

Longevity 181

Chapter 181 Duobao Has a Strange Habit, Yunhua Gifts Immortal Island (Two Chapters in One)_3

Before long, Tao Qian had received countless benefits again.

Clearly, the Devil Immortal Daoists who came here this time were even more powerful than the Ten Thousand Immortals Tao Qian had encountered in the Nine Prisons of Ghosts Wind, and they had a closer relationship with Duobao Daoist, which was why the gifts they gave were also of higher quality.

Tao Qian didn't bother to count his gifts, acting obediently as a gift-receiving machine, while paying respects to each of these fierce uncles and aunts from his Sect.

"It's really worthy of being the top Great Sect of the Daoist path. Although I'm only in the Foundation Establishment Realm right now, just with these gifts I've received, Cultivators in the Transcend Mortality Realm pose no threat to me... Hmm, perhaps not necessarily, what if there are disciples from Taishang Dao and Shexiao Sect who have also found a powerful backer like me?"

"With the Twelve Major Daoist Sects, Buddhist Temples, Demon Sects, plus those ancient families, one must not slack off or be complacent. I still have many equals as opponents."

As Tao Qian was muttering to himself, his gaze suddenly locked with a dazzlingly beautiful female cultivator who resembled an immortal concubine.

Although they had only met briefly before, Tao Qian still recognized her.

This "Fairy Yunhua" was none other than a close friend of both Infant Sect Master Xiao and the Queen of Daughter Country, and she had been just short of becoming his Master. Inside his Mustard Seed Talisman Seed, he still kept the letters of introduction and personal tokens given by the two True Masters.

Due to twists of fate, the Master-disciple bond had not been established.

But Tao Qian still felt an inexplicable closeness to this fairy and was about to come forward to pay his respects.

Just then, Aunt Yunhua also smiled at him and with a flick in the Void, she took out a Token made of some unknown material. The Token turned into Spirit Light and flew into Tao Qian's palm.

At the same time, she spoke softly,

"Though we haven't formed a Master-disciple bond, our affection remains."

"Lady Mei and Dou Dou have both sent me letters praising you, especially Lady Mei whose life was saved by you. Both said they'll come to visit you in a few days."

"From now on, you can just call me 'Aunt Yunhua,' and remember to visit my Immortal Island often."

"You have already received plenty of Magical Treasures and Elixir, which should be enough for a long time, so I, as your Aunt, will give you a special gift."

"In the matter of Cultivation, one cannot lack spiritual wealth or a Cultivation Realm. You're not lacking in Talents, nor treasures, so I will make up for the land."

"If you go eight hundred miles to the left from your Big Brother's Daoist Field, there is an Immortal Island that has been abandoned for many years. That island was once where my first disciple resided, but after an accident, she died off-island, and it was closed."

"With this Token in hand, you can enter without hindrance."

"If you don't mind, that island is yours."

When Aunt Yunhua handed over the Token and said these words, it immediately drew sideways glances from all the seated Devil Immortal Daoists.

Then they all seemed to think of something, stifling their laughter and entering watch-the-drama mode.

Among them, a green-robed Aunt, with a Spiritual Treasure Immortal Ring hanging behind her head, named "Lue Immortal," explained to the puzzled Tao Qian,

"Our Spirit Treasure Sect may not have many formalities, but within this Mountain Gate, there are still some rules. For instance, the thousand Immortal Islands and dozens of Secret Realms in the Penglai Sea cannot be obtained at will."

"An Immortal Island is naturally of great value. Normally, only those who have obtained the position of True Inheritor are entitled to one, and even then, they only have usage rights for a few hundred years. If they haven't become an Elder when their time expires, they must surrender the island."

"The Immortal Island that Sister Yunhua wants to give you is a bit special since she has the authority to dispose of it and give it to whomever she likes."

"Of course, I also agree that you should take the island. Though you are not yet a True Inheritor, as the first disciple of the Big Brother, what's so difficult about obtaining the True Inheritor position? It's just an island, and there's nothing particularly unusual or valuable about it except for its size. It's nothing extraordinary, so just take it."

"Besides, Big Brother has his quirks. If you don't take that island, you may find yourself with nowhere to go..."

"Lue!"

This Frank Fairy was cheerfully explaining when she was suddenly interrupted by Duobao Daoist.

Tao Qian looked over and indeed saw his Master looking embarrassed, as if harboring some unspeakable secret. With his copper bell-like eyes, he helplessly glared at Aunt Yunhua, who seemed to

have succeeded in irritating him and snatching his favored disciple, and was now showing off a triumphant smile.

She was already a beauty that resembled an immortal concubine, and now with her smile, she was even more breathtakingly beautiful, easily outshining all the other flowers.

Duobao Daoist looked even more disheartened when he saw this, and could only look towards Tao Qian and say directly,

"I had planned to tell you this slippery thing later, but now is as good a time as any."

"Our Spirit Treasure Sect is not like some sects in the Cultivation World that divide themselves with inner and outer gates; generally speaking, whoever you take as your master, you follow and cultivate on that island, or in that secret realm."

"However, I am somewhat special. Other than myself, this Immortal Island cannot accommodate a second person's cultivation, not even Dou Dou, these little crystal demons, who I usually seal in the Star Membrane Secret Realm. Initially, I thought of letting you go to Bibo Island, Qingping Island, or some other Big Island, where all the wild-acquainted disciples are, along with some Devil Clan and Alien Species, and there are plenty of Spiritual Land Cave Mansions for you to choose from."

"Now that your Aunt Yunhua has made such a grand gesture, even gifting you that island, it indeed might be suitable."

"But think it over carefully for yourself, if you accept this meeting gift, although you can enjoy an Immortal Island all to yourself and the many benefits are self-explanatory,"

"you are after all not a True Disciple, and once this news gets out, it's bound to cause a lot of trouble. Those peers you have not yet met, I'm afraid quite a few will look at you unfavorably, taking the opportunity to seek trouble with you."

"Your talent and qualifications are decent, and you have overcome the Three Calamities, now having established your Dao Foundation, but your Cultivation Realm is at the bottom among your peers. If just anyone came to contest you, you might end up thoroughly defeated."

"Think about it, are you able to cope with this?"

"Do you dare to accept this meeting gift?"

After Duobao Daoist finished speaking, all eyes immediately turned to Tao Qian.

These Devil Immortals and Daoists, at the start, were holding back laughter, watching the competition between Duobao and Yunhua with a sense of entertainment.

Now, watching Tao Qian's choice, including the straightforward Lue Immortal, there suddenly appeared in their eyes a kind of scrutinizing look.

At this moment, Tao Qian held the token with an exceedingly subtle expression.

His attention was divided: on one hand, he was looking at the various Record information that had sprung up in his mind due to touching the token, and on the other, he was watching his own master and Yunhua Immortal's dispute.

On the surface, it seemed as if Yunhua Immortal couldn't bear that Duobao Daoist had cut in front of her to claim her disciple, so deliberately she used Duobao Daoist's "quirks" to sabotage and vent her spleen.

Yet Tao Qian was not foolish; how could he not see that there must be some secrets he was yet unaware of, which is why the scene seemed childishly staged.

As for what to choose?

