

Longevity 281

Chapter 281: Everyone, I am Going to Cut You Down_3

"Disciple now has many Exotic Treasures on me, and I have paid the price due. Truly, I lack the strength to undertake another..."

Tao Qian tried his best to persuade them and even specifically found a substitute for the meeting gift, such as imparting some cultivation experience, which finally convinced the seven uncles to take back their treasures.

Though there were twists and turns, the interaction was thoroughly enjoyable for both guest and host.

Seven Injuries Daoist, along with his disciples, had long resided in the Bie Fu Grotto Heaven. With seven Cavernous Mystery Cultivators amongst them, they could dominate a region. However, the seven were not of such disposition; they only focused on cultivation instead of forcibly seizing treasures, and they seldom went out seeking treasures. Thus, they had not accumulated any substantial wealth.

Originally, it was assumed that someone like Tao Qian, a favored child of heaven and Duo Bao's first disciple, would be very hard to approach.

After conversing, all felt this youth to be gentle and kind, truly a gentleman of modesty and virtue.

They were first happy for Duobao True Monarch but then became worried for Tao Qian.

Master One-legged Bull, whom he had once struck with a sword, was the first to subtly warn:

"Nephew, your talents and character are extraordinary, and it's no wonder the eldest brother thought of taking you as a disciple."

"I've heard that you will soon re-enter the mortal realm. We may not have much experience to impart to you, but just remember not to flaunt your identity as the elder brother's disciple."

"If you ever have spare time, you are welcome to seek us out outside Anqing City, in Heavenly Sorrow Mountain, Seven Ruins Cave Heaven."

Listening to these words, the most crucial reminders stood out.

Tao Qian not only understood instantly but also couldn't help but inwardly exclaim: Good people indeed.

He had seen individuals with natural impairments in Seeking Immortal County before, each of them an evil cultivator devoid of conscience.

But Seven Injuries Daoist and his group of physically impaired disciples...

Though they had a frightful appearance, they were truly kind-hearted.

"Seven Injuries Daoist, a fellow practitioner of 'Spirit Treasure Cave True Salvation Scripture,' resides in Anqing province, essentially establishing another Bie Fu overseas from Penglai Sea. They take on many disciples, with one rule: only those with kind hearts and natural impairments."

"Appearances may seem terrifying, but there are no signs of mutation, they are genuine True Practitioners."

...

In this harmonious atmosphere, the auspicious cloud finally drifted into Penglai Island, ascending towards Biyou Palace.

Compared to the past, the island now truly revealed the scenery of an Immortal Land.

Tao Qian stood on the cloud; the scene of Ten Thousand Immortals Coming that he glimpsed when he first entered Penglai Sea unfolded before him once again.

From all directions, Immortals and Daoists came.

Looking ahead, he saw the misty clouds around Biyou Palace, myriad auspicious clouds bathed in celestial light, and Purple Ganoderma Cliff enshrouded in a mysterious fog, with auspicious light filling the sky.

Along the way to the top, he saw ancient green pines, tranquil bamboo forests, purple finches fluttering, Immortal Cranes squawking, myriad flowers blooming, and beautiful herbs sprawling. And in those normally serene Daoist palaces and temples, fragrant dragon saliva incense was now burning, with phoenix flutes and elephant trumpets resounding.

When the auspicious cloud entered Biyou Palace, a legion of Immortals stood arrayed, divine light surging.

Tao Qian had no time to spot where his Master was, nor to look elsewhere, as from afar he heard Xuu Xun, Yang Jie, and other senior fellow disciples calling him over to the jade plaza in front of Biyou Palace.

There were eighteen spots.

Seventeen were already filled, only his was vacant.

By rights, this should be a joyous occasion.

After all, standing there signified that he, Master Tao, had officially become a True Disciple of the current generation of Spirit Treasure Sect.

But at that moment, Tao Qian wanted only to hide his face and proceed.

The reason was simple: despite his efforts to downplay his presence, as he soared towards the plaza, the multitude of Spirit Treasure Disciples standing there, and the Immortals standing upon the other islands and esteemed positions, all inevitably turned to look at him.

He was desperately suppressing his Immortal Slaying Sword Intent, but to little avail.

Everyone in the arena, all "Immortals," sensed the hostility emanating from him.

Though Tao Qian said nothing, it was as if an invisible voice was roaring in the place:

Fellows, I am here to slay you.

Chapter 282: The 18th True Inheritor is called by surname, Tao Qian receives the Scripture of Salvation.

Spirit Treasure Sect on Penglai Island, in front of Biyou Palace.

At this moment, the rare spectacle of Ten Thousand Immortals standing tall and Divine Beings converging was taking place.

On the Green Jade Square stood a group of Spirit Treasure Disciples. At a glance, there was not a single mediocre commoner to be seen; each one was extraordinarily handsome, whether from the Human Clan or an Alien Species, and all were in high spirits.

Around them were Floating Islands of Honor, belonging to those Elders of Spirit Treasure Sect — masters of Immortal Islands and Daoist Fields who had cultivated the Spirit Treasure Skill for many years and had profound Dao Heng and Divine Powers.

Tao Qian had seen them all before: the Whale Fishing Old Man, Riding Deer Immortal, young maidens, hair demons, Glazed Immortals, Red-eyed Children, Barbaric Giants, and the Goddess of Gu Huo Mountain... and so on, all were present.

What defines a grand assembly? This was it.

It was hard to imagine the effect if a Demon suddenly barged into this scene of Ten Thousand Immortals gathered.

Tao Qian was now exactly that bit of indiscretion, a Demon causing quite the stir.

Luckily for him, his reputation had risen sharply as the leading Disciple of the Duobao Lineage. He'd held the Immortal Peach Banquet and distributed Golden Ingots. Whether it was the ordinary Disciples or the numerous Elders, most of them had seen him and heard of him, and that's what saved him from the fate of being besieged by Ten Thousand Immortals.

Yet many Spirit Treasure Disciples looked at him, sensing the strong Immortal Slaying Sword Intent about him and muttered in their minds:

"What is Master Tao up to?"

"He might have refined some New Divine Power and can't quite contain the aura, right?"

"Senior Brother Tao is indeed frightening with such a terrifying Sword Intent. It almost scared me witless. If Senior Brother Tao were to strike me with his sword, I'm afraid I would lose my life."

"Master Tao Qian hasn't been in the sect for long, and though he's already the top Disciple of Duobao True Monarch, a prestigious identity with incredible talent, he's still so diligent. The True Inheritor assembly is drawing near, yet he doesn't forget to refine his Magic Skills and Divine Powers — truly a role model for us all."

Of course, Tao Qian himself could not perceive these thoughts.

After causing a brief stir, Tao Qian, under a host of doubtful and curious eyes, took his place among the True Inheritors.

"This time I've really lost face, Yuan Gong set me up," Tao Qian inwardly exclaimed as he took his position.

Other True Inheritors also looked toward him. Compared to ordinary disciples, their sharpness was much more lethal.

With just one glance, they discerned the unusual reason for Tao Qian's state.

The first to speak up was none other than Slaughter Master Wei, Brother Wei of Master Yan Demon, whose cultivation included Dual Cultivation of Dao and Demon, and who practiced the unique methods of the Evil Sect.

After glancing at Tao Qian, he revealed a hint of surprise before speaking:

"Immortal Slaying Sword Intent!"

"The Secret Demon Sect has a terrifyingly powerful Sword Technique called the Secret Demon Sacrifice Body Sword, consisting of nine moves, each targeting a different group of adversaries. Together, they encompass everything, capable of slaying anything between heaven and earth."

"However, this Sword Technique is extremely difficult to learn. I did not expect my Junior Brother to have such talent in the Sword Dao. With this move mastered, in the future facing other cultivators of the Daoist Sect, Junior Brother's sword can be considered the ultimate Killing Device."

Brother Wei's words immediately drew a host of astonished gazes toward Tao Qian.

At the same time, it cleared up the confusion of the many Spirit Treasure Disciples on the square, and incidentally, they praised Tao Qian.

Simultaneously, Master Taixuan Xuu Xun Brother, the leading figure among them, nodded at Tao Qian and also smiled, saying:

"I've also heard of that Sword Technique. Since Junior Brother is able to master Immortal Slaying, surely the Demon Cleansing, Demon Suppressing, Slaying Strange, and Destroying Buddha techniques won't be difficult either. In not too many years, our Spirit Treasure Sect will gain an additional Slaughter Master."

