

## Longevity 191

Chapter 191: The Daoist Alcohol and Meat was once an emperor, with no hope on the Dao Path, he wishes to cease the struggle.

At dawn, Tao Qian left the younger ones at the Cliff Sea Pavilion.

He himself then rode his Evasion Light, identified his bearings, and headed straight for the Silk Cave of Red Sleeve Immortal Island, about three hundred li away, which indeed wasn't far.

As for the words "Silk Cave," which should have surprised Tao Qian, he had long since become accustomed to such oddities.

This world and the previous one had too many connections that were similar yet different.

Just as there is a Demon City in this realm, but it is not the Demon City of the other realm—its name's origin is beyond comparison by tens of thousands of miles.

If Tao Qian had to investigate the origins of every familiar term he heard, he would have long been too busy to manage.

Despite this, when Tao Qian set off for the Red Sleeve Immortal Island, he couldn't help but mutter in his heart, "Silk Cave Mansion, Spider Immortal... I hope that Aunt Spider, considering Fairy Yunhua's face, will merely give me a few pointers instead of binding me with spider silk, hanging me up, and disguising it as 'an Immortal pointing the way.'"

Just after Tao Qian finished his complaint, his Evasion Light shot out for over a hundred li.

Suddenly, he saw a brilliantly colorful mist of clouds appear ahead, rising up. At first glance, it took up some space but didn't touch Tao Qian's Evasion Light.

But unexpectedly, just as he neared it, the misty clouds blew open like a steamer lid being lifted, rapidly expanding and enveloping everything tightly in all directions.

Tao Qian was also caught within it before he could discern what was happening.

He saw waves after waves, strands upon strands, pieces upon pieces of an intensely fragrant aroma crazily penetrating into his body through every pore.

In that instant, Tao Qian only felt he had smelled countless fragrances of the world: the thousands of meaty scents were just one kind, followed by the fragrance of flowers, fruits, and trees, and then there was the aroma of fine wine and beautiful women... so many scents mixed together, yet strangely non-conflicting, making one's limbs go numb, craving to breathe in more.

If ordinary mortals or common cultivators were trapped in it, they'd undoubtedly become drowsy and sinking into it, unable to escape.

But now Tao Qian had his No-leak Body, and his mind instantly recalled the Record: "Assaulted by the Great Desire Fragrance Cloud..."

He didn't need his Abnormal Soul to do anything, simply let out a low shout, and he broke free from the influence of the Fragrant Cloud.

Tao Qian didn't want to investigate the source of the Fragrant Cloud, lest it cause some trouble and delay his quest for guidance at the Silk Cave Mansion.

He turned around, ready to ride his Evasion Light away.

Unfortunately, at that very moment, he saw a flash of brilliance below the Fragrant Cloud, and then Tao Qian felt that he had been caught by some Forbidden Technique, and was directly transported beneath the Fragrant Cloud, inside an Immortal Island that opened his eyes wide.

At this moment, Tao Qian felt himself standing atop an Immortal Island that seemed to exist only in fantasy.

Various substantial mists of fragrant air wafted and drifted all around.

Directly in front of him was a hill made entirely out of yeast, from which flowed a green stream emitting a tantalizing aroma of wine, forming a pond at the bottom of the hill, and a lake beyond, surrounded by a dense forest. However, what hung from the branches and vines in the forest were not leaves, but pieces of meat, unmistakably aromatic to their core.

Tao Qian glanced over and the words "Wine Pool Meat Forest" instantly sprung to mind.

While he felt startled deep down, he quickly looked around.

Fortunately, soon Tao Qian relaxed, as his eyes did not reflect any sight of torture instruments such as branding pots and scorpion basins.

Looking past this welcome setup, Tao Qian saw many sceneries belonging to those of the Immortal kind, tiers of deep pavilions and lofty halls, rows of Pearl Palaces, with many figures indulging themselves within.

There were humans, as well as other species, or even Alien Ghosts, and Tao Qian even saw creatures like the Joyful Demons, demons from the Outer Realm.

If such diverse species were gathered in the external world, brains would be bashed into mush.

There would be an overwhelming density of hostility.

However, eerily enough, in this place, Tao Qian couldn't sense even a trace of hostility.

What he could feel was an atmosphere rich with joy and indulgence.

Tao Qian had previously witnessed similar "scenes" in the workshop of the Great Sect called Joyful Pavilion in Southern Yue. But to him, the so-called joy of Joyful Pavilion was just superficial; not to mention true Ultimate Happiness, they hadn't even achieved a small genuine joy.

But it was different here.

Standing for just a breath or two, Tao Qian faintly felt a certain kind of joy, the true meaning of Ultimate Happiness.

Even a strange premonition arose: "If I now let go of my concerns and join in, it would not adversely affect my Dao Path, my Cultivation."

No sooner had this premonition emerged than Tao Qian crushed it.

He gave a salute towards the welcoming Wine Pool Meat Forest, and then said:

"I do not know which esteemed elder's Daoist Field this is. Tao Qian is just passing through with pressing matters and is unable to delay. I must visit the Red Sleeve Immortal Island. I will surely visit another day and ask for your forgiveness."

After speaking, Tao Qian bowed and turned to leave.

Just then, a sigh echoed in this place.

With a flash of brilliance, the previously empty Wine Pool Meat Forest now had, as if by direct teleportation, a grand procession appear: there were formidable and sturdy servants and guards, as well as enchantingly beautiful slave girls and maids, all surrounding the middle where stood a Dragon Chariot.

Atop the Dragon Chariot, a middle-aged Daoist lay reclined.

He was dressed in a loosely worn Daoist robe, casually open to reveal his plump belly, and on his head, he wore a crown only an Emperor could wear. His physique was muscular, yet his face was greasy, as if he had indulged in excess, with dark circles under his eyes, giving the impression he could drop dead at any moment.

As soon as the peculiar Daoist appeared, he addressed Tao Qian:

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"You are Tao Qian, with such an unfamiliar face, so you must be the first disciple recently taken in by my eldest senior brother."

"I, in worldly terms known as Li Changle, am also called the Daoist Alcohol and Meat."

As he finished his introduction, not waiting for Tao Qian to pay his respects, the Daoist immediately challenged:

"My lazy self, the Alcohol and Meat Uncle, has always been too lethargic to leave the island, hence I have never visited you at my senior brother's Golden Radiance Island."

"I saw you passing by just now and thought to keep you a little longer, to make up for the missing greeting gift. But you, boy, are too boring. After one look, you wanted to leave. What? Does my Wine Pool Meat Forest on the Ultimate Happiness Immortal Island not catch the eye of a talented disciple like you, unwilling even to linger for a moment of pleasure?"

"Do you know of the reputation of my Ultimate Happiness Immortal Island in the Mortal World, in the Cultivation World? Be it high officials, noble persons, the supreme ones, or the talents from various sects, if they could get an 'Ultimate Happiness Token' to enjoy pleasures here, they would surely be overjoyed."

"You see this Daoist Field of mine welcoming guests with Wine Pool and Meat Forest. It appears extravagant and corrupt, rotting the will of the Dao Heart. Yet in reality, all these arrangements capture the true essence of ultimate bliss, no matter how you indulge, it does not damage the Dao Heart. This is the mystery of the magic skill I cultivate, 'Spirit Treasure Great Desire Ultimate Happiness Sutra.'"

Having said his piece, Tao Qian remained unmoved, with not a trace of temptation in his eyes.

In fact, on touching that "Great Desire Fragrance Cloud," he had already learned some information about this immortal island.

Nevertheless, it held little temptation for Tao Qian.

Regardless of whether or not it damaged the Dao Heart, he had no interest in indulging in the Wine Pool Meat Forest and experiencing ultimate pleasure.

Of course, proper manners still had to be observed, so Tao Qian bowed his hands in return:

"Elder Uncle's magic skill is indeed indescribable."

"However, as uncle also knows, I was merely a Loose Cultivator in the wilderness before, and now I am luckily part of the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, thus I have to cultivate diligently."

"In matters of cultivation, one cannot slack off."

"I am actually on my way to the Red Sleeve Immortal Island to consult Aunt Pan Si about some doubts regarding the cultivation technique in the Scripture Hall; hence, I dare not linger to avoid delaying the journey."

With this watertight response, Tao Qian left the Daoist Alcohol and Meat speechless. The latter pursed his lips and knocked on the Dragon Chariot, summoning a scantily-clad, fairy-like maid from the group. She held a jade tray carrying a bizarre fruit resembling a half-reclining little person, belly exposed, with a wide smiling mouth.

As if combining thousands of exotic fragrances, a strong fragrance overwhelmed the senses.



Then, the voice of Daoist Alcohol and Meat came from ahead:

"Listen well, boy, this is the Ultimate Happiness Extending Life Fruit, truly a rare item even within the Cultivation World."

"Swallowing one can extend life for ten years without any cost, and also allows one to experience a wonderful dream of ultimate bliss."

"If you find the taste to your liking, feel free to ask me for more."

"Go on, I won't keep you any longer."

Since the Daoist said so, Tao Qian could not refuse.

