

Longevity 251

Chapter 251: The 14 True Inheritors Strike Against the Eight Immortals, The Mighty and Wealthy Master Taixuan

Tao Qian had wandered in the Absolute Immortal Sea for three long days, encountering a strange multitude of islands, with Alien Island at the beginning being extraordinarily bizarre and abnormal.

But the one ahead had reminded Tao Qian of many tales from Southern Yue.

Demons!

Non-humans!

He saw that below the eight pillars of Fallen, polluted air, there was a gigantic Big Island made of eight smaller islands fused together, resembling a slightly smaller continent when viewed from afar.

On that island, there were eight different kinds of mystical clouds and fogs, each enveloping its own area. They were clearly divided yet also merging and colliding with one another.

The chilling wind whistled; the evil fog rose.

Within that boundless and filthy mist, eight monstrous figures that nearly made Tao Qian avert his gaze wandered blindly.

Their bodies were as massive as Ancient Giants. Although their details were obscured by the mist, it was vaguely visible that each had lost their form as the Human Clan and had mutated and fallen into the ranks of demons, with their obscuring and sky-darkening polluted air, those soaring columns of mutated air.

The source was them.

They wandered on their respective islands, and when they occasionally met at the boundaries, unimaginable transformations occurred.

Sometimes they fought each other, at other times they merged, and yet at others they leaned on one another.

During these processes, with their collisions, plumes and wisps of pollution would fall, turning into nameless dancers of various forms, encircling them as they began to perform frantic dances, while simultaneously playing music.

The sounds entering the ears were complicated and ornate pieces of music, comprised of instruments like bamboo flutes, clocks, stone chimes, and county drums from the near-ancient times.

Upon closer listening, he found that none of the old eight tones created from metal, stone, clay, hide, silk, wood, gourd, and bamboo were missing.

Yet these instruments, which should have been delightful and pleasant to hear, sounded unbearably grating and terrifying on the Eight Immortals Island.

Even if a cultivator heard and saw this, they would likely suffer severe pain in their eyes, shedding acidic tears, with their ears ringing and bleeding.

As for mortals, no matter how many millions of them, a single glance would lead to immediate death on the spot.

Tao Qian himself was immune to the pollution. His eyebrows slightly furrowed as he fixed his gaze on those eight extremely frightening, wandering shapes.

As his perception became clearer, he made a judgment in his heart:

"When I was surviving the Three Calamities in Southern Yue, the initial sight of the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva as the Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother's Dharma Form was the most terrifying, until the final battle when Tang Xianzong borrowed some of the Devil God Origin, revealing a Devil God Dharma Form that finally surpassed her."

"Now, on this Eight Immortals Island, each of these mutated avatars releases a qi that is only a bit weaker than the Devil God Dharma Form, yet stronger than that of the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva."

"What's even more bizarre is that on the other Unrestricted Islands, although there are corpses and relics of the senior members who perished, none are active. At most, a body or a treasure has spawned an Evil Spirit; nothing close to the shocking spectacle seen here."

"Previously, Brother Huang Zhen said, led by Master Taixuan, this generation of True Inheritors came to conquer the Eight Immortals Island to retrieve the relics and Exotic Treasures."

"With this situation, how are we to conquer it?"

As Tao Qian had this thought, suddenly a familiar and hearty voice came from behind. Immediately after, he sensed several throbbing sensations.

Turning hastily, he saw three figures arriving together.

The person at the forefront, dressed in a Big Yellow Robe, with a Brocade Red Treasure Pouch hanging at his waist and holding a golden rod, was none other than Brother Huang Zhen whom he had seen before.

To his left and right were two young Daoists, one male and one female.

The female cultivator was dressed in a plain Daoist robe, and although her appearance was ordinary, her eyes seemed to possess the majesty of an Immortal. She held a treasure sword in each hand, exuding a sharp aura as though a single fit of anger could sever the Three Mountains and Five Mountains, extremely startling.

The male cultivator's appearance was even more astonishing; it was unclear what Dharma Image he had cultivated to achieve Three Heads and Six Arms. The head at the center had a necklace strung with

eighteen skulls hanging from his neck, and his wrists, each holding a Skull Staff, Skull Bowl, and Skull Rope, arrived on a ghostly white cloud, like an Evil Demon Cultivator rather than a member of the Righteous Path.

After just a glance, Tao Qian heard Brother Huang Zhen say with a clear voice,

"Didn't expect Junior Tao to be the earliest arrival. Have you seen the might of the eight seniors?"

"The Eight Immortals Island has been in the Absolute Immortal Sea for many years. Although the previous generation of True Inheritors all intended to end the pain of the eight seniors and retrieve their relics and treasures."

"However, as the eight seniors' qi is integrated as one, any single inheritor or a few inheritors wouldn't stand a chance on the Eight Immortals Island, aside from meeting their demise."

"This time, with Brother Taixuan leading, we as juniors, should do our utmost to help the eight seniors find release."

As Huang Zhen's voice fell, before Tao Qian could respond,

his mind received several more throbbing sensations.

In an instant, bright lights of escape, from different directions, shot toward this place.

One of them arrived in a blink of an eye, its brilliance fading to reveal Brother Yang Jie, whom he had intersected with but was meeting for the first time now.

Up close, Yang Jie's stature was even more tall and robust than Tao Qian had imagined.

And the third eye on his forehead emitted a terrifying aura that made one's heart tremble with fear.

Upon appearing, he followed Huang Zhen's words saying,

"Junior Brother Huang speaks truly; I've long admired the experiences of the eight seniors."

"Now that I've entered the Absolute Immortal Domain myself, even if Brother Taixuan were not leading, I, Yang Jie, would still have planned to venture onto the Eight Immortals Island."

As Yang Jie finished speaking, the other several beams of Evasion Light revealed their shapes.

Men and women were included, everyone echoing in agreement:

"Brother Yang speaks truly; we should all make our contribution."

"If seeking treasures, the Unrestricted Big Island in the Absolute Immortal Domain offers us countless months to search at our leisure, but to conquest the Eight Immortals Island, we have but one chance that must not be missed."

Chapter 252: 14 True Inheritors Strike the Eight Immortals, the Rich and Imposing Master Taixuan_2

"The camaraderie among the eight senior masters is touching, yet life and death are distinct, and it is better to find liberation early on."

"The Dao path is arduous, let us assist the eight senior masters in their ascension to immortality."

...

One after another, these individuals possessed extraordinary bearing and vital energy, as if they were figures of immortals among cultivators.

Tao Qian had also seen many young talents from various sects when he was in Southern Yue, but upon silent comparison now, he realized that the gap was immeasurable.

Even he, Tao Da, a Great Master, had been in the spotlight since he survived the Three Calamities, and on his journey here, he received no shortage of praises and compliments.

Although he did not develop any arrogance, he had a certain recognition of his own excellence.

Until this moment, he was suddenly struck.

A rough glance around revealed that there were already nine senior brothers and sisters present.

And though Tao Qian had not yet crossed hands with any of them, he knew that, at first sight, each person here surpassed him in both cultivation and presence.

All ten senior brothers and sisters had achieved the Transcend Mortality Cultivation and were wholly different from the common Transcend Mortality Demons and Evil Cultivators he had encountered in Southern Yue.

They had perfected their Dao Foundations and possessed numerous Divine Skills.

Should they go to Southern Yue, each could cause an upheaval, their fame spreading far and wide.

What Tao Qian had achieved, they surely could as well.

With these thoughts flickering in his mind, Tao Qian harbored not the slightest jealousy or other emotions.

He had a pure and undisturbed Spiritual Resonance with upright thoughts.

Although he had yet to receive the Ancestor Master's Teachings or cultivate the Spirit Treasure Great Volume, Tao Qian bore an Innate Dao Seed and had already cultivated the Taishang Spiritual Treasure No-leak Body, eradicating the Three Corpses and Nine Worms within him early on.

It was exceptionally difficult for him to become corrupt and fallen; even a mental setback like this was of no consequence.

His upright presence was immediately sensed by the other nine senior brothers and sisters.

They exchanged a glance, nodded at the same time, each revealing a look of admiration and approval.

Especially Yang Jie, who said earnestly to Tao Qian:

"Junior Tao, this might be your first time meeting me, but it is not mine seeing you."

"A while ago, you used thundering methods to subdue the Three Prohibitions of Ascending Immortal Island. I saw it clearly on Bibo Island; it was truly extraordinary."

"You have cultivated for a short time, merely at the Foundation Establishment level, and there were disciples who were ignorant of the vastness of the sky and earth contesting your position as a true inheritor. Now, all of them have silenced."

"I entered the Dao before you, and have some experience. Junior Tao, if you have any doubts in the future, remember to seek me out at my Daoist Field."

After saying this, Brother Yang Jie seemed to remember something else.

He added with a smile: "Right, I've heard that the Longevity Immortal Peach you planted has also borne fruit. After we leave the Absolute Immortal Domain, I must visit your island and trouble you, and have a taste of the delicacy."

After he finished speaking, the rest of the true inheritors also laughed and chimed in.

The atmosphere became extremely pleasant, and Tao Qian as the newest member, the eighteenth true inheritor, effortlessly integrated into the group.