Had it not been for Duobao Daoist's questioning and the Record information that had arisen in his mind,

Tao Qian might indeed have refused this meeting gift.

After all, he had just entered the Spirit Treasure Sect, and there was no need to make himself the target of public criticism and envy from many fellow disciples just for an island.

But now, the situation was different.

Tao Qian didn't mull it over for too long, soon after Duobao Daoist had finished asking, under the scrutinizing gaze of a host of Devil Immortals and Daoists.

Tao Qian directly tucked the token into his chest and then, looking at Fairy Yunhua and Duobao Daoist, he said aloud,

"The gift from Aunt Yunhua, I dare to accept."

"Although I was fortunate enough to be favored by my master and enter the Mountain Gate of Spirit Treasure Sect, I never expected from this point forward my Dao Path would be smooth and carefree."

"Having received this benefit, I naturally must bear its cost."

"I have weighed everything clearly, all these costs, I am willing to accept."

As Tao Qian uttered these sentences, immediately the many seats of honor filled with Devil Immortals and Daoists showed various expressions.

Only Duobao Daoist and Yunhua Immortal were at first stunned, then both showed extremely radiant smiles.

Chapter 182: There Is an Immortal Island in the Penglai Sea, Atop Yunhua Mountain Lies the Spiritual Resonance Cave

Having given the greeting gift, admired the rarities, and watched the liveliness, one after another, the Devil Immortal Daoists in the Observatory Hall began to take their leave.

Even the generous Yunhua Immortal, who had taken from Tao Qian the recommendation letter and intimate tokens for Infant Sect Master Xiao and the Queen of Daughter Country, didn't linger too long after and bid farewell.

Once the immortals left, the Observatory Hall once again grew quiet.

Before the Jade Table at the star platform, Duobao Daoist watched Tao Qian with a smile. Beyond the look of appreciation on his face, there was another, much more evident expression.

In the Mortal World, that would be called schadenfreude.

The Daoist touched his curly beard, his face full of satisfaction, then grinned and said,

"You cunning rascal, you've cultivated all this way, and though you've encountered many disasters, you have relied on your decently good talent and a few sly tricks to avoid or break them. But this time, you're going to suffer. You Resist the Three Calamities to secure your position as a True Inheritor and in addition, after becoming my disciple, it would be reasonable to gift you an Immortal Island."

"Unfortunately, that's not how the account is settled.

"First of all, your position as a True Inheritor will still need to wait quite some time before it could be given to you."

"Furthermore, even if you were to immediately gain the title of True Inheritor, you really shouldn't possess that Immortal Island, not to mention the rarity of the one gifted by Yunhua."

"You must realize that the other True Disciples have all come through numerous trials and tribulations, accumulating countless great and small achievements. In our eyes, your ability to Survive Three Calamities is indeed rare, but in those disciples' eyes, you acquired it through shortcuts, which will invariably lead to resentment."

"Just having entered the sect, if you offend many of your peers, that is not what the wise would do."

Having said this, Duobao Daoist looked at Tao Qian with shimmering eyes, expecting to see a panic-stricken face.

Unfortunately, Tao Qian's expression remained unchanged.

He simply smiled calmly and responded, "Disciple believes that Master will surely protect me completely."

After saying that, Tao Qian added,

"With Master's supernatural power, you can certainly ward off some unnecessary troubles for your disciple. As for the remaining frictions among sect members or small misunderstandings, my methods might be unsophisticated, however, I have also refined numerous life-saving techniques, so it should not be a problem."

The meaning of Tao Qian's two statements was very simple, and Duobao Daoist understood them very clearly and thus was choked by his disciple again.

Feeling stuffy, he thought to himself, "This rascal who came from the Mortal World has a thick face and a black heart, and has been through much. Simple intimidation is useless now, and eventually, he will really suffer before he remembers his Master's kindness."

Joking thoughts flashed away, Duobao Daoist's face suddenly became solemn as he earnestly instructed Tao Qian,

"You are new here and also became the disciple of me, a somewhat unusual Master. Your day-to-day cultivation will not be quite convenient."

"However, you are indeed fortunate, the Immortal Island which Junior Sister Yunhua gifted you, called 'Ascending Immortal Island', although other things on the island are not notable...

"...But the Star Aperture connected to the Outer Realm, as well as the accompanying Star Membrane Secret Realm, are real rarities, which will greatly assist you in stepping into the Cavernous Mystery and Realm of Ultimate Happiness in the future."

"Of course, right now you don't need them, and thinking about it, Junior Sister Yunhua probably sealed off that Star Aperture already, to prevent you from bewilderingly rushing in and losing your life."

Tao Qian, who had glimpsed the hidden Record from the Token, suddenly heard his Master nonchalantly revealing it.

Indeed, those two rare items were why he had accepted Yunhua Immortal's heavy greeting gift in advance.

Despite Tao Qian not having truly accessed the Star Aperture and Star Membrane Secret Realm yet and not knowing how extraordinary these two things were precisely, whether it was the Record or what Duobao Daoist was saying now, both confirmed those two were very important for Tao Qian's future Dao Path.

Bai Qin had many faults, but the statement "the Dao Path needs to be contended for" resonated quite well with Tao Qian.

While he was contemplating this, he suddenly heard his Master shift the conversation peculiarly, as if giving guidance or perhaps reflecting,

"Junior Sister Yunhua originally had a senior disciple named Xie Lingji."

"This girl's talent was not inferior to yours. Before entering the Dao, she was known all over as a beaming talent and was from the millennium-old Xie Family. Devoted solely to pursuing the Dao, she refused to practice the Xie Family's methods. The Xie Family, reluctant to let her go, pressured your Aunt

Yunhua to personally block the Xie Family's door, setting up no less than eighteen Arrays, causing a ruckus for many days, until the family allowed the child to become a disciple of Yunhua Sect."

"Having gained a good disciple, Junior Sister Yunhua taught her with all her might and didn't hold back any teaching, even personally intervening to block disasters for her, ensuring an utterly tight protection. However, averting disasters is not something that can be completely evaded; since the girl stepped into the Cultivation World, how could she not pay some price?

"Eventually, on a day she went back to the Xie Family to visit relatives, she unexpectedly lost her life due to an accident and did not even have a Reincarnation Body."

"With Aunt Yunhua's lesson in mind, I have decided to change the teaching method. The matter of Cultivation and seeking the Dao, if not through experiencing calamities and trials, surely there won't be any remarkably fruitful results. If I pave the way for you and ward off your disasters like Junior Sister Yunhua, wouldn't I end up harming you as well?"

"You are currently at the Foundation Establishment Realm, and with your talent and maneuvers, climbing to Transcend Mortality should be extremely simple. Thus, in the near time, you should just cultivate by your own efforts, and do not come to bother me..."

Tao Qian was still empathizing with Yunhua Immortal and that unseen senior sister when he began listening,

But suddenly, Duobao Daoist changed direction, and the last few sentences were not difficult to comprehend; it meant that his thrifty Master intended to let him, Tao Qian, fend for himself for a while to come.

Just as he was about to say something, it was obvious that the Master had made up his mind.