He picked up the fruit and was then waved away from the Immortal Island by the Daoist's hand.

Holding the fruit, Tao Qian was about to store it in his talisman seed and continue towards the Red Sleeve Immortal Island.

However, at that moment, upon touching the "Ultimate Happiness Extending Life Fruit" in his hand, some secrets suddenly emerged in his mind that made his body stiffen.

[Record Name: Ultimate Happiness Extending Life Fruit.]

[Record Type: Alien.]

[Record: This is a unique alien item exclusive to the Spirit Treasure Sect, only cultivatable by cultivators who practice the 'Great Desire Ultimate Happiness Scripture,' which is one of the Nine Classics in the Great Book, extraordinarily mystical, directly connected to the Great Dao. However, once this scripture is cultivated, advancing to the Daoist Transformation Realm becomes as hard as ascending to heaven; until now, only one Second Generation Ancestor of the Spirit Treasure Sect has managed it.]

[Note 1: Method of growing this fruit: Create a Realm of Ultimate Happiness through the Ultimate Happiness Scripture, then attract various life forms using multiple methods. Any life form that enters and spends time there for pleasure will have part of their lifespan transformed into an Ultimate Happiness Extending Life Fruit.]

[Note 2: Li Changle, former emperor of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, chose to cultivate the 'Great Desire Ultimate Happiness Scripture' in his early years due to damage from Foundation Establishment, barely reached the Cavernous Mystery Realm, sees no hope on the Dao Path, and is preparing for a do-or-die attempt in the upcoming...??...]

"Uh?"

Tao Qian did not expect that this mere fruit would reveal some of his elder uncle's background.

Perhaps it was because this Elder Uncle Li Changle held no guard against him, and with Tao Qian's current Cultivation Realm reaching Foundation Establishment, he naturally could perceive these secrets, which also continued to elevate.

"The Longevity Heavenly Dynasty has lasted over two thousand years, yet every generation of rulers has been different."

"The reigning imperial family is surnamed Zhu, with the former indeed being Li. I didn't expect that within the gates of Spirit Treasure Mountain there was indeed an emperor hiding, odd that uncle maintained some imperial attire, probably since some worldly desires linger."

"The planting process of the Ultimate Happiness Extending Life Fruit is indeed not surprising, as it must be so otherwise it would be illogical; there can be no lifespan generated out of thin air. It must be derived, which fits with the dao."

"However, what the subsequent question mark represents, I do not know."

"If Uncle Changle has no hope on his Dao Path, how could he be prepared for a do-or-die struggle?"

Tao Qian's brows furrowed, feeling a premonition.

That question mark involved a secret related to him.

"It surely can't be that True Inheritor Grand Meeting is it? That only involves reporting this generation's list of True Disciples to the ancestors, how could it make a Cavernous Mystery Realm Elder fight a do-or-die battle?"

"Unless there is something else, something I'm unaware of."

Pondering for a moment without understanding,

Tao Qian had to store the fruit and temporarily suppress those thoughts.

Stumbling upon secrets of an Elder's level was already unexpected, and without special circumstances, Tao Qian did not intend to delve deep.

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For him now, the foremost task was to subdue "Ascending Immortal Island."

Had Tao Qian been just an ordinary Foundation Establishment disciple, accomplishing this would have been extremely difficult.

But he was not; Tao Qian had dispatched an Invisibility Demon last night to scout, and after getting the results, he pondered them carefully.

"Just need to acquire the appropriate Buddhist Daoist Techniques, release a fraction of the Buddha Bird Relics, and combine it with my other methods, subduing Ascending Immortal Island shouldn't be too hard."

"Let's see what I can gain from this trip?"

As the thought settled, Tao Qian's Evasion Light shot out over a hundred more miles.

In the blink of an eye, Tao Qian descended on a cloud, quickly coming upon an Immortal Island planted with all sorts of strange flowers and herbs, towering Ancient Wood.

Clearly, this was Red Sleeve Immortal Island.

Belonging to the Spirit Treasure Female Fairy, Pan Si Fairy.

This immortal had not appeared for some reason during the previous two opportunities, so Tao Qian had not yet met her.

After all, it was a Sect leader's Daoist Field, and Tao Qian did not dare to rashly intrude.

Instead, he triggered the visiting Cloud Talisman he had prepared in advance with Immortal Spiritual Qi, which immediately turned into a stream of light and entered the island.

To Tao Qian's surprise, however, he immediately received a response.

A stream of light shot back, and as Tao Qian grasped the Cloud Talisman, a clear, cold, yet gentle voice echoed inside:

"Don't come onto the island, just tell me what you seek."

Hearing this, Tao Qian felt a bit strange.

But he still followed the request, writing clearly what he sought, and threw another Cloud Talisman onto the island, then waited outside.

While waiting, he admired the landscape of the Immortal Island before him.

According to what the Crystal Demon Girl, Zhong Doudou, had said, among the Penglai Sea's thousand immortal islands, each one was distinct, each a beauty of the Immortal realm invisible to the Mortal World.

Tao Qian had now seen Golden Radiance Island, Ascending Immortal Island, and Ultimate Happiness Island, indeed each of them was extraordinary.

However, looking at the one before him, Tao Qian felt it seemed rather ordinary after a while.

Until a certain moment, when he seemed to zone out.

Looking again, the flowers, plants, and trees had disappeared, and before him stood a Big Island wrapped in endless silver silk threads. Layer upon layer, corridor upon corridor, too thick to ascertain, the silk threads spread out in all directions, seemingly in line with the natural laws of the universe. Even though the threads appeared coated in a viscous liquid, it gave the impression of a giant cocoon floating in the sea.

But to Tao Qian, it was not at all terrifying.

After blinking, the bizarre scene vanished, and the slightly illusory Red Sleeve Immortal Island reappeared.

Before Tao Qian had a chance to look closely again, another stream of light shot out.

Coming to a stop in front of him, it burst open.

Tao Qian saw only a figure wearing a skirt with long sleeves, cold and otherworldly like an immortal in white, vanish in a flash, as the gentle voice rang out:

"Since you are the great senior brother's disciple and have some connection with Sister Yunhua,"

"I will take the initiative to fetch for you what you need. These techniques have not been recorded in the Great Book, nothing particularly rare."

"Go now, and next time... next time you are free, come and seek me out."

As the voice died down, Tao Qian was looking at a total of four items floating in front of him that carried the techniques, and he couldn't help but be stunned.

He wasn't surprised the techniques were directly brought to him.

What made him freeze was the temperament of this "Pan Si Immortal."

Observing those signs, although without much evidence, Tao Qian suddenly came to a conclusion: Pan Si Fairy seemed to fear meeting people, perhaps even a bit of social anxiety?

Inexplicably, Tao Qian even muttered a term only existing in his previous life.

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"This Pan Si Fairy probably didn't even want to see me at first, only doing so because of Yunhua and Duobao Yan's face, feeling that it would be rude not to meet. So she summoned an illusion to hurriedly flash before me, considering that as our meeting. Later, feeling that it was somewhat impolite, she directly helped me obtain the required techniques," Tao Qian's mind flashed with these thoughts, and he felt that he had glimpsed the fairy's psychology.

Although he was somewhat surprised to encounter a Devil Immortal with such a disposition, considering that this was the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate where all are taught, encompassing all under the heavens, it seemed quite reasonable.

"Thank you, Aunt Master, for bestowing the technique!"

Having guessed the disposition of the Pan Si Fairy and with the experience from a previous life, Tao Qian naturally wouldn't want to further burden someone with social anxiety.

After a bowing gesture of thanks, he directly took those four items and neatly turned around to leave, riding his Evasion Light.

No sooner had he left than within a cave on Red Sleeve Immortal Island, surrounded by billions of silver spider silks, the figure of the female fairy in a ruqun and long sleeves reflected on the smooth cave walls.

She let out a huge sigh of relief, then spoke to herself in a gentle voice,

"He really is a good kid, much more astute than that girl Xie Lingji. I do hope his path in the Dao is smooth."

As her voice faded, a vast mist arose from the sea surface and, in a moment, shrouded the entire Red Sleeve Immortal Island, leaving no trace behind.

Elsewhere, Tao Qian traveled to his Ascending Immortal Island leisurely using the Auspicious Cloud Skill.

At the same time, he used his Divine Thought to glance at the four techniques chosen for him by the Pan Si Fairy according to his needs. They were carried by four markedly different objects: a lustrous Merfolk Pearl, a mottled Buddha Bead, a Multi-Pored Black Stone, and a Bronze Miniature, totaling four items.

After a quick scan, Tao Qian immediately understood the techniques and couldn't help smiling satisfactorily.

The Magic Skill within the Merfolk Pearl didn't need much discussion; it was undoubtedly the Quanzhen Jellyfish Technique that the mermaid could not stop thinking about. Indeed, it was a Basic Method suitable for the Merfolk Clan's cultivation. Although the road ahead was dim, stopping at Cavernous Mystery and not able to reach Ultimate Happiness, for the Merfolk Clan, this method was already a Supreme Method and could not be nitpicked.