After Xu Xun finished speaking, other True Inheritors like Yang Jie, Huang Zhen, Ma Yuan, and so on also took turns jokingly speaking up.

Now the square was filled with a large number of Disciples, unprecedentedly complete.

Many had known in advance of the harmonious atmosphere among this generation's True Disciples, while others were witnessing it for the first time.

Especially some Disciples from the more distant Qingping Island were surprised by this scene.

They had thought that Tao Qian, who had only achieved Foundation Establishment Realm and gotten the position of a True Inheritor "by a fluke," would cause dissatisfaction among the other True Inheritors.

If they weren't fighting outright, they were expected to harbor some ill will.

But the conversation and atmosphere at this moment obviously did not fit that scenario.

For a while, this provoked some discussions.

However, everyone knew the strong cultivation of the True Disciples. Even if they whispered, they could still be heard clearly, so no one dared to speak recklessly in public, while in private, they exchanged Divine Thoughts with acquaintances to inquire about secrets.

The twists and turns involved were hardly a secret and were quickly clarified.

Along with this, the Divine Powers currently held by Tao Qian, now the last among the True Inheritors, were also revealed, once again triggering astonishment.

"Master Tao saved Elder Xuu Xun's life?"

"Truly an extraordinary person doing extraordinary things! Although Senior Brother Tao's cultivation time is short and he's only at the Foundation Establishment Realm, he already possesses a combat power comparable to the Cavernous Mystery Realm. Even the difficult Sword Technique like the Secret Demon Body Sword Technique, he easily mastered."

"In the future, once Senior Brother Tao enters the Cavernous Mystery Realm, perhaps he could even contend with the Ultimate Happiness Realm."

"I said it long ago, the Second Generation Ancestor's Prediction Skill is famous throughout the world. If he didn't know that Senior Brother Tao is a true Talent, why would he have gone out of his way to specially lead him into the sect?"

"How ridiculous that some with impure thoughts and an unruly nature once looked down on Senior Brother."

...

Tao Qian didn't expect that while he had suffered a social death due to the Immortal Slaying Sword Intent, he would regain honor in this same aspect.

Although he was reassured by his sect mates' high regard, listening to too much flattery was also awkward.

Fortunately, soon, in the next moment.

In front of Biyou Palace, a sudden outpouring of Spirit Light descended, and a dozen figures appeared all at once. Each was radiating Immortal light with astonishing cultivation, including Duobao True Monarch, Xuan Yuan True Monarch, Yunhua Immortal, among others. The highly esteemed Elders took their respective honored places.

Only Duobao stood in the very front, and with the Sect Master and all the Second Generation Ancestors being in the Outer Realm, he was the acting principal of the Spirit Treasure Sect.

Chapter 283: The 18th True Inheritor is called by surname, Tao Qian receives the Scripture of Salvation_2

The True Inheritor ceremony, indeed, should be presided over by him.

Differing from his past scruffy appearance, today this True Monarch was dressed in fine attire, draping himself with Spirit Treasure Daoist clothes, his head crowned by a Spirit Treasure Crown, even holding an elephant scepter in his hand. He first commanded the Reminding Official, Kettle Official, Zhipan Official, Proclamation Officer, writing officer, Music Officer, and other Daoist Officials to burn incense and light candles, kindle lanterns and beat drums, strike the Golden Bell, and play the Jade Plate and Cloud Zither before the Biyou Palace...

Seeing him begin his actions, everyone in the arena, whether Immortal Masters or Disciples or just onlookers, all knew the hour was near, their expressions solemn, gathering their spirits and banishing stray thoughts.

As the Daoist Officials commenced the ceremony, Duobao True Monarch turned to look towards the eighteen True Disciples, including Tao Qian.

After nodding with a smile, he raised his gaze beyond the sky.

Thunder and rosy light, none could hinder the gaze in his eyes.

Suddenly, at a certain moment, Tao Qian seemed to sense something too, his heart surging with emotions.

Others with similar reactions included many Immortal Masters.

Between heaven and earth, it seemed changes were afoot.

At that moment, Duobao Daoist spoke out loud, "The hour has arrived!"

The moment the name Duobao was uttered, billions of rays of rosiness stormed down, enveloping all those participating in the ceremony before the Biyou Palace.

Within the radiance, Duobao, unknowing when, already held a Treasure Record in his hand, then he recited loudly:

"Heavenly Venerate above!"

These four words echoed, as if not only Duobao alone was chanting.

Indeed, as Duobao began to speak, from beyond the realm, majestic silhouettes whom no one could see clearly were cast.

Each one made Tao Qian shudder with fear.

Especially the one standing before Duobao in the center, seemed to render Tao Qian unable to dare gaze directly.

"Still beyond the realm, coming only as projections, are those the Spirit Treasure Sect Master and a host of Second Generation Ancestors?"

As Tao Qian guessed within himself.

Duobao, along with the spectral images of the Ancestors, began chanting a complex Daoist incantation, which towards the end became increasingly clear:

"Disciple of the third generation of Spiritual Treasure, Duobao, kowtows and prostrates here, respectfully for the current generation of True Disciples Xu Xun, Wei Xuan, Lu Xi... Tao Qian wearing Treasure Records, granting the name of True Inheritor, so that Fangliu Dharma School, Dao Yan Immortal Sect..."

After Duobao finished his proclamation, he instantly burnt the Treasure Record.

In an instant, a wisp of purple smoke drifted upward, cutting straight through the rosy light and thunder, heading towards the outer realm in the sky.

Just as the purple smoke broke through the dome of the sky, the world suddenly transformed.

The Biyou Palace, no, the entire Penglai Island seemed to be moved beyond the realm at that moment.

Everyone only saw that their surroundings were no longer the scenery of Penglai Sea, but initially, a dark and mysterious world, then the billions of rosy lights rolled back up, and endless purple smoke surged around, ethereal Daoist music also began to chant, and an immeasurably large, unimaginable, unfathomable Innate Divine Being stood before everyone, also at the ends of the universe.

This Divine Being was in the Cloud Palace and the Yellow Room, amid curtains of the seven treasures.

Pair of eyes, watching over the people of Spiritual Treasure.

"Spiritual Treasure Ancestor! Lingbao Heavenly Venerate!"

No one needed reminding, including Duobao, all bowed their heads together.

They didn't dare gaze at the true face of Lingbao Heavenly Venerate, nor even dared to take a clear look at the silhouettes of the Ancestors, including the Sect Master, standing under the Heavenly Venerate.

Furthermore, there was no time to look.

As the world transferred in an instant, eighteen rays of Divine Light immediately enveloped Tao Qian and the other seventeen.

When the Divine Light entered their bodies, Tao Qian could care no longer for anything else.

Ancestor Master's Teachings?

Just as Tao Qian thought these four words, that once unique and marvelous sensation, now had come again.

His Soul seemed to be extracted, the stars of the Circumpolar, all things between heaven and earth began to distort, and all the universes of the All Heavens seemed to flip and overlap, changing endlessly in Tao Qian's eyes... Then at that moment, groups of extremely pure, accompanied by mysterious Divine Illuminations, light dots suddenly burst forth in front of Tao Qian.

Roughly counting, there were twenty-two groups.

Tao Qian immediately realized, the Spirit Treasure Great Volume, Nine Scriptures, and Thirteen Skills.

As one of the super major sects of Daoism, Spirit Treasure Sect, these twenty-two kinds of scripture manuals are collectively known as the Spirit Treasure Daoist Collection, each of which can be called Great Lifebook Scripture.

If spread to the outside world, it would surely cause a major cataclysm in the Cultivation World.

Among the Twelve Major Daoist Sects, there was another with equivalent weight, Taishang Dao, whose internal scriptures collectively called Taishang Daoist Collection.

"Next, to choose?"

Tao Qian cast aside stray thoughts and had another insight.

Naturally, he would not arrogantly believe he could cultivate all Nine Scriptures and Thirteen Skills, merely having to choose one out of twenty-two, Tao Qian couldn't help but feel troubled.

How would he know which Great Volume was most suitable for him?

