earth will go dark. It can also shelter tens of thousands of heavenly soldiers. Any called demon will be forced inside. Atop the fish drum, one can dive into the sea or ascend heaven."

Hearing the reports of the eight immortals on their respective treasures with their own wonders, the Jade Emperor was wild with joy.

A Buddha of the Western Sky, known as Guanyin, Bodhisattva of mercy, offered a lotus throne, "With this treasure of mine, a kind-hearted person will be naturally so intelligent that the person could know what will happen in one hundred generations. Ascended by a wicked-hearted person, the lotus throne will transform into a mountain studded with knives. This lotus throne can transform everything. Hang the lotus throne in the sky, you can summon whatever you like, such as knives or swords. It is limitlessly changeable."

Pu'an Patriarch, also known as the Hierarch of All Laws, offered a whisk, "With this treasured whisk of mine, one can resist evil spirits of the three realms even at a distance of one thousand miles. With a sweep, it can bring tens of thousands of commoners to the rank of immortals. It is also able to change into different shapes."

Tri-Primordial and Trial-Item Lord offered a golden spear, "This spear of mine removes devils and catches evil spirits. It avoids the two disasters of fire and water. If you throw it up in the sky, it can change indefinitely. It starts or stops killing as per my verbal order."

The Black Heaven Emperor of the North offered a black banner, "This banner of mine can sweep across the three realms. At the sight of the banner, ferocious ghosts and tough demons will get inside and liquified on the seventh day."

White Lotus Venerable Ananda offered a golden bowl, "Inside this bowl of mine hide tens of thousands of divine soldiers. From it, I can summon rice whenever I like. After eating the rice, a hungry ghost will not feel hungry for three years. It also has brilliant flashes and whirling purple fog."

Sun Wukong, more commonly known as the Great Sage Equal to Heave, offered his Complacent Iron Rod, "This rod of mine can be either as long as a heaven pillar or as short as a needle. It subdues evils and catches ghosts. It can change infinitely. Your Majesty can find my whole body itself is a treasure."

The Jade Emperor laughed, "My minister, how could your whole body be a treasure?"

"My somersault, which enables me to cover thousands of miles in one go, is a treasure," said Sun Wukong, "Any hair of mine, which can be turned into hundreds of monkeys, is also a treasure."

The Jade Emperor laughed again, "Please show your divine powers to testify what you said."

Standing in the palace, the Monkey King recited a spell, plucked a strand of hair, and gave a puff to it. And thus, the palace was instantly filled with monkeys carrying sticks or rods, jumping and dancing.

The Jade Emperor ordered Sun Wukong to take them back. Raising his long sleeves, the Jade Emperor laughed, "I'm aware that in the past, you followed Tang Monk to fetch Buddhist scriptures from the Western Heaven and displayed many divine feats. From what I saw today, you are indeed worthy of winning the first place in the contest today. I will give you one golden flower and two cups of imperial wine."

Sun Wukong offered his gratitude.

The Holy Goddess of Mount Phoenix offered a golden pagoda, "Besides being able to change endlessly, this pagoda of mine quells evil spirits and catches demons. If I recite a spell, it will be as heavy as Mount Tai, unshakable by thousands of men. Or it will be as small as a millet plant, which a three-year-old child can pull up easily."

Yama, King of the Underworld, offered Breeding Mirror, "No kind or evil behavior can escape from this treasure of mine. For any person who hides any evil behavior across the three realms, the Breeding Mirror can distinguish his kind and evil behaviors. It can shed light on the past or the upcoming ten thousand years. At the sight of this mirror, evil spirits will feel that their feet turn sore, their hands soft, their pneuma gone and their physicality fading."

The Iron-Trace Dragon King of the East Sea presented a bright pearl, "If this pearl of mine hangs in a palace house, it fills the room with light. One can inhale or exhale the light. Seeing this pearl, a human will never have any disaster."

The Horse-Ear King from Mount Horse-Ear offered a treasure-gathering pearl, "Dragon King's treasure is not something precious and rare. The pearl of mine can turn a dark night as bright as day. One can inhale or exhale the light. The sight of my pearl will bring away all disasters from a human. With the pearl, one can have rice, gold, silver, or whatever he wants. One can also have flowers in fingers, yield fruits with a strand of hairs, or fly high by reciting a spell."

The Jade Emperor laughed, "Your treasure is indeed more valuable than that of the Dragon King. I will give everyone five cups of imperial wine at the end of the meeting today."

They filed out of the palace gate and stepped on their own clouds or fogs to return to their abodes.

Later, Scholar Yu read about the divine powers of Sun Wukong and composed a poem praising him.

So enviable is Sun Wukong, the Monkey Patriarch.

Following his master, he made remarkable achievements on his journey to the West.

In the past, he swept away demons and evil spirits in his tracks.

At present, in the palace, he showed his divine powers.

After having his pearl rivaled by Horse-Ear King in the palace, the Dragon King was so gloomy that he stormed back to the Dragon palace and immediately gathered his sea soldiers to attack.

After marching to Mount Horse-Ear, they give ear-splitting shouts for battles.

A sergeant reported this matter. Hearing about the arrival of the Dragon King's soldiers, the Horse-Ear King led his own troops to meet the Dragon King.

The Dragon King cursed, "Your insensible old horse, you humiliated me in the palace right before the Jade Emperor. Offer your pearl to me, and everything will rest. If you don't, you'll meet your tragic demise today!"

At the Dragon King's words, Horse-Ear King scolded back, "Why should you be greedy after your pearl proved to be inferior to mine? If you withdraw your troops now, everything settles. If you don't follow, I will raise my broadsword to cut off your head. By then, it will only be too late for you to repent."

Before they exchanged the tenth blow, the Horse-Ear King was chopped off his horse by the Dragon King. The Dragon King withdrew his troops and marched back to the Dragon Palace.

The Three-Eye Bhiksu, the eldest son of the Horse-Ear King, was seething with the intention to raise troops and avenge his father.

His mother surnamed Ye, also known as Mount Horse-Ear Queen, remonstrated, "Now that I am pregnant, you: shall not raise the troops and avenge your father now. If the Jade Emperor shows pity on us, I shall have a son. Only after you have a brother can you avenge your father. If not, you should be patient. Let's talk about this later."

We shall leave them for the moment.

Behind Mount Spirit Bird was a cave dwelled by a being named Single-Flame King.

"Tathagata of this world intended to practice in a snowy mountain. Reaching Mount Spirit of mine, at the sight of the looming green mountains and clear water, he asked me to lend this mountain to him," said Single-Flame King to himself, "At that time, we executed an agreement that he shall return the mountain to me within 1 year. After 1 year, I asked him to return to the mountain, but he said that I had agreed to allow him to live for 10 years. I was so furious that I asked him to fetch the written agreement. At the sight of the document, I found it was indeed 10

years. I had no alternative but to allow him to live for 10 years. After 10 years, he said that I had agreed to allow him to live for 1,000 years. I asked him to recheck the document. It was indeed a number of 1,000 in the document. I should have had a nasty fight with him. As his Buddhist powers are too overwhelming, I could not retreat from my mountain but allow him to live continuously. At present, Mount Spirit is so thriving that ten disciples of Tathagata are preaching on Buddhist scriptures. I heard that any wild animal if it listens to the sutras expounded, will reincarnate into a human being. Also, there are vegetarian banquets set in the morning and evening. Listeners can eat after the end of the preaching. I'm going to listen to the scriptures today. If he treats me well, nothing bad happens. If he neglects me, I'll make a fuss and set the fire within my body to incinerate Mount Spirit. Why shouldn't I do that?"

Tathagata held a meeting, where he preached to his disciples in the Dharma Hall. After Tathagata expounded on a few sentences, Single-Flame King approached the hall and made a deep bow to Tathagata.

Tathagata rose to his feet, offered a salute, and ordered to bring Single-Flame King a seat, "What instructions do you have for me on your trip?" Tathagata asked.

Single-Flame King said, "I have been hearing about your vegetarian diets and charitable deeds. I come here to listen to your preaching and ask for a vegetarian meal."

Tathagata nodded and asked his disciple, "If all vegetarian meals were served, bring a millet meal for Single-Flame King."

"Today's all banquets were scheduled," said a disciple, "and there's nothing left. Master, you may ask him to come tomorrow morning, and I shall arrange a table for him."

Tathagata related this to Single-Flame King.

Anger raging inside him, Single-Flame King saw an unoccupied table, "I will eat here. Anyone who says I shall not eat will be my foe," he said.

Peacock Lad came in, holding cups of tea for arhats, his masters, only to see Single-Flame King sitting at his seat at the banquet, "Why do you take my seat and eat my meal?" Peacock Lad said in a fit of rage.

With seething anger, Peacock Lad splashed the hot tea on the king's face.

Anger coursing through his veins, the king let out his Five-Constellation Fire, burning Peacock Lad to the ground, and cried bitterly.

"Please do not be offended by his words," Tathagata said hurriedly.

Instead of taking heed of Tathagata, Single-Flame King unleashed fiercer bolts of fire.

Tathagata hastily chanted a cooling mantra and saved Peacock Lad with sweet dews.

Unwilling to back down, Single-Flame King clenched his teeth in hatred that Tathagata had saved Peacock Lad. The king took on another posture, ready to set fire to incinerate Mount Spirit.

At the sight of this with his wise eyes, Tathagata recited a spell and summoned five hundred ferocious dragons which brought forth dews and fog to cover Mount Spirit, thus thwarting Single-Flame King from unleashing his fire again.

Unable to let loose his fire, Single-Flame Spirit was annoyed. He clashed here and there in the temple, rude remarks gushing out of his mouth.

Manjusri offered his words, "We Buddhist disciples will not compete against you in our knowledge. You might leave now."

"If you annoy my heart, I will also set fire to burn these dog bones of yours into ashes!" Single-Flame King fumed.

Manjusri gave a laugh, "You can only burn others. You can never burn me," said Manjusri, "If you can burn me, you indeed have great feats."

Anger racing through him, the king set free his Five-Constellation Fire on Manjusri, but Manjusri remained perfect still.

Manjusri laughed, "You monster, how could your fire burn me? I am an oil lamp before Tathagata Hall. In all these resplendent days and nights, I have been listening to the sutras and asking about the Dharma. I have accumulated many candlewicks. One day, Tathagata recited a spell and bestowed me with a human body. With my phase, spirit, hearing, and rise all arising from fire, how could you burn me? You monster, if you continue to harass our Mount Spirit and cause unease to us, I will inevitably bring forth my Samadhi Perfected Fire to burn you monster to death, so as not to cause any future trouble."

Seeing this with his wise eyes, Tathagata was about to stop Manjusri, but Manjusri had already unleashed his fire and burned Single-Flame Ghost to death.

Furious, Tathagata summoned other disciples to arrest Manjusri, "How dare you rascal break my precepts?" Tathagata scolded, "Although he is wrong, you and I are Buddhists. We're supposed to be infinitely merciful. Why did you burn him to death? Such an act is intolerable by the Buddhist Dharma. I shall banish you to Mount Darkness to suffer."

Manjusri begged for forgiveness.

Old Goddess Bodhisattva Guanyin said, "Although he is guilty, Manjusri is a disciple of Mount Spirit. He should not be banished to Mount Darkness. When he was still alive, Horse-Ear King approached our Mount Spirit to pray for a son. Now that his wife is pregnant, why not send

Manjusri to be reincarnated as her son? After Manjusri goes through all his disasters, he shall be allowed to return to Mount Spirit and serve Your Honor. Why not do this?"

Nodding, Tathagata was about to send Manjusri away.

"My master, you order me to reincarnate," Manjusri said in tears, "but if I am deprived of the Divine Way, I am afraid that I will be bullied."

Sitting atop his treasured throne, Tathagata recited a spell, "I shall now bestow you with five accesses: the heaven access, with which you can travel freely to heaven; the earth access, with which the earth will crack by itself if you want to get inside; the wind access, with which you are shadowless in the wind; the water access, with which you can travel without any obstacle in water; the fire access, with which you feel ease in the fire."

Tathagata pointed his dharma finger at Manjusri's head top, "I will also bestow you with a heavenly eye, with which you can see all across the three realms."

Tathagata ordered Guanyin to deliver Manjusri for his reincarnation.

One night, as she was burning incense sticks before a hall, Mount Horse-Ear Queen Madame Ye caught a sudden sight of five fires fluttering into her body. With a surge of unease, she felt a mild bolt of pain in her abdomen. She lumbered back to her chamber and soon gave birth to a son, who also had three eyes.

Madame Ye summoned Three-Eye Bhiksu, her eldest son, "Fortunately, I gave birth to a son with three eyes like yours. We can avenge your father after your younger brother grows up.

Bolts of delight surged through them, the mother and son named the newborn Three-Eye Spirit.

With his mind enchanted by the pearl, how could the Dragon King cancel his siege on Mount Horse-Ear? As Madame Ye and Three-Eye Bhiksu, mother and son of Mount Horse-Ear held fast to their stronghold, the Dragon King could do nothing but withdraw his troops. Hearing that Madame Ye was delivering an infant, the Dragon King ordered his sea troops to storm Mount Horse-Ear, so as to lay his hands on both the pearl and Madame Ye to join his concubines in his sea palace.

Followed by 30,000 aquatic generals and soldiers, the Dragon King marched to surround Mount Horse-Ear and gave ear-splitting shouts for engagement.

As she was sitting, Madame Ye heard that the Dragon King had led his aquatic troops before Mount Horse-Ear and thrown indecent words. Startled by what she heard, she summoned Three-Eye Bhiksu, her eldest son, "Not long ago, your father was murdered by a villain. We have not yet avenged him. I did not expect that the villain would be so greedy that he again led his troops to our mountain. What should we do?"

"My mother, please rest assured," said Three-Eye Bhisku, "There's an ancient saying that invading soldiers shall be blocked by generals and flooding water covered with soil. I'll lead my own troops to meet him today. I will catch this villain and avenge my father."

Three-Eye Bhisku bid farewell to his mother and marched out of the city.

Her young son, Spirit Light, was able to speak three days after he was born. He approached his mother, "I'm going to see my brother fighting with the Dragon King," said Spirit Light, "If my brother loses, I will kill the Dragon King."

His mother refused. Instead of listening to her, Spirit Light left the house with his servants to watch the fight.

After a fierce fight, the Dragon King defeated Three-Eye Bhisku utterly, who then returned to the city. At the sight of his defeated brother, Three-Eye Spirit Light was ready to kill the Dragon King.

The crowd urged him not to go. He knocked them all down and stormed toward the Dragon King.

The Dragon King and Three-Eye Spirit Light told each other their respective names. Within ten blows, Spirit Light chopped the Dragon King into two halves beside a battle steed. Aquatic soldiers fled back to the Dragon Palace.

Three-Eye Bhisku returned to the city and revealed his defeat to his mother. Worry raced through both of them.

A subordinate returned to report, "Seeing the defeat of our elder master, our young master knocked us down and went to fight with the Dragon King. We have not yet received any news of the results."

At his words, Madame Ye bawled with tears.

Another report came that the young master had killed the Dragon King and brought back his severed head.

Jubilation surged through Madame Ye, "It is a manifestation of my husband's spirit so that he has a son to avenge him. Now that this villain was killed by our young master, our family will no longer be worried," She ordered raising the head of the Dragon King as a sign.

Spirit Light fell on his knees, "My mother, I hear about many famous mountains around. I would like to ask for a leave from you to admire the landscape."

"It is all right for you to leave," said his mother, "In case you might have an accident, I will send a servant as your companion. Come back early to study, so that I will not lean on the door and wait for your return with expectant eyes."

Spirit Light bid farewell to his mother and embarked on the journey with joy.

A few miles later, Spirit Light heard a bell ringing. He approached an elder, "Where is the bell ringing?"

"It is Spiritual Void Palace, also known as the Tri-Primordial Blessing-Granting Heaven Palace," said the elder, "It is the abode of Purple Subtlety Heaven Emperor of the Northern Pole."

Hearing this, the young master made his way to the Spiritual Void Palace.

Purple Subtlety Emperor was away to pay respects to the Jade Emperor, leaving Crimson Gown Heavenly Official and Feather Gown Heavenly Official guarding the Spiritual Void Palace.

The young master made his sudden appearance in the palace, claiming to be the Young Prince of Mount Horse-Ear on his way to pay respects to Purple Subtlety Heaven Emperor and admire the landscape.

"If you are a master of Mount Horse-Ear, allow us a while to prepare a vegetarian banquet to entertain Your Honor," said the two heavenly officials, "Under no circumstance shall you make your way to the rear palace."

After finishing their words, the officials walked to a wing room to prepare a vegetarian banquet.

Three-Eye Spirit Light strolled to the Rear Palace, only to see the palace gate closed and sealed. Spirit Light pushed open the gate and went inside. He scanned around and found two demons.

As two Fire Bead Spirits wandered in the eighty-one prefectures in the south of the Yangtze River, they immediately recognized him as Master Spirit Light.

"Come and save us," they called out, "Your Honor, we'll never forget your kindness!"

"This place is unguarded," said Spirit Light, "Why don't you just go? Why do you ask me to save you?"

"It's a spear capable of defeating demons and subduing ghosts. We're suppressed here. Only after Your Honor takes away the spear could we leave here," said the two demons, "Take this spear with you, and it will come in handy for you someday."

Hearing what they said, Spirit Light drew the spear.

The two demons bowed to offer their thanks and traveled all over the world to harm people.

With a spear in his hand, Spirit Light left without attending the vegetarian banquet.

Hearing a commotion in the Rear Palace, the two heavenly officials rushed there, only to find the young master, the demons, and the golden spear gone.

As they were torn by irritations, Purple Subtlety Heaven Emperor landed from midair, "How did the two demons leave?" he asked.

The two heaven officials recounted what happened in tears.

Anger surged through Purple Subtlety Heaven Emperor, "How did that little beast dare to be so rude to steal my golden spear and release the two evil spirits? I will reverse the bright and dark constellations and turn my Nine-Curve Bead into Mount Horse-Ear. He will not walk outside the boundaries of my Bead. If he returns my golden spear, everything settles. If he refuses, let him be trapped to death in the Bead."

Afraid that he might be caught up by Purple Subtlety, Spirit Light ordered his servant to bring the spear home first.

Hearing a shout from Purple Subtlety Emperor, Spirit Light could no longer escape but lumbered into the Bead.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 2
SPIRIT LIGHT REINCARNATES IN THE DIPPER AND BULL PALACE

On his way back, Spirit Light was redirected back to the Spiritual Void Palace by the Nine-Curve Bead of Purple Subtlety Heaven Emperor. They faced each other.

"You little beast, how dare you steal my golden spear and let the two demons go!" The Purple Subtlety Emperor scolded, "If you return my spear, everything will be settled. Otherwise, you'll meet your demise inside my bead in a moment."

"Have I ever seen your golden spear?" said Spirit Light.

"You asked a family member to take it home first. How dare you hide it from me?" said Purple Subtlety Emperor.

But Spirit Light refused to confess.

And thus, the Purple Subtlety Emperor flew into a rage and chanted a spell.

And thus, Spirit Light immediately passed away in the Nine-Curve Bead.

Purple Subtlety Emperor threw Spirit Light's soul into midair. Fluttering here and there, the soul could find no place to rest.

Inside the Eight Scene Palace, Wonderful Joy Celestial Being of the Utmost Benefit and Mercy was sitting in meditation. He caught a sudden sight of the soul of Spirit Light rushing here and there, without any restraint.

Why not summon the soul here and send him to reincarnate under the Blazing Darkness Heaven King in the Dipper and Bull Palace? The Celestial Being thought.

He waved his hand and took the soul into his long sleeves. Then he rose to his feet and left.

As he was sitting, Blazing Darkness Heaven King heard someone reporting the arrival of the Celestial Being. Blazing Darkness greeted him with a salute, "The reason for my visit to your honorable mansion today is for nothing but to send a distinguished son to reincarnate here," said Wonderful Joy, "He has ancient marks on his body as proof."

"How can I see that?" Blazing Darkness King asked.

"In a few moments, your wife is going to give birth. If she produces a son with the word 'spirit' on his left palm, 'flare' on his right palm, and three eyes, he is sent by me. If there are not these three ancient marks, he is not sent by me."

As they were conversing, the princess gave birth to a boy, with these three ancient marks.

Wild with joy, Blazing Darkness King bowed to offer his thanks and invited Wonderful Joy to name the newborn, "Let's call him Three-Eye Spirit Flare. After he grows up, I'll take him in as a disciple," Blaze Darkness King felt a surge of pleasure and sent Wonderful Joy away.

Time flitted like an arrow.

After one day, Spirit Flare had grown up. Wonderful Joy made his second trip to the Dipper and Bull Palace to take Spirit Flare as his disciple. After their greeting, Wonderful Joy said that he would like to take Spirit Flare as his disciple.

Rejoicing, Blazing Darkness King ordered his son to worship Wonderful Joy as his master.

Following his father, Spirit Flare bowed and bid farewell to his parents. He followed Wonderful Joy back to the Eight Scene Palace where he was taught with assorted styles of the 18 martial arts and infinite physical changes. He was also bestowed with Five-Day Fire Elixir.

Before going out to pay respects to the Five Heaven Emperors, Wonderful Joy intended to test Spirit Flare. He purposefully left the key to the Gold Broadsword Lad.

After Wonderful Joy left the mountain, Spirit Flare asked the lad, "What did our master talk to you in the heaven cave?"

"I won't tell you," said the lad.

Only after being badgered by Spirit Flare, the lad spilled the truth, "Our master asked me to safeguard the golden broadsword from the knowledge of yours."

Spirit Flare asked to take a look at the broadsword, but the lad refused resolutely.

Because he refuses to show it to me, Spirit Flare thought. Why not turn me into the look of my master?

He left the lad and recited a spell and immediately changed into the likeness of Wonderful Joy.

He summoned the lad, "Bring me the golden broadsword. I need to bring it to attend the spirit treasure gathering in heaven."

Not knowing that it was Spirit Flare, the lad thought he was his master. And thus, the lad fetched the sword for him.

After laying his hands on the broadsword, Spirit Flare summoned his fire and forged it into a triangular golden brick. He hid the brick on his body.

One day, Wonderful Joy returned, "You brought the broadsword to attend the heavenly gathering," said the lad, "Why don't you bring it back?"

"Did I ever come back for my broadsword?" Wonderful Joy asked.

"Since it is not my master, it must be Spirit Flare," the lad said in a hurry.

"How do you know that?" Wonderful Joy asked.

"Three days ago, Spirit Flare asked me to have a look at the broadsword. I refused. I guessed he tricked me out of the broadsword by turning him into you," the lad said.

"If so, summon him and ask," said Wonderful Joy.

The lad went away to ask Spirit Flare to see their master.

Facing his master, Spirit Flare could only reveal the truth, "I forged it into a brick for convenience and use. On the next treasure contest in heaven, I would like to join you to attend the gathering."

Wonderful Joy stopped to examine, "This treasure changes endlessly," said Wonderful Joy, "It can definitely assist a fight. Cherish it and make no mistake."

He dismissed them.

As the Jade Emperor was sitting in the palace, the Great White Planet of the West stepped forward and reported, "At present, two demons fled the Upper Realm. They are Wind Peach Demon and Fire Peach Demon, claiming themselves as Two Judges of Wind and Fire. Now, they are making mischief in the Flying Curtain Cave in the Central Realm. They are never fed up with eating humans. I humbly ask Your Majesty to dispatch heavenly generals to subdue them to prevent them from ravaging the commoners."