This sloppy Daoist sat upright in the Observatory Hall, looking nothing like a True Master but rather resembling a rough and uncouth man from the Mortal World. You could see a face full of coarse whiskers that seemed about to burst into laughter, heavy eyebrows that merged into the sides, and eyes like copper bells filled with smugness. When he uttered the words "don't come to bother me," he directly silenced Tao Qian.

Chapter 183: There is an Immortal Island in the Penglai Sea, Spiritual Resonance Cave on Yunhua Mountain_2

At the same time, Tao Qian saw the Daoist reach out and beckon, and the Buddha Bird relic inside the Mustard Seed Talisman Seed actually flew out on its own, landing in the hands of the Duobao Daoist, who then rubbed it vigorously in his chest.

The originally decent-looking relic suddenly became oily and supple, almost like a nourishing mud pill.

Next, he took out a bronze token from nowhere and, together with the Buddha Bird relic, threw them both into Tao Qian's palm, saying,

"I suppose my junior brothers and sisters have all given you welcoming gifts. As your Master, I should give you something too. However, you can hardly fit more in your treasure bag, and I can't give you another major treasure. Since you already possess this Buddha Bird relic, adding more might actually hinder your cultivation."

"I have completely concealed the karma of the Great Freedom Dharma associated with this relic for you, ensuring those bald monks can't use Buddhist Law to secretly harm you."

"However, if you want to make good use of this relic, you'll need to learn some Buddhist Law from the Spirit Treasure Scripture Hall. This token will allow you to enjoy the treatment of a True Disciple in the Scripture Hall ahead of time."

"You may also learn other magical skills, but don't be greedy."

"After some time, when the position of True Disciple is secured, you can study the Basic Methods from the Great Lifebook Scripture of the Spirit Treasure Sect."

After saying all this, the Daoist seemed to remember something else.

He reached into the Void and flicked out a Crystal Stone Token, tossing it to Tao Qian.

"Though you've obtained the Ascending Immortal Token, that Immortal Island has been long neglected, plus there's a Great Prohibition isolating it from external disturbances. The island must have reverted to a wild state by now."

"It's likely you can't even enter the Inner Island. This is also your Aunt Yunhua's intention. She gifted you the Immortal Island, but the task of managing and taming it is left to you."

"Of course, letting you, a Foundation Establishment cultivator, together with these youngsters go, is also quite a challenge."

"I originally thought of bestowing upon you some Mountain Opening Giant Demons and Golden Armored Divine Generals for you to command, but considering you have just come from the Mortal World, you would probably prefer those pretty girls."

"Well, the Crystal Demon Clan may eat a lot, but they are accustomed to pleasing my junior brothers and sisters and are quite familiar with the Mountain Gate. They also have some strength to serve you."

"When needed, let that silly Dou Dou hold this token and summon the Crystal Demons from the Star Membrane Secret Realm, but remember not to be greedy, lest you cannot afford their sustenance."

"Whether it's that Ascending Immortal Island or the Penglai Sea, both are enough for you to while away some time. Remember, you are the first disciple of Duobao True Monarch, do not disgrace the face of your Master."

"Go and rest now!"

With the last sentence spoken, the Daoist, appearing disheveled, waved his sleeve.

A dim light surged, directly enveloping everyone in the hall, transporting them to the cloud clusters above the sky.

Tao Qian had just settled on the auspicious clouds and his mouth seal was automatically released.

But the Duobao Daoist's figure was nowhere to be seen, denying him a target for his sarcastic remarks.

"Great, just achieved Foundation Establishment and already being driven out of the island by my own Master."

Tao Qian muttered to himself, somewhat resentful.

At the same time, he instinctively turned to look back at his Master's cultivation field, the massive Immortal Island known as 'Golden Radiance Island,' which had expelled them. The Daoist Field seemed to begin sealing up.

Tao Qian only saw the myriad clouds suddenly envelop the silent, chilly Immortal Island, concealing it from view. In a fleeting moment, an immense and terrifying presence passed through Tao Qian's senses, and for that instant, he seemed to see a bizarre, non-human giant shadow emerge from the dark depths.

But incredibly, the shadow bore no signs of Mutation or Decline; rather, it exuded a sense of the Great Dao, looking like it was in a state of Zen Meditation, profound yet profounder.

Tao Qian caught only a glimpse before his Divine Soul stilled, and quickly, the Golden Radiance clouds covered everything, erasing all anomalies.

"Could that be...?"

At that moment, Tao Qian's heart pounded.

He couldn't help but recall what the Lue Immortal had mentioned about their Master having eccentric habits.

"This so-called peculiarity, ensconcing himself alone on this vast Immortal Island, bearing no one else, not even Crystal Demons or Golden Armored Divine Generals, who are usually concealed by the Master in the Treasure Vault or sealed within the Star Membrane Secret Realm."

"It sounds like a form of reclusive disposition, but the thick-skinned, dark-hearted demeanor of the Master doesn't associate him with reclusiveness, just lazy and crude."

"From this, it appears that the Master's peculiarity might stem from his cultivation practices...?"

After pondering briefly in his mind, Tao Qian quickly shook his head and gave up.

Lacking sufficient clues and information, he couldn't possibly come up with any real answers.

Taking a quick sweep around, Tao Qian oriented himself.

Immediately, he took out the token given earlier by Aunt Yunhua and used the Spirit Treasure Returning Immortal Technique for the first time. As if a brand inside him had been activated, a strand of Immortal Spiritual Qi was summoned from thin air, its speed and amount undistinguishable from that drawn from his own body.

"Spirit Treasure Method, truly miraculous."

Tao Qian praised, channeling the Immortal Spiritual Qi into the token.

He then saw the Ascending Immortal Token tremble slightly, transmitting a map directly into his mind; the route was already marked out, showing it was 800 li away from Golden Radiance Island, with some Immortal Islands mentioned along the path, all clearly labeled including the island names and the Devil Immortal Daoists residing on them, indeed very convenient.

Having gotten direction, Tao Qian suddenly recalled Yunhua Immortal's words about the long abandonment of Ascending Immortal Island, and turned to look at the waiting junior disciples—Little Age, Lian Jing'er, Shan Jiu, and Zhong Doudou, smiling and saying,

"Come on, let's set aside cultivation inquiries for now and start by clearing fields and planting crops."

As soon as he finished speaking, the cloud beneath everyone's feet shot forward.

For mortals, 800 li was indeed a great distance.

Chapter 184: There is an Immortal Island in the Penglai Sea, Spiritual Resonance Cave on Yunhua Mountain_3

"But for cultivators who have mastered Riding Cloud and adept in Escape Techniques, it won't take long to reach here, especially since this place is within the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate, where normally nothing untoward should happen."

About a dozen breaths later, Tao Qian, leading a few youngsters, appeared just outside a giant island.

Tao Qian wanted to check out the situation on the island, but all he saw before him were waves forming without wind, the turquoise waves churning. Dimly visible beyond the island were massive rocks, black as Demons, standing like strange and rugged stalagmites—such terrain would prevent even steel warships from landing on the island.

Above the sky loomed something even more terrifying; there was the swirling Nine Prisons of Ghosts Wind, containing a mix of either crimson or ghastly green clouds and vapors forming a storm cyclone, blocking the entry of any alien objects.

