

Longevity 261

Chapter 261: Big Fish Hooked, Heavenly Punishment Beheads the Corpse

Master Jade Toad had just finished boasting when he quickly realized something was amiss.

At this moment, when Xuu Xun appeared, there was a clear rage in his eyes, along with a resolute desire to do something.

Without a doubt, the Soul-falling Bell was also a treasure, yet Xuu Xun shattered it without hesitation, to freeze the entire island for half a breath.

Xuu Xun soared into the skies, and with the Supreme Virtue Ruler in his hand, he emitted majestic Immortal light, suppressing Uncle Mountain and Sea in place, while he turned to look at his fellow brothers and sisters who were embroiled in fierce battles around Eight Immortals Island.

Without any hesitation, Xuu Xun struck.

First, with a wave of his sleeve, everyone felt a change between heaven and earth, Void Teleportation enveloped. The corpse poison and corpse fog that enveloped the entire Eight Immortals Island disappeared without a trace in that instant.

Even more implausible was Uncle Mountain and Sea, fighting with Xuu Xun; his transformed Immortal Corpse also vanished from the spot.

This scene made all the true inheritors display shock.

Brother Ma Yuan, who was healing, immediately exclaimed in horror, "Universe in the Sleeve Divine Technique, is Senior Brother Xu Xun intending to...?"

It was easily recognizable, even Tao Qian could see that Xu Xun had used the great divine power Universe in the Sleeve, and had tucked the entire island's corpse fog along with Uncle Mountain and Sea into his sleeve.

The corpse fog was tolerable; though terrifying, it was after all ownerless dead matter, and it was normal for Xu Xun to sweep it away with a sleeve.

But the Mountain and Sea Daoist!

He was an Alien Species Immortal Corpse, moreover, his True Spirit had returned, and his combat power was unfathomably terrifying.

If the one who took action was Xu Xun's master, Ma Yi Immortal, then Mountain and Sea Daoist would have had no power to resist.

But Xu Xun alone?

Although he is the top true inheritor of this generation, he probably still fell short, and reality indeed confirmed so.

In a breath!

Just within a breath, everyone heard the sound of Xuu Xun's sleeves tearing.

However, it was in that short moment that Xuu Xun made a vicious move.

He suddenly raised his hand, and immediately, over a dozen beams of Immortal light and Divine Radiance shot out, each heading towards seven locations on Eight Immortals Island. Each Immortal Corpse was hit by more than one Magical Treasure, but these treasures did not come to ally but were sent by Xuu Xun's intent to smash.

Even Tao Qian, who was clearly having the upper hand, turning a perfectly good Master Jade Toad into a roasted frog, also received two treasures.

One artifact, adorned with a large amount of Black Stone and Green Jade was the Immortal Net, which bound the Jade Toad Immortal Corpse and immediately summoned a storm of thunder and lightning, turning it into a charred corpse in the blink of an eye. Another artifact, resembling a huge brick, began to smash down, golden sparkles splattering and loud booms resounding.

Sadly, this Immortal Corpse, without the control of a True Spirit, was not Tao Qian's match to begin with, and now being ambushed, looked even more pitiful. Yet, this Immortal Corpse was indeed very special; despite such treatment, it had little effect, other than turning into a pile of mush or a rotten meat pancake, it remained undying.

However, at this moment, neither Tao Qian nor the Jade Toad True Spirit were paying attention to this corpse.

They both looked towards Xuu Xun instantly; a breath, which for mortals passed in an instant.

But for powerful cultivators, much could be done.

After throwing out a mass of Magical Treasures to entangle the seven Immortal Corpses, Xuu Xun's sleeves shattered, Mountain and Sea Daoist was about to emerge, but by that moment, Xuu Xun had already moved to the periphery of Eight Immortals Island. His hand, wielding the terrifyingly powerful Supreme Virtue Ruler, suddenly struck in the void, and immediately, an invisible existence of a Forbidden Technique was forcibly broken by him.

At that moment, Xuu Xun turned his head to the others and shouted, "Fellow brothers and sisters, if we do not leave now, when will we?"

At this low shout, Tao Qian immediately discerned that Xuu Xun was now mana-depleted and extremely weak.

He also saw his torn sleeve, a terrifying shadow emerging from it.

Tao Qian wasn't the only one who could hear it; all the true inheritors could discern it perfectly as well.

The Jade Toad True Spirit saw through it at a glance.

That is why, at this moment, he was nearly driven mad with urgency, his transmission booming like thunder, echoing through Tao Qian's mind.

"Boy, you can't just leave him and escape from this Island."

"This child forcibly used the Universe in the Sleeve and the Supreme Virtue Ruler; he simply cannot withstand another strike from Brother Mountains and Seas. If you really leave now, he will surely die."

Before hearing this transmission, Tao Qian had already made his move.

In fact, on Eight Immortals Island, only his reaction was the fastest.

After all, the other seven Immortals were earnestly attacking the true inheritors; only the Jade Toad True Spirit had been dug out early by Tao Qian.

With Jade Toad treading water, it was naturally easy for Tao Qian.

Tao Qian had sensed something amiss the moment Xuu Xun appeared and shattered the Soul-falling Bell.

Thus, he had promptly left the Immortal Corpse that had been continuously pounded and teleported instantaneously towards Xuu Xun.

The moment Xuu Xun shattered the Eight Immortals Corpse Prohibition, and Jade Toad True Spirit madly transmitted his message,

Tao Qian had just arrived at his side, witnessing the robes tearing apart, even causing Xuu Xun's half arm to be swallowed by the Mountain and Sea Daoist in one bite. He saw that massive mouth open wide, about to swallow Xuu Xun whole.

Suddenly, at that moment, Tao Qian appeared in a flash.

To ensure the power of this strike, he had also heavily invested, borrowing immense mana from Lingbao Tianzun.

The Buddha Bird Relics were thus pushed to the limit, the already enormous Buddha Ape grew even larger, gripping the Vajra Demon-suppressing Stick that resembled a colossal pillar propping up the sky, and fiercely smashed it down.

"Ha, take this blow from Tao Qian!"

Amidst his Thunderous shout, it was just the right moment.

The Mountain and Sea Daoist emerged from his sleeves, swallowing half of Xuu Xun's arm, about to reveal his true form.

He was met head-on by the stick, imbued with immense mana. The Vajra Demon-suppressing Stick was no smaller than his Mountain and Sea Celestial Evasion Stake, with the immense strength of the Buddha Ape adding to its might. The pillar struck the ground, infinite cracks spreading in all directions, earth, water, fire, and wind surged forth, and the Mountain and Sea Daoist did not even have a chance to roar before he was smashed into the depths of the ground.

These rapid changes, though complicated to describe, ended in a matter of one or two breaths.

Everyone first saw Xuu Xun temporarily suppress the Eight Immortals with his own power, planning to sacrifice his life to rescue his fellow disciples.

At that instant, more than a dozen true inheritors frantically moved towards Xuu Xun.

But all were too late.

Except for Tao Qian!

Who would have expected that Tao Qian, ostensibly the least among them, would burst forth with such combat power?

Everyone watched those terrifying cracks that almost spread across half of Eight Immortals Island and in the depths of those cracks, the continuously expanding, about to emerge again Mountain and Sea Immortal Corpse.

While raising their eyebrows in surprise, they all simultaneously cast a look of undisguised admiration towards Tao Qian.

At this moment, all fourteen true inheritors gathered in the outer area.

Though it was somewhat regrettable for the several treasures tossed out by Xu Xun, entangling the Immortal Corpse.

"But when it comes to treasures, life is even more critical," Master Yan Demon, Brother Wei, hurriedly said, "Everyone, take Senior Brother Xu with you, let's leave quickly."

Just as Brother Wei finished speaking, the others were about to move.

Suddenly, it was Tao Qian who spoke again.

"No need!"

"The big fish has taken the bait, and the masters are about to reel it in."

Tao Qian's comments, filled with a desire to critique, seemed somewhat inexplicable to his fellow disciples.

Only at the next moment, all the True Inheritors followed his gaze towards the center of Eight Immortals Island.

There, there was a secret acupoint that led to the Outer Realm, also the source of endless corpse poison and miasma.

Senior Brother Xuu had once gathered it into his Sleeve Universe Divine Technique, but in the blink of an eye, it had refilled.

It was also at this moment that the secret acupoint suddenly exploded, and an immensely huge arm that could potentially seize eight Immortal Corpses at once violently reached in from the Outer Realm.

This arm, wrapped in coagulated pale liquid of corpse poison, entered this realm instantly, and as everyone's gaze penetrated the corpse poison to see the true nature inside, including Tao Qian, a total of fourteen True Inheritors simultaneously let out pained grunts.

The only difference was that after the grunt, Tao Qian shivered violently again.

Once immune to the contamination, he saw even more clearly.

That massive arm was divided into many layers, with the outermost layer being pale, pus-like corpse poison, surging like a heavenly river, whose extreme toxicity could likely turn hundreds of thousands of people into irrational, bloodthirsty zombies with just one drop; below that was a rotting flesh layer, where flesh had decayed into mud, and countless types of bizarre bugs and Alien Species were shuttling back and forth, mating and laying eggs, billions of poses, thousands of screeching intertwining, almost forming a mad cacophony of Evil Demons from the Outer Realm.

People of this realm who listened would only fall into madness and become Fallen.

Below the rotting flesh was an extremely hard, pitch-black bone, appearing as if numerous black faces were stacked on top of each other, constantly howling, crying, and murmuring.

Tao Qian listened even more clearly, even recognizing some familiar mnemonics among them.

"Dung beetles roll the ball, as the ball forms, pensive thoughts arise, and white worms dwell within the ball..."

As these words came, Tao Qian's mind immediately roared.

A confusion was resolved, while others surged anew.

Could the unknown fragmented formula actually be related to this Outer Realm Divine Corpse?

Although Tao Qian had not cultivated the fragmented formula that had allowed him to be reborn again, just like the Immortal Fish Technique.

But how could curiosity be stopped?

Likewise hearing the whispers accompanying the corpse poison were the other True Inheritors.

However, they did not hear as distinctly as Tao Qian and had to endure the contamination amidst those rustling sounds.

The True Inheritors first looked at that arm, then turned to Tao Qian, about to ask the reason when —

Suddenly, each person's body showed a disturbance as objects autonomously floated out.

Absolute Immortal Token!

Fourteen Absolute Immortal Tokens flew out simultaneously, forming an array midway, emitting a heavenly immortal light that enveloped the entire Eight Immortals Island along with that giant hand from the Outer Realm.

Once the array was formed, the eight frantically struggling Immortal Corpses simultaneously lost their resistance, returned to their true nature, and became actual corpses again.

The sudden change surprised the True Inheritors.

The hand from the Outer Realm was, after a moment of stagnation, immediately trying to retreat.

But how could it be in time?

Soon, a scene all too familiar to Tao Qian happened again:

Bundles of golden, shining radiance surged out from his Absolute Immortal Token, within which were hundreds of golden ropes filled with talismans.

Once illuminated by the immortal light, the golden ropes spread instantly, firmly binding the massive arm of the Outer Realm Divine Corpse.

Amid shouting, one Divine General after another leaped out.

The treatment once enjoyed by the Miraculous Tree Great Venerable was now the turn of this head, which roamed the Outer Realm daily as a Divine Corpse.

The difference was, as the two just began to pull and wrestle—

The rough voice of Duobao True Monarch came out from Tao Qian's Absolute Immortal Token again:

"Since you've come, you might as well stay."

"Last time, you old bangzi killed my Spirit Treasure Eight Immortals, and now I've only cut off one of your arms, which still leaves you at an advantage."

"But no matter, we'll save the rest of my grievances for another day."

As soon as those casually stated yet overwhelmingly domineering words dropped—

Another object leaped out from that Absolute Immortal Token.

It was the sheathed treasure sword, the Heavenly Punishment Demon-Slaying Sword.

Only unlike what had been seen before, this time, it was unsheathed.

Clang!

With a ringing sound, everyone saw a sword light with endless killing intent and boundless sharpness sweep across the heaven and earth, directly slashing at that terrifying and massive arm, immediately causing billions of painful screeches to echo. Before the True Inheritors could even see if this slash was successful, they saw another thirteen Absolute Immortal Tokens simultaneously unleash a torrent of formidable mana, enhancing the Heavenly Punishment Sword.

In a trance, everyone seemed to see the figure of their own master.

A total of fourteen Spirit Treasure Sect Elders, including the likes of Duobao True Monarch and Ma Yi Immortal, wielding the sword together.

Even if the Outer Realm Divine Corpse was personally present, it would likely have trouble gaining the upper hand.

Moreover, it was just one bound arm?