Tao Qian had long been told by Xiao Hua of the various aspects of the Spirit Treasure Sect.

This world has a main theme of darkness and profoundness, with strange and eerie elements.

The Cultivation World is naturally not much different.

Even among the numerous great Daoist sects, many have their own sects frequently involved in vicious infightings, in a gloomy atmosphere, including the existence of the Twelve Major Sects.

But there are also some where the atmosphere within the sect is very positive.

The Spirit Treasure Sect is indeed the pride of its kind.

It's not to say that this sect is devoid of such filthy affairs; they certainly exist.

But on the whole, it is much better than the rest of the sects.

Now that Tao Qian has experienced it firsthand, he found it to be true.

As everyone was conversing and gazing at the fearsome Eight Immortals Island from afar,

suddenly, Yang Jie abruptly turned his head in a direction and said with a smile, "Senior Brother Xuu, Brother Wei, Brother Li, Senior Sister Lu, they're coming."

With his third eye, Yang Jie was one step ahead of everyone else.

After he spoke, Tao Qian and the others followed his gaze to that direction.

Indeed, four majestic figures were approaching, each transforming into a rainbow light.

Whenever Tao Qian used the Star Zha Demon's Escape Skill, the signs of the heavens and stars would appear, creating a spectacle as he swept across the land.

However, the phenomena caused by the arrival of these four figures, each in their rainbow form, were even more astonishing.

Before they even revealed their human forms, their identities were made clear by the dazzling rainbow lights radiating from them.

The first one, remarkably, was the pure Spirit Treasure Immortal Light, although lacking any particular specialty, its presence was like the descent of divine light, its power piercing through the universe. As it shot forth from a great distance, even the aura from the Eight Immortals Demon Island showed a moment of disruption. The eight wandering figures even paused simultaneously, briefly glancing at the celestial light.

The second one was a grey and obscure spirit light that came fluttering in. The collision and strife between Daoist and Demon essences within it caused the void nearby to invert, darkening the sky and earth, likewise remotely affecting the aura of the Eight Immortals Demon Island.

The third one caused the biggest commotion. It looked as if a red rainbow light from the Sun Star had descended upon the world. The sea below instantly evaporated a layer, and billowing clouds surged, heralding the coming of a figure enveloped in solar flames.

The fourth and final one was a five-colored rainbow. As it swept by, it released a vast amount of essence qi, causing numerous five-element phenomena to appear in the sky above.

Without needing others to remind him, even Tao Qian, the newcomer, immediately guessed the identities of these four.

They were the four most renowned disciples from the Spirit Treasure Sect's current generation of true inheritors.

As they arrived in the blink of an eye and revealed their true forms,

on the distant Eight Immortals Demon Island, the sound of gongs, drums, and various musical instruments suddenly intensified. A terrifying gaze from no less than eight Dreadful Eyes, capable of inducing mutation and downfall, locked onto the fifteen or so individuals, including Tao Qian, from across the void.

A soul-shattering roar seemed to emanate from the great island, enveloping the sea area where everyone was situated.

However, this commotion was quickly dispersed by a young Daoist in a yellow brocade robe with an upright appearance, wise eyes, and a demeanor as gentle as jade, with a wave of his hand.

This Daoist, with his back to the Eight Immortals, looked towards his junior brothers and sisters, and nodded at Tao Qian with a smile.

Then, he directly addressed everyone:

"On the way here, I saw Junior Brother Zhang, Junior Brother Ma, Sister Liu, and Junior Brother Wei each held back, hence they will not join in the attack on the Eight Immortals Island."

"However, we already have fourteen true inheritors, which is sufficient."

"Eight senior members of our sect perished in the Absolute Immortal Domain due to some accidents, without truly becoming immortals. Instead, they were invaded by the corpse poison of Outer Realm Evil Gods, turning into eight Immortal Corpses, perpetually wandering atop the Eight Immortals Island."

"Although their combat prowess can't compare to when they were alive, ordinary cultivators of the Cavernous Mystery Realm are powerless against them."

"Since we are the true inheritors of this generation and have been granted access to the Absolute Immortal Domain, it is our duty to help our eight senior teachers find liberation."

"However, as I, Xuu Xun, am initiating this mission, I must ensure that the lives of all my junior brothers and sisters are protected no matter what."

"These treasures are the ones I've accumulated over time, each with some usefulness. My junior brothers and sisters, feel free to choose any item you like to protect yourselves."

As he was speaking, everyone saw Master Taixuan suddenly raise his hand.

In an instant, treasure light surged forth, and numerous treasures of different shapes and energies leaped out.

Before Tao Qian could even glimpse the appearance of these treasures, upon witnessing this spectacle, only two words came to his mind: Domineering.

Chapter 253 Vajra Demon Suppressing, Nine Toad Treasure Pearl

Outside Eight Immortals Island, above the distant sea.

As Xuu Xun waved his hand, the surging treasure light immediately dazzled and mesmerized onlookers.

Tao Qian's glance swept over the scene, noticing fireworks bursting forth, colorful flames rolling, golden snakes blazing, blood horses imposing, thunder turning into pythons, and clouds morphing into dragons... All treasures were intermittently releasing bursts of extraordinary power, revealing themselves as spiritual artifacts. Placed in the outer world, they could cause bloody battles and stir up a storm of carnage.

It seemed that Xuu Xun, as the elder brother, felt his junior brothers and sisters were too polite. Just as he did so, Brother Wei, the second true inheritor from Master Yan Demon, reached out first.

In an instant, he grabbed a blood dragon from among the colorful mist, shimmering with radiance, and it transformed into an ancient beast-mouth executioner's blade with a fierce aura.

"I came in haste and didn't bring a suitable weapon; this should be fitting."

"If it serves well, I might not return it to elder brother."

Clearly, Brother Wei attempted a little jest.

However, his icy demeanor and emotionally flat voice lacked such a talent, leaving everyone to awkwardly force a smile.

Fortunately, his initiative encouraged others to follow.

The third senior sister, known as "Golden Crow Fairy," surnamed Lu.

Unexpectedly, she was a plainly dressed female fairy with snow-white skin, her cheeks adorned with what seemed like natural blushes, so endearing that one could hardly resist pinching them.

Yet, no one dared to actually do so.

Her demeanor was evidently more lively than Brother Wei's. She reached among the numerous treasures and grabbed a golden snake, which shimmered and transformed into a red rope made from an alien species of golden threads.

"This treasure is called the Yangjin Immortal Rope, woven from outer realm gold-crushed silk, possessing many marvelous uses."

"I had my eye on it for a while, just couldn't ask brother for it. Now that the chance has come for me to seize it, brother shouldn't expect to get it back."

The last sentence, clearly directed at brother Xuu Xun, also served as a hint to the other junior brothers and sisters.

Everyone present was exceptionally talented, astute individuals, catching on immediately.

Tao Qian thought similarly. Initially, he didn't intend to take advantage of others, but then he contemplated privately:

"Brother Xuu Xun's leading the charge against the Eight Immortals is not only to liberate the eight master teachers but also likely brings about some karmic benefits for him."

"Thus, he's giving benefits to his junior brothers and sisters beforehand, but since we're all from the same sect, all being talented inheritors, it's inappropriate to mention 'compensation' which could hurt feelings, so he found an excuse related to self-protection."

Realizing this, everyone, including Tao Qian, cast aside their reservations.

All eyes sharpened, selecting treasures that matched their spirits and affinities.

After a moment, people began reaching out.

For instance, Brother Yu Chen, surnamed Li, chose a horsetail whisk crafted from the essence of the Five Elements.

And Brother Yang Jie selected a Spiritual Treasure Purple Gold Crown capable of emitting protective divine light.

Also, Brother Huang Zhen, who cultivated the Mao Ri Dharma Form, chose a Heart Protecting Mirror crafted from refined gold.

Tao Qian didn't hold back. His high spiritual vision allowed him to immediately spot his desired object.

Suddenly reaching out, he grabbed a ferocious golden dragon from a cloud of colorful mist and radiance. With a flash of light, the golden dragon transformed into a rod-like object, neither entirely a stick nor a pestle, engraved with Spirit Treasure demon-vanquishing inscriptions and Buddhist Vajra Sutra texts. It autonomously pulsated with Source Qi, giving it the appearance of a living creature.

As soon as the treasure entered his palm, knowledge flooded his mind.

"Vajra Demon Suppressing Stick!"

"Forged by the Demon-suppressing Daoist, an attendant master of the Spirit Treasure Sect, includes both Daoist and Buddhist demon-vanquishing powers, gifted to Master Taixuan during his visit with the Ma Yi Immortal to the Demon-suppressing Daoist."

"A person of dual Daoist and Buddhist cultivation can unleash its greatest power."

"Good, this treasure is perfect for me."

Tao Qian swung the Demon Suppressing Stick a few times, feeling thrilled.

If there had to be a choice of weapon, Tao Qian favored the sword the most.

However, when summoning the Buddha Ape Guardian, using a sword type of weapon was not very efficient.

Rod-like weapons were most suitable.

Yet suitable rods for the Buddha Ape were sadly scarce.

He had been worried about this before, yet now he had unexpectedly come across one.

