

Longevity 231

Chapter 231: Absolute Spirit Nightmare God, Bizarre Dwarf

As she spoke, Princess Bao Shou's expression inexplicably fell.

Tears seemed to be brewing in her bright eyes.

Seeing this, Gou Lv'er was utterly confused, while Zhu Quan hurriedly explained at their side,

"My sister knows about the deeds of Yunhua Immortal and Lingji Fairy, and admires them greatly. It's just such a pity that Lingji Fairy perished due to heavenly jealousy."

"Whenever she mentions this, it's always with lamentation."

With Zhu Quan's explanation, Gou Lv'er immediately understood.

He nodded in understanding, Bean Shaped Eyebrows drooping down with a look of finding a kindred spirit in Princess Bao Shou, he also sighed and said,

"Who can say otherwise? Lingji Sister was such a good person."

"Back then at the Spirit Treasure Sect, who among the disciples did not admire her."

Zhu Quan, standing by their side, silently criticized in his heart.

He thought, "My sister doesn't just admire Yunhua Immortal and Lingji Fairy; she's an enthusiastic supporter of their mysterious relationship, even personally ordering many novelists, painters, and storytellers from the mortal streets to create works based on the two female immortals' deeds. Some are acceptable, but others are not."

The Thirteenth Prince did not say it, but Princess Bao Shou saw her imperial brother's thoughts.

She gave him a dangerous glance and then diverted the topic to the devil immortal Gou Lv'er, "The immortal peaches mentioned by those female fairy sisters earlier, are they some rare Spirit Fruit? They sound strangely fragrant and delicious."

Her reminder made Gou Lv'er remember what was important.

He clapped his hands, his face showing realization, and spoke with regret,

"The two of you might not know, these past few days, everyone in the Penglai Sea knows that Master Tao Qian is cultivating a type of Immortal Plant Spirit Root called [Longevity Immortal Peach]."

"The fruit is large, fragrant, and sweet; eating one not only extends life but also brings blessings. Even within our Spirit Treasure Sect, it's considered a rare Spirit Fruit."

"According to what those Nursing Woman Bird Demons said, the True Master has now achieved Perfect Merit and has produced an entire Immortal Peach Garden."

"Master Tao is not stingy; without the immortals lifting a finger, the Crystal Demon Sisters from Ascending Immortal Island will send a portion for tasting."

"Those disciples of the Lingbao, if they ask for a few peaches while passing by, I reckon they could also have a taste."

"But as a devil immortal and servant like me, I'm afraid I am not fortunate enough to enjoy them."

After Gou Lv'er finished, the naive and innocent Princess Bao Shou immediately chimed in.

This girl was a food lover.

Having eaten all the delicacies from the Mortal World, once she entered the Cultivation World, she felt there were too many goodies to consume them all.

She was indifferent to the life extension and fortune-enhancing effects of the Longevity Immortal Peach, but the promise of its size, fragrance, and sweetness was very tempting.

She pulled both Gou Lv'er and her imperial brother, heading in the direction of Ascending Immortal Island, while saying,

"These immortal peaches sound especially delicious. Since that Senior Brother Tao has grown an entire peach garden, we should also pay him a visit, speak kindly to him, and see if we can get one or two to taste."

No sooner had she finished speaking than she met with simultaneous objections from the two of them.

Naturally, for different reasons.

Gou Lv'er was initially tempted, then felt awkward, and finally firmly refused, saying, "No, no, my duty is to escort you two to Bibo Island to rest; we cannot allow any complications."

Zhu Quan also revealed a yearning in his eyes, but not for the Longevity Immortal Peach. The fruit sounded tempting, but as a young noble, he did not lack lifespan.

His real interest lay in the phrase "visiting Master Tao Qian".

Externally, this Thirteenth Prince was not considered a main contender for the crown.

But being of the Imperial Family's bloodline, he naturally coveted that position.

Since that Tao Master was the first disciple of Duobao True Monarch and was regarded highly by Yunhua Immortal, he would surely become an important figure in the Spirit Treasure Sect. It's a pity that if I had been in Southern Yue earlier, I wouldn't have been as foolish as my Third Brother. Befriending such a person would be endlessly advantageous... As his mind raced with these thoughts, the prince outwardly also rejected his sister's request.

With a solemn expression, he said,

"That's nonsense. If we are to visit Tao Master, we cannot be so hasty."

"We must proceed with proper etiquette. It's just trouble for the devil immortal brother to take us first to Bibo Island. After resting, we'll send an invitation to Ascending Immortal Island tomorrow. With the host's permission, we can then visit."

What Zhu Quan said was quite reasonable; as representatives of the contemporary Imperial Family within the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, they should not act impulsively.

Princess Bao Shou had no argument against it and sulkily agreed.

However, Gou Lv'er, who overheard the conversation, also discerned the prince's cunning thoughts and couldn't help but sneer internally, "Thinking this is the Mortal World, not realizing how popular Master Tao Qian is. These past few days, I don't know how many cloud talismans and respectful invitations have

flown toward Ascending Immortal Island. What's so great about the Imperial Family, here within the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, even the Emperor is faced with... "

Despite his contempt, the sly and clever Gou Lv'er, duty-bound, had no intention of offending anyone.

Of course, he did not bother reminding them.

He still smiled cheerfully, leading them toward the Bibo Big Island.

...

Master Tao Qian himself was unaware of these matters on Ascending Immortal Island.

At that moment, he was holding the Absolute Immortal Token, heading towards another end of the Penglai Sea.

The Absolute Immortal Sea Islands were, after all, where the Mutated Elders were confined, very far from the Mountain Gate, to prevent any accidents.

If he were to travel properly using the Auspicious Cloud Skill, it would take several days.

But with Star Zha Demon's speed, it would be quick.

Although the demon child's Star Zha Escape Technique was obviously not as fast as Buddha's "Great Freedom Heart Light Escape," it was unimaginably fast. Along the way, passing many Immortal Islands and Magic Vein Dojos, no one would bother him. Demon Sect methods were conspicuous at the Taishang Daoist Gathering but all too normal within the Spirit Treasure Sect.

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Several hours later, Tao Qian realized that the sea beneath him began to exhibit some strange changes.

From normal to increasingly sinister and dark.

The appearance of a black boundary line ahead sent a jolt through Tao Qian's Soul, as a strong premonition of crisis surged wildly.

That was clearly a vast and completely dark sea.

The areas he had previously passed through, though somewhat strange, still allowed glimpses of Life, like oddly-shaped seabirds or huge sea creatures faintly visible beneath the waters.

But the dark waters ahead?

In Tao Qian's perception, there seemed to be no signs of life at all.

Even, as he approached, Tao Qian mysteriously felt the premonition that stepping into that sea could lead to a terrible crisis, and he might possibly die.

It would be one thing if it were just his feeling, but the Star Zha Demon carrying him forward felt the same.

This Demon Child, with a rare tone of intense fear in his voice, transmitted the message:

"Master, the sea ahead is very dangerous, I... I might not be able to cross it."

"No matter!"

Despite some surprise, Tao Qian had actually anticipated this. Taking out the Absolute Immortal Token, he shone it ahead, and a ghostly white light burst from the Token, emitting an immense, ceaseless Power, and opened a narrow path through the dark sea that could barely fit one person.

Without needing a special signal, Starlight fled into it.

Indeed, all premonitions of danger disappeared without a trace.

Nevertheless, Tao Qian still felt a lingering sense of unease.

"That is the Absolute Spirit Sea."

"The sea is filled with Absolute Spirit Water, originating from the Outer Realm, its effect both simple and terrifying—to eradicate Life."