Instantly, with the heavenly sword light fleeting—

The arm was severed in an instant, and the secret acupoint that could communicate with the Outer Realm was shattered.

It was then that they heard Duobao True Monarch's frugal words again:

"Too polite, my fellow junior brothers and sisters. Actually, I could have done it alone—you know, just one old bangzi."

"With the Heavenly Punishment Sword, I could even finely slice it into minced meat for you all."

"Right, dear disciple?"

Chapter 262 Ma Yi Immortal Arrives, Nine Toads Come of Their Own Accord

Eight Immortals Island, as the killing intent that reached the heavens dissipated, everything returned to tranquility.

Other than Tao Qian, who had early on grasped the intricate schemes behind the scenes, the remaining thirteen true disciples only came to a realization after listening to Duobao True Monarch's words and pondering for a moment, they all came to understand what had happened.

They also fully understood what Tao Qian previously meant by "The big fish has taken the bait, it's time for the masters to reel in the rod."

Well then!

Originally, they all thought their own master doted on them immensely, only to find out they could also be used as bait.

For a time, the true disciples all lost their spirited demeanor and collectively imitated Tao Qian, showing a look of melancholic resentment.

However, the other true disciples and Tao Qian were just pretending.

Only Xu Xun's expression was quite genuine.

He had always been gentle like a gentleman, so earlier when he thought it was he who had led his junior brothers and sisters into a life or death predicament, he disregarded his own life and forcibly used Universe in the Sleeve and the Supreme Virtue Ruler to withstand the Eight Immortals and send his junior brothers and sisters away.

Now that he understood the cause and effect, even with his state of mind, he couldn't help but feel aggrieved.

At this moment, the rough voice of the Duobao Daoist rose once more.

Surprisingly, he provided an explanation.

"My disciples, do not be annoyed, this matter was instigated by me."

"Ever since the last Ten Thousand Immortals Conference where Mountain and Sea Junior Brothers were killed by the Divine Corpse, and a thread of their True Spirits was taken, I had already calculated this encounter."

"That old bangzi, I do not know what Secret Technique he is cultivating, but despite being a corpse for many years, not only did he not fall into a daze, his Spiritual Wisdom actually increased. If I didn't use you dozen or so as bait, we couldn't have lured him at all, and the Mountain and Sea Junior Brothers' True Spirits couldn't have been saved... If we missed this opportunity, there would truly be no hope left."

"The reason I hid this from you all is due to the ever-changing nature of Heavenly Mechanism. The more people who know, the greater the risk... From the moment you set foot on Eight Immortals Island, the fourteen Elders were remotely observing. In this way, not only could the matter succeed, but we could also ensure your lives were protected."

"Now that the matter has come to a perfect conclusion, your risky involvement in the rescue of the Eight Immortals' True Spirits will each have its rewards."

"Senior Sister Ma Yi will arrive soon. Everything will be handled by her."

"Good disciple, you performed well this time, already possessing fifty percent of your Master's power and demeanor."

"I am very relieved, very relieved indeed."

After these last two unabashed words fell, all the Absolute Immortal Tokens simultaneously went silent and flew back into the hands of the true disciples.

Then, they all simultaneously discovered that a person had suddenly appeared on the island.

It was a woman around forty years of age, with an ordinary appearance, wearing a Ma Yi Daoist robe.

Her demeanor was calm, and her eyes were deep and filled with the vicissitudes of life, as if she had seen the countless years and changes of the world, nothing could disturb her mind.

Tao Qian, who prided himself on having seen countless powerful beings, even the Outer Realm deity known as Longevity Star from a distance,

But none of the ones he had seen and felt in the past could compare with the Immortal before him.

Was it because she was too close?

"So strong!"

These two words were the thoughts in Tao Qian's mind at that moment.

The background and identity of this Immortal were needless to guess.

She was none other than the current first generation Master Taixuan's Master, one of the attendant Immortals of the Spirit Treasure Sect Master, Ma Yi Immortal!

What Tao Qian was guessing was just how strong she was.

As various thoughts flashed through his mind, Tao Qian, along with the other true disciples, stepped forward to pay their respects.

"Disciple pays respect to Master Ma Yi."

As Tao Qian gave his respects, a small surprise occurred.

Suddenly, a little lump of flesh flew out from his bosom; the True Master sitting atop the Jade Toad inside the flesh almost burst into tears, exclaiming, "Senior Sister!"

From the voice imbued with deep emotion, it was obvious the relationship between the two was more than just fellow disciples.

Indeed, that was the case, to a certain extent, Ma Yi Immortal could be considered the master of the Spirit Treasure Eight Immortals.

Therefore, she did not find the lump of flesh disgusting at all and reached out to take it.

At the same time, she gestured towards the remaining Immortal Corpses, and from within each remaining seven corpses a lump of flesh also floated out, likewise holding a strand of True Spirit.

The true disciples watched in amazement; the Eight Immortals, previously so ferocious, were now docile like quails before Ma Yi Immortal, all revealing complex emotions: joy, regret, and so on, like mischievous children who were being punished and then saw their parents.

Ma Yi Immortal showed no sign of discomfort and simply looked left and right, nodding with satisfaction, she said,

"Hmm, although only a thread of True Spirit remains, they are still intact and there is a chance for reincarnation and cultivation."

"If lucky, they can return in a hundred years."

"However, if you had listened to me last time, you might have already recovered your cultivation and memories. Why waste these years? Not to mention the trouble Duobao and the other junior disciples went through to save you, this favor is owed by you all, and you can slowly repay it yourselves."

"Having stayed with that Divine Corpse for so long, have you learned any profound Magic Skills? Do you know how to overcome the Daoist Transformation Tribulation?"

These words, which sounded very normal to Tao Qian and the others, shamed the Spirit Treasure Eight Immortals, who all lowered their heads in embarrassment.

Indeed, there is always something to subdue something else!

As everyone was feeling this sentiment.

Suddenly, Ma Yi Immortal lifted her head to look at them.

Immediately, including Xu Xun, her personal disciple, all fourteen true disciples also revealed their obedient expressions.

Compared to the authority she held when scolding the Eight Immortals, facing these true disciples, Ma Yi Immortal rarely showed a kind smile, especially when looking at Tao Qian, her gaze became even gentler.

Naturally not because Tao Qian was a disciple of Duobao Daoist, but because not long before, Tao Qian had taken crucial action to save Xu Xun.

While everyone was wondering how Ma Yi Immortal was going to deal with the matters on the island, they immediately saw Ma Yi Immortal wave her sleeve.

In an instant, brilliance flashed before their eyes.

Countless treasures and alien items floated before the crowd.

Among them, eight shone the brightest.

Needless to say, these fine items were all that remained of the Spirit Treasure Eight Immortals' possessions.

When Ma Yi Immortal summoned them, she even went so far as to remove the corpse poison contamination that had soaked into them for many years.

As everyone was dazzled by this sight, the immortal addressed the Eight Immortals,

"You disciples used your bodies as bait to save the remnants of your true spirits, you Eight Immortals might be elders, but debts must be repaid."

"Anyway, you are about to reincarnate and before you recover your sense of self, you won't even have any memories. With good luck, it might just take dozens or hundreds of years, while with bad luck, wasting several hundred years is not unusual."

"These worldly possessions will naturally be of no use to you, so they will be divided among the disciples."

With these few sentences, she stripped the Spirit Treasure Eight Immortals bare, leaving them with nothing and no room for negotiation.

The fiercest among the Eight Immortals, the Mountain and Sea Daoist, could only look reluctantly at his Mountain and Sea Escape Heaven Pillar, then meekly nod his head to show he had no objections.

In the next moment, the multitude of treasures automatically divided into fourteen shares, each falling into the hands of the true inheritors.

Tao Qian was outwardly the last in line, but what he ended up with was the largest share.

The other heirs saw this, but not one had any objections.

Even if it weren't for Tao Qian's strong refusal, Xu Xun, his senior brother, would have even considered giving Tao Qian his own share. After all, the Duobao Daoist had said that their fourteen elders had always been hidden in the shadows, and even if Tao Qian did not intervene, Xu Xun would not have been in any trouble.

But principle is principle, and sentiment is sentiment.

After much persuasion, Tao Qian finally turned down his enthusiastic elder brother. Magic treasures and alien items are good, but he was not a man greedy for more.

Moreover, what he received was already quite a lot.

Don't think that Tao Qian, maintaining his elegance and demeanor, accepted his share nonchalantly—his mind overflowed with joy, one thought after another.

"I've truly struck it rich this time. Master's words were accurate; the trip to Absolute Immortal Sea was nothing short of a grand welfare distribution to the true disciples by the sect."

"Before, I had been worried about how to maintain the vast enterprise that is Ascending Immortal Island, but now it is much easier, there is certainly no problem in sustaining it for many more years."

While Tao Qian was musing thusly,

Ma Yi Immortal looked once more at what lay before her, besides the eight meat tumors, only the treasured artifacts of the Eight Immortals remained.

Different from the other distributed treasures; items like the "Mountain and Sea Escape Heaven Pillar" and the "Wind Fire Banana Leaf Fan", although they could not compare with Duobao Daoist's Heavenly Punishment Demon-Slaying Sword, were not far behind.

Put into the whole Cultivation World, they were all top-notch Exotic Treasures.

However, Ma Yi Immortal obviously had a plan in mind. She pointed at the eight treasures and then said to the fourteen true inheritors:

"These Eight Treasures are all extraordinary items."

"They originally all had artifact spirits, but due to these eight individuals, the artifact spirits have long since perished."

"However, the core of the artifact embryo remains intact. After you obtain them, nurturing them for some years will likewise allow you to foster new artifact spirits to enhance the treasures' powers."

"There's just one thing: if you want to obtain them, you'll have to take on some karmic responsibility."

"Whichever uncle's treasure you obtain, you'll need to be responsible for sending that uncle to reincarnate, and you're responsible for guiding them back to the mountain gate to cultivate after they awaken their innate wisdom."

"This matter is somewhat troublesome, so take a few breaths to consider before you decide."

After Ma Yi Immortal finished speaking, everyone understood.

A simple matter!

Whoever got whose treasure would have to take on the task of protecting them on their return to the sect to cultivate.

Maybe they would even have to accept the reincarnated, cultivating again Eight Immortals as disciples?

Including Tao Qian, everyone present—having cultivated to their current realms—clearly understood the importance of karma.

Many times, this word was life-threatening.

However, upon careful consideration, the Spirit Treasure Eight Immortals had perished in the last gathering of the Ten Thousand Immortals, countless years ago.

Even if there were some troublesome karmic issues, they were probably worn away by time long ago.

What they'd truly have to take on was the matter of "reincarnation."

Thinking about it this way, it seemed to be a good thing again.

But Tao Qian still planned not to reach out for it; despite loving all eight treasures.

However, he couldn't prevent a treasure from actively seeking him.

While the other inheritors hadn't made a decision, a meat tumor in front of the immortal suddenly split open. Master Jade Toad's residual true spirit leaped directly into one of the Eight Treasures, the "Nine Toad Bead."

Then, the bead turned into a streak of light and leapt into Tao Qian's hands.

The naive voice also sounded at this moment:

"Sister, there's no need to worry. The Jade Toad feels the most affinity with the Duobao lineage; it might as well be this child who sends me to reincarnate."

"This Nine Toad Bead should belong to him too."

After saying this to Ma Yi Immortal, the now different residence's Jade Toad true spirit turned to Tao Qian and spoke again.

"Lucky you, nephew. I bear no significant karma and come with no troublesome matters."

"You don't even need to find a reincarnation body for me; take me to the Mortal World, and I will sense it myself."

"Right, once you take this Nine Toad Bead, I have a technique that might allow you to gather the other eight toad pearls to form a set; the power that follows, tsk tsk... I assure you, nephew, you won't regret it."

Chapter 263: Gathering Treasure, the Nine Toad Bead; Seven Secret Chapters of Mysterious Corpse

The true disciples were still pondering, not expecting Master Jade Toad to come to this pass.

However, his action served as a wake-up call for the remaining seven immortals, fearing that the Ma Yi Immortal might have imposed some restrictions.

The remaining seven immortals followed suit, each of them making a move.

The first was the Mountain and Sea Daoist, who also detached himself from the tumor-like growth. His true spirit drilled into his beloved Mountain and Sea Escape Heaven Pillar, then shrank into the size of an embroidery needle, hopping in front of Xu Xun. After seeing no objection from Ma Yi Immortal, he carefully landed in Xu Xun's other, undamaged palm.

"I'm sorry for the inconvenience earlier, nephew. Your unfortunate uncle has destroyed your arm, so it is only fitting that I compensate you with this Escape Heaven Pillar."

"Don't be polite, take it."