After Tao Qian had taken the Demon Suppressing Stick, the distribution of treasures concluded.

Master Taixuan smiled at his junior brothers and sisters, waved his hand to gather the remaining treasures, and motioned everyone to look towards Eight Immortals Island.

He stretched his hand forward, causing ripples to appear, immediately reflecting a clear image of Eight Immortals Island.

Tao Qian had previously pondered the divine techniques of brother Xu Xun, and had not witnessed others, but this casually performed, naturally miraculous "Spirit Mirror Technique" made Tao Qian feel inferior.

The mirror revealed a continent completely mutated and contaminated.

Regardless of flora, rivers, or anything else, everything was corrupted by eight Immortal Corpses, forming a wholly devilish purgatory, caught utterly off guard.

Tao Qian initially thought only the Eight Immortals were on the island, but now saw otherwise.

This vast island seemed like another world.

Numerous life forms existed within it, yet they weren't normal humans, devils, beasts, or demons. Instead, they resembled twisted creatures made of varying flesh pieces and alien matter, roaming, mingling, or dancing wildly, together depicting a Human Purgatory Map.

On another glance, people began to speculate.

These life forms, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, were actually unable to reproduce normally; their lineage stemmed directly from the eight Fallen Immortal Corpses.

Chapter 254: Vajra Demon Suppressing, Nine Toad Treasure Pearl_2

As the eight immortal corpses wandered, there was a chance they would join forces upon encountering each other.

Once joined, they birthed twisted life.

To a certain extent, the Eight Immortals Island had already formed a unique, terrible, and fragile realm.

Its fragility stemmed from the fact that if the eight immortal corpses died, the realm would instantaneously vanish.

Tao Qian and the other thirteen true inheritors took a few glances to discern the island's secrets, all displaying an expression of unbearable pity, now agreeing with Senior Brother Xu Xun's words—to help free the eight senior masters.

At that moment, Senior Brother Xu Xun raised his hand and cast the Spirit Mirror Technique, aiming the view at the largest wandering immortal corpse by the seaside, which was howling distantly at the group.

What emerged in the mirror was a giant comparable to a mountain in size, clad in tattered clothes, his body covered with rough, fat flesh, and draped with countless thick black hairs resembling tentacles. His face had completely lost its original appearance, with a gaping mouth full of tusks, including his bald head, which was covered with a layer of coarse skin embedded with a thousand glimmering green eyeballs.

His long black-hairy arms held an exotic treasure, shaped like a celestial pillar.

This treasure, resembling a rod capable of stabilizing the earth and piercing the sky, was carved with mountain and sea strange beasts and the constellations.

Even through the Spirit Mirror Technique, everyone could feel the terror of this treasure.

How unimaginable it would be?

If such an object were smashed down by the giant, how terrible would the destructive power be?

Everyone was shocked when Senior Brother Xu Xun's voice came through:

"This senior master is the Mountain and Sea Daoist, head of the Eight Immortals, who had reached the Ultimate Happiness Realm in cultivation before perishing in an absolute struggle. After death, his soul dispersed, but his body, infected by corpse poison, mutated into the immortal corpse we see now."

"The object in his hands is [The Mountain and Sea Escape Heaven Pillar], his famed ultimate treasure."

"I will be the one to confront Uncle Mountain and Sea's corpse."

As his words ended, the Spirit Mirror turned again.

This time, it revealed another immortal corpse.

He too had a body like a mountain, with no clothing whatsoever; his upper body seemed to be made up of countless giant tumors, the skin shimmering pale, revealing the countless vessels beneath, like pythons or dragon veins; his lower half appeared to be completely merged with the ground.

All one could see were thick blood vessels, one end connected to him, the other spreading across the land and plunging deep underground.

Gulping down something unknown.

His head was enormous and pale, with eyes as red as millstones, and his decaying mouth was filled with tongues.

As he howled, a mysterious black banana leaf fan appeared above his head, which, with each wave, sent out an endless yin wind that could strip flesh and scatter the soul.

Once more, they heard Xu Xun say:

"This is Wind and Fire Master, who had also reached the Ultimate Happiness Realm in cultivation before succumbing to the corpse poison and becoming an immortal corpse."

"The object atop his head is his famed ultimate treasure, one side capable of fanning out Nine Nether Yin Wind, the other True Sun Fire, both extremely powerful."

"Junior Brother Wei, who cultivates both Daoist and Demon skills, has divine skills that could precisely counter Wind and Fire Master, so he will be the one to deal with him."

As these words were spoken, they saw Brother Wei nod in agreement.

The Spirit Mirror turned once again, and this time it reflected a female corpse.

She was slightly smaller than the two previous senior masters, and from the front, there appeared to be nothing abnormal, adorned in a Seven-Colored Immortal Robe, lifelike, as if she were a goddess.

But as the Spirit Mirror panned behind, all true inheritors present took a sharp breath.

Behind the female immortal, flesh was a blur of indistinct form.

Countless flowers and plants composed of tentacle-like stems, blood-membrane petals, and evil eyes as pistils, bloomed behind her.

As they watched, her cranium split open, a ray of light flew out, which then transformed into a green little porcelain vase. With the wind, the vase enlarged, and as its mouth tilted, a deluge of blood rain poured down, the bizarre flora emitting shrill cries of joy, greedily absorbing the sweet rain from the sky.

"This is Bai Hua Fairy, who had also reached the Ultimate Happiness Realm before her demise."

"The object that flew out from her head is called [Flower God Treasure Bottle], originally an exotic treasure with infinite marvels, now tainted by the essential nature of the immortal corpse since the owner's death."

"Junior Sister Lu, whose cultivation is the most effective against her, will naturally be the one to help her be released."

Hearing this, everyone understood Senior Brother Xu Xun already had a strategy for battle allocation in his heart.

But since he was leading, and he was the most knowledgeable about the details of Eight Immortals Island,

including Tao Qian, none had any objections.

Three out of the eight senior masters had already been taken under his, Brother Wei's, and Junior Sister Lu's care.

In this way, there would inevitably be scenarios involving multiple individuals against one.

This was also normal, although there were fourteen people present, all true inheritors.

Even Tao Qian admitted that there was a difference in strength.

According to the loose-lipped Nursing Woman Bird Demon, Senior Brother Xu Xun, who joined the earliest and had terrifying talent, would be the top tier.

Followed by Master Yan Demon Brother Wei, Golden Crow Fairy, Master Yu Chen, and Brother Yang Jie, who would form the second tier.

How many tiers from the sixth to the seventeenth were further divided, Tao Qian hadn't had the time to find out.

However, he did know that publicly, he, Master Tao, was also in a tier of his own.

Sure enough, as the Spirit Mirror rotated time and again, the mutated forms of the eight senior masters' immortal corpses were revealed one by one.

During this process, Senior Brother Xu Xun also completed the assignment:

"The fourth of the Eight Immortals, Master of Ten Thousand Swords, possesses the exotic treasure [Ten Thousand Sword Return to One Box], and his strength is actually a bit stronger than Bai Hua Fairy's... hence, Master Yu Chen and Brother Yang Jie should take him on together."

"The fifth, Dragon and Tiger Master, holds the exotic treasure [Dragon and Tiger Elixir Cauldron], which can refine treasure pills and release a myriad of pill poisons... Brother Huang Zhen, with Brother Zhou Wu who also practices alchemy Daoist skills, will take him on."

Chapter 255: Vajra Demon Suppressing, Nine Toad Treasure Pearl_3

"The Sixth Immortal of the Eight Immortals, True Master Xuan Yu, possessed an Exotic Treasure, the 'Taiyin Soul Drum.' Once struck, it could shatter the souls of all living beings within several miles, and would be received by three senior brothers proficient in Soul Capturing and guarding spirits."

"The Seventh Immortal, True Master Hua Xue, possessed an Exotic Treasure, the 'Blood Transformation Divine Blade.' With a single slash, it could cut down a hundred thousand, a truly sinister artefact for slaughter... to be taken up by Senior Sister Zheng and Senior Brother Wang, both adept in the art of killing."

...

Naturally, last in line was Tao Qian, obviously given special consideration in the arrangements made by Senior Brother Xuu Xun.

The reflection in the Spirit Mirror revealed a gigantic toad that had almost completely lost its Human Clan form.

Its appearance bore some resemblance to the "rotten golden toad" that Tao Qian had encountered in front of the Joyful Pavilion Market in Southern Yue, only much larger by an indeterminate factor.

It squatted in a filthy swamp, its whole body rotting away, with the swamp beneath it formed from the pus and blood oozing from its own body.

On its back, a chaotic array of thousands of crimson eyeballs.

At the crown of its head, a huge, twisted, emaciated human face.

And a horn, curving and winding like a blade, seemingly striving to pierce the sky.

With every resonant 'croak' from this Horned Toad, it would open its mouth and expel a giant, pitch-black pearl that cast a vile light capable of corrupting anything it shone upon, leaving nothing unscathed.

At this moment, Senior Brother Xuu Xun turned to look at Tao Qian, as well as the three-headed and six-armed Daoist standing next to Huang Zhen.