"Any living being entering will be killed by the insidious Absolute Spirit Strange Power, unless their Cultivation Realm is high enough to exempt them, but how advanced must one's Daoist Transformation be to be immune to the Absolute Spirit?"

"Don't even think about using flying boats or similar vessels to cross, nearly all spells are forbidden in the sea, especially above the surface, where it is said, 'Not even a goose feather may float, and bulrush seeds definitely sink.'"

"Of course, there are exceptions, and with the Absolute Immortal Token, one may cross."

"To reach the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands, one must pass through two dangerous areas."

"One is the Absolute Spirit Sea, and the next is..."

Just as Tao Qian contemplated this in his mind,

he saw everything in his field of vision ahead filled with a kind of substance, like fog.

Gray and flowing, as if there were countless moths, even finer than Insect Eggs, meandering.

One glance, and anyone would immediately feel their eyelids grow heavy, falling into deep slumber.

And once truly asleep, their fate would not be a pleasant one.

Seeing this sight, Tao Qian immediately thought to have the Star Zha Demon stop, pulling it back into the Demon Gourd. He then wielded the Absolute Immortal Token again, and saw the ghostly celestial light wrap around his body before he plunged right into it.

In his mind, remaining thoughts were hiding away.

"The Absolute Immortal Sea Islands, far across the other end of the Penglai Sea, ideally should be surrounded by countless Great Prohibitions and Arrays to prevent the Spirit Treasure Disciples from accidentally wandering in."

"But there was no such precaution; because two areas stood as barriers on the outskirts—one is the Absolute Spirit Sea, and the other is the Nightmare God Cloud."

"Even if some lucked out and escaped the Absolute Spirit Strange Power, they would fall into the Nightmare God Cloud, succumbing to endless nightmares, dying without ever knowing how they died."

"Indeed secure enough, although they should have erected a sign before the Absolute Spirit Sea to warn passersby."

As the last thought fell, the gray fog before Tao Qian's eyes dispersed entirely.

And what reflected back in his eyes was an extremely peculiar sea that seemed to have solidified.

Within it, there were a vast number of islands.

Big and small, strange and oddly shaped islands that, for a moment, Tao Qian, too, could not count.

Especially many of the islands, shrouded in various terrifying Forbidden Techniques, not only prevented people from landing but also inflicted harm from just one or two glances from afar.

Tao Qian just looked a bit more and immediately felt a sourness, even tears flowing straight from his eyes.

He had to retract his gaze and look around, his brows gradually furrowing as he muttered:

"Aunt Yunhua and Master said coming to the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands to pick up treasures was a privilege for all True Disciples."

"The moment the Absolute Immortal Token was activated, I rushed over, and true inheritor siblings like Yang Jie and the Golden Crow Fairy should have done the same, so why haven't I encountered anyone?"

Tao Qian's confusion arose, but he quickly guessed.

Whether it is the Absolute Spirit Sea or the Nightmare God Cloud, including these Absolute Immortal Sea Islands, they all spanned an incredibly vast area.

There are a total of eighteen True Disciples in this generation of the Spirit Treasure Sect, thrown into such a large area.

It would be normal not to encounter one another.

With this thought in mind, Tao Qian temporarily set aside his speculations and began to survey the nearby landscape.

The large islands shrouded in prohibitions were naturally not his target, he didn't even want to approach them.

His targets were the islands without prohibitions.

Surprisingly, in just a few breaths, Tao Qian found an island not far from him that no prohibitions enveloped.

From afar, the island looked like a reclining human figure, though somewhat bloated, with a few smaller islands scattered around it due to rocks, trees, or simply bird droppings, all of different colors.

At first glance, nothing seemed amiss.

But as Tao Qian looked down from above, after a few more glances, he immediately sensed something was wrong.

The island was still an island.

But the shape and outline eerily resembled a dead person, an image that emerged after the Giant Temple display.

This discovery caused Tao Qian's brows to furrow, and a heightened vigilance took hold within his heart.

However, within the surrounding area, this was the only island without prohibitions.

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He felt no sense of danger in his own perception.

Thinking, Tao Qian summoned the auspicious cloud and approached the island.

No sooner had he neared the airspace above a small island on the periphery of the Big Island than he startled the "people" on the small island.

Indeed, to his own surprise, Tao Qian had not expected that there would actually be inhabitants within the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands.

And not just a few, but clearly a tribe.

Yet as Tao Qian looked closer, he immediately realized that these people were entirely different from the normal Human Clan.

Every one of them resembled wizened dwarfs, with withered yellow skin full of wrinkles, and all were naked; they formed a circle around a small hill of garbage made up of various kinds of rotting matter. The Dwarf people stared blankly, mechanically stretching out their chicken-claw-like hands, grabbing the rot from the hill and stuffing it into their mouths.

The stench was suffocating, the scene bizarre.

Even more bizarre was that upon noticing Tao Qian, the initial reaction of these Dwarf people was to simultaneously display a fierce light in their eyes that even Tao Qian found alarming.

It was a cold glare, devoid of emotion, filled only with hunger and the desire to kill.

He had seen the same kind of look in the eyes of the red-eyed wild dogs that scrounged in corpses for intestines outside of Seeking Immortal County.

But quickly, as these Dwarf people realized that Tao Qian had arrived on the auspicious cloud, their bodies shook as if they had just come to their senses, and they waved their hands excitedly towards Tao Qian on the auspicious cloud before kneeling down.

They began to shout in the Human Clan language, their voices so synchronized that it seemed rehearsed.

"Welcome Immortal! Welcome Immortal!"

"We are but Dwarf Slaves, filthy and unworthy to receive you, Immortal. Please forgive us."

"Please, Immortal, proceed to the Inner Island, where the Sea People Masters will surely take good care of you."

After shouting this, they did not rise.

Instead, they continued to shout the same words a second time, then a third, a fourth...

Tao Qian stood atop the cloud, his brows furrowed as he watched the scene below.

Although his Master and Aunt Yunhua had said that the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands were not only dangerous but also extremely strange.

Tao Qian had not anticipated such oddness.

Immortal... Dwarf Slave... Sea People Master... These keywords truly baffled him.

After listening a few more times, Tao Qian grew somewhat annoyed.

Moreover, he clearly saw the fierce light in the eyes of these Dwarf Slaves at first sight.

Thinking, he raised his hand and cast the Spirit Treasure Immortal Binding Technique. From thin air, a branch of the Miraculous Tree stretched out and wrapped around the foremost Dwarf Slave, whisking him over.

Tao Qian had expected some reaction from these bizarre Dwarfs at this development.

But there was none; on the contrary.

All the Dwarf Slaves lay prostrate on the ground, trembling and weeping, begging: "Immortal, spare our lives, spare our lives."

The one Tao Qian had caught was so frightened that he urinated in midair.

Reeking waste burst from his rear, splattering over the group of Dwarf Slaves below.

Tao Qian, fighting back disgust, allowed the vine branches to bundle this bizarre creature and pointed a finger on the only clean spot on its forehead.

What followed was even more puzzling to Tao Qian.

Seeing his action, this Dwarf Slave became even more terrified and screamed at the top of his lungs:

"Immortal, spare my life! Not only is my body filthy and stinking, but my soul is as well."

"Don't search my soul, I beg you, Immortal, don't search my soul."

"Ah ah..."

Amid his shouts and struggles, an unexpected turn of events took place that Tao Qian could never have anticipated.