Watching the Mountain and Sea Daoist's expression and listening to his words,

Tao Qian suddenly understood something: these Spirit Treasure Eight Immortals, known for their fierce combat power, each had temperaments that were probably not very reliable.

Sure enough, the one who followed the Mountain and Sea Daoist's action was Wind and Fire Master.

He burrowed into the pitch-black banana leaf fan from within the tumor. With a flourishing motion, he quickly came before Wei, who never smiled frivolously. To demonstrate the power of the treasure fan, the Wind and Fire Master controlled it to wave several times; yin wind and true fire came together, and thankfully Brother Wei managed to keep a straight face. He was choked by the poison smoke produced by the collision for a few breaths before he could no longer bear it and reached out to catch it.

Then, with a hoarse voice, he said, "There's no need for formality, uncle. I quite like this fan, I'll surely find it a good home for you."

As Brother Wei accepted the fan, Senior Sister Lu of the Golden Crow Fairy also received the Flower God Treasure Bottle.

Then Yang Jie came into possession of the Ten Thousand Swords Return to One Box, Brother Huang Zhen received the Dragon and Tiger Elixir Cauldron... In several breaths, all eight treasures had found new masters.

The six disciples who didn't receive an exotic treasure showed a hint of regret on their faces, but it wasn't intense.

This was easy to understand, as, in fact, no one present lacked treasures.

Including Tao Qian, or particularly Tao Qian.

As long as one cultivated methodically until the Cavernous Mystery stage and inherited the mantle from his Master, these kinds of exotic treasures, though not abundant, were also not scarce; he was sure to have one or two.

The most critical point was that such treasures should not be coveted in excess as using them involved a cost, and it was not light.

This first iron rule of the Cultivation World also applied here.

Of course, sometimes Tao Qian was an exception.

Logically speaking, with his meager Foundation Establishment cultivation, even if he acquired a Heterodox Sect's ultimate treasure like the Nine Toad Bead, he wouldn't be able to use it; after all, he couldn't afford the cost of utilizing such a treasure.

However, the truth was that he could indeed use it.

The moment the Nine Toad Treasure Pearl leaped into his hand, Master Jade Toad proactively wiped away the true spirit imprint within it, which allowed Tao Qian to easily trigger the Toad Pearl's record:

[Record Name: Nine Toad Bead.]

[Record Type: Alien Species.]

[Record: This is an exotic treasure of the Heterodox Sect, the Nine Toad Sect, derived from the Sect's Great Book, 'Nine Toad Scripture,' Refining Treasure section. It requires a thousand kinds of treasure materials and the assistance of numerous Cavernous Mystery, even Ultimate Happiness Realm cultivators, and must await the bestowed divine light from an outer realm Toad God to be refined into a set of Treasure Beads. Once formed, this treasure not only comprises a variety of marvelous uses such as slaughter, entrapment, defense, but it is also an auspicious exotic treasure that can gather treasure aura, wealth, and blessings.]

[Note One: Despite the Nine Toad Sect's many years, it has not been able to refine many sets. The last set of Nine Toad Beads was refined a thousand years ago; this is one of them, the whereabouts of the remaining eight are unknown.]

[Note Two: This bead contains a small world within it. When enlarged, it can be used to hit people, trap them, or defend against attacks. Wearing it can accumulate fortune and wealth.]

[Note Three: Wearing this treasure will make the bearer increasingly lazy and prone to obesity.]

[Note Four: Collecting nine beads allows communication with the Toad God of the Outer Realm, a friendly and lazy divine being from the outer realm, who has helped many Nine Toad Sect cultivators achieve Daoist Transformation.]

[Note Five: It can exempt some of the costs!]

...

Tao Qian eyed the secretive information in his mind with a strange twist to his eyebrows.

Had he figured it out?

No wonder Master Jade Toad, an Ultimate Happiness Realm cultivator, was so lethargic; it turned out to be a side effect of the Nine Toad Bead.

Of course, it could also be due to Master Jade Toad's inherently lazy nature, which made him all the more compatible with the Nine Toad Bead, the so-called perfect match.

However, for such a frighteningly effective bead, the cost was only those two.

It was unproblematic to call it an exotic treasure.

"But this can exempt part of it... If only a part, does it mean I might still become lazier?"

Tao Qian muttered to himself, hesitating for half a moment before eventually deciding to keep the bead.

Considering the gain against the risk, the former was much larger.

Although Tao Qian already had Buddha Bird Relics, there was also another exotic treasure, the Human Fetus Bag, currently refining in the Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle.

But since it can exempt some of the costs, who would complain about having too many treasures?

Tao Qian pondered, simultaneously pulling the Nine Toad Bead into his bosom along with the residual true spirit of Master Jade Toad within the bead.

With this, besides the arm of the outer realm Divine Corpse, all the matters on the island were concluded.

Ma Yi Immortal had finished distributing treasures and turned to gaze at the massive corpse arm still suppressed and bound by the Golden Armored Divine General, even larger than mountains.

For others to deal with, it would be as difficult as climbing to heaven.

Even if it was cut into pieces, it would take hundreds of years.

But clearly, this was no trouble for Ma Yi Immortal, as all those present had heard of the Immortal's feat of Universe in the Sleeve, who once packed away the citizens of Imperial City.

Xu Xun, the brother, had experienced it firsthand.

As she was about to move her sleeves to take away the corpse arm,

Tao Qian thought for a moment, then stepped forward with a bow, saying:

"Master Uncle, may I ask for a piece of skin and flesh from this divine corpse arm for your disciple?"

"I practiced some Heterodox Dao Skills in my early years, which seems to be related to this divine corpse, and I would like to research it."

"No need for too much, palm-sized will suffice."

Tao Qian's request left others somewhat surprised.

However, upon hearing the request, Ma Yi Immortal simply looked at him and then nodded in agreement.

She raised her hand, and with a sweep through the air,

accompanied by a hissing sound, a piece of rotten flesh about the size of a millstone, its surface covered with ghastly white corpse poison and writhing maggots of alien species, peeled itself from the corpse arm and flew straight towards Tao Qian.

The scene was somewhat nauseating.

However, no one at the scene found Tao Qian's request surprising; it was just a piece of dead skin, after all, nothing of great consequence.

With Ma Yi Immortal's thorough way of handling affairs, she surely would have neutralized any subtle dangers before acting, thus avoiding the bloody mess of Tao Qian being sneakily assaulted by an Outer Realm Divine Corpse.

As for practicing heterodox magic skills...

Within sects like the Taishang Dao, this could be a serious matter.

But in the Spirit Treasure Sect, it was as common as could be.

Brother Wei, the True Master Yan Demon standing aside, was almost snatched away by the Evil Sect, yet even he practiced the Evil Sect's Daoist skills.

The dual cultivation of Dao and Demon was so ferociously illogical.

Tao Qian, seeing that he had asked for something the size of a palm, but the immortal had generously given him a piece of skin the size of a millstone, couldn't help but smile wryly.

Of course, he didn't want this foul-smelling flesh for research. As a newbie little cultivator who had only been cultivating for a few years, even if he wanted to research, he wouldn't be able to make heads or tails of it.

His goal, naturally, was to try and touch it to see if he could glimpse some of the secrets of the Outer Realm Divine Corpse.

But this was not an appropriate place. Watching Ma Yi Immortal skillfully perform "Universe in the Sleeve" and elegantly stow away the corpse arm in her sleeve,

Tao Qian also waved his hand, taking the skin into his possession.

With all matters on the Eight Immortals Island concluded, and each true inheritor having gained quite a few benefits, they collectively bowed and said their farewells.

Time was up, and all true inheritors, including those four who had been tied up and unable to participate in the battle against the Eight Immortals Island, had to leave the Absolute Immortal Sea. Before leaving, each exchanged warm invitations, but upon hearing that Tao Qian intended to hold an "Immortal Peach Banquet," they all agreed to wait for Tao Qian's Cloud Talisman invitations, at which time they would gather together at the Ascending Immortal Island.

Although it was their first encounter, the joint assault on the Eight Immortals Island by the fourteen true inheritors acknowledged Tao Qian's strength and status, including Xuu Xun.

...

Parting ways with the other true inheritors, Tao Qian felt that his trip to the Absolute Immortal Sea had been quite perfect and decided not to delay any longer.

Tao Qian held the Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle, a Command Token in hand, summoned the Star Zha Demon, and fled the sea area, heading straight for his own Ascending Immortal Island.

"Having seen so much of the demon chaos in Southern Yue, the dark cultivation scene of deception and fraud, suddenly experiencing this fellowship among sect members feels a bit unfamiliar."

"I wonder if it's just the Spirit Treasure Sect that's this harmonious, or if other sects are also this pleasant."

"Judging from what Xiao Hua Daoist has said, it seems that the Spirit Treasure Sect is somewhat special, with the main tone of the Cultivation World still being that of Southern Yue."

"I guess I chose the right mountain gate."

As these thoughts passed, Tao Qian had already crossed the Absolute Spirit Sea and the Nightmare God Cloud.

Finding himself completely alone, he took out the piece of skin, which seemed still alive and wriggled nauseatingly.

Holding back his disgust, he reached out a finger to touch it.

Sure enough, records immediately burst forth in his mind.

Perhaps because it was just a small piece of skin, the secrets weren't extensive, and they were very fragmented. It took him a good while to sort out a few records.

Unexpectedly, they contained a great secret.

[Name: Mysterious Corpse Skin.]

[Record Type: Alien Object.]

[Record: This is a piece of skin flesh from an Outer Realm god called 'Mysterious Corpse,' an unnamed Outer Realm divine being transformed after death, forgetting past memories. After wandering in the Outer Realm for many years, its spiritual wisdom grew, and it named itself Mysterious Corpse. It cultivated the seven secret pages of Immortal Book hidden within its own corpse, annotated and compiled them into the 'Seven Secret Chapters of Mysterious Corpse,' and expanded it into the Great Lifebook Scripture. The Scripture includes ancient secret techniques such as Immortal Corpse Soul Returning and Corpse Transformation.]

[Note one: Consuming this skin can establish communication with the Mysterious Corpse and may receive the Seven Secret Chapters, but will also be controlled by the Mysterious Corpse.]

[Note two: Using this object as a medium to employ Divine Skills like Summoning God, there's a certain chance of establishing a connection with the Mysterious Corpse.]

[Note three: The cost is inescapable.]

As these concise records brimming with Outer Realm secrets flowed through his mind,

Tao Qian's eyebrows inevitably furrowed.

The information wasn't much, but it gave him a glimpse into some key points.

"The mantra I witnessed in my first life as a child must have been part of the Immortal Corpse Soul Returning from the Seven Secret Chapters."

"Such bizarre techniques originate from 'The Seven Secret Chapters of Mysterious Corpse'?"

"No, to be more precise, it's those seven pages that were hidden inside the Mysterious Corpse all along."

"Who would have thought that the fragmented formula would be of such a high level? And it stems from an existence that I simply cannot touch at this moment."

"It seems that even if I hadn't been reborn, the original me would not have died beheaded."

"However, I wonder what he would have become after death?"

These thoughts flashed by, and Tao Qian decided not to ponder them further.

From the Immortal Fish Technique, the Bai Qin Play, and even the Spirit Treasure Root Skill, Tao Qian had an inkling.

The Cultivation World, in reality, has thoroughly permeated the Mortal World.

Especially those secretive grandees high above, each one might just be like the fishing man.

Before achieving sufficient strength, overthinking provided no benefits.

With this in mind, Tao Qian let go of the finger touching the disgusting flesh and threw that piece of skin into the Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle without hesitation, allowing the Mixed Element Qi Unpolluted Great Prohibition within to grind it into pus.

Learning a few secrets was enough.

Despite some uses for such nauseating flesh, Tao Qian thought it unnecessary for himself and had no intention of using it.

Chapter 264: Duobao Refines the Human Fetus Bag, Tao Qian Summons the Outer Demon Again

Tao Qian tossed the skin bag full of corpse poison rotting flesh into the Jade Purification Bottle, which contained a large number of small spaces, all sharing in the Mixed Element Qi Unpolluted Great Prohibition.

Soon after, as Tao Qian shook the bottle again, the sound of liquid surging immediately came from within the small space.

Clearly, the flesh and blood of the Mysterious Corpse had dissolved into pus and, after a few days, would become Pure Water without any hidden dangers.

"This treasure is truly handy for use at home, traveling, cultivating, or fighting. One should always be prepared with one."

"If only it truly belonged to me, how splendid that would be."

As Tao Qian continued his journey back to the Mountain Gate led by the Star Zha Demon, he cradled the Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle and sighed in contentment.

It must be said that his trip to the Absolute Immortal Sea went this smoothly thanks in no small part to the Treasure Vase.