He pointed at the giant toad, then said:

"This is Master Jade Toad; before his death, he also belonged to the Ultimate Happiness Realm, but he was gravely injured during the final battle, with even his core essence severely shattered. Now reborn as an Immortal Corpse, he is the weakest among the eight revered masters."

"Of course, he is still capable of slaying any Cavernous Mystery Cultivator, so you two junior brothers must not underestimate the enemy."

"That treasure is called the 'Nine Toad Bead,' an exotic artifact passed down from the Heterodox Sect of the Nine Toad Sect. Originally there were nine, one of which fell into Uncle Jade Toad's hands, the others' whereabouts unknown. Even just one is immensely powerful, one throw capable of claiming the lives of ordinary Cavernous Mystery Cultivators."

"I know Junior Tao has refined a Buddha Bird Relic, capable of summoning the Buddha Ape Guardian for assistance, which should suffice for protection."

"Additionally, Junior Brother Ma has cultivated the Demon-suppressing and Barrier-clearing Divine Ability. Together, you should be able to help Uncle Jade Toad in his Corpse Disintegration Ascension."

With everything said by Xuu Xun, the instructions seemed quite comprehensive.

Tao Qian was also surprised to find out that the brother with the surname Ma, with three heads and six arms and skulls hanging from his body, was also practicing Dual Daoist and Buddhist Cultivation.

After listening, both bowed and agreed in unison.

With that, the duties were fully assigned.

Just as everyone was about to set foot on the island, Xuu Xun suddenly recalled something and added a few more points:

"On Eight Immortals Island, aside from those eight exotic treasures, naturally, there are other relics and treasures."

"Whether it's those Eight Treasures or anything else, they're for all junior brothers and sisters to claim based on their strength and karma."

"Just remember, we are all true inheritors of the Spiritual Treasure Sect and we should support each other. Do not be like those dazed cultivators who, for the sake of some treasures, disregard the lives of their fellow sect members."

Upon hearing these words, everyone nodded in agreement.

Then, without any delay, they saw Xuu Xun wave his sleeve robe, and an Absolute Immortal Token swirled out, followed by a surging surge of Spirit Treasure Immortal Light, rolling onto Eight Immortals Island, instantly smashing the demon miasma enveloping the island's outer layer to bits.

Led by him, the fourteen true inheritors descended onto Eight Immortals Island.

His hearty voice also echoed throughout the Big Island.

"The eight revered masters have suffered for many years. Today, the current true inheritors of the Spirit Treasure Sect have come to aid the eight uncles in their Corpse Disintegration Ascension."

"Kill!!!"

Chapter 256 Immortal Corpse Soul Returning, Corpse Transformation

On the islands of the Absolute Immortal Sea, whether forbidden or not, the largest Tao Qian had seen so far was the Eight Immortals Island before his eyes.

As the fourteen true inheritors set foot on the island, it was as if they had stepped onto a new continent.

Before landing, they had already assigned their opponents.

The loud shout from Senior Brother Xuu Xun immediately summoned a huge mountain-and-seas Daoist, who held the "Mountain and Sea Escape Heaven Pillar." Only a terrifying roar was heard echoing through the heavens, a foul-smelling cloud rolled in, and at least a thousand morbid green evil lights shot through the air. Everyone saw the ground quake and the mountains sway as a fearsome heavenly pillar swept across.

With such might, even if there were a tall mountain here, it would probably be broken in half.

Obviously, Xuu Xun did this on purpose to draw him over; before the Celestial Evasion Stake swept over, Xuu Xun had already taken out a Magical Treasure in advance.

It was a copper bell that was always supported by verdant clouds and Immortal Light. Xuu Xun flicked it with his finger.

Dang!

The extremely pure sound of the Spirit Treasure Dao spread throughout the Eight Immortals Island.

Including the mountain-and-seas Daoist, the other seven immortals, and tens of thousands of twisted creatures, all experienced a very brief pause.

At that moment, Xuu Xun's sleeves fluttered once more.

In front of him, seven rays of light flashed by.

Tao Qian and the others were then transported in front of their respective opponents.

The Eight Immortals Island was vast, and if it weren't for Senior Brother Xuu Xun's actions, it would not have been easy for Tao Qian and the rest of the Spirit Treasure True Practitioners to find their opponents. A mistake could have been made, possibly leading to the death of a true inheritor, which would have turned a good situation sour.

"Only it's a pity, to not witness the terrifying battle strength of the famously formidable Master Taixuan."

This thought had just flashed through Tao Qian's mind.

He and a senior brother named "Ma Yuan" had already appeared at the farthest end of the Eight Immortals Island.

Before them lay a vast, filthy swamp.

In the deepest part of the swamp, a decaying giant toad with a single horn was exhaling foul air. The pus and blood oozing from its body poured down like a waterfall stream. It was incomprehensible how such an unnatural scene could have been sustained for so many years, and how it had managed to carve out a swamp.

As soon as the two appeared, they startled many of the twisted creatures in the swamp.

There were thousands of them, shrieking as they broke through the filthy fog and lunged at the two men.

This mutated army was primarily composed of "Toad Mutants," clearly the direct lineage of Uncle Jade Toad, all bear-bodied with toad heads, large bellies, webbed hands and feet, capable of extending sharp claws, with very fierce faces. When they opened their huge mouths, one could see the tongues inside and rows of fine, sharp tusks lining the jaws.

This army of tens of thousands of toad demons, not only inherited the bloodline power of Uncle Jade Toad but also gained some intelligence in skirmishes.

Midway through, they formed battle formations.

They also began to unleash their Bloodline Divine Power at a distance. The two men looked up and immediately saw a surge of acidic bubbles and a torrent of poisonous arrows and Devil Fog.

Even hundreds of toad demons, resembling priests or shamans, brandished Magical Treasures and strange artifacts, trying to perform Curse Killing from afar.

Both Tao Qian and Ma Yuan frowned at this sight.

Especially with these disturbances, the giant horned toad in the depths of the swamp was turning its head to look at them.

At this moment, Ma Yuan, who had three heads and six arms, suddenly said to Tao Qian:

"Junior Tao, these Alien Species are borne from the corpse transformation of Uncle Jade Toad's remains, inheriting many of his Divine Skills, and the numbers are vast, roughly seventy to eighty thousand."

"Though we two are not afraid, to prevent these Alien Species from disturbing Uncle Jade Toad's passage to Immortality, why don't you and I each take a side? I'll hold off Uncle Jade Toad, while you eradicate these Alien Species with all your strength. Once I am free, I can assist you."

"Does this sound good?"

Ma Yuan's words had no errors or conspiracies in them.

Perhaps because he felt his intentions were transparent, he didn't bother to hide them.

With his innate Spiritual Resonance Sensing, Tao Qian sensed Ma Yuan's brother's true thoughts in just a thought:

"Although Junior Tao has some tricks up his sleeve, his Cultivation is only at the Foundation Establishment Realm. If he acts with me, I will have to divert attention to protect him somewhat. Senior Brother Xuu Xun probably thought just so, that's why he let Junior Tao join me."

"Taking care is not at all a problem, but first, we must get rid of the big trouble of Uncle Jade Toad's Immortal Corpse. It's just right for Junior Tao to clear out those Alien Species."

"After the deed is done, at worst I can take the Nine Toad Bead, and the rest of the relic treasures could be distributed more to Junior Tao, which would be the best of both worlds."

While his mind harbored such thoughts, all three of Ma Yuan's heads wore an angry expression.

Actually, this was the Divine Power he cultivated, which is also one of the regulations of the Buddhist Sect, the "Hayagriva Ming King Dharma Form."

Tao Qian, with his High Spirit Vision, saw a tall Ming King standing beside him, his three eyes wide open, tusks exposed, fierce and majestic.

After discerning his thoughts, Tao Qian didn't get angry.

He only sighed inwardly and thought: "It's human nature."

Beyond that, he had no further reaction.

The reason was simple; Tao Qian didn't think the matter was of great importance.

Being underestimated wasn't a big issue, and the Exotic Treasure called the Nine Toad Bead wasn't very useful to Tao Qian.

Since it wasn't a dispute over the Dao Path and Tao Qian truly wanted to see just how strong was the Talent who had obtained the position of Spirit Treasure True Inheritor through Dual Daoist and Buddhist Cultivation?

Thus, without much thought, Tao Qian agreed:

"That sounds good. Leave these Toad Mutants to me, Senior Brother. Feel free to do as you please to relieve Uncle Jade Toad of his misery."

"Good, Junior Brother, watch my methods."

Both were decisive individuals, and as their conversation ended,

Tao Qian directly took out the Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle, first collecting the sky-filled toxic arrows and acid rain, then formed a Dao Seal with his hands, and shouted, "May the Miraculous Tree Great Venerate assist me!"

Clearly, the Spirit Treasure Miao Tree Venerable was quite domineering as well, not hindered by the Absolute Immortal Domain.

A massive amount of roots burst forth from the Void, winding up the seventy to eighty thousand Alien Species as if chasing mice, binding them in place.

These two actions, understated and without fanfare,

did not really showcase Tao Qian's combat strength; after all, he was just clearing out some fodder, so it was normal that Tao Qian had not yet exerted his full Mana.

As he fought the lesser soldiers, Brother Ma Yuan was already locked in combat with the Immortal Corpse transformed by Uncle Jade Toad.