It is known that most Alien Demon Races are innately endowed with a bloodline power far stronger than that of the Human Clan. Perhaps for this reason, most of the Alien Demon Races are also unable to cultivate these Magic Skills.

There are very few races that can, like the Human Clan, create an expansive sea of cultivation techniques and Divine Skills, all in search of the Great Dao.

Tao Qian understood this principle, therefore, he did not plan to seek such a Great Book Basic Method for Little Age and Lian Jing'er; he only wanted to obtain suitable techniques for Taisui and the Mechanical Species that would unleash their potential.

Achieving this was not easy.

Zhong Doudou was right; if Tao Qian searched the Scripture Hall by himself, it would have taken at least several days, and he might not have achieved the best outcome.

With the Pan Si Fairy's assistance, it took barely ten breaths.

The two techniques were respectively contained in the Multi-Pored Black Stone and the Bronze Miniature.

[Record Name: Taisui Qi Eating Scripture.]

[Record Type: Alien.]

[Record Description: This technique is said to be created by an ancient Taisui Devil Immortal. Though it appears simple and consists of only three thousand words in the mnemonic, it truly embodies the principle 'Great Dao is Simple.' It is an orthodox Cultivation Method using blood and flesh as a medium to consume the Qi of heaven and earth. As the quantity increases and changes occur, one acquires Divine Skills and Extraordinary Powers, disregarding all realms, becoming immortal and ancestor.]

[Note 1: To cultivate this method, one must either plant the Taisui Seed within oneself or be a Taisui Hua Sheng; otherwise, cultivating it will certainly lead to a violent death.]

[Note 2: If one who has planted the Taisui Seed cultivates this scripture, many costs will arise during the Dao Path, unpredictable and without set rules, but none can stop you from attaining Dao.]

[Note 3: If a Taisui Hua Sheng cultivates this method, although there are no great costs, it requires an immense amount of blood and Essence Qi. If cultivated deeply, one may attain Dao or mutate into Blood and Flesh Demons.]

[Record Name: Creation Puppet Technique.]

[Record Type: Alien.]

[Record Description: This technique is rumored to have been created by an ancient Qi Refining cultivator. Even simpler, consisting only of eight hundred words mnemonic, its fundamental principle is 'Creation and Transformation Perfection.' By maintaining one's original heart and remaining unchanged for eternity, one seizes the essence of all things in heaven and earth to supplement oneself in pursuit of great transformation and Great Perfection. Supernatural powers and mana naturally follow, continually evolving and transforming.]

[Note 1: This method seems not appropriate for the Human Clan to cultivate; over the years, many talented cultivators attempted but either died violently or Mutated into Puppet Soldiers.]

[Note 2: If mechanicals, Magical Treasures, or Alien Species with a developed spirit enter the Dao, they can cultivate this method, but none of these last long, and none are known to have achieved Dao through this.]

[Note 3: Because this has caused many Human Clan Cultivators to die violently or mutate over thousands of years, it has always been denounced as an Evil Technique until the Gongyang Ancestor, the Second Generation Ancestor of Spirit Treasure Sect, commented that this method could lead to the Great Dao, and so it was included in the Scripture Hall.]

Looking at these records in his mind, Tao Qian immediately had a premonition.

These two methods were exceptionally suitable for the two little ones.

They seemed to be simple and specialized techniques, useless for Human Clan Cultivators, but for Little Age and Lian Jing'er, these two Alien Species, they were almost tailor-made.

"It is no wonder this is the Spirit Treasure Sect; if this were another Sect, even the Taishang Dao, it would probably be impossible to precisely find such two appropriate techniques," Tao Qian thought as he approached Ascending Immortal Island once more.

Yet before he touched down, he saw all the Merfolk squatting on the rugged reefs below the Coastal Cliff Pavilion.

Naturally, the mermaid was on the highest reef.

With her deep blue mermaid eyes, she watched intently for her beau's return.

Upon seeing Tao Qian approaching on the auspicious cloud, all the Merfolk immediately looked at him with joy and anticipation, their eyes filled with the desire to seek the ways of cultivation and Longevity.

At this sight, Tao Qian murmured in his heart, "If I were to say right now that I couldn't find that technique, would I immediately make these hundreds of Merfolk cry, thus witnessing the spectacular sight of a bead curtain splashing like a waterfall?"

Fortunately, Tao Qian did not have such bad humor.

As the Auspicious Cloud approached Ascending Immortal Island, Tao Qian gave the Mermaid a smiling nod.

Without a word, the confirmation they received from him caused the hundreds of Merfolk perched on the rocks to leap up joyfully, each with a bright and joyous smile. Soon after, one could hear song after song that involuntarily filled one with happiness and joy echoing around the Coastal Cliff Pavilion area.

Especially after Tao Qian flicked the crystal clear Merfolk Pearl that recorded the "Quanxian Jellyfish Technique" towards the Mermaid, and after she inspected it, she emitted a scream filled with wild ecstasy.

Tao Qian saw once again the strange scene from the previous night, the difference being that this time the Merfolk were crying tears of joy.

Even better-quality Merfolk Pearls of all sizes began to fall.

In a short while, that reef area surged once again with brilliance.

As her clan wept, the Mermaid then knelt before Tao Qian and spat out another dazzlingly bright Merfolk Pearl.

Holding the pearl out to Tao Qian, she said with a trembling voice, "Please, master, imprint your Divine Thought, from today onward, my clan will follow the master's cultivation forever, even unto death without regret."

Seeing her in this state, Tao Qian knew that if he did not imprint the mark, this transaction likely would not continue.

The Merfolk Clan, kind-hearted and unyielding.

Tao Qian saw this clearly in the Mermaid.

And so, after some thought, he did not refuse; a Divine Thought imprinted, and immediately a master-servant relationship was established.

Tao Qian saw the Merfolk Clan had entered a celebratory atmosphere and couldn't help but smile, without disturbing them, he directly descended into the main hall of the Sea Pavilion.

Just as the Auspicious Cloud dispersed beneath his feet, Tao Qian saw Zhong Doudou leading a few youngsters to greet him.

He planned to distribute the techniques he had acquired on his trip to the youngsters, Little Age and Lian Jing'er.

Suddenly, Tao Qian's gaze fell upon Zhong Doudou's face.

This Crystal Demon Girl clearly couldn't keep any worries hidden; it was all written on her face.

At this moment, her delicate face was filled with worry.

"What's happened?"

Tao Qian directly asked.

Zhong Doudou, without any hesitation, and with a look of panic on her face, then said:



"When Young Master returned, did he happen to see a group of shameless Female Demons? They have a woman's upper body, but the lower body of a bird. With their breasts exposed and eyes like fresh blood, they utter 'gugu gugu' sounds when flying."

"Oh, there are such Female Demons? Rushing back from Red Sleeve Immortal Island, I indeed did not see them."

"What about them? Do they have a grudge against you?"

Tao Qian seemed intrigued, and turned the question back to her.

Seeing that he was not flustered, Zhong Doudou stomped her feet and quickly continued:

"In the Penglai Sea of Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate, not only our Crystal Demon Clan but also the flirtatious foxes dislike this group of shameless ones."

"They are called 'Nursing Woman Birds,' an ancient Alien Species that now only persists and breeds within our Spirit Treasure Sect's Penglai Sea."

"Although they are rare, they are also extremely annoying. They run rampant within the Mountain Gate due to their ancestral lineage to a Daoist couple of some Second Generation Ancestor, poking around the islands, and after glimpsing secrets, they gossip everywhere. So, we call them big-mouthed Bird Demons behind their backs."

"Even though they love to spread gossips and secrets, they refrain from speaking of private matters, so no one can do anything about them. Over time, people even seek them out to get information."

"Just now, that stink of Bird Demons passed through Ascending Immortal Island. Noticing Young Master's predicament, they deliberately asked why Young Master, having obtained this Immortal Island, does not dwell in Yunhua Mountain's Spiritual Resonance Cave but instead stays in this Cliff Sea Pavilion, suffering wind and rain."

"Before I could retort, they all flew away laughing uproariously."

"If nothing unusual happens, by this time, they have probably spread Young Master's situation throughout the entire Penglai Sea."

"The senior True Masters of our Lingbao, out of respect for Master and Aunt Yunhua, surely would not do much, but those of the same generation as Young Master and those many much younger Lingbao Disciples will be envious. They will belittle Young Master behind his back, speaking sarcastically."

"One of these days, this girl will gather my sisters and find their bird nests to give them a proper lesson."

Zhong Doudou finished speaking in a rushed tone.

Tao Qian, having listened, still showed no panic on his face, but instead seemed genuinely interested, and with a smile, he said:

"Nursing Woman Bird?"

"What a unique name and special nature. I have learned something new."

"If I could summon one, I could also inquire about the many gossips and secrets within Spirit Treasure Mountain."

No sooner had Tao Qian uttered these words than he seemed to perceive something and suddenly turned around.

Almost instantly, cutting through the sea storm, about a dozen streaks of light shot from different directions.

In no time at all, they all entered the main hall, stopping in front of Tao Qian, and turned out to be three Cloud Token Letters.

"Hmm?"