It was also very reasonable since it was crafted by both Duobao True Monarch and Yunhua Immortal. It could be said to be an omnipotent Exotic Treasure.

After a short while, Tao Qian had already returned to the familiar sea area, ready to head back toward his own Ascending Immortal Island.

Just then, an abnormality occurred to him.

First, the Absolute Immortal Token jumped out on its own, followed by the Spirit Treasure Jade Purifying Bottle shaking out of his control.

Before Tao Qian could speak, the voice of his cheap master came from the token,

"Good disciple, haven't you learned the Ancestor Master's Teachings yet, and yet you want to learn your master's signature skills first?"

"However, if you dare to appropriate someone else's treasure and not return it, not even the cow-nosed priests of Taishang Dao would dare to borrow my treasures and not return them."

Suddenly exposed, Tao Qian's expression remained unchanged.

He just glanced at the token and the vase, feigning ignorance with a smile,

"What is Master talking about? I don't understand."

"Master, please take back this Treasure Vase and the command token. However, there are many spiritual material treasures inside the vase, including one Exotic Treasure Artifact Embryo, all painstakingly collected by your disciple, which you must return to me."

As soon as Tao Qian finished speaking, roaring laughter came from within the token.

Hearing the laughter as if seeing the person, Tao Qian could almost see Duobao Daoist in the Observatory Hall, his hair explosively black, laughing while rubbing his dirt, not caring about his own image, and saying in a loud voice,

"What a teachable boy. How could my Duobao Lineage let go of a treasure that's fallen into our hands?"

"Remember to visit my Golden Radiance Arena tomorrow at this time."

"The True Inheritance Assembly is approaching, and choosing the Refining Dao Foundation method earlier will also help you gain the greatest benefit during the Ancestor Master's Teachings."

"As for the human fetus bag inside the vase, it comes from the transformation of the body of my fellow disciple Lingmu. With your weak cultivation, you won't be able to refine anything significant. Luckily, I am free today and will spend some time refining it into an Exotic Treasure for you. You can come and get it tomorrow."

"Good disciple!"

"The choice of the three techniques for Refining Dao is a matter that affects your Dao path, and as your master, I cannot make that decision for you."

"However, I can make sure everything you need for the three techniques is ready for you. You should rest well tonight, and once your spirit and mind are in perfect harmony, come and choose your method."

As the voice faded, the Treasure Vase suddenly tilted and overturned.

As the mouth of the vase opened, a large amount of spiritually cleansed, pure and clear spiritual material treasures flowed out like a small sparkling spirit stream.

Tao Qian quickly brought out the Mustard Seed Talisman Seed, collecting all these treasures he had painstakingly gathered into his bag.

Following the last batch of coral gemstones and green jade gold bricks flowing out, the Treasure Vase flipped back again, and together with the Absolute Immortal Token, turned into a streak of light and shot away.

With the treasures in his bag and having received his master's promise to personally Refine Treasure for him, Tao Qian naturally felt joy in his heart.

But at that moment, his attention was not on those treasures.

Even Duobao Daoist had solemnly reminded him of the importance of refining the three methods, which made Tao Qian unable to help but ponder again, recalling what he had seen and heard on the Spiritual Tablet Island.

After a short while, Tao Qian returned to Ascending Immortal Island.

He had instructed his servants to watch over the house before he left, and now he had returned after four days.

His Subterranean Evasion Speed into the island opened the Three Prohibitions, immediately alerting all the people on the island.

Tao Qian first saw a hundred Crystal Demon girls leaping out from all over, dazzling under the daylight, with Zhong Doudou leading them, riding a resplendent, strong, and majestic Immortal Deer beneath her.

He distinctly remembered that before he left the island, he entrusted Doudou with the care of an Immortal Deer, which at the time was a young fawn still calling plaintively.

Now upon his return, it had become fat and robust.

Tao Qian wondered how Doudou was feeding it to grow so fast.

Soon he saw Zhong Doudou riding the Immortal Deer, coming his way while seemingly pulling out of nowhere a luscious Immortal Peach and stuffing it into the deer's mouth.

Case closed... Tao Qian understood.

With this feeding method, even a pig could become an Immortal Pig, let alone a fawn given by his master upon entering the sect.

Because of his command, it seemed that not only the Immortal Deer was reveling in the peaches.

As soon as Tao Qian returned to the island, before he had even properly stood still, he saw a flock of Nursing Woman Bird Demons, taking advantage of their wings to fly, passing by the youngsters such as Little Age, Lian Jing'er, Shan Jiu, and others, and swooping towards him. Each bared their chests, their bird eyes full of eager affection for Tao Qian, rushing up to greet him.

"Ah, the True Master has returned!"

"We have not seen the Young Master for a few days, and he seems to have become more handsome."

"Young Master, Doudou has been bullying us."

"These past few days we sisters have been well taken care of by the Young Master, and we will repay this favor in the future."

"We wish the Young Master great fortune and longevity."

In the midst of these lively blessings, Tao Qian was engulfed by the crowd.

This scene could be described as a flock of birds returning to the forest, where Master Tao was that "forest."

If it were a group of normal birds, it might be fine, but this was a group of Nursing Woman Bird Demons, who immediately caused Tao Qian to lose all sense of direction as they flocked to him.

Is this scene normal?

Of course, it was not normal.

The reasons were actually quite simple. The Nursing Woman Bird Demons had always been friendly towards Tao Qian, but never to this extreme.

The only explanation was that they had eaten too many Longevity Immortal Peaches.

The fruit of this Spirit Root that he had grown had many benefits and hardly any cost.

There was just one minor side effect: the more they ate, the more they grew fond of Tao Qian. If they ate more than a hundred, they would no longer be capable of harboring any ill will towards him.

Surrounded by female demons, Tao Qian was enveloped by sweet fragrances and soft jade, but he thought to himself,

"Goodness gracious!"

"How many Immortal Peaches have these female demons eaten? If their fondness could be displayed in numbers, I'm afraid each of them would be bursting by now."

With that thought, Tao Qian flashed out with difficulty.

Looking at Ascending Immortal Island again, it had taken on even more of an Immortal's air compared to four days ago.

Especially the Longevity Peach Forest, which had completely merged with Ascending Immortal Island. The first batch of ripe peaches appeared to have been eaten somewhat, but not by much. There were still a large number of flushed and drunken ripe peaches, and at the same time, some new green-skinned peaches with stems had grown, making it look even more harmonious and natural, extremely good and extremely beautiful.

Clearly, Tao Changshou and the other tree demons were taking good care of the Longevity Peach Forest.

After looking for half a moment, Dou Dou and the other young girls arrived, and then the Nursing Woman Bird Demons flocked over again. What was even more excessive was Jiushou leading a group of Dragon Species aliens, all of whom were also howling and rushing over.

Looking at this scene, it was evident that these Dragon Demons had also stolen their fair share of Immortal Peaches.

Upon seeing this, Tao Qian's face darkened, and he swiftly raised his hand to stop them, summoning Zhong Doudou to his side. After thinking a while, he instructed,

"Your Master intends to hold an Immortal Peach Banquet in the next few days to entertain our sect members."

"The exact day hasn't been set yet, but since you all are not too busy, you can begin preparing now."

After uttering these two sentences, Tao Qian summoned the talisman seeds.

He opened and poured them out.

In an instant, a small mountain made up of various spiritual material treasures appeared on Ascending Immortal Island, with multiple treasure lights and spirit lights rising into the sky.

Including Zhong Doudou, all the Crystal Demon Girls, who claimed to be without secret acupoints, now clearly seemed to be breathing quickly, as Tao Qian heard.

The Crystal Demon Clan was quite special; substances like flesh or Spirit Fruits held no more attraction for them than ordinary roadside stones.

But if it were coral gems or the like, that was entirely different.

Tao Qian watched as each of the charming young girls had their eyes sparkling green, occasionally swallowing saliva. His face darkened again, and he quickly continued,

"These spiritual material treasures were all painstakingly gathered by your Master and are not intended as food for you."

"One purpose is to decorate Ascending Immortal Island, and the other is that they will come in handy for the banquet..."

As he was speaking, Tao Qian immediately saw an amazing sight.

The girls, who had been brightly shining and lovely moments ago, now began to dim down one by one.

They looked so disheartened that it was difficult for anyone to bear.

Helpless, Tao Qian had no choice but to knock on Zhong Doudou's crystal-clear little horn and add,

"I must have been foolish."

"When your Master holds an Immortal Peach Banquet, which guest would come empty-handed? By then, should you still worry about lacking good things to eat?"

"I've given you a good task, so start preparing. Make sure you don't let down our Ascending Immortal Island's reputation."

After Tao Qian finished speaking, the Crystal Demon Girls all perked up at once, even going so far as to discuss the guest list with the Nursing Woman Bird Demons, plotting which family's Treasure Vault had the most good things.

Having arranged the banquet, Tao Qian went straight back to the deeper part of Spiritual Resonance Cave Mansion.

Inside the Residence Master's quiet room, Tao Qian sat down and began summarizing and taking inventory of the gains from this trip to Absolute Immortal Sea.

Initially, he had gone to collect treasure materials and unexpectedly obtained a Human Fetus Bag right after arriving at the island. After that, many spiritual materials and treasures came into his possession, and guided by inspiration, he stumbled upon Spiritual Tablet Island and met Aunt Bai Yin, with whom he established some rapport. He even glimpsed many secrets within the spiritual tablets of various seniors, including Wan Mo, Five Coins, and Wuxiang.

Then, he joined several True Inheritors to attack the Eight Immortals Island and finally, he obtained the Nine Toad Bead.

In retrospect, Tao Qian's journey was quite fruitful.

But those treasures, precious as they were, were strictly speaking, external possessions; what truly mattered to Tao Qian were matters related to his own cultivation.

Although curious about what his Master had prepared for him, he could wait another night.

"However, resting for a whole night isn't necessary, it's just a pity that Uncle Jade Toad's remaining True Spirit is quite fragile, and he has now fallen into a deep sleep, otherwise, I could've asked him about more cultivation issues."

"Come to think of it, it seems like a long time since I've refined the methods of the Secret Demon Sect. I've practiced the Buddhist Nirvana Seal, so how could I forget the specialty skills of my past."

"Secret Demon No Self, Immortal Slaying, and Demon Cleansing; the latter two don't need refining, they accumulate and brew automatically, ready to be unleashed directly when the time is right."

"Refining God Technical is also not necessary at the moment, so that leaves only the Summoning Demon Technique."

At this thought, Tao Qian's eyes immediately lit up.

Without delay, he prepared the Three Classics: the Ten Thousand Demon List, the Heavenly Demon Blood Transformation Pill, and the Corpse Evil Worm. His Primordial Spirit leapt into the Secret Acupoint, smiling,

"Just in time, now that I'm at the Foundation Establishment Realm, I can summon even higher-level, rarer Demons. Best to stock up in advance, so I don't find myself out of stock when needed."

At this moment, if there had been any Outer Realm Heaven Demons nearby, hearing Tao Qian's words, they would probably be weeping bitterly.

This Human Clan Cultivator was more demonic than the Demons themselves.

...

The next day, Ascending Immortal Island was bustling with liveliness.

Suddenly a deep Demon Light surged out from within the Spiritual Resonance Cave Mansion, speeding like thunder, causing a great disturbance as it skimmed over the sea towards the distant, majestic Golden Radiance Island.

But just after it had flown a few dozen li, Tao Qian's voice complaining could be heard from within the Demon Light:

"Not good, not good!"

"This Decree Demon may be rare and quick in Subterranean Evasion Speed, but it's nowhere near as comfortable or convenient as Star Zha. It's shaking so much it makes my back and waist sore, needlessly suffering."

"Let's switch back, switch back."

Chapter 265: Lingmu Holy Embryo, Ten Thousand Treasures Immortal Cliff

Somewhere in the Penglai Sea, a heavy demon light burst open, and two figures fell out.

One, of course, was Master Tao, and the other was an ugly but adorable Demon, its external form resembling a green-skinned little Evil Ghost, with a green face and tusks, a single horn growing on its forehead, dressed in impressive and imposing armor, with command flags inserted at its back, and its large crimson eyes desperately trying to exude an air of dignity, almost like a little general rather than an Outer Realm Demon.

Unfortunately, it indeed was a Demon, not only rare but also of a high ranking.

In the "Ten Thousand Demon List," it ranked higher than the Substitute Demon, Illusion Demon, and Star Zha Demon Tao Qian had previously summoned with great effort.

With Tao Qian's current cultivation level, actually, he could summon Outer Realm Demons like the Power Demon, Eye Demon, Death Demon, among others, all of which have no small uses.