His words sent a shock wave through the Jade Emperor. He immediately consulted with all perfected lords to see who could lead the troops to defeat these two demons.

The ministers said, "There's someone named Three-Eye Spirit Flare, a Buddhist disciple. He has undergone several reincarnations. As a disciple of Wonderful Joy Celestial Being, he has a wide range of divine powers. He's a desirable candidate for the job."

The Jade Emperor immediately issued a decree, ordering Spirit Flare to lead 5,000 heavenly soldiers to arrest the two demons on the Central Realm.

Spirit Flare accepted the decree. After inspecting the heavenly soldiers, he bid farewell to his master and returned to Mount Horse-Ear to visit his mother and elder brother of his first reincarnation and fetch the golden spear he stole from Purple Subtlety Emperor.

At the sight of her son coming back, Madame Ye was overjoyed, "Where have you been in the past years? You've shown no trace at all. You did not come back until today."

"For my incompetency, I've left behind my old mother and my elder brother. Forgive me for my unfilial piety," said Spirit Flare, "I've reincarnated into the Dipper and Bull Palace under Blazing Darkness King and his wife up in heaven. My name is still Spirit Flare."

"As you come here today, we as mother and son can see each other. My worry is no more," said Madam Ye.

"I'm indeed unfilial," said Spirit Flare, "I am now on His Majesty's order to lead troops to subdue evil spirits in the Central Realm."

"Why did you come back?" his mother asked.

"I come back to see my mother," said Spirit Flare, "I need to fetch the golden spear I stole. If I win, I'll come back soon and serve you well."

Madame Ye ordered to bring the golden spear to Spirit Flare.

Spirit Flare bid farewell to his mother and left.

The two judges of wind and fire were having a drinking spree in the Flying Curtain Cave.

A report arrived that the Jade Emperor ordered Three-Eye Spirit Flare to lead 5,000 heavenly soldiers. With their heaven-shaking battle shouts, the troops of Spirit Flare laid a besiege against the cave gate.

In a fit of fury, the two demons summoned their evil minions and marched out of the cave.

A battle ensued.

Reciting spells, the two judges treaded on wind wheels and fire wheels. In whirling wind and fire, they lunged toward their enemies. Spirit Flare spat out his Samadhi Perfected Fire, which immediately controlled the wind and fire. Spirit Flare finally used his golden triangular brick.

Utterly defeated, the two demons fled back to their cave and tightly sealed the gate.

If they remain inside, how could I succeed? Spirit Flare thought. An idea struck him. Why not turn me into a jade maiden from the heavens and change these flame pills into two divine peaches? Then I can enter their cave abode. I'll say that I'm a jade maiden serving Queen Mother. Hearing roaring gongs and drums, I intended to see a ferocious fight. With an error, I landed mistakenly on the Central Realm and broke into their cave. Then I'll coax them to eat my peaches, saying that someone was profusely rejuvenated after eating my peaches. With their divine powers, the peaches can restore the youth of a man. If they eat the peaches, I'll summon the flame pills to burn them up. What a good idea!"

Two judges of wind and fire lumbered back to their cave in defeat. Annoyed, they asked their guarding minions to guard the door lest any accident would happen.

The moment they finished speaking, a report came that a woman was waiting outside the cave gate.

"Bring her here to see us," the two demons said.

The jade maid approached them and told them what was planned.

The sight of the beneficial peaches sent jolts of delight through them.

"Leave the peaches to us," they said, "We won't eat you. Go back now; otherwise, we'll also eat you."

The jade maid pretended to refuse.

The Two demons ordered their minions to grab the divine peaches.

Each holding one peach, they put the peach into the mouth. Before they snapped with their teeth, the peach rolled to their stomachs. A shock wave ran through them.

The maid revealed her true form, "You rebellious beasts!" a voice boomed, "Now that you've eaten my fire pills, surrender yourselves!"

The two demons saw the face of Spirit Flare.

As they were ready to bolt away, Spirit Flare recited a spell.

The fire pills churned, burning the two demons to their knees and crying bitterly.

Spirit Flare brought them back to heaven. With Wind Wheels and Fire Wheels, two treasures from the two ghosts, Spirit Flare led his victory troop back to heaven.

The Jade Emperor ascended to his throne in the palace. Grabbing the two demons, Spirit Flare approached before the Jade Emperor and reported what happened.

Delighted, the Jade Emperor banished the two demons to Feng Du, the demon capital. The Jade Emperor granted Spirit Flare the title of the Grand Marshal of Troops and Horses in the Fire Department.

Before Spirit Flare finished his thanks, Deng Hua, an astronomical official, stepped forward.

"With such trivial meritorious deeds, Spirit Flare was conferred as a marshal. I'm afraid that other ministers are not convinced," said Deng, "Your Majesty, please issue a decree to order Spirit Flare to match with me. If he wins, he is right for this position. If he loses, he should not take up this position."

The Jade Emperor nodded and issued a decree to order Spirit Flare to compete with Deng.

As per His Majesty's order, they left the palace and engaged in a fight. Before ten blows, Deng was seized by Spirit Flare, and Deng's face flushed with shame.

After letting Deng leave, Spirit Flare returned to the palace to report the defeat of Deng. With delight, the Jade Emperor officially conferred the title of Marshal of Troops and Horses of the Fire Department.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 3

SPIRIT FLARE SERVES AS IMPERIAL ASSISTANT FOR THE DRAGON

The next day, all perfected lords gathered in the palace and reported to the Jade Emperor.

"The Dragon-Dispatching Gathering will start from the fifteenth day of the fifth month each year. We need to gather the dragon kings from the dragon palaces in nine large rivers, eight rivers, five lakes, and four seas to rain, combat the drought, and safeguard the seedlings. As the meeting this year is approaching. We humbly beg Your Majesty to issue a decree to summon all dragon kings to attend the gathering and not miss the vital timing."

"Permission granted," said the Jade Emperor.

The Jade Emperor issued a decree, "Who can serve as the imperial assistant for this gathering?"

"After our careful observation," the ministers said, "we think that only the Marshal of Troops and Horses in the Fire Department can serve as the imperial assistant."

The Jade Emperor nodded and summoned Spirit Flare to the palace. Spirit Flare approached the palace and acclaimed the Jade Emperor.

"I observe that you're a loyal and upright hero," said the Jade Emperor, "My ministers recommended you to be the imperial assistant. Discharge your duty diligently for me."

Spirit Flare expressed his thanks and left the palace.

In his old years, the Dragon King of the East Sea, Ao Guang, received the jade decree regarding the gathering for spreading rains. Unease swept across his mind, "I'm so old now. How can I get there?" the Dragon King of the East Sea said with a sigh, "Even in the gathering, it'll be inconvenient for me to salute the other dragon kings. What should I do?"

Iron Head, the crown prince, stood beside the Dragon King. Hearing what his father said, he stepped forward, "Father, you need not worry. There's an ancient saying that a child should serve his old parents. Now that you're too old to go, as your son, I should go there for you. What do you think?"

"It might be okay," said the old dragon king, "But you're a heavy drinker. If you go there and drink a lot, I'm afraid that you might bring trouble. Act cautiously, lest to bring trouble to me."

"I shall now make a vow," said the crown prince, "If I indulge in wine again in violation of my father's order, I shall not return home with arms and legs unwounded."

The old dragon said, "Hearing such an aspiration from my son today, I am no longer worried. In that gathering, you shall call them either uncles or elder brothers. You shall stay humble. You shall not be arrogant."

With his father's order, the crown prince left the dragon palace and embarked on the journey. Sleeping at night and traveling in the daytime, the crown prince made his way to a village and saw a tavern.

Father told me not to have wine, the crown prince thought. At the signboard of "wine," I could think about nothing but downing a few cups. How could I resist such an urge? I might as well go into the tavern and drink a few cups, lest I keep tossing the idea of drinking in my mind.

He quickened his steps into the tavern and asked the bartender to bring him wine. He drank and sang. After finishing several pots, he paid with one piece of gold and left the tavern.

He soon arrived at the heavenly gates. He strolled through the Treasure Virtue Barrier in the South Heaven and into the gathering hall where he met the other dragon kings.

The imperial assistant, Spirit Flare, ascended the front seat of the palace hall and sat down.

One by one, the dragon kings paid respects to him.

"As per His Majesty's order," said Spirit Flare, "I am dispatched as the imperial assistant to give a banquet to all of you. During the drinking, no one is allowed to make mischief, move to other seats, or speak nonsense after getting drunk. Any violator shall be dispelled outside the heavenly gate and permanently demoted. Now I order you to bring cups of wine. Please take your seats as per your ranks."

It's imperial wine, which is only served once a year, Iron-Head Prince thought. It's so rare. Why not take a few more cups? He downed dozens of cups in one go. Intoxication blurring his vision, he rose to his feet with loud noises, "How unfair the imperial assistant is! In the past years, my father was given a front seat. My father was also advised to drink first. This year, I came here, but I am given just a side seat. The imperial assistant did not come to ask me to drink. Why is this? So unfair! So unfair!"

Spirit Flare took in all his words, "In previous years, the gathering was attended by your father, a senior official. This year, you came here in his place. You rank at the bottom among all the dragon kings here. Why do you say that I am unfair? As the imperial assistant, how could I be biased to smear the just of His Majesty? Since you are drunk, you offended me with your words."

In a fit of fury, Spirit Flare ordered to push Iron-Head Prince down the Treasure Virtue Barrier of the South Heaven. Spirit Flare turned to face the other dragon kings, "It has nothing to do with you today. Everyone shall take orders to go back and safeguard their lands. Don't violate the order, or punishment will ensure."

All the dragon kings nodded and scattered.

Pushed down the Treasure Virtue Barrier of the South Heaven, Iron-Head Prince was flushed with shame. His mind disturbed, he dared not return to the dragon palace to see his father. He

shook himself and changed into a large carp with a length of two feet. Swimming in the Yangzhou River, he heaped in the water and made wave surges.

Suddenly the tides receded, leaving him trapped on the sandbar, unable to advance or retreat.

On his way home, a woodcutter caught sight of a big carp on the sandbar. He untied his ax. Together with other people, he cut off the flesh from the carp and left.

With shots of tearing pain, the crown prince shed tears and rolled up, trampling all the people to their deaths.

The prince trekked back to the Dragon Palace and cried to his father, "Your unfilial son has disobeyed your order. After being drunk and wreaking havoc on the dragon-dispatching gathering, I dared not return to see you. I changed myself into a carp to swim in the Yangzhou River. Suddenly the water retreated, trapping me on the sandbar. The people in Yangzhou cut off all the flesh on my body. As I am about to die, I hope that you can consider our blood tie and avenge your son."

After his words, the crown prince died.

The old Dragon King burst into tears. He summoned his shrimp servants, turtle generals, and other aquatic troops. With surging waves, they marched to Yangzhou.

Suffering from the flood, the people of Yangzhou cried bitterly.

In Yangzhou was a local goddess, with a treasured statue of the Holy Mother Earth Goddess for worship. Seeing the water rising before the temple, the local people made their way to the temple with a bow on each step. They prayed for the Earth Goddess to withstand the flood with her mighty divine powers.

Shocked, the Earth Goddess reported the matter to heaven. She entered the heavenly gates.

The Jade Emperor ascended to his throne in the palace and accepted the salutes from all officials.

The Earth Goddess from Yangzhou stepped forward and kneeled before the throne. She reported on the affairs that the old Dragon King of the East Sea drowned the people in Yangzhou.

Hearing her petition, the Jade Emperor said, "My minister, you can return to Yangzhou. I'll issue a decree to order the Four Earth Star Lords to lead heaven soldiers to repel the water in the Central Realm."

Upon His Majesty's command, the Four Earth Star Lords led heavenly soldiers to leave the palace and reach the Central Realm. At the sight of the old Dragon King of the East Sea heaping the waves and tides, they summoned Earth to bank up the waves.

Utterly defeated, the old Dragon King fled back to the Dragon Palace.

Leading their victorious soldiers, the Four Earth Star Lords approached the Earth Goddess.

The Earth Goddess served them tea, "The day before yesterday, the water flooded my temple," said the Earth Goddess, "Before my temple is a jade tree which had never flowered. After the flood, a jade flower came out. This flower is featured by its exceptional fragrance, which reaches the thirty-third heaven and widely reaches across the five lakes and four seas. Across the three realms, its fragrance is scattered. I would like to offer it to the Jade Emperor. What do you think of that?"

"Such a good flower is better than a good treasure," said the Four Earth Star Lords, "Why not do as you say and present it to the Jade Emperor?"

After they conversed, they bid farewell to each other.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 4 SPIRIT FLARE WREAKS HAVOC ON THE JADE FLOWER GATHERING

The Jade Emperor ascended his throne in the palace and accepted acclamations from his ministers.

There arrived a report saying that the Earth Goddess in Yangzhou and the Four Earth Star Lords had repelled the water and were leading their victorious troops back to the heavenly palace.

The Jade Emperor was so delighted that he rewarded the star lords.

The Earth Goddess stepped forward, "Your Majesty, before my temple is a jade tree which had never flowered. It was flooded a few days ago. Now that the water is gone, a jade flower came out, with its fragrance scattering across the three realms. I dare not hide it. I now present it to Your Majesty."

Beaming with joy, the Jade Emperor rewarded the Earth Goddess with golden flowers and imperial wine.

"It's a rare and precious flower," he said to the ministers, "Today I'll start a meeting named the Jade Flower Gathering. Among all you civil and military officials, those who've performed meritorious deeds are allowed to wear this flower and drink three cups of wine. Those without commendable service shall not do so."

The Jade Emperor ordered the Gold-Spear Crown Prince to serve as the banquet host.

As per His Majesty's order, the prince gathered the ministers, who filed into the gathering.

Gold-Spear Crown Prince relayed the jade decree, "As per the order of my father emperor, I serve as the banquet host for this Jade Flower Gathering and gather you ministers. If you've performed some meritorious deeds, please wear this flower and drink."

The prince asked all ministers in turn, but all ministers said they did not have any exemplary service and thus dared not take the flower.

When the prince asked Spirit Flare, he also said that he did not have any exemplary service.

Seeing all ministers decline the jade flower and the imperial wine, the prince wore the flower on his head and downed several cups of wine at one go.

At the sight of the prince wearing the jade flower and drinking the imperial wine, Spirit Flare felt a surge of rage, "You are the banquet host. His Majesty ordered you to ask others. But you put the flowers on your own head and drink the wine of your own accord. Are you indulging yourself?"

The prince said, "Only after all ministers said they did not have any exemplary service did I wear the jade flower. Why can't I wear it?"

Spirit Flare said, "I have some merits. You should give the flower to me."

"What are your merits?" said the prince.

"Couldn't I take the credit for subduing the Two Judges of Wine and Fire--"

Before finishing his words, Spirit Flare snatched the jade flower, put it on his own head, and then downed three cups of imperial wine in a row.

"You rascal," the prince fumed, "How dare you be so bold and deceitful towards His Majesty!"

Without answering him, Spirit Flare whipped the prince.

The prince was no match for Spirit Flare. As the ministers were mediating, the prince fled away.

Spirit Flare wreaked havoc on the Jade Flower Gathering and named himself Resplendent Light Heavenly King. *At my whims*, Spirit Flare thought, *I've whipped the prince. If the Jade Emperor learns this, I'll indeed be convicted. What shall I do now? It's better to pretend that I was drunk.*

The shocked ministers dispersed.

The prince entered the palace. The Jade Emperor ascended his throne.

In his tears, Gold-Spear Crown Prince said, "As per Your Majesty's order, I served as the banquet host. Spirit Flare took no regard for your decree and wreaked havoc on the Jade Flower Gathering and beat me severely. He called himself Resplendent Light Heavenly King. I beg Your Majesty to rule to defend me."

Hearing the words of his son, the Jade Emperor felt a surge of resentment. He immediately summoned Spirit Flare.

"You are a minister," said the Jade Emperor, "And the prince is a king. How dare you act like that?"

"I am a servant while the prince is a master. How could I dare whip him?" said Spirit Flare, "I was beaten by the prince so severely that I dared not fight back. If Your Majesty does not believe, you can ask the ministers, and then you will see clearly."

The Jade Emperor asked the ministers, who all replied that they did not engage in any physical wrestling but only a verbal fight.

"Even if Spirit Flare had not done it," said the Jade Emperor, "He should not have said anything to the detriment of Gold-Spear Crown Prince. You have accused that the prince does not have

any worthy deeds. How dare you say this? If it were not for the ministers to make clear this matter, you would not have escaped the death penalty. With clarifications from the ministers, you are exempt from capital punishment. I'll remove your previous post and demote you to a wandering god in the Astronomical Palace. You shall atone for your crime by your exemplary service in the future."

Spirit Flare could do nothing but thank His Majesty for his grace. He left the palace gates and made his way to the Astronomical Palace where he saluted Deng Hua, the Astronomical Heavenly Official.

All ministers withdrew from the court.

In his Astronomical Palace, Deng Hua learned that Spirit Flare wreaked havoc in the Jade Flower Gathering. Elation surged through him as he also learned that after the prince reported the matter to the Jade Emperor, Spirit Flare was deprived of his former post and demoted to serve as a wandering god in his own palace. *Spirit Flare was my old enemy*, Deng thought. *I did not expect that he would be now under my command.*

"The moment Spirit Flare appears here to salute me," said Deng to his subordinates, "Give him forty slashes. We shall not be too gentle with him."

Right after he finished his world, Huaguang made his sudden appearance.

"Invite him in," Deng Hua grinned. They met and acclaimed each other.

Pretending to be ignorant of what happened, Deng Hua asked Huaguang, "What teachings has the Grand Marshal brought to me today? Why is he in such untidy clothes with his many merits?"

Huaguang told the story of whipping the prince at the Jade Flower Gathering.

Rage swept across Deng's face, "If so, you're now under my command," Deng roared, "Why don't you kneel before me?"

Huaguang could do nothing but kneel.

Deng asked his men to arrest Huaguang and gave him forty lashes.

"I've not broken any law," said Huaguang, "Why do you beat me? If it's not fair, you shall not beat me."

"Even now you're so unreasonable. I'll not beat you now," said Deng, "But if you break any law, I'll beat you up without any hesitation. I call the roll in the hall every morning. You must wait for my call. If you're not responding to my call, I'll give you forty lashes. You shall also walk with the sun. If I find that you're absent, I'll also give you forty strikes."

Huaguang could do nothing but obey his order. He returned to his own chamber.

Deng Hua is such a vicious creature to haggle over me! Huaguang thought. *I need to come up with a plan. I'll produce an astral body to follow the sun, while my real body goes to answer the roll call. I'll see what this villain can do to me.*

Deng had a subordinate whose original form was a rooster. As per Deng's order, the rooster followed Huaguang and reported to Deng if he missed the roll call.

Huaguang manifested his divine powers to create an astral body, thus not missing the roll call.

Seeing that Huaguang did not miss any roll call, the rooster subordinate intended to set a trap for him. Struck by an idea, he said to Huaguang, "I want to go home to visit my mother today. I'll take my leave. Marshal, you can either go to answer the roll call or follow the sun."

I'm afraid that his servant is coaxing me, Huaguang thought. *How could I tolerate being bullied by Deng? I don't think I should live on with this. I'd better inscribe a few rebellious lines in the Astronomical Book and then go down to the Central Realm before deciding on my next steps.*

He fetched a brush pen and wrote.

*I hate myself for having so many misfortunes,
That I've been trapped in the nets of heaven and earth.
In the astronomical book, I clearly wrote,
That Huaguang is against the Astronomical Palace.*

After finishing his poem, he left.

The rooster returned, only to find Huaguang gone. The rooster croaked the matter to Deng.

Deng checked the Astronomical Book and found four rebellious lines. In a fit of rage after reading the poem, Deng summoned the troops and horses at his palace, ready to catch Huaguang.

About to step down from the Treasure Virtue Barrier of the South Heaven, Huaguang came face to face with Deng.

"You rascal, you should have died. His Majesty pardoned your crime and brought you under my command. Instead of cleansing your heart from sin, you dared write a rebellious poem. Where dare you hide yourself? If you agree to be arrested, everything will be settled. If you speak a single word of defiance, you'll meet your tragic end in a moment."

"You vicious creature, you do all these for the sake of your past grudges," said Huaguang, "You ordered me to answer the roll call and follow the sun at the same time. You set up all sorts of traps against me. If I do not fight back, I'll end up in your hands."

The moment Huaguang finished his words, Deng brandished his broadsword and struck it down.

Huaguang fought back.

Unable to defeat him, Deng fled atop his horse.

Deng Hua reported the matter to the Jade Emperor.

After defeating Deng, Huaguang landed on the Central Realm.

Seeing a lofty mountain before him, he asked a passer-by and learned it was Perfection-Directed Mountain with Flooding Jade Temple. Inside the temple was Fire King, also known as Light Buddha, who took great pleasure in practicing the Divine Way.

After learning these, Huaguang made his way to Flooding Jade Temple to visit Light Buddha.

Also known as Kindness-Encouraging Master, Light Buddha sat on a Buddhist altar.

After Huaguang entered the hall, they acclaimed each other.

"I have heard that Your Honor, as a Heavenly King, served as the Grand Marshal in the upper realm, with endless treasures," said Light Buddha, "What teachings have Your Honor brought to my humble temple here?"

Huaguang recounted his story, including wreaking havoc in the Jade Flowering Gathering, whipping Gold-Spear Crown Prince, being deprived of the post of the Grand Marshal, and being demoted as a wandering god in the Astronomical Palace.

"Why are you here?" Light Buddha asked.

"I did not anticipate the vicious deeds of Deng Hua. He held a grudge against me. He ordered me to answer the roll call and follow the sun at the same time. I thought that I could not live on like this. At my whims, I inscribed a rebellious poem and landed on the Central Realm. I have long heard about the Buddhist precepts of Your Honor. Despite being incompetent, I came here to worship you as my master. I do not know if I could be granted with your grace to stay here," asked Huaguang.

Delighted, Light Buddha ordered Huaguang to forsake his past behaviors and follow his Buddhist precepts.

Huaguang made a bow to agree.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 5

RESPLENDENT LIGHT WREAKS HAVOC ON THE HEAVENLY PALACE AND BURNS THE TREASURE VIRTUE BARRIER OF THE SOUTH HEAVEN

To celebrate his birthday, the Dragon King of the East Sea held a banquet, in the middle of which was placed a bright pearl, the Treasure-Gathering Pearl. It glittered amid whirling purple fog and a resplendent starry night.

In his joy, the Dragon King drank so much that he was intoxicated.

He did not expect that Huaguang would open his heavenly eye and catch the sight of the pearl. Huaguang chanted a spell and shook his body, turning himself into a shrimp.

In the seawater, the shrimp sneaked to the Dragon Palace. After laying its claws on the pearl, the shrimp darted forward and changed back to its original form as Huaguang.

Joy surging through him, Huaguang made his way back to the Flooding Jade Temple and hid the pearl, without telling this matter to his master.

The Dragon King woke up from his drunkenness, only to find his treasured pearl gone. Startled, the Dragon King asked all the aquatic creatures, but they said they knew nothing. The Dragon King searched across the Dragon Palace but found nothing at all. *It must have been stolen by a monster*, the Dragon King thought. *Why not visit the Bodhisattva Guanyin in the South Sea who would definitely know what would have happened?*

He left the Dragon Palace and headed to the South Sea soon where he met the Bodhisattva Guanyin.