"Spirit Treasure Heavenly Venerate!"

"Amitabha Buddha!"

A somewhat incongruous title spilled from Ma Yuan's mouth.

The next moment, within this pus and blood marsh, a new behemoth revealed itself—it was the Hayagriva Ming King Dharma Form cultivated by Brother Ma Yuan.

A magnificent Dharma Image thunderously settled into the great marsh, with three heads all taking on the form of snarling horse heads, holding a Skull Treasure Staff, wearing a Five Skull Crown, and adorned with a human head garland around his neck; beneath him sat the Lotus Sun Wheel, with Prajna Buddha Flames roaring into life below.

Ma Yuan was quite confident before taking action, and the results of the battle seemed to also validate his bold statement.

Wherever his Dharma Image trampled, whether it was the filthy swamp or the toxic clouds, all of it was cleansed by Buddha Flames, leaving nothing but purity in its wake. Then, the battle between one Ming King and the giant toad ensued.

Uncle Jade Toad's prowess while alive was something Tao Qian did not yet know.

After his death, he transformed into an Immortal Corpse.

Not only did he taint a perfectly good "Nine Toad Treasure Pearl" into a demon, the Divine Powers he now unleashed, each and every one was related to devils or malignant spirits.

If released into the Mortal World, such a being would surely bring about a catastrophe, inevitably involving hundreds of thousands of lives.

Pity that his opponent, Brother Ma Yuan, was almost his complete nemesis.

That Hayagriva Ming King Dharma Form was inherently designed to eradicate Ignorance Karma Obstacles and various sufferings and was even immune to all Evil Curse and Demonic Skills. Even the filthiest things, when touched by Prajna Buddha Flames, would be turned to void.

If not for the fact that the Jade Toad Immortal Corpse had a treasure bead at its disposal, which it spewed out time and again, causing Brother Ma Yuan to stagger or tumble.

Back and forth, the battle reached a deadlock for a time.

Witnessing this scene, Tao Qian thought it demonstrated Master Taixuan's capabilities all the more.

"I forgot that Brother Xuu Xun is born with an Qingwei Dao Body, with keen sensing abilities, and with the addition of the Yin Yang Dharma Eye, he can see the truth in a glance."

"It must be for this reason that he was able to quickly arrange the corresponding battle formations."

"Brother Ma Yuan's Dharma Image, in my eyes, is not as impressive as the Heavenly Demon Buddha Mother Dharma Form of the Beautiful Corpse; it might even be said to be somewhat lacking."

"But wonderfully, he operates the Dharma Image with the Spirit Treasure Root Skill so seamlessly and without hindrance... In this respect, he is stronger than the Beautiful Corpse who forces a fusion of Buddha, Demon, and Devil paths—excessively ambitious but exceptionally difficult, consequently making its operation less agile than Brother Ma Yuan's."

While Tao Qian cleared the Toad Mutant, he still had the leisure to watch the excitement.

After observing Brother Ma Yuan's fighting outcome, he even used his High Spirit Vision to remotely track the progress of the other True Inheritors on the Eight Immortals Island.

This glance unexpectedly made Tao Qian reveal a look of shock.

An accident?

No, not at all.

On the contrary, the battles of the other True Inheritors were also unbelievably smooth.

Whether it was Brother Xuu Xun, Brother Wei or others, they all seemed to be completely overwhelming the giant Immortal Corpses.

The most successful was Senior Sister Lu. Although Tao Qian was too far away to see clearly.

In his sensing, within the region where Senior Sister Lu was battling the Baihua Immortal Corpse, almost no evil mutated beings remained, only towering flames rising to the sky, burning the heavens red. Amidst the flames, the vast silhouette of a Three-legged Golden Crow flickered in and out of sight.

It was hard to imagine what sort of mutated fallen creature could survive in such a sea of fire.

So surprisingly smooth?

A doubt suddenly arose in Tao Qian's mind.

It wasn't that he doubted the strength of this generation's True Disciples of the Spirit Treasure Sect, but his Innate Spiritual Sensing was prompting him.

Something seemed off about this situation.

Was something untoward about to happen?

As this thought flashed by, Tao Qian, as if sensing something, abruptly turned his head to look towards the deepest part of the Eight Immortals Island.

There, battling with Xuu Xun, was the Immortal Corpse transformed by the Mountain and Sea Daoist.

Seemingly on the brink of death, or perhaps upon hearing the wails of the other Seven Immortals reaching a certain limit.

The Immortal Corpse suddenly turned around and completely ignored the Divine Power bombardment from Xuu Xun's rear.

He gripped the Mountain and Sea Escape Heaven Pillar like an ancient giant taking great strides, bounding manically, and in just a dozen or so steps, appeared at the very center of Eight Immortals Island next to a deep chasm-like fissure in the ground.

"Roar!"

With a roar that echoed across the entire island, the Immortal Corpse leaped up, thrusting the Celestial Evasion Stake into the fissure.

The sudden change occurred too rapidly for anyone to react.

Everyone felt as if the Celestial Evasion Stake pierced through something, followed by an unprecedented explosion. Immediately, a column of extremely cold, terrifying pale energy shot into the sky. Then, like a raging tidal wave, Corpse Qi that triggered all of the True Inheritors' warning bells, including Tao Qian's, surged out from that column.

In an instant, the entire Eight Immortals Island was enveloped in the spread of Corpse Qi.

When this pale, chilly mist rushed over, Tao Qian immediately released Protective Immortal Light and also summoned the Buddha Bird Relics, trying to use the pure Buddha Light to resist Corpse Poison.

However, even so, amid the sizzling sounds, Tao Qian felt his body gradually grow cold, while his soul and spirit began to become frenzied and bloodthirsty.

Strangely, he suddenly had a peculiar feeling.

It seemed that as long as he was willing to accept the Corpse Poison, he could instantly rise from the Foundation Establishment Realm to transcend mortality.

Moreover, within the Corpse Poison seemed to echo a subtle whispering, chanting some special Magic Gate Mantras.

Shock filled Tao Qian's mind, and his Record immediately blurted out:

[Experiencing the erosion of Outer Realm Corpse Poison...!]

[If you willingly accept the Corpse Poison into your body, your Cultivation Realm can greatly increase, and you may establish a connection with Outer Realm deities, obtaining secret Divine Powers skills like Immortal Corpse Soul Returning, Corpse Transformation from the Outer Realm.]

[If you are unwilling to accept the Corpse Poison and cannot resist the invasion, over time, you will turn into creatures twisted like Daze Blood Corpses.]

Chapter 257: Outer Realm Divine Corpse Transforms, All True Inheritors are Bait

Eight Immortals Island, enveloped by the pale Corpse Qi that came from the Outer Realm.

Tao Qian, while reviewing the Record in his mind, shuddered violently.

This sign, it meant that he could be exempt from the Corpse Poison.

It also allowed Tao Qian the luxury to focus and listen to the rustling sounds, those whispers from the Outer Realm.

One needed to actively accept the Corpse Poison to truly be taught the Magic Skills.

It meant that these sounds were intermittent and fragmented.

No matter how attentively Tao Qian listened, he could never hear everything.

However, Tao Qian didn't need to hear everything.

At that moment, a rare excitement surfaced in his eyes.

For within the Records spurred by the Corpse Poison, Tao Qian saw some familiar terms. There were differences, but also many similarities, which quickly reminded him of the key to surviving his beheading when he was reborn into this world.

Apart from his own Abnormal Soul, what really played a decisive role was... a fragmented formula!

Tao Qian's first reincarnation after birth had been a revolutionary Hero who was decapitated at the vegetable market.

As a child, he had studied a Secret Book with a fox among the wild graves; he couldn't remember many of the Magic Skill mnemonics from the book, only a bizarre fragmented formula.

Tao Qian had inquired several times about the origins of this formula during his cultivation journey.

Regrettably, he had found nothing.

Unexpectedly, here he found a clue.

"Immortal Corpse Soul Returning... Corpse Transformation... Daze Blood Corpse... Could the source of that fragmented formula actually be from the Outer Realm?"

"If the eight senior masters were transformed into these forms by the Corpse Poison, what would I have become without my Abnormal Soul to exempt me?"

"What exactly are the Corpse Poison and the source of the fragmented formula?"

While Tao Qian contemplated these doubts,

the island had already undergone a monumental change.

Ding ding ding!

The bell-shaped Exotic Treasure previously used by Xu Xun rang out once again.

The intense bell sound, which had previously been able to stop the entire island,

now could only slightly delay the spread of the Corpse Qi.

The horrifying Corpse Poison began ferociously attacking, including Tao Qian, the fourteen Spirit Treasure True Inheritors.

At such a crucial juncture, Xuu Xun still maintained his dignified demeanor, but in his voice, a rare hesitation could be heard. He transmitted his voice to the other thirteen True Disciples:

"My fellows, this is my fault, Xuu Xun."

"I had not anticipated that this island harbored a Secret Acupoint that could communicate with the Outer Realm."

"Given that the Eight Immortals have completely mutated and fallen, and now with the enhancement of this Corpse Poison and Corpse Qi, a tough battle lies ahead."