This rhetorical question came out, and Tao Qian immediately had a stroke of divine insight, starting to resonate with everything in himself, with this action, his body suddenly burst out with many currents of Qi, starting from the Spirit Treasure Nine Truths Diagram he initially obtained, followed by the Nine True Spirit Sound, Innate Dao Seed, Spirit Treasure No-leak Body, Human Dao Destiny, Spirit Treasure Unlimited Tribulation Crossing Technical...

As each current of Qi surged out, parts of those twenty-two groups of light dots seemed to be attracted, casting towards him.

In the final moment, Tao Qian felt something and suddenly opened his eyes.

He immediately saw a speck of light hurling towards him, initially only enormous, then expanding, and finally it seemed to transform into a complete world that enveloped Tao Qian within it.

To his surprise, a Record spontaneously emerged in his mind.

But at this moment, Tao Qian didn't have time to read it.

As soon as he made his choice, his figure unexpectedly appeared inside the seven-treasure curtain, involuntarily sitting cross-legged, bowing his head, and listening to the majestic Daoist sound from the seat of honor, "In the Primordial Green Heaven, ethereal songs filled the azure abyss, the great floating realm of Li inhabited by Primeval Beings Saving People Unlimited Top-grade..."

Hearing this, Tao Qian quickly gathered his Spirit.

This was the true teaching of the Ancestor Master!

The same scene unfolded over eighteen acts.

...

Unaware of how much time had passed, the Daoist sound suddenly ceased.

The marvelous halo enveloping everything began to recede, and the Daoist sound by his ears also gradually halted.

Tao Qian knew that the transmission of the teachings was coming to an end.

He still sat cross-legged on that cushion within the curtain, head bowed, and above him was that Innate Divine Being, also known as Lingbao Tianzun.

In the depths of Tao Qian's heart, for no apparent reason, an inexplicable stray thought emerged.

"If I raise my head now, using up that one-time 'Innate Spiritual Sensing' given by Xie Lingji, could I glimpse a part of the Ancestor Master's true form?"

"Lingbao Tianzun, likely no longer belonging to the category of Tribulation Immortals, is a supreme Divine Spirit. If I can catch a glimpse of their form, perhaps I can comprehend the ultimate truths, break through several realms in a flash, and attain Dao and ascend to immortality..."

Such a suicidal, insane, and blasphemous thought against the Ancestor Master.

It should not arise in Tao Qian, let alone in any normal person's mind.

But at this moment, Tao Qian had this thought.

And like a deadly vine, it swiftly grew uncontrollably in the depths of his heart.

Just as Tao Qian was about to act rashly, he suddenly smiled.

Forming a Daoist hand seal, he intuitively and loudly said,

"Spirit Treasure Unlimited, saving others and oneself, how dare a mere Demon Thought disturb my Dao Heart?"

As soon as these words fell from Tao Qian's mouth, the inexplicable Demon Thought in his mind also inexplicably disappeared.

Whether it was an illusion or not, at that moment, Tao Qian felt as though he received a look of approval.

Soon after, Tao Qian saw a speck of Spirit Light fly towards him, entering his body and vanishing without a trace.

Another new benefit?

An ancestor playing favorites for me?

As Tao Qian entertained another wild fancy, before his eyes and before the eyes of the Spirit Treasure crowd, the world changed again.

The purple smoke dissipated, the rosy glow concealed, the Daoist sound ceased.

Penglai Island, once again returned to the Penglai Sea.

Many of the Spirit Treasure Disciples actually saw nothing, felt nothing, as if the Outer Realm, Lingbao Tianzun, and all the Sect Masters and Second Generation Ancestors were mere illusions.

In a trance, everyone simultaneously turned their gaze towards the eighteen True Disciples who had become different.

The envious gazes that overwhelmed Tao Qian left no time for any reaction.

At this moment, he was digesting far too much.

His mind and Soul were almost overflowing.

Not just Tao Qian, including Xu Xun, Yang Jie, and the other seventeen, all appeared to be in the same state.

Ordinary disciples unaware of the profound mysteries of "Ancestor Master's Teachings," the Immortal Masters, Elders, and Daoists were crystal clear.

"Ancestor Master's Teachings!"

"In actuality, it is the True Disciples themselves who choose the Great Lifebook Scripture, after which the Ancestor Master will personally explain and impart. Throughout this, who knows how many benefits there are, with blessings, sudden insights... Such treatment is only available to the talented elite."

"But having been filled with an entire Lifebound Scripture, the True Disciples also need some time to digest."

As the Elders expressed their admiration,

Tao Qian was equally astonished, as Records in his mind began to burst forth.

Among them, the most crucial one was unexpectedly:

[Received the teaching of "Spirit Treasure Unlimited Salvation Supreme Wonderful Scripture"...]

Chapter 284: The True Appearance of the Absolute Immortal, Heavenly Venerate Dividing Treasures

"The foremost among all scriptures, the origin of all techniques."

Tao Qian, overwhelmed by the Lifebound Scripture that filled his mind, couldn't help but exclaim upon viewing these Records.

Before the inheritance ceremony of the Ancestor Master's Teachings at the grand assembly, Tao Qian actually knew of several scriptures, like the Ultimate Happiness Scripture that his Alcohol and Meat Uncle practiced, and the Upper Pure Five Elders Red Book Jade Technique Marvelous Scripture, the Spirit Treasure Cave True Salvation Scripture, and so on.

There was also the "Spirit Treasure Unlimited Salvation Supreme Scripture," which Tao Qian knew of by name before he joined the sect.

Because this scripture was exceedingly renowned, being the first volume of the Spirit Treasure Daoist Collection, it was recognized by many cultivators in the Cultivation World as a supreme technique transcending mortality.

In a sense, it could also be considered the leader among the Nine Classics.

Tao Qian did not expect that in resonating with himself and drawing forth the convergence of vital energies, what would come to him would be this Great Book.

While striving to assimilate the Magic Gate Mantra that filled his mind, Tao Qian continued to look toward the Records that had burst forth earlier, which he had had no time to read at that moment:

[Listening to the Spirit Treasure Daoist music... comprehending the principle of Transcend Mortality.]

[Listening to the Spirit Treasure Daoist music... comprehending the principle of Cavernous Mystery.]

[Listening to the Spirit Treasure Daoist music... comprehending the principle of Ultimate Happiness.]

...

[Granted one Innate Spiritual Treasure Divine Light... with infinite effects, but the Divine Light conceals itself, awaiting the right moment to reveal itself.]

Even Tao Qian, accustomed to his Special Ability, found himself somewhat overwhelmed at this moment.

At the same time, he again couldn't help but sigh, "No wonder, no wonder Master preferred to delay teaching me Magic Skills, insisting that I attend the grand assembly to receive the Ancestor Master's Teachings."

Tao Qian was naturally joyous for a reason.

Although the Records' Daoist music and the so-called supreme rationale of realms did not mean that Tao Qian would immediately be able to step into realms such as Transcend Mortality, Cavernous Mystery, Ultimate Happiness, or even Daoist Transformation after his enlightenment,

how could things be so easy in this world?

It only meant that compared to the ordinary disciples within the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate and the rest of the Cultivation World,

Tao Qian, who had listened to the Daoist music, had a slightly greater chance of making progress, and his speed in cultivation would be a bit faster.

To put it plainly: The Ancestor Masters taught the Basic Methods, highlighting the key points for you, akin to extra tutoring.

Who could refuse such benefits?

Evidently, the other seventeen inheritors must have received these as well.

As for that one [Innate Spiritual Treasure Divine Light], Tao Qian did not know if it was something all inheritors received.

Or perhaps, it was something only he, Tao Qian, had been granted.

"But what could that Divine Light possibly be used for?"

"It actively conceals itself within me, and I can't even find it, not to mention it insisting on revealing itself only when the time is right..."

"Lingbao Tianzun is really a riddler."

Standing in front of Biyou Palace, Tao Qian couldn't help but mutter silently to himself.

He quickly realized, had he done it again and courted disaster?

He hurriedly added in his mind: "Heavenly Venerate above, as you know, I have always held you in the highest respect; it was an unintentional remark, please don't take offense."

Obviously, Lingbao Tianzun couldn't be bothered with this thick-skinned junior disciple.

After a while of silence, Tao Qian gradually assimilated what he had received from the teaching.

When he opened his eyes again, he felt as if he were in a different world.

He didn't have time to look in front of him or at those around him, but just formed a Spirit-calming Dao Seal, soothing his somewhat swollen Divine Soul.

