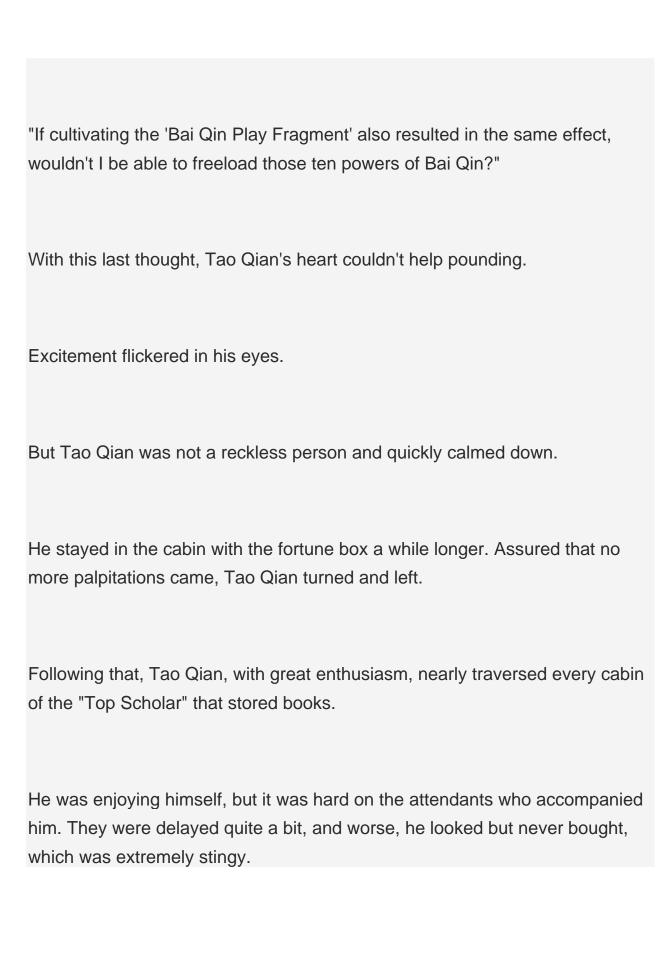
LONGEVITY CHRONICLES

Chapter 8 7: The First Law of the Cultivation World

Images with strange formats filled his mind, containing such a vast amount of information that Tao Qian was also stunned momentarily before he could digest it.
His fingers first loosened, letting the book return to its place, then he closed the lid of the fortune box.
His face showed an expression of utter disappointment from gaining nothing, while his mind began to sort through his thoughts.
From this exploration, more of his doubts were resolved.
Firstly, he truly possessed something akin to a Golden Finger cheat.

Specifically, it manifested as an intense perception of transcendent and deceitful objects within a certain range, allowing him to completely understand or control these objects, even managing to organize related formatted information in his mind to facilitate Tao Qian's understanding.
Besides, there was something unusual deep within his soul, seemingly able to negate some costs brought by the cultivation methods.
However, this realization also brought forth more questions:
Are there costs associated with all cultivation methods in this world?
And could he be exempt from all of them?
His thoughts flashed to this point, and Tao Qian looked at the fortune box in his hands again.
Although inherently unlucky, he had indeed obtained a cultivation secret book bought for one silver coin.

However, this book known as the "Bai Qin Play Fragment," given the information provided, clearly wasn't any legitimate cultivation technique. Lurking ferocity... Chaos of Bai Qin... causing disasters to tens of thousands... houses empty and desolate... These terms sounded terrifying. Holding the fortune box, Tao Qian was apprehensive but also reluctant to let go. Not to mention the unknown fragmented formula useful only when being beheaded, the secret book in his arms was his only method of cultivation now. To miss out would truly be a pity. "When I was killed, I recited the unknown fragmented formula and obtained the 'Undying Characteristic.' The expected cost was a decaying body and a dazed soul, turning into a deceitful object named 'Soul Corpse.'" "But I was exempt, so I gained the Undying Characteristic but suffered no side effects."



Eventually, the attendants on the Top Scholar all knew that there was a poor scholar on board carrying a Wenqu Fortune Box around the ship, clearly with some issues.