The Dragon King made a bow and asked about the matter.

Guanyin opened her wise eyes and scanned around, "Your pearl was stolen by none other but Huaguang from the Upper Realm. He changed himself into a shrimp and snatched it away from the Dragon Palace. He's now a disciple of Kindness-Encouraging Master in the Flooding Jade Temple in the Perfection-Directed Mountain in the Central Realm. Go there to fetch your treasured pearl."

After listening to what she said, the Dragon King bid her farewell and made his way back to the Dragon Palace. Summoning his aquatic troops, he marched to the Perfection-Directed Mountain and laid siege around the temple. The Dragon King's troops gave ear-splitting shouts for battles.

Light Buddha was sitting in meditation on a Buddhist altar. He heard the shouts for battle from outside by troops who were ready to storm into the mountain gates. He also heard that they called out to Huaguang to give back a pearl.

Shocked, Light Buddha summoned Huaguang, "The Dragon King is leading his aquatic troops here, claiming that you've stolen his pearl. Is it true?"

"I dare not hide it from Your Honor," said Huaguang, "It's indeed taken by me."

"Now that the Dragon King has arrived to ask it back," said Light Buddha, "What're you going to do about this?"

"Master, rest assured," said Huaguang, "I'll repel him and his troops, "Huaguang bid farewell to his master, strode out of the temple gate, and came face to face with the Dragon King.

"Why did you steal my jewels?" the Dragon King asked, "If you return it to me, everything will be settled. If you say anything defiantly, I'll bring your tragic end today."

"Who said I took your pearl?" Huaguang asked.

"I lost sight of my pearl after I woke up from drunkenness. I went to the South Sea to ask Bodhisattva Guanyin, who said that you'd stolen it, "the Dragon King said.

"Now that Her Grace said I'd taken it, what can you do even if I really took it?" Huaguang asked.

With seething rage, the Dragon King brandished his broadsword and swooped it down on Huaguang.

Huaguang greeted the blow with a spear. Before thirty moves, the Dragon King was utterly defeated. Leading his defeated soldiers, the Dragon King fled back to the Dragon Palace.

Wild with joy, Huaguang returned to the temple to see his master.

"I want to see the Jade Emperor in heaven," said his master, "But I have not yet started the trip due to this disaster you caused. As it's already settled today, I'll make my way to heaven tomorrow, "He ordered Huaguang to guard the temple gate.

Hearing what his master said, Huaguang burst into tears.

"Why do you cry?" his master asked.

"Since I left the Upper Realm, I have been following you," said Huaguang, "Even though I miss my parents day and night, I could not see them. Hearing that you're about to go to the heavens and considering that I could not go back to see them, I'm wrecked by my sentiments like missing a horse at the sight of its saddle. That's why I weep."

"If that's the reason, you're a filial son," said his master, "I might as well bring you back to heaven, but you must refrain from making any trouble. Join me if you want to visit your parents in heaven."

"It's my great fortune to have your help to see my parents," said Huaguang, "How dare I make any trouble?"

"As it is," said the master, "I will hang a bunch of Buddha beads on your neck. I'll chant a spell. When you're in heaven, even a demon-revealing mirror could not expose your identity. It'll only reveal you as a Buddhist disciple. You can go to see your parents. And then join me to return to the Central Realm."

Joy coursed through Huaguang.

Light Buddha put a bunch of Buddha's beads around Huaguang and chanted a spell. They made their way to heaven.

Inside the Dipper and Bull Palace, the Red-Beard Blazing Darkness Heavenly Emperor and his wife were sitting, missing their son whose whereabouts remained unknown.

A report that their son had returned sent delight through his parents. They met each other.

"My son, since you left, we do not know where you were," his father said, "We miss you all the time. What brought you to us in heaven today?"

"After leaving my parents, I had nowhere to settle down, so I had to go down to the Central Realm where I reached Flooding Jade Temple in Perfection Mountain and worshiped Light Buddha as my master," said Huaguang, "Today, only with my master's help am I able to see my parents."

"After you defeated Deng Hua and went to the Central Realm, Deng Hua reported the matter to the Jade Emperor," said his father, "The Jade Emperor was so furious that he ordered Gold-Spear Crown Prince to dwell in the Black Resplendence Palace. The prince was assembling troops, horses, and logistics, ready to capture you in the Central Realm. Live here tonight and return quickly to the Central Realm tomorrow, lest it causes any more worry. If the Jade Emperor knows you're here, it's not safe for you."

"My parents, please rest assured," said Huaguang, "I know what I should do."

Huaguang asked his parents to prepare a room for him.

Gold-Spear Prince is so hateful! Huaguang thought. As he's now assembling troops to capture me, why not change myself into a heaven soldier and join his army with a false name? If he takes me in, I will kill him in his barracks. Then I'll return to the Central Realm. It sounds like a good idea!

The next day, he bid farewell to his parents, "I'll return to the Central Realm with my master," he said.

Unknowing his true intention, his parents asked him to stay safe. They also mention that he should return to heaven if there would be an amnesty for him in the future.

Huaguang left his parents and made his way to the Black Resplendence Palace. Huaguang shook his body and changed himself into a man with a height of over three meters and a shoulder circumference of ten girth measures. With a majestic and murderous look, he carried a long spear and visited Gold-Spear Crown Prince.

At the sight of the man, the prince asked, "What's your name?"

"My name is Chen the Third," said Huaguang, "Hearing that Your Honor is assembling troops to capture Huaguang in the Central Realm, I came here to join your force."

Hearing what he said, the crown prince said, "When I see my Father Emperor next time, I'll recommend you as a pioneer in the vanguard--"

Before he finished, Huaguang revealed his true form. He lunged his golden spear at the crown prince, the soldiers were shocked and scattered away.

Gold-Spear Crown Prince hurried into the Exorcism Courtyard of the Northern Pole and hid behind the Saha Mirror.

Huaguang arrived, only to see no sight of the prince but two demons. Huaguang stared at the two demons.

Suppressed by the Saha Mirror, the two demons would love to see Huaguang break the golden mirror and set them free, "You'd better leave now," said the two demons, "The prince is right behind the Saha Mirror."

With seething rage, Huaguang threw his golden brick, smashing the Saha Mirror and thus freeing the two demons, including the Hundred Gold-Eye Demon and Goddess Ganoderma. They fled to the Central Realm.

Seeing that Huaguang had broken the mirror, Gold-Spear Crown Prince shouted, "Huaguang has entered the Heavenly Gates and wreaked havoc in the heavenly palace. Hurry to capture him!"

Hearing the shout of the prince, the Heavenly Generals of the Four Sides raised their troops to capture Huaguang.

Defeated, Huaguang fled away.

Regardless of the eastern, western, northern, or southern direction, he moved in quick steps. He arrived at the Northern Heaven guarded by Black Heaven Emperor.

At the sight of him, Huaguang said nothing and threw his brick to start a fight.

Waving his yellow seven-star banner, the Black Heaven Emperor took in the golden brick.

Annoyed, he threw his dragon-quelling wind and fire bar at the Heaven Emperor. It also disappeared into the seven-star banner.

Panicked, he hurled his fire pills again, but they again vanished into the banner.

Finding no way to advance or retreat, Huaguang could only fight to his death.

The Heaven Emperor heaped the Renkui Water of the North and drowned Huaguang to the ground.

Pressed by the Raining Stick by the Heaven Emperor, Huaguang could not move at all.

Huaguang was made from the candle wicks from a lamp before Tathagata. In a heap, the candle wicks turned into a human body with a spell chanted by Tathagata. Huaguang was the spirit, the soul, and the brightness of fire. Meeting the Heaven Emperor in the Kuiren Land of the North, Huaguang could not move but be captured.

"You beast, you're so insensible of the world affairs!" the Heaven Emperor said, "What divine powers do you possess to rebel against the Heavenly Palace and whip the Crown Prince? Now that you're captured by me, what do you want to say?"

Unable to move his limbs, Huaguang bawled with tears, "Forced by Deng Hua, I could do nothing but act this way. Now that I'm captured by you, I beg for your mercy."

"Only if you are willing to correct your evil ways," said the Heaven Emperor, "I command thirty-five generals. If you obey me and become the thirty-sixth one, I'll save you."

"Yes, yes," Huaguang said repeatedly, "If Your Honor saves me, I'd rather be obedient and never dare to be defiant."

The Heaven Emperor fetched from midair a Water-Gathering Bead and shrank it into the size of a grain of rice, "Swallow it," said the Heaven Emperor, "And I'll save you."

Huaguang could do nothing but swallow the rice.

"It's my Water-Gathering Bead. After you eat it, if you intend to rebel, I'll chant the spell and heap the water in your stomach. And you'll be dead within seven days," said the Heaven Emperor.

"If I'm blessed with Your Honor's mercy, I'll always serve you," said Huaguang.

The Heaven Emperor lifted the Raining Stick and released Huaguang, "I'm indebted to Your Honor's cover. As the heavenly soldiers are still on my heel, how could I escape from heaven?"

"You are the Fire Star," said the Heaven Emperor, "You can go southward as the south is Bingding featuring by fire. With your own fire assisted by that fire, you can burn the Treasure

Virtue Barrier of South Heaven. It's the only way for you to leave the Upper Realm. Amid my Kuiren water in the North, how could your fire overwhelm the water? How else could you leave?"

"Thank you for your kind instructions," said Huaguang, "But without my treasure weapons that have been taken away by my master, how can I get there without them?"

The Heaven Emperor fetched his treasure weapons and gave them back to him.

After bidding farewell to the Heaven Emperor, Huaguang trotted to the Treasure Virtue Barrier of South Heaven.

The gate was tightly closed. Huaguang leveled his fingers and summoned his Perfected Samadhi Fire and burned the Treasure Virtue Barrier of South Heaven.

Seeing the ablaze barrier, the heavenly soldiers rushed to fight the fire.

Huaguang sneaked out and landed on the Central Realm.

His subordinates reported this matter to Gold-Spear Prince, saying that Huaguang had incinerated the barrier and headed to the Central Realm.

Only then did the prince withdraw his heavenly soldiers and reported back to the Jade Emperor.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 6 RESPLENDENT LIGHT MANIFESTS HIS DIVINE POWERS IN THE THOUSANDFIELD KINGDOM

Instructed by the Black Heavenly Emperor, Huaguang incinerated the barrier and swooped down the Central Realm, yet not knowing where he should head.

Amid his worries, he caught sight of a bizarre mountain with permanently blooming flowers and scenery as if in a perpetual spring.

He summoned the local town god.

"What's the name of the mountain," he asked.

"It's called Mount Lilou, with a cave named Green Water Lotus Cave guarded by two kings," the town god answered.

"What kinds of kings are they?"

"I dare not tell you."

"Why?"

"If I say it, one of them will see and the other will hear. It'll be a bad day for me."

"You may as well say it as I am there."

"Among these two kings, one is called Thousand-Mile Eye who can see everything within one thousand miles. The other one is called Wind-Accompanying Ear who can hear everything within one thousand miles. They're also respectively known as Lilou and Shikuang, self-titled the Two Smart Kings. They never get fed up with devouring humans, with bones accumulated into mountains."

After listening to his words, Huaguang dismissed the town god and headed for Mount Lilou.

After covering several miles, he reached Mount Lilou.

Sitting together with Thousand-Mile Eye, Wind-Accompanying Ear said, "The town god is so abominable that he revealed to Huaguang that we brothers are eating humans here. Now that Huaguang is heading here to subdue us. My brother, look to see if he has arrived."

Thousand-Mile Eye said, "I saw him. He'll be here before the end of the day. What should we do?"

Wind-Accompanying Ear said, "He possesses divine powers so great that we would likely be overwhelmed. I have an idea. Why don't we change into two mountains? Let's see whether he

could recognize us. If he can't recognize us, we'll capture him when he's between us. Isn't it a good idea?"

Having agreed on their scheme, they changed themselves into two mountains.

After reaching Mount Lilou, Huaguang glanced around, only to find not a soul around.

I heard that these two monsters have quite some divine powers, Huaguang thought. They'll certainly play some tricks on me. Let me open my heavenly eye to see where they are now.

Huaguang opened his heavenly eye and chuckled at what he saw.

These two monsters had known of my coming. They have changed themselves into two mountains. If I walk through them, they'll capture and eat me, Huaguang thought. Why not come up with a plan to retaliate? Maybe I can release my Samadhi Perfected Fire. Why not set fire to each of the mountains?

Huaguang recited a spell, leveled his fingers, and shot out his Samadhi Perfected Fire.

At the sight of the fire raging towards them, Thousand-Mile Eye and Wind-Accompanying Ear rushed out to fight against Huaguang, who feigned fleeing in defeat. Pursued by the two demons, Huaguang struck his Demon-Subduing and Ghost-Hunting Spear before him.

He turned around, "What kinds of magic powers do you two have? If you really have something, pluck my spear first. I guess you definitely cannot raise my spear."

"It's obvious that you cannot defeat us. That's why you're bloating," said the two demons.

"Actions speak louder than words," said Huaguang, "Among you two, who dare to raise my spear?"

"No need to trouble my virtuous younger brother," said Thousand-Mile Eye, "I'll do it."

He pulled it with one hand, but it did not move at all. His two hands grabbed the spear, but it did not budge either.

Wind-Accompanying Ear joined to pull forward, but it did not yield a little bit.

"Didn't you say one of you could pull it? Not even the two of you can pull it forward even by a little bit," said Huaguang.

Not knowing what plan Huaguang had, they did not believe what he said. They dragged the spear forward, but it still did not give away one inch.

Huaguang chanted a spell.

The two demons immediately realized their hands were glued to the spear handle. Unable to remove their hands, they cried bitterly.

The sight sent joy through Huaguang.

"It's called Demon-Subduing and Ghost-Hunting Spear. How can you two monsters pull it up? If you're willing to surrender to me, everything will be settled. If you'll not willing, I'll shoot out my Samadhi Perfected Fire to incinerate you two monsters!" said Huaguang.

"We would like to surrender to Your Honor!" they said, nodding repeatedly.

Huaguang took out one fire pill and sliced it into two pellets, "For me to save you and accept your surrender, eat these two pellets and your hands will be unstuck from the spear."

Right after they swallowed the pellets, they bolted away.

"What you ate just now was my fire pill. If you want to escape, I'll trigger my fire pill and burn you to death," said Huaguang.

Unbelieving what he said, the two demons continued fleeing.

Huaguang chanted a spell and activated the fire pill.

Burning on the ground, the two demons cried bitterly for mercy.

"Are you two now willing to surrender to me?" asked Huaguang.

"If you extinguish the fire, we'll surrender to you wholeheartedly. Never will we rebel against you."

Huaguang chanted a spell, and the fire pill inside their stomachs came to a halt.

They fell on their knees, "Your Honor, where are you going today?"

"I want to settle down here," said Huaguang.

"We're glad Your Honor is going to settle down here. It's indeed a good place," the two demons said, "It's ruled by the King of Thousand-Field Kingdom. With our disruptive divine powers, we told him in his dream that on the third day of the third month of every year, he should hold a sacrifice here with virgin boys and girls. In this way, we two will sustain favorable climatic conditions and bring peace and prosperity to his kingdom."

"From now on, I'll be with you two. Go to the palace of the king and tell him in his dream that he no longer needs to hold a sacrifice with virgin boys and girls. Ask him to build a temple with the treasured statues of the three of us and offer us sacrifices in spring and autumn. How good it is!"

After finishing their conversation, the two demons appeared in the king's dream and told him what he should do.

The king ascended his throne in a palace and accepted the acclamation from his ministers.

"I had a dream last night," said the king, "I dreamed that a man with a golden dragon crown, a third eye, and a triangular gold brick claimed that he came from the Upper Realm. He called himself Resplendent Light Heavenly King. He said that he came to Mount Lilou and have taken two men, namely, Lilou and Shikuang, as his disciples. That divine figure said that I would not need to hold the sacrifice with virgin boys and girls from now on. If I build a temple and offer sacrifices in spring and autumn, he'll safeguard the perpetual peace and prosperity of my kingdom. I would like to build such a temple. My ministers, what do you think of this?"

The ministers said, "Your Majesty had a dream which ordered Your Majesty to sacrifice with virgin boys and girls. Now Your Majesty has had another dream asking for no virgin boys or girls but sacrifices in spring and autumn. That divine figure is indeed in beneficiary god. How could we disobey him? Your Majesty, please issue an order to find land, build a temple and raise the treasured statues for the gods. You need not have any worry," said the ministers.

"Where should the temple be built?" asked the king.

"Five miles away from downtown is a temple to honor the Fire Drifter General. It's deserted now," said the ministers, "Your Majesty, you might issue a decree to tear down the abandoned temple and build a new one. One can only find the most beautiful scenery there."

After listening to what was said, the king immediately issued a decree, ordering the imperial guards to lead three thousand imperial troops to demolish the temple and erect the statues.

The ministers left the court.

After receiving the decree, Song Qing, the command of the Imperial Guards, immediately set off to demolish the former temple and built a new one named Heavenly King Temple.

After its completion, the king personally led his civil and military minister to burn incense sticks and offer sacrifices there.

Now that his statue was worshiped in the temple, Huaguang summoned Thousand-Mile Eye and Wind-Accompanying Ear.

"Keep watch over the burning incense sticks and candles. Do not harm the people," he said, "I'm going to travel all over the Central Realm to offer relief whenever and wherever needed. You two shall not disobey my order."

The two of them undertook this task.

After knowing that Huaguang's temple was built on the site of his own temple, Fire Drifter General was seething with rage. Despite his urge to fight against Huaguang, he had to be patient. He racked his mind day and night for a scheme to retaliate against Huaguang but still found nothing.

One day, the King of the Thousand-Field Kingdom betrothed a princess to the Match Horse Kingdom.

Hearing the efficacious Resplendent Light Heavenly King, the princess left her palace chamber and approached her father.

"Father," she said, "I have heard about the efficacious Heavenly King. I would like to burn incense sticks in his temple. May I have your permission to start the trip?"

The king agreed to her request.

The princess ordered her palace maid to prepare incense, lanterns, paper money, and candles.

The princess went into the temple to burn incense sticks. After she paid respect in the temple hall, she ordered her subordinates to roll up the divine mantles.

"Show me the look of the treasured statue of the Heavenly King," she ordered.

A soldier immediately rolled up the curtains.

An admiring sigh escaped her mouth, "This statue of the Heavenly King is so handsome!"

After this, she got on her carriage in front of the temple and made her way back to the palace.

The Fire Drifter General saw all this. *I was deprived of my temple by Huaguang. I've not yet avenged myself. The princess is such a beauty! Why not summon a wind to bring her to my cave? On the one hand, I can take her as my wife. On the other hand, the king will only suspect that it's Huaguang who snatches away his daughter. Isn't it a good idea to revenge myself this way?*

Having made up his mind, he summoned a strange gust of wind and took the princess to his cave.

He immediately set up his wedding ceremony with the princess.

But the princess refused.

"Who do you think I am?" he asked, "I'm Fire Drifter General. Your father demolished my temple and erected the Heavenly King Temple. I had no place to live but in this cave. Today, when you were burning incense sticks in the temple, I was enchanted by your beauty. Then I summon a wind to bring you here so that we can be a couple. Why are you refusing me? If you still refuse, I'll eat you."

If I don't accept his request, will I really be eaten by him? the princess thought.

"I was brought into the cave by Your Honor," said the princess, "I was terrified. I hope Your Honor can give me a few days to rest my mind. Then I will marry you."

Elation surged through Fire Drifter General, "You're right. Now that you're here, you will definitely be my wife. Where else can you go?"

He ordered his minions to serve the princess, while he himself stormed off for some procurements for his wedding ceremony with the princess.

On the other side, the King of the Thousand-Field Kingdom ascended his throne in the hall and accepted the acclamation from his ministers.

A subordinate, who returned after accompanying the princess to the Heavenly King Temple, stepped forward.

"Your Majesty," said the subordinate, "We accompanied the princess to offer incense sticks in the Heavenly King Temple. She rolled up the divine curtains and saw the face of Huaguang. She was as if thinking about something. The moment she came out to the temple, a strong wind came carrying sand. We could not open our eyes and were blown down to the ground. After the wind halted, we opened our eyes, only to catch no sight of the princess. We could do nothing but return to the palace to report this matter to Your Majesty."

Anger swept across the king's face, "She must be taken away by Huaguang, a wild god. I'll immediately issue a decree and order my imperial army to demolish the Heavenly King Temple."

"In the dream of Your Majesty the day before yesterday," said the ministers, "the god said that he's an official god from the Upper Realm. Your Majesty built a temple and sculpted his statue. How could he think nothing of benevolence and righteousness? How could he repay kindness with enmity? There must have been some other monsters outside the city who took the prince away. We do not know what happened. We beg Your Majesty to issue a degree and burn a custom clearance certificate before his statue, demanding Huaguang to send Her Grace back to the palace within three days. If nothing happens, we can then proceed to demolish his temple."

The king took heed of the advice and summoned an official to burn such an order to Huaguang.

The king withdrew himself from the palace.

On the other hand, Lilou and Shikuang saw the princess taken away by Fire Drifter General and received the order from the king that the princess should be sent back within three days.

They toyed with the idea of having a fight with the Fire Drifter General and rescued the princess. Thinking that they had inferior divine powers to the Fire Drifter General, they had to wait for the return of Huaguang.

Tormented by their worries, they saw the heavenly king return atop an auspicious cloud.

They relayed the entire story to Huaguang from beginning to the end, from the incense burning, the palace, the kidnapping, and Fire Drifter General.

Seething with rage, he stormed to the cave of Fire Drifter General.

Catching no sight of the Fire Drifter General there, Huaguang made his way to the rear cave, only to see the princess crying for someone to save her life.

"No need to cry," he said, "I will bring you back on a cloud. You must talk to the king that I'm not the one who kidnaped you."

The princess nodded.

Resplendent summoned a cloud and escorted the princess back to the palace.

The king ascended his throne in the palace. The princess told him everything, saying that the kidnapper was not Huaguang but Fire Drifter General. And it was Huaguang who brought her back.

Elation raced through the king.

Huaguang returned to Fire Drifter General's cave and changed himself into the princess and a fire pill into a date. He sat in the cave.

Soon Fire Drifter General returned.

"How are you today?" said Fire Drifter General, "If you are okay, you should marry me today."

"I'm still somehow unwell," said the princess.

"I've waited for you for a whole day," Fire Drifter General growled, "If you insist, you're still uncomfortable, then I'll force you to marry me. I can no longer wait."

"It's all right for me to marry you," said the princess, "I'm just afraid that you'll soon be so tired of me that you no longer care about me."

"If I've such a mind, my existence shall not be tolerated by heaven and earth," said Fire Drifter General.

"I don't believe you," said the princess, "If you want to take me as your wife, I have a date for you. Only after you eat this will I marry you."

"What'll happen if I eat it?" Fire Drifter General asked.

"After you eat it, we'll live a happy married life." said the princess.

"Since it's so beneficial, why not give me a few more?" Fire Drifter General asked.

"One is enough," said the princess.

Delightful, he took the date and put it into his mouth.

The date immediately rolled down to his stomach.

As Fire Drifter General was shocked, Huaguang showed his true form.