With a sound of surprise and before Tao Qian's Divine Thought could sweep over them, he saw three figures leap from the Cloud Tokens.

Chapter 195: Mastery of the Nirvana Freedom Mantra, Buddha Bird Vajra Captures the Alligator Dragon

Tao Qian had just settled in the Spirit Treasure Sect not long ago, and the elders had seen quite a few of him.

But those uncles and aunts were all powerful cultivators; having given him a welcome gift, they naturally wouldn't have much interaction.

Tao Qian considered that he needed some more time to get acquainted with the Spirit Treasure Sect.

Before getting acquainted, he would probably have to lead this group of juniors alone, and cultivate the land on this Ascending Immortal Island for some time.

It was unlikely that there would be any fellow disciples visiting, nor any discussions on the Tao or gatherings of any kind.

Yet, after hearing the "incident" mentioned by Zhong Doudou just now and seeing three figures leap out, Tao Qian immediately had a guess in his heart.

But then, in the next moment, inside this main hall.

There appeared a woman in a gorgeous gown with six fox tails behind her, charming and seemingly capable of captivating all beings; a youth in armor, with a strong and robust stature and a third eye on his forehead; and a middle-aged Daoist in a dark Daoist robe, with a treasure gourd hanging at his waist and holding a Money Sword, with a very kind face.

These three were all present in the form of phantasms, speaking in turn, the content of which fell into two categories.

One was the invitation issued by the "Fox Immortal" woman, who declared herself a registered disciple of Yunhua Immortal, and hearing that Tao Qian could only land at the simplistic and crude Cliff Sea Pavilion, she had invited Tao Qian to take up temporary residence in the Nine-tailed Cave Mansion on Qingqiu Immortal Island, to avoid the hardships of wind and rain.

The other two were even more courteous, claiming to be fellow disciples of Spirit Treasure Sect, and if help was needed in taking charge of the Cave Mansion again, they should just ask, and their brothers would certainly offer their full support.

After hearing this, Tao Qian could not help but show a look of amusement on his face.

At the same time, Zhong Doudou took the initiative to introduce:

"Young Master, she is Sister Bai Yao, indeed a registered disciple of Aunt Yunhua, and also the princess of that group of flirty foxes on Qingqiu Immortal Island. The other flirty foxes are no good, but Sister Bai Yao has a decent temperament. Don't be fooled by her enchanting appearance; she is still a virgin."

"The invitation for Young Master to stay, Sister Bai Yao would never manage to do that; it must have been those flirty foxes who coerced her into sending the message. Young Master, don't be deceived. Otherwise, you will be subjected to their absorbent ways, and they will beautify it as 'Yin Yang Harmony'—truly a shameless bunch of flirty foxes."

Having said these obviously biased words,

Zhong Doudou pointed to the other two figures, and again introduced in detail to Tao Qian:

"He is Yang Jie, the top disciple of True Monarch Xuan Yuan, who in the sect is only second in status to the Grand Master, and like Young Master, he took the place of a True Inheritor."

"Master Yang Jie has a very good reputation within the sect. He's very enthusiastic toward his fellow disciples. When he says he wants to help Young Master re-establish the Cave Mansion, it must be sincere."

"The other one is Wu Xinguan, of the same generation as Young Master, whose teacher was the temperamental Thunderbolt Immortal. After the Immortal perished outside, he began to settle on Qingping Island."

"With his talent for socializing, he has formed good Karma with many fellow disciples. His reputation in the sect is not less than that of Master Yang Jie; unfortunately, be it opportunity or strength, he did not manage to secure the position of True Inheritor... His offer to help Young Master must also be sincere, perhaps to form a good connection with Young Master."

After the girl finished her introduction, Tao Qian had not yet expressed any opinion.

He saw Zhong Doudou herself becoming so angered that her small face contorted, her four cute crystal corners faintly glowing red, stomping her feet and clenching her small fists, indignantly saying:

"Young Master, this must be those big mouths causing trouble."

"It hasn't been long at all, and yet it's already spread to Qingping Island."

"Other Immortal Islands are one thing, but Qingping Island is home to those wild Spirit Treasure Cultivators. Many of them are unruly by nature and won't care about Young Master's identity and status."

"Although it's highly unlikely they would send teasing Cloud Token Letters, by now, they must be speaking ill of Young Master behind your back."

"Ah, I'm even more disgusted with those Nursing Woman Bird Demons, and a fight is inevitable at some point, to vent my anger—Zhong Doudou's heartache."

Tao Qian could naturally grasp what the foolish Dou Dou could think of.

And moreover, he thought of more.

His thoughts swiftly shifted, directly pivoting towards Duobao Daoist and Yunhua Immortal.

However, Tao Qian seemed to be thinking of something else, casually smiling. He wrote a reply directly on those three Cloud Token Letters, then let them turn into beams of light and speed back along their path.

Subsequently, Tao Qian called Little Age and Lian Jing'er to his side.

He gave the Multi-pored Black Stone that held the "Taisui Qi Eating Scripture" and the "Creation Puppet Technique", as well as the Bronze Miniature, to the two youngsters respectively.

At the same time, he took out a large number of treasure bags from his own talisman seed, split them into two portions, and stuffed them into the two youngsters' arms.

Then he looked serious and instructed:

"When Xiao Hua Daoist entrusted you to me, you followed me for a period of hardship and struggle. Today, the trust is finally fulfilled."

"These two Sublime Dharma are just right for your cultivation. Together with the cultivation resources that have been accumulated in these treasure bags for a long time, you should be able to realize some of your talent and potential."

After saying these words, Tao Qian turned to Zhong Doudou and Shan Jiu.

These two slightly older ones seemed to guess that Tao Qian was preparing to do something, each looking at him eagerly.



Thus, they heard Tao Qian first say to Zhong Doudou:

"You stay in this main hall. If Cloud Token Letters still come today, you will reply for me. If the comer is friendly and courteous, you reply as such; if they come with teasing and ridicule, you will rebuke them on my behalf."

After speaking, Tao Qian turned to Shan Jiu.

Unexpectedly, before he could speak, the Wild Leek Demon with messy green hair first split into a grin, his mood suddenly greatly lifted.

He looked mysteriously joyful, showing a face that Tao Qian felt very familiar with, and waved his hand at him, saying:

"Daoist, no need to say more, you should go and cultivate now."

"Shan Jiu had already had a premonition that tonight there would definitely be a good harvest."

"The start has already begun, I just knew it, I, Shan Jiu, am indeed the cleverest Wild Leek Demon of Wild Man Mountain."

"Hehe, heheheh..."

Speaking incessantly, the Wild Leek Demon seemed to be completely immersed in its own world.

While chuckling, it drooled and squatted obediently to one side, propping its chin with both hands, looking very much like a fool daydreaming in broad daylight.

Tao Qian saw this, was startled at first, and then showed a thoughtful expression.

"It's a good omen indeed!"

After muttering this, Tao Qian led the two little ones straight to the secluded and quiet rooms deeper within the sea pavilion.

Having arranged for the two youngsters, Tao Qian had seen them eat before. Although there was now a "cultivation" process added, there really wasn't much difference, just more meticulous, so there was no danger.

Therefore, Tao Qian quickly sat down in a quiet room to meditate as well.

But he did not immediately begin to meditate and practice cultivation.

The reason was simple, the primary issue he was facing right now could not be solved by mere cultivation.

Especially since Tao Qian had only achieved Foundation Establishment not long ago, even with his talent, he couldn't possibly break into the Transcend Mortality Realm in a short time, and even if he did, it wouldn't be of much help.

"To take control of this island in one stroke, there is indeed a method for that."

"Although it's an alien item, as long as I can fully control it, it naturally counts as part of my combat power."

"It's just a matter of refining magic skills and treasures."

While his thoughts were in motion, Tao Qian suddenly flipped his hands and saw something round and plump lying in each palm.

Tao Qian's gaze first fell on what resembled a sludge ball, the "Buddha Bird Relic," and he nearly couldn't restrain his desire to snark.

A perfectly fine relic had been rendered so sticky by his master, quite disgusting. Tao Qian didn't believe his master had no other method to remove the connection between this relic and the Great Freedom Dharma. It must be Duobao Daoist's bad taste acting up.

Although he had just become a disciple not long ago, Tao Qian felt that both he and his master had already gained an understanding of each other.

After looking at the relic, Tao Qian turned his eyes to the mottled Buddha Beads.

In his mind, the Record formed:

[Name: Great Freedom Nirvana Divine Spell.]

[Record Type: Alien.]

[Record: This is a secret Buddhist incantation from the top-tier Great Book of the Buddhist Sect, the "Great Freedom Buddha Scripture." Although it is but a single Divine Spell, it has already captured the "Great Freedom Nirvana Truth." If one truly cultivates it, one can instantly receive the support of the Great Freedom Dharma, subdue all demons and control outsiders, and command any Buddha Treasure without obstacle... Years ago during the Daoist and Buddhist debate of laws, various scriptures were exchanged, and this spell was one of the Dharmas actively given to the Spirit Treasure Sect by the main temple of Great Freedom Temple.]