"You should all fight while retreating, quickly leave this island, and I will cover your departure... Boom!"

As soon as Xuu Xun uttered those words, everyone on the island saw it.

That Magical Treasure called the 'Mountain and Sea Escape Heaven Pillar' expanded against the wind and, like a heavenly pillar, smashed towards Xuu Xun.

The entire Eight Immortals Island began to tremble violently.

Dust filled the sky, and the fate of the senior True Disciple was instantly unknown.

At that moment, the other True Disciples hardly had time to worry about Xuu Xun's fate.

As he had said, the originally suppressed Eight Immortals, with the spread of the Corpse Poison and Qi, began to swell in physical size and surge in energy.

Their combat power was terrifyingly increasing.

The True Inheritors still thought of fleeing?

It was simply impossible.

Just like in front of Tao Qian, the Hayagriva Ming King Dharma Image appeared, almost incinerating Uncle Jade Toad's transformed one-horned giant toad—Brother Ma Yuan.

Within just a few breaths, he had suffered a heavy hit.

The Dharma Image eroded by the Corpse Poison was one thing; the giant toad inflated madly whether from head-butts, acid spit, or Divine Skill assaults, making Brother Ma Yuan's Dharma Image weaken and stagger.

And it wasn't just him—Tao Qian had a crystal clear perception.

Similar changes occurred at the other True Inheritors' locations.

This give and take had completely tipped the scales, with the Mutated Eight Immortals now overwhelmingly in control.

At this moment, Tao Qian had already slaughtered a large group of toad demons, his gaze fixed dead on the giant one-horned toad.

Thoughts rushed through his mind,

"An Outer Realm Secret Acupoint hidden on the island; that does explain why, over the years, Eight Immortals Island hasn't withered or shrunk but has grown more robust and filthy—it has always been replenished."

"The sudden surge in strength of the Mutated Eight Immortals is likely not solely due to the supplement of this Corpse Poison and Qi."

"There's something off about them."

"Something is also off about Senior Brother Xuu, as well as the mysteriously unfolding 'True Inheritors jointly combating the Eight Immortals.'"

"Even in such a strange place, with the capabilities and status of Senior Brother Xuu, Brother Wei, and others, they shouldn't be in such a dire state, should they?"

Tao Qian was forced to utilize relics before his thought could settle.

If he made no moves, the Three Heads and Six Arms of Brother Ma Yuan might not even save a single head.

He might as well turn around and flee, but setting aside hurting the camaraderie among the sect.

More importantly, he simply had no escape.

Originally unrestricted, Eight Immortals Island, under Tao Qian's perception, clearly had some strange Forbidden Technique.

Set not by Non-human Clan but originating from the Outer Realm.

As the Corpse Qi spread across the island,

Tao Qian had a strong premonition:

"If I choose to flee, it won't end well."

...

Believing in this premonition, Tao Qian immediately offered the Buddha Bird Relic, and with the familiar Ten Thousand Feet of Buddha Light surging out, the Buddha Ape Guardian he was accustomed to using leapt forth.

Unlike before, this time the Buddha Ape held a weapon—none other than the Exotic Treasure "Vajra Demon Suppressing Stick" he had snatched from Xuu Xun before arriving at the island.

The Buddha Ape seemed to adore this stick, unable to let go.

Once he grabbed it, he operated the Magic Skill, and the Demon Suppressing Spirit Light flashed together with the Vajra Buddha Light.

The treasure also grew against the wind, and within moments, it transformed into a giant pillar. Tao Qian merged into the Buddha Ape, who then leaped high, simultaneously transmitting his voice:

"Brother Ma, retreat behind me—subduing demons and suppressing devils is also something this Junior Brother has practiced."

"Boom!"

With a dull thud, the already inflated by one-third massive unicorn toad was suddenly sent flying by Tao Qian's strike.

In the ghastly pale corpse fog, a single-horned toad was seen sprawling and flying backward for several miles.

While still in midair, its rotting mouth gaped open, vomiting copious amounts of pus and blood.

Brother Ma Yuan, whose Dharma Image had been tainted, was suddenly stunned by this scene.

Clearly, he had not seen Tao Qian use the "Buddha Bird Relic" before. Knowing Tao Qian was at the Foundation Establishment Realm, he assumed Tao Qian's power was at most at Perfect Transcend Mortality.

But he had not expected that after summoning the Buddha Ape Protector, Tao Qian could display such might.

Even more astonishing was what followed; Tao Qian himself hadn't anticipated that his strike would be so effective. Surprised at first, he soon realized that it was the advantage of the weapon.

The Vajra Demon-Suppressing Stick!

Forged by the Attendant Immortal Master of Spirit Treasure Sect, it was said that those who practiced both Daoist and Buddhist Cultivations could exert its greatest power.

Coincidentally, not only had Tao Qian mastered the Buddhist Nirvana Seal,

But the "Buddha Bird Relic" was an Exotic Treasure that the Great Freedom Temple intended to use for auxiliary bloodlines.

When these two treasures met, they unexpectedly matched well.

Then, Tao Qian burst into laughter, swinging the Demon-Suppressing Stick. Suddenly, Buddha Light and Spirit Light formed a vortex, causing the corpse fog within ten miles to tumble incessantly and surge in all directions.

"It's a rarity for me to extravagantly borrow such immense mana through the Returning Immortal Technique."

"It'd be a waste not to use it. Maybe I should expend all of it on Uncle Jade Toad."

Driven by the thrill of battle, Tao Qian was completely unaware of the ferocious words he had spoken.

Not waiting for the unicorn toad to fly back, he actively shifted his position and instantly appeared in front of it.

The Demon-Suppressing Stick was raised high, then came down like a violent storm, frantically striking the transformed unicorn toad Uncle Jade Toad had become.

Even several miles away,

Brother Ma Yuan, who was in the midst of healing, could hear the sounds of tendons snapping, bones breaking, and flesh turning to mush.

The more he heard, the stranger the expression on his face became.

In his mind, he first recalled Junior Tao's refined face and polite demeanor.

Seeing his current violent behavior, the contrast was so great that Ma Yuan couldn't help but secretly think:

"I was too focused on appearances before, actually believing those disciples on Bibo and Qingping Island who said that the last true inheritor had to be Junior Tao."

"I've been slapped in the face this time, aside from everything else, I, Ma Yuan, am ranked tenth among True Inheritors, but if it came to a serious fight, I might not necessarily be a match for Junior Tao."

"How shameful!"

Ma Yuan, unaware of Tao Qian's background, was naturally shocked to see the terrifying aspect Tao Qian displayed.

Is Tao Qian now savage?

Extremely savage.

But this was a high-interest loan he had taken.

For now, he felt exhilarated, but later, when it was time to repay the debt, who knew how much Immortal Spiritual Qi he would owe to Lingbao Tianzun?

Nevertheless, using the Buddha Bird Relic was indeed his strongest move at present; there was no reason not to use it.

Moreover, Tao Qian had his own reasons for acting this way.

His method of solving problems, most of the time, was just one.

Convenient, quick, and highly accurate.

After gaining an enhancement, the unicorn toad's strength surpassed Brother Ma Yuan.

But it was caught off guard and attacked by Tao Qian.

Had it faced another opponent, perhaps there would've been a chance for it to catch its breath, or even to counterattack.

Unfortunately, the Buddha Ape Protector summoned by Tao Qian was that violently aggressive Sky-Supporting Ancient Ape, and even more unfortunately, it obtained a weapon most suitable for it.

Without a weapon, an ancient ape could still tear apart a nine-headed dragon species.

Let alone the Buddha Ape armed with the "Vajra Demon-Suppressing Stick," whose relentless battering for numerous breaths completely altered the geography of the area.

The swamp, vanished without a trace.

The mountains and rivers, collapsed and dried up.

On the earth, only a deep pit remained.

In the pit was a massive lump of rotting flesh with a horn, barely recognizable as a toad anymore.

Yet, in Tao Qian's perception,

This unicorn toad hadn't received a fatal injury at all; it was regenerating, recovering at a terrifying speed, and even becoming more powerful.

Soon, an even more terrifying unicorn toad would be born.

Then, for Tao Qian to achieve such a battle result again, he'd likely really need to use the Spirit Treasure Returning Immortal Technique to take out a high-interest loan.

"Doomed doomed, if this continues, I fear it will affect my Dao Path."

Tao Qian's expression changed slightly, with an unusual hint of panic in his heart.

Immediately, he reached out his hand.

Despite the panic, having beaten the toad to such a state, probing its secrets was still necessary.

The moment his gigantic ape paw touched that curved horn, a jumble of records burst forth.

Perhaps Uncle Jade Toad had been severely smashed by Tao Qian, perhaps the toad no longer had its will, thus unable to resist Tao Qian's prying.

In a blink, the records were fully sorted:

[Record Name: Jade Toad Immortal Corpse.]

[Record Type: Alien Species.]

[Record: Lingbao Sect, with one of the eight immortals titled Master Jade Toad, after his death, his body was eroded by Outer Realm Corpse Poison and mutated into an Immortal Corpse, and including him, all eight immortals are controlled by one Outer Realm Divine Corpse... That Divine Corpse is a Divine Spirit turned corpse wandering the Outer Realm, trying to break into this world. It found its chance during the previous grand assembly of Ten Thousand Immortals in the Lingbao Sect.]