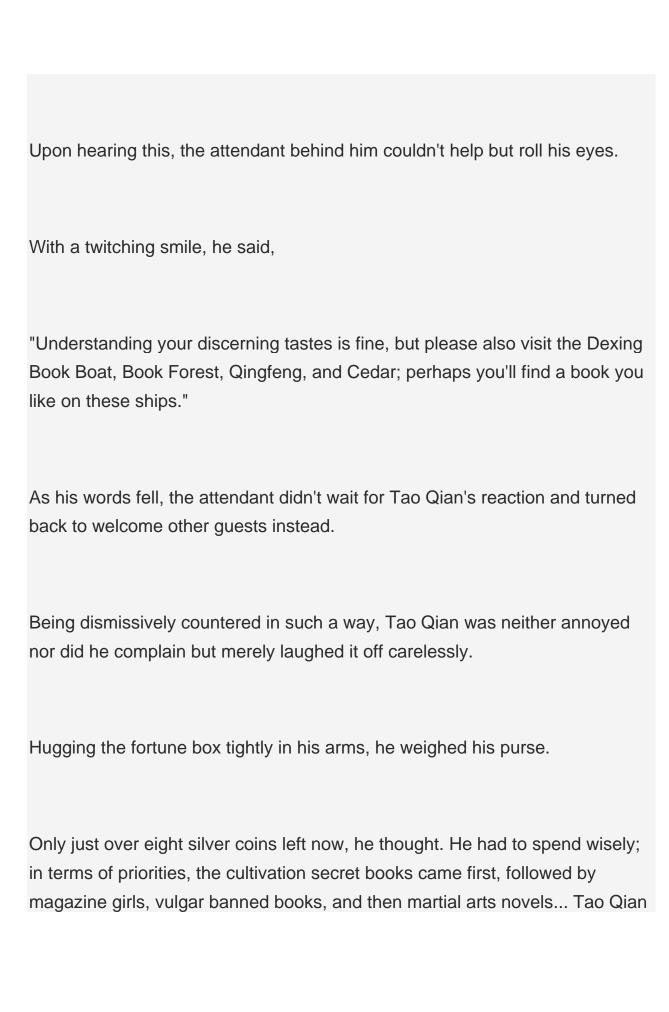
About thirty minutes later, Tao Qian walked to the deck with a look of regret, followed by an expressionless attendant.

As part of the service industry, with the management standards of the Top Scholar, his face should have been always wearing a radiant smile that made people feel at home.

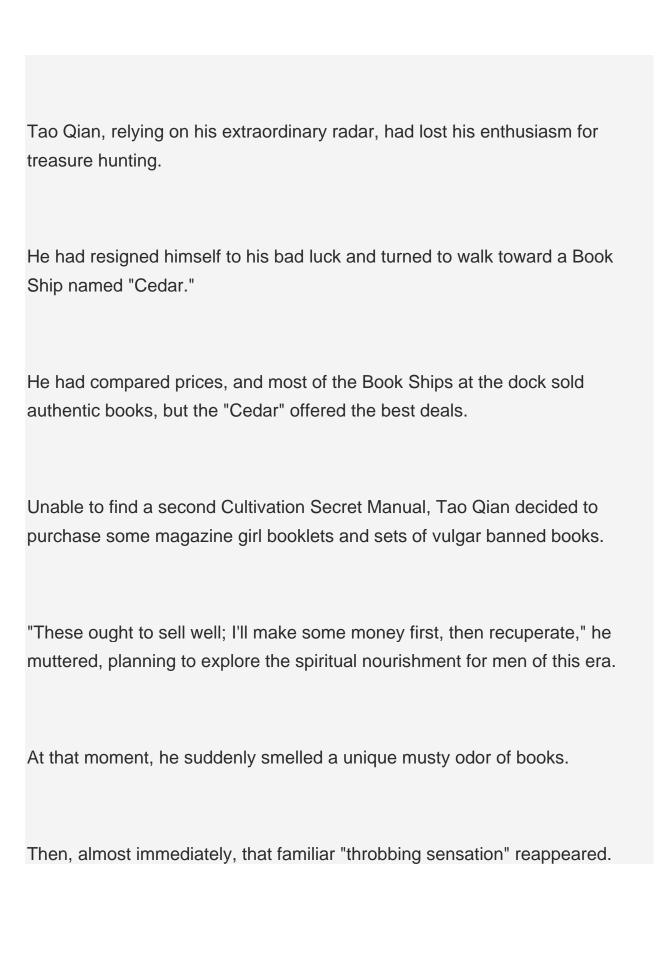
He indeed started very professionally, until after accompanying Tao Qian several times.