"Ascending Immortal Island has a total of three Big Arrays embedded around it, with Great Prohibitions reaching up to eighty-one layers. This terrifying sight is just a minor external manifestation. The true power of the Forbidden Techniques isn't even showing one-tenth of its capability."

"If a foreigner were to attempt a forceful entry, they would trigger the three arrays. Then, minor issues such as poisonous fire smoke would arise, but what's truly frightening are the subsequent eruptions of Absolute Immortal Fierce Fire, Taiyin Green Flame, Silent Divine Thunder, etc. If someone were to control these, the power of the array here could be enhanced further. Even a Cavernous Mystery Cultivator breaking in might meet their demise."

Holding the token in his hand, Tao Qian read through this multitude of information.

He realized how much Aunt Yunhua must have cherished 'Senior Sister Lingji.'

Such arrangements, combined with the rarity of this island, clearly indicated that this Senior Sister, if unharmed, was meant to be the successor of Yunhua Immortal.

"What a pity!"

Tao Qian sighed and then directly led the group onto the island.

Holding the token in front, a faint glow flashed, and a safe pathway instantly appeared.

Just as Yunhua Immortal stated, it was unobstructed.

As soon as they set foot on the island, not only Tao Qian but also Little Age, Lian Jing'er, Shan Jiu, and Spirit Treasure Crystal Demon Zhong Doudou, everyone widened their eyes and involuntarily gaped.

The Ascending Immortal Island before them was only slightly smaller than their Master's Golden Radiance Arena.

On the island, one could clearly see huge mountains, the Cloud Mist Marsh, and there were dark ancient woods, appearing as though Barbaric times had returned. In the sky above were numerous exotic birds flying to and fro, of shapes strange and unusual, clearly not of ordinary descent. On the ground, various Exotic Beasts were proliferating, hunting and fighting; Jiao Dragons and Spirit Elephants could be seen everywhere.

Looking deeper on the island, three towering Immortal Mountains stood proud; the leftmost resembling Flame Mountain, its peak veiled in gold-red flames reaching up to the sky, its surface covered in red rocks devoid of any vegetation. On the right, there seemed to be a towering jade pillar, with fresh air surrounding it, and at its peak was a green Heavenly Pool with vast waves of mist, exuding a vibrant aura.

Only the middle mountain truly had the aura of an Immortal Mountain.

There stood an imposing mountain, jagged like a sword or halberd, enveloped by clouds and fog, ancient trees touching the sky, with gusting winds and thunder booming at its heights. In the most suitable location, a Cave Mansion was revealed.

In front of that Cave Mansion stood a huge stone stele with ten large characters: 'Ascending Immortal Island Yunhua Mountain Spiritual Resonance Cave Mansion.'

Other areas of the island had indeed reverted to a wild state, apart from the Exotic Beasts and Deceitful Objects which didn't even bother to hide themselves, other Tao Qian could not understand, but sensed dangerous and mysterious heavenly phenomena.

Only that Cave Mansion, its doors tightly shut, its terrifying Forbidden Techniques exuding a pressure that kept all devil beasts and alien objects at bay—

Of course, Tao Qian now also couldn't get near.

Duobao Daoist's judgment was indeed without fault.

At this moment, Tao Qian looked at this Immortal Island, observing many seemingly hidden splendid locations, especially that Spiritual Resonance Cave, which truly captivated him.

"This is what it means to seek the Dao through cultivation, this is what an Immortal's Cave Mansion is."

Exhaling this sigh, Tao Qian couldn't help but swallow, leading the youngsters to land on a cliff on one side of the Immortal Island.

This area was the Outer Island region, less dangerous in his perception, at least quieter in terms of rumbling sounds.

On that cliff, there were also some palaces and pavilions.

They weren't incredibly luxurious, but quiet and elegantly simple, as if built for the owner to enjoy the view of the sea of clouds and mists.

But they had been abandoned for too long, like the other buildings on the island, empty and lifeless.

However, the Forbidden Techniques were still robust, though they seemed to have suffered many attacks; they still held up without breaking.

At least when Tao Qian and the others entered, the 'Dust Avoiding Charm' and 'Clear Wind Spell' inside the Forbidden Techniques were still effective, and apart from being a bit colder, there were no other abnormalities.

Chapter 185 Nine-headed Turtle Dragon, Merfolk Attack

"Master anticipated correctly; it really has restored the Barbaric scenery, as if it were prepared especially for me."

"Indeed, even a True Disciple finds it hard to obtain, an Immortal Island of great use for stepping into Cavernous Mystery and Ultimate Happiness realms. It wouldn't be so easily obtained by me."

"Having been given the island and the token is merely akin to having a door opened; to truly possess it requires me to gradually tame and manage it."

Within a moment's thought, Tao Qian's gaze fell upon the youngsters he had brought along.

He had heard from Zhong Doudou that there were quite a few disciples who, dragged along by their mundane families, had entered Spirit Treasure Mountain, excluding those who came with their mortal relatives and many notable disciples who brought along useful servants.

Like the former master of this island, the talented female cultivator called "Xie Lingji."

Born into a millennial clan and then apprenticed under Yunhua Immortal, Xie's family had arranged a large number of servants to follow her.

It was precisely because of this that this Ascending Immortal Island was forged into such a state.

Unfortunately, times had changed, and the island had a new master.

Unable to bring many powerful servants, only a Taisui Baby, a Bronze Robot, a Wild Leek Demon, and a Crystal Demon Girl were brought.

It was a pitiable and meager group, and with insufficient cultivation, they couldn't even enter the Inner Island, only temporarily settling atop the cliffs of the Outer Island.

Still, the area was refreshingly simple and elegant, suitable for cloud-watching, and did not unduly grieve Tao Qian, the Great Master.

The youngsters had independent and unrestrained temperaments.

Tao Qian wasn't strict with them; he waved his hand and let the girl, Zhong Doudou, take them elsewhere to play while he, wielding the Ascending Immortal Token, had already made an early exploration—the several palace pavilions had been attacked in many places but were still relatively intact, void of dangerous arrays or bred aliens, quite safe.

He then went straight into the main hall, seeing only emptiness inside, furnished with some jade desks, and thin curtains fluttering around, appearing colder under the vast illumination of bright pearls on the dome.

Tao Qian didn't mind and went directly to sit in the main seat. Just as he settled down, he heard the sound of surging tides. Looking out, he saw the turbulent blue waves, washing over the rocks and generating a sea of cloud mist, under a bright moon, casting its brilliance—a scene that indeed pleased his heart and matched the temperament of the former island master, Xie Lingji.

However, it was unfortunate Tao Qian was insensitive to such charm.

After briefly admiring, he withdrew his gaze and began to contemplate various thoughts in his mind.

"Due to Master's peculiarities, I ought to have been sent to a place like Qingping Island to find foothold."

"Fortunately, having obtained this island, which is of great benefit to my Dao path, I should subdue it soon rather than risk prolonged vulnerability that could breed unexpected issues."

"According to the information in the Ascending Immortal Token, this island centers around Yunhua, Flame, and Ice Pot Three Mountains, surrounded by numerous mountains, large swamps, ancient forests, plains, etc., along the way there are three Forbidden Mansions, and I don't need to measure step by step to subdue the devil beasts and aliens."