"You monster," Huaguang cursed, "You are so unscrupulous! You snatched away the princess and implicated me."

In a fit of rage, Fire Drifter General scowled back, "You occupied my temple. I still have not paid a punitive visit to you. How dare you come to my cave and deceive me?"

He took a pose, ready to fight against Huaguang.

"You'd better stop. What do you think is the date you just ate?" asked Huaguang.

"It's a date," said Fire Drifter General, "What else could it be?"

"It's my fire pill," said Huaguang, "If you refuse to surrender to me, I'll cause it to burn inside you."

Not believing what he said, Fire Drifter General hurled his spear at his enemy.

At the sight of this, Huaguang chanted a spell.

Fire Drifter General was immediately burning to the ground, begging to save his life.

"Do you believe me now?" said Huaguang, "Now that the fire pill is buried in your stomach, will you surrender to me now?"

"Your Honor, please spare my life," Fire Drift General begged, "I'm willing to surrender."

Huaguang halted the burning fire pill.

Fire Drifter General felt pain no more.

And thus, Huaguang took Fire Drifter General as his subordinate.

The king ascended his throne and discussed with his ministers on how to thank Huaguang. He led his civil and military officials to offer sacrifices and burn incense sticks in the Heavenly King Temple.

Reading this, a scholar named Yu wrote a poem regarding the princess.

*A woman should stay in her boudoir in spring,
How could she go to burn incense sticks in a heavenly abode?
Without the help from the heavenly king with his divine powers,
she would have died in the cave chamber.*

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 7 MADAME GANODERMA IN XIAO'S FAMILY VILLAGE

“The Hundred-Eyed Demon with Golden Pupils and I were suppressed by the Saha Mirror in the Arctic Exorcism Courtyard that day,” said Madame Ganoderma, “At that time, Huaguang wreaked havoc on the heaven palace and chased after Gold Spear Prince. After the prince scurried inside the courtyard and hid behind the mirror, Huaguang took out his golden brick and smashed the Saha Mirror. As a result, the Hundred-Eyed Demon with Golden Pupils and I broke free, not knowing where Huaguang was. Treading on a cloud, I saw that in the Xiao Family Village in Wuyuan County, Huizhou Prefecture, Nanjing, there is Elder Xiao, with the given name of Shuigong. His wife, Madame Fan, burnt incense sticks in their rear garden every night praying for a son to continue the family lineage. After some thought, I will shake my body and change into a moth. As I will fly around the candle, I will eat Madame Fan. I will shake myself again and change myself into Madame Fan. Why not enchant Elder Xiao and marry him? I thought. What a clever plan!”

As for Madame Fan, one night, she ordered to prepare a table with candles and incense sticks in the rear garden. As she was about to pick up the incense sticks, a large moth flew near and snuffed out the candle.

Shocked, Madame Fan was about to summon her maidservant to light up the candles.

Before words escaped her mouth, the moth revealed its identity as Ganoderma and ate her immediately.

Ganoderma changed herself into Madame Fan from then on. She had her fun with Elder Xiao by day and making out with him by night and she ate a human here and there around the neighborhood.

Seeing one of them missing every day, the neighbors were all seized by worry, not knowing who could be responsible.

Although his wife went out to eat a human every night, Elder Xiao did not know she was a fake Madame Fan.

One day, the fake Madame Fan was pregnant. She told the matter to Elder Xiao.

At the age of forty without a son, the news of his pregnant wife sent jubilation through him. They made out again that night.

On that day, up in heaven, the Jade Emperor learned that Huaguang had rebelled and fled to the Central Realm. To guard against any more trouble, he ordered recruiting soldiers and buying horses to catch Huaguang.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 8 RESPLENDENT LIGHT REINCARNATES IN XIAO'S FAMILY VILLAGE

Heavenly King Huaguang toured around the world and returned to the Flood Jade Temple in the Perfection-Directed Mountain. He went to pay respects to Light Buddha.

After Huaguang finished his greetings, Light Buddha asked, "Disciple, where have you been in your two years of absence?"

Huaguang told him the matters of subduing the Thousand-Mile Eye and the Wind-Accompanying Ear and having the king establish a temple.

"You might not take shelter here anymore," said Light Buddha, "I guess the Jade Emperor is raising his troops to catch you."

"If the troops come up again, what should I do?" Huaguang asked, "May I have your kind advice on where I should go? If I escape this fatal disaster, I'll forever keep in my mind your grace."

"To seek a safe place, you may as well be reincarnated," said Light Buddha.

"After the news of the temple established by the King of the Thousand-Field Kingdom, tens of thousands of people come to burn candles and incense sticks," said Huaguang, "How could I reincarnate now?"

"As you're going to hide from a disaster, there'll also be a plan for this," said Light Buddha.

"When shall I leave?" asked Huaguang.

"With the five accesses given by Tathagata to you on that day, you would better reincarnate," said Light Buddha, "You should be an embryo-like a sphere of flesh to be out from a mother."

"How could a person from the Central Realm know about what is inside the flesh ball? They'll say it is a demon's fetus and refuse to cut it open. If they do harm to me in the future, what should I do?" asked Huaguang.

"Don't worry," said Light Buddha, "Go ahead and I'll come and save you soon."

With his master's instruction, Huaguang changed himself into five golden beams. Floating and fluttering, the golden beam arrived at Xiao's Family Village.

Treading on a cloud, Huaguang saw that the members of the Xiao Family were talking to each other, saying that Madame Fan still had not given birth despite being pregnant for twenty months.

Why not reincarnate here? Huaguang thought.

In the third watch, he made his way to the bed chamber of Madame Xiao. The five golden beams changed into a net of rice and rolled into Madame Fan's belly.

After waking up, Madam Fan felt surges of pain in her stomach. She woke up Elder Xiao, who then got up and ordered preparing a table with candles and incense sticks to offer prayers to heaven for the birth of a boy to continue the family lineage.

After the prayer, a maidservant walked out and reported to Elder Xiao, "Madame has given birth."

"A boy or a girl?" Elder Xiao asked.

"Neither," she said, "It's something like the stomach of an ox."

Pale with shock, Elder Xiao darted inside, only to find the thing she said.

In a fit of rage, Elder Xiao ordered his servant, "Take it out and throw it into a river. Speak nothing of this matter lest we'll be ridiculed."

A servant took his order and carried the ox's stomach object to the river.

Right after it hit the water, the ox's stomach object rolled back to the bank, sending a shock through the servant.

He threw it again, only to see the thing roll up again. This repeated for a while.

Panicked, the servant rushed back to report to the elder, "Although I threw the ox stomach object to the river several times, it kept rolling back. What should we do now?"

"As it is," said the elder, "Bury it. Bring it back first and then bury it outside our rear door. No other person should know of this matter."

As per his order, the servant left.

Depression swept across the elder's face.

Light Buddha shook himself and changed into a monk. He made his way to the family of Elder Xiao to ask for alms.

As the elder stood in the hall, the monk clasped his hands to pay respects. The elder returned the salute.

"What teachings have you brought to me with your gracious presence here?" the elder asked.

"May I ask for some alms?" said the monk.

"I need to attend to something right now," said the elder, "Why don't you come back tomorrow?"

"You have been so charitable," said the monk, "Why do you refuse to give alms to me today?"

"It is not like what you said," said the elder, "You'll never learn the truth unless I tell you. Despite my fasts and charitable deeds, I do not have a son even at the age of forty. Luckily, my wife got pregnant. After being pregnant for twenty months, she gave birth today. I was overjoyed, but I only saw something like an ox stomach thing out of her. I ordered my servant to throw it into the river. After my servant threw it into the river, it kept rolling back. This repeated. Having no choice, the servant reported this matter back to me. Afraid that it would be a public scandal, I ordered my servant to bring it back and bury it near the back door at night. With this weighing down my heart, I ask that you come tomorrow. Otherwise, I will give some alms to you. How could I be so cruel?"

After listening to this, the monk congratulated, "It's not an ox stomach but a flesh sphere."

"If it's just a flesh sphere, why do I need it?" asked the elder

"You have no son for the past forty years, but today you will have five good sons," said the monk.

"I cannot even have one," said the elder, "Where are my five sons?"

"Inside this flesh sphere there are five children," said the monk.

The elder did not believe it.

"If you don't believe me," said the monk, "I'm going to cut it open with my monastic knife."

The monk sliced the flesh sphere open. Indeed, there were five infants.

The elder went pale with shock.

"No need to be afraid," said the monk, "They are five Bodhisattvas. They will transcend into heaven, and you will surely have a share. This was to repay your philanthropic ideas and deeds."

The elder beamed with joy.

"Today, the 28th day of the ninth month marks the birthdays of them as five brothers," said the monk, "I shall give a name to each of them."

"Your hospitality is much appreciated."

The monk named them, ranging from the eldest to the youngest, Xiao Clever as the first, Xiao Bright as the second, Xiao Justice as the third, Xiao Ambition as the fourth, and Xiao Virtue as the fifth.

After giving the names, the monk said, "The internal organs of your five virtuous sons are different from those of an ordinary human."

"What are the differences?" asked the elder.

"The viscera of an ordinary human is made of flesh, but each of your sons has a different set of internal organs, namely, the golden wheels, the silver wheels, the bronze wheels, the iron wheels, and the Huaguang wheels."

"What will they do after they are born today?" the elder asked.

"In three days, they will be able to speak," said the monk, "After they grow up, four of them will leave the house and cultivate themselves. The fifth one will stay at home. You shall allow them to do whatever they want."

Delirious with happiness, the elder asked the monk to stay for lunch.

"I still have an urgent matter to attend to. I dare not cause any further disturbance. I shall visit your house sometime in the future," said the monk.

The elder saw the monk off.

Leading his five children, the elder went inside the bed chamber to see their mother.

"From one embryo come you five brothers," said their mother, "I just gave birth to a daughter."

"There are only we five brothers," said Huaguang, "How could there be any sister?"

"If you don't believe it, check behind the wall," said their mother.

A girl came out to see them.

She must be the reincarnation of that jade flower, Huaguang thought.

"My sister shall be named Lady Jade," Huaguang said to his mother.

"I see why not?" said his mother.

"Today I have you six siblings," said the elder, "We can go to the hall, set up a banquet, and meet our relatives."

"Huaguang and our sister shall stay here to serve you," said the other four sons, "We four must bid farewell to you to cultivate ourselves. After we complete our practices, we shall return here to escort our mother to meet Tathagata in the West Sky."

"As it is, I will not ask you to stay," the elder said, "Your brother should treat each other well so that we do not need to worry about you all the time."

After he finished speaking, the four sons bade farewell and left, leaving Huaguang and their sister to look after their parents at home.

Overjoyed, the elder still held banquets to entertain his guests.

Ganoderma, after giving birth to Huaguang and his five siblings, was more powerful, eating humans in Xiao's Family Village all the time. Whenever tenant farmers came to pay rent, she would eat them, selecting young and strong ones up to three and five times every day.

One day, Dragon Auspice King was treading on a cloud to pay respects to Tathagata in Mount Spirit.

Atop his cloud, he saw Ganoderma eating a human with relish in Xiao's Family Village.

Anger shot up in his body, "Such a thickheaded evil animal!" he fumed, "She again eats a human in the Xiao's Family Village and brings suffering to the people. Why not change me into a wandering monk to ask for alms from her home? That evil animal will certainly think of eating me. At that time, I shall show my true form and capture this evil animal and lock her in the demon capital. In this way, I can neutralize this hazardous being."

Upon this decision, he leapt off his cloud and changed into a traveling monk. After walking for one mile, he entered Xiao's Family Village. Striking his wooden clappers, he called out that he was asking for some alms.

The doorkeeper reported his arrival to Madam Xiao sitting in the rear hall, "There's a monk outside the gate, asking for alms from our house."

Delighted, Madame Xiao thought of eating the monk. She ordered the doorkeeper to invite the monk to come in.

As per her order, the doorkeeper related her order to the monk.

Thus, the monk followed the doorkeeper inside.

The monk made a deep bow. After returning her salute, Madame Xiao ordered her servant to prepare a vegan banquet.

After the servant left, Madame Xiao turned around, only to see that the monk was a handsome man. She took a posture, ready to snatch and eat the monk.

At the sight of her evil intention, the monk manifested his divine power and showed his true form. He took a step forward and gripped Madame Xiao.

Unable to dodge, Madame Xiao was caught by the monk, dragged to a cloud, and escorted to the demon capital.

The Dragon Auspice King showed his divine power. He covered Thousand-Mile Eye's eyes with a shading mirror so he could not see what happened. He stuffed the Wind-Accompanied Ear's ears with two iron plugs so he could not hear what happened. After he dealt with Madame Xiao, Dragon Auspice King returned to his altar.

In Xiao's Family, the servant came out with the vegan dishes, but he saw neither Madame Xiao nor the monk.

As the elder was not at home that day, Lady Jade asked the servant what happened.

The servant told her about a monk asking for alms.

She must have been snatched away by the monk, Lady Jade thought.

Crying aloud, she went out to search for her mother. Weeping along the way, she still caught no sight of her mother. Alarmed and bewildered, she continued crying in grievance like a bird that had lost its mother.

She arrived at a place known as Xixiang Village.

This year, Zhang the First was appointed as the head of the villagers. There was also Li Jin who was the leader of the village. They were heads for the gatherings of the village.

There haunted the Grey Dragon King. Only with a sacrificial activity with boys and girls as his sacrifices would the Grey Dragon King ensure nothing bad happened to the village.

Without such boys and girls as sacrifices, he would make havoc all year long, such as causing epidemics and miasma.

In the sacrificial activity with boys and girls as sacrifices, the host would walk away after the sacrificial paper was burnt. Then, the Grey Dragon King materialized and devoured the boys and girls.

Being the heads of the gatherings of the village, Zhang and Li were completely at a loss as they could find no one to be the sacrifices.

As they were speaking, they saw a girl crying loudly in bitterness to look for her mother.

At the sight of her, they contemplated making her into a sacrifice.

Without revealing their true intention, they asked, "Which family does your mother come from?"

"My mother is surnamed Fan," said the girl, "I have never left my boudoir until today. As a result, I do not know where my grandmother's family lives. This morning, a monk came to ask for alms. My mother ordered me to prepare a vegan banquet for him. After preparing the banquet, our servant said that the monk had snatched away my mother. Immediately I followed out, but I saw no sign of her. Your Honor, have you seen her?"

"What's your name?" one man asked.

"I am a daughter of Elder Xiao in the Xiao Family Village. My name is Lady Jade."

"Where is your father?" said the other man.

"My father hasn't returned home yet," said Lady Jade.

The two men whispered to each other, "If you're a daughter of Elder Xiao in the front village, then you are my granddaughter," they said fraudulently.

"I must tell you that I'm your grandfather," said Zhang, "That's my brother. You should call him Grand-Uncle. You don't have to cry now. Your mother was taken by that bald bandit. He ran across us just now. The bandit has been beaten away by us two brothers. Your mother was saved and well arranged in my house. As you are my granddaughter, I will bring you to meet your mother."

Thinking they were telling the truth, Lady Jade listened to them and went with them.

Brought to their home, Lady Jade was imprisoned in an empty room.

Delighted, they continued to discuss, "We now have a girl. We still need to find a boy for the sacrificial activity."

Coaxed to and imprisoned in the house, Lady Jade neither saw her mother nor found her way home. She bawled all day long.

In mid-air, Huaguang was inquiring about the news from Heaven. As he was ready to drive his cloud back home, he heard someone crying. He paused his cloud. Careful listening revealed someone crying like his sister. In a flurry, he cast a downward look and found she was indeed Lady Jade.

He approached his sister, "Why are you here?"

"Brother, I was looking forward to your arrival. Yesterday, a monk came to ask for alms from our family. Our mother was snatched away by him. Looking for our mother, I dashed about and went astray. Two men coaxed and imprisoned me here. I do not know their true intention. Brother, save me and find our mother."

"I'll send you back first," said Huaguang, "And then I'll turn into you and see what these two men are up to. After that, I shall go and look for our mother."

Huaguang drove his auspicious cloud to escort Lady Jade back home. He shook himself and changed into Lady Jade.

The two men came back, depressed, "We have a girl now, but we still have no boy. As it's a sacrificial day tomorrow, what should we do?" asked Zhang.

"Where can we get a boy?" Li Jin asked, "Neither you nor I have a son. We have no alternative. Tomorrow, we can only bring the girl to the Grey Dragon King in the temple. We can say to him that if we had sons, we would not hesitate to bring one for him. As neither of us has a son, we can only offer a girl. We ask for mercy from him. We'll see whether he accepts this or not. If not, we shall plan again."

"You're right," said Zhang the First.

The next day, they prepared candles, paper money, and incense sticks for a sacrificial activity in the Grey Dragon Temple.

Their words fell on Huaguang's ears. *I did not know why my sister was captivated, but now I know*, Huaguang thought. *Why not be escorted by him to the temple to see what the Grey Dragon King will do to me? If he harbors any evil intention, I will neutralize the monster and then look for my mother.*

The next day, the two men dragged a trussed Huaguang into the temple.

After the sacrificial activity, they withdrew from the temple and dispersed.

Suddenly a weird gale sprang up and a man flashed out, his head as large as a bucket, his mouth a bloody basin, his teeth like rakes. He reached out to grab Huaguang.

Huaguang showed his true form. He flashed out his Evil-Suppressing Spear.

At the sight of the spear, the Grey Dragon King could not move.

After he fell to the ground, the Grey Dragon King was caught. He shouted out for mercy.

"If you want me to spare your life, you must break away from evil ways and return to the orthodox path," said Huaguang, "And you must eat a pellet of mine."

"I would eat your pellet and submit myself to you," said the Grey Dragon King.

Huaguang took out one of his fire pills, changed it into a pellet, and gave it to Grey Dragon King.

"You just ate my pellet," said Huaguang, "It's my fire pill. If you have any rebellious thoughts, the fire pill will burn up in your stomach."

"I no longer dare to disobey you."

"Now that you have submitted yourself to me, you shall appear in the dream of the villagers and tell them that they do not need to offer boys and girls as sacrifices. They just need to offer the three major domestic animals and wine. You shall ask them to set up a statue of mine. You can stay here to enjoy the sacrifices and guard the candles and incense sticks. I'm going to look for my mother," Huaguang urged the Grey Dragon King before he left.

The Grey Dragon King did as he was instructed.

After he returned to Mount Lilou, Huaguang asked the Thousand-Mile Eye and the Wind-Accompanied Ear, "Who took my mother? Do you have any idea?"

"Your mother was taken away by Dragon Auspice King," said the Thousand-Mile Eye, "I do not know what divine power he used. Nor can I see where she has been taken to."

"I cannot hear where she has been taken to," said the Wind-Accompanied Ear.

"Even you two cannot see or hear where she is," said Huaguang, "What should I do now?"

"If she was caught by Dragon Auspice King, she would be nowhere else but the dark underworld," they said, "If you want to know the whereabouts of your mother, you must pretend to be the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate to set up a Taoist altar and lecture on scriptures, so that various lonely spirits and wild demons will gather and listen. If you interrogate them, you shall learn something. Otherwise, it's hard to know the whereabouts of your mother."

The next day, in the Huaguang Temple, Huaguang chanted a spell and changed into the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate. He set up an altar to elaborate on the scriptures.

Demons and spirits from the three realms were all present there.

As a Buddhist disciple, Huaguang also knew something about the Buddhist scriptures. After preaching, he asked the ghosts, "In Xiao's Family Village there is Madame Xiao. Have you seen her?"

The demons said they did not see her.

If she was taken away by Dragon Auspice King, she must not be here, Huaguang thought.

After eating a vegan meal, he dismissed the demons. The demons dispersed.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 9 HEAVENLY MINISTERS REQUEST THE CAPTURE OF RESPLENDENT LIGHT

The Jade Emperor ascended his throne in the palace.

Hearing that Huaguang pretended to be Heavenly Supreme Ultimate, the heavenly ministers suspected that Huaguang harbored a rebellious intention.

A minister stepped forth, "After Huaguang wreaked havoc in heaven and reincarnated in the Central Realm, he has not changed his original intention. He pretended to be the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate to preach. There must be a sense of rebellion in him. We begged Your Majesty to dispatch heavenly soldiers to the human world, catch Huaguang and bring him back to heaven, lest he continues to make mischiefs and disturb the people in the Central Realm."

His words brought the Jade Emperor into a fit of rage. The Jade Emperor summoned Song Wuji, Marshal of the Fire Department, to the court. He ordered Song Wuji to lead 30,000 heavenly soldiers to the Central Realm to capture Huaguang.

With the decree, Song Wuji exited the Treasure Virtue Barrier in the South Heaven.

After rallying all the heavenly soldiers, he marched to the Central Realm.

Huaguang has so much divine power that it's hard to arrest him, Song Wuji thought. Why not change myself into a traveling merchant and my fire cart into a wheelbarrow? Then I will order my subordinates to push me on the wheelbarrow into the cave in Mount Lilou to see whether he can recognize me. If he fails, I will show my true form and capture him in the cave. In this way, I do not need to use my bow and arrows. Wouldn't it be something nice?

Song Wuji turned himself into a merchant and sat on the wheelbarrow. His subordinate pushed the wheelbarrow to Mount Lilou.

Huaguang was sitting idly in Mount Lilou. He opened his heavenly eye, only to be shocked by the sight.

"Thousand-Mile Eye, Wind-Accompanying Ear, have you two seen and heard anything?"

"Your Honor, we see and hear that the Jade Emperor ordered Song Wuji to lead soldiers here. Now he changed into a merchant sitting on a wheelbarrow on the way to our cave. He is up to something. My king, you should make a plan for this."

"Now that he's here as a merchant on a wheelbarrow," said Huaguang, "I'm going to bump into him as a young woman on his way. When he asks, I will say that I am on my way back to my parents' home. My feet hurt so much that I can no longer walk. As I am crying, if he gives his wheelbarrow to me, I will sit down and take it away. What a good idea! This is called a counterplot."

"Good plan, good plan!" the two demons said.

Huaguang changed himself into a woman crying by the road.

Disguised as a merchant, Song Wuji approached atop a wheelbarrow. He did not expect to meet the woman who changed from Huaguang.

While Song Wuji decided to forge forward, the woman halted the wheelbarrow. She whimpered for help.

"Whose daughter you are?" Song Wuji asked, "Why you halted my wheelbarrow?"

"Your Honor," said the woman, "I am from the front village. I am on my way to my parents' home. My feet hurt so much that I cannot walk. That's why I am crying. Please show pity on me and lend your wheelbarrow to me. After I reach the front village, my parents will thank you with a handsome gift."

How could there be a woman here? Song Wuji thought. Is she Huaguang? If she is that bandit, I will turn his trick against him. As he does not know that it's a fire wheelbarrow, after he sits on it, I'll chant the spell and summon up a conflagration to burn him. It saves a lot of effort for me. Isn't it a beautiful plan?

"I will lend it to you. After you arrive at your home, you should hurry down so that I can continue my journey."

"If I can get home, I am in your debt," said the woman.

Seeing the woman boarding the wheelbarrow, Song Wuji chanted a spell and there immediately came bursts of flames.

With his heavenly eye open, Huaguang showed his true form, "I am a fire spirit," he grinned, "How can you burn me?"

He manifested his divine power and drove the wheelbarrow into the cave.

In a fit of panic, Wuji hurried after him to reach the cave, only to see the gate tightly shut.

Wuji threw furious curses.