At the same time, he couldn't help but sigh in his heart:

"The Human Dao is boundless, the Immortal Dao vast... This Great Book is extraordinary, terribly difficult to cultivate."

"Behind the opening summary alone, it divides into the Longevity Chapter, the Imperial Decree of God, the Divine Talisman Chapter, the Summoning Spirits Chapter, and in total thirteen chapters, sixty-two volumes, enough for me to cultivate until I am old and die."

"I wonder besides me, who else has been granted this scripture?"

"And what scripture or Cultivation Technique did the other inheritors receive?"

With these thoughts in mind, Tao Qian looked towards the others.

Among the eighteen true inheritors, Tao Da, the True Master, was the last to wake.

Initially, his gaze met with the envious eyes of the many Spirit Treasure Disciples, and only then did he see the other seventeen inheritors, all of whom had undergone changes.

Clearly, they had all received great benefits.

Even Master Yan Demon Wei Xuan and Golden Crow Fairy Lu Xi, these two who normally kept their emotions hidden, now couldn't contain the smiles on their faces.

More exaggerated, like Huang Zhen, who cultivated the Mao Ri Dharma Form, his countenance of joy was such that he was almost ready to reveal his Dharma Image and crow triumphantly.

Or like Ma Yuan, who cultivated the Hayagriva Ming King Dharma Form, trying to maintain a dignified face but with the corners of his mouth already stealthily stretching to his ears.

Although cultivators should be able to control their emotions and Spirit,

Spirit Treasure Sublime Dharma seems to seek a state of following one's heart; hence such expressions were normal.

Tao Qian thought for a moment then also grinned widely with a smile.

But including himself, the eighteen inheritors couldn't smile for long,

for Duobao True Monarch once again directed the Daoist Officials to act, blowing flutes, striking bells, beating drums, and playing sheng. However, the sound differed from the leisurely tunes during the grand assembly.

This time, the atmosphere in front of Biyou Palace became extremely solemn, even carrying a sense of funerary music.

Initially stunned, Tao Qian soon realized what was about to happen.

The Grand Assembly of Ten Thousand Immortals!

More precisely, a decisive competition.

Although Tao Qian's time with the sect was brief, he had almost fully learned of the many secrets regarding the "Decisive Contest of Ten Thousand Immortals."

It was just unexpected that it would seamlessly connect right after the grand assembly.

Yet it wasn't abrupt; as soon as the immortal music changed, it immediately brought all the disciples and Elders into the mood for the decisive contest.

Everyone's expression turned serious, and they slightly bowed their heads.

Then, Duobao Daoist took a step forward and declared in a loud voice:

"The hour has come!"

When the familiar four words fell, billions of rosy lights burst forth once again.

But this time, they didn't envelop everyone; instead, with a resounding roar, they shot out from Penglai Island, streaking like a heavenly river of light, towards the distant seas.

Chapter 285: The True Appearance of the Absolute Immortal, Heavenly Venerate Dividing Treasures_2

Suddenly, a pathway unfolded across the sky.

At the end of the path, right above the Purple Ganoderma Cliff of Biyou Palace, an immensely majestic and towering Heavenly Gate materialized above everyone's heads.

Behind the gate, the outlines of the Innate Divine Beings that truly filled the cosmos and the figures of the Sect Master and the Second Generation Ancestors, their light almost completely obscured, were faintly visible.

In Duobao's hands, astonishingly, there appeared an even thicker Treasure Record.

With an unusually solemn and serious demeanor, he held it in his hands and recited aloud,

"Heavenly Venerate above!"

"This Disciple Duobao bows deeply here, life's Longevity is easily obtained, the Sublime Dharma hard to find, we Disciples of the Lingbao are fortunate to be bestowed with the teachings of the Heavenly Venerate, to Cultivate the Supreme Method of the Spiritual Treasure. Yet the Immortal Path is fraught with hardship; a mere misstep can sever the Dao Path, leaving the road ahead in darkness."

"Nonetheless, in his mercy, the Heavenly Venerate allowed for a sliver of a chance to arise naturally from the way of the heavens and the earth, laying it for our Sect's Daoist Wu Chao, Master Three Stars, Golden Silkworm Daoist, Spirit Elephant Daoist, Willow Daoist... Wearing the Treasure Records, granted the title of Absolute Immortal, allowing all Cultivators to ascend the Dao Path, pass through the Heavenly Gate, all in pursuit of that slim chance to once again Cultivate the Sublime Dharma of the Spiritual Treasure."

The moment Duobao finished reciting, the Treasure Record in his hand immediately burned away.

This time, it transformed into a wisp of scarlet-red blood mist, twirling upwards and striking directly against the Great Dao Heavenly Gate.

The boundless and majestic gate swung open instantly.

Thereafter, at the other end of the brilliant Tianhe, the sight of a mirage-like scene became visible; Tao Qian and all the True Disciples could clearly see the landscape of the Absolute Immortal Sea.

After being reflected outward, an exceedingly large and terrifying figure abruptly appeared on one of the islands, one Tao Qian found very familiar. It roared as it broke away from the island, tearing through the Tianhe.

Although it was just a fleeting glimpse, countless disciples in front of the Biyou Palace couldn't help but let out cries of horror.

At this moment, Duobao spoke solemnly again,

"Spirit Treasure Cultivators, let us chant the Dao Song, to bid farewell to these Absolute Immortals."

As his voice fell, including Tao Qian, the Spirit Treasure Dao Song emerged in everyone's mind.

Uncontrollably, they began reciting.

One could hardly imagine!

The sight of the entire Spirit Treasure Sect, from the True Monarchs and Elders to the junior disciples, simultaneously chanting the Spirit Treasure Dao Song was astounding.

And at that moment, it happened.

The vast Penglai Sea, in an instant, seemed to be filled with the sound of the Dao Song.

The terrifying figure, still roaring and struggling madly after entering the Tianhe, became unexpectedly peaceful with the resonance of the Song.

He followed the Dao Path along the Tianhe, heading toward the opened gateway.

However, even so, most of the Spirit Treasure Disciples still only dared to bow their heads and chant the song, not daring to look up at the true form of the Absolute Immortals in the Tianhe.

For a very simple reason!

A look might not be lethal, but it would surely result in contamination, harming one's Dao Path.

Of course, if one could withstand the contamination, on the contrary, there could be some benefits.

Having witnessed the Mutated and Fallen form of those Absolute Immortals, one might gain insights into certain taboos and errors, which, at some point in the future, might even save one's life.

Knowing this, the common disciples dared not look.

The eighteen True Disciples, however, insisted on looking.

At this moment, Tao Qian was reciting the Dao Song while widening his eyes to watch the struggling and Flying huge figure in the Tianhe.

Shock filled his eyes.

"Three-legged Golden Crow!"

"Another one?"

Although Uncle Wu Chao's Mutated form was the epitome of distortion, its true form was still identifiable at a glance.

The dark giant bird, enveloped in endless black flames, was very similar to Elder Sister Lu Xi's.

Evidently, was there some bloodline connection between the two?

Tao Qian subconsciously looked towards Elder Sister Lu Xi and indeed, among the eighteen people, she was the one who watched most intently.

With the surge of the black flames and light, it didn't take long for Uncle Wu Chao, who once could not help but secretly plot against Tao Qian, to step into the Heavenly Gate as an Absolute Immortal and proceed with his true form towards the Outer Realm.

However, everyone's chanting of the Dao Song could not stop; the second verse came again.

This time, the one who stepped into the brilliant Tianhe was a completely naked ancient giant. At first glance, there was no sign of mutation or Fallen status on his body, only a broad nose and a single eye, resembling the look of an Alien Species from ancient times.

But soon, the people saw the three stars revolving around the back of his head.

One red, one black, one white!

As many junior disciples, driven by curiosity, wanted to look,

Suddenly, the voice of Brother Xu Xun resounded in their minds.

"This is the Three Stars Daoist, you should refer to him as Uncle."

"Do not gaze upon his true form and features; those three Evil Stars are Alien entities born with Uncle."

"The Blood Star devours the flesh and blood of the body, the Black Star devours the Soul and Spirit, the White Star devours one's Fortune and Blessing... Uncle has Mutated into an Absolute Immortal and can't control himself."

"Your Cultivation is still weak; even a distant glance would be unbearable for you."

"Bow your heads and chant; there are benefits to be had."