"I just need to break through the three Forbidden Mansions, using the Ascending Immortal Token as a hub, and retake control of the island's Great Prohibition Array, and then I can consider this Ascending Immortal Island subdued."

"Even if later I step into Cavernous Mystery and Ultimate Happiness, this island will still be sufficient for my use."

"Master mentioned that this island is rare; I haven't gotten the title of True Inheritor yet, and once this news spreads, surely many fellow disciples will mock me."

"If it can be subdued quickly, it should be done quickly, to avoid disgracing Master's reputation."

Settling his thoughts, Tao Qian immediately took out a gourd.

But it was not the ferocious Blood Demon Gourd given by a certain granduncle before, but an ordinary one.

The specific aspect was that Tao Qian used this gourd to hold Demons.

After taking it out and pulling the cork, he shook it slightly, and a ghostly light flashed; a gnome-like Demon rolled out, this demon being hairless, with an arm extending from each eye socket, palms featuring eyes, blinking all around.

Seeing it was Tao Qian, it immediately knelt down and pleaded with a crying voice:

"Seeking True Man Master, please spare me, let me return."

"Next time, I definitely won't covet the Heavenly Demon Blood Transformation Elixir. That pill is poisonous."

Ordinary people hearing this demon's plea might feel sympathy.

But having seen much, Tao Qian, in front of these scheming and naturally deceitful Outer Realm Demons, had long since become as hard-hearted as iron.

Besides, this demon, called "Invisibility Demon," was rarer than a Substitute Demon, not only knowing the Five Elements Escape Technique but also able to conceal its form and traces. If one's cultivation was not high, or had not cultivated Divine Skills to counter it, it would be completely undetectable, making it extremely suitable to be used as a scout.

It had been tough for Tao Qian to capture one, and without fully exploiting it or ordering it several more times, how could he rest.

You should know, producing the Heavenly Demon Blood Transformation Elixir also required costs.

Thus, Tao Qian listened to its words without being moved, glanced at it lightly, and then ordered:

"You go out of these few palaces, go deep into this Immortal Island, and tell me about many situations along the way, especially the conditions around these three Forbidden Mansions, don't miss anything."

"If you do this task well, I will acknowledge your merit, and once your merit is perfected, not only will I free you, but I will also give you some extra unadulterated Demon Pills, got it?"

This strangely shaped Invisibility Demon initially wanted to bargain.

But suddenly meeting Tao Qian's gaze, it could only show a face full of grievances on the spot and then said, "Yes, True Master, I'll go right now."

As its words fell, the demon disappeared instantly.

Tao Qian didn't bother with it and didn't practice, but continued to ponder other matters in his mind.

Having gone through the Three Calamities and hurriedly brought back to Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, as soon as he settled down, he received a pile of gifts and immediately went to establish his Foundation.

Chapter 186: Nine-headed Turtle Dragon, Merfolk Attack_2

It could be said to be a series of ups and downs, which left Tao Qian unable to properly contemplate.

Now that he was officially settled on Ascending Immortal Island, Tao Qian finally had some spare time.

Previously, in the Observatory Hall on Golden Radiance Island, Duobao Daoist, his master, had not only talked about Xie Lingji and other matters with Tao Qian but also directly transmitted a message, informing him of all the sect rules.

With the teachings of the Three Immortal Treasures during his journey, Tao Qian, though new to the place, already had a deep understanding of the Spirit Treasure Sect.

"According to master, my position as a true inheritor should be secure, but I still need to wait some days, and not only me—all the disciples who have seized the position of true inheritor need to wait for official confirmation."

"It's not about any major event or schedule delay at the sect; the Spirit Treasure Sect follows the path of teaching without classifying, recognizing that all beings have spirits, and has never held what is called a grand sect competition."

"However, each generation's true inheritors must report the list to the Spirit Treasure Ancestor at a specific hour to firmly establish their status. The time for this generation's confirmation is not far off; just a little more waiting is required."

"As for the Great Lifebook Scripture, the Spirit Treasure Method is quite special. Before reaching the Transcend Mortality Realm, one can cultivate simply using the Basic Method."

"Only after becoming transcendent is it necessary to formally choose one's Dao Path."

"The Returning Immortal Mirror once revealed that within the Spirit Treasure Great Volume, there are nine classics and thirteen skills in the advanced Basic Method to choose from. Upon entering the Transcend Mortality Realm, one can formally start cultivation...This is why the other true inheritors are probably more anxious than me, especially since I am only at the Foundation Establishment Realm and only need to temper my body internally and externally to shed my mortal form."

"However, while I can't choose the advanced Basic Method yet, I can still select from the other Divine Power Skills and techniques using the token given by the master."

"I am entitled to the treatment of a true inheritor, and the range I can choose from is vast."

"Besides what I need for myself, it's the perfect opportunity to also pick something for Little Age and Lian Jing'er. Shan Jiu and Zhong Doudou do not need it; the former has a special background and a mysterious and unusual way of cultivation and doesn't need the Basic Method, while the latter, a natural born member of the Non-human Clan, has its own bloodline inheritance and similarly doesn't need the Basic Method."

...

These various thoughts quickly flashed through his mind.

Just as Tao Qian began to wonder whether he would really be troubled by his fellow disciples,

suddenly, there was a fluctuation in the qi in front of him.

He saw the Invisibility Demon slowly appear, immediately kneeling before Tao Qian, eyes filled with terror.

Upon closer inspection, the demon was shivering, almost to the point of bursting into tears.

Seeing this, Tao Qian revealed a look of surprise and directly asked mentally.

The Invisibility Demon immediately began speaking, earnestly explaining,

"True Master, please understand, it's not that I was incompetent at my tasks; I simply encountered a formidable enemy."

"Once I left here and went deeper into the Immortal Island, I faced many frightening non-human devil beasts and hidden demons, as well as other dangerous threats. If not for my abilities, I might have lost my life midway."

"Shortly after, as per your instructions, master, I found the first Forbidden Mansion."

"This mansion was built beneath a great marsh, an exceptionally quaint and elegant Water Mansion, with inner and outer areas. But now, the outer mansion has been occupied by a group of beasts of the Jiao Dragon Species, led by a particularly fierce Nine-headed Turtle Dragon with extraordinary blood

lineage. Though it is only at the Transcend Mortality Realm, it's not far from the Cavernous Mystery Realm, and it possesses several types of Bloodline Divine Powers, making its combat abilities extraordinary."

"The tablet outside the Water Mansion was tampered with by it, changed to the words 'Alligator Dragon Water Mansion.'"

"Although this turtle dragon has extraordinary bloodline, it couldn't capture me. I stealthily plucked one of its dragon scales, causing it to howl in pain, but it couldn't catch me."

"Perhaps I got too overwhelmed by my success, and karma came quickly."

"After leaving the Water Mansion, I proceeded deeper and soon found the second Forbidden Mansion."

"This mansion was built within a Dark Ancient Mountain. The mountain has some unknown abnormality that causes it to be overrun with ghosts and non-human species. I originally wanted to enter the mansion to clear things up, but as soon as I got close, I encountered a strange devil beast, this beast had a tiger's head and a human body with hooves and elbows, extremely fierce."

"It instantly saw through my invisibility technique, opened its huge mouth as if it wanted to devour me."