Take, for example, the Power Demon, with infinite strength, a few could be used to open mountains and dig mines, but because of the Power Demon's wild and untamable nature, fierce and brutal, it could easily tear the summoner apart to drink their blood and eat their flesh at any given movement. Lan Qing'er, the female Evil Cultivator, had a hard time summoning a few and even had to offer up her own fair flesh to please and barely control them.

If Tao Qian were to take action himself, it would, of course, be effortless.

First, summon them over, then a hit with the Secret Demon Seal Hammer to make them behave, followed by feeding them some Heavenly Demon Blood Transformation Pills with added ingredients—a procedure he was already well-versed in, with zero chance of failure.

However, Tao Qian deemed the Power Demon too common and last night, after sifting through the list, he finally chose a very rare one.

This Demon, named Decree!

It was extremely fast, akin to lightning dashing across the sky, but Tao Qian, who had just experienced it, made the assessment: Whether it's speed or comfort, it couldn't compare to Star Zha.

However, Subterranean Evasion Speed was only one of the unimpressive abilities of Decree Demon. In the past, Cultivators from the Secret Demon Sect who had the luck to tame one would never use it to manipulate Evasion Light; that would be akin to a grievous wastage.

Decree Demon had two main uses.

First, it could change the inherent cognition of other Life forms, equivalent to issuing a new law or decree in someone's mind. Although the effectiveness varied depending on factors such as the number of beings, the presence of cultivation, and so on, if the target was merely Mortals, then Tao Qian controlling this Demon would be enough to command tens of thousands of people.

For instance, back in Seeking Immortal County, Tao Qian could let this Demon infiltrate the hearts of the populace, announcing decrees like "Tao Qian is the Emperor," and upon awakening, the people would truly believe him to be the Emperor.

As long as Tao Qian was willing to provide the Mana to maintain it, the effect of the Decree could continue indefinitely.

Of course, it would be a different matter with Cultivators, especially High-level cultivators; the effect was extremely weak, almost non-existent.

The second use was as a medium for substitution. Whether it was Daoist, Demon, Buddha, or Devil, or those from some noble clans, Side Doors and Heterodox paths, they all have something akin to 'Summoning God' Divine Skills, it's just that the mediums and methods used by each path differ. If they found themselves without the necessary spiritual materials for use, the Decree Demon could come in handy.

If Tao Qian wanted to use the Spirit Treasure Summoning God Method to call upon ancestors, immortals, Divine Generals, and the like, but found himself without talismans or Spiritual Artifacts, Decree Demon could temporarily suffice, and the effect was not bad, although after a single use, the Decree Demon would weaken a bit. After several uses, it would dissipate.

"What a good Demon, truly as rare as they say."

"But for Escape Skill, we still need to rely on Star Zha."

Tao Qian muttered to himself inwardly.

Then he took out the Demon Gourd, gave it a shake, and summoned the Star Zha child.

Upon seeing each other, the two little Demons exchanged looks and saw in each other's eyes intense criticism.

Being Outer Realm Demons, they could directly perceive each other's Demon Thoughts without speaking.

"It's your turn, Little Qingtong, this damn Human Clan Cultivator thinks I'm too crude, but if Thunder Escape Technique isn't crude, how can it be fast? So unreasonable."

"Get used to it, Master here only talks sense when he's desperately in need of our help, promising one or two unadulterated Heavenly Demon Blood Transformation Pills... It's just unfortunate that those moments are also extremely dangerous for us, and even if we get the promise, we might not survive to enjoy it, many brothers have already died because of it, sadly."

"That bad? Isn't Master a Spirit Treasure Cultivator? Why does it sound like he's constantly beset with disasters?"

"Sigh, disasters are ominous, Master here is even more ominous. Who told us to be driven by greed back then, to have eaten his Heavenly Demon Blood Transformation Pills, it's too late for regrets."

"Little Qingtong, you better be careful, after all, this place is Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, extremely perilous for us Demons."

"I came here before you and know all this. It's also unbelievably strange, Master here uses the Secret Demon Sect's Method so openly within the Mountain Gate; are those Spirit Treasure Immortals all blind, can't they see the suspicion that he's a Secret Demon Dark Child?"

Watching the two little Demons still exchanging glances and Demon Thoughts murmuring,

Tao Qian could guess, these little ones were communicating their thoughts about the unscrupulous Master.

His face darkened, the Demon Gourd shook again, and the cute little general-like Decree Demon was put away. Then he shot a sideways glance at the Star Zha child.

He had captured many Star Zha Demons, but the one before him was the most sincere, and Tao Qian also liked to command him the most.

A mere eight hundred miles, Tao Qian could actually reach quickly using his own Auspicious Cloud Skill.

But ever since he got the Nine Toad Bead, he had become a little bit lazier.

A moment later, a streak of starlight swept over the sea, heading straight for a majestic Immortal Island, passing over serene and secluded scenery, rugged Immortal Mountains, and numerous layers of Immortal Palaces and Jade Halls.

As the light faded, Tao Qian's figure reappeared deep within the Golden Radiance Arena, in the Observatory Hall.

Ahead, on the main seat of the Observatory Hall, the disheveled Duobao Daoist was lying in an undignified half-sprawled position.

"Disciple pays respects to Master!"

Just as Tao Qian stepped forward to greet him, before he could stand up again, a burst of radiance shot towards him.

Stopping in front, it quickly revealed itself to be an outside dusty-looking, with straps, and pear-shaped cloth bag.

A strong throb immediately assailed him.

Before Tao Qian could do anything, the voice of Duobao Daoist from the upper seat came:

"I have refined this treasure for you. Don't be deceived by its plain appearance, as the Spiritual Objects themselves are quite concealed."

"It can hold living beings, and can also contain dead matter."

"You possess low mana for now, but once you reach the Cavernous Mystery Realm, and re-nurture and coerce the birth of this treasure's artifact spirit, its full power can be unleashed," he explained. "You could throw in eight or ten cities, and it would still have room for hundreds of thousands of mortals. Moreover, once they're inside the bag, they would become limp and dazed within moments, unable to resist."

"And this treasure can give birth to strange persons, but due to an innate flaw, the strange persons it produces are also flawed... This function actually goes against nature and the heavens and comes at great cost. I fear that you can't afford it, which is why I've sealed it."

"However, should you have karma, you may visit the Infant Sect. Though it practices heterodoxy, its power isn't weak. There exists within the sect an Exotic Treasure that can repair this bag's flaw... Speaking of which, you sly one, you seem to have some karmic ties with a female fairy of the Infant Sect who has cultivated the Infant Mother Technique. Tsk, tsk, it seems you're in luck."

With these words, a wistful look appeared on Duobao Daoist's face.

After pondering for a moment, he added:

"Your fate truly is extraordinary. My junior sister, Lingmu, refined a Transcendent Dao Body above the common fray, a pity she perished in dire straits. In the end, it benefits you."

"But that's also good, it can be viewed as junior sister Lingmu continuing her existence in this world in another form."

"This treasure has yet to be named; you may choose the name yourself."

As Duobao finished speaking, Tao Qian, after offering a salute, took the clearly Exotic Treasure cloth bag into his hands.

Immediately, a Record flashed through his mind, echoing Duobao's description without discrepancy.

After considering, Tao Qian bowed with his hands clasped and said, "This treasure shall be named 'Lingmu Holy Embryo Bag.'"

Hearing the name, Duobao immediately cracked a grin, and then his expression turned to one of approval, as if to say, "Well taught!"

After seeing Tao Qian stow away the Holy Embryo Bag, Duobao Daoist continued:

"Your journey to the Absolute Immortal Sea must have been fruitful. You now know what needs to be known and have experienced what needs to be experienced."

"The transmission of the Ancestor Master's Teachings is near, and you should choose a Refining Dao Foundation Technique."

"There are three methods. The Low Grade refines through materials from this endless world of wonders, of course I wouldn't make you find them yourself. I have an Outer Realm Strange Object called 'Ten Thousand Treasure Cliff' which is perfect for you to use to transcend mortality."

"The Middle Grade refines through celestial signs and wonders, this method is generally quite difficult, but you've come at an auspicious time. The Sect's upcoming 'Ten Thousand Immortals' event will have the Sect Master and the Second Generation Ancestors summon the Ancestor Master's divine image. You practice the Cultivating Spirit Treasure Skill, have an Innate Dao Seed, and a Taishang No Leaking Body... Using the celestial signs present at the Ancestor Master's arrival to transcend mortality would be most fitting."

After explaining these two methods, Duobao paused before revealing the third.

Instead, he pondered for a bit, then spoke again, "Whether you choose the Lower or Middle Methods, the necessary treasures and techniques have already been prepared by your master. Whichever you select, your Dao Foundation can be refined quickly, perfectly advancing you to the Realm of Transcend Mortality, not only enhancing your mana tremendously but also granting you one or two rare Divine Skills."

To be honest, the two methods Duobao offered were superb.

Especially the first method, although Duobao hadn't said it outright.

But Tao Qian knew that this 'Ten Thousand Treasure Cliff' was a treasure Duobao Daoist highly valued.

His willingness to use it for Tao Qian's transcendence indicated, to a certain extent, that he was nurturing Tao Qian as his successor.

If he chose this method, he simply had to cultivate steadily.

After many years, he, Tao Da, would be the new True Monarch, the new head of the Duobao lineage.

It would stand to reason that Tao Qian should be very excited. Yet strangely enough,

When he heard it, Tao Qian's heart and inspiration did not stir at all.

Tao Qian furrowed his brow and directly said,

"Master, please tell me about the third method. In the Absolute Immortal Sea, I met Uncle Li Changle."

"He said that you and Aunt Yunhua must have prepared for me the top-grade Refining Dao Foundation Technique. I am very curious about this top grade."

Tao Qian had thought that Duobao would have long accounted for these things, yet upon hearing this, an angry look immediately flashed across his bearded face.

With a smack, he hit his thigh forcefully and bellowed:

"I knew there was a moment of stagnation when calculating for you previously. It turns out that old... was playing tricks."

"Don't listen to that boozier's nonsense. Although the three methods are graded, in reality, they are just different paths. Only the method that fits oneself the best can be considered the best."

"The third method, also deemed top-grade, refines through everything under heaven and earth."

"It might sound profound, yet it's quite mundane and even more troublesome."

"If you choose this method, you can't stay at the Mountain Gate. You must go into the world."

"Moreover, once you enter the Mortal World, you will be wrapped in tribulation energy. Before you achieve Transcend Mortality, endless troubles and disasters beyond your imagination will entangle you."

"At that time, you will become a veritable 'star of calamity,' unable to find peace wherever you go."

As he heard this, Tao Qian's expression turned odd.

His mind couldn't help but retort directly: "What kind of third method is this? It's clearly a constant barrage of Three Calamities. If I choose this, it means without Transcend Mortality, calamities will never end. Isn't this scheme too malicious?"

While he pondered, suddenly Duobao Daoist's tone shifted, and he uttered words that surprised Tao Qian.

"The third method is indeed nasty and troublesome."

"But the advantages are indeed the most plentiful; aside from the Great Divine Power and great magical power you'll obtain when you transcend mortality,"

"There's an invisible, great benefit – your chances of breaking through to the Daoist Transformation Realm in the future will be higher than other cultivators."

Chapter 266: Dao Heart Perfection, The Secret of Absolute Tranquility

"The Nine Cultivation Realms, the higher one goes, the more tribulations there are."

"And the Daoist Transformation is itself a major checkpoint, with numerous tribulations and great terror. Not a single cultivator from the Ultimate Happiness Realm under the heavens dares to claim they can certainly make it through, not even your master,"

"However, if one chooses the Third Method, it will be much easier to endure through the Daoist Transformation Tribulation."

...

While Daoist Duobao was speaking, Tao Qian suddenly recalled a senior uncle's life that he had witnessed not long ago on Spiritual Tablet Island.

Master Wuxiang, Qin Jiao.

This senior uncle had achieved great feats and even supported the rise of a Founding Emperor.

He too had chosen the Third Method to refine his Dao Foundation, and had succeeded.

Yet in the end, he never ascended to the Daoist Transformation Realm and met his end in the Ultimate Happiness.

With this thought rising, Tao Qian pondered for a moment, then continued to ask:

"Master, while I was in the Absolute Immortal Sea, I accidentally stumbled upon Spiritual Tablet Island. Aunt Bai Yin, who guarded the island, perhaps out of respect for Master and Aunt Yunhua, allowed me to observe those spiritual tablets."

"One of the tablets belonged to a senior uncle ancestor called 'Qin Jiao.'"

"I have reviewed the life of Senior Uncle Qin Jiao, who used the Third Method and ascended to the Ultimate Happiness Realm in a short span of time, yet, in the end, the senior uncle failed to achieve Daoist Transformation."