Evidently, Xu Xun also knew Tao Qian had joined the Sect not long ago and probably wasn't aware of all the elders' information. Thus, as he warned the junior disciples, he also included Tao Qian.

After hearing this, Tao Qian and the other disciples had similar reactions.

Their pupils constricted, faces showing fear.

"Flesh and blood, Spirit and Soul, Fortune and Blessing... good heavens, Uncle Three Stars seems less like a Daoist power and more like something from the Demon Path!"

"This method, of completely consuming a person, sounds even darker than the Demon Path."

"I thought Uncle Wu Chao was already horrifying enough, but it seems Three Stars Uncle is not to be outdone and is even more terrifying, absolutely untouchable."

While Tao Qian was reflecting, the ferocious Three Stars Daoist too stepped into the Heavenly Gate.

Following suit was the third.

Unexpectedly, this Absolute Immortal known as the "Golden Silkworm Daoist" didn't seem terrifying at the first glance.

Chapter 286: The True Face of the Absolute Immortal, Heavenly Venerate Dividing Treasures_3

The rosy light that served as their guide lifted them upwards, and astonishingly, it was actually a giant golden silkworm that was larger than the mountains, fat and plump, and corpulent. Yet at the same time, its body was shimmering with billions of golden light points.

It writhed within the Tianhe, worming and pupating.

The scene was not frightening but rather comical and ridiculous, making one unable to resist the urge to go have a look.

It wasn't until the next moment that Senior Brother Xu Xun once again transmitted his voice:

"This is Golden Silkworm Master. Do not be fooled by his seemingly ridiculous appearance. One more glance and you all will realize how formidable he is."

"Those specks of golden light are called 'Life-breaking Divine Light.' If even one point penetrates one's spirit, and if you cannot resist, it will consume a year of your lifespan. If you are exposed to too many, even a hundred lives will not be enough to bear the loss."

As usual, Tao Qian was all ears.

His knowledge had increased again!

At the same time, he couldn't help but mutter to himself:

"Uncle Wu Chao, the Three Stars, the Golden Silkworm Masters—before their fall, they must have been true powers of the Daoist. Once mutated, they became more demonic than demons themselves."

"No wonder when I first sensed Uncle Wu Chao's aura, I found him far more terrifying than Bai Qin."

"Not only him. During the decisive battle in Southern Yue, any one of these three would have been able to wipe out that battlefield clean. Truly frightening to the extreme."

"Roar!"

Just as Tao Qian finished muttering to himself, he heard a familiar roar and saw the scene.

Looking up, sure enough, he saw an immense elephant entering the rosy light, half flesh, half bone, with large white maggots where flesh and bone connected.

This time there was no need for Xu Xun to introduce him, as Tao Qian had once swallowed the hot eyeballs of Nursing Woman Bird Demons.

He naturally knew the details of this Absolute Immortal called "Spirit Elephant Daoist," having even witnessed the horrific sight of him devouring hundreds of thousands at once. However, he had not expected that this Spirit Elephant Master would be able to persevere for ten years and participate in this ultimate struggle.

The same was true for the ones to follow, like Willow Immortal and Lady Shi.

But after these individuals, there were others who he did not recognize as his senior masters.

One by one they came!

Extremely powerful and extremely frightening Absolute Immortals, with the guidance of the rosy light and the Dao Song Rhymes, stepped through the Heavenly Gate, heading to the Outer Realm, all in the hopes of seizing a sliver of survival.

What were the odds of success?

Upon this thought, Tao Qian could not help but shake his head.

"Judging by Aunt Bai Yin guarding Spiritual Tablet Island, the odds of failing in this ultimate struggle are far too high—perhaps one in a hundred survives?"

"Or even, more tragically—just a bit."

As Tao Qian lamented,

The last Absolute Immortal called Master Fire Spirit, was, under the farewell of Dao Song Rhymes, stepping through the Heavenly Gate, leaving no trace.

The song that echoed through the Penglai Sea suddenly ceased.

The Ten Thousand Immortals meeting, seemed to have ended?

Just as Tao Qian was thinking this, suddenly, his opportune master announced in a loud voice:

"All disciples, please be seated. In gratitude for your chanting of the Dao Song Rhymes and seeing off the senior masters—"

"After a moment, the grandmaster will scatter some treasures down, for those of you who are destined to retrieve them."

Upon hearing these two sentences, the mood of sorrow and solemnity that had prevailed before the Biyou Palace was instantly swept away.

A great number of disciples showed an excited and expectant look.

The distribution of treasures by the grandmaster!

The weight of these four words was undeniably significant.

Even Tao Qian and the other True Disciples could not help but harbor some expectations then.

Sure enough, within a moment's passing,

As the Heavenly Gate that was slowly closing and disappearing, a great expanse of treasure light suddenly showered down.

It began like stars shining in the sky, and soon all the glimmers fell, revealing a multitude of treasures, each with a different shape and aura within them.

The grandmaster's distribution of treasures naturally would not allow the disciples to scramble for them, and as the treasures fell, they each chose their owner.

They adorably landed in the hands of one disciple after another.

Almost, yes, nearly every disciple received a treasure.

All were Exotic Treasures that would not hinder the disciples' cultivation, and were extremely useful.

However, there were those in the crowd who did not receive a treasure.

"Am I... being retaliated against?"

From within the array of True Disciples, as Tao Qian looked at his empty hands and then at his Master's eyes clearly suppressing laughter, he immediately felt a desire to cry but no tears came.

Chapter 287: Demon City Opportunity, Drastic Mundane Changes

Song rhymes ceased, the Heavenly Gate closed.

True Inheritance, the grand assembly of the Ten Thousand Immortals was thus declared concluded, and the cultivators dispersed.

However, the discerning True Inheritors, disciples, and Elders who were close enough all witnessed the astonishment on Master Tao's face, as well as his empty hands.

While in doubt, they saw Duobao Daoist, who had shed his role as ceremony host, reverting to his languid and rough demeanor, stripping off his magic robe, revealing his hairy legs as he strolled over leisurely.

At the same time, he cast a sidelong glance at his disciple and said with schadenfreude,

"You slick kid must have been bad-mouthing our Ancestor Master when you were supposed to receive the Magic Skill, the relics distribution always showers blessings widely."

"You didn't even score a single hair, you ought to reflect upon yourself."

Upon hearing these words, Tao Qian, who already understood his bargain-priced Master's temperament quite well, didn't react too much.

After being trapped by his own disciple a few times due to his thick-skinned and crafty nature, the Daoist was simply issuing a scare, giving him a taste of his own medicine.

The other True Inheritors at his side, such as Xu Xun, Yang Jie, Huang Zhen, and others, couldn't help but worry about Tao Qian.

Bad-mouthing the Ancestor Master!

The charge sounded severe indeed.

However, just then, Aunt Yunhua approached.

Much to Tao Qian's surprise, this beautiful immortal concubine who resembled an immortal looked at him with an extremely intimate gaze.

Then, without anyone noticing, she divulged a dark chapter from Duobao Daoist's past.

"Don't be deceived by your disreputable Master; the Ancestor Master is not one to hold grudges."

"Years ago, when Brother Duobao received the Ancestor Master's Teachings, he accidentally voiced his thoughts, suggesting that since the Ancestor Master had imparted the skills, perhaps he should also bestow some treasures for him to wield. At that time, all of us siblings thought Brother was about to be expelled from the sect."

"Who would have guessed that during the next distribution of relics, our eldest brother actually received an Exotic Treasure [Ten Thousand Treasure Cliff]."

"Of course, that treasure was somewhat heavy, and it knocked our eldest brother off balance..."

"Cough cough"

Aunt Yunhua had only spoken halfway when Duobao Daoist immediately made his move.

With a sweep of his sleeves, he attempted to send all the avidly listening True Inheritors as well as the ordinary disciples, along with numerous Elders, away from the scene.

The former was easy to deal with, as they could not resist him.

But at that moment, many Elders concurrently unleashed their Mana, jointly blocking their great Elder Brother's Divine Skills.

At the same time, they began to tease with laughter:

"Great Elder Brother, don't be in a rush, your younger brother here joined a bit late, never imagining you had such a glorious history."

"Let sister continue, your younger sister here is also very curious."

"Elder Brother truly lives up to being the eldest; he managed to bargain treasures from the Ancestor Master, indeed a role model for us."