"After I dodged it, the beast turned around and called for others, and immediately, seven or eight odd and bizarre beast shapes sprang out from the mansion, all could see through my invisibility."

"If not for my quick thinking using the Escape Technique to double back, I might now be in the stomachs of those beasts."

"This place is indeed part of the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate; those old demons in the Cultivation World were right to warn that everywhere else might be approachable, but one should never venture to the Daoist and Buddhist Sects' Mountain Gates."

"Wow!"

The Invisibility demon, after a long complaint, was moved to tears by its own words.

Suddenly, it truly burst into crying, tears streaming from the palms sticking out of its eye sockets, creating a bizarre and comical scene.

"Don't wail any longer, I'll reward you for your effort," Tao Qian said and then lifted the gourd and tired the demon back inside.

It had thoroughly investigated the first Forbidden Mansion, though the second was somewhat muddled.

Nevertheless, with the Ascending Immortal Token in hand, Tao Qian reflected for a few moments and understood the reason.

"The second mansion sounds even more bizarre and terrifying, but that's just the appearance; at least for me, it seems recovering the first mansion will be more difficult."

"The Nine-headed Turtle Dragon is directly descended from the Dragon Clan; its dragon blood is even more concentrated than the broken pearl I obtained earlier."

"Leading a group of Jiao Dragon species devil beasts, combined with a perfect Transcend Mortality cultivation, and along the way facing numerous dangers... Unless I use all the treasures given to me by my martial uncles and aunts, I truly might not be able to recover that Alligator Dragon Water Mansion."

Chapter 187: Nine-headed Turtle Dragon, Merfolk Attack_3

"The Spirit Treasure Method can't be relied upon for now, and while the Secret Demon Sect's Method is quite useful, it lacks the power to conquer,"

"In that case, all that remains is..."

Tao Qian pondered, an image instantly emerging in his mind of the Buddha Bird Relics, which looked like a pill made of nourishing mud after being kneaded thoroughly by his master.

Up to this point, the most rare "treasure" that Tao Qian possessed was this object.

Every time he thought back to his time in Southern Yue, and how he relied on the Buddha Bird Relics to unleash such combat power that even the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva was easily overturned—not to mention Tang Xianzong, who had borrowed the Devil God Origin and, through a moment of carelessness, was suppressed by hundreds of Bird Demons—it was indeed a display of unmatched ferocity.

Now, the Relic had been refined by Human Dao Destiny, purged of its demonic nature, and its power had actually increased rather than decreased.

However, Duobao Daoist also mentioned that to truly make good use of the Relic, Tao Qian still needed to learn some Buddhist Daoist Techniques.

"Well, it is such a rare Immortal Island; subduing it overnight would indeed be a fantasy. Better to think of a plan before taking action."

"Tomorrow I shall first visit the Scripture Hall to get a glimpse of the Spirit Treasure Sect's library."

These thoughts were running through Tao Qian's mind.

Suddenly, the sharp cries of Zhong Doudou, Little Age, and a few others rang out, coming from not too far away.

Along with them came a series of thunderous palpitations, as well as deep, low roars that carried with the sound of the tides.

Tao Qian immediately stood up and went to the window of the main hall on the cliff.

Looking down from above, the first thing that caught Tao Qian's eyes was an extremely terrifying scene:

He saw the surging waves washing over the pitch-black reefs, wildly beating against this cliffside. This great commotion covered the sounds of a Devil Clan's ghostly invasion.

They clearly came from the depths of the sea, humanoid but covered in scales, with gills on their faces and webbed limbs. Their eyeballs were blood-red as they seethed with intense resentment and malice.

They moved with agility, climbing up the cliff like ghosts.

And they began to furiously attack the enchantments surrounding the palace complex.

This sight immediately reminded Tao Qian of the traces he had seen upon his arrival at this place.

Originally, these palatial buildings had been unclaimed for many years, and the Devils had grown accustomed to this.

But now that someone had claimed this place once again, it seemed to stir them into even greater frenzy. Upon seeing Zhong Doudou, Little Age, and a few others, they immediately started to emit sharp roars, which seemed rhythmic, connected into what could almost be considered a song.

However, this song was not pleasant.

On the contrary, it was extremely harsh and even had effects of hypnotism and demonizing others.

In Tao Qian's mind, a Record appeared: "Under attack by the Demon Sound of Mutated Merfolk... Immunity granted!"

As soon as the Record formed, the Mutated Merfolk noticed Tao Qian.

Seeing him in the main hall, all of the Merfolk frenziedly surged in his direction.

"Hiss... Bang!"

The fastest, apparently also the leader—a female Merfolk.

Almost like a ghost, she tried to directly smash through the seemingly empty, yet enchanted-protected window. With a muffled thud, she collided against a layer of suddenly activated blue light enchantment. Tao Qian could even see her body distort and hear the sound of her bones breaking.

But even so, she did not retreat.

With her head covered in blood, she rapidly climbed up from the reef area below, her red eyes filled with hatred glaring at Tao Qian through the air.

Then, word by word, in the clumsy language of the Human Clan, she said:

"Liar... Human Clan, all liars."

Tao Qian had expected a threat or something else.

Who would have thought he would hear such words?

Liars?

I, Master Tao, have just arrived; it's certainly not me.

So does this word actually refer to Xie Lingji, the original owner of Ascending Immortal Island?

Chapter 188: The Strange Spring Fairy, Red Sleeves in the Silk Cave

Coastal Cliff, halls and pavilions.

A mutated, fallen branch of the Merfolk Clan was attacking these several palaces with various means.

Sadly, although they were also a well-known bloodline of alien species, they were not adept at fighting and conquest.

Before Tao Qian arrived, they could not do anything to the masterless palace, which was automatically guarded by enchantments. After Tao Qian arrived, there was a new master of the enchantments, making it even more impossible for them to breach. No matter what means they exhausted, the enchantments stood firm, unmovable. Amidst the rumbling tides, one could only hear their blood-curdling, sorrowful neighing.

In front of Tao Qian was an even more brutal scene:

The female mermaid with blood-red eyes was staring straight at Tao Qian as if she saw in him the former Island Master, a deep resentment in her gaze that seemed it could never be washed away by all the waters of the Penglai Sea.

One could see her repeatedly crashing against the enchantment, and with each "thud," it was visibly clear that her skull was fracturing, her flesh becoming a blur.

Obviously, she was provoked.

When the palaces were without a master in the past, her reactions would not have been so intense.

Her actions now were like those of a wild beast trapped for years, a bizarre form of self-harm.

The only difference was, she could speak.

"Despicable Human Clan, you deceived us from South Sea Merfolk Island, took our Merfolk Pearls, burned our merfolk fat, used our Merfolk Silk... you broke your promise to not give us Merfolk Techniques, liars, all humans are liars."

"Kill us, wipe us out."

"Do it now!"

"Thud, thud, thud!"

The shrill screams of deep hatred echoed through the Cliff Palace.

Tao Qian just stood there in the main hall window, listening and watching, his brows gradually frowning.

Although the mermaid before him was in an extremely agitated state, Tao Qian still understood the cause and effect from her words.

He couldn't help but turn to look inside the main hall, at the Luminous Pearls on the dome, the thin veils fluttering, and the intricate candlesticks.