This bizarre Dwarf Slave, while screaming and begging, lost control from fear, and then his murky eyes suddenly rolled back to white. His body stiffened and then went limp, as the spark of life left him altogether.

This bizarre occurrence, he was literally scared to death on the spot.

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A Dwarf Slave covered in filth and exuding an unbearable stench, was scared to death right before Tao Qian's eyes.

This scene was also a first for Tao Qian.

However, as the strange life died, Record entries still burst forth in Tao Qian's mind.

[Name: Dwarf Slave.]

[Record Type: Alien Species.]

[Record: This is an Alien Life, found solely on the "Human Fetus Island" of the Spirit Treasure Sect's Absolute Immortal Sea Islands. This life form outwardly resembles the Human Clan but has no relation to it. Instead, it is birthed from a human fetus as an Alien Species. It possesses no significant Extraordinary Power, dwells in the peripheral areas of Human Fetus Island, and sustains itself on the excreta of other Alien Species, filthy and abhorrent. It is cowardly yet cruel, and extremely prone to death by fright.]

[Note: Serves no purpose.]

"Hmm?"

The Record itself was fine, but that note made Tao Qian pause.

Since his descent from the Soul Summoning Pole on Vegetable Market Street, it was the first time he had encountered such a condition with these abnormal souls capable of triggering many hidden Records.

Useless?

Even the low-level exotic objects from before, such as Feces Stone and Mountain Ghost Skin, each had their extraordinary uses.

How could such an Alien Life existing within the bounds of the Spirit Treasure Sect Mountain Gate be utterly useless?

Tao Qian was momentarily dazed but quickly recovered.

Reflecting on the behavior of these Dwarf Slaves, it was indeed hard to conceive of any use for them.

"Filthy beyond measure, feeding on the excretions of other Alien Species, and easily frightened to death... truly pitiful."

"But what about this Human Fetus Island and the human fetus that can give birth to life?"

Questions swirled in Tao Qian's mind.

He quietly prepared the Absolute Immortal Token and Jade Purification Bottle, with the Buddha Bird Relics ready for use at any moment.

He tossed the corpse of the Dwarf Slave downward, and then Tao Qian witnessed a terrifying yet logically consistent scene:

As the body of the fear-stricken dead Dwarf Slave hit the ground, other Dwarf Slaves immediately gathered around, completely indifferent to the filth and not minding that it was one of their own kind. Pair after pair of claws stretched out, their eyes emitting a uniform ghastly green glow, accompanied by the rustling sound of gnawing.

In mere seconds, the Dwarf Slave was devoured completely.

Tao Qian frowned, becoming more cautious, and continued to delve deeper.

Not long after, Tao Qian's auspicious cloud appeared over the second small island, alarming the "people" there.

This time, Tao Qian took a closer look.

The people on this island were slightly taller than the Dwarf Slaves, but each was incomplete: some lacked eyes, some had no noses, others no hands, and some no legs... Only when they gathered in small groups could they jointly exert the strength a normal member of the Human Clan would possess.

Their food was not much better, appearing to be rotting matter, though slightly more intact, resembling "food remains" picked from a large pile of rot.

Upon noticing Tao Qian on the auspicious cloud, these maimed people initially revealed a fierce desire to devour him.

Then they restrained themselves, fell to their knees, and roared:

"Welcome Immortal! Welcome Immortal!"

"We are Maimed Slaves, both body and soul defective, unable to receive the Immortal."

"Please, Immortal, proceed to the Inner Island, where the Sea People Masters will surely serve you well."

Hearing this precisely trained, coherent speech for the second time, Tao Qian was no longer surprised.

Frowning, he didn't respond.

Instead, he casually captured another Maimed Slave without eyes, and another Record with only minor differences emerged.

The notes for these Maimed Slaves were also useless.

Such an eerie sight indeed piqued Tao Qian's interest.

He stomped his foot, and the auspicious cloud immediately sped up.

Quickly, Tao Qian sped past one small island after another, encountering many different "strange people," with no repeats.

In just about 15 minutes, the bizarre and strange things he saw and heard significantly broadened his experience.

In his mind, he quickly summarized:

"This island is called [Human Fetus Island], with the Inner Island as its core, surrounded by numerous small islands that each could only accommodate around a hundred people."

"On these islands, almost all have strange people residing."

"From the initial Dwarf Slaves, Maimed Slaves to subsequently encountering Labor Slaves, Horn Slaves, Feather Slaves, and other Alien Life."

"These abnormalities, from initially consuming rot to being deemed useless, gradually became normal and even civilized."

"Like those Feather Slaves, evidently a group of primitive humans with wings, who also called me an Immortal and brought some fruits to entertain me."

"The only commonality: all these strange people directed me towards the Inner Island, saying that the Sea People Masters would welcome me."

As these thoughts settled, Tao Qian had already stepped onto the so-called Inner Island.

The island was oval-shaped.

It was lush and verdant, and Tao Qian was astounded to find relatively primitive cities, divine temples, and other buildings.

It seemed that the hosts had long known an Immortal was coming, as soon primitive, barbaric music could be heard.

Then, a lavishly dressed welcoming procession approached from afar.

This procession included three types of "people."

First were the giants, or perhaps better said, the long people, each standing several meters tall, their eyes like copper bells, fierce light hidden within, hooked claws and saw teeth, and bodies covered in coarse hair. They beat animal skin drums and blew bone conches, striding forward to greet him.

Second were the beauties, slightly smaller but still over two or three meters tall, voluptuous yet muscular bodies only covered at crucial three points with giant leaves, their long hair scattered, revealing faces both beautiful and radiating maternal warmth.

Seeing these two kinds of strange people, Tao Qian was momentarily dazed.

He thought to himself: "Legends say that in ancient times, in the barbaric Mountains and Seas, my kind of Human Clan was just one among countless kinds of 'people' and a rather weak kind at that. I had once regretted not being able to witness such a grand sight, but who would have thought I'd make up for it here in the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands?"

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Tao Qian's mind was racing with this thought, and he also knew why he had never felt any impending danger.

The reason was simple.

Despite the towering stature of these giants and Long People with their massive bodies,

Tao Qian couldn't sense any powerful Transcendent Extraordinary Power. These strange people might all be unable to withstand even one of Tao Qian's Thunder Strike Techniques.

Still, even knowing this, Tao Qian remained vigilant in his heart.

His gaze immediately locked onto the third kind of person in the group.

This strange person was the smallest, and although they appeared quite portly, they were only slightly wider than the average Human Clan member.

They sat atop carriages borne by the Long People, fat and pale with especially thick thighs laden with flab and four arms.

The two massive lumps of white flesh on their chest made it hard to distinguish gender.

But one thing was certain: they had no heads.

Their breasts served as eyes, their navels as mouths.

At the moment, they gazed at Tao Qian with eyes at the top of their white flesh, filled with utmost respect and adoration.

As the group drew near, the familiar roar like the crashing of waves was heard once more.

This time, however, the script had changed.

"We welcome the Immortal to Holy Embryo Island!"

"We have calculated the hour, predicting that a Spirit Treasure Immortal would arrive soon, and thus began waiting in advance."

"Now, our wishes have indeed come to fruition."

"Please follow us, Immortal. We, the strange people, rely on the shelter of your Immortal Sect and have no way to repay you."

"We can only prepare some tributes every so often and present them to the Immortal upon your arrival."

"Please, Immortal, do not disdain them, nor decline."

Tao Qian wasn't particularly concerned with the so-called tributes. He looked directly at the headless flesh creature leading them and asked outright.

"Oh, are you the so-called Sea People Master they speak of?"