"Humph"

The Elders and Daoists in front of Biyou Palace all knew Duobao True Monarch's temperament and enjoyed playing such jokes.

However, seeing the great Elder Brother's complexion darken, everyone feared truly angering him. While there were no severe consequences, being subject to retaliation was not fun.

They promptly took the cue and no longer obstructed.

Thus, they saw in the Green Jade Square, a large group of Elders and disciples, all with different appearances and auras, being sent away by the sweep of Duobao's robe.

With a whoosh, the once bustling place suddenly became desolate, leaving only three people.

Aunt Yunhua seemed to have anticipated this outcome and continued without pausing, bluntly finishing her story:

"That Ten Thousand Treasure Cliff was not only heavy, but the Ancestor Master had also placed a minor restriction on it, pinning our elder brother here in front of Biyou Palace, unable to move for half an hour."

"Speaking of which, both of you master and disciple are quite bold."

"One bargains with the Ancestor Master, shamelessly asking for treasures, the other dares to criticize the Ancestor Master's faults after receiving his favor."

After saying this, Yunhua first looked towards Duobao True Monarch.

Sure enough, despite having his dark history revealed, the thick-skinned and crafty Daoist felt not the slightest bit of shame and merely laughed robustly, signaling his junior sister to continue.

Yunhua then turned to Tao Qian, only to find him, Master Tao, adopting an innocent look, chuckling naively, as if the audacious person mentioned by Aunt wasn't him at all.

Observing the master and disciple's demeanor, Yunhua paused, then shook her head and chuckled.

Not long after, Aunt Yunhua remembered something, a hint of joy appearing on her face, as she once again looked at Tao Qian with gratitude and admiration, saying earnestly:

"Aunt must thank you!"

"I had thought my hard-luck disciple had indeed severed all ties, yet unexpectedly there remained a thread of life."

"Although I do not know the final outcome, at least there's a lingering hope."

"I've heard you chose the Third Method to enter the world. Aunt should give you some treasures for protection, for guarding your path."

"But as you now lack nothing of the sort, and already possess the Divine Power Skill, this makes things rather difficult for Aunt."

"Nevertheless, it works out, as I too must leave the sect before you. If you ever encounter any trouble or some formidable enemy seeks to kill you, you only need to summon me with this object. As long as your Aunt is alive, no matter the distance, I will rush to your aid."

With these words, Fairy Yunhua affectionately took Tao Qian's hand.

The moment the warm, soft touch arose, Tao Qian felt an object in his palm— a Jade amulet still warm with Aunt's essence, previously adorning her ear as an ornament.

This object was naturally a Magical Treasure, and before Tao Qian could regard the Record that henceforth sprouted in his mind, he subconsciously began to digest the profoundly meaningful words of Fairy Yunhua.

She had given a token with the promise that if Tao Qian summoned her, no matter how far apart, she would come to his aid.

Such a promise!

In some ways, this exceeded the boundaries of the relationship between Tao Qian and Yunhua.

Even though there was a bond of mentorship between them, and Tao Qian was supposed to address Yunhua as Master if not for Duobao cutting in, such a promise was not necessarily granted even between master and disciple.

Within the Spirit Treasure Sect, Fairy Yunhua represented something extraordinary.

Chapter 288 Demon City Opportunity, Mundane Transformation_2

"Aunt Yunhua, like Master, is also of the Ultimate Happiness Realm in terms of cultivation,"

"But the killing power of the two, far surpasses that of ordinary cultivators of the Ultimate Happiness Realm."

"Whether it's the gossips spread by those Nursing Woman Bird Demons or the lectures given by Xiao Hua Daoist, they all indirectly described the terror of these two."

"Not to mention the inexpensive Master, just Aunt Yunhua alone."

"When she sets up her array, she could block the Xie Family's thousand-year-old gate for days... With such might, although it still may not be on par with Daoist Transformation, the difference can't be much, right?"

"Her willingness to give me this promise is naturally because of Senior Sister Xie Lingji's matter."

"It seems that she might have obtained some results, and could possibly save Senior Sister Xie?"

"But listening to her last words... she doesn't seem to have much confidence either. This promise shows the position of Senior Sister Xie in Aunt's heart, truly extraordinary, and it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say she regards her as her own."

"But with such a powerful ally on my side, doesn't it mean that entering the world for training should not be too difficult?"

Thinking of this, Tao Qian's face did not show joy, but instead he frowned slightly.

A sense of warning arose in his heart, and he quickly understood.

Aunt Yunhua's solemn promise is just like that of brother Xu Xun.

It could be appreciated, but should not be relied upon too heavily, nor casually employed.

Otherwise, it would hinder cultivation.

Thinking this, Tao Qian immediately relaxed again, placed the jade firmly into his chest, and said to Aunt Yunhua with a serious expression:

"Aunt, I am unworthy of your kindness."

"I wish Aunt a smooth journey, and you will surely be able to save Senior Sister."

The fluctuations in Tao Qian's qi could not be concealed from Duobao and Yunhua.

Hearing him, both nodded in approval, especially Yunhua, whose face showed an even richer smile as she exclaimed and lamented:

"What a good child, no wonder my brother relied on the power of Divination Technique to forcibly intercept you."

"But that's fine. If I can save Lingji on this trip, I can let you and Senior Sister get to know each other a little, and there might also be some other karmic connections."

After saying this,

Aunt Yunhua did not delay any longer, her figure suddenly turned into a wisp of cloud and vanished in front of Biyou Palace.

Clearly, she had been eager to leave the Mountain Gate, only staying longer due to the two grand assemblies.

Once Yunhua had left, Tao Qian immediately went in search of his thrifty Master.

Perhaps because his embarrassing past was overheard by his disciple, as Tao Qian looked up, he saw Duobao Daoist yawning, rubbing his ribs, and giving him a sidelong glance. With two powerful strides, his figure gradually faded away.

Before disappearing, a few serious admonishments that only Tao Qian could hear came through:

"Good disciple, if you trust your master's Divination Power, remember this: You must not utilize Aunt Yunhua's solemn promise."

"As for brother Xu Xun, if you encounter someone difficult to defeat, you can ask him to help you. Don't be fooled by his modest gentleman appearance, he's very fierce in combat."

"Normally, a disciple entering the world for cultivation should be given some advantages by the Master... but you sly boy, let's not even mention the Buddha Bird Relics, the Nine Toad Bead and the Holy Embryo Bag are enough to protect your life, not to mention you've also mastered the Secret Demon Sacrifice Body Sword Technique, and now you have received Ancestor Master's Teachings."

"Daoist, Buddhist, and Demon cultivation, when I was at your level of cultivation, my divine powers were far inferior to yours."

"There's not much I can give you, and to give would instead harm you."

After Duobao's words fell, Tao Qian did not feel any sense of loss.

The thrifty Master had refined a Holy Embryo Bag for him before and had prepared everything needed for the previous two methods. It was Tao Qian's own choice not to choose them, and he couldn't blame anyone else.

Magical Treasure and Divine Skills, Tao Qian indeed lacked none.

What he lacked was cultivation, was experience.

He wanted to enter the world precisely for these reasons.

Just as Tao Qian was thinking this way, suddenly the voice of Duobao Daoist echoed in his mind again.

This time, he gave a rare sigh first.

"Karma, karma..."

"Now is a great era of strife and calamity, and in such times, as your master, I would stay as far away as possible to avoid being entangled in calamity and end up in ashes."

"But who made me a Master now, whether I will have to wield the Heavenly Punishment Sword to help you cut down enemies in the future, it's not certain, but since you this unfortunate child must enter the world, I will calculate for you once."

"Good disciple, remember that the tumultuous world is not as peaceful as the Sect. I cannot predict what kind of danger you will face, or how much danger?"

"You just need to remember, after leaving the Penglai Sea, first go to Demon City... There, lies an opportunity that is extremely important for you."

The last sentence fell, and Duobao Daoist was truly gone.

Tao Qian raised his eyebrows unexpectedly, gaining a new understanding of his thrifty Master's personality.

A typical case of protesting much but acting upright!

He spoke of laissez-faire, but in the end, couldn't resist calculating once for his disciple, Tao Qian.

It seemed like not much, but Tao Qian knew.

This was the greatest advantage.

Duobao True Monarch of the Spirit Treasure Sect, aside from being famous for having many treasures, what truly made countless peers and even elders wary of him was his calculation.