Clearly, the former Island Master Xie Lingji, or her subordinates, had made an agreement with this branch of the Merfolk Clan. They brought them from a place called "South Sea Merfolk Island" to Ascending Immortal Island. They provided pearls, fat, and silk, while Xie Lingji was to provide them with cultivation methods.

Such trades were not uncommon in the Cultivation World.

Many bloodline alien species like the "Merfolk Clan," although naturally special, would typically reach their limit upon reaching adulthood.

If they wished to break through their personal or even their entire clan's fate, they needed to cultivate.

And within the Cultivation World, the Human Clan controlled countless cultivation methods like the sands of the Ganges, simply innumerable.

Naturally, such trades were born.

"Although it's not easy to find a suitable Cultivation Method for a bloodline alien species, this should not have been difficult for my Senior Sister Lingji. After all, she is not only a True Disciple of the previous generation but also the senior most disciple of Yunhua Immortal. She had access to endless resources. How could she lack a basic method suitable for aquatic Devils?"

"The only explanation: this group of mermaids was unlucky to have encountered the death of Senior Sister Lingji."

"Once a person dies, their path ends, let alone a mere trade."

In a moment, Tao Qian understood the underlying cause and truth.

At the same time, he frowned even more deeply.

It seemed that these mermaids had been greatly stimulated by seeing a member of the Human Clan again. It was not just the female mermaid before Tao Qian; the rest of the individuals also began to let out miserable howls and relentlessly dashed against the enchantments, harming themselves.

If before, this Cliff Palace with a view of the sea of clouds still had some cold Immortal Qi, then at this moment, with the mermaids acting so, only a tragic bloody aura remained.

Hundreds of mermaids wailed and harmed themselves, their cold blue blood flowing down the cliff, quickly dyeing the area in shades of luminous blue, almost like a specter.

Tao Qian looked a few times, partly unable to bear the wails of the mermaids, partly recalling something.

Suddenly, he made his move.

One saw Tao Qian lightly form a Dao Seal, and then in a low voice said, "Please assist me, Miraculous Tree Great Venerable!"

This was his first time using a new divine power, so he was extra careful.

In truth, it could have been done with just a thought.

No sooner had he spoken than the enchantments on the Cliff Palace disappeared. Before the mermaids could rush in, green branches and roots emerged from the void, quickly entangling and wrapping the hundreds of mermaids tightly. Coupled with a low shout from Tao Qian using the Nine True Spirit Sound, these mermaids instantly trembled. Black pus started to flow from all their orifices.

The Daoist Spirit Sound gravely injured these mermaids but also purged their bodies, freeing them from the mutated state.

Those pairs of blood-red eyeballs returned to clarity.

The Merfolk Clan was inherently a good-natured alien species; this branch had fallen into demonhood partly because they thought Xie Lingji had broken her promise, and their spirits were tainted, and partly because they were homesick and couldn't adapt to the harsh environment of Ascending Immortal Island.

In front of Tao Qian, the female mermaid woke up.

From blood-red eyes back to tranquil blue, she locked onto Tao Qian, recalling the previous events, seeming to understand something, and with a trembling voice asked, "You are not Master Xie, who are you?"

Tao Qian looked at her with a touch of sympathy and sighed, "You may call me Master Tao. Master Xie was my senior sister; she has perished many years ago. From today on, the master of Ascending Immortal Island will be me."

Upon hearing the shocking news, the Mother Mermaid nearly mutated again, and Tao Qian had to reinforce his spell with another Nine True Spirit Sound.

The Mother Mermaid kept her clarity, and her blue eyes immediately filled with tears, which then flowed outward.

Along with the sound of tinkling, Tao Qian watched with his own eyes as one Luminous Pearl after another fell from the corner of the Mother Mermaid's eyes.

Although he had heard of this fable before, seeing it firsthand still made him marvel.

Chapter 189: The Strange Spring Fairy, Red Sleeves in the Silk Cave_2

"Being able to continuously produce Merfolk Pearls, Merfolk Silk, merfolk fat, and other treasures, it's no wonder Senior Sister Xie promised them a cultivation method and requested they follow in cultivation."

"I would agree too, this deal is indeed a profitable one."

When Tao Qian's mind flickered with this thought,

the Mermaids, led by the Mother Mermaid, hearing the terrible news, all started wailing together.

Their voices were eerily terrifying before, but now they were mournful and pitiful.

It was not grating to the ear; on the contrary, it was extremely melodious, although listening for a long time could unintentionally make one feel sad. Meanwhile, the sound of 'ding ding dong dong' was constant, and soon the cliff area was filled with large and small Luminous Pearls, lighting up the area as if it were daylight.

The originally panicked little ones, now cried while simultaneously wanting to go out and pick up the Treasure Beads.

Tao Qian felt a headache coming on and couldn't help but think a few thoughts to himself.

Then, he spoke out to stop them: "Stop crying."

It was strange, indeed!

When this Mother Mermaid mutated and fell, she was extremely ferocious.

Now that she had regained clarity, she seemed like a wronged little bride.

Scolded by Tao Qian, she subconsciously stopped shedding tears, but there were still some remnants left, sobbing occasionally, and a few smaller Merfolk Pearls still fell.

Seeing her change from before and after, Tao Qian couldn't help but find it amusing, but still had to ask,

"Are you their leader? How many in your clan are there now? Is there anything unusual about where you live? Is it connected to the water veins within the island?"

Several questions in a row caused the Mother Mermaid to pause.

However, she quickly composed herself.

Wiping her tears, she said intermittently, "Replying... replying to Master, I, I am the leader, our clan consists of five hundred and eighteen individuals, we live in the water caves at the bottom of these black reef rocks, those water caves are indeed connected to the Immortal Island's water veins, but we cannot go to the island, there's a group of ferocious Jiao Dragons guarding it, and should we enter, they would capture and eat us."

Towards the end, she no longer stuttered.

Tao Qian pondered and then asked, "What is the deal that my Senior Sister Xie made with you? Are there specifics of the agreement?"

Hearing this, the Mother Mermaid seemed to see hope again, her deep blue mermaid eyes lighting up, as she quickly responded:

"Initially, Master Xie chanced upon our Merfolk Island and thought that the Merfolk Silk I wove was the most beautiful, so she promised as long as I led my clan to follow her in cultivation, she would find us a cultivation method suitable for the Merfolk."

"Before she disappeared, she told me that the Spirit Treasure Scripture Hall had newly included the 'Quanxian Jellyfish Technique,' said to be created by an ancestor of our Merfolk Clan."

"That ancestor was born of Merfolk and Human Clan mixed blood, raised in the Human world from childhood, later stepped into cultivation, spent five hundred years to reach the Cavernous Mystery Realm, then spent another three hundred years visiting many sects, finally creating that Basic Method for our Merfolk Clan."

"Hearing this great news, we all cried tears of joy."

"Who would have thought, after waiting and waiting, we could not receive the method, instead, one by one, the Human Clan Cultivators on this island vanished."

"After that, we succumbed to the Fallen."

Speaking of this, the Mother Mermaid again touched on a sore point, and Merfolk Pearls started to clink and fall again.

At this moment, she suddenly felt a warm hand placed on her forehead.