[Note one: This spell has no cultivation instructions, success does not follow any logic, and completely depends on karma; perhaps devoted monks may not succeed after years of hard work, while a beggar on the street might achieve it with a mere thought.]

[Note two: Once one cultivates this spell, whether or not one succeeds, an unavoidable affinity and curiosity towards Buddhism, and especially the Great Freedom Dharma, will develop. If one does succeed in cultivating this spell, one will immediately be sensed by the Great Freedom Temple... its functions have been erased by the Spirit Treasure Method.]

"Indeed, the Spirit Treasure Sect leaves no stone unturned, not giving the bald monks any chance. If they didn't have this trick up their sleeve, the Spirit Treasure Disciples would inevitably be coerced into becoming Buddha's sons."

Tao Qian sighed upon reading the second note.

This Divine Spell was specifically selected for him by the Pan Si Fairy, enabling him to perfectly utilize the Buddha Dharma method of the Buddha Bird Relic.

After looking at the Taisui Qi Eating Scripture and the Creation Puppet Technique, Tao Qian wouldn't doubt the astute discernment of Pan Si Fairy. Now after reading this Record, he was even more convinced.

"Well then, let's see if I, Tao Qian, truly have a connection with Buddha."

Having said this, Tao Qian suddenly crushed the mottled Buddha Beads.

Suddenly, the quiet room was filled with resonant Buddhism chants.

Within the surging Buddha Light, Tao Qian seemed to see Buddha himself arriving, in a posture of lying facing south, with the right hand supporting the chin, and a serene and comfortable demeanor.

Seeing this scene, Tao Qian couldn't help but chant the Buddha's name, and his body involuntarily took the same pose as the Buddha, making a Nirvana image.

Almost at the instant he assumed the Nirvana posture, the chanting and light that emerged from the shattered Buddha Beads didn't dissipate like bubbles but instead burrowed into Tao Qian.

In a daze, he, Tao Qian, became the Buddha.

Success!

Even Tao Qian himself hadn't expected it to go so smoothly.

The Great Freedom Nirvana Divine Spell, which was viewed as extremely difficult by many Buddhist and Daoist cultivators, was so effortlessly mastered by Tao Qian.

At this moment, he revealed a smile of liberation and flicked his finger at the Buddha Bird Relic.

The previously silent relic immediately emitted ten thousand feet of Buddha Light, and within the Buddha Light, a full hundred Vajras of Buddha Birds materialized.

Every Buddha Bird Vajra radiated an extremely terrifying pressure.

However, at this moment, they all faced the Nirvana-posed Tao Qian, ready to receive the Buddha's command.

The next moment, Tao Qian's Buddha thought moved: "I need a Protecting Dharma Vajra to help me capture a Nine-headed Turtle Dragon."

Chapter 196: Tao Qian devises a plan to lure the tiger away, the lord of Dragon Marsh named Jiushou

Tao Qian, blessed by the Great Freedom Dharma, had just opened his mouth when the Buddha Bird Relics within him responded, and all hundred Buddha Bird Protectors wanted to surge forth to assist him.

Among them, a Buddha Bird Protector, seemingly most excited upon hearing the words "Alligator Dragon," instantly squeezed to the forefront.

This Buddha Bird Protector had a human face and bird body, with a beak like an eagle's, wearing a pointed Treasure Crown on its head, hair draped over its shoulders, clad in a jeweled heavenly robe, with bracelet rings on its hands, and a pair of golden-red large wings spread outwards. Moreover, its face dawned an angry expression, and a large round fleshy bump grew on its forehead—truly a vision of both majesty and ferocity.

Tao Qian, now the master of this relic and with considerable knowledge himself, recognized the origin of this Buddha Bird Protector upon one glance—it was the Garuda, a Dharma-protecting God that specialized in preying on the Dragon Clan.

Clearly, it was the mention of the Alligator Dragon that aroused its interest.

If Tao Qian were truly able to summon this Garuda Dharma-protecting Vajra, the mere presence of a Nine-headed Turtle Dragon might not even suffice for its appetite.

Unfortunately, this was something he temporarily could not do.

Let alone Tao Qian, even Bai Qin himself rarely summoned such Dharma-protecting Gods of Alien Species.

When Tao Qian first learned some information about the Buddha Bird Relics, he had wondered: since Bai Qin had used the Great Freedom Dharma to refine a full hundred Buddha Bird Vajras, including Dharma-protecting Gods like Garuda, if he summoned all of the Buddha Birds and endowed himself with their blessing, wouldn't he be able to sweep through Southern Yue.

What need was there for him to conceal his moves and resort to plots and scheming strategies.

Only when Bai Qin perished and Tao Qian obtained the Buddha Bird Relics did the roots and details, along with the Record, get triggered and become known to him, and then he finally understood the reason.

It wasn't that Bai Qin was unwilling!



Rather, he simply couldn't do it.

The iron law of the Cultivation World—that everything comes with a price—once again took effect.

Summoning different Bird Demons required the expenditure of Mana and Divine Soul, which were not of the same magnitude by any means. Summoning Ape Demons, Pig Demons, Sheep Demons, Snake Demons, and other such Bird Demons had already brought Bai Qin to the brink of losing control and falling into demonhood. To then summon a Dharma-protecting God with terrifying Divine Power like Garuda would likely have caused Bai Qin to fall into a Mutated Demon state on the spot, making even reincarnation and re-cultivation difficult.

"Years ago in the Tuo County region, Bai Qin had only refined about twenty or so Bird Demons. The remaining seventy or eighty kinds were simply based on the Buddha Demon Magic Skill, which he predicted; they only had form but did not capture the true meaning."

"Later, after joining the Great Freedom Temple, he used more profound Buddhist Laws to complete the subsequent ones, but like Garuda and other Alien Buddha Birds, the required Mana and Divine Soul were not ordinary by comparison, and even Bai Qin himself rarely used them. This is also why Bai Qin established the [Bai Qin Temple] lineage; he alone could not achieve Perfection, but if he were to establish a separate lineage and become the ancestor Buddha, it would be a completely different scene."

"If Bai Qin had succeeded, years later, it's possible that the Cultivation World might have seen the emergence of a Buddha like Bai Qin Bodhisattva, who could summon a hundred Buddha Birds with a single thought—who then could stand against him?"

"Unfortunately, despite his meticulous planning, in the end, he merely became a stepping stone for me."

These thoughts flashed quickly through Tao Qian's mind.

He then saw Tao Qian smiling and waving his hand at the restless Garuda Dharma-protecting God:

"Easy there, easy there, my humble Mana surely cannot summon a great deity like yourself."

"Why not examine our Karma to see which protector is more compatible with me, and tonight I shall trouble that protector to accompany me."

As Tao Qian's words fell, he immediately used the Spirit Treasure Returning Immortal Technique, revealing the Mana he could borrow.

Although Tao Qian, due to his Talent, could borrow far more Immortal Spiritual Qi of the Lingbao than other Foundation Establishment Realm disciples of the Lingbao,

the Foundation Establishment Realm was still just Foundation Establishment Realm, far inferior to Bai Qin.

Soon enough, one after another, the Buddha Birds within the relic began to hide, all deities too powerful for Tao Qian to summon.

Before long, only ten Buddha Light apparitions remained before Tao Qian.

Tao Qian gazed at them and was suddenly struck with realization.

These ten Buddha Birds were precisely the Pig, Sheep, Dog, Chicken, Cow, Snake, Eagle, Horse, Elephant, and Ape.

Almost immediately, Tao Qian thought of the "Bai Qin Play Fragment" he had bought in Seeking Immortal County with a silver coin some time ago, with only ten Bird Skills remaining inside. If they were all to be cultivated, they would correspond to the ten Buddha Bird Vajras now before him.

"It seems, indeed, my connection with Buddha is no shallow matter."

Tao Qian, still in the image of Nirvana, muttered to himself.

His gaze then sharply fell on the Buddha Ape Guardian's body, saying:

"That Nine-headed Turtle Dragon is leading a group of Alligator Dragon Species Clan in the Daze Water Mansion causing havoc. To subdue them would not be simple, and it is precisely the Buddha Ape Guardian's Undying Body that is impervious to fire and water, and the strength to tear apart Devil with Dharma Manifestation Heaven and Earth that are needed tonight. So please, Buddha Ape Guardian, accompany me on this venture."

...

Ascending Immortal Island, after nightfall.

Within the rather shabby and desolate Cliff Sea Pavilion, a clump of auspicious cloud suddenly rose and flew.

In just a short time, it met with a barrier, stopping before a large mass of thunderclouds.

Below the thunderclouds was a vast and turbulent expanse of a swampy lake, with such broad waterways that one might not even see the other end of the great swamp unless viewed from high above.

Even at this deep hour of night, this swamp was far from tranquil.

In the region where the essence of the Great Swamp Water was concentrating, creatures touched by the bloodline of the Dragon Clan, visibly Alien Demons, frolicked and played in the swamp, their natural, extraordinary bloodline powers causing unimaginable commotions even in their play.

The bursts of thunderclouds, the flashes of lightning that intermittently struck down, and the torrential downpour of rain—all declared the dominion over this swamp.