[Annotation One: It utilized the chaos of the Ten Thousand Immortals' fierce battle, killed the Eight Immortals, and took one strand of True Spirit from each. It originally intended to use this to negotiate with the Lingbao Sect, but unbeknownst to it, the sect instead confined the mutated Eight Immortals on the island, ignoring the calls of the Divine Corpse for many years.]

[Annotation Two: Moments ago, the Divine Corpse awoke briefly from its daze and sensed new Human Clans arriving on the Eight Immortals Island, opening the Secret Acupoint through the Mountain and Sea Immortal Corpse, releasing the Eight Immortals' True Spirits, with intentions to kill all Spirit Treasure Cultivators on the island and control them using the Immortal Corpse Soul Returning and other Outer Realm Techniques.]

...

Annotations continued to emerge, yet Tao Qian's focal point shifted suddenly.

His previous suspicions were now resolved.

Though still speculative, Tao Qian's thoughts were incredibly firm:

"Bait!"

"Including me and Senior Brother Xu Xun, all true inheritors on the island are baits."

"The purpose is to lure the Outer Realm Corpse God, to reclaim the Eight Immortals' True Spirits while resolving the hidden dangers here, and perhaps for other purposes as well."

"I don't know who the fisherman is..."

Chapter 258: Abandoned Disciple with the Nine Toads, Duobao Goes Fishing

Looking at the Record that kept bursting forth in his mind, and guessing the twists and turns behind it,

Tao Qian's mouth twitched uncontrollably, filled with the desire to rant, which he couldn't suppress.

Could there be something wrong with this Cultivation World?

It seemed as if all the strong cultivators were accustomed to, and fond of, the fishing man's methods?

Although it appeared to be very effective,

if one became the "bait", then the experience wouldn't be pleasant.

"If I'm not mistaken, my master must have gotten involved as well."

"With his thick-skinned and black-hearted nature, if he had a chance to scheme against gods from the Outer Realm, it would be strange if he missed out on it."

Tao Qian continued to look at the Record, while sneering to himself inside.

At the same time, Tao Qian looked over the rest of the Seven spots on Eight Immortals Island and immediately realized that apart from Brother Xu Xun, whose life and death were unknown, the rest of the True Disciples were also embroiled in difficult battles.

The eight Immortal Corpses had been enhanced by Corpse Poison from the Outer Realm, and their strength had skyrocketed.

That was one thing; however, to Tao Qian's dismay, he spied the Divine Corpse from the Outer Realm sending the Eight Immortals' True Spirits back.

This news was even more distressing.

"There's a complete difference between zombies that can only act on instinct and those controlled by True Spirits with wisdom."

"Originally, the Eight Immortals Corpses, due to the lack of Spiritual Wisdom, had their power drop from the Ultimate Happiness Realm to the Cavernous Mystery Realm, unable to utilize their Divine Powers, left only to fight with brute force."

"Once the True Spirits return, even if they don't reach the Ultimate Happiness Realm, I fear they will be strong enough to crush everyone on the field, including Brother Xu Xun, Sister Golden Crow, and the rest of the True Disciples."

"Even at this critical moment, these fishing men still don't make a move?"

While these doubts arose in Tao Qian's heart,

suddenly, a change occurred in his perception.

This time, a group of True Disciples who Tao Qian was worried about—excluding Brother Ma Yuan, who had retreated behind him—all burst into action at the same moment.

Leading the charge was Senior Sister Lu, the Golden Crow Fairy.

A sudden screech pierced through the island; then, in one area, the pallid corpse mist seemed to be scorched by high temperatures, rapidly evaporating with a hissing sound, as crimson flames surged into the sky, supporting a terrifying red sun. In that sun, a giant black crow crouched formidably.

Golden Light flashed around it, and it had three legs beneath its belly.

Its beak clutched one of the Eight Immortals' Exotic Treasures, the Flower God Treasure Bottle.

Beneath it was the Baihua Immortal Corpse, whose fate was unknown, nearly roasted to a jerky.

Having temporarily disabled her opponent, Senior Sister Lu soared up, speaking in a human tongue, "Fellow brothers and sisters, leave this place swiftly."

Before her voice faded, Senior Sister Lu, showing her Golden Crow Dharma Image, began to circle the island.

Everywhere she passed, the land dried up.

Before everyone could marvel at this scene reminiscent of ancient myths, another roar was heard. On another side of the island, the corpse mist rolled violently, as if a massive being was swallowing it whole. In the blink of an eye, the white mist in that area was devoured, revealing a presence akin to a Demon God.

Black muscles with eerie purple patterns, clad in heavy armor, his eyes, and hair had undergone Light Transformation, with infinite Demon Light surging behind him.

No guess was needed; this surely must be Brother Wei, Master Yan Demon.

He was now serious, just like Senior Sister Lu, wielding his beast-head chopping knife. He chopped the Wind and Fire Master, who had transformed into an Immortal Corpse, into fatty pieces and snatched the Exotic Treasure, the Wind Fire Banana Leaf Fan.

After a cold snort, he headed straight towards the center of the island, clearly intending to chop down Uncle Mountain and Sea and rescue Brother Xu Xun.

At the same time, the rest of the True Disciples unleashed their might.

Tao Qian looked far into the distance and soon saw Brother Yu Chen releasing Five Elements Divine Light that illuminated the sky, Brother Yang Jie with his three-eyed Divine Light sweeping across the land, and Huang Zhen, who once again revealed his Mao Ri Dharma Form, among others.

These few breaths truly showed the might of the present generation of True Disciples of the Spirit Treasure Sect.

Clearly, in the face of life-and-death crisis, each of them had brought out their last resort.

In short, all of them were going all out... except for Brother Ma Yuan, who was somewhat unlucky. Without Tao Qian's help from the beginning, he bore too much during the sudden change, and his Dharma Image was damaged. Preserving his life was no problem, but unleashing his full might was difficult.

Tao Qian watched all of this with a bit of envy.

Compared to these True Disciples, who had cultivated for many years and possessed numerous Divine Skills and Exotic Treasures,

he, Master Tao, had relatively fewer methods.

Of course, if it really came down to a comparison, he wouldn't lose to any of them, after all, he was just at the Foundation Establishment Realm at the moment.

What's more, if Tao Qian disregarded all consequences, the Buddha Bird Relics weren't the only things he could use.

He had mastered the Vajra Demon-suppressing Stick skill of the Secret Demon Sect well.

He could strike with powerful sword light, but after two or three strikes, he would fall into a state of exhaustion.

Therefore, the Buddha Bird Relics were still more useful.

Thoughts flashed in Tao Qian's mind, but he didn't neglect to continue swinging the Vajra Demon-suppressing Stick, continuing to smash the one-horned giant toad into a pulp.

The rotten, pus-filled flesh burst out in lumps, chunks, and pieces.

For a moment, Tao Qian almost thought he was preparing a delicious dish, a traditional delicacy, hand-pounded meatballs.

Yet, oddly enough, even so,

the Immortal Corpse transformed from Uncle Jade Toad didn't weaken its Qi; instead, it continued to grow stronger.

"So strange? Normal devils, even those from the Cavernous Mystery Realm, like the Beautiful Corpse Bodhisattva, if they were smashed by me like this, would probably have perished long ago."

"Fighting like this, including myself, we are bound to be ground to death."

Tao Qian furrowed his brows, sensing something was amiss.

In the meantime, Tao Qian seemed to sense something else.

After once again smashing the Immortal Corpse beneath him, which was Uncle Jade Toad, into a patty, his gaze suddenly locked onto a certain area within the decomposing body of the giant toad.

Chapter 259: Abandoned Disciple of Nine Chan, Duobao Fishing_2

There, something extra had appeared.

Incredibly hidden, yet Tao Qian was somewhat exceptional today.

Reliant on the Innate Sense given by Senior Sister Lingji and his highly developed spiritual vision, he could see things other cultivators could not.

For instance, a thread of True Spirit?

Inside the giant toad's body, in a rotting tumor, there was a faint figure hidden.

This person was plump and white, with a face full of prosperity, wearing a blue Daoist robe, playing with a string of spirit treasure coins, sitting on a Jade Toad's back, his demeanor resembling a rich man from the Mortal World who was always smiling, and looking rather naive up close.

"This is my Uncle Jade Toad's True Spirit?"

No wonder Tao Qian couldn't help but doubt.

It was because this person, Master Jade Toad, was drastically different from the current ferocious and fierce one-horned giant toad.

Just by looking at the demeanor, who would have thought that such a naive true man, after death, could transform into such a horrifying appearance?

But the following incident left Tao Qian with no choice but to believe.

It was after this thread of True Spirit appeared that the already strengthening Immortal Corpse's energy surged once again.

And as the initially confused True Spirit of Jade Toad began to awaken, some of the long-silenced energies within the Immortal Corpse emerged, bringing a surge of intense premonitions of danger that suddenly dominated Tao Qian's mind.

"This is bad!"

Tao Qian didn't have time to think further as he fiercely slammed down his Demon Suppressing Stick, piercing through the rotten flesh of the giant toad, looking almost like another mundane delicacy—frog meat skewer.