After hiding the wheelbarrow, Huaguang left the cave to engage Song Wuji.

"You're messing in the Central Realm and pretended to be the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate to preach," said Song Wuji, "The Jade Emperor was so outraged that he ordered me to arrest you. How dare you change into a woman and sit in my vehicle? Everything will be good if you behave well to be trusted. If you say anything unwillingly, you will not escape from your demise a moment later."

"My rebellion against the Heavenly Palace was forced by Deng Hua," said Huaguang "I pretended to be the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate to seek my mother. May I trouble you to withdraw your troops and convey this message to His Majesty? If he still cannot forgive me, then I can do nothing about that."

"Even if you are forced by Deng Hua to rebel against the Heavenly Palace and pretended to be the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate to search for your mother, why you snatched the jade flower and beat Golden Spear Crown Prince?" asked Song Wuji.

"It is none of your business!" Huaguang fumed.

"I am under heaven's command," said Song Wuji in a fit of rage, "Do you dare to rebel against heaven?"

He leveled his spear and stabbed toward Huaguang.

Huaguang raised his spear to counterattack.

Song Wuji summoned his heavenly soldiers.

At the sight of this, Resplendent flashed his triangular golden brick to bash and batter the heavenly soldiers head to toe.

Utterly defeated, Song Wuji led his heavenly troops back to heaven.

After defeating the heavenly soldiers, Huaguang was thinking all day long, fearing that heaven would send other troops.

Leading his remnant soldiers, Song Wuji returned to heaven and reported to the Jade Emperor.

"I led the heavenly soldiers to the Central Realm to capture Huaguang, but I did not expect that he turned himself into a woman crying bitterly on the road," said Song Wuji, "He took away my fire wheelbarrow. Then we got tangled in a fight. Seeing that he was about to be defeated by me, Huaguang threw his triangular golden brick to defeat the heavenly soldiers. In the end, I was defeated and made my way back. Huaguang is indeed rebellious. As he possesses vast divine power, I beg Your Majesty to make an early decision to avoid future trouble."

Anger flaring through him, the Jade Emperor asked his heavenly ministers, "Now that Huaguang is rebellious, who can lead the army for me to capture him?"

Deng Hua, the astronomical official of the Department of Fire, stepped forth, "I recommend a person, the Baijia Holy Goddess of the Department of Fire. She has 500 fire ravens, which will embattle as per her order. Only a person with such divine power like hers can go."

The Jade Emperor approved and summoned her into the hall. The Jade Emperor gave her three cups of imperial wine and two golden flowers, "My minister, quickly led the army forward," said the Jade Emperor.

Baijia Goddess expressed her gratitude and left the hall to rally her 500 fire ravens.

Baijia Goddess and her son Childe Fire led the fire soldiers and marched to the Central Realm, their banners glistening, their broadswords and spears reflecting the sunlight, and their murderous shouts splitting the sky.

After they marched to Mount Lilou, they surrounded the cave. They seemed to strike great terror into the hearts of their enemies.

As Huaguang was sitting upright, a soldier rushed inside.

"After Song Wuji was defeated, the Jade Emperor sent Baijia Goddess to lead 500 fire raven soldiers to march to the Central Realm," said the soldier, "They talk wildly, ranting that they will catch Your Honor back to heaven."

This sent a surge of rage through Huaguang.

Leading his own soldiers and horses, he marched out of Mount Lilou.

He came across Childe Fire.

After they exchanged their names and titles, they began fighting.

Childe Fire commanded his fire ravens to swoop down. Vying to engage the enemy, they utterly defeated Huaguang, who then fled back to his cave.

Childe Fire withdrew his troops.

In the cave, a defeated Huaguang sat sullenly. He racked his mind to think of a way to tame the 500 fire ravens so that he could again defend this round.

After contemplating for a long time, he could think of nothing. But at the moment, he came up with a plan to tame the fire ravens and defeat the heavenly soldiers.

He summoned Fire Drifter General, "If I fight with Childe Fire tomorrow, he will certainly command his fire ravens to attack me. I will produce an avatar of mine to distract him. My true form will hide in midair. After he releases his fire raven, I will take out my fire pill, chant a spell, change them into beans, and scatter them on the ground. Those ravens will certainly compete for food. After they eat the beans, they will fly again. Change yourself to a Saha Tree, and the fire ravens will certainly alight on the tree to have a rest. At that time, show your fire-drifting magic treasure, pack up all the fire ravens, and bring them to me."

After hearing the command, the Fire Drifter General left.

The next day, Huaguang opened the cave gate and engaged Childe Fire.

As Childe Fire waved his broadsword, the fire ravens materialized and swooped down, vying to peck Huaguang.

At this sight, Huaguang leveled his finger and produced an avatar to meet with the fire ravens. His true form soared upward. He chanted an incantation, fetched out fire pills, changed them into beans, and scattered them on the ground.

As expected, at the sight of the beans, the flock of fire ravens had no intention of chasing after the fake Huaguang.

Instead, they competed to peck the food. They soon finished all the beans.

Seeing a big tree ahead, all the fire ravens took off and flew to rest on the tree, all fluttering their wings and crowing.

The fire Drifter General took out his fire casket. After he took off the lid, he chanted a spell and packed all the fire ravens inside. He showed his true form and returned to report the capture of the fire ravens to Huaguang.

Huaguang rejoiced. He instructed Thousand-Mile Eye and Wind-Accompanying Ear to set up nets on all sides. He told Fire Drifter General to open the casket and release the fire ravens.

The ravens intended to fly away. Seeing they could not escape with nets on all sides, they glanced at and crowded to each other in sorrow.

"The beans you ate were my fire pills," said Huaguang, "The tree you alighted on is changed from Fire Drifter General under my command. Now that you are captured by my Fire Drift General, will you surrender to me? If you refuse to do so, I will summon the fire pill to burn up in your bellies and incinerate you all to death. If you surrender, you can nod and crow three times."

The fire ravens wailed and nodded three times.

Huaguang was beaming with joy, "As you are willing to submit to me sincerely, you will still return to the stockade of Childe Fire and his mother. At the sight of them, you shall peck them to death. Your meritorious services will be handsomely rewarded."

The fire ravens did as they were instructed. They flew back to their old lair.

The return of the fire ravens brought a surge of delight through Baijia Goddess and her son.

Unexpectedly, the fire raven, at the sight of Baijia Goddess and her son, swooped down to peck them.

Unable to resist, they could only mount their clouds and return to heaven.

After pecking Baijia Goddess and her son away, the fire ravens returned to see Huaguang.

Huaguang gave them rich rewards.

In this round, Huaguang was thrilled by the submission of these five hundred fire ravens.

His victorious soldiers returned to the cave, and all were given handsome rewards.

Having not only lost their fire ravens but also been pecked by them, Baijia Goddess and his son returned to heaven to report the divine power of Huaguang.

Anger roaring through him, the Jade Emperor said to his ministers, "What a bandit! Huaguang, with so much divine power, is hard to get. When will the Central Realm be calm? If we don't try our best to catch the bandit with heavenly troops, my hatred will never be dispelled."

"May I remind you that Your Majesty must not move lightly?" said a heavenly minister, "He was a candle wick before Tathagata in Mount Spirit. He had been accumulated for a long time. Later, Tathagata chanted an incantation and brought forth Huaguang. As a Buddhist disciple, Huaguang has vast divine power. If Your Majesty wants to subdue him, you must invite Tathagata to the Central Realm. Any other being will not be a match for Huaguang."

Upon hearing the report, the Jade Emperor ordered the Gold Spear Prince to Mount Spirit and invite Tathagata here.

After greeting Tathagata, the Jade Emperor said, "Since I ascended the throne, I have been in charge of the three realms and the Great Chiliocosm. That abominable Huaguang beat my prince, rebelled against the Astronomical Palace, fled to the Central Realm, and pretended to be the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate to preach. I raised my army twice to rid this hazardous being, but I did not expect that this bandit would have divine power so vast. He took away the fire wheelbarrow and defeated Deng Hua and Song Wuji from the Astronomical Palace. Now he snatched the fire ravens and utterly defeated Baijia Goddess. Baijia Goddess and her son returned to heaven. I would like to personally rally and lead all the heavenly troops. My ministers reminded me that he is a disciple of yours. As a result, I invite you here to have a good plan and avoid further misfortune."

"Huaguang is a disciple of mine," said Tathagata, "After he burned Single-Flame Spirit to death, I wanted to banish him to suffer in Mount Darkness. Later, with the sponsorship from Bodhisattva Guanyin, I bestowed him a heavenly eye and five accesses and sent him to reincarnate in the Horse-Ear Mountain. Because of stealing the golden spear of the Tri-Primordial and Trial-Item Heavenly Emperor and releasing two demons, he was suppressed with the Nine-Curve Bead. His soul was scattered in mid-air, finding nowhere to rest. Later, his soul

was collected by Wonderful Joy Celestial Being and sent to reincarnate in the family of Blazing Darkness Heavenly King. After he grew up, he worshiped Wonderful Joy Heavenly King as his master. Later, he laid his hands on a golden broadsword of Wonderful Joy Celestial Being and forged it into a triangular golden brick. As per the order of Your Majesty, he went to the Central Realm to subdue the two Judges of Wind and Fire. With his meritorious service, Your Majesty bestowed him the title of Marshal of the Department of Fire. Unexpectedly, he wreaked havoc in the Jade Flower Gathering and offended Your Majesty. Your Majesty banished him to the Astronomical Palace to atone for his crime. With their feud, Deng Hua the Astronomical Official often haggled with him. Thinking that there would be no end to it, Huaguang could only rebel and descended on the Central Realm. Even after he landed on the Central Realm, Huaguang dared not rebel. Believing your ministers, Your Majesty ordered the prince to rally troops to capture Huaguang. Huaguang visited his parents in heaven. He was told by Light Buddha that Your Majesty would like to raise another army to catch him. Huaguang asked for help from Light Buddha, who then recommended him to reincarnate again to avoid the difficulty. Huaguang did as he was told. He took the five accesses given by me with him to reincarnate in a single embryo. Huaguang arrived at Wuyuan County, Huizhou Prefecture, Nanjing. There was an elder surnamed Xiao and named Yonggong, with a wife named Madame Fan. The elder, who was forty years old, had no son. Every night, Madame Fan burned incense sticks in her rear garden to pray for a son. A monster named Ganoderma who perched on a cloud saw Madame Fan. She turned into a moth and extinguished the lamp. She ate Madame Fan and then changed herself to Madame Fan to enchant Elder Xiao. Later, Ganoderma got pregnant. Even after twenty months, she still had not yet labored, her family whispering and gossiping audibly, reaching the clouds. On his way to reincarnate, Huaguang heard the news. Unknowing she was Ganoderma instead of Madame Fan, he cast himself into her belly. As a result, she gave birth to Huaguang and his four brothers. With her nature unchanged, Ganoderma continued to devour people in Xiao's Family Village. One day, Dragon Auspice King saw her in the clouds. He changed himself into a monk and captured Ganoderma. Unable to find his mother, Huaguang had no choice but to pretend to be the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate to preach to the demons and ask about the whereabouts of his mother. He did not intend to rebel. Your Majesty can rest assured because Huaguang does not want to rebel at all. Despite being in the Central Realm, Huaguang contributes to Your Majesty."

"What are his credits?" the Jade Emperor asked.

"Since he landed on the Central Realm," said Tathagata, "he has subdued the two demons in Mount Lilou, the Fire Drifter General, and the Grey Dragon King. All of them are cannibals. These are his meritorious deeds. I hope that Your Majesty can dispatch a minister to bring a decree to the Central Realm, so as to pardon the former sins of Huaguang and confer an official title to him. In this way, there will be no further trouble."

His words sent a wave of joy through the Jade Emperor, "Without your explanation today, I would only judge that Huaguang is rebellious. As per your words, I will have a decree delivered to the Central Realm."

Tathagata bade farewell to the Jade Emperor, ascended his cloud, and headed back to the West Sky.

The Jade Emperor summoned Li Mao, the Wood Virtue Star Lord of the East, to the hall and instructed him to bring a decree to the Central Realm.

As the ministers withdrew from the hall, Li Mao accepted the decree, left the hall, and made his way to the Central Realm.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 10 RESPLENDENT LIGHT OCCUPIES MOUNT COOLNESS

Despite defeating the heavenly troops, Huaguang still caught no sign of his mother. Weighed down by gloom, he contemplated fighting against Dragon Auspice King to bring back his mother.

A report came that a heavenly envoy was delivering a decree.

Huaguang greeted the envoy to the cave.

The envoy read the decree from the Jade Emperor, "I heard that you went down to the Central Realm. All ministers reported that you are thinking of a rebellion. With suspicion growing, I sent generals to capture you. Now, with the explanations by Tathagata, I learned that since you landed on the Central Realm, you have subdued five demons, done good for the people, and performed meritorious deeds for me. Fully relieved now, I pardon your past sins and re-store your former official titles. You shall still sit in the Central Realm to enjoy the incense sticks and candles. Wait for my summon to do meritorious deeds in heaven."

Huaguang kowtowed in thanks.

He set up a banquet to entertain the heavenly envoy. Then they bade farewell to each other.

Exultation raced through Huaguang, "Despite being bestowed an official title by heaven," said Huaguang to his generals, "I still have no idea of the whereabouts of my mother. What should I do?"

The Thousand-Mile Eye said, "As she was taken away by Dragon Auspice King, she can only be taken back if you fight against him."

Upon their advice, Huaguang ordered his subordinates to guard the cave. He ascended an auspicious cloud and went straight to Dragon Auspice King's altar.

Sitting at the altar, Dragon Auspice King caught sight of the sudden arrival of Huaguang. Knowing that Huaguang was to look for his mother, Dragon Auspice King was about to rise to his feet to speak with him.

Huaguang stepped forward and scolded, "You bald bandit, what is the feud between my mother and you? Why do you take her away? Where is she now? If you give her back to me, everything settles. If you say anything in denial, I will put a miserable end to you."

"You moron, who caught your mother? I only caught Ganoderma, a monster. Why do you accuse me falsely?" asked Dragon Auspice King.

"She is my mother," said Huaguang.

"Why does a person like you recognize a monster as your mother?" asked Dragon Auspice King.

In a fit of rage, Huaguang said, "Instead of returning my mother to me, you hurled rude remarks. Despite being few, they hurt me like a knife."

He aimed his triangular golden brick at Dragon Auspice King.

Seeing the raised golden brick, Dragon Auspice King jumped onto a cloud and sped toward Mount Coolness.

Huaguang opened his heavenly eyes and saw Dragon Auspice King enter Mount Coolness.

He chased after him.

At the sight of the sudden arrival of the Dragon Auspice King, Bodhisattva of Ultimate Knowledge and Bodhisattva of Universal Benevolence greeted him, "What enlightenment you've brought to us with your honorable presence here?"

Dragon Auspice King told them about being chased by Huaguang looking for his mother.

"In that case, you can ride my azure-mane lion," they said, "You can exit from the back door to reach Tathagata, so as to avoid this misfortune."

Dragon Auspice King bowed to thank them. He mounted the lion and left via the back door.

"We've helped Dragon Auspice King," said Ultimate Knowledge, "How should we deal with Huaguang when he comes here?"

"If Huaguang comes," said Ultimate Knowledge, "you and I should pretend to be either deaf and dumb. We'll drag him as long as possible so that Dragon Auspice King can make his way to Tathagata."

"It makes sense," said Universal Benevolence.

The moment they finished speaking, Huaguang arrived and greeted them, "Have you two seen Dragon Auspice King?"

Pretending to be ignorant, they said deliberately, "Yes. Please take a seat and have a cup of tea."

After downing the cup of tea, Huaguang asked them again whether they had seen Dragon Auspice King.

"We didn't," they said.

"You just said yes, and now you say no. Why?" asked Huaguang.

"I am a little deaf, so I did not hear it clearly," said Universal Benevolence, "That is why I answered Your Highness in disorder."

Anger thundering through him, Huaguang opened his heavenly eye, only to see Dragon Auspice King riding a lion's speed towards Tathagata in the West Heaven.

"You two pretend to be deaf and dumb," Huaguang fumed, "You stood clear of the crucial point. You served me a cup of tea so that he could make his escape from me. So detestable you two are! After I catch Dragon Auspice King, I'll not go easy with you two."

Huaguang continued his chase after Dragon Auspice King.

Ultimate Knowledge and Universal Benevolence were left speechless.

Saved by Ultimate Knowledge and Universal Benevolence, Dragon Auspice King left atop the lion.

After he reached Mount Spirit, he paid respects to Tathagata.

"My disciple, what brings you here?" Tathagata said.

Dragon Auspice King said that he was chased by Huaguang for capturing Ganoderma.

"Well, you can hide behind my lotus throne," said Tathagata.

Dragon Auspice King did as he was told.

In a moment, Huaguang arrived and greeted Tathagata.

"What are you doing here?" said Tathagata.

"Dragon Auspice King caught my mother," said Huaguang, "I came to bring her back from him. Chased by me, he fled here. My master, have you seen him?"

"No one has come here," said Tathagata.

Despite hearing this, Huaguang opened his heavenly eye, only to see Dragon Auspice King behind the lotus throne.

"Master you are so partial towards your disciple. Why do you hide him from me? It's clear that he hides behind your lotus throne. Ask him to appear before me," said Huaguang.

Hearing this, Tathagata chanted an incantation and leveled a finger.

The temple was immediately filled with the images of Dragon Auspice King.

Master uses his divine power to fill the temple with the images of the Dragon Auspice King. It is hard for me to discern the real from the false ones. Why not open my heavenly eye again?
Huaguang thought.

He saw that the real Dragon Auspice King was still behind the lotus throne of Tathagata.

"You bald bandit," Huaguang shouted out, "Why do you still hide behind the lotus throne? Show yourself and return my mother!"

"How dare you scold me?" Tathagata said, "I gave the heavenly eye to you, beast. How dare you show it off before me?"

He chanted an incantation and waved his hand to reclaim the heavenly eye.

Are you still able to see him? Tathagata thought.

With the heavenly eye taken away, Huaguang could not figure out who the real Dragon Auspice King was.

Fury pouring through him, he asked Tathagata to give back his heavenly eye.

"Bestowed with a treasure, you dare to insult your master. I will not return it to you now. Only when you convert to the Dharma one day will I give it back to you."

Rage sweeping through him, Huaguang took out his triangular golden brick and hurled it at Tathagata's head.

Tathagata waved his hand and claimed the golden brick. He put it on his chest. It seethed into a pattern of Buddhist swastika and disappeared into his flesh.

Anger searing through him, Tathagata ordered his generals to bring down Huaguang.

Tathagata recited an incantation.

Immediately Huaguang could not move his limbs.

"My master, please spare me," Huaguang begged, "What I have been doing is for my mother. Why am I suffering from all this? It is pointless for you to be a monk."

Tathagata laughed, "You beast has a glib tongue. You first show off with your heavenly eye and then with your golden brick. Now that you are caught, you speak badly about me. I will not be on the same level as you. As you said you did these for your mother, you are a filial son. Dragon Auspice King caught your mother to rid people of a scourge. You can't stand against Dragon Auspice King. I'll release you so that you can save your mother. In the future, you shall turn yourself back to Buddhism."

"You just now have reclaimed my heavenly eye and my golden brick. Without any magic weapon, how could I save my mother?" asked Huaguang.

"I'll return the golden brick to you," said Tathagata, "You can only take back your heavenly eye after you convert to Buddhism."

"After I rescue my mother, I'll come to serve you as my master," said Huaguang.

"What if you do not come?" asked Tathagata.

"If I do not convert myself to Buddhism and serve you as my master after I find my mother, I shall have six incomplete sensory organs," Huaguang swore.

"Then cause no more trouble. Go and find your mother," said Tathagata.

Huaguang gave an obedient nod.

Tathagata reached out to his chest and took out the golden brick in the shape of the Buddhist swastika. He chanted a spell, turned it back to the shape of a golden brick, and gave it back to Huaguang.

It was from this that the shape of the Buddhist swastika on the chest of Tathagata came into being.

Despite getting back his golden brick, Huaguang lost his heavenly eye. He left; his heart still gripped by hatred.

Tathagata called Dragon Auspice King to come out, "Without his heavenly eye, Huaguang could not see you. Don't go back to your altar. Instead, stay here to listen to my preaching."

Dragon Auspice King kneeled in thanks.

Hatred tearing at his heart with his heavenly eye taken away by Tathagata, Resplendent Light thought, *This matter is largely due to the two bastards, Ultimate Knowledge and Universal Benevolence, who pretend to be either deaf and dumb. They distracted me with a cup of tea from catching Dragon Auspice King in time. In the end, Dragon Auspice King made his way to my master. As a result, my heavenly eye is stripped away. How could I take no revenge for this? Why not change me to the Bodhisattva Guanyin to destroy the Ultimate Knowledge Courtyard in Mount Coolness to avenge himself?*

Upon such a thought, Huaguang chanted a spell, shook himself, and changed into Guanyin. Then he headed to Mount Coolness.

As Ultimate Knowledge and Universal Benevolence were sitting, they heard the announcement of the arrival of Guanyin. After they paid respects, the fake Guanyin said, "As you two saved

Dragon Auspice King the day before yesterday, Huaguang is coming to destroy the Ultimate Knowledge Courtyard."

"What should we do if that villain arrives?" they asked.

Before they finished speaking, another Guanyin arrived.

"As Guanyin is sitting here now, how could there be another Guanyin?" they asked.

"It's Huaguang outside," said the fake Guanyin, "He is here to destroy your courtyard. You two should be careful."

Unable to tell who was the genuine one, they welcomed the one inside.

The two Guanyins met with each other.

"Are you coming to seize the courtyard of my disciple?" said the fake Guanyin.

"Huaguang, what a bold beast you are," said the genuine Guanyin, "With my wise eyes open, I foretold that you would come to seize my disciples' courtyard. It brought me here. How dare you pretend to be me? Leave now and it will be done. If you don't change your mind, you'll be speechless a moment later."

The fake Guanyin repeated what the real one said.

With their sayings, Ultimate Knowledge and Universal Benevolence could not tell them apart.

"Now that you say you're the real one, do you dare to fight with your magic weapons with mine?" asked the real Guanyin.

"Why not?" said the fake Guanyin.

The genuine Guanyin showed one thousand hands and one thousand eyes.

Seeing this, Huaguang chanted a spell to summon his 500 fire pills, which also turned into one thousand hands and one thousand eyes, which were arranged on both of his sides.

Guanyin called out a white parrot that stood beside her.

Huaguang also chanted a mantra to turn a raven into a white parrot that stood beside him.

Guanyin showed a grape-purple rock.

Huaguang also fetched his golden brick and transformed it into a grape-purple rock.

Guanyin laughed, "How hard is it for me to catch you? You turned your fire pills into one thousand eyes and hands, a raven into a white parrot, and the golden brick into the grape-purple rock. How dare you cheat me with these?"

Huaguang repeated what she said.

"What a bold beast you are!" said Guanyin, "With my great compassion, I'll not fight against you over trifles. As it is, dare you go with me to the Treasure Virtue Barrier in the South Heaven?"

Huaguang again repeated her words.

They drove their own auspicious clouds and flew to heaven.

Afraid of having his true form uncovered by a demon-revealing mirror, the fake Guanyin fled.

The real Guanyin returned to Mount Coolness and saw Ultimate Knowledge and Universal Benevolence.