"Have you welcomed many an Immortal here?"

"Replying to the Immortal, we are indeed called the Sea People, dwelling on Holy Embryo Island for generations, welcoming numerous Immortals."

"This has become the rule of Holy Embryo Island. Receiving the protection of the Spiritual Treasure, it is only right that we give something in return."

"We are also aware that True Practitioners of the Spirit Treasure such as yourself are fond of Exotic Treasures and Book of Skills, so normally we try our best to search the seas and other Unrestricted Islands."

"It happens that the tributes we have prepared this time are the richest in history, including several Immortal Swords extremely sharp enough to cut through mountains and seas, all perfect to be presented to the Immortal."

"The tributes are in the palace inside Holy Embryo Mountain, where we usually dwell."

"The Immortal may follow us there."

As the headless flesh creature finished speaking, it turned and pointed towards a distant, unusually round and strange mountain.

It was barely visible that the entire mountain had been hollowed out; right now, treasure light surged inside, looking incredibly tempting.

Plus, the headless flesh creature's response provided a reasonable explanation.

For a tribe of strange people that typically lived in seclusion, detached from the world, this was no small feat.

Tao Qian had originally planned to grab one of the headless flesh creatures and directly probe for secrets.

However, the moment he saw that mountain, the thunderous throbbing in his mind made him change his mind.

He didn't even need the warning from his Abnormal Soul.

After taking a serious look, even with his current eyesight, Tao Qian could easily discern.

That Holy Embryo Mountain!

It was clearly an Exotic Treasure.

Despite the dimming effect brought about by a trace of Divine Treasure, the extremely vigorous Essential Origin Qi within, and the Sky-reaching Treasure Light that almost couldn't be concealed, all proved that the mountain was indeed a treasure.

Tao Qian didn't act hastily but nodded with a smile, seemingly genuinely moved by the tributes.

Riding the auspicious cloud, he followed the group toward Holy Embryo Mountain.

Passing through the cities and Divine Temples on the way, Tao Qian took a look and indeed saw all kinds of strange people living inside.

Each had their own role, orderly and regulated.

Yet, at the same time, the social hierarchy was extremely clear.

Especially when the headless flesh creatures passed by, all the strange people knelt down in submission.

After observing many details, myriad thoughts flooded Tao Qian's mind, but he showed no outward change of expression.

The group soon arrived in front of the mountain.

Ahead, the mountain's belly was spacious, with many palaces that were not luxurious but mixed primitive savagery with some ingenious designs, quite fitting for a nation with such a mix of strange inhabitants.

The strange people entered the mountain one by one, but they failed to notice Tao Qian behind them.

Unintentionally, he placed his palm on the mountain wall.

In that instant, the persistent throbbing in Tao Qian's mind found its mark.

The Record that made Tao Qian's eyes suddenly widen erupted forth.

After only a couple of glances, Tao Qian abruptly spoke out:

"Hold on!"

These two words made the headless flesh creatures that had entered the mountain belly rush back hurriedly.

The leading one, despite having no face, visibly had its belly wrinkled up in anxiety.

As it was about to say something, Tao Qian preempted it with a smile:

"I have had a peculiar habit since childhood; I do not enter caves when I come across them."

"Though the belly of your Holy Embryo Mountain is vast and large, it is plainly a cave before my eyes, one I neither wish to enter nor can enter."

"If you truly wish to present the tributes, why not bring them out for me to see?"

Hearing this, the headless flesh creatures were obviously baffled and stood there lost in thought.

Then, they huddled together and murmured among themselves before,

The leader stepped out again, folding its four hands, and said, "As the Immortal has commanded, we shall obey."

With these words, the so-called Sea People set off with the Long People back into the mountain belly, starting to fetch treasures one by one.

Some were small as pearls, some large as millstones.

There were minerals, alien items, dust-covered Magical Treasures, and even those carrying Cultivation Techniques in Spiritual Shell Stone Leaves.

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Not long after, the offerings piled up like a small mountain, indeed as described by the strange person, there were exceedingly many.

But after inspecting them, Tao Qian intentionally showed a look of deep disappointment and said,

"What is this rubbish you dare present before me?"

"Bring forth any other items you have."

At these words, all the strange creatures immediately showed distressed expressions and fell to their knees en masse.

The leader of the strange people, his entire body trembling, cried out,

"Please forgive us, Immortal! These are the possessions we, the strange people, have accumulated over decades. There are no other treasures left."

"Immortal, you know how barren this island is; we have really put in our utmost effort to gather these, holding nothing back."

"If Immortal does not believe, you may search yourself. Should Immortal fancy anything on this island, you may take it, and we will hold no grudges, only asking that Immortal not be angry or punish us."

Even without a head, the strange person's crying was genuinely heart-wrenching.

Tears as large as beans streamed down from the eyes on its breasts.

And Tao Qian, it seemed he was just waiting for it to say that.

He deliberately questioned further, "Really? Anything I fancy, I can take?"

The headless strange person replied with certainty, "Indeed, Immortal, please feel free to do so."

Who would have expected that as soon as these words were uttered, Tao Qian immediately burst out laughing.

"Since you have agreed, I shall not hold back."

"I spotted the true treasure here long ago, and now I shall take it."

With that, Tao Qian suddenly reached out his hand to summon.

Accompanied by the light of the Spirit Treasure Immortal Spirit, a thunderous noise erupted, shaking the entirety of Holy Embryo Island.

Then, the mountain revered as "Divine Mountain" by all the strange creatures, Holy Embryo Mountain, actually rose from the ground.

A treasure light thousands of feet high shot straight into the sky.

Under the stunned gaze of the strange creatures, it transformed into a purple-red object with an opening and straps, resembling a cloth bag, and directly fell into Tao Qian's hand.

As soon as the cloth bag was in his hand, a piece of information entered Tao Qian's mind.

"So it is, this treasure is called 'Holy Embryo Bag,' left behind by a senior female disciple in my sect."

"This bag has infinite uses, once opened, it can hold millions of people."

"This treasure has transformed from a mountain here for many years; you all have not discovered it, but I saw it immediately upon my arrival, which shows it was destined to be mine."

Tao Qian's slightly domineering words left the strange people below, who were still lost in the grief of losing their Holy Mountain and homeland, not daring to object.

The leader of the strange people, with a voice full of endless grievance, replied,

"What Immortal says is very true; the treasure is obtained by those who are fated to have it."

"We have defended Treasure Mountain for many years without discovering anything, clearly, it is not our fate."

"We only ask that Immortal, considering our years of guarding the treasure, grant us some Immortal sustenance and leave behind some Forbidden Techniques, so we may continue to thrive."

To anyone, this request by the strange person would seem very reasonable.

But Tao Qian did not immediately agree.

Instead, he first smiled and waved his hand nonchalantly, "Hold on, hold on, this treasure has been covered in dust for many years; let me clean it first."

Before the words were even finished, Tao Qian suddenly took out the Jade Purification Bottle.

A cold smile had unknowingly formed at the corners of his mouth, and suddenly the mouth of the bottle tilted toward the "Holy Embryo Bag."

Suddenly, a stream of Pure Immortal Water poured down, hitting the Holy Embryo Bag instantaneously.

Screams!

As if a billion mouths cried out in sharp shrieks at that moment.

The initially treasure-light surging cloth bag suddenly transformed into an immensely huge flesh cloth, large enough to envelop the so-called Holy Embryo Island below, its surface covered in flesh buds, tusks, and fierce eyes—now looking as though it had been severely harmed, screaming as it tried to escape the area.