On the outskirts, upon the auspicious cloud, Tao Qian led the Little Age, Lian Jing'er, Zhong Doudou, Shan Jiu, and a Mermaid perched on the cloud, all peering toward that region.

Chapter 197: Tao Qian devises a plan to lure the tiger away, the lord of Dragon Marsh named 9Shou

In just a quick glance, Tao Qian saw various Jiao Dragons of the Dragon Species. There were those called Dragon Fish, with double horns and wings, two legs and four claws, python-patterned fish tails; there were those called Cow Dragons, shaped like dragons, born with cow horns, wingless and unable to fly, stirring the water veins with immense strength; there were those called Python Dragons, resembling neither pythons nor dragons, completely snow-white, capable of controlling the sky and bringing along wind and rain...

Nobody knew where the Nine-headed Turtle Dragon came from, how it had gathered so many Devil Clan beings tainted with the blood of the Dragon Clan.

They congregated in this great marsh, making this place truly the Dragon Marsh.

Other water-born Alien Demons either left this great marsh or surrendered to them.

However, the leading Nine-headed Turtle Dragon displayed some sense of racial discrimination; if not of the "Dragon Species," no matter how powerful, it would never mix into high positions.

This caused the slightly stronger members of the water Alien Species to leave the marsh.

This further justified the name Dragon Marsh.

Day and night, one could see these Dragon Species Devils stirring up storms here.

Even Tao Qian and his group, who had not come with good intentions, were currently watching with great interest.

Only the newly-following Mermaid, wore a worried expression on her face.

Having never seen Tao Qian's methods, she could not help but worry about whether her new master could reclaim the Dragon Marsh Water Mansion from these extremely brutal Dragon Species Devils.

On the surface, the difference in strength between the two sides was too vast.

They faced a large group of Dragon Species Devils, not even including the Nine-headed Turtle Dragon that had yet to reveal itself, while this side, besides the new master who seemed to have some combat capability, all the others looked like small children.

If a battle really started, could they even fill the gaps between their enemy's teeth?

Tao Qian turned back, noticed the worry in the Mermaid's eyes, quietly estimated the time, and just at the right moment, smiled and said, "The auspicious hour has arrived, just watch your master's methods."

As his voice fell, Tao Qian took out that familiar Demon Gourd.

He pulled the stopper and shook it out.

The next moment, one after another, Demons began to roll out from the gourd, mostly Substitute Demons and Illusion Demons.

When these Demons had just appeared, Tao Qian instructed, "Get to work and make it as realistic as possible. If those mixed-blood Dragon Seeds spot any flaws, the rewards I promised will vanish."

Having spoken, the crowd of Demons all displayed bitter expressions.

These Outer Realm Demons, which often seized other people's bodies, had never been enslaved by the Human Clan like this.

Unfortunately, there was a first time for everything.

Having swallowed the Corpse Demonic Sky Demon Elixir, they had no choice but to obey.

"Understood, Master True Master!"

The Demons had just responded, and immediately began to transform.

One Substitute Demon first turned into another Tao Qian, followed by seeing an Illusion Demon suddenly conjure a large number of Golden Armored Divine Generals. Even from such a close distance, it was impossible to tell that these Divine Generals were merely for show, entirely lacking any real combat ability.

Anyone who suddenly saw this army coming would likely be completely terrified.

Seeing this, Tao Qian was not yet satisfied. He then directly looked at Sui and Lian Jing'er, the two young followers, whose usual tasks involved collecting spoils of war.

Having cultivated hard all day, they had finally realized some potential, just in time to use it now.

The two little ones' gem-like eyes displayed excitement and joy.

They each cried out lowly, and immediately Tao Qian saw a scene he had once seen in the "Peach Blossom Spring."

A large number of jelly-like Blood Flesh Mini People soldiers were born, alongside numerous mechanical soldiers made of bronze, white bone, and cast iron.

Almost immediately, the original team, which was merely a few cats big and small.



Under the gaping gaze of the Mermaid, turned directly into a formidable and quirky expeditionary force.

Tao Qian watched, nodding in satisfaction.

After thinking a bit, he took out a Magical Treasure called a "Hidden Soldier Box" and stuffed it into Zhong Doudou's arms, instructing,

"Later, when you lure out that Nine-headed Turtle Dragon, if it proves too fierce, use this Magical Treasure to buy some time."

As soon as Tao Qian finished instructing, this strange expeditionary force immediately charged from within the clouds.

The leading "Tao Qian" exhibited exceptional expressiveness.

He led a large group of Golden Armored Divine Generals, directly stormed into the Dragon Marsh, raising his head high, and shouted,

"I am the Grand Disciple of Duobao True Monarch of the Spirit Treasure Sect, Master Tao Qian."

"This Immortal Island has been entrusted to me by Fairy Yunhua."

"You Devils, wearing scales and armor, have occupied this mansion for long, the day to return it has come."

"I order you to surrender to me immediately, and in the future, serve me as my mounts."

"Otherwise today, will be the day of your demise, you long worms."

Tao Qian was dragging the mermaid away, preparing to enter the Dragon Marsh Water Mansion directly from the Merfolk Water Cave, to secretly retrieve the Water Mansion's Forbidden Technique first and then slowly subdue this group of Dragon Species Demons.

However, he had just turned around when these entirely inconsistent bold words suddenly echoed, almost making him stumble.

Fortunately, on this Immortal Island, there weren't many outsiders present, so there was no great loss of face.

Tao Qian turned back and fiercely glared at the "Substitute Demon" impersonating him, and decided in his heart to dock its rewards and subsidies.

At that moment, they suddenly heard the sound and saw the terrifying conquering army breaking through the clouds.

Inside the great marsh, the Dragon Species Demons, originally frolicking and fighting, all became furiously angry.

They had roamed this territory for many years and had long considered it Dragon Marsh.

To defend this territory, they had fought countless wars against other Alien Demon Races, both large and small.

Suddenly a Human Clan Cultivator appeared, demanding they return the Dragon Marsh Water Mansion. How could they bear this?

Roar!

Roar, roar, roar!

In an instant, the already restless great marsh stirred up a storm-like commotion.

One after another, the Dragon Species Demons with terrifying bodies, all began to show their power.

Their strength was almost at the level of the Transcend Mortality Realm. Coupled with the augmentation of their bloodline divine power, ordinary Transcend Mortality cultivators couldn't withstand their attacks.

When they revealed their bloodline and caused illusions, the whole Dragon Marsh was filled with wind, rain, thunder, and lightning.

In this terrifying scene, one could see massive figures resembling flying dragons either lifting off or stirring the water veins of the great marsh.

Meanwhile, they all roared angrily:

"Where did this Human Clan Cultivator come from? Get out of Dragon Marsh, or we'll swallow you alive."

"We are the Dragon Clan. We recognize neither identity nor status, only strength. If you, a little Human Clan cultivator, want Dragon Marsh, you must conquer us."

"You, a mere Human Cultivator at the Foundation Establishment Realm, dare ask us to submit and even serve as your mounts. It's delusional."

"We don't care about any True Monarch or any immortal, this place is Dragon Marsh, we are Dragons, hence this land belongs to us."

...

Accompanied by roars and rebukes, the vast Dragon Marsh quickly turned into a terrifying standoff.

On one side was the Devil Clan of the Dragon Species, and the other side was much stranger, led by a small Cultivator at the Foundation Establishment Realm. The conquering team included Golden Armored Divine Generals, Blood Flesh Mini People, and Bronze Soldiers, all of whom were extraordinarily numerous and imposing. For a moment, they actually withstood the pressure emitted by the Jiao Dragons.

This was why the Dragon Species Demons didn't attack immediately.

Rather, after forming a standoff, a Devil immediately dived into the depths of the Water Mansion in the great marsh to send a message.

In just a breath or two, suddenly beneath the storm-covered Dragon Marsh, an immensely huge, mountain-like dark shadow appeared.

Boom!

Visibly, demonic auras and Dragon Qi soared into the sky.

One after another, enormous and ferociously fierce dragon heads slowly extended out of the water.

The pressure Tao Qian had once felt, very similar to that of the Cavernous Mystery Realm, suddenly enveloped the entire Dragon Marsh.

Then, the heads of the Turtle Dragons spoke.

The Dragon Roar boomed, echoing through the great marsh.

"I am Jiushou, the lord of this marsh."

"I am also aware of the names of Duobao True Monarch and Fairy Yunhua."

"However, no one has visited this place for years. According to the rules of the Spirit Treasure Sect, this island and this marsh have long been free."

"If you are a Disciple of the Lingbao, you should know these rules. If you want to reclaim Dragon Marsh Mansion, please defeat us first, then we can talk about other matters."

It must be said, as a demon,

This Turtle Dragon called "Jiushou" was completely different in demeanor compared to the crude and reckless devils Tao Qian had seen within Southern Yue Domain.

At this point, Tao Qian should have turned around and fought it honorably to subdue the demon.

Unfortunately, Tao Qian wasn't that kind of person.

He glanced at the imposing Jiushou Turtle Dragons from afar, dragged the mermaid and hurried towards the Water Cave, muttering:

"Indeed, this bloodline is exceptional. The fight later will surely be exhilarating."