In the Cultivation World, how many people would give everything they own just to have him personally take action once.

The saying goes that those who are close to the water get the moon first.

This time, Tao Qian truly reaped the benefits of having Duobao True Monarch as his master.

"Demon City! Opportunity!"

While muttering these four words,

He stepped onto an auspicious cloud and started heading back towards Ascending Immortal Island.

In his mind, however, he inadvertently recalled the time when the Heavenly Punishment Sword, Returning Immortal Mirror, and Ruyi Circle, the Three Immortal Treasures, led him back to the Mountain Gate, and he happened to pass Demon City during a royal wedding.

As the nominal ruler of Demon City and holding the title "Grand Admiral," the Ninth Prince had defeated the naval forces of the Western Countries, compelling a foreign nation to send a Princess for a marriage alliance.

Chapter 289 Demon City Opportunity, Mundane Transformation_3

The scene was truly spectacular.

However, at that time, the Returning Immortal Mirror had prophesied that the Ninth Prince would be assassinated by the Taiping Army's Commandery Princess. On his wedding night, he was destined to be mutilated of his progeny's root.

"That Ninth Prince had practiced the methods of the Taishang Demon Sect, a genuine inheritor of a Demon Great Sect. Regeneration of a lost limb should be a trivial matter for him."

"What the Returning Immortal Mirror mentioned about losing the progeny's root probably isn't just the literal meaning."

"There was also that incident at the Immortal Peach Banquet some time ago."

"The Thirteenth Prince and Princess Bao Shou, who were inducted into the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, had their dragon pendants shattered, heralding the demise of the current Emperor."

"It is already a major upheaval that hasn't happened in a thousand years, and now with the stabilizing Emperor gone too, the Mortal World must be in complete chaos."

At this thought, Tao Qian's expression subtly changed.

Inside him, the multitude of idle energies began to show signs of restlessness, especially the Human Dao Destiny, which was attempting to convey some blurry, terrifying scenes. Some were still of Southern Yue, while others were not.

At this moment, Tao Qian had caught sight of his own Daoist Field not far away.

It was quite a coincidence, before entering the island, Tao Qian had just encountered a group of Nursing Woman Bird Demons.

Watching them trembling in their breasts, flapping about, ready to pounce.

Tao Qian spoke first, instructing them to split into two groups and head to Qingping and Bibo, two large islands. They were to look for some newly initiated disciples or newcomers from the outer world and gather some news.

The Bird Demons, having consumed lots of Immortal Peaches, were quite fond of Tao Qian.

Upon receiving his command, they naturally complied without objection and left with a chorus of coos.

Tao Qian himself then returned to Ascending Immortal Island, while suppressing the restlessness of the energies within his body, he called for Zhong Doudou and the Tree Spirit, Tao Changshou.

Although he planned to re-enter the world of cultivation and estimated that it would not be a short period.

The foundation of Ascending Immortal Island, which had not been easy to build and maintain, he naturally would not leave it to fall into ruin.

He temporarily entrusted the Ascending Immortal Token to Zhong Doudou, allowing her to lead the group of Crystal Demon Girls along with the Merfolk Clan, to temporarily manage the many affairs of Ascending Immortal Island.

Tao Changshou and a group of Tree Spirits were responsible for taking care of over a hundred Immortal Peach Trees and sorting out the island's three major forbidden techniques to prevent them from becoming rusty.

And Jiushou along with a group from the Dragon Species Clan were to serve as the island's protectors.

After spending some time arranging everything, he ensured that this Daoist Field could continue to operate for many years, even without Tao Qian.

Just as he was about to call Little Age, Lian Jing'er, and Shan Jiu – the three youngsters he intended to take out of the Sect – the previously encountered group of Nursing Woman Bird Demons had already barged into his Spiritual Resonance Cave ahead of time.

The Female Demons, openly displaying their bosoms, hadn't even settled down before they started bragging, reporting the news they had gathered:

"Master, Master, I have found out—the mortal Emperor is dead, and his sons are killing each other. Their brains are turning into dog brains!"

"Master, I've also got news—the mortal world is almost at war in every major province. So many people have died. It's terrifying."

"I have something too. There's a newly initiated disciple who says that the old geezer Emperor of the mortal dynasty has renounced his vows at the Great Freedom Temple and is going back to be Emperor again. However, his grandsons don't seem to like him much, having attempted to assassinate him hundreds of times."

"Also, also, there's a group of students who learned some Western Magic, and after coming back, they've been promoting it widely in the Mortal Imperial City, saying the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty doesn't need an Emperor. This led to a conflict with the Imperial Family, and they nearly blew up half of the Imperial Palace."

...

As the Female Demons swarmed in, a deluge of the latest shocking news from the Mortal World bombarded him.

Chapter 290: Disaster Star Descends, Mouth with Double Teeth

Spiritual Resonance Cave Mansion, Tao Qian sat upright in the main seat, lost in thought.

Before him was a group of Nursing Woman Bird Demons, perhaps thinking they had grown familiar or maybe having eaten too many peaches, they had come to see Tao Qian as one of their own.

These Female Demons no longer concealed their true nature, and instead of sitting properly on the chairs, all squatted, fixing Tao Qian with curious eyes.

Tao Qian had long since grown accustomed to this group of Female Demons and didn't mind being gawked at.

He was summarizing the worldly news he had heard in his mind, although it hadn't been long since he had left Southern Yue and entered the Mountain Gate.

But it must be said that the Mortal World had changed immensely.

"Chaos!"

"The current Mortal World can precisely be described with this single word."

"It's at least ten times more chaotic than when I left Southern Yue."

"Especially after the sudden, inexplicable death of the current Emperor, dozens of provinces within the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty nearly all fell into war. Some, originally belonging to various princes, incited wars one after another to vie for the throne, and many were taken advantage of by numerous ambitious figures and warlords... In short, the common people suffered the most."

"Moreover, it's the changes in the world. Once the Ancestor God Forbidden Techniques were broken, creatures like Demon Cultivators and Transcendent Alien Species entered the world, and within a few short months, had deeply integrated with the mortal realm."

"It's heard that a place called Golden Saint County suffered a Demon calamity, but at the critical moment, a powerful Ape Clan resolved the issue. This clan reached an agreement with the locals for peaceful coexistence, with the Ape Clan and the humans jointly governing that territory."

"Another tale speaks of Zhang City, where the residents were invaded in their dreams by a Fungus Demon one night. The demon proposed a merger where all city residents would offer their bodies for the demon to parasitize, in return for a ten-year Life Extension for each person and bestowing Transcendent abilities to those with the Talent, leading to arguments among the people in their dreams. By dawn, they reached an agreement with the Fungus Demon... The next day saw major changes in the city, which was renamed Fungus City, with citizens claiming to be descendants of the Fungus Ancestor, and among them, hundreds were endowed with Extraordinary Power, capable of battling Cultivators."

"Apart from that, there's also the integration of Exotic Skills from the Western lands. Near Southern Yue, Xiangzhou is not only home to the underclass slums but also boasts many Mechanical Cities, with bizarre structures emerging abruptly from the ground, a spectacle of fascination combining ancient and modern aesthetics."

"These two types of events are not singular but numerous, with every corner of the vast lands of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty experiencing earth-shattering changes."

"Uncle Qin Jiao, who similarly chose the Third Method, never faced such a complex situation back in his day. His path, I'm afraid, I cannot learn."

"And who knows what sort of messy tribulations I'll have to endure once I enter the Mortal World?"

As Tao Qian mumbled to this point, the Source Qi within his body also peaked, as if silently urging him.

Just then, the auras of Little Age, Lian Jing'er, and Shan Jiu respectively approached from different directions.

All three were Alien Species.

By name, Tao Qian was their guardian, but apart from finding them Alien Species Cultivation Methods, there wasn't much else he could do, so he had chosen a laissez-faire approach.

As far as he knew, it worked exceedingly well.

Perhaps by staying by his side for too long, they had been blessed with abundant good fortune, as even within the Spirit Treasure Mountain Gate, all three had their own chances and good luck.

Tao Qian had not looked after them for a long time, and sensing them again now, he suddenly realized that the three auras that approached were much more powerful than before.

He immediately rose to his full height and exited the Cave Mansion.

At first glance, he saw Little Age.

This endearingly naive child, originally known as Taisui, still looked the same, seemingly never aging.

However, the aura and scene surrounding him had drastically changed.