But who could have expected Tao Qian's voice to once again come from above, accompanied by the Jade Purification Bottle spinning over the "Holy Embryo Bag"?

"What a good treasure, hold on before you leave. You've gone through great lengths to get close to this junior disciple, why are you trying to run away so soon?"

"Such a cunning Artifact Spirit you are, attempting two plots to escape this place."

"First, you tried to deceive me into entering your bag, perhaps intending to perform Body Seizing?"

"Failing that, you prepared another plot with a 'treasure hunt' scenario for me."

"Both plans are sinister, and indeed, as a relic left by my master, your methods are monstrous."

"If I didn't have support, I really wouldn't dare to expose these."

"Now, should I call you Holy Embryo Bag, or Human Fetus Bag?"

"Either one is fine, but before that, as a junior I must first ask you to enter this Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle, to properly clean off the dirt and dust, so that you can be of use to me."

Chapter 237: Treasure Bead Hidden in White Bone Mountain, Mao Ri Dharma Form with a Majestic Momentum

The human fetus bag was cleansed by the Pure Immortal Water, and amidst the shrieking, it revealed its true form—an enormous blood and flesh cloth bag that could engulf the island below it.

Hearing Tao Qian's mockery, a female face suddenly emerged on the surface of the flesh, quite pretty but with an undeniable evil qi between her brows and eyes.

Clearly, that was the Artifact Spirit within the bag.

It had racked its brains trying to trick Tao Qian into the bag.

Failing that was not a problem, as it had also prepared a treasure-hunting plot, hoping to be taken away by a disciple entering the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands as a valuable treasure.

Either scenario would help it escape this dire place.

Unfortunately, it encountered Tao Qian, and both plans were utterly out of the question.

"In your dreams!"

After letting out a scream, the massive blood and flesh bag attempted to flee.

In the surge of red light, it was as if a Blood River had suddenly appeared above the sky.

However, there was no escape.

Had it fled immediately before Tao Qian took out the Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle, it might have had a chance for survival.

It is known that although the Jade Purifying Bottle was a counterfeit that the Duobao Lord mimicked from a Buddhist Sect treasure, its efficacy was extraordinarily unique, especially after being consecrated and refined using the Forbidden Techniques of Yunhua Immortal, transforming it into a genuinely valuable and highly effective treasure.

Otherwise, Tao Qian would not have received it with "both legs" as protection for his frail disciple who had just completed Foundation Establishment.

Inside the upside-down bottle neck, apart from the Pure Immortal Water washing it down, an unrivaled suction force emerged.

If the human fetus bag had a master controlling it, it would not have been defeated.

But masterless versus with master, the gap was too wide.

The two Magical Treasures barely struggled before the victor was decided, and amid the woman's frustrated expression, the human fetus bag shrunk continuously, eventually transforming into a small blood bag and was collected by the Jade Purifying Bottle.

Tao Qian reached out and cradled the spinning treasure in his palm.

Leaning in, he listened as inside it seemed waves were surging, mixed with sharp screeches, which gradually subsided after a while.

However, Tao Qian still had no intention of releasing it but merely shook the Jade Purifying Bottle, sighed, and then unapologetically revealed:

"This Artifact Spirit was born alongside the human fetus bag, deeply rooted in demonic nature, and even the Mixed Element Qi Unpolluted Great Prohibition would require at least twenty-four hours to purge you."

"Once inside the Jade Purifying Bottle, you stand no chance of survival, and playing dead is useless."

Indeed, just as Tao Qian finished speaking,

immediately from within the bottle came the sound of a tsunami, mixed with numerous curses and scolding.

Regrettably, Tao Qian did not listen and simply stored the Jade Purifying Bottle away.

This treasure was extremely useful.

Inside, the Great Prohibition isolated many demon-refining spaces. Even after collecting the human fetus bag, it didn't hinder Tao Qian's continued use of it.

Meanwhile, something else seemed to come to Tao Qian's mind as he looked down.

An anticipated yet extremely horrifying scene was unfolding:

As the human fetus bag was removed, the myriad strange people on the Big Island below were dying, withering away.

They wailed and transformed into viscous, rotting flesh, rejoining a massive corpse.

This corpse was truly a "Giant Temple."

Mountainous and akin to a giant, it floated on the sea.

Tao Qian deliberately ignored the mutated parts of her body, from the robes, jewelry, and other possessions, it was faintly evident she was a woman, one of high realm who had perished many years ago.

Her abdomen, where the human fetus bag had been, was now empty.

It seemed that by losing that treasure, she began sinking toward the seabed.

Upon seeing this, Tao Qian did not intervene but simply performed a ritual in the air, saying, "Disciple Tao Qian, respectfully sees off Lingmu Immortal!"

Not long after his words fell, the corpse vanished without a trace.

An entire Big Island, bizarrely and completely, disappeared.

But the many benefits of that island had already entered Tao Qian's pocket well before.

The island's secrets were fully comprehended by Tao Qian when he touched the Holy Mountain transformed from that human fetus bag.

"This island, in fact, was the corpse of a Sect elder called 'Lingmu Immortal.'"

"She failed disastrously in the contest at the Ten Thousand Immortals Gathering, her Dao completely severed. To prevent destruction, she transformed back to the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands in her last moment and died unnoticed here, her massive corpse astonishingly becoming a Big Island."

"All her accumulated Magical Treasures were destroyed in the fierce contest, only the mutated blood and flesh body remained, perhaps by coincidence, perhaps due to the Lifebound Scripture she cultivated."

"After many years, her body nurtured an Exotic Treasure—the 'human fetus bag.'"

"This object is between Innate and Acquired, capable of directly producing different strange people, albeit with many flaws, unable to reproduce."

"If the accompanying Evil Spirits in the bag are eradicated, it can be used for Refining Treasures."

"The human fetus bag has Special Abilities, sure to refine into a significant treasure."

"Yet, I did not expect that my first acquired relic here with the Absolute Immortal Token would be such."

These thoughts flashed through Tao Qian's mind, besides looking forward to the treasures he would receive after twelve hours.

In his mind, a new speculation also arose:

Could the origins of these Big Islands within the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands all be like Holy Embryo Island, transformed from the corpses of Sect elders?

With one precedent, Tao Qian felt this speculation might indeed be accurate.

Yet if so, it spawned new secrets.

Are the physical bodies of high-realm powerful cultivators all that large?

Or do they ultimately lose their Human Clan form?

Pondering these, Tao Qian didn't linger any further and continued exploring the seas ahead.

Despite having the "Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle" in hand, Tao Qian was not arrogant but was always cautious, maintaining a very slow and careful search.

Should he detect any Great Prohibition covering a Big Island, he would preemptively avoid it even if it were hundreds of miles away.

Chapter 238: Treasure Bead Hidden in White Bone Mountain, Mao Ri Dharma Form with a Majestic Momentum_2

Just like that!

After several hours had passed, Tao Qian had gained nothing.

And on the way, he encountered many disturbances, each one more odd than the last. If not for the Jade Purification Bottle, even Tao Qian would not dare to guarantee he wouldn't be ensnared.

For instance, as he passed by an island that was continuously flashing with myriad rainbows, he didn't know which mentor was imprisoned there, layered with at least a dozen Great Prohibitions, causing Tao Qian's scalp to tingle.

Even so, as he deliberately kept his distance, a voice suddenly came from the island.

Clear as if right beside him, and with a gentle tone, it made one involuntarily want to stop.

"Absolute Immortal Token? That must be my Disciples of the Lingbao, stay your steps."

"Fate brings us together as you pass by, this treasure is of no use to me now, I gift it to you."