"Is the Third Method necessarily reliant on using the kingdom's fortune to Transcend Mortality? It sounds like a shortcut; is that why Senior Uncle Qin Jiao lost his life?"

Hearing these questions from Tao Qian, Daoist Duobao revealed no surprise.

However, due to many errors in the understanding or other reasons, he first shook his head, then looked at Tao Qian with a strange gaze and said:

"Don't try to flatter me with nonsense, she informed me right after you made a deal with her."

"Aunt Bai Yin's nature is eccentric but honest. If she truly were not willing, it wouldn't matter if it was for me or Yunhua's sake, even if the Sect Master were to go, she would dare to refuse."

"Certainly, Bai Yin saw something in you to allow you onto the island and even helped you study the spiritual tablets by biting you. Others don't have such fortune, I wonder what's good about you? Yunhua is satisfied with you, and Bai Yin also looks at you with joy, very peculiar."

"However, you have quite the courage to agree to accompany her for twenty-four hours. I hope that by the time she calls upon you, you will have sufficient cultivation; otherwise, with your current frail form, I fear..."

Upon hearing this, Tao Qian felt uneasy.

Rash!

The so-called "boredom" and "companionship" of Bai Yin Immortal indeed had their ambiguities.

Just as Tao Qian was about to ask for clarification, Daoist Duobao seemed to be holding back laughter and waved his hand, saying: "Don't worry, it's nothing serious, and there's no great danger. Perhaps it's a fortunate opportunity. Just wait for it."

Having said that, Daoist Duobao then shifted the conversation and continued from where he left off:

"It's a pity about Disciple Qin Jiao; he was indeed a talent in the true sense. Even the Sect Master thought he could smoothly step into the Daoist Transformation Realm and further strengthen our Spirit Treasure Sect."

"Yet, he was too greedy."

"After he used the Third Method to Transcend Mortality and received many benefits, had he returned to the sect to cultivate and slowly assimilate, he could have entered Ultimate Happiness without any trouble."

"But Qin Jiao was eager for quick success and unwilling to give up the fortune that came with supporting the dynasty, and he re-entered the world. Although this allowed him to ascend to Cavernous Mystery within just a decade, it also exhausted the potential benefits of his Transcend Mortality, short-sighted and over-exploiting... Even then, it would have been fine; by returning to cultivation, he still had a great chance of stepping into Daoist Transformation."

"Yet he made another mistake by listening to the wiles of that deceitful Emperor, foolishly attempting some drama of enduring hardships in hopes of defying fate, and turned against a group of Alchemists who were Parasites within the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty."

"At that time, the Ancestor God Forbidden Technique was still in effect, and even though he ascended to Ultimate Happiness in fifty years, faster than I did, those groups of alchemists had no ordinary background."

"He, along with that deceitful Emperor and the Qin Family, were merely tilting at windmills, fruitless."

"His master was also one of our Second Generation Ancestors of our sect, and he tried to save him multiple times but was too late."

"He really courted death, so I just let him go."

At this point, Daoist Duobao seemed angry.

After a pause, he then seriously continued:

"That Third Method, troublesome and unpleasant it may be, yet it is one of the Spirit Treasure Sect's sublime methods for refining the Dao Foundation, certainly not a shortcut, and the benefits are immense."

"But no matter how many benefits there are, they can't withstand the waste like that of disciples Qin Jiao."

"If you choose this method, with your talent and ability, Transcending Mortality should be no issue, but after you receive those many benefits, make sure not to follow in your Senior Uncle Qin Jiao's footsteps. A talent is a talent, but his character was flawed."

From these somewhat long-winded and rambling words, Tao Qian didn't find it hard to sense the complexity in Daoist Duobao's feelings toward Master Wuxiang.

Admiring his talent, yet despising his greed.

At the same time, he also understood that the Third Method, classified as top-grade, did indeed possess tremendous advantages.

Just cultivate, and succeed.

Then one would definitely be able to enter Cavernous Mystery, have a high probability to reach Ultimate Happiness, and a greater chance to step into the Daoist Transformation Realm compared to other cultivators.

However, there was a condition: don't court death, and don't be greedy.

Tao Qian pondered to himself, the former wasn't easy to say, but he excelled at the latter.

He knew well that when Li Changle earlier tried to tempt him with the ancient treasure "Heavenly Heart Soul Separation Square," Tao Qian had sent it flying back with a strike of sword light. Any other cultivator would have accepted it with joy long before.

However, as it pertained to crucial matters on the path of cultivation, Tao Qian did not immediately respond to his master after hearing the details of the Third Method.

Instead, his brows furrowed, he apologized, and then sat down in the Observatory Hall to meditate and ponder carefully.

"If I choose the lower or middle two methods, I can reach Transcend Mortality in a short period, and it seems the future is promising."

"But both of these methods somehow incite my resistance, going against my heart's desire," Tao Qian mused. As he pondered, he seemed to have touched upon some kind of key acupoint.

Suddenly, the various energies within him burst forth.

First, there was the fortune of the Human Dao from Southern Yue, which had entered his body long ago and remained dormant for a while. In a trance, he saw a multitude of unclear images, and he could faintly hear the wailing of all people, as if the final battle of Southern Yue was replaying in his mind.

Then came the Innate Spiritual Resonance Sensing granted by Xie Lingji. Tao Qian had never used it, but now it was indeed stirring, providing obscure guidance from the unknown.

Lastly, it was an inspiration from Tao Qian himself, a sudden surge of passion without reason.

In the blink of an eye, Tao Qian realized the choice his heart had made.

"Choosing the Third Method might bring regrets in the future,"

"But if I choose either of the first two, I find them dull right now, making my Dao path lose its shine."

"So that's what it is... Is this what it means to have a damaged Dao Foundation? Uncle Li Changle succumbed to the temptation of easy pleasures and chose the wrong path," he thought.

As this thought settled,

the energies that had erupted within Tao Qian all quieted down.

Without Tao Qian speaking a word, Duobao Daoist at the head of the table seemed to have seen through his choice with a glance.

There was neither sigh nor praise.

Just with a flick of his finger, a burst of Spirit Light suddenly burrowed into Tao Qian's body.

"Since you have made your choice, you shall bear the consequences,"

"This is the 'Spirit Treasure Unlimited Tribulation Crossing Technique.' The Mountain Gate does not permit you to cultivate this, lest it brings disaster straightaway and causes trouble, not to me as your master, but it could turn your Ascending Immortal Island into a complete mess,"

"Thus, it will first be sealed within the secret acupoint of your Sea of Consciousness. It will unravel on its own once you leave the Mountain Gate,"

"With this technique as a guide, when the True Inheritor's meeting for the Ancestor Master's Teachings takes place, you can reap great benefits."

After imparting the Magic Skill and saying this,

the Duobao Daoist did not keep Tao Qian any longer. It seemed he lost the mood to chat further and, without another word, directly threw the details of the True Inheritor's meeting and the Ten Thousand Immortals meeting, among other miscellaneous matters, into a thought and cast it to Tao Qian, then promptly drove him out of the Golden Radiance Arena.

However, the last few murmurings revealed a bit of the Duobao Daoist's inner thoughts.

"Go and rest! Go and rest!"

"You're clearly a sly youngster. You could have picked the perfectly good Ten Thousand Treasures Cliff, or to witness the Ancestor God show their saintly presence, but instead you chose the most troublesome one,"

"Oh well, since you've chosen, so be it. But, for heaven's sake, don't follow in Qin Jiao's footsteps,"

"If you do, I, Duobao, will not scheme and struggle to rescue you like Uncle Ji did,"

"It's not easy taking on a disciple, and before I've had my fun with you, off you run back to the Mortal World. Don't you see what times we live in... If you really cause a disaster, am I, an old bone, supposed to wield the Heavenly Punishment Sword and fight your battles? What a loss, what a loss."

...

Outside the Golden Radiance Arena, Tao Qian bowed to his master from afar, and then, with a complex expression on his face, he left the place.

This time, he did not summon the Star Zha Demon. Instead, he called upon an auspicious cloud and slowly made his way to his own Ascending Immortal Island.

On the way, he first digested the decision he had made.

He harbored no thoughts of regret; instead, after making the choice, he felt rather exhilarated, as if his Dao Heart had reached perfection.

Thinking it over, he then digested the rules and details of the True Inheritor's meeting and the Ten Thousand Immortals meeting.

The rest was fine, but the information related to the "Absolute Conflict" at the Ten Thousand Immortals meeting made Tao Qian's complexion change, showing a look of astonishment.

"In seven days, when the celestial stars return to their positions, the Spirit Treasure Sect will hold the True Inheritor's meeting,"

"Followed closely by the Ten Thousand Immortals meeting,"

"At that time, the Spirit Treasure Ten Thousand Immortals will gather to pay homage to the Ancestor God,"

"Those who see no hope in their Dao path will be summoned by the Ancestor God, ascending on the spot to the Outer Realm... to fight the Outer Realm's Mutated and Divine Spirits, struggling for a slim chance of survival,"

Tao Qian's expression was quite complicated at this moment.

This shocking secret revealed much, answering many previous doubts.

Why is it called the Absolute Conflict?

Why is it that talents like Master Wan Mo and Uncle Qin Jiao, despite participating in the Absolute Conflict, still end up dead with no remains?

Why would the Spirit Treasure Eight Immortals be poisoned with the Corpse Poison of some Outer Realm god, undergoing a mutated transformation into such a state?

It turned out that it was not an internal fight between the Spirit Treasure Immortals.

"Absolute Conflict" means competing against the Outer Realm's Mutated and Divine Spirits.

Describing it as a slim chance of survival couldn't be more accurate.

After learning all this, Tao Qian inexplicably wanted to turn back to the Golden Radiance Arena and ask his master,

"Has there ever been a successful precedent for the Absolute Conflict in the Ten Thousand Immortals meeting?"

Chapter 267: Three-legged Golden Toad disperses wealth, Tao Qian will host the Immortal Peach Banquet

Tao Qian rode upon an auspicious cloud, leisurely circling back to his own Ascending Immortal Island.

Nowadays, whenever his name, Master Tao, was mentioned within the mountain gate, there were always some clever folks who likened him to Duobao True Monarch in their younger days, claiming their thick-skinned and dark-hearted tactics were identical.

These comments, passed through the beaks of Nursing Woman Bird Demons, incessantly reached his ears and sparked Tao Qian's endless complaints.

How were they similar?

Look at Duobao Daoist's Golden Radiance Arena, cold and dark, inhabited only by a solitary old man, devoid of any other life forms.

Then look at his, Master Tao's Ascending Immortal Island, lively and extraordinary, a scene right out of an immortal's abode.

Add to that the relationships he established with heirs of the Eight Immortals Island, including Master Taixuan, Xuu Xun, and others who all praised him highly.

And if Tao Qian's upcoming Immortal Peach Banquet, and the secret side effects of those juicy Longevity Immortal Peaches were considered... setting aside everything else, his reputation within the sect in the future was bound to be top-notch.

At that thought, Tao Qian immediately grinned.

"This is already right, harmoniously cultivating the Great Dao together, just as I envisioned for a cultivation atmosphere."

"That kind from Southern Yue? Well, it's heresy."

While complaining, Tao Qian's cloud descended right in front of the stone cliff of the Spiritual Resonance Cave.

Zhong Doudou, Jiushou, Tao Changshou, Sha Nu'er, and others, foreseeing his summons, had already gathered to wait.

The moment he landed, Tao Qian immediately instructed that the Immortal Peach Banquet, set just two days ahead, be prepared by them.

Tao Qian gave only a few pointers before heading straight to the highest peak of the Immortal Mountain.

He had now verified that wearing the Nine Toad Bead indeed made him lazy, even though this was after waiving some of the consequences.

"If I couldn't waive them at all, wouldn't I become another Master Jade Toad."

"Both lazy and fat, potbellied... better to become rugged like my Master, at least that's a bit more domineering."

Tao Qian muttered to himself.

Meanwhile, as he still could struggle and resist the delaying thoughts, he planned to refine both the Nine Toad Bead and the Lingmu Holy Embryo Bag, two Exotic Treasures, as soon as possible.

Yes, even Exotic Treasures were not just ready immediate use upon acquisition.

Each treasure almost always needed proper ritualization and nurturing.

If one wanted to unleash a treasure's true power, even more effort was necessary, such as fostering a new Artifact Spirit, a process measured in years.

If lucky, a decade or some decades.

If unlucky, it might take a century to breed a new Artifact Spirit.

"Now, I possess three Exotic Treasures: Buddha Bird Relics, Nine Toad Bead, and Holy Embryo Bag, each extraordinary."