Tao Qian walked ahead, already eyeing other book ships docked at the pier, saying,

"The reputation of the Top Scholar is well-deserved, truly a sea of books. It's just too regrettable today, I couldn't find a book that caught my eye."



stepped off the Top Scholar, stomping over to the other book ships, while calculating his expenses in his mind.
Unfortunately, after nearly another half hour, Tao Qian quickly browsed the remaining book ships.
The harvest?
None.
Not even a cultivation secret book like the "Bai Qin Play Fragment."
Standing on the dock, Tao Qian wore a distressed expression.
Even the beautiful scenes on the nearby flower boat called "Huanxi" couldn't spark his interest.
Lately, although these book ships visit every day, they only stay for an hour or two, and now the time was almost up.
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With a whoosh, Tao Qian swiftly turned around, looking toward the water.

There, not far on the river, a fishing boat that had undergone some modifications was approaching. Two boatmen were rowing together, and a weary scholar stood at the bow, the boat laden with a large number of books tied with hemp ropes to prevent them from falling into the river.

That boat was docking with the "Cedar."

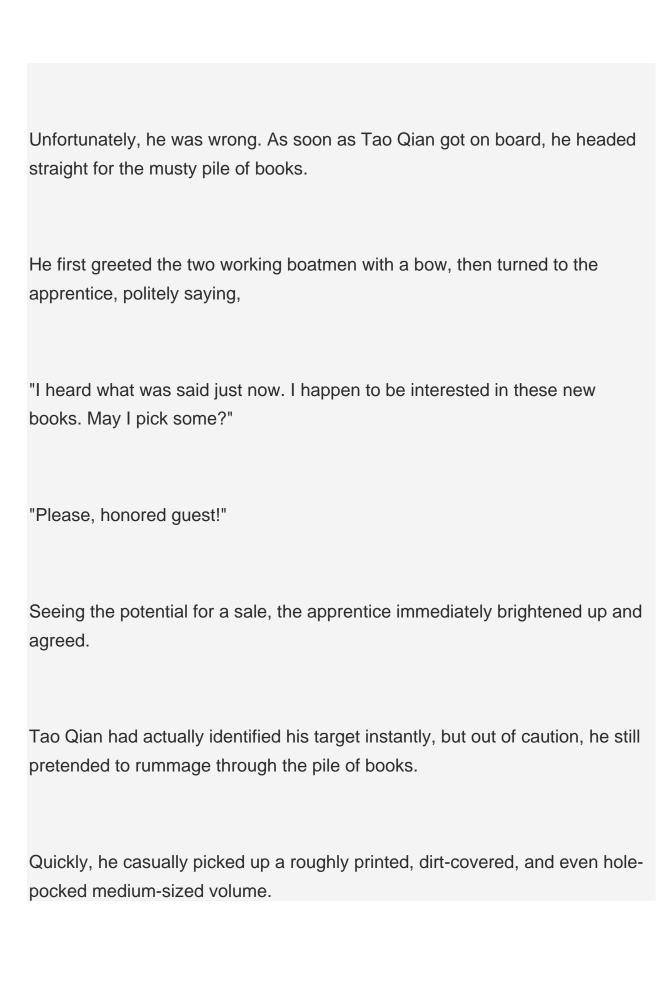
After a hurried exchange with an experienced Attendant Student, the scholar went straight into the cabin to rest.