At the same moment, Tao Qian's other hand reached out and directly dug out the tumor.

When Uncle's True Spirit was in hand, a new record immediately burst forth in his mind.

Master Jade Toad had been a powerhouse of the Ultimate Happiness Realm during his lifetime, and even if Tao Qian had searched thoroughly, he couldn't have seen any secrets.

But with just a thread of True Spirit, that was immediately apparent.

[Record Name: Master Jade Toad.]

[Record Type: Cultivator.]

[Record: This is a thread of True Spirit from Elder Master Jade Toad of the Spirit Treasure Sect, who was killed by an Outer Realm Divine Corpse during a fierce conflict at the Ten Thousand Immortals Conference with seven other immortals. He was supposed to be completely dead, yet the Divine Corpse from the Outer Realm had a calculating scheme, contaminated their corpses with Corpse Poison, and took away a thread of their True Spirit. They've been imprisoned in the Outer Realm for many years, the True Spirit somewhat dazed and currently awakening.]

[Note One: Master Jade Toad was originally an abandoned disciple of the heterodox Toad Sect and joined the Spirit Treasure Sect under the Sect Master, but as the Sect Master was too busy to teach, all affairs of instruction were handled by Ma Yi Immortal on his behalf.]

[Note Two: Among the Eight Immortals, Master Jade Toad ranked fifth in strength; however, due to his lazy and gentle nature, he was often considered the least powerful. The Eight Immortals could have reincarnated for another cultivation, but the other seven obstinately chose to participate in the absolute contest to strive for a chance to enter the Daoist Transformation Realm. The attempt ended in failure, and Master Jade Toad deeply regretted not persuading the other seven.]

[Note Three: Devouring this True Spirit will grant ninety percent of Master Jade Toad's memories.]

[Note Four: No penalty for devouring!]

...

Tao Qian directly ignored the third and fourth notes.

Is this some kind of joke?

He was certain that including his Master, Duobao True Monarch, probably every Elder of the Spirit Treasure Sect, and possibly even the Ma Yi Immortal accompanying the Sect Master, were watching the developments on the Island of Eight Immortals from hidden locations.

If he, Tao Qian, dared to devour a thread of his own uncle's True Spirit, he was afraid that instantly, the Heavenly Punishment Sword would fly forth to decapitate his head.

Besides, consuming True Spirit was something only evil cultivators did; how could he ever commit such an act?

What Tao Qian was really concerned about now were the deeper secrets he glimpsed from Jade Toad's True Spirit.

Not complicated, he summed up in a blink:

"Participating in the absolute contest of the Ten Thousand Immortals Conference requires going to the Outer Realm, or possibly confronting Outer Realm Divine Spirits?"

"The Eight Immortals had the Sect Master, but the Immortal Master Ma Yi handled the mentorship, so there's definitely Ma Yi's faction engaging in these behind-the-scenes maneuvers... wow, playing off disciples, even sacrificing a talented cultivator like Brother Xuu Xun as bait."

"The Eight Immortals could have reincarnated for another cultivation cycle, but they were too stubborn, choosing to risk participating in the absolute contest with an aim to ascend to the Daoist Transformation Realm, ending in collective failure."

"Among the Eight Immortals, Master Jade Toad was the laziest."

As these thoughts settled, Tao Qian also cast an odd glance at the chubby true man sitting on the back of the Jade Toad within the tumor.

No mistake, the disposition matched the appearance.

Just as this idea arose in Tao Qian's heart, suddenly, a very honest voice rang out in his mind:

"Kid, I see something off in your eyes; you must be bad-mouthing me."

"Which family's unfortunate child are you? State your name; once I free myself, I'll report your behavior."

The sudden hearing of these two sentences left Tao Qian shocked, and the next moment, he was eye to eye with a pair of small eyes.

Who could have expected?

A thread of True Spirit could also communicate with a person?

A cultivator of the Ultimate Happiness Realm could be this terrifying?

Wasn't it said he was under the control of the Outer Realm Divine Corpse?

These doubts surfaced in Tao Qian's mind while he absentmindedly looked at the giant toad impaled on his Demon Suppressing Stick, which unbeknownst to him had already recovered and started to struggle mightily to get off the stick, unleashing a terrifying power that nearly tipped over the Sky-Supporting Ancient Ape, who was usually renowned for his strength.

Since Master Jade Toad's True Spirit had awakened, didn't it mean that the other seven immortals had too? Then the battle situation would...

Indeed, as Tao Qian looked elsewhere on the island,

The truly inheriting candidates, who had just made a powerful show of strength, got entangled with the Immortal Corpse once more.

Even their treasures had been snatched back.

Unlike before, the restored Immortal Corpse, besides its intrinsic massive strength, now could also wield many fearsome Divine Skills.

Chapter 260: Abandoned Disciple Jiuchan, Duobao Fishing_3

The entire Eight Immortals Island was now enveloped in countless glimmers of light.

At this moment, the True Inheritors had completely lost their advantage.

They instantly fell into a bitter battle and had no time to break the Great Prohibition of Corpse Poison covering the island and escape.

Just as Tao Qian was in shock, the voice of Master Jade Toad once again rang in his mind:

"Don't worry, since the eight of us, True Spirits, have returned to the Spiritual Treasure, it must be Senior Sister Ma Yi and Brother Duobao and others starting their move."

"Let me see, hmm? Fourteen young disciples with such outstanding talents. No wonder the Divine Corpse couldn't restrain itself... Strange, given Senior Sister Ma Yi's temperament and her love for juniors, it's absolutely impossible for her to employ such a sinister scheme."

"It must be my Brother Duobao's doing. This fellow hasn't taken a single disciple for many years, so he doesn't cherish the younger generation at all, making it hard on you kids."

"With Brother Duobao's shamelessness, saving only our eight True Spirits in one scheme would surely not satisfy him. You all are probably in for more suffering. Wait until the Divine Corpse can't help but stretch out its heads or claws, then Brother Duobao will make a move."

"The Sect Master often says everyone's Taoist name in the sect might be wrong, but Brother Duobao's is not. You think he got his treasures how..."

"But you, lad, are much luckier. By digging out my True Spirit in advance, you've given me an excuse to deceive."

"The other kids are less lucky. Although our True Spirits are present, we were controlled by the Divine Corpse. If you let me return to the corpse, I would also deal you a deadly blow. Your small body probably couldn't withstand a single 'Swallowing Heaven and Earth' from me. Once swallowed, you'd turn into pus and die in a moment. It's really pitiful."

"By the way, you haven't mentioned yet, from which disciple's family are you?"

"..."

Tao Qian hadn't anticipated at all that Master Jade Toad, one of the illustrious Eight Immortals,

not only was a simpleton but also a chatterbox type of simpleton.

Tao Qian didn't ask anything; he voluntarily said it all.

With his personal confirmation, Tao Qian didn't need to guess anymore.

Well then, the mastermind behind the "Fourteen True Inheritors against the Eight Immortals" turned out to be his cheap master.

After thinking, Tao Qian didn't hide it and transmitted back, "Uncle Jade Toad, this lad's name is Tao Qian. My master is indeed Duobao True Monarch."

The Jade Toad True Spirit was originally ready to say something until he heard that name.

His expression froze instantly, and he nearly rolled off the Jade Toad's back.

Just as Tao Qian was secretly chuckling, intending to seize this rare opportunity to play along with Uncle Jade Toad while seeking some secrets from him,

suddenly, that familiar ring of bell abruptly came once again.

Clang!

That sound was the final one.

Above Eight Immortals Island, the copper bell Exotic Treasure appeared again. This time striking by a pale fingertip, it echoed and then directly shattered.

The destruction of this treasure caused the entire island to pause for half a breath.

Then, everyone at that moment saw at the center of Eight Immortals Island, a figure disheveled yet still looking like an immortal appearing. It was Master Xuu Xun, the Elder Brother, who had been fiercely attacked by the Mountain and Sea Immortal Corpse and whom everyone thought was uncertain of life or death.

At this moment, he was holding a Jade Ruler in his left hand, emitting Immortal Light and Divine Radiance, and astonishingly suppressed the extremely fierce Uncle Mountain and Sea under him. Even though the Mountain and Sea Escape Heaven Pillar was terrifying, capable of smashing mountains and splitting the earth, when it collided with that Jade Ruler, it couldn't gain the slightest advantage, instead, it was at a disadvantage.

It is known that at this moment, the Mountain and Sea Master, having regained a wisp of True Spirit, could be said to be unmatched on the island.

Even so, he was still suppressed by Xuu Xun.

Not only was Tao Qian astonished, Master Jade Toad felt the same.

The difference was, there was also a trace of relief in his voice.

"The Soul-falling Bell, the Supreme Virtue Ruler."

"There's no mistake; this lad must be a disciple of my Senior Sister Ma Yi."

"With the Qingwei Dao Body, Yin Yang Dharma Eye, and Dao Heart fully integrated without any flaws... Good, truly good, Ma Yi's lineage has successors indeed."

Although sincere, clearly Master Jade Toad also had the intention to skip over the awkwardness, seizing the opportunity to praise Elder Brother Xuu Xun.