The Mother Mermaid couldn't help but raise her head and saw a face with a natural Daoist charm close by, her cheeks suddenly flushing with extreme rosiness.

The former Island Master, Xie Lingji, was a learned lady who often spoke to her of passionate love stories while watching the cloud sea from this palace pavilion, often featuring mermaids as the main character, usually with a scholar or a Fisherman's Son, though rarely with a cultivator.

Despite this, at this moment, with their skins touching and her emotions intensely swaying, she couldn't help but fantasize, silently thinking to herself:

"This Master is so handsome, if he were to ask me to serve by his side, I fear I cannot refuse, hoping only that he would take over the trade, and if he truly brings our clan a cultivation method, even if I must become his servant, it is only right."

These thoughts in the Mother Mermaid's mind were, of course, unknown to Tao Qian.

He was touching her forehead simply to trigger the Record, verifying the truth of her words.

With a quick touch, Tao Qian soon confirmed that everything the Mother Mermaid said was true, and he immediately thought to himself: This Merfolk Clan is not only a source of many treasures but also generally very useful; indeed, they are worth keeping around, a good deal to make. However, let's not hurry to agree, I still need to visit the Scripture Hall first to confirm whether the 'Quanyan Jellyfish Technique' exists and whether it's accessible with my current permissions.

With his mind made up, Tao Qian spoke to the Mother Mermaid in front of him:

"Since my Senior Sister Xie has perished, naturally your clan's deal with her can't proceed."

"However, your plight is indeed pitiful; so let's do this, in a few moments it'll be dawn, and then I'll visit the Spirit Treasure Scripture Hall. If I can retrieve the 'Quanyan Jellyfish Technique,' then I'll take over in place of Senior Sister Xie and complete this contract deal, and henceforth your clan will follow me in cultivation."

"If I can't retrieve it, you may continue to stay here or leave the Penglai Sea and return to Merfolk Island as you choose. How about that?"

As Tao Qian's voice fell, the Mother Mermaid immediately started crying tears of joy again, nodding incessantly.

Had it not been for the Spirit Treasure Roots binding her, she would probably have pounced on him, for according to the rites of the Merfolk Clan, she would have embraced Tao Qian and showered him with kisses and licks.

Seeing the fervor in her eyes, Tao Qian involuntarily took a step back and slightly warned, "For now, take your clan and leave."

After saying this, the Spirit Treasure Roots released.

Regaining her freedom, the Mermaid immediately turned her head and babbled something to the group of Merfolk.

Chapter 190: The Strange Spring Fairy, Red Sleeves in the Silk Cave_3

At the next breath, the Merfolk, humming cheerful ballads, plunged one by one into the sea with a splash.

The leading mermaid also looked back thrice with each step, eventually entering the sea with lingering reluctance.

Coincidentally, as the mermaid dived into the ocean, the dawn broke over Penglai Sea.

A ray of morning light beamed down, combined with the Merfolk Pearls scattered throughout the caverns below the cliff, cast a splendid glow over the Coastal Cliff Pavilion, rivaling that of the Immortal Realm.

Tao Qian glanced over and couldn't help but smile.

With a wave of his hand, he instructed Shan Jiu to lead Little Age and Lian Jing'er to frolic and gather the Treasure Beads.

Zhong Doudou, this Crystal Demon girl, he called over for a separate inquiry.

Managing such a vast Immortal Island was a troublesome affair indeed.

Fortunately, his Master granted him the authority over the "Crystal Demon Clan," whose combat prowess far surpassed the Merfolk Clan.

Judging by what Zhong Doudou had boasted about on their way here,

the Crystal Demons were immune to fire and water, invincible to swords and spears, and completely fearless of Extraordinary Powers like the Thunder Skill and Poison Smoke.

Moreover, tireless and possessing many lethal abilities, they were extremely handy.

If he could summon more, Tao Qian felt that taming this island would not be too difficult.

However, Tao Qian soon received a worrying response.

Inside the main hall, Zhong Doudou, with a twisted expression, said:

"Young Master, it's certainly possible for you to summon my sisters to conquer the savage Devils on this island, but our Crystal Demon Clan cannot cultivate through Qi Eating. We manage well within the Star Membrane Secret Realm, but if active outside, we rely on consuming Spiritual Pearls, Spirit Stones, Jade Marrow Glaze, and other extraordinary alien items to maintain our combat strength."

"If you wish to conquer this island swiftly, I fear you'll have to summon most of my sisters, and Young Master... you might not be able to bear the cost of our sustenance."

Zhong Doudou's words couldn't have been clearer.

To put it simply: Young Master, you can't afford to provide for my sisters.

Tao Qian recalled what Duobao Daoist had told him earlier and thought it had been an exaggeration; now confirmed by the girl, it turned out to be true.

But soon, Tao Qian noticed a loophole and asked subconsciously, "Dou Dou, why haven't you needed anything while following me these days?"

As soon as Tao Qian asked this question, it immediately stirred up the girl's sorrows.

The girl turned her head, her eyes welling up with tears, and said pitifully:

"Young Master, Dou Dou has been deceived."

"True Monarch promised me a handsome reward for good service, and that reward was to stay by Young Master's side."

"Of course, that's wonderful; Dou Dou loves Young Master the most, especially the fragrance and delicacies in Young Master's embrace."

"But who would've expected Young Master to achieve Foundation Establishment so quickly? With the No-leak Body sealed, Dou Dou can no longer taste a wisp of Immortal Spiritual Qi. I've been starving for a whole day now."

"Young Master, could you please give Dou Dou some food? If I starve for a few more days, Dou Dou will become ugly."

"If it really doesn't work, those Merfolk Pearls will do, although they are a bit salty, they can still be eaten."

Upon hearing Zhong Doudou's words, Tao Qian finally realized

why the girl, who had always clung to him, had stopped doing so after he had founded his Dao Foundation.

Well, turns out this was the reason.

Tao Qian was momentarily speechless; he could only nod silently, agreeing to let the girl gather and eat the Merfolk Pearls, while also putting off the summoning of the Crystal Demons to conquer the Immortal Island for the time being.

Before leaving, Zhong Doudou seemed to remember something and hurriedly added:

"Dou Dou overheard Young Master talking with that mermaid. With your status, obtaining that Magic Skill would be effortless."

"However, the Spirit Treasure Scripture Hall holds an extensive collection, vast as the sea of smoke, and even the Scripture Hall Steward may not know where all the Books of Skills are located. If you want to search slowly, it would undoubtedly take several days."

"However, there are exceptions. On your way to the Scripture Hall, you could visit Aunt Spider's Immortal Island."

"Aunt Spider has served as the Scripture Hall Steward for hundreds of years and knows the whereabouts of all sorts of books like the back of her hand. She is also on good terms with Aunt Yunhua. With Young Master's prestige, you can certainly receive guidance and quickly find any Book of Skills you desire."

"The Basic Methods required by Little Age and Lian Jing'er might also only be easily found by Aunt Spider. Any ordinary Scripture Hall Steward you ask would likely give you an 'I don't know' in response."

"By the way, Aunt Spider's Daoist Field is at the Red Sleeve Immortal Island's Silk Cave Mansion, merely three hundred miles from here. It would take Young Master just a few breaths to get there."