As the voice ended, a brilliant feather of gold light managed to pierce through the multiple Great Prohibitions and shot out.

In an instant, it reached the front of Tao Qian, then its speed greatly slowed.

The way it looked, Tao Qian just needed to reach out, and it would lightly land in the palm of his hand.

The feather was dazzlingly bright, its treasure aura soaring to the heavens, sharpness and flame energies intense, that even the weakest-eyed person could tell it was an Exotic Treasure.

Others might reach for it.

But at that moment, Tao Qian felt his soul nearly leave his body, not even daring to think about examining its secrets; he turned to flee.

Fortunately, at the crucial moment, he remembered the Jade Purification Bottle and shook it, and immediately a forceful suction appeared, drawing the feather directly into the bottle.

That very instant, within the Rainbow-Lit Big Island, a huge, blurred figure revealed itself, colliding with the Forbidden Technique while also roaring at the distant Tao Qian:

"Why not take it?"

"Are you a foolish disciple blind to see the worth of this treasure, that is the tail feather from my body, Uncle Wu Chao, infused with a drop of Essence Blood, should you take it, you could gain a great advantage."

"Foolish, truly utterly foolish."

The figure had lost its temper but did not wait for Tao Qian to respond.

It calmed down in an instant, retracting back into the prohibitions, and then spoke faintly:

"Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle, Mixed Element Qi Unpolluted Great Prohibition... How curious, which one are you, a disciple of Brother Duobao or of Senior Sister Yunhua?"

"Nevermind, whichever it is, I can't afford to provoke either."

"Let's forget about what just happened, don't go tattling, or if Uncle survives the Absolute Struggle, I will find you again and truly give you a great benefit."

"I am aware of Uncle's special situation and will not dwell on it, Uncle you can continue with your cultivation without concern."

Tao Qian replied very obediently and then quickly fled.

Such mishaps, Tao Qian encountered a total of seven or eight times within those hours.

After that experience, he became even more cautious.

How could he not see the terrifying degree of danger within the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands?

At the same time, Tao Qian also felt he had gained a new understanding of the powerful beings in the Cultivation World.

"Hard to believe, but all signs indicate they are real."

"In this Cultivation World, even if you've cultivated to the realms of Cavernous Mystery, Ultimate Happiness, you still can't control your own fate."

"Daoist Alcohol and Meat Li Changle, Lingmu Immortal, Uncle Wu Chao... these few are undoubtedly powerful beings, especially that Uncle Wu Chao, from my perception, if my adversary in Southern Yue had been him, my grave grass would likely be three feet high."

"Such existences, yet still fall into mutation and degradation, forced to enter the Absolute Struggle."

"The Daoist Great Sect of the Spirit Treasure Sect has come to this pass, so the other sects don't even need to think about it."

"In these Absolute Immortal Sea Islands, such beings are everywhere... Without the Jade Purification Bottle, even if I had the Buddha Bird Relics to rely on, my fate would've been sealed sooner or later."

"One must not be too greedy in the practice of cultivation."

"I had better pick up some relic treasures quickly and leave this place as soon as possible."

Such thoughts drove Tao Qian to become even more cautious and timid, and also made him quicken his actions.

After completely distancing himself from the Big Island with its Forbidden Techniques, it wasn't long before he came upon a second Unrestricted Island.

From a distance of tens of miles, Tao Qian could see a White Bone Mountain on the island.

That mountain, that island.

There was not a single plant in sight, nor a rock formation to be found—all that met the eye were chilling white bones.

It could be said that it was the White Bone Mountain on White Bone Island, magnificent yet terrifying.

However, since it was an Unrestricted Island, Tao Qian hesitated only for a moment before approaching.

But just then, accompanied by a booming explosion, the tall and imposing White Bone Mountain shattered apart.

Two entangled, battling voices flew out from within.

One of them attracted Tao Qian's attention in an instant.

Initially, he was a young man wearing an embroidered Big Yellow Robe, with a Brocade Red Treasure Pouch at his waist and a chisel in hand that flowed with Golden Light, sharp and formidable. His expression was solemn, and his eyes emanated an inherent might without anger.

Behind him, a Bone Demon gathered many skeletons to form a White Bone Giant, stretching out a giant hand, attempting to grab the man.

"Fellow sect member, another True Inheritor?"

Tao Qian immediately made a judgment, considering whether he should lend a hand.

The next moment, the male figure who had flown high above, carefully placed a Treasure Bead, shining with treasure light, spherical and the size of a baby's head, known as a "Bone Bead," into his waist pouch, then laughed out loud:

"This treasure is a relic of my Master White Bone, rightfully mine, not for a mere Bone Demon like you to covet."

"Since you seek death, this True Master shall grant you your wish."

As his voice fell, the man suddenly swayed.

In the next instant, a screeching sound that seemed capable of dispelling all sorts of evil and terrifying beings echoed through the skies.

Tao Qian blinked and saw a giant Colorful Feathered Golden Crown rooster, large as a small mountain, leap down from the clouds. Behind its head, streaks of Golden Light shone brightly, forming a golden crown.

As this divine rooster, resembling a Divine Beast, leaped down, its mighty claw fiercely stomped towards the White Bone Giant, covering the White Bone Island beneath it.

Amidst thunderous explosions, there was no time for screams. The Bone Demon was pulverized to dust, and the island trembled suddenly and began to sink into the sea one bit at a time.

Among the scattering bone fragments in the sky, the formidable Golden Crown rooster reappeared before Tao Qian.

It spoke human language, with a tone both imposing and hearty:

"Is the person here my Junior Tao? This is truly a coincidence. When we came here, several of us made bets to see whose luck was the best and who would be the first to run into Junior Tao. Unexpectedly, I, Huang Zhen, have won."

"Junior probably doesn't know me yet; my name is Huang Zhen. My master is none other than Pi Lu Daoist, and just like you, I am a True Disciple of this generation."

"This is my Mao Ri Dharma Form, there is no need for suspicion."

As he spoke, the majestic and dominating Golden Crown rooster before Tao Qian transformed back into a human.

This Senior Brother Huang Zhen still held the golden rod in one hand, and in the other hand, he took out the Absolute Immortal Token, showing it to Tao Qian.

Chapter 239: The Spirit Treasure True Inheritor Battles the Eight Immortals, the Daoist Alcohol and Meat Meets His End

Huang Zhen, Brother Huang, greeted Tao Qian while his mind still harbored the image of his transformation into a colorful feathered golden crown rooster.

That White Bone Giant, as well as the White Bone Island itself, were uncommonly massive in size.

Yet, it was hard to imagine what state Tao Qian would be in if such a light kick from Brother Huang were to land on him.

At the bottom of his heart, Tao Qian thought to himself,

"If it were only based on my cultivation, I'd be no match for Brother Huang."

"Only by relying on the power of the Buddha Bird relic and summoning the Buddha Ape Guardian can I fight him."

"Brother Huang must also be at the late-stage of Transcend Mortality, but it's unknown how many Divine Skills he has cultivated, and where he ranks among the other seventeen true disciples."

"The demeanor of a Great Sect indeed; with my current cultivation, I could be unmatched even by the Cavernous Mystery Demons in Southern Yue, but here, a host of true practitioners who have transcended mortality could crush me—there's no choice but to admire that."

Many thoughts seemed complicated, but in reality, they flashed by in an instant.

As soon as Brother Huang finished speaking, Tao Qian bowed and responded:

"Tao Qian has seen Brother Huang!"

"Brother, your Dharma Image is powerful and domineering; it's truly an eye-opener for your junior."