"But if we're going to fight, it has to be on fair grounds. If I don't take the chance to retrieve the Forbidden Technique of the mansion first, who knows if I'll end up being secretly attacked by this big guy using Forbidden Techniques."

Chapter 198: The Great Prohibition of Xuanming Suppresses the Water Vein, the Buddha Ape Guardian Subdues the Alligator Dragon

The Nine-headed Turtle Dragon, towering like a mountain from the depths of the marsh, suddenly appeared and invoked a storm of wind, rain, thunder, and lightning that instantly transformed this territory into something akin to the reappearance of a barbaric era.

On the periphery, Tao Qian, dragging the Mermaid, vanished in an instant.

Then they returned to the Cliff Sea Pavilion before leaping into the rocky reef area, following a water cave back to its source, and in just a few breaths, they slipped into the depths of Dragon Marsh.

Because there was a standoff taking place above, the bottom of Dragon Marsh, which should have been heavily guarded, was astonishingly empty. The shrimp soldiers and crab generals, white eels, and black snakeheads, as well as creatures of the Dragon Species Clan, had all vanished without a trace.

Despite this, the Mermaid was still terrified, clearly showing that the Merfolk Clan had previously suffered great losses.

However, her fiery temperament was also aroused, and she bravely opened her eyes wide, drawing upon her Water Avoidance Divine Ability to lead Tao Qian towards an elegant, yet immense, Water Mansion Palace deep within Dragon Marsh.

In a short while, the pair saw banners shining and halberds flickering ahead, illuminating the silhouette of an exterior pavilion with numerous doors.

In front of the pavilion stood a coral stele radiating treasure light.

Originally it bore several ancient seal characters, vaguely discernible as "Spiritual Resonance Water Mansion."

However, the characters for "Spiritual Resonance" had been altered, changing to "Turtle Dragon."



Clearly, the Great Demon known as "Jiushou," the Turtle Dragon, must have learned of Xie Lingji's death and, given Yunhua Immortal's years of neglecting the island.

By the rules of the Spirit Treasure Sect, he had obtained some domain control—and the Great Demon had some methods, too, as he had directly eroded the mansion's Forbidden Technique, claiming it as his own.

In truth, the Merfolk Clan could have done the same.

Yet their strength was too weak, and they had not even managed to seize the dilapidated Cliff Sea Pavilion.

Luckily it was so, as Tao Qian was able to find a place to stay upon his arrival and was spared from the suffering of wind and rain.

Although the stronger members of the Devil Clan had ascended, the outer mansion still harbored several Devil creatures armed with various weapons, guarding every point.

As Tao Qian approached the Water Mansion from the outside, changes were also unfolding above Dragon Marsh.

In a normal standoff, the Human Clan Cultivators, who legally held dominion over Ascending Immortal Island, would likely strike forcefully at the outset, if confident in reclaiming the Water Mansion.

However, a formidable and fierce-looking expeditionary force composed of Golden Armored Divine Generals, Blood Flesh Mini People, Bronze Soldiers, and other alien beings.

After descending upon Dragon Marsh, remained entirely still.

Only allowing that exceedingly irritating man named "Tao Qian," a Human Clan Cultivator, to stand above them, incessantly cursing and threatening the Dragon Species Clan.

In his discourse, he continued to invoke Duobao True Monarch and Yunhua Immortal, intimidating them.

Initially, the Nine-headed Turtle Dragon retorted somewhat, having roamed Penglai Sea for many years and possessing extraordinary lineage—he was not any less wise than any Human Clan Cultivator and deeply understood who truly ruled this vast sea.

He also knew that if those vexing Human Clan Cultivators really summoned those two, he would most likely not survive.

His original plan was to placate the Human Clan Cultivator with feigned civility until he could ascertain the full picture before taking action.

But unexpectedly, Master Tao Qian was unrelenting when he had the upper hand.

His sharp tongue rambled for several breaths, infuriating all the Dragon Species Clan to the point of rage.

Finally, after another round of his curses,

A member of the Dragon Species Clan, known as "Thunder Dragon," completely lost control and exploded with anger. Disregarding all warnings, it violently soared from the marsh, its body radiating azure and mane flowing. Accompanied by a thunderous roar, it became a huge azure thunderball and hurled itself towards the expeditionary force.

This scene signified the beginning of combat.

Including the Nine-headed Turtle Dragon, every member of the Dragon Species subconsciously believed that the reckless Thunder Dragon would meet a grim fate.

Yet incredulously, the seemingly mighty and ferocious expeditionary force, upon being struck by the Thunder Dragon, saw the leading Human Clan Cultivator and a horde of Golden Armored Divine Generals utterly scatter amidst the rampage of the thunderstorm.

Although it was swiftly entangled by a group of Blood Flesh Mini People and Bronze Soldiers, that astonishing moment still left the waiting Dragon Species members in a stunned trance.

And when the leading Nine-headed Turtle Dragon witnessed the formidable illusion dissipate and several Outer Realm Demons falling out,

In an instant, it realized something,

"Roar!"

"Roar! Roar! Roar!"

The nine heads of the Turtle Dragon roared in unison.

Having cultivated for many years, it was not without experience.

Seeing the illusion conjured by the Outer Realm Demons vanish like a bubble, it immediately knew it had fallen for a deception.

"Despicable Human Clan Cultivator, as a disciple of the Spirit Treasure Sect, you dare to use the techniques of the Demon Sect?"

With this incredulous howl, the heads of the Turtle Dragon submerged back into Dragon Marsh.

Just in time, it caught sight outside its Water Mansion.

A young Daoist with a sneaky appearance, pulling along a Mermaid, was casting spells on the few remaining guards.

Tao Qian was also aware of the commotion above but paid it no mind.

Grinning, he thought: "May the Great Venerable assist me!"

Even at the bottom of this great marsh, he couldn't prevent the roots of Spiritual Treasure from sprouting out of nowhere, swiftly tying up all guards within the Water Mansion.

He then took out the "Ascending Immortal Token" and shook it, completely disregarding the mansion's Forbidden Techniques, and successfully broke into the Water Mansion.

In an instant, Tao Qian was presented with a resplendent palace; what was supposed to be the main hall for receiving guests had now been turned into a chaotic nest resembling a Dragon's lair.

Surrounded by the messy Dragon Nest, numerous strange flowers and herbs were planted, a hoard of treasures was stacked up, as well as essence remains left behind by the Devil Clan and Alien Species after death, all accumulating into a brilliant treasure light that nearly blinded Tao Qian and the Mermaid.

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Just then, Tao Qian saw the nine turtle dragon heads burrowing down in unison, hissing at him:

"Slow down, Spirit Treasure Cultivator. As a chief disciple of Duobao True Monarch, how can you resort to such tricks?"

"Shouldn't you reclaim this Water Mansion through a fair fight with me, Jiushou, and decide the ownership after determining the stronger party?"

The treasures before him were numerous, all constituting resources for cultivation.

Yet Tao Qian didn't even glance at them and merely formed a Dharma Seal with his hand and beckoned.

A Spirit Light flew out from the messy Dragon Nest, disappearing into the Ascending Immortal Token in an instant.

At that moment, Tao Qian knew he had officially taken control of Ascending Immortal Island, the Outer Mansion Small Prohibition of the Spiritual Resonance Water Mansion, leaving only the Inner Mansion Great Prohibition to reclaim one-third of Ascending Immortal Island.

It was then that the hiss of the Alligator Dragon came.

Tao Qian turned and declared loudly:

"Mr. Jiushou invites a battle, and Tao Qian accepts."

"Please wait a moment for me to retrieve the Mystic Netherworld True Water Meridian Suppression Great Prohibition from the mansion before we discuss the Dao."

"There is no need for you to be offended, for I, Tao Qian, am fair and aboveboard, and I will certainly not use Forbidden Techniques to harm you."

"A fair fight to determine the stronger and weaker!"

Having said this, Tao Qian turned around, taking the Mermaid with him, and headed for the Inner Mansion.

Soon enough, ahead appeared a layer of crystal-clear water film, seemingly delicate as gossamer, and through the water film, one could see the fresh and elegant scenery of an Immortal's Cave Mansion, with walls of White Jade, steps of Green Jade, decorated with Purple Jade and Coral, and Crystal Stones serving as door curtains, carving glaze on the emerald lintels, and adorning amber on the rainbow beams...

Indeed, it was a sight to make one's spirit refreshed; it made one yearn to dwell within it to enjoy the blessings of immortality.

This is exactly what the Nine-headed Turtle Dragon had been yearning for many years.

Unfortunately, the Inner Mansion prohibition was genuinely formidable, and despite many years of study, it had failed to break through the obstacle.

If it managed to enter and take control of the "Mystic Netherworld True Water Meridian Suppression Great Prohibition," then more than just this great marsh would belong to it.

Even Ice Pot Mountain, one of the three Immortal Mountains, would fall into its grasp.

To be more precise, the Great Prohibition actually controlled the water veins of Ascending Immortal Island.