The Little Age of before had many wondrous aspects, but with a good-hearted nature, was timid as a mouse, and had no power of self-preservation.

But at this moment, the plump child was giggling heartily, cheerfully running toward Tao Qian who first sensed a trace of danger, then saw the sky full of beautiful, colorful dust clouds surging behind him.

The scenery of heaven and earth changed in an instant, only to see those strands and wisps, like clouds or mist, seemingly alive as they breathed and swallowed up, gathering all of the Source Qi between heaven and earth, whether it was pure or mixed.

"Taisui Qi Eating! These colorful clouds must be filled with countless spores, capable of devouring flesh and blood as well as Source Qi, and can also be used against enemies. There's no need for any intricate devices, just unleash these spore clouds upon the enemy. Whether it is a single entity or a vast number, all will be devoured completely."

"Truly marvelous!"

Tao Qian exclaimed with delight in his heart, then turned his gaze to the much more staid Lian Jing'er.

Compared to Little Age, who had hardly changed in appearance, Lian Jing'er, as an Alien Species mechanical being, seemed as though he had switched into an entirely different body.

Now he stood as tall as Tao Qian's neck, his parts still made of bronze, cast iron, ancient wood, and bone, but within, who knows how much metal essence he absorbed. Not only had he grown significantly, but he also gained an extraordinary luster.

Beyond that, two more things were added to his body.

One was a treasure wheel hanging behind his head, ingeniously constructed and brimming with terrifying energy.

The other was a three-pronged pitchfork in his hands, ancient and simple in design, covered with symbols and Forbidden Techniques.

When Lian Jing'er shot forward like this, Tao Qian momentarily had the illusion: This wasn't the Mechanical Alien Species he had raised by his side, this was clearly a Divine General wielding divine weapons who had traversed from the ancient Heavenly Court.

At the same time, a strong premonition arose:

"I can summon the Buddha Ape protector, skilled in close combat and martial struggle."

"Yet in terms of pure combat skills, the Buddha Ape might not even be a match for Lian Jing'er now."

"With such combat power, he will certainly be able to help me."

At this moment, Tao Qian's thoughts were bursting with surprise.

Clearly, he hadn't anticipated such drastic changes in the two little ones after not seeing them for several days.

The Taisui Qi Eating Scripture!

The Creation Puppet Technique!

Are these two Cultivation Techniques so magical?

This idea rose in Tao Qian's mind, dispelling as the subsequent conversations unfolded.

The two Cultivation Techniques chosen personally by Aunt Pan Si were indeed extraordinary, but they only contributed to a part of the tremendous changes in Little Age and Lian Jing'er.

The other element, similar to Tao Qian, was their ability to garner the affection of the fairies.

Lady Gu Huo Mountain, Fairy Cai Yun, Lue Immortal, and a host of other fairies all found Little Age and Lian Jing'er cute and pure, thus frequently bestowing benefits upon them. Whether it was rare Source Qi, massive blood and flesh, or metal essences, they had everything they could need.

It was this Karma that allowed the two little things to welcome such growth in a short time—to be quite literally fed into existence.

However, this method of advancement couldn't last long, but presently, they were just at the right level.

As these thoughts flashed through his mind, Tao Qian suddenly turned his head to look in another direction.

Shan Jiu!

The appearance of this Wild Leek Demon had also greatly transformed.

Although still clad in his emerald-green Daoist robe, both his face and body had become round and swollen, expanded by more than a full circle.

This was bad enough, but what was even more exaggerated were the treasures hanging all over his body.

Tinkle, clink, treasure light surging.

As he flew over at a slow pace, Tao Qian felt his eyes being blinded bit by bit.

Even Tao Qian, looking at the numerous treasures on Shan Jiu's body at this moment,

suddenly felt an intense impulse to harvest them.

Yet Shan Jiu himself was completely unaware of anything amiss, scratching his messy green locks with one hand while grinning from ear to ear.

Tao Qian didn't even need to ask; the overly sincere Wild Leek Devil Lord began sharing on his own initiative.

Before long, Tao Qian understood the reason.

Sui and Lian Jing'er were being taken care of by the aunties.

Shan Jiu was even more carefree; during this period, he had unexpectedly caught the eye of a mentor, who took him under his wing for many days.

"Uncle Xue Ming, known as 'Mosquito Daoist', originally an Alien Species of mosquito demon."

"Because of his solitary nature, he has always been a loner in the sect. Shan Jiu, while delivering Immortal Peaches, caught his fancy to be taken as a disciple."

"Even after being rejected by Shan Jiu, he still took great care of him, taking him along to mingle, sharing meals, and even giving him many treasures."

"He only sent Shan Jiu back when he knew I was about to leave the sect and enter the world."

Thoughts flickered in Tao Qian's mind, and he summarized.

Then, as if realizing something, he couldn't help but mock himself in his heart,

"Well then!"

"It seems not only am I fated to have no connection with proper cultivators, but even these little things I'm supposed to look after are the same."

"Hardly have they entered the Mountain Gate and truly cultivated for a few days, yet by mooching meals and drinks, they have attained such cultivation and wealth."

"They really... have prospects."

After holding back for a moment, these were the only three words that Tao Qian could think of.

Then he laughed again; the easy days were now at an end.

Although he had no idea what disaster would befall him after entering the world, given the current state of affairs, it was likely to be nothing good.

"Master said I chose the Third Method."

"After entering the world, I will be a disaster star."

"But with the current chaos, adding one more disaster star like me probably makes no difference."

With that thought settled, Tao Qian took one last look at the Ascending Immortal Island he had worked so hard to mooch off and then subdue.

He discarded the sliver of reluctance from his heart, waved his hand to signal that Dou Dou, Longevity, and Jiushou need not see him off.

"Take good care of the Daoist Field, and await my return."

As he spoke, Tao Qian shook his sleeves, and four Star Zha Demons tumbled out.

The next moment!

The area around Ascending Immortal Island brightened, the shimmering starlight flashed out, and four brilliant stars shot across the Penglai Sea, heading toward the distant and vast territory of the Longevity Heavenly Dynasty.

...

Longevity Heavenly Dynasty, just eight hundred miles from the Demon City on the sea.

Aboard the Spirit Treasure auspicious cloud, which had been transferred from the Star Zha Demon, Sui, Lian Jing'er, and Shan Jiu were all staring at Tao Qian, who was sitting cross-legged beside them, with strange looks.

It was no wonder for the three youngsters, as anyone here would have the same expression at this moment.

Because the seemingly "cultivating" Tao Qian's body was undergoing many abnormal transformations.

One after another.

Like a single horn growing on his forehead, eerie scales covering his face, or his earlobes elongating and his head enlarging.

There were also less noticeable changes like a turtle's spine, auxiliary throat, double pupils, and double teeth.

Tao Qian, with his eyes closed, could do nothing but let the Magic Skill within him run its course, all the while sensing the changes in his body.

Quite resigned, but also unable to do anything about it.

The Record that burst forth in his mind explained the reason.

[Name: Spirit Treasure Unlimited Tribulation Crossing Technique.]

[Record Type: Cultivation Technique.]

[Record: This top-grade Magic Skill from the three Transcendence Techniques of Spirit Treasure Sect refines one's own body with all things of heaven and earth. Once cultivated, various tribulations come uninvited, with each tribulation endured equivalent to another beat of refinement, guaranteeing gains. When the time is right, one will suddenly transcend the mundane and step into the Realm of Transcend Mortality, and perhaps even directly enter the Cavernous Mystery, or even the Ultimate Happiness Realm, a truly unimaginable Sublime Dharma.]

[Note one: When troublesome tribulations arrive, this technique will automatically operate to refine the tribulation energy, and abnormalities will appear on the cultivator's body as a warning.]

[Note two: If the tribulation is successfully passed, the calamity and troubles will vanish, and the abnormalities will also disappear.]

[Note three: Unavoidable!]

As the last four words emerged, Tao Qian's driven auspicious cloud just entered the territory of Demon City.

He slowly opened his eyes, and the abnormalities on his body were henceforth frozen.

Double teeth!

Long ears!

Yes, although it was his first time, there were two abnormalities.

At that moment, Tao Qian's ears had elongated, and the lobes had swollen and dangled like a Buddha's visage.

And if he opened his mouth, one could even see his mouthful of layered big white teeth.

This new image was both abnormal and comical.