When faced with kindness,

Tao Qian has always been this gentle and refined gentleman, also giving compliments.

Of course, these two sentences were sincere.

Although he didn't know Brother Huang's ranking among the true disciples, he was certain that if it came to a fight, he might not be Huang Zhen's match.

Brother Huang, lively and cheerful by nature, was even more delighted after being praised by the increasingly prominent junior, Tao Qian.

He waved his hands and quipped while shaking his head:

"Junior, you're too kind; I have long heard of your reputation, and when it comes to talent, probably only Sister Golden Crow in our sect can compare with you."

"Plus the Divine Power you displayed when you resisted the Three Calamities back in Southern Yue, tsk tsk, give you a few more years to cultivate, and we, your seniors, will surely not be your match."

"I heard before coming here that you were cultivating a kind of Immortal Plant called 'Longevity Immortal Peach'; have you succeeded?"

Noticing Brother Huang's straightforward and frank nature, Tao Qian no longer exchanged pleasantries and nodded with a smile:

"It's done!"

"Those peaches have quite the history, able to increase lifespan and Blessing, and they taste quite good too."

"I came in a hurry and didn't manage to bring a few with me."

"After a few days when we leave this place, I plan to have an Immortal Peach banquet, and I must ask for Brother's presence then."

As soon as Tao Qian finished, Brother Huang's eyes sparkled with interest.

Without any pretense, he rubbed his hands excitedly, "Splendid, splendid! I don't have many hobbies, but I can never have enough of Immortal Fruits and Spirit Roots. I will certainly attend to taste them."

After saying this, it seemed like he recalled something,

he smacked his forehead and hurriedly added:

"Junior Tao, since you are also a true disciple, there is something that should be communicated to you."

"In the Absolute Immortal Domain, there is an unrestricted island called 'Eight Immortals Island,' well-known and its location has long been known to us. Eight elders of our Spirit Treasure Sect perished there, each an incredibly powerful being who failed in their ultimate struggles, but left behind many relics."

"However, because they perished together, the island is fraught with dangers, and if one goes there alone, they are bound to lose their life."

"Therefore, before coming here, Master Taixuan proposed that on the third day, we would go to the island together. Our generation of True Inheritors cooperating in this endeavor should be able to conquer the Eight Immortals Island and bring back the many relics to the sect."

"I should have discussed this with you earlier, but you were preoccupied with cultivating the Immortal Plants in the past few days."

"But there is no rush; after all, upon entering this place, the seventeen of us brothers and sisters will eventually meet you and whoever runs into you will notify you."

After finishing these words in one breath, Brother Huang gave it some thought.

He then added:

"This is just a notification after all, the dangers and oddities here are many, so much so that even Master Taixuan himself can't guarantee he'll reach the Eight Immortals Island on time."

"If you have the time and are willing, then come."

"If you can't make it, it's no big deal, there are opportunities everywhere here, and with your deep Blessing, junior, you are sure to make a fortune."

Having said that, Brother Huang laughed heartily and, with some reluctance, pulled something from his neck.

With a flash of light, a radiant feather appeared in his hand.

Brother Huang worked the feather in his hand for a moment, and as golden light scattered about, that colorful feather underwent a wondrous change.

He handed it over while saying:

"This feather has been roughly refined by me; it can guide you to places, and be used twice."

"Apart from the Eight Immortals Island, it can also guide you to 'Heavenly Plague Island.'"

"I know you have to maintain the operations of the Ascending Immortal Island, which is no easy feat."

"It just so happens that I passed by that island on my way here and discovered that it was Heavenly Plague who perished there. He was adept at Array and Forbidden Techniques, and he had a penchant for collecting spiritual material treasures. If you can obtain his relics, you likely won't need to worry about the three great prohibitions of the Ascending Immortal Island for decades."

Tao Qian listened and saw the colorful feather being handed to him, his face immediately showing a look of surprise.

Such generosity from Brother Huang upon their first meeting?

It wasn't that Tao Qian didn't appreciate kindness, but his cautious nature naturally made him react this way.

Master Mao Ri, also known as Huang Zhen, seemed to have anticipated Tao Qian's reaction early on.

He gave a mischievous smile, stuffed the feather into Tao Qian's hand, and declared out loud:

"Junior Tao, you achieved great fame as soon as you joined our ranks, and it's rare to have a chance to give you any guidance. Don't mind your senior brother showing off a bit."

"I also know that you originated as a Loose Cultivator from the chaotic lands of Southern Yue, and because you've survived the intense Three Calamities, it's understandable to be naturally cautious and on guard against countless Demons, Ghosts, and Devils."

"But you should also know that the path of cultivation is fraught with costs, and if you can form good karmic connections with others, then make the effort to do so," Tao Qian said.

"You never know, one day that good karma may return to you and save your life."

Having said that, Brother Huang Zhen took a step back and turned to use his Escape Technique.

But just before his Evasion Light began to surge, he suddenly added one last sentence.

"Junior Tao must remember, a good karmic connection is exactly that."

"If one day you find yourself in competition for the Dao Path with others, then you must fight with all you've got."

As his words faded, golden light surged around Huang Zhen.

Accompanied by a shrill cry, he vanished in an instant.

In Tao Qian's perception, the Escape Technique displayed by Brother Huang was in no way inferior to the Star Zha Demon Escape that he usually used.

In the short time of contact, Tao Qian truly understood the dignity and grace of a Spirit Treasure True Inheritor.

It was fortunate that Master Tao himself had no pride in his heart.

Otherwise, he would have felt disgraced by this encounter.

Holding the Mao Ri's Colored Feather in hand and looking at the Record that was triggered in his mind, which was indistinguishable from what Brother Huang had said, Tao Qian thought for a moment and made a preliminary decision:

"Let's wait and see on the third day. If I'm free, it wouldn't hurt to take a look."

"The scene of the eighteen true disciples of the Spirit Treasure Sect taking action together must certainly be interesting."

As the thought settled, immortal spiritual qi was already being emitted from Tao Qian's hand.

He activated the feather and used it for the first time straight away.

One of his purposes in coming to the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands was to collect spiritual material treasures.

With a clue like this, how could he miss out?

However, almost immediately, the way this feather functioned made his expression turn to stun.

He saw a sequence of colorful lights swirling, and the feather instantly transformed into a six-foot-tall, proud and majestic rooster with a golden crown similarly encircled at the back of its head.

Upon appearing, it proudly nodded its head at Tao Qian.

Then, with a crow, the golden crown surged and, wrapping around it, the rooster instantly disappeared from Tao Qian's sight.

This sudden change forced Tao Qian to take out the Demon Gourd at top speed, shaking out the Star Zha Demon, just hoping to catch up with the proud rooster as soon as possible.

...

About an hour later, above an unrestricted island known as Heavenly Plague Island, Tao Qian was casting a spell.

If it were any other big island, he would be quite willing to explore a bit.

But this one below him, he did not dare to.

Although there were no Forbidden Techniques on the island, it was filled with all kinds of plagues, poison mists, and strange and evil life forms... Some of these beings were simply magical treasures and Poison Elixirs that had manifested and accumulated over time, forming a delicate balance among themselves. Although not an Array or a Great Prohibition, they were even more terrifying than either.

If Tao Qian set foot on the island and broke the prohibition, he would face the onslaught of these strange and alien threats.

The power that would erupt in that instant was something Tao Qian didn't believe even the summoned Buddha Ape Guardian could withstand.

Even if by some stroke of luck it did hold, the cost he would have to pay would undoubtedly be severe.