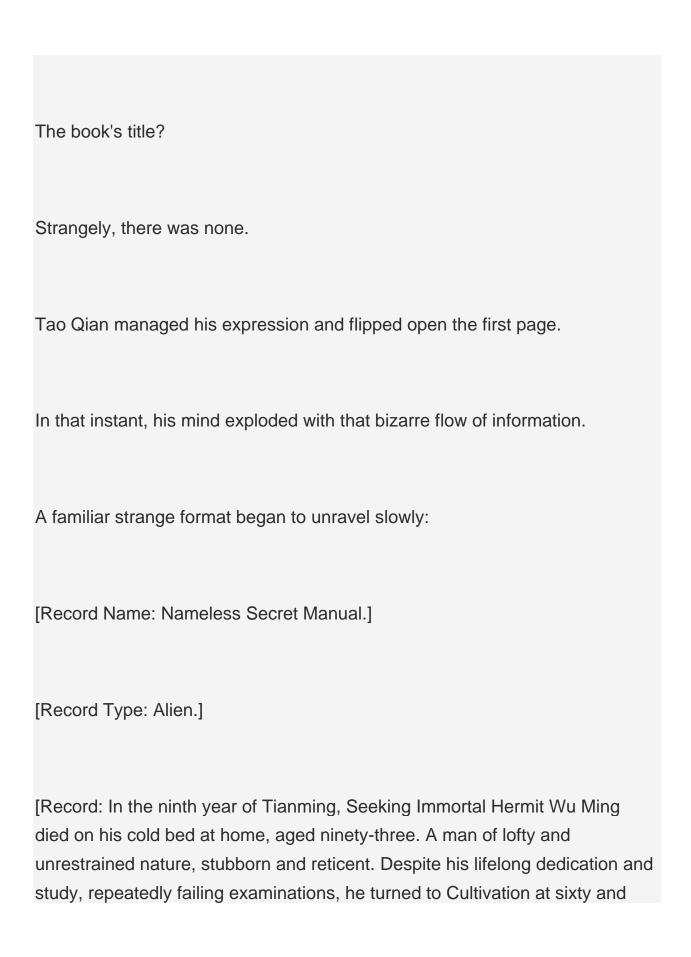
The Attendant Student directed the boatmen to move the books onto the deck but stopped them from taking the books into the cabin. Instead, he instructed a teenage apprentice beside him,

"These books have just been collected. Not only do they have a strong musty smell, but they might also have book-eating insects like Silverfish."

"Let's lay them out neatly on the deck and leave them to sun for a few hours before storing them."
"If any new customers are interested in some of the books from this pile, let them choose. Sell the thick volumes for fifty copper coins, medium ones for thirty, thin ones for twenty, and if it's just scribbles, ten copper coins will do."
"It's just a collection from a poor old scholar who isn't even a scholar, with no secrets and no value; sold clean by his son after his death for one silver coin
"Spent his life in vain studying to exhaustion, all for just a yuan."
After finishing, the seasoned Attendant Student turned and also headed into the cabin.
As he turned around, he caught a glimpse of Tao Qian boarding the ship out of the corner of his eye, but he pretended not to see and hurried away, disappearing in a flash.
Obviously, he was resolved that if Tao Qian followed, he would have to deal with other students.

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styled himself as Seeking Immortal Hermit... This book, written in his later years when his mind was unclear, contains confused and unintelligible content, except for the last page, which contains the "Immortal Fish Technique" that can connect to the Heavenly Dao.]

[Note One: This book, tainted by "Wu Ming's" spirit, possesses characteristics that can drive one insane. If one practices the Immortal Fish Technique written therein, each cultivation will assimilate the mind and soul with the Heavenly Dao until the body stiffens in death while the spirit and soul merge with the Heavenly Dao like an Immortal Fish.]

[Note Two: One of the costs of practicing the Immortal Fish Technique is the chance of sudden death each time the soul transforms into a fish and swims through chaos.]

[Note Three: Practice ten times and you're exempt from nine, but one is beyond control.]

. . .

"Tsk,"

Гао Qian didn't make a sound, yet he inwardly gasped in shock.
Though he had made a new discovery, the information revealed did not bring nim joy.
Starting with that unknown fragmented formula that had granted him the Undying Characteristic, to the Bai Qin Play Secret Manual, and now this Nameless Secret Manual.
Three items clearly from the Extraordinary Cultivation World in succession, all sharing one commonality, was hard to describe as mere coincidence anymore.
Γao Qian felt he had vaguely grasped the first law, or perhaps iron law, of the Cultivation World:
Every practice, every supernatural affair, comes with a cost!