"I intended to lead him to the Treasure Virtue Barrier in the South Heaven, throw my magic bowl to take him in, and deliver him to the heavenly troops," said Guanyin "I did not expect that that villain was afraid to go. He showed his true form and fled. I come back to remind you to safeguard this mountain. Do not be driven away by that villain."

Guanyin stepped onto a cloud and returned to the South Sea.

Huaguang showed his true form and returned to Mount Coolness.

"Leave this place and hand Mount Coolness to me," Huaguang scowled, "If you disobey, I will set fire to your courtyard."

Huaguang continued to hurl curses.

"We cannot overwhelm him with vast divine power," Ultimate Knowledge and Universal Benevolence discussed, "If we keep the gate shut in defense, it is afraid that the villain will incinerate the courtyard. What should we do? If we turn to Guanyin, she is too compassionate. Why not exit through the back door and head up to heaven to report this matter to the Jade Emperor? We should report that Huaguang is going to occupy our Mount Coolness. The Jade Emperor will raise an army to capture him. Isn't it a good idea?"

The two men agreed. They exited through the back door, hopped on a cloud, and made their way to heaven.

Scolding for half a day, Huaguang saw no one come out.

Anger crashing through him, Huaguang, carrying his spear, stormed into the courtyard, only to see no soul inside at all.

He did not know where they went.

They might be on their way to see the Jade Emperor, Huaguang thought. I should anticipate the arrival of heavenly troops.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 11 NEZHA RAISES AN ARMY TO SUBDUE RESPLENDENT LIGHT

The Jade Emperor ascended the throne in the hall.

After all the officials acclaimed the Jade Emperor, the memorial-delivering official said, "The Bodhisattva of Ultimate Knowledge and the Bodhisattva of Universal Benevolence from the Central Realm have a memorial to submit."

The Jade Emperor ordered them to bring them in.

Bodhisattva of Ultimate Knowledge and Bodhisattva of Universal Benevolence approached, "In the Central Realm, Huaguang remains unchanged in his nature. He stormed into our mountain and occupied the Ultimate Knowledge Courtyard. He intends to stage a rebellion. Your Majesty, please decide on a good counteracting plan to avoid any further trouble."

Their words sent a wave of anger through the Jade Emperor. The Jade Emperor said to his ministers, "Today, Bodhisattva of Ultimate Knowledge and Bodhisattva of Universal Benevolence reported to me that Huaguang wreaked havoc in the Central Realm and occupied Mount Coolness. I want to raise an army to catch him. Among you ministers, who can lead the army?"

Yu Ke, the Literary Star-Lord, stepped from the rank, "I would like to recommend Nezha, son of Li Jing, the Heavenly King of Kunsha Palace. Nazha has tremendous divine power. He has an embroidery sphere, which has sixteen chieftains, each leading five thousand ghost soldiers in plague formations to assist his battles. He is invincible."

Joy blooming inside him, the Jade Emperor summoned Nezha to the hall. The Jade Emperor granted him the title of the Grand Marshal of Pacifying the Distance and Subduing the Bandits, two golden flowers, and three cups of imperial wine.

Dressed in colorful armor, Nezha left the imperial hall.

Nezha rallied soldiers and horses from his own department. They marched out of the Treasure Virtue Barrier of the South Heaven Gate and to Mount Lilou.

Nezha ordered setting up stockades and camps and delivering a declaration of war into Huaguang's cave.

Nezha asked who would dare to be the vanguard.

As a commander of the vanguard, the Single-Horn Reverse-Scaly Dragon slithered forward, "I wish to take the lead."

Nezha ordered the dragon to start the challenge.

How did the dragon dress up? He had only one horn on his head, his eyes like golden bells, his teeth like those of a ferocious tiger ready to attack its prey, and his claws like those of a wolf ready to rip out a human heart. Moving slightly, his scales heaved sands across the sky. He stood upright, his height reaching half of the height of heaven.

Leveling his spear atop a steed, he swaggered and cursed before the cave.

Rage swept over Huaguang at the sight of the declaration of war.

He strode out to engage the dragon.

After exchanging over 50 blows, they were still in a tie.

Huaguang feigned his defeat, and the dragon chased after him.

Huaguang hurled his triangular golden brick at the dragon.

Unguarded, the dragon was hit on his horn, blood trickling down.

Utterly defeated, the dragon fled back to the blockade and reported Huaguang's vast divine power to Nezha.

Nezha himself immediately went out and engaged Huaguang.

How did Nezha dress up? With a red-flower-patterned purple gold ring around his neck, an eight-treasure-patterned embroidered armor, a pair of green-thread black leather gable-bottom boots, a flower-patterned embroidery sphere on his left, nine-section bronze whip on his right, he wielded a long spear atop a red-mane horse.

"Huaguang, approach to be arrested!" Nezha shouted.

Huaguang came out of the cave, "Your Honor, don't you know what I'm feeling? Why do you lead an army to force me into the Central Realm?"

"You are a Buddhist disciple," Nezha said, "Tathagata spoke for you on your past wrong deeds before the Jade Emperor. The Jade Emperor himself forgave you for your past sins. Now, why stick to your nature and continue to wreak havoc in the Central Realm? With me and my heavenly troops here, how dare you come to engage me? Dismount and be arrested. If you say anything defiant, you will not escape from your demise a moment later."

"I possess no such intention," said Huaguang, "It is the Jade Emperor who forces me to rebel. What could I do?"

He began fighting with Nezha.

From the early morning to the dawn, they were still neck and neck. They ceased fighting.

The next day, they fought the whole day again, yet still ended in a draw.

"Fighting physically is not rare," said Huaguang, "Let's fight with our divine power tomorrow."

"Why not?" said Nezha.

They left.

At dawn the next day, they met each other.

Huaguang threw his golden brick, while Nezha hurled his embroidered sphere.

Huaguang pitched his wind-fire wheels, while Nezha pelted his red-flower purple gold ring.

Huaguang released his fire ravens, while Nezha let loose his 500 ghost soldiers to counteract.

Another day passed, ending in a tie.

They stopped using their divine power.

As Nezha sat in the stockade, an eight-horn dhuta approached, "I can certainly defeat Huaguang," the dhuta said.

Nezha ordered him to fight against Huaguang. Right after the fight began, Huaguang let fly his golden brick, knocking off the horns on the head of the dhuta.

With dripping blood, the dhuta was utterly defeated. He fled back to recuperate inside the embroidered sphere.

The nine-heaven eighteen-horn wave-synchronizing dragon, also known as Luolong, requested to fight against Huaguang.

"Even the eight-horn dhuta was defeated, what divine power do you have?" asked Nezha.

"In my fight against him, I will manifest my divine power to lure him and drown him in the water," said Luolong.

Nezha was beaming with joy.

Luolong went out and engaged Huaguang. As expected, Huaguang was entangled in water.

Unexpectedly, even in water, Huaguang was able to use his divine power.

They had a great battle in the water.

Unable to resist many divine tricks of Huaguang, a walloped Luolong fled back.

Anger swelling up in him, Nezha decided to again engage Huaguang in person.

Two gods, respectively named Peace and Harmony, materialized, "There is no need for Your Honor to fight," they said, "We two would like to tackle him."

"What divine power do you have?" Nezha asked, "I have an as-you-will item which will trap Huaguang if I chant the spell," said Peace, "Then my younger brother will pack him into a jewel-adorned casket."

Nezha urged them to be careful.

They went out and fought Huaguang.

Huaguang flung his golden brick, but it was taken into the casket by the as-you-will item.

Huaguang pitched fire pills, but they were also packed.

Panics coursing through him, he chucked the wind-fire wheels and the fire ravens, only to have all of them confiscated.

Huaguang struck out his golden spear, which was also packed away. Along with Huaguang incapacitated within the casket.

Beaming with joy, Peace and Harmony were about to bring their games to Nezha.

A soldier approached, "Is the bandit named Huaguang packed up by you two?"

"Yes," they said.

Hearing his name called out by the soldier, an inebriated Huaguang popped up.

"I thought I was sleeping on a bed," Huaguang said to himself, "It turns out that I am packed here by the two villains. If it were not for the soldier calling out my name, I would have been taken away by them."

Immediately, he manifested his divine power inside the casket. Unable to free himself, he took out a fire pill and burned a hole. Catching sight of the outside, he yelled and stormed out of the casket. He crushed Peace and Harmony, who fled back to see Nezha.

Flames of anger shooting through him, Nezha wanted to fight himself.

Another god named the Great Thunderbolt Immortal materialized, "I am willing to go out," he said, "I will not return unless I catch Huaguang."

"What divine power do you have?" Nezha asked.

"I can drive ferocious thunderbolts from all sides to hit enemies. If he fights against me, I will kill the villain in a blink of an eye," said the immortal.

"Be careful," Nezha urged.

The Great Thunderbolt Immortal went to fight against Huaguang.

In the middle of the battle, the Great Thunderbolt Immortal feigned his defeat.

Huaguang chased after him.

The Great Thunderbolt Immortal chanted an incantation to drive ferocious thunderbolts to strike Huaguang.

Huaguang was finally defeated.

The Great Thunderbolt Immortal returned to Nezha.

His spirits buoyed, and Nezha rewarded him.

In defeat, Huaguang lumbered back to his cave, "As that villain has such divine power, what strategy shall I use to counteract?"

As he was murmuring, the Fire Drifter General approached, "When you fight against him tomorrow, you can produce an avatar to tangle him," said the Fire Drifter General, "You can hide your true form mid-air. After he strikes with thunderbolts, you can throw your golden brick to dismiss the ferocious thunderbolts and then take the opportunity to attack him. Isn't it a good idea?"

Huaguang glowed inside.

The next day, Nezha ordered the Great Thunderbolt Immortal to come out again. He still drove ferocious thunderbolts.

After producing an avatar to battle with him, Huaguang hid his true form in mid-air and cast down his golden brick, and rightly blew away the ferocious thunderbolts.

Vanquished, the Great Thunderbolt Immortal fled back to see Nezha.

Nezha summoned the World-Swallowing Spirit, "As you can swallow up the world, why not fight and devour Huaguang in one gulp?"

"Even you did not mention this, I have such an aspiration," said the spirit, "I will go and gobble him up for you."

"Stay safe!" Nezha urged.

The spirit accepted the order and marched forward to engage Huaguang.

The World-Swallowing Spirit feigned his defeat and opened his mouth to swallow Huaguang whole and incapacitate him. He swaggered back to report this to Nezha.

Before the stockade, a soldier approached him and asked, "Did you swallow Huaguang?"

Head over heels in the stomach of the World-Swallowing Spirit, a dazed Huaguang woke up as his name was called out. He rolled his body but was unable to break free.

He summoned fire pills to burn inside the belly of the spirit, who then fell to the ground and cried bitterly.

"Open your mouth and let me out," Huaguang demanded, "If you keep your mouth shut, you will be incinerated to death."

The spirit could do nothing but open its mouth. Huaguang popped out and utterly defeated the spirit.

Leading his victorious troops, Huaguang marched back to his cave.

Followed by his remnant soldiers, the Word-Swallowing Spirit returned to report this to Nezha.

Unable to subdue Huaguang with vast divine power, Nezha was much annoyed.

I can only withdraw my troops with at least one meritorious deed, Nezha thought.

As Nezha was drowning in gloom, a subordinate named the Plague-Resisting Messenger approached, "I see that the golden brick is the most lethal weapon of Huaguang. It was forged by him into a golden brick from a golden broadsword of the Eight Scene Palace. I suggest having me turned into the Golden Broadsword Lad of the Eight Scene Palace to meet Huaguang. I will say that the master of the Eight Scene Palace asks me to take back the golden brick for the Contest of Magic Weapons. It will be returned after the contest. Once he hears that his master demands the golden brick for the contest, how could Huaguang say no? If he gives it to me, I'll bring it back to Your Honor."

His hope rising, Nezha ordered the messenger to carry out his plan.

After bidding farewell to Nezha, the Plague-Resisting Messenger made his way to Mount Lilou and met with Huaguang, "Master is going to attend the Contest of Magic Weapons. He asked me to ask you for the golden brick to attend the contest. He will return it to you after the contest."

"At present, it is in handy to fight with Nezha," said Huaguang, "But now that Master asks for it, how could I refuse? After the contest, return it to me as soon as possible. You should say to Master that it is vital. No mistake should be made."

After his urging, he gave the golden brick to the Golden Broadsword Lad.

They bid farewell to each other.

Out on their sentinel duties, the Thousand-Mile Eye and Wind-Accompanying Ear saw that Huaguang had been tricked out of his golden brick.

They hurried to report this to him, but the golden brick was already far away.

Remorsefully, Huaguang was weighed down by depression.

After laying his hands on the golden brick, the messenger showed his true form to see Nezha.

Joy welling up in his heart, Nezha ordered beating the victorious drums and led his troops back to heaven.

The Jade Emperor ascended the throne in the hall.

"Huaguang is a Buddhist disciple with tremendous divine power," said Nezha, "After fighting for over one month, we ended in a tie. I took away his divine weapon named the Triangular Golden Brick."

He presented the brick on the imperial countertop.

"You led the heavenly troops to the Central Realm," said the Jade Emperor, "Despite that Huaguang was not caught, it is your meritorious deed to acquire this divine weapon."

The Jade Emperor ordered to store the golden brick in the Imperial Arsenal. He bestowed two golden flowers to Nezha.

Wearing his decorations, Nezha left the hall.

"Huaguang, what a villain he is! It seems hard to subdue him. What should we do now?" the Jade Emperor asked his ministers.

"We heard that he has been doing these for the sake of his mother," said a minister, "He is filial, but it is a pity that he is too hasty, unable to be tolerant. He acts on any slight trace of hatred. As a result, he offended Your Majesty. We beg Your Majesty to issue an amnesty decree, so as to forgive his past sins. If he fails to earnestly repent and reform former faults after he brings back his mother, it will not be too late for us to raise an army again to annihilate him."

The Jade Emperor agreed and ordered Cui Tong the Imperial General to bring a decree to Mount Lilou.

Hearing his arrival, Huaguang welcomed him in.

The envoy read the decree.

I see that if you are loyal and filial. How could you stay rebellious? I repeatedly sent armies against you, but you said you did all these for your mother. Now I know what you did is for your mother. However, you shall not turn your personal hatred into a major public event. If you insist on saving your mother in this way, you might induce disasters and cause incessant wars. With the arrival of my decree, you shall not provoke incidents again. You shall focus on looking for your mother and atoning for your crimes.

Huaguang kowtowed in thanks.

With his gratitude, Huaguang held a banquet to entertain the heavenly envoy.

They bid farewell to each other.

"I am relieved that a decree was issued on the matter of the heavenly troops," Huaguang said to himself, "However, I was tricked out of the golden brick the day before yesterday. Without my divine weapon, how can I find my mother?"

Tears trickled down his cheeks.

"Your Honor, you need not worry," said the Thousand-Mile Eye and the Wind-Accompanying Ear, "As others coaxed me, I might coax others as well. Not far from here is a place called Mount Phoenix guarded by Goddess Jade Ring. She has a golden pagoda that can change endlessly. We heard that Goddess Jade Ring often attends the contests of divine weapons held by heaven. You can change into an immortal to meet Goddess Jade Ring. If you can waggle the pagoda, you might forge it into a golden brick like the one you used. Why should you be drowning in depression?"

Hopes fluttering inside him, Huaguang shook himself and changed into a fake immortal, and hurried off.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 12

RESPLENDENT LIGHT MARRIES WITH PRINCESS IRON FAN

Goddess Jade Ring of Mount Phoenix had a daughter named Princess Iron Fan.

Twenty-eight years old in face, Princess Iron Fan was as pretty as flower and jade, with slim fingers, slender feet, crimson lips, and porcelainlike teeth.

Goddess Jade Ring also had a son named Shancheng.

As the three were sitting in the mountain, a soldier reported, "From heaven an envoy has reached our gate."

Goddess Jade Ring sailed out and greeted.

They entered the hall and took seats, with Princess Iron Fan having left. They drank tea.

"Today there will be a contest of divine weapons in heaven," said the heavenly envoy, "His Majesty ordered me to reach your distinguished mountain to borrow your golden pagoda which can change endlessly. It will be returned to you right after the contest is over."

"I'll give you the golden pagoda," said Goddess Jade Ring, "After the end of the contest, do remember to send it back to me. It is urgently needed here. This place is haunted by many evil demons. They are hard to suppress without this pagoda."

"I will bring it back right after the contest," said the heavenly envoy.

Goddess Jade Ring ordered Shancheng to fetch and give the golden pagoda to the heavenly convoy.

They bid farewell to each other.

Hiding at the back of the hall, Princess Iron Fan sensed a trace of panic in the words of the heavenly envoy.

She appeared to talk with her mother, "I sensed traces of panic in the words of the heavenly envoy. I'm afraid that he is not a real envoy but a demon," said Princess Iron Fan, "Why not ask Shancheng to follow him, so that you won't have to worry about it."

"You are right," said Goddess Jade Ring.

As per his mother's order, Shancheng rushed to the Treasure Virtue Barrier of the South Heaven.

"I heard there will be a contest of divine weapons today," Shancheng said to the heavenly guard, "Has it started yet?"

"There is no scheduled contest of divine weapons in heaven," the heavenly guard replied.

"Have you seen a heavenly envoy with a golden pagoda enter the barrier?" Shancheng asked again.

"No heavenly envoy exited the barrier today," the guard answered.

After his questioning, Shancheng burst into tears and dashed to see his mother and elder sister. He related the matter to them, saying that the golden pagoda had been tricked away.

The three bawled.

"If heaven asks for the return of the golden pagoda, what should we do?" they asked each other.

"Being annoyed and worried is useless now," said Shancheng, "I'll make my way to the South Sea to ask Guanyin who will certainly shed light on this matter."

"In that case," said Goddess Jade Ring, "My son, hurry there."

Shancheng said goodbye to his mother. Atop a cloud, he flew straight to the South Sea and saw that Guanyin was sitting in meditation on a grape-purple rock.

At the sight of the sudden descent of an auspicious cloud, Guanyin opened her wise eyes and found Shancheng from Mount Phoenix.

Shancheng stepped forward to pay respects.

"What brought you here today?" Guanyin asked.

"My mother has a golden pagoda," said Shancheng, "A demon of an unknown origin changed itself into a heavenly envoy and tricked it out of my mother. We have no clue, so I am here to beg for your guidance."

Upon his words, Guanyin opened her wise eyes, "Your mother's golden pagoda was tricked away by none but Huaguang from Mount Lilou. He has forged the pagoda into a triangular golden brick."

"Why did he swindle a golden pagoda for a golden brick as he already has a brick?" Shancheng asked.

"His golden brick was taken away by Nazha's Plague-Resisting Messenger so that his subordinate the Thousand-Mile Eye told him to deceive you," said Guanyin.

After learning this, Shancheng bade farewell to Guanyin and returned to Mount Phoenix.

Goddess Jade Ring felt gloom tearing at her heart.

Shancheng met his mother and told her the golden pagoda was tricked away by Huaguang to produce a golden brick.

"If it was indeed swindled by the villain Huaguang, it would be hard to take it back," said Goddess Jade Ring, "What should we do now?"

"Despite being untalented, I am not afraid of Huaguang," said Princess Iron Fan, "I have an iron fan. If I fight against him, I will fan this bandit out of nine heavens so that he will fall to his death. Only in this way can our hatred be quelled."

Her words brought a smile to Goddess Jade Ring's face. She ordered to rally the troops and horses of the mountain.

Joined by her brother, an amour-clad Princess Iron Fan marched to Mount Lilou. How did she dress up? Princess Iron Fan wore a phoenix-shaped helmet with golden flowers and silver-scale chainmail armor, carrying a long spear, with an iron fan to her left and a sharp knife to her right. Her slender feet were inside a pair of iron-tipped leather boots. Her face powdered, her lips smeared with rouge, her eyes like amorous water, her eyebrows resembling willow leaves, she marched to shout for a battle before Mount Lilou. She looked like Goddess Chang'e from the Moon Palace and the reincarnation of an ancient beauty named Xi Shi. She was indeed a rare beauty in the human world.

She continued shouting to demand the return of the golden pagoda.

While Huaguang was sitting upright, a soldier reported the arrival of a princess from Mount Phoenix who led soldiers and horses to fetch the gold pagoda.

Upon the report, Huaguang rose to his feet, ready to go to war.

"Your Honor has not yet learned a matter," said the Thousand-Mile Eye and the Wind-Accompanying Ear.

"What's the matter?" Huaguang asked, "This daughter of Goddess Jade Ring has an iron fan," they said, "It can fan a person to a height from which one will fall to his death. You should not engage her."

"Despite such an incredible fan, I will fight her," Huaguang said.

"As Your Honor does not believe this, we two untalented subordinates will take the lead to engage her. Your Honor, please see the fight and you will know," said the Thousand-Mile Eye and the Wind-Accompanying Ear.

Huaguang agreed and ordered them to engage first.

After they exchanged several blows, the princess wielded her fan and blew them beyond the nine heavens.

Fanned away for 3,000 miles, the Thousand-Mile Eye and the Wind-Accompanying Ear used their magic mid-air. They hopped on clouds and landed on Mount Lilou.

The sight of them being blown away by the princess sent panic and anger through Huaguang.

Huaguang raised his golden spear and trained it to the princess. The princess raised her spear to counteract.

After a few rounds, the princess feigned her defeat. She took out her iron fan and gave it a flap, immediately blowing Huaguang into the air. After giving three flaps with her fan, Princess Iron Fan withdrew her troops and pitched camp.

He knows how to ride a cloud, Princess Iron Fan thought. He will not fall to death. Why not wait here for several days to see what happened to him?

Blown to the sky, Huaguang felt anxiety swirling around him. He hastened to use his divine power to hop onto a cloud and land.

"What an incredible divine weapon she has! Where am I now?" Huaguang said.

Caught in his worries, Huaguang heard a bell ringing before him.

He summoned the Town God who immediately materialized.

"Where am I? Why there is a ringing bell?" Huaguang asked.

"It is the northern land here," the Town God answered, "The bell rings from the Wind Poison Cave. Inside the cave was an old immortal cultivating himself. That's why there is a ringing bell."

Why not go to the Wind Poison Cave to ask for some vegan food before going back? Huaguang thought.

He immediately set off to the Wind Poison Cave where he found the old immortal sitting in meditation.

At the sight of the arrival of Huaguang, he descended from his altar and greeted him.

"Your Honor, what teachings have you brought to me today?" asked the immortal.

"I'm none other but Huaguang from the Upper Realm," Huaguang replied, "After I tricked away the golden pagoda from Goddess of Jade Ring of Mount Phoenix, her daughter is so tenacious to demand it back. As I am unwilling to return it, we fought with each other. She has a divine

weapon called the iron fan, which blew me here, a place I am not familiar with. If I hadn't hopped on a cloud and landed, I would have fallen to death. As I came across Your Honor practicing here, may I trouble you to bring me a vegan meal before I return?"

"Ah," the immortal said, "You are Marshal Huaguang of the Upper Realm!"

He called a Taoist priest to bring seven dried rice grains for Huaguang.

This Taoist priest is abominable! Huaguang thought. *How could I be satisfied with seven rice grains when I am so hungry?*

Huaguang refused to eat.

"Marshal," said the old immortal, "Your stomach could not accommodate them all."

Huaguang smiled. *Wait and see*, he thought.