Therefore, Tao Qian chose to be cunning.

Still using the Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle, with its mouth facing downwards and under the unlimited supply of immortal spirit qi from his Spirit Treasure Returning Immortal Technique, an immense suction force began to tug, actually managing to lift all the treasures of the island, forming a surge of poison fog that poured into the Jade Purification Bottle.

Watching the various spiritual materials constantly falling in and out of the poison fog and the clinking of numerous treasures, a bright smile instantly spread across Tao Qian's face.

Indeed!

The treasure concocted by Duobao True Monarch and Yunhua Immortal simply couldn't be more useful.

Pleased with his haul, Tao Qian didn't take long to empty the entire Heavenly Plague Island.

In his mind, he silently calculated and estimated.

"Brother Huang wasn't wrong; although these spiritual material treasures are steeped in filth and deadly toxins, they can still be used after being cleansed with Mixed Element Qi Unpolluted Immortal Water."

"For the next several decades, the Forbidden Techniques on Ascending Immortal Island can operate normally, and that desolate and poor Spiritual Resonance Cave Mansion can also be properly arranged."

"Heh heh, this indeed is a great place provided by the Sect to benefit true disciples."

As Tao Qian cataloged his gains, he had just begun to feel a sense of wonder.

At that moment, an extremely strange premonition appeared in his mind.

No, it would be more accurate to describe it as a calling.

Right there in the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands, an unknown place far away was calling out to Tao Qian's soul.

The source of this summoning was unknown to Tao Qian.

But the "medium" used to resonate with him felt incredibly familiar.

It was not the Spirit Treasure Immortal Spirit Qi but another form of magic.

A Magic Skill that Tao Qian had practiced in his early years, forgotten for a long time, and recently been forced to remember.

"The Immortal Fish Technique!"

Almost immediately, Tao Qian blurted out.

While instinctively feeling defensive and repulsed, a Record also burst forth in his mind at that very moment:

"Currently under the effects of the Spirit Treasure Summoning God Technique... The caster is Spirit Treasure Sect Elder Alcohol and Meat True Master Li Changle."

"This caster is about to meet his end."

The secret information, which made Tao Qian's eyes widen suddenly, emerged swiftly.

Chapter 240 Heavenly Heart Soul Separation, Changle Passes Away

"Alcohol and Meat Uncle Li Changle is going to die?"

Startled by this sudden news, Tao Qian couldn't help but be amazed.

How could this be so abrupt?

According to what he had known previously, the Daoist Alcohol and Meat, after being covered up and walking away in shame, should have entered the Absolute Immortal Sea Islands early, preparing to participate in the grand assembly of the Ten Thousand Immortals, seeking a slim chance for survival.

Although at that time Tao Qian had noticed Li Changle's condition was extremely bad, there was still some distance before his ultimate death.

Now, on the cusp of dying and having his Dao vanish, there must have been some new event.

When Tao Qian conjured this speculation, that summons finally turned from void to reality, and an eerie image from afar entered his mind:

Somewhere in the Absolute Immortal Domain, within a large island formed entirely of a gigantic turtle's corpse.

At that moment, within that skeletal frame of the giant turtle, there was a brilliantly colorful Big Fish, but it had rotted beyond recognition, wrapped in a pungent mist all around.

Had a normal person seen it, even from a vast distance, they would still have been contaminated.

Yet through Tao Qian's eyes, it was a whole different scene.

The rotting fish's body was not largely problematic, though it had mutated and fallen, it could still control itself.

The real fatal issue was its soul.

The similar mutated and rotting soul of Daoist Alcohol and Meat, Li Changle, had its mouth hooked by a massive fish hook, which connected to a fishing line leading towards the Void to an unknown place.

Although there was no immense force attacking for the time being, the fish hook occasionally lifted, agitating the wound and causing Li Changle's soul to emit cries of agony, desperately struggling to avoid being effortlessly taken away.

But the more he struggled, the more pain he endured.

"His soul is completely hooked by the fish hook and could be fished away at any moment."

"Currently, he is using another elder's corpse and a forbidden technique for protection, but sadly the fish hook is meant to capture his soul, rendering most protections meaningless."

"Just as the Record said, he is about to die."

Tao Qian made his judgment, and at that moment within that turtle shell, Alcohol and Meat Uncle Li Changle, already revealing his true form, also looked towards Tao Qian from afar.

Despite the great distance between them, Tao Qian felt as though the scene was right before his eyes.

Clearly visible!

As if he could simply reach out and remove the fish hook to ease his uncle's pain if he wished.

Unfortunately, it was but a vanity.

Tao Qian and Li Changle locked eyes, within the latter's, there was unmistakable pain, remorse, and unwillingness.

But eventually, all morphed into a kind of resigned desolation.

Only to hear a deep sigh, Li Changle's voice entered Tao Qian's ears:

"Nephew Tao, do not panic, your uncle did not summon you to trouble you."

"Having reached such a state, my life has long been placed in others' hands, and my remaining soul has already been laid on the chopping block, even though you would want to help me, it is too late."

"In this life, I can be said to have been abandoned by everyone. Now facing death, I have neither friends nor relatives, I just don't want to die alone, thus I remotely summoned my nephew, hoping merely for someone to accompany me."

"If there's anything you wish to know, you can ask me, I'll respond to everything."

"People's words are good when they are about to die; I hope you believe me."

These words resonated, immediately causing Tao Qian to feel an overwhelming sense of profound sorrow.

Li Changle was indeed once a strong practitioner of the Cavernous Mystery Realm, yet the mental state he showed now was worse than an old man dying in the Mortal World.

As he spoke, tears flowed.

But due to severe mutation, what leaked from his decaying fish eyes was also thick pus and blood.

The scene was both sorrowful and abhorrent.

Tao Qian furrowed his brows slightly, not disconnecting the Summoning God Technique immediately.

Despite the distance, he still had the Jade Purification Bottle in his hand.

The only thing to be cautious of was Li Changle leading him to that island.

However, Tao Qian indeed had some questions in his heart that he wanted to ask this uncle, who had experienced a rich life but whose end was quite tragic.

After some thought, Tao Qian spoke:

"Uncle, as an elder of the Spirit Treasure Sect, now that you have been plotted against by outsiders, why not seek help from the Sect Master or the ancestors?"

"Could it be that the owner of the fish hook has more power than our Spirit Treasure Sect?"

Hearing this, Li Changle's tears surged even more.

The foul-smelling and corrosive pus and blood speckled and blackened the skeletal frame of the turtle shell.

Then, Tao Qian heard a somewhat surprising answer.

"My nephew, you misunderstand, it's not that the Sect doesn't want to save me, it's really because I have brought this on myself."

"I entered this path due to my greed, my Dao heart was not firm, and despite my reliance, I sadly refused my teacher."

These words entering his ears also inevitably surprised Tao Qian.

Standing from most people's perspective, Li Changle's choice would be hard to understand.

Even Lin Xiaohua knew, the Immortal Fish Technique was not a good cultivation technique, though it offered gains without effort, a terrifying price lurked behind.

According to the Mortal World's analogy, cultivating the Immortal Fish Technique was somewhat like borrowing a high-interest loan.

Having been trickled before and finally having a mentor willing to help you get out of trouble, who could refuse such a rare opportunity?

Li Changle, he had refused.

Though this Alcohol and Meat Uncle appeared profoundly unreliable, he wasn't so short-sighted.

Clearly, the issue was his so-called "reliance"; Tao Qian wondered what it was, or what kind of reasons would make him confident enough to keep benefiting without paying?