Even though the Nine-headed Turtle Dragon knew all along that even though Yunhua Immortal had neglected Ascending Immortal Island due to Xie Lingji's death,

But since the Ascending Immortal Token was always in her hands, meaning there was always awareness, in other words, unless Yunhua Immortal permits, no one can break through that layer of water film to take control of Water Vein Restriction.

But how can it rest content without trying?

So for many years, the Nine-headed Turtle Dragon had been striving, even begging Yunhua Immortal to take him as a registered disciple.



Sadly, it never got its wish.

But now, that seemingly inexperienced little Daoist, by merely showing the "Ascending Immortal Token," had managed to directly break in.

The water film that had blocked him for years did not even put up a fight.

The Nine-headed Turtle Dragon felt at that moment its Dao Heart also shattered somewhat.

"Spirit Treasure Ancestor above, is there no justice in this world?"

"I, Jiushou, have been managing this place for many years, investing so much effort, and barely managed to control the Outer Mansion Small Prohibition."

"This child arrives, and both the inner and outer premises belong to him, without any obstacle or test?"

Naming itself Jiushou, the Alligator Dragon Great Demon, which was steadfast in its Dao Path, indeed harbored thoughts of collapse at this moment.

Its nine fierce heads rose in unison, emitting a hiss both sorrowful and enraged.

Instantly, it seemed the entire Ascending Immortal Island descended into torrential rain.

The pouring rain calmed the Alligator Dragon somewhat.

After all, it was a Great Demon who had cultivated for many years, and its mind soon recovered, even growing a bit more.

Matters it couldn't understand before, now it faintly grasped, thinking to itself:

"I was indeed too naïve in the past; the Spirit Treasure Sect truly 'teaches without discrimination,' but it first requires the 'teaching' to be realized."

"Although I occupied this place, I also managed the water veins and earned numerous conveniences and resources for cultivation; after all, it was I, Jiushou, who profited more."

"Had I had a master early on, I might have established the name of Dragon Marsh."

"But I have been looking forward and backward over the years, only caring about enjoying the power, living carefree, and begging Fairy Yunhua to admit me to her gates was just to take advantage, no wonder the fairy refused me, just telling me to fend for myself."

"Now, have I and these subordinates of mine become the test for this Spirit Treasure Disciple with a significant background?"

"Albeit the child's cultivation is lacking, he did not hesitate to use mundane strategies and Demon Path methods, and just like that, he easily snatched the prohibited technique from my guard; where does Jiushou have any dignity to invite him to battle?"

"Trouble, trouble, if that child gets his hands on the prohibition, and the Mystic Netherworld True Water suppresses my Turtle Dragon's body, is there any chance of survival?"

"Flee, quickly escape from this place, find another Immortal Island, offer up all resources, beg the Spirit Treasure Immortal Master to accept me as a disciple; though suffering a loss for the time being, there is still hope for my Dao Path."

It's a case of once a single thought is clarified, all thoughts become clear.

Having thought through all the reasons, the Nine-headed Turtle Dragon, though still heartbroken, made up its mind.

That moment, it didn't even spare a glance for the Dragon Marsh Water Mansion, controlling the wind, thunder, clouds, and mist, lifting its heavy Alligator Dragon body, ignoring its subordinates, and trying to break through the clouds, leaving Ascending Immortal Island.

But just then, exactly at this moment,

In front of it abruptly appeared a Crystal Demon Girl, standing atop the clouds, hands on her hips, glaring at it with cold brows.

Beside the girl stood a green-haired Wild Demon that made him very uncomfortable, eyeing him as if looking at food.

"Little girl, please move aside, your master has already reclaimed the Water Mansion by scheming, and I, Jiushou, admit defeat."

"I'll let the Water Mansion return to its rightful owner, and Jiushou will find another place to settle down."

"Don't you block me, otherwise, don't blame me for devouring you both in one gulp."

Before Jiushou could finish speaking, he was interrupted by Zhong Doudou.

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The girl glanced at him with disdain and rebuked,

"You and your nine-headed beast, stop boasting. I, Zhong Doudou, am the cleverest here, and I can clearly see that you're just looking for a chance to slip away because you know you're in trouble."

"My young master is a master strategist. Even the bald monks from the Great Freedom Temple have fallen for his plans. And you, a Nine-Headed Beast who hasn't even reached the Cavernous Mystery Realm, think you can turn the tables?"

"You're staying put."

No sooner had Zhong Doudou finished speaking, she took out an ancient-looking box, quickly pulled off the lid, and tossed it towards Mr. Jiushou.

Within a fierce and solemn flash of black light, an entire army comprising ten thousand ancient terracotta soldiers emerged.

"Kill!"

"Kill kill kill!"

This Exotic Treasure was indeed a generous gift from one of the Spirit Treasure Elders.

In an instant, it summoned an army whose warlike aura erupted wildly, and in a blink, they had the mountainous figure of Jiushou trapped over the Dragon Marsh.

No matter how Jiushou summoned thunder and lightning or torrential rain, he couldn't disturb the unmoving military formation at all... until he had no choice but to use his Innate Divine Ability and

destroyed the entire ten thousand terracotta soldiers along with the Hidden Soldier Box. The cost was getting his body riddled with bronze long halberds.

Of course, for him, it was just a minor injury.

Just as he was about to heave a sigh of relief and make his escape,

suddenly, a series of thunderous noises echoed beneath him. The entire Dragon Marsh seemed to be pulled and rolled up by some immense force, sweeping up members of the Dragon Species Clan rampaging everywhere and dragging them towards the depths without resistance.

This scene of a "Group of Dragons Falling" must have frightened countless watching devils and alien species nearby.

Perhaps it was because his body was too large, or for some other reason, Jiushou was the only Great Demon of the Dragon Species that had not fallen.

But he felt no joy, for at that moment, a surge of fighting intent suddenly came from behind him:

"Mr. Jiushou, Daoist Tao Qian has come to fulfill the promise."

"And rest assured, I will not use any Forbidden Techniques to suppress you. I only seek a fair fight."

"If I win this battle, I hope Mr. Jiushou won't leave. How about you follow me in cultivation afterward?"

"If Mr. Jiushou wins, not only will I return all the treasures from my Water Mansion, but you can also take this group of Dragon Species Clan with you. If you don't mind, I can even introduce you to an Elder who could take you as a disciple."

Above the Dragon Marsh, Tao Qian had, at some point, descended from the clouds, smiling as he spoke those words.

Almost immediately, Jiushou, who had been about to flee, turned all nine of his ferocious heads towards him.

In his eyes was an uncontrollable glint of excitement.

Without a doubt!

The terms offered by Tao Qian were too generous for him.

In a flash, he weighed the disparity in strength between them and felt confident of his victory.

It's not surprising he thought so, because at least on the surface, the difference between this man and dragon appeared vast.

Tao Qian, just a little Cultivator at the Foundation Establishment level!

Jiushou, whether on his father's or mother's side, had an extraordinary lineage, with a Cultivation of Perfect Transcend Mortality, plus numerous Innate Divine Abilities. He wouldn't be afraid even when facing a Cavernous Mystery Cultivator.

No matter how you calculated it, he was supposed to win.

It was precisely this line of thinking that caused Jiushou to completely overlook the sympathetic looks from the Crystal Demon Girl and the green-haired Wild Demon at his side.

"Alright, I agree to your terms."

"ROAR!"

No sooner had he consented than Jiushou made the first move.

His colossal body lunged forward, and all nine of his ferocious heads rose up, each spouting different Divine Powers.



Above the Dragon Marsh, the winds and thunder moved in unison, the elements of water and fire merged, and there was an onslaught of mud, Poison Smoke, and vile ink cascading down. The dragon head in the center even breathed out the Alligator Dragon's Demon Light that could harm the Taoist Body.

Determined to be victorious, Jiushou used all his techniques at once, believing that even a Cavernous Mystery Cultivator would be severely injured if suddenly struck by them.

Although the youngsters trusted in Tao Qian, they were terrified by this sight.

Until the next moment, within that dreadful area, a Buddhist chant suddenly echoed.

"Amitabha Buddha!"

"The blend of water, fire, wind, and lightning, the fumigation of Poison Smoke and foul mists, it's fortunate we called upon the right protector, or else we'd have been trapped by Mr. Jiushou's techniques."

"Tit for tat, I hope Mr. Jiushou will allow the Buddha Ape Guardian to enjoy himself."

As the sound faded, Ten Thousand Feet of Buddha Light burst forth.

Pushing back all the malicious beings, there emerged an extremely ferocious, colossal figure like a Sky-Supporting Ancient Ape straight from the wilderness.

The Ancient Ape's eyes surged with Golden Light, as if piercing through all illusions.

It appeared fierce and wild but was dressed in a Kasaya and formed a Buddha Seal with its hands, displaying an image of compassion.

When Jiushou locked eyes with it, he froze for a split moment.

It seemed due to the Buddha Ape Guardian's penetrating Buddha Eyes, or perhaps a momentary trance.

In his mind, an unexplained thought emerged.

"Is this person really a Spirit Treasure Cultivator? Why did he first use Demon Path techniques, and now he's displaying Buddhist Divine Powers?"