"For now, the Buddha Bird Relics are the strongest, and I've already refined them with the Nirvana Seal."

"Only the Nine Toad Bead and the Holy Embryo Bag are still somewhat unfamiliar... refining them early is good, lest I return to society with no treasures to use."

"Three treasures in hand, plus I can borrow mana from Lingbao Tianzun, ordinary Cavernous Mystery cultivators are probably insufficient adversaries, except for those from major sects and that's a bit troublesome."

"But better not to fight if possible, borrowed mana has to be returned, who would have thought Lingbao Tianzun also acted as a lender?"

With the last thought, Tao Qian successfully resisted the lazy ideas and sat cross-legged at the highest point of Yunhua Immortal Mountain.

Gazing down upon Ascending Immortal Island, a surge of tremendous vigor arose within him.

He instantly summoned the "Nine Toad Bead," not caring that Master Jade Toad was still asleep within, and immediately began its refinement.

After setting the date for the Immortal Peach Banquet, invitations were quickly sent out.

It wasn't long before the entire Sect knew of this event, though it was not uncommon for a disciple or an elder from the Spirit Treasure Sect to hold a banquet.

But Tao Qian and Ascending Immortal Island were different.

Besides being the first of its kind, his status as a major disciple of the Duobao Lineage and the enticing Immortal Plant Spirit Root of the Longevity Immortal Peach played a role, and suddenly every True Disciple praised Master Tao of Ascending Immortal Island, all planning to attend the banquet on that day.

Thus, it slightly turned into a grand affair.

Usually, only famous elders or talents like Master Taixuan, Xuu Xun, could muster such a spectacle for their banquets.

For Tao Qian to achieve this easily upon his arrival was indeed astounding, and many disciples were now inquiring about how to secure an invitation.

Being able to attend that banquet would not only allow one to enjoy the rare and delicious Longevity Immortal Peach, which could enhance cultivation and fortune, but also to meet all True Disciples of this generation.

Who could refuse such a good thing?

The Spirit Treasure Sect, after all, was a Daoist Great Sect without discrimination, and Tao Qian joining under Duobao right away could be said to be an ascension to the heavens.

Little did it know that inside this mountain gate, there were actually many more ordinary disciples.

He thought it was just a banquet, yet unaware that it soon fermented into an event that could verify one's identity and status.

Even the banquets stirred up some commotion, let alone Tao Qian's Refining Treasure that also caused not a small stir.

...

About a dozen hours later, night fell.

In the territory of Ascending Immortal Island, on the surface, there seemed to be no change, but any Cultivator with slightly sensitive perception could immediately sense that the vicinity of Immortal Island was "ambushed" by numerous creatures.

There were Human Clan Cultivators, as well as numerous Devils and Alien Species similar to Nursing Woman Bird Demons.

Just see outside the island amidst the vast clouds, several Immortal Cranes and Crane Deer Essences, Flower Demon Butterfly Charms, and even Heavenly Girl Demon Foxes and other auspicious Spirit Beasts were also positioned in various directions, their odd-shaped faces mostly showing excitement, occasionally peeking through the clouds to see any changes above the island.

Looking further, the outer sea of the island with rugged black reefs concealed numerous fish, shrimp, turtles, and toads from nearby Immortal Islands, and within those churning waves, several Jiao Dragon Spiritual Carps or other water-related Spirit Beasts occasionally raised their heads to gaze towards Yunhua Immortal Mountain.

Chapter 268: The Three-legged Golden Toad Scatters Treasure Money, Tao Qian is about to Hold the Immortal Peach Banquet_2

Aside from these spirit monster cultivators, there were also some Human Clan Cultivators who, through the use of Divine Power, had hidden their forms. These cultivators all came from the Big Islands of Bibo and Qingping, and they were all low-ranking disciples.

Although the resources were much more abundant than those of the disciples from smaller sects, they could not compare with a bunch of True Inheritors or disciples favored by their Masters. Therefore, if they could get some free opportunities and benefits, they wouldn't care about their dignity and had hurried over from afar.

However, not everyone here was hiding. Two groups of Alien Species were unashamedly revealing themselves.

One group was those Nursing Woman Bird Demons.

The second was a group of charming and full-of-Immortal Qi, Spiritual Foxes.

Both sides looked down on each other and occupied two opposing clouds, bickering across the distance.

As they argued, tempers started to rise.

One of the leading Spiritual Foxes transformed into a lightly-dressed young girl, still retaining her fuzzy ears and tail, and with a shake, she suddenly jumped up and exclaimed,

"You flat-feathered freaks, this is Ascending Immortal Island, not your Nursing Woman Bird Cliff. When was it your turn to boss us around?"

No sooner had she finished speaking than a chorus of agreement came from behind and all around her.

"That's right, that's right. We only ever heard about Master Tao keeping a bunch of Crystal Demons, plus a group of Dragon Species Demonic Species, and a clan of Merfolk. Never heard of anything to do with you loud-mouthed freaks."

"Master Tao has been refining that Immortal Treasure for dozens of hours, and every half an hour, there would be Sun and Moon Essence, gold coins, and such spewing out in all directions. True Master is so generous to let us wait here, where those with fortune can find treasures. When was it your turn, Nursing Woman Bird Demons, to make a fuss about it?"

"That's right, True Master is a great disciple of the Duobao Lineage; so generous, he surely deserves lots of treasures and Longevity."

"It's said that you shameless Bird Demons took advantage of True Master's absence from the island, deceived that silly Dou Dou, and allowed yourselves to eat quite a few Longevity Immortal Peaches, already taking such a huge advantage. And yet you still compete with us hard-luck folks for blessings and benefits?"

One by one, these accusations managed to shift the momentum towards denouncing the Nursing Woman Bird Demons.

The group of Female Demons on the cloud was so infuriated that their chests heaved and they struggled to speak fluently, only managing to utter "coo coo coo" sounds.

After a while, the leading Female Demon managed to speak up, retorting,

"Who... who stopped you from picking up the blessings and benefits."

"It's none of your business. We're only arguing with these flirty foxes. Master clearly didn't invite you, and yet you came on your own. Isn't that shameful?"

Just as she finished, the White Fox girl raised her small head and immediately snapped back,

"Pah! Our Princess Bai Yao heard that Tao Master wanted to host the Immortal Peach Banquet and knew that he was understaffed on the island, so she specially sent us over to help."

"You big-mouths love to pry into other's secrets, so you must be aware of the relationship between our Princess and Master Tao, right?"

The final blow was quite deadly, forcing the Nursing Woman Bird Demons to huddle together, whispering and discussing.

"This is bad; we're going to lose the argument. Those flirty foxes have support."

"Princess Bai Yao is a registered disciple of Yunhua Immortal, and Master has always been esteemed by Yunhua Immortal; it's normal for the two of them to have some relationship."

"I know that Princess Bai Yao met with Master before. Could it be that they saw eye to eye from that meeting?"

"I don't believe it. Bai Yao may look fine, but she's not worthy of my Master... coo coo coo!"

After some deliberation, the Nursing Woman Bird Demons came up with a new argument and were about to return to quarrel with the Spiritual Foxes.

However, unexpectedly, at that moment, a sudden change occurred.

"Quack!"

A very pleasant scream suddenly resounded throughout Ascending Immortal Island and its surroundings.

Then, a massive, mountain-like, Three-legged Golden Toad leaped up and took a fierce suck at the moon hanging high in the sky.

Instantly, an incredibly vast moonlight showered down, and as it approached Ascending Immortal Island, it all turned into Jade Liquid, pouring directly into the toad's mouth.

The Golden Toad's belly, already large, swelled immediately and emitted a ten-thousand-foot Golden Light. From a distance, the entire Ascending Immortal Island looked like a pot filled with treasures; in the center, the Golden Toad screamed, and the fortune and treasure aura from all directions came pouring in.

Upon seeing this scene, those spirit monster cultivators around the Immortal Island couldn't be bothered to care about the squabble between the Nursing Woman Bird and the Spiritual Foxes anymore.

All of them raised their heads, their eyes wide open, and their breathing became more rapid.

In the next moment, everyone watched as the Golden Toad's belly swelled to its limit.

"Quack!"

Suddenly, there was another scream.

And then, he saw the Three-legged Golden Toad suddenly open its mouth, spewing out a vast amount of golden radiance, scattering in all directions.

Most of this radiance consisted of gold ingots as large as a human brain, along with copper coins touched by the aura of fortune and wealth, amidst which were also mixed some Treasure Beads and Jades condensed from moonlight...

Because these objects were infused with the aura of wealth, treasure, and fortune, they would be considered rare treasures anywhere in the Cultivation World.

Take those copper coins for instance; casually gathering a dozen or so, one wouldn't need to fuss over ritual refinement and casting, and could directly string them into a Money Sword capable of slaying demons and gathering fortune.

In the outside world, enough to incite skirmishes amongst numerous Loose Cultivators.

Yet here, they fell like sweet rain in all directions.

For a time, various spirit monster cultivators were busy collecting their bounty.

Oddly, the scene was unexpectedly harmonious and orderly, without any chaos or bloodshed.

Every now and then, one could even hear these little spirits and Little Cultivators discussing amongst themselves:

"Master Tao truly is a generous man, the rumors are true."

"Indeed, let me quietly tell you, my master is a servant beside Master Yan Demon, and he once told me: even such a stern and imposing figure as Master Yan Demon, upon returning from the Absolute Immortal Sea, spoke highly of Master Tao in a rare occurrence, praising his vast Divine Power and pleasant nature, a man worth befriending."

"My sister is a Maid of Master Yang Jie, and she also told me that Master Yang Jie has repeatedly praised Master Tao as no ordinary man."

"That's nothing, I've heard an even more outrageous rumor; it's said that during the recent Absolute Immortal Sea True Inheritor trial, Master Tao had acted to save Master Xuu Xun's life."

"Hiss!"

"Is that true?"

"A lie, surely, if Master Xuu Xun was in danger, anyone trying to save him would be seeking death."

"I didn't believe it at first either, but later I heard that these words were indeed spoken by Master Xuu Xun himself."

"Alas, I heard that Duobao True Monarch suddenly took a Foundation Establishment Realm Disciple, and we were all quite dissatisfied. Merely Foundation Establishment, we are too, why don't we have such blessing... Now, seeing Master Tao's various Divine Powers, it's clear we had been ignorant, being noticed by a True Monarch is truly beyond comparison to ordinary people."

"That's you, I never thought so, I too was once a Loose Cultivator from the wilderness, and it was by using the Three Calamities Method that I managed to enter the Mountain Gate. I barely survived the first Calamity using a cunning method. If you had heard about how Master Tao resisted the Three Calamities, you would know, he is certainly no ordinary man."

"Tomorrow on Ascending Immortal Island, there will be an Immortal Peach Banquet, it's said that eating the Longevity Immortal Peach not only extends one's lifespan but also increases one's fortune and destiny. Such Immortal Fruit, if one could taste even a single piece, tsk tsk, it must be indescribably wonderful."

...

While everyone was collecting treasures, the Three-legged Golden Toad, shrouded in ten thousand feet of Golden Light and having finished dispensing wealth, suddenly retracted.

It transformed back into a glittering golden Treasure Bead and returned to the top of Immortal Mountain.

"Done."

Tao Qian, who had been sitting in meditation for hours, now opened his eyes.

He reached out his hand and cradled the newly refined Nine Toad Bead in his palm.

Although he had been Refining Treasure for such a long time, and although he was far from giving birth to an Artifact Spirit, Tao Qian had now initially mastered the Nine Toad Bead. He was able to utilize many of its marvelous functions.

At this moment, if Tao Qian wished, he could make the Toad Bead larger than a mountain and absorb all the ingots and coins that had been spewed out earlier, along with the essence of the sun and the moon.

However, the current scene around Ascending Immortal Island was precisely what he had allowed, and naturally, he would not do something so miserly.

With a smile, Tao Qian put away the Toad Pearl.

Just as the treasures around him were almost all picked up, Tao Qian finally spoke, his voice reaching all around:

"If everyone is satisfied, you may leave now. I still have to refine another treasure, but this one will not spew out sun and moon essences or gold coins. Instead, it might bring some inconvenience and harm, and it would be regrettable if it affected any of you."

The moment Tao Qian's words were spoken, an extremely magnificent scene unfolded:

The previously hidden Crane Deer Essences, Flower Demon Butterfly Charms, Heavenly Girl Demon Foxes, Fish, shrimp, turtles, and toads, Jiao Dragon Spiritual Carps... along with the Disciples of the Lingbao from the lower ranks, all appeared at once, amidst clouds and waves, too numerous to count.

Having received many benefits from Tao Qian, they now appeared, thanked him with a bow, and then, without reluctance, dispersed in tacit agreement.