After eating three grains, he was sufficiently full. He returned three grains to the old immortal.

"These are extra," he said.

The old immortal laughed, "A while ago, you resented that it is scarce. Why do you return three grains to me now?"

"I failed to see the wonder of your treasures a moment ago," said Huaguang.

The immortal flashed a grin, "Marshal, congratulations on your upcoming joyous occasion."

"As I am now in trouble, where is the joyous matter?" asked Huaguang.

"Princess Iron Fan has a karmic conjugal relationship with you from a past life," said the old immortal.

"I am afraid that you are wrong," said Huaguang, "We are foes at wars. How could there be such a relationship between us?"

The immortal laughed, "It's not difficult at all. I have a pill for you. It is named the Wind-Suppressing Elixir."

"Why do I need it?" Huaguang asked.

"If you take this pill, it will be difficult for her to blow away a single hair of yours in another fight," explained the immortal, "When she cannot fan you away, you can capture her. Are you still afraid that the marriage is beyond your reach?"

Exultation surging through him, Huaguang accepted and ate the pill.

After bidding farewell to the old immortal, he hopped on a cloud and returned to Mount Lilou where he met with his generals.

At dawn the next day, he donned his armor and stormed out for the battle.

"I thought that this villain has fallen to death after being blown away by my fan," said Princess Iron Fan, "Why are you here today? You will meet your demise this time."

"I ascended a cloud to look for someone that day is all," said Huaguang, "Why do you say that your fan blew me away?"

"What a villain!" Prince Iron Fan scowled, "Despite being fanned away by me yesterday, you still dare to talk big today. In a few moments, I will fan you away again to help you climb on a cloud to look for someone."

"I said that I left to look for my subordinates," said Huaguang, "Why do you insist that your fan blew me away? Today, I'll bet you three fan flaps. If you can move a single hair of mine within three flaps, I will return the golden pagoda to you. If you cannot move any hair of mine within three fan flaps, I will take you as my wife. And I will also keep the golden pagoda."

"You scoundrel, don't regret it," said Princess Iron Fan.

"Once a word is out of a mouth, a four-horse chariot can't bring it back," said Huaguang, "It's hard to chase after."

What a damn stupid man to gamble with me. He deserves to die, Princess Iron Fan thought. With just a fan slap, he will be blown away beyond nine heavens and stripped of his life. Why bother having three fan flaps?

Princess Iron Fan raised her fan and flapped towards Huaguang, only to find no hair of his moving at all.

"Again," Huaguang chuckled.

That's weird, the Princess thought. Why does he remain still after being fanned? Why not give a second flap?

Straining herself to the limit, Princess Iron Fan gave the second fan flap.

Huaguang remained absolutely still again.

Princess Iron Fan descended into panic.

Seeing that he remained still after the second fan flap, Huaguang called out, "Again, please. I'm already excited now."

An urged Princess Iron Fan gave a few more fan flaps, but they were all in vain.

As she was about to bolt away, Huaguang stepped forward and gripped her.

"My dear wife," he grinned, before capturing her back to the cave.

The sight of his elder sister being taken away made Shancheng cry loudly. He returned to Mount Phoenix and reported what happened to Goddess Jade Ring.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 13
RESPLENDENT LIGHT WREAKS HAVOC IN THE DRAGONFLY TEMPLE

Huaguang caught Princess Iron Fan and brought her to his cave in Mount Lilou. Huaguang lit candles and asked Princess Iron Fan to marry him.

The princess refused at first.

Huaguang told her about the karmic conjugal relationship in the past life as revealed by the old immortal.

The princess conceded and married Huaguang.

They drank and sang day and night.

One day, the thought of his mother brought tears tricking down Huaguang's cheeks.

At the sight of her tearful husband, the princess approached and asked for the reasons.

"Although we're married today, my mother was still taken away by Dragon Auspice King and has not been found yet. I want to leave my virtuous wife to look for my mother. However, as we have just been intimate for a few days, I cannot bear to part with you. I think about looking for my mother sometime later, but I fear that she will suffer for longer. Weighed down by such worries, I shed tears."

"The husband is handsome, talented, and young, while the wife is beautiful," said the princess, "The time is limited for looking for a mother and quite long for being a couple. You should go to look for your mother instead of being overly concerned about your wife. If you don't go, you may be gossiped about by people all over the world. After you leave today, I will return to my mother's home to wait for your return and meet with each other."

"Thanks for the teachings from my virtuous wife," said Huaguang, "I will go, but you should stay safe. I will travel all over the world and not return until I find my mother."

Huaguang summoned and ordered his subordinates to safeguard the cave. He escorted his wife back to Mount Phoenix.

He left and changed himself into a commoner and traveled all around to inquire about the whereabouts of his mother.

One day, he heard a woman crying before him.

I will see whether she's my mother, Huaguang thought. He stepped forward and saw a woman who was not his mother.

"Why are you here? Why do you cry so much?" he asked.

"I had a son who went to the mountains to collect firewood to sell for silver to make a living for him and me," said the woman, "Not far from here is the Dragonfly Temple. In the temple is a Taoist priest named the Grand Immortal of Falling Stones. Anyone who enters his temple will be dragged to his courtyard to give some alms to him. Those who give alms will be safe. Those who give no alms, after they leave the temple, will encounter a dark sky and earth with flying sand and rocks and then meet their deaths. I have only one son. He went out to collect firewood this morning. He went to the temple to have some water. At the sight of him, the Grand Immortal of Falling Stones asked my son for alms. My son said that he was poor, unable to give him alms. The immortal turned agitated and killed my son with unknown magic power. My only son was killed by the vicious Taoist priest. How could I sustain myself? I am thinking about killing myself. That's why I am crying sadly."

"Why don't you sue him if there's such a matter of injustice?" Huaguang asked.

"If he could be sued, there would have been many to do so," said the woman.

"Why he could not be sued?" Huaguang asked.

"He is a demon with magic power. Even the government has no choice but to fear him. How could he be sued?" said the woman.

Huaguang heaved a sigh, "Is there really such injustice in this world? You should not kill yourself."

Huaguang took out twelve taels of silver and gave them to the old woman.

"Take this and return home to spend the rest of your life," said Huaguang, "I will go to the temple to remove the vicious Taoist priest."

"Your Honor, thanks for saving my life. You should not go to that courtyard, lest you are killed by him," said the woman.

"You may rest assured to go back. I will deal with it with my own discretion," replied Huaguang.

The old woman thanked him again and said goodbye.

Huaguang went straight into the Sutra Hall of the Dragonfly Temple, only to see the Grand Immortal of Falling Stones sitting cross-legged on a bed.

Huaguang stepped forward to pay his respects, while the immortal rose to his feet to return the salute.

They took seats and drank tea.

"Which prefecture and county do you come from?" the immortal asked, "What brings you here?"

"I am Xiao the First, the eldest son of Xiao Yongfu, from Xiao's Family Village, Wuyuan County, Huizhou Prefecture. I've heard about the splendid landscape of your temple. I have made a special trip to tour around the world."

"You're from the family of Elder Xiao," the Taoist priest said, "Forgive me for not welcoming you outside the gate."

The immortal ordered his serving lad to prepare a vegan banquet to entertain Xiao the First.

Before long, the dishes were served.

The immortal asked Huaguang to join the banquet and they drank.

After several rounds, Huaguang thought, *why not take out my golden brick to see his magic power before deciding the next step?*

Pretending to be drunk, Huaguang took out the golden brick and put it on the table. He patted it, took a look, and then wrapped it up.

At the sight of this, the Taoist priest was taken hold by desire.

"Now that your Grace is in my humble temple, I wish for some alms from you for my temple," said the immortal.

"Reasonable," Huaguang said, "Give me the alms book so that I can write something on it."

The Taoist priest took out the book and gave it to Huaguang.

Huaguang took over the book. Intending to show deep meanings, he wrote, "From Xiao's Family Village, Wuyuan County, Huizhou Prefecture, Xiao the First happily donates one."

The Taoist priest took back the book, "Your Grace, instead of pointing out how much, you just wrote the word of one. You should say how much you will donate."

"No need to ask," said Huaguang, "If you treat me well, there will be a great change to the meaning of the word one, perhaps being one million. Otherwise, it might be one cent if you treat me badly."

The Taoist priest feigned a smile, "Your Grace, why not give that chunk of gold you showed to me?"

"This piece of gold is among my favorites. How could I give it away?"

A murderous intention popped out of the heart of the Taoist priest, "You shall give it to me, whether you are willing or not."

"It's up to me to donate or not. Why did you say that?" asked Huaguang.

"That's not for you to decide," said the immortal.

Anger searing through Huaguang, he cursed, "What kind of monk are you? You're a robber!" He overturned the banquet and stormed out.

Fueled by rage, the Taoist priest chanted a spell. Immediately, sands and rocks flew to pelt Huaguang.

At the sight of this, Huaguang produced an avatar to fight against him. He himself returned to the temple. From his leveled fingers the True Samadhi Fire shot out, incinerating the temple.

Two women made their way out.

"Why are you two here in the temple?" Huaguang asked.

"We were all brought here by the Taoist priest," they said.

"I am Chen Xixi from Jingzhou," said a woman.

"My name is Huang Baijiao from Chengdu, Sichuan," said another woman.

"I will ride an auspicious cloud to send you back home," said Huaguang, "You might say to your families that I rescued you."

The two women bowed to thank him.

Huaguang first rode a cloud to send Chen back home. He returned to escort Huang.

"I cannot go home alone as I'm afraid the Taoist priest will come after me," said Huang, "Please escort me home. I am grateful for what you do."

Upon this, Huaguang escorted Huang home.

Seeing the Dragonfly Temple wrecked, and the two women rescued by Huaguang, the immortal gritted his teeth in so much hatred that he wanted to retaliate at once. Unable to find a way, he could only endure.

In Chengdu Prefecture, after the disappearance of his daughter, Huang Shanyue was sitting in the hall all day, drowning in worry.

A servant approached, "Your Honor, the young lady is back today."

The elder rushed outside the door and indeed saw his daughter. They cuddled and bawled.

"What monster took you? Where were you taken to?" Shanyue asked.

"I was taken away by the evil Taoist priest in the Dragonfly Temple. Today, Heavenly King Resplendent Light set fire to the Dragonfly Temple. He rescued me and brought me back."

Beaming with joy, the family engaged a sculptor to carve out a statue of Huaguang and set up a temple. They worshipped him day and night to repay his life-saving grace.

With his Dragonfly Temple burned down by Huaguang, the Grand Immortal of Falling Stones had no place to live.

One day, he found out that Huang's Family had built a temple to worship the statue of Huaguang. The immortal wanted vengeance on his foe and to enchant Huang Baijiao.

An idea struck him. Why not change me to Huaguang to play with her? I will say that I sent her home at the sight of her beauty. I aim to marry her. In this way, I will have the pleasure with Huang Baijiao and revenge Huaguang. How nice it is!

Upon this idea, he set off.

One night, Huang Baijiao sat in gloom by herself.

"Open the door", someone called out.

"Who are you? Why do you ask me to open the door this late at night?" Baijiao asked.

"I'm Huaguang," said the Taoist priest, "Hurry to open the door so that I can come in. Otherwise, I'll hurt your family."

Baijiao could only open the door for the fake Huaguang to come in. Baijiao bowed to thank him for his life-saving grace.

"Since that day I rescued you," said Huaguang, "I have been yearning for your beauty. Unable to suppress the thought, I came here to have a married relationship with you."

"As a god from the Upper Realm, you should not act like this," said Baijiao.

"If you refuse me, I'll hurt your family," the fake Huaguang fumed.

Baijiao could do nothing but concede. They married each other and he did not leave until the crowing of roosters.

"My good wife, be careful," the fake Huaguang said, "I will come to you again tomorrow night."

The next morning, the elder asked the boy servant, "Did you hear the young lady talking to someone last night?"

"I am also going to ask you whether you know whom the young lady talked to last night," said the boy servant.

In a fit of rage, the elder ordered the boy servant to bring out the young lady.

Baijiao appeared.

"Fall on your knees, you little bitch," the elder roared, "Who did you talk to last night?" Is it a scandal? State it clearly."

"I talked to no one. I sighed by myself," said Baijiao.

"I will beat you to death if you fail to enunciate," the elder said angrily.

Hearing that she was about to be beaten, she had to tell the truth, "I talked to none but Huaguang. He said that he saved me only for my beauty. Last night, he came to my room to marry me. If I were to refuse, he would have killed my family. I had to concede."

Anger crashing through him, the elder was about to burn down the temple.

"Father, slow down. Although he had the form, I'm afraid he was not Huaguang but a demon in disguise. Why not burn incense sticks in the temple and pray? It will not be too late to destroy the temple after he is proven to be Huaguang.

"Reasonable," said the elder.

Huang Shanyue made his way to the temple and burned incense sticks.

Before he finished praying, Huaguang materialized atop a cloud.

"Shanyue, why are you praying in my temple today?" said Huaguang.

At the sight of him, the elder fell to his knees, "My daughter was rescued by Your Honor the day before yesterday. Our family is grateful. As you are a god of the Upper Realm, why did you go to my daughter's chamber to molest her last night? Please enlighten me on this."

"It turned out you are puzzled by this matter," said Huaguang. He turned to Huang Baijiao, "It's not me who approached you last night. I am not to blame."

"It's hard for me to discern. He called himself Huaguang," said Baijiao.

"Well, let me ask you, when did the man come and when did he leave?" asked Huaguang.

"He arrived at the third watch and left with the crowing of roosters," said Baijiao, "He will come again tonight."

"Tonight, you should go somewhere else to sleep," said Huaguang, "I will be waiting for the monster in your room. I'll catch him and show him to your family. By then we shall know what happened."

The elder was delighted.

At night, Huaguang snuck into Baijiao's bedroom.

As expected, the Grand Immortal of Falling Stones approached and called out, "My virtuous wife, open the door for me."

Feigning Baijiao's voice, Huaguang replied to him and opened the door.

After entering the room, the immortal was about to go to bed.

Huaguang grasped him and called out to the family.

A lit lamp revealed it was a white serpent.

The shocked family was ready to beat it to death.

The white serpent begged Huaguang to spare his life.

"How dare you change into my form to harm people and discredit me? Surrender to me today and you shall be forgiven."

The immortal agreed in no time.

"Show your original form and coil around my golden spear," said Huaguang.

Huang's Family kowtowed in thanks.

Huaguang made his way back to Mount Lilou.

"In the human world, I subdued and took in a white serpent spirit," Huaguang said to Princess Iron Fan, "Now I must leave you to continue searching for my mother."

"If my mother-in-law was still in the human world, you should have found her there. Is she possibly dead?" asked Princess Iron Fan.

"Where should I go if she is dead?" Huaguang asked.

"After dying, one must pass through the East Mountain Temple. You can go and check whether my mother-in-law is there."

As per her words, Huaguang bid farewell to the princess and made his way to the East Mountain Temple.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 14
RESPLENDENT LIGHT WREAKS HAVOC IN THE EAST MOUNTAIN TEMPLE

Huaguang came to the gate of the East Mountain Temple where he came across the Three Sages of the Wilderness.

"Who are you?" the sages asked.

"I am Huaguang."

"You are not so reputable that you wander around doing all sorts of evil," said the sages, "What brought you to my East Mountain Temple?" They stopped him from getting inside.

Anger crashed through Huaguang, "How dare you three hurl abusive words at me?" said Huaguang as he let fly his golden brick at the three sages.

The three sages fled and reported this matter to the Grand Emperor of the East Mountain.

In great astonishment, the emperor asked his six ministers, "This man has quite a name. What brought him to my East Mountain Temple?"

"There must be a reason," said the six ministers, "We shall treat him with courtesy..."

Before they finished their words, Huaguang appeared.

The emperor greeted him and asked him to take a seat and drink a cup of tea.

"With your honorable presence here, what teachings you have brought to me?" the emperor asked.

"I come here uninvited, for the sake of nothing but to find my mother," Huaguang asked.

"What's the name of your mother?" said the emperor.

"My mother's name is Ganoderma, also known as Madame Xiao."

Hearing this, the emperor asked his six ministers about whether the woman came here.

The six ministers looked up at the registrar, "There is only Madame Xiao, without Ganoderma," the ministers reported.

"Ganoderma is Madame Xiao, and vice versa," said Huaguang.

"They are two," said the emperor.

"One," said Huaguang.

"Two," said the emperor.

"One," Huaguang fumed.

"The dead only go through a roll call here," said the six ministers, "They are in the custody of the underworld. If you truly want to know, you can go to check in the underworld."

Upon this, Huaguang bid farewell to the emperor and went to the underworld to search for his mother.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 15 RESPLENDENT LIGHT WREAKS HAVOC IN THE UNDERWORLD

Carrying his golden spear, Huaguang made his way to the underworld. He saw the eighteen hells, the gold mountain, the silver mountain, the broken money mountain, and the money-removing mountain. He also caught sight of the golden bridge, the silver bridge, the disorder-firewood bridge, and the punishment bridge.

I will not cross the golden bridge, the silver bridge, or the disorder-firewood bridge, Huaguang thought. Why not go to the punishment fort to see whether my mother has crossed the punishment bridge?

A ferryman caught sight of Huaguang, "Who are you?" the ferryman asked.

"I am a god from the Upper Realm," Huaguang said, "Has my mother crossed the river?"

"I've encountered tens of thousands of ghosts here," said the ferryman, "How could I know who your mother is?"

"She is known as Madame Xiao or Ganoderma," Huaguang said.

"Madame Xiao crossed the river with cries, but I have never seen Ganoderma." said the ferryman.

"Madame Xiao is Ganoderma," said Huaguang.

"They are two persons," said the ferryman.

"There has always been one," said Huaguang.

They argued.

In a fit of rage, Huaguang threw his golden brick at the ferryman.

The ferryman scurried away as he called out that Huaguang was wreaking havoc in the underworld.

The ferryman ran to report this to Yama, the king of the underworld.

Yama ascended the throne in the hall.

A memorial-relaying official stepped out, "Huaguang is wreaking havoc in the underworld," the official said.

"Why is Huaguang here?" Yama asked his ministers.

"There must be a reason," said a judge, "We shall treat him with courtesy."

Before his words finished, someone announced the arrival of Huaguang.

Yama greeted him and ordered bringing him a seat, "I have long heard about your long-standing fame," said Yama, "What teachings have you brought to me with your honorable presence here today?"

"I come here for no one, but my mother named Madame Xiao, also known as Ganoderma," said Huaguang, "She was taken by Dragon Auspice King, with her whereabouts unknown. She is probably dead. I came to your distinguished hall today to ask whether my mother showed up here?"

Yama turned to the judge.

"After looking up in the registrar, Madame Xiao arrived, but Ganoderma did not," said a judge.

"Only Madame Xiao," said Yama, "No Ganoderma."

"They are the same person," said Huaguang.

"There are two," said Yama.

Anger rushed through Huaguang, "Why do you say two when there is only one?"

"If he does not believe it," said the judge to Yama, "Your Honor can order the Spirit-Leading Messenger to rally the ghosts inside the Ten-Wound Gate so that he can discern by himself and see clearly."

Yama summoned the messenger to the hall.

"If Your Honor does not believe it, you can go and see it clearly."

Following the messenger, Huaguang met a woman.

"Who are you?" Huaguang asked the woman.

"I am Madame Xiao," said the woman.

"Madame Xiao is my mother," Resplendent fumed, "How could I not recognize her? How dare you pretend to be her?"

The woman whimpered, "I am indeed Madame Xiao. As Elder Xiao had no son when he was at the age of forty, I burnt incense sticks to pray for a son in the rear garden every night. Unexpectedly, a moth swooped down to snuff out the candle. It showed its original form as Ganoderma. She devoured me and scattered my bones in the depths of the mountains. She

changed into me and got pregnant in Xiao's Family. She gave birth to you. I died and came to the underworld. My injustice could not be served," She continued wailing.

"It turns out you are indeed my mother," said Huaguang, "What should I do now?"

"For the sake of my husband and your father, please report to Yama so that he can allow me to reincarnate instead of suffering within the Ten-Wound Gate."

"My mother, please rest assured," said Huaguang, "I will immediately report this to Yama."

"As per your instruction," said Yama.

Huaguang thanked Yama and bid farewell to his mother. He returned to the human world.

As said, Yama delivered Madame Xiao to reincarnate in the family of Minister Deng.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 16 RESPLENDENT LIGHT BURNS THE EAST MOUNTAIN TEMPLE

Huaguang returned to the human world. *How abominable the Grand Emperor of the East Mountain is! Why does he accuse me that I wreaked havoc in heaven, in the Central Realm, and in the underworld? Now that I am widely rumored to make mischief in the three realms. I shall set fire to the East Mountain Temple.*

He approached the gate to unleash his fire, only to find that the temple was not ablaze.

Huaguang raised his eyes. On the eaves of the temple was a two-headed snake spitting out yellow sand against his fire.

Anger racing through him, Huaguang hurled his triangular golden brick. The battered snake slithered away.

As Huaguang was about to set fire again, there appeared two brothers, namely, the Misfortune Bringer and the Death Star. Seeing Huaguang about to incinerate the temple, they said to each other, "An abominable person like him seems to be hindered by none. Why not bring him to the paper coffin, our magic weapon? As long as we give three cries, he will be dead. Then we pack him inside the coffin and bring him to the Jade Emperor in the Upper Realm. We can get a reward and prevent him from making more trouble in the Central Realm."

Upon this decision, they approached Huaguang, "You can't be so bothersome. What hatred do you have against the emperor? Why do you want to burn down the East Mountain Temple?"

"Why stick your noses into this?" said Huaguang.

"All will be done if you leave now. If you refuse, we can cry you to your death," they said.

"Could you cry anyone to death?" Huaguang snorted, "I don't believe it. Could you cry me to death?"

They gave three cries and Huaguang immediately fell on the ground. They hastened to move Huaguang into the coffin.

As they were about to carry him to the Jade Emperor, they saw Light Buddha of the Flood Jade Temple of the Perfection- Directed Mountain.

As they were about to leave, Light Buddha asked, "Who are you two brothers carrying? Where are you going?"

"Huaguang was about to burn down the East Mountain Temple," said the Misfortune Bringer, "We two brothers cried him to death. We are about to take him to the Jade Emperor for a reward."

This beast would have been in grave danger if he hadn't bumped into me this time. I should save him, Light Buddha thought.

"You two don't know the origin of Huaguang," Light Buddha coaxed.

"Yes," they said, "We do not know."

"Huaguang was the Jade Emperor's nephew. If you carry him to the Jade Emperor, His Majesty will likely say that you two are so bold that you cried his nephew to death. He will order killing you two," said Light Buddha.

A shock wave ran through them, "Your Honor, you are such a good being," they said, "You are right. What should we do now?"

Huaguang is the essence of fire, and he wakes up upon contact with fire, Light Buddha thought. *Why not coax them to set fire to the coffin and wake him up?*

Upon his decision, Light Buddha said, "Why not incinerate him together with the coffin?"

"Thanks for your guidance," they said. Light Buddha bade farewell to them.

"If it hadn't been for Light Buddha, we would have died," they said to each other.

They torched the coffin, only to have Huaguang wake up.

He hurled his golden brick, thrashing the brothers away.

After tidying up his clothes, Huaguang made his way to the Perfection - Directed Mountain to thank his master.