Watching this scene, Tao Qian mused:

"The Toad Pearl distributes wealth, dispensing many fine items yet also creating many good fortunes."

"No wonder the refining went so smoothly, delightful indeed."

Chapter 269: Taixuan Makes a Solemn Promise, The Son of Heaven Suddenly Passes Away

Tao Qian, having crafted the Nine Toad Bead, had spent over a dozen hours as the Master of Wealth. After another day passed,

it was not yet the appointed hour when Ascending Immortal Island was already bustling with activity.

For many years, this Immortal Island had been desolate until it suddenly burst with such a tremendous life force, making many Spirit Treasure Cultivators who happened to pass by feel somewhat unaccustomed. However, they soon remembered that this Immortal Island had changed hands and now belonged to a new owner of no small reputation.

Today was the day Ascending Immortal Island would host the Immortal Peach Banquet.

The Merfolk leader known as "Sha Nu'er," having won Tao Qian's favor, had led a group of Merfolk to rise in status. They moved from the perilous Black Reef Water Cave into the Dragon Marsh Water Mansion, becoming neighbors with a group of Dragon Species Demons.

In the past, these brash Dragon Demons had often bullied them. But now, even "Jiushou," who carried the bloodline of both a True Dragon and the Nine-Headed Beast, would affectionately call out to her as "little sister Sha Nu'er" and give her blessings from time to time.

For previously, a mere glance from him meant certain humiliation and mockery, and the reason she had not been devoured was simply that he found her too skinny, not worth getting stuck in his teeth.

Though Sha Nu'er was physically weak, her wisdom and ambition were not.

She was very clear about who the real support for her people's rise in status was, not to mention that she had thereby obtained a Basic Method called "Quanxian Jellyfish Technique."

Thus, aware of the opportunity to serve the new master, she got up early that day.

Leading a group of Merfolks, she donned a woven silken dress, each assuming a pleasing human form.

One part was to receive guests; the other was to collect Merfolk Pearl Spirit Shells for decorating various Cave Mansions and palaces.

She was quite delighted with this task, for in the past her branch of the Merfolk Clan had been nothing more than Low Grade devil slaves, living in the rock water caves. With the death of the Lingji Fairy and the island being left without a master, they had even less status to speak of, eventually mutating into a Fallen species of demons.

Had the True Master not arrived, perhaps one day a passing Disciple might have taken a dislike to them and simply cut them down with a sword, a possibility not beyond imagination.

In addition to her, among those tasked with reception were young girls of the Crystal Demon Clan and the Qingqiu Fox Clan.

Within the Penglai Sea, there are countless Devil and Alien Species, each with its hierarchy. The Crystal Demon Clan and the Qingqiu Fox Clan undoubtedly belonged to top-grade groups, especially the Crystal Demon Clan, which usually resided within the Star Membrane Secret Realm, with only a few like Zhong Doudou occasionally coming out to play, greatly adored by numerous female fairies.

Nowadays, many in the Spirit Treasure Sect were convinced that the True Master would be the future leader of the Duobao Lineage, one reason being that the True Monarch had bestowed the Crystal Demon Clan upon the True Master.

Having learned Water Manipulation Technique from the strange Quaxian Jellyfish Technique, Sha Nu'er called forth a stream of Bibo to ride up into the clouds. Under the guidance of Zhong Doudou, now acting as a female fairy in charge of Ascending Immortal Island's affairs, along with a Fox Girl named Bai Ning'er and a Nursing Woman Bird Demon named "Zhinu" who was fond of chattering, she welcomed dignitaries from all directions.

In just a few short hours, she felt she had greatly expanded her horizons.

First, she saw a group of current-generation True Inheritors of Spirit Treasure Sect, known for their great reputation, arriving one after another. Each carried an air of extraordinary dignity and could rightly be considered godly intermediates, led by Zhong Doudou to take their seats in the main hall of the Spiritual Resonance Cave.

Among the True Inheritors, Sha Nu'er was almost completely charmed by a female cultivator with snow-white skin and a blush on her face.

However, she did not dare to approach; with just one glance, Sha Nu'er felt a premonition of life and death.

She knew in her heart: if that woman wished her dead, it wouldn't require a movement, just a killing gaze would suffice.

She had heard about the woman's identity from the Nursing Woman Bird Demon; she was none other than Lu Fairy, the foremost female cultivator among this generation of Spirit Treasure Disciples, with a naturally born Golden Crow Method Body.

Apart from these seventeen distinguished True Inheritors, Sha Nu'er soon saw one after another young Disciple with considerable status within the sect.

There were handsome Daoists who rode deer, young female cultivators accompanied by immortal music, ancient-looking Sword Cultivators arriving on boat buildings, Array Cultivators... There were these normal ones, and of course, the extraordinary ones, such as Alien cultivators with the heads of animals and bodies of humans, Alien Species resembling Mountain Spirits and Ghosts, Deceitful Objects that looked like skeletons, Barbaric Giants... And many dignitaries who couldn't even be bothered to take human form, showed up in their original forms.

These young dignitaries were all backed by an Elder or other individuals of significant status from their respective sects.

The elders had a tacit understanding to treat the Immortal Peach Banquet as an occasion for Disciples to interact; none came to disturb the fun.

However, every disciple sent by their elders brought rich gifts, delighting the group of Crystal Demon Girls responsible for collecting gifts, who couldn't help but laugh out loud. Under the shine of the sun, they all shimmered brightly.

Although Sha Nu'er was an Alien Merfolk, after working hard for half a day, she felt exhausted.

Nevertheless, after finishing her duties, her face was filled with satisfaction.

"I lived so many years for nothing; only now do I witness the proper sight of the immortal's way."

"When Lingji Fairy was alive, though her status was not weaker than the True Master, the Fairy preferred solitude and quiet, rarely hosting such grand events."

"Just now, I even saw two Princes and Princesses; so exalted in the Mortal World, yet here at the Ascending Immortal Arena, they could only sit at the back, unable to squeeze into the front seats."

Muttering to herself, Sha Nu'er mustered her remaining energy, leading the Merfolks to serve as maids.

They moved delicacies and aromatic liquor, fragrant ales, and other fine beverages to the tables. Although it was called the Immortal Peach Banquet, it was not that they only served peaches to the guests.

...

Yunhua Immortal Mountain, Spiritual Resonance Cave.

Although many guests had come, no matter how many there were, this Cave Mansion with its layers of palaces had enough space to accommodate them all.

Tao Qian sat in the main hall, surrounded by a group of True Inheritors.

After the trip to the Absolute Immortal Sea, he easily gained the recognition of the other seventeen True Inheritors, and the four who had not participated in the battle against the Eight Immortals also heard the accounts upon their return.

Chapter 270: Taixuan Makes a Solemn Promise, The Son of Heaven Suddenly Passes Away_2

Although they had never truly battled, everyone knew from the murderous means Tao Qian had displayed

that among the eighteen, even if he didn't rank in the top tier, he could still hover around tenth place.

What's most terrifying is that he's merely at the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Above him in Cultivation Realm, all seventeen were ahead of Tao Qian, and admiring his temperament, they all wanted to share their experiences of transcending mortality with him.

Just this sharing alone brought them all a shocking piece of news.

"Junior Tao, did you just say you chose the Third Method to refine your Dao Foundation?"

True Inheritor Yang Jie furrowed his brow and spoke in surprise.

The rest, upon hearing this, also showed similar expressions.

Brother Ma Yuan, who had once accompanied Tao Qian on Eight Immortals Island, now showed his three heads and six arms while nibbling on Longevity Immortal Peaches, and with a look of astonishment, he said,

"The Third Method? When I wished to transcend mortality, Master had mentioned this method to me too; its benefits are immense, but so are its dangers, and it's exceedingly troublesome, especially since I've heard that without the protection of the Ancestor God Forbidden Techniques, the Mortal World is undergoing a great struggle, fraught with tribulations and dangers everywhere... Junior Tao, you've been a bit reckless this time."

Brother Huang Zhen, who had become close with Tao Qian and had refined the Mao Ri Dharma Form, also added,

"I had guessed that, with Master Duobao's rich treasure vault, Junior Tao would be able to transcend mortality quickly and increase his combat power."

"Who could have expected? Junior Tao chose the most difficult Refining Dao Foundation Method and has to re-enter the Mortal World; that's truly troublesome, so troublesome."

"I was saying we should often come to your Ascending Immortal Arena for fun in the future, these peaches are delicious, and the scenery of Flame Mountain is also beautiful... but you're saying you're heading out on a long journey, so I will eat a few more peaches before you leave."

After these two had spoken, most of the true inheritors nodded in agreement.

But including Yang Jie, among the top five, although they were also surprised, after some thought, they all looked at him with admiration and respect.

Yang Jie recalled Tao Qian's experiences and seemed to have an epiphany, nodding and saying, "Junior Tao has a compassionate heart and a grand vision; indeed, he may well change the course of heaven."

Master Yu Chen also agreed, saying, "Junior Tao is certainly no ordinary person."

Golden Crow Fairy, Senior Sister Lu, gazed at Tao Qian with even brighter eyes, saying, "I used a celestial omen to refine my Dao Foundation, I cannot compare with Junior Tao. I wish for Junior Tao to achieve his desires soon."

Master Yan Demon, Brother Wei, remained his usual self, and now looking at Tao Qian, he casually nodded and said, "Junior Tao, not bad."

After these four had spoken, there was Master Taixuan, who was once missing an arm, True Master Xu Xun, the big brother.

He also cast his gaze over and then very seriously said,

"Choices of the Dao Path depend on the individual, Junior Tao's selection following his heart is naturally top-notch and the most suitable for refining his practice."

"Junior Tao has astonishing talent, and his Divine Skills are not something ordinary people can compare to; if it were any other time, the Third Method wouldn't be difficult for Junior Tao, who would easily overcome and refine it."

"But now, the Mortal World is in its most chaotic state in two thousand years. Even someone like me, who cultivates in quiet within the Mountain Gate, has heard all kinds of things from my family's messengers; the forces involved now are countless, including Daoist Sects, Buddhist Temples, many heresies and heterodoxies, and secret Demon Sects... The Cultivation World can't avoid this tribulation and must become thoroughly involved."

"I hail from the Xu Family, which is a millennia-old noble house. Some elders wanted to use my status to woo the Spirit Treasure Sect, but they miscalculated and were flatly refused by me."

"However, Junior Tao, if you need help on your journey to the Mortal World, simply send word, and your elder brother will definitely come to assist you."

After saying this, everyone at the meeting, including Tao Qian, changed their expressions.

It was clear to all that this was a promise.

No one expected that Master Taixuan would suddenly make such a significant commitment.

It's known he had also refused his own family's requests for help, but now he was promising that if Tao Qian sent for him, he would rush over to help.

This favor was huge.

Tao Qian's expression changed; he was just about to speak in reassurance.

But then he saw Xu Xun raise a hand to stop him, continuing very seriously,

"Junior, don't say anything, what your elder brother desires is exactly this; how could you stop it?"

"The rest of you junior brothers and sisters needn't follow me; matters of cultivation are personal, and facing a Cultivation Tribulation is no small task."

"With the current surge of tribulation energy in the Mortal World, even if one or two Tribulation Immortals were to intervene, they would not avoid a fate of death and the extinguishing of their Dao."

"Not to mention you have only just transcended mortality; don't suddenly decide and then be unable to pay the price, vainly ruining your own Dao Path; don't forget the lessons learned from Senior Sister Lingji's past."

With that, Xuu Xun rarely displayed a stern expression.

These few words seemed to have truly convinced those true inheritors who wanted to casually promise to accompany Tao Qian.

The sound of Dao entered their ears, and everyone understood.

Perhaps Master Xuu Xun was offering this promise in return for a favor on Eight Immortals Island? Or might it be some other reason?

Regardless, the weight of this promise was too great.

Tao Qian thought for a moment, then merely held up a cup of Immortal Wine and thanked him, "Elder Brother has been considerate, younger brother is gratefully obliged."

No sooner had he finished speaking than Brother Ma Yuan, with a horse's head emerging from beneath a pile of Immortal Peaches, seemed to remember something; with three pairs of arms patting his three heads, he had a sudden realization,

"Junior Tao, since you've chosen the Third Method and are going into the world to face tribulations, you'll inevitably have dealings with the Imperial Family of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty."

"Just recently, two princes and princesses have arrived within our Mountain Gate."

"The prince has been accepted by Junior Master Mingxiao."

"The princess has been taken in by Aunt Cai Yun."

"Both are considered to be our junior brothers and sisters, and today I saw them in the distance—they're here too. Why don't we invite them over to get acquainted first, so that when Junior Tao enters the Mortal World, it will be more convenient for your undertakings."