With their heads broken and bleeding, the brothers scolded the bald monk for his evil intention and lumbered away in cries.

As Light Buddha was sitting, Huaguang made his sudden appearance and pay respects to his master.

"My disciple, you are so insensible," said Light Buddha, "To search for your mother, why don't you approach me first before going down to the underworld."

"I was in such a panic that I did not remember to approach Your Honor. It is so fortunate for me to come across you today," Huaguang grinned, "Do you know where my mother is?"

"Your mother was imprisoned in the demon capital by Dragon Auspice King. In the daytime, she is slashed by a copper whip three thousand times and an iron bar at night."

Knowing that his mother was suffering in the demon capital, Huaguang burst into tears.

He bade farewell to his master and returned to Mount Lilou.

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 17
RESPLENDENT LIGHT MAKES THREE TRIPS TO THE DEMON CAPITAL

Huaguang returned to discuss with Princess Iron Fan that he would like to save his mother in the demon capital.

"How can you get there?" the princess asked.

"I will change myself to a heavenly convoy and visit the king of the demon capital," said Huaguang, "I will say that I am ordered by the Jade Emperor to escort the demons to heaven for punishment. In this way, I can bring her out."

"A wonderful idea!" Princess Iron Fan said.

They bid farewell to each other.

As the demon capital king was sitting upright, with Marshal Han and Marshal Guan guarding the gate, a demon patrol reported the arrival of a heavenly envoy.

The demon capital king ordered to invite him in. They greeted each other.

"Your Honor, what brought you here?" asked the demon capital king.

"As per the decree of the Jade Emperor. I come here to escort the demons to be convicted in heaven," said the heavenly envoy.

The demon capital king turned to the two marshals.

"It is hard to tell whether he is a heavenly envoy or not, let me shine him with my Evil-Revealing Mirror," said Marshal Guan.

"No need to," said the heavenly envoy.

"I'm afraid he's a fake one," said Marshal Guan.

As he raised the Evil-Revealing Mirror, Huaguang leaped into midair.

"He is the son of Ganoderma," said the king, "She was brought and imprisoned by Dragon Auspice King. He pretended to be a heavenly envoy to bring her out. How could we not shine him with our Evil-Revealing Mirror? In the past year, the prisoners were escorted by the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate from the Clarity and Resplendence Palace. If he changed into the Supreme Ultimate's form, we would have been deceived by him."

Upon hearing this mid-air, Huaguang flew back to discuss it with the princess.

"I went down to the ghost capital. Two marshals suspected and knew my true form with their Evil-Revealing Mirror," said Huaguang, "I heard in mid-air that if I pretended to be the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate, they could be deceived. Now I'm going to do so."

"In that case, hurry to do it," said the princess.

Upon his decision, Huaguang changed into the form of the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate to make his second trip to the demon capital.

As the demon capital king was sitting upright, a demon patrol reported the arrival of the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate.

The demon capital king invited him in and offered him a seat, "What teachings have you brought to me with your presence today?"

"I come here to escort the demons to heaven for punishment," said the fake Heavenly Supreme Ultimate.

"We need to shine you with our Evil-Revealing Mirror," said the two marshals, "Not long ago, Huaguang turned himself into a heavenly convoy to bring his demon mother out of here. We must be more vigilant from then on."

"Don't you recognize me?" said the fake Heavenly Supreme Ultimate, "Why do you need to shine me?"

"It's not a small matter," said a marshal. He raised his Evil-Revealing Mirror and Huaguang immediately took off. In mid-air, Huaguang straightened his ears.

"We almost fell into his trap again," said the marshals.

"How did you two recognize him this time?" the ghost capital king asked.

"The real Heavenly Supreme Ultimate does not come here like that. He has a nine-head lion dragging his cart and ten disciples accompanying him. He wears gold-wheel-patterned robes, with a golden lad on his left and a jade maid on his right. He wields a nine-section tin baton, a golden bowl with sweet dew for the demons and evils to eat with. He wields his Jade Brightness Fan to blow open the gate of the demon capital and the Single-Eye Ghost with a Golden Pupil to shine his road. Only in this way can he make his way here. Otherwise, with such darkness here, how can he get inside? How could we not shine him when he came like this?"

Huaguang heard it again in the clouds.

He returned to Mount Lilou to discuss with Princess Iron Fan.

"I was exposed again. They said that the real Heavenly Supreme Ultimate has a nine-head lion dragging his cart and ten disciples accompanying. He wears the gold-wheel-patterned robe, with

a golden lad on his left and a jade maid on his right. He also holds the nine-section tin baton, with a golden bowl filled with sweet dews. He also blows open the gate of the demon capital with his Jade Brightness Fan and shines on the road with the Single-Eye Ghost with a Golden Pupil. How could I get so many magic weapons? I think it is beyond my reach to save my mother," Huaguang wept.

"It does not matter," said the princess, "I can get all these for you."

"How?" asked Huaguang.

"I have a sister, a jade maid for the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate in the Clarity and Resplendence Palace. I will ask my mother to summon her. You can use my Iron Fan as the Jade Brightness Fan. You can change your subordinates into the disciples of the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate. You still need a nine-head lion to drag the cart, the nine-section tin baton, the gold-wheel-patterned robe, the golden bowl, and the Single-Eye Ghost with a Golden Pupil to enter the demon capital."

"Haste to reach your mother to summon your sister," said Huaguang, "I'll put up a recruitment notice to rally a force to enter the demon capital."

A Hundred-Eye Demon with Golden Pupils stripped off the notice.

"In the past, your mother and I were imprisoned in the Exorcism Courtyard," said the demon, "As Your Honor smashed the Saha Mirror, we made our escapes. From then on, I never dared to put any human into my mouth. However, instead of changing her past, your mother insists on eating humans. It brought such a grave disaster to her. I heard that you are going to enter the demon capital to save your mother. I have one hundred eyes. I will cover ninety-nine of them, leaving only one eye, so that I can claim to be the Single-Eye Ghost with a Golden Pupil. I will join you in the demon capital to save your mother and repay your favor that day."

Joy welled in Huaguang's heart. Huaguang changed the Fire Drifter General into the nine-head lion, his golden spear into the nine-section tin baton, his golden brick into the golden bowl, and his fire pills into the robe.

After he made all the arrangements, he made his third trip to the demon capital to save his mother.

As the demon capital king was sitting upright, a demon patrol reported the arrival of the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate.

The demon capital king immediately went out to greet him inside. They entered the hall and greeted each other.

Following the demon capital king, the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate made his way before the gate of the demon capital. He gave three fan flaps and made three strikes on the ground with his tin baton. The gate creaked open.

The Single-Eye Ghost went inside to escort the demons out.

The demons piled out. At the sight of the Heavenly Supreme Ultimate, they shouted out their grievances.

"Send all demons back except Ganoderma. I will escort her to heaven," said Heavenly Supreme Ultimate.

Upon his instruction, the Single-Eye Ghost took Ganoderma away.

The Heavenly Supreme Ultimate bade farewell to the demon capital king and left.

"Why not shine him with your evil-revealing mirror?" the demon capital king asked the two marshals.

"He's real," said the marshals, "We dare not shine on him."

"It's suspicious," said the demon capital king, "Why did he only take Ganoderma away and leave all other demons behind? Is he possibly fake? Use your mirror on him to quell my doubts."

The marshal shone the mirror on him, only to find his true form as Huaguang. He was on his way to disappear.

The two marshals rallied their force to give chase, but they could not catch up with him. Weighed down by depression, they sent out scouts.

After three trips to the demon capital, Huaguang rescued his mother, joy welling up in his heart.

"It is so good that my son saved me," said Ganoderma, "I want to eat leathered moths."

"I don't know what a leathered moth is," said Huaguang.

"If you don't know," said his mother, "You can ask the Thousand-Mile Eye and the Wind-Accompanying Ear."

Huaguang approached and asked them.

"A leathered moth is a human," they said, "She wants to eat humans again."

"As you were suffering in the demon capital, I racked my mind to save you. Why do you want to eat humans again? You shall not do this again," said Huaguang.

"You're not filial," she said, "If you do not have any leathered moth for me to devour, why you rescued me?"

Huaguang had no choice, "Allow me two days to find some for you," he said.

Huaguang put up a notice to recruit physicians, "Any physician who can thwart my mother from the thought of eating humans shall be handsomely rewarded," it said.

Knowing that Huaguang had put up a notice to recruit a physician to cure his mother, the demon capital king contemplated sending someone to kill Ganoderma.

"Who dares to go?" the demon capital king asked.

A devil lieutenant stepped forth, "I will go," he said, "I will pretend to be a physician to strip off the notice. After I am invited in, I will put something poisonous into the medicine and poison her to death."

Delighted, the demon capital king ordered him to carry out the scheme.

The news of someone who stripped off the notice and approached him sent a wave of joy through Huaguang. He invited the physician inside. Huaguang ordered to invite his mother here.

"There's a physician who can reverse your carnivorous habit," Huaguang said.

"If there is such a physician, bring him to me," she said.

Huaguang summoned the physician.

"He is not a doctor," said Ganoderma, "He is a devil lieutenant from the demon capital. He is here to kill me."

In a fit of rage, Huaguang was ready to kill him.

"Please do not kill me," said the devil lieutenant, "I'll give you a prescription. After taking the medicine, she will no longer eat any human."

"Tell it to me and I will spare you," said Huaguang.

"If you want to prevent her from eating humans, you must get an immortal peach for her. After eating the peach, she will no longer eat any human," said the devil lieutenant.

"Where can I get such a peach?" Huaguang asked.

"The immortal peaches only grow in the Golden Valley Garden of the Queen Mother. Luckily, they are ripe this year," said the devil lieutenant, "If you bring one for your mother to eat, she will no longer eat humans."

Upon hearing this, Huaguang released him.

He asked the princess to keep a watchful eye on his mother. *I will not be able to steal a peach unless I transform myself into Sun Wukong*, Huaguang thought.

Upon such a thought, he changed into the Heaven Equaling Great Sage of the Flower and Fruit Mountain. He made his way to the Golden Valley Garden of the Queen Mother.

The garden was guarded by a young keeper. As the keeper was snoring, Huaguang tiptoed into the garden. He leaped onto a tree and found a whole tree of immortal peaches.

He hastened to pick five or six peaches and immediately flew away.

The keeper woke up, only to find five or six immortal peaches missing and footprints under the tree.

He scuttled to report what happened to the Queen Mother, "We lost five or six peaches," the keeper said, "A careful examination shows the footprints of a monkey everywhere. Is it possible that Sun Wukong came again to steal the peaches?"

The next day, the Queen Mother reported this to the Jade Emperor, "This year, the immortal peaches in my garden are ripe. Before being offered to Your Majesty, several of them were stolen away by the Great Sage Equaling Heaven from the Flower and Fruit Mountain. It is up to Your Majesty to rule out."

Anger flaring inside him, the Jade Emperor ordered to summon Sun Wukong to the hall, "The immortal peaches take 3,000 years to bloom, another 3,000 years to have fruits, and still another 3,000 years for the fruits to ripen. As I still have not yet seen them, how dare you steal them?"

"I am totally confused," said the Monkey King, "After I fetch the Buddhist scriptures, I have lost all of my greed. How could I have such a heart of a thief? I am not the thief. I am afraid that there might be a conspiracy."

"They were obviously stolen by you, as your footprints are still there. How could you say that it was done by someone else? As you are a Buddhist disciple, I will order my lieutenant to escort you to the Western Heaven to be held accountable by Tathagata."

"We heard that now the Great Sage had converted to Buddhism," said the ministers, "He is also a disciple of Tang Sanzang. It is likely that he has indeed not committed such a crime. We are afraid there might be some injustice. We beg Your Majesty to spare him from being sent to Western Heaven and to give him one month to find the immortal peaches. If the thief is found, he shall not be guilty. If not, it's not too late to send him to Western Heaven."

The Jade Emperor approved, "With the suggestion from the ministers, I give you some time to look for the peaches and report back to me."

Sun Wukong expressed his thanks and left the hall.

He returned to the Flower and Fruit Mountain to discuss with his children such as Qidu and Luohou, and his daughter Yuebei Xing.

"I did not expect to suffer from such injustice," said Sun Wukong, "I don't know which monster turned into my form and stole the immortal peaches in the Golden Valley Garden. The Queen Mother reported to the Jade Emperor, insisting it was I who stole the peaches. I denied it, but the Jade Emperor heeded no explanation of mine and wanted to send me to be held accountable by Tathagata in Western Heaven. Fortunately, the ministers bailed me out. The Jade Emperor gave me one month to find the immortal peaches. If I find them, I will be pardoned. If not, I will be guilty. Where shall I go to find the immortal peaches? It is so annoying!"

"My Great Sage, why not go to the South Sea to inquire Guanyin?" his children and grandchildren said, "Otherwise, could we have any alternative?"

"It makes sense," said Sun Wukong. With a somersault, he arrived at the South Sea.

Meditating in the Purple Bamboo Grove, Guanyin saw the sudden arrival of Sun Wukong.

"Great Sage, what brought you here today?" said Guanyin.

"Some peaches from the Golden Valley Garden are missing," said Sun Wukong, "I did not know which monster changed into my form and stole it. The Queen Mother reported to the Jade Emperor that they were stolen by me. The Jade Emperor decided to send me to be held accountable in the West Sky. Thanks to the sponsorship of my fellow heavenly ministers, the Jade Emperor gave me one month to find out the whereabouts of the fairy peaches. If I cannot find them, then I will be the thief and held accountable. Finding no alternative, I can only ask for the guidance of Your Grace on the identity of the thief."

Guanyin opened her wise eyes, "They were stolen by none, but Huaguang who wreaked havoc on the three realms."

"Why did he steal the peaches?" asked Sun Wukong.

"He made three trips to the demon capital to save Ganoderma," said Guanyin, "As that demon wanted to eat humans again, Huaguang had no choice but to put up a notice to recruit a physician for her. A devil lieutenant told him to get an immortal peach for her so that she would no longer enjoy eating humans. As a result, Huaguang changed into your form to steal the fairy peaches."

Rage coursing through him, Sun Wukong bade farewell to Guanyin.

He returned to the Flower and Fruit Mountain and discussed with his children and grandchildren, "Now that he has stolen peaches and implicated me, I lead you to storm Mount Lilou and catch that thief."

Monkey King had a daughter named Yuebei Xing. She had a crooked head with large eyes and a broad mouth, a wide waist, thick hands, and long feet with thunderous footsteps. Every time, she would utterly defeat her enemies.

Yuebei Xing stepped forth, "I'm going too."

"You were so ugly," the little Sun roared with laughter, "You will become a laughingstock in front of Huaguang."

"I'm going to catch Huaguang," she said.

Having no alternative, they could only allow her to join them.

They marched to Mount Lilou and gave out sky-splitting shouts for battles.

After eating the immortal peaches stolen by Huaguang, Ganoderma no longer had the thought of eating humans.

Joy rushed through Huaguang.

A soldier rushed in to report the arrival of the Great Sage leading his soldiers from the Flower and Fruit Mountain, "The Great Sage said that Your Honor should not have changed into his form to steal the peaches and implicated him," said the soldier, "He said he would capture Your Honor back to heaven."

Rage flaring inside him, Huaguang galloped down the mountain to meet the Great Sage.

"You can change into either an ox or a horse to steal immortal peaches," the Great Sage scolded, "Why did you change into Old Sun and implicate me? Dismount and be arrested to return to heaven."

"What does my stealing of immortal peaches have to do with you?" Huaguang asked, "What could you even do about it even if I changed into your form?"

"How could you say something like that after you implicated me?" the Great Sage fumed.

He trained his Complacent Iron Rod at Huaguang.

Huaguang hurled his triangular golden brick.

Sun Wukong took a breath out and materialized thousands of monkeys. Some dragged Huaguang and others grabbed his golden brick.

Huaguang was defeated and retreated.

Sun Wukong gave chase.

Huaguang threw his fire pills, flames whirling everywhere.

Unable to resist his foe, Sun Wukong King fled to the East Sea to put out the fire.

At the sight of her defeated father, Yuebei Xing stroked her treasured skull in hand and called out the name of Huaguang, who immediately felt his headache and dizziness and fled back to his cave. The skull of Yuebei Xing was an incredible divine weapon. As long as one's name was called by Yuebei Xing wielding the skull, the person would be tortured and die within three days.

Light Buddha knew that Huaguang would not overwhelm the Great Sage and would fall into the Yuebei Xing's hands. He came to make peace between them.

Light Buddha made his way to the Great Sage, who welcomed him in and paid respects to him, "I heard that your fight with my disciple as he changed into Your Honor's form to steal immortal peaches, right?"

"He shouldn't have tainted my reputation," said the Great Sage.

"It is indeed his fault," said Light Buddha, "Please allow me to bring him to plead his guilty before you. I would like to say something. Your Honor, will you allow me to say it?"

"What are your teachings?" asked the Great Sage.

"My disciple has offended Your Honor," said Light Buddha, "Tortured by the skull weapon of your beloved daughter, he is about to meet his end. There has been a saying since ancient times, *A hero cherishes another hero*. I hope that Your Honor could spare him. I will make peace between you two. How about you two become sworn brothers?"

"How could I disobey Your Honor's order?" said the Great Sage, "But the Jade Emperor will denounce me if I fail to catch Huaguang. How should I deal with the Jade Emperor?"

"If Your Honor is willing to do me a favor," said Light Buddha, "I will personally attend to the affairs with heaven. It will not involve Your Honor at all."

"I'm afraid the Jade Emperor won't agree," said the Great Sage.

"Huaguang is his nephew. Also, I will be the mediator. There's no reason why he won't be forgiven," said Light Buddha.

"If that is the case," said the Great Sage, "How could I disobey Your Honor?"

The Great Sage summoned Yuebei Xing.

"Today, Master Light Buddha approach to make peace between me and Huaguang," said Sun Wukong, "Let's spare him."

Yuebei Xing immediately summoned back her skull weapon. She turned to Huaguang, "I have removed my skull weapon and spared him."

Light Buddha bid farewell to him and made his way to Mount Lilou.

Huaguang followed Light Buddha to meet the Great Sage in his blockade. They became sworn brothers. The Great Sage arranged a banquet to entertain them. They said goodbye to each other.

The Great Sage led his troops back to Flower and Fruit Mountain.

Light Buddha approached the Jade Emperor, who then granted amnesty to Huaguang. All battles ceased.

Huaguang ordered his subordinates to guard the Ultimate Knowledge Courtyard, his temple in the Thousand Field Kingdom, and Mount Lilou, "I will travel around the world to offer aid to those suffering from natural disasters or human foes. I will return soon."

Read on to know what will happen.

CHAPTER 18 RESPLENDENT LIGHT CONVERTS TO BUDDHISM

One day, in Mount Spirit, Tathagata said to the Arhats, "While chasing after Dragon Auspice King, that little beast that is Huaguang arrived at my Mount Spirit. As he annoyed me, I took back his heavenly eye. He asked for it back. I said I would only return it to him after he converts to Buddhism. He said that he would immediately come here after he found his mother. He also vowed that if he did not come to convert to Buddhism after he finds his mother, he would have incomplete six sensory organs. Now that he has rescued his mother and completed his deeds, he still wanders around the Central Realm instead of converting to Buddhism here. I am afraid that rumors will spread that a Buddhist disciple refuses to convert again to Buddhism. My disciples, you can turn into mortals and perform some divine tricks such as chopping off your hands and feet to attract him. He will certainly ask to learn such a trick from you. Then you coax him to cut off his feet and have the green-mane lion brought to Mount Spirit. After he chases the lion here, I will persuade him to convert to Buddhism."

His disciples accepted the order and bid farewell to Tathagata.

They turned into mortals who knew how to perform divine tricks. They cut off their hands which turned into dragons and their feet which became tigers.

Huaguang was taking a stroll. Seeing from afar that someone was performing magic tricks, he approached, only to marvel at what he saw.

"Are you willing to teach these magic tricks," Huaguang asked.

"Why not," they said.

"I would like to learn from you," Huaguang said.

"We ask for a tuition of one hundred taels of gold," they said.

Unaware that it was a fraud, Huaguang took out one hundred taels of gold.

"As you've offered your gold, we will teach you," they said, "Chop off your feet."

"There would be so much pain," said Huaguang.

"Our master said it would not be painful," they said.

Huaguang cut off his left foot. As they said, it was not painful at all.

"Cut off your right foot," they said.

Huaguang severed his right foot. There was no pain as well, but he could not install them back.

"Teach me how to install them back," Huaguang said.

"Your feet were irreparably cut off by you," they said.

They summoned a green-mane lion to take his right foot away. The green-mane lion pranced forth and brought his right foot away, heading to Mount Spirit.

Huaguang saw them show their original forms and hopped onto the clouds to leave.

"Ah, a trap!" Huaguang gasped, "They are disciples from Mount Spirit, "*Why not get on my Wind-Fire Wheels to see the Tathagata in Mount Spirit*, Huaguang thought.

As Tathagata was sitting upright, his disciples and a green-mane lion brought a foot of Huaguang. Tathagata flashed a smile.

Huaguang arrived. He prostrated and asked for help in the hall.

"You vowed here that you would convert to Buddhism after you found your mother," said Tathagata, "If you do not come, your six sensory organs will not be complete. Now I will make your sensory organs incomplete."

"Master, if you install my foot back to me," said Huaguang, "I will convert to Buddhism."

"Little beast, I'll install it back to you now," said Tathagata.

Huaguang remained unchanged in his nature. At the sight of his restored feet, he rose, ready to bolt away.

Tathagata laughed, "Where are you going, you little beast?"

Tathagata chanted a mantra. Right after he exited the gate of the mountain, one of Huaguang's feet dropped off, throwing himself on the ground.

He lumbered back to see Tathagata.

"Why did you return?" said Tathagata.

"Today, with all my heart, I would like to convert to Buddhism. I will never dare to rebel," Huaguang said.

"It is certain that you can no longer make your escape," said Tathagata, "I will now return your heavenly eye and put your foot in place."

Huaguang kowtowed to express his thanks.

"You were originally a monk," said Tathagata, "You are now listed in the rank of the immortals. You have partially gained true achievement. In the reincarnation book are the names of your parents who are destined to suffer. Now that you convert to Buddhism, they shall make their way to Western Heaven instead of continuously suffering from reincarnation. Your mother Ganoderma has corrected her evil ways and will no longer eat humans. She can access Western Heaven as well. Your sister, Lady Jade, is filial and firm. She's suitable to be a fairy in Western Heaven. Your former mother, Madame Fan, who is diligent, peaceful, and caring, died in injustice. Yama sent her to reincarnate in Minister Deng's family. She is seven years old now. With her continuous good roots, she will be enlightened and guided to Western Heaven after she turns into an adult. Your former mother and brother in Horse Ear Mountain also practiced and obtained the Great Way. Now, you convert to Buddhism and earn your place in Western Heaven."

Tathagata wrote a memorial to the Jade Emperor.

As per the memorial, the Jade Emperor bestowed Huaguang with the title of Jade Seal Buddha and the Grand Emperor with Middle and Upper Goodness and Five Accesses.

The rest of the figures, according to the memorial of Tathagata, were sent to Western Heaven.

Huaguang held permanent power over the Central Realm. People praying to him will always be satisfied, be it to ask for a son, a daughter, a lucrative commercial activity, or a success in the imperial examination.

With his efficacy, Huaguang has been always worshiped